

# Slovakia

## An overview on economy and business environment



Slovakia is in the heart of central Europe. It was part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire until the end of World War I in 1918. Then, it became a part of the new nation of Czechoslovakia. On 1st 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 on 1st January 2009.

Slovakia's economy suffered from a slow start in the first years after its separation from the Czech Republic in 1993, but economic reforms implemented after 1998 have helped Slovakia to grow at a much faster pace. The country has experienced sustained and firm GDP growth since its integration into the European Union in 2004, except for the financial crisis of 2008-2009 and the Eurozone crisis of 2011-2012. After that, the Slovak economy returned to grow, pushed by the increase of internal and European demand. Currently the Slovak Republic has a small, open economy driven mainly by automobile and electronics exports, which account for more than 80% of GDP.



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Exports and investment have been key drivers of Slovakia's vigorous growth in recent years. The country's banking sector is sound and predominantly foreign owned.

Also Slovakia has been hit hard by Covid 19 pandemic. The second wave of the pandemic will weigh on economic activity in the near term. From mid-2021, a gradually improving labor market, together with stronger wage growth and confidence gains related to vaccination against the virus, will support household disposable income and consumption.

The Slovak Republic has a highly qualified labor force of 2.7 million out of its 5.4 million population. The agriculture sector is little developed, although almost two-fifths of the land are arable. The main agricultural products in the country are cereals, potatoes, sugar beets and grapes. The mountainous area of Slovakia has vast forests and pastures, which are used for intensive sheep grazing, and it is rich in mineral resources including iron, copper, lead and zinc.



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The secondary sector represents 30.1% of the GDP and employs 37% of the workforce. Heavy industry sectors - such as metal and steel - are still in a restructuring phase. High value-added industries, like electronics, engineering and petro-chemicals, are installed in the western part of the country. Sectors like automobile and consumer goods are offering attractive opportunities to foreign investors.

The services sector contributes 55.9% of the GDP and employs around 61% of the active population. It is dominated by trade and real estate. The development of tourism may also become important for the Slovak economy in the coming years, as tourism – before the pandemic - was the country's most dynamic sector. The country's banking sector is strong and largely owned by foreigners.

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Top exported commodities are machinery and electrical equipment, vehicles and related parts, nuclear reactors and furnaces, fuel and mineral oils, video displays and broadcasting equipment; while top export countries are Germany, Czech Republic, Poland, France, United Kingdom, Italy, Hungary and Austria.

Most imported commodities are vehicle parts, broadcasting equipment, cars, crude petroleum and petroleum gas, whereas top import partners are Germany, Czech Republic, Austria, Poland, Hungary, Vietnam, South Korea, Russia, France and China.



Despite the pandemic effects, Slovakia keeps being an attractive market for foreign companies. Especially in this period characterized by uncertainty, only the most credited and trusted business information sources can successfully support you in retrieving information on Slovak companies.



SkyMinder , thanks to the local provider CRIF - Slovak Bureau, one of the most expert and trusted sources in the country, is able to support you in getting a reliable and in-depth view of your business partner and prospects.



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All SkyMinder credit reports on Slovakia are online and updated and they include the following information (if available at local sources):

- Complete company identification details: correct company name, address(es), contact details such as phone, fax, email, webs, etc.
- Company registration details: registration number, vat code and any information that can be retrieved at the local registry
- Directors and company structure: board of directors, shareholders and related companies
- Financials: balance sheet and profit and loss (as filed at the company registry), financial ratios.
- Credit rating and suggested credit limit
- Payment Discipline Index
- Number of employees range
- Activity details: sector and industry of the company, when possible also information on import and export activities.
- Negative information on the company; historical and legal events.
- Banks information

The reports are complete, updated and easy to read. In addition to the Credit Reports, on SkyMinder it is possible to keep Slovak companies monitored for 12 months, thanks to the Alert and Full Monitoring Services.

Our provider CRIF – Slovak Credit Bureau also offer the Slim Report, a report with essential information helpful to assess the risk of company, and the KYC report focused on the shareholding structure.

Thanks to SkyMinder credit reports and the expertise of local providers, it is possible to establish safe and profitable business partnership with any Slovak company.

Sources: <https://www.nordeatrade.com/>; <https://www.focus-economics.com/>; <https://import-export.societegenerale.fr/>; <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/>; <http://www.oecd.org/>; <http://www.worldstopexports.com/>; [www.eubusiness.com](http://www.eubusiness.com/); <https://www.nationsencyclopedia.com>