



Jelgava

Geographical location and infrastructure

Jelgava is located in the central part of Latvia, at the northern edge of the Zemgale plain, in both banks of Latvia's second largest river – Lielupe. It is the largest city in the Zemgale planning region and the fourth largest in Latvia.

The advantageous geographical position of Jelgava, i.e., its location in the central part of Latvia has facilitated its development as a national transit centre – six major roads and five railway routes converge here. Jelgava borders the Ozolnieku and Jelgava county municipalities which are linked to the city by regular public transport services. The City is encircled by a ring road that connects to highways leading to Riga, Lithuania and further to Western Europe. The distance from the capital Riga is 42 km and the Lithuanian border is only 34 km away.

One of Jelgava's key freight service centres is the Latvijas Dzelzceļš (Latvian Railroads) railway station, where freight arrives for further transportation by rail in east-west directions: Moscow–Rezekne–Krustpils–Jelgava–Ventspils and Krustpils–Jelgava–Liepāja.

Planned Jelgava infrastructure development projects:

Construction of multimodal transport terminal and construction of northern bypass including construction of the Ziemeļu (north) Bridge over the Lielupe and the construction of a ring road (including an overpass) connected to the free territories in the potential industrial area.

City statistics

At the beginning of 2016, the population of Jelgava was 57045, 34879 of whom were of working age. City area is 60.3 km². Jelgava had more than 4000 students in the 2016/2017 academic year. Unemployment rate in Jelgava was 6.1% at the end of August, 2016. Average monthly gross wage was EUR 707 at the end of 2015.

Business activities

The main manufacture fields in Jelgava are metal-ware manufacturing and machine manufacturing, timber and wood-processing, food production and processing, publishing and printing and non-metal goods manufacturing. While Jelgava has a food-processing sector, it mostly produces products for the local market.

The largest foreign enterprises operating in Jelgava:

- Ltd “AGRO TRADE LATVIJA” is a branch of a Finnish company engaged in trade of grain, seed, fertilizer, plant protection products.
- Ltd “AKG THERMOTECHNIK LETTLAND” is a branch of a German company engaged in metal working.
- Ltd “Fortum Jelgava” (Finland) – heat supply.

- Ltd "KKR" is a branch of a German company producing children's goods.

The largest Latvian enterprises operating in Jelgava:

- JSC "[Baltijas gumijas fabrika](#)" is a manufacturer of rubber compounds.
- JSC "[PET Baltija](#)"- specializes in post-consumer PET bottle recycling.
- JSC "[Jelgavas Gaļas kombināts](#)" is a food processor.
- Ltd "[Latvijas Piens](#)" – milk products and milk processing.
- Ltd "[Jelgavas Tipogrāfija](#)" – printing company.
- Ltd "Zn metals" – metal working and metal coating.
- Ltd "SFM Latvia" – steel fabrication manufacturer.
- Ltd "Mitau Steel" - steel fabrication manufacturer.
- Ltd "[Evopipes](#)" - production of pipeline systems.
- Ltd "[Eibe-L](#)" - produces house furniture.

"Jelgava Business Park" is currently the biggest industrial park in Latvia with a total area of 23 ha and an area of rented premises of more than 111 thousand square metres. It is planned that Jelgava Business Park will become one of the biggest and most advanced industrial parks in the Baltic States. Many city residents of active working age work in Riga. On the other hand, many people from surrounding districts work in Jelgava, because Jelgava offers employment opportunities not available in their communities, exerting an impact on the whole region. There is a large unused aerodrome area in the city. In future a logistics related business could be developed there.

Education

The competence of potential employees in Jelgava is based on the education and training available in the city. Secondary vocational education courses are offered by Jelgava Crafts School and Jelgava Technical School. Jelgava also has an advanced education centre for adults – Zemgale Region Human Resource and Competence Development Centre. The centre offers a variety of courses and ways to improve professional skills. The Centre has a Metalworking branch that offers training for CNC machines, several high-tech welding programs etc. Jelgava is home to Latvia's third largest higher education and scientific institution– the Latvia University of Agriculture (LUA), which attracts students not just from Zemgale, but from all over Latvia. LUA offers nationally significant courses in agriculture, veterinary science, food technology and forestry, and is the only Latvian higher education institution doing it. The presence of the Latvian University of Agriculture has seen Jelgava evolve into a centre for scientific research and development. Through cooperation with various partners, several new research centres have been founded in Jelgava, for example the Wood Product Research and Development Institute.