The construction sector in Latvia, just like the EU and global construction industry, is undergoing significant changes. There are new requirements relating to environmental protection, energy efficiency, heritage preservation, and adaptation to modern society. In 2019, the construction sector represented 6.5 % of GDP.

Latvian construction companies have proven their competitiveness in foreign markets and work well in different scales, ranging from general construction to specific installation works. Latvian manufacturers are also well known for the high quality and price competitiveness of their construction materials.

In 2019, a large part of Latvian construction companies focused their export activities to Sweden (41 %) and Lithuania (22 %).

Manufacturing of building materials

Most companies producing building materials use local natural resources, mostly mineral materials such as dolomite, limestone and clay. The main product groups are inert materials, concrete, reinforced concrete, cement, heat-insulation materials, lime and dolomite materials, gypsum products, ceramic materials, silicate and anticorrosion materials, glass-fibre products, dry mixtures, aerated concrete, construction chemicals, and metal fittings. In 2019, the total turnover of non-metal mineral production was EUR 598.2 million. The largest number of building material producers are engaged in manufacturing concrete, cement, and gypsum products (159) and in cutting, shaping and finishing of stone (147), while 59 companies were manufacturing glass products and 60 manufactured various porcelain and ceramic products.

In 2019, there were around 445 companies in Latvia producing non-metallic mineral construction materials and employing 5 989 people.

Foreign trade of building materials

The main construction-material export groups are ceramic building materials, concrete products, cement and gypsum products, and glass products. Since 2009, Latvia's exports of construction materials have experienced continuous growth, maintained to this day.

The largest export markets for construction materials are Sweden (27 %), Germany (12 %), and Lithuania (11 %).

Additional information

Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia: www.csb.gov.lv
Ministry of Economics of the Republic of Latvia: www.em.gov.lv
Latvian Builders Association: http://latvijas-buvnieku-asociacija.lv
Latvian Association of Building Material Producers: www.bra.lv
Association of Latvian Window and Door Manufacturers: www.lldra.lv