



# Slovakia



**Background** Slovakia traces its roots to the 9th century state of Great Moravia. The Slovaks then became part of the Hungarian Kingdom, where they remained for the next 1,000 years. After the formation of the dual Austro-Hungarian monarchy in 1867, language and education policies favoring the use of Hungarian (known as "Magyarization") led to a public backlash that boosted Slovak nationalism and strengthened Slovak cultural ties with the closely related Czechs, who fell administratively under the Austrian half of the empire. When the Austro-Hungarian Empire dissolved at the end of World War I, the Slovaks joined the Czechs to form Czechoslovakia. During the interwar period, Slovak nationalist leaders pushed for autonomy within Czechoslovakia, and in 1939, in the wake of Germany's annexation of the Sudetenland, the newly established Slovak Republic became a German client state for the remainder of World War II.

After World War II, Czechoslovakia was reconstituted and came under communist rule within Soviet-dominated Eastern Europe. In 1968, Warsaw Pact troops invaded and ended the efforts of Czechoslovakia's leaders to liberalize communist rule and create "socialism with a human face," ushering in a period of repression known as "normalization." The peaceful Velvet Revolution swept the Communist Party from power at the end of 1989 and inaugurated a return to democratic rule and a market economy. On 1 January 1993, Czechoslovakia underwent a nonviolent "velvet divorce" into its two national components, Slovakia and the Czech Republic. Slovakia joined both NATO and the EU in 2004 and the euro zone in 2009.

<b>Capital</b>	name: Bratislava
<b>Government type</b>	parliamentary republic
<b>Area</b>	total : 49,035 sq km land: 48,105 sq km water: 930 sq km
<b>Climate</b>	temperate; cool summers; cold, cloudy, humid winters
<b>Natural resources</b>	lignite, small amounts of iron ore, copper and manganese ore; salt; arable land
<b>Population</b>	total: 5,563,649 (2024 est.)
<b>Population growth rate</b>	-0.08% (2024 est.)
<b>Ethnic groups</b>	Slovak 83.8%, Hungarian 7.8%, Romani 1.2%, other 1.8% (includes Czech, Ruthenian, Ukrainian, Russian, German, Polish), unspecified 5.4% (2021 est.)

<b>Religions</b>	Roman Catholic 55.8%, Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession 5.3%, Greek Catholic 4%, Reformed Christian 1.6%, other 3%, none 23.8%, unspecified 6.5% (2021 est.)
<b>Languages</b>	Slovak (official) 81.8%, Hungarian 8.5%, Roma 1.8%, other 2.2%, unspecified 5.7% (2021 est.)
<b>Executive branch</b>	chief of state: President Peter PELLEGRINI (since 15 June 2024) head of government: Prime Minister Robert FICO (since 25 October 2023)
<b>Legislative branch</b>	legislature name: National Council (Narodna rada Slovenskej republiky)
<b>Diplomatic representation in the US</b>	chief of mission: Ambassador Andrej DROBA (since 16 December 2025)
<b>Diplomatic representation from the US</b>	chief of mission: Ambassador Gautam A. RANA (since 28 September 2022)
<b>Economic overview</b>	high-income EU and eurozone economy; manufacturing and exports led by automotive sector; growth supported by private consumption and public investment from EU funds, tempered by trade risks; increased taxes and withdrawal of energy subsidies contributing to rising but manageable inflation; strong labor demand and influx of foreign labor offsets aging workforce
<b>Real GDP (purchasing power parity)</b>	\$218.762 billion (2024 est.) \$214.343 billion (2023 est.) \$209.794 billion (2022 est.)
<b>Real GDP per capita</b>	\$40,300 (2024 est.) \$39,500 (2023 est.) \$38,600 (2022 est.)
<b>Exports</b>	\$120.355 billion (2024 est.) \$122.04 billion (2023 est.) \$114.519 billion (2022 est.)
<b>Exports - partners</b>	Germany 20%, Czechia 10%, Hungary 7%, USA 6%, Poland 6% (2023)
<b>Exports - commodities</b>	cars, vehicle parts/accessories, video displays, broadcasting equipment, refined petroleum (2023)
<b>Imports</b>	\$120.29 billion (2024 est.) \$119.739 billion (2023 est.) \$121.473 billion (2022 est.)
<b>Imports - partners</b>	Germany 16%, Czechia 14%, Poland 8%, China 7%, Hungary 6% (2023)
<b>Imports - commodities</b>	vehicle parts/accessories, broadcasting equipment, cars, plastic products, insulated wire (2023)

Population Pyramid

