

Slovakia



Capital City: Bratislava.

Background: The dissolution of the Austro-Hungarian Empire at the close of World War I allowed the Slovaks to join the closely-related Czechs to form Czechoslovakia. Following the chaos of World War II, Czechoslovakia became a Communist nation within Soviet-ruled Eastern Europe. Soviet influence collapsed in 1989 and Czechoslovakia once more became free. The Slovaks and the Czechs agreed to separate peacefully on 1 January 1993. Slovakia joined both NATO and the EU in the spring of 2004.

Geography:

- **Location:** Central Europe, south of Poland.
- **Area comparative:** Two-thirds the size of Ireland.
- **Climate:** Cool summers; cold, cloudy, humid winters.
- **Natural resources:** Brown coal and lignite; small amounts of iron ore, copper and manganese ore; salt; arable land.
- **Natural hazards:** No information.
- **Environment issues:** Air pollution from metallurgical plants presents human health risks; acid rain damaging forests.

Religion: Roman Catholic 68.9%, Protestant 10.8%, Greek Catholic 4.1%, other or unspecified 3.2%, none 13%.

People:

- **Population:** 5,439,448
- **Birth rate:** 10.65 births per 1,000
- **Infant mortality:** 7.26 deaths per 1,000 live births.
- **Life expectancy:** *Total population:* 74.73 years, *male:* 70.76 years, *female:* 78.89 years.

**Government:**

- **Type of government:** Parliamentary democracy.
- **Administrative divisions:** 8 regions.
- **Independence:** 1 January 1993.
- **National holiday:** Constitution Day, 1 September (1992).

Economy:

- **Unemployment:** 11.7%
- **Population below the poverty line:** No information.
- **Agricultural products:** Grains, potatoes, sugar beets, hops, fruit; pigs, cattle, poultry; forest products.
- **Industries:** Metal and metal products; food and beverages; electricity, gas, coke, oil, nuclear fuel; chemicals and manmade fibres; machinery; paper and printing; earthenware and ceramics; transport vehicles; textiles; electrical and optical apparatus; rubber products.

Education:

- **Literacy:** *Definition:* age 15 and over can read and write. *Total population:* 99.6%, *male:* 99.7%, *female:* 99.6%.
- **Language:** Slovak 83.9%, Hungarian 10.7%, Roma 1.8%, Ukrainian 1%, other or unspecified 2.6%.

Communication:

- **Telephone lines:** Landlines: 1,250,400, Mobile lines: 4,275,200.
- **TV stations:** 6 national broadcasting, 7 regional, 67 local.
- **Internet users:** 2.276 million

Asylum: Slovakian nationals do not need to apply for asylum in Ireland since accession to the European Union in May 2004.

Internally Displaced Persons: The Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre at the end of November 2006 did not record an internally displaced population in Slovakia.

Migration: The Department of Social and Family Affairs have issued 23,327 Personal Public Service (PPS) Numbers to Slovakian nationals between May 2004 and October 2006. Some Slovakian nationals who received PPS numbers may have left Ireland since.

Sources:

CIA - The World Factbook -- Slovakia, <https://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/lo.html>, 25/07/06.

Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre - Statistics, <http://www.internal-displacement.org/>, 30/11/06.

Department of Social and Family Affairs, <http://www.welfare.ie/topics/ppsn/>, 30/11/06.

Flag from <https://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/docs/flagsoftheworld.html>

Map from <https://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/docs/refmaps.html>

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