

**Jelgava**

## GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION

Jelgava is located in the central part of Latvia, at the northern edge of the Zemgale plain, straddling both banks of Latvia's second largest river –Lielupe ([see Annex 1](#)). It is the largest city in the Zemgale planning region and the fourth largest in Latvia, both in terms of area (60.3 km<sup>2</sup>) and number of residents.

Jelgava's geographical location and the intersection of national roads have facilitated the city's development as a transit centre of national significance. Five railway routes and six major roads converge in Jelgava. The distance from the capital Riga is 42 km and the Lithuanian border is only 34 km away.

Jelgava enjoys a temperate, continental climate thanks to the influence of the Lielupe River basin and the proximity of the Gulf of Riga. The average winter monthly temperature is -5.5°C, but the summer monthly average is 17°C.

## TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

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 Valgunde, Ozolnieku, Jaunsvirlauka, Platone, Svete, Gluda, Livberze rural municipalities which are linked to the city by regular public transport services.

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

In 2008, 327 540 tonnes of freight were reloaded at the Jelgava railway station and 1 930 522 passengers commenced or completed their journeys at Jelgava ([see Annex 2](#)).

## CITY STATISTICS

In terms of the number of residents, Jelgava is the fourth largest city in the country. As at the beginning of 2008, the population of Jelgava was 65 635 ([see Annex 3](#)), slightly less than in 2007, and 43 602 of these were of active working age ([see Annex 4](#)). Population density in Jelgava at the beginning of 2008 was 1 076 people per km<sup>2</sup>.

Jelgava had 7 727 in students the 2008/2009 academic year.

Jelgava's unemployment rate was 5.5% at the end of 2008.

## REGIONAL STATISTICS

The population of the Jelgava district at the beginning of 2008 was 37 278 people ([see Annex 5](#)), slightly higher than in 2007, and 24 654 residents were of active working age ([see Annex 6](#)).

The population density in the Jelgava district in the beginning of 2008 was 23.3 people per km<sup>2</sup>.

The unemployment rate in the Jelgava district reached 6.6% at the end of 2008.

The number of enterprises registered in the Jelgava district in 2008 was 2 716, of which 2 145 were active. In 2008, 378 new enterprises were founded in the Jelgava district, but 103 were liquidated.

## BUSINESS ACTIVITIES

Most of Jelgava's economically active enterprises have traditionally been engaged in the following sectors: wholesale, retail, automotive, haberdashery goods and the repair of household appliances.

Many of the region's largest enterprises are located in Ozolnieki because of its advantageous location between Riga and Jelgava alongside the Riga-Jelgava arterial road. Otherwise, a large number of the region's largest enterprises are located in rural municipalities just outside the city. This facilitates positive economic cooperation between municipalities: Jelgava city development, specifically the upgrading of its infrastructure, directly assists the development of the adjacent municipalities.

In Jelgava itself, the most significant sectors are metal-ware manufacturing and machine manufacturing, timber and wood-processing, publishing and printing and non-metal goods manufacturing, all of which are seeing volumes increasing. The proportion of textile-goods manufacturing is trending downwards as salaries increase nationally and enterprises can no longer compete with Asia-produced goods.

While Jelgava has a food-processing sector, it mostly produces products for the local market.

Jelgava has experienced a development boom in the service and retail sectors and many of the city's enterprises are retailers. 2003 saw the opening of the first of a number of new shopping centres. The city has a developed network of consumer services, with numerous trades people offering services such as hairdressing, plumbing, general repairs, etc.).

The largest foreign enterprises operating in Jelgava:

- [Linas Agro](#) is a branch of a Lithuanian trading company.
- [AKG THERMOTECHNIK LETTLAND](#) is a branch of a German company engaged in metal working.

- [SilJa](#) is a Finnish-Latvian joint venture retailing and repairing agricultural, forestry and gardening equipment.
- KKR is a branch of a German company producing children's goods.
- [Torgy Baltic](#) is a branch of a Norwegian company engaged in the production of industrial equipment.

The largest Latvian enterprises operating in Jelgava:

- Farmers' co-operative [LATRAPs](#) carries out canola processing and trading.
- BAKS is a trading company.
- [Jelgavas Gaļas kombināts](#) is a food processor.
- [KULK](#) is a construction company.
- Zemgales Metāls. is engaged in the metal-working sector.

### FOREIGN INVESTMENT PROJECTS

The most significant foreign investment projects in Jelgava over the last five years:

1. In the manufacturing sector:

- [AKG THERMOTeCHNIK LETTLAND](#) began operating in 2005 and had 124 employees by 2007. Around EUR 2 million were invested in setting up the plant.
- [AMO PLANT](#) completed the first part of an industrial complex for producing cars in 2008 with total investment expected to reach EUR 30 million.
- [Torgy Baltic](#), a branch of Norwegian company, started operating in Jelgava in 2005 and had 41 employees by 2007. EUR 30 000 was invested in set-up.

2. Retail sector:

- EUR 2.5 million was invested in establishing the [K-Rauta](#) outlet in 2006 with 58 employees.
- The [IKI](#) shopping centre was opened in 2007 and EUR 2.5 million had been invested by 2008.

### INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Planned Jelgava infrastructure development projects:

- Reorganisation of transit roads, including reconstruction of Rigas iela, the Dobele road, the Kalnciema road, Garozas and other streets. Planned project implementation period: 2008-2012.
- Construction of northern bypass, including construction of the Ziemeļu (north) Bridge over the Lielupe and the construction of a ring road (including an overpass) and Atmodas iela. Planned project implementation period: 2009-2012.
- Reorganisation of streets between blocks of buildings and public transport routes. Planned project implementation period: 2008-2010.
- Reorganisation of bridge approaches, viaduct, railway and pedestrian crossings. Planned project implementation period: 2010-2013.

### HUMAN RESOURCES

The competence of potential employees in Jelgava is based on the education and training available in the city. The main areas are cooking, confectionery, hairdressing, locksmith

trades, assistant motor mechanics, carpentry and general repairs, digital program managers, cabinetmaking, agriculture, veterinary medicine, food-processing and forestry sectors. Jelgava also has dressmakers, fashion designers, plasterers/renderers, motor mechanics, computer system technicians and catering specialists.

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, and so exerts an impact on the whole region.

The leading sector in Jelgava in terms of the number of people employed in 2007 was wholesale and retail trade, engaging about 5 000 people or 19% of the total number employed. Second was manufacturing with around 4 000 people or 14% in 2007 and third was education with around 3 000 or 13%. ([see Annex 7](#))

Average monthly gross wage was EUR 796.81 (LVL 560) in the Jelgava public sector in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2008 whereas it was EUR 607.56 (LVL 427). in the private sector – It should be noted that almost half of Jelgava’s population is employed in the public sector, partly because the Latvian University of Agriculture and other education institutions are the largest employers in the city. Jelgava also hosts the offices of various regional authorities. Salaries are shown in [Annex 8](#).

## **EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS**

In Jelgava, secondary education can be obtained at eight secondary schools: Jelgava 1<sup>st</sup> Gymnasium, Jelgava State Gymnasium, Jelgava *Spidola* Gymnasium, Jelgava 4<sup>th</sup> Secondary School, Jelgava 5<sup>th</sup> Secondary School, Jelgava 6<sup>th</sup> Secondary School, R. Lazdiņa’s Private School *Punktiņš* and Jelgava Night School.

Several education institutions offer vocational training programmes in Jelgava, for both young people and adults. For pupils who have completed 8<sup>th</sup> form, special courses at the Jelgava Crafts Vocational Secondary School enable them to complete 9<sup>th</sup> form with a certificate of an assembling fitter or assistant chef. Industrial training courses for those who have completed basic education are offered by the [Jelgava Crafts School](#) (cooks, confectioners, hairdressers, locksmiths) and the Jelgava Trade Secondary School (assistant motor mechanics, carpenters and general repairs). Secondary vocational education courses are offered by the Jelgava Crafts School – business, dressmaking, fashion design, digital program managers. The Jelgava Trade Secondary School provides courses for plasterers/renderers, motor mechanics, computer system technicians, secretaries, catering specialists and cabinetmakers. At the Jelgava Music Secondary School, students can obtain qualifications in various instruments and conducting.

Jelgava is home to Latvia’s third largest higher education and scientific institution– the [Latvian University of Agriculture](#) (LUA), which attracts students not just from Zemgale, but from all over Latvia. LUA carries out scientific research as a platform for its academic and professional study programmes. LUA offers nationally significant courses in agriculture, veterinary science, food technology and forestry, and is the only Latvian

education institution doing so. For the 2007/2008 academic year, nine major study programmes and 20 sub-programmes were offered.

### **RESEARCH AND COMPETENCE CENTRES**

The presence of the Latvian University of Agriculture has seen Jelgava evolve into a centre for scientific research and development. Not only are young scientists trained, research in numerous fields continues. The application of scientific discovery into practice is effected by the LUA's scientific research institutes – located both within the city and outside, affording LUA students the opportunity to be engaged in real, valuable research.

The University also hosts various scientific laboratories, mainly conducting agricultural and environmental research. In the Jelgava district's Platone rural municipality, the LUA has a well-established research farm *Peterlauki* and a research and training farm *Vecauce*. These research farms carry out research work and are used for the practical training of young scientists and agronomists.

Through cooperation with various partners, several new research centres have been founded in Jelgava, for example the Wood Product Research and Development Institute and the Construction Product Development and Testing Centre. These industrious centres not only carry out projects in Jelgava and the Zemgale planning region, but throughout Latvia, thus facilitating development in both the region and the country as a whole.

The outcome of this scientific research is additional growth opportunities for entrepreneurs throughout the Jelgava district. Enterprises can attract skilled employees who can be successfully engaged in scientific and research work and develop new competitive products for both Latvian and foreign markets. To date, the city's enterprises have not taken full advantage of the city's scientific potential by converting these opportunities into competitive products and services.

### **INVESTMENT INCENTIVES**

In 2007, Jelgava launched its own [business incubator](#) to facilitate the foundation and development of new enterprises and offer support to newly founded enterprises during their first three years of operation.

Jelgava municipality can offer real estate tax allowances to companies working in Jelgava.

### **CULTURAL LIFE AND RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES**

One of Jelgava's main development objectives is the conservation and restoration of the city's cultural and historical heritage, including urban construction, architectural, art and historical monuments which together shape the city's historical environment as the former capital of the Duchy of Courland.

Planning, organisation and coordination of the municipality's cultural life is carried out by the agency *Kultura* (Culture) who run a minimum of 20 large-scale events each year. Examples include annual events that have already established a tradition: the International Festival of Ice Sculpture, children's and young people's popular music festivals *Balta kaza* (the White goat), Jelgava City Festivals, the National Festival of Latvian Dairy, Bakery and Honey products, the Milk-carton Boat Race, International Sand Sculpture Festival *Summer Signs* and International Graffiti Art Festivals, as well as national holidays, remembrance days and other events.

The G. Elias Jelgava Historical Museum has evolved to reflect the culture and the history of Zemgale, utilising the potential of its 80 000 historical artefacts, expert knowledge and its location. It offers a contemporary, permanent exposition on the history of the area from the most ancient times to the present, providing physical and intellectual access to cultural and historical information for all members of the community.

Jelgava's Scientific Library is the main and the largest public library in the Zemgale planning region with its stock of 154 000 items. The library is visited by more than 200 readers every day.

In Jelgava there are extensive opportunities to participate in sport both at professional and at amateur levels. The city can be considered to be Zemgale's sports development centre with its developed infrastructure and the many people who are members of sport clubs.

For photos of Jelgava, see [Annex 9](#).

#### **CONTACT INFORMATION ON BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT ISSUES**

##### **Jelgava City Council**

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Fax: (+371) 630 29059

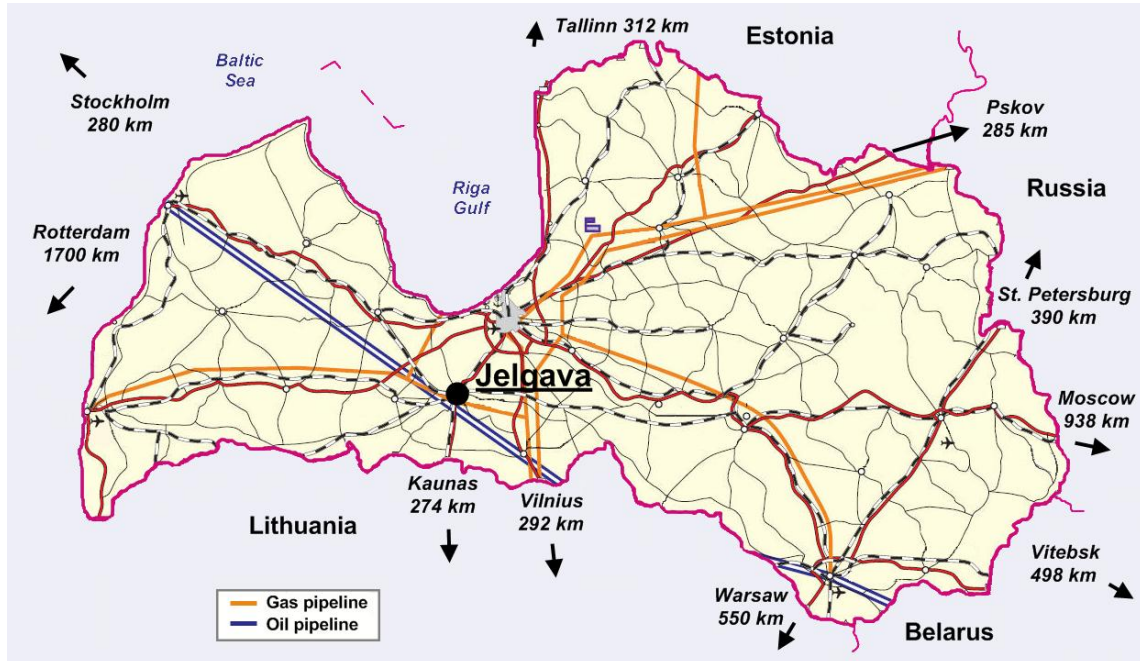
[dome@jelgava.lv](mailto:dome@jelgava.lv)

[www.jelgava.lv](http://www.jelgava.lv)

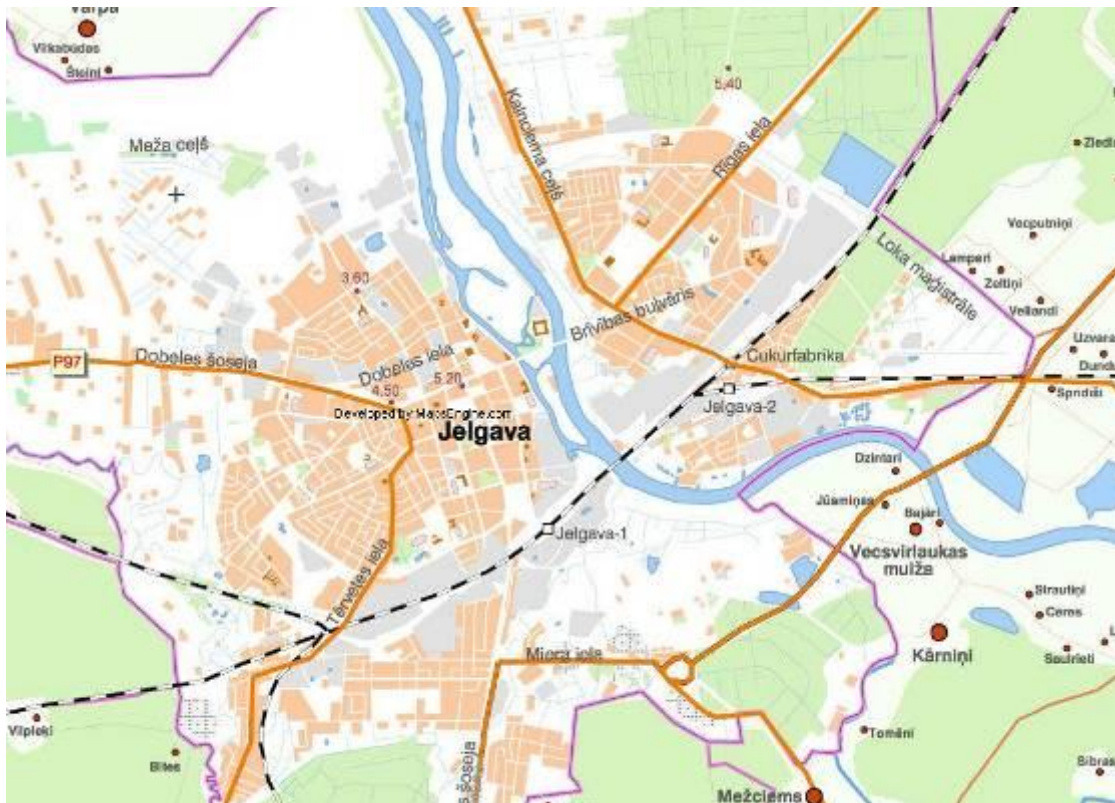
## ANNEXES

### 1. GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF THE CITY (MAP)

Jelgava location on the map of Latvia



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Source: Jelgava City web page ([www.jelgava.lv](http://www.jelgava.lv))

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## 2. RAILWAY STATISTICS

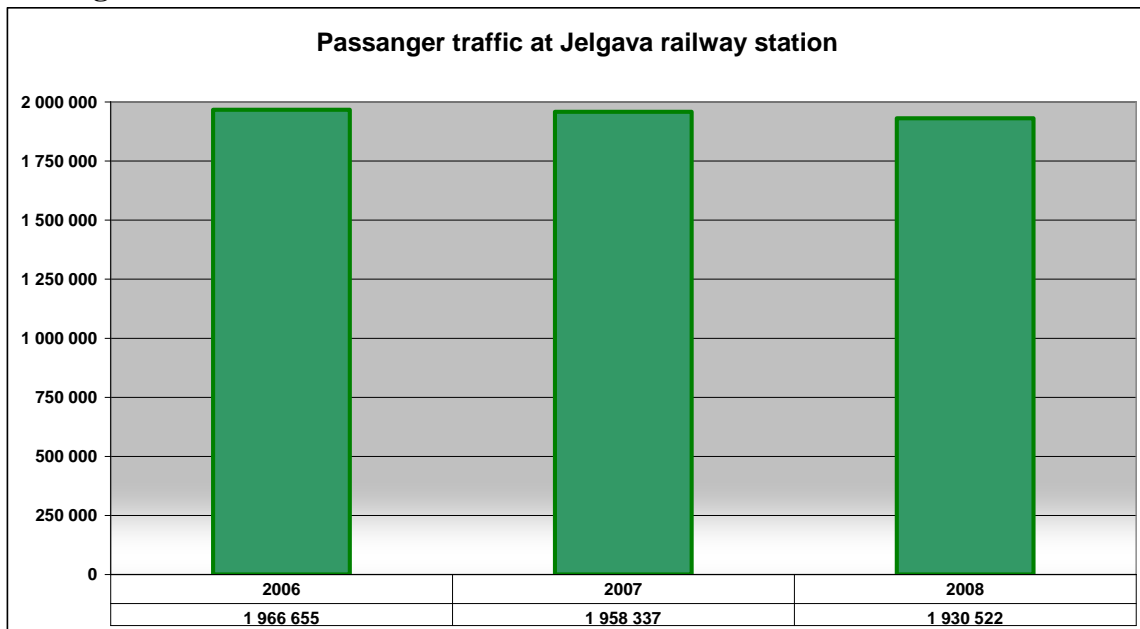
### Freight



Source: SJSC Latvijas Dzelzceļš ([www.ldz.lv](http://www.ldz.lv))

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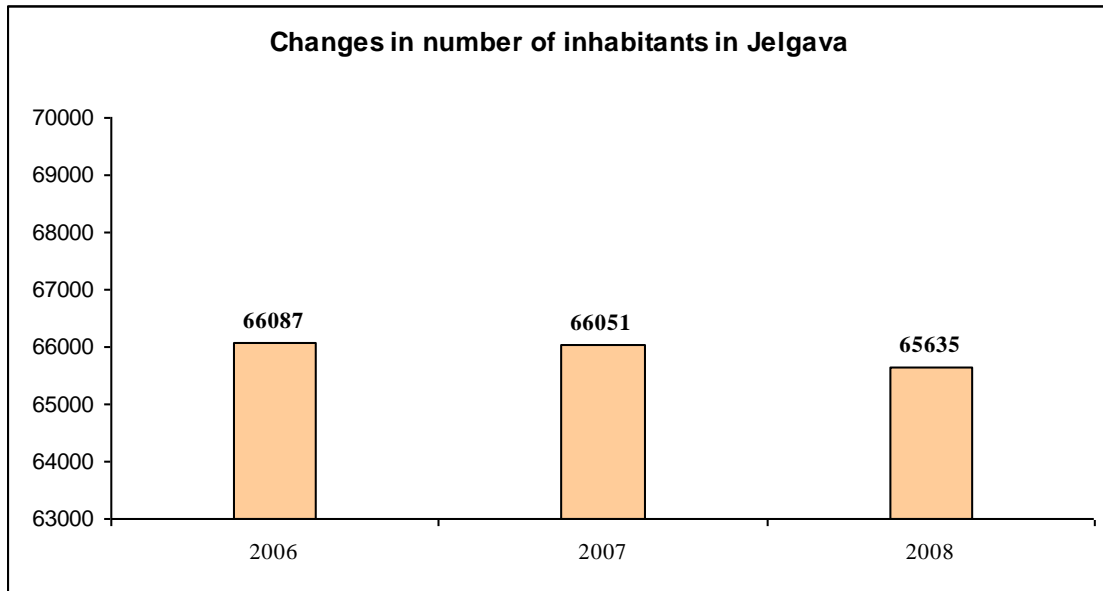
### Passenger traffic



Source: SJSC Latvijas Dzelzceļš ([www.ldz.lv](http://www.ldz.lv))

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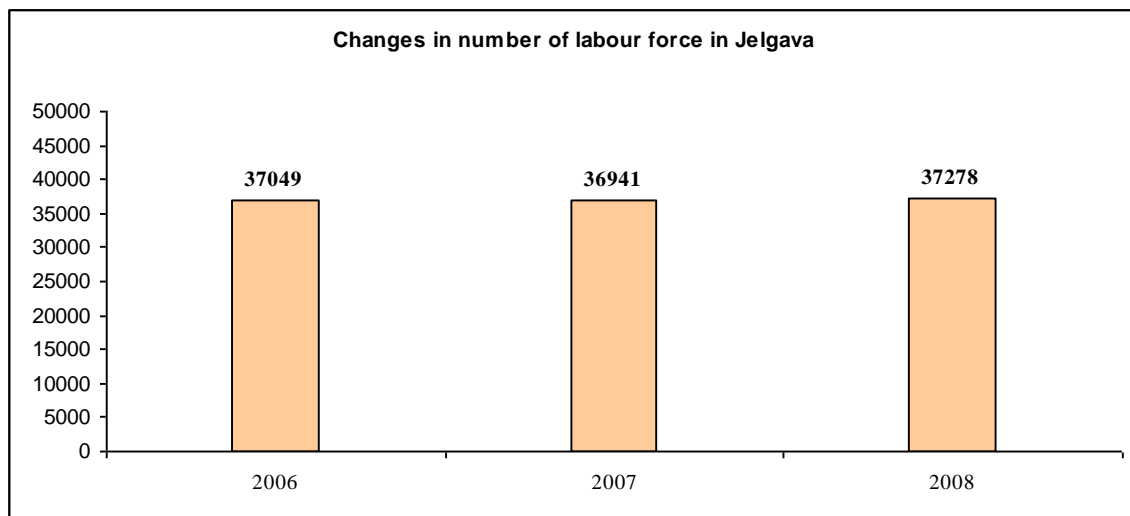
### 3. CHANGES IN NUMBER OF INHABITANTS 2006. – 2008.



Source: Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia ([www.csb.gov.lv](http://www.csb.gov.lv))

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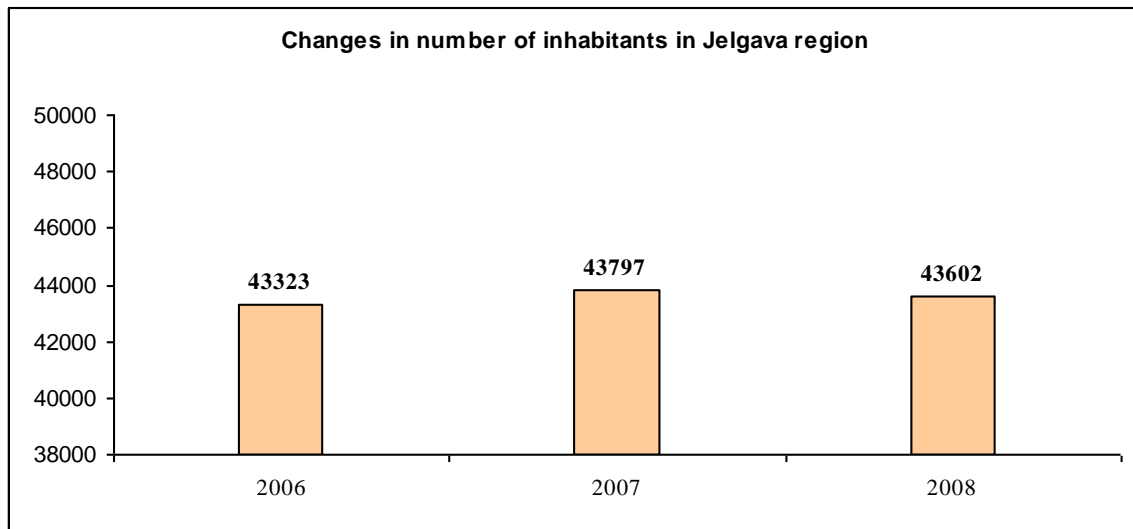
### 4. CHANGES IN NUMBER OF LABOUR FORCE 2006. - 2008.



Source: Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia ([www.csb.gov.lv](http://www.csb.gov.lv))

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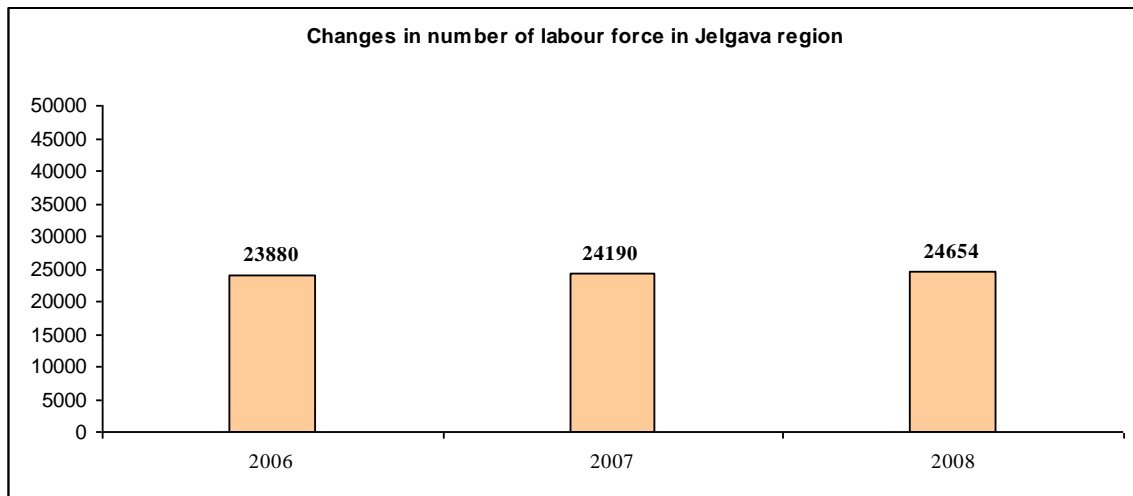
## 5. CHANGES IN NUMBER OF INHABITANTS 2006. – 2008.



Source: Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia ([www.csb.gov.lv](http://www.csb.gov.lv))

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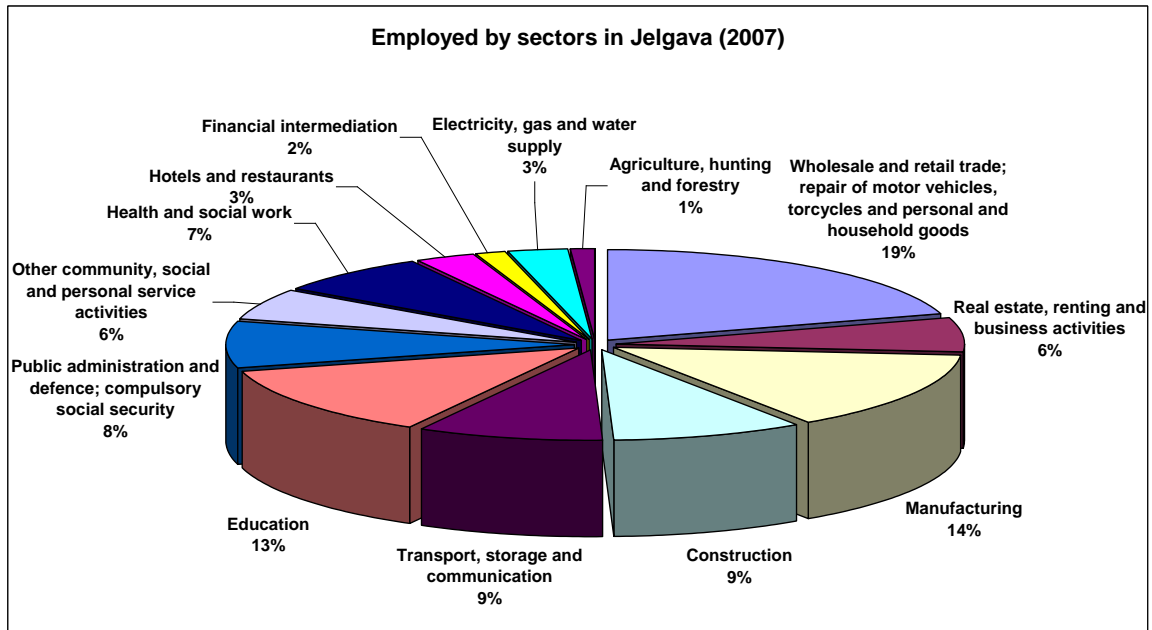
## 6. CHANGES IN NUMBER OF LABOUR FORCE 2006. - 2008.



Source: Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia ([www.csb.gov.lv](http://www.csb.gov.lv))

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## 7. EMPLOYED BY SECTORES



Source: Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia ([www.csb.gov.lv](http://www.csb.gov.lv))

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## 8. LABOUR FORCE SALARIES (TABLE)

Job category	Net Salary (EUR)		Gross Salary (EUR)		Total Employment Costs (EUR)	
	From	To	From	To	From	To
<b>Director of an enterprise</b>	1423	2134	1907	2860	2366	3549
<b>Technical director</b>	711	1423	953	1907	1183	2366
<b>Engineer</b>	569	854	763	1144	946	1420
<b>Shift foreman</b>	569	854	763	1144	946	1420
<b>Skilled operator</b>	356	569	477	763	591	946
<b>Unskilled workers</b>	285	427	381	572	473	710

Source: CVO Recruitment Latvia ([www.cvor.lv](http://www.cvor.lv))

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9. **PHOTOS**

**Latvian University of Agriculture**



Photo: Ivars Veiliņš

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**Jelgava City centre**



Photo: Ivars Veiliņš

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## Jelgava railway station



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