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Chapter 1

215

1.1 215.guide

Texified version of data for Slovakia.

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Slovakia

1.2 215.guide/Slovakia

Slovakia

Geography (Slovakia)

People (Slovakia)

Government (Slovakia)

Government (Slovakia 2. usage)

Economy (Slovakia)

Economy (Slovakia 2. usage)

Communications (Slovakia)

Defense Forces (Slovakia)

1.3 215.guide/Geography (Slovakia)

Geography (Slovakia)

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Location:

Eastern Europe, between Hungary and Poland

Map references:

Ethnic Groups in Eastern Europe, Europe, Standard Time Zones of the World

Area:

total area:

48,845 km²

land area:

48,800 km²

comparative area:

about twice the size of New Hampshire

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

International disputes:

Gabcikovo-Nagymaros Dam dispute with Hungary; unresolved property issues with Czech Republic over redistribution of former Czechoslovak federal property; establishment of international border between the Czech Republic and Slovakia

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; gas

Land use:

arable land:

NA%

permanent crops:

NA%

meadows and pastures:

NA%

forest and woodland:

NA%

other:

NA%
 Irrigated land:
 NA km2
 Environment:
 severe damage to forests from "acid rain" caused by coal-fired power
 stations
 Note:
 landlocked

1.4 215.guide/People (Slovakia)

People (Slovakia)

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Population:
 5,375,501 (July 1993 est.)
 Population growth rate:
 0.51% (1993 est.)
 Birth rate:
 14.59 births/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Death rate:
 9.47 deaths/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Net migration rate:
 0 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Infant mortality rate:
 10.8 deaths/1,000 live births (1993 est.)
 Life expectancy at birth:
 total population:
 72.39 years
 male:
 68.18 years
 female:
 76.85 years (1993 est.)
 Total fertility rate: 1.99 children born/woman (1993 est.)
 Nationality:
 noun:
 Slovak(s)
 adjective:
 Slovak
 Ethnic divisions:
 Slovak 85.6%, Hungarian 10.8%, Gypsy 1.5% (the 1992 census figures
 underreport the Gypsy/Romany community, which could reach 500,000 or more),
 Czech 1.1%, Ruthenian 15,000, Ukrainian 13,000, Moravian 6,000, German
 5,000, Polish 3,000
 Religions:
 Roman Catholic 60.3%, atheist 9.7%, Protestant 8.4%, Orthodox 4.1%, other
 17.5%
 Languages:
 Slovak (official), Hungarian
 Literacy:
 total population:
 NA%
 male:

NA%
 female:
 NA%
 Labor force:
 2.484 million
 by occupation:
 industry 33.2%, agriculture 12.2%, construction 10.3%, communication and
 other 44.3% (1990)

1.5 215.guide/Government (Slovakia)

Government (Slovakia)

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Names:
 conventional long form:
 Slovak Republic
 conventional short form:
 Slovakia
 local long form:
 Slovenska Republika
 local short form:
 Slovensko
 Digraph:
 LO
 Type:
 parliamentary democracy
 Capital:
 Bratislava
 Administrative divisions:
 4 departments (departamentos, singular - departamento) Bratislava,
 Zapadoslovensky, Stredoslovensky, Vychodoslovensky
 Independence:
 1 January 1993 (from Czechoslovakia)
 Constitution:
 ratified 3 September 1992; fully effective 1 January 1993
 Legal system: civil law system based on Austro-Hungarian codes; has not ←
 accepted
 compulsory ICJ jurisdiction; legal code modified to comply with the
 obligations of Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) and
 to expunge Marxist-Leninist legal theory
 National holiday:
 Slovak National Uprising, August 29 (1944)
 Political parties and leaders:
 Hungarian Christian Democratic Movement, Vojtech BUGAR; Christian ←
 Democratic
 Movement, Jan CARNOGURSKY; Movement for a Democratic Slovakia, Vladimir
 MECIAR, chairman; Party of the Democratic Left, Peter WEISS, chairman;
 Slovak National Party, Ludovit CERNAK, chairman; Coexistence, Miklos DURAY,
 chairman; Party of Conservative Democrats, leader NA
 Other political or pressure groups:
 Green Party; Democratic Party; Social Democratic Party in Slovakia; ←
 Movement

for Czech-Slovak Accord; Freedom Party; Slovak Christian Union; Hungarian Civic Party

Suffrage:
18 years of age; universal

Elections:
President:
last held 8 February 1993 (next to be held NA 1998); results - Michal KOVAC elected by the National Council

National Council:
last held 5-6 June 1992 (next to be held NA June 1996); results - Movement for a Democratic Slovakia 37%, Party of the Democratic Left 15%, Christian Democratic Movement 9%, Slovak National Party 8%, Hungarian Christian Democratic Movement/Coexistence 7%; seats - (150 total) Movement for a Democratic Slovakia, 74, Party of the Democratic Left 29, Christian Democratic Movement 18, Slovak National Party 15, Hungarian Christian Democratic Movement/Coexistence 14

Executive branch:
president, prime minister, Cabinet

Legislative branch:
unicameral National Council (Narodni Rada)

Judicial branch:
Supreme Court

1.6 215.guide/Government (Slovakia 2. usage)

Government (Slovakia 2. usage)

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Leaders:

Chief of State:

President Michal KOVAC (since 8 February 1993)

Head of Government:

Prime Minister Vladimir MECIAR (since NA), Deputy Prime Minister Roman KOVAC (since NA) ←

Member of:

BIS, CCC, CE, CEI, CERN, CSCE, EBRD, ECE, FAO, GATT, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICFTU, IDA, IFC, ILO, IMF, IMO, INMARSAT, INTELSAT, INTERPOL, IOC, IOM (observer), ISO, ITU, LORCS, NACC, NAM (guest), NSG, PCA, UN (as of 8 January 1993), UNAVEM II, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, UNOSOM, UNPROFOR, UPU, WHO ←

WIPO, WMO, WTO, ZC

Diplomatic representation in US:

chief of mission:

Charge d'Affaires Dr. Milan ERBAN chancery:
3900 Spring of Freedom Street NW, Washington, DC 20008

telephone:

(202) 363-6315 or 6316

US diplomatic representation:

chief of mission:

Ambassador Elect Eleanor SUTTER

embassy:

Hviczdoslavovo Namestie 4, 81102 Bratislava

mailing address:

use embassy street address

telephone:

427 330 861

Flag:

three equal horizontal bands of white (top), blue, and red superimposed with

a crest with a white double cross on three blue mountains

1.7 215.guide/Economy (Slovakia)

Economy (Slovakia)

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Overview:

The dissolution of Czechoslovakia into two independent states - the Czech Republic and Slovakia - on 1 January 1993 has complicated the task of moving

toward a more open and decentralized economy. The old Czechoslovakia, even though highly industrialized by East European standards, suffered from an aging capital plant, lagging technology, and a deficiency in energy and many

raw materials. In January 1991, approximately one year after the end of communist control of Eastern Europe, the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic launched a sweeping program to convert its almost entirely state-owned and controlled economy to a market system. In 1991-92 these measures resulted in

privatization of some medium- and small-scale economic activity and the setting of more than 90% of prices by the market - but at a cost in inflation, unemployment, and lower output. For Czechoslovakia as a whole inflation in 1991 was roughly 50% and output fell 15%. In 1992 in Slovakia, inflation slowed to an estimated 8.7% and the estimated fall in GDP was a more moderate 7%. In 1993 the government anticipates up to a 7% drop in GDP

with the disruptions from the separation from the Czech lands probably accounting for half the decline; inflation, according to government projections, may rise to 15-20% and unemployment may reach 12-15%. The Slovak government is moving ahead less enthusiastically than the Czech government in the further dismantling of the old centrally controlled economic system. Although the governments of Slovakia and the Czech Republic

had envisaged retaining the koruna as a common currency at least in the short run, the two countries ended the currency union in February 1993.

National product:

GDP - purchasing power equivalent - \$32.1 billion (1992 est.)

National product real growth rate:

-7% (1992 est.)

National product per capita:

\$6,100 (1992 est.)

Inflation rate (consumer prices):

8.7% (1992 est.)

Unemployment rate:

11.3% (1992 est.)

Budget: revenues \$NA; expenditures \$NA, including capital expenditures of ←
\$NA

Exports:
\$3.6 billion (f.o.b., 1992)
commodities:
machinery and transport equipment; chemicals; fuels, minerals, and metals;
agricultural products
partners:
Czech Republic, CIS republics, Germany, Poland, Austria, Hungary, Italy,
France, US, UK

Imports:
\$3.6 billion (f.o.b., 1992)
commodities:
machinery and transport equipment; fuels and lubricants; manufactured goods ←
;
raw materials; chemicals; agricultural products
partners:
Czech Republic, CIS republics, Germany, Austria, Poland, Switzerland,
Hungary, UK, Italy

External debt:
\$1.9 billion hard currency indebtedness (December 1992)

Industrial production:
growth rate NA%

Electricity:
6,800,000 kW capacity; 24,000 million kWh produced, 4,550 kWh per capita
(1992)

1.8 215.guide/Economy (Slovakia 2. usage)

Economy (Slovakia 2. usage)

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Industries:
brown coal mining, chemicals, metal-working, consumer appliances,
fertilizer, plastics, armaments

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:
the former Czechoslovakia was a transshipment point for Southwest Asian
heroin and was emerging as a transshipment point for Latin American cocaine
(1992)

Economic aid:
the former Czechoslovakia was a donor - \$4.2 billion in bilateral aid to
non-Communist less developed countries (1954-89)

Currency:
1 koruna (Kc) = 100 haleru

Exchange rates:
koruny (Kcs) per US\$1 - 28.59 (December 1992), 28.26 (1992), 29.53 (1991),
17.95 (1990), 15.05 (1989), 14.36 (1988)

Fiscal year:
calendar year

1.9 215.guide/Communications (Slovakia)

Communications (Slovakia)

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Railroads: 3,669 km total (1990)

Highways:

17,650 km total (1990)

Inland waterways:

NA km

Pipelines:

natural gas 2,700 km; petroleum products NA km

Ports:

maritime outlets are in Poland (Gdynia, Gdansk, Szczecin), Croatia (Rijeka) ←

Slovenia (Koper), Germany (Hamburg, Rostock); principal river ports are Komarno on the Danube and Bratislava on the Danube

Merchant marine:

the former Czechoslovakia had 22 ships (1,000 GRT or over) totaling 290,185 GRT/437,291 DWT; includes 13 cargo, 9 bulk; may be shared with the Czech Republic

Airports:

total:

34

usable:

34

with permanent-surface runways:

9

with runways over 3,659 m:

0

with runways 2,440-3,659 m:

1

with runways 1,220-2,439 m:

5

Telecommunications:

NA

1.10 215.guide/Defense Forces (Slovakia)

Defense Forces (Slovakia)

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Branches:

Army, Air and Air Defense Forces, Civil Defense, Railroad Units

Manpower availability:

males age 15-49 1,407,908; fit for military service 1,082,790; reach military age (18) annually 47,973 (1993 est.)

Defense expenditures:

8.2 billion koruny, NA% of GDP (1993 est.); note - conversion of defense expenditures into US dollars using the current exchange rate could produce misleading results