

Latvia

Statistical profile

Figure 1. Statistical profile



	Population growth 2008-2019 (%)	Growth in employment 2008-2017 (%)	GVA per worker (1 000 USD ppp)	GVA manufacturing share (%)	Hospital beds per 1 000 inhabitants
Regions with a city >250K	-0.9 (0.7)	1.1 (0.9)	59 (92)	8.9 (18)	NA
Regions with/near a city <250K	-1.3 (0.2)	-4.3 (0.0)	46 (71)	19 (23)	NA
Remote regions	-1.9 (0.5)	-2.3 (0.2)	36 (73)	13 (18)	NA

Note: OECD average is presented in parenthesis. Data for GVA per worker, GVA by sector and unemployment rate are from 2017. GVA and GDP are measured in USD PPP (2015). The OECD average by order in the table has been made with 33, 25, 26, 25 countries with available data. Employment growth measured as employment in the workplace.

Source: (OECD, 2020^[1]) OECD Regional Statistics (database), <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/region-data-e>.

Policy framework and Institutional setting of rural development

Rural Definition

- ❖ For the purposes of implementation of the Rural Development Programme of Latvia, the following definition of the rural area is used: the rural area is the whole territory of Latvia,

except for the republican cities and regional territorial units - towns with the population over 5000. The definition acknowledges mixed rural/urban areas.

National rural policy

- ❖ Latvia has a national rural policy defined by the Rural Development Programme of Latvia 2014-2020. The main focus is the competitiveness of agriculture and rural enterprises through improvements in infrastructure and provision of training services.

Lead ministry(ies) and other co-ordination bodies in charge

Main institutions in charge of rural development policies at the **national level**:

Table 1. Main institutions in charge of rural development policies at the national level

Ministries/Committees (most important first)	Role
Ministry of Agriculture	Policy making, elaboration of RDP, monitoring of implementation, functions of Managing Authority for EAFRD
Rural Support Service	Functions of Paying Agency for EAFRD
Institute of Agricultural Resources and Economics	Independent evaluator of RDP, carries out ongoing evaluation of RDP.
Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development	Elaboration of regional policy, monitoring and evaluation
Monitoring Committee for Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 of Latvia	Monitoring of implementation of RDP. Meetings are planned when needed, but at least once per year.

There are not institutions in charge of rural development policies at the **sub-national level** as the policy is managed at the national level.

Key objectives in rural policy and delivery mechanisms

- ❖ Latvia's rural development policy allocates a high degree of importance to economic areas (Table 2). Table 3 shows the main priorities of rural policy.
- ❖ The main delivery mechanisms of the rural development policy in Latvia are dedicated grants programmes.

Table 2. Relevance of sectors in rural development policy

Policy areas	Weight on rural policy	Average OECD
Economic	60%	40%
Social	20%	30%
Environment	20%	30%

Note: Self-reported responses from country delegate to the question: "Please grade from 1 to 10 the importance rural development policies in your country assigns to economic, social and environmental areas".

Source: OECD (2018), "Responses to the institutional survey on rural policy in OECD countries".

Table 3. Relevant objectives in rural development policy

Top objectives	Programmes	Main financial mechanisms to support the strategy
Agricultural production	Investments in physical assets (RDP M4)	Grants
Land occupation, resilience and landscape preservation	Payments to areas facing natural or other specific constraints (M13); Natura 2000 payment for forest areas (M12)	Grants
Rural-urban linkages	Support measures to municipalities that contain both rural and urban areas	Grants (EU funds)
Environmental sustainability	Investments in physical assets (RDP M4); Agri-environmental and climate payments (M10); Support for organic farming (M11)	Grants, flat rate payment per hectare
Innovation support	Support for cooperation among agriculture, forestry sector and researchers and other partners (RDP M16); Support for knowledge and information transfer (RDP M1)	Grants

Note: Objectives presented are the objectives with higher scores in the survey responses.

Source: OECD (2018), "Responses to the institutional survey on rural policy in OECD countries".