

Slovak Republic

Total immigration in the Slovak Republic increased from about 5 400 persons in 2014 to almost 7 000 persons in 2015. Migration outflows also steadily increased, with the number of persons emigrating from the Slovak Republic twice that in 2010. Net migration increased to about 3 000 persons in 2015, compared with 1 700 persons during the previous year. These figures all include Slovak nationals.

Migration flows continue to be heavily dominated by Europeans. In 2015, almost 5 400 of the total inflow originated from Europe, 46% of them being Slovak nationals. The largest foreign inflows were from the Czech Republic (600), Hungary (600) and Romania (500). Virtually all (99%) of the total outflow were Slovaks.

The number of newly granted residence permits rose steadily from around 10 000 annually during 2010-12, to 23 800 in 2015. Most of the increase was of third-country nationals, whose inflow increased from 11 000 in 2014 to 17 400 in 2015. New permits for third-country nationals have been concentrated mainly in the categories of temporary residence (14 200) and tolerated residence (1 100), while new permanent residence permits were granted mainly to EEA citizens (almost 6 400 in 2015). The top five countries of origin for third-country nationals with new residence permits were Ukraine, Serbia, Russia, Syria and Korea.

The labour market situation in the Slovak Republic has been improving annually since 2013. However, the situation continues to be tense with an unemployment rate of 11.5% in 2015, including a high proportion of long-term unemployment. The substantial drop in inflows of foreign workers that had begun in 2013 picked up again in 2015 with an inflow of 9 300 foreign workers. Among them, 2 200 held work permits and 7 000 (mainly EEA nationals) were exempt from work permit requirements and held only information cards. In 2015, the vast majority of new third-country workers were males, aged 25 to 34 and with long-term work permits. Data from mid-2016 confirm this trend. Despite the fluctuations in inflow, the stocks of foreign workers have continued to increase, reaching 30 000 by mid-2016. In contrast, in 2012 there were only 14 300 foreign workers in the Slovak Republic.

The number of Slovaks working abroad but still resident in the country has risen steadily since 2014, from 134 000 to 163 000 workers by mid-2016. By that time, they represented about 6% of total Slovak employment, according to data from the Labour Force Survey. Almost two thirds of them were males. The top five destination countries for Slovaks working abroad during the first half of 2016 were Austria, the Czech Republic, Germany, United Kingdom and Hungary.

The Slovak Republic has traditionally been outside the main routes of refugees: 330 persons applied for asylum in 2015, the same number as the year before. Refugee status was granted to 14 persons in 2014 and 8 persons in 2015 (to citizens of Afghanistan, Cameroon, Cuba and Syria). The majority of applicants for asylum continue to be males aged 18-25 and 26-39 years. Furthermore in 2014 the Slovak Republic provided 99 applicants with subsidiary protection status (mostly Afghanistan, Somalia and Syria) and 41 with that status in 2015 (mostly Iran, Ukraine and Syria). In 2016, the Slovak Republic accepted a number of arrivals in the framework of humanitarian transfers. Between 2009 and 2016 the Slovak Republic provided temporary shelter for more than 1 000 refugees who later reached their final destination country.

The number of detected irregular stays more than doubled between 2014 and 2015 (1 100 and 2 300 cases, respectively). Despite the common border with Ukraine, the Slovak Republic has not recorded a substantial increase of irregular movements since the onset of the Ukrainian crisis.

The most recent legislative changes in the field include introduction of new rules as of 1 January 2016 for posted workers. Before posting a worker outside of the Slovak Republic, even in the framework of cross-border cooperation, the employer is now obliged to provide to the employee information in writing about the working and employment conditions (starting and ending date of the posting, type of work, place of work, wage conditions, working hours and leave entitlement). The Labour Inspectorate can issue administrative fines of up to EUR 100 000 for non-complying employers.

An amendment to the Act governing the granting of work permits has been proposed recently with the aim of clarifying the obligations of employers of both European Union and third-country nationals. This new legislation obliges employers to justify the employment of a third-country national and also to notify the National Labour Centre about their vacancies before launching a request for issuing a work permit, temporary residence permit or a Blue Card. It has also been proposed that the definition of illegal work and illegal employment of third country nationals should be clarified to reflect non-compliance with the conditions stipulated for their employment.

For further information

www.minv.sk

www.employment.gov.sk

Recent trends in migrants' flows and stocks

SLOVAK REPUBLIC

Migration flows (foreigners) National definition	2005	2010	2014	2015	Average		Level ('000)
					2005-09	2010-14	2015
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>							
Inflows	1.4	2.3	0.4	0.7	2.4	1.1	3.8
Outflows	0.2	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.4	0.0
Migration inflows (foreigners) by type Permit based statistics (standardised)	Thousands		% distribution		Inflows of top 10 nationalities as a % of total inflows of foreigners		
	2014	2015	2014	2015			
Work	..	..	..	..
Family (incl. accompanying family)	..	..	..	..
Humanitarian	..	..	..	..
Free movement	..	..	..	..
Others	..	..	..	..
Total	..	..	..	..
Temporary migration	2010	2014	2015	Average 2010-14			
<i>Thousands</i>							
International students	0.3	0.9	1.3	0.5			
Trainees	..	..	..	..
Working holiday makers	..	..	..	..
Seasonal workers	..	..	..	..
Intra-company transfers	..	..	..	..
Other temporary workers	..	..	..	..
Inflows of asylum seekers	2005	2010	2014	2015	Average		Level
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>							
	0.7	0.1	0.0	0.0	2005-09	2010-14	2015
					0.4	0.1	270
Components of population growth	2005	2010	2014	2015	Average		Level ('000)
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>							
Total	0.8	1.9	1.0	0.9	1.5	1.4	4.9
Natural increase	0.2	1.3	0.7	0.3	0.5	0.9	1.8
Net migration plus statistical adjustments	0.6	0.6	0.3	0.6	0.9	0.5	3.1
Stocks of immigrants	2005	2010	2014	2015	Average		Level ('000)
<i>Percentage of the total population</i>							
Foreign-born population	4.6	2.7	3.3	3.3	5.6	3.0	182
Foreign population	0.5	1.3	1.1	1.2	0.8	1.2	66
Naturalisations	2005	2010	2014	2015	Average		Level
<i>Percentage of the foreign population</i>							
	6.3	0.4	0.4	0.6	3.5	0.4	376
Labour market outcomes	2005	2010	2014	2015	Average		
<i>Employment/population ratio</i>							
Native-born men	64.6	65.2	67.6	69.5	67.5	66.4	
Foreign-born men	67.1	74.5	78.6	65.0	71.6	73.8	
Native-born women	51.0	52.4	54.3	56.0	52.7	53.0	
Foreign-born women	37.7	38.9	54.7	53.1	48.8	52.3	
<i>Unemployment rate</i>							
Native-born men	15.5	14.3	12.9	10.4	11.5	13.7	
Foreign-born men	17.4	8.9	-	-	10.7	10.1	
Native-born women	17.2	14.6	13.7	12.9	13.7	14.2	
Foreign-born women	28.6	16.7	-	-	15.8	12.3	

Notes and sources are at the end of the chapter.

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