



## Slovakia

**WAGE:** According to Slovenska sporitelna, Slovakia has the seventh lowest minimum wage among the 22 countries of the European Union that have introduced a minimum wage threshold. The proposed increase in the gross minimum wage from 520 euros to 580 euros would push Slovakia up by three spots. We would get ahead of Poland, Estonia, and Latvia with the sum of the lowest gross earnings. The gross minimum wage in the countries of the Union that have a guaranteed lower income limit oscillates between 286 and 2,071 euros

7/8/2019 SITA

**ECONOMY:** The outlook of the Slovak economic performance has improved, but it remains the worst in the region, according to the Growth Promise Indicator 2019 study by KPMG UK. Slovakia ranked 47th out of 180 countries compared, moving up 11 spots in an annual comparison. "Though we ranked last among V4 countries, we recorded the biggest upward shift," reads the report on KPM study results. According to the study, Slovakia's weakest point is human capital, where particularly the level and the system of education were evaluated. On the other hand, the Slovak economy recorded the most significant improvement in the assessment of infrastructure. The authors of the study consider the openness of the economy to be Slovakia's strongest point when it scored 8.72 points

9/8/2019 SITA

**COURTS:** 64% of Slovaks rather or completely do not trust Slovak courts, reveals a survey conducted by the Focus pollster for the Supreme Court Office in July of this year. 34% of respondents rather or

completely trust courts and 2% were undecided. Forty-eight percent said they are content with the work of the Supreme Court while 38% expressed a contrary opinion. Fourteen percent did not know what to say. The only serious problem is corruption, according to 33% of those polled.

15/8/2019 SITA

WORK: The number of foreigners working in Slovakia soared by 56,000 over the past five years. While in late June 2014, as many as 17,000 citizens of other countries worked in Slovakia, in late June 2019 it was over 73,000 foreigners. The Central Office of Labor, Social Affairs and Family reported that over half of foreign nationals working in Slovakia comes from Ukraine, Serbia, and Romania.

16/8/2019 SITA

TAXES: Last year, an average employee in Slovakia had to work more than 228 days to pay all taxes. The Conservative Institute of M.R. Stefanik and the European Investments Center calculated that the overall tax burden in proportion to the average gross remuneration of an employee reached 62.5% in 2018.. Thus, the tax freedom day this year fell on the same day as last year, August 19, which is 9 days later than in 2015.

20/8/2019 SITA

UNEMPLOYMENT: The registered unemployment rate in Slovakia at the end of July remained at the June level of 4.97%. Jobless rate in the seventh month of this year was 0.50 percentage points lower y-o-y. Director of the Central Office for Labor, Social Affairs, and Family of the Slovak Republic Marian Valentovic reported the data on Aug 20.

21/8/2019 SITA

ECONOMY: The Cabinet wants to team up with big enterprises and social partners to prepare a package of measures boosting the economic growth. PM Peter Pellegrini announced this initiative after the Cabinet session on Aug 22. This is a reaction to the Statistics Office data showing a significant economic slowdown in Q2 2019. Also the latest estimates of the Budget Responsibility Council confirm the downturn, which see 2019 GDP growth at a mere 2.6%. Back in June, the macroeconomic prognosis committee at the Finance Ministry prognosticated economic growth of 3.5%

22/8/2019 SITA

ENERGY: The state will agree with increasing the budget of the completion of the Mochovce Nuclear Power Plant by 270 million euros. Economy Minister Peter Ziga said this on after Cabinet's session on Aug 22. However, this increase should be covered by a shareholder loan. According to Ziga, it can be currently expected that as soon as by the end of this year the power plant will be ready for nuclear fuel loading.

22/8/2019 SITA

ECONOMY: The Slovak economy will grow at a much slower pace than had been expected according to the latest estimates of commercial bank analysts regularly polled by the National Bank of Slovakia. In August, GDP growth forecast was adjusted by 0.6 percentage points to 2.8%. Economic growth estimate for 2020 decreased from 3.1% to 2.7%. The state budget approved by MPs projects 4.5% GDP growth in 2019 and 3.9% in 2020. The harmonized inflation estimate for 2019 and 2020 was raised only slightly by 0.1 percentage points to 2.5% y-o-y in 2019 and 2.3% in 2020. Employment is projected to boost 1.2% this year. Unemployment is projected to reach 5.8% in late 2019. In 2020 unemployment should stagnate at 5.8% and growth of nominal wages is projected at 5.7%.

27/8/2019 SITA

AIRLINES: Irish low-cost carrier Ryanair has decided to cancel London-Kosice flights in the 2019/2020 winter schedule due to the global civil aviation crisis after the Boeing 737 MAX grounding. The flights have been operated three times a week since April 2019. The last flight on this line for now is scheduled for October 26, 2019.

27/8/2019 SITA

EDUCATION: Comenius University in Bratislava fell in the Academic Ranking of World Universities from last year's 700th – 800th to 800th – 900th place. Universities from the United States top the ranking again. The Slovak University of Technology did not get to the ranking this year. Renata Hall, the director of the project Learning Makes Sense (To Da Rozum) said that the ranking takes into account criteria such as Nobel Prize, other prestigious awards, publications and quotations in renowned scientific magazines per employees.

28/8/2019 SITA

ECONOMY: In the first half of the year, 516 companies in Slovakia closed down their business with liquidation. According to Bisnode, more than 9,000 companies have done so between 2010 and the end of this June. The record year was 2016, when 1,539 businesses were liquidated. However, some liquidations cannot be closed in line with the statutory requirements even after years. At the same time, further 1,011 companies have gone into liquidation in the first six months. "There are currently 9,454 companies in the process of liquidation in Slovakia. 64% of them have entered liquidation between 2010 and 2019," said Bisnode analyst Petra Stepanova

28/8/2019 SITA

R&D: The Slovak economy should be transformed into an innovation-oriented economy in the upcoming years. One of the instruments to reach this objective is the creation of an incentive system supporting R&D while private capital is to finance two-thirds of the scheme. This ensues from the paper Vision and Strategy for Slovakia's Development by 2030 drafted by the Office of the Deputy PM for Investments and Informatization.

30/8/2019 SITA

BUDGET: Slovakia is increasingly moving away from the objective of a balanced budget this year. This states the Budgetary Responsibility Council (RRZ), which in its current August budget semaphore estimates the risks in this year's budget at 1.138 billion euros. This would mean that unless additional measures are adopted, instead of a zero deficit, the general government gap would reach 1.19% of GDP this year

30/8/2019 SITA

## Europe

EUROBAROMETER: A new Eurobarometer survey released today shows a strong increase in citizens' positive perception of the European Union across the board – from the economy to the state of democracy. These are the best results since June 2014. This latest Standard Eurobarometer survey was conducted after the European elections, between 7 June and 1 July 2019 in all 28 EU countries and five candidate countries. Amongst the main findings are a record-high support for the euro and climate change turning into the second top concern at EU level, after immigration.

5/8/2019 [European Commission](#)

GDP: Seasonally adjusted GDP rose by 0.2% in both the euro area (EA19) and in the EU28 during the second quarter of 2019, compared with the previous quarter, according to a flash estimate published by Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union. In the first quarter of 2019, GDP had grown by 0.4% in the euro area and by 0.5% in the EU28.

14/8/2019 [European Commission](#)

FOREIGN TRADE: The first estimate for **euro area** (EA19) exports of goods to the rest of the world in June 2019 was €189.9 billion, a decrease of 4.7% compared with June 2018 (€199.3 bn). Imports from the rest of the world stood at €169.3 bn, a fall of 4.1% compared with June 2018 (€176.6 bn). As a result, the **euro area** recorded a €20.6 bn surplus in trade in goods with the rest of the world in June 2019, compared with +€22.6 bn in June 2018. **Intra-euro** area trade fell to €160.5 bn in June 2019, down by 6.6% compared with June 2018.

16/8/2019 [European Commission](#)

ENERGY: Slovakia ranks below average on the EU level in terms of use of renewables. The Eurostat latest data show that the RES share on the country's energy consumption dropped to 11.5% in late 2017, translating into the 20th spot in the EU. The EU average was 17.5%.

20/8/2019 SITA

INFLATION: Euro area annual inflation is expected to be 1.0% in August 2019, stable compared to July according to a flash estimate from Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union.

30/8/2019 [European Commission](#)

UNEMPLOYMENT: The **euro area** (EA19) seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate was 7.5% in July 2019, stable compared with June 2019 and down from 8.1% in July 2018. This remains the lowest rate recorded in the **euro area** since July 2008. The **EU28** unemployment rate was 6.3% in July 2019, stable compared with June 2019 and down from 6.8% in July 2018. This remains the lowest rate recorded in the **EU28** since the start of the EU monthly unemployment series in January 2000.

30/8/2019 [European Commission](#)