



**Businessman Time**

## **Is cute Latvia for international business?**

Latvia provides an ideal climate for international business. In addition to minimal government interference, foreign investors enjoy a favorable tax climate and possible government incentives including tax benefits. Latvia has a highly developed, western-style economy and an extensive modern transport infrastructure. The country has a well-educated, technologically sophisticated workforce among whom English is widely spoken and boasts one of the most stable currencies and one of the fastest growing international banking sectors in the world. Latvia is a full member of the European Union and enjoys full access to EU markets. Latvia is also a full member of NATO, has favorable attitudes toward the US and is one of the United States' closest allies in Europe.

The strength of the Latvian economy, the character and industrious nature of its people, and the stability of its democratic society, make Latvia a logical choice for international business. Latvia's geography is also an asset, as the nation is situated on the Baltic coast along major trade routes and in a position as a trade entrepot between Western Europe and the burgeoning markets of Russia and Eastern Europe. Please explore the information and links contained on this site to learn how Latvia may be the ideal destination for the international expansion of your business.

## **Economic Growth/Stability Statistics**

Since regaining independence in 1991, Latvia has enjoyed one of the highest economic growth rates in Europe:

- Since 2000 Latvia's GDP has increased by an average 7.7% annually
- Latvia's GDP grew by 10.2% in 2005, one of the highest rates in the world
- Annual inflation over the past five years has averaged just 3.2%

- Latvia's GDP increased 13.1% in the 1st quarter of 2006 due to strong growth in various sectors:
  - 17.7% increase in foreign trade
  - 17.5% increase in construction
  - 8.8% increase in manufacturing
  - 6% increase in transport and communications
- Both Standard & Poors and Fitch have given Latvia an Investment/Currency rating of A- (Stable Outlook)