



RIGA

# Economic profile of Riga 2026



## Riga – a city to invest in the future!

When I think about what matters most to me when I think of Latvia and Riga, I think of my three children. All of them were born here, and they are growing up in a free country. For them, Europe has always been open. There are no visas, no currency exchange, and they are free to study, work, and live anywhere they choose.

I did not grow up with the same opportunities. But I was raised to believe that freedom is something you must protect and strengthen every day. For more than thirty years, I worked in social services, defending the idea that everyone deserves a fair start, a safe home, and the chance to build a life with dignity.

That experience taught me something important. Freedom is not only about what we are allowed to do. It is about what we can achieve. It depends on whether a society gives people the confidence to plan their futures, raise families, start businesses, and believe that tomorrow will be better than today.

This is my vision as mayor. Riga must be a city where people can build a future. A city where opportunity is not a reason to leave, but a reason to stay, to return, or invest.

Riga is changing, and it is changing for the better. We are making the city easier to live in, easier to work in, and easier to create something new. We are investing in strong public services because they are the

foundation of economic growth. Good schools, safer streets, and reliable public transport are not extras. They are essentials.

We are expanding fast and reliable public transport and creating more green spaces so the city is comfortable, healthy, and easy to move through. We are increasing the supply of quality housing, including the largest public-private partnership housing project in the city's history, because people and companies need homes they can rely on. We are modernising schools, healthcare, and social facilities so families and professionals know that Riga supports every stage of life.

At the same time, we are changing how the city works with business.

We understand that time matters. That is why we have created a priority development track for strategic investments. Large projects move through a green corridor with faster approvals and coordinated decision-making across the city administration.

Every priority project has a single point of contact. A dedicated curator helps navigate departments, solve local issues, and remove unnecessary delays. If there is red tape, please tell us where it is, and we will cut it.

We also support relocation. Businesses can receive direct financial support and administrative assistance to attract international specialists and high-level talent. We want it to be simple to bring the right people to Riga and to help them feel at home here.

Most importantly, we listen. We talk to investors, entrepreneurs, and employers to understand what slows them down and what would help them grow faster. If something stands in your way, we want to know about it.

We are ready to welcome you as partners in Riga's future. We are ready to welcome your business, your ideas, and your ambition.

Riga does not need to copy anyone else. This city has its own character, its own pace, and its own pride. But we are open to learning, to improving, and to moving forward together.

If something about Riga feels right, hold on to that feeling, because this may not be just a visit. It can be the beginning of something more.

**Viesturs Kleinbergs**  
Chairman of the Riga City Council

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# Why invest in Riga?



## Access to large markets

Riga is the largest economic centre in the Baltic States and a gateway to a region with a total market of more than 6 million people within a 3-hour drive. It connects the markets of Northern Europe, the Baltics and Central Europe – an optimal location for companies with ambitions to develop their business in Europe.



## Global connectivity and developed infrastructure

Riga Airport – the fastest growing aviation hub in the Baltics with direct connections to more than 90 destinations in Europe, Asia, Africa and America.

The Port of Riga, as a multimodal transport hub, connects to 50 ports worldwide. The development of Rail Baltica in the coming years will strengthen Riga's role as a high-speed connection point between the Baltic and European cities.

Latvia is one of the first countries in the world to introduce a 5G network, ensuring continuous coverage across all urban areas and major land transport routes. Riga offers high-quality, high-speed internet, and the 5G infrastructure ensures accessibility, fast data transfer and connectivity.



## Talents with an international mindset

Almost 40 % of the population has higher education, while one in ten has higher vocational qualification. Most residents speak at least three languages (Latvian, Russian, English). A motivated workforce is available at competitive labour costs in the region.



## Dynamic innovation and business environment

A rapidly developing ecosystem of technology and creative industries. Latvia is one of the most progressive EU countries in digital governance and in support for start-ups. The success of local companies in the global market – Fyul (Printful & Printify), Aeronas, Mikrotik – demonstrates Riga's potential as a regional innovation platform. Fintech and digital service companies have access to a modernised regulatory environment and support instruments.



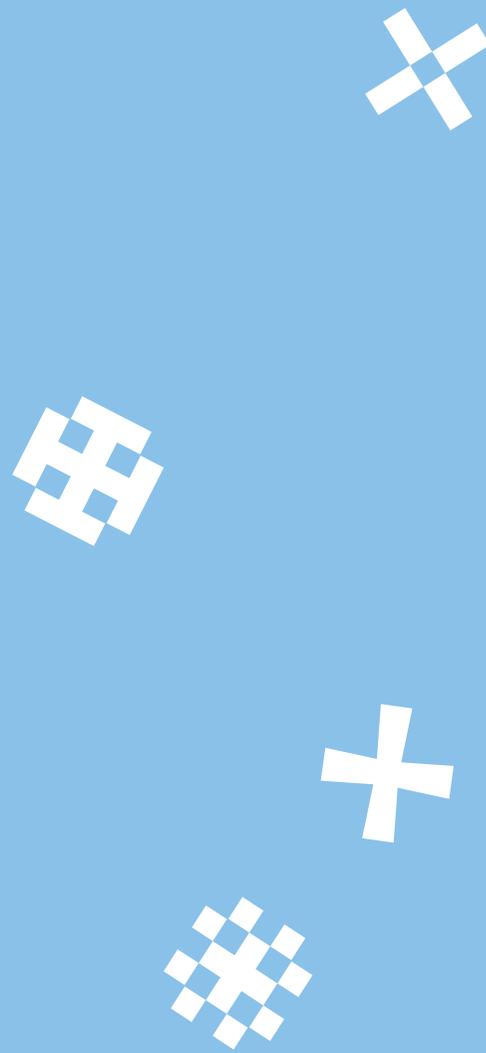
## Quality of life that attracts talent

A safe, green, compact city with affordable living costs. The 15-minute city principle: work, nature areas, culture and services are all within easy reach. An active cultural environment, high-quality architecture, access to the sea and lakes, and ample opportunities for a healthy lifestyle.



## Stable and transparent business environment

Latvia is a member of the European Union and the eurozone, which ensures the free movement of goods, services, capital and labour. Latvia is also a full member of all major global economic and political organisations, including the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).



Accessibility

Riga is the capital city of the Republic of Latvia. Geographically, it lies at the centre of the Baltic region and is the largest city there, ranking as the fifth largest city in the Baltic Sea area. The airport offers **direct flights to more than 90 destinations, and the Port of Riga connects with 50 ports worldwide.** The Rail Baltica infrastructure project, currently under development, will integrate Riga and the Baltic States into the European rail network.

**Distance from the nearest major European cities by road:**

Vilnius (Lithuania) – **300 km**

Tallinn (Estonia) – **310 km**

Helsinki (Finland) – **400 km**

Stockholm (Sweden) – **550 km**

Warsaw (Poland) – **660 km**

Berlin (Germany) – **840 km**



## Riga International Airport

Riga Airport is a rapidly growing air traffic hub in Northern Europe, connecting the Baltic States with European business centres and popular leisure destinations. Direct flights are available to more than 90 destinations. **The airport is located just 10 km from the city centre.**

## Number of passengers served

**7.11 million**

**20 %** Transfer passengers

## Top 10 destinations



**Top 10 destination countries:** Germany, Great Britain, Finland, Spain, Turkey, Italy, Sweden, Norway, Lithuania, Estonia.

**Regular passenger flights from Riga are provided by the following airlines:** Aegean, airBaltic, British Airways, Finnair, flydubai, LOT Polish Airlines, Lufthansa, Norwegian, Ryanair, SAS, Turkish Airlines, and Uzbekistan Airways.

**By 2030, it is planned to create RIX Airport City,** a new multifunctional "city" next to Riga Airport. It will be the best-connected business centre in the Baltics. (For more, see "The future")

**By joining the Net Zero 2050 initiative,** Riga Airport has committed to achieving climate neutrality **by 2050.**



## Port of Riga

Its location in the centre of the Baltic States makes the Port of Riga an advantageous logistics and distribution centre for Northern Europe. **Within 24 hours, goods can be delivered across the Baltic States and to Stockholm, Helsinki and Warsaw, and within 48 hours across Scandinavia.** The Port of Riga operates under a special economic zone regime, offering significant tax breaks and favourable rules for goods movement and storage.

It is planned that in 2030, a new passenger terminal, **Riga Ropax Terminal**, will begin operations. It will include three berths with a total length of 618 meters and a draught of up to 10.5 meters. The project competition was won by the world-renowned architectural firm **Zaha Hadid Architects** (London), and the area will feature retail, service, tourism, leisure, cultural and sports facilities, an office building, and outdoor public spaces.

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Number of ships served – **2494**

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Cargo turnover – **16.7 million tonnes**

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Main types of cargo – **forestry products, containers, agricultural products, petroleum products and gas**

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Number of passengers – **115.5k** (↑43 %)

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Number of cruise ships – **85**

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Ship traffic with more than **50 different countries' ports**



## Riga International bus station

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Domestic passenger carriers – **10**

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**11 international carriers, including 7 foreign companies**

International routes to **Great Britain, Germany, France, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Poland, etc.**

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Trips – **178k** (2024)

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Passengers – **1.7 million** (2024)



## Railway

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Electric train domestic routes – **4**

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Domestic diesel train routes – **5**

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Domestic passengers – **16.2 million** (I-IX)(↑11 %)



## Rail Baltica

Rail Baltica is the largest infrastructure project in the Baltic region in the last 100 years. It aims to integrate the Baltic states into the European rail network. Five European Union countries are participating in the project – **Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia** and, indirectly, **Finland**. The railway line will connect Helsinki, Tallinn, Pärnu, Riga, Panevezys, Kaunas, Vilnius and Warsaw. The new railway network will significantly increase transport capacity and speed, while reducing passenger travel time. This project will become a significant driving force in the transport and logistics sector, handling at least **13 million tonnes** of cargo per year, opening new opportunities for mutual trade with EU countries and, possibly in the more distant future, connecting the transport corridor with Eurasian countries as well. The project's benefits will also be enjoyed by at least **5 million passengers** per year.

(For more, see "The future".)

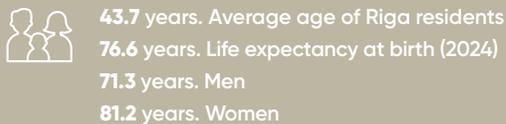
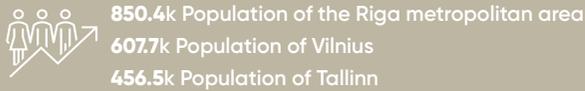


People

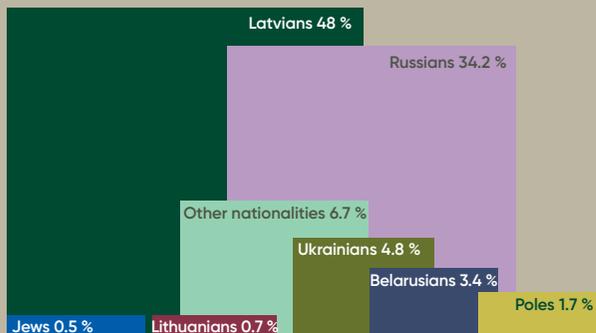


Riga is home to 32 % of Latvia's population. In comparison, the Riga metropolitan area is home to around 46 % of the country's total population, the highest concentration in a capital city in the European Union.

## Population overview



Riga is a multicultural city – the largest ethnic communities are Latvians (48 %) and Russians (34 %), but many Belarusians, Ukrainians, Poles, Lithuanians and people of other nationalities also live here.



## Education and employment

Most residents are employed, and the **unemployment rate is only 3.7 %** (XII)



**282.8k** Employed population (aged 15–64) (2024)

**21.8k** Unemployed (actual unemployment) (aged 15–64) (2024)

**377.4k** Working-age population in Riga

**177k** Men

**200.4k** Women



Average monthly gross wages in Riga

2025 Q3: **€2028**

2024: **€1869**

2023: **€1706**

2022: **€1535**

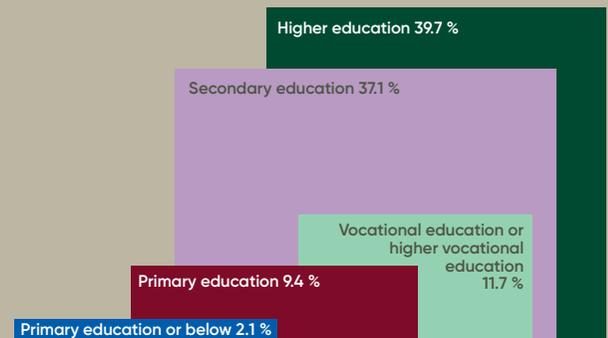


**95.9 %** In Riga region speak one foreign language

**74.9 %** In Riga region speak at least two foreign languages (2022)

**21st** place in the Global Talent Ranking

Among residents aged 15 and over, **40 %** have attained higher education, while **12 %** have completed higher vocational qualification.



Data for 2024

PEOPLE

Average monthly gross wages of employees by type of activity (Q3)

	€
Computer programming, consulting and related activities	<b>3280</b>
Head office activities, business and management consultancy activities	<b>3276</b>
Financial services, except insurance and pension funding	<b>3125</b>
Insurance, reinsurance and pension funding, except compulsory social security	<b>3099</b>
Water transport	<b>3031</b>
Telecommunications	<b>2809</b>
Activities auxiliary to financial services and insurance activities	<b>2777</b>
Manufacture of computers, electronic and optical equipment	<b>2737</b>
Scientific research	<b>2706</b>





Education, science  
and technology

Riga is the largest educational centre in Latvia. More than 150,000 children and young people study in general education schools, universities and colleges. Almost half of all vocational schools in Latvia are in Riga and its surroundings.

## Pre-school education



153 Municipal pre-school education institutions  
181 Private pre-school education providers  
21.3k Number of pupils in pre-school education

## General education schools



95 Municipal general education institutions  
51 Municipally co-financed private schools  
65.3k Number of pupils in general education

## Higher education

Approximately 11,000 international students also receive higher education in Riga, and this number is growing every year (15 % of all students in Latvia are from abroad).



35 higher education institutions  
Approximately 60k students  
80 % of all students in Latvia study in Riga  
Approximately 11k international students

## Interest-based education and sports

The city also offers a wide range of extracurricular activities in sports, culture, leisure, etc.



91.2k Students in interest education programmes

9 Music and art schools



8 Interest education institutions for children and young people

8 Vocational sports education institutions

## International schools

Several high-level international schools in Riga offer modern, multilingual education and internationally recognised programmes (IB, Cambridge, British, American, etc.). Among the best known are the International School of Riga, King's College Latvia, Riga English Grammar School, the International Jules Verne Riga French Lycée and Exupéry International School. Children from more than 50 countries study at these schools, creating a multicultural environment that emphasises critical thinking, creativity, and international cooperation.

## Knowledge Mile

In 2024, a memorandum of cooperation was signed between Riga City Council, the University of Latvia, Riga Technical University and Riga Stradiņš University, which provides for the joint development of **the Knowledge Mile area**, attracting both Latvian and foreign students, as well as promoting Riga as a European city of innovation and knowledge. The Knowledge Mile is a space for study and science where the three most prominent universities in Latvia will collaborate to create new knowledge, ideas, and innovations, thereby helping Riga and Latvia to develop. The local government, in turn, is building new infrastructure. It is planned that this area could become the largest campus in the Baltic States,

covering 4–5 km<sup>2</sup> and bringing together around 30–40 thousand students. This will create an area where science, studies, entrepreneurship and the real estate market will all flourish.

Universities available in the Knowledge Mile area:

Rīga Stradiņš University (RSU) in Dzirciems

The University of Latvia (LU) Academic Centre in Torņakalns (321 ha)

Rīga Technical University (RTU) student campus in Ķīpsala. Every day, 12,000 RTU students and employees, as well as 814 residents, stay in Ķīpsala

H2O Architecture and Media Centre 6

Turība University in Atgāzene

Rīga International School of Economics and Business Administration (RISEBA)

## Testbeds in Riga

Rīga Smart City offers companies and organisations the opportunity to test smart city technologies (TRL 6+) in real urban conditions. Testbeds in Riga provides access to city infrastructure, engineering networks, public spaces and municipal buildings, while offering extensive data resources. Providing a point of contact facilitates navigation through administrative processes, enabling solutions to be coordinated and implemented quickly and efficiently. Three pilot areas have been established in the capital to test various solutions in an urban environment: the VEF neighbourhood, the University of Latvia Academic Centre in Torņakalns, and the Rīga Technical University campus in Ķīpsala. Depending on the project objectives, the test bed can cover the entire city or a specific area. The pilot areas allow for testing solutions

in priority areas such as mobility, digital solutions, the Internet of Things (IoT), 5G connectivity, security and resilience, smart energy, and innovative environmental technologies, as well as health, well-being, and education. By 2025, more than 50 pilot projects testing solutions aligned with Riga's smart city development priorities have been launched – some have already been completed, while others are still ongoing.

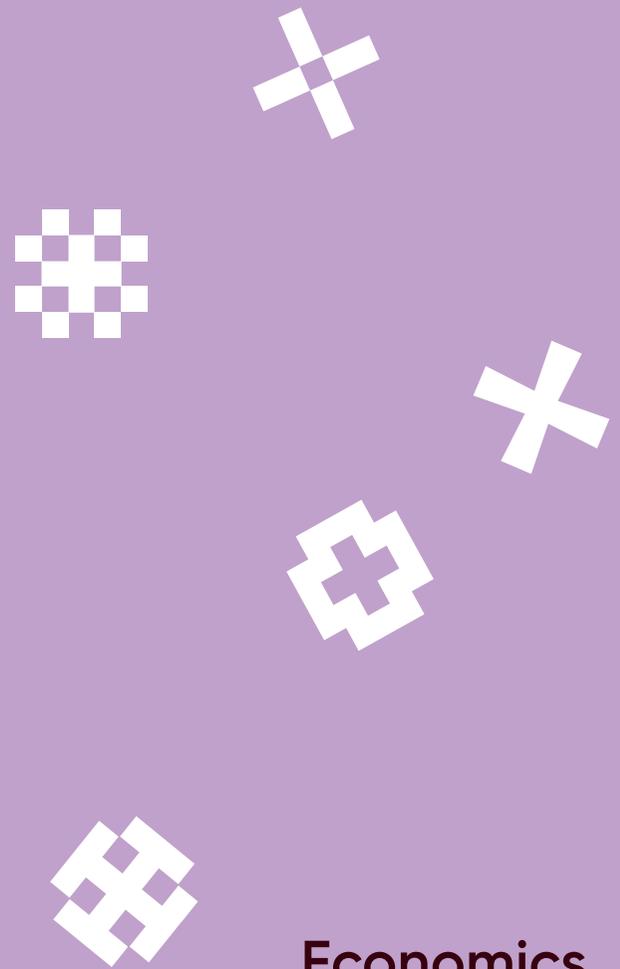
Find out more: [smartriga.lv](http://smartriga.lv)

## Geo Riga

Geo Riga, the City of Riga's unified data publication portal, provides fast and convenient access to the city's geospatial information across the Riga territory. Its thematic maps offer both 2D and 3D data and products, along with open datasets available for download. In 2025, Geo Riga received an award from Esri, the world's leading geographic information system (GIS) software developer, for outstanding GIS achievements.

Find out more:





**Economics**

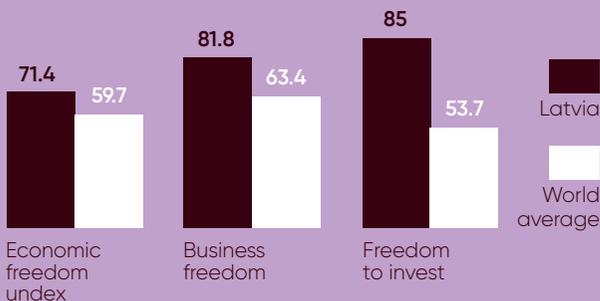
Riga is the economic and financial centre of Latvia. Half of Latvia's gross domestic product and exports are generated in Riga. Latvia is a full member of all major global economic and political organisations, which guarantees support for foreign investment and investment security.

Latvia is a full member of many respected international organisations



## Economic freedom index

Latvia ranks **15th** among European countries and **24th** worldwide and is also among the most open to business and investment.



## Latvia's credit rating



Scale of credit rating assessments

S&P Global	<b>A (stable)</b>
Fitch	<b>A- (stable)</b>
Moody's	<b>A3 (stable)</b>
R&I	<b>A (stable)</b>

## Latvia's macroeconomic forecasts for 2026-2028

	2026	2027	2028
GDP growth in actual prices, %	<b>4.7</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>4.6</b>
Consumer price index, change, %	<b>2.3</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>2.2</b>
Average gross monthly earnings of employees, EUR	<b>1920</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2127</b>
Unemployment rate, % of economically active population	<b>6.3</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>5.5</b>

## Competitiveness of the Latvian tax system



International corporate income tax index  
2025: **1st place**

International tax competitiveness index  
2025: **2nd place**

## Global competitiveness rating

Latvia ranks **38th** worldwide in overall competitiveness and **34th** in business efficiency. (↑15 places).

## Global talent rating

Latvia ranks **21st** in the global talent ranking (↑14 places) and **13th** in the **Investment and development indicator** (investment in the development and growth of local talent).

## Future European cities and regions

For the **third year** in a row, Riga has been ranked among the best investment destinations in Europe in the medium-sized European city categories: **Human capital and lifestyle** – 3rd place and **Foreign investment attraction strategy** – 7th place.



Entrepreneurship

 **41.5%** in Riga  
58.5% across Latvia

Riga is the most active business region in Latvia. Latvia has an average of 97.7 companies per 1,000 inhabitants, but in Riga this figure is 127.1. In total, there are **75.2k economically active companies** in Riga. Riga is home to 41.5 % of all commercial companies registered in Latvia.

## Most valuable private sector companies in Riga

"Prudentia" and "Nasdaq Riga" calculations

Company	Business Value (in millions)
 <b>6031.5</b> Swedbank Baltics, AS	<b>749.1</b> SEB banka, AS
<b>649.3</b> Citadele banka, AS	<b>407.5</b> Rietumu banka, AS
 <b>1184.2</b> Mikrotikls, SIA	<b>508.1</b> Latvijas finieris, AS
 <b>820.3</b> Maxima Latvija, SIA	<b>488.3</b> Rimi Latvia, SIA
 <b>610.8</b> Latvijas mobilais telefons, SIA	<b>475.7</b> Tele2, SIA
<b>399.6</b> Bite Latvija, SIA	

## Foreign investments in the share capital of companies



Amount invested in companies registered in Riga

2025	€ <b>12,465.57 million</b> (XII)
2024	€ <b>9904.36 million</b>
2023	€ <b>9613.18 million</b>

## TOP 5 foreign investors in Riga (XII)



## Leading sectors in Riga with the most significant foreign capital

By number of investors (14,015 investors in total) (XII)

<b>11 %</b>	Real estate activities (1545)
<b>7 %</b>	Energy (933)
<b>6 %</b>	Financial sector (847)
<b>5 %</b>	IT sector (631)
<b>3 %</b>	Pharmaceutical manufacturing (408)
<b>3 %</b>	Consulting and business services (375)

By investment volume (total EUR 10.11 billion) (XII)

<b>52 %</b>	Financial sector (€ 5.25 billion)
<b>12 %</b>	Real estate activities (€ 1.16 billion)
<b>6 %</b>	Trade (€ 563 million)
<b>5 %</b>	Industry and manufacturing (€ 288 million)

## Priority sectors for investment

The Riga City Council has identified seven priority economic sectors in which foreign investment is actively being attracted:

- global business services and financial services,
- high value-added manufacturing,
- real estate,
- information and communication technologies,
- attracting international film projects,
- start-up ecosystem,
- life sciences.

Find out more: [liveriga.com / priority sectors](https://liveriga.com/priority-sectors)

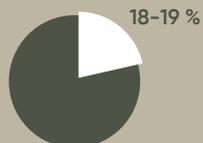
## Capital of business services centres

Riga has been repeatedly recognised as **the most dynamically growing city** in Central and Eastern Europe in the business services centre sector (European Business Services Association Awards 2021, 2024, 2025).

## Real estate in Riga

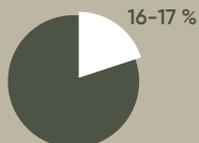
### Availability of premises (Q3)

Vacant Class A office space



Rent: 16 – 19 €/m<sup>2</sup>

Vacant Class B 1 office space



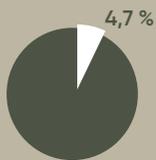
Rent: 11 – 15 €/m<sup>2</sup>

Vacant retail space in shopping centres

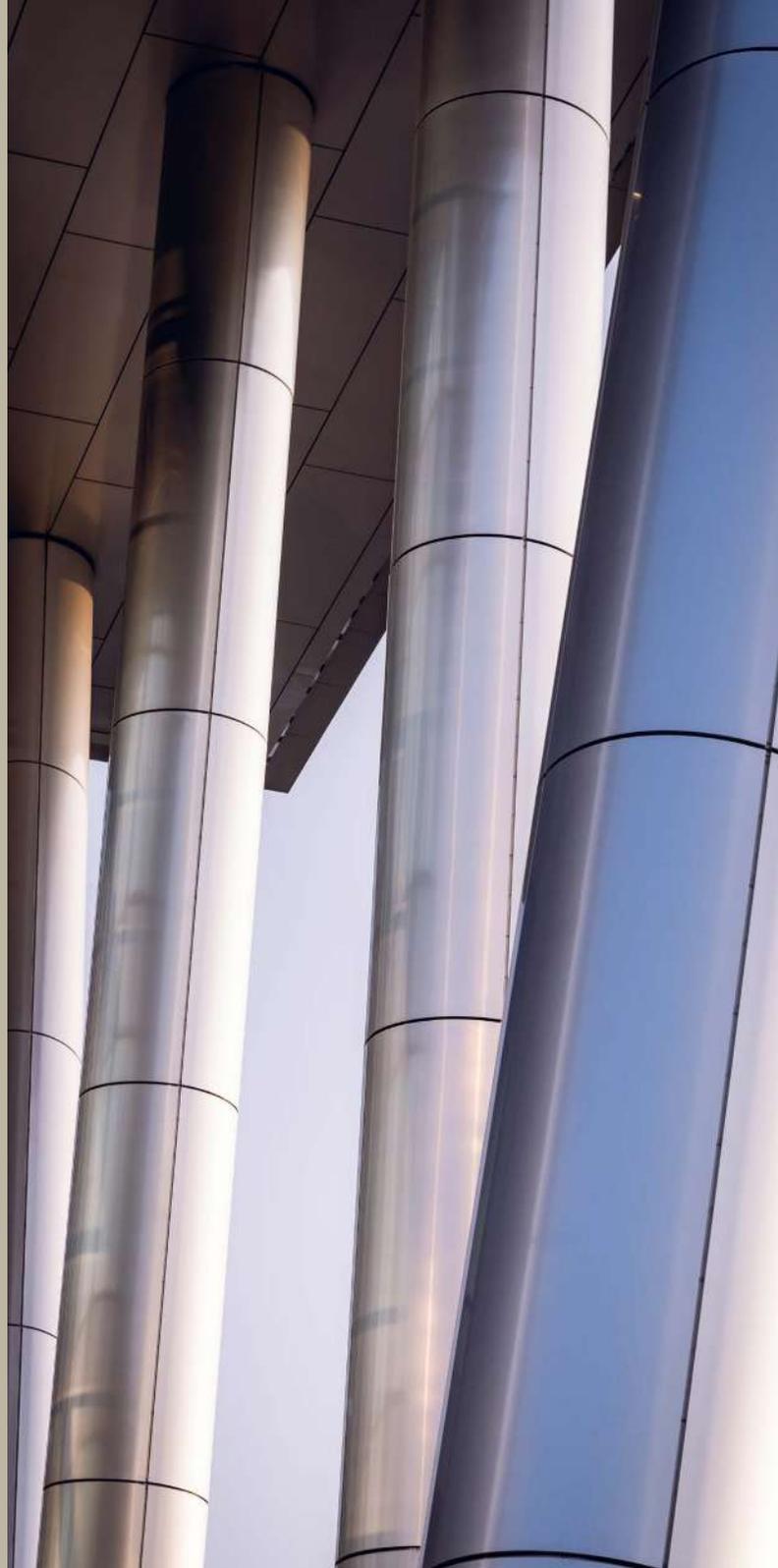


Rent: 23 – 40 €/m<sup>2</sup>

Free storage space



Rent: 4.4 – 5.4 €/m<sup>2</sup>



## Riga – a hub for start-ups

Riga is the leading hub for start-ups in the Baltics, offering a favourable environment for business growth, talent attraction, and investment. Targeted national and local government policies, an active start-up community, and international recognition characterise the city's development.

### Latvia's advantages:

- **First in the Baltics with a special start-up law** – in 2025, **37 companies** were approved for support through tax breaks and talent co-financing.
- **One of the best stock option regulations in Europe**, which promotes talent attraction and retention.
- **Start-up visa regime** – at the end of 2025, **61 foreign founders** had active residence permits.
- **New venture capital funds** – funds selected by ALTUM (Buildit, BADideas.fund, Outlast) provide **€62 million** for the development of early-stage companies.

## Riga's start-up ecosystem

- **TechChill** – an international start-up conference that brings together more than 2,300 participants from around the world each year.
- **Baltic FinTech Days** – a travelling conference that attracts international investors and media attention to the Baltic financial technology sector.
- **DeepTech Atelier** – the most significant conference for science-intensive companies in the Baltics, bringing together scientists, entrepreneurs, investors, and other industry stakeholders from across Europe.
- **Startup House Riga** – the epicentre of Riga's start-up sector and the main meeting point for the city's ecosystem.

- **Riga TechGirls** – an organisation that promotes women's involvement in technology, entrepreneurship, and the start-up sector.
- **Unilab** – an accelerator for start-ups from Latvia's leading universities, implementing NATO's Diana defence technology start-up development programme in Latvia since 2025.
- The Latvian Start-up Association **Startin.LV** is one of the leading organisations in developing the Latvian start-up ecosystem. It is a non-profit, non-governmental organisation founded in 2016 as a public initiative to unite the voices of Latvian start-ups, develop the startup community, and promote mutual understanding in the start-up environment.



## Riga's start-up ecosystem in numbers

**82 %** of Latvian startups are concentrated in Riga and its planning region, making the city the country's main centre of innovation.



Aerones attracted the largest investment in 2025, amounting to **€54 million**.

### Taxes paid by Riga start-ups

€105.2 million	2025
€84.3 million	2024
€70.5 million	2023
€60.6 million	2022

## Investment attraction activities

In cooperation with LIAA and the Embassy of Latvia in Finland, a start-up investment attraction delegation to **Slush** – the leading start-up conference in Northern Europe – has been organised for the third consecutive year, along with side events featuring delegation participation.

In 2026, for the first time, a delegation will be organised to Europe's leading DeepTech conference, **Hello Tomorrow Global Summit** in Amsterdam, ensuring broad representation of Latvia.

## Co-financing programmes

### Riga Investment and Tourism Agency support programs

€890,900

Total budget invested in various startup and business activity support programs in Riga during 2025.

### Riga start-up ecosystem support programme

The programme aims to support the development of the Riga start-up ecosystem by providing co-financing and backing organisations that foster start-ups.

This approach helps to stimulate the creation of new start-ups and strengthens Riga's reputation as a start-up-friendly city.

€519,870 total invested since 2022

45 total activities

€220,000 to be invested in 2026

### Riga start-up accelerator and incubator support programme

The programme aims to support the growth of start-up accelerators and incubators in Riga through co-financing and by supporting the work of organisations that run start-up acceleration and incubation programmes.

€575,000 total invested since 2022

17 total programs

€210,000 to be invested in 2026

### Start-up house support programme

€450,000

A long-term programme for the development of start-up centres in Riga, promoting an environment for innovation and the emergence of new technologies, products, and services. Each beneficiary is eligible for up to €450,000 euros over three years.

The programme supports Startup House Riga, which brings together around 70 organisations. In the first 12 months of the programme (2024–2025), 23 start-ups received support, more than 400 events, while 9 start-ups attracted more than €7.7 million in investments.

### **Relocation support programme for highly qualified specialists**

**The programme promotes the attraction of international talent to Riga by co-financing the relocation of highly qualified specialists.** It helps start-ups and technology companies to attract critically essential skills and strengthens Riga's competitiveness in the global labour market.

### **Diaspora relocation support programme**

**The programme provides support for the return and integration of diaspora representatives in Riga,** promoting the return of entrepreneurship, innovation, and international experience to the city's economy and start-up ecosystem.

### **Business event co-financing programme**

**The programme supports the organisation of international conferences, congresses and business events in Riga.** It attracts foreign investors, entrepreneurs and industry professionals, strengthening Riga's recognition as a Baltic business centre.

### **Riga Innovation Fund**

**A municipality-funded instrument for the development and implementation of smart city solutions.** In 2025, seven projects received support, including artificial intelligence assistants, smart mobility solutions, unmanned aerial vehicle detection sensors, and digital tools to improve public services. The fund has gained international recognition in the CEE Smart Cities Mobility Index, receiving the **Smart Mobility Finance Recognition Award**.

City residents recognise Riga as a rapidly growing smart city, as evidenced by its rise in the global Smart City Index, ranking **46th in 2025 – up 13 and 37 places in two years.**

### **Riga Film Fund**

**Co-financing programme for foreign and local audiovisual projects in Riga.** The fund promotes the development of creative industries, the city's international recognition, and direct economic contributions, including services, hotels, transport, and the local labour force, positioning Riga as a film-friendly European city.

Find out more:





Living environment

## Climate

Riga's climate is influenced by temperate air masses from the Atlantic Ocean, which bring active cyclonic activity. Summers are moderately warm, with average temperatures not exceeding 20°C, while winters remain relatively mild, with average temperatures staying above 0°C.

	February	July
Average air temperature	<b>-1.7° C</b>	<b>20.1° C</b>
Sunshine duration in hours	<b>75</b>	<b>226</b>

## Territory

Riga covers an area of **304 km<sup>2</sup>**, including:



Residential areas cover 67.00 km<sup>2</sup> (**21.8 %**)

Industrial areas cover 52.45 km<sup>2</sup> (**17.0 %**)

Streets and roads cover 24.64 km<sup>2</sup> (**8.0 %**)

Parks cover 57.54 km<sup>2</sup> (**19.0 %**)

Water areas cover 48.50 km<sup>2</sup> (**15.8 %**)

In terms of green space, Riga is considered one of the greenest capitals in Europe. Riga is a typical flat city with a few hills; the highest is Dzegužkalns, at 26 metres above sea level.

## Green areas and water

The city's green zone consists of 29 parks, 10 larger forest areas and forest parks, and 66 squares. In terms of tree coverage, Riga ranks third among European capitals. Latvia's largest river, the Daugava, flows through the city, as do several smaller rivers. There are 9 lakes and ponds in the Riga area. The city has 9 official swimming areas, one of which – Vakarbulji – is a Blue Flag swimming area.

## Public transport



51 bus routes

22 trolleybus routes

7 tram routes

# 115.97 million

Number of passengers carried (2024)

## Cycling

Currently, the city's bicycle infrastructure is over 120 kilometres, and by 2030, it is planned to increase this to 300 kilometres. A total of 44 % of Riga residents use bicycles to get around the city, including 9 % who do so every day and 18 % who do so at least once a week. In recent years, the city has also seen rapid growth in the number of shared electric scooter and bicycle service providers.

## Quality of life in Riga

Number and accessibility of green areas (parks, boulevards, squares)

Low noise levels

Cleanliness in the city

Availability of cultural events

Opportunities for sport and active recreation

Accessible public transport

Low crime rate/safety in the city

Accessibility of general education

Accessibility of healthcare services

Good housing at affordable prices

## Culture

Riga has a dynamic cultural life. The most popular cultural venues in Riga are **the Latvian National Museum of Art, Kalnciema Quarter, Āgenskalns Market, Latvian National Library** (known as the Castle of Light), **Dailes Theatre**, and **Tallinas Street Quarter**. Riga's Old Town is listed on UNESCO's World Heritage List.

Riga is also known as an architectural gem. In this city, you can see churches built in the city's early days, medieval buildings in the Old Town, unique examples of Art Nouveau, centuries-old wooden architecture, and modern architectural gems.

Approximately 40 % of all buildings in the centre of Riga are Art Nouveau, which is far more than in other European cities.

## Sustainable development

Riga is actively involved in achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals. In the 2024 Sustainable Cities Index, **Riga ranks 45th among 100 cities worldwide**. The city's performance in sustainability and environmental protection places Riga 27th in the **Planet** category, while the quality of life in the city ranks 14th in the **People** category.

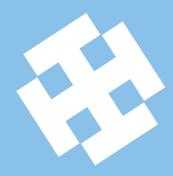
## Everyday life in Riga (Xl)

Expenses per person per month (excluding apartment rent)	€ 800 – 1000
Monthly rent for one person	€ 350 – 650
One trip on public transport	€ 1.50
Car parking per hour	€ 1.50 – 3

Home internet per month	€ 15 – 20
Mobile phone tariff per month	€ 10 – 20
Cinema ticket	€ 8 – 15
Theatre ticket	€ 15 – 50
Popular music concert ticket	€ 15 – 90
Meal at a restaurant	€ 25 – 60
A cup of coffee in a café	€ 2 – 4
Taxi ride	€ 7 – 20
Fitness club membership	€ 30 – 55
Swimming pool visit	€ 10 – 15
Visit to a doctor at a private clinic	€ 40 – 60
Visit to a hairdresser	€ 30 – 50
3-star hotel per person per night	€ 50 – 110

Find out more:





Riga in the world

The city of Riga is an active member of the Baltic Sea Region and European city cooperation networks, participating not only in regional processes but also actively representing the interests of the region's cities in Europe. Riga's participation in international organisations and cooperation networks provides extensive opportunities for cooperation and the exchange of experience in both bilateral and multilateral formats. At the same time, it allows the city to participate in the decision-making processes of international organisations and city-cooperation networks by joining working groups or taking on leadership.

## Riga's twin cities

Riga has signed agreements with **25 cities**, which form a basis for cooperation in culture and education, transport and urban development, health, tourism, investment, entrepreneurship, environmental protection, and other areas. Collaboration with other cities also takes place through projects and various formats.

Almaty (Kazakhstan)

Bordeaux (France)

Bremen (Germany)

Dallas (USA)

Yerevan (Armenia)

Florence (Italy)

Cairns (Australia)

Kyiv (Ukraine)

Kobe (Japan)

Norrköping (Sweden)

Astana (Kazakhstan)

Aalborg (Denmark)

Beijing (People's Republic of China)

Pori (Finland)

Rostock (Germany)

Santiago (Chile)

Stockholm (Sweden)

Suzhou (People's

Republic of China)

Taipei (Taiwan)

Tallinn (Estonia)

Tartu (Estonia)

Tashkent (Uzbekistan)

Tbilisi (Georgia)

Agreement suspended for an indefinite period

Warsaw (Poland)

Vilnius (Lithuania)

## International organisations and cooperation networks

Riga is a member of more than 20 international organisations and city cooperation networks. This allows it to develop cooperation with cities and large regions in other countries in areas such as economics, tourism, social issues, the environment, transport, energy, culture, education, health, and other areas relevant to the city and its residents. Participation in the international environment is a platform for exchanging knowledge, ideas, and experience, as well as for addressing joint problems and developing innovative solutions, both in Europe and the Baltic Sea region and on a global scale. The most important international organisations and city cooperation networks in which Riga is a member city are:

**Network of major European cities, (EUROCITIES).**

**Union of the Baltic Cities (UBC).**

**Hanseatic League (Städtebund DIE HANSE).**

**European Forum for Urban Security (EFUS).**

**The Organisation of World Heritage Cities (OWHC).**

**The International Committee for Conservation of the Industrial Heritage (TICCIH).**

**The Network of European Metropolitan Regions and Areas (METREX).**

**European network of cities for energy transition (Energy Cities).**

**The World Health Organisation's European Healthy Cities Network (WHO European Healthy Cities).**

**European Cooperation Network for Health Promotion (EuroHealthNet).**

**European Social Network (ESN).**

European Film Commission Network (EUFCN).  
 European Regional Film Fund Network (CINE-REGIO).  
 International Congress and Convention Association (ICCA).  
 Union of International Associations (UIA).  
 European Institute of Innovation & Technology Urban Mobility (EIT UM) Hub/Leading City.  
 Open & Agile Smart Cities & Communities (OASC).  
 European Digital Infrastructure Consortium (EDIC).  
 European Regions Research and Innovation Network (ERRIN)  
 European Network of Family-Friendly Municipalities  
 International City/County Management Association (ICMA).

## Tourism

In 2025, Riga received significant international recognition, achieving high positions in ratings:



2nd place in the list of **Europe's best destinations** (Travelers Worldwide European Best Destinations 2025).



**Most affordable city** for short trips in Europe (Post Office Travel Money City Costs Barometer 2025).



3rd place in the international Christmas market ranking **European Best Christmas Markets 2025–2026**.



For the third consecutive year, Riga also received the title of **Best Christmas Lights** in Europe.

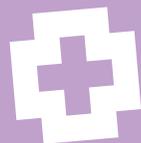
## Tourist accommodation in Riga and guests served

In the first half of 2025, the total number of guests served in Riga hotels **increased by 12.4 %** compared to the first half of 2024. A particularly sharp increase can be observed in specific foreign markets: the number of guests from the United Kingdom increased by 29.9 %, from Norway by 23 %, and from Sweden by 20.4 %.

	2024	2023	2022
Number of accommodations	109	104	93
Number of persons served (in millions)	1.43	1.24	1.05
Percentage of persons served (of all tourists served in Latvia)	53 %	51 %	48 %
Number of foreign visitors (in millions)	1.14	0.98	0.80
Percentage of foreign visitors (of all foreign tourists in Latvia)	72 %	71 %	71 %

Find out more:





Highlights

Riga is a modern city with a rich historical heritage, attracting visitors with its diverse cultural and gastronomic offerings, stunning architecture, and proximity to breathtaking nature. We are not afraid to say that Riga is the most cosmopolitan of the Baltic capitals.

## Old Town

The Old Town is the oldest part of Riga and the city centre, as well as the most popular place for tourists to relax and enjoy themselves. **In 1997, the historic centre of Riga was included in the UNESCO World Heritage List.** Old Riga has a diverse range of buildings, most of which are cultural monuments. The architecture represents various styles – Gothic, Baroque, Classicism, Modernism, and Art Nouveau. The most impressive buildings in Old Town are the House of the Blackheads, Riga Cathedral, Riga Castle, and St. Peter's Church, where the 72-metre-high tower offers a magnificent panorama of Riga.

## World-class restaurants

In the city centre, you can find a good meal on every corner. Riga's menu features a blend of local and international cuisine, with an emphasis on seasonal, locally sourced ingredients. Whether it's a restaurant with white tablecloths or a place to grab a quick coffee and sandwich, it's clear that people in Riga don't just eat, they love good food. **The Michelin Guide 2026 includes 31 Latvian restaurants, 24 of which are located in Riga,** including two one-star restaurants (Max Cekot Kitchen, JOHN Chef's Hall) and four Bib Gourmand restaurants (Milda, Shōyu, Snatch, SMØR Bistro).

## Wooden architecture

Another architectural highlight of Riga is its wooden buildings, which are a real rarity in modern Europe. Charming wooden houses can be found on Pārdaugava streets and in other parts of the city, such as Ķīpsala, Grīziņkalns and Maskavas Forštate. **One of the most outstanding examples of local wooden architecture is the Kalnciema Quarter** – a unique 19th-century wooden architectural heritage site. A group of friends and like-minded people are working to preserve the quarter's historical feel while giving it a 21st-century dynamic. The houses invite visitors to enjoy Latvian and European design, while the courtyards host fairs, art exhibitions and creative workshops.

## Riga Boulevard ring

The Riga Boulevard ring is noteworthy, with construction beginning in 1857 after the demolition of Riga's fortifications. It was planned according to the best urban planning principles of the time, with green boulevards, squares, parks (Vērmanes garden, Kronvalda park and other Riga's city Canal gardens) and magnificent architecture, including **the Latvian National Theatre, the Opera House, the Latvian Academy of Art** and, of course, the symbol of Latvian freedom and independence – **the Freedom Monument.**

## Art Nouveau

Vienna? Brussels? Maybe Barcelona? No, the real Art Nouveau capital is Riga! **About a third of the buildings in the city centre are true gems of this architectural style.** Art Nouveau is an art style from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The development of Art Nouveau

## HIGHLIGHTS

in Riga coincided with a period of unprecedented prosperity in the city's history, and today the Latvian capital is rightly considered the Mecca of Art Nouveau.

**Alberta street** is the pearl of Art Nouveau in Riga, lined with magnificent, historic Art Nouveau buildings. Each of these buildings is a unique architectural achievement of the 20th century. Eight of the buildings on Alberta street are recognised as architectural monuments of national importance. If the facades alone are not enough, **the Art Nouveau Museum on Alberta street** will offer a broader insight into the era's interiors and everyday life.

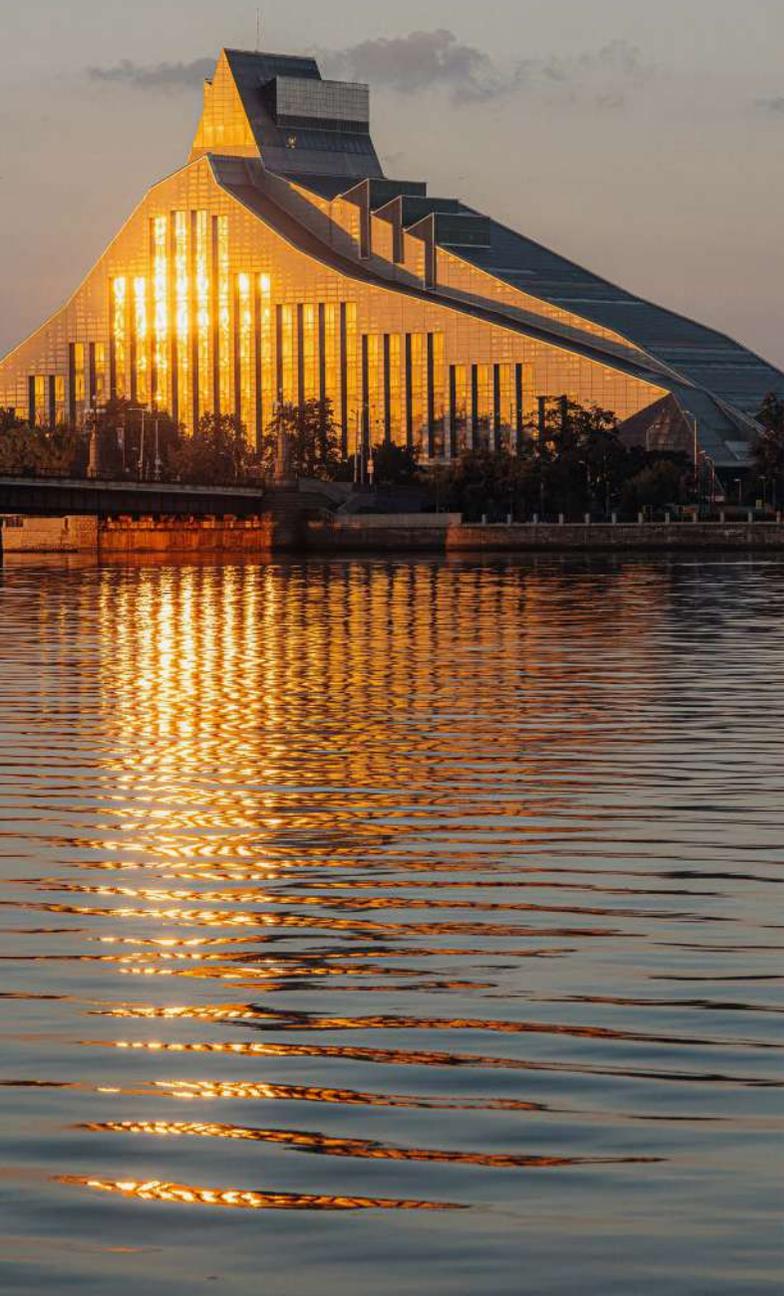
### Victory park

Walking from the National Library of Latvia to Pārdaugava, we arrive at Victory park, a 14 ha European gem with a variety of zones. Here you will find places for work, peaceful relaxation and active recreation for all ages. Try out the skate park, cycle track, and exercise equipment. Younger visitors should try the water discovery park and the climbing area. You should also try the high-speed track – in summer on roller skates, and in winter on skis. The park's dendrological diversity will surprise you in all seasons – a cherry blossom garden in spring, diverse wild meadows in summer, and colourful leaves in autumn. On the opposite side, from the 65-metre-high Ferris wheel – **Riga Rise**, you can look down on the city from above and, in good weather, even see the Daugava river flowing into the sea.

### Mežaparks Great Bandstand

In Mežaparks, one of the first garden cities in Europe, located close to the city centre, stands the majestic





Mežaparks Great Bandstand. It was built to preserve the tradition of the Latvian Song Festival, which has been included on UNESCO's List of Intangible Cultural Heritage since 2003. Even if you are not in Riga during the festival, Mežaparks is worth a visit. The architectural design of the stage, **Sidraba birzs** (Silver Grove), has gained international recognition, and its scale is impressive: **the choir stands can accommodate up to 16,000 singers. At the same time, the audience area can seat more than 30,000 spectators.** In summer, concerts and events take place on the stage. Still, throughout the year, an interactive exhibition on the history of the Song Festival offers visitors the chance to try their hand at both singing and conducting.

## Riga – a modern conference and event centre in Northern Europe

Riga is establishing itself as one of the most versatile business event destinations in the region. The city offers a wide range of venues and professional service providers – from modern conference halls and hotels to industrial spaces, cultural centres and unique historical sites. One of the most striking venues is **the Latvian National Library**, which offers modern facilities for events of various sizes – conferences, seminars, concerts, presentations and receptions.

Easy access via direct flights, a compact city centre, and well-developed infrastructure enable Riga to host both small meetings and conferences as well as large international forums and congresses. The city offers experienced business tourism service providers – event agencies, audiovisual and stage technical support, interpreters, caterers and other specialists who can ensure high-quality and memorable events.

## HIGHLIGHTS

Riga's academic and business environment offers extensive opportunities for cooperation, while its cultural and gastronomic offerings provide a rich experience for event participants even outside the official programme. Riga combines Northern European professionalism with a flexible, accessible and cost-competitive environment, making it an attractive destination for hosting international business events. The Riga Convention Bureau provides comprehensive information, consultations, and practical support to local and international business travel agencies, professional congress and conference organisers, and industry associations planning events in Riga.

Find out more: [MeetRiga.com](https://www.meetriga.com)

## Young and stylish

Although **Riga will celebrate its 825th anniversary in 2026**, there is not a hint of old age in the city's character. The youthful spirit is best felt at street food festivals, in creative quarters and at urban events that take place throughout the year.

The city is also becoming increasingly visible in the international film industry. The Riga Film Fund has so far helped to realise **57 foreign film projects**, providing co-financing of **more than €7.5 million** and attracting **more than €40 million** in film production expenditure to Latvia. This not only generates economic benefits but also strengthens Riga's long-term visibility, as the city is increasingly appearing in films from around the world. Local producers are gradually moving from service providers to co-production partners, which promotes the professional growth and international competitiveness of the film industry.



Particular mention should be made of the Latvian animation sensation – director Gints Zilbalodis' film *Flow*. It became the most-watched film in Latvian cinemas in the history of the restored state, reaching **more than 300,000 viewers**, while worldwide viewership already **exceeds 3.5 million**.

The industry's highest awards also confirm the film's international success – *Flow* has won both a Golden Globe Award and an Academy Award for Best Animated Feature Film. These achievements clearly demonstrate that creative content produced in Riga can reach and appeal to a global audience, strengthening the city's position on the international creative industry map.

## Riga – a modern destination for health improvement and medical tourism

Riga is becoming one of the most attractive medical tourism destinations in the region, combining a personalised approach and high-quality medical services with modern technologies. The city offers a wide range of medical services – from preventive check-ups and bariatric surgery to plastic surgery, infertility treatment, eye and orthopaedic surgery, rehabilitation and dentistry.

Riga clinics provide quick access to specialists, transparent prices and individually tailored treatment plans suitable for foreign patients. Many services are minimally invasive with short recovery times, while multidisciplinary teams help ensure safe, comprehensive, and long-term, effective treatment. From modern diagnostic methods to advanced treatment technologies, Riga offers an environment where health care is combined with a professional

approach and individual support, creating a solid foundation for improving well-being.

## Events with international resonance

Many large-scale events take place regularly in Riga. In 2026, artists beloved by audiences will return to Riga, with performances by both cult bands and groups at the peak of their popularity. Local musicians are planning major events and concert tours. Riga will host **the Rimi Riga Marathon, Museum Night, the Riga Opera Festival, the Riga Rhythms Jazz Festival, the Positivus Music Festival and an international drone summit. Tori Amos, Andre Rieu and Pitbull** will perform here. In addition to concerts, festivals, and sporting events, the city is deliberately developing themed cultural weeks that offer residents and foreign guests a concentrated, diverse experience over several consecutive days. Riga Music Week, Riga Art Week and Riga Contemporary transform the city into a dynamic cultural platform, encouraging longer stays and strengthening Riga's appeal as an international cultural tourism destination in the Baltics.

Find out more:





The future

## THE FUTURE

### Rail Baltica

Rail Baltica is the largest infrastructure project in the Baltic region in the last 100 years, aiming to integrate the Baltic states into the European rail network.

The project involves the construction of a new European standard-gauge (1435 mm) railway line **connecting Helsinki, Tallinn, Riga, and Warsaw** across five EU countries – Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Poland.

The railway line will be fully electrified, reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, pollution and noise. The route **will exceed 900 km**, including **265 km in Latvia**, and passenger trains will reach a maximum speed of 249 km/h.

Rail Baltica will significantly reduce travel time between the Baltic States, promote economic growth, create new jobs and strengthen the region's military strategic importance.

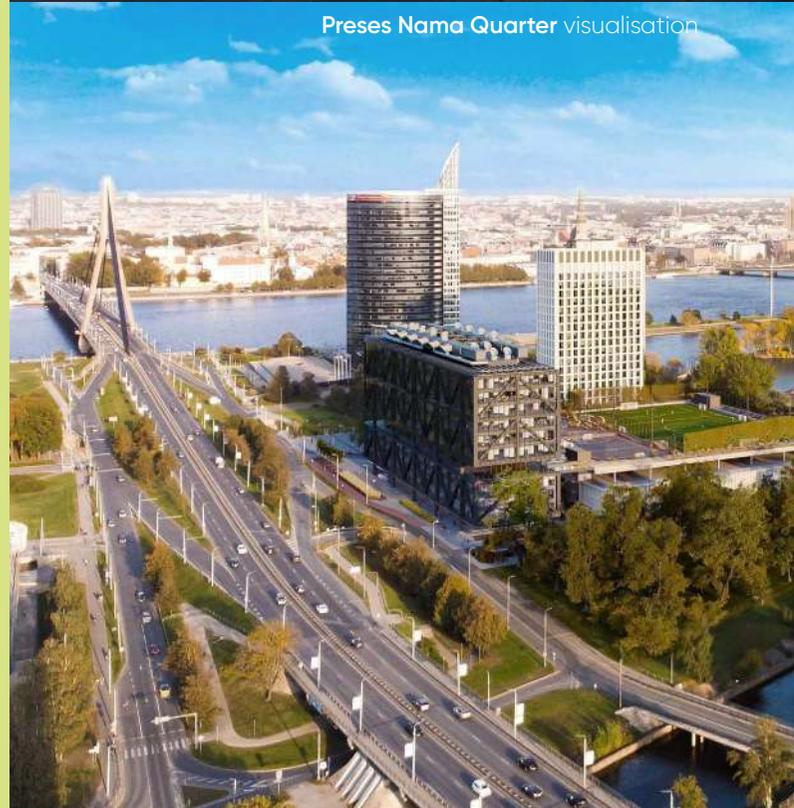
The project is being implemented in stages, with the first phase of construction estimated to cost around **€15.3 billion**.

### Preses Nama Quarter

The Preses Nama Quarter is being built around the historic and legendary Preses Nama building – once home to Latvia's leading press publishers and part of the Riga skyline. The project is intended to be Riga's future business centre, offering companies and their employees the opportunity to work in a historic environment with fresh air and a magnificent view of the Daugava river.



Rail Baltica visualisation



Preses Nama Quarter visualisation



Preses Nama Quarter visualisation

Skanste visualisation



Skanste visualisation



The first phase of development includes a modern and sustainable 11-storey office building with individually adaptable spaces for more than 2,500 employees. The Class A office building will meet BREEAM Excellent and nZEB (nearly zero energy) standards, while providing excellent visibility for the tenant's brand on the building's façade.

The quarter is strategically located just a few minutes away from Riga's leading destinations and is easily accessible by car, public transport, on foot or by bicycle. After the completion of the office building, a multifunctional centre will also be developed, featuring 7,500 m<sup>2</sup> of retail space on the first floor, a multifunctional sports area on the roof – the first of its kind in the Baltics – as well as a dining area, shops, and a fitness centre.

The 22-storey historic Preses Nama building will be carefully renovated and converted into a residential building, preserving its architectural heritage and offering panoramic views of the Daugava river and Old Riga. Preses Nama Quarter is becoming a new business centre in one of Riga's most significant and inspiring locations.

## Skanste

Skanste is Riga's modern centre, the fastest-growing neighbourhood, suitable for both business and living. The neighbourhood has three modern residential complexes (Skanstes virsotnes, Skanstes mājas and Skanstes parks), as well as office buildings that meet the highest sustainability standards (New Hanza Offices, Elemental Business Centre, Skanstes City, VERDE, Place Eleven, Rietumu banka, Luminor, Jupiter, S27 and others), Žirafes park in the Skan-

stes City quarter, as well as the new premises of the International School of Riga in the S27 office complex. Skanste is undergoing high-quality development, receiving the highest awards in architecture, sustainability, and construction.

Currently under construction are VERDE – the greenest business quarter in Latvia – buildings C and D; modern, high-quality residential projects – Arena Garden Towers, New Hanza apartments, and Skanstes Residences; and new streets in the New Hanza quarter.

The following projects are in the planning stage: the multifunctional Sporta 2 quarter redevelopment project, the New Hanza office buildings at 16A Hanzas street and 3 Mihaila Tāla street, the Latvian Museum of Contemporary Art, the City Link office building, the Skanstes City office building at 70 Skanstes street, as well as new sustainable housing projects at 17 Sporta street, 70 Skanstes street, 48 Skanstes street and 18 Laktas street.

In 2025, a large new park in the modern centre of Riga, Skanste, was opened, featuring innovative rainwater collection channels and ponds, as well as new streets, well-equipped recreation and walking areas, a skate park, beach volleyball courts, outdoor exercise equipment, and children's playgrounds. The Riga City Council is currently actively constructing a new intersection, pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure project on Skanstes street to provide residents with convenient and safe access to the park.

**214.8** ha neighbourhood area  
**19,000** residents and jobs currently  
**40,000** potential residents and jobs

## Granīta street / Šķīrotava

In Riga's sustainable development strategy until 2030, Granīta street is designated as a priority manufacturing development area for resource-intensive industries (companies that require greater electricity capacity, greater water resources, and larger land areas; also, for industries involved in large-scale deliveries, for which convenient access without crossing the city centre is essential). Granīta street should be developed as a new type of production space suitable for a wide range of industries, enabling the creation of a high-quality production cluster.

Large companies are already located here, including Grindeks, Forever's, Kalceks, Schneider Electric, DB Schenker, Groglass and others. These companies are planning extensive development. For example, Grindeks intends to build on and use a 3-hectare site – the former Šķīrotava prison.

## City centre area

Office building projects in the city centre will improve business infrastructure and create a modern space offering, thereby attracting real estate investors and international companies.

### Kimmel Quarter

Located in the centre of Riga – between Bruņinieku, Krišjāņa Valdemāra, Stabu and Skolas streets.

The project aims to transform the historic Kimmel brewery into a vibrant, multifunctional quarter with offices, cafés, shops and cultural activities.



Kimmel Quarter visualisation



Magdalēnas Quarter visualisation



Magdalēnas Quarter

Total development area – **38,000 m<sup>2</sup>**, of which **34,000 m<sup>2</sup>** is intended for office buildings.

Development is planned in stages, with the entire project scheduled for completion in 2028. In 2025, the quarter was adapted for temporary use.

Local eateries, street food and vegan options are available in the quarter. Child and pet friendly, creating an inclusive and vibrant urban environment. Developer: **Swedish real estate company Eastnine.**

### Magdalēnas Quarter

The Magdalēnas Quarter is located in the quiet centre of Riga between Antonijas, E. Melngaiļa and Strēlnieku streets. Since 2018, the project has received several awards for excellence and has become a landmark in the Riga Embassy district.

The second phase, comprising two office buildings with a total area of 11,200 m<sup>2</sup>, was completed in 2025. The construction of the third phase of the apartment building with 57 apartments is nearing completion.

Building permits for the fourth and fifth phases were obtained in 2024; design work is currently ongoing. Phases 2 and 3 are targeting LEED Platinum, nZEB standards and EU taxonomy criteria. The fourth and fifth phases are being designed as zero-emission buildings.

In total, approximately **300 apartments and more than 20,000 m<sup>2</sup>** of commercial and office space are planned for the Magdalēna quarter.

Developer: **Vastint Latvia.**

## THE FUTURE

### Riga Waterfront

Riga Waterfront is an ambitious urban development project on the banks of the Daugava river, in the historic Andrejsala and Export port area. A new city centre is being created, combining historical industrial heritage with modern architecture, green surroundings and proximity to water.

The project covers an area of **57 hectares**. The planned investment amounts to up to **€3 billion**. The planned living environment will accommodate approximately **30,000 residents**, with around **8,000 homes** planned for the project. The project will become a significant driver of economic growth and urban development in Riga.

### Tērbatas dārzi

A new residential quarter is being built in the historic centre of Riga, between the legendary Tērbatas and Krišjāņa Barona streets, surrounded by dynamic city life and the tranquillity of a green environment.

The total investment is planned to exceed **€120 million**. The project envisages approximately **800 new apartments** in six seven-storey buildings. Construction began in the first quarter of 2025, with the first building scheduled for completion by the fourth quarter of 2026. All buildings will be completed by 2032. Developer: **Estera Development**.

### Krasta City

A new inspiring business complex on the banks of the Daugava river. The first phase of construction includes 19,000 m<sup>2</sup> of office buildings and the construction of adjacent infrastructure. The entire Krasta City project is planned to be implemented in several phases, with a total of **180,000 m<sup>2</sup>** of usable space to



Riga Waterfront visualisation



Tērbatas dārzi visualisation



Krasta City visualisation



13. janvāra street visualisation



Esplanāde park visualisation



Bridge over the Zunda canal visualisation

be built, and the total investment in the project will exceed **€200 million**.

Developer: **Hepsor SIA**.

## Growth and development of Riga's historical centre

The historic centre of Riga must retain its unique value. Infrastructure improvement projects are underway, along with measures to attract people from around the world and promote vitality. Small businesses, culture, and creative industries are developing in the historic centre, creating an attractive environment for entrepreneurs and residents, attracting investment and reducing vacant properties. Projects include renovation of engineering networks, improvements to amenities, and development of green infrastructure. Environmental accessibility and pedestrian safety will improve by changing the traffic organisation. These changes will create new opportunities for entrepreneurs by developing cultural and tourism services in Riga's historic centre.

### Future projects in Riga's historic centre

- Reconstruction of the infrastructure of Vaļņu street, Teātra square and surrounding streets
- Development of 13. janvāra street and public spaces
- Development of Esplanāde park
- Development of Brīvības boulevard, Brīvības square and Baumaņa square
- Development of Neatkarības square
- Development of 11 November embankment
- Construction of a pedestrian and cyclist bridge over the Zunda canal
- Public Realm Development at AB Dam

## Investments in mobility infrastructure

Riga is implementing various projects to use and improve the existing transport network, which contribute to improving air quality, reducing harmful emissions, and mitigating the effects of climate change. Such measures also help reduce traffic, increase safety, and improve the efficiency of street infrastructure.

**Construction of public transport connection points at the railway stations Bolderāja, Dauderi, Sarkandaugava, Šķirotava, Zemitāni, Ziemeļblāzma, Šmerlis, Bierīņi/Children's Hospital, Ilģuciems, Vecdaugava, Turība University, Mangaļi, Gaisma and Vecāķi**

By 2026, 14 integrated sustainable mobility points will be developed at railway stations undergoing modernisation in Riga to promote the shift to public transport and more sustainable modes of transport. These points will integrate the railway into the city's public transport network, improving infrastructure for pedestrians, cyclists, and micro-mobility users, as well as the surrounding areas. Short-term parking spaces for passengers boarding and alighting are also planned at the mobility points, ensuring convenient access and transfers.

**Reconstruction of the Mūkusalas street embankment promenade**

One of the most significant investment projects of the Riga City Municipality, aimed at renewing urban infrastructure, includes reconstructing a 2.3 km stretch of the Mūkusalas street riverbank and developing a well-designed promenade. During the project, the



Ziemeļblāzma mobility hub visualisation



Zemitāni mobility hub visualisation



Mūkusalas street promenade visualisation



Sarkandaugava mobility hub visualisation



Riga-Ulbroka cycle path visualisation



Kundziņsala overpass visualisation

Daugava riverbank will be reinforced, safe pedestrian and cycling infrastructure will be built, and the surrounding environment will be improved, turning the Daugava riverbank into a popular recreational area for residents.

**Development of regional and urban cycling infrastructure in Riga and Riga's suburbs in the directions Riga-Babīte-Piņķi, Riga-Ulbroka, Riga-Ķekava, Zunda connection in the Knowledge mile area**

Riga is purposefully developing its cycling infrastructure network, improving connections between neighbourhoods and with the Riga region. This expands residents' mobility options, promotes more environmentally friendly travel, and improves the quality of the urban environment. By 2026, it is planned to build several regional and city-wide routes, including Riga-Ulbroka (~5.4 km), Riga-Ķekava (~4.1 km) and Riga-Babīte-Piņķi (~7.1 km). In addition to this connection, there are plans to build a pedestrian and cyclist bridge over the Zunda canal in the future, which will also be a significant contribution to the development of the Knowledge Mile.

## Significant infrastructure development projects

### Kundziņsala overpass

On the right bank of the Daugava river in Riga, on Tvaika street, a more than 800-metre-long bridge to Kundziņsala is being built. The bridge is a continuation of the Daudersala bridge and the Eastern Arterial Road, which opened in 2023, further reducing freight traffic in Sarkandaugava and diverting trucks to the port. The bridge is scheduled for completion by 2027.

## THE FUTURE

### South bridge

Construction work on the fourth phase of the South bridge, which began in 2023, is continuing in Riga and is scheduled for completion by 2027. The implementation of this project is essential not only for Riga's economic development but also for Latvia as a whole. The new bridge will connect Bauskas street with Jelgavas highway, significantly improving traffic flow, making it safer and more efficient, especially in industrial areas, and facilitating the organisation of freight transport transit traffic on the left bank of the Daugava river.

### Vanšu bridge

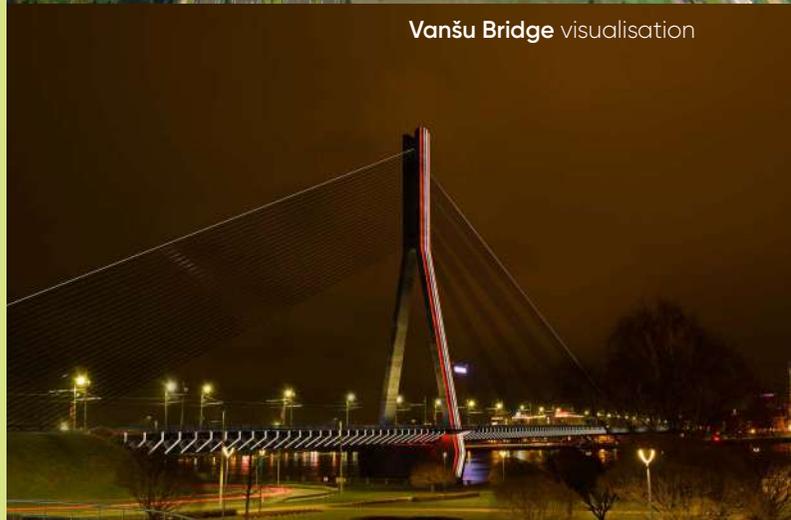
The reconstruction of the Vanšu bridge is planned to start in 2027. At the end of 2025, the procurement process was completed, and the contractor, the *Vanšu tilts* consortium, was selected. The reconstruction of the Vanšu bridge will significantly improve traffic safety and convenience by creating separate pedestrian zones, modern cycling infrastructure and adjustable pedestrian crossings at the intersection of Citadeles and Krišjāņa Valdemāra streets. The bridge reconstruction is planned to be completed by the end of 2028.

### Northern transport corridor

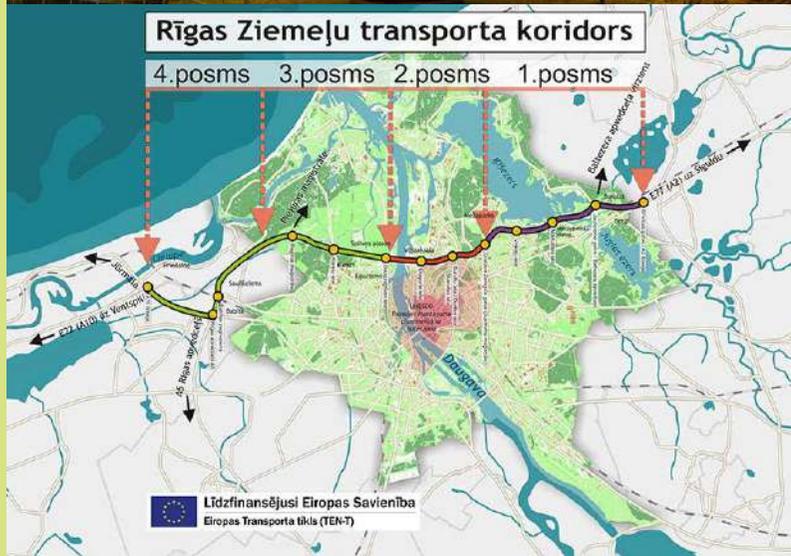
The Riga Northern transport corridor is the most significant transport infrastructure project in Riga in recent decades. It aims to reduce congestion in the city centre, improve environmental conditions and enhance urban quality of life. The project will integrate the Port of Riga into the European road network and strengthen transport connectivity across Riga and its suburbs, supporting long-term growth and international competitiveness. The corridor will create a west-east expressway bypassing the historic centre, with a planned length of 30 km.



South Bridge visualisation



Vanšu Bridge visualisation





RIX Airport City visualisation



RIX Airport City visualisation



RIX Airport City visualisation

## RIX Airport City

RIX Airport City will be a new, multifunctional city next to Riga Airport. With 24/7 operations, competitive labour costs and the widest destination network in the region, it is set to become a key business hub in the Baltics and Northern Europe.

Its strategic location alongside the Rail Baltica high-speed railway will position RIX as a next-generation Northern European air and rail transport hub. The Rail Baltica station will be integrated with the new passenger terminal, scheduled for completion in 2029, with a capacity of **up to 12 million passengers per year**.

Planned as the best-connected business centre in the Baltics, RIX Airport City will include an airport hotel, office and retail spaces, and a wide range of services for passengers, cargo operators and residents within a **24-hectare area**. Priority sectors include cargo transport and logistics, e-commerce, IT and electronics, tourism and pharmaceuticals.

### Support for developers

Real estate projects are a key development priority for Riga. The city provides targeted support, streamlined procedures and incentives for developers.

Find out more:



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