



Capitalism & Freedom: Reflections on a Fulbright in Latvia

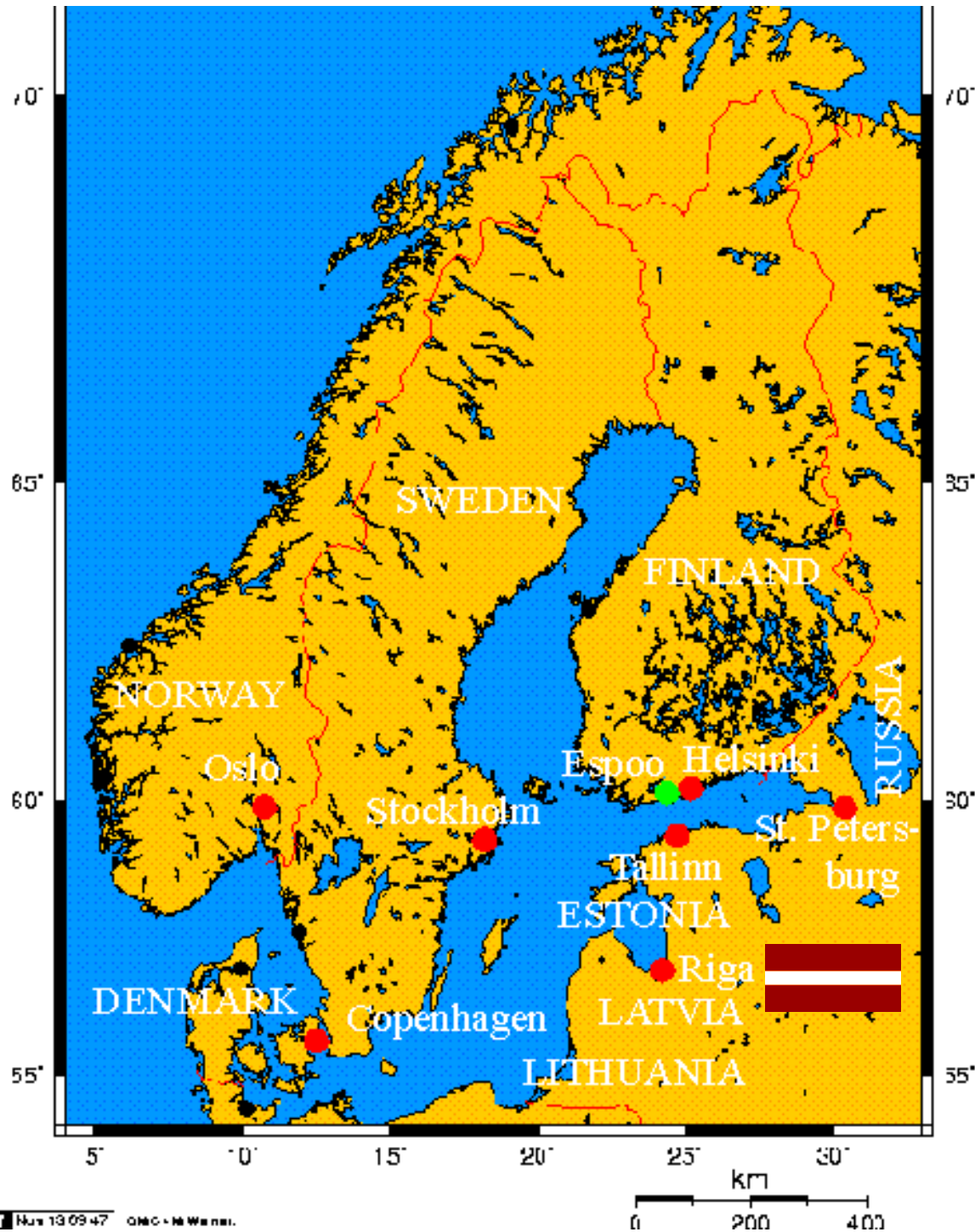
August 2007-January, 2008



Glenn Blomquist

Where is Latvia?





Latvia:
 across the
 Baltic Sea
 from
 Sweden



Riga is the
 Capital

Geography

Elevations: *lowest point:* Baltic Sea 0 m
highest point: Galzina Kalns 312 m

Border countries:

Estonia 343 km to north

Lithuania 588 km to south





Belarus 141 km and

Russia 276 km to east





Area of Countries

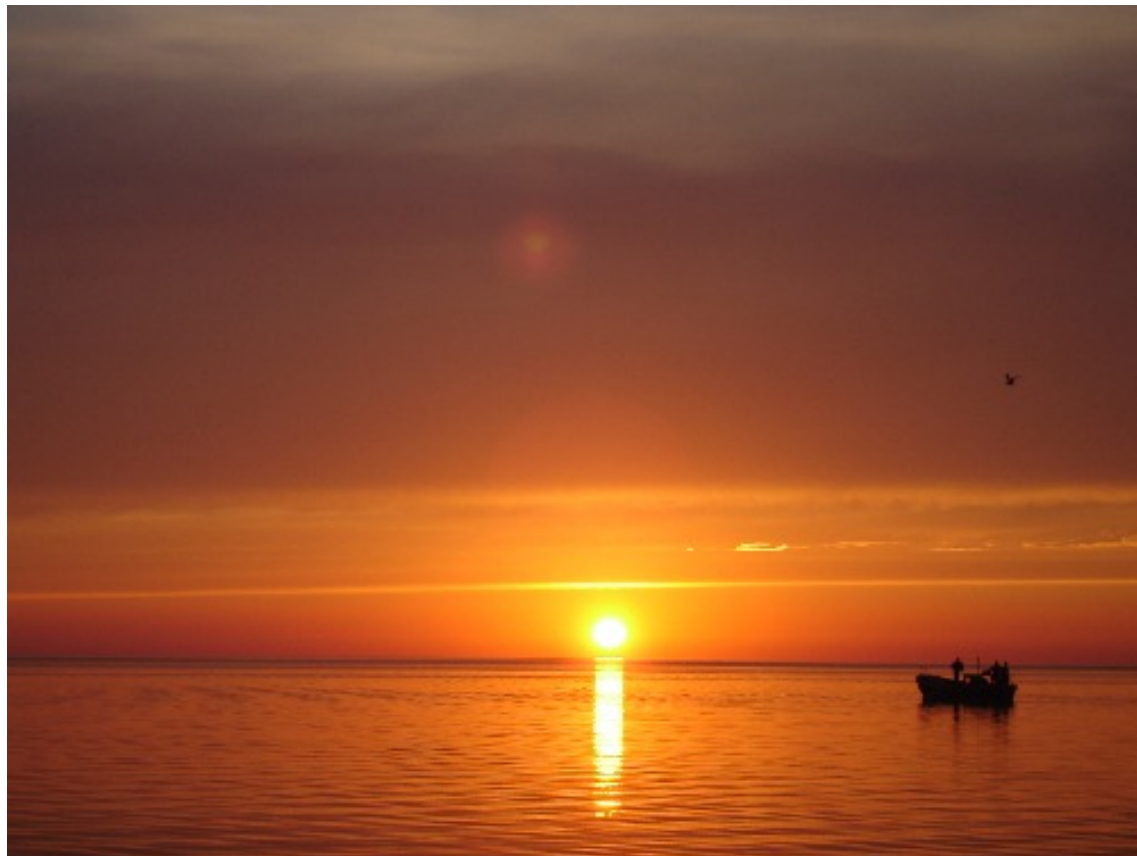
 <p>Latvia</p> <p><i>total:</i> 64,589 sq km <i>land:</i> 63,589 sq km <i>water:</i> 1,000 sq km (1.5%)</p> <p>Slightly larger than West Virginia</p>	 <p>Sweden</p> <p><i>total:</i> 449,964 sq km <i>land:</i> 410,934 sq km <i>water:</i> 39,030 sq km (8.7%)</p> <p>Approximately size of California</p>
 <p>USA</p> <p><i>total:</i> 9,826,630 sq km <i>land:</i> 9,161,923 sq km <i>water:</i> 664,707 sq km (6.8%)</p> <p>4 time zones in lower 48 6 time zones with Hawaii/Alaska</p>	 <p>Russia</p> <p><i>total:</i> 17,075,200 sq km <i>land:</i> 16,995,800 sq km <i>water:</i> 79,400 sq km (0.5%)</p> <p>11 time zones</p>





Geography and Climate

(from CIA World Fact Book website)





- Baltic Sea Coastline to the west: 498 km
- Climate: maritime; wet moderate winters







Population (2008 est)

 2,245,423	Latvia	 9,045,389	Sweden
 303,824,646	USA	 140,702,094	Russia





Population Growth Rate (2008, est)

 Latvia -0.63%	 Sweden +0.16%
 USA +0.88%	 Russia -0.47%

Ethnic Groups

 <p>Latvia</p> <p>Latvian 57.7% Russian 29.6% Belarusian 4.1%, Ukrainian 2.7%, Polish 2.5%, Lithuanian 1.4%, other 2% (2002)</p>	 <p>Sweden</p> <p>Swedes with Finnish and Sami minorities; foreign-born or first-generation immigrants: Finns, Yugoslavs, Danes, Norwegians, Greeks, Turks</p>
 <p>USA</p> <p>White 79.96%, various ethnic Black 12.85%, Asian 4.43%</p> <p>Hispanic 15.1%</p> <p>(July 2007 estimate)</p>	 <p>Russia</p> <p>Russian 79.8%,</p> <p>Tatar 3.8%, Ukrainian 2%, Bashkir 1.2%, Chuvash 1.1%, other or unspecified 12.1% (2002 census)</p>





Languages

 <p>Latvia</p> <p>Latvian (official) 58.2% Russian 37.5%, Lithuanian and other 4.3%</p> <p>(2000 census)</p>	 <p>Sweden</p> <p>Swedish, small Sami- and Finnish-speaking minorities</p>
 <p>USA</p> <p>English 82.1% Spanish 10.7% Other Indo-European 3.8% Asian and Pacific island 2.7%, other 0.7%</p> <p>(2000 census)</p>	 <p>Russia</p> <p>Russian many minority languages</p>









Religions

 <p style="text-align: center;">Latvia</p> <p>Unspecified 63.7% Lutheran 19.6% Orthodox 15.3% Other Christian 1%, other 0.4% (2006)</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">Sweden</p> <p>Lutheran 87% (active?) Other 13% (includes Roman Catholic, Orthodox, Baptist, Muslim, Jewish, and Buddhist) 13%</p>
 <p style="text-align: center;">USA</p> <p>Protestant 51.3% Roman Catholic 23.9% Unaffiliated or none 16.1% other Christian 3.3% Jewish 1.7%, Buddhist 0.7%, Muslim 0.6%, other or unspecified 2.5% (2007 est.)</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">Russia</p> <p>Russian Orthodox 15-20% Muslim 10-15% Other Christian 2% (2006 est.) <i>Note: estimates are of practicing worshipers; large populations of non-practicing believers and non-believers, a legacy of over seven decades of Soviet rule</i></p>

Life Expectancy at Birth (2008 est.)

 <p><i>Latvia</i></p> <p><i>male: 66.68 years</i> <i>female: 77.35 years</i></p>	 <p><i>Sweden</i></p> <p><i>male: 78.49 years</i> <i>female: 83.13 years</i></p>
 <p><i>USA</i></p> <p><i>male: 75.29 years</i> <i>female: 81.13 years</i></p>	 <p><i>Russia</i></p> <p><i>male: 59.19 years</i> <i>female: 73.1 years</i></p>


Literacy and Employment


- Literacy: *definition: age 15 and over can read and write total population:*


Latvia: 99.7% 


US, Russia and Sweden: 99+%

- Unemployment rate:

 Latvia: 5.1% (July 2008) Baltic Times

 US: 6.1% (Aug. 2008) Economist

 Russia: 5.3% (July 2008) Economist

 Sweden: 5.8% (July 2008) Economist

History - 1

- Area inhabited since 9000 BC
- River Daugava has been trading route for centuries
 - amber
 - wood



Riga, on the Daugava, is still a port city



History - 2

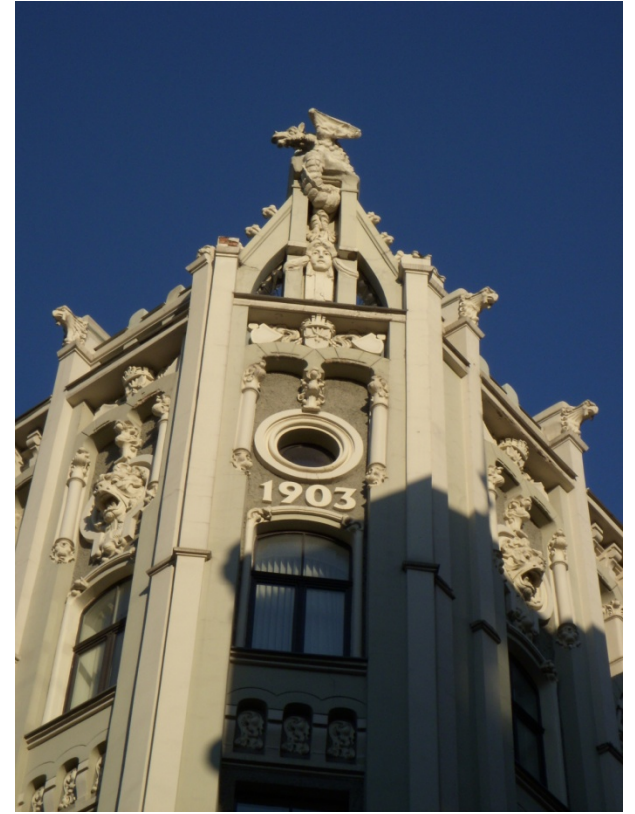
- 12th Century to 1914 – Baltics ruled by **Germans**, Polish, Swedish and Russians
- Capital City, Riga, “founded” in 1201 by Bishop Albert from Germany – beginning of Christianity in Baltics



History - 3

- 1629-1721
Latvia was part of Sweden.
Riga was Sweden's biggest city
- 1721 – 1918
Part of Czarist Russia
- ~1870 ~ 1930
National Awakening
Latvian art & commerce thrived
Jugendstil, Art Nouveau







History - 4

- Independent Republic of Latvia:
November 18, 1918 to 1939
- Secret Molotov-Ribbentrop pact between Germany and USSR gave Baltics to the USSR in August 1939
- Invasion and *occupation* of Latvia by the USSR 1939 -1941



History - 5

WWII – Nazi invasion and occupation 1941-1945



History - 6

Latvia was part of Soviet Union 1945-1991



MORĀLI
NOGALINĀJA
MORĀLI PAZEMOJA

STŪRA MĀJA
1940-1941
1944-1991
CORNER HOUSE

DURING THE SOVIET
OCCUPATION THE
STATE SECURITY
AGENCY /KGB/
IMPRISONED,
TORTURED, KILLED
AND MORALLY
HUMILIATED ITS
VICTIMS IN THIS
BUILDING

PADOŅU
OKUPĀCIJAS LAIKĀ
VALSTI DROŠĪBAS
IESTĀDE /KGB/
SĀVUS UPURĪTĀS
SEIT IESLODZĪJA,
MOKĪJA,
NOGALĪJA UN
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23 August 1989

The Baltic Way

600 km long
human chain from
Vilnius, Lithuania,
through Riga, Latvia,
to Tallinn, Estonia =
Baltic people's unity



Latvija, Rīga, foto: H.Burmeistars, skenēja: I.Beišāns.
Latvia, Riga, photo: H.Burmeistars.

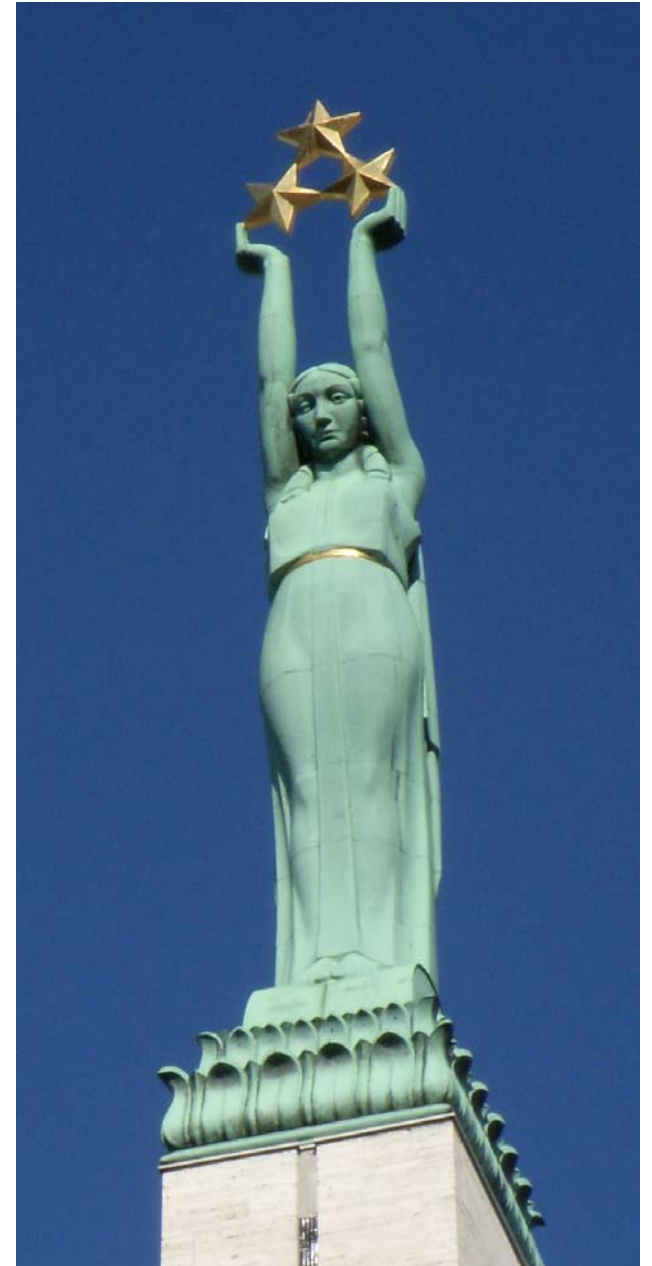
History - 7

- Independence: August 1991

(Russian troops didn't leave until August 1994)

- 2004: Baltic Nations
Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania
joined
European Union and NATO

(not yet Euro zone)













By introduction of

Professor Mārcis Auziņš
Rector of the University of Latvia

Please attend an address by

H. E. Catherine Todd Bailey
Ambassador of the United States of America

“Preserving Our Common Values”

Tuesday, October 16, 2007

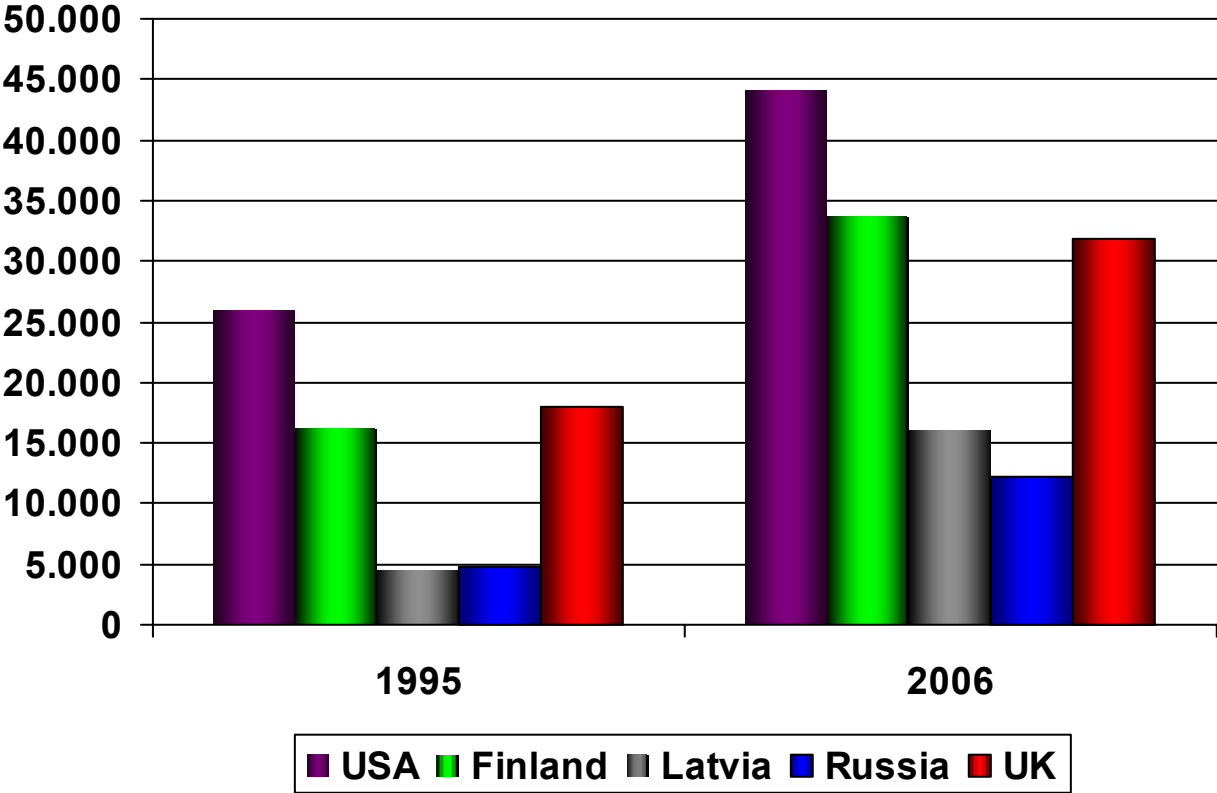
at 2:00 p.m.

Please arrive no later than 1:30 p.m.

University of Latvia Large Hall
Raina blvd. 19, Riga

Economic Indicators Comparison Over Countries

GDP per capita in USD

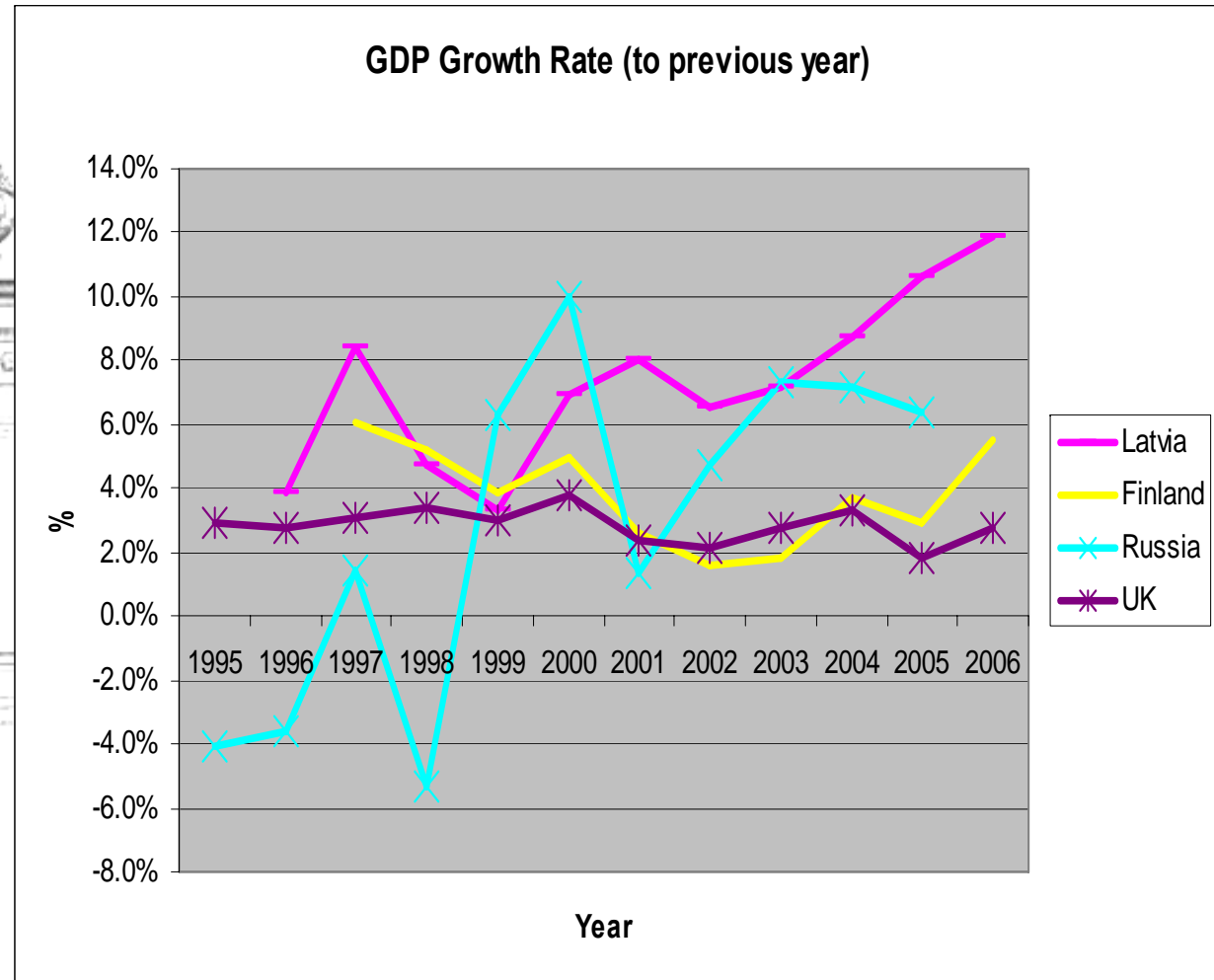


GDP Growth rates

Countries	1995	2006
Latvia	2%	11,9%
Finland	3,5%	5,5%
Russia	-15%	6,70%
UK	4,2%	2,8%
USA	4,1%	3,2%

Source: CIA World Factbook

Country Economic Comparison



















HISTORIC
CENTRE OF
RIGA HAS BEEN
INSCRIBED UPON THE
WORLD HERITAGE
LIST. INSCRIPTION ON
THIS LIST CONFIRMS
THE EXCEPTIONAL
UNIVERSAL VALUE OF
THIS CULTURAL SITE
WHICH DESERVES
PROTECTION FOR
THE BENEFIT
OF ALL
HUMANITY.

RĪGAS
VĒSTURISKAIS
CENTRS IR
IEKĻAUTS PASAULES
KULTŪRAS UN DABAS
MANTOJUMA SARAKSTĀ.
TAS LIECINA PAR ŠIS
VIETAS ĀRKĀRTĒJO
UN UNIVERSĀLO
KULTŪRAS VĒRTĪBU,
KURAS AIZSARDZĪBA
NEPIECIEŠAMA
VISAS
CILVĒCES
LABĀ.





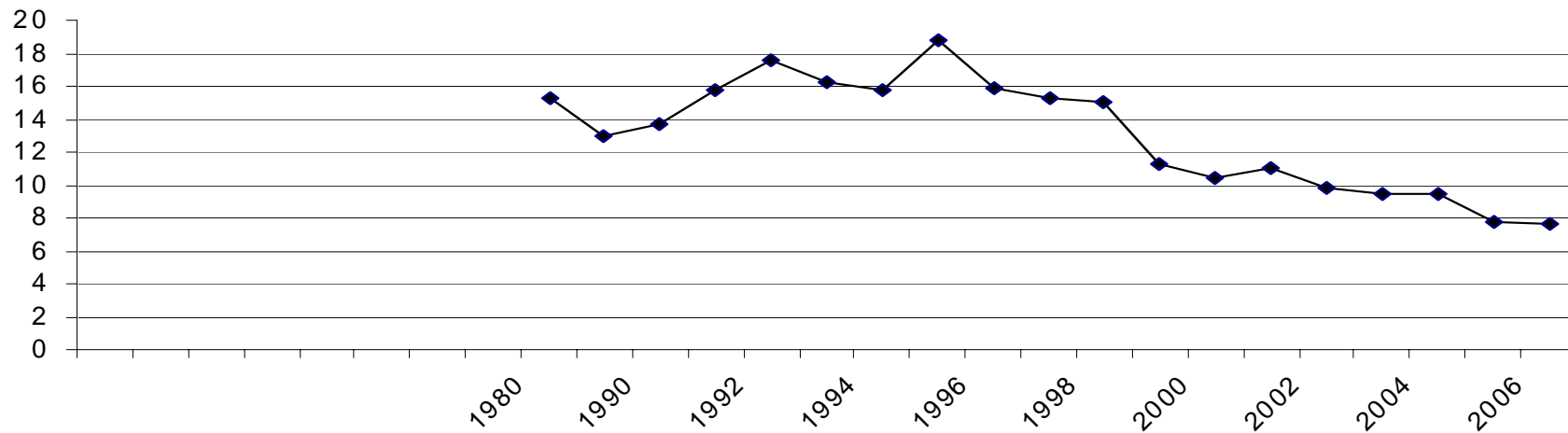




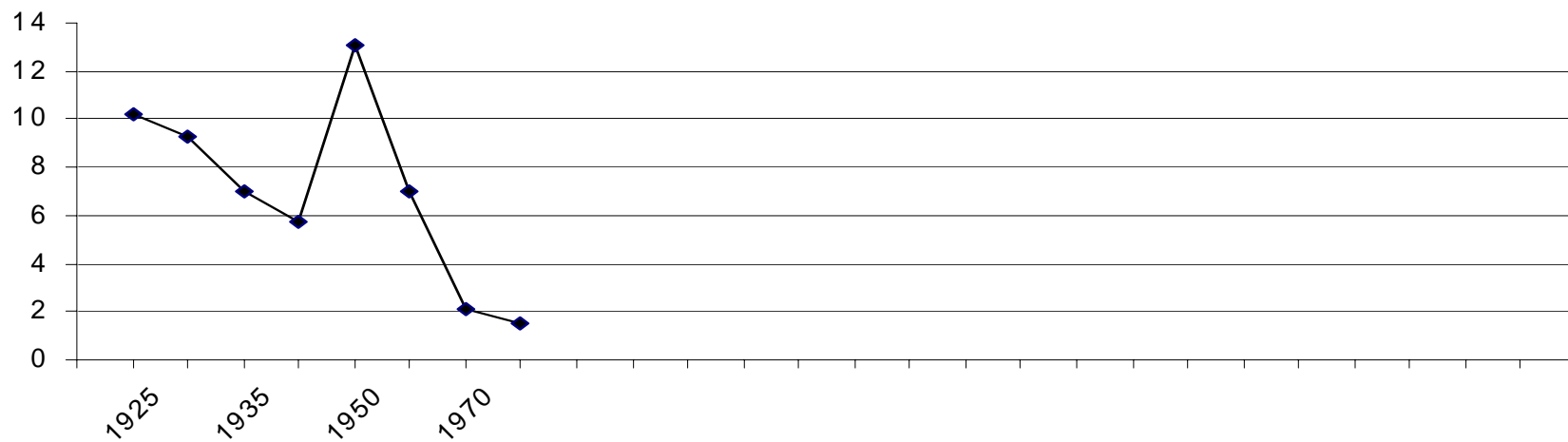


Infant mortality rate: Riga and Latvia

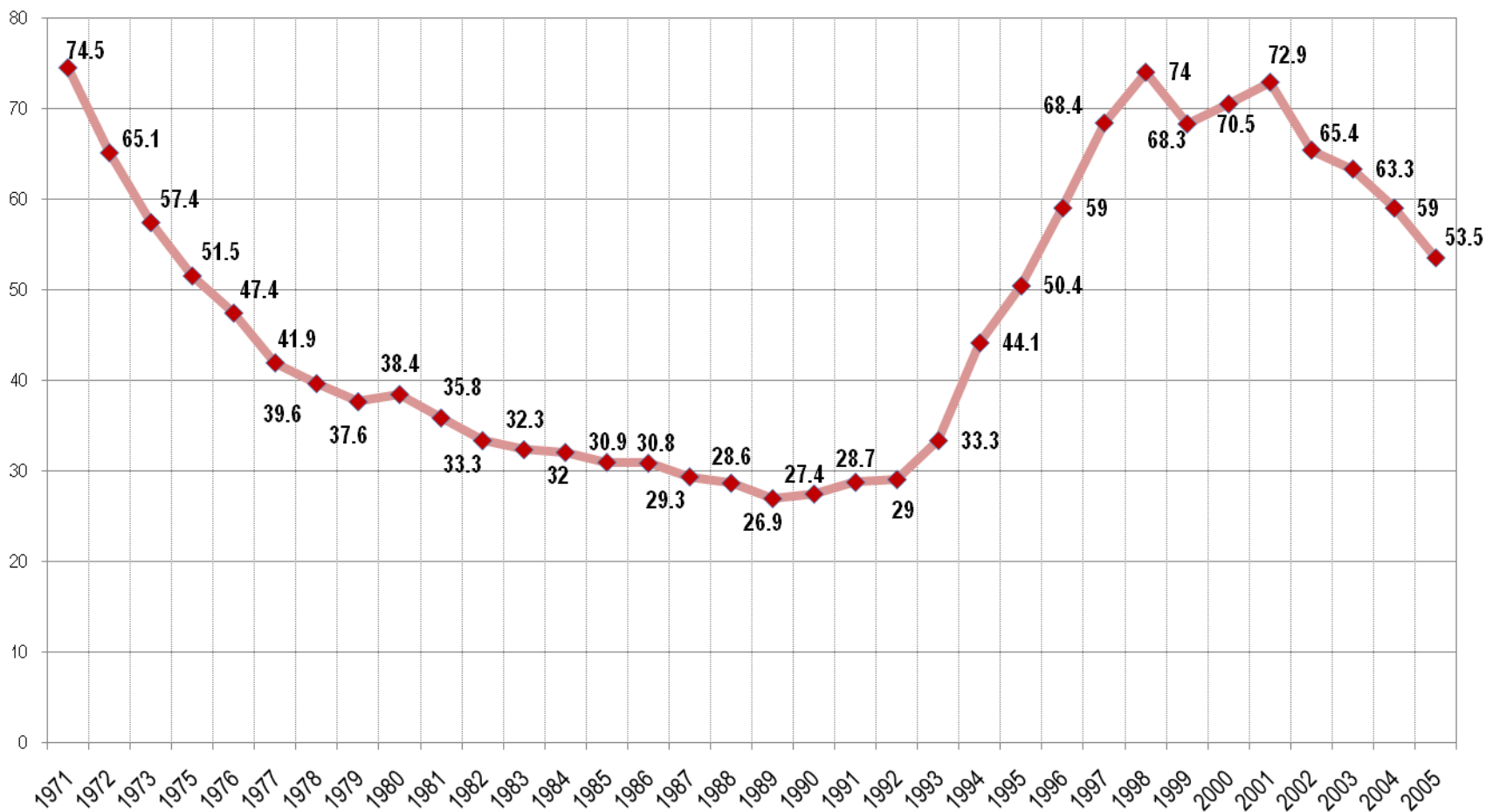
Infant mortality per 1000 newborns: Latvia



Infant mortality per 1000 newborns: Riga



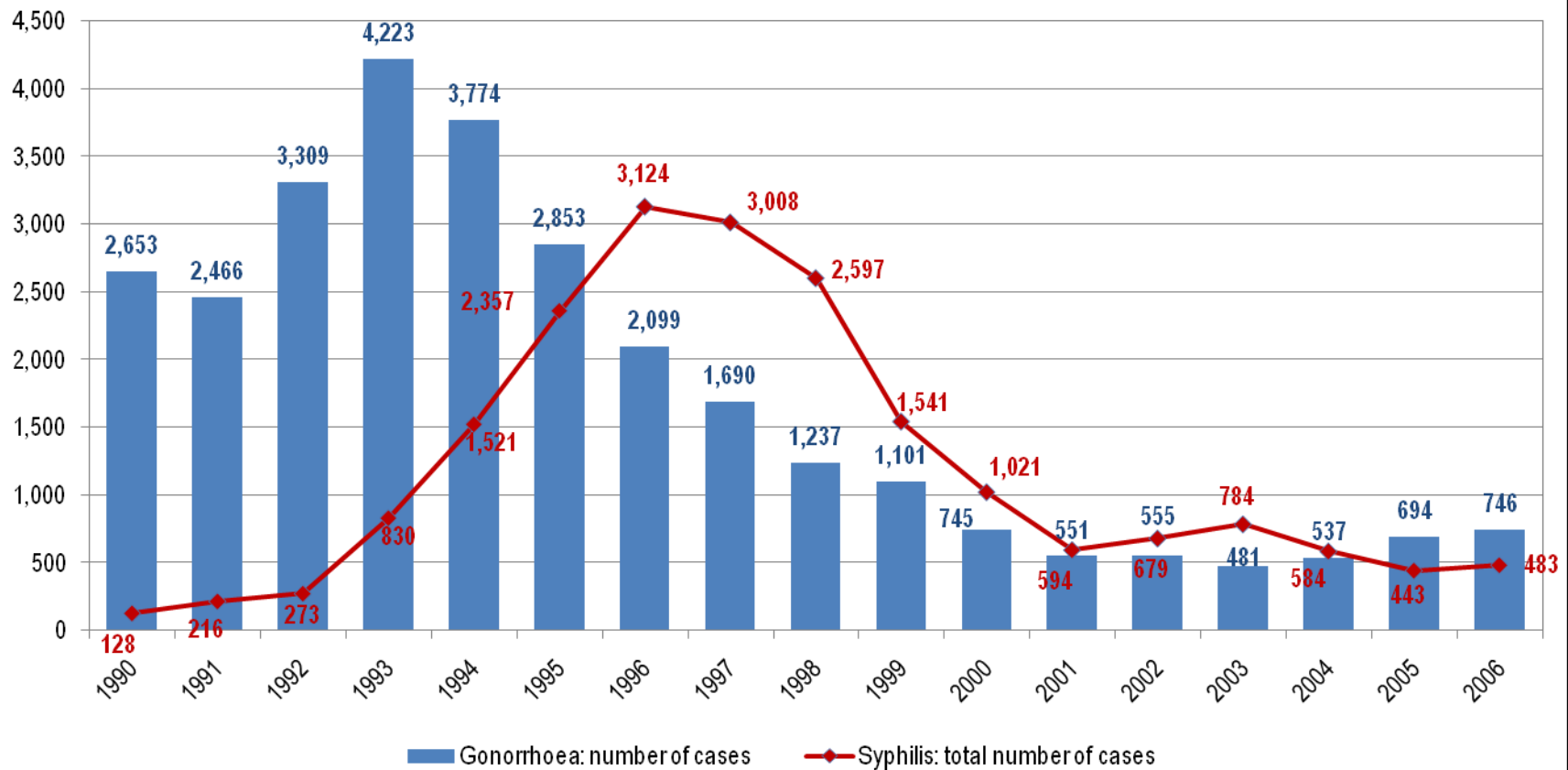
The incidence of tuberculosis in Latvia (1971-2005)



Tuberkulozes un plaušu slimību valsts aģentūra. 10 Sept. 2007. http://www.tuberculosis.lv/lv/tuberkuloze/tb_latvija/
 Edgars Upītis "Tuberkuloze", žurnāls "Sveiks un veselība" 3/1995; lpp.: 42-44.

Soviet times: **Downward trend** > Early transition: **Increasing trend** > Nowadays: **Downward trend**

Reported Cases of Sexually transmitted diseases



Central Statistical Bureau of the Republic of Latvia. 9 Sept. 2007. <<http://data.csb.gov.lv/Dialog/varval.asp?ma=11-10a&ti=11%2D10%2E++REPORTED+CASES+OF+SEXUALLY+TRANSMITTED+DISEASES++&path=../DATABASEEN/ledzoc/Annual%20statistical%20data/11.%20Health%20care%20and%20sport/&lang=1>>.

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
... per 100,000 population	104	101	137	197	210	210	213	193	159	111	74	49	53	54	48	49	54

Early transition:
Increasing trend

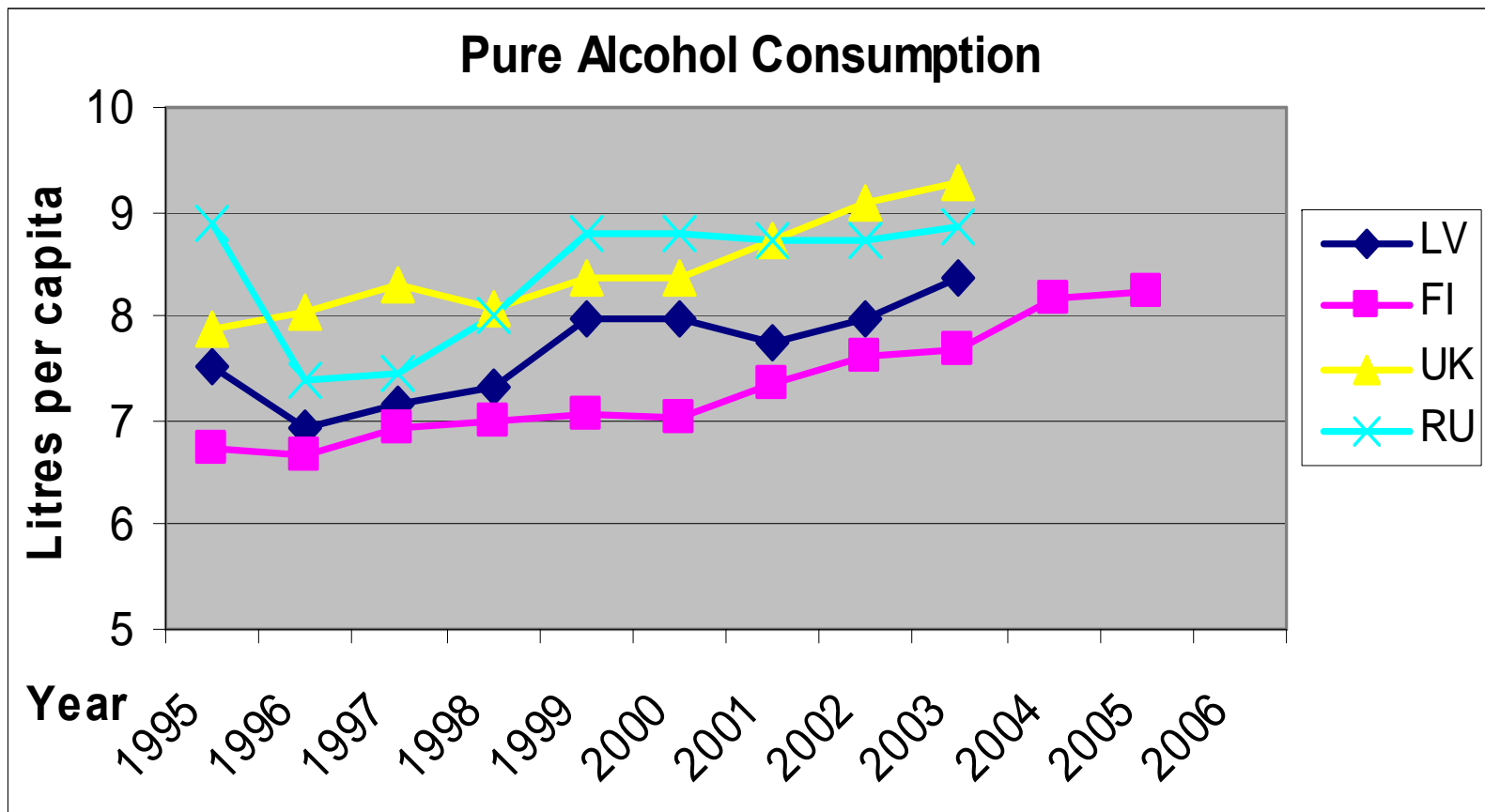
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Late transition
Downward trend

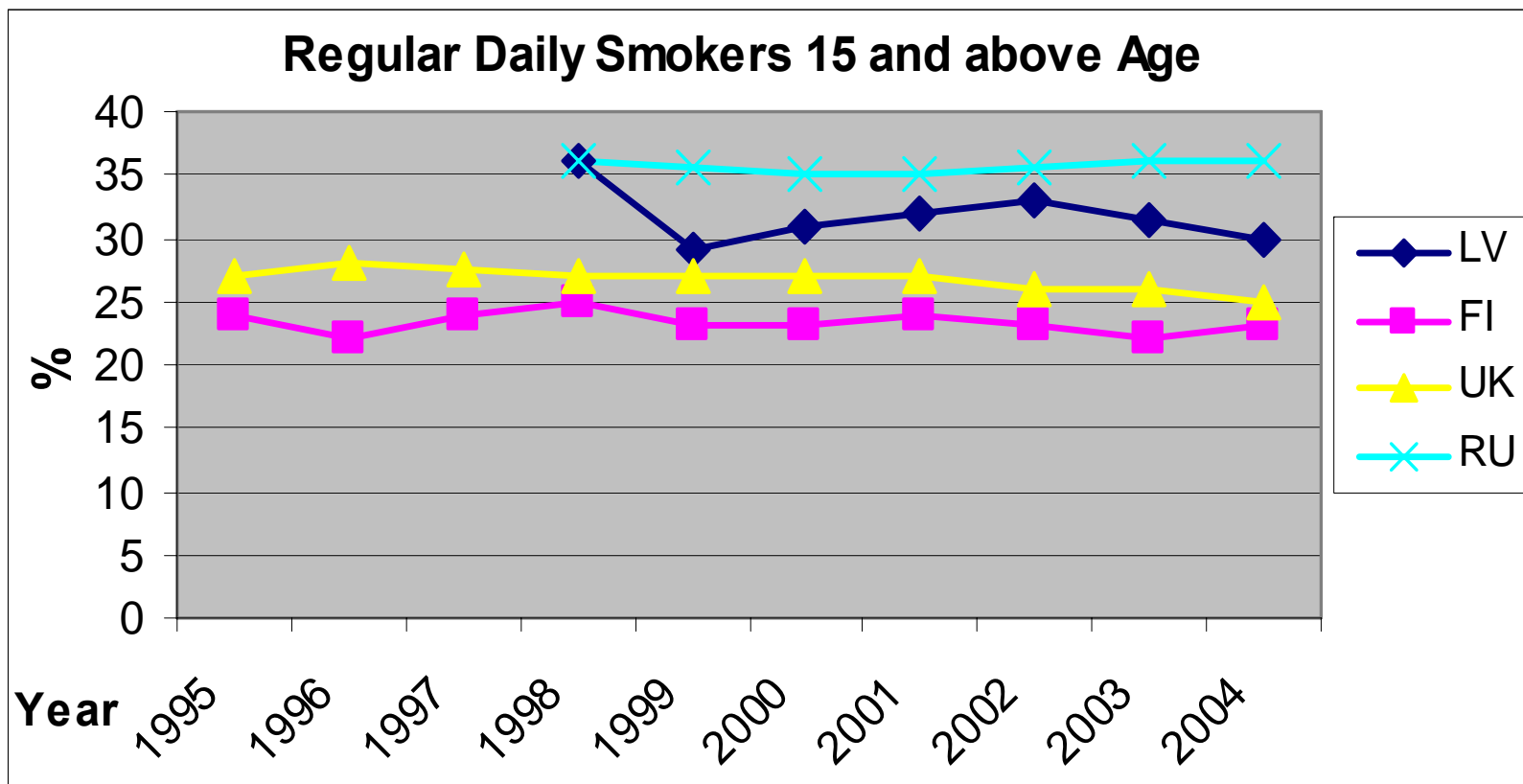
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Nowadays:
Trend under control

Alcohol

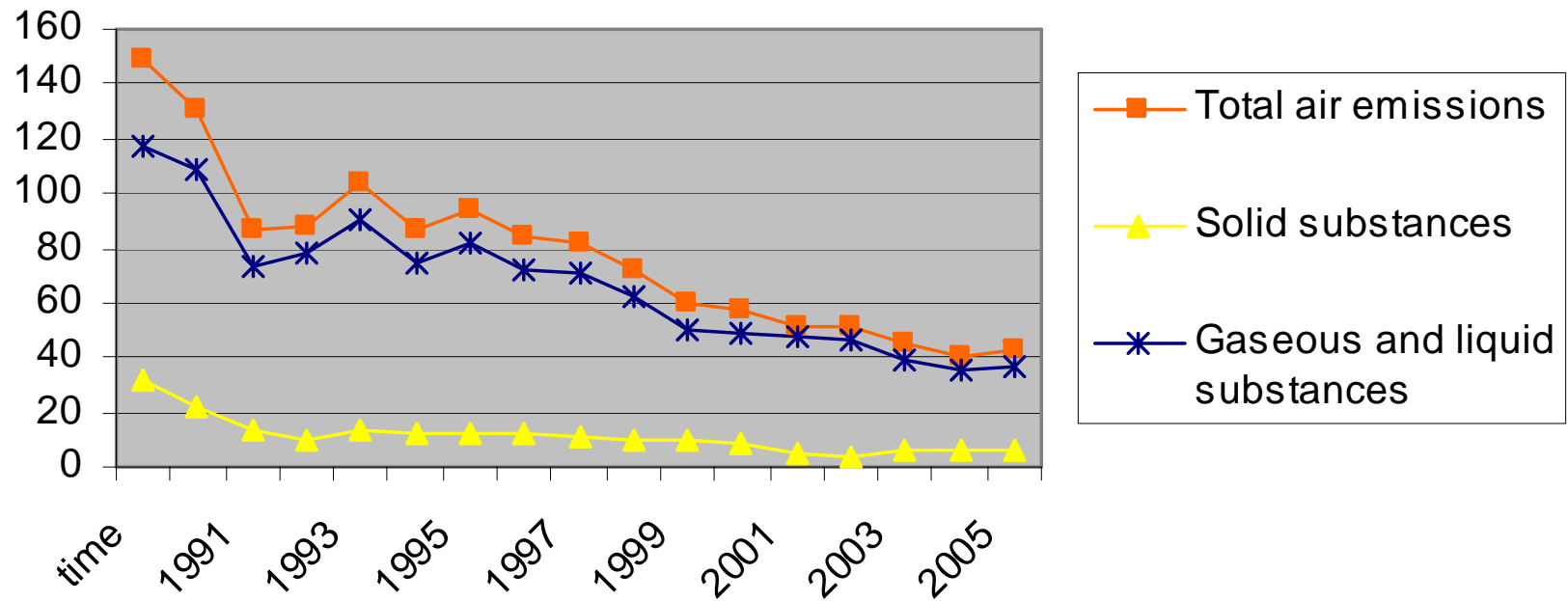


Smokers



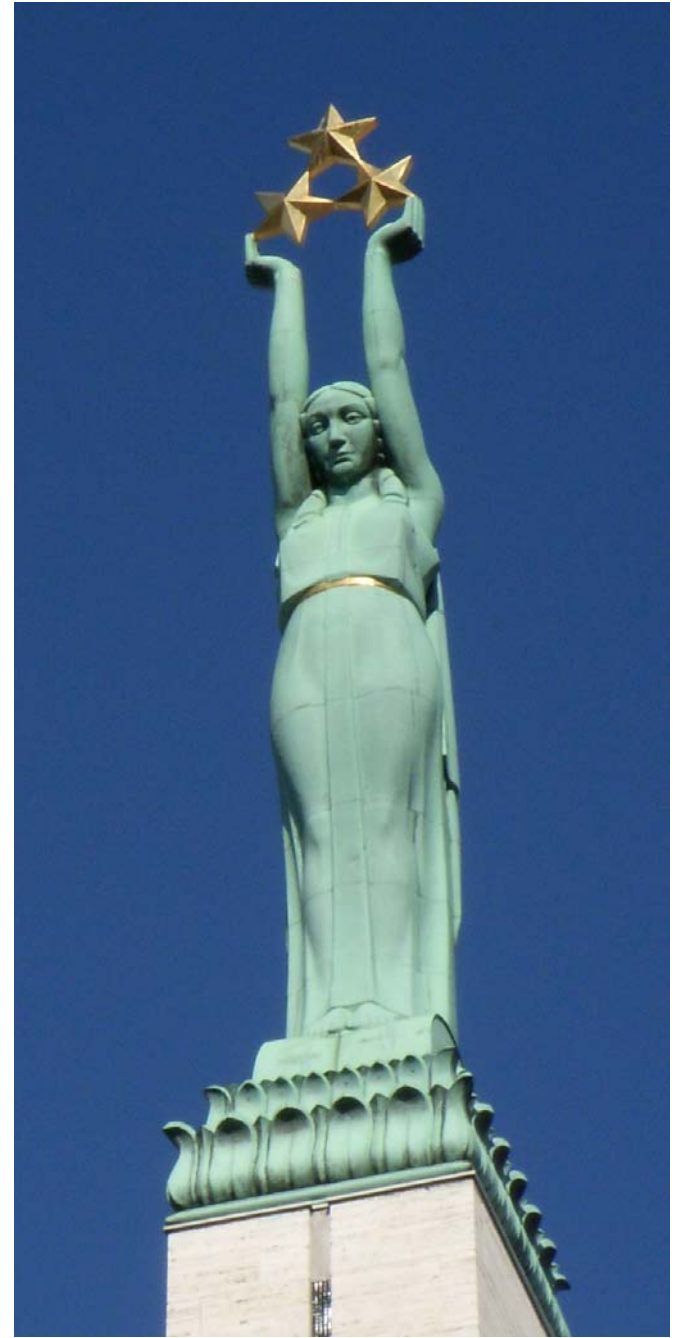
Air Quality

Air Emissions from Stationary Sources (1000t)



Source: Central Statistical Bureau (2006)





Milda



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