

L atvia in Facts



Area:

64,589 sq.km or 24,937 sq.miles.

Total national border length:

1,862 km.

Length of Latvia's Baltic coastline:

494 km.

Borders with other countries:

Estonia, Russia, Belarus, Lithuania.

Population in 2002:

2,351,400

Ethnic composition (2003):

58.40% Latvian,
29.04% Russian,
3.94% Belarussian,
2.60% Ukrainian,
2.48% Polish,
1.39% Lithuanian,
0.44% Jewish,
1.81% other nationalities.



Latvians are the indigenous people of Latvia. The ethnic mix of the population of Latvia is largely the result of massive post-war immigration, which resulted in a decline in the share of ethnic Latvians from 77% in 1935 to 52% in 1989.

Official language:

Latvian.

The Latvian language is a Baltic language, which belongs to the Indo-European family of languages. The Latvian language is considered one of the oldest of the Indo-European (European) languages. It is a non-slavic and a non-germanic language, similar only to Lithuanian.

