



SLOVAKIA

SOCIAL: The number of people in permanent employment as well as the number of self-employed individuals increased year-on-year, the social security agency Socialna Poistovna reported in a press release. In August this year, it registered 2,017,775 employees which is 2,705 more than last August.

1/10/2019, SITA

SURVEY: The average gross wage in Slovakia should grow 6 to 8% this year, according to estimates from Grafton Slovakia. In the second quarter of this year the average wage in Slovakia, according to their survey, increased 9.7% y-o-y to 1,100 euros.

2/10/2019, SITA

BUDGET: The state budget deficit was deeper also in September. At the end of the ninth month, the Finance Ministry reported a deficit of 1.841 billion euros, up almost 200 million euros from the end of the previous month. Compared with the same period of last year the budget deficit almost tripled.

2/10/2019, SITA

MINIMUM WAGE: The minimum monthly wage in Slovakia will increase from 520 euros to 580 euros from the beginning of next year. The Cabinet decided about the hike on October 3rd.

3/10/2019, SITA

ECONOMY: Slovakia's economy expanded 4% last year. The Statistics Office of the Slovak Republic released this figure after having included revised data.

9/10/2019, SITA

EDUCATION: Salaries of teachers will increase again from January next year. The Cabinet approved a draft government regulation from the Education Ministry, according to which tariff salaries of pedagogical and other professional staff members will increase by 10%.

10/10/2019

CONSTITUTIONAL COURT: The Constitutional Court again functions in full composition. President Zuzana Caputova on October 10th appointed six judges – Peter Straka, Milos Madar, Rastislav Kassak, Libor Dula, Ladislav Dudits, and Martin Vernarsky. They received a formal decree from the head of state.

11/10/2019, SITA

BUDGET: The draft state budget for next year and the general government budget for the next three years were approved at the Cabinet's session on October 14th. Next year's public finance deficit is projected at 0.49% of GDP. The plan for balanced performance of the country is thus postponed once the general government deficit is expected to reach almost 0.7% of GDP in 2019. According to the original plans, Slovakia should have had no deficit budgets starting this year.

15/10/2019, SITA

EU FUNDS: Slovakia absorbs EU funds for science at a very slow pace. To date, the country has used only 13 percent of 1.7 billion euros allocated in the 2014 – 2020 programming period. As a result, Slovakia will have to return 110 million euros to Brussels this year

15/10/2019, SITA

UNEMPLOYMENT: The registered unemployment rate in Slovakia went up by 0.07 percentage point to 5.04% at the end of September this year versus August.

21/10/2019, SITA

AUTOMATION: Automated production has been advancing rapidly in Slovakia and worldwide. According to the International Federation of Robotics, the presence of robots in Slovak industrial companies has increased by 22 percent since 2016. While in 2016, there were 135 robots per 10,000 workers in the Slovak industry, last year it was already 165. Slovakia ranks among the first twenty countries with the highest share of robots in the industrial production.

24/10/2019, SITA

INVESTMENTS: The Slovak Investment and Trade Development Agency (SARIO) finished 29 projects worth a total of 243 million euros within nine months of 2019. These projects have created some 3,400 jobs. As SARIO CEO Robert Simoncic informed at the Slovak Cooperation Exchange in Bratislava, the agency is particularly pleased with the quality of these projects. More than half of them have the potential to generate higher added value.

25/10/2019, SITA

PRICES: Price growth in industry in Slovakia continues to slow down. In September, industrial producer prices rose by 0.8% y-o-y, compared to 1.1% in August. At the same time, growth of industrial prices has been steadily declining since May of this year, when its growth peaked at 3.3%. On average, industrial prices in Slovakia grew by 2.9% in the first three quarters of this year.

29/10/2019, SITA

EUROPE

INFLATION: Euro area annual inflation is expected to be 0.9% in September 2019, down from 1.0% in August according to a flash estimate from [Eurostat](#), the statistical office of the European Union

1/10/2019, [European Commission](#)

REGIONS: On October 7th, the Commission published the [2019 Regional Competitiveness Index](#) and a [Eurobarometer on Regional Policy](#). This will help authorities in the Member States in charge of designing the future Cohesion Policy programmes for the 2021-2027 EU budget period to evaluate public opinion, identify regional assets and better focus investments.

7/10/2019, [European Commission](#)

BUDGET: The European Court of Auditors – the independent auditor of EU spending – confirmed that the Juncker Commission had significantly improved the way it administered the EU budget. The auditors gave the EU annual accounts a clean bill of health for a 12th year in a row and a qualified opinion on the 2018 payments for a third consecutive year.

8/10/2019, [European Commission](#)

TRADE: The EU's growing network of trade agreements is creating economic opportunities for workers across Europe, with over 36 million jobs being supported by exports to outside of the EU. The EU recorded a surplus of €84.6 billion in trade in goods with its trade agreement partners, compared to its overall trade deficit with the rest of the world of about €24.6 billion.

14/10/2019, [European Commission](#)

LABOUR: On October 16th, the European Labour Authority, which will reside in Bratislava, started its activities with an inaugural ceremony and the first meeting of its Management Board. The launch took place two years after European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker announced the idea for such an Authority in his [2017 State of the Union address](#) before the European Parliament.

16/10/2019, [European Commission](#)

SKILLS: On October 17th, the European Vocational Skills Week 2019 was concluded. This year, 1,407 associated events and activities have been held across Europe so far and have helped the European Vocational Skills Week campaign to reach 2.5 million people, which is the highest number ever since the first edition in 2016.

17/10/2019, [European Commission](#)

INVESTMENTS: The Investment Plan for Europe, the Juncker Plan, has played a key role in boosting jobs and growth in the EU. Investments by the European Investment Bank (EIB) Group backed by the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI) have increased EU gross domestic product (GDP) by 0.9% and added 1.1 million jobs compared to the baseline scenario. By 2022, the Juncker Plan will have increased EU GDP by 1.8% and added 1.7 million jobs, according to latest calculations by the Joint Research Centre (JRC) and the Economics Department of the EIB Group.

22/10/2019, [European Commission](#)

EDUCATION: October 25th marks one year since the launch of [SELFIE](#) (Self-reflection on Effective Learning by Fostering Innovation through Educational technology), the European Commission's free online tool that helps schools assess and improve the ways they use technology for teaching and learning. Over 450,000

students, teachers and school leaders in 45 countries have used the tool so far, and this figure is expected to exceed 500,000 by the end of 2019.

25/10/2019, [European Commission](#)

BREXIT: Britain got Brexit breathing space but no clarity on October 28th when the European Union granted a three-month delay to the U.K.'s departure from the bloc, postponing it until Jan. 31.

28/10/2019, [AP News](#)

ENERGY: On October 31st, the European Commission adopted the fourth list of Projects of Common Interest (PCI) for a connected European energy grid, fit for the future providing clean, affordable and secure energy for Europeans. This list reflects the importance of infrastructure for the Energy Union and represents a balance among its objectives: sustainability, affordability and security of supply.

31/10/2019, [European Commission](#)