



FINANCING AND DEBT

- ◆ **The Bank of Latvia so far has purchased EUR 6 882.5 billion worth of Latvian and supranational securities under the European Central Bank's Public Sector Purchase Program.** In February 2018, the Bank of Latvia bought securities for EUR 82.5 million. (RĪGA, Mar 12, [Bank of Latvia](#))
- ◆ **The capital accumulated in the government-funded or second-pillar pension scheme in Latvia grew by 18.6 % or EUR 514.397 million in 2017, reaching EUR 3.278 billion at the end of the year, including EUR 90.2 million in profit from investments,** according to the information from the Finance and Capital Market Commission. (RĪGA, Mar 12, BNS)

BANKING SECTOR

- ◆ **Latvia's current account of the balance of payments had a surplus of EUR 120 million in January this year or 2.7 times more than in January 2017, the Bank of Latvia said.** Compared to January 2017, the deficit of goods decreased by EUR 72 million to EUR 124 million in January 2018, while the surplus of services shrank by EUR 19 million to EUR 176 million. (RĪGA, Mar 14, BNS)
- ◆ **Over the course of thirteen days, since Citadele bank began paying state-guaranteed compensation to ABLV Bank clients, compensation has been paid to a total of 3,441 ABLV Bank clients.** The total sum paid out between the 3rd and 15th of March is EUR 54.5 million. (RĪGA, Mar 14, [Citadele bank](#))

MACROECONOMICS

- ◆ **In January 2018 the foreign trade turnover of Latvia amounted to EUR 2.05 billion, which at current prices was 12.4 % more than in January 2017, of which the exports value of goods was 18.1 % and imports value of goods was 7.9 % higher.** Compared to January 2017, foreign trade balance has improved as exports in total foreign trade amount increased from 44.6 % to 46.8 %. (RĪGA, Mar 12, [CSB](#))
- ◆ **In January 2018, Latvia's industrial output grew by 4.2 % against the same period a year ago.** This is the faster rate than in the European Union (EU) on average. In January, Across the EU, industrial production in January rose 3 % y-o-y, and the eurozone registered a 2.7 % increase. (RĪGA, Mar 14, [Eurostat](#))
- ◆ **During the 4th quarter of last year, Latvia recorded a below average annual increase in employment among the EU member states.** The number of employed people against Latvia's entire population increased by 0.9 % in the 4th quarter of 2017. (RĪGA, Mar 14, [Eurostat](#))
- ◆ **The average hourly labor costs in Latvia in the 4th quarter of 2017, compared to 4th quarter of 2016 rose by EUR 0.54 or 7.3% reaching EUR 8.02, according to the seasonally non-adjusted data.** (RĪGA, Mar 14, [CSB](#))

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