

PORTRAIT OF THE REGIONS

VOLUME 7
SLOVAKIA



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EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Statistical Office of the European Communities



A great deal of additional information on the European Union is available on the Internet. It can be accessed through the Europa server (<http://europa.eu.int>).

Cataloguing data can be found at the end of this publication.

Luxembourg: Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, 2000

ISBN 92-828-4393-9

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Printed in Belgium

Foreword

In view of the very favourable response to the first four *Portrait of the Regions* volumes, covering the fifteen countries that today constitute the European Union, and the pressing need to prepare properly for the possible accession of countries in eastern and central Europe, Eurostat decided in 1996 to extend the series to those countries. A fifth volume, published in 1997, covered the regions of Hungary while the sixth was devoted to Poland and the Czech Republic.

In order to maintain uniformity of presentation, this seventh volume in the series, dedicated to Slovakia, retains wherever possible the layout of the earlier publications: the characteristics of each region are illustrated with maps, diagrams and statistical tables matched to an informative text. The description highlights demographic and economic issues as well as focusing on the labour market, education, resources and the particular strengths and weaknesses of each region.

Decisionmakers will find here the information needed to plan policy. Which regions have younger populations? Where is agriculture the basis of the local economy? How high is unemployment? What other regions elsewhere in Europe are so similar as to offer possible inspiration? These are some of the questions that this new volume helps answer.

This issue of the *Portrait of the Regions* series is the outcome of fruitful cooperation between Eurostat and the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic. Its development was coordinated by Ecos-Overture, a cooperation programme linking the regions and cities of eastern and western Europe.

I would like to express my appreciation to all the individuals and organisations, particularly within the Slovak Statistical Office and Eurostat, who contributed to this valuable work and made possible its publication.



Yves Franchet
Director-General of Eurostat

This volume was produced with the collaboration of the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic and coordinated by ECOS-Overture. Its publication was made possible by the financial support of the Phare programme. Its contents do not necessarily reflect the official views of the institutions of the European Communities.



ECOS-Overture is the European Commission's programme for cooperation between the regions and cities of the European Union and their counterparts in Central and Eastern Europe.

This project is financed by the European Union's Phare Programme, which provides grant finance to support its partner countries in central and eastern Europe to the stage where they are ready to assume the obligations of European Union membership.



Slovakia

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Structure of the publication

Each region is presented in accordance with a uniform layout on eight pages:

Page 1:

- overview of the region (1)
- Geography and land use (2)

Page 2:

- natural resources (3)

Page 3:

- population (4)
- economic structure (5)

Page 4:

- industry (6)
- research and development (7)

Page 5:

- incomes (8)
- employment (9)

Page 6:

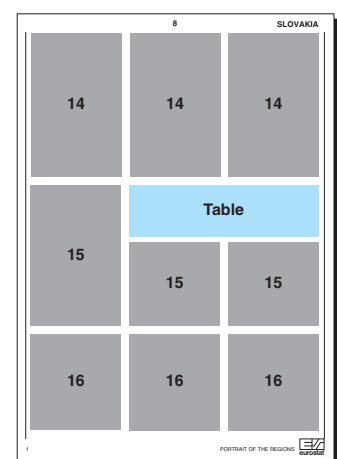
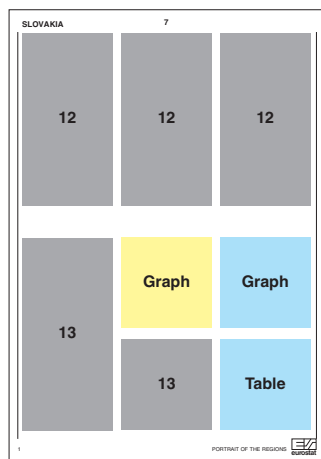
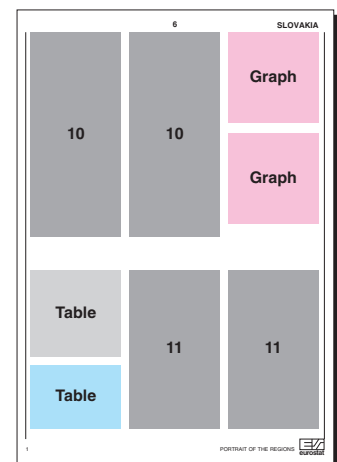
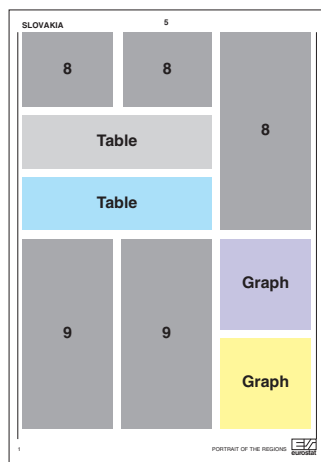
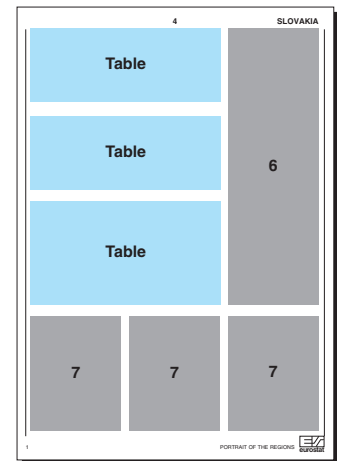
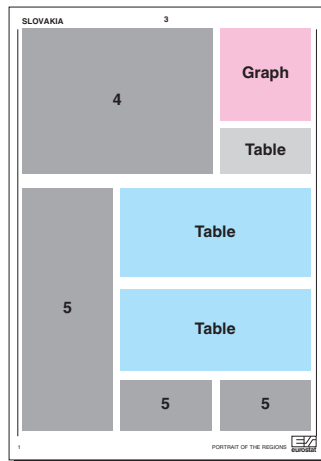
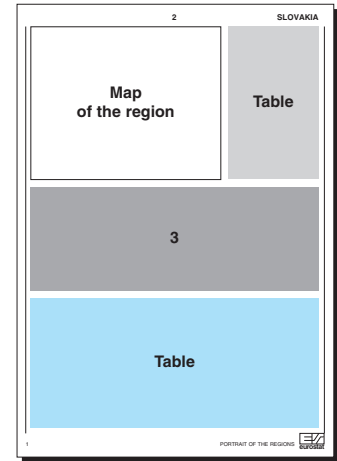
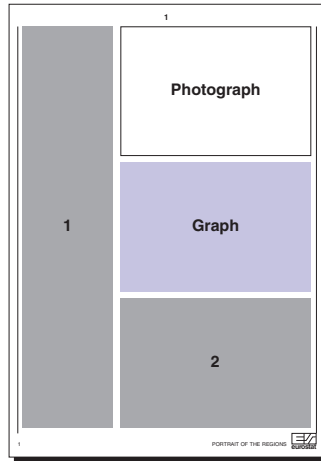
- unemployment (10)
- transport (11)

Page 7:

- infrastructure (12)
- social services (13)

Page 8:

- culture (14)
- environment (15)
- strengths and weakness (16)



The regional portraits are preceded by a national page: they end with explanatory notes and a bibliography.

The legend for the regional maps is given on the last page of the publication.

The PORTRAIT OF THE
REGIONS consists of
ten volumes:

- Volume 1 Germany
Benelux
Denmark
- Volume 2 France
United Kingdom
Ireland
- Volume 3 Portugal
Spain
Italy
Greece
- Volume 4 Austria
Finland
Sweden
Iceland
Liechtenstein
Norway
Switzerland
- Volume 5 Hungary
- Volume 6 Czech Republic
Poland
- Volume 7 Slovakia
- Volume 8 Estonia
Latvia
Lithuania
- Volume 9 Slovenia
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SLOVAKIA



With a 1996 population of almost 5.4 million, and an area of 49 035 km², Slovakia is among the smaller European countries. Despite this, it is a country of contrasts with the Carpathian Mountains in the north and the low-lying valley of the Danube in the south-west. The highest point is in the High Tatras at 2 655 m; the lowest, also in East Slovakia, lies at just 95 m above sea level. The population has a rich mixture of minorities which represent together nearly 15% of the total, with the Hungarians alone making up over 10% of the population.

Slovakia has only existed as an independent sovereign country since 1 January, 1993, when Czechoslovakia was dissolved. Nevertheless, it is a territory with a long history, inhabited since the Stone Age, and involved in many of the significant movements of European history. Princedoms united in the early ninth century to form the

Great Moravian Empire and when this collapsed the area became part of the early Hungarian feudal state. Invasions by the Tartars in the 13th century preceded the extension in 1526 of the Ottoman Empire to include Slovakia - a presence that lasted 150 years. The next centuries again saw the history of Slovakia intertwined with that of a great empire, this time the Austro-Hungarian Empire, until the creation of the Czechoslovak Republic in the aftermath of the First World War in 1918.

A new constitutional law, which came into effect on 1 January 1969, established the federal structure of the Czech Socialist Republic and the Slovak Socialist Republic and divided the territory of Slovakia into 4 regions and 38 districts. As capital of the Slovak Socialist Republic, Bratislava had the status of region as well as of district.

These regions were abolished in 1991 and until July 1996 Slovakia was administratively divided into 38 districts. In the absence of a regional structure, the statistical office continued to use the four regions for the purpose of data collection and the publication of regional statistical information. Consequently, the four regions (Bratislava and West, Central and East Slovakia) are used for the statistical presentation in this publication.

The Law of the National Council of the Slovak Republic, which came into force in July 1996, decreed that the state territory would henceforth be administratively organised into 8 regions and 79 districts. The statistical office therefore moved to the collection and publication of information based on the new regional structure in 1997.

BRATISLAVA

The first written records in 907 A.D. feature the names of Braslavespurc, or Presslawaspurch, from which Pressburg (Prešporok in Slovak) was derived and used until the 20th century. The current name, Bratislava, was adopted in 1919 after the establishment of the first Czechoslovak Republic. The favourable location from a military strategic point of view led to permanent settlement and in 1291 King Andrew II granted the town privileges. It sits at a crossroad of trade routes including the 'Amber Road' running in a north-south direction and the 'Danubian Road' which follows the Danube in an east-west direction.

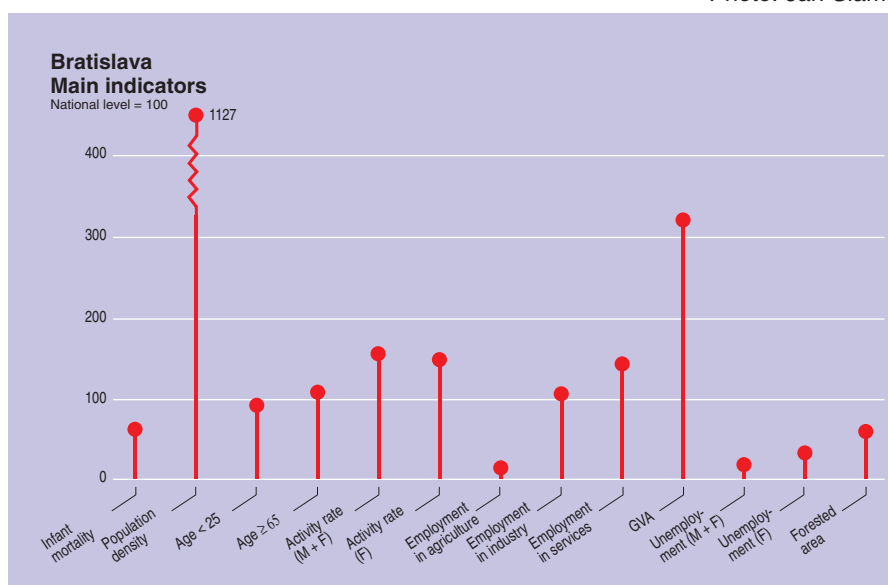
The location of the town ensured a mixed ethnic composition of Slavonic, Germanic and Hungarian peoples. In 1536 Bratislava became the capital of the Hungarian Kingdom, with the parliamentary assembly and the coronation of the Hungarian kings taking place there. The nobility and the institutions of government moved to the city. At the same time, an increasing number of refugees - including Hungarians, Croats and Serbs from southern parts of the realm - moved into the area. In the 17th century, religious exiles from Bohemia and Austria arrived so that by 1782 the city had more than 33 000 inhabitants and had become the second largest in the Hungarian Kingdom.

Of principal socio-political significance for Bratislava was the adoption of the constitutional law of the Czechoslovak Federation in 1968, from which time it became the capital of Slovakia. Then, on January 1, 1993 it became the capital of the newly established independent Slovak Republic. Bratislava is divided into 5 districts, 17 municipalities, 20 cadastral areas and 266 urban wards.



The river Danube in Bratislava

Photo: Ján Sláma



Two fifths of the region is agricultural land

Bratislava's 367.5 km² border Austria to the west, Hungary briefly to the south, and the region of West Slovakia to the north-east. The Danube flows through the region, the lowlands either side of it ranging from 128 to 140 metres in height. In the north-east are the Little Carpathian Mountains, which reach 516 metres at Devínska Kobyla in the National Natural Reserve. The lowland area in the north-west is part of the Záhorská nížina. The climate is mild with an average annual temperature of 9 to 11°C and an annual rainfall which is usually less than 600 mm. There is an above average annual amount of sunshine, sometimes exceeding 2 000 hours.

Land use is not typical for a region dominated by a large city. About two fifths of the total area is used for agriculture, three quarters of which is arable farming. One fifth of the area is covered by forest and there are almost 900 hectares of vineyards.



Which regions are similar to Bratislava?

Population:
1 200 inhabitants per km²
Trieste (I)
Mettmann (D)

Age structure:
35% under 25
Sicilia (I)
Pays de la Loire (F)

Land use:
22% forest
Lazio (I)
Centre (F)
Siedlce (PO)

Raw materials for construction

The Danube has laid down layers of gravel-sand on both banks downstream of the Devín Gate. These have proved a very suitable raw material for the building materials industry and to meet the needs of housing construction. The lakes which formed after the extraction of these materials are now important as leisure resorts and for fishing. Reserves of sands and gravel-sands in the urban areas of Vajnory

and Čunovo amount to 9.5 million m³. To the north-west, in the Devínska Nová Ves urban area, clay is extracted and processed for bricks and various building materials in a nearby plant. Reserves of 8.6 million m³ have been verified. The Little Carpathian Mountains are rich in building stone – limestone having been extracted from several quarries in the past. Reserves in the urban area of Devín amount to 6.9

million m³ but the exploitation of these has been reduced due to the demands of environmental protection.

The hydro-electric potential of the Danube River has recently been harnessed with turbines installed in Čunovo for electricity generation at the Gabčíkovo Water Plant.

District	Area	Population					Activity	Unemploy-	Employment		
		1 000	Inhab./km ²	Change (%)	(%)	ment (%)			(%) Agriculture	(%) Industry	(%) Services
Region	km ²	12/31/70	12/31/95	12/31/95	1980-90	1991-95	1995	12/31/95	1995	1995	1995
Country	12/31/95	12/31/70	12/31/95	12/31/95	1980-90	1991-95	1995	12/31/95	1995	1995	1995
Bratislava	368	306.1	452.1	1 229	16.7	1.6	90.2	4.7	0.6	23.3	76.1
Slovakia total	49 035	4 539.9	5 367.8	109	6.3	1.4	59.2	13.1	9.8	36.5	53.7

SLOVAKIA

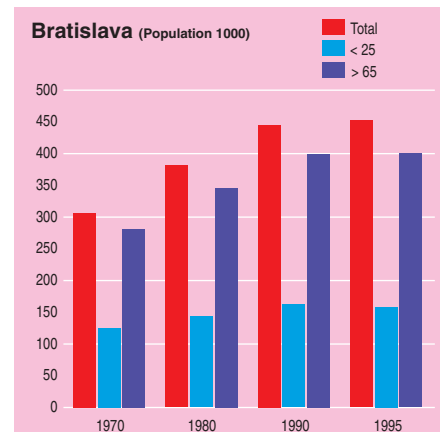
Demographic changes

At the end of 1995, Bratislava had 452 053 inhabitants; 8.4% of the national total. This makes it almost twice the size of Košice, the next largest Slovak city. Since the first official census was undertaken in 1869, the population has increased sevenfold, particularly after the Second World War and above all in the period 1971–91, when 136 265 new inhabitants were recorded. The high immigration, mainly in the 1970s, was due to the concentration of job opportunities, particularly in advanced industry and in the central administrative institutions of the capital city. This led to extensive housing construction. After 1980, the birth-rate decreased, falling from 18.6 to 8.5 per thousand by 1995. A natural population decrease, of 0.4 per thousand, was experienced for the first time in 1995, the population increase in that year stemming only from immigration. Other factors tending to reduce the birth-rate were a lower level of marriages, an increase in abortions and a decrease in the percentage of the female population in the highest fertility age bracket, i.e. aged 20 to 29. These factors were partially offset by a slight decrease in the incidence of post-natal

and infant mortality.

There have been considerable changes in the population structure in terms of nationalities over the past 150 years. Before the First World War, inhabitants of German or Hungarian nationality accounted for more than four fifths of the city's population. Owing to the new political and economic circumstances resulting from the Second World War, there was a large increase in the total number of inhabitants, mainly as a result of immigration from other regions of Slovakia, and the city has become an almost homogeneous ethnic community. In terms of nationality, Slovaks now dominate with 90.9% of the city's population, followed by Hungarians with 4.6% and Czechs with 2.3%.

The population density of 1 230 inhabitants per km² is relatively low when compared to other cities of a similar size, due to the inclusion within the city boundaries of agricultural areas having very low densities of between 40 and 70 inhabitants per km².



Demographic account - 1980 — 90

1 000	
Population 1980	381
Births	61
Deaths	37
Net migration	39
Population 1990	445

The main economic centre of Slovakia

When industrial development began, in the second half of the 19th century and early 20th century, it was remarkably diverse. Factories were established for the production of cartridges, explosives, tobacco, asphalt, hardboard, textile products, cables, threads, brush products, enamel dishes, electrical machinery and transformers, chocolate, beer, gum and rubber products as well as a mineral oil refinery. There was also a gas works plant and by the end of the 19th century the first tramway lines had been laid.

The second phase began after World War II, particularly between 1950 and 1970. Of key importance was the establishment of a new crude oil refinery and other chemicals plants. Industrial production of building materials and the manufacture of electronic equipment, machinery, glasswork and furniture was also significant. However, there was inadequate modernisation and reconstruction of obsolete plants. Light industries in particular suffered from outmoded equipment, low labour productivity and internationally uncompetitive products. To promote growth both in industry and in the accompanying housing construction industry, large construction and transport enterprises were established, requiring a large labour force.

Since 1989, the national economy has moved towards open market principles

Population by age — 1995

	M+F 1 000	M+F %	M %	F %
<15	87	19.2	20.7	17.8
15–24	71	15.8	17.1	14.7
25–34	61	13.6	13.5	13.6
35–44	82	18.1	18.0	18.2
45–54	61	13.4	13.2	13.7
55–64	38	8.4	8.0	8.8
≥65	52	11.5	9.5	13.2
Total	452	100.0	100.0	100.0

Resident population of foreign nationality - 1995

	1 000	% of total population
Total	5.3	1.2
Czech Republic	21.6%	
Yugoslavia	8.0%	
Poland	7.2%	
Bulgaria	7.1%	
Russian Federation	4.8%	
Ukraine	4.3%	

and a diversification of the ownership structure. Denationalisation and the rapid expansion in the private sector has affected all industries, but has been most notable in trade, banking and finance and

market services. The ownership structure in industry has also changed, though less rapidly; by the end of 1995, as much as 60.9% of goods output in industry (for companies with more than 25 employees)

Agriculture 1995

Number of holdings ⁽¹⁾	-
Labour force, persons	2 727
Agriculture area, December 31 (ha)	14 935
Livestock, December 31, 1995 (thousands) ⁽¹⁾	-
Share of three main products in the gross agricultural production from gross turnover (%)	
Poultry	30
Pigs	12
Wheat	11

⁽¹⁾ Bratislava is included in West Slovakia.

Average monthly wages by sector

National level = 100

	1990	1995
Agriculture	116	108
Industry	109	134
Building	106	120
Financial services		114

Main enterprises

Name	Activity
Slovenské elektrárne, a.s.	Electricity production/distribution
Hydrostav, a.s.	Civil engineering
Slovenský plynárenský priemysel, š.p.	Gas production/distribution
Západoslovenské lesy, š.p.	Forestry
Slovnaft, a.s.	Petroleum products
Doprastav, a.s.	Civil engineering
Západoslovenské energetické závody, š.p.	Electricity production/distribution
Západoslovenské vodárne a kanalizácie, š.p.	Water supply
Istrochem, a.s.	Synthetic fibres
Technoconsulting – Texicom, spol. s.r.o.	Textiles
Volkswagen Bratislava, spol. s.r.o.	Motor vehicles
Povodie Dunaja, š.p.	water resource management

Low foreign investment in research and development

The potential for research and development was overestimated in the 1980s and some projects did not bring the expected innovative changes or economic inputs. Even before 1989, some cut-backs had been made at research institutes and this trend continued after 1990. Still, in 1995 there were over 7 000 (FTE) employed in this domain, of which 50% were in specialist research and development organisations. Three quarters of these employees had a university degree. A large majority of

the organisations were state owned and in the domestic private sector, with a few exceptions, only very small research departments have been established. Foreign and international ownership is relatively low.

Research and development has the strongest tradition in the chemical and petro-chemical industry, welding, food and beverages (especially viticulture), wood and furniture industry and construction technologies. Research is concentrated in the Slovak Academy of Science but is complemented by work carried out within universities.

was still produced by state-owned enterprises and 52.8% of the basic construction output. The diversification of ownership and the greater number of entrepreneurs have established the preconditions for a competitive environment.

Economic transition was stimulated and accelerated by an influx of foreign capital. Bratislava became the centre of economic life in the Slovak Republic, with the highest volume of imported basic capital, the amount having grown constantly since 1990. Most foreign investment comes from Austria, Germany, the USA, the Czech Republic and the Netherlands and is predominantly directed towards trade, industry, banking and services.

Dominance of the petro-chemical industry

Despite the reduced volume of crude oil processed after 1990, petrochemical production by the joint-stock company Slovnaft remains significant. Another important joint-stock company is Istrochem, producing basic inorganic chemicals, fertilizers, agri-chemicals and chemical fibres, and together, these two companies account for 30% of the total output of industry in Bratislava. More than 100 years' tradition of the chemical industry in Bratislava has led to the establishment of an international chemical trade fair, which is very important for the promotion of products.

Enterprises producing and supplying electricity, gas and water are also in a strong position.

A new and very progressive industrial branch is the production of transport vehicles. The capital input by the multinational company Volkswagen into the BAZ company in 1990 for the production of passenger cars has brought economic and commercial success.

Export destinations reflect the structure of the predominant industrial branches in Bratislava. In 1995 as much as 84.3% of total industrial exports was accounted for by petrochemical products, passenger cars and the transit of gas. In these industries, labour productivity is almost four times higher than the average of all industrial branches.

Increasing income differentiation

After 1989, and in spite of wage liberalisation, the growth in incomes trailed that of living costs. Wage increases and the adjustment of social benefits only partly compensated for the high level of inflation in 1990 – 93 and the level of real net income decreased. Since 1994, when the inflation rate began to fall significantly to below 10% in 1995, real wages have started to increase. The increasing living costs have had the most serious impact on households with no economically-active members - notably pensioners and the unemployed.

In the income structure, the proportion of income from employment is gradually falling (63% of total income in 1992), and there is an increasing proportion of social benefits (26%). Reflecting the changed socioeconomic structure of society, income from entrepreneurial activity is crucial for the categories of independently active persons and employers. Based on the results of a survey on a sample of households in 1995, most expenditure is on foodstuffs (36.4%) and manufactured goods (29.3%).

As far as inter-branch wage comparisons are concerned, there is an apparent ten-

dency for an increased variation between the sectors paying the highest and lowest average wages. In 1992, wages in the finance and insurance branch were 104.6% higher than the lowest (agriculture and forestry). In 1995 they were 115.6% higher. Compared to the average monthly wage, above-average earnings in 1995 were mainly in finance and insurance, in oil refining and in electricity, gas and water production and supply. The lowest paid jobs were in agriculture, the public health service, education, hotels and restaurants and textile and leather manufacturing.

Purchasing power in Bratislava is above the national average, due mainly to strong local demand arising from the higher than average income levels and to demand for Bratislava's goods and services from the neighbouring regions, including the bordering regions of Hungary and Austria. This high level of demand is evident from the volume of retail trade, which in per capita terms is 2.7 times more than the national average.

Gross per capita household income - 1995 (%)

	Bratislava	Slovakia
Employment	58.4	48.1
Agriculture	0.0	11.6
Self-employment	16.8	13.1
Social Benefits	13.4	15.0
Other	3.2	3.5
Savings and loans	8.2	8.7

Characteristics of employment - 1995%

	15—24 years	25—34 years	35—44 years	45—54 years	55—64 years	>65 years
Men	11.2	24.1	32.0	21.0	9.3	2.4
Women	9.0	20.1	37.3	26.1	6.2	1.3
Total	10.2	22.2	34.5	23.4	7.8	1.9

Changes in the branch structure of employment

The process of denationalisation since 1989 has led to decline in the majority of enterprises which existed in the centrally planned economy. At the same time, many small entrepreneurial initiatives were established and the Small Trading Act of 1991 enabled thousands of individuals to run business activities. Wage liberalisation enabled a restructuring of labour into new areas of business.

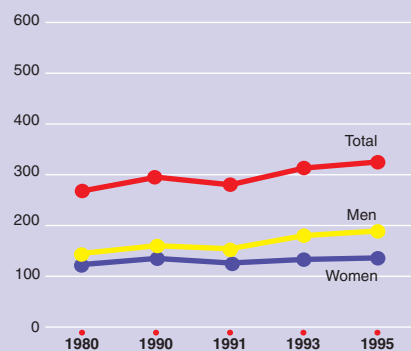
There has been a continuous decrease in employment in industry and construction. Whereas in 1992 a fifth of the workforce was employed in industry, two years later this was down to 16.2%. There were job cuts in the manufacturing of textiles, clothing and furniture, some electronic equipment manufacturing and engineering companies and in the chemical and rubber industries. Employment levels are being maintained in passenger car production. The share of employment in construction fell in the same period from 9.4 to 7.4%, caused by a significant cut in building

investments. Employment in the trade sector (including repairs of motor vehicles and consumer goods) had increased by the end of 1994 to 19.5% and in market services to 22.7% of total employment in the region. The highest relative rise in employment was recorded in finance and insurance, the proportion of which almost doubled. An important factor in the employment figures is the commuting or migrating from other regions and from abroad. According to the results of the 1991 census, the number of commuters into the region amounted to 74 895.

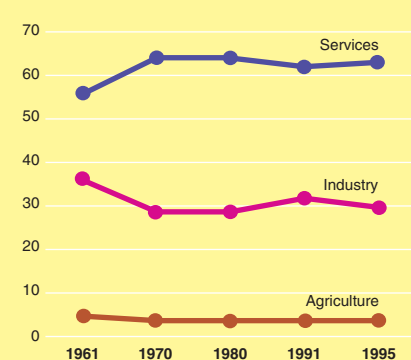
The economic activity rate of the resident population is falling. This process is influenced by demographic trends and people reaching retirement age, leading to additional demands on the economically-active population.

Education and training opportunities for the economically-active population are improving. According to the 1991 census results, almost one in four employees has a secondary vocational qualification and the proportion of university graduates in Bratislava's workforce was 27.8%.

Bratislava Employment (1000)



Bratislava Employment structure (%)



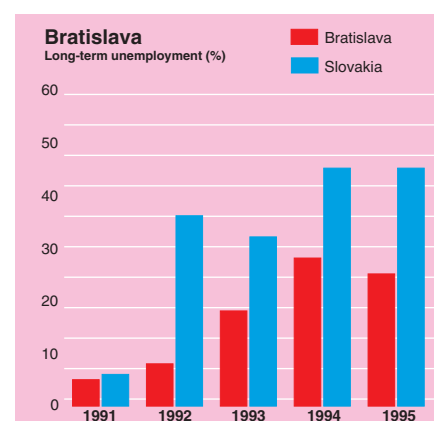
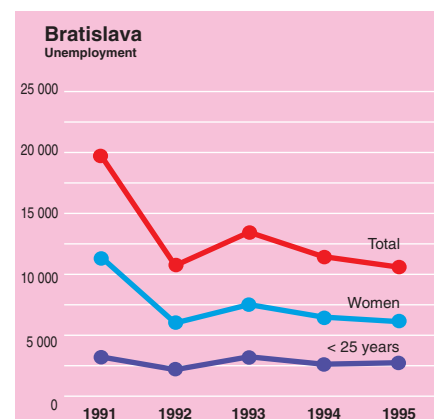
Unemployment rate significantly below the national average

Favourable conditions in Bratislava, due to its status as the Slovak Republic's capital and the job opportunities in nearby Vienna and in other well-developed regions of Western and Southern Europe, mean that unemployment in the newly established open labour market is lower than in other districts of the Slovak Republic. The unemployment rate was 4.7% at the end of 1995; significantly below the national average of 13.1%. Since 1993, when 13 510 job-seekers were registered, unemployment has followed a decreasing trend and by the end of 1995 the total was below 11 000. Women make up about 60% of the unemployed in Bratislava.

The application of stricter legislation, which simultaneously shortened the period of benefit payment from 12 to 6 months and reduced the amount of the benefit, was a significant factor. While in 1991 four out of five unemployed were granted benefit, in 1995 only two in five were. Regrettably, almost 20% of job applicants are school (or apprentice training centre) leavers and consequently the largest group of unemployed - as many as 36% in 1995 - are aged between 15 and 29. Those who left primary school or an apprentice school without completing a leaving exam are the worst affected but a full one third of the unemployed have a secondary vocational

school qualification. Classified according to the last job held, the largest number of unemployed are from middle level technical, health service and pedagogic staff (17%), followed by auxiliary and unskilled manual workers (15.5%). Almost one third of the unemployed at the end of 1995 had been out of work for between one and three months and 21.2% for more than a year (8.3% for more than two years).

Between 1991 and 1995, the number of unemployed per job vacancy dropped from 8.6 to 4.8. Employment offices support restructuring by providing re-training courses which 1 430 people completed in Bratislava in 1995; a 61% increase on 1991.



Surfaced public roads – 1995

Length, km/1 000 km ²	1 028.80
Length, km/1 000 population	0.84
Length, km/1 000 passenger cars	3.57
Surface, 1 000 m ² /km ²	4.03
Surface, 1 000 m ² /1 000 pop.	3.27
National roads (%)	32
Local roads (%)	68

Road accidents, 1995

Road accidents in total	12 044
Persons killed	52
Persons injured	927

An international crossroad of key importance

Situated in the centre of Europe, Bratislava stands at an international crossing point of key importance to all kinds of transport. There is a motorway connection to the Czech Republic and another motorway is under construction, leading along the Váh River and providing links to the Czech Republic, Poland and the eastern part of Slovakia. There is a need to complete the ring road around the city which will connect the motorway routes and urban radial roads. The connection with the built-up areas on the right bank of the Danube has been improved by the completion of a further three bridges directly linked to motorways leading to frontier crossings at Berg (Austria) and Rajka (Hungary). Between 1990 and 1993, passenger car ownership rapidly increased, although many of these cars were imported second-hand vehicles. In the period 1990 – 95, the number of registered passenger cars rose by 34.9% and the inhabitants per motor vehicle rate decreased from 4.5 to 3.4.

In the city, 60% of the public transport capacity is provided by buses, although these cause significant air and noise pollution. However, the proportion of passengers carried by trolley-buses is slightly increasing. Bratislava, as a mode of international railway transport, has express lines linking the city with northern and southern parts of Europe as well as a direct line to Moscow. River transport along the Danube was temporarily suspended during the construction of the Gabčíkovo Water Plant in 1990, and in the following two years by war in the former Yugoslavia. In recent years the volume of transported goods is growing again. Both freight and passenger transport by air continues to grow. Bratislava Airport recorded 283 971 passengers in 1995, including those in transit.

SLOVAKIA

Almost 100% access to gas and public water supplies

Most domestic waste is treated by a specialist company in communal ownership. Of the total of 139 974 tonnes in 1995, 68.5% was incinerated at the city's plant, some was utilised as a secondary raw material, and the rest was deposited outside of the city.

In 1991 91.4% of dwellings were connected to the gas network and by the end of 1995 coverage was extended to the remaining parts of the city to give a total length of 667 km of gas pipeline. The length of the water-supply network is being continuously extended, and in the last 15 years 198 km of new pipelines have been

laid. By the end of 1995 the network measured 1 024 km and the proportion of inhabitants supplied by the public water supply system reached 98.8%. Although the sewerage network has been extended by 210 km since 1980, fewer households are connected than for water supply. The total length of the sewerage system is 740 km.

The telephone network still falls behind public demand; in 1995 there were 17 373 applications for the installation of a telephone in the Bratislava region which had not been executed. There were 32.8 domestic telephones per 100 inhabitants in 1995, these represented 48.3% of the total number of telephones in the region.

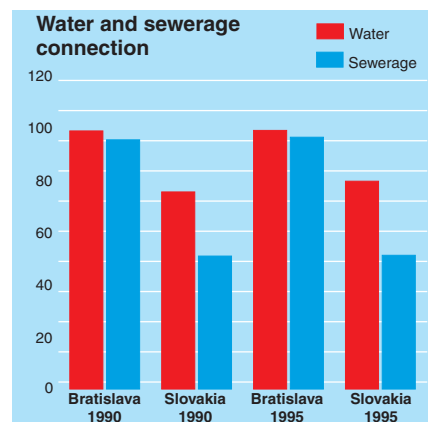
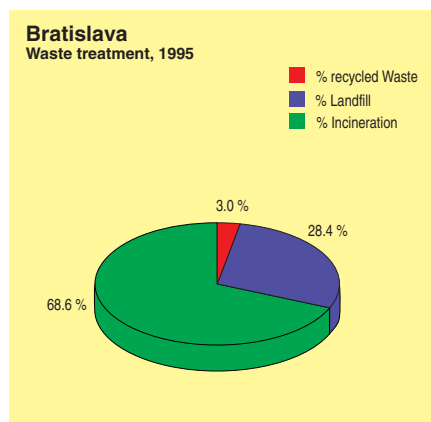
Since 1989 many new banks have been established with numerous affiliations and offshoots. At the end of 1995, 13 of the 20 commercial banks had foreign capital interests, nine being affiliations of foreign banks.

Diverse ownership structure in the education and health services

In the primary and secondary education system, possibilities for establishing new schools in church and private ownership have emerged. Bratislava is the main centre of higher education in the Slovak Republic. In 1465, during the rule of King Mathias Corvinus, the famous Academia Istropolitana was established at which the first lectures were given in 1467. Now there are five universities attended by almost 37 000 students, of whom 1 010 are foreigners. Comenius University is particularly popular, enrolling 36.9% of Bratislava's university student population.

The educational level of the population is supported by a well-established network of 47 public libraries. The number of readers dropped after 1990, but has grown again since 1994. Almost one third of readers are children aged under 14.

In 1995 some health establishments gained the legal status of independent hospitals and clinics. One hospital was returned to church ownership and one factory clinic was denationalised. The number of pharmacies in private ownership has grown rapidly too, to reach four fifths of the total. There were 5.5 doctors and 12.1 hospital beds per 1 000 inhabitants.



Number of pupils — 1995/96

	M+F 1 000	F (%)
Pre-primary schools	14.6	—
Primary schools	24.7	49.1
Lower secondary schools	24.9	48.7
Upper secondary schools	39.9	49.2
Higher education, University	37.5	47.8
Total	141.5	

A centre of culture

Theatre has a 200-year history in Bratislava. The original theatre building from the age of Empress Maria-Theresia was restored in 1866, and today hosts the activities of the Slovak National Theatre with its three permanent theatre buildings. The Slovak National Theatre's opera soloists enjoy an international reputation and their performances are attended by many foreign visitors. Since 1990, some

other venues for smaller stage productions have emerged and the overall repertoire is enriched by new genres. Certain cinemas in the city centre have been closed due to strong competition from television and video but some new ones have been opened, mainly showing foreign films.

Musical life is enriched by the Slovak Philharmonic Orchestra and the annual Bratislava musical festivities. Exhibitions are frequently hosted in the Slovak

National Museum, the City Museum and others, many of which have been established in recent years.

More investment in environmental protection needed

The environment deteriorated in the years after the Second World War due to industrialisation and insufficient investment in air, water, land and forest protection. Maintenance of the housing stock also suffered from a lack of investment. Heavy industry - chemical, construction materials, heat and power plants - together with pollution through transport by road were the main sources of emissions.

Some measures with a beneficial effect on pollution levels were taken in the 1980s, such as the closure or partial closure of some chemical plants, the reconstruction and conversion of domestic boiler systems in the city centre from solid fuel to gas, and the replacement of solid fuels with high sulphur content by heating oil and gas in power plants. Another contribution to reduced emissions was the introduction of hydrocracking technology in crude-oil refining processes and the production of motor fuel with a low content of sulphur. Other energy-intensive industries also saw a reduction in production levels, notably building materials, chemical fertilizers and viscose rayon. According to the register of

emissions and air pollution sources, which contains information on devices with a heat performance 5MW and more, a systematic lowering of levels of emitted sulphur dioxide (SO₂) is evident. However, for nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide and hydrocarbons the trend is not favourable and emissions remain at a fairly constant level. The environmental damage in the city is alleviated somewhat by frequent winds from the north-west, which disperse the emissions to out-of-city areas.

There are three sewage disposal plants managed by a state-owned company which serve the general public and another 17 which serve industry, construction

and the health services, etc. The purity of water in the Danube is monitored and it fluctuates between category II - pure water and category V - very heavily polluted water, mainly due to the presence of heavy metals, especially mercury. Heavily polluted water also contaminates the Morava River. The levels of nitrates, manganese and organic matters in the drinking water of 15 localities are safely below the stipulated maximum limits.

Another serious environmental problem is noise arising mainly from road and air transport.

Natural and human potential

The favourable geographic and geo-political position of Bratislava has been clearly demonstrated in the past, although the region's potential has not been fully recognised and appropriately exploited. The presence of the Little Carpathian Mountains, with the National Natural Reserve, and other small nature reserves in the forests of the Danube riverbank region are natural assets.

Underdeveloped resources include the relatively highly educated population and the extensive network of research and development organisations. These could play an important role in identifying appropriate solutions to the problems facing Slovakia, in particular in the field of environmental protection.

New possibilities for economic advancement have appeared with the development of the new network of banks and savings institutions.

Large-scale housing construction in recent decades has created a significant concentration of population, but now, in the changed economic conditions with a dramatic fall in construction activity, the new generation face a shortage of dwellings and higher rents and property prices.

Some problems of a long-term nature still exist in the technical infrastructure. The city's public transport system - currently a significant polluter - lacks the funds necessary to modernise. The rapid growth in road transport has not gone hand-in-hand with a corresponding improvement in the quality of road surfaces or in the number of parking spaces, many of which are not well

located and which are therefore under-used.

Tourist activity

	1991	1995
Total beds	4 782	6 437
Annual total number of overnight stays	492 173	724 878
Utilisation of bed capacity (%)	27	33.6

SLOVAKIA

ZÁPADNÉ SLOVENSKO

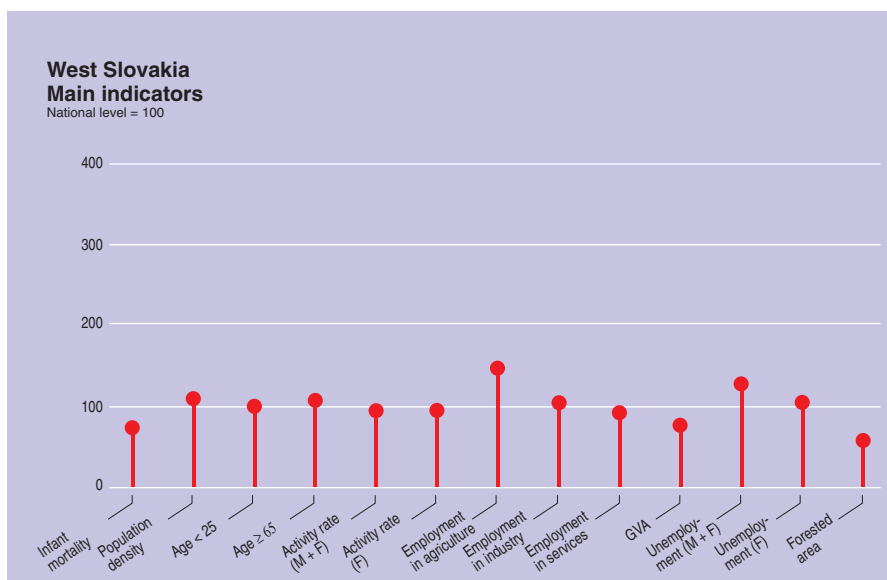
The oldest signs of settlement in the region date from the Stone Age. From the fifth century B.C., the West Slovakia (Západné Slovensko) area was occupied by the Celts who were then pushed back by the Germanic tribes in the first century. The territory then came under the influence of the Roman province of Pannonia, whose northern border stretching to the Danube river. In the fifth century, the Slavs started to settle in the area that became part of the Great Moravian Empire, the early feudal state of the Western Slavs, in 833. The Great Moravian Empire fell in the tenth century and the territory of the region became a part of the original Hungarian state. Towns developed in the course of the 13th and 14th centuries, notably Nitra, Trnava and Trenčín. Prosperity and cultural advancement followed — for example in 1635 the University of Trnava was established — but development was interrupted during the 16th and 17th centuries by the Ottoman invasions and aristocracy-led uprisings against the emperor. The 19th and 20th centuries witnessed the development of industry and railway transportation. In 1918 the territory became part of the Czechoslovak Republic.

The administrative borders of the region were established in 1960, when the region was designated the West Slovak Area, and in 1969 the area of Bratislava was separated. Until the administrative reorganisation of July 1996, the region was divided into 11 districts. In the majority of these, the Slovak population is predominant — although the Hungarian population accounts for 21.3% of the regional total, it is concentrated in the southern districts, where both the Slovak and Hungarian languages are in common use for communication.



The castle at Trenčín.

Photo: Ján Sláma



A region dominated by agriculture

The region, with an area of 14 491 km², borders the Czech Republic to the north-west, Austria to the west, Hungary in the south and the Central Slovakia region in the east. Its territory is predominantly flat, being formed by the Danubian and the Záhorská lowlands, bordered by the mountain ranges of the Little and White Carpathians, the Považský Inovec and the Strážovské and Štiavnické hills.

Along the banks of the Danube, which forms the southern border of the region, there are labyrinths of meadow forests. The territory also has an abundance of thermal

and mineral springs and many health resorts and recreational centres have developed close to them.

West Slovakia is a region with a warm, moderately dry, lowland climate. Centres of industrial and agricultural production such as Trnava, Trenčín, Nitra and Komárno are noteworthy, as are the Spas Piešťany and Trenčianske Teplice. A significant part of total Slovak industrial and agricultural production is concentrated here.



Which regions are similar to West Slovakia?

Population:
1,7 million inhabitants
Stockholms län (S)
Schwaben (D)
Centro (P)

Population density:
119 inhabitants per km²
Sevilla (E)
Namur (B)

Age structure:
12% over 65
Limburg (B)
Pohjois-Suomi (FIN)
Noord-Brabant (NL)

Renewable energy sources: the Váh and the Danube

Natural gas and crude oil, extracted in the area surrounding Gbely, are the predominant sources of energy in the region. The Váh and Danube rivers are exploited as renewable natural sources of energy. After the completion of the new hydro-electric plant at Gabčíkovo, Slovakia will have harnessed 52.6% of its water-energy potential.

Gravel, sand and brick clay in the Danubian lowland, pyrite around Pezínok as well as antimony and limestone are some of the mineral raw materials mined in the region's territory.

The Danube is the main river with a length of 172 kilometres in the region. Its tributaries are the Váh, Hron, Nitra and the Ipeľ. The average annual flow of the Danube in Bratislava is approximately 1 900 m³ per second. Its biggest tributary, the Váh, car-

ries approximately 120 m³ per second. The Senecké lakes close to Bratislava, the Zelená Voda lake near to Nové Mesto nad Váhom and the Sĺňava close to Piešťany are the most famous in the region.

There are many mineral and thermal springs in the region, the most important of them lie in the spa centres of Piešťany, Trenčianske Teplice, Slatina and Smrdáky.

District	Area km ²	Population				Activity (%)	Unemploy- ment (%)	Employment			
		12/31/70	12/31/95	Inhab./km ²	Change (%)			(%) Agriculture	(%) Industry	(%) Services	
Region					1980-90	1991-95	12/31/95	1995	1995	1995	
Country	12/31/95	12/31/70	12/31/95	12/31/95	1980-90	1991-95	1995	12/31/95	1995	1995	
Bratislava-vidiek	1 261	134.7	148.6	118	2.2	1.0	45.5	7.4	13.8	32.9	53.3
Dunajská Streda	1 075	94.5	111.1	103	5.7	1.2	60.0	16.7	23.6	27.4	49.0
Galanta	965	134.3	144.0	149	3.1	0.9	51.2	15.5	14.6	36.3	49.1
Komárno	1 100	106.7	109.0	99	-0.1	-0.3	58.9	18.0	20.3	31.3	48.5
Levice	1 551	120.3	121.0	78	0.1	0.2	58.7	17.9	19.3	35.7	45.0
Nitra	1 443	194.0	212.9	148	3.1	0.4	55.8	14.3	11.3	35.2	53.6
Nové Zámky	1 347	148.7	152.4	113	1.0	-0.7	52.4	16.5	16.7	30.8	52.5
Senica	1 691	133.9	148.1	88	3.4	0.4	53.8	9.6	14.5	46.1	39.5
Topoľčany	1 361	141.2	161.4	119	3.6	0.2	52.7	12.4	12.0	47.1	41.0
Trenčín	1 310	164.8	181.3	138	2.6	0.7	53.5	6.6	8.6	44.1	47.3
Trnava	1 390	206.8	236.0	170	4.1	0.7	53.5	11.4	11.0	40.0	49.0
West Slovakia total	14 494	1 579.9	1 725.8	119	2.7	0.5	53.9	12.9	14.2	37.7	48.1
Slovakia total	49 035	4 539.9	5 367.8	109	6.3	1.4	59.2	13.1	9.8	36.5	53.7

SLOVAKIA

Long-term population decline

The territory of West Slovakia has a population of 1.7 million inhabitants, accounting for 32.15% of the Slovakian total. The proportion of males is 48.7%. In the longterm, the population in West Slovakia is falling. A major factor in this is the decreasing birth rate, despite the increasing number of females of reproductive age. The number of births per 1 000 population fell by 3.3 between 1991 and 1995; the year 1994 – 95 alone accounting for a fall of 0.9. This decline occurred in all districts of the West Slovak region, with the highest fall being recorded in the Trenčín district (3.9 fewer births per 1 000 population between 1991 and 1995). These figures reflect the fact that a family model with only 1 or 2 children is becoming the norm.

Agriculture and power generation

The food industry, linked to the well-developed agricultural sector, traditionally plays an important role in the region. In the 1970s and 1980s, food processing represented over one quarter of industrial production in total, and the value of output increased by approximately 50% between 1970 and 1980. Machinery and metal-processing industries follow in production terms, with the chemical and leather industries also being important. The energy industry also saw a significant expansion in the 1970s, its production increasing threefold from 1970 to 1980. At present, the most important sources of energy are the hydro-electric power station at Gabčíkovo and the nuclear power station in Jaslovské Bohunice. There is also an unfinished nuclear power station in Mochovce.

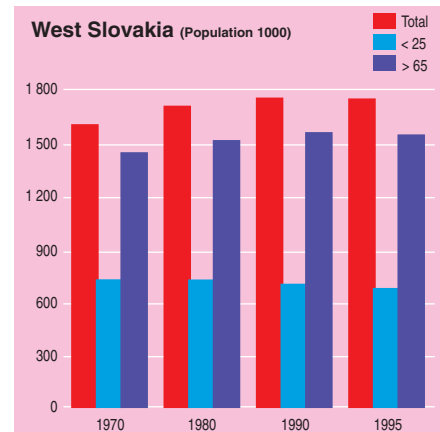
Agricultural production focuses on the growing of cereals, sugar beet, vegetables and fruit. The main agricultural area is Žitný Ostrov – the territory between the Danube and the Small Danube situated in the south-west of the region. Good climatic conditions among the foothills of the Little Carpathians permit the growing of grapes for wine.

West Slovakia's industrial production in 1995 represented about 25% of the Slovak total and construction output 21%. Within agriculture, crop production in this region amounted to 47.8% of total agricultural production. The most important agricultural products are pigs (20% of production by value), milk (14%) and wheat (14%). The total area of agricultural land in the region

The high mortality rate is another problem facing the region, though the rise experienced between 1970 and 1990 was followed by a slight decline in the rate by 7 deaths per 1 000 population from 1990 to 1995. Life expectancy in 1995 averaged between 74.6 and 77.1 years for females and from 65.1 to 69.9 years for males depending on the district. Infant mortality is showing a favourable trend, the rate declining by 19 deaths per 1 000 live births between 1994 and 1995, in which period the post-natal mortality rate declined by 4 per 1 000 live births.

As far as minority communities are concerned, the biggest group in the region comprises Hungarians, who make up 21.3% of the population and are concentrated in the following southern districts: Dunajská Streda district 87.3%, Komárno district 72.2%, Galanta district 42.9% and the Nové Zámky district 41.4%. Czech and Gypsy minorities are also present in West Slovakia, but in lower numbers.

Immigration to the region greatly exceeded emigration in 1995; 894 people from abroad moved to West Slovakia and 68 left the region for other countries.



Demographic account - 1980 — 90

1 000	
Population 1980	1 685
Births	267
Deaths	192
Net migration	-30
Population 1990	1 730

Population by age — 1995

	M+F 1 000	M+F %	M %	F %
<15	359	20.8	21.9	19.7
15–24	293	17.0	17.7	16.2
25–34	241	14.0	14.6	13.4
35–44	268	15.5	16.2	15.0
45–54	205	11.9	11.9	11.9
55–64	156	9.0	8.4	9.6
≥65	204	11.8	9.3	14.2
Total	1 726	100.0	100.0	100.0

Resident population of foreign nationality - 1995

	1 000	% of total population
Total	5.9	0.3
Czech Republic	19.2%	
Hungary	12.9%	
Poland	9.0%	
Romania	7.9%	
Yugoslavia	6.7%	
Ukraine	5.9%	

amounts to 956 524 hectares, i.e. 39% of the Slovak total.

The total value of foreign capital attracted by the region in the period 1990–95 repre-

sented only about 10% of the total within the Slovak Republic. However, the region has 2 005 organizations with foreign capital investment, accounting for 23% of all those in Slovakia.

Agriculture 1995

Number of holdings ⁽¹⁾	5 037
Labour force, persons	63 993
Agriculture area, December 31 (ha)	956 524
Livestock, December 31, 1995 (thousands)	12 536
Share of three main products in the gross agricultural production from gross turnover (%)	
Pigs	20
Milk	14
Wheat	14

(1) West Slovakia includes Bratislava.

Average monthly wages by sector

National level = 100

	1990	1995
Agriculture	102	105
Industry	97	95
Building	102	95
Financial services		92

Main enterprises

Name	Site	Activity
Ozeta, odevné závody, a.s.	Trenčín	Outerwear
Cebo Holding Slovakia, a.s.	Partizánske	Footwear
Slovenské energetické strojárne, a.s.	Tlmače	Steam generators
Duslo, a.s.	Šaľa	Chemical products
Slovenská armatúrka Myjava, a.s.	Myjava	Taps and valves
Slovenské lodenice, a.s.	Komárno	Shipbuilding/repair
Juhoslovenské celulóžky a papierne, a.s.	Štúrovo	Paper and paperboard
Nafta, a.s.	Gbely	Natural gas extraction
Chirana – Prema, a.s.	Stará Turá	Medical equipment
Calex, a.s.	Zlaté Moravce	Electrical domestic appliances
Slovakofarma, a.s.	Hlohovec	Pharmaceuticals
Texicom, bavlnárske závody š.p.	Trenčín	Cotton yarns
VAB SIPOX a.s.	Bánovce nad Bebravou	Motor vehicles
TAZ SIPOX a.s.	Trnava	Motor vehicles

Research and development: in need of private sector funding

Increased attention was given to research and development in the 1980s and the region boasted 72 research institutions. Research was funded almost entirely by the state budget and as a consequence of reductions in funding in the early 1990s, the number of institutions fell to just 17 in

1995. In parallel with these closures, the number of research workers declined by 4 000 between 1989 and 1995.

Expenditure on research and development in 1995 accounted for 28.2% of the total expenditure in Slovakia, with the private sector providing only minimal financial input. The amount of foreign capital going into research was very small. The total number of people employed in research and development in the region in 1995

Export of 45% of industrial production

At present, one of the leading industrial sectors is the production of means of transport, especially in Komárno (shipbuilding in Slovenské lodenice). The branches of tannery (notably at Koželužne Bošany) and leather production (CEBO Holding Slovakia in Bánovce nad Bebravou) are also highly productive, with 45% of their production designed for export. The products of the company Nafta Gbely are based on deposits of crude oil and natural gas in West Slovakia. The engineering industry is concentrated in Myjava (Slovenská armatúrka). The chemical industry, and in particular companies producing fertilizers (Duslo Šaľa), chemical fibres (Slovenský hodváb, in Senica) and plastics (Plastika Nitra), also plays an important role.

The food industry, particularly the production and processing of meat and meat products, milk and milk products, sugar and beer, is developing significantly.

In 1995 the gross turnover at current prices in the region accounted for 50% of the Slovak total in agriculture and forestry, and 23.5% in industry. Export sales represented 45% of the total industrial production.

The development of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) is increasing continuously with the advancement of privatisation. The number of SMEs is increasing most significantly in the area of trade and services.

amounted to 3 364 which represents 20% of the total number in Slovakia.

Research and development activities are aimed especially at the support of industrial development, agricultural development, production and the rational utilisation of energy as well as the health of the population.

SLOVAKIA

Low labour costs

Average labour costs per employee in the West Slovak region are the lowest in Slovakia, indicating a relatively cheap labour force. Average monthly wages have been increasing since 1992, and average wages in 1995 were 30.1% above their 1992 levels, but still below the Slovak average. The highest average wages were recorded in the finance and insurance sector, and in mineral raw materials mining, while the lowest wages were in textiles and clothing and leather tanning.

Changes in the economic structure have contributed to changes in society, notably its differentiation from the point of view of social composition, mainly through the growth of new social groups such as entrepreneurs, employers and the unemployed. More significant differences in the income levels of households have occurred, as well as a change in income structures through the divergence in the levels of social benefits and wages.

In 1995, per capita gross household monetary incomes were highest in the households of white-collar employees;

16.5% above the regional average of all social groups. In the households of farmers and manual workers no significant difference from the average was recorded but pensioners' households were 21.5% below average.

An analysis of net per capita monetary income for the whole region in 1995 shows that 51.75% was made up by income from employment and 35.61% by social incomes. The largest part of social incomes was pensions, representing 21.42% on their own. Incomes from business activity were low as a proportion, at just 4.99%. The average number of people per household was 2.88.

With regard to 1995 household expenditure, the highest share was spent on food, with pensioners spending 44.9%, and manual workers 35.9% of their total expenditure. In other social groups, average spending on food was between 33.1 and 31.6% of total expenditure.

Gross per capita household income - 1995 (%)

	West Slovakia	Slovakia
Employment	45.4	48.1
Agriculture	14.9	11.6
Self-employment	12.3	13.1
Social Benefits	14.1	15.0
Other	3.6	3.5
Savings and loans	9.7	8.7

Characteristics of employment - 1995%

	15—24 years	25—34 years	35—44 years	45—54 years	55—64 years	>65 years
Men	15.0	26.9	30.8	20.7	6.5	0.1
Women	13.9	24.0	35.4	24.6	1.7	0.4
Total	14.6	25.6	32.8	22.4	4.4	0.2

Highly educated workforce

Substantial changes in employment patterns have been recorded in West Slovakia; privatisation in agriculture and industrial production was followed by the establishment of private business companies and SMEs. Changes in the structure and movement of labour forces between different branches of the economy also occurred in the early 1990s.

From 1985 to 1990, West Slovakia counted more than 700 000 employees in all branches of the economy. Since 1990, this number has gradually decreased, most noticeably in industry and agriculture. Many enterprises in heavy industry were oriented towards military production and the conversion of these industries to peaceful production caused job losses for thousands of employees (for example at ZTS Malacky, Kollárovo). This, in turn, had a knock-on effect on other companies in different branches.

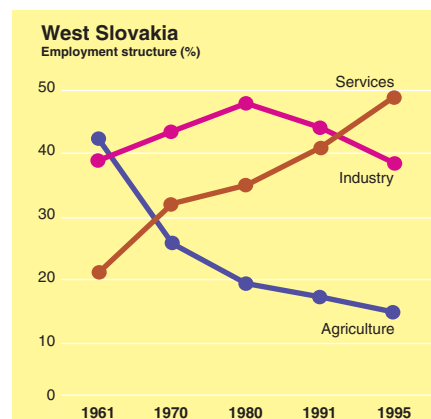
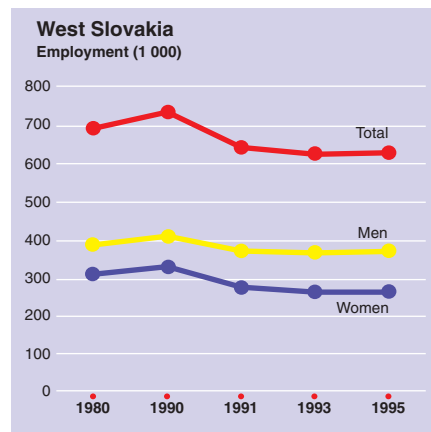
In agriculture, changes in management structures and a large number of restitu-

tions of land took place. However, the restitutions did not result in increases in job opportunities as the acreage of the returned agricultural land was often insufficient for the owners to be able to make agricultural activities profitable.

In 1995, 88.8% of the economically-active population in West Slovakia were in employment. Industry, agriculture and construction still have the highest number of employed persons in spite of suffering the heaviest job losses. In trade and other services the number of employees has increased since 1990. Of the employed, 45.4% are women (which represents little change since the beginning of the economic transformation process).

The educational level of the employed is very high — 33.3% have completed secondary education either in a grammar school or in a secondary technical school and 87.5% of employees have higher than basic education. University graduates account for 10.9% of employees and while not all of them are working in their original professions, they have the opportunity to take retraining courses to complement

their education. The majority of graduates are employed in the health services, the education system, banking and insurance but there are also significant numbers in agriculture and industry.



A new phenomenon: the unemployed

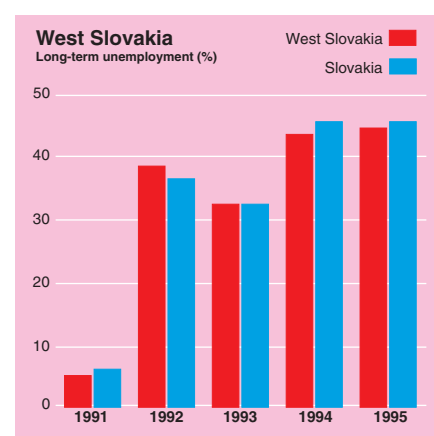
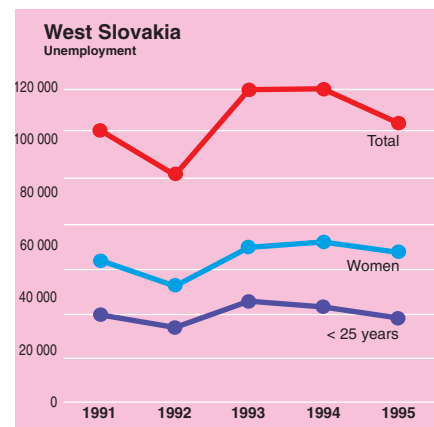
With the transformation of society the new phenomenon of unemployment has emerged, first appearing in 1990 and since becoming a serious social problem. Unemployment increased steadily and peaked in 1993 when the unemployment rate in the West Slovakia reached 15.35%. Step-by-step, with the active employment policy of labour offices, the rate has been lowered and by the end of 1995 had dropped to 12.88%.

Labour offices have developed several forms of active employment policy. They organise retraining courses which enable numerous job applicants to find new jobs. State and private organisations are encouraged to create new jobs beneficial to the public or jobs benefiting the community. There is also, to a lesser extent, the possibility for handicapped people of finding a job in a 'protected workshop'.

Of the unemployed, 47% were male in 1995. Manual workers represented a substantial portion of them. As far as professional structures are concerned, the group most afflicted by unemployment are persons with low or no qualifications. Graduates of specialised secondary schools account for almost 12% of the unemployed, and university graduates account for 2.4%.

Almost one third of the unemployed are between 20 and 29 years old, and more than a quarter are aged between 30 and 39. Young people — first time job seekers — make up more than 17%. Among those who have previously been employed, those from the backgrounds of industrial production and agriculture are the worst afflicted.

Since unemployment appeared, state expenditure on the financial support of the unemployed has necessarily increased. In 1995, 27.6% of job applicants were on financial support. A majority (53.5%) of the unemployed had been out of work for over one year.



Surfaced public roads – 1995

Length, km/1 000 km ²	891.90
Length, km/1 000 population	7.49
Length, km/1 000 passenger cars	42.41
Surface, 1 000 m ² /km ²	2.71
Surface, 1 000 m ² /1 000 pop.	22.75
National roads (%)	48.2
Local roads (%)	52.8

Road accidents, 1995

Road accidents in total	17 332
Persons killed	249
Persons injured	3 796

Dense network of roads and railways

The whole territory is covered by an extensive road and railway network, including some important motorway sections. One motorway stretches about 80 km from Bratislava to the north-east, following the basin of the river Váh to Piešťany. Another leads from Bratislava towards the north-west for a distance of about 70 km to the Czech border from where it continues to Prague. The road network includes more than 6 000 km of state roads and 7 000 km of local roads. In 1995, 11.8 million tonnes of goods were transported by road within the region's territory; 37% of the total for Slovakia.

Two of the three main railway lines run parallel to the motorway sections. The third leads from Bratislava towards Komárno and Budapest in a south-easterly direction. All main railway lines are electrified and double tracked.

Ferries and barges on the River Danube serve both international passenger and freight transport, Komárno being the main port.

The airport at Piešťany is used for internal and international air transport. Smaller airports are situated at Nitra, Trenčín and Holič.

SLOVAKIA

Well-developed communal infrastructure

The provision of public utility services in the region is good. Almost four fifths of the region's inhabitants receive drinking water from the public water supply. Most of them are in the district of Topoľčany, Galanta and Trenčín. The length of the water supply network is 6 640 km plus 1 757 km of pipes to dwellings. The drainage network is 1 501 km long plus 352 km of pipes from dwellings. The highest network density is in the cities and industrial areas.

In 1995 a total amount of 1 053 000 tonnes of communal waste was produced, of which more than half was the waste from cesspools and septic tanks and almost a third was household waste. Two percent of the waste was re-used for raw materials and for compost, 44.9% was disposed of in landfill sites and just 0.2% was incinerated.

Gas supply is well distributed in all districts of the territory with the smallest gas network being in the district of Levice. More than half of the dwellings in the West Slovakia region (164 542 households) are supplied with gas.

There was a 25% increase in the number of telephone stations between 1992 and 1995, and the number of telephones in dwellings increased by more than half. For every 1 000 inhabitants there were 234 telephones in 1995 of which 125 are in dwellings. Despite this rapid expansion, there is still a high demand in the region for the installation of telephones.

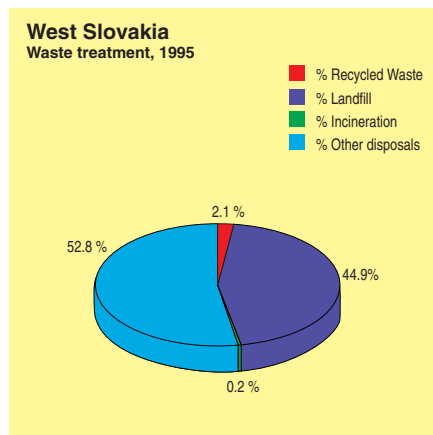
In large centres of the region there are branches of all the major commercial domestic banks and other monetary institutions.

A wealth of educational opportunities

The educational system is of a high standard in West Slovakia, both from the point of view of quality and quantity. Almost every village has a primary school. After 1989 private and church schools began to appear, offering more choice. Secondary education is provided by 50 grammar schools offering a general syllabus and 87 specialised secondary schools which aim at a different type of education with the possibility of further study at the university. Future skilled workers are educated at the secondary vocational apprentice training centres.

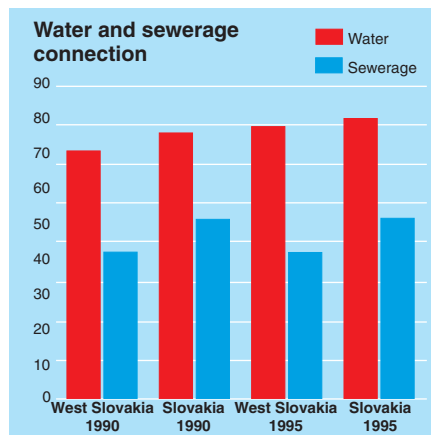
The university education system has a long history as the first university was founded in the city of Trnava in 1635. In Nitra there is the Agricultural University and the Pedagogical University with departments for Hungarian-speaking students. Newly opened is the Theological Institute, also located in Nitra. There were more than 9 000 full-time university students in West Slovakia in 1995, an increase of 79.5% since 1990.

Almost every village in the region has a local authority-administered library. There are a total of 864 libraries and the number of readers exceeds 255 000. The Diocesan Library in Nitra is of great importance from



a historical point of view. Scientific libraries are established at the universities.

The main town of every district has at least one hospital. The region's 26 hospitals have a total of 10 400 beds. Piešťany, a famous spa town, is home to many medical institutions.



Number of pupils — 1995/96

	M+F 1 000	F (%)
Pre-primary schools	51.1	—
Primary schools	98.4	48.5
Lower secondary schools	103.4	48.9
Upper secondary schools	99.4	52.3
Higher education, University	9.1	59.8
Total	361.4	

Cultural facilities

Within West Slovakia there are five theatres, two of which are in Trnava and two in Nitra. Hungarian speakers have at their disposal the Mór Jókai Theatre in Komárno with programmes and performances in the Hungarian language only. There are 49 museums with a rich collection of folk art, historical artefacts and natural history exhibitions. Also well-known is the Library of Ludmila Podjavorinská in Trenčín and Bzince.

Fine arts galleries are established in seven districts of the region. The Gallery in Trenčín is named after the national artist Miloš Bazovský.

In most villages there are community cultural centres where local residents can pursue various hobbies. There are also cinemas and natural amphitheatres. Well-preserved castles, mansions and architectural monuments host historical exhibitions. There are also significant historical monuments in Nitra, Trenčín and Trnava (also known as 'little Rome')

Legacy of pollution

Solid and gas wastes from industrial and communal sources pose a threat to the environment. The districts of Galanta, Levice, Topoľčany and Trnava have the highest concentration of solid and gas emissions, industry and local heating systems being responsible for the highest emissions.

In 1995 the volume of waste water discharged in this region accounted for 23.4% of the total in Slovakia. The region has 123 waste water treatment plants which treated 94.2% of waste water in 1995. The existence of more than 245 000 hectares of wildlife reserves offers some protection and partially reduces the impact on flora, watercourses and the climate. These reserves are located particularly in the areas of Záhorie, the Little Carpathians, the White Carpathians, the Strážovské hills and the Štiavnické hills.

Tourist activity

	1991	1995
Total beds	14 705	16 253
Annual total number of overnight stays	1,460 661	1,513 946
Utilisation of bed capacity (%)	39.2	26.9

Good prospects for the region

The forte of this region is its geographical position on the borders of the Czech Republic, Austria and Hungary. The region is a crossroads of international significance with a good technical infrastructure which enables direct connections between Slovakia and neighbouring countries by means of road (partially motorway), air and water. It is a region rich in mineral resources: crude oil, gas, mineral and thermal springs as well as important energy sources. Favourable climatic and natural conditions are a basis for significant agricultural production. Because of its eco-

nomie structure together with a highly-qualified labour force, the region has good conditions for future development.

In recent years the birth rate has been dropping and the population getting older – this is manifested especially in rural areas in the southern parts of the region. In spite of this, the possibilities of obtaining somewhere such as a flat to live in are getting worse, especially for young families, owing to the decline of the construction industry.

Air pollution still presents a problem. There are several sources of contamination: industrial factories, traffic pollution and the heating sources of living quarters in larger cities. The purity of the water supply is

gradually improving, but to an insufficient extent for the time being.

Further exploitation of the natural and economic potential, continuing privatisation and the mobilisation of domestic and foreign financial sources should ensure better prospects for the region.

SLOVAKIA

STREDNÉ SLOVENSKO

The Central Slovakia (Stredné Slovensko) region covers more than one third of the territory of the Slovak Republic and about 30% of the Slovak population. With a settlement density of more than 90 inhabitants per square kilometre, Central Slovakia is among the more sparsely populated territories of the Republic although there are considerable differences within the region.

The region consists of the historical territories of Liptov, Orava, Turiec, Kysuce, Novohrad, Malohont, Pohronie and Horehronie and parts of Gemer, Hont, Tekov, Považie and Horná Nitra.

Reflecting the diversity of the territory, many areas have preserved their specific regional identities, taking the form of different ethnic, linguistic and cultural features and characteristics. The Central Slovak mining area was the centre for iron ore in the Hungarian Kingdom, and in particular the cities of Banská Bystrica, Banská Štiavnica, and Kremnica where in 1329 a mint – which has operated continually ever since – was established.

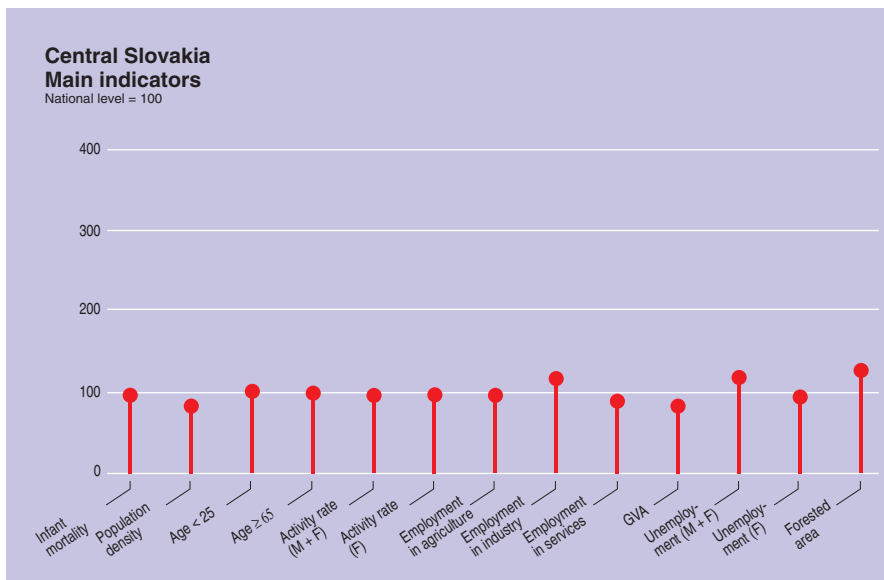
Since the 19th century, Central Slovakia has been the centre of the national and linguistic revival. The city of Martin became the seat of Matica Slovenská and the dialects of Central Slovakia have become the base of the modern codified Slovak language.

The geography, natural conditions and historical development hindered the emergence of one strong, dominating centre as happened in the East and West of Slovakia. The role of regional centre is partially fulfilled by Banská Bystrica and by Žilina. Until July 1996 the region was administratively divided into 13 districts and more than 900 municipalities.



The Liptovská Mara water reservoir.

Photo: Ján Sláma



Half of the territory covered by forest

The territory resembles a chessboard with densely populated hollows and valleys and sparsely populated hills and mountain ranges. Lower-lying territories where the majority of the population live are concentrated along major rivers: the Váh, Hron, Nitra, Ipel', Rimava and its tributaries. Most of these territories are divided by mountain ranges from which the High and Low Tatras rise to over 2 000 metres. The higher areas have a colder and more humid climate and are far less populated.

As well as the regions of East and West Slovakia, the territory borders Hungary in the south, the Czech Republic in the west and Poland in the north. In addition to the regional centres of Banská Bystrica and Žilina the other significant cities in this region are Martin, Prievidza, Zvolen, Považská Bystrica, and Lučenec.

Forest covers 51% of the territory and pastures cover much of the mountainous areas. Arable land is located principally in the lower-lying areas.



Which regions are similar to Central Slovakia?

Population: 1,6 million inhabitants	Antwerpen (B) Sardegna (I) Hampshire (UK)
Area: 18 000 km ²	Gävleborgs län (S) Veneto (I)
Land use: 41% in agriculture	Liège (B) Alsace (F) Kentriki Makedonia (EL)

From mining to tourism

Mineral extraction (gold, silver and copper) has a long history in this region, though deposits of rare and non-ferrous metals are running out. Mining activities since the Middle Ages have resulted in the establishment of many towns and cities. The mining of brown coal in Horná Nitra and near Veľký Krtíš in the south is an important activity nowadays. This region also has abundant

deposits of limestone, gravel and construction materials which are extracted at several places. Forests are extensive in Central Slovakia, providing valuable timber and covering more than half of the region's land area.

The region also boasts mineral and thermal springs. Many of these are used for medical treatment in spa resorts such as Sliač, Dudince, Číž, Kováčová, Sklenné Teplice, Brusno, Nimnica, Korytnica, Lúčky,

Turčianske Teplice, Rajecké Teplice and so on. Some mineral waters are also bottled for drinking, notably Korytnica and Budiš.

One of the great natural assets of this territory is undoubtedly its beautiful scenery and diverse relief which creates good conditions for the development of tourism and travel. The region also features many centres for winter recreation, including Donovaly, Chopok, Jasná, Krahule, Králiky, Skalka, Veľká Rača and Martinské Hole.

District Region Country	Area km ²	Population					Activity (%)	Unemploy- ment (%)	Employment		
		12/31/70	12/31/95	Inhab./km ²	Change (%)	1980-90			1991-95	(%) Agriculture	(%) Industry
Banská Bystrica	2 075	143.3	179.0	86	10.7	0.5	64.7	10.6	7.1	37.1	55.9
Čadca	934	112.9	125.0	134	3.0	1.6	41.9	13.8	6.5	44.3	49.2
Dolný Kubín	1 659	93.3	125.7	76	11.9	4.3	55.2	14.2	13.1	44.8	42.1
Liptovský Mikuláš	1 968	118.8	134.2	68	5.6	1.4	55.7	9.1	10.8	43.9	45.3
Lučenec	1 304	94.4	95.7	73	1.2	-0.4	56.5	19.2	15.5	35.4	49.1
Martin	1 128	92.0	114.7	102	7.6	1.1	58.7	8.7	7.8	40.2	52.0
Považská Bystrica	1 196	139.2	173.6	145	10.2	1.9	55.7	9.4	4.4	55.2	40.4
Prievidza	960	114.7	141.2	147	8.4	1.4	54.8	11.0	6.4	52.4	41.2
Rimavská Sobota	1 823	97.8	99.1	54	1.1	0.0	57.1	26.4	21.7	28.0	50.3
Veľký Krtíš	848	44.7	46.9	55	3.1	0.1	56.0	20.9	27.7	32.1	40.2
Zvolen	1 721	106.2	123.6	72	2.9	1.3	59.0	11.5	12.6	33.1	54.3
Ziar nad Hronom	1 264	91.2	94.5	75	1.7	0.3	56.1	12.5	8.6	48.3	43.1
Zilina	1 097	153.9	185.7	169	7.0	1.6	62.6	10.4	3.8	44.6	51.7
Central Slovakia total	17 977	1 402.4	1 638.9	91	6.3	1.3	57.0	12.5	9.4	42.5	48.1
Slovakia total	49 035	4 539.9	5 367.8	109	6.3	1.4	59.2	13.1	9.8	36.5	53.7

SLOVAKIA

Demographic change

Women accounted for more than 50% of the 1 640 000 inhabitants of the Central Slovakia region in 1995. In spite of the fact that the majority of the demographic indicators regarding this area are broadly similar to the national averages, considerable differences exist within the region. While the northern part of the territory, and especially Orava, is the area with the fastest growth of population in Slovakia, southern parts show stagnation and even decline in population numbers. The birth rate in Central Slovakia is declining. While in 1995 the birth rate for the region as a whole was 11.6 per thousand population, this masks considerable differences between the districts (Dolný Kubín 17.0 births per thousand population, Prievidza 10.0).

From the 1960s to the 1980s, the region saw a strong inward migration which resulted in a considerable growth in the

Conversion of the armaments industry

The economic potential of this region started to take shape during the 18th and 19th centuries when this region played a key role in the Austro-Hungarian Empire. After World War II the strategy and development of the economy in the former Czechoslovakia was influenced by the political situation, with the world divided into the two political camps. For reasons of defence, the major war industry enterprises were located the greatest possible distance away from the western borders. The mountainous regions were selected and that is why many major defence industry-related factories are to be found in Central Slovakia.

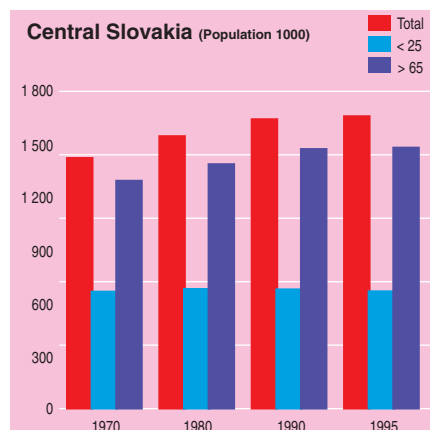
The change in the political situation and the re-orientation after 1989, with the resultant conversion of the armaments industry, caused serious problems for enterprises who had formerly possessed exclusive production links to the defence industry. After an inevitable process of the division of large companies into smaller parts and the development of alternative manufacturing programmes and different products, industrial production is slowly rising.

World events and changes in business relations have also brought changes to the industrial structure. Many enterprises had to adapt themselves to sweeping changes in demand for their products. In particular the electrical goods, shoemaking, wood-working, textile, clothing and food industries were affected.

number of inhabitants. Nowadays migration flows are roughly equal and there are increased movements out of the urban areas and into the countryside, especially to the villages near the larger cities.

Life expectancy at birth in the region is close to the Slovak average, but it is low in comparison with other countries. As a consequence of the fall in the birth rate and the current age structure of inhabitants, it can be expected that the region of Central Slovakia will start to show a decline in population after the year 2000 — in line with the national trend. Inevitably, this decline will be experienced to different degrees in different districts at different times, but in the central and southern parts of the region the fall will be considerable and will accelerate.

In addition to the population of Slovakian descent (more than 92% of the region's inhabitants), there is also an important Hungarian minority. In 1995, more than 86 000 Hungarians lived in Central Slovakia (5.3% of the population) and 96% of these lived in the southern districts where they constitute a significant part of the population.



Demographic account - 1980 — 90

1 000	
Population 1980	1 526
Births	269
Deaths	158
Net migration	-14
Population 1990	1 623

Population by age — 1995

	M+F 1 000	M+F %	M %	F %
<15	369	22.5	23.4	21.6
15–24	278	16.9	17.6	16.3
25–34	234	14.3	14.9	13.7
35–44	255	15.5	16.2	14.9
45–54	185	11.3	11.2	11.3
55–64	141	8.6	8.0	9.2
≥65	178	10.9	8.7	13.0
Total	1 639	100.0	100.0	100.0

Resident population of foreign nationality - 1995

	1 000	% of total population
Total	4.6	0.3
Czech Republic	28.5%	
Poland	14.6%	
Ukraine	8.7%	
Yugoslavia	6.4%	
Vietnam	5.9%	
Russian Federation	5.3%	

All the aforementioned changes were accompanied by a severe cut-back in construction activity. Construction companies have had to become smaller and the industry has had to re-orientate itself from

the production of prefabricated units to the reconstruction and renovation of existing buildings. The construction industry has deep roots in this region and during the period of the Austro-Hungarian Empire

Agriculture 1995

Number of holdings	3 192
Labour force, persons	36 159
Agriculture area, December 31 (ha)	736 679
Livestock, December 31, 1995 (thousands)	6 632
Share of three main products in the gross agricultural production from gross turnover (%)	
Milk	20
Pigs	19
Cattle	15

Average monthly wages by sector

National level = 100

	1990	1995
Agriculture	100	98
Industry	100	96
Building	98	96
Financial services		89

Main enterprises

Name	Site	Activity
Hornonitrianske bane Prievidza, a.s.	Prievidza	Lignite mining, agglomeration
Závody ťažkého strojárstva, š.p.	Dubnica nad Váhom	Special purpose machinery
Stredoslovenské lesy, š.p.	Banská Bystrica	Logging
ZTS TEES, a.s.	Martin	Agricultural tractors
Makyta, a.s.	Púchov	Outerwear
Matador, a.s.	Púchov	Rubber tyres
Severoslovenské lesy, š.p.	Žilina	Logging
Považské strojárne	Považská Bystrica	Aircraft
Váhostav, a.s.	Žilina	Water projects
Železiarne Podbrezová, a.s.	Podbrezová	Steel tubes
OTF, a.s.	Nižná	TV and radio receivers
Severoslovenské celulóžky a papierne, a.s.	Ružomberok	Pulp, paper and paperboard
Stredoslovenské energetické závody, š.p.	Žilina	Electricity production/distribution

construction workers from Central Slovakia built much of Vienna and Budapest. As in the past, construction workers continue to look for work abroad and construction firms also secure foreign contracts. Inevitably, the construction materials industry — which is quite important in the region owing to a plentiful supply of raw materials — has also had to undergo changes linked to a slump in demand and the change away from pre-fabricated techniques and towards different products.

Research and development concentrated in Žilina

The region hosts 16 specialised research organisations whose activities are concentrated on research and experimental development in the natural and technical sciences. Attention is focused on the mining, engineering, chemical, food, transport and communication, and forestry industries in particular. One third of research institutes are located in Žilina, making it the research and development centre of Central Slovakia.

Monopolies in industrial production

The industrial importance of this region is augmented by the fact that some of its companies enjoy a monopoly of production in Slovakia for a range of important products. In Orava, the production of ferro-alloys and colour televisions dominates, whereas in Považie the focus is on the production of small motorbikes, car tyres and bearings, in Turiec on wheeled tractors and earth-moving machines, in the Žiar area on aluminium production and in Liptov and Horehronie on the production of cellulose, paper and other wood products.

Only a small part of industry is state-run or in public ownership. Since 1995, evidence has been mounting of a moderate revival of construction output and employment, seen mainly in private construction firms. A gradual revitalisation of performance in some other branches in the region is also demonstrated by strengthening exports, mainly by the monopolistic producers of metal and metal products, rubber products, cellulose and paper.

In the southern districts, and especially in Rimavská Sobota, a substantial part of the economy is based on agricultural production. The acreage of agricultural land has declined over the years to 736 679 hectares in 1995. The relatively high proportion of meadows and pastures naturally suits livestock production, principally the rearing of cattle and sheep. Pig and poultry farming also plays an important role.

Since 1990, a substantial decline in financial support has been felt throughout the whole research and development sector and the result is that a considerable number of qualified experts became unable to apply their skills. Universities are the main employers of research and development personnel, with many experts involved in a range of projects. Further research potential is scattered throughout the business sector, mainly in industry.

SLOVAKIA

Average monthly wages below the national average

In 1995, the average monthly wage in Central Slovakia fell below the national average. From a geographical perspective, the highest earnings were received in the districts of Prievidza, Banská Bystrica, Žilina, Žiar nad Hronom, whilst the lowest earnings were in the districts of Veľký Krtíš, Lučenec, Rimavská Sobota and Čadca.

In terms of the branch structure, the highest wages were in banking and insurance, whereas the lowest were in services, textiles and agriculture. Increases in average

monthly wages in 1994 and 1995 were higher than the inflation rate and this trend — the increase both in nominal and real wages — continues, compensating, at least partially, for the severe erosion of real wages experienced at the beginning of the 1990s.

Gross monetary income in 1995 in the region came mainly from wages and salaries (50%), various social benefits (15%), sales of agricultural products (13%) and private business activities (12%). Households of white-collar employees had higher average monthly gross per capita incomes than households of manual workers and farmers. The lowest incomes were

recorded in pensioners' households. The differences between average incomes and expenditure of households are minimal. In the case of the poorer sections of the population (especially pensioners) expenditure on food accounted for more than 43% of total expenditure, while in farmers' households, at the other extreme, where a higher rate of self-provisioning exists, expenditure on food comprises only one third.

The results of a 1994 survey on labour costs published by the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic showed not only the position of Slovakia in international comparison, but also the position of particular Slovak regions. This survey showed direct labour costs to be 70% of the total labour costs in Central Slovakia, about the same as the Slovakian average. This was considerably below the figure for Bratislava, but above the other Slovakian regions.

Gross per capita household income - 1995 (%)

	Central Slovakia	Slovakia
Employment	47.7	48.1
Agriculture	12.8	11.6
Self-employment	12.5	13.1
Social Benefits	15.4	15.0
Other	3.7	3.5
Savings and loans	7.9	8.7

Characteristics of employment - 1995%

	15—24 years	25—34 years	35—44 years	45—54 years	55—64 years	>65 years
Men	15.5	28.0	29.8	19.9	6.3	0.5
Women	14.6	25.2	35.1	23.0	2.0	0.1
Total	15.1	26.7	32.2	21.3	4.4	0.3

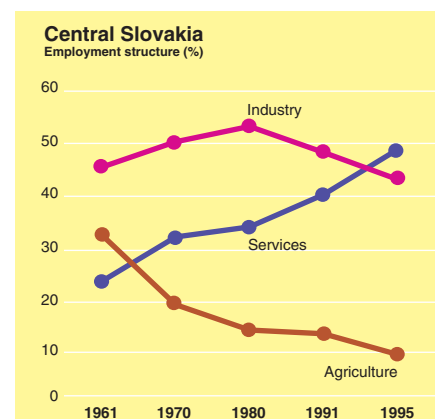
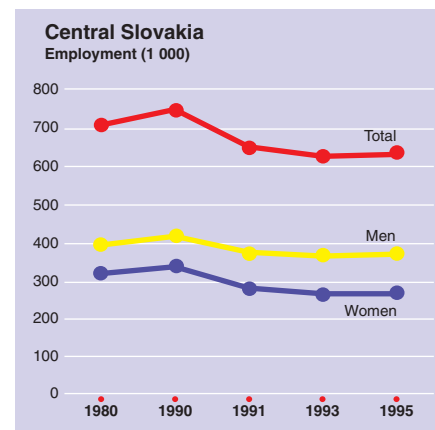
Diverse structure of employment: north-south differences

Since the early 1990s, the Slovak Republic has experienced great changes in employment structure, both as to its geographical distribution and the branches of the economy in which people are employed. In addition to the unemployment phenomenon, further signs of a market economy have emerged in the society and these have forced changes in the employment structure of the region. The proportion of people employed in banking and insurance, transport, services and trade is growing considerably. On the other hand, the number of employees in agriculture and also in industry and construction has dropped significantly. This conversion has strongly effected the industrial districts of Považie and Turiec and has also been felt in other districts.

Of the total number of employees in this region in 1995, less than 8% were working in agriculture (the primary sector as a

whole represented less than 10%). The relative importance of industry in employment terms was clear with more than 41% of the region's employees, construction occupied 5% and a further 10% worked in transport and communications. More than a quarter of employees worked in public administration, education, health services and social welfare. Almost three quarters of employees worked in profit-oriented companies. As far as company ownership was concerned, more than two fifths of employees worked in the private sector, almost one tenth in cooperatives and more than half in the public sector. More than 4% of employees worked in organisations with foreign capital investment.

The geographical distribution of employment within the region is naturally influenced by the concentration of the main economic activities in the largest cities. Unsurprisingly, one finds that Považie, Kysuce and Horehronie had the lowest employment rates in agriculture (just over 5%) whereas in the south agricultural employment exceeds 10% and in some areas even 20% (Rimavská Sobota 17%,



Veľký Krtíš 28%). In the southern part of the region employment in industry accounts for roughly one third of employees while in Považská Bystrica and Horná Nitra the rate is over 50%.

Agricultural south more affected by unemployment

At the beginning of 1991 there were almost 50 000 people registered as unemployed in Central Slovakia. Unemployment peaked in the early part of 1994 when the rate rose to more than 15%. Throughout 1995 a slow but constant decrease in unemployment in the region was experienced, similar to that in Slovakia as a whole.

Nevertheless, in December 1995 Central Slovakia had almost 98 000 registered unemployed and the unemployment rate stood at 12.5%, marginally better than the Slovak average of 13.1%. For a long time the district of Rimavská Sobota has suffered the highest unemployment rate in the region. The districts of Lučenec and Veľký Krτίš also have very high rates of about 20% — among the highest rates nationwide. In contrast, a below-average rate of unemployment of between 8 and 10% existed in the districts of Martin, Liptovský Mikuláš and Považská Bystrica in December 1995.

Surfaced public roads – 1995

Length, km/1 000 km ²	715.00
Length, km/1 000 population	7.85
Length, km/1 000 pass. cars	51.67
Surface, 1 000 m ² /km ²	2.03
Surface, 1 000 m ² /1 000 pop.	22.27
National roads (%)	44
Local roads (%)	56

Road accidents, 1995

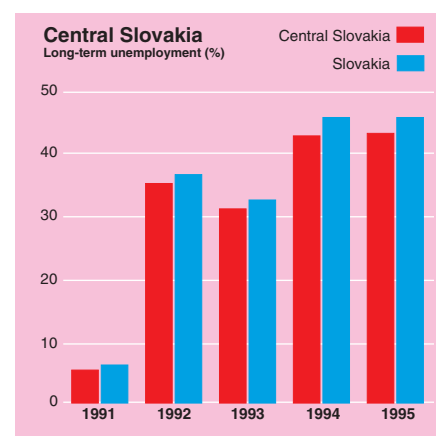
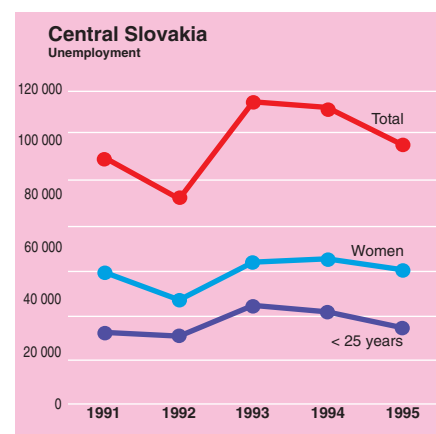
Road accidents in total	16 649
Persons killed	217
Persons injured	3 821

Females exceeded males in the unemployed population in 1995, making up 53% of the total. Almost 46% of the unemployed had been blue-collar workers before their dismissal. Just 1% of the unemployed are graduates and almost 7% have completed secondary education. People with low qualifications, the unskilled, and those approaching retirement age have the biggest disadvantages in the labour market which, with 14 unemployed for every job vacancy at the end of 1995, remains difficult.

The growth of long-term unemployment is a problem in the region and another cause for concern is that young people account for the largest group of the unemployed. A significant proportion of the unemployed come from the gypsy community, almost 14% of the registered unemployed in Central Slovakia, particularly in the districts of Rimavská Sobota and Lučenec.

Three important railway junctions

Žilina, Vrútky and Zvolen are the most important railway junctions in the Central Slovakia region. The connections from the west to east of Slovakia and from the north to south run through these three cities. The most important railway lines are: Bratislava-Zvolen-Košice, Bratislava-Žilina-Košice, Zvolen-Banská Bystrica-Vrútky and Žilina-Čadca. A number of international railway lines running through the region provide connections with the Czech Republic, Ukraine, Hungary and Poland. Several important road routes cross the region, one connecting the cities Bratislava, Trenčín, Žilina and Čadca, and another linking the cities Žilina and Liptovský Mikuláš with Eastern Slovakia. In the southern part of the region there is the main road that runs from Bratislava to the east through Žiar nad Hronom, Zvolen, Lučenec and Rimavská Sobota. The length of the main road network is 5 700 kilome-



tres. One fifth of these are class I roads, more than 95% of their length being asphalted. In addition, there are more than 7 000 km of hard-surfaced local roads.

The airport at Sliač is the most important in the region.

As a result of the considerable growth of vehicle numbers, problems with congestion have arisen in the Central Slovakia region, especially in the larger cities. The motorway route, which will cross Považie and run to Poland, is under construction and is designed to relieve the burden in many areas.

Heavy congestion of the road network has also been caused by a rapid growth in road freight transport to the detriment of transport by rail.

SLOVAKIA

Unequal distribution of public utility services

In Central Slovakia the availability of public utilities services are spatially unevenly distributed. A relatively good infrastructure exists in the main cities of each district, in the central part of the region, and in the areas with developed industry. Provision is less developed in the south and north. More than 70% of villages in 1995 were connected to the water supply network. In all 82% of the population live in areas with public water supply and about 50% of the population live in houses linked to the public sewerage system. The gas network supplies one in four villages.

In the 1990s, significant improvements in telecommunications services have been achieved. At the end of 1995 more than 400 000 telephones were in use in the region, more than half in private dwellings. In the best-provided districts there is one telephone for every three inhabitants, falling to one for every seven inhabitants in the worst.

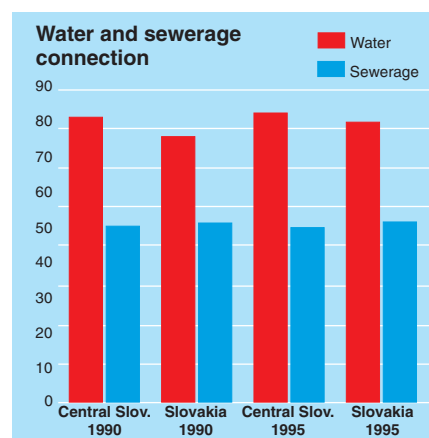
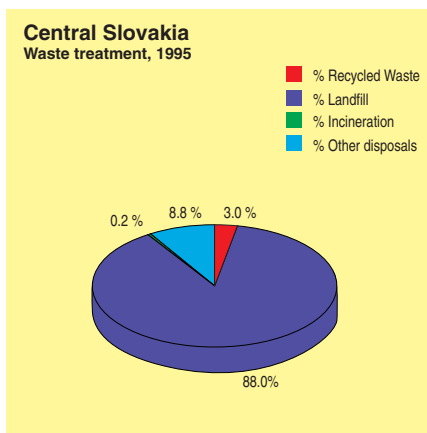
At present the bank network is in the process of development. Three banks and two offshoots of foreign banks established in Slovakia have their headquarters in the region. The three main Slovakian banks, which are all state-owned, have branches in every district.

Specialist medical institutes

Basic education is well-organised in the region with 710 primary schools. Secondary education is provided at 264 secondary schools. There are four universities (in Banská Bystrica, Martin, Zvolen and Žilina) where students can graduate in economics, transport and communications, forestry and timber, trade, medicine and teaching. Religious education is offered at the Theological Seminar in Badín near Banská Bystrica.

The Matica Slovenská plays the role of the Slovak National Library and of the Institute for Library Science and it is charged with the development of librarianship, bibliography and documentation. It collects, preserves and exhibits literary works. There are also two other scientific libraries in the region and almost 900 public libraries operating at the local level.

There are 25 hospitals in Central Slovakia. The hospital in Banská Bystrica and the Faculty Hospital in Martin are of regional importance and the network of outpatient facilities offers health services throughout the region. Eighteen specialist medical institutes and medical institutes for long-term patients are located in the region and institutes in spa resorts treat heart and vascular diseases, digestion diseases, rheumatic disorders and nerve inflammation.



Number of pupils — 1995/96

	M+F 1 000	F (%)
Pre-primary schools	45.7	—
Primary schools	101.8	49.2
Lower secondary schools	102.6	49.1
Upper secondary schools	102.2	51.2
Higher education, University	11.2	41.6
Total	363.5	

Historic mining towns

There are seven theatres in the region, two of them puppet theatres. The J. G. Tajovský Theatre has a long tradition with its opera company in Banská Bystrica and drama in Zvolen, as does the Theatre of the SNP (Slovenské národné povstanie — the Slovak National Uprising) in Martin. Almost 200 cinemas and natural amphitheatres operate, serving the local communities. The Zoo Garden at the Bojnice castle ranks among the main attractions in Central Slovakia, covering 30 hectares and possessing more than 250 domestic and foreign animal species.

Acute environmental problems despite much progress

Both industrial and communal sources are responsible for polluting the environment. As many as half of all the pollution black spots — those areas with the highest emissions are located in this region. These areas are Banská Bystrica, Hnúšťa-Tisovec, Horná Nitra, Ružomberok, Žiar nad Hronom and Žilina.

In 1995 the region generated more than six billion tonnes of non-domestic waste (including hazardous and special waste), with agricultural and industrial activities being the main sources. Other branches of the economy with significant quantities of waste include construction, transport and health services. Industry was responsible for the greatest amount of hazardous and special waste. Waste from meat production activities — from livestock rearing to slaughtering and processing — accounted for as much as 40% of total waste. Mineral wastes represented a quarter of the total.

Central Slovakia produces almost 7 000 000 tons of waste annually. Even though communal waste accounts for less than 10% of this, the region generated 26% of the total communal waste in Slovakia in 1995, re-

Potential for the development of tourism

The gifts which nature has bestowed on this region are many and varied. This is an area of attractive landscapes, unique cultural monuments and traditional architecture. However, this potential is not fully exploited by the tourism industry in which the facilities offered fall short of international standards.

There is also an extensive network of museums and galleries. The Slovak Mining Museum in Banská Štiavnica, the Museum of P. O. Hviezdoslav in Dolný Kubín and the Oravská Gallery in Oravský Podzámok are the best known. The region also has castles, such as Strečno, Bojnice and Oravský zámok. In some towns whole groups of historic buildings have been preserved together with the town castles (notably in the mining towns of Banská Bystrica, Banská Štiavnica and Kremnica). The whole town of Banská Štiavnica has been declared a historical monument with its many historical, cultural, artistic and technological points of interest. In 1763 it became the seat of the Academy of

Mining, the first university of its kind in Europe.

Tourist attractions in the region include the village of Čičmany, famous for its unique architecture with its buildings decorated with painted ornaments, and Vikolínec — a preserved traditional village in the natural setting of the Veľká Fatra.

Tourist activity

	1991	1995
Total beds	22 066	23 250
Annual total number of overnight stays	2,281 933	2,068 025
Utilisation of bed capacity (%)	34.4	24.9

presenting 385 kg per inhabitant. Despite the gradual introduction of waste separation, only 4% was sorted. Some 55% of communal waste — 213 kg per capita — was household waste. Most household waste (88%) was disposed of at dumping grounds, and only a minimum amount by incineration. Only 3% was re-used as a raw materials or for composting.

Some projects have been launched aimed at encouraging the re-use of waste as raw materials and as a material for energy production. All these activities will help the region in the protection of its soil, and the purity of its water and air. Air and water purity is gradually being improved by closing inefficient, obsolete, and — from the

point of view of air pollution — outdated plants, and by introducing new, up-to-date technologies.

Some legal measures have been taken to reinforce environmental protection in the region. For example, in some factories more environmentally-friendly fuel was introduced to reduce the burden on nature. However, threats to the environment may ensue from the rapid growth in transport by road.

The region features many natural, unspoiled areas and in particular the High and Low Tatras National Parks and the National Park of Malá Fatra as well as a number of protected wildlife reserves.

The existing engineering industry is based primarily on imported basic raw materials. The woodworking industry, cellulose-paper industry, food industry, and consumer goods industry are operating successfully using mainly local raw materials.

The transformation in the economy of this region in the 1990s has caused high unemployment and restructuring, especially in the southern and northern districts, resulting in the under-utilisation of a qualified workforce.

In the areas where heavy industry is situated there has been serious environmental damage, with the mining industry having a great environmental impact on the climate, forest and water courses.

A decline in the birth rate and the resultant changes in the number of people in the pre-productive and post-productive age groups, particularly in the southern parts of the region, has led to a gradual ageing of the population.

SLOVAKIA

VÝCHODNÉ SLOVENSKO

Covering roughly one third of the Slovak Republic's total area, with more than 16 000 square kilometres, and home to over 1.5 million inhabitants, about 29% of the national total — East Slovakia (Východné Slovensko) forms a geographically, culturally and administratively distinct region.

The region is, however, an area full of contrasts, with the huge Carpathian Mountains range drained by rivers flowing to three seas (the North Sea, the Baltic and the Black Sea), and located in a part of Europe where different cultures, religions and nationalities meet. Settlement in the region is known to have existed since the Old Stone Age — permanently since the New Stone Age — and rich findings of artefacts from various Bronze Age cultures have been unearthed. The first Slavs arrived during the era of the 'migrations of nations' from the third to sixth centuries and grew in importance from the ninth century onwards. From the eighth to the thirteenth centuries, the region was influenced by the Avarian and Hune cultures and then, much later, by the 18th century Saxonian colonisation when Germanic people settled mainly in the Spiš area. The handicrafts, trade and privileges of the biggest urban centre — Košice — have also had an important influence on the region's development.

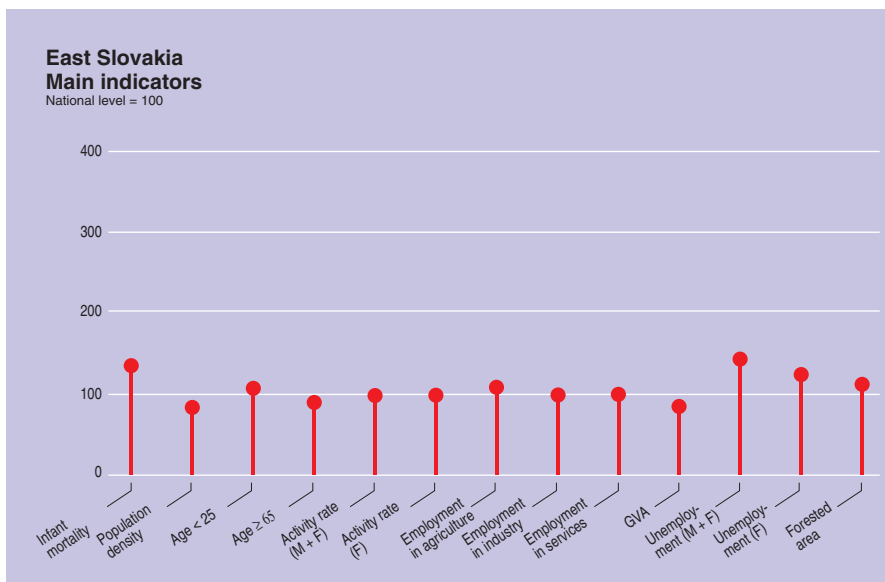
Since ancient times the territory has been a crossroads of trade and military routes, and of religious reformational and anti-reformational movements. The region has road and railway links to the neighbouring countries and to the other Slovak regions and has airports in Košice and Poprad.

Within the region, there are some clearly delimited areas — Spiš, Šariš, Zemplín and Gemer for example — with distinct cultures, ethnic backgrounds and religions. As at the end of 1995, the region was administratively divided into 13 districts with more than 1 000 municipalities.



The town hall, tower and St. Jacob's church at Levoča.

Photo: L. Rozman



A region of contrasts

Characteristic for this region are its considerable differences in altitude and climate. All types of relief are to be found, from lowlands to mountain ranges and sharp ridges. The region includes both the lowest point (Klin nad Bodrogom at 95 m above sea level) and the highest point (Gerlach Peak at 2 655 m) in Slovakia. The northern and western parts are covered by forests, and lowlands are found in the south and east of the region. Altitude influences the climate of the northern, explaining why the High Tatras peaks can be covered in snow while the southern part of the East Slovakian lowlands are warm. The region borders Poland to the north, Ukraine

in the east, Hungary in the south and the region of Central Slovakia to the west.

Košice is the second largest city in Slovakia and the industrial and cultural centre of the region. It is a town with a long history; in 1342 it became a royal free town to which the King granted trade and tax privileges and in 1369 it became with the first town in Europe to have an official coat-of-arms. The second largest city is Prešov. Other important towns include the historically significant Bardejov, Levoča and Poprad, which stands at the gateway to the High Tatras. Different soil types and the presence in some areas of mineral deposits determined the utilisation of different parts of the region for either industrial or agricultural purposes.



Which regions are similar to East Slovakia?

Area:
16 000 km²

Thüringen (D)
Frache-Comté (F)

Age structure:
42% under 25

Açores (P)
Vaslui (RO)

Employment structure:
35.8% in industry

Centro (I)
Alsace (F)
Magdeburg (D)

Wealth in natural resources

The region is rich in both ores and non-metallic mineral deposits, the most important being iron ore, mercury ores, non-ferrous metals, salt, magnesite, clay, limestone, gypsum, travertine stone and expanded zeolite (perlite). The Spiš-Gemer part of the Slovenské Rudohorie mountains has the most important deposits.

The Bodrog is the biggest river of the region and together with other rivers flowing in a north-south direction drains the eastern part. The Hornád flows from the west to the east and south, and other important rivers include the Slaná, the Torysa and the Tisa. Reservoirs such as the Domaša, the Zemplínska Šírava, the Ružín, and the Starina serve as a source of energy and also as significant sources of drinking water. There are also lakes of glacial

origin in this region, notably the Morské Oko (the 'Sea Eye') close to the town of Sobrance, and the Tatra lakes. Thanks to the natural healing properties of the thermal and mineral springs and the favourable climatic conditions, many spas were built up in this region. The High Tatras — the centre of summer and winter tourism — with their dramatic glacier-formed alpine relief and valuable flora and fauna are a special attraction of the region.

District	Area	Population				Activity	Unemploy-	Employment			
		1 000		Inhab./km ²	Change (%)			ment (%)	(%) Agriculture	(%) Industry	(%) Services
Region	km ²	12/31/70	12/31/95	12/31/95	1980-90	1991-95	1995	12/31/95	1995	1995	1995
Country	12/31/95	12/31/70	12/31/95	12/31/95	1980-90	1991-95	1995	12/31/95	1995	1995	1995
Bardejov	1 014	64.2	82.5	81	9.0	3.6	49.6	18.2	13.6	39.2	47.2
Humenné	1 909	97.9	114.7	60	6.1	1.8	54.3	13.3	12.2	42.6	45.2
Košice-mesto	244	144.5	240.9	987	17.4	1.8	78.5	11.3	1.0	35.5	63.6
Košice-vidiek	1 533	101.0	101.6	66	0.0	1.9	40.1	16.6	25.2	25.4	49.5
Michalovce	1 310	103.3	113.4	87	3.0	1.4	56.6	20.9	15.0	39.4	45.6
Poprad	1 963	116.6	161.2	82	13.2	3.7	63.4	17.0	10.1	35.0	54.9
Prešov	1 418	160.7	209.3	148	10.6	3.6	55.9	16.5	9.2	37.5	53.3
Rožňava	1 621	82.2	87.6	54	0.8	1.3	58.0	22.0	12.1	41.2	46.8
Spišská Nová Ves	1 529	128.8	149.9	98	4.6	2.6	53.4	19.3	12.3	34.0	53.7
Stará Ľubovňa	624	39.0	49.0	79	10.6	4.2	53.7	13.5	17.0	38.8	44.2
Svidník	862	38.0	45.0	52	4.7	1.2	52.7	18.3	13.4	34.5	52.1
Trebišov	1 322	113.3	119.4	90	1.4	0.5	55.6	19.0	19.5	25.1	55.5
Vranov nad Topľou	847	61.8	76.5	90	7.1	3.2	49.6	19.0	17.5	39.0	43.6
East Slovakia	16 196	1,251.5	1,551.0	96	7.8	2.4	58.2	16.7	10.6	35.8	53.6
Slovakia total	49 035	4 539.9	5 367.8	109	6.3	1.4	59.2	13.1	9.8	36.5	53.7

SLOVAKIA

Strong natural population increase

The population is relatively young in comparison with other regions, the pre-productive age group forms a higher proportion and the productive and post-productive groups lower proportions of the total population. The proportion of females is 51% of the total population and the birth rate, at 13.6 per thousand, is higher than the Slovak average.

The main minority group is the Hungarian community with 6.3% of the total population, followed by Gypsies (4%), and Ruthenians (1.1%). The Ukrainian and Czech minorities represent less than one per cent of the total population. However, these shares do not illustrate the fact that nine-tenths of the Ruthenian and Ukrainian inhabitants of the Slovak Republic and three quarters of the Gypsies are concentrated in this region. Despite higher post-neonatal and infant mortality rates than the Slovak average, the region has a higher natural population increase. Although

A long tradition of metal-working

Roughly 10 000 profit-oriented companies are in business in the region, operating mainly in industry — taking advantage of the sources of domestic raw materials — but also in the trade and repairs sector. Forges and metalworking plants have existed in some localities since ancient times and are complemented by mines and the engineering industry. The steel industry expanded rapidly with the introduction of large-scale production techniques in the 1960s and, with the domestic labour force, Ukrainian ore and coal from Ostrava in the Czech Republic, became a significant element of the region's industry. Chemical production, located in the eastern part of the region is also one of the newer branches, though its roots were established in East Slovakia by the Czech entrepreneur Baťa at the time of the first Czechoslovak Republic.

Agricultural land covers 737 500 hectares and forests 733 600 hectares, together representing nine tenths of the total area of the region. It is therefore not surprising that over one third of Slovakia's forested area is in this region, although arable land is only just over a quarter of the Slovakian total.

Following the decline of industrial and agricultural production and construction activity in the early 1990s during the economic transformation, by 1995 industrial production was on the increase again. In the con-

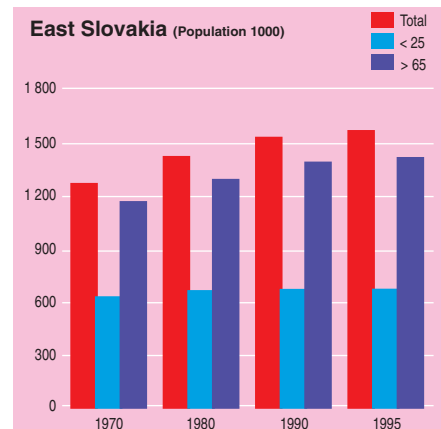
struction industry the emphasis is now on repairs and maintenance, to the detriment of new construction. The amount of work being carried out by regional construction firms abroad is increasing. Furthermore an

increase in productivity in both industry and construction is in evidence. Foreign capital has been attracted less to East Slovakia than to other regions.

there is a high mortality rate, it is lower than the Slovak average and life expectancy of males within the different districts of the region ranges from 64.3 to 69.2 years, and for females from 74.2 to 77.9 years.

Birth rates peaked in East Slovakia during the post-war years, particularly in the 1950s and the 1995 number of live births is at its lowest for the last 30 years. Despite this, the region still represents one third of the total Slovak natural population increase. With the decreasing birth rate, a tendency towards a two-children family model is in evidence. With the average age of the males in 1995 being 31.7 and females 34.5 years — both lower than the Slovakian average — the process of population ageing is also evident, but is slower than in the other regions. A long-term negative migration balance, with the exception of 1994, is a characteristic of the region. In 1995 more than 20 000 inhabitants, of whom 53% were women, moved within the region.

About 6 000 foreign citizens, mainly Ukrainians, Poles and Czechs, live in the region, mainly concentrated around Košice and in the Poprad and Prešov districts.



Demographic account - 1980 — 90

1 000	
Population 1980	1 404
Births	277
Deaths	136
Net migration	-31
Population 1990	1 514

Population by age — 1995

	M+F 1 000	M+F %	M %	F %
<15	381	24.6	25.7	23.5
15–24	270	17.4	18.1	16.7
25–34	223	14.4	15.0	13.8
35–44	232	14.9	15.4	14.5
45–54	165	10.6	10.4	10.8
55–64	128	8.2	7.5	8.9
≥65	153	9.9	7.9	11.8
Total	1 551	100.0	100.0	100.0

Resident population of foreign nationality - 1995

	1 000	% of total population
Total	5.9	0.4
Ukraine	30.5%	
Poland	14.6%	
Czech Republic	14.1%	
Hungary	5.6%	
Russian Federation	5.2%	
Bulgaria	3.5%	

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increase in productivity in both industry and construction is in evidence.

Foreign capital has been attracted less to East Slovakia than to other regions.

Agriculture 1995

Number of holdings	1 879
Labour force, persons	40 032
Agriculture area, December 31 (ha)	737 506
Livestock, December 31, 1995 (thousands)	6 117
Share of three main products in the gross agricultural production from gross turnover (%)	
Pigs	19
Milk	16
Cattle	16

Average monthly wages by sector

National level = 100

	1990	1995
Agriculture	97	94
Industry	102	102
Building	96	94
Financial services		96

Main enterprises

Name	Site	Activity
VSŽ OCEĽ, spol. s r o	Košice-Šaca	Iron and steel
Východoslovenské lesy, š.p.	Košice	Forestry
JAS, a.s.	Bardejov	Footwear
ZPA Dukla, š.p.	Prešov	Measuring instruments/appliances
Želba š.p.	Spišská Nová Ves	Mining of iron ores
Chemosvit, a.s.	Svit	Plastic profiles
Chemlon, a.s.	Humenné	Artificial fibres
Východoslovenské vodárne a kanalizácie, š.p.	Košice	Water supply
Chemko, a.s.	Strážske	Basic chemicals
Inžinierske stavby, a.s.	Košice	Civil engineering
Tatragónka, a.s.	Poprad	Locomotives
Východoslovenské energetické závody, š.p.	Košice	Electricity production/distribution

About 1 000 companies in the region have received foreign capital investment; only one tenth of the total number in the Slovak Republic. Furthermore, only 8% of all foreign-owned companies in Slovakia are found in the region.

Privatisation also continues more slowly than in other regions. The size of the private sector measured by the proportion of companies in private ownership is low in comparison with the Slovak average.

Finance, insurance, tourism and trade have all been affected by privatisation to a large extent. More than a quarter of all small businesses in Slovakia are located in this region, about one fifth of these are in the industrial sector.

The concept of competition is still not very strong in East Slovakia and there is a lack of investment capital from advanced western countries, a problem also faced by many of the region's neighbours.

Low expenditure on research and development

Total expenditure on research and development is low, representing only one-tenth of the total in the Slovak Republic. Funding comes mainly from profit-oriented organisations and permits the employment of 2 600 experts (in full-time equivalents), two thirds of these being research workers. Research and development is oriented towards various branches but is centred mainly on natural and technical sciences (for the engineering and chemical industries), medical and laboratory equipment and the environment. The Slovak Academy of Science has eight institutes in East Slovakia and scientific activity is also carried out by the universities.

Heavy industry dominates

Industry is the most important branch of the region's economy, accounting for about one third of all employees of the region and some 27% of the total Slovak production volume by value. Companies in the region have a monopoly in Slovakia in the production of metal plates (including coils and sheets) and ceramic tiles, in the mining and processing of iron ore and in salt production. The region also dominates the manufacture of domestic washing machines, as well as achieving 96% of the Slovak production of magnesite and two thirds of chemical fibre and lime production. Nearly one half of the industrial production of the region is represented by metal production and metal products, machinery and appliances. The ironworks Východoslovenské železiarne OCEĽ of Košice (VSŽ OCEĽ) is the most important factory in the region in terms of turnover and the number of employees, and is also one of the largest in Slovakia.

As far as exports are concerned, the VSŽ OCEĽ company of Košice, the Tatragónka company, Poprad (for railway wagons), Chemlon, and Humenné (chemical fibres) are the most important producers. But these large companies represent only one percent of the total number of businesses of the region, compared to 83% for small enterprises with up to 25 employees.

SLOVAKIA

Social benefits a high proportion of household income

In absolute terms, wages were roughly three times higher in 1995 than at the start of the economic transformation, but this is mainly a consequence of inflation and does not reflect a general rise in real incomes. The 1995 gross per capita monthly household income was some 4% lower than the Slovak average. In the income structure, income from employment (i.e. wages) dominates, representing

about half of the total. In 1995 the region featured the highest proportion of social benefits income; 17% of total gross per capita household income.

The average nominal monthly wage per employee in the region does not reach the Slovak average, but the downwards trend of previous years has gradually slowed. In terms of branches of the economy, the highest average wages are in financial services, state administration, industry, research and development, transport and construction.

Gross per capita household income - 1995 (%)

	East Slovakia	Slovakia
Employment	47.2	48.1
Agriculture	12.5	11.6
Self-employment	12.5	13.1
Social Benefits	16.6	15.0
Other	3.4	3.5
Savings and loans	7.7	8.7

Characteristics of employment - 1995%

	15—24 years	25—34 years	35—44 years	45—54 years	55—64 years	>65 years
Men	14.6	29.0	30.2	19.5	6.3	0.4
Women	13.8	26.2	35.3	23.0	1.6	0.1
Total	14.3	27.8	32.4	21.0	4.2	0.2

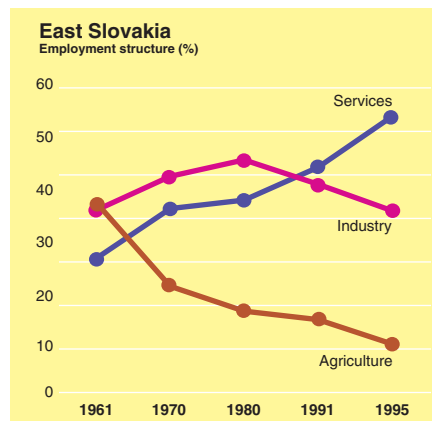
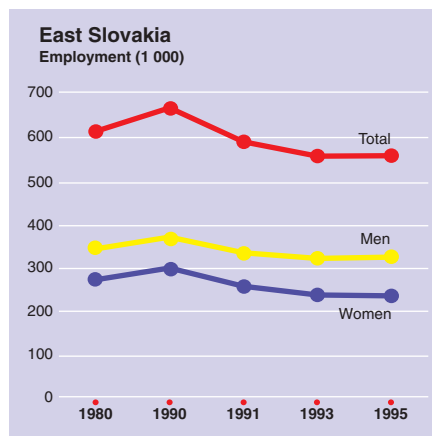
Significant decrease of employment in the north and north-east

Employment levels have fallen in the course of the economic transformation. The disintegration of large state enterprises and agricultural cooperatives, and their transformation with new forms of ownership and new production programmes released a huge amount of labour. Employment in the region began to grow again from a low point in 1993 to reach more than 500 000 in 1995, 42% of employees being female.

Industry, despite now accounting for less than one third of total employment, is still the largest branch in employment terms. About 10% of the total number of working people are employed in each of agriculture and transport with another 10% in communication services and about 5% in the construction industry. A further 5% are employed in trade activities.

Employment opportunities are concentrated in the larger towns, and particularly in the districts of Košice, Prešov and Poprad. Even so, the northern and north-eastern parts of East Slovakia have seen almost a halving in employment between 1990 and 1995. During this period, employment of the population above the official retirement age declined significantly to represent just a little over 5% of the total number of employed in 1995.

The level of education of the region's population is good. A quarter of the adult population have attended vocational apprentice training schools, and another quarter have succeeded in the leaving examinations of the special secondary schools that offer medical, commercial, technical and agricultural educations. The number of people with university degrees is also high. More recently, supplementary education of employees has been arranged by several employer's organisations and firms, and self-study has been encouraged. Knowledge of foreign languages is relatively low in the region, except among the younger age groups.



Above-average unemployment rate

Due largely to the transformation of the economy, conversion of defence industries (which accounted for a significant share of the turnover of some of the region's enterprises) and the previous state paternalism over employment of the population, the new phenomenon of unemployment has emerged. The unemployment rates in this region are the highest in Slovakia with almost 17% unemployed at the end of 1995, compared to the Slovakian average of 13.1%.

Most of the region's districts suffer an above-average unemployment rate, but particularly badly affected are the districts of Gemer and Spiš and the northern and south-eastern districts. To some extent, unemployment in these areas is a consequence of the unsuitable locations and structures of certain elements of the economy in the previous system (notably the concentration of heavy industry and chemicals in a few big centres such as Prešov and Košice), although the industrialisation that followed the Second World War did bring some economic prosperity to the region's population.

Surfaced public roads – 1995

Length, km/1 000 km ²	625.50
Length, km/1 000 population	6.53
Length, km/1 000 pass. cars	55.18
Surface, 1 000 m ² /km ²	2.28
Surface, 1 000 m ² /1 000 pop.	23.76
National roads (%)	55
Local roads (%)	45

Road accidents, 1995

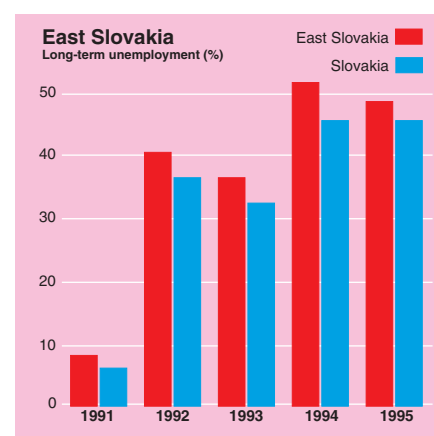
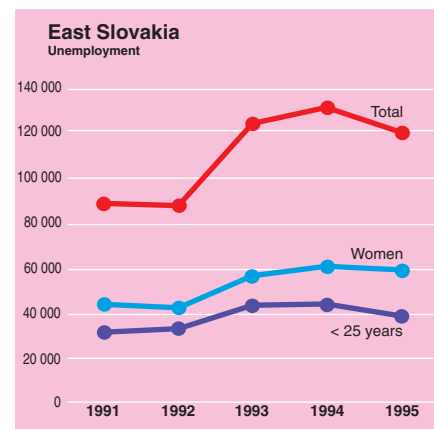
Road accidents in total	14 513
Persons killed	142
Persons injured	3 027

The proportion of the unemployed with secondary school qualifications is lower than in other regions. About a quarter of East Slovakia's unemployed are manual and unqualified workers, one eighth are craftsmen and skilled workers, and two fifths have not previously been employed. Only about 3% of employment applicants are successful, meaning that there are more than 33 applicants for each vacancy – well above the Slovakian 1995 average of about 20. Only a quarter of the registered unemployed receive unemployment benefits, a lower proportion than in other regions. The real number of unemployed people is, of course, even higher than the number registered. For various reasons, some of the unemployed, and especially those that are not registered, often try to find a job abroad or accept lower paid jobs, for example some well-qualified people take jobs as unskilled workers, and young females take jobs as baby-sitters.

Two important east-west railway lines

The two biggest towns, Košice and Prešov, are connected by a 33 km long motorway which was completed in the 1980s. The region is interwoven by a network of state and locally-maintained roads although the state road network is less extensive (in terms of kilometres of road per square kilometre) than in other regions, and the quality of local roads is poorer. Since 1990 the improvement and upgrading of second- and third-class state roads has been minimal, but there has been a slight increase in the length of first-class roads.

The railway network covers the whole of the region, except the district of Svidník. Two main lines run through the region from east to west and the northern one, which is electrified, connects the eastern-most point of Slovakia with Žilina and continues westwards into the Czech Republic. This line was built in the last century and is



known as the Košicko-Bohumínska main line. To the south of this is the line from Čierna nad Tisou, partly electrified from Košice, which leads to Zvolen and Bratislava, and which was completed after World War II through the Jablonovský tunnel.

The amount of freight transported by rail has decreased since 1989 much faster than the decline in road transport. Furthermore, the number of passengers transported by rail also fell although this decline was halted in 1994.

Two airports serve the travelling public; in Košice and Poprad (for the High Tatras). These provide domestic as well as international transport, mainly during the tourist season.

SLOVAKIA

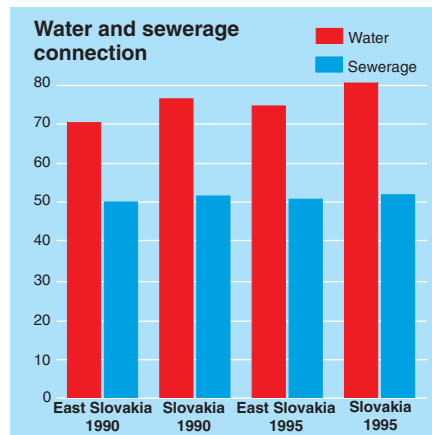
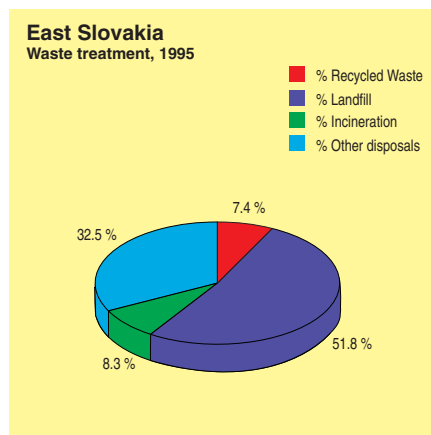
Underdeveloped public utilities

The general level of public utility service provision is slightly below the Slovakian average. In 1995 there was one domestic telephone for every 6.9 inhabitants in the region. An extension of the network by more than 20% in the first half of the 1990s means that the region accounted for 27% of all the telephones in Slovakia in 1995 and over a third of subscribers are connected to the digital network. However, this modernisation has not always improved the quality of service; the number of faults reported increased slightly in 1995. The region also counts one television set for every 5.2 inhabitants and one (registered) radio set for every 7.5.

The public water supply compares unfavourably with other regions; only about three quarters of the region's inhabitants are connected, which is less than the Slovak average. The drainage system is even less extensive, with only about a half of the total population connected, predominantly in the urban and suburban areas. Sewage disposal plants treat over

90% of the sewerage from public drainage system before it is pumped into the water courses. One in four municipalities are supplied with gas, the south-east of the region and the Tatra district having a higher level of provision than average.

Financial services are supplied by 17 banks, four savings banks and many insurance companies through the medium of their branch offices.



Education and health facilities

Over 1 000 public libraries with 5.7 million volumes serve the region's readers. University libraries in Košice and Prešov, along with the well-known State Science Library, serve the academic community.

University degrees are offered at 5 universities in Košice, Prešov, Michalovce and Poprad, with faculties specialising in humanities, technology, natural science, pedagogy, economics, theology and the only veterinary science faculty in Slovakia. The university student population has more than doubled since the 1970s, with a 25% rise between 1985 and 1995.

Secondary school education is provided by 55 grammar schools and over 100 secondary vocational schools, including a conservatoire and an art-handicraft school. The basic school network covers the whole area of the region.

Health care is delivered by 29 hospitals and maternity hospitals with a capacity of 7.7 beds per 1 000 inhabitants. Special care, especially for respiratory diseases, is provided in the mountainous environment of the High Tatras by the many medical institutions and health resorts (for example the High Tatras, Štós) and spas based on mineral springs (Bardejov, Vyšné Ružbachy).

Number of pupils — 1995/96

	M+F 1 000	F (%)
Pre-primary schools	50.4	—
Primary schools	104.7	49.0
Lower secondary schools	100.7	49.0
Upper secondary schools	94.5	50.9
Higher education, University	14.6	44.8
Total	364.8	

Historical and cultural attractions

Cultural entertainment for the local population and visitors is provided by 7 theatre companies at 12 locations, 17 museums, 4 galleries, over 100 cinemas and other local facilities. The East Slovak Theatre, the East Slovak Museum and the Gallery of J. Jakoby in Košice, as well as the Gallery of Andy Warhol in Medzilaborce are among the most important cultural facilities of the region.

Several of the region's historical monuments feature in the Unesco world heritage list, namely Bardejov, where the whole town centre is classed as a national cultur-

al monument, Spiš Castle, and the small church at Žehra. Further important monuments are the town of Levoča — the 'pearl of the Renaissance', the Krásna Hôrka Castle, and Saint Elizabeth's Cathedral in Košice — one of the foremost examples of Gothic architecture in the Slovakia.

Areas of special natural beauty are protected in the Tatra National Park, the Pieniny National Park and the Slovak Paradise National Park. There are natural features unique within Central Europe such as the Dobšinská Ice Cave and other attractions such as the cold geyser in Herľany, and the Ochtinská Aragonite Cave which is one of only three in the world.

Environmental problems

The problem of the protection of the environment is especially topical. In the previous regime, industrialisation was pursued without any comprehensive understanding of the environmental consequences and aimed at a complex utilisation of raw materials and waste, without appropriate purifying processes. During this period of development, the environments of more and more districts were seriously damaged; the area around Košice, central Spiš, the triangle of Humenné-Michalovce-Vranov nad Topľou, part of Gemer, and especially around Jelšava, Lubeník and Prešov. Waste is one of the main forms of contamination. Enterprises in the region produce 6.7 million tonnes of waste, and communal waste amounts to 618 000 tonnes per annum. In the interest of environmental protection, state administrations levied about 700 fines in 1995 for offences relating to air and water protection, nature conservation and waste management, but only one fifth of penalties were paid.

Development potential

The economic development of the region does not match its potential. The territory possesses extensive mineral resources, unique natural features, historical monuments, mineral springs and an alpine climate, together with a large supply of labour which is set to increase in future years. The educational level of the population is also relatively high.

However, the region lacks a strong financial base and would benefit from more substantial foreign investment. Scope for extending tourism is as yet underdevel-

Tourist activity

	1991	1995
Total beds	19 714	18 662
Annual total number of overnight stays	2,170 504	2,179 378
Utilisation of bed capacity (%)	37.0	29.8

oped. In comparison with other Slovakian regions, East Slovakia has some inherent disadvantages in being relatively far from the capital which is situated in the west. In addition, it is surrounded by other countries whose economies are all facing the same transformation problems and this limits employment opportunities. The region also has significant concentrations of inhabitants in some districts who are dependent on state social benefits as well as assistance from municipal budgets.

Explanatory notes

Employment and unemployment :

Employment and unemployment data refer to 31 December of the preceding year. For the structure of employment, agriculture includes agriculture and forestry, while industry includes mining and quarrying, manufacturing, electricity, construction, gas and water supply. Services includes all other branches.

Population:

1960, 1970, 1980, 1990, 1995 – annual vital statistics.

Graph: Main indicators (national level = 100)

(Population, employment and unemployment and forest and agricultural area relate to December 1995. The activity rate comprises those employees with a main or second job + registered unemployment divided by the population of productive and post-productive age and expressed as a percentage.

Graph: Resident population of foreign nationality – 1995

Those foreign citizens who have a permanent or long-term residence permit in the Slovak Republic

Graph: Wages (national level = 100)

Monthly nominal wages and salaries by selected NACE sections

Graph: Gross per capita household income – 1995 (%)

The sampling survey of family budgets.

Graph: Unemployment 1991 - 95

Registered unemployment, as of the end of the year.

Graph: Surface public roads – 1995

Public roads = motorways + national roads + local roads (hard surface)

Graph: Agricultural area, December 31, 1995

Aggregated sector surveys on areas of individual kinds of lands recorded in the real estate register kept by the Office of Geodesy, Cartography and Land Register of the Slovak Republic as at the beginning of each year.

Livestock December 31, 1995

The number of farm animals at December 31, 1995 is derived from an annual report by the livestock production reporting units enrolled in the companies' register. The figures for Bratislava are included in West Slovakia.

Note on comparability

The definitions and methods used by the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic do not always coincide with those used by Member States of the European Union. Comparisons of Slovak regions with regions in other countries should therefore be made with caution.

Note

Citizens of the Slovak Republic have a free choice of nationality according to their convictions. The nationality of the children under the age of 15 is listed according to the nationality of their parents.

The Hungarian minority referred to in the text claims to be of Hungarian nationality.

Citizenship of the Slovak Republic is basically obtained by birth and residence in the Slovak Republic or by naturalisation under the provisions of the law. The citizens of the abovementioned Hungarian minority have Slovak Citizenship i.e. Slovak passport and Slovak ID papers.







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Legend to maps

Region **ZÁPADNÉ SLOVENSKO**
 Capital of the Region **KOŠICE**
 Town of over 100,000 inhabitants **BRATISLAVA**
 Town of over 50,000 inhabitants **TRNAVA**
 Town of over 20,000 inhabitants **PEZINOK**
 Town of over 5,000 inhabitants **Malaacky**
 Border crossing point (railway) 
 Border crossing point (road) 
 National Park 
 Motorway 
 Main Roads 
 Waterway 
 Railway 

Centre of Culture 
 Heavy Industry 
 Thermal Bath 
 Airport 
 Historic Monument 
 Port 
 Tourist Attraction 
 Car Assembly 
 Ski Resort 

LEGEND

Regions of Slovakia

Maps designed by **András Trócsányi and Zoltán Wilhelm**

Janus Pannonius University, Faculty of Sciences
 Department of General Human Geography and
 Urban Studies - Pécs, Hungary - 2000

Symbols and abbreviations

Greater than or equal	≥
Less than	<
Not available	:
Less than half of the unit used	0
Gross value-added	GVA
Livestock unit	LU
Inhabitant	inhab.
Male	M
Female	F
Hectare	ha
Kilometre	km
Metre	m

SLOVAKIA

European Commission**Volume 7: Portrait of the Regions – Slovakia**

Luxembourg: Office for Official Publications of the European Communities

2000 – VIII, 40 pp. – 21.0 x 29.7 cm

Classification themes: 13 and 17

ISBN: 92-828-4393-9

Price (excluding VAT) in Luxembourg: ECU 20,00

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