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Banking license in Lithuania

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Banking license in Lithuania



Flag

Supervisor	Bank of Lithuania and the European Central Bank (ECB) [1]
License	Banking licence or specialised bank licence under the Law on Banks; the final decision is taken by the ECB [1] [3]
Legal basis	Law on Banks of the Republic of Lithuania; EU Capital Requirements Directive and Regulation; SSM Regulation [1] [2] [5]
Minimum capital	€5m (bank); €1m (specialised bank) [2] [7] [8]
Application fee	A state fee is charged on the licence, reported at €50,683 [7] [6]
Decision time	The Bank of Lithuania must assess the application within 6 months of a complete file; the ECB then decides [7] [3]
Minimum capital ratios	4.5% / 6% / 8% + buffers [5] [2]
Foreign bank branches	Yes (national licence) [2]
Deposit protection	€100,000 [4] [8]
Cross-border passport	Yes (EEA) [2] [8]

Public register	Bank of Lithuania register of licences

In short: Banks in Lithuania are licensed by the Bank of Lithuania and the European Central Bank (ECB). [1] Minimum capital: €5m (bank); €1m (specialised bank). [2] [7] [8] Deposit protection if a bank fails: €100,000. [4] [8] EU passport or equivalent: yes (EEA). Figures as of November 2026.

Lithuania offers two banking licences: an ordinary **banking licence** and, since 2017, a **specialised bank licence** with a minimum capital of €1 million instead of €5 million. Applications are filed with the **Bank of Lithuania**, which assesses them and proposes a decision; because Lithuania is in the euro area, the licence is granted by the **European Central Bank**. Both licences carry the EU passport, which made Vilnius a base for fintech banks.

License types

The license needed to take deposits in Lithuania: Banking licence or specialised bank licence under the Law on Banks; the final decision is taken by the ECB. [1] [3] **Legal basis: Law on Banks of the Republic of Lithuania; EU Capital Requirements Directive and Regulation; SSM Regulation.** [1] [2] [5]

- **Banking licence** – all banking and investment services; €5 million initial capital
- **Specialised bank licence** – deposits, lending, payment services and e-money; most investment services excluded; €1 million initial capital

Capital and financial requirements

Minimum capital in Lithuania (2026): €5 million for a bank with a full banking licence. €1 million for a specialised bank, which may take deposits, lend and provide payment services but not most investment services. A specialised bank is subject to the same capital ratios and prudential rules as a full bank. [2] [7] [8]

Application fee: A state fee is charged on the licence, reported at €50,683. In December 2023 the Ministry of Finance announced a reduction in bank licence fees; check the current amount with the Bank of Lithuania. [7] [6]

The legal minimum is only the floor. Supervisors expect a new bank to hold enough capital for its business plan, its risks and its first years of losses, which is usually many times the minimum. See Bank capital requirements.

Application process

Decision time: The Bank of Lithuania must assess the application within 6 months of a complete file; the ECB then decides. The ECB says licensing decisions usually take 6 to 12 months. [7] [3] The usual steps are:

1. Pre-application meetings with the Bank of Lithuania.
2. Incorporate the company and prepare the programme of operations, business plan, capital plan, governance and risk documents and fitness files for managers and shareholders.
3. File the application with the Bank of Lithuania and pay the state fee.
4. The Bank of Lithuania assesses the file and submits a draft decision to the ECB.
5. The ECB grants or refuses the licence; the bank joins the deposit insurance scheme before taking deposits.

Substance and governance

A Lithuanian company with its head office in Lithuania, fit and proper managers and shareholders, and staff proportionate to the business model. The Bank of Lithuania accepts licence documents in English. [8] [9]

Depositor protection

The prudential rules and deposit guarantee that apply to a bank licensed in Lithuania, as of November 2026. See Depositor protection for the same rules in every jurisdiction.

Rule	Lithuania
Minimum capital ratios	Pillar 1 minimums under the CRR: Common Equity Tier 1 (CET1) of 4.5%, Tier 1 of 6% and total capital of 8% of risk-weighted assets, plus a 3% leverage ratio. On top come the 2.5% capital conservation buffer, other buffers set by the authorities and a bank-specific Pillar 2 requirement. [5] [2]
Liquidity	Liquidity coverage ratio (LCR) and net stable funding ratio (NSFR) of at least 100% under the CRR. [5]

Rule	Lithuania
Deposit guarantee if the bank fails	Deposits are insured up to €100,000 per depositor, per bank, by the state deposit insurance scheme (Indėlių ir investicijų draudimas), under the EU Deposit Guarantee Schemes Directive. [4] [8]
Foreign bank branches	A bank from outside the EU can open a branch only with a national authorisation from the host country; it does not receive an EU passport. CRD VI (Directive (EU) 2024/1619) harmonises the rules for third-country branches across the EU. [2]
Serving clients abroad	Yes. A bank authorised in one EU/EEA country can open branches and provide services in every other EEA country under the single passport, after notifying its supervisor. This applies to specialised banks too. [2] [8]

Recent changes

The Ministry of Finance announced a reduction in bank licence fees in December 2023. In October 2025 the Bank of Lithuania's register recorded a new specialised bank licence. [6] [1]

How to verify a bank's license

1. Find the exact legal name of the bank, as shown in its terms and conditions or the website footer. Brand names and app names often differ from the licensed entity.
2. Search for it on the supervisor's public register: Bank of Lithuania register of licences .
3. Check that the register entry lists deposit-taking, and whether the firm is a bank, a branch of a foreign bank, or only an e-money or payment institution (see Bank vs e-money institution).
4. Check which deposit guarantee scheme covers your deposits: for a branch of a foreign bank it may be the home country's scheme.

Frequently asked questions

What is a Lithuanian specialised bank?

A credit institution that may take deposits, lend and provide payment services but not most investment services, with a minimum capital of €1 million instead of €5 million. It follows the same prudential rules as other banks and can passport across the EEA.

Who grants a bank licence in Lithuania?

The Bank of Lithuania receives and assesses the application, but the licence is granted by the European Central Bank.

Figures as of November 2026. Requirements, fees and capital change; confirm with the Bank of Lithuania / ECB or a qualified adviser before applying. Where we could not confirm a figure from an official source, this article says so.

See also

- Banking licenses compared
- Banking license in the United Kingdom
- Banking license in Germany
- Banking license in Ireland
- Banking license in Luxembourg
- Deposit guarantee schemes compared
- All jurisdictions

References

Entries marked **Official** are the supervisor, the law or another public body. Other entries are named secondary sources, used where we could not find the figure published officially.

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3. Official Authorisation: licensing of credit institutions . ECB Banking Supervision. Accessed November 2026.
4. Official Directive 2014/49/EU on deposit guarantee schemes, Article 6: coverage level of €100,000 . EUR-Lex. Accessed November 2026.

5. Official Regulation (EU) No 575/2013 (Capital Requirements Regulation): own funds requirements (Article 92) and liquidity requirements (Articles 412–413) . EUR-Lex. Accessed November 2026.
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