



GOVERNMENT

- ◆ **Latvia's Saeima will elect the country's president on 29 May.** Acting President Mr. Raimonds Vējonis has decided to not stand candidate for a second term. Three candidates will be running for presidency – Mr. Egils Levits, a member of the European Court of Justice, will be running as the candidate of the ruling coalition, while the Union of Greens and Farmers alliance has nominated ombudsman Mr. Juris Jansons as its candidate, and Mr. Didzis Smits will represent the 'Who owns the state?' opposition party. (Rīga, May 22, [Saeima](#))

FINANCING AND DEBT

- ◆ On Monday, May 20 **Latvia re-opened its outstanding 30-year Eurobond (maturing 19 February 2049) by issuing EUR 300 million, setting the yield at 1.764% (coupon 1.875 %).** The transaction was supported by strong investor demand from the onset, with the final orderbook 2.9 times oversubscribed. Bonds were allocated to more than 80 investors mainly from Europe (e.g. Germany, Italy, United Kingdom). With this transaction, the Treasury has successfully carried out its planned funding activities in the international capital markets for 2019, a total EUR 1 billion, to provide financial resources for upcoming debt redemptions, the issuance of state loans and financing of the budget deficit. (Rīga, May 20, [The Treasury](#))

MACROECONOMICS

- ◆ Central Statistical Bureau (CSB) show that in the **1st quarter of 2019 Latvian employment rate was 64.4 %.** Over the year, **employment rate grew by 0.9 percentage points** and number of employed persons by 5.6 thousand. Compared to the previous quarter, employment rate fell by 0.3 percentage points and number of employed persons by 6.2 thousand. (Rīga, May 22, [CSP](#))
- ◆ Results of the Labour Force Survey conducted by the CSB show that **in the 1st quarter of 2019 Latvian unemployment rate constituted 6.9 %.** Compared to the previous quarter, unemployment rate has not changed, while over the year it fell by 1.3 percentage points. (Rīga, May 22, [CSP](#))
- ◆ CSB show that, **compared to March, in April 2019 the level of producer prices in Latvian industry rose by 0.4 %.** Prices of products sold on the domestic market grew by 0.6 %, but prices of exported products – by 0.2 %. Prices of products exported to euro area countries remained the same, whereas prices of products exported to non-euro area countries rose by 0.4 %. (Rīga, May 23, [CSP](#))

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