



RATING

- ◆ On Friday, April 12, **the credit rating agency Fitch reaffirmed its 'A-' long-term foreign currency sovereign credit ratings on the Republic of Latvia. Outlook remains stable.** Fitch informs that Latvia's ratings are supported by solid public finances, as well as institutional strengths and a credible policy framework that come with EU and eurozone membership. (RĪGA, Apr 12, [Treasury](#))

MACROECONOMICS

- ◆ The latest data of the Central Statistical Bureau (CSB) show that **in March 2019, compared to March 2018, the average level of consumer prices rose by 2.8 %.** Prices of goods increased by 2.7 % and prices of services by 2.9 %. (RĪGA, Apr 8, [CSB](#))
- ◆ Provisional data of the CSB show that **in February 2019 the foreign trade turnover of Latvia amounted to EUR 2.06 billion, which at current prices was 0.4 % less than a year ago,** of which the exports value of goods was 1 % higher, but imports value of goods was 1.7 % lower. In February, Latvia exported goods in the amount of EUR 959 million, but imported – in the amount of EUR 1.1 billion. Compared to February 2018, foreign trade balance has improved as exports in total foreign trade amount increased from 45.9 % to 46.6 %. (RĪGA, Apr 9, [CSB](#))
- ◆ **The Ministry of Finance has raised Latvia's GDP forecast for this year by 0.2 percentage points to 3.2 % and the forecast for 2020 is 3 %,** according to draft Latvia's Stability Program for 2019-2022 prepared by the ministry. The general government budget deficit in 2019 will be 0.5 % of GDP, in 2020 it may not exceed 0.4 %, in 2021 it is projected at 0.2 %, and in 2022 at 0.3 % of GDP. The government is expected to decide on Latvia's Stability Program 2019-2022 at an extraordinary meeting on April 15. (RĪGA, Apr 12, [Ministry of Finance](#))

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