

Country Profile: Latvia

Country Profile (PDF)

Country Resources

Nautical

Series	Publisher	Scale	Years	Sheets
Latvia Nautical Charts (All Scales)	LJAHD	Varies	2023 - 2024	23

Geoscientific

Series	Publisher	Scale	Years	Sheets
Latvia 1:200,000 Scale Geological Map	SGS	1:200,000	1997 - 2004	18

Thematic

Series	Publisher	Scale	Years	Sheets
The World 1:30,000,000 Scale Topographic Map Series 1145 (NGA)	DMA	1:30,000,000		2

Global Census Archive: GIS Census Archive

Year	Questions / Answers	ADM Level	Polygons at ADM	Data Points
2011	32 / 6,853	3	587	4,022,711

Global Resources

Topographic

Series	Publisher	Scale	Years	Sheets
Soviet Military City Plans	VTU GSh	Varies	1944 - 2003	3,020
Soviet Military 1:100,000 Scale Topographic Maps	VTU GSh	1:100,000	1947 - 1999	24,897
Soviet Military 1:200,000 Scale Topographic Maps	VTU GSh	1:200,000	1949 - 2009	17,799
Soviet Military 1:500,000 Scale Topographic Maps	VTU GSh	1:500,000	1953 - 1998	3,093

Nautical

Series	Publisher	Scale	Years	Sheets
NGA Nautical Charts POD Certified (All Scales)	NGA	Varies	1943 - 2013	4,517

Aeronautical

Series	Publisher	Scale	Years	Sheets
Joint Operations Graphic (JOG 1501A) 1:250,000 - Aeronautical	DMA	1:250,000	1958 - 2007	4,204
Tactical Pilotage Chart (TPC) 1:500,000 Scale - Aeronautical	DMA	1:500,000	1967 - 2006	598
Operational Navigation Chart (ONC) 1:1,000,000 Scale - Aeronautical	DMA	1:1,000,000	1969 - 2001	243
Jet Navigation Chart (JNC) 1:2,000,000 Scale - Aeronautical	DMA	1:2,000,000	1971 - 1999	117
Global Navigation and Planning Chart (GNC) 1:5,000,000 Scale - Aeronautical	DMA	1:5,000,000	1981 - 1999	27

Geoscientific

Series	Publisher	Scale	Years	Sheets
Soviet Military 1:1,000,000 Scale Topographic Maps	VTU GSh	1:1,000,000	1948 – 1994	1,089

Note: East View Geospatial is continuously sourcing new resources that may not yet be listed in Global Explorer. Please contact us if you have geodata needs beyond what is listed above and we will be happy to discuss available off-the-shelf and custom solutions.

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Historical Country Mapping Information

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Country Profile (PDF)

Topographic

Latvia was mapped during the period of Soviet control in series conforming to the usual Russian specifications. 1:25,000, 1:50,000, 1:100,000 and 1:200,000 scales were maintained for the whole Republic based upon the Gauss conformal transverse cylindrical projection and with Cyrillic place names.

Soviet military topographic mapping of Latvia exists at the following scales: 1:1,000,000 (3 sheets, complete coverage, published 1983-1989); 1:500,000 (7 sheets, complete coverage, published 1986-1993); 1:200,000 (30 sheets, complete coverage, published 1966-1992); 1:100,000 (81 sheets, complete coverage, published 1974-1990); 1:50,000 (220 sheets, primarily complete coverage, published 1964-1991) and city (1:10,000) topographic mapping of Daugavpils, Liepaja, Valmijera (Valmiera) and Yelgava (Jelgava) published between 1975 and 1990. These products are available in print, digital raster and digital vector GIS formats from **East View Geospatial**.

After independence in 1990 the first Latvian produced mapping was derived from Soviet material. A 1:200,000 scale map in four sheets, with Latvian place names, was published in 1990 by **Geodézijas un Kartografijas Departments Latvia**. In 1993 the **Latvian State Land Service (ZEMESPROJEKTS)** was formed with responsibility for cadastral, geodetic, and topographic surveying and mapping and property valuation: four divisions carry out these functions, the state cartographic enterprise **Latvijas karte** publishes and prints official mapping; the **National Survey Center** administers data collection, the **Land Cadastre Center** operates cadastral surveying and land registration and the **Real Property Valuation Center** carries out land and property valuation activities.

Priority was given to establishing new 1:50,000 and 1:10,000 scale photogrammetric mapping, to be based upon the UTM projection. An agreement was reached in 1993 with the Swedish Space Corporation **Satellitbild** to create a 132-sheet 1:50,000 scale topographic map using SPOT images. This has resulted in full-color published mapping of the country as well as a digital cartographic database and name database by the end of 1996. Military cooperation is taking place between the **State Land Service** and the United States **National Imagery and Mapping Authority (NIMA)** (formerly **Defense Mapping Agency**). A NATO standard topographic map at 1:50,000 is being prepared from Polish 1:40,000 scale coverage. Following the success of the 1:50,000 image mapping project Swedish aid has also been used to provide 1:10,000 scale digital and orthophoto mapping of rural areas and 1:2,000 scale urban mapping systems.

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Nautical

The national hydrographic department is **Latvijas Hidrografijas Dienests** but at present Russian charts are still used in Latvian waters.

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Geological/Scientific

Earth science mapping of Latvia was carried out prior to independence in conjunction with Soviet authorities. The country was mapped in 1:200,000 and 1:1,000,000 programs, and 1:500,000 scale country coverage of Latvia was published in the mid-1980s by **Vserossiiskoi nauchno-issledovatel'skii geologicheskii Institut (VSEGEI)**, St. Petersburg, to show geology, geomorphology, tectonics and quaternary geology. After independence responsibility for geological surveying passed to **Latvijas Geologijas Vestis (LGV)**, now **Valsts Geologijas Dienests (VGD)** (the **State Geological Survey**). **VGD** has collaborated with **Eesti Geoloogiakeskus** (the **Geological Survey of Estonia**) to compile a bottom sediment map of the Gulf of Riga and a new 1:200,000 scale geological map of Latvia started to be published in 1998. It is planned to complete this map in nine sheets, sheets are appearing with English and Latvian legends and depict quaternary and pre-Quaternary deposits. Other programs include 1:500,000 scale geochemical mapping of on-shore areas, in conjunction with the **Geological Survey of Sweden**.

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Thematic

The **Latvian Environmental Data Center** holds spatial databases of digital mapping relating to air pollution, biodiversity and population, amongst other thematic spatially referenced data sets. **Latvijas Dabas Fonds (The Latvian Fund for Nature)** also sponsors a number of environmental research projects, including the maintenance of GIS databases relating to the Latvian environment. These include the CORINE biotopes project, prepared with financial assistance from the European Commission and part of the wider network of land cover mapping.

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Atlas

In 1999 **Hamilton Global Management** released a CD-ROM electronic atlas of Latvia incorporating updated Russian 1:200,000 scale mapping, with route planning and flexible searching capabilities. This supports English, Latvian or Russian language operation.

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Cadaster

Cadastral mapping in Latvia has been developed since independence in cooperation with Denmark. Existing 1:10,000 scale mapping has been used to capture 24,000 parcel numbers. The **Land Cadastre Center** also carries out soil mapping at 1:10,000 scale.

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Tourist/Reference

The major commercial map publisher in Latvia, and the largest commercial house in the Baltic states is **Jana Seta (JS)**. It was set up in 1991 and produces a comprehensive range of indexed maps of Latvian towns, road maps and atlases, tourist maps and maps for the education market. All of **Jana Seta** maps are also available in digital versions. Recent publications include *Rigamap 90*, an electronic atlas of the capital and *Latvijas geografijas atlants* a useful hard copy atlas of the state.

Overseas commercial publishers covering Latvia include **RV**, **HarperCollins**, and **Quail**.

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