



Latvia



Introduction to LATVIA

THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA is squeezed between Estonia and Lithuania in the Baltic region of Eastern Europe. After the Soviet Union dissolved in 1991, Latvia regained its independence, though Russian culture and many Russian nationals are still very present in the nation.

The LATVIAN people

Total population:	2,231,503
Children under 15:	297,633
Average Life Expectancy:	72.15 years
Per capita annual income:	\$17,300
% children in primary school:	90.11%
Average years of education:	16 years
Literacy rate:	99.7%
Internet users:	1.254 million
Cell phones in use:	2.234 million
Major/official language(s):	

Latvian
Russian
Lithuanian

Risk issues impacting children:

UNICEF does not currently offer children at risk statistics for this country.

More about LATVIA

Capital city:	Riga
Type of government:	Parliamentary Democracy; member of EU
Square kilometers:	64,589
General terrain:	Fertile, low plains
Major industries/jobs:	Machinery, fertilizers, pharmaceuticals, electronics, agriculture, processed foods, textiles, wood and wood products
National motto:	"For the fatherland and freedom"
Major airport(s):	Riga International Ventspils International Liepaja International

Reaching LATVIA

Currently classified as World C: Christian

Major religions:

Unspecified - 63.7%
Christian - 35.1%
Other - 0.4%

Christian groups:

Roman Catholic - 34.2%
Protestant - 33.4%
Other - 19.7%
Orthodox - 7.5%
Independent - 5.2%

Unreached People Groups:	7 (0.7% of pop)
Average annual Christian growth:	0.0032
Average annual baptisms:	19,826
Foreign missionaries:	420
Per million:	182.47
National Christian workers/pastors:	800
Per million:	347.56
Number of churches/congregations:	958

Children's ministry in LATVIA

Specific children's ministry information has not been provided for Latvia. The following information regards general children's ministry in Eastern Europe, and may not all be applicable to this nation.

- Overview:** • Some Eastern European countries still face political restrictions that can limit the reach of children's ministry, or halt the gospel from reaching unreached children.
- Most European countries are historic homes to Christianity, especially the Orthodox Church. Children's leaders in many areas, especially areas that are more developed, have access to resources and a vision to reach children.
 - Significant regions remain isolated from Evangelical Christianity.
 - The church in post-Soviet countries is very young and in need of training and vision to reach and disciple its children.

Focus for Prayer

Training children's leaders for outreach in
958 congregations

Strategies for reaching and discipling
297,633 children for Christ