

= Slavonia =

Slavonia (/ slʔvoʔniʔ / ; Croatian : Slavonija) is , alongside Dalmatia , Croatia proper , and Istria , one of the four historical regions of Croatia . Taking up the east of the country , it roughly corresponds with five Croatian counties : Brod @-@ Posavina , Osijek @-@ Baranja , Poʔega @-@ Slavonia , Virovitica @-@ Podravina and Vukovar @-@ Srijem , although the territory of the counties includes Baranya , and the definition of the western extent of Slavonia as a region varies . The counties cover 12 @, 556 square kilometres (4 @, 848 square miles) or 22 @. 2 % of Croatia , inhabited by 806 @, 192 ? 18 @. 8 % of Croatia 's population . The largest city in the region is Osijek , followed by Slavonski Brod and Vinkovci . It is located in the Pannonian Basin , largely bordered by the Danube , Drava and Sava rivers . In the west , the region consists of the Sava and Drava valleys , and the mountains surrounding the Poʔega Valley , and plains in the east . Slavonia enjoys a moderate continental climate , with relatively low precipitation .

After the fall of Rome , which ruled the area of modern @-@ day Slavonia until the 5th century , Ostrogoths and Lombards controlled the area before the arrival of Avars and Croats , when the Principality of Pannonian Croatia was established in the 7th century . It was later incorporated into the Kingdom of Croatia and , after its decline , the kingdom was ruled through a personal union with Hungary .

The Ottoman conquest of Slavonia took place in 1536 to 1552 . In 1699 , after the Great Turkish War , Slavonia was transferred to the Habsburgs . Reform of the empire through the Compromise of 1867 assigned it to the Hungarian part of the realm , and a year later to the Kingdom of Croatia @-@ Slavonia . In 1918 , when Austria @-@ Hungary dissolved , Slavonia was a part of the short @-@ lived State of Slovenes , Croats and Serbs which in turn became a part of the kingdom later renamed Yugoslavia . During the Croatian War of Independence , Slavonia saw fierce fighting , including the Battle of Vukovar .

The economy of Slavonia is largely based on processing industry , trade , transport and civil engineering . Agriculture is a significant component of its economy : Slavonia contains 45 % of Croatia 's agricultural land and accounts for a significant proportion of Croatia 's livestock farming and production of permanent crops . The gross domestic product (GDP) of the five counties of Slavonia is worth 6 @, 454 million euro or 8 @, 005 euro per capita , 27 @. 5 % below national average . The GDP of the five counties represents 13 @. 6 % of Croatia 's GDP .

The cultural heritage of Slavonia is a blend of historical influences , especially those since the end of the 17th century , when Slavonia started recovering from the Ottoman wars , and its traditional culture . Slavonia contributed to the culture of Croatia , through art , writers , poets and art patronage . In traditional music , Slavonia is a distinct region of Croatia , and the traditional culture is preserved through folklore festivals , with prominence given to tamburica music and beʔarac , a form of traditional song , recognized as an intangible cultural heritage by UNESCO . The cuisine of Slavonia reflects diverse influences ? a blend of traditional and foreign elements . Slavonia is one of Croatia 's winemaking areas , with Ilok and Kutjevo recognized as centres of wine production .

= = History = =

The name Slavonia originated in the Early Middle Ages . The area was named after the Slavs who settled there and called themselves * Slovʔne . The root * Slovʔn- appeared in various dialects of languages spoken by people inhabiting the area west of the Sutla river , as well as between the Sava and Drava rivers ? South Slavs living in the area of the former Illyricum . The area bounded by those rivers was called * Slovʔnʔje in the Proto @-@ Slavic language . The word subsequently evolved to its various present forms in the Slavic languages , and other languages adopted the term .

= = Prehistory and antiquity = =

Remnants of several Neolithic and Chalcolithic cultures were found in all regions of Croatia , but

most of the sites are found in the river valleys of northern Croatia , including Slavonia . The most significant cultures whose presence was found include the Starčevo culture whose finds were discovered near Slavonski Brod and dated to 6100 ? 5200 BC , Vučedol and Baden cultures . Most finds attributed to the Baden and Vučedol cultures are discovered in the area around Vukovar , extending to Osijek and Vinkovci . The Baden culture sites in Slavonia are dated to 3600 ? 3300 BC , and Vučedol culture finds are dated to 3000 ? 2500 BC . The Iron Age left traces of the early Illyrian Hallstatt culture and the Celtic La Tène culture . Much later , the region was settled by Illyrians and other tribes , including the Pannonians , who controlled much of present @-@ day Slavonia . Even though archaeological finds of Illyrian settlements are much sparser than in areas closer to the Adriatic Sea , significant discoveries , for instance in Kaptol near Požega have been made . The Pannonians first came into contact with the Roman Republic in 35 BC , when the Romans conquered Segestica , or modern @-@ day Sisak . The conquest was completed in 11 BC , when the Roman province of Illyricum was established , encompassing modern @-@ day Slavonia as well as a vast territory on the right bank of Danube . The province was renamed Pannonia and divided within two decades .

= = = Middle Ages = = =

After the collapse of the Western Roman Empire , which included the territory occupied by modern @-@ day Slavonia , the area became a part of the Ostrogothic Kingdom by the end of the 5th century . However , control of the area proved a significant task , and Lombards were given increasing control of Pannonia in the 6th century , which ended in their withdrawal in 568 and the arrival of Pannonian Avars and Slavs , who established control of Pannonia by year 582 . According to the work *De Administrando Imperio* written by the 10th century Byzantine Emperor Constantine VII , the Croats had arrived in the early 7th century in what is now Croatia , although this is disputed and competing hypotheses date the event between the 6th and the 9th centuries . Eventually two dukedoms were formed ? Duchy of Pannonia and Duchy of Dalmatia , ruled by Ljudevit Posavski and Borja , as attested to by the chronicles of Einhard , starting in the year 818 . This record represents the first document of the Croatian realms , vassal states of Francia at the time . The Frankish overlordship ended during the reign of Mislav two decades later .

Tomislav was the first ruler of Croatia to be styled a king . That occurred in a letter from Pope John X , dating the kingdom of Croatia to 925 . Tomislav defeated Hungarian and Bulgarian invasions , spreading the influence of Croatian kings northward to Slavonia . The medieval Croatian kingdom reached its peak in the 11th century during the reigns of Petar Krešimir IV (1058 ? 1074) and Dmitar Zvonimir (1075 ? 1089) . When Stjepan II died in 1091 , ending the Trpimirović dynasty , Ladislaus I of Hungary claimed the Croatian crown . Opposition to the claim led to a war and personal union of Croatia and Hungary in 1102 , ruled by Coloman . For the next four centuries , Slavonia was ruled as a part of the Kingdom of Croatia by the Sabor (parliament) , and a ban (viceroy) appointed by the king . The period saw increasing territorial losses to Ottoman conquest . The Ottoman conquests led to the 1493 Battle of Krbava field and 1526 Battle of Mohács , both ending in decisive Ottoman victories . King Louis II of Hungary died at Mohács , and Ferdinand I of the House of Habsburg was elected in 1527 as the new ruler of Croatia , under the condition that he provide protection to Croatia against the Ottoman Empire , while respecting its political rights . The period saw the rise to prominence of a native nobility such as the Frankopans and the Šubićs , and ultimately to numerous bans from the two families . The present coat of arms of Slavonia , used in an official capacity as a part of the coat of arms of Croatia , dates from this period ? it was granted to Slavonia by king Vladislaus II Jagiellon on 8 December 1496 .

= = = Ottoman conquest = = =

Following the Battle of Mohács , the Ottomans expanded their possessions in Slavonia seizing Pakovo in 1536 and Požega in 1537 , defeating a Habsburg army led by Johann Katzbauer , who was attempting to retake Slavonia , at Gorjani in September 1537 . By 1540 , Osijek was also under

firm control of the Ottomans , and regular administration in Slavonia was introduced by establishing the Sanjak of Pojega . The Ottoman control in Slavonia expanded as Novska surrendered the same year . Turkish conquest continued ? Na?ice were seized in 1541 , Orahovica and Slatina in 1542 , and in 1543 , Vo?in , Sira? and , after a 40 @-@ day siege , Valpovo . In 1544 , Ottoman forces conquered Pakrac . Lessening hostilities brought about a five @-@ year truce in 1547 and temporary stabilization of the border between Habsburg and Ottoman empires , with Virovitica becoming the most significant defensive Habsburg fortress and Po?ega the most significant Ottoman centre in Slavonia , as Ottoman advances to Sisak and ?azma were made , including a brief occupation of the cities . Further westward efforts of the Turkish forces presented a significant threat to Zagreb and the rest of Croatia and the Hungarian kingdom , prompting a greater defensive commitment by the Habsburg Empire . One year after the 1547 truce ended , Ivan Lenkovi? devised a system of fortifications and troops in the border areas , a forerunner of the Croatian Military Frontier . Nonetheless , in 1552 , the Ottoman conquest of Slavonia was completed when Virovitica was captured . Ottoman advances in the Croatian territory continued until the 1593 Battle of Sisak , the first decisive Ottoman defeat , and a more lasting stabilisation of the frontier . During the Great Turkish War (1683 ? 1698) , Slavonia was regained in 1687 when the Ottomans abandoned the region ? unlike western Bosnia , which had been part of Croatia before the Ottoman conquest . The present @-@ day southern border of Slavonia and the border between Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina is a remnant of this outcome .

The Ottoman wars instigated great demographic changes . Croats migrated towards Austria and the present @-@ day Burgenland Croats are direct descendants of these settlers . To replace the fleeing Croats , the Habsburgs called on the Orthodox populations of Bosnia and Serbia to provide military service in the Croatian Military Frontier . Serb migration into this region peaked during the Great Serb Migrations of 1690 and 1737 ? 39 .

= = = Habsburg Monarchy and Austria @-@ Hungary = = =

The areas acquired through the Treaty of Karlowitz were assigned to Croatia , itself in the union with Hungary and the union ruled by the Habsburgs . The border area along the Una , Sava and Danube rivers became the Slavonian Military Frontier . At this time , Osijek took over the role of the administrative and military centre of the newly formed Kingdom of Slavonia from Po?ega . The 1830s and 1840s saw romantic nationalism inspire the Croatian National Revival , a political and cultural campaign advocating unity of all South Slavs in the empire . Its primary focus was the establishment of a standard language as a counterweight to Hungarian , along with the promotion of Croatian literature and culture . During the Hungarian Revolution of 1848 Croatia sided with the Austrians , Ban Josip Jela?i? helping to defeat the Hungarian forces in 1849 , and ushering in a period of Germanization policy . By the 1860s , failure of the policy became apparent , leading to the Austro @-@ Hungarian Compromise of 1867 and creation of a personal union between the crowns of the Austrian Empire and the Kingdom of Hungary . The treaty left the issue of Croatia 's status to Hungary as a part of Transleithania ? and the status was resolved by the Croatian ? Hungarian Settlement of 1868 , when the kingdoms of Croatia and Slavonia were united as the Kingdom of Croatia @-@ Slavonia . After Austria @-@ Hungary occupied Bosnia and Herzegovina following the 1878 Treaty of Berlin , the Military Frontiers were abolished and the Croatian and Slavonian Military Frontier territory returned to Croatia @-@ Slavonia in 1881 , pursuant to provisions of the Croatian @-@ Hungarian Settlement . At that time , the easternmost point of Croatia @-@ Slavonia became Zemun , as all of Syrmia was encompassed by the kingdom .

= = = Kingdom of Yugoslavia and World War II = = =

On 29 October 1918 , the Croatian Sabor declared independence and decided to join the newly formed State of Slovenes , Croats and Serbs , which in turn entered into union with the Kingdom of Serbia on 4 December 1918 to form the Kingdom of Serbs , Croats , and Slovenes . The Treaty of Trianon was signed in 1920 , at the end of World War I , between the Allies of World War I and

Hungary as one of the successor states to Austria-Hungary. The treaty established the southern border of Hungary along the Drava and Mura rivers, except in Baranya, where only the northern part of the county was kept by Hungary. The territorial acquisition in Baranya was not made a part of Slavonia, even though adjacent to Osijek, because pre-1918 administrative divisions were disestablished by the new kingdom. The political situation in the new kingdom deteriorated, leading to the dictatorship of King Alexander in January 1929. The dictatorship formally ended in 1931 when the king imposed a more unitarian constitution transferring executive power to the king, and changed the name of the country to Yugoslavia. The Cvetković-Maček Agreement of August 1939 created the autonomous Banovina of Croatia incorporating Slavonia. Pursuant to the agreement, the Yugoslav government retained control of defence, internal security, foreign affairs, trade, and transport while other matters were left to the Croatian Sabor and a crown-appointed 'Ban'.

In April 1941, Yugoslavia was occupied by Germany and Italy. Following the invasion the territory of Slavonia was incorporated into the Independent State of Croatia, a Nazi-backed puppet state and assigned as a zone under German occupation for the duration of the World War II. The regime introduced anti-semitic laws and conducted a campaign of ethnic cleansing and genocide against Serb and Roma populations, exemplified by the Jasenovac and Stara Gradiška concentration camps. Armed resistance soon developed in the region, and by 1942, it controlled substantial territories, especially in mountainous parts of Slavonia. Yugoslav Partisans led by Josip Broz Tito took full control of Slavonia in April 1945.

=== Federal Yugoslavia and the independence of Croatia ===

After World War II, Croatia including Slavonia became a single-party Socialist federal unit of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, ruled by the Communists, but enjoying a degree of autonomy within the federation. The autonomy effectively increased after the 1974 Yugoslav Constitution, basically fulfilling a goal of the Croatian Spring movement, and providing a legal basis for independence of the federative constituents. In 1947, when all borders of the former Yugoslav constituent republics had been defined by demarcation commissions, pursuant to decisions of the AVNOJ of 1943 and 1945, the federal organization of Yugoslav Baranya was defined as Croatian territory allowing its integration with Slavonia. The commissions also set up the present-day 317.6 kilometre (197.3 mi) border between Serbia and Croatia in Syrmia, and along the Danube River between Ilok and mouth of the Drava and further north to the Hungarian border, the section south of confluence of the Drava matching the border between the Kingdom of Croatia-Slavonia and the Bács-Bodrog County that existed until 1918 and the end of World War I.

In the 1980s the political situation in Yugoslavia deteriorated with national tension fanned by the 1986 Serbian SANU Memorandum and the 1989 coups in Vojvodina, Kosovo and Montenegro. In January 1990, the Communist Party fragmented along national lines, with the Croatian faction demanding a looser federation. In the same year, the first multi-party elections were held in Croatia, with Franjo Tuđman's win raising nationalist tensions further. The Serbs in Croatia, intent on achieving independence from Croatia, left the Sabor and declared the autonomy of areas that would soon become the unrecognized Republic of Serbian Krajina (RSK). As tensions rose, Croatia declared independence in June 1991; however the declaration came into effect on 8 October 1991. Tensions escalated into the Croatian War of Independence when the Yugoslav National Army and various Serb paramilitaries attacked Croatia. By the end of 1991, a high intensity war fought along a wide front reduced Croatia to controlling about two-thirds of its territory.

In Slavonia, the first armed conflicts were clashes in Pakrac, and Borovo Selo near Vukovar. Western Slavonia was occupied in August 1991, following an advance by the Yugoslav forces north from Banja Luka across the Sava River. This was partially pushed back by the Croatian Army in operations named Otkos 10, and Orkan 91, which established a front line around Okučani and south of Pakrac that would hold virtually unchanged for more than three years until Operation Flash.

in May 1995 . Armed conflict in the eastern Slavonia , culminating in the Battle of Vukovar and a subsequent massacre , also included heavy fighting and the successful defence of Osijek and Vinkovci . The front line stabilized and a ceasefire was agreed to on 2 January 1992 , coming into force the next day . After the ceasefire , United Nations Protection Force was deployed to the occupied areas , but intermittent artillery and rocket attacks , launched from Serb @-@ held areas of Bosnia , continued in several areas of Slavonia , especially in Slavonski Brod and ?upanja . The war effectively ended in 1995 with Croatia achieving a decisive victory over the RSK in August 1995 . The remaining occupied areas ? eastern Slavonia ? were restored to Croatia pursuant to the Erdut Agreement of November 1995 , with the process concluded in January 1998 .

= = Geography = =

= = = Political geography = = =

The Croatian counties were re @-@ established in 1992 , but their borders changed in some instances , with the latest revision taking place in 2006 . Slavonia consists of five counties ? Brod @-@ Posavina , Osijek @-@ Baranja , Po?ega @-@ Slavonia , Virovitica @-@ Podravina and Vukovar @-@ Srijem counties ? which largely cover the territory historically associated with Slavonia . The western borders of the five @-@ county territory lie in the area where the western boundary of Slavonia generally has been located since the Ottoman conquest , with the remaining borders being at the international borders of Croatia . This places the Croatian part of Baranya into the Slavonian counties , constituting the Eastern Croatia macroregion . Terms Eastern Croatia and Slavonia are increasingly used as synonyms . The Brod @-@ Posavina County comprises two cities ? Slavonski Brod and Nova Gradi?ka ? and 26 Municipalities of Croatia . The Osijek @-@ Baranja County consists of seven cities ? Beli Manastir , Beli??e , Donji Miholjac , ?akovo , Na?ice , Osijek and Valpovo ? and 35 municipalities . The Po?ega @-@ Slavonia County comprises five cities ? Kutjevo , Lipik , Pakrac , Pleternica and Po?ega ? and five municipalities . The Virovitica @-@ Podravina County covers three cities ? Orahovica , Slatina and Virovitica ? and 13 municipalities . The Vukovar @-@ Srijem County encompasses five cities ? Ilok , Otok , Vinkovci , Vukovar and ?upanja ? and 26 municipalities . The whole of Slavonia is the eastern half of Central and Eastern (Pannonian) Croatia NUTS @-@ 2 statistical unit of Croatia , together with further areas of Central Croatia . Other statistical units correspond to the counties , cities and municipalities . The five counties combined cover area size of 12 @,@ 556 square kilometres (4 @,@ 848 square miles) , representing 22 @.@ 2 % of territory of Croatia .

= = = Physical geography = = =

The boundaries of Slavonia , as a geographical region , do not necessarily coincide with the borders of the five counties , except in the south and east where the Sava and Danube rivers define them . The international borders of Croatia are boundaries common to both definitions of the region . In the north , the boundaries largely coincide because the Drava River is considered to be the northern border of Slavonia as a geographic region , but this excludes Baranya from the geographic region 's definition even though this territory is part of a county otherwise associated with Slavonia . The western boundary of the geographic region is not specifically defined and it was variously defined through history depending on the political divisions of Croatia . The eastern Croatia , as a geographic term , largely overlaps most definitions of Slavonia . It is defined as the territory of the Brod @-@ Posavina , Osijek @-@ Baranja , Po?ega @-@ Slavonia , Virovitica @-@ Podravina and Vukovar @-@ Syrmia counties , including Baranya .

= = = = Topography = = = =

Slavonia is entirely located in the Pannonian Basin , one of three major geomorphological parts of

Croatia . The Pannonian Basin took shape through Miocenian thinning and subsidence of crust structures formed during Late Paleozoic Variscan orogeny . The Paleozoic and Mesozoic structures are visible in Papuk and other Slavonian mountains . The processes also led to the formation of a stratovolcanic chain in the basin 17 ? 12 Mya (million years ago) and intensified subsidence observed until 5 Mya as well as flood basalts about 7 @. @ 5 Mya . Contemporary uplift of the Carpathian Mountains prevented water flowing to the Black Sea , and the Pannonian Sea formed in the basin . Sediments were transported to the basin from uplifting Carpathian and Dinaric mountains , with particularly deep fluvial sediments being deposited in the Pleistocene during the uplift of the Transdanubian Mountains . Ultimately , up to 3 @, @ 000 metres (9 @, @ 800 feet) of the sediment was deposited in the basin , and the Pannonian sea eventually drained through the Iron Gate gorge . In the southern Pannonian Basin , the Neogene to Quaternary sediment depth is normally lower , averaging 500 to 1 @, @ 500 metres (1 @, @ 600 to 4 @, @ 900 feet) , except in central parts of depressions formed by subduction ? around 4 @, @ 000 metres (13 @, @ 000 feet) in the Slavonia @-@ Syrmia depression , 5 @, @ 500 metres (18 @, @ 000 feet) in the Sava depression and nearly 7 @, @ 000 metres (23 @, @ 000 feet) in the Drava depression , with the deepest sediment found between Virovitica and Slatina .

The results of those processes are large plains in eastern Slavonia , Baranya and Syrmia , as well as in river valleys , especially along the Sava , Drava and Kupa . The plains are interspersed by the horst and graben structures , believed to have broken the Pannonian Sea surface as islands . The tallest among such landforms in Slavonia are 984 @-@ metre (3 @, @ 228 ft) Psunj , and 953 @-@ metre (3 @, @ 127 ft) Papuk ? flanking the Po?ega Valley from the west and the north . These two and Krndija , adjacent to Papuk , consist mostly of Paleozoic rocks which are 350 ? 300 million years old . Po?e?ka Gora and Dilj , to the east of Psunj and enveloping the valley from the south , consist of much more recent Neogene rocks , but Po?e?ka Gora also contains Upper Cretaceous sediments and igneous rocks forming the main , 30 @-@ kilometre (19 mi) ridge of the hill and representing the largest igneous landform in Croatia . A smaller igneous landform is also present on Papuk , near Vo?in . The two mountains , as well as Moslava?ka gora , west of Pakrac , are possible remnants of a volcanic arc related to Alpine orogeny ? uplifting of the Dinaric Alps . The ?akovo ? Vukovar loess plain , extending eastward from Dilj and representing the watershed between the Vuka and Bosut rivers , gradually rises to the Fru?ka Gora south of Ilok .

== == Hydrography and climate == ==

The largest rivers in Slavonia are found along or near its borders ? the Danube , Sava and Drava . The length of the Danube , flowing along the eastern border of Slavonia and through the cities of Vukovar and Ilok , is 188 kilometres (117 miles) , and its main tributaries are the Drava 112 @-@ kilometre (70 mi) and the Vuka . The Drava discharges into the Danube near Aljma? , east of Osijek , while mouth of the Vuka is located in Vukovar . Major tributaries of the Sava , flowing along the southern border of Slavonia and through cities of Slavonski Brod and ?upanja are 89 @-@ kilometre (55 mi) the Orjava flowing through Po?ega , and the Bosut ? whose 151 @-@ kilometre (94 mi) course in Slavonia takes it through Vinkovci . There are no large lakes in Slavonia . The largest ones are Lake Kopa?evo whose surface area varies between 1 @. @ 5 and 3 @. @ 5 square kilometres (0 @. @ 58 and 1 @. @ 35 square miles) , and Borovik Reservoir covering 2 @. @ 5 square kilometres (0 @. @ 97 square miles) . The Lake Kopa?evo is connected to the Danube via Hulovski canal , situated within the Kopa?ki Rit wetland , while the Lake Borovik is an artificial lake created in 1978 in the upper course of the Vuka River .

The entire Slavonia belongs to the Danube basin and the Black Sea catchment area , but it is divided in two sub @-@ basins . One of those drains into the Sava ? itself a Danube tributary ? and the other into the Drava or directly into the Danube . The drainage divide between the two sub @-@ basins runs along Papuk and Krndija mountains , in effect tracing the southern boundary of the Virovitica @-@ Podravina County and the northern boundary of Po?ega @-@ Slavonia County , cuts through the Osijek @-@ Podravina County north of ?akovo and finally bisects the Vukovar @-@ Syrmia County running between Vukovar and Vinkovci to reach Fru?ka Gora southwest of Ilok

. The Entire Brod @-@ Posavina County is located in the Sava sub @-@ basin .

Most of Croatia , including Slavonia , has a moderately warm and rainy continental climate as defined by the Köppen climate classification . Mean annual temperature averages 10 to 12 ° C (50 to 54 ° F) , with the warmest month , July , averaging just below 22 ° C (72 ° F) . Temperature peaks are more pronounced in the continental areas ? the lowest temperature of ? 27 @.@ 8 ° C (? 18 @.@ 0 ° F) was recorded on 24 January 1963 in Slavonski Brod , and the highest temperature of 40 @.@ 5 ° C (104 @.@ 9 ° F) was recorded on 5 July 1950 in ?akovo . The least precipitation is recorded in the eastern parts of Slavonia at less than 700 millimetres (28 inches) per year , however in the latter case , it mostly occurs during the growing season . The western parts of Slavonia receive 900 to 1 @,@ 000 millimetres (35 to 39 inches) precipitation . Low winter temperatures and the distribution of precipitation throughout the year normally result in snow cover , and freezing rivers ? requiring use of icebreakers , and in extreme cases explosives , to maintain the flow of water and navigation . Slavonia receives more than 2 @,@ 000 hours of sunshine per year on average . Prevailing winds are light to moderate , northeasterly and southwesterly .

= = = Demographics = = =

According to the 2011 census , the total population of the five counties of Slavonia was 806 @,@ 192 , accounting for 19 % of population of Croatia . The largest portion of the total population lives in Osijek @-@ Baranja county , followed by Vukovar @-@ Syrmia county . Po?ega @-@ Slavonia county is the least populous county of Slavonia . Overall the population density stands at 64 @.@ 2 persons per square kilometre . The population density ranges from 77 @.@ 6 to 40 @.@ 9 persons per square kilometre , with the highest density recorded in Brod @-@ Posavina county and the lowest in Virovitica @-@ Podravina county . Osijek is the largest city in Slavonia , followed by Slavonski Brod , Vinkovci and Vukovar . Other cities in Slavonia have populations below 20 @,@ 000 . According to the 2001 census , Croats account for 85 @.@ 6 percent of population of Slavonia , and the most significant ethnic minorities are Serbs and Hungarians , comprising 8 @.@ 8 percent and 1 @.@ 4 percent of the population respectively . The largest portion of the Serb minority was recorded in Vukovar @-@ Syrmia county (15 percent) , while the largest Hungarian minority , in both relative and absolute terms , was observed in Osijek @-@ Baranja county . The census recorded 85 @.@ 4 % of the population declaring themselves as Catholic , with further 4 @.@ 4 % belonging to Serbian Orthodox Church and 0 @.@ 7 % Muslims . 3 @.@ 1 % declared themselves as non @-@ religious , agnostics or declined to declare their religion . The most widely used language in the region is Croatian , declared as the first language by 93 @.@ 6 % of the total population , followed by Serbian (2 @.@ 6 %) and Hungarian language (1 @.@ 0 %) .

The demographic history of Slavonia is characterised by significant migrations , as is that of Croatia as a whole , starting with the arrival of the Croats , between the 6th and 9th centuries . Following the establishment of the personal union of Croatia and Hungary in 1102 , and the joining of the Habsburg Empire in 1527 , the Hungarian and German speaking population of Croatia began gradually increasing in number . The processes of Magyarization and Germanization varied in intensity but persisted until the beginning of the 20th century . The Ottoman conquests initiated a westward migration of parts of the Croatian population ; the Burgenland Croats are direct descendants of some of those settlers . To replace the fleeing Croats the Habsburgs called on the Orthodox populations of Bosnia and Serbia to provide military service in the Croatian Military Frontier . Serb migration into this region peaked during the Great Serb Migrations of 1690 and 1737 ? 39 . Following the collapse of Austria @-@ Hungary in 1918 , the Hungarian population declined , due to emigration and ethnic bias . The changes were especially significant in the areas north of the Drava river , and Baranja County where they represented the majority before World War I.

Since the end of the 19th century there was substantial economic emigration abroad from Croatia in general . After World War I , the Yugoslav regime confiscated up to 50 percent of properties and encouraged settlement of the land by Serb volunteers and war veterans in Slavonia , only to have them evicted and replaced by up to 70 @,@ 000 new settlers by the regime during the World War II . During World War II and in the period immediately following the war , there were further significant

demographic changes , as the German @-@ speaking population , the Volksdeutsche , were either forced or otherwise compelled to leave ? reducing their number from the prewar German population of Yugoslavia of 500 @,@ 000 , living in Slavonia and other parts of present @-@ day Croatia and Serbia , to the figure of 62 @,@ 000 recorded in the 1953 census . The 1940s and the 1950s in Yugoslavia were marked by colonisation of settlements where the displaced Germans used to live , by people from the mountainous parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina , Serbia and Montenegro , and migrations to larger cities spurred on by the development of industry . In the 1960s and 1970s , another wave of economic migrants left ? largely moving to Canada , Australia , New Zealand and Western Europe .

The most recent changes to the ethnic composition of Slavonian counties occurred between censuses conducted in 1991 and 2001 . The 1991 census recorded a heterogenous population consisting mostly of Croats and Serbs ? at 72 percent and 17 percent of the total population respectively . The Croatian War of Independence , and the ethnic fracturing of Yugoslavia that preceded it , caused an exodus of the Croat population followed by an exodus of Serbs . The return of refugees since the end of hostilities is not complete ? a majority of Croat refugees returned , while fewer Serbs did . In addition , ethnic Croats moved to Slavonia from Bosnia and Herzegovina and from Serbia .

= = Economy and transport = =

The economy of Slavonia is largely based on wholesale and retail trade and processing industry . Food processing is one of the most significant types of the processing industries in the region , supporting agricultural production in the area and encompassing meat packing , fruit and vegetable processing , sugar refining , confectionery and dairy industry . In addition , there are wineries in the region that are significant to economy of Croatia . Other types of the processing industry significant to Slavonia are wood processing , including production of furniture , cellulose , paper and cardboard ; metalworking , textile industry and glass production . Transport and civil engineering are two further significant economic activities in Slavonia . The largest industrial centre of Slavonia is Osijek , followed by other county seats ? Slavonski Brod , Virovitica , Po?ega and Vukovar , as well as several other cities , especially Vinkovci .

The gross domestic product (GDP) of the five counties in Slavonia combined (in year 2008) amounted to 6 @,@ 454 million euro , or 8 @,@ 005 euro per capita ? 27 @.@ 5 % below Croatia 's national average . The GDP of the five counties represented 13 @.@ 6 % of Croatia 's GDP . Several Pan @-@ European transport corridors run through Slavonia : corridor Vc as the A5 motorway , corridor X as the A3 motorway and a double @-@ track railway spanning Slavonia from west to east , and corridor VII ? the Danube River waterway . The waterway is accessed through the Port of Vukovar , the largest Croatian river port , situated on the Danube itself , and the Port of Osijek on the Drava River , 14 @.@ 5 kilometres (9 @.@ 0 miles) away from confluence of the rivers .

Another major sector of the economy of Slavonia is agriculture , which also provides part of the raw materials for the processing industry . Out of 1 @,@ 077 @,@ 403 hectares (2 @,@ 662 @,@ 320 acres) of utilized agricultural land in Croatia , 493 @,@ 878 hectares (1 @,@ 220 @,@ 400 acres) , or more than 45 % , are found in Slavonia , with the largest portion of the land situated in the Osijek @-@ Baranja and Vukovar @-@ Syrmia counties . The largest areas are used for production of cereals and oilseeds , covering 574 @,@ 916 hectares (1 @,@ 420 @,@ 650 acres) and 89 @,@ 348 hectares (220 @,@ 780 acres) respectively . Slavonia 's share in Croatia 's agriculturally productive land is greatest in the production of cereals (53 @.@ 5 %) , legumes (46 @.@ 8 %) , oilseeds (88 @.@ 8 %) , sugar beet (90 %) , tobacco (97 @.@ 9 %) , plants used in pharmaceutical or perfume industry (80 @.@ 9 %) , flowers , seedlings and seeds (80 @.@ 3 %) and plants used in the textile industry (69 %) . Slavonia also contributes 25 @.@ 7 % of cattle , 42 @.@ 7 % of pigs and 20 % of the poultry stock of Croatia . There are 5 @,@ 138 hectares (12 @,@ 700 acres) of vineyards in Slavonia , representing 18 @.@ 6 % of total vineyards area in Croatia . Production of fruit and nuts also takes up a significant agricultural area . Apple orchards

cover 1 @, @ 261 hectares (3 @, @ 120 acres) , representing 42 @. @ 3 % of Croatia 's apple plantations , plums are produced in orchards encompassing 450 hectares (1 @, @ 100 acres) or 59 @. @ 7 % of Croatia 's plum plantations and hazelnut orchards cover 319 hectares (790 acres) , which account for 72 @. @ 4 % of hazelnut plantations in Croatia . Other significant permanent crops are cherries , pears , peaches and walnuts .

In 2010 , only two companies headquartered in Slavonia ranked among top 100 Croatian companies ? Belje , agricultural industry owned by Agrokor , and Beli??e , paper mill and paper packaging material factory , headquartered in Darda and Beli??e respectively , both in Osijek @-@ Baranja County . Belje ranks as the 44th and Beli??e as the 99th largest Croatian company by income . Other significant businesses in the county include civil engineering company Osijek @-@ Koteks (rank 103) , Saponia detergent and personal care product factory (rank 138) , Biljemerkan retail business (rank 145) , and Na?icecement cement plant (rank 165) , a part of Nexse Grupa construction product manufacturing company . Sugar refining company Viro , ranked the 101st and headquartered in Virovitica , is the largest company in Virovitica @-@ Podravina County . ?uro ?akovi? Monta?a d.d. , a part of metal processing industry ?uro ?akovi? Holding of Slavonski Brod , ranks the 171st among the Croatian companies and it is the largest business in Brod @-@ Posavina County . Another agricultural industry company , Kutjevo d.d. , headquartered in Kutjevo , is the largest company in Po?ega @-@ Slavonia County , ranks the 194th in Croatia by business income . Finally , the largest company by income in Vukovar @-@ Sylvania county is another Agrokor owned agricultural production company ? Vupik , headquartered in Vukovar , and ranking the 161st among the companies headquartered in Croatia .

= = Culture = =

The cultural heritage of Slavonia represents a blend of social influences through its history , especially since the end of the 17th century , and the traditional culture . A particular impact was made by Baroque art and architecture of the 18th century , when the cities of Slavonia started developing after the Ottoman wars ended and stability was restored to the area . The period saw great prominence of the nobility , who were awarded estates in Slavonia by the imperial court in return for their service during the wars . They included Prince Eugene of Savoy , the House of Esterházy , the House of Odescalchi , Philipp Karl von Eltz @-@ Kempenich , the House of Prandau @-@ Normann , the House of Peja?evi? and the House of Jankovi? . That in turn encouraged an influx of contemporary European culture to the region . Subsequent development of the cities and society saw the influence of Neoclassicism , Historicism and especially of Art Nouveau .

The heritage of the region includes numerous landmarks , especially manor houses built by the nobility in largely in the 18th and the 19th centuries . Those include Prandau @-@ Normann and Prandau @-@ Mailath manor houses in Valpovo and Donji Miholjac respectively , manor houses in Baranja ? in Bilje , at a former Esterházy estate in Darda , in Tikve? , and in Kne?evo . Peja?evi?s built several residences , the most representative ones among them being manor house in Virovitica and the Peja?evi? manor house in Na?ice . Further east , along the Danube , there are Odescalchi manor house in Ilok , and Eltz manor house in Vukovar ? the latter sustained extensive damage during the Battle of Vukovar in 1991 , but it was reconstructed by 2011 . In the southeast of the region , the most prominent are Kutjevo Jesuit manor house , and Cernik manor house , located in Kutjevo and Cernik respectively . The period also saw construction of Tvr?a and Brod fortifications in Osijek and Slavonski Brod . Older , medieval fortifications are preserved only as ruins ? the largest among those being Ru?ica Castle near Orahovica . Another landmark dating to the 19th century is the ?akovo Cathedral ? hailed by the Pope John XXIII as the most beautiful church situated between Venice and Istanbul .

Slavonia significantly contributed to the culture of Croatia as a whole , both through works of artists and through patrons of the arts ? most notable among them being Josip Juraj Strossmayer . Strossmayer was instrumental in the establishment of the Yugoslav Academy of Sciences and Arts , later renamed the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts , and the reestablishment of the University of Zagreb . A number of Slavonia 's artists , especially writers , made considerable

contributions to Croatian culture . Nineteenth @-@ century writers who are most significant in Croatian literature include Josip Eugen Tomi? , Josip Kozarac , and Miroslav Kraljevi? ? author of the first Croatian novel . Significant twentieth @-@ century poets and writers in Slavonia were Dobri?a Cesari? , Dragutin Tadijanovi? , Ivana Brli? @-@ Ma?urani? and Antun Gustav Mato? . Painters associated with Slavonia , who contributed greatly to Croatian art , were Miroslav Kraljevi? and Bela ?iko? Sesija .

Slavonia is a distinct region of Croatia in terms of ethnological factors in traditional music . It is a region where traditional culture is preserved through folklore festivals . Typical traditional music instruments belong to the tamburica and bagpipe family . The tamburica is the most representative musical instrument associated with Slavonia 's traditional culture . It developed from music instruments brought by the Ottomans during their rule of Slavonia , becoming an integral part of the traditional music , its use surpassing or even replacing the use of bagpipes and gusle . A distinct form of traditional song , originating in Slavonia , the be?arac , is recognized as an intangible cultural heritage by UNESCO .

Out of 122 Croatia 's universities and other institutions of higher education , Slavonia is home to one university ? Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek ? as well as three polytechnics in Po?ega , Slavonski Brod and Vukovar , as well as a college in Virovitica ? all set up and run by the government . The University of Osijek , has been established in 1975 , but the first institution of higher education in the city was Studium Philosophicum Essekini founded in 1707 , and active until 1780 . Another historical institution of higher education was Academia Posegana operating in Po?ega between 1761 and 1776 , as an extension of a gymnasium operating in the city continuously , since it opened in 1699 as the first secondary education school in Slavonia .

= = = Cuisine and wines = = =

The cuisine of Slavonia reflects cultural influences on the region through the diversity of its culinary influences . The most significant among those were from Hungarian , Viennese , Central European , as well as Turkish and Arab cuisines brought by series of conquests and accompanying social influences . The ingredients of traditional dishes are pickled vegetables , dairy products and smoked meats . The most famous traditional preserved meat product is kulen , one of a handful Croatian products protected by the EU as indigenous products .

Slavonia is one of Croatia 's winemaking sub @-@ regions , a part of its continental winegrowing region . The best known winegrowing areas of Slavonia are centered on ?akovo , Ilok and Kutjevo , where Gra?evina grapes are predominant , but other cultivars are increasingly present . In past decades , an increasing quantity of wine production in Slavonia was accompanied by increasing quality and growing recognition at home and abroad . Grape vines were first grown in the region of Ilok , as early as the 3rd century AD . The oldest Slavonian wine cellar still in continuous use for winemaking is located in Kutjevo ? built in 1232 by Cistercians .