



FINANCING AND DEBT

- ◆ **The Bank of Latvia has so far purchased EUR 6.72 billion worth of Latvian and supranational securities under the European Central Bank's Public Sector Purchase Program.** In December 2017, the Bank of Latvia bought securities for EUR 117.128 million. (RĪGA, Jan 15, [Bank of Latvia](#))

MACROECONOMICS

- ◆ **Latvia's showed the 5th highest annual inflation rate among European Union (EU) member states in December. Latvia reported a 2.2 % annual inflation rate for December 2017.** The EU's annual inflation in December was 1.7 %, while the eurozone's annual inflation rate was 1.4 %. (RĪGA, Jan 17, [Eurostat](#))
- ◆ **Latvia is among the EU member states with the best fiscal discipline, Finance Minister Dana Reizniece-Ozola said during the news conference held by the Latvian State Audit Office about the budget planning.** "Latvia has a low budget deficit. It is planned at 0.4 % of GDP in 2020. Also, last year we for the first time created a budget with a surplus which confirms the statement by the Fiscal Discipline Council that the Finance Ministry is conservative in its estimates," Reizniece-Ozola said. (RĪGA, Jan 17, BNS)
- ◆ **In the 3rd quarter of 2017, house prices in Latvia grew 9.5 % from the third quarter of 2016, which is a much steeper rise than on average in the EU.** House prices rose by 4.1 % in the euro area and by 4.6 % in the EU in the 3rd quarter of 2017 compared with the same quarter of the previous year. (RĪGA, Jan 18, [Eurostat](#))

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