



## GOVERNMENT

- ◆ **The amendments to the Law On the Financial and Capital Market Commission (FCMC) and the Credit Institutions Law were approved by the Cabinet of Ministers and submitted to the Parliament.** These amendments include measures for strengthening the ability of Latvia to combat money laundering and the financing of terrorism, as well as enhancement of the regulation for liquidation of credit institutions. (RĪGA, Mar 26, [Ministry of Finance](#))

## BANKING SECTOR

- ◆ **In 2018, non-resident deposits in Latvian banks declined by EUR 2.4 billion**, according to FCMC for 2018. There was a stable growth by resident deposits – in a year the growth was by EUR 869 million or 7.2 %. (RĪGA, Mar 29, [FCMC](#))
- ◆ **Latvian banks last year earned EUR 289 million in profit.** The capital return reached 9.8 % at the end of December. The aggregate assets of the banking sector last year declined by EUR 2.1 billion or 8.5 %. (RĪGA, Mar 29, [FCMC](#))

## MACROECONOMICS

- ◆ Data of the Central Statistical Bureau (CSB) show that, **compared to January, in February 2019 the level of construction costs in Latvia rose by 0.4 %.** Maintenance and operational costs of machinery and equipment increased by 0.8 %, prices of building materials – by 0.5 %, while labour remuneration of workers decreased by 0.1 %. (RĪGA, Mar 27, [CSB](#))
- ◆ During the first two months of this year, **revenue to the Latvian central government consolidated budget reached EUR 1.98 billion, growing 10.5 %**, while **expenditure amounted to EUR 1.7 billion from the first two months of last year, up 13.7 %.** (RĪGA, Mar 28, [Ministry of Finance](#))
- ◆ Calendar adjusted data (at constant prices) compiled by the CSB show that, **compared to February 2018, in February 2019 total retail trade turnover rose by 5.9 %.** Turnover of retail trade in food products grew by 3.4 %. Turnover of retail trade in non-food products (except for retail sale of automotive fuel) increased by 11.3 %, but turnover of retail sale of automotive fuel – reduced by 1.9 %. (RĪGA, Mar 29, [CSB](#))

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