

Slovakia

Geography

Location: Central Europe, south of Poland

Area:

total area: 48,845 sq km

land area: 48,800 sq km

Land boundaries: total 1,355 km, Austria 91 km, Czech Republic 215 km, Hungary 515 km, Poland 444 km, Ukraine 90 km

Coastline: 0 km (landlocked)

Maritime claims: none; landlocked

Climate: temperate; cool summers; cold, cloudy, humid winters

Terrain: rugged mountains in the central and northern part and lowlands in the south

Natural resources: brown coal and lignite; small amounts of iron ore, copper and manganese ore; salt

Environment:

current issues: air pollution from metallurgical plants presents human health risks; acid rain damaging forests

Note: landlocked

People

Population: 5,432,383 (July 1995 est.)

Age structure:

0-14 years: 23% (female 609,795; male 638,346)

15-64 years: 66% (female 1,807,312; male 1,778,712)

65 years and over: 11% (female 364,610; male 233,608) (July 1995 est.)

Population growth rate: 0.54% (1995 est.)

Birth rate: 14.51 births/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Death rate: 9.12 deaths/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Net migration rate: 0 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Infant mortality rate: 10 deaths/1,000 live births (1995 est.)

Life expectancy at birth:

total population: 73.24 years

male: 69.15 years

female: 77.57 years (1995 est.)

Total fertility rate: 1.93 children born/woman (1995 est.)

Nationality:

noun: Slovak(s)

adjective: Slovak

Ethnic divisions: Slovak 85.7%, Hungarian 10.7%, Gypsy 1.5% (the 1992 census figures underreport the Gypsy/Romany community, which could reach 500,000 or more), Czech 1%, Ruthenian 0.3%, Ukrainian 0.3%, German 0.1%, Polish 0.1%, other 0.3%

Religions: Roman Catholic 60.3%, atheist 9.7%, Protestant 8.4%, Orthodox 4.1%, other 17.5%

Languages: Slovak (official), Hungarian

Government

Names:

conventional long form: Slovak Republic

conventional short form: Slovakia

local long form: Slovenska Republika

local short form: Slovensko

Type: parliamentary democracy

Capital: Bratislava

Independence: 1 January 1993 (from Czechoslovakia)

National holiday: Anniversary of Slovak National Uprising, August 29 (1944)

Suffrage: 18 years of age; universal

Flag: three equal horizontal bands of white (top), blue, and red superimposed with the Slovak cross in a shield centered on the hoist side; the cross is white centered on a background of red and blue

Economy

Industries: metal and metal products; food and beverages; electricity, gas, and water; coking, oil production, and nuclear fuel production; chemicals and manmade fibers; machinery; paper and printing; earthenware and ceramics; transport vehicles; textiles; electrical and optical apparatus; rubber products

Agriculture: largely self-sufficient in food production; diversified crop and livestock production, including grains, potatoes, sugar beets, hops, fruit, hogs, cattle, and poultry; exporter of forest products

Illicit drugs: transshipment point for Southwest Asian heroin bound for Western Europe

Transportation

Railroads:

total: 3,660 km (electrified 635 km)

Highways:

total: 17,650 km (1990)

Pipelines: petroleum products NA km; natural gas 2,700 km

Ports: Bratislava, Komarno

Airports:

total: 37

Defence Forces

Branches: Army, Air and Air Defence Forces, Civil Defence,
Railroad Units