

[illegible]



3

---

NATIONAL  
STATISTICS

4

---

LATVIAN PUBLISHING:  
A VERY BRIEF HISTORY

5

---

PUBLISHING  
INDUSTRY

10

---

LIST OF PUBLISHERS

16

---

DISTRIBUTION

17

---

LIBRARIES

18

---

GRANT  
PROGRAMMES

19

---

PRINTING  
INDUSTRY

24

---

LEADING  
LATVIAN BOOK  
MANUFACTURERS

28

---

SIGNIFICANT  
EVENTS IN LATVIAN  
LITERATURE

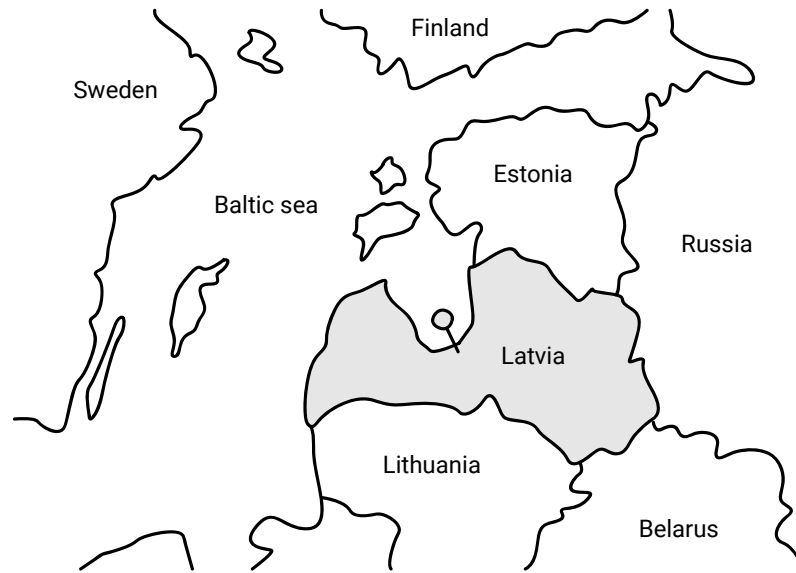
30

---

PUBLISHING INDUSTRY  
ORGANIZATIONS



# NATIONAL STATISTICS (2020 DATA)



Capital: **Riga**



Area: **64,573 km<sup>2</sup>**



GDP per capita (2020): **17.620 USD**



GDP growth (2020): **-3.6%**



Bordered by **Estonia, Lithuania, Russia** and **Belarus**, maritime border with **Sweden**



**Parliamentary republic**, one of the **Baltic** Countries



Population: **1.934 million**



Border: **1866 km**



GDP (2020): **33.51 billion USD**



Currency: **Euro** (since 1/1/2014)



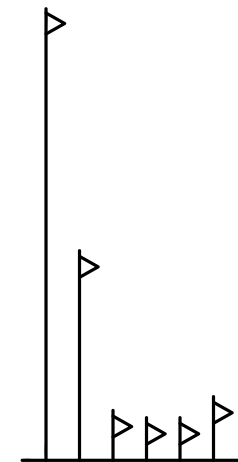
Average gross monthly salary: **1237 EUR** (bruto, 2021)



Language: **Latvian** (official), **Russian** and **English** are also widely spoken



International memberships: **EU** and **NATO** since 2004, **WTO** since 1998



Ethnic groups

# LATVIAN PUBLISHING: A VERY BRIEF HISTORY

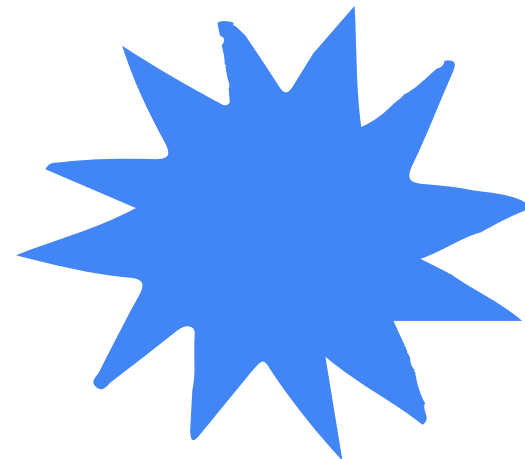
The 16th century saw the first developments in publishing in Latvia, but the industry was dominated by German publishers until the mid-19th century. The publishing of books in the Latvian language in Latvia became widespread only in the last decades of the 19th century, and many publishing houses were established at the beginning of the 20th century. A wide variety of books was published during the first period of Latvian independence, between the two world wars. The peak of Latvian publishing came in 1936, when 1,601 titles were published, running up to four million copies (an average print run of 2,500 copies per title).

In 1940, just before the occupation of Latvia, there were nearly five hundred publishing houses in the country. During the years of Soviet occupation, publishing was controlled, financed, politically censored, and carefully planned by the Soviet government. The industry was limited to five state-run publishing houses, where everything had to be approved by a myriad of Soviet institutions.

In spite of this, publishing is considered the largest creative industry in Latvia based on turnover and number of employees. After Latvia regained independence in the early 1990s, the publishing sector

was the first to be privatized. New publishing houses were founded, and the number of new titles is now greater than it ever was during the first period of independence.

Regardless of the limited size of the market—with a national population of only 1.93 million—the standards of the publishing industry in Latvia are very high. Annual competitions for best fiction, poetry, children books, and book design showcase the great diversity, as well as the high quality of artistic work, design, and creative thinking in Latvian publishing. Tradition and innovation go hand in hand: readers eagerly anticipate new books by seasoned authors as well as literary debuts. Two well-established literary festivals add flair to the literary offerings: September's annual Poetry Days festival dates back to 1960, while the Prose Readings festival grew from a small literary event in mid-1990s to a full weeklong program of activities, including talks from visiting international authors. The Children's Jury, a programme that promotes reading for young people, and the Jānis Baltvilks' International Baltic Sea Literary Prize, help boost interest in children's fiction and increase the YA readership.



# PUBLISHING INDUSTRY IN NUMBERS (2020 DATA)



Number of Publishers in Latvia  
(including self-publishing  
individuals): **408**



Number of new titles published  
per year: **1.805**



Average print run per book:  
**1.008 copies**



Total Print Run (2020):  
**1.957.000**



Number of Original Titles  
Published in Latvian: **1.450**



Books translated from Latvian  
per year: approx. **50**



Number of libraries: **1505**



Library attendance: **39%**



Number of bookstores: **115**



VAT on books: **5%**



Number of active library  
members: **739.744**



Number of books borrowed  
from libraries: **10.106.706**



NB! There is no system of price  
regulation or any other efficient  
system for regulating the book  
market in Latvia



People who read at least one  
book a year: **28%**



Number of e-books available for  
sale: **1.601**



Reads e-books: **17%**

\* The data used for this text  
comes from the Latvian  
publishing statistics collected  
by the National Library of Latvia

# PUBLISHING INDUSTRY (2020)

2020

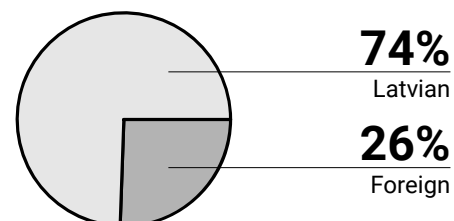
	Titles		Print run	
Fiction (total titles)	780		859.655	
Original fiction:	488		402.942	
In Latvian	437		386.257	
In Russian	43	-	11.685	-
In other languages	8	-	5.000	-

2019

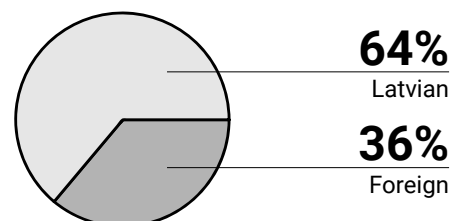
	Titles		Print run	
Fiction (total titles)	864		1.091.153	
Original fiction:	516		463.308	
In Latvian	440		446.849	
In Russian	57	-	11.524	-
In other languages	19	-	4.935	-

## PERCENTAGE OF ORIGINAL AND TRANSLATED WORKS PUBLISHED (DATA FROM 2020)

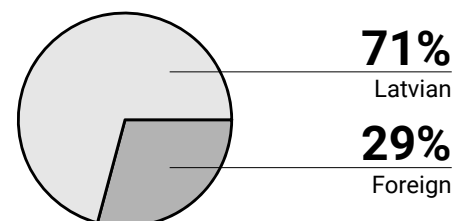
Number of titles (2020):



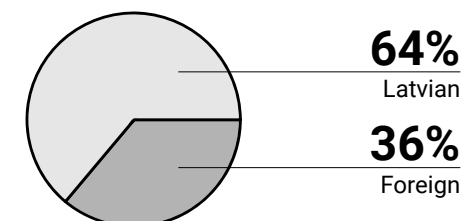
Number of copies (2020):

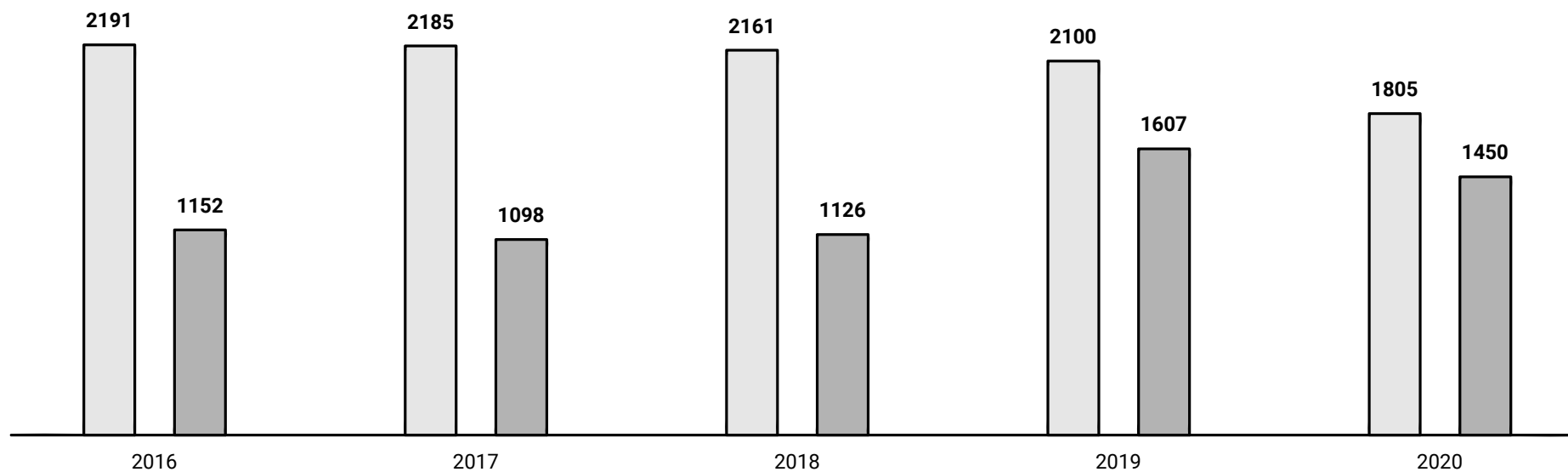


Number of titles (2019):



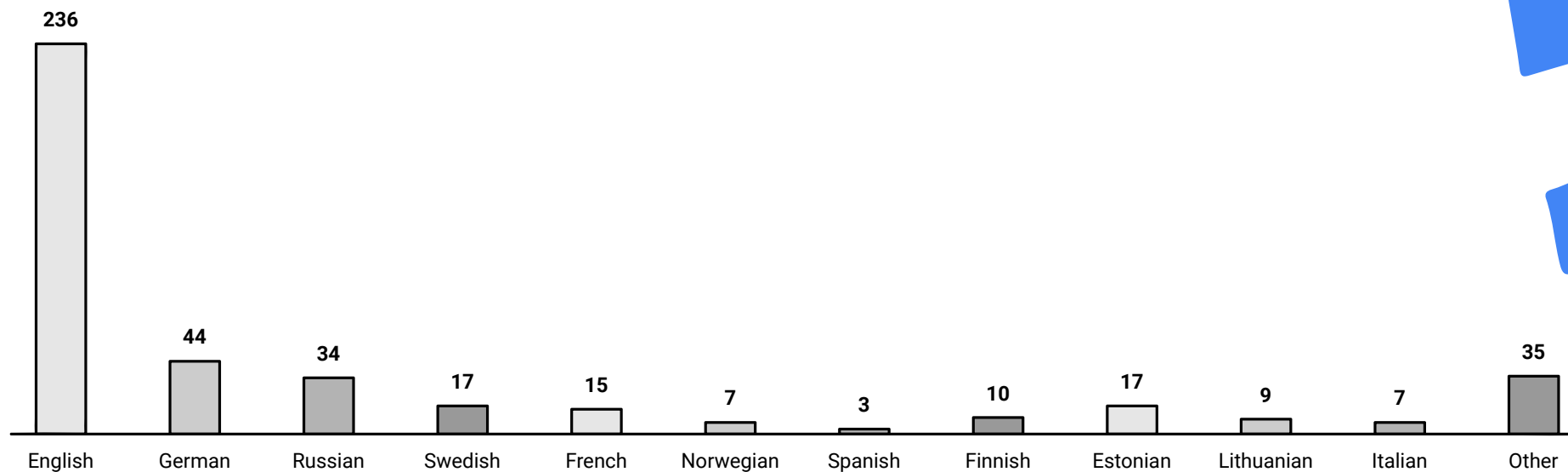
Number of copies (2019):

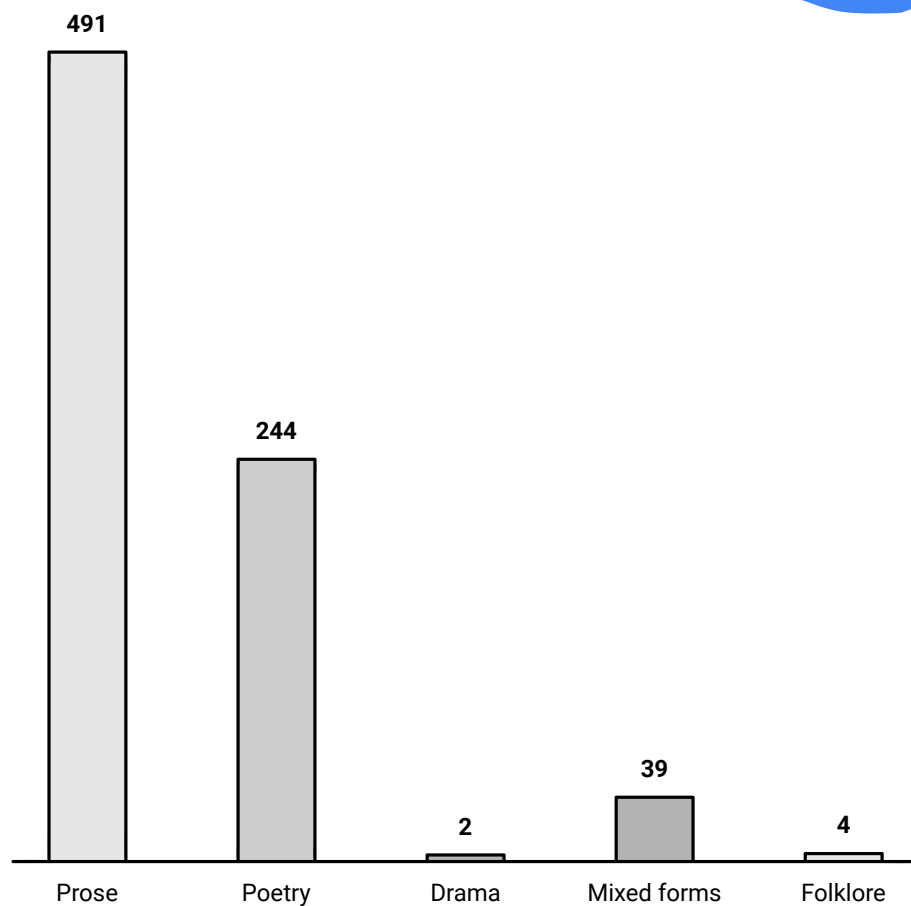
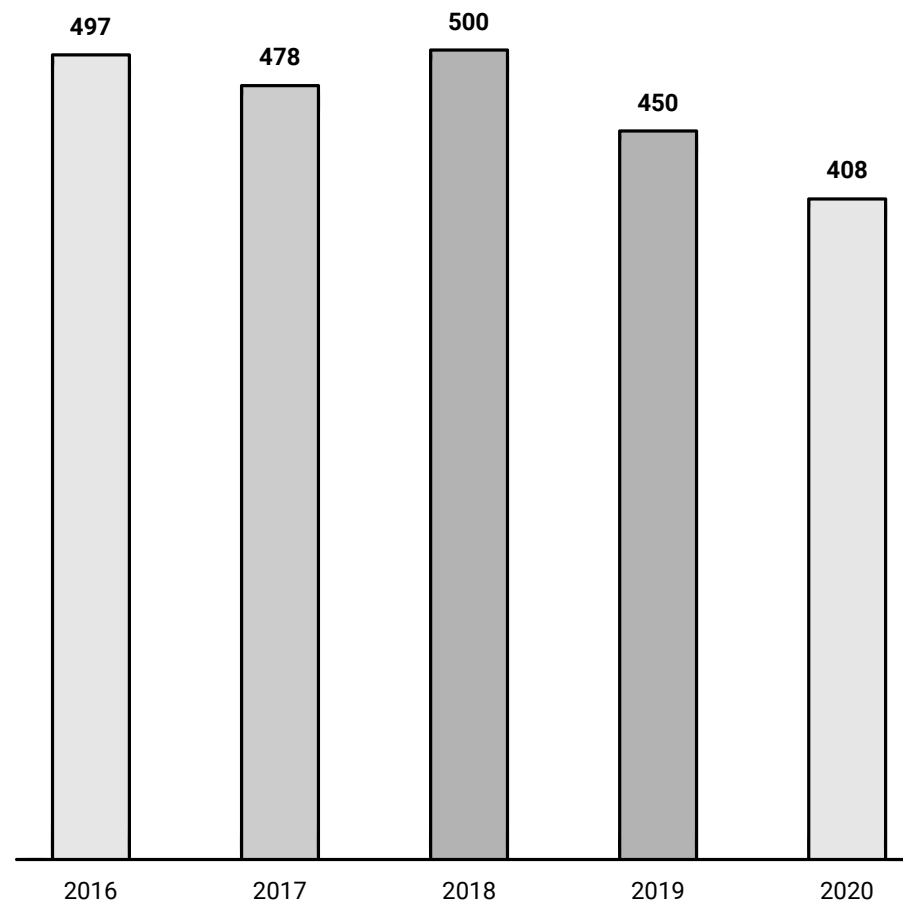




Number of Titles Published  
Number of Original Latvian Titles Published

### TRANSLATED TITLES IN LATVIAN, 2020



**LATVIAN FICTION PUBLISHED  
BY GENRE (2020)****NUMBER OF PUBLISHERS IN LATVIA  
(INCLUDING SELF-PUBLISHING INDIVIDUALS)**

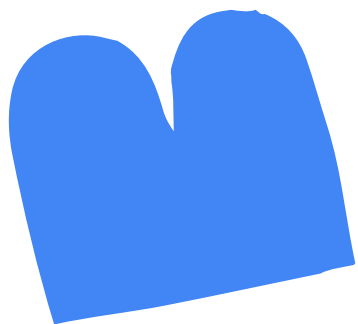


## LARGEST PUBLISHERS BASED ON NET TURNOVER IN 2020

Rank	Publisher	Turnover	Revenue	Number of employees
1.	Apgāds Zvaigzne ABC	12.567.231	115.401	294
2.	Lielvārds	2.895.913	167.251	33
3.	Latvijas mediji	847.574	303.117	12
4.	Izdevniecība RaKa	478.370	97.156	11
5.	JĀŅA ROZES apgāds	438.817	111.742	5
6.	Apgāds "Kontinents	436.295	3.869	10
7.	JUMAVA	405.297	58.362	12
8.	Dienas Grāmata	324.037	19.384	4
9.	Liels un mazs	305.562	99.836	6
10.	ZINTNIEKS	283.350	-699	2
11.	Amber Book Print	263.906	1.294	4

Source: Lursoft Company Register

## LIST OF PUBLISHERS



### DIENAS GRĀMATA

**Titles (2020):** 21  
**Number of copies published (2020):** 56.213

Dienas Grāmata, founded in 2005 and based in Riga, Latvia, publishes the latest in award-winning fiction and nonfiction written by Latvia's best authors. Dienas Grāmata also publishes literature in translation and children's books.

**Categories:**  
fiction, nonfiction, children's literature

15a Mūkusalas iela, Rīga, LV-1004, Latvia  
dienasgramata@dgramata.lv  
dgramata.lv

### JĀŅA ROZES APGĀDS

**Titles (2020):** 37  
**Number of copies published (2020):** 61.160

Jāņa Rozes Apgāds was founded in 1919 as the publishing branch of the book-related brand Jānis Roze (est. 1914). The company's publishing activities were suspended in 1940 and resumed in 1997, when the publishing house became a subsidiary of the company Jānis Roze—one of the largest book retailers in Latvia. Since 2001, the publishing branch has become a separate legal entity. Both before 1940 and after 1997, Jāņa Rozes Apgāds has been known for its well-established publishing traditions, excellent reputation, discerning author selection criteria, translators and artists, and high quality titles.

**Categories:**  
fiction, textbooks for universities, academic studies, children's literature, non-fiction, documentary prose (biographies, travel memoirs), reference literature

10 Atlasa iela, Rīga, LV-1026, Latvia  
+37167501568  
apgads@jr.lv  
janisroze.lv



### JĀŅA SĒTA

**Titles (2020):** 6  
**Number of copies published (2020):** 23.115

Jāņa Sēta was founded in 1992 by small team of enthusiastic cartographers. Today, with its team of highly qualified professionals, it has decades of experience through its product and service development and research. Jāņa Sēta is the leading company in the field of cartography and GIS-based IT solutions development throughout the Baltic States.

**Categories:**  
traditional maps, detailed road maps, city plans, educational editions such as atlases and guidebooks, puzzles and scratch-off maps

105a Krasta iela, Rīga, LV-1019, Latvia  
+37167317540  
kartes@kartes.lv



## PĒTERGAILIS

**Titles (2020):** 19

**Number of copies published (2020):** 17.130

Pētergailis, founded in 1990, is one of the oldest publishing houses in Latvia, priding itself on its well-selected titles of fiction, popular science, natural science reference books, cultural history and other topics from the humanities and science, travel books, books for children, textbooks, educational books, etc. Pētergailis work with the most prominent Latvian writers and illustrators, recipients of international and Latvian prizes in literature and book art.

### Categories:

fiction, scientific literature, children's literature, educational books, textbooks

**19/21 Ģertrūdes iela, Rīga, LV-1011, Latvia (legal address)**

**54-17 Stabu iela, Rīga, LV-1011, Latvia (office address)**

**+37167272220**

**info@petergailis.lv**

**petergailis.lv**

## ZVAIGZNE ABC

**Titles:** 239 (first edition)

**Number of copies published (2020):** 744.500

Zvaigzne ABC, founded in 1993, is the largest publishing house in Latvia. It has a wide publishing profile—from original fiction and poetry to translated fiction, from children's picture books and textbooks to popular science, craft and travel guides, as well as interactive learning materials. In 2010, Zvaigzne ABC became the first Latvian publisher to release e-books in Latvian. Nearly all of its published works are also available as e-books. The company actively collaborates with more than 70 foreign publishers and agencies.

### Categories:

textbooks, children's literature, fiction and literary non-fiction, encyclopedias, educational literature, guides for teachers, dictionaries, reference books, gift books, travel guides, etc.

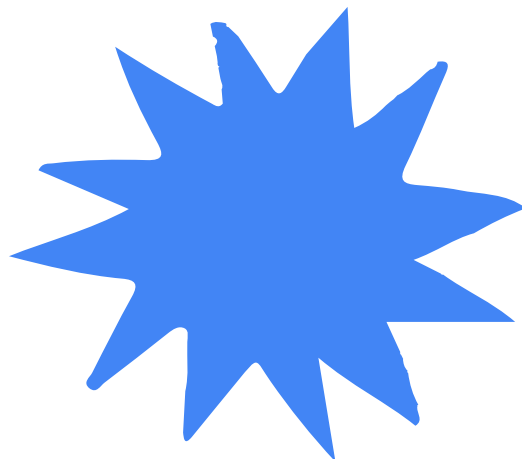
**6 Kr. Valdemāra iela, Rīga, LV-1010, Latvia**

**+37167324518**

**apgads@zvaigzne.lv , foreign.rights@zvaigzne.lv**

**zvaigzne.lv**





## IZDEVNIECĪBA AVOTS

**Titles (2020):** 15

**Number of copies published (2020):** 5.450

Avots publishing house was founded in 1980. In 1996, the company was privatized and now publishes mainly dictionaries, popular science, and non-fiction books.

**Categories:**

Non-fiction, self-help, children's literature, health

**1a Puškina iela, Rīga, LV-1050, Latvia**

**+37126692132**

**avots@avotsabc.lv**

**avotsabc.lv**

## LATVIJAS MEDIJI

**Titles (2020):** 87

**Number of copies published (2020):** 191.273

The publishing house specializes in popular literature (original works, translations) and has a broad target audience.

**Categories:**

fiction, calendars, children's literature, how-to guides and self-help books

**4 Toma iela, Rīga, LV-1003**

**latvijasmediji.lv**

**info@latvijasmediji.lv**

**+371 67096600**

## LIELS UN MAZS

**Titles (2020):** 24

**Number of copies published (2020):** 25.500

Liels un Mazs publishing house, founded in Latvia in 2004, is an independent publisher of high-quality children's books. The company translates and publishes children's books by the world's top authors, as well as the best Latvian authors and illustrators. Its team selects books based on their "heart factor," ensuring excellent storytelling, illustrations, and design. In order to bring the variety of children's books written in Latvian up-to-date, and to introduce greater diversity, Liels un Mazs publishes around 20 new titles each year. Liels un Mazs welcomes new ideas from children's authors, illustrators, and professional translators, bringing both artistically and narratively innovative projects to life. Books by Liels un Mazs showcase the best in children's book illustration.

**Categories:**

children's literature, picture books, comics

**49/51-12 Tērbatas iela, Rīga, LV-1011, Latvia**

**+37167282133**

**pasts@lielsmazzs.lv**

**lielsmazzs.lv**



## MADRIS

---

**Titles (2020):** 17  
**Number of copies published (2020):** 24.599

Madris publishing house was established in 1996. It publishes different genres of literature, but its priority is nonfiction, children's books, as well as cultural heritage, tourism, and travel guides.

**Categories:**  
 children's literature, travel guides, cultural heritage, nonfiction, general

**36a Tallinas iela, Rīga, LV-1001, Latvia**  
**+37167374020, +37129906392**  
**madris@madris.lv**  
**madris.lv**

## MANSARDS

---

**Titles (2020):** 12  
**Number of copies published (2020):** 12.967

Mansards, founded in 2004, publishes the very best of Latvian modern classics, as well as outstanding modern and contemporary literature from around the world in Latvian translation. Our list of titles extends beyond international masterpieces of fiction and poetry, and includes promising literary debuts, illuminating original writing on history and cultural studies, as well as a thrilling selection of critically acclaimed crime fiction. Our mission is to give each new generation of readers access to extraordinary writing that stirs, nurtures and excites, and to help the most promising young Latvian authors find their voice.

**Categories:**  
 modern and contemporary fiction, translated fiction, poetry, children's books, crime, history, cultural history

**11-1 Alberta iela, Rīga, LV-1010, Latvia**  
**janis@apgadsmansards.lv**  
**apgadsmansards.lv**

## NEPUTNS

---

**Titles (2020):** 22  
**Number of copies published (2020):** 16.400

Neputns publishing house was established in 1997, and now provides the broadest insight into the art of Latvia. Today, Neputns is among the most experienced publishing houses in Latvia, specializing in high quality books on art. Its publishing experts select serious and simultaneously attractive publications, intended as a contribution to Latvia's cultural heritage. These range from catalogues to monographs and academic titles. A large number of the publications have been translated into English. Great attention is paid to the design and print quality of the books.

**Categories:**  
 art, children's literature, cultural heritage, essays, memoirs, photography, poetry, scientific research

**49/51-8 Tērbatas iela, Rīga, LV-1011, Latvia**  
**+37167222647**  
**neputns@neputns.lv, dace@neputns.lv**  
**neputns.lv**

## ORBĪTA

---

**Titles (2020):** 7

**Number of copies published (2020):** 3000

Orbīta is a creative collective/group of Russian poets whose works and publishing activities are dedicated to creating a dialogue between various creative genres (literature, music, video, photography, VJ, web, etc.) and cultures. The collective was formed in 1999 in Riga.

**Categories:**

fiction, poetry, photography

**104-19 Stabu iela, Rīga, LV-1009, Latvia**

**+37125936493**

**orbita@orbita.lv**

**orbita.lv**

## ZINĀTNE

---

**Titles (2020):** 18

**Number of copies published (2020):** 9.666

Zinātne publishing house is the successor to the publishing house of the same name founded in 1951 by the Latvian Academy of Sciences. Continuing its former thematic direction, Zinātne publishes dictionaries, monographs, treatises on Latvian history, folklore, ethnography, Latvian literature, language, and art, as well as works by outstanding thinkers of antiquity.

**Categories:**

science, history, non-fiction and reference books, popular science

**1 Akadēmijas laukums, Rīga, LV-1050, Latvia**

**+37167212797**

**zinatne@zinatne.com.lv**

**zinatnesgramatas.lv**

## VALTERS DAKŠA

---

**Valters Dakša Titles (2020): 2**  
**Number of copies published (2020): 650**

SIA Valters Dakša, founded in 2017 by Valters Dakša, antiquarian book dealer and toilet bowl collector, based in Saldus, Latvia, publishes the latest in contemporary, conceptual and simply outstanding poetry written by avant-garde poet Einārs Pelšs.

**Categories:**  
 Poetry

**37 Līkā iela, Saldus, LV-3801, Latvia**  
**valtersdaksa97@inbox.lv**  
**+37129475938**

## AMINORI

---

**Titles (2020): 11**  
**Number of copies published (2020): 9.436**

Aminori was founded in 2017, its first book "Conversations with Juris Jūrjāns" about the well-known Latvian painter was published in 2018. Aminori aims at promoting books that express an idea of harmony and self-awareness through art and imagination. The other focus is research-based works on history, written with innovative approach by fresh ways of expression. Some publications are translated in English and Russian. Aminori is well known for the design and print quality. Aminori owns an art space where art and book exhibitions are held.

**Categories:**  
 visual art, non-fiction, fiction, translated fiction, children's literature, picture books, poetry, cultural heritage, memoirs, history

**69 Kr. Valdemāra iela, Rīga, LV1013, Latvia**  
**+371 24002455**  
**aminori.lv**  
**info@aminori.lv**

# DISTRIBUTION

The distribution chain in Latvia has the following characteristics:

- No fixed prices.
- The recommended retail price is not set by the publishers, but calculated by mark-up on the publisher's price.
- Initial information on new titles is gathered and distributed by the weekly subscription-based publication Book News, published by the Latvian Booksellers Association.

Books can be ordered from the wholesalers Latvijas Grāmata and Jānis Roze or directly from the publishers. There are two big chains of brick-and-mortar bookstores (~35 bookshops each), several smaller chains and a few independent booksellers that sell books in Latvian. Approximately 15–20% of titles sold are foreign books imported from abroad—the European Union, the United States, Russia, etc. Online sales are provided by several bookshops and via the websites of some publishers. There are some platforms selling e-books in Latvian.

Latvians are used to buying books in bookstores; therefore, the percentage of books sold through supermarkets, shopping malls, and other non-traditional outlets are smaller than in other countries.



# LIBRARIES



Latvia has **1505** libraries in total



**770** public libraries



**48** academic libraries



**1** significant non-specialized library (the Academic Library of the University of Latvia)



Latvian libraries employ **3.556** people



Libraries spend **66.65 EUR** per reader on average



**664** libraries of general and professional education



**22** specialized libraries



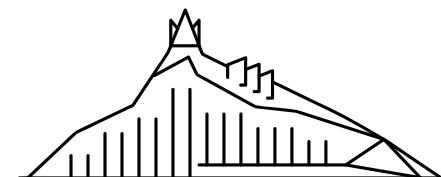
Latvian residents use library services – **39%**



On average, people visit the library **10 times a year**



Number of readers: **739.744**



Fun fact! In 2014, a new library was opened, and it is now considered one of the most significant cultural buildings of 21st-century Latvia. The National Library of Latvia has made it into the BBC's list of ten of the most beautiful modern libraries in the world. Architect Gunārs Birkerts designed the building, deriving inspiration from one of the most prominent Latvian writers, Rainis, and his famous play *Zelta zirgs* [The Golden Horse]. The play tells the story of the young peasant Antiņš, who climbs a mountain of blue glass and green ice, wakes a sleeping princess, and saves the kingdom. The building represents the Castle of Light— a symbol of the man's difficult yet brave and relentless struggle for knowledge and wisdom.

# GRANT PROGRAMS FOR TRANSLATORS AND PUBLISHERS

## GRANTS FOR PUBLISHERS

The aim of the grant program “Support for Foreign Publishers Publishing Latvian Literature” is to ensure that the best of Latvian prose, poetry, drama, journalism and children’s literature is accessible and known beyond the borders of Latvia. The program is developed, organized, and administered by the Latvian Literature platform, and is financed by the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Latvia. The program provides financial support to international publishers who are publishing Latvian literature, thereby encouraging interest from international publishers in Latvian literature, and supporting its translation into different languages. Grant applicants can apply for financial support to cover book production costs. Any independent international publisher who is a legal entity and has experience working with foreign authors is eligible to take part in the grant program. The deadline for the grant application takes place two times a year. Applications are accepted in accordance with the timeline set by the Latvian Literature platform. Each project must be completed by the end of the calendar year in which the grant was received.

## SUPPORT FOR TRANSLATORS

The Latvian Literature platform provides financial support for translators who wish to translate Latvian literary works into foreign languages. In order to qualify for funding, the translator must submit a completed application form, a CV, a sample translation, and a letter of intent or an agreement signed with a publisher that confirms plans to publish the respective title. The translator may apply for a grant only if permission has been received from the original copyright holder to produce a complete translation of the entire literary work.

The deadline for the grant application takes place two times a year. Project applications are accepted in accordance with the timeline set by the Latvian Literature platform. Each project must be completed by the end of the calendar year in which the grant was received.

### More information:

[latvianliterature.lv/grants](http://latvianliterature.lv/grants)  
[info@latvianliterature.lv](mailto:info@latvianliterature.lv)

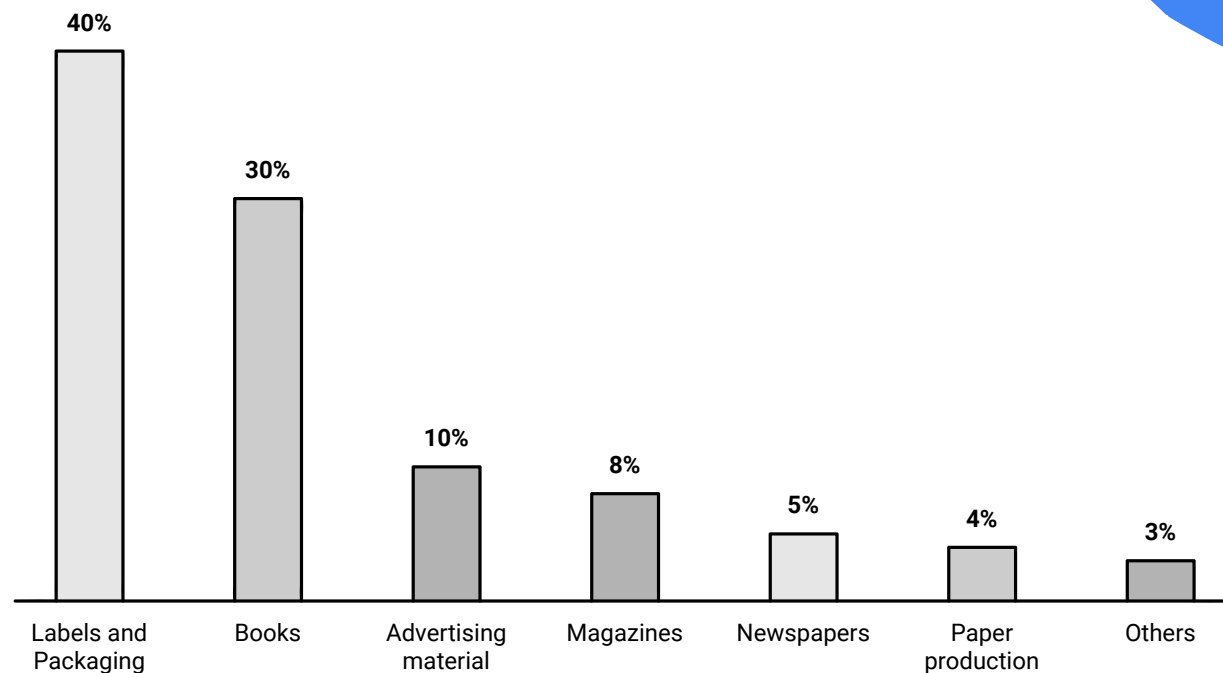
# PRINTING INDUSTRY

<b>Total turnover (2020):</b>	412 million EUR
<b>Number of companies:</b>	390 (The top 20 companies make up 90% of the total turnover of Latvian printers)
<b>The fastest growing sectors:</b>	books, packaging materials and label printing
<b>Employees:</b>	3.700
<b>The largest companies based on net turnover:</b>	Livonia Print, PNB Print, Poligrāfijas grupa Mūkusala, VG Kvadra Pak, Jelgavas tipogrāfija, Dizaina un poligrāfijas nams (DPN), Liepājas papīrs, Dardedze hologrāfija, Adverts, Veiters

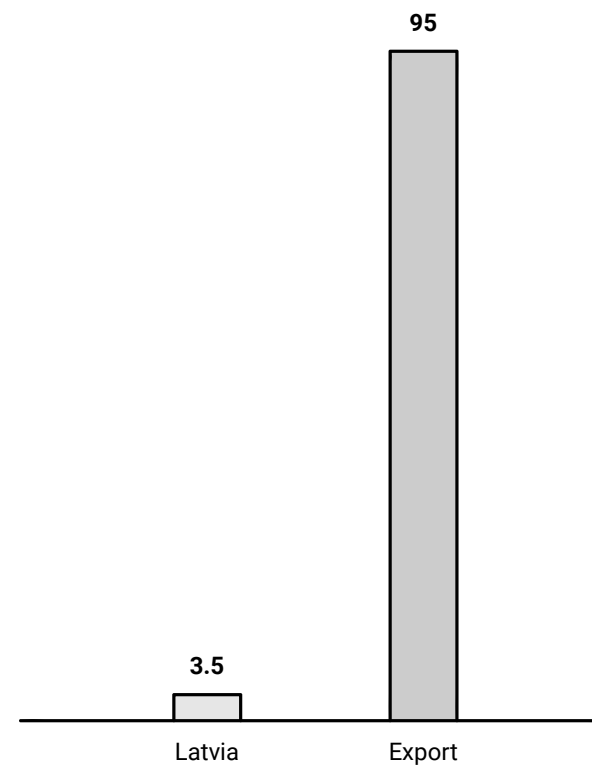
In 2021, Latvia celebrated its centennial, and the Latvian printing industry celebrated its 433th anniversary. Following tradition, the printing industry is constantly developing and today is characterized by its innovation and high quality products. During the last few years, printing companies have been preparing for the increased level of Baltic-region competition in the media market.

\* The data used for this text comes from the Latvian Printing Association (LPA)

## TURNOVER BASED ON PRODUCT CATEGORIES, 2020

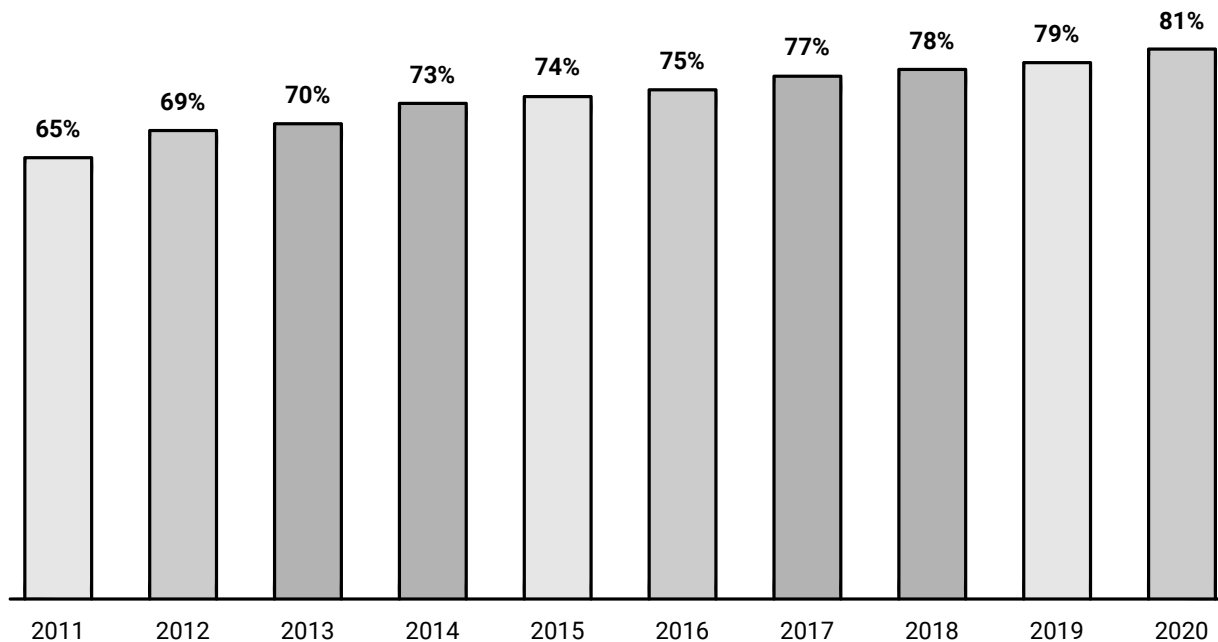


Today, the largest export markets are Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Germany, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Finland, Poland and Russia. The main print export products, such as books and magazines, go to Western Europe and Scandinavia, while labels and packaging tend to go to Eastern markets. Latvian printing and packaging companies are strong competitors in Lithuania, Estonia, Russia and Ukraine, due to their high quality packaging and labels. Examples of valuable and high quality printed materials include art books, illustrated magazines, guidebooks, and packaging for foods, perfumes and medicines. Latvia ranks second in Europe in the export share of books, with an export value of 85%.



In Latvia, 3.5 million books are issued per year, produced – 95 million (2020)

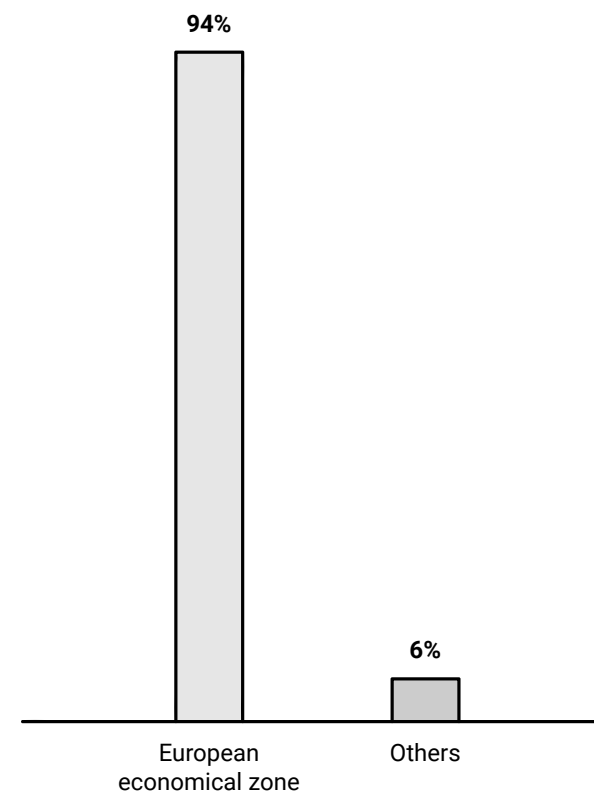
## PRODUCT EXPORT BY VOLUME



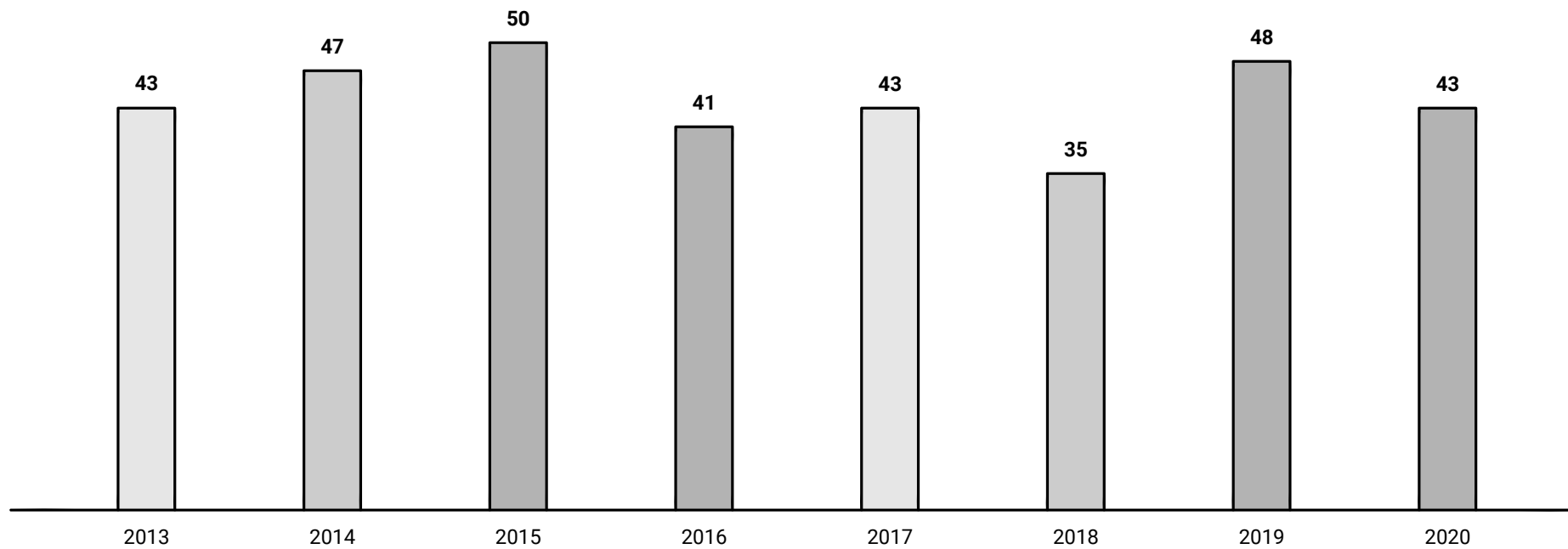
Latvian printing companies can boast of having considerable experience with export markets: they have efficient logistics management and electronic data transfer and proofing, as well as fully PDF-compatible workflow systems, ISO standards, and environmental certification. Growing investment in the field, along with continuous technological development and modernization, has helped employees in the industry accumulate a great deal of expert knowledge and skill, which explains the high productivity rate per employee in this sector.

\*The data used for this text comes from the Latvian Printing Association (LPA)

## PRODUCT EXPORT BY COUNTRY GROUPS, 2020



**INVESTMENT IN PRINTING  
INDUSTRY, 2020 (MILLION EUR)**



## PACKAGING



In Latvia, great attention is paid to producing packaging from ecological materials, and there is a growing demand for exclusive, personalized packaging for advertising purposes. Latvian companies provide a wide range of technological services, manual work, and unique design. The principal packaging materials exported are products made from wood, with manufacturing volumes of 72 million EUR, or 39% of total packaging exports. More than 70 companies manufacture wood packaging.



# LEADING LATVIAN BOOK MANUFACTURERS

## ADVERTS

Having more than 25 years of experience in producing hardcover and softcover books, brochures, catalogues and POS materials. Adverts printing house providing pre-press, press and post-press services. Dynamic development, embracing new technology, quality, and professional attitude have always been top priorities for Adverts. As well as the responsibility to protect the environment and preserve natural resources for the future.

Number of employees –

**63**

Founded in

**1993**

Turnover (2020) –

**7.1 million EUR**

Main markets:

Sweden, Norway, Finland, Germany, Denmark, the Netherlands

124 Dzelzavas iela, Rīga, LV-1021, Latvia

+37167370090

adverts@adverts.lv

adverts.lv

## DARDEDZE HOLOGRĀFIJA

Dardedze Holography has one major product line: offset printing. They make stationery, corporate materials (business cards, with-compliments slips, envelopes, forms, letterhead), booklets, brochures, folders (offering full- and spotcolor printing processes on an assortment of different items in various sizes), product catalogues, annual reports, magazines (bright colorful magazines, complex designs, high quality material), books (soft covers and hardbacks), and holograms - from design and creation to finished product.

Number of employees (2020) –

**128**

Founded in

**1995**

Turnover (2020) –

**6.03 million EUR**

Main markets:

Latvia, Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Finland, France, England

12 Mazā Rencēnu iela, Rīga, LV-1073, Latvia

+371 28331022

info@dardedze.lv

dardedze.lv

## JELGAVAS TIPOGRĀFIJA

Jelgavas Tipogrāfija is one of the leading printing houses in Northern Europe, producing a wide range of high quality books. Jelgavas Tipogrāfija has more than twenty years of experience of hardcover, softcover and flexi cover book printing and binding, up-to-date equipment and excellent customer service. Their service provides guidance every step of the journey, from the customer's idea to the finished book. The books produced by Jelgavas Tipogrāfija can be delivered all over Europe within 2 to 4 weeks. Jelgavas Tipogrāfija is FSC and Nordic Swan Ecolabel certified.

Number of employees (2020) –

**157**

Founded in

**1996**

Turnover (2020) –

**10.34 million EUR**

Main markets:

Nordic countries, Germany, France, UK, Baltic States

1A Langervaldes iela, Jelgava, LV-3002, Latvia

girts@jt.lv

jt.lv



## LATGALES DRUKA

Latgales Druka specializes in production of all types of soft cover books - perfect binding, sewn-glued binding, flaps and no flaps. Limited range of products together with lean production and modern equipment with in-line quality control not only guarantees predictable high-quality results but also quick delivery times of around 2 weeks for pre-booked orders. We take pride in our smaller size that allows us to focus on details, as well as deliver personal approach when needed. Some of our customers even say that they do not disclose our cooperation to other players in the market as to not lose their competitive advantage. While it is nice to hear positive feedback, we do have capacity to do more, so let us know if you are interested.

Number of employees (2020) –

**37**

Founded in

**1994**

Turnover (2020) –

**1.5 million EUR**

Main markets:

Denmark, Sweden, Finland, the Netherlands, Baltic States

28 Baznīcas iela, Rēzekne, LV-4601, Latvia  
kristine@druka.lv  
druka.lv

## LIVONIA PRINT

Livonia Print SIA is one of the leading book manufacturers in Northern Europe offering its customers full colour and bl/wh sheet-fed offset, web and digital printing combined with in-house bindery for hard cover, flexi and soft cover books. Saddle-stitching and wire binding also available. Different finishing options for book covers – lamination, UV spot varnishing, foil stamping, embossing/debossing, die -cutting.

Number of employees (2020) –

**632**

Founded in

**2007**

Turnover (2020) –

**65.1 million EUR**

Main markets:

Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Germany, Great Britain

15/25 Jūrkalnes iela, Rīga, LV-1046, Latvia  
info@livoniaprint.lv  
livoniaprint.lv

## PNB PRINT

PNB Print is a full-service printing house providing pre-press, press, and postpress services. PNB Print specializes in manufacturing high-quality hardcover and softcover books, and provides printed media production magazines, catalogues, and advertising materials.

Number of employees (2018) –

**294**

Founded in

**2010**

Turnover (2020) –

**21 million EUR**

Main markets:

Scandinavia, Germany, the Netherlands, Russia

Jāņsili, Silakrogs, Ropažu novads, LV-2133, Latvia  
+371 67043375  
mk@pnbprint.eu  
pnbprint.eu

## POLIGRĀFIJAS GRUPA MŪKUSALA

Poligrāfijas Grupa Mūkusala is a printing house that prints local materials as well as being highly focused on export. Mūkusala is the biggest printing house in Latvia, providing printed media production – magazines (perfectly bound and stitched), newspapers, catalogues, advertising and other print materials. The company is proud to own modern and efficient equipment, and employs highly qualified and professional staff – which is the key to the company's success. Half of the total production is exported to 14 different countries.

Number of employees (2020) –

**105**

Founded in

**1993**

Turnover (2020) –

**13.53 million EUR**

**Main markets:**

Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Norway, the Netherlands, Germany

15a Mūkusalas iela, Rīga, LV-1004, Latvia  
renate\_dubrovskas@pgm.lv  
pgm.lv

## UNITEDPRESS TIPOGRĀFIJA

United Press Printing house is one of the market leaders in the Baltic States for high quality, full color, multiple page publication printing using web offset and sheet feed offset. United Press Printing house is one of the largest exporters of printed materials from Latvia.

Number of employees (2018) –

**60**

Founded in

**1992**

Turnover (2020) –

**3.5 million EUR**

**Main markets:**

Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, Germany, United Kingdom

20 Vestienas iela, Rīga, LV-1035, Latvia  
+371 26397788  
arturs@unitedpress.lv

## VEITERS

Veiters is a full-service printing house providing pre-press, press, and post-press services. Veiters handles a wide variety of printing requests and is especially known for its expertise in manufacturing products for children and young adult audiences—books, coloring books, activity books, sticker sets, memory games, etc.

Number of employees (2020) –

**65**

Founded in

**2004**

Turnover (2020) –

**4.6 million EUR**

### Main markets:

Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Finland, Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, France, Estonia, Lithuania, the UK, Iceland

**445e Brīvības gatve, Rīga, LV-1024, Latvia**

**+371 67994419**

**veiters@veiters.lv**

**veiters.com**

## ZEMGUS LB

Zemgus offers offset printing for large runs, and digital printing for smaller jobs. In our repro center, we employ a creative team of artists with shared interests. We are one of the few printing companies in Latvia that has the facilities to provide every printing and publishing service in one place, from the initial idea to the finished product on your table.

Number of employees (2020) –

**49**

Founded in

**2000**

Turnover (2020) –

**2.9 million EUR**

### Main markets:

Baltic states, Scandinavia, Germany

**401-1 Brīvības gatve, Rīga, LV-1024, Latvia**

**+371 67808608**

**zemgus@zemgus.lv**

**zemgus.lv**



## LITERARY AWARDS

### THE INTERNATIONAL JĀNIS BALTVILKS BALTIC SEA REGION AWARD

The International Jānis Baltvilks Baltic Sea Region Award is the most important award for children's literature in Latvia. Every year, prizes are given to Latvian authors and artists for the best new children's books and best illustration. There is also an annual award for a foreign author whose works for children have been published in Latvian, as well as the translator. The award is named after the distinguished Latvian poet and author Jānis Baltvilks (1944–2003) who did so much for the development of Latvian children's literature in his lifetime.

#### Winners 2021

**Jānis Baltvilks Award:** Ej nu ej [Go on Now] by Marts Pujāts

**Prize in book art:** illustrator Reinis Pētersons for "Puika ar suni. Bunkurs" [The Boy and His Dog. The Bunker], Seisa siin, Pārt! [Stand Here, Pārt!] and "Ļoti briesmīgs notikums" [A Very Terrible Event]

**International laureate:** Delphine de Vigan from France  
**Translation:** translator Inta Šmite for novel "No and Me" by Delphine de Vigan

**Young adult prize:** illustrator Kitija Role

[latvianliterature.lv/en/awards](http://latvianliterature.lv/en/awards)

### THE GOLDEN APPLE TREE AWARD

The Golden Apple Tree (Zelta ābele) is an annual competition for book design, with awards given to the designers of the most beautiful books in Latvia. Zelta ābele has been held since 1993, making it the oldest industry-oriented competition in the history of the restored Republic of Latvia. The awards are given to the most beautiful and high-quality books of poetry, prose and children's literature, documentary books, scholarly books, textbooks, reference books and art books. There is also an annual lifetime achievement in the book industry award.

### THE ANNUAL LATVIAN LITERATURE AWARD

The Annual Latvian Literature Award (LALIGABA) is the most important literary award in Latvia. Every year the award is given to Latvian authors for the best prose and poetry books, the best children's books, the best translations of foreign literature into Latvian, and the best literary debut. There is also an annual award for lifetime achievement. A special award ceremony is held every year in April to celebrate these literary achievements.

**Poetry:** Pirms izvākšanās [Before Moving Out] by Amanda Aizpuriete

**Prose:** Tīģeris [Tiger] by Jānis Jonevs

**Translation:** Kodiens [Bite, Charles Bukowski] translated by Jānis Elsbergs

**Children's book:** Ej nu ej [Go On Now] by Marts Pujāts

**Debut:** Kalendārs mani sauc [Calendar Calls Me] by Andris Kalnozols

**The special award:** Festival "Prose Readings 2021"

[laligaba.lv](http://laligaba.lv)

# LITERARY FESTIVALS

## POETRY DAYS

The international poetry and arts festival Poetry Days is one of the most important literary festivals in Latvia, and one of the most memorable phenomena on the Latvian cultural scene. This festival has been celebrating poetry ever since the centennial of Latvian poet Rainis in 1965. The aim of the festival was, and still is, to increase people's interest in literature—poetry in particular—and to introduce the public to different literary forms, current trends and new concepts of poetry. Poetry Days take place in September, when poets and poetry are celebrated all across Latvia at numerous events. The core of the festival, however, is a 10-day program of more than 30 events reflecting current trends in Latvian poetry. All of the events in the 10-day span take place in various parts of Riga. Every year, Poetry Days welcomes more than 10 international guests, who perform in cooperation with local artists.

**Festival dates:** September

[dzejasdienas.com](http://dzejasdienas.com)

## PROSE READINGS FESTIVAL

The Prose Readings festival has been held every December since 1995. The event began as a literary evening dedicated to writer Andrejs Upītis' birthday, and from its modest beginnings it has grown into a multi-day annual festival with many generations of Latvian writers and guests from other European countries performing from their latest works. Prose Readings has become an inspiring meeting place for authors and their readers. It is an important literary landmark that shows the continuous growth and latest developments in Latvian culture.

**Festival dates:** December

[prozasklasijumi.lv](http://prozasklasijumi.lv)

## POETRY WITHOUT BORDERS

On 2–4 June, 2017, the trilingual festival Poetry Without Borders was held for the first time. The festival features poets writing in Latvian, Russian, and in a guest language—for the first season, Swedish was selected as the third language. Four authors represent each language, and all the poems are recited in three languages to enable real-time dialogue between the poets and their texts. The festival is organized by the Literature Without Borders project, a non-profit organization publishing poetry in Russian, Latvian and English, as well as providing a residency program for poets and translators of poetry. The project focuses on furthering creative writing in Latvia, promoting Latvian literature abroad, fostering accessibility to culture and literature for wider audiences, and informing Latvian readers of the latest innovations in contemporary poetry.

**Festival dates:** June

[Facebook.com/dzejabezrobezam](https://www.facebook.com/dzejabezrobezam)

## THE PUNCTUM FESTIVAL

Every May the literature and philosophy online magazine Punctum organizes its own festival, offering an opportunity to enjoy a versatile cultural program showcasing the most compelling writing in Latvian and world literature. The festival reflects on contemporary developments in poetry and prose, and aims to enrich literature with interdisciplinary solutions. Every year, the Punctum festival has one unifying theme. In 2019 the festival celebrated Monta Kroma's centenary.

**Festival dates:** May

[punctummagazine.lv](http://punctummagazine.lv)

# PUBLISHING INDUSTRY ORGANIZATIONS

## LATVIAN PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

The Latvian Publishers Association (LPA) was founded in 1993 with the aim of supporting the stability and visibility of the publishing sector. It is actively involved in resolving legislative issues related to the printing and publishing sector and lobbying for prudent and balanced policy in the cultural and educational sectors. Together with the Latvian Writers Union and the International Writers and Translators House, LPA is a consortium curating export strategies and promotion of Latvian literature abroad. LPA is an active member of the Federation of European Publishers and a part of European Book Fair Network ALDUS.

**Contact person:** Renāte Punka

**Number of members:** 30 full or associate members

**37-3 Baznīcas iela, Rīga, LV-1010, Latvia**

**+371 67217730, +371 29407288**

**lga@gramatizdeveji.lv**

**gramatizdeveji.lv**

## LATVIAN BOOKSELLERS ASSOCIATION

The Latvian Booksellers Association is a member of the European and International Booksellers Federation. It is a public organization that unites the largest and oldest of Latvia's booksellers. The association's main aim is to represent members' interests in society and government, and compile and disseminate information about books published in Latvia. It follows the book-selling processes and supports reading promotion in Latvia.

**Contact persons:** Ināra Beļinkaja, Ineta Škapare

**Number of members:** 3 legal companies (including 75 bookstores)

**10 Atlasa iela, Rīga, LV-1026, Latvia**

**+371 67501562**

**lgta@latnet.lv**

**lgta.lv**

## INTERNATIONAL WRITERS AND TRANSLATORS HOUSE

The International Writers and Translators House is a non-profit organization whose goal is to create a multifunctional, international center for writers and translators in Latvia to promote the development of literature, foster intercultural dialogue, further the inclusion of Latvian literature in the international literary scene, support the decentralization of literary development in Latvia, and develop the cultural scene throughout the country.

**Contact person:** Andra Konste

**13 Annas iela, Ventspils, LV-3601, Latvia**

**+371 63623596**

**ventspilshouse@ventspilshouse.lv**

**ventspilshouse.lv**



## LATVIAN LIBRARIANS ASSOCIATION

---

The Latvian Librarians Association was founded in 1923 as an independent, voluntary professional organization uniting library and information technology specialists who have shared interests and goals. The objective of the association is to unite library professionals in Latvia, motivate professional development, stimulate the growth of the industry nationwide, increase the professional prestige of librarians, and defend the rights and interests of libraries and librarians.

**Number of members:** 420 private members and 65 institutions

**3 Mūkusalas iela, Rīga, LV-1423, Latvia**  
**+371 67716050**  
**bibliotekarubiedriba@gmail.com**  
**bibliotekari.lv**

## LATVIAN WRITERS UNION

---

Latvian Writers Union is a professional association of writers and translators in Latvia. The organization safeguards the professional interests of its members and administers various projects, such as the annual Poetry Days festival, as well as organizing valuable workshops for young authors.

**Contact person:** Arno Jundze  
**Number of members:** 274

**37-1 Čaka iela, Rīga, LV-1011, Latvia**  
**+371 6755518**  
**lrs@rakstnieciba.lv**  
**rakstnieciba.lv**

## LATVIAN LITERATURE

---

The Latvian Literature platform was established in order to promote Latvian literature and its distribution abroad, thus ensuring international cooperation among publishers, literary agents, writers, translators, and organizations working in the fields of literature and publishing. The Latvian Literature platform provides wide-ranging information about Latvian authors, books, translators and translations, the publishing industry and innovations within the industry.

**info@latvianliterature.lv**  
**latvianliterature.lv**



## LATVIAN BOARD ON BOOKS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE (IBBY LATVIA)

The Latvian Board on Books for Young People was founded in 1993. It is the Latvian branch of the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY), which consists of seventy national organizations from all over the world ([www.ibby.org](http://www.ibby.org)). IBBY Latvia members are authors, illustrators, publishers, researchers of children's and young adult literature, art historians, librarians, teachers, and others who specialize in children's and young adult literature. The organization currently serves 78 members. In April 2015, Ilze Stikāne, an expert on children's literature and Professor at the University of Latvia, was re-elected as president of IBBY Latvia.

**Contact persons:** Ilze Stikāne, Silvija Tretjakova

**3 Mūkusalas iela, Rīga, LV-1423, Latvia**  
**+371 67716038**  
**[berni@lnb.lv](mailto:berni@lnb.lv)**

## THE PACKAGING ASSOCIATION OF LATVIA

The Packaging Association of Latvia is a non-governmental organization bringing together Latvia's producers, traders, and consumers of packaging materials and machinery, as well as packaging consultants. The association has been a full member of the World Packaging Organization since 1996 and provides extensive options for obtaining and exchanging information in the field of packaging. The activities of the association are aimed at developing an advanced packaging industry in Latvia.

**Year of foundation:** 1995

**11 Vienības gatve, Rīga, LV-1004, Latvia**  
**+371 67326597**  
**[packaging@packaging.lv](mailto:packaging@packaging.lv)**  
**[packaging.lv](http://packaging.lv)**

## LATVIAN GRAPHIC INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION (LPUA)

LPUA is an independent non-profit association of printing companies set up to support and coordinate its members' activities. LPUA's members represent a broad range of industry services, from pre-press and printing to bookbinding.

**Year of foundation:** 1997  
**Number of members:** 32

**14-8 Pērses iela, Rīga, LV-1011, Latvia**  
**+371 67282447**  
**[ieva@lpua.lv](mailto:ieva@lpua.lv)**  
**[printing.lv](http://printing.lv)**





© Latvian Literature, December 2021

Design by Agris Bobrovs  
Cover illustration by Reinis Pētersons

[latvianliterature.lv](http://latvianliterature.lv)

