# Republic of Latvia



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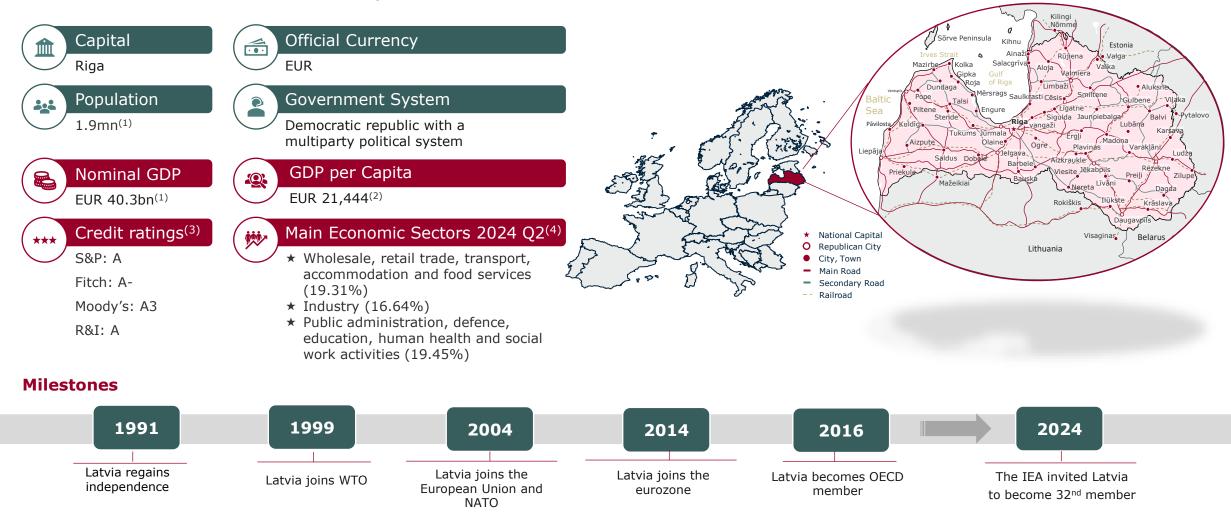


# Overview and Key Investment Highlights



## Latvia at a Glance

Strategically situated in north-eastern Europe with a coastline along the Baltic Sea, Latvia is an open economy which since 2004 has been a member of the European Union and NATO



## **Key Investment Highlights**

<ul> <li>Resilient Economy</li> <li>Latvia has demonstrated resilience throughout macroeconomic and geopolitical headwinds</li> <li>Lower growth in Europe has impacted growth of Latvia's economy in 2023</li> <li>Economy is on a track for a rebound in 2024 driven by recovery of private consumption, increased public investments, strong labour market and low inflation</li> </ul>							
Diversified Export Sector	<ul> <li>Main trading partners are EU Member States. Trade ties with Russia have weakened substantially since 2014</li> <li>Latvia's export sector is both competitive and diversified</li> <li>Small current account deficit, largely covered by FDI and EU related capital transfers</li> </ul>						
「 アrudent の Policy	<ul> <li>Fiscal</li> <li>Fiscal</li> <li>EU funds and RRF funds are supporting the Government reform agenda</li> <li>Defence spendings remain the main priority</li> </ul>						
Moderate Debt Lev	<ul> <li>Latvia benefits from moderate and affordable debt levels, considerably below most of European peers</li> <li>Latvia's ratings firmly in the 'A' rating category</li> <li>Latvia has access to diversified funding sources</li> </ul>						
Energy/Military Security	<ul> <li>The country has been a member of NATO since 2004 and continues to invest in its military defence capabilities</li> <li>Latvia reacted swiftly to the Russian military invasion of Ukraine, having diversified many aspects of its economy away from Russia including energy</li> </ul>						
	vian banks remain well capitalized, profitable and cost-efficient ks with healthy liquidity levels and mainly focused on domestic economy						

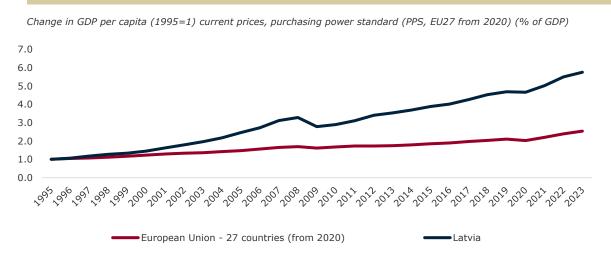


# **Fiscal Policy**

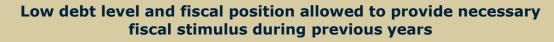


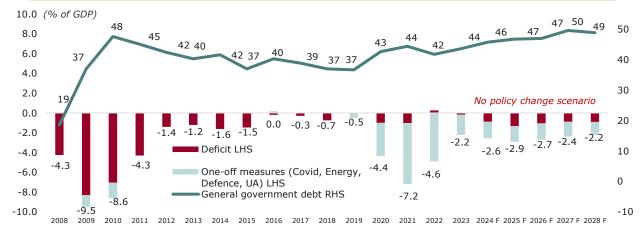
## Latvia's Track Record of Prudent Fiscal Policy

Moderate deficit in years prior the twin crisis contributed to building fiscal buffer

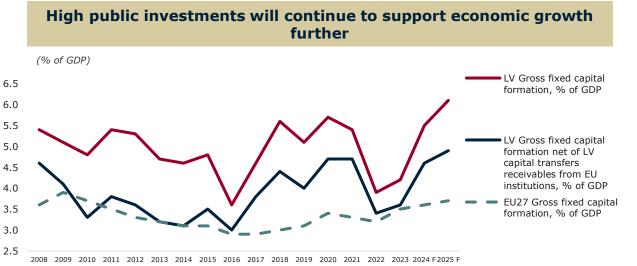


### Increase of Latvia GDP per capita has been significant









Source: Eurostat for 2008-2023; F - Ministry of Finance forecast on August 2024

### Commitment to maintain prudent fiscal policy within the framework of reformed EU fiscal rules

- Reformed EU Fiscal rules that entered into force since May 2024 are less strict than national fiscal framework. EU fiscal rules move away from balance rule to expenditure rule.
- By 15th of October 2024 Latvia plans to submit to EC a 4-year Fiscal structural plan (FSP) that determine the binding limits for primary expenditure growth for the following 4 years.
- To align Fiscal Discipline Law with EU fiscal rules the maximum allowable structural deficit will be increased from 0.5% of GDP to 1.0% of GDP with a view to maintain prudent fiscal policy and sustainable general government debt in the long term.
- Macroeconomic forecast was updated in June 2024. In the framework of annual budgetary procedure, the deficit and debt projections also were updated in August 2024. Projected general government deficit for 2024 is 2.6% of GDP (August 2024), meanwhile the EC Spring 2024 forecast for 2024 is 2.8% of GDP (May 2024).
- Global uncertainties and risks remain high. Macroeconomic forecast and actual budget revenue and expenditure trends result in increased deficit and debt ratios for coming years, but **still below the Treaty' reference values. The defence spendings to address geopolitical circumstances remain a main priority.**

Source: Ameco, European Spring 2024 Economic Forecast, and MoF calculation for LV Gross fixed capital formation net of LV 8 capital transfers receivables from EU institutions (Eurostat and Stability Programme 2024-2028)

## **Continued Ambitious, Competitive, Growth-Friendly Investments**

719

348

With the support of RRF and EU funds, investments will continue into specific reform measures to support long term sustainable growth

	RRF reforms						
	CLIMATE Transition to sustainable transport, energy efficiency in all sectors, wind farms						
6)]]	DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION Coordination mechanisms for public digital services, digital skills						
AND	REDUCING DISPARITIES Administrative territorial reform and GMI reform						
<b>\$</b>	HEALTH Healthcare network effectiveness, remuneration reform						
<b>N</b>	ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION Innovation eco-system, consolidation of higher education institutions						
512	RULE OF LAW Strengthening capacity of law enforcement agencies						
1 Ale	<b>RePOWER</b> Saving, producing clean energy and energy supply diversification						
RRF and Cohesion Policy EU Funds investments for supporting reform agenda							
<i>Budget expenditu</i> 1 600 1 400 1 200	1 481 1 508 1 113 1 006 969 913						

#### 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023 2024F 2025F 2026F 2027F 2028F 2029F 2030F Cohesion policy funds 2014-2020 Cohesion policy funds 2021-2027 Recovery and resilience facility Total

Source: Ministry of Finance

719

712

631

618

579

1 000

800

600

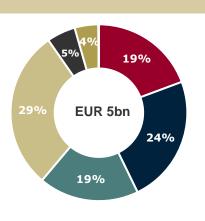
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200

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**Recovery and Resilience plan (RRF)** ents adopted by the Council on December 8, 2023) Climate EUR 676mn Rule of Law EUR 37mn 9% Economic Transformation 34% EUR 196mn Digital Transformation 19% EUR 2bn EUR 365mn Reducing Disparities EUR 379 mn 10% Health EUR 182mn RePower EUR 135mn EU Funds 2021-2027



- Smarter Europe EUR 968mn
- Greener Europe EUR 1,175mn
- Connected Europe EUR 919mn
- Social Europe EUR 1,461mn
- Europe Closer to Citizens EUR 263mn
- Just Transition Fund Investments EUR 217mn
- Capacity Building Measures EUR 5mn

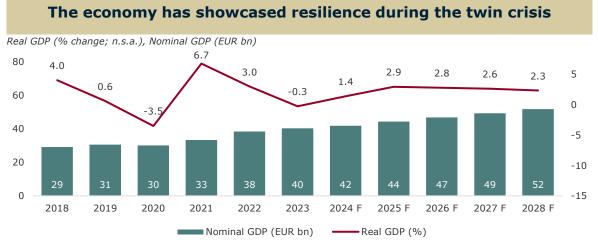


# The Economy, External Sector and Banking Sector



## **Economy to Rebound as Inflation Declines and External Demand Recovers**

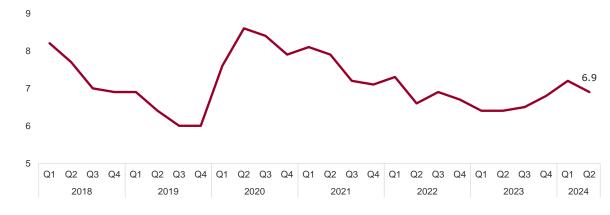
Strong labour market and low inflation will underpin private consumption, while external demand recovery and reforms financed by RRF and EU funds expected to support exports and investment

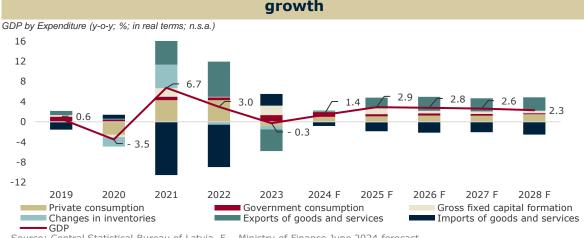


Source: Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia, F - Ministry of Finance June 2024 forecast

### Unemployment has declined to pre-pandemic level

Job seekers rate (%, age group 15-74)



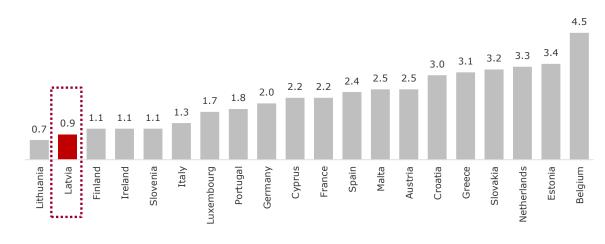


### **Exports and Private Consumption have contributed to accelerated** arowth

Source: Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia, F - Ministry of Finance June 2024 forecast

Inflation

Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices (% chg, yoy), Aug-2024

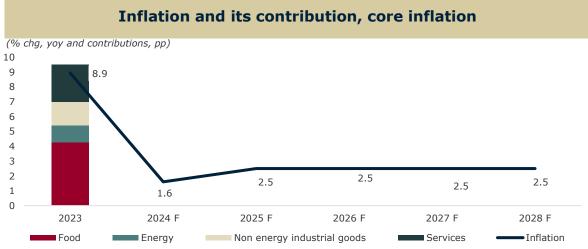


Source: Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia 11

Source: Eurostat

## **Broad Based Decline of Inflation Reduces Pressures on Cost Competitiveness**

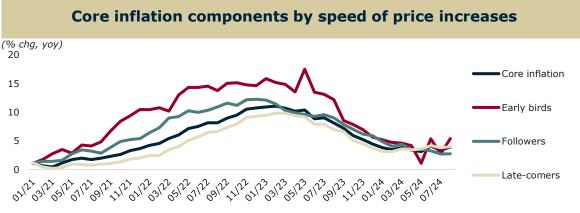
Inflation has receded quickly driven by restrictive monetary policy and a reduction in energy and food pressures, leaving no material harm on Latvia's cost competitiveness



Source: Eurostat, F - Ministry of Finance forecast for Stability Programme 2024-2028





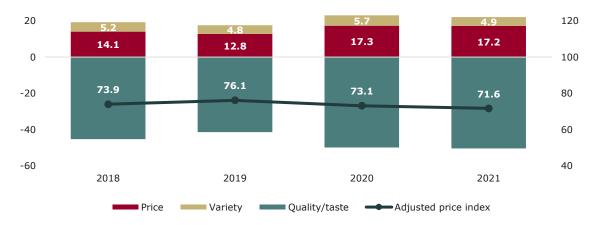


Source: Eurostat, Latvijas Banka calculations.

Note: "Early birds" are SPCIX indexes with top 90th percentile increase during period August – December 2021. "Followers" are indexes with increase from 50th to 90th percentile and "Late-comers" are all other indexes. Core inflation – inflation excluding food and energy prices. More can be read here: Macroeconomic Developments Report March 2024

### Quality adjusted relative export price index and component contributions (pp)

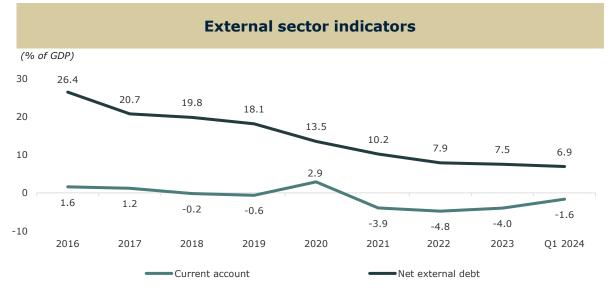
(2005=100)



Source: UN Comtrade and Latvijas Banka calculations. More can be read here: Macroeconomic Developments Report September 2023 (latvijasbanka.lv)

## **External Sector Risks Are Limited**

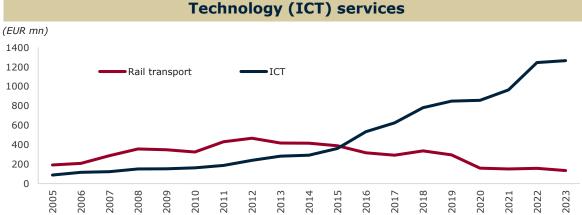
Small and manageable current account deficit, low net external debt, diversified and increasingly sophisticated export base, and stable funding flows render external sector risks rather limited



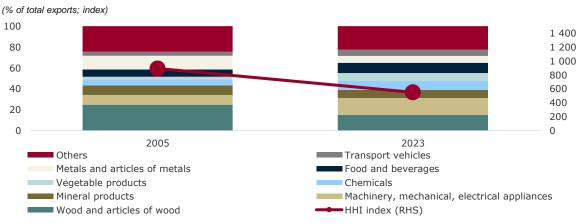
**Investment inflows** (% of GDP) 10 8 6 4 2.0 2 2.8 0 2015 2016 2018 2019 2020 2024 2017 2021 2022 2023 2 Foreign direct investment in Latvia Capital account

Source: Latvijas Banka





## Export structure by commodity groups and Herfindahl-Hirschman index for commodity group concentration

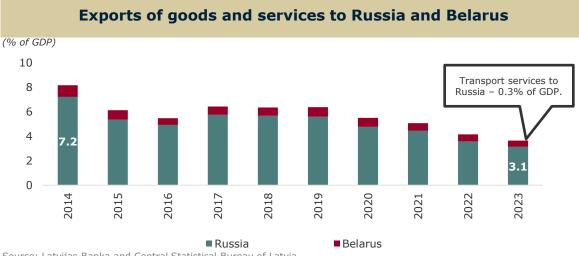


Source: Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia, Latvijas Bankas calculation

Export income of rail transport and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) services

## **Trade Ties with Russia Have Weakened Substantially since 2014**

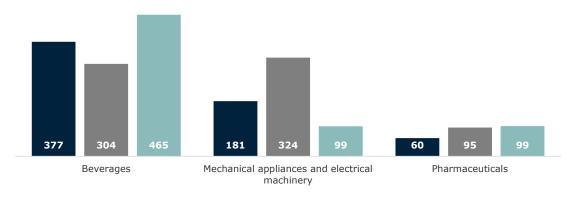
Supply chains related to imported materials have been successfully substituted. Large part of merchandise exports to Russia constitutes transit trade (beverages)



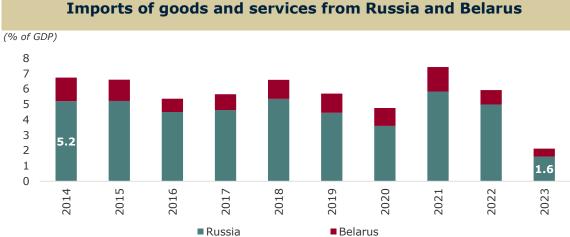
Source: Latvijas Banka and Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia

### Exports of major product groups to Russia in 2014, 2021 and 2023

(EUR mn)



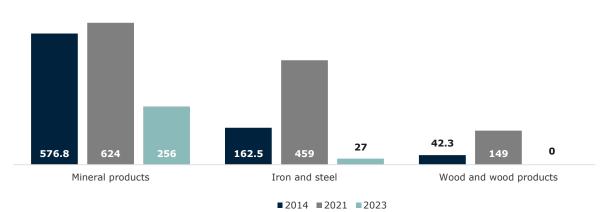
■2014 ■2021 ■2023



Source: Latvijas Banka and Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia

### Imports of major product groups from Russia in 2014, 2021 and 2023

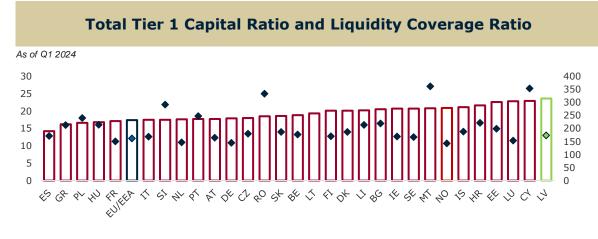
(EUR mn)



Source: Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia 14

## **Well-Capitalized and Profitable Banking Sector**

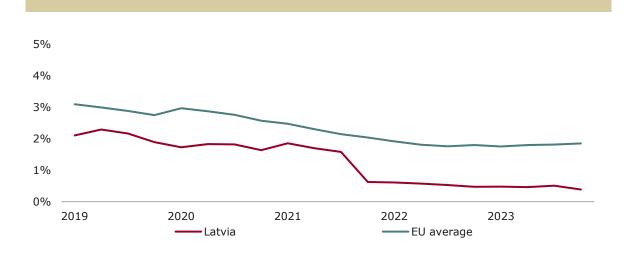
Prudent lending, ample capital buffers and low corporate and household debt provide strong shock absorption capacity



■T1 (LA) ◆LCR (RA)

Share of NPLs in total loans

Source: European Banking Authority Risk Dashboard



### **Return on Equity and additional indicators**

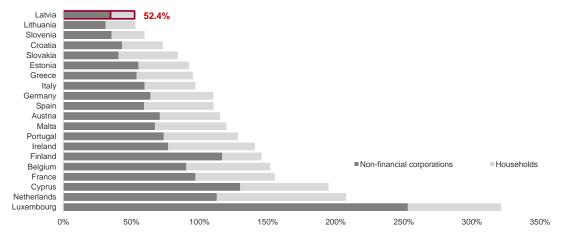


Note: \*for non-financial corporations and households.

Source: European Banking Authority Risk Dashboard (Data as of Q1 2024).

### **Total debt\*-to-GDP**

Total consolidated debt vis-a-vis rest of the economy in 2024 Q1, (% of GDP)

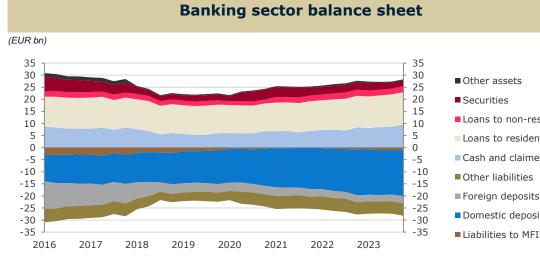


Note: Total consolidated debt vis-a-vis rest of the economy in 2024 Q1

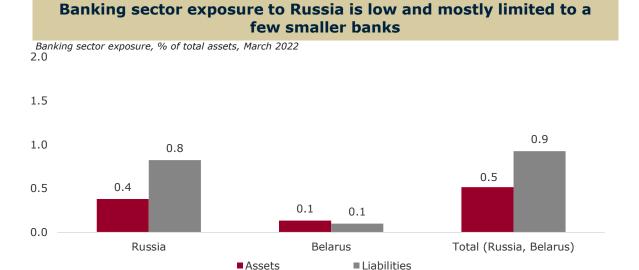
Source: ECB SDW

## Domestic banking has outgrown once considerable foreign banking activities

### Exposures to Russia or Belarus are low



## Loans to non-residents Loans to residents Cash and claimes on MFI Foreign deposits Domestic deposits



Source: Latvijas Banka, Latvijas Banka's calculations

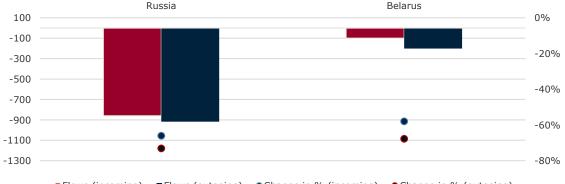
### **Improvement in AML**

- As noted in the IMF Article IV review 2023, Latvia has made significant progress with anti-money laundering and counter financing terrorism (AML/CFT) framework. The risk level of money laundering and terrorism and proliferation financing (ML/TPF) has decreased substantially at Latvia banks.
- Improved control system in financial institutions ensure that financial institutions are able to effectively manage the risk associated with the sanctions imposed against Russia and Belarus.
- Cooperation between all stakeholders has to lead to proportionate application of the AML regulation at Latvian banks without hindering the availability of financial services, Investment attraction and Latvia's economic growth.

### Cross border transactions with Russia have decreased significantly since Russia's war in Ukraine

Changes in bank customer cross border payments EUR mn (2022 H2 vs 2021 H2)

Source: Latvijas Banka FINANCIAL STABILITY REPORT 2022



■ Flows (incoming) ■ Flows (outgoing) ● Change in % (incoming) ● Change in % (outgoing)

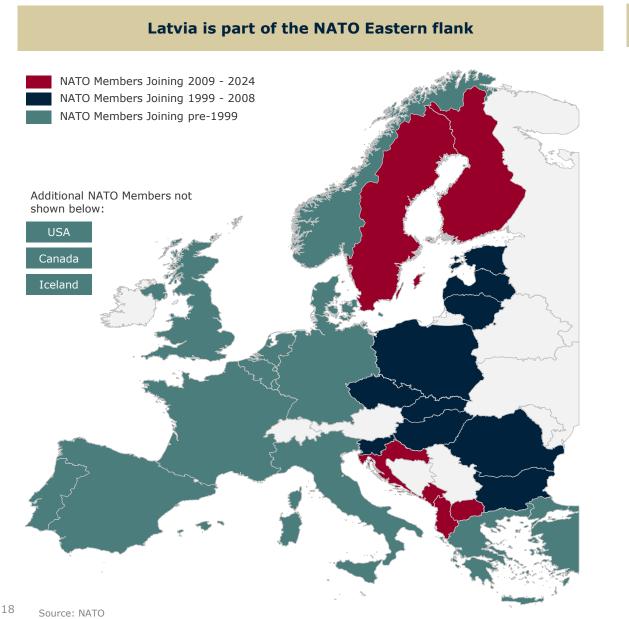


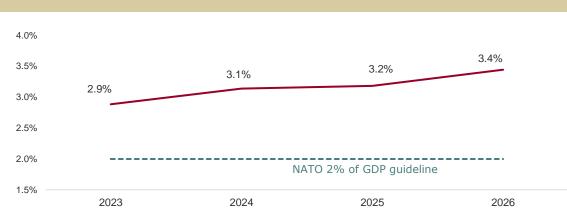
# Security and Energy



## Latvia – Member of the World's Strongest Military Alliance

Latvia has been a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) since 2004





### Defence spendings

Source: Defence spendings according to Budget Law of 2024 and medium-term framework 2024-2026 and separate decisions of the Government, MoF forecasts for GDP on June 2024

### National and Allied contribution to Latvia's security

### **Currently 21 NATO nations are represented in Latvia**

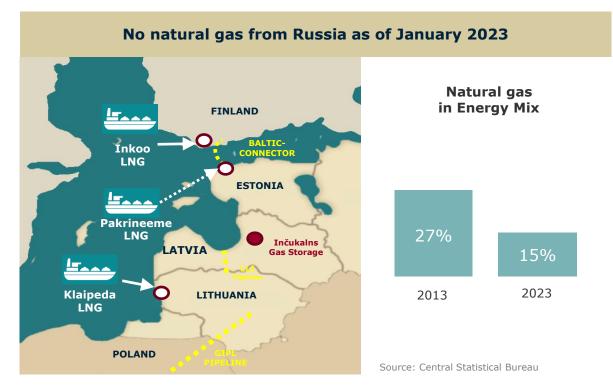
- Developing NATO Multinational Brigade Latvia (led by Canada)
- Developing NATO Multinational Division "North" (Latvia and Denmark as Framework Nations)
- U.S. ensures the presence of rotational units
- NATO Baltic Air Policing (Germany on the basis of a rotation)

## Latvia is boosting military strength with additional personnel, new military systems and infrastructure

- Introduction of Comprehensive defence system
- Fortification of Eastern border
- Re-introducing conscription
- Building biggest training area in the Baltics
- · Air defence, coastal defence and artillery rocket systems, as well as infantry fighting vehicles

## Latvia's Green Transition Enhancing National Energy Independence and Security

Becoming the 32nd IEA member is a testament to Latvia's ability to diversify its energy mix and ensure energy security



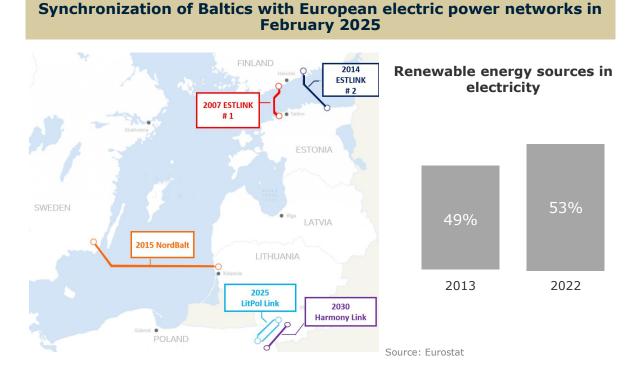
### Gas supply from Russia replaced with LNG Klaipeda (Lithuania)

Additional supply channels:

- The Gas Interconnection Poland-Lithuania (GIPL) gas pipeline
- A floating LNG terminal in Finland
- MoU with Estonia (Pakrineeme LNG terminal)

### Latvia has 3rd largest underground gas storage in Europe (Inčukalns)

• Inčukalns UGS technical capacity for period 2024/2025 is 23.005 TWh, which serves the total Baltic region`s annual needs and is fully booked. The storage is 75% full in August 2024.



### Security of supply and independence

- Zero imports from Russia since June 2022
- Strong, diversified interconnection system with the Nordic and Continental Europe power systems
- Strong integration with the common European electricity market
- Constant 24/7 readiness for emergency disconnection from the Russian power system
- Permanent disconnection from the Russian power system as of February 2025
- Strong growth of renewable generation in the Baltic region

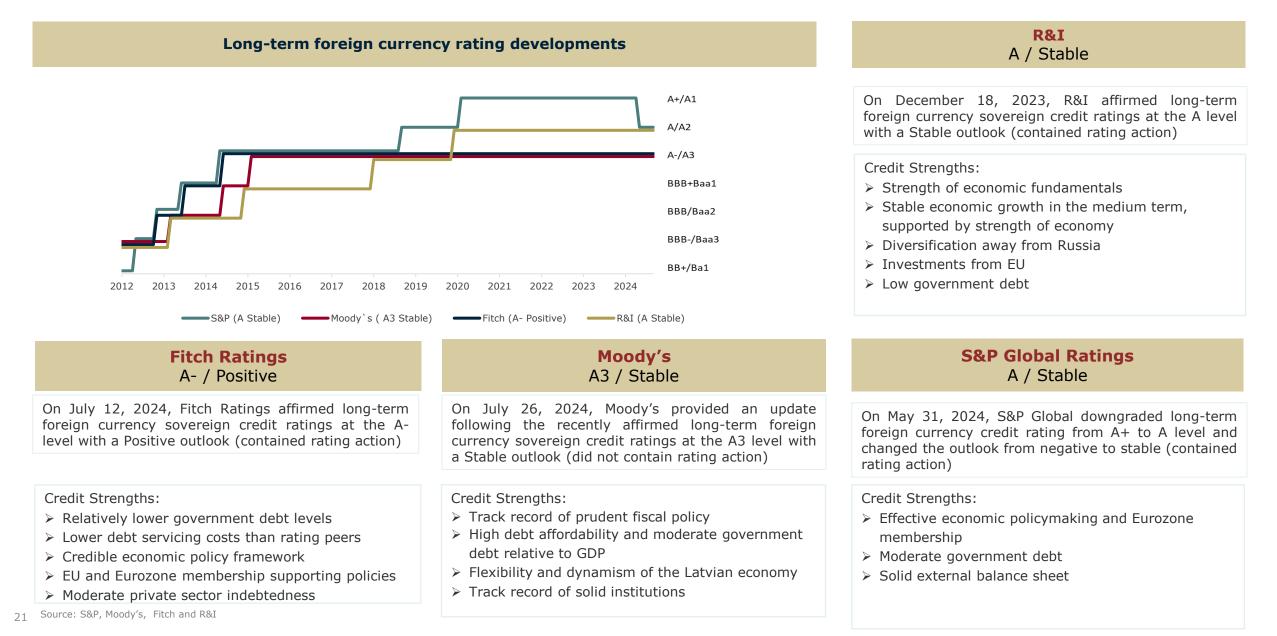


# **Debt Management**



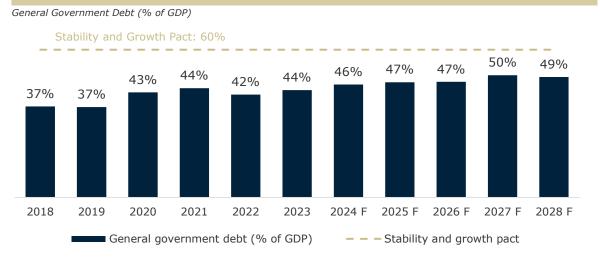
## Latvia's Ratings Firmly Consolidated in the 'A' Rating Category

The Latvian economy presents a strong credit, a theme echoed by rating agencies



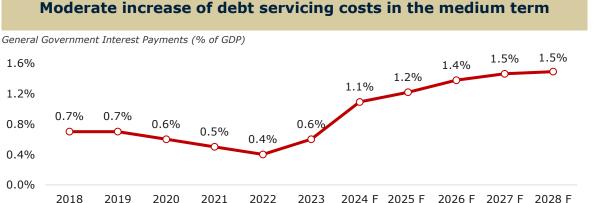
## **General Government Debt Remains Low and Manageable**

General government debt has been one of the lowest in Eurozone and is expected to remain below 60% in medium term



Low debt level provides effective buffer for additional funding needs

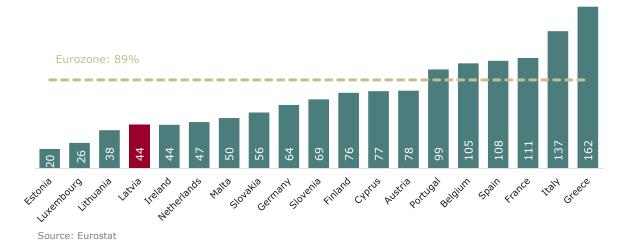
Source: Eurostat for data till 2023; F - Ministry of Finance forecast on August 2024



Source: Eurostat, ; F - Ministry of Finance forecast on August 2024

### One of the lowest general government debt levels in the Eurozone

General Government Debt (% of GDP), 2023



Large proportion of fixed rate debt in the portfolio



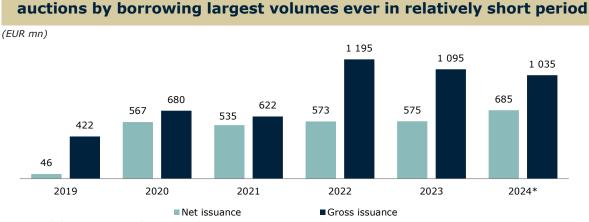
Duration (years)

- Weighted average interest rate, %

Source: Treasury, Data as of 10 September 2024

## **Demand in the Domestic Auctions Continues to be Supportive**

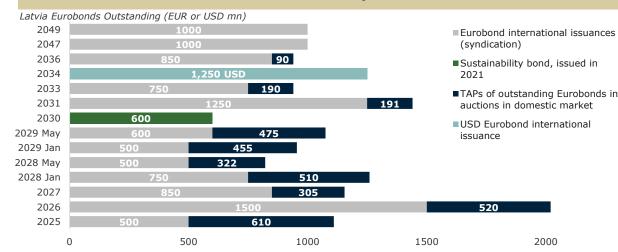
Liquidity of the outstanding Eurobonds is facilitated by regular TAPs in auctions via Primary Dealers



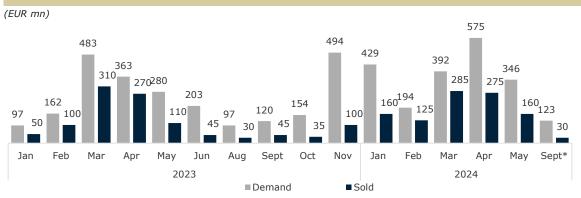
In the 1<sup>st</sup> half of 2024 the emphasis has been on the Eurobond TAP

#### Source: \*The Treasury as of 13 September 2024

## Liquidity of outstanding Eurobonds increased by regular TAPs in auctions via Primary Dealers



### Demand in Eurobond TAP auctions remains high and supportive



Source: \*The Treasury as of 20 August, 2024



#### Source: The Treasury as of 31 July 2024

## Flexibility is Embedded in Latvia's Funding Strategy

Main funding instruments are government debt securities issued in the international and domestic capital markets, amidst diversified funding tools

#### **Debt redemption profile** (EUR mn) 2 200 2 0 0 0 1 800 576 1 600 1 <u>220</u> 1 100 1 400 1 500 91 1 200 1 000 500 1 250 800 850 600 750 1 1 2 7 850 1 000 1 000 930 400 832 610 600 520 200 408 305 191 190 Ω 2024 2025 2026 2027 2028 2029 2030 2031 2032 2033 2034 2035 2036 2037-2047 2048-2050 Sep-2046 2049 Dec

Domestic securities (LV ISIN) Other external debt liabilities Eurobonds (XS/ US ISIN) Eurobond (XS ISIN) TAPs in domestic market Source: The Treasury, as of 31 August, 2024

## Estimated central government borrowing volumes in 2023-2026 (including international and domestic market)

	Actual end-2023	Estimation 2024	Estimation 2025	Estimation 2026
<b>Gross Borrowing volumes</b> <sup>1</sup> (nominal amount)	EUR 3.65 bn	EUR 3.1 bn	EUR 3.6 bn	EUR 3.3 bn
Cash buffer	3.7 % of GDP	2.6 % of GDP	1.3 % of GDP	1.2 % of GDP

Note: 1. The estimated gross borrowing volume is indicative, subject to actual budget execution, macroeconomic situation and may change due to number of contingencies and external factors, as well as the further fiscal policy decisions

Source: The Treasury, August 2024

### Borrowings in 2023

### International capital market syndications 3 transactions totalling EUR 2.1bn

- ✓ EUR 750mn bond maturing in January 2028
- ✓ EUR 600mn bond maturing in May 2029
- $\checkmark\,$  EUR 750mn bond maturing in July 2033

### **Domestic auctions**

✓ Re-opening of bonds from 2026 up to 2033 maturity in total amount of EUR 1,095mn

### **Savings Bonds**

 ✓ Outstanding saving bonds reached EUR 253mn raised as of December 2023 across different maturities from 12 month up to 10Y

### **European Investment Bank**

✓ Disbursement of EUR 200mn under EIB facility for co-financing EU fund projects