LATVIA

Area .............. 66,000 sq. km.
Population (XII. 1935) ........ 1,957,000
Density per sq. km. .......... 29.7

Length of land frontiers:

- With Estonia ........ 375 km.
- U.S.S.R. ........ 351 km.
- Poland ........ 105 km.
- Lithuania .......... 570 km.

- Total ................ 1,401 km.

Length of coast ........ 494 km.
Length of railway system (III. 1932) ........ 2,768 km.

I. Army.

The President of the Republic is the supreme head of all the armed forces.

He is assisted by an advisory body, the National Defence Council.

The armed forces of Latvia comprise the land army, the military air force and the navy. They are under the control of the Ministry of War.

COMPOSITION OF THE ARMY.¹

1. Higher Units.

4 divisions.

In addition to these four divisions, there is a technical division consisting of 1 regiment of pioneers, 1 regiment of tanks and armoured cars, 1 air regiment, 1 signals battalion.

Lastly, there is a number of non-divisional units.

Each division consists of 3 infantry regiments and 1 field artillery regiment.

¹ April 1936.
2. Arms and Services.

*Infantry:* 12 regiments.

Each regiment consists of 2 or 3 battalions.
Each battalion consists of 4 companies, including 1 machine-gun company.

*Cavalry:*

1 regiment (6 squadrons including 1 machine-gun squadron and 1 technical squadron).

*Artillery:*

4 regiments of field artillery, one per division (24 batteries of 4 guns each).
1 non-divisional regiment of heavy artillery.
1 regiment of coast artillery.

*Tanks and Armoured Trains:*

1 regiment of tanks and armoured cars.
1 regiment of armoured trains (2 trains).

*Engineers: 1 regiment.

*Air Force: 1 regiment.*

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**AIR MATERIAL.**

(1936.)

Number of aeroplanes .... 79
Total horse-power .... 41,050

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**POLICE FORCES.**

*State Police.***

The State police is a civil organisation under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of the Interior. The approximate strength of the police is 2,400 men, armed with batons, pistols and rifles. The State police possesses, further, 20 machine-rifles and 3 machine-guns, the latter being kept in reserve for use in extreme emergencies.

The training of the State police takes the form of group exercises and bears on the special duties of the police; it also comprises shooting practice. The training is given by police officers, who are recruited from among officers of the reserve.

*Frontier Guard.***

This is a military organisation under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of the Interior, the approximate strength being 1,200 men. The guards are armed with carbines, pistols and machine rifles.

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1 1936.
Training in the use of arms is followed up by special training, in connection with the service of the Frontier Guard strictly so called, given by officers of the Frontier Guard. The Frontier Guard is recruited from among men who have completed their term of active military service; the officers are recruited from among officers of the regular army or the reserve.

RECRUITING SYSTEM AND PERIOD OF SERVICE.

Military service is compulsory. It begins at the age of 21 and lasts until the age of 50. The period of service with the colours is twelve months for the infantry, and fifteen months for other arms. Men who have completed their service with the active army are transferred to the army reserve for a period of eighteen years; they then pass into the territorial army, where they remain until the age of 50.

The reservists consist of men transferred to the reserve on completion of their period of service in the "available" class (class I); citizens between 30 and 40 who have not served with the colours (class II); citizens from the age of 17 until they are conscripted for service with the colours (class III).

The territorial army consists of reservists after a specified period of service in the reserve or after they have reached the age of 40; persons whose state of health necessitates their transfer to the territorial army; persons fit for military service, between 40 and 50 years of age, who, for various reasons, have not been transferred to the reserve; and officers between 48 and 55 years of age.

Men of the "available" class remain in this category for three years after they have completed their compulsory service.

Reservists of classes I and II are called up for periods of training not less than three nor more than six times. The length of each of these periods may not exceed six weeks (126 to 252 days). Class III reservists can only be called up for service for a total period of thirty days in each year. Citizens who, for various reasons, have not performed their compulsory service, may be called up for training for two periods of four weeks, making fifty-six days in all.

The annual contingent of recruits is about 14,500 men.

RECRUITMENT OF OFFICERS.

Officers are recruited from the Military School, to which youths aged from 17 to 27 are admitted. The training course in this school lasts 2 years. Staff officers graduate from the Staff College, where the course of training lasts 2 years and 3 months.

Reserve officers are officers on the active list who have resigned or officers retired on pension. Further, in order to prepare cadet reserve officers, special training is given to some of the conscripts doing compulsory military service who have had a secondary-school or higher education.
MILITARY TRAINING GIVEN OUTSIDE OF THE ARMY.

Military training outside of the army is given in the civil guard (Aizsargi). It includes the use of individual and collective arms used in war, field service in varied terrain and the training of cadres in map-reading and in outdoor exercises. The carrying out of the whole programme of training (18 days a year) would show average daily effectives of 1,500 men. Since, however, the civil guard is a volunteer organisation, the programme is not actually carried out in its entirety as regards either duration or the number of participants.

The civil guard has a strength of about 30,000 men and 10,000 women, who are attached to the medical service and the supply department. It is organised in 21 regiments comprising altogether 65 battalions and a certain number of cavalry squadrons.

It is provided that, apart from the civil guard, technical training concerning the use of individual and collective arms used in war shall be given in the police school; at present, however, the school is not in active operation. Musketry training and group exercises are given occasionally outside the police school.

EFFECTIVES.

EFFECTIVES OF THE LAND ARMED FORCES.

(1935).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total effectives</th>
<th>Officers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Land armed forces</td>
<td>23,000</td>
<td>2,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formations organised on</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a military basis (Frontier Guard)</td>
<td>1,200</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Air armed forces</td>
<td></td>
<td>550</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

II. Navy.

LIST OF UNITS.

(1935.)

Submarines:

Ronis (1926)  
Displacement: \( \frac{390}{514} \)  
Dimensions: \( 180 \frac{1}{2} \times 15 \times 10 \) feet.  
H.P. \( \frac{1,300}{700} = \frac{14}{9.25} \) kts.  
Guns: 1 3-inch (A.A.); 6 tubes (17.7-inch).

Miscellaneous: 4 units (gunboat, minesweepers, surveying vessel).

EFFECTIVES.

The naval effectives comprise 450 officers, petty officers and men.
III. Budget Expenditure on National Defence.

The financial year covers the period from April 1st to March 31st.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1931-32</th>
<th>1932-33</th>
<th>1933-34</th>
<th>1934-35</th>
<th>1935-36</th>
<th>1936-37</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Closed accounts</td>
<td>Revised estimates</td>
<td>Estimates</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of War</td>
<td>32.7</td>
<td>27.1</td>
<td>27.5</td>
<td>29.8</td>
<td>31.5</td>
<td>32.5</td>
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<td>Index numbers of:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wholesale prices (1929-30 = 100)</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>73</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail prices: Cost of living (1.111. 1930 = 100)</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>73</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 April 1936.
2 Average, April-May 1936.

Notes.—1. The above figures represent expenditure on the army, the navy and the air force.

2. Expenditure on the frontier guard and the civic guard is not included in the above figures. It is shown under the Ministry of the Interior and has amounted to:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1931-32</th>
<th>1932-33</th>
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<th>1934-35</th>
<th>1935-36</th>
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<td>Revised estimates</td>
<td>Estimates</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frontier guard</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>2.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civic guard</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
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</table>

3. Military pensions are charged to a special Pensions Fund, only a small contribution being defrayed by the Ministry of Social Welfare. War pensions under this Ministry have been as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1931-32</th>
<th>1932-33</th>
<th>1933-34</th>
<th>1934-35</th>
<th>1935-36</th>
<th>1936-37</th>
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<td>Revised estimates</td>
<td>Estimates</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>War pensions</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>3.7</td>
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