Information and Communications Technology Industry

The information and telecommunications technology (ICT) sector in Latvia began in the 1960s, when the Institute of Mathematics and Computer Science and the Institute of Electronics and Computer Science were founded. The latter institute developed expert technology for Soviet moon programs, and had 800 employees working on R&D projects. In 1992, with UNESCO support, Latvia established its first internet connection, after which internet and computer use expanded rapidly. These well-established institutes and stellar achievements prove the solid legacy and tradition of education, technology, and R&D in Latvia.

Although the ICT sector itself comprises only 4.6 % of the GDP of Latvia, their importance goes well beyond that. ICTs are vital to:

- meeting the globalization challenge by boosting innovation, creativity, and competitiveness throughout the economy;
- delivering cutting-edge science in all scientific and technological areas;
- making the public sector more efficient, and modernizing sectors ranging from education to energy;
- tackling social challenges, improving the quality of life, and meeting the challenge of an ageing society.

In 2019, there were approx. 6,996 companies active in the ICT sector. Only 114 of them were producing ICT equipment, 501 were operating in the telecommunications industry, while more than 5,000 companies specialized in other ICT services and 527 in ICT equipment sales. In 2019, the number of employees in the ICT sector was more than 37,000.

ICT manufacturing companies export their products mostly to the Baltic market, around 34 %. Mainly communication equipment (60 %), consumer electronic equipment (21 %), computers and peripheral equipment (16 %) are exported.

In 2019, the foreign trade surplus of ICT services reached EUR 466 million. The main trade partners of ICT services were Sweden, USA, and Ireland.

Additional information

[Latvian companies in industry](#)
[Database of Latvian exporters](#)
Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia: www.csb.gov.lv
Latvian Information Technology and Telecommunications Association: www.likta.lv
Latvian Internet Association: www.lia.lv
Association of Computer Technologies of Latvia: www.itnet.lv
Latvian IT Cluster: www.itbaltic.com

https://www.liaa.gov.lv/en/trade/industries/ict