



A U S T R A L I A A N D

Latvia

Key engagement

Pursuit of rules-based international order and free trade through cooperation in the European Union (EU), United Nations and international organisations.

Outlook

Continued growth in bilateral trade and economic cooperation, including through an Australia-EU Free Trade Agreement.

Bilateral relations

Latvia and Australia enjoy friendly, cooperative relations based on strong people-to-people links and the pursuit of common interests. Australia recognised Latvia's regaining of independence on 27 August 1991. The bilateral relationship between Australia and Latvia is underpinned by bilateral agreements covering Trade and Economic Cooperation (1993), Extradition (2005) and Social Security (2013).

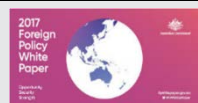
Australia's merchandise trade with Latvia in 2018 was \$83.7 million, up 167.6% from 2017. Australian goods exports to Latvia totalled \$16.0 million (2018), with alcoholic beverages and measuring and analysing instruments as the major sectors. Imports from Latvia totalled \$67.7 million (2018), with refined petroleum and wood (simply worked) as the major sectors.

Foreign policy

Latvia joined NATO on 29 March 2004, the EU on 1 May 2004 and the Eurozone on 1 January 2014. Latvia joined the World Trade Organization on 10 February 1999 and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development on 1 July 2016.

More information on Latvia's foreign policy:

<https://www.mfa.gov.lv/en/policy>



Foreign Policy White Paper:
<https://www.fpwhitepaper.gov.au>



FAST FACTS



Latvian visitors to Australia (Mar 2018-Mar 2019) **1,600**



Australian visitors to Latvia (Mar 2018-Mar 2019) **1,900**



Resident Australian population born in Latvia (2016 census) **3,756**



Australian residents of Latvian descent (2016 census) **20,514**



Latvian students in Australia (April 2019) **57**

High level engagement

- 2015 Latvian Foreign Minister, Mr Edgars Rinkēvičs, visited Australia (June)
- 2011 Australian Prime Minister's Special Envoy, Dr Russell Trood, visited Riga (September)

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