

LATVIA'S BALANCE OF PAYMENTS (KEY ITEMS)

8 • 2001
MONTHLY BULLETIN

PRINCIPLES FOR COMPILING THE MONTHLY BALANCE OF PAYMENTS (KEY ITEMS)

The balance of payments is a statistical statement summarizing the economic transactions of a country's residents with the rest of the world (non-residents) for a definite period of time (a month, a quarter, or a year).

Latvia's balance of payments is compiled in conformity with the guidelines of the IMF's publication Balance of Payments Manual, 5th Edition and ECB requirements.

The balance of payments consists of the current account, the capital and financial account, and errors and omissions. The current account shows exports and imports of goods and services, income and expense (wages and salaries, dividends, interest payments), as well as current transfers, which are not intended for investment. The capital and financial account reflects received and paid capital transfers, which are intended for investment, as well as changes in foreign investment and debt for a definite period, and an increase or a decrease in reserve assets.

Beginning with the data for 2000, Latvia's balance of payments has been compiled and published by the Bank of Latvia. Previously, this was done by the Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia (CSB), but as of 2000, the

responsibility of compiling and publishing the balance of payments on the quarterly and annual basis was taken over by the Bank of Latvia. As of 2001, the Bank of Latvia also publishes the monthly balance of payments (key items).

The purpose of this publication is to disseminate information on economic transactions with foreign countries, providing for a timely analysis of macroeconomic processes.

To promote the compilation of the monthly balance of payments (key items), the Bank of Latvia has adopted the "Regulation for Preparing Information on External Payments of Non-Banks", pursuant to which Latvian banks submit to the Bank of Latvia reports on resident non-banks' external payments four times a month, and once a month resident non-banks report to the Bank of Latvia on incoming external payments via domestic banks and external payments made via foreign banks if the amount of these payments, translated in lats according to the Bank of Latvia's exchange rates as on the day of the transaction, exceeds 1 000 lats.

Apart from statistics on external payments of resident non-banks, the following data sources are used in compiling the monthly balance of payments (key items): statistics

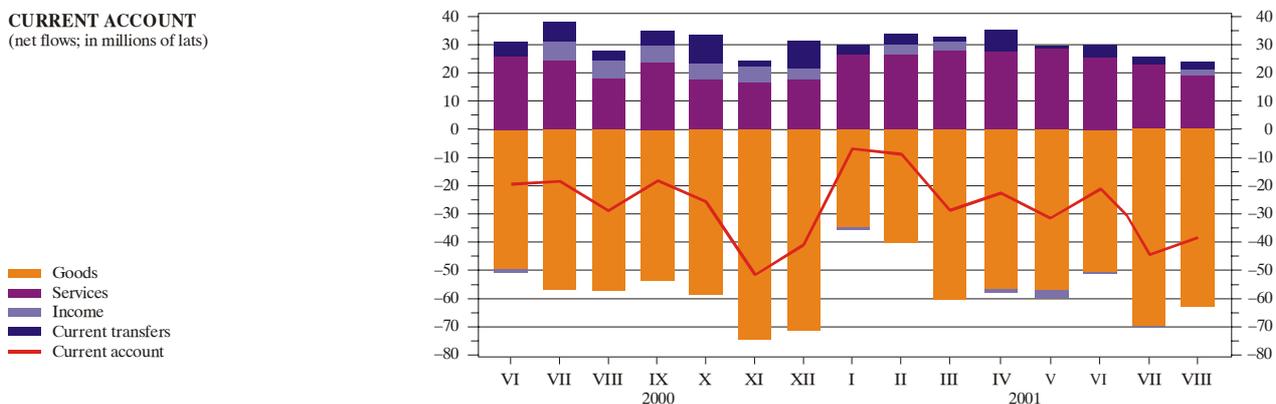
on credit institutions' foreign assets and liabilities, compiled by the Bank of Latvia; Bank of Latvia statistics on foreign reserves; statistics on government external debt and foreign financial assistance, compiled by the State Treasury; data submitted by enterprises rendering intermediary services in concluding contracts between natural persons (residents) and employers (non-residents) for working abroad; and other data sources.

The monthly balance of payments (key items) is compiled within 30 working days after the end of the reporting month. The monthly balance of payments (key items) is revised when compiling the quarterly balance of payments, for which a wider range of data is available, including data from the reporting form No. 1-MB "Quarterly Report on Foreign Investment" and No. 3-MB "Quarterly Report on Transportation and Intermediary Services", and foreign trade statistics and aggregated data on persons entering and leaving the country, compiled by the CSB.

In some cases, electronic data processing technologies may have led to slight discrepancies between the total amount shown and the sum of the subitems.

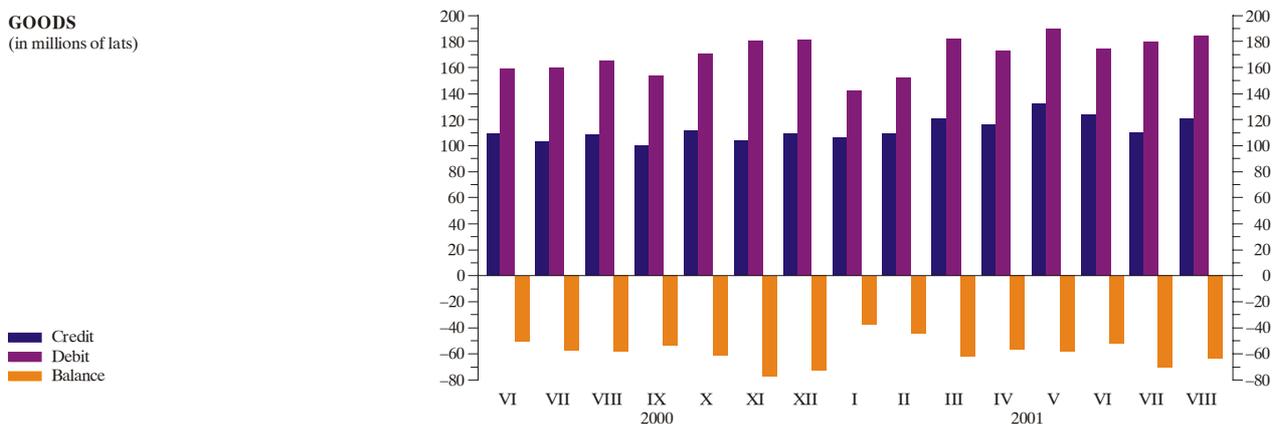
The current account deficit was 5.9 million lats smaller than in July, but 9.7 million lats larger than in August 2000. The balances of goods, income and current transfers improved compared with July. With exports increasing at a more rapid pace than imports (increases of 10.0% and 2.5%, respectively), the excess of imports over exports declined to 51.9% in August, from 63.0% in July.

CURRENT ACCOUNT
(net flows; in millions of lats)

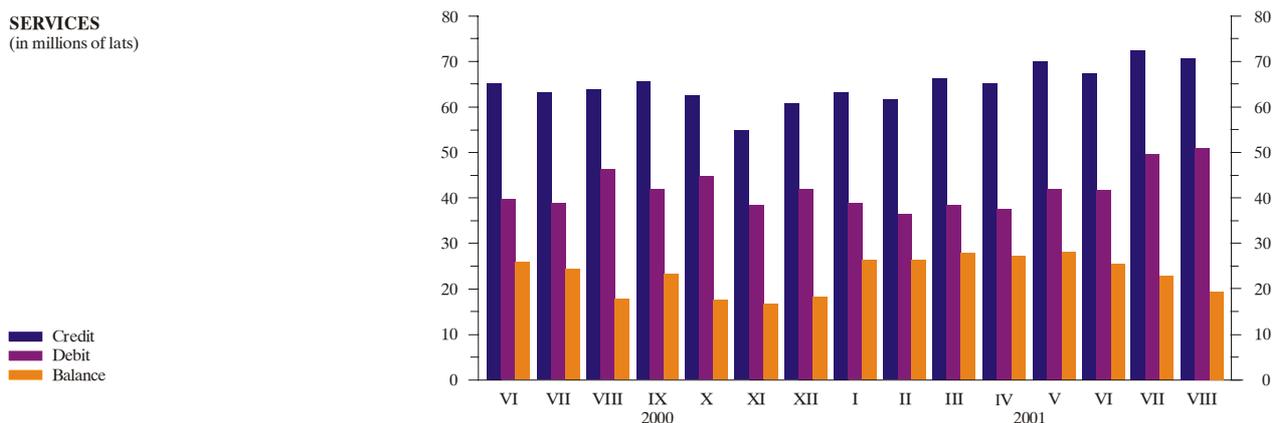


The services surplus totalled 19.2 million lats in August, covering 30.5% of the goods deficit. Compared with August 2000, the services surplus increased (by 1.5 million lats), as the balances on transportation and travel improved (by 2.6 million lats and

GOODS
(in millions of lats)



SERVICES
(in millions of lats)



3.0 million lats, respectively) while that of other business services decreased. The services balance fell 3.5 million lats below the previous month's level. This was largely attributable to a 4.5 million lats decrease in proceeds from trade mediation and other trade-related services. At the same time, considerable improvements were registered for surplus on transportation by sea and the communications services balance, which turned positive in August.

The income balance improved compared with the July level, turning positive (1.4 million lats). As a result of a decline in non-residents' income on direct investment in Latvia, the income balance was below the August 2000 level.

The current transfers surplus increased slightly compared with the previous month. The change was to a large extent resultant from an increase in current transfers received in the private sector and a decrease in current transfers made in this sector.

The surplus of the capital and financial account was 34.7 million lats.

The net inflow of direct investment amounted to 44.0 million lats. Inflow of direct investment rose by 44.3 million lats, and non-residents invested mainly in other capital (30.8 million lats). Direct investment in Latvian enterprises' equity and reinvested earnings increased by 6.6 million lats and 7.0 million lats, respectively.

A net inflow was reported in portfolio investment. Latvian residents' investment in non-residents' debt securities decreased by 59.1 million lats (a 30.0 million lats decrease in short-term securities and a 29.1 million lats decrease in long-term securities). Investment in equity securities (mainly of private enterprises) increased by 6.5 million lats. At the same time, Latvian government bonds and bills held by non-residents were redeemed in the amount of 4.2 million lats.

An outflow of 72.9 million lats was reported for other investment. Transactions mainly were conducted with OECD credit institutions. Hence, Latvian banks' loans to non-residents grew by 167.8 million lats, while currency and deposits outside Latvia declined by 88.5 million lats. Residents' liabilities in the form of other investment did not change substantially (an increase of 4.7 million lats), because the difference between banks' borrowing and deposits repaid by banks was insignificant.

Reserve assets decreased by 13.2 million lats, mainly due to currency swaps.

MONTHLY BALANCE OF PAYMENTS (KEY ITEMS)

(balance; in millions of lats)

	Current account				Capital account	Financial account					Errors and omissions		
	Goods	Services	Income	Current transfers		Direct investment	Portfolio investment	Financial derivatives	Other investment	Reserve assets			
2000													
VI	-19.9	-49.3	25.7	-1.1	4.8	3.0	42.7	28.6	-2.9	-0.4	27.7	-10.2	-25.8
VII	-18.8	-56.8	24.3	6.8	6.9	1.2	19.7	22.2	-4.2	0.5	38.7	-37.5	-2.1
VIII	-29.2	-57.2	17.6	6.9	3.4	2.2	17.3	14.5	-57.7	-0.2	47.5	13.2	9.7
IX	-19.2	-53.7	23.3	6.1	5.1	1.3	23.4	9.7	33.3	0	-41.7	22.0	-5.5
X	-25.9	-59.1	17.7	5.7	9.8	1.0	44.5	25.3	-14.6	0	71.0	-37.2	-19.7
XI	-51.8	-75.9	16.4	5.7	2.0	0.2	24.6	21.1	-11.3	1.3	6.0	7.5	27.0
XII	-40.7	-71.9	18.1	3.5	9.6	1.6	62.9	39.1	-82.2	0	82.6	23.4	-23.8
2001													
I ¹	-7.4	-36.9	26.4	0	3.1	1.4	14.9	7.2	9.2	-4.2	-19.8	22.4	-8.9
II ¹	-9.4	-42.9	26.4	3.3	3.8	1.3	-8.9	3.6	-55.6	2.1	64.0	-23.0	17.0
III ¹	-28.4	-60.8	27.7	3.4	1.3	2.1	32.2	-0.5	25.7	0.6	13.3	-6.9	-5.8
IV ¹	-22.4	-55.9	27.3	-1.3	7.5	2.7	2.9	29.8	-36.9	1.1	17.5	-8.5	16.8
V ¹	-30.8	-57.0	28.2	-3.0	1.1	3.0	16.9	26.7	8.0	-1.0	-25.0	8.2	10.8
VI ¹	-21.6	-50.9	25.5	-0.2	3.9	2.3	32.7	8.8	-103.6	1.6	139.1	-13.2	-13.3
VII	-44.8	-69.4	22.7	-0.7	2.6	1.4	27.9	17.2	-51.3	-1.1	89.8	-26.7	15.5
VIII	-38.9	-62.9	19.2	1.4	3.3	1.5	33.2	44.0	49.1	-0.1	-72.9	13.2	4.2

¹ Data have been revised.

CURRENT AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS

(in millions of lats)

	Current account										Capital account	
			Goods		Services		Income		Current transfers		Credit	Debit
	Credit	Debit	Credit	Debit	Credit	Debit	Credit	Debit	Credit	Debit		
2000												
VI	194.8	214.7	110.1	159.4	65.2	39.5	10.7	11.8	8.8	4.0	3.1	0.1
VII	189.0	207.8	102.7	159.5	63.0	38.7	11.0	4.2	12.2	5.3	1.5	0.3
VIII	193.5	222.8	108.2	165.5	63.7	46.1	11.7	4.7	9.9	6.5	2.2	0
IX	188.8	208.0	100.3	153.9	65.3	42.0	11.3	5.2	12.0	6.8	1.5	0.2
X	201.5	227.5	111.4	170.5	62.3	44.7	13.7	8.0	14.1	4.3	2.2	1.1
XI	180.7	232.5	104.0	179.9	54.8	38.4	13.6	7.9	8.3	6.3	2.1	1.9
XII	200.9	241.6	109.3	181.2	60.4	42.3	14.2	10.8	16.9	7.3	2.7	1.1
2001												
I ¹	192.6	200.0	106.5	143.4	62.8	36.5	14.5	14.6	8.7	5.6	2.6	1.2
II ¹	194.7	204.1	109.7	152.6	61.2	34.8	14.3	11.0	9.5	5.7	2.0	0.8
III ¹	211.4	239.8	120.8	181.6	66.0	38.3	15.5	12.1	9.1	7.8	2.3	0.2
IV ¹	211.7	234.2	116.9	172.8	65.1	37.7	14.7	16.0	15.1	7.6	3.4	0.7
V ¹	225.8	256.6	132.9	189.9	70.0	41.9	14.5	17.5	8.4	7.3	4.0	0.9
VI ¹	215.9	237.6	123.5	174.4	67.1	41.6	14.5	14.7	10.7	6.8	2.4	0.2
VII	206.7	251.6	110.1	179.5	72.1	49.5	14.5	15.1	10.1	7.5	2.5	1.0
VIII	216.5	255.4	121.1	184.0	70.4	51.2	14.3	12.9	10.7	7.3	2.0	0.5

¹ Data have been revised.

FINANCIAL ACCOUNT: DIRECT AND PORTFOLIO INVESTMENT AND FINANCIAL DERIVATIVES

(net flows; in millions of lats)

	Direct investment		Portfolio investment										Financial derivatives	
	Abroad	In Latvia	Assets	Liabilities	Equity securities		Debt securities						Assets	Liabilities
					Assets	Liabilities	Assets			Liabilities				
							Bonds and notes	Money market instruments		Bonds and notes	Money market instruments			
2000														
VI	-1.3	29.9	1.1	-3.9	0.9	-0.7	0.2	-9.3	9.5	-3.3	-1.0	-2.3	-0.4	0
VII	-0.8	23.0	-6.9	2.7	-2.3	1.4	-4.6	-6.2	1.6	1.3	1.8	-0.5	0.6	-0.1
VIII	-0.9	15.4	-57.0	-0.7	-9.7	-1.0	-47.2	-31.5	-15.7	0.3	0.2	0.1	-0.2	0
IX	-2.2	11.9	25.2	8.2	7.1	-3.6	18.1	4.3	13.8	11.7	12.3	-0.6	0	0
X	0.3	24.9	-16.1	1.5	-1.9	-0.4	-14.2	-6.3	-7.9	1.9	1.9	0	0	0
XI	1.4	19.7	-19.2	8.0	-4.5	0.3	-14.7	-13.1	-1.6	7.7	7.7	0	1.3	0
XII	0.8	38.3	-63.7	-18.5	-9.1	-9.6	-54.7	-54.9	0.3	-8.9	-8.9	0	0	0
2001														
I ¹	-1.9	9.1	-10.6	19.8	-0.7	0.6	-9.9	-24.8	14.9	19.2	19.3	0	0.3	-4.4
II ¹	-2.0	5.6	-33.0	-22.6	1.6	0.6	-34.6	-37.6	3.0	-23.2	-23.2	0	2.4	-0.3
III ¹	-1.7	1.2	-1.7	27.3	8.9	0.3	-10.5	12.8	-23.4	27.0	27.0	0	-0.4	1.0
IV ¹	-1.2	30.9	-49.0	12.0	-11.8	0.2	-37.2	-1.4	-35.8	11.8	11.8	0	0.7	0.4
V ¹	-1.1	27.9	1.0	6.9	5.0	0.3	-4.0	-18.0	14.0	6.6	6.6	0	-1.0	0
VI ¹	2.9	5.9	-94.3	-9.2	-21.8	-0.7	-72.5	-13.1	-59.4	-8.5	-8.5	0	0.5	1.0
VII	-0.4	17.6	-45.8	-5.5	3.2	-3.9	-49.0	-47.6	-1.4	-1.6	-1.7	0	1.3	-2.4
VIII	-0.4	44.3	52.6	-3.5	-6.5	0.7	59.1	29.1	30.0	-4.2	-4.2	0	0.5	-0.6

¹ Data have been revised.

FINANCIAL ACCOUNT: OTHER INVESTMENT

(net flows; in millions of lats)

	Other investment									
	Assets		Monetary authorities		General government		Banks		Other sectors	
			Assets	Liabilities	Assets	Liabilities	Assets	Liabilities	Assets	Liabilities
2000										
VI	24.8	3.0	0.1	-1.2	0.1	-0.8	23.7	-12.7	0.9	17.6
VII	67.4	-28.7	0.1	-1.9	-0.3	0.3	67.8	-29.0	-0.2	1.9
VIII	-0.8	48.2	0	0	-0.4	1.1	-2.7	45.3	2.3	1.9
IX	-103.2	61.5	0.1	-0.1	0.1	-7.6	-105.4	67.3	1.9	1.9
X	103.6	-32.6	0	0	0.2	1.8	105.7	-31.2	-2.3	-3.1
XI	-72.8	78.8	-0.1	-0.1	0.4	0.7	-72.5	81.3	-0.6	-3.1
XII	-63.6	146.2	-0.1	-0.9	0	0	-63.0	150.3	-0.6	-3.1
2001										
I ¹	-89.0	69.2	0.1	-1.4	0.2	0.4	-78.6	65.1	-10.7	5.0
II ¹	145.6	-81.6	0	-0.6	0.1	-0.4	164.8	-85.6	-19.4	5.0
III ¹	59.3	-46.0	-0.1	0.3	-1.6	-0.1	62.4	-51.2	-1.4	5.0
IV ¹	-3.3	20.7	0	3.5	0.7	-0.4	-9.4	23.3	5.4	-5.8
V ¹	-37.8	12.8	0	-3.1	-0.9	0.1	-42.7	19.1	5.7	-3.3
VI ¹	-15.5	154.6	-0.1	-1.5	-0.2	-0.5	-21.1	143.4	5.8	13.2
VII	61.4	28.4	0.1	-1.4	1.0	1.0	61.3	28.2	-1.0	0.6
VIII	-77.7	4.7	-0.1	0	0.2	2.1	-74.0	2.5	-3.7	0.1

¹ Data have been revised.

Latvia's balance of payments (key items) is first published at the Bank of Latvia's Internet site (<http://www.bank.lv>).