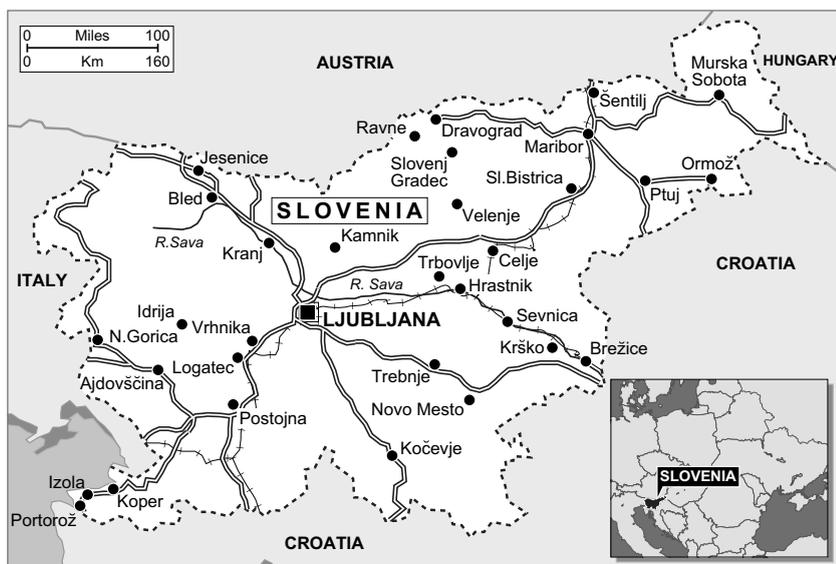


Slovenia



At the end of January 2012 the Slovenian parliament confirmed the conservative Janez Janša as their country's Prime Minister, almost two months after the inconclusive 4 December election. Mr Janša had 15 days to put forward a cabinet charged with driving economic growth and introducing reforms in a last ditch effort to stop Slovenia's credit rating from being cut. Mr Janša's personal sword of Damocles was the corruption trial dogging him, which might well bring down his premiership if he were to be found guilty. Mr Janša, who had already served as prime minister from 2004 to 2008, had promised to cut taxes, red tape and the budget deficit, ease the credit crunch and raise the retirement age.

Slovenia's then President Danilo Türk had earlier criticised Mr Janša for what he described as a lack of legitimacy for the post of prime minister because of the corruption trial. The trial had begun in September 2011; Mr Janša and four co-defendants were charged with bribery over a 2006 deal for Finnish armoured vehicles worth €278 million (US\$365 million). The President's criticism was seen by many as a fit of pique following the Slovenian parliament's rejection of Mr Türk's candidate as prime minister, centre-left Zoran Jankovic. Jankovic's Lista

Zorana Jankovica-Positivna Slovenija (LZJ-PS) (Zorana Jankovica's Party-Positive Slovenia) party had won most votes at the election but was unable to form a coalition that would have a majority in parliament.

Mr Janša's centre-right Slovenská Demokraticna Stranka (SDS) (Slovenian Democratic Party) had managed to put together a coalition agreement including the centre-right Slovenska Ljudska Stranka (SLS) (Slovenian People's Party) and Nova Slovenija-Kršćanska ljudska stranka (Nova Slovenija) (New Slovenia-Christian People's Party), the centrist Državljanska lista Gregorja Viranta (DLGV) (Gregor Virant's Civic Party) and the pensioners' party Demokraticna Stranka Upokojencev Slovenije (DeSUS) (Democratic Party of Pensioners of Slovenia). The five parties held 50 of the 90 parliamentary seats. Despite Mr Janša's best efforts, the Fitch credit rating agency had cut Slovenia's sovereign debt rating by two notches to A because of a deterioration in the economic outlook. This meant that all the major credit agencies had cut Slovenia's rating since September 2011, not least because of the political crisis, but also the lack of reforms and the deepening euro-zone debt crisis. Slovenia was rated A+ by Standard & Poor's and A1 by Moody's.

KEY FACTS

Official name: Republika Slovenija (Republic of Slovenia)

Head of State: President Borut Pahor (from 22 Dec 2012)

Head of government: Prime Minister Janez Janša (SDS) (from 28 Jan 2012)

Ruling party: Coalition led by Slovenská Demokraticna Stranka (SDS) (Slovenian Democratic Party) with Državljanska lista Gregorja Viranta (DLGV) (Gregor Virant's Civic Party), Demokraticna Stranka Upokojencev Slovenije (DeSUS) (Democratic Party of Pensioners of Slovenia), Slovenska Ljudska Stranka (SLS) (Slovenian People's Party) and Nova Slovenija-Kršćanska ljudska stranka (Nova Slovenija) (New Slovenia-Christian People's Party) (from 23 Jan 2012)

Area: 20,251 square km

Population: 2.06 million (2012)*

Capital: Ljubljana

Official language: Slovene

Currency: Euro (€) = 100 cents (from 1 Jan 2007; previous currency tolar, locked at T239.64 per euro)

Exchange rate: €0.75 per US\$ (Jul 2013)

GDP per capita: US\$22,193 (2012)*

GDP real growth: -2.34% (2012)*

GDP: US\$45.62 billion (2012)*

Labour force: 915,000 (2012)*

Unemployment: 9.03% (2012)*

Inflation: 259.70% (2012)*

Balance of trade: -US\$35.00 million (2012)*

Annual FDI: US\$817.99 million (2011)

* estimated figure

The economy

According to the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) in its 2012 overview of the economy, Slovenia was the first 'new' EU member to enter a double-dip recession. Initially, Slovenia experienced a weak recovery after the deep recession in 2009, although in 2011 gross domestic product (GDP) again contracted throughout the year. In mid-2012 all indicators of economic activity remained well below pre-crisis levels: fixed investment was over 40 per cent below the levels in 2008. Private and government consumption had remained stagnant. Competitiveness indicators also remained poor. In the central Europe region, Slovenia showed the highest relative increase in real unit labour costs, in contrast to most new EU member states which had shown declines. Following a temporary acceleration in exports and industrial production between mid-2010 and late-2011, export growth had again been very slow since early 2012, in particular given weak demand in Italy where 12 per cent of exports were traditionally sent. Nevertheless, given the depressed domestic demand, over the past three years Slovenia has shown no more than modest trade deficits and overall roughly balanced current accounts.

This absence of a meaningful recovery was reflected in mounting fiscal deficits. The general government deficit was above 6 per cent of GDP in each of the past three years, leading to a rapid deterioration in public debt levels to about 50 per cent of GDP in mid-2012, from only 22

per cent in 2008. Soon after taking office in April 2012, the new government therefore adopted a comprehensive restructuring of public expenditure to meet a deficit target that was mandated at 3 per cent of GDP for 2013 under the EU Excessive Deficit Procedure. These measures could be adopted after the government had reached some reconciliation with the trades unions, preventing a recurrence of the large-scale strikes that had disrupted the public sector earlier in the year. Nevertheless, the small share of public debt that is publicly traded showed a significant deterioration in yield spreads early in the year. The public sector had very limited refinancing requirements until a Eurobond fell due in 2013. A fiscal rule, limiting public expenditures as Slovenia approached critical debt levels, had not yet been adopted.

Concluding its summary assessment, the EBRD considered that prospects for a return to growth were dim given weak trading partner growth, further credit contraction and continued fiscal consolidation. Slovenia remained exposed to weaknesses in other countries of the euro-zone periphery, especially the recession in Italy, Slovenia's largest trading partner. With no impetus in sight to domestic demand and given the stagnation in the rest of the euro-zone and fiscal consolidation under the new government, a consensus had developed that there would be continued GDP contraction.

IMF concerns

In its October 2013 assessment of the Slovenian economy, the International

Monetary Fund (IMF) took the view that Slovenia was 'facing a deep recession resulting from a vicious circle of strained corporate and bank balance sheets, weak domestic demand and needed fiscal consolidation.' Cleaning up and recapitalising banks was an immediate priority to break this cycle. However, any recovery could only be sustained by restructuring the over-indebted corporate sector and reducing the role of the state in the economy. Without these reforms, recapitalising banks would, in the view of the IMF, be no more than an expensive stop-gap solution. Shoring up banks would increase public debt, meaning that further, gradual fiscal consolidation would also be necessary, to ensure that the public finances remained sustainable. The Slovenian authorities had, in the view of the IMF, begun to address these challenges; strong and committed follow through was essential for Slovenia to successfully exit the recession. Otherwise these challenges would become more difficult and costly to resolve in the future.

According to the IMF, in October 2013 the Slovenian economy remained in deep recession. A vicious cycle of corporate distress, increasing non-performing loans (NPLs), bank deleveraging and necessary fiscal consolidation was prolonging the recession and weighing on the near-term outlook. A slow, export-driven recovery looked likely to take hold only in the second half of 2014. A more robust and sustained recovery could happen only after the financial and corporate sectors are repaired. None the less, the Slovenian economy had some strengths. Public and household debts were still low. Unemployment remained below the euro-zone average. Parliament had approved important fiscal reforms. The current account had swung from a large pre-crisis deficit to a projected surplus of almost 6 per cent of GDP for 2013, thanks in part to improving competitiveness. But decisive actions were necessary if Slovenia was to break out of this vicious circle. A prompt bank recapitalisation based on a credible balance sheet assessment, which was continuing and was expected to be finished by the end of 2013, was the immediate priority. However, only by restructuring the corporate and financial sectors and reducing the role of the state in the economy, could sustained growth be achieved. Without these reforms, recapitalising banks would be only an expensive stop-gap solution, as loss-making corporations would generate new NPLs that would lead to a renewed deterioration of

KEY INDICATORS		Slovenia				
	Unit	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Population	m	2.05	*2.05	*2.05	*2.02	*2.06
Gross domestic product (GDP)	US\$bn	54.60	49.20	47.80	49.60	*45.62
GDP per capita	US\$	27,149	24,390	23,706	24,533	*22,193
GDP real growth	%	3.6	-8.0	1.2	-0.2	*-2.3
Inflation	%	5.7	0.9	1.8	1.8	*2.6
Unemployment	%	6.7	7.3	10.7	12.1	*9.0
Exports (fob) (goods)	US\$m	29,562.0	22,532.0	24,359.0	29,569.9	*27,609.5
Imports (fob) (goods)	US\$m	33,404.0	23,524.0	25,961.0	30,757.2	*27,644.5
Balance of trade	US\$m	-3,842.0	-991.0	-1,602.0	-1,187.2	*-35.0
Current account	US\$m	-3,378.0	-343.0	-277.0	0.0	*1,041.0
Total reserves minus gold	US\$m	868.1	966.1	962.8	989.8	*782.2
Foreign exchange	US\$m	809.9	589.5	543.2	480.4	*271.1
Exchange rate	per US\$	0.68	0.78	0.76	0.75	0.77

* estimated figure

bank balance sheets. Gradual, further fiscal consolidation should address the fiscal cost of the recapitalisation and the rising cost of an ageing population. Privatisation proceeds should be used for reducing public debt.

Noting that bank balance sheets continue to deteriorate, the IMF considered that strengthening the financial sector was urgent to ensure stability. NPLs were very high, particularly in public banks and were growing rapidly, increasing from 12 per cent of loans at end-2011 to 17.5 per cent by June 2013. The NPLs were highly concentrated, with the 40 largest non-financial corporate loans accounting for over one-third of NPLs. All banks, including foreign-owned banks, were deleveraging to reduce loan-to-deposit ratios. The IMF recommended that Slovenia's banks should be promptly recapitalised to ensure financial stability. The continuing asset quality review (AQR) and stress test would soon provide an independent evaluation of bank balance sheets and determine of the size of the banks' recapitalisation needs.

A swift transfer of impaired bank assets to the Bank Asset Management Company (BAMC) after the AQR, at prices that accurately reflect expected recovery values, would support corporate restructuring. The independent and accountable BAMC has the tools to achieve a quick resolution of impaired assets. A timely disposal of restructured assets and a strong cash protocol should ensure that bonds issued by BAMC are quickly repaid. Bank governance and risk management, especially in state-owned banks, should be further strengthened. This was needed to address endemic connected lending and lax risk controls. The role of the state in the financial system should be drastically reduced through privatisation and independent management. The IMF thought that Slovenia's bankers should focus on banking. State-owned banks had become major owners of corporate equity, including supermarket chains, breweries and newspapers. This created the potential for directed and connected lending and undermined corporate governance. Thus, the IMF suggested that banks should divest their equity holdings as soon as feasible and refocus on their core activities. Restructuring the corporate sector was crucial for strong and sustained growth. An acute lack of equity, declining economic activity and bank deleveraging were crippling most of the corporate sector and weighing on growth. Corporate leverage was high, with an average debt-to-equity

ratio of 135 per cent at the end of 2012, while debt service accounted for 90 per cent of earnings.

In conclusion, the IMF considered the planned fiscal stance for 2014 to be appropriate, but that additional measures might be needed to achieve this target. Most of the projected improvement in the 2014 budget hinged on large across-the-board expenditure cuts, which were not supported by specific reforms and uncertain revenue yields from stronger tax enforcement. Additional measures might be needed to meet the 2014 deficit target. Therefore, in the view of the IMF, the Slovenian authorities should prepare contingency measures of about one per cent of GDP. These could include a more ambitious public employment reduction, better targeting of social transfers and reductions of specific subsidies.

Any restructuring would require a reallocation of labour among firms and industries. The brunt of this adjustment was likely to fall disproportionately on the young because older workers enjoyed higher job protection. Reforms which reduced labour market duality and increased flexibility were a step in the right direction but their effectiveness needed to be closely monitored and assessed.

In conclusion the IMF insisted that the state should reduce its role in the economy. Slovenia's attractiveness for foreign direct investment (FDI) – a crucial conduit of job opportunities for young educated workers – remained hindered by excessive state control and pervasive red tape. The government's plan to privatise 15 companies was welcome (especially if promptly executed) but further privatisation would be necessary to reduce state involvement in the economy and reduce the debt level.

Risk assessment

Politics	Good
Economy	Poor
Regional stability	Good

COUNTRY PROFILE

Historical profile

In the thirteenth century, Slovenia became a hereditary possession of the House of Habsburg.

1867 The Slovenes fell under the jurisdiction of the Austrian Crown.

1918 After the downfall of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, Slovenia became a part of the new Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, encompassing Bosnia and Hercegovina (BiH), Croatia, parts of Dalmatia and Macedonia,

Montenegro, Serbia, Slavonia and Slovenia.

1921 Prince Alexander, Regent of Serbia, became King.

1929 Following disputes between Serbs and Croats, King Alexander assumed dictatorial powers and the country was re-named Yugoslavia.

1934 King Alexander was assassinated in Marseilles while on a state visit to France.

1941 Yugoslavia was divided between Germany, Italy, Hungary and Bulgaria.

1945 Following the end of the Second World War, Slovenia became a constituent republic of the Yugoslav Federation. Josip Broz Tito assumed power, and a Soviet-style constitution was adopted. The other republics were: Bosnia and Hercegovina (BiH), Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia, and the two autonomous regions of Vojvodina and Kosovo.

1950-80s Constitutions adopted in 1953, 1963 and 1974 increased the autonomy of the constituent republics. The ruling Slovene Communists supported the Croats' demand for a confederate Yugoslavia during the 1960s and 1970s, although never to the point of provoking repression.

1980 Tito died. A system of a collective (rotating) presidency was adopted.

1986 Milan Kucan became the leader of the Slovene Communists.

1990 Kucan guided Slovenia towards independence following multi-party general elections, resulting in a six-party centre-right coalition, the Demokratska Opozicija Slovenije (DeMOS) (Democratic Opposition of Slovenia), under the leadership of Lozle Peterle.

1991 After a 10-day war against the Yugoslav army, Slovenia won independence. A border dispute began following the collapse of Yugoslavia between Croatia and as Slovenia. With such a small coastline (46km) Slovenia was intent on using the small Bay of Piran, on the Adriatic Sea, to give it access to international waters; Croatia also claimed the bay.

1992 Slovenia was admitted to the UN.

Following the collapse of the DeMOS government, Janez Drnovšek took over as interim prime minister. In the parliamentary elections, the Liberal Democrats emerged as the largest party and Janez Drnovšek became prime minister at the head of a five-party coalition. Milan Kucan was elected president.

1994 The Liberal Democrats merged with the Democratic Party and the Ecologists to create the Liberalna Demokracija Slovenije (LDS) (Liberal Democracy of Slovenia).

1996 After the general elections, the LDS and its former opponent, Slovenska Ljudska Stranka (SLS) (Slovenian People's

Party) formed a coalition with the Demokratična Stranka Upokojencev Slovenije (DeSUS) (Democratic Party of Slovenian Pensioners). Drnovšek was re-elected prime minister.

1997 Kucan was re-elected president for a second and last consecutive five-year term.

2000 Withdrawal of the SLS from the government coalition prompted its collapse. A centre-right government, composed of the SLS and Slovenski Krsčanski Demokrati (SKD) (Slovenian Christian Democratic Party), together with the Socialdemokratska Stranka Slovenije (SDSS) (Social Democratic Party of Slovenia) was formed. The general election was won by the LDS, led by the former prime minister, Janez Drnovšek, who formed a coalition government.

2002 NATO invited Slovenia to join the alliance and the EU confirmed Slovenia's accession. Prime Minister Janez Drnovšek won the presidential run-off. Anton Rop of the LDS, the senior coalition party, was elected prime minister with 63 votes for and 24 votes against (to be elected, Rop needed a minimum of 46 votes from the members of parliament).

2003 In a referendum, 89.6 per cent of Slovenes voted to join the EU and 66 per cent voted to join NATO.

2004 Slovenia joined NATO and the EU. Slovenska Demokratska Stranka (SDS) (Slovenian Democratic Party) won the parliamentary elections and Janez Jansa was elected prime minister by parliament.

2005 Parliament ratified the EU constitution.

2006 EU finance ministers gave final approval to Slovenia's application to adopt the euro currency.

2007 Slovenia joined the European Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) and introduced the euro as its official currency. Danilo Türk won presidential elections after two rounds. Slovenia became a member of the European Union Schengen area within which all travellers may cross borders without a passport or visa.

2008 Former president and prime minister, Janez Drnovšek died. In parliamentary elections the Socialni Demokrati (SD) (Social Democrats) won 30.5 per cent of the vote (29 seats, out of 90) and the ruling SDS 29.3 per cent (28); turnout was 62.3 per cent. A coalition was formed by SD, Zares-Nova Politika (Z-NP) (For Real-New Politics) and LDS. Later SD, LDS and DeSUS formed a government. Borut Pahor (SD) became prime minister.

2009 Slovenia vetoed Croatia's EU accession attempt, citing an on-going territorial dispute as the obstacle for agreement – Croatia wanted its border with Slovenia to be halfway through the Bay of Piran and submitted maps and

documents to EU negotiators showing this. The biggest banking group, Nova Ljubljanska Banka (NLB) lost €23.6 million (US\$33.1 million) as a bank and €86.8 million (US\$121.7 million) as a group and had to resort to a public bailout; the bank denied accusations that it had made loans based on political connections.

2010 The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) voted unanimously to admit Slovenia as a member. In a referendum, just 51.49 per cent of the vote was in favour of allowing international arbitration to resolve the border dispute concerning the Bay of Piran. A five-person panel, including one Slovene and one Croat, will settle the matter. Slovenia signed a protocol to jointly found a new company, Cargo 10, with Macedonia, Serbia and Croatia to incorporate their railway companies.

2011 In May, the panel to settle the Bay of Piran dispute submitted their arbitrated agreement to the UN for registration. A decision, binding on both parties, is expected to be given by the UN in 2014. A referendum was held in June, in which voters overwhelmingly rejected changes to counter the black economy. They also voted against opening up state security archives, and against amendments to the state pension system, which would have raised the age of retirement to 65. The failure of the proposals ran against government legislation introduced into parliament in December 2010. In September the government lost a vote of no-confidence in parliament. According to the constitution, a new prime minister had to be appointed within 30 days or a general election held. Early parliamentary elections were held on 4 December, in which the new party, Lista Zorana Jankovica-Pozitivna Slovenija (LZJ-PS) (Zorana Jankovica's Party-Positive Slovenia) won 28.5 per cent (29 seats out of 90) and the right to form a coalition government.

2012 On 5 January, Zoran Jankovic was designated as prime minister but parliament rejected his appointment when he failed to form a government. On 25 January a coalition government was agreed between the Slovenska Demokratska Stranka (SDS) (Slovenian Democratic Party), Državljska lista Gregorja Viranta (DLGV) (Gregor Virant's Civic Party), Demokratska Stranka Upokojencev Slovenije (DeSUS) (Democratic Party of Pensioners of Slovenia), Slovenska Ljudska Stranka (SLS) (Slovenian People's Party) and Nova Slovenija-Krščanska ljudska stranka (Nova Slovenija) (New Slovenia-Christian People's Party). Janez Janša (SDS) was designated as prime minister and parliament confirmed his

appointment on 28 January. On 2 August, the credit ratings agency Moody's cut Slovenia's bonds rating from A2 to Baa2 (three levels and just two levels above 'junk' status), with a negative outlook. Moody's said the downgrading was due to bad loans in the banking sector worth billions of US dollars and the top three banks relied on public financial support. The first round of the presidential election was held on 11 November, in which Borut Pahor (independent) won 39.98 per cent of the vote, Danilo Türk (SD) 35.86 per cent and Milan Zver (Nova Slovenija) 24.16 per cent; turnout was 47.8 per cent. In the runoff, Pahor won 67.4 per cent and Türk 32.6 per cent; turnout was 42 per cent. President Borut Pahor took office on 22 December. 2013 On 23 Jan 2013 the DLGV withdrew from the coalition, leaving Prime Minister Janša without a majority. Janša himself was still on trial on corruption charges.

Political structure

Constitution

The Slovenian constitution was adopted in December 1991 and amended in 1997 and 2000.

Form of state

Parliamentary democratic republic

The executive

The president, who is elected for a five-year term, by universal adult suffrage, is head of state and commander-in-chief of the armed forces.

The president proposes a candidate for prime minister to the Skupščina Slovenije (Assembly of Slovenia) after consultation with parliamentary groups. The assembly has the final power of appointment of the prime minister and the government.

National legislature

The bicameral Parliament Slovenije (Slovenian Parliament), consists of the Državni Zbor (National Assembly) (lower house) with 88 members elected by proportional representation in multi-seat constituencies and two representatives of Italian and Hungarian ethnic minorities (with an absolute veto in matters concerning their communities), serving for four-year terms, and the Državni Svet (National Council) (upper house) with 40 members nominated from interest groups; 22 represent local district interests, six represent non-commercial activities, four are employer representatives, four employee representatives and four represent artisans and professionals. The government is made up of members of the National Assembly, and is answerable to that body. National Council members have a mainly advisory role, but may veto decisions of the National Assembly and must

approve the composition of any government; members serve for five-year terms.

Legal system

The legal system is based on the 1991 constitution.

The judiciary is structurally independent from the government, with the Constitutional Court empowered to determine the conformity of national legislation with the constitution. All civil and criminal cases are dealt with by eight basic and four higher courts, and the Supreme Court is the final court of appeal. Prosecutions are the responsibility of the Public Prosecutor and to safeguard defendants rights there is also a Public Attorney. The Justice Ministry is the administrative authority of the Slovenian judiciary.

Last elections

4 December 2011 (parliamentary); 11 November/2 December 2012 (presidential first round and runoff)

Results: Parliamentary: Lista Zorana Jankovica-Pozitivna Slovenija (LZJ-PS) (Zorana Jankovica's Party-Positive Slovenia) (Positive Slovenia) won 28.5 per cent (29 seats out of 90), Slovenská Demokraticka Stranka (SDS) (Slovenian Democratic Party) 26.2 per cent (26), Socialni Demokrati (SD) (Social Democrats) 10.5 per cent (10), Državljska lista Gregorja Viranta (DLGV) (Gregor Virant's Civic Party) 8.4 per cent (eight), Demokracna Stranka Upokojencev Slovenije (DeSUS) (Democratic Party of Pensioners of Slovenia) 7.0 per cent (six), Slovenska Ljudska Stranka (SLS) (Slovenian People's Party) 6.9 per cent (six), Nova Slovenija-Kršćanska ljudska stranka (Nova Slovenija) (New Slovenia-Christian People's Party) 4.8 per cent (four) (representatives of Hungarian and Italian communities two); turnout was 65 per cent.

Presidential: (first round) Borut Pahor (independent) won 39.9 per cent of the vote, Danilo Türk (SD) 35.9 per cent, Milan Zver (Nova Slovenija) 24.2 per cent; turnout was 48.2 per cent. Runoff: Pahor won 67.4 per cent, Türk 33.6 per cent; turnout was 42 per cent.

Next elections

2015 (parliamentary); 2012 (presidential)

Political parties

Ruling party

Coalition led by Slovenská Demokraticka Stranka (SDS) (Slovenian Democratic Party) with Državljska lista Gregorja Viranta (DLGV) (Gregor Virant's Civic Party), Demokracna Stranka Upokojencev Slovenije (DeSUS) (Democratic Party of Pensioners of Slovenia), Slovenska Ljudska Stranka (SLS) (Slovenian People's Party) and Nova Slovenija-Kršćanska ljudska stranka (Nova

Slovenija) (New Slovenia-Christian People's Party) (from 23 Jan 2012)

Main opposition party

TBA

Population

2.06 million (2012)*

Last census: March 2002: 1,964,036 (provisional)

Population density: 99 inhabitants per square km. Urban population 50 per cent (2010 Unicef).

Annual growth rate: 0.3 per cent, 1990–2010 (Unicef). Urban population 29 per cent (2010 Unicef).

Ethnic make-up

Around 88 per cent of the population are Slovenes, with small numbers of ethnic Serbs, Croats, Muslims, Albanians, Hungarians, Italians and Germans. Only the Italian and Hungarian communities are officially recognised minorities.

Religions

Roman Catholic (71 per cent), Lutheran (1 per cent), Islam (1 per cent).

Education

Unlike other parts of the former Yugoslavia, where adult illiteracy remains a major socioeconomic problem, Slovenia has always had a relatively highly educated society. Adult illiteracy is therefore virtually non-existent.

Primary and initial secondary schooling are combined in one school for nine-years. At aged 15 students are channelled onto one of three paths, general, technical or vocational. General and technical education lasts for four years, while vocational courses last for either two or three years.

As a critical determinant of future socioeconomic development, higher education experienced significant growth during the 1990s. Unesco estimates total gross enrolment rates for tertiary education at over 60 per cent. Law, business and economics remain popular courses, while further education institutions find it difficult to attract students to technical courses, resulting in a lack of skills in certain sectors of the workforce.

Literacy rate: 100 per cent adult rate; 100 per cent youth rate (15–24) (Unesco 2005).

Compulsory years: 6 to 15

Enrolment rate: 98 per cent gross primary enrolment, 92 per cent gross secondary enrolment; of relevant age groups (including repeaters) (World Bank).

Pupils per teacher: 12 in primary schools.

Health

Formerly entirely state controlled and funded, healthcare is now a growing private sector activity so that Slovenia is comparable with the EU for healthcare

provision. In the long-term though, more funds will have to be directed towards it due to its ageing population. Healthcare provisions also includes a well-developed network of medicinal spas for all types of ailments. Lower healthcare charges attract paying customers from neighbouring countries.

Private health insurance is increasing rapidly and the government has encouraged additional forms of health insurance, and the preparation of national preventative programmes, that should reduce dependency on the state and bolster private sector provision.

HIV/Aids

HIV prevalence: 0.1 per cent aged 15–49 in 2003 (World Bank)

Life expectancy: 77 years, 2004 (WHO 2006)

Fertility rate/Maternal mortality rate: 1.4 births per woman, 2010 (Unicef)

Birth rate/Death rate: Nine births per 1,000 population; 10 deaths per 1,000 population (2003).

Child (under 5 years) mortality rate (per 1,000): 3 per 1,000 live births (WHO 2012)

Head of population per physician: 2.25 physicians per 1,000 people, 2002 (WHO 2006)

Welfare

The Pension and Disability Act, which significantly reformed the pension system, became effective from 2000 and consists of a reformed pay-as-you-go scheme, with a supplementary fund as part of waged contracts. The minimum age of retirement for women has gradually risen and the amount of full pensions reduced relative to the wage rate.

The government ensured better legal protection for workers by defining their rights at the minimum level, and strengthened investment in the area of labour, family and social welfare.

Main cities

Ljubljana (capital, estimated population 249,700 in 2012), Maribor (87,234), Celje (35,458), Kranj (33,704), Koper (26,305), Velenje (26,215), Novo Mesto (23,142).

Languages spoken

The main minority languages are Albanian, Hungarian and Italian, but Hungarian and Italian are officially recognised. Serbian, Croatian, German, English and French are also spoken.

Regional identities and dialects remain very strong.

Official language/s

Slovene

Media

Press

Dailies: A major publishing organisation *Delo* (www.delo.si) (with an English online edition) produces two dailies (including *Slovenske Novice* and *Ne Delo*), four magazines (including a free monthly magazine, *Delnicar*, with the highest circulation) and has three internet portals. Other national publications include *Dnevnik* (www.dnevnik.si), *Vecer* (www.vecer.si) and *Zurnal* (www.zurnal24.si). Major regional newspapers include *Direkt* (www.direkt.si) and *Ekipa-sport*.so both tabloids, from Ljubljana as does the *Slovenia Time* (www.sloveniatimes.com) published in English. From Celje *Novi Tednik* (www.novitednik.com) in Slovene, *Nepujsag* (www.nepujsag.net) is published in Hungarian in Lendava.

Weeklies: In Slovene, the variety includes *Demokracija* (www.demokracija.si) and *Dolenjski List* (www.dol-list.si), *Gorenjski Glas* (www.g-glas.si), *Jana, Kmecki Glas* (www.czd-kmeckiglas.si), *Mariborcan* (www.revijakapital.com/mariborcan), *Mladina* (www.mladina.si), *Primorske Novice* (www.primorske.si), and *Vestnik Murska Sobota* (www.p-inf.si) provide general information and local news. *Druzina* (www.druzina.si) is a Roman Catholic publication, Based abroad, *TOL* reports on central European issues. The government publication *Sinfo* covering politics, business, culture can be accessed online (www.ukom.gov.si).

Business: In Slovene, the national publication *Podjetnik* (www.podjetnik.com) and the regional *Kapital* (www.revijakapital.com) are magazines, *Finance* (www.finance.si) is a regional newspaper. In English, *Slovenian Business Report* (www.sbr.si).

Periodicals: The free monthly newspaper, *Delnicar*, has the highest circulation.

Broadcasting

Radio: There are many commercial radio stations. RTV Slovenija (www.rtvlo.si) is the state-owned radio station which is the market leader with three national channels, of which one broadcasts in Italian, one in Hungarian and one in Slovene. During the tourist season, there are broadcasts in German and English each day covering: news, traffic news, local weather and tourist directions. Other major radio stations include Radio Hit (www.r-hit.si) and Radio City (www.radiocity.si).

Television: The state-owned Radio Televizija Slovenija (RTV) (www.rtvlo.si), broadcast in Slovene, Italian and Hungarian. The privately owned commercial TV stations Pop Tv (<http://24ur.com>) broadcasts foreign programmes. Both TV stations offer programmes online. Satellite

and cable TV is also available, including TV Si21 (<http://tv.si21.com>).

STA (Slovenska Tiskovna Agencija), Cankarjeva 5, PO Box 145, 1101 Ljubljana, (tel: 241-0100; fax: 426-6050; email: desk@sta.si; internet: www.sta.si). In Slovene, Morel (www.kabi.si).

Economy

Slovenia was one of the most prosperous regions of former Yugoslavia, and continued to be so after its independence. It has natural resources of coal, mercury and timber, which supply raw materials for the country's manufacturing sector, producing metal work, chemicals, paper, construction materials and furniture, household goods and electronic equipment, clothing and foodstuffs.

The service sector constitutes over 60 per cent GDP. Agriculture contributes only around 1 per cent of GDP, with the cultivation of crops and livestock.

The economy improved quickly following its adoption of the euro in 2007 with GDP growth of 6.9 per cent, before falling to 3.6 per cent in 2008 as energy and food costs rose to a record high. The global economic crisis caused a dramatic contraction in 2009 when Slovenia experienced the sharpest decline in the euro-zone, with a recessionary drop of -8.0 per cent, due to a significant cutback in external credit, which forced banks to curtail domestic credit and almost overnight ended construction and the housing boom. In 2010, as global trade picked up, so exports led a modest recovery, with growth of 1.2 per cent. Economic growth is still dependent on Germany, Slovenia's single largest trading partner.

Unemployment rose from 9.2 per cent in 2009 to 10.7 per cent in 2010, as thousands of workers were laid off; the minimum wage was cut and public sector worker's salaries were reduced.

Foreign direct investment (FDI) had reached a record US\$1.94 billion in 2008, but fell to US\$366.2 million in 2010, before rising to US\$1.1 billion in 2011 as more state-owned entities were put up for sale.

External trade

As a member of the European Union, Slovenia operates within a community-wide free trade union, with tariffs sets as a whole. Internationally, the EU has free trade agreements with a number of nations and trading blocs worldwide.

Foreign trade represents over 130 per cent of GDP, of which over 60 per cent is with the EU. The manufacturing sector is diversified with food processing, electrical equipment and electronics, textiles and timber products. Wine and animal husbandry are important agricultural exports,

while industrial and mineral extraction represents around 30 per cent of GDP.

Imports

Main imports are vehicles, machinery, manufactured goods, chemicals, petroleum and derivatives and foodstuffs.

Main sources: Italy (16.3 per cent of total in 2012), Germany (16.2 per cent), Austria (10.4 per cent).

Exports

The principal exports are manufactured goods, machinery and transport equipment, chemicals and food.

Main destinations: Germany (20 per cent of total in 2012), Italy (11.9 per cent), Austria (7.8 per cent).

Agriculture

Agriculture accounts for around 2.5 per cent of GDP and employs six per cent of the workforce. Farming is generally carried out on smallholdings of less than 25 hectares (ha). There are also a number of large farms and co-operatives which produce most food exports as well as food consumed domestically. Agricultural production fell substantially after independence, but recovered quickly and is above pre-independence levels.

The restoration of farming land and forests to claimants continues, although agricultural development is still being held up. Several issues pertaining to rural development, including aid to underdeveloped regions and environmental programmes, are on the political agenda.

The agricultural sector is subject to the reformed Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), whereby subsidies are no longer paid on farm output, which tended to benefit large farms and encourage over-production, but rather on single farm payments not conditional on production.

The annual commercial catch of fish amounts to between 1,815 and 2,270 tonnes. This excludes the catches of private fishermen estimated between 182 and 272 tonnes. Another 136 tonnes of fish is obtained by mariculture. About 454 tonnes of freshwater fish is bred on fish farms. Slovenia imports about 7,258 tonnes of fish annually.

Slovenia's legislation on fisheries is largely oriented towards Europe, although more resources will be necessary to meet the requirements of the EU's Common Fisheries Policy (CFP). Slovenia has a fisheries agreement with Croatia and is also a member of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean.

Slovenia has a significant forestry sector. Forest cover is estimated at 1.1 million hectares (ha). The sector has a long tradition of sustainable management and less than a third of the forest area is publicly owned. Only a small area of forest is available for wood supply. Forestry forms

the basis of a number of key industrial sectors, notably furniture making, paper, pulp and construction materials. The industry includes both large and small saw mills, which rely on the domestic supply of raw materials. Paper is mainly exported to European countries. Per capita consumption of forest products remains around the European average.

Industry and manufacturing

Manufacturing accounts for 24 per cent of GDP and industry overall for 32 per cent.

The manufacture of capital goods has traditionally been the mainstay of Slovenia's industry, with iron and steel, metal working and machine-building accounting for a third of total manufactured added value. With intermediate goods accounting for 15 per cent and consumer goods for 55 per cent of manufactured added value, Slovenia has all the characteristics of an advanced industrial economy.

Slovenia is anxious to boost its exports to the EU. This strategic redirection of its industrial exports will require a complete restructuring of its entire industrial sector.

The major structural problems are low levels of new investment, over-manning, technological backwardness and too many industrial enterprises for what is now a small domestic market with limited export potential. The newer and rising consumer goods industries, such as electrical products, are expected to become more capital intensive in order to compete internationally. High-technology industries based on computing and high added-value have yet to make a significant appearance.

Tourism

Slovenia has a diverse geography ranging from Alpine peaks and valleys to a small stretch of the Adriatic coast, which together offer a range of holidays for both the energetic and easy going visitor.

A strategy introduced in 2007 to promote Slovenia as a holiday destination and invest in facilities has allowed the industry to record positive growth averaging 3.6 per cent (2007–11) despite a downturn in global tourism and European travel in particular.

Travel and tourism contributed an average 11.8 per cent to GDP over the 2007–10 period, rising to 12.8 per cent in 2011. The industry provided employment to 12 per cent of the workforce (104,000 jobs) (2007–10), rising to 13.1 per cent (110,800 jobs) in 2011. Capital investment has grown steadily from 6.1 per cent of total investment (US\$809 million) in 2007, to 9.9 per cent (US\$937 million) of total investment in 2011. Health spas and tourists staying in farm accommodation have increased in

popularity, along with Slovenia as a destination for conferences and business meetings.

Hydrocarbons

Oil reserves have been exhausted and Slovenia relies entirely on imports of petroleum products. Consumption was 60,000 barrels per day (bpd) of oil in 2007. Nafta Lendava is the only refinery in the country, with a capacity of 14,000bpd.

Proven natural gas reserves are negligible and Slovenia relies entirely on Algerian and Russian gas imports of over 1.1 billion cubic metres per annum. The state-owned natural gas company, Geoplin, is responsible for transit, supply and sale of natural gas in Slovenia. In February 2012, the multinational, South Stream Transport group, announced the expected construction of the South Stream pipeline, to transport Russian natural gas to Western and Central Europe (and bypassing Ukraine) would begin in December 2012.

Slovenia has proven coal reserves, mainly lignite found in the Saleška Valley near Velenje, and sub-bituminous coal in several other parts of the country. Exploitable reserves at Velenje amount to 227 million tonnes; production could be sustained for 60 years. The sub-bituminous reserves are of low quality with high ash and sulphur content. Coal provides for one-quarter of the country's energy needs.

Energy

Slovenia has installed electricity capacity of 3GW, generated by thermal, hydropower and nuclear stations. The sole nuclear plant, sited at Krško, is jointly owned with Croatia. Slovenia is a net exporter of electricity.

Financial markets

Stock exchange

Ljubljanska Borza (Ljubljana Stock Exchange)

Banking and insurance

Slovenia has a well-developed banking sector. The central bank and the finance ministry are responsible for implementing EU banking directives.

Nova Ljubljanska Banka (NLB) and Nova Kreditna Banka Maribor, both state-owned, dominate the sector, together holding some 40 per cent of banking assets. The merger of the Abanka and Banka Vipava in December 2002 created a new bank, Abanka Vipava, which now has a major slice of the Slovenian banking sector.

Foreign banks own around 30 per cent of the banking sector. Approximately 96 per cent of SKB Banka was sold to France's Société Générale and a 34 per cent stake in NLB was sold to Belgium's KBC Bank.

Central bank

Banka Slovenije (BSI) (Bank of Slovenia)

Main financial centre

Ljubljana

Time

GMT plus one hour (daylight saving, late March to late October, GMT plus two hours)

Geography

Slovenia is bordered by Italy to the west, Austria to the north, Hungary to the east and Croatia to the south. There is a 46km coastal strip on the Gulf of Trieste in the Adriatic Sea, around the Istrian port of Koper.

An Alpine terrain covers over half Slovenia's area, stretching down from the north. This region is dominated by the Julian Alps in the north-west, where Mount Triglav (2,864 metres), the tallest peak, is located. The Slovene Alps are covered in forests, including some remnants of primeval forests, particularly around Kocevje in the south, and producing scores of rivers. The river Sava rises from two headstreams in the Julian Alps and flows down for 933km to the river Danube in Serbia.

The other half of the country is Mediterranean, one part of which, around the region of Karst, has a limestone landscape. A geological phenomenon where water has eaten into the rock has produced numerous sinkholes and cave networks and has given its name to a branch of science – karstology. The large Pannonian plain, in the east (around 20 per cent of the country) is fertile farmland and the source of thermal and mineral water springs.

Hemisphere

Northern

Climate

Ljubljana has an average summer temperature of 25 degrees Celsius (C) and in winter –3 degrees C. Precipitation is heavy, with an annual average rainfall of 1,407mm. Air pollution has had an adverse effect on the weather, notably in the Ljubljana Basin.

The north has an alpine climate with warm summers and cold winters, the west has Mediterranean weather with hot summers and mild winters and the east has a continental climate with hot summers and cold winters.

Dress codes

Formal dress is the norm for business and social meetings in Slovenia. Business visitors should be smartly dressed.

Entry requirements

Passports

Required by all except nationals of countries which are signatories of the Schengen Accords, which includes most

EU/EEA member states, who may visit on national IDs. Passports must be valid for three months beyond the visit.

Visa

Required by all, except nationals of EU and Schengen area signatory countries, North America, Australasia and Japan. See www.mzz.gov.si and follow path to *Embassies, Diplomatic Missions and Consulates* for a list of Slovene consulates and further information for other visitors regarding necessary documentation. A Schengen visa application (offered in several languages) can be downloaded from <http://europa.eu/abc/travel/> see 'documents you will need'.

Currency advice/regulations

The import and export of local currency is unlimited, however amounts over T3 million (or foreign equivalent) must be declared. Slovenia will join the European Monetary Union on 1 January 2007 when the euro will become legal tender alongside the tolar, which will be withdrawn after 14 days.

Travellers cheques are widely accepted.

Customs

Personal items are duty-free. There are no duties levied on alcohol and tobacco between EU member states, providing amounts imported are for personal consumption.

All items of cultural value, including artistic, archaeological, ethnographic, scientific and antiques over 100 years are prohibited from being exported.

Health (for visitors)

Nationals of the European Economic Area (EEA) countries and Switzerland can access reduced cost and sometimes free medical treatment using a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) while visiting the EEA. Exceptions include nationals of the 10 countries which joined the EU in 2004 whose EHIC is not valid in Switzerland. Applications for the EHIC should be made before travelling.

Credit cards

International credit and charge cards are widely accepted. Credit cards can be used to get cash advances from banks.

Public holidays (national)

Fixed dates

1–2 Jan (New Year), 8 Feb (Preseren/Culture Day), 27 Apr (Resistance Day), 1–2 May (Labour Day), 25 Jun (National Day), 15 Aug (Assumption Day), 31 Oct (Reformation Day), 1 Nov (All Saints' Day), 25 Dec (Christmas Day), 26 Dec (Independence Day).

Holidays that fall at the weekend are not replaced.

Variable dates

Easter Monday

Working hours

Banking

Mon–Fri: 0730–1800; Sat: 0730–1200.

Business

Mon–Fri: 0800–1600.

Government

Mon–Fri: 0800–1600.

Shops

Mon–Fri: 0700–1900 or 0800–2000; some shops also open Sat: 0800–1300/1500, Sun: 0800–1200.

Telecommunications

Mobile/cell phones

GSM 900 and 1800 services available throughout most of the country.

Electricity supply

220V AC, with round two-pin plugs.

Weights and measures

Metric system

Social customs/useful tips

For business meetings, when appointments are made, visitors should be punctual. Business cards are essential.

Slovenia has a reputation for being efficient and reliable. Executives will generally have a good knowledge of German, English and sometimes Italian. There is a well-developed network of local agents, advisers, consultants and lawyers willing to act for foreign companies.

Slovenians are a rather reserved people with a tendency towards formality. As in Austria and Germany, titles are widely used. Informality on the part of a foreigner is not considered acceptable. It is not unusual for Slovenians to prefer to hold business discussions over lunch. Although smoking is generally accepted, it is restricted in many public places and buildings.

Visitors should carry some form of identity at all times.

Security

Slovenia has a low crime rate. Sometimes tourists are the targets of pickpockets and purse-snatchers, especially on the trains.

Getting there

Air

National airline: Adria Airways

International airport/s: Ljubljana (LJU), 27km from city centre, facilities include duty-free shops, bank, post office, restaurant, internet access and car hire. Buses provide access to Ljubljana (travel time 45 minutes). Taxis are available.

Other airport/s: Maribor (MBX) and Portoroz (POW) have European connections. They are open only during daylight hours.

Airport tax: None

Surface

Slovenia is included in the Pan-European Corridor 5 scheme. The project has some 3,270km of railways, linking Kiev in the

Ukraine with western Europe via Italy, and 2,850km of new and upgraded roads.

Road: Most frontier posts are open for road traffic from Italy, Austria, Hungary and Croatia; almost all border crossings are open 24 hours.

Rail: Connections are available from major European cities. The Eurocity Mimara train connects Zagreb, Ljubljana, Munich and Leipzig. Direct trains to Slovenia are available from Italy (Rome, Milan, Venice and Trieste), Austria (Vienna and Villach) and Hungary (Budapest). Transport for cars may be available on some routes.

Water: A catamaran runs regular scheduled trips between Venice-Portoroz and Piran, between March–October.

Main port/s: Koper, Izola, Piran and Portoroz.

Getting about

National transport

Air: Domestic airports are situated at Maribor (MBX) in eastern Slovenia, with Portoroz (POW) on the Adriatic coast. There are regular services from the capital, Ljubljana.

Road: There is an extensive network of roads in Slovenia, many of which are in good condition. The main arterial road running south-west to north-east is a stretch of the Pan-European Corridor 5. The roads can be congested particularly during peak periods but have clear signposts, with rest and food facilities.

The following are toll motorways: Ljubljana-Razdrto, Arja vas-Hoce and Ljubljana-Kranj.

Buses: Good nationwide services operated by a number of companies.

Rail: There are good rail connections and rail travel is inexpensive. A high-speed train links Ljubljana-Maribor throughout the year and Ljubljana-Koper during the summer only. Intercity and Urban trains run to most regions

City transport

Taxis: Metered taxis are available in Ljubljana and other major towns. A tip of 10 per cent is expected.

Buses, trams & metro: Most city centres are served by trams, and the suburbs by buses. Service is inexpensive and regular, but radically reduced at night. Exact fares are required on the bus or tram, or tokens can be purchased from kiosks, post offices and in supermarkets beforehand.

Car hire

Many major car hire companies operate from the airport and capital. A full national driving licence and third party insurance for foreigners is compulsory. Speed limits are 130kph on motorways, 100kph on open highways, 90kph on urban roads outside residential areas and 50kph in cities and towns. Safety belts are compulsory and school buses must not be overtaken.

The AMZS (Automobile Association of Slovenia) provides a good emergency roadside service.

Much of the centre of Ljubljana has been pedestrianised and traffic is very congested. Finding parking spaces can be very difficult; use of a car in the city on weekdays is not advisable.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

The addresses listed below are a selection only. While World of Information makes every endeavour to check these addresses, we cannot guarantee that changes have not been made, especially to telephone numbers and area codes. We would welcome any corrections.

Telephone area codes

The international direct dialling code (IDD) for Slovenia is +386, followed by area code and subscriber's number:
 Celje3Murska Sobota02
 Koper5Nova Gorica5
 Kranj4Novo Mesto7
 Krsko7Postojna5
 Ljubljana1Ravne2
 Maribor2Trbovlje3

Useful telephone numbers

Emergency112

Chambers of Commerce

American Chamber of Commerce in Slovenia, 55 Pod Hribom, 1000 Ljubljana (tel: 581-6285; fax: 581-6111; e-mail: office@am-cham.si).

Koper Chamber of Commerce and Industry, 2 Ferrarska, 6000 Koper (tel: 639-5311; fax: 639-5316; e-mail: kozlovic@hg.gzs.si).

Ljubljana Chamber of Commerce and Industry, 9 Dimiceva, 1504 Ljubljana (tel: 230-1133; fax: 431-3040; e-mail: samardzija@hg.gzs.si).

Maribor Chamber of Commerce and Industry, 24 Talcev, 2000 Maribor (tel: 220-8700; fax: 252-2283; e-mail: breznik@hg.gzs.si).

Northern Primorska Chamber of Commerce and Industry, 3 Trg Edvarda Kardelja, 5000 Nova Gorica (tel: 330-6030; fax: 330-6031; e-mail: velikonja@hg.gzs.si).

Novo Mesto Chamber of Commerce and Industry, 5 Novi Trg, 8000 Novo Mesto (tel: 332-2182; fax: 332-2187; e-mail: goles@hg.gzs.si).

Postojna Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Cankarjeva 6, 6230 Postojna (tel: 720-0111; fax: 726-5344; e-mail: tiselj@hg.gzs.si).

Slovenia Chamber of Commerce and Industry, 13 Dimiceva, 1504 Ljubljana (tel: 589-8000; fax: 589-8100; e-mail: infolink@gzs.si).

Banking

Abanka Vipa dd, Slovenska 58, 1517 Ljubljana (tel: 471-8100; fax: 432-5165; email: info@abanka.si; internet site: www.abanka.si).

Bank Austria dd, Smartinska 140, 1000 Ljubljana (tel: 587-6600; fax: 587-6684; email: info@si.bacai.com).

Banka Celje dd, Vodnikova 2, 3000 Celje (tel: 543-1000 fax: 548-3511; email: info@banka-celje.si).

Banka Koper, Pristaniska 14, 6502 Koper (tel: 665-1100; fax: 639-7842; email: infor@banka-koper.si; internet site: www.banka-koper.si).

Factor Banka dd, Tivolska 48, 1000 Ljubljana (tel: 230-6600; fax: 230-7760; email: info@factorb.si).

Gorenjska Banka dd, Bleiweisova 1, 4000 Kranj (tel: 208-4000; fax: 202-1503; email: info@gbkr.si).

Hypo-Alpe-Adria Bank dd, Trv Osvobodine fronte 12, 1000 Ljubljana (tel: 300-4400; fax: 300-4401; email: hypo-banka@hypo.si).

Koroska Banka dd, Glavni trg 30, 2380 Slovenj Gradec (tel: 884-9111; fax: 884-2382).

Krekova Banka, Slomskov trg 18, 2000 Maribor (tel: 229-3100; fax: 252-2261; email: info@krekova-banka.si).

Nova Kreditna Banka Maribor, Vita Kraigherja 4, 2505 Maribor (tel: 229-2290; fax: 252-4333, 252-4371; email: info@nkbm.si).

Nova Ljubljanska Banka dd, Trg Republike 2, 1520 Ljubljana (tel: 425-0155; fax: 252-2422; email: info@nlb.si).

Postna Banka Slovenije dd, Vita Kraigherja 5, 2000 Maribor (tel: 228-8200; fax: 228-8210; email: info@pbs.si).

Probanka dd, Gosposka Ulica 23, 2000 Maribor (tel: 252-0500; fax: 252-5882; email: info@probanka.si).

SKB Banka dd, Ajdovscina 4, 1513 Ljubljana (tel: 433-213; fax: 231-4549; email: info@skb.si).

Slovenska Investicijska Banka dd, Copova 38, 1000 Ljubljana (tel: 242-0300; fax: 242-0521; email: sib@si-banka.si).

Slovenska Zadružna Kmetijska Banka dd, Kolodvorska 9, 1000 Ljubljana (tel: 472-7100; fax: 472-7405; email: info@szkbanka.si).

Volksbank-Ljudska Banka dd, Dunajska 128a, 1101 Ljubljana (tel: 530-7400; fax: 520-7555; email: banka@volksbank.si).

Central bank

Banka Slovenije, Slovenska 35, 1505 Ljubljana (tel: 471-9000; fax: 251-5516; email: bsl@bsi.si; internet: www.bsi.si/en).

Stock exchange

Ljubljanska Borza (Ljubljana Stock Exchange), www.ljse.si

Travel information

Adria Airways, Kuzmiceva 7, 1000 Ljubljana (tel: 369-1000; fax: 230-1325; internet: www.adria.si).

Automobile Association of Slovenia, Dunajska 128a, SI-1000 Ljubljana (breakdown assistance tel: 530-5353; internet: www.amzs.si).

Ljubljana Airport, Zg Brnik 130a, 4210 Brnik (tel: 4-206-1981; fax: 4-202-1220; email: info@lju-airport.si; internet: www.lju-airport.si).

Slovenian Tourist Information Centre, Krekov trg 10, 1000 Ljubljana (tel: 306-4575/6; fax: 306-4580; email: stic@ljubljanatourism.si; internet: www.ljubljana-tourism.si).

National tourist organisation offices

Slovenska Turisticna Organizacija (Slovenian Tourist Organisation), WTC, Dunajska 156, 1001 Ljubljana (tel: 589-1840; fax: 589-1841; e-mail: info@slovenia-tourism.si; internet: www.slovenia-tourism.si).

Ministries

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food, Dunajska 52, 1000 Ljubljana (tel: 478-9000; fax: 478-9021; email: janez.vertacnik@gov.si).

Ministry of Culture, Cankarjeva 5, 1000 Ljubljana (tel: 478-5900; fax: 478-5901; email: mkinfo@gov.si).

Ministry of Defence, Kardeljeva ploscad 25, 1000 Ljubljana (tel: 471-2211; fax: 131-8164; email: darko.lubi@pub.mo-rs.si).

Ministry of the Economy, Kotnikova 5, 1000 Ljubljana (tel: 478-3600; fax: 478-3522; email: tatjana.zabasu@gov.si).

Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, Zupanèieva 6, 1000 Ljubljana (tel: 478-5437; fax: 478-5669; email: info@mss.edus.si).

Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, Dunajska 48, 1000 Ljubljana (tel: 478-7400; fax: 478-7422; email: info.mop@gov.si).

Ministry of Finance, Zupanèieva 3, 1502 Ljubljana (tel: 478-5211; fax: 478-5655; email: tilen.majnardi@mf-rs.si).

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Presernova 25, 1000 Ljubljana (tel: 478-2000; fax: 478-2340; email: info.mzz@gov.si).

Nations of the World: A Political, Economic and Business Handbook

Ministry of Health, Stefanova 5, 1000 Ljubljana (tel: 478-6001; fax: 478-6058; email: ministrstvo.zdravsto@gov.si).

Ministry of the Information Society, Langusova 4, 1000 Ljubljana (tel: 478-8223; fax: 478-8142; email: mid@gov.si).

Ministry of the Interior, Stefanova 2, 1000 Ljubljana (tel: 472-5111; fax: 251-4330; email: jelka.smreka@mnz.si).

Ministry of Justice, Zupančičeva 3, 1000 Ljubljana (tel: 478-5211; fax: 251-0200; email: stojan.klancar@gov.si).

Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs, Kotnikova 5, 1000 Ljubljana (tel: 478-3450; fax: 478-3456; email: zmaga.grah@gov.si).

Ministry of Transport, Langusova 4, 1000 Ljubljana (tel: 478-8000; fax: 478-8139; email: mpz.info@gov.si).

Office for European Affairs, Subièeva 11, 1000 Ljubljana (tel: 478-24-47; fax: 478-2310; email: svez@gov.si).

President's Office, Erjavceva 17, 1000 Ljubljana (tel: 478-1205; fax: 478-1357).

Prime Minister's Office, Gregorčičeva 20, 1000 Ljubljana (tel: 478-1000; fax: 478-1607).

Other useful addresses

Agency of the Republic of Slovenia for Restructuring and Privatisation, Kotnikova Ulica 28, 1000 Ljubljana (tel: 131-2122; fax: 131-6011).

British Embassy, Fourth Floor, Trg Republike 3, 1000 Ljubljana (tel: 200-3910; fax: 425-0174; email: info@british-embassy.si).

Government Office for European Affairs, Subiceva 11, 1000 Ljubljana (tel: 478-2228; fax: 478-2310).

Government of the Republic of Slovenia, Gregorciceva 20, 1000 Ljubljana (tel: 478-1100; fax: 478-1607).

Government PR and Media Office, Slovenska 29, 1000 Ljubljana (tel: 478-2629; fax: 251-2312; internet: www.uvi.gov.si/eng).

Institute for Macroeconomic Analysis and Development, Gregorciceva 25, 1000 Ljubljana (tel: 478-2112; fax: 478-2070).

Ljubljana Stock Exchange, Trg Republike 3, 1000 Ljubljana (tel: 477-5500; fax: 477-5507, 477-5508).

Slovenian Embassy (USA), 1525 New Hampshire Avenue, NW, Washington DC 20036 (tel: (+1-202) 667-5363; fax: (+1-202) 667-4563; email: slovenia@embassy.org).

Small Business Development Centre, Dunajska 156, 1001 Ljubljana (tel: 189-1870; fax: 188-1178).

Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia, Vozarski Pot 12, 1000 Ljubljana (tel: 241-5300; fax: 241-5344).

Trade and Investment Promotion Office (TIPO), Kotnikova 28, 1000 Ljubljana (tel: 478-3557; fax: 478-3599; email: tipo@gov.si; internet site: www.investslovenia.org).

Internet sites

Republic of Slovenia website:
www.sigov.si

Slovenske Železnice (Slovenian Railways):
www.slo-zeleznice.si/en/home