

## Slovak Republic



With significant emigration in 2006 and a solid GDP growth of more than 8% the Slovak Republic has started to exhibit labour shortages. Nevertheless, few measures aimed at encouraging immigration of foreign workers have been taken and immigration thus far has been modest. Based on national statistics which use self-reporting of permanent address by residents, immigration increased only slightly to 5 600 persons in 2006, compared to 5 300 persons in 2005, the first year after EU accession.

Officially reported emigration amounted to about 1 700 persons in 2006. This figure, however, is only a small fraction of actual outflows as most persons do not de-register when they emigrate. An idea of the actual magnitude is given by preliminary figures for the United Kingdom which show in that single country an increase in the stock of Slovak nationals in the order of 30 000 between 2006 and 2007.

Since 2005, residence permits are differentiated between those granted to EEA nationals, for whom registration is no longer compulsory, and those granted to nationals of other countries. In 2006, this latter group accounted for almost half of the about 28 000 resident permit holders. The key origin country was the Ukraine (about 3 900 persons), followed by the Russian Federation (1 300 persons) and Viet Nam (almost 1 100 persons).

Illegal migration to the Slovak Republic seems to have continued its decline in 2006. One indication of this is the number of apprehensions at the border. This figure was 4 100 persons in 2006, compared to 5 200 persons in 2005. However, in addition to border apprehensions, there were 3 500 apprehensions of foreigners without authorised residence inside the country in 2006, an increase from 2 900 in the previous year.

Changes to the act on citizenship entered into force in October 2007 and made naturalisations more difficult to obtain. Notably, the period of

continuous residence required for granting citizenship increased from five years to eight years and from two to three years for people of Slovak descent previously living abroad. For persons granted asylum status, a new requirement of a four-year period of continuous residence was introduced. In addition, the waiting period for the decision on the application for citizenship increased from 9 to 24 months. Finally, knowledge of Slovak language – a requirement for naturalisation – is now more rigorously tested.

Modifications to the act on asylum took effect in January 2007, accounting for EU legislation. These changes introduced supplementary protection for foreigners (and their spouse and children) who were not granted asylum but may be subject to persecution in their country of origin. Supplementary protection can be granted for a renewable period of one year. In addition, persons granted asylum are now entitled to a social benefit amounting to up to 1.5 times the minimum living standard.

Furthermore, the status of “tolerated residence” can now be given to victims of human trafficking. This entitles them to a stay of up to 180 days. Persons entitled to tolerated residence are now also entitled to accommodation if they cannot provide it by themselves.

The act on the stay of foreigners was also amended in 2007 to relax the conditions for the stay of foreign students and researchers. These no longer require a temporary residence permit if their stay does not exceed 90 days.

The Slovak Republic joined the Schengen area on 21 December 2007. In preparation for this, the Slovak Republic took a variety of measures, including enhanced international co-operation. An agreement with Ukraine regarding cross-border co-operation is under negotiation.

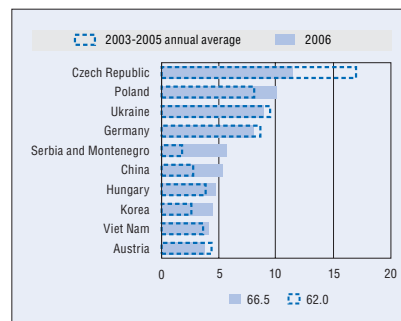
### For further information...

[www.minv.sk/en/index.htm](http://www.minv.sk/en/index.htm)

[www.employment.gov.sk/new/index.php?SMC=1&lang=en](http://www.employment.gov.sk/new/index.php?SMC=1&lang=en)

## Flow data on foreigners

Migration flows (foreigners) National definition	1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		Level ('000)
					1995-2000	2001-2006	2006
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>							
Inflows	1.3	0.9	1.4	2.1	1.1	1.3	11.3
Outflows	..	..	0.5	0.6	..	0.8	3.1
Migration inflows (foreigners) by type Permit based statistics (standardised)	Thousands		% distribution		Inflows of top 10 nationalities as a % of total inflows of foreigners		
	2005	2006	2005	2006	2003-2005 annual average		
Work	..	..	..	..	66.5		
Family (incl. accompanying family)	..	..	..	..	62.0		
Humanitarian	..	..	..	..			
Free movements	..	..	..	..			
Others	..	..	..	..			
Total	..	..	..	..			
Temporary migration	2000	2005	2006	Annual average 2000-2006			
					<i>Thousands</i>		
International students	..	..	..	..			
Trainees	..	..	..	..			
Working holiday makers	..	..	..	..			
Seasonal workers	..	..	..	..			
Intra-company transfers	..	..	..	..			
Other temporary workers	..	..	..	..			
Inflows of asylum seekers	1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		Level ('000)
					1995-2000	2001-2006	2006
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>							
	0.1	0.3	0.7	0.5	0.1	1.4	2.9



## Macroeconomic, demographic and labour market indicators

Macroeconomic indicators	1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		Level
					1995-2000	2001-2006	2006
Real GDP (growth, %)	5.8	0.7	6.0	8.3	3.4	5.6	
GDP/capita (growth, %) – level in US Dollars	5.5	0.6	5.9	8.2	3.3	5.5	14 919
Employment (growth, %) – level in thousands	1.7	-1.4	2.1	3.8	-0.4	1.6	2 302
Unemployment (% of labour force)	13.1	18.8	16.2	13.3	14.0	17.2	
Components of population growth	1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		Level ('000)
					1995-2000	2001-2006	
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>							
Total	2.2	0.7	0.8	0.8	1.4	0.5	
Natural increase	1.6	0.4	0.2	0.1	1.1	-	
Net migration	0.5	0.3	0.6	0.7	0.3	0.4	
Total population	1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		Level ('000)
					1995-2000	2001-2006	2006
<i>(Annual growth %)</i>							
Native-born	..	..	-0.7	-0.9	..	-0.7	5 090
Foreign-born	..	..	20.1	21.0	..	20.4	302
National	0.2	0.1	-	-	0.1	-	5 359
Foreign	29.7	-2.4	14.9	25.7	5.7	1.8	32
Naturalisations	1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		Level
					1995-2000	2001-2006	2006
<i>As a percentage of foreign population</i>							
	..	..	6.3	4.4	..	6.1	1 125
Labour market outcomes	1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		Level ('000)
					1995-2000	2001-2006	
<i>Employment/population ratio</i>							
Native-born men	..	..	64.1	67.0	..	64.4	
Foreign-born men	..	..	66.7	69.6	..	66.8	
Native-born women	..	..	50.9	52.0	..	51.5	
Foreign-born women	..	..	42.1	41.2	..	43.9	
<i>Unemployment rate</i>							
Native-born men	..	..	15.7	12.3	..	15.7	
Foreign-born men	..	..	-	-	..	9.2	
Native-born women	..	..	17.0	14.7	..	17.1	
Foreign-born women	..	..	27.3	-	..	25.4	

Notes and sources are at the beginning of the Chapter.

StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/434605260884>