

OFFICIAL NAME: Republic of Slovenia

CAPITAL: Ljubljana

SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT: Multiparty Republic

AREA: 20,251 Sq Km (7,819 Sq Mi)

ESTIMATED 2000 POPULATION: 2,008,200



LOCATION AND GEOGRAPHY: Slovenia is a republic of the former socialist Yugoslavia. It is bound by the Gulf of Trieste to the southwest, Italy to the west, Austria to the north, Hungary to the northeast and Croatia to the south and southeast. In general, the country has an Alpine terrain while in the northwest and north, several ranges of the Eastern Alps such as the Pohorije, Karawanken, Savinja Alps and the Julian Alps rise to Mt. Triglav, the country's highest point. To the south the northern edge of the Dinaric Alps as well as the limestone Kras Plateau are found while the lowlands are located to the east and along the Adriatic coast to the west. The principal rivers are the Sava and Drava, and there are also several Bled or mountain glacial lakes and Kras lakes. Major Cities (pop. est.); Ljubljana 276,100, Maribor 108,100, Celje 41,300, Kranj 37,300, Velenje 27,700 (1991). Land Use; forested 50%, pastures 28%, agricultural-cultivated 15%, other 7% (1993).

CLIMATE: Slovenia has a moderately continental climate inland with cold winters and warm summers while along the coast the climate can be described as subtropical Mediterranean. Average annual precipitation varies from 800 to 2,000 mm (31.5 to 79 inches), although it can exceed 2,000 mm (79 inches) in the mountains. Average temperature ranges are from 0 to 2 degrees Celsius (31 to 28.4 degrees Fahrenheit) in January to 18 to 19 degrees Celsius (64.4 to 66 degrees Fahrenheit) in July.

PEOPLE: The principal ethnic majority are the Slovenes who account for 91% of the population. Other ethnic minorities include Italians, Hungarians, Croats, Czechs, Slovaks and Germans.

DEMOGRAPHIC/VITAL STATISTICS: Density; 99 persons per sq km (255 persons per sq mi) (1993). Urban-Rural; 48.9% urban, 51.1% rural (1991). Sex Distribution; 48.5% male, 51.5% female (1992). Life Expectancy at Birth; 69.4 years male, 77.3 years female (1990). Age Breakdown; 20% under 15, 22% 15 to 29, 24% 30 to 44, 17% 45 to 59, 12% 60 to 74, 5% 75 and over (1992). Birth Rate; 10.8 per 1,000 (1991). Death Rate; 9.7 per 1,000 (1991). Increase Rate; 1.1 per 1,000 (1991). Infant Mortality Rate; 8.4 per 1,000 live births (1991).

RELIGIONS: Mostly Christians, of which the majority are Roman Catholic. Other religious minorities include Protestants and a small number of Jews.

LANGUAGES: The official language is Slovene. Other minority languages include Italian, Serbo-Croatian, Czech, Slovak and German.

EDUCATION: Aged 15 or over and having attained: less than primary education 13.7%, primary 27.9%, secondary 45.6%, higher 12.8% (1991). Literacy; literate population aged 10 or over 1,584,500 or 99.2% (1981).

MODERN HISTORY - WWII TO 1993: Prior to independence Slovenia's history was closely tied with that of the Federative People's Republic of Yugoslavia. On Nov. 19, 1945 the Anti-Fascist National Liberation Council (AVNOJ), which was a provisional government with Josip Broz also known as Marshal Tito as Prime Minister, abolished the monarchy and established the Federative People's Republic of Yugoslavia which consisted of Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Serbia with its semiautonomous provinces. In Jan. 1946 a new constitution modeled around the Soviet Union was established and opposition parties abolished. The government then embarked on a nationalization program of industry and collectivized agricultural farms. In 1948 Yugoslavia was expelled from the Cominform or Communist International for refusing to become subordinate to the Soviet parent party and economic embargoes were imposed against Yugoslavia by the Soviet bloc countries. In 1953 Tito inaugurated a new constitution in which he became President and a modified version of socialism was implemented. In 1955 and 1956 Pres. Tito held negotiations with the Soviet leader, Nikita Khrushchev over sovereignty and the independence of the two nations socialist systems. In 1961 Yugoslavia became a founding member of the Non Aligned Movement. In 1963 a constitution was established which made Tito president for life and in 1974 a new constitution was adopted which gave the republics limited veto powers over federal decisions. In the 1970's Croatian nationalism escalated which led to mass demonstrations in Yugoslavia as well as terrorist attacks on overseas Yugoslav targets. On May 4, 1980 Pres. Tito died and was succeeded by a collective leadership system that Tito himself established prior to his death in the hope of averting internal dissension. In May 1981 there were uprisings by the Albanian ethnic population of Kosovo which again resurfaced in 1988 and 1989. In 1987 Slobodan Milosevic was elected President and in 1988 he began moves to restrict the Serbian provinces' autonomy. In 1989 as democratic change began to sweep through Eastern Europe, tensions between the major ethnic groups combined with their individual nationalist aspirations began to escalate. In Sept. 1989 legislation was approved which allowed Slovenia the right to accede from the federation. In Jan. 1990 the communist party surrendered its monopoly on power and announced the development of a multiparty system of government for the federation. During the 1990 free elections the communists only retained power in the republics of Serbia and Montenegro. In early 1991 racial tensions, due to the country's complex ethnic patchwork, began to escalate

into violence between the Croat police and Serbs as the country slowly drifted into civil war. In Mar. 1991 the leaders of the six republics began negotiations on the country's future, although they resulted in nothing more than a stalemate. On June 25, 1991 Slovenia and Croatia declared their independence with Slovenia opting for complete secession. On June 26, 1991 the Yugoslav People's Army which is predominantly Serbian launched an offensive into Slovenia that met stiff resistance. Soon after an EC mediated cease-fire was accepted which allowed for the suspension of secession by both republics until Oct. 7, 1991, although it and many further cease-fires were subsequently broken. In Sept. 1991 Macedonia declared its independence which was later followed by Bosnia-Herzegovina. On Jan. 15, 1992 Slovenia was officially recognized by the EU and was officially admitted to the UN on May 22, 1992. On April 22, 1992 Lojze Peterle leader of the Christian Democratic Party and Prime Minister of a coalition government failed to survive a vote of no confidence. On May 14, 1992 Janez Drnovsek of the Liberal Democrat Party was elected to succeed Peterle as Prime Minister. On June 7, 1992 Ivan Kramberger of the Homeland Peasant Party was murdered. On Dec. 6, 1992 the country's first democratic elections resulted in Milan Kucan of the Party of Democratic Reform, formerly the Communist Party, being re-elected as President while legislative elections resulted in eight parties gaining seats in the National Assembly. The Liberal Democrats won the greatest number of seats followed by the Christian Democrats and Drnovsek formed another coalition government. Also in 1992 relations with Croatia were strained following disputes over fishing and territorial rights while Slovenia also signed an agreement with the EU on economic and trade cooperation. On Jan. 25, 1993 the National Assembly approved Prime Minister Drnovsek's new coalition government. In April 1993 Slovenia signed an agreement with the EU that gave it virtually unrestricted access to the common market. In July 1993 in accordance with a UN arms embargo on the former Yugoslavia some 120 ton of arms were seized at Maribor airport and resulted in the arrest of seven people. On Sept. 24, 1993 the government announced that the arms were destined for the Muslim-led government of Bosnia-Herzegovina and that the former minister of interior affairs also knew of the deal. In Oct. 1993 allegation surfaced that the President's office knew of the arms deal which it denied, following which the chief of the intelligence service resigned over alleged complicity in the scandal. On Nov. 23, 1993 the government announced new legislation tightening regulations on naturalization. In Dec. 1993 Slovenia announced it would close the joint Croat-Slovene Krsko nuclear power station over allegations that Croatia had failed to meet its financial obligations.

CURRENCY: The official currency is the Tolar (SIT) *formerly the Yugoslav Dinar (DIN)* divided into 100 Stotin.

ECONOMY: Gross National Product; USD \$12,576,000,000 (1993). Public Debt; N/A. Imports; T 737,409,000,000 (1993). Exports; T 688,842,000,000 (1993). Tourism Receipts; USD \$734,000,000 (1993). Balance of Trade; USD -\$509,000,000 (1994). Economically Active Population; 794,675 or 39.9% of total population (1993). Unemployed; 16.2% (1993).

MAIN TRADING PARTNERS: Its traditional trading partners are Germany, Italy, France and Austria as well as other former East European communist countries.

MAIN PRIMARY PRODUCTS: Apples, Barley, Bauxite, Brown Coal, Hops, Livestock, Mercury, Oats, Ores, Pears, Potatoes, Rye, Sugar Beets, Timber, Wheat.

MAJOR INDUSTRIES: Agriculture, Chemicals, Electrical Goods, Food Processing, Glass Works, Handicrafts, Hydroelectricity, Lumber Mills, Mining, Motor Vehicles, Paper, Printing, Textiles, Metal, Tourism.

MAIN EXPORTS: Chemicals, Fruit, Hydroelectricity, Machinery, Metal Ores, Metal Works, Processed Foods, Textiles, Timber, Vegetables.

TRANSPORT: Railroads; route length 1,201 km (746 mi) (1991), passenger-km 814,000,000 (505,796,000 passenger-mi) (1991), cargo ton-km 3,246,000,000 (2,223,000,000 short ton-mi) (1991). Roads; length 14,553 km (9,043 mi) (1991). Vehicles; cars 594,289 (1991), trucks and buses 35,627 (1991). Merchant Marine; vessels 42 (1990). Air Transport; passenger-km 577,000,000 (358,531,000 passenger-mi) (1991), cargo ton-km 1,216,000 (833,000 short ton-mi) (1991).

COMMUNICATIONS: Daily Newspapers; total of 6 with a total circulation of 308,000 (1992). Radio; receivers 687,000 (1989). Television; receivers 528,500 (1989). Telephones; units 516,300 (1993).

MILITARY: 8,400 (1994) total active duty personnel with 100% army while military expenditure accounts for 1.6% (1993) of the Gross National Product (GNP).