

# Slovakia



## General Information



### Population

5 431 752 (World Bank 2022)

5 431 306 (STAT SK 2022)



### Immigration

7 016 (Eurostat 2019)

17 507 (STAT SK 2021)



### Emigration

419 651 (UN Emigration Stock 2020)

2 428 (STAT SK 2020)



### Working-age population

3 654 639 (World Bank 2022)

1 828 200 (STAT SK 2021)



### Unemployment rate

6.1 % (World Bank 2022)

6.3 % (STAT SK 2022)



### GDP

115 461 711 689 current prices USD (World Bank 2022)

114 870 000 000 current prices USD (STAT SK 2021)



### Refugees and IDPs

#### Refugees

105 104 (UN Refugee Stock 2023)

42 (STAT SK 2021)

#### Asylum Seekers

54 (UNHCR 2023)

370 (STAT SK 2021)



### Citizenship

By Birth: No

By Descent: Yes

Dual Citizenship: No

Years of Residency: 10



### Territory

49 035 km<sup>2</sup> (CIA World Factbook)

# Migration Authorities

## Responsible Body

Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic

## Line Ministries

The Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic

Migration office

Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic

## Agencies

Foreign and Border Police

Informational centre for combating trafficking in human beings and for crime prevention

Department of Migration and Integration of Foreigners, International Relations Section of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs

## Key Policy Documents

2002 (2022) Act on Asylum

2011 Act on the Residence of Aliens

2004 Act on Employment services

Integration Policy of the Slovak Republic from 2014

Strategy of Labour Mobility of Foreigners in the Slovak Republic

## Relevant Publications

Statistical overview Asylum seekers and first stage decisions for the period 1993 - December 2021

Statistical overview of legal and illegal migration of foreigners to Slovakia

Migration and asylum statistics

The Republic of Slovakia used to be one of the countries of emigration but started attracting more foreigners since joining the EU and the Schengen area. In 2022, the population of the country amounted to **5.431.306** persons. Since 2011, the population has been slowly growing, but has started to decline since the pandemic. **Over the past 5 years, the migration balance has been slightly positive.**

In the period from 2004 until 2021, the number of foreigners legally residing in Slovakia increased eightfold, from 22.108 to 167.519. Of this number, one-third were EU nationals, primarily from the Czech Republic (**12.562**), Hungary, Poland, and the remaining **111.427** were non-EU nationals. The largest non-EU foreign communities come from Ukraine (56.480), Serbia (16.331) and Vietnam (7.235).

The most common reasons for immigration to the Slovak Republic are employment, business, study or family reunification. In 2020, immigrants heading to Slovakia for work represented almost **35%** of the total number of immigrants, followed by entrepreneurs with 23% and those coming for family reunification with 13%. In 2021, the share stood at **26%, 36% and 12%** respectively. The year 2018 represented a turning point with the number of migrants from third-countries exceeding the number of migrants arriving from the EU. Among the EU countries, the highest number of workers is from **Romania (7392) and the Czech Republic (5917)**. From non-EU countries, most come from Ukraine (19 578), Serbia (10 174) and Vietnam (1 023).

Migration in search of international protection to Slovakia is less widespread. The highest number of **732** applications was recorded in 2012, but the figures have been decreasing since then. In 2021, for example, Slovakia registered **370** applications for international protection, and granted protection to **40** persons. In 2022, Slovakia featured among the first line countries receiving people fleeing the war in Ukraine. Ukrainian nationals can apply for temporary protection for one year based on the amendment **to the Asylum Act**. By mid-July, almost **86.000** people received temporary protection in Slovakia.

Slovakia is equally not very attractive as a destination for irregular migrants. Overall, irregular migration in Slovakia has been on a decline. While the number of irregular migrants stood at around 10.000 per year in 2004, when Slovakia joined the EU, it has not exceeded 2.000 persons in recent years. In 2021, Slovakia apprehended **1.769** irregular immigrants, most of whom were from Afghanistan (**470**), Morocco (**285**) and Ukraine (**208**). Slovakia remains only a transit country for the majority of irregular migrants. Irregular migrants enter Slovakia either from its 97km-long border with Ukraine or via the Balkan route and through Hungary. As far as readmission agreements, in **2021**, Slovakia returned 41 nationals of Pakistan, 30 nationals of Afghanistan and nationals of Bangladesh, with most returned to the territory of Ukraine and Hungary.

For the past decade, emigration from Slovakia for permanent residence was on average **3.500** persons yearly. Emigration of Slovaks has been mainly economic and associated with the relatively high unemployment rate, reaching **up to 10% in 2021 in some Slovakian regions**, and **low wages**. For example, up to **350.000** Slovaks worked abroad in 2019. The outflow of labour force from Slovakia slowed down before the COVID-19 pandemic due to the economic growth and foreign investments that allowed creating new jobs in the country. However, since

many Slovaks do not report a change of residence within the single market, the number of Slovak workers abroad can be underestimated. The Czech Republic, Hungary and Austria since long featured among the most popular destinations for Slovak labour migrants. The UK also used to attract Slovak migrants, but the situation has changed with Brexit and the falling rate of the British pound.

The approval of the [Migration Policy of the Slovak Republic: Perspective until the Year 2025](#) on 8 September 2021 represents a key change in terms of migration policy in Slovakia. In this new policy document, the country emphasises integration efforts given the ever-increasing number of immigrants and encourages better understanding between Slovaks and foreigners. Following the example of other EU Member States, Slovakia wants to encourage legal labour migration and provide migrants with suitable working conditions to ensure sustainable economic growth in Slovakia.

Slovakia's migration and asylum policy are influenced by EU Community acts. The country often aligns its position to those of other V4 partners, demanding stricter measures to prevent migration to Europe and condemning the 'sponsorship of relocation' principle. In terms of priority areas, Slovakia focuses on the fight against irregular migration, which it perceives as a lack of legal migration, including labour migration routes.

Slovakia is a party to several migration dialogues, including the Prague Process. Like other V4 countries, in 2018 voted against Global Compact for Migration, which significantly shook the [domestic political scene](#). In recent years, Slovakia has been focusing more on legal labour migration. In particular, in 2018 it adopted the [Strategy of Labour Mobility of Foreigners in the Slovak Republic](#) to attract foreign workers to specific labour sectors. In terms of integration of foreigners, since 2019 Slovakia is preparing an amendment to the [Integration Policy of the Slovak Republic from 2014](#).