

# To Slovenia For Its 20<sup>th</sup> Birthday

Slovenian Statisticians



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### To Slovenia For Its 20th Birthday – Slovenian Statisticians

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ISBN 978-961-239-231-4 1. Hren, Karmen 256288000 Slovenian statisticians dedicate this publication to the twentieth anniversary of the declaration of Slovenia's independence. Through statistical data and statistical stories we present some parts of the journey Slovenia and its people have had to walk since 1991.

We believe that you will find many interesting things on the following pages. There may be things that will surprise you, make you angry, sad or happy, or just confirm your beliefs. The publication can contribute only a small piece to your knowledge and feelings, but, of course, you will create your own portrait of life in the last twenty years.

Knowing the past is a necessary condition for improving the future; the publication is thus our contribution to a variety of discussions on the future of Slovenia. The presented data allow an objective assessment of the past, but at the same time we hope that they will be the basis for decisions aimed at improving the lives and well-being of all people in Slovenia.

Irena Križman

Director-General

Statistical Office of the Republic Slovenia

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2 O
20 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE
REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA





# BASIC FACTS ABOUT PEOPLE IN SLOVENIA

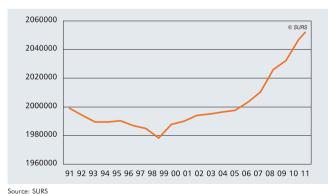
"A person must be assisted three times: at birth, at the wedding and at death."

• • •

#### We exceeded the two million limit

On 1 January 2011, 2,050,189 people were living in Slovenia; compared to 1 January 1991 this is 50,244 more. By 1999 the population of Slovenia was decreasing, while after that it started to increase quite rapidly, the most in 2008, which was to a large extent due to labour immigration.

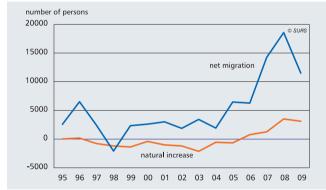
#### Number of population



Source: SURS

The increase in the number of population over the past 15 years is mostly the result of immigration, which was the highest in the years of the economic boom (2007 and 2008), when mostly people from countries of the former Yugoslavia (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Serbia and Croatia) were immigrating to Slovenia. Natural increase (difference between the number of live births and deaths) was between 1997 and 2005 negative, while from 2006 on it has been positive, meaning that more people are born than die.

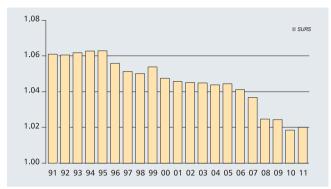
#### Natural increase and net migration



Source: SURS

Among the population of Slovenia there are more women than men. At the beginning of 2011 the sex ratio was 1:1.02 in favour of women, i.e. one man per 1.02 woman. It is interesting that the sex ratio has been decreasing since 1996 (at that time it was 1:1.06), the most clearly since 2007. This shows that immigrants are mostly men, which has an impact on the sex structure of the population.

#### Ratio between number of women and number of men



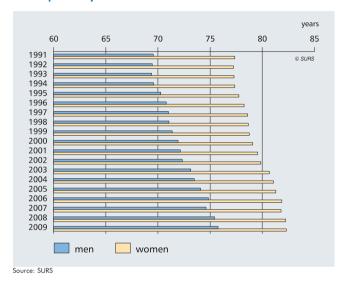
Source: SURS



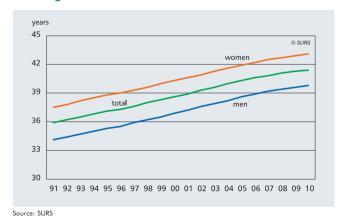
# • Today we live longer

The ever better living conditions in which residents of Slovenia live reflect in longer life expectancy. Life expectancy for a man born in 1991 is 70 years, while a man born in 2009 can expect to live 76 years; in this period male life expectancy at birth increased by 6.2 years. Life expectancy for a woman born in 1991 is 77 years, while a woman born in 2009 can expect to live 82 years; in this period female life expectancy at birth increased by 4.9 years. At the same time the difference between male and female life expectancy decreased from 7.8 years in 1991 to 6.6 years in 2009.

#### Life expectancy at birth



#### Mean age



Due to low fertility and longer life expectancy, we are becoming older. An average woman in 1991 was 5.6 years younger than in 2010; in 1991 she was 38 years old and in 2010 43. An average man in 1991 was 5.7 years younger than in 2010; in 1991 he was 34 years old and in 2010 40.

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Economic results

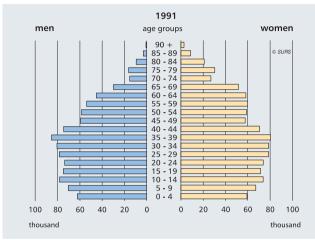
Functioning of the government

Our political participation

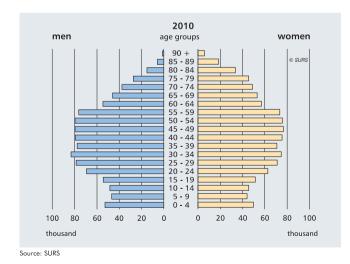


# STATISTICAL OFFICE OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA

#### Age pyramid



Source: SURS

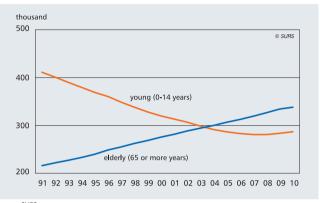


Changing of the age structure can also be observed if we divide the population into three groups: young people (up to 14 years of age), adults (15-64) and the elderly (65 and more). After 1991 the difference between the number of young people and the elderly has been rapidly decreasing; from 2004 on the number of the elderly has been greater than the number of young people. The difference between these two groups continues to rise. Not even increased fertility after 2003 could decrease it. From 1991 to 2010 the number of young people decreased by 30 percent, while the number of the elderly increased by 56 percent and the number of adults by 3.6 percent.

# Did you know?

• In two decades the number of centenarians in Slovenia increased from 26 to 196, i.e. by 7.5-times.

#### Number of young people and the elderly



Source: SURS

The number of the oldest population is increasing even faster than the number of the elderly. The number of people aged 80 or more increased from 45,957 in 1991 to 80,170 in 2010 (a 74 percent increase). The fastest growing population group are centenarians. In 1991 only 26 people in Slovenia were over 100 years old (5 men and 21 women), while at the beginning of 2010 196 people born before 1 January 1910 were living in Slovenia (35 men and 161 women). In two decades the number of centenarians thus increased by 654 percent.

#### Number of people aged 80 or more and 100 or more

	People aged 80 or more			People aged 100 or more		
	total	men	women	total	men	women
1. 1. 1991	45,957	13,573	32,384	26	5	21
1. 1. 2001	47,000	12,853	34,147	67	11	56
1. 1. 2010	80,170	22,364	57,806	196	35	161

Source: SURS

### • They came, they saw and they stayed

We mentioned that the population of Slovenia was increasing especially due to positive international migration. This is why the share of foreign nationals in total population gradually increased from 1.5 percent in 1995 to 4.0 percent in 2010.

At the beginning of 2010, 12 percent of the population of Slovenia was born abroad (every eighth person), of whom most in Bosnia and Herzegovina (41 percent), Croatia (22 percent) and Serbia (8.2 percent). As regards the share of people born abroad, in 2008 Slovenia was behind Luxemburg, Switzerland, Ireland, Austria, Spain and Sweden, and before countries such as the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Norway, France, etc.

Speaking of immigration, we should mention foreign nationals seeking international protection (asylum seekers) in Slovenia. Since 1995 their number was very low, in 2000 it sharply grew and later on dropped considerably. In recent years on average about 210 foreign nationals have been seeking international protection every year. The number of asylums granted in the period from 1995 to 2010 is very low, only 209 or 1.3 percent of all asylum applications were approved. This is in part the consequence of the fact that international protection seekers often use Slovenia as a transit country; on average, about half of them leave the asylum centre and do not wait for the decision about their application, so the procedure to grant international protection is stopped.



## • We are successful in finding satisfaction

At the end of this short overview of the most basic characteristics of people in Slovenia let us examine **how satisfied with our lives we are**. About two thirds of us are fairly satisfied with our lives and 20 percent are even very satisfied. About 13 percent of people in Slovenia are not satisfied and a negligible number of respondents are not satisfied at all. In the past six years the overall satisfaction has not changed much; now slightly fewer people are very satisfied and slightly more people are not satisfied.

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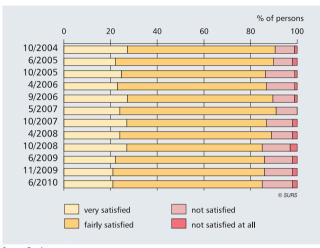
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#### Satisfaction with life



Source: Eurobarometer

It is also worth examining what and how many positive and negative experiences we have. Things we see as positive happen more often; for example 93 percent of people in Slovenia say that they are treated with respect, 70 percent say they are proud they have done something, and 68 percent say that they are well rested. Of course, there are less pleasant things in life: 52 percent of people are concerned, 30 percent feel pain and 21 percent feel sadness.

# Positive and negative experiences index, 2009

### Positive experiences

As a percentage of respondents	
<ul> <li>treated with respect</li> </ul>	93
<ul> <li>proud of something they did</li> </ul>	70
• well rested	68
• choose how time was spent	67
<ul> <li>enjoyment</li> </ul>	59
• learnt or did something interesting	57
Positive experiences index	66

#### Negative experiences

As a percentage of respondents	
• worry	52
• pain	30
• sadness	21
• anger	19
• boredom	13
• depression	7
Negative experiences index	25

Source: OECD



# STILL TOO FEW CHIDREN ARE BORN

"A child's smile is one of the most beautiful things that can happen to you." Sigmund Freud

• • •

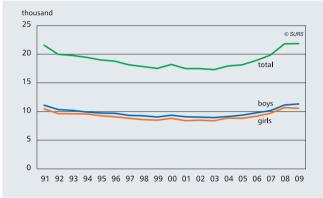
Since Slovenia won independence in 1991, the number of births has been declining for about ten years. At the beginning of the new decade the trend turned upwards; the number of births started to increase with the highest increase being recorded in 2008 when 21,817 children were born or almost 2 thousand more than a year before. The increase in the number of births in recent year was not only the result of people deciding to have more children but also of postponing childbearing to later ages and the fact that generations of women who are now of childbearing age are rather large. So we can expect with a relative degree of certainty that the increase in the number of births will not last long.

Despite changes in individual years, the boy-to-girl ratio at birth remains more or less the same. Over the whole period from 1991 to 2009 186 thousand boys and 175 thousand girls were born, which is 1.06 boys per girl.

### Did you know?

- The most common names for boys born in 1991 were Rok, Matej and Marko, and for boys born in 2009 Luka, Nik and Žan.
- The most common names for girls born in 1991 were Maja, Anja and Nina, and for girls born in 2009 Lana, Eva and Sara.

#### Number of live births



Source: SURS

Most of the children by far are born single (97 percent). About 3 percent of children are twins, while the shares of triplets and quadruples are negligible (from 1991 to 2010 there were 108 births of triplets and four births of quadruples). In births after 1991 the shares of single births and births of triplets and quadruplets have been slightly decreasing on account of twin births.

Ever more children are born by Caesarean section. In the early 1990s the ratio was 89 per 1,000 live births, while later on it increased sharply; in 2009, 179 children per 1,000 live births were born by Caesarean section.

After birth (single spontaneous delivery and if there were no complications) a mother and her child on average stay in a maternity hospital for 3.9 days. In ten years the number of days spent in a maternity hospital has been cut in half (in 1998 it was 7.3 days).

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#### LET'S GO TO SCHOOL

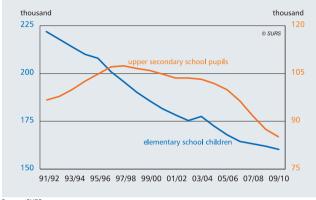
"Knowledge is power!" Francis Bacon

For the vast majority of children, entering school is the first serious step in their lives. Seen through the eyes of adults, this marks the end of carefree childhood days and at the same time also the start of the journey into the interesting and exciting world of knowledge discovery.



As a result of lower fertility, the number of elementary school children has been declining since 1991. In the 1991/ 1992 school year 222 thousand children were attending elementary school and in the 2009/2010 school year only 160 thousand, which is 28 percent less than in the early 1990s. The number of upper secondary school pupils was increasing up to the 1997/1998 school year, when it reached its peak of 107 thousand; this shows that despite the less numerous generations ever more elementary school children continued their schooling at upper secondary level.

### Elementary school children and upper secondary school sligua



Source: SURS

After that enrolment in upper secondary schools also started to show the consequences of lower fertility, so the number of pupils started to decline; in the 2009/2010 school year only 85 thousand pupils or 12 percent less than in the 1991/ 1992 school year were studying at upper secondary level.

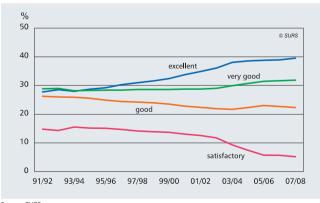
### Our children are eager to learn

Even though old parental wisdom says that we do not study for grades but for ourselves, grades have always played an important part in the life of every child. Our schoolchildren are very successful in learning; their overall academic performance can be traced to the 2007/2008 school year, when at the end of 2007 overall academic performance grade in elementary schools was abolished with the amended Elementary Schools Act.

Among children who were given numerical grades, between the 1991/1992 school year and the 2007/2008 school year the share of children graded as "excellent"

increased the most (from 28 percent to 39 percent). From the 1994/1995 school year on most of the elementary school children in Slovenia completed a grade with the grade "excellent". The share of children who completed a grade with the grade "very good" slightly increased, while the share of children who completed a grade with the grade "good" went slightly down. The share of children who completed a grade with the grade "satisfactory" dropped from 15 percent in the 1991/1992 school year to 5.2 percent in the 2007/2008 school year. The share of children who did not complete a grade was low and since the beginning of the 1990s it has been halved (in the 2007/2008 school year 1.1 percent of children who were given numerical grades did not complete a grade). As regards grading, we should mention that in the observed period the number of children who were given descriptive grades increased significantly; in the 1991/1992 school year only 0.8 percent of children were given descriptive grades, while in the 2007/2008 school year, i.e. just before the overall academic performance grade was abolished, the share was 32 percent.

### Overall academic performance of elementary school children, % of children given numerical grades



Source: SURS

### Transition to maturity

Matura is also called the maturity exam since it marks the transition from the upper secondary level to the tertiary (university) level and thus represents an important life milestone. First matura exams in Slovenia took place in the 1849/1850 school year and the first female who passed a matura exam did so in 1900 at the Koper Grammar School. After World War II matura exams were conducted until 1980 when they were abolished due to the introduction of vocationally-oriented education. Matura in the present form has been known since 1995 and since then it has been taken by 154 thousand pupils or on average 9,654 per year. Pupils take this exam very seriously as their achievements are very good; between 1995 and 2010 the general matura exam was successfully passed by 88 percent of pupils who took it. The best results were achieved at the 2002 matura when the success rate was 93 percent.

Some pupils are especially successful at their matura exam; they are called **golden graduates** as they scored at least 30 out of the possible 34 points. Their number has been increasing; in 1995 it was 128 and in 2010 310. Their share in total graduates increased from 1.8 percent in 1995 to 3.7 percent in 2010. The elite among upper secondary school graduates are pupils who achieved 34 points; there were only 387 of them or 0.3 percent of total graduates in the 1995-2010 period.

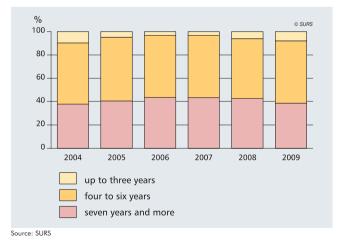
#### Let them be students!

If the number of elementary school children and upper secondary school pupils is decreasing, the number of students continues to grow. In the 2009/2010 academic year there were 115 thousand tertiary students (undergraduate and postgraduate level), which is as much as 200 percent more than in the 1991/1992 academic year.

In the past twenty years the number of tertiary graduates also increased significantly; from 6,043 in 1991 to 18,103 in 2009, which is a jump by 200 percent. In the period from 1991 to 2009 222 thousand students graduated from the tertiary level.

The discussion about student work, which marked most of the past and the current year, frequently mentioned that the **length of studies** is increasing. However, the data on tertiary graduates for the past six years do not confirm this; changes in the length of studies, if they did happen, took place before that. From 2004 to 2008 most of the students graduated in the sixth year after enrolment; in 2009 most of the students graduated in the fifth year after enrolment. About 60 percent of students graduate in the first six years after enrolment, while 40 percent of students need more than six years. As regards this ratio there were no major changes after 2004.

# Time needed by tertiary graduates from enrolment to graduation



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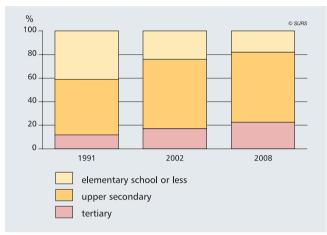
In view of the labour market situation, the **choice of study** is **becoming an increasingly important life decision**. However, data on the number of graduates of individual courses show that the possibility of employment is still a rather neglected factor in deciding what to study. Data on graduates at fields of study at which most students graduate namely show that in the period from 1998 to 2009 the share of graduates in social sciences, business and law increased by 7.4 percentage points (from 40 percent in 1998 to 47 percent in 2009). The share of graduates in engineering, manufacturing and construction decreased by 6.2 percentage points (from 18 percent to 11 percent), whereas the share of graduates in science remains low (in 2009 4.1 percent, which is half a percentage point less than in 1998).

Ever more students decide to spend part of their studies abroad. In the 1999/2000 academic year 170 Slovenian students were exchange students within the Erasmus programme, while after that their number has been constantly growing, reaching 1,353 in the 2009/2010 academic year. Such studies can last from three months to one year. Erasmus is one of the main suppliers of this possibility in Slovenia but it is not the only one. The advantage of studying abroad is getting to know life and habits in the host country, improving language proficiency, obtaining new experience and getting to know new people, thus improving one's employment prospects.

### Did you know?

- In the 2008/2009 academic year 14 percent of first year students were repeaters.
- First year repeaters represented 54 percent of all repeaters.
- Repeaters represented 10 percent of all students, excluding candidates for graduation.
- 55 percent of students advanced from the first to the second year of studies.
- 22 percent of students were candidates for graduation.

#### Educational attainment of people aged 25-64



Source: SURS

#### How educated are we?

Due to greater participation in education, the **education structure of the population** aged 25-64 **improved significantly** compared to 1991. In 1991, 41 percent of people aged 25-64 had elementary school education or less, 47 percent had upper secondary education and 12 percent had tertiary education. In 2008, 18 percent of people aged 25-64 had elementary school education or less, 59 percent had upper secondary education and 23 percent had tertiary education.

# Did you know?

- As regards the share of people aged 25-64 speaking at least one foreign language, Slovenia is ranked fifth in the EU.
- 92 percent of Slovenian residents aged 25-64 speak at least one foreign language; 21 percent speak one, 37 percent speak two and 35 percent speak three or more foreign languages.
- Most Slovenian residents aged 25-64 speak English, followed by German, and "Serbo-Croatian", which in addition to Slovenian and Macedonian was the official language in former Yugoslavia. After the dissolution of Yugoslavia, Croatian, Serbian, Bosnian and Montenegrin became independent languages.

#### **CREATING A FAMILY**

"Other things may change us but we start and end with the family." Anthony Brandt

• • •

Of all the values, people in Slovenia value family the most; its position at the top of the value list has not changed and is the same in all population groups.

A traditional way of family formation is losing its importance in Slovenia. With slight variations, the number of marriages has been constantly decreasing since the early 1980s. In 2009, 6,542 marriages were recorded or 20 percent less than in 1991. The decrease in the number of marriages does not mean that people in Slovenia do not establish families. Consensual unions have been legally the same as marriages since 1976; however, they are statistically monitored by censuses only, so there are fewer data on them. For the first time they were statistically observed in 1981 when the number was 10,345 or 2.0 percent of all families in the country. Ten years later 17,374 consensual unions were recorded, which was 3.1 percent of all families. At the latest census of population conducted in 2002 40,092 consensual unions represented 7.6 percent of the total number of families in Slovenia.



#### **Number of marriages**



Source: SURS

The mean age of groom and bride at marriage is increasing. In 2009, grooms were on average 33 years old, 4.5 years more than in 1991. The mean age of brides increased almost the same; in 1991 brides were on average just over 25 and a half years old and in 2009 30 years old.

### Did you know?

- In 2009, there were 6,542 marriages. 45 grooms and 148 brides were under 20 years old and 41 grooms and 16 brides were 70 or more years old.
- 5,536 grooms and brides were married for the first time. 300 marriages were second for brides and first for grooms, while 355 marriages were second for grooms and first for brides. One marriage was at least third for both the groom and the bride.

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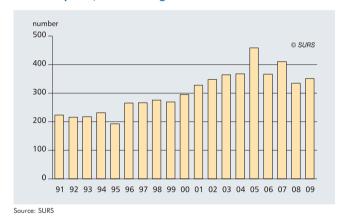
Marriage is a formal event of establishing a family, while divorce is a formal event of terminating a family. The number of divorces is increasing, both in absolute terms and relative to the number of marriages. In 1991, 1,828 marriages were terminated and in 2009 2,297, which is 26 percent more. Similarly, in 1991 there were 224 divorces per 1,000 marriages and in 2009 351 per 1,000 marriages. The total divorce rate is also increasing. In 1991, 15 percent of marriages were divorced, while in 2009 the share was 26 percent or every fourth.

#### Divorces by duration of marriage before divorce, %

	Duration of marriage					
	less than 1 year	1-4 years	5-9 years	10-14 years	15 years or more	
1991	2	20	23	22	32	
1995	2	14	21	20	44	
2000	1	13	20	18	48	
2005	1	13	19	16	51	
2009	1	15	20	17	48	

Source: SURS

#### Divorces per 1,000 marriages

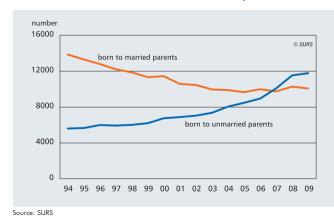


Ever more marriages end in divorce after a longer period of time. Half of the marriages that ended in divorce in 2009 lasted more than 14 years, which is significantly more than in 1991 when only a third of marriages that ended in divorce lasted more then 14 years. Marriages that ended in divorce in 2009 lasted on average just over 13 years.

Family formation includes decision about children. Due to the reduction in the number of marriages, fewer children are born to married parents. In 1994, 71 percent of children were born to married parents, while in 2009 the share was 46 percent. From 2007 on more children are being born to unmarried than to married parents.

Women are postponing the decision to have children. Between 1991 and 2009 the mean age of mothers at first childbirth grew by 4.4 years (from 24 to 29). The share of mothers who were younger than 20 years when they gave birth dropped from 7.0 percent in 1991 to 1.3 percent in 2009. On the other hand, the share of mothers who were over 35 years old when they gave birth jumped from 6.1 percent in 1991 to almost 15 percent in 2009.

#### Children born to married and unmarried parents





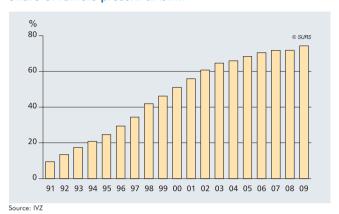
The mean age of fathers at the birth of the first child also increased. In 1991 first-time fathers were on average 30 years old and in 2009 33 years old. The difference in the mean age of first-time fathers and first-time mothers has decreased for approximately one year over the past 19 years; in 2009 first-time fathers were on average 4.4 years older than first-time mothers.

During the preparation for childbirth, pregnant women can attend the school for future parents. The number of participants is on the rise; in 1991 a third of future mothers attended such a school, while in 2009 the share was two thirds. Not only the share of first-time mothers is increasing but also the share of mothers before the second, third, etc., childbirth.

Fathers are increasingly present at the birth of their children. In 1991, 9.5 percent of fathers were present at birth, while in 2009 the share was 74 percent. However, as regards the presence of fathers at birth there are large differences among Slovenian regions. Only two out of ten mothers in Osrednjeslovenska and Goriška regions give birth without the father of the child being present, while in Koroška, Pomurska and Spodnjeposavska regions fathers are not present in half of births.



#### Share of fathers present at birth



At the end we should mention legal abortions. In Slovenia the right to have an abortion was legalised in 1977; before 1977 the abortion was allowed only in exceptional cases as in many other European countries at that time. **The rate of legal abortions has been declining since 1982**, when it was the highest at more than 41 per 1,000 women of childbearing age (19,742 abortions). In 1991, 14,027 legal abortions were performed (27 per 1,000 women of childbearing age) and in 2009 4,718 (9.7 per 1,000 women of childbearing age), which is less than a quarter of the

highest value from 1982.

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# FUNCTIONING OF ECONOMY AND THE GOVERNMENT





# LABOUR MARKET INCLUSION

"Ultimately work is the best means to make our lives more beautiful."

Gustave Flaubert

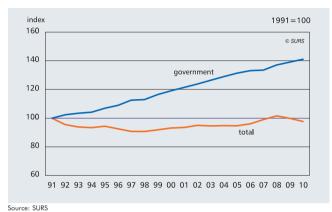
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For people in Slovenia work has always been one of the most important values. Characteristic of the previous social system was almost full employment, i.e. almost nobody was unemployed. After 1991, however, radical changes happened in this area.



In 1991, about 972 thousand people were employed. Due to a severe economic crisis, after that employment started to decline rapidly: in 1992 it decreased by 4.5 percent, in 1993 by 1.8 percent and then by 1998 at the average rate of 0.7 percent per year. Employment was the lowest in 1998 when 881 thousand people were employed. After that it started to rise again and reached the highest value in 2008 when 989 thousand people were employed. This was the only year when total employment was higher than in 1991.

#### **Employment**



#### Did you know?

- Between 1999 and 2010 the share of employees working temporarily increased by two thirds; from 11 percent in 1999 to 17 percent in 2010.
- In 1999, 6.1 percent of persons in employment worked part time, while in 2010 the share was 11 percent.

Due to the economic crisis, already in 2009 employment dropped by 18,622 to 970 thousand, and even more in 2010 when 949 thousand people were employed, 20,961 fewer than in the previous year. The final consequence of described changes is that total employment in 2010 was 2.4 percent lower than in 1991.

Total employment, of course, shows only part of labour market developments. A much different picture is obtained if we monitor employment in the government sector (the government sector, which is also known as the public sector, includes ministries, government offices, most of the schools, faculties, health centres, hospitals, etc.). Establishing institutions in an independent state namely demanded appropriately large additional employment. Therefore, employment in the government sector increased between 1991 and 2010 by 41 percent, from 112 thousand to 158 thousand people. Economic conditions had no effect on employment in the government sector in individual years as

employment continued to increase every year between 1991 and 2010, the most in 1997 (by 3.3 percent or 4,078 people) and the least in 2007 (by 0.3 percent or 442 people). Consequently, the share of people employed in the government sector increased from 12 percent of total employment in 1991 to 17 percent in 2010.

A mirror image of employment is shown by data on unemployment. In 1991, 75,079 people were registered unemployed. Already in 1992 their number increased by more than a third and the following year by another quarter. In subsequent years registered unemployment was gradually falling until 2009 when as a result of the severe economic crisis it increased by over a third and a year later by additional 16 percent. So in only two years (2009 and 2010), registered unemployment jumped by almost 60 percent over 2008, which was the year with the lowest registered unemployment after 1991.

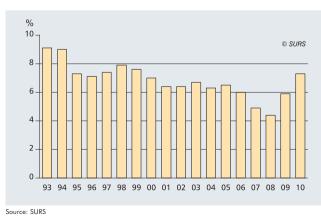
#### Unemployed





Source: Employment Service of Slovenia and SURS

### Survey unemployment rate



Very similar trends are shown by data on survey unemployment. The main difference between register unemployment and survey unemployment is that the registered unemployed are those who are registered at the Employment Service of Slovenia, while the survey unemployed are those who in the week before the survey did not work for payment even one hour.

Even though data on register unemployment and survey unemployment differ in the number of unemployed persons, the trends are very similar. In the period after 1993 the survey unemployment rate was the highest in 1993 (9.1 percent). With some minor ups and downs, after 1993 the survey unemployment rate was falling until 2008. The sharpest fall (by more than one percentage point to 4.9 percent) was recorded in 2007 due to a very good economic situation. Overall, the rate was the lowest in 2008, i.e. a year before the sharp increase in 2009 and 2010.

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# GETTING INTO THE THIRD LIFE PERIOD

"Don't simply retire from something, have something to retire to." Harry Emerson Fosdick

• •

**People are retiring older**; between 2000 and 2010 the average retirement age for new old-age pensioners increased by 2.3 years for women and by 10 months for men. In 2000 an average new female old-age pensioner was 56 years old, while in 2010 she was 58 years old. In 2000 an average new male old-age pensioner was 61 years old, while in 2010 he was 62 years old. In the observed period the difference between female and male retirement age decreased from 4.9 years in 2000 to 3.4 years in 2010.

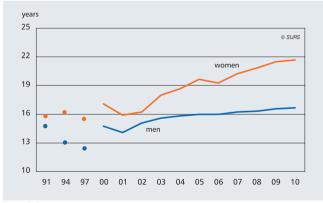
The pension qualifying period at retirement of old-age pensioners also increased. Women who retired in 2000 had on average slightly more than 33 years and a half of the pension qualifying period (simply put one could say that before retirement they were employed for that much time), while those who retired in 2010 worked 1.9 year longer (35 years and a half). In the same comparison the pension qualifying period for men increased by 9 months (from 37 years in 2000 to 38 years in 2010). Before retirement an average new male old-age pensioner worked two years and a half longer than his female counterpart.

We can sum up that men have to work longer before retirement than women, but that the difference is decreasing; that man retire later than women, but that this difference is also decreasing; and that women are receiving pensions longer than men and that this difference is increasing. However, it is true for both women and men that in order to earn the right to receive pensions we must work longer, that we retire later and that we receive pensions longer than ten years ago.



To the general trends of prolonging periods related to retirement we can add another one. The mean age at retirement is increasing but at the same time **due to longer life expectancy so is the average period of receiving pensions**. Between 1991 and 2010 the time of receiving pensions (from retirement to death) increased for female oldage pensioners by 5.8 years (from 16 years in 1991 to 22 years in 2010), while for their male counterparts it increased by 1.9 year (from 15 years in 1991 to 17 years).

# Average old-age pension qualifying period of pensions deletions



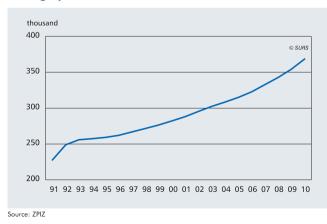
Source: ZPIZ

### • More and more retired persons

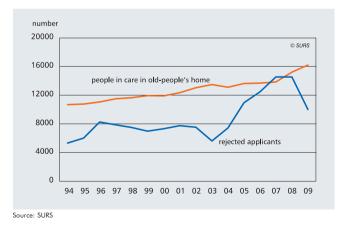
The number of old-age pensioners increased by 62 percent between 1991 and 2010 (on average by 2.6 percent per year). The greatest increase was recorded in 1992, when the number of old-age pensioners increased by 9.4 percent over the previous year. Such an increase was mostly the result of worsening economic conditions at that time, which were partly being solved by early retirement. In subsequent years retirement was increasing at a fairly stable rate of about 2 percent per year. Another large increase in the number of new old-age pensioners happened in 2010; the 4.0 percent increase was partly the result of difficult economic conditions, partly of retirement of a baby-boom generation and partly of expectations that the new pension reform will bring harsher conditions for retirement.

One of the major challenges for Slovenia related to longer life expectancy and the increasing share of older people is to provide appropriate care for the elderly. This is particularly associated with large enough capacities of old people's homes. In the past twenty years the number of old people's homes increased significantly (from 53 in 1990 to 69 in 2007). At the same time between 1994 and 2009 the number of people in care jumped by 52 percent. However, there is not enough room in old people's homes for everybody; this is shown by the number of rejected applicants, which sharply increased after 1991. The least favourable ratio between the number of people in care and the number of rejected applicants was observed in the 2005-2008 period; at that time there was almost one rejected applicant per one person in care. Overall, the capacities of old people's homes are sufficient for 11 percent of the population aged 75 or more.

#### Old-age pensioners



# People in care in old people's homes and rejected applicants



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Since the number of the elderly population is growing rapidly, it will be necessary to develop more intensively other forms of assistance to the elderly. Domestic care is one such form. It is intended for persons who can live in their domestic environment but cannot look after and care for themselves due to old age and their family members cannot provide such care. At the end of 2009 there were 5,675 domestic care beneficiaries aged 65 years or more (1.7 percent of all persons in this age group) which operates as a public service. Compared to 2006, the number of users of this service increased by 23 percent. A similar service for the elderly may also be provided in **sheltered housing**, which is generally used by the elderly who are no longer able to fully look after and care for themselves but can still live a relatively independent life with more or less help by professional staff. The largest investor in Slovenia in this area is the Real Estate Fund of the Pension and Disability Insurance, which owns about 200 sheltered housing units in nine localities in Slovenia.

#### Time for travel and time for education

Many people use retirement as a time to engage in activities they for various reasons could not spend enough time on before they retired. Actually, often they have so many such activities that they do not have enough time to do them all.

#### Did you know?

- In the 2001-2009 period about 35 percent of retired persons went on tourism trips.
- 45 percent of all retired persons who went on tourism trips in that period travelled abroad, 43 percent in Slovenia and 12 percent both in Slovenia and abroad.

#### Students at the Third Age University in Ljubljana



Source: The Third Age University of Slovenia



Ever more retired people attend the Third Age University (University for Senior Citizens), established in Ljubljana in 1986 with the aim to educate and develop the skills of older people. The number of students has increased significantly in recent years; in the 1991/1992 academic year 526 senior citizens were enrolled, while in the 2009/2010 academic year the number was almost ten times larger (4,944). We have to mention that actually the number of students is lower because many of them attend two or more study groups. Nevertheless, these data clearly indicate the increasing interest of older people for such form of education.



#### LEAVING IS ALSO A PART OF LIFE

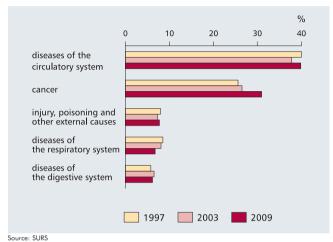
"Death, like birth, is the secret of Nature." Marcus Aurelius

With longer life expectancy the number of deaths has been gradually and slowly falling since 1991. In the past few years the downward trend stopped. People in Slovenia who died in 2009 were on average 75 years old; women were 79 years old and men were 70 years old. The mean age at death has been rising since 1991. At that time Slovenian residents who died were on average 70 years old; women were 75 years old and men 65 years old.



In 2009, 40 percent of people died due to diseases of the circulatory system, 31 percent due to neoplasms (cancer), 7.7 percent due to injuries, poisonings and other external causes, 6.8 percent due to diseases of the respiratory system, and 6.2 percent due to diseases of the digestive system. Compared to 1997, of all causes of death by far the greatest increase was observed with cancer (by 5.4 percentage points), while the share of deaths due to diseases of the circulatory system remained the same.

#### Top five causes of death



A very serious problem in Slovenia is suicide. In 2009, 448 people committed suicide, which is on average one in 20 hours. In the past twenty years we nevertheless recorded a downward trend in the number of suicides, since in the early 1990s the number was about 44 percent higher and someone died of suicide on average every 14 hours. In the 1991-2009 period, 10,540 people committed suicide, 8,155 men and 2,385 women. The risk of suicide grows also with age, which is the result of chronic diseases, worse socioeconomic status, loneliness, declining physical abilities, etc. As regards the suicide rate for 2008, Slovenia was fifth among the EU countries; higher rates were recorded in Lithuania, Hungary, Latvia and Finland.

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STATISTICAL OFFICE OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA

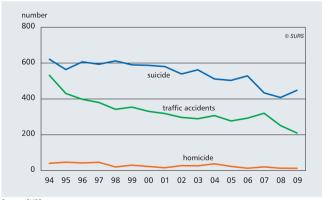
The number of deaths due to traffic accidents is also decreasing; it dropped from 532 in 1994 to 209 in 2009 (by 61 percent). In this period 5,327 people died in traffic accidents, 4,162 men and 1,165 women. Despite the lower number of deaths, as regards the death rate due to traffic accidents Slovenia is not drawing significantly closer to the EU average because as in Slovenia the death rate is also decreasing in other EU countries. The EU achieved Slovenia's 2008 death rate due to traffic accidents already in 2001.

**Death is also related with birth**. In the period from 1991 to 2009 on average 98 stillbirths per year were recorded in Slovenia; in 2008 the rate was 5.5 stillbirths per 1,000 births, which is more than the EU average.

In the past twenty years the number of spontaneous abortions decreased by more than a half (1,682 in 1991, 913 in 2009), the number of extrauterine pregnancies decreased by two thirds and the number of other pathological pregnancies increased by 2.5-times (from 894 in 1991 to 2,260 in 2009). Compared to the number of live births, the total number of spontaneous abortions, extrauterine pregnancies and other pathological pregnancies was growing especially in the 1990s, while in the past ten years it has been rather stable.

In the 1991-2009 period the number of infant deaths decreased on average by 6 percent per year; in 1991 there were 178 infant deaths (8.2 infant deaths per 1,000 live births) and in 2009 52 (2.4 infant deaths per 1,000 live births). For infants who die in the first year after birth the first week is the riskier; in 2009, 56 percent of infant deaths occurred in the first week. As regards infant mortality, Slovenia is among the European countries with the lowest rates.

# Deaths due to suicide, traffic accidents and homicide



Source: SURS

# Quality of life

2 O
20 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE
REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA



# STATISTICAL OFFICE OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA

# ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH WE LIVE

"Don't blow it – good planets are hard to find." Time Magazine

• •

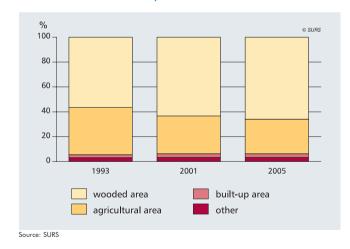
For people in individual countries, including Slovenia, the environment in which they live is very important. What people prefer, of course, depends on each individual, but some wishes are more or less universal: clean air, enough drinking water, unpolluted soil, moderate urbanization and pleasant climate.

#### • How large are we?

#### The surface area of Slovenia is 20,273 square kilometres.

Two-thirds of the surface are covered with wooded areas; from 1993 to 2005 they increased by 17 percent. The second largest part of the surface is covered by agricultural areas. In 2005, agricultural areas covered 28 percent of the total surface area and compared to 1993 they decreased by 27 percent. During the same period, the area used for roads significantly increased. Its share in total area is small (one percent in 2005) but the surface area built with roads increased by 150 percent from 1993 to 2005.

#### Land cover and land use, share of total area



### Did you know?

• Half of people in Slovenia live in cities and suburban areas. Compared to 1991, this share declined slightly.

In the last twenty years the utilised agricultural area and the number of agricultural holdings decreased significantly. In 1991, the utilised agricultural area amounted to 561 thousand hectares; by 2009 it decreased to 468 thousand hectares or by 17 percent. The number of agricultural holdings fell by a third in the same period but the average size of the agricultural holding increased by approximately 40 percent; in 1991, the average agricultural holding used 4.5 hectares of agricultural land, in 2010 it used 6.4 hectares. Such movements reflect the fact that the traditional way of farming, in which farming was more a way of life than a serious economic activity, is gradually disappearing.

Irrespective of the fall in the number of agricultural holdings, over the past decade the number of agricultural holdings with organic farming and agricultural holdings in conversion has increased. In 2000, there were 600 such agricultural holdings and in 2009 already more than three times more (2,096). The total land area in the system of control and certification of organic production increased by 28 percent from 2004 to 2009. Although the smallest increase was recorded for the area of permanent grassland, this category is still by far the largest of all land in the system of control and certification of organic production (87 percent in 2009).

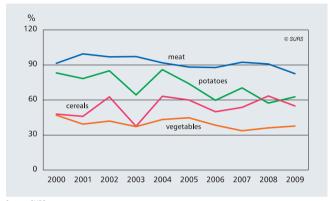
### • Food self-sufficiency

For each society, food is one of the crucial if not the most crucial strategic raw material. Therefore, it is very important to care about the self-sufficiency rate, which measures how much food the country produces by itself or to what extent it depends on imports.

From 2000 to 2009, the self-sufficiency rate fell for almost all groups of garicultural products, meaning that we are increasingly dependent on imports. The selfsufficiency rate for meat decreased by 9.0 percentage points: in 2000 the indigenous production in comparison to the domestic use was 92 percent, in 2010 only 83 percent. For potatoes, the self-sufficiency rate fell from 83 percent in 2000 to 63 percent in 2009, reflecting the trend of reducing the area planted with potatoes. The rate of self-sufficiency for vegetables decreased by 9.4 percentage points as well; at the same time vegetables are the group of food for which our self-sufficiency rate is the lowest. Let us mention also our lack of self-sufficiency in sugar. Until 2006, Slovenia produced most of the sugar it needed (84 percent in 2006) but the closure of the sugar factory in Ormož has led to the present situation when we are almost completely dependent on import.

From 2000 to 2009 only the self-sufficiency rate in cereals increased, namely by 7.0 percentage points (from 48 percent in 2000 to 55 percent in 2009). Slovenia is a traditional importer of cereals and the self-sufficiency rate is very dependent on weather conditions. For example, drought in 2003 caused a steep fall in the self-sufficiency rate in that year.

#### Self-sufficiency rate (ratio between production and use)



Source: SURS

#### Better road infrastructure

Earlier we mentioned that the surface area build up with road has increased. This is mainly due to the construction of highways, which has been very intense in the time of independence. The construction began in 1970 when a law on "the long-term programme for the construction, reconstruction and maintenance of main and regional roads in the Socialist Republic of Slovenia in the period from 1971 to 1985" was adopted and the construction of the first stretch of the motorway between Vrhnika and Postojna begun. By 1994 we built 139 kilometres of four-lane motorways and major roads and 59 kilometres of two-lane motorways.

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In 1994, the National Assembly adopted the National Programme of Motorway Construction in the Republic of Slovenia, with which the construction of highways in Slovenia experienced a new momentum. Since the beginning of the adoption of the programme, we have built 528 kilometres of motorways, major roads and other public roads. To complete the programme, some more sections will have to be built (for example at the Podravje stretch the Gorišnica-Ormož section, at the coastal stretch the Koper-Izola section and at the Goreniska stretch the Peračica-Podtabor section).

### Did you know?

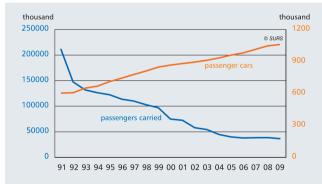
- Due to new motorways and major roads, the journey from Koper to Lendava in 2011 was two hours shorter than in 1991. In 1991, this journey took about four and a half hours, and in 2011 two and a half hours.
- A drive from Jesenice to Obrežje has been reduced by about 45 minutes; in 1991 we needed just over two hours and in 2011 only an hour and a half.



# • The big winner

In addition to the construction of motorways, in the period after 1991 also other major changes have occurred in transport. The number of passengers carried in road transport for hire and reward has been drastically reduced, so in 2010 it carried only 16 percent of the number of passengers it carried in 1991. Such a reduction in the number of passengers carried in road transport has coincided with a sharp increase in the number of passenger cars. At the end of 1991, 603 thousand passenger cars were registered in Slovenia; by the end of 2009 their number has increased by 76 per cent to one million 59 thousand. It is interesting to mention that at the end of 1946 there were 1,962 cars in Slovenia. The average age of a passenger car has increased slightly over the past decade; in 2001 an average car had 6.9 years and in 2009 it had 8.0 years.

#### Passengers carried in road transport for hire and reward and passenger cars



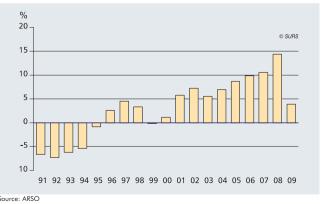
Source: SURS and MNZ

During the period from 1991 to 2010 the number of passengers carried in air transport has greatly increased as well (by 68 percent) and the number of passengers carried in railway transport was in 2010 6.1 percent higher than in 1991.

### • The story of (likely) failure

Changes in transport contributed to the pollution of the environment in which we live. In 1998, Slovenia signed the Kyoto Protocol and thereby committed itself to reduce by 2012 its greenhouse gas emissions by eight percent compared to 1986. In pursuing this commitment we are not very successful, even more, we are increasingly moving away from the Kyoto taraet instead of approaching it. Emissions increased in most years after 1991 but until 1995 they were lower than the Kyoto target. With the increase in emissions in the following years, especially from the road transport, the target was further and further away; in 2008 emissions were thus already 14 percent higher than the target. In 2009, we recorded a substantial fall in greenhouse gas emissions due to the economic situation; emissions fell by 9.1 percent compared to value from 2008 and were only 3.9 percent higher than the target under the Kyoto Protocol. However, given the structure of greenhouse gas emissions one can expect that the revival of the economic activity and renewed growth of road transport will bring new increases in greenhouse gas emissions in years to come.

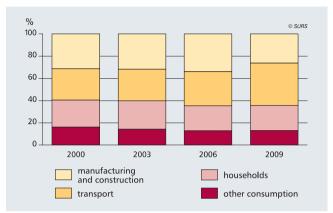
### Difference between actual greenhouse gas emissions and the Kyoto target



#### • Energy production and consumption

We contribute to sustainable development with energy generation from renewables and its proper use as well. The share of electricity generation from renewables has not significantly changed in Slovenia in the last ten years. Its value is highly dependent on hydrological conditions, i.e. in years with high waters more energy from renewable sources can be generated than in dry years. In 2000, 29 percent of electricity was generated from renewables and in 2009 30 percent. By far the largest part of electricity from renewables is generated by hydroelectric power plants (96 percent in the period from 2002 to 2009), less than three percent were produced from wood and other solid biomass, while all other renewable sources (for example landfill gas, sewage gas, other biogas, non-renewable industrial waste and photovoltaics) have a nealiaible share in the electricity generation from renewable sources.

#### Final energy consumption



Source: SURS

Final energy consumption increased on average by 2.2 percent each year from 2000 to 2008. The highest increase was recorded in 2008 (6.4 percent), mainly due to a large increase in final energy consumption in transport. In 2009, final energy consumption fell by a tenth compared to 2008; the main reason was the general economic situation which caused the final consumption in manufacturing and construction to decline by 17 percent and in transport by 13 percent. In 2009, the final energy consumption was 5.5 percent higher than at the beginning of the decade; the biggest contributor to the growth was transport, whose energy consumption increased by almost a half in the period. Final energy consumption in households was in 2009 2.4 percent lower than in 2000.

What resources do we use at home? For dwellings and water heating, and cooking equipment in 2002 most households in Slovenia used heating oil (39 percent), followed by wood and wood waste (27 percent), heat energy (14 percent), natural gas (8.0 percent) and electricity (7.6 percent). The other resources were less important. Compared to 1996, there was a decrease in the share of households using solid fuels (for example coal) and wood, and an increase in the share of households using heat energy, natural gas and heating oil.

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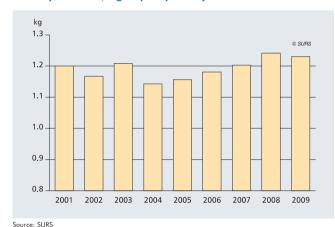




### Not in my backyard

The total quantity of waste generated in Slovenia increased by 69 percent from 2001 to 2009 mainly due to a sharp, 87 percent increase in waste generated by manufacturing and service industries. This waste represents 86 percent of the total quantity of waste generated, the remainder is municipal waste. The quantity of municipal waste was in 2009 4.6 percent higher than in 2001. Calculated per capita, every person in Slovenia produced on average 1.2 kilograms of municipal waste per day in the period from 2001 to 2009; the quantity produced per person increased by an average of 0.4 percent each year.

#### Municipal waste, kg/capita per day

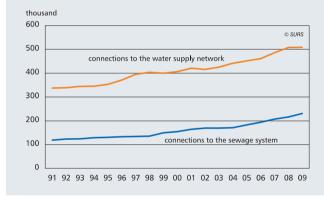


The vast majority of municipal waste continues to be removed by landfilling on municipal landfill sites. Nevertheless, the shares of other forms of disposal (especially recycling) have been increasing in recent years. In 2002, 84 percent of all municipal waste ended on municipal landfill sites; in the following years the share was falling and reached 69 percent by

2009.

Other elements of municipal infrastructure contribute to the quality of the environment as well. The number of connections to the sewage network has nearly doubled from 1991 until today (from 120 thousand to 231 thousand), while the number of connections to the water supply network has increased by half (338 thousand in 1991, 508 thousand in 2009). There was also a significant increase in the number of treatment plants; in 1998 there were 95, in 2009 already 266 of them.

# Connections to the water supply network and to the sewage system



Source: SURS

#### Weather is

Talking about the environment we often think of weather, i.e. temperature, precipitation, wind, etc. The table shows some weather data for some places in Slovenia. We included also data for a decade before the creation of an independent state; although the weather is changing every day, we need longer time series to observe long-term trends. For a more serious analysis, of course, thirty years of data are not sufficient; however, it is possible to demonstrate at least the basic dimensions of weather events.

#### Selected weather data

1981	1991	2001
-1990	-2000	-2009
13.7	13.4	13.7
10.0	10.7	11.1
1,385	1,504	1,347
1,185	1,162	1,144
35	42	42
33	45	46
	13.7 10.0 1,385 1,185	13.7 13.4 10.0 10.7 1,385 1,504 1,185 1,162 35 42

Source: ARSO

### Nature can be unpredictable

Let us conclude this review of environmental changes in the last twenty years with natural disasters. From 1994 to 2008, natural disasters caused a damage of around 0.4 percent of GDP created in this period. Relatively the greatest damage was recorded in 1998, mainly due to heavy floods between 4 and 6 November, which also claimed two human lives, and due to the Easter earthquake (12 April) in the Upper Soča region.

Among the worst natural disasters in this period also the landslide under the Mangart mountain in November 2000 must be mentioned, as well as long lasting drought in 2003 and very early snow that fell already on 23 October that year; in 2004 the earthquake in the Upper Soča region in July and very strong wind that caused damage especially under the Karavanke mountain and the Soča Valley in November. In mid-July 2008 we were hit by a number of strong storms (possibly even a tornado) and 2010 will be remembered in particular for heavy floods and landslides in September.

# HOW DO WE CARE

"Healthy people are richer than the rich."

• • •

A commonly used phrase in the Slovenian language is "Srečn'ga pa zdrav'ga!" meaning "Be happy! Be healthy!". This indicates that health as a value is highly appreciated. Let's take a look at some data showing how healthy people in Slovenia are and how successful they are in realizing this desire expressed so many times around New Year.



In 2007, 62 percent of Slovenian residents aged 15 years or more evaluated their health as very good or good and 27 percent as fairly good; 11 percent were not satisfied with their health condition.

In 2007, the most frequent disease or condition among adults was back pain or other chronic back defect (41 percent), followed by high blood pressure (26 percent), neck disorder or other chronic neck defect (20 percent), severe headache or migraine (16 percent), allergy (15 percent), rheumatoid arthritis (13 percent) and permanent injury or defect caused by an accident (11 percent).

### Did you know?

- In 2007, 3.8 percent of adults suffered from cancer, including leukaemia and lymphoma.
- One in two men and one in three women born in Slovenia in 2007 will be diagnosed with cancer in their lifetime.

Each year about 12,000 people in Slovenia have been diagnosed with cancer in recent years and about 5,500 have died each year because of cancer. The number of newly diagnosed cases is increasing rapidly; from 1991 to 1995 there were 35,166 newly diagnosed cases and from 2001 to 2005 already 50,815 (45 percent increase). The ratio between the number of deaths and the number of newly diagnosed cases remained unchanged during this period.

Even though the risk of cancer is slightly increasing, it is the highest among the elderly; of all cancer patients diagnosed in 2007, 58 percent were older than 65 years. As the Slovenian population is ageing, it is expected that the number of new cancer cases will increase because of ever higher number of older people. The most frequent cancer sites in our population (skin, colon and rectum, lung, breast and prostate) are associated with an unhealthy lifestyle, excessive sun exposure, unhealthy dietary habits, smoking and excessive alcohol consumption.

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Five-year relative survival of adult male cancer patients (all sites but skin) diagnosed in the period from 2001 to 2005 in Slovenia was 44 percent and of female cancer patients (all sites but skin) 59 percent. From 1991 to 2005, the five-year relative survival rate improved significantly, for male patients by 14 percent and for female patients by 10 percent. Though the survival of adult cancer patients is gradually improving, it is lagging behind the European average in all more frequent cancers.

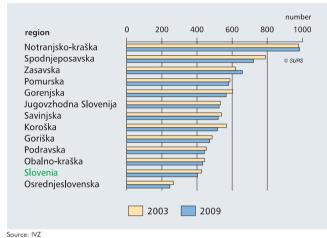
Given the fact that incidence of cancer is increasing and risk of death due to cancer has dropped, it may be concluded that nowadays medical treatment in Slovenia is more successful, because more patients survive or live longer with this illness. At the end of 2007, slightly more than 76,000 people lived among us who had been treated for cancer.



#### Health services

The provision of healthcare systems and medical-related services is of crucial importance for the protection against illnesses and health problems. The number of physicians has increased from 2.3 physicians per 1,000 people in 2003 to 2.5 in 2009. In other words, in 2009 there was one physician per 403 people in Slovenia. There are some major differences regarding regional density of health services: in the Osrednjeslovenska region (region around the capital) there was one physician per 246 people and in the Notranjsko-kraška region only one physician per 984 people.

#### Number of people per physician



In terms of money needed to fund the healthcare system in Slovenia, 55 percent of health expenditure in 2008 was spent for services of curative care (799 euro per capita), 23 percent for medical goods dispensed to out-patients (333 euro per capita) and 8.6 percent for services of long-term nursing care (125 euro per capita). Compared to health expenditure in 2003, the structure remained almost unchanged; nevertheless, there was a decrease of 1.9 percentage points regarding medical goods dispensed to out-patients and 1.2 percentage points increase regarding services of curative care.

#### • How often are we on sick leave?

Health plays important role in relation to work. Absence from work due to health-related problems or incapacity for work reflects the health status of employees but may also reflect personal distress resulting from working or social environment.

#### Did you know?

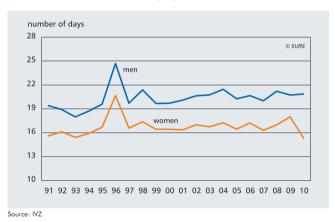
- The number of issued prescriptions has increased by almost 30 percent since the end of the 1990s till 2009.
- In 1999 there were 6.2 issued prescriptions per average Slovenian resident, in 2009 7.7.

The number of lost calendar days per employee has dropped by 12 percent in the last twenty years. The largest number of lost days from work due to health problems was recorded in 1996 (almost 18 days), the smallest in 2010 (slightly more than 12 and a half days). In 2010 the largest causes for days off work were illnesses (67 percent of lost calendar days), followed by injuries and poisonings (28 percent), and family care (5.4 percent). In comparison to 1991, the absence increased in case of injuries and poisonings (by one fifth), and cancer (more than 50 percent increase). The absence due to other illnesses has slightly dropped, especially in the case of diseases of the digestive system (by 42 percent). Also the absence due to family care was lower in 2010 than in 1991 (by 38 percent).

According to data on lost calendar days per employee more women than men are absent, but men are absent longer. In the period from 1991 to 2010 there were on average 74 cases of absence per 100 male employees and 119 cases per 100 female employees. The number of cases decreased for both sexes; for men by 19 percent and for women by 4.8 percent.

Considering health-related problems, men are absent longer than women. This is mainly due to the fact that most men are absent due to injuries, which usually takes more time to recover. In most years the average number of lost calendar days per case has been relatively stable since 1991; men were absent approximately 20 calendar days, women 17 days.

# Absence from work due to medical reasons, average number of lost calendar days per case



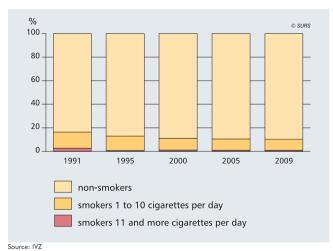
#### Habits and attitudes

Bad habits, such as smoking, can damage our health. In recent years the number of smokers in Slovenia has been decreasing. In 1994, 29 percent of adults were regular smokers and only 19 percent in 2007. Together with occasional smokers (6.0 percent of adults) a quarter of adults in Slovenia were smokers in 2007.

In Slovenia about 2,800 people die from smoking and tobacco-related diseases per year; in most cases they are men, between the ages of 35 and 69. On average, smokers die 16 years younger than non-smokers.

The share of smokers among pregnant women in Slovenia is decreasing as well; in 1991, 16 percent of all pregnant women were smokers and 84 percent were non-smokers; by 2009, the share of smokers among pregnant women fell to 10 percent. The share of pregnant women who smoke 10 or more cigarettes per day has dropped as well; from 17 percent in 1991 to 10 percent in 2009.

#### Pregnant women: non-smokers and smokers



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Drinking alcohol is another unhealthy habit. Alcohol consumption in Slovenia is still relatively high; since 1993 there has been no substantial progress in the reduction of alcohol abuse. Alcohol consumption among adults (aged 15 years or more) in 2008 was 11 litres of pure alcohol per capita. The share of pure alcohol consumed with wine is about 50 percent, with beer 40 percent and with spirits 10 percent. More than a third of adult men and about one-tenth of adult women are risk drinkers; about 10-15 percent of adults are alcoholics. Risk for premature mortality due to harmful consequences of alcohol drinking is of great concern especially in the case of liver cirrhosis and suicide.

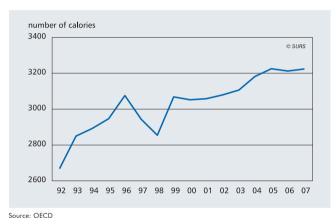
Eating habits can affect our health as well because they can cause risks for certain diseases. Data on food consumption show that nowadays we eat significantly more fruit and vegetables than twenty years ago. In the 1990s we ate 285 grams of fruit and vegetables per day, now twice as much (540 grams). With such consumption Slovenia reached the European average; in 1991, we were one third behind.

Considering the average amount of cereals consumed per day, there has been no significant change; in 2007 we ate on average 386 grams of cereals per day. Differences can be seen in daily consumption of protein; during the period from 1992 to 2007 we increased the intake by 30 percent. Almost the same goes for daily intake of fat; from 94 grams per day in 1992 to 122 grams in 2007 (29 percent increase). The most significant change happened regarding sugar consumption per day, a 53 percent increase since 1992.



We can conclude that compared to the beginning of the 1990s we eat more of almost all types of foods. Nowadays our average menu is mostly composed of fruits and vegetables, followed by cereals, fat, protein and sugar. The quantitative changes in the composition of our diet reflect as well in the per capita calorie consumption, which has increased from 1992 to 2007 by 21 percent (from 2,670 calories per capita per day in 1992 to 3,223 in 2007).

# Average daily consumption of calories per person

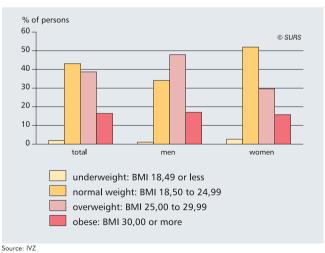


# Did you know?

- · The average adult woman in Slovenia is 165 cm tall and has 68 kg.
- The average adult man in Slovenia is 178 cm tall and has 83 kg.

In conclusion we could take a look how primarily diet habits reflect in our body shapes. In 2007, 43 percent of adults (aged 15 years or more) had normal weight, less than two percent were underweight. 55 percent were of overweight or obese, more men (65 percent) than women (45 percent). As regards obesity, 17 percent of men and 16 percent of women were obese (body mass index 30 or more). Let us add that the body mass index (BMI) is a proxy for human body fat based on an individual's weight and height, and is calculated by dividing weight expressed in kilograms by the square of height expressed in metres.

# Body mass index, 2007



#### **WEALTH CONDITIONS**

"Wealth goes down like a jet of water and up as a rope climber." Slovenian proverb

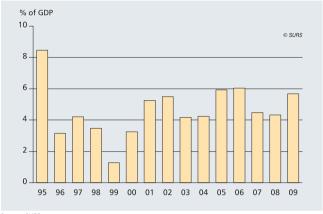
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# We are managing our means well

To some readers, the information in this section might come as a surprise. However, data undoubtedly show that **revenue of households is usually higher than their expenditure**. Slovenian households are no exception. Total revenue of Slovenian households was higher than our expenditure in all years since 1995 (on average by 5.5 percent), therefore in the entire period we created current surpluses. The highest surplus in the amount of 8.5 percent of GDP was created in 1995; however, it is important to mention that such huge surplus was mainly the result of the recording of transaction related to repayments of property confiscated after World War II. In other years until 2009 our total revenue exceeded our total expenditure from 1.3 percent of GDP in 1999 to 6.0 percent of GDP in 2006.



# Revenue less expenditure of households



Source: SUR

# Did you know?

- Household disposable income per capita has increased from 3,478 euro in 1995 to 11,199 euro in 2009 or by 222 percent.
- Adjusting for price change, disposable income per capita has increased by 46 percent in this period.

Household disposable income is not equal in all Slovenian regions. Yet, due to the redistribution function the government carries out through social contributions, social transfers and taxes, those differences are smaller than differences in revenue only. The highest disposable income per capita have people in the Osrednjeslovenska region (region around the capital) while the smallest have people in the Pomurska region (region in the most eastern part of the country).

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During the period from 1999 to 2008, a person in the Osrednjeslovenska region had approximately 40 percent higher disposable income than a person in the Pomurska region. One can notice, however, that the difference has declined, namely from 50 percent in 1999 to 36 percent in 2008.

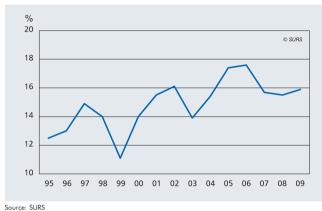
Households spend disposable income mainly on purchases of goods and services for final consumption (what belongs to final consumption will be explained later), the rest of our disposable income we save. The saved amount we later use for purchases of dwellings, shares and equities, bank deposits, etc.

Slovenian households are among the thriftiest in the EU. In 1995 we saved 13 percent of our disposable income, and in 2009 16 percent. The saving rate was fluctuating over the years and was the lowest in 1999 (in this year the consumption was extremely high before the introduction of the value added tax) but, on average, the saving rate was 15 percent in this period.

# Did you know?

- Regarding the household saving rate, in 2009 Slovenia ranked seventh among EU countries (after Belgium, Spain, Germany, Ireland, Austria and France).
- In 2005 and 2006, the saving rate of Slovenian households was the highest among EU countries (17 percent and 18 percent, respectively). At the same time, those saving rates were also the highest in Slovenia in the entire period.

# Household saving rate (ratio between savings and disposable income)



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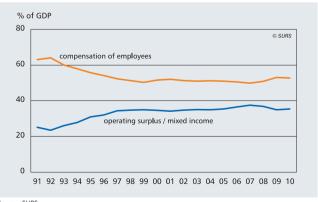
# Payment for work done

Households receive the largest part of disposable income in the form of payment for work done in the production process (mainly gross wages with employers' social contributions). Income from work represents slightly less than 60 percent of our disposable income. From 1995 to 2009 the amount received by an average employee has increased by 203 percent (from 7,739 euro in 1995 to 23,468 euro in 2009). In this period, the average annual amount received by employees in non-financial corporations increased the most; in 2009, an average employee in a non-financial corporation received 208 percent higher amount than in 1995. The average amounts received by employees in non-profit institutions increased the least of all (108 percent growth).

Contrary to the general opinion, the amounts received by government employees have not increased the most; for government employees the average amount received in 2009 was 189 percent higher than the amount received in 1995, while average amount received by employees in the rest of the economy grew by 204 percent.

We can hear quite often that the economic progress, measured by GDP, does not result in an equal improvement in the households' economic situation. Partly, this could be proved by data on the share of GDP intended for payments to employees for their work or participation in the production process (compensation of employees), and the share of GDP retained by owners (operating surplus and mixed income). In 1991, compensation of employees amounted to approximately 63 percent of GDP while the share retained by owners amounted to 25 percent of GDP. By 2010, the share of compensation of employees has decreased by 10 percentage points to 53 percent of GDP while the share of operating surplus and mixed income has increased by the same amount to 35 percent of GDP.

# Compensation of employees and operating surplus/mixed income

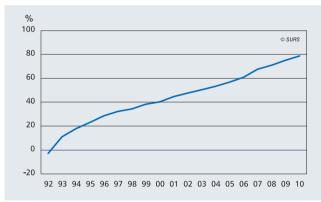


Source: SURS

# • What about wages?

We receive the majority of income for the work done as wages. Average monthly net wage received by an employee in 1991 amounted to 43 euro, while in 2010 it amounted to 967 euro; from 1991 to 2010 the average monthly wage has nominally increased by 2,144 percent and in real terms by 79 percent.

# Real growth of average net wage compared to 1991



Source: SURS

One of the important instruments of labour market economic policy and one of the basic social rights is the **minimum wage**. Its purpose is primarily to ensure the right to defined lowest wage amount. In Slovenia, the minimum wage is statutorily defined and is equal for all employees. It was introduced in 1995 with the agreement on the wage policy and other receipts of employees in the private sector, which was concluded as an annex to the social agreement for 1995. The minimum wage replaced the previously used guaranteed personal income or guaranteed wage.

The minimum gross wage in 1995 amounted to 190 euro and to 711 euro in 2010. In 1995, when the minimum wage was introduced, the ratio between the average gross wage and the minimum gross wage was 0.41 (the minimum wage amounted to 41 percent of the average wage); for the following few years the ratio was decreasing to the detriment of the minimum wage. After 2001 the ratio was increasing until 2005 when it reached its peak but then it started to decline again. A major improvement was observed in 2010 with the enforcement of the new Act Regulating the Minimum Wage and the minimum wage reached 48 percent of the value of the average wage.

# Ratio between the minimum gross wage and the average gross wage



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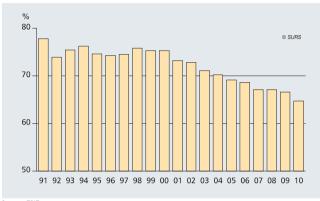
#### Social transfers

Households receive slightly less than one-fifth of revenue in the form of different sorts of social transfers. These include pensions, parental compensation, child allowance, sick-leave allowance, disability allowance, unemployment allowance, social assistance in cash, etc. The share of social transfers in disposable income increased particularly in 2009 when their contribution to households' disposable income reached 20 percent.

Among important households' incomes classified within social transfers are pensions. An average old-age pension, which in 1991 amounted to 31 euro, has increased by 1,889 percent and amounted to 625 euro in 2010. Allowing for inflation, the old-age pension has increased by 58 percent. Because the growth of the average old-age pension was slower than the growth of the average net wage, the ratio between them was constantly decreasing in the period after 1991 (except in some of the years). In 1991, the average old-age pension was 22 percent lower than the average net wage, while in 2009 it was already lower by 35 percent.



# Ratio between the average net old-age pension and the average net wage



Source: ZPIZ

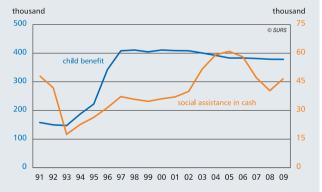
# Among more important social transfers in terms of 500 400 300 200

# value are also child allowance, parental compensation, unemployment allowance and social assistance in cash. The total value of parental compensation has increased from 12 million euro in 1991 to 282 million euro in 2009 (2,232 percent increase). Child allowance has increased even more, from 7.4 million euro in 1991 to 287 million euro in 2009 or by 3,778 percent. Social assistance in cash has increased the most; in 1991 1.2 million euro were paid out, while in 2009 already 148 million euro (11,808 percent increase). Unemployment allowance in cash in 2009 amounted to 127

# Did you know?

- From 1991 to 2009, on average 40,717 persons were receiving social assistance in cash every month.
- In 1991, on average 158 thousand children were receiving child allowance every month, while in 2009 378 thousand. Put it the other way around, in 2009 each child received on average 63 euro of child allowance per month.
- · Changes in the number of recipients of social assistance in cash and child allowance from year to year are caused by general economic conditions and by changes in legislation which determined the entitlements to them. The number of child allowance recipients is also influenced by the number of births.

#### Average monthly number of recipients



Sources: SURS and MDDSZ

Besides those already mentioned, households are also receiving different, in terms of value less important, social transfers. A number of them relate to parenthood or family. Large family allowance was in 2009 received by 29,276 beneficiaries or 20 percent more than in 2002 (total value received in 2009 was 11 million euro). The number of paternity allowance beneficiaries increased by 92 percent from 2003 to 2009 (from 10,917 to 21,012), with fathers received 8.0 million euro of paternity benefit in 2009. The entitlement to payment of contributions due to shorter working hours was used by 828 parents in 2003; by 2009 their number increased to 11,468 or by 1,285 percent (value in 2009 was 7.0 million euro). The total amount received in the form of child care allowance in 2009 was eight million, and six million each was received as childbirth allowance or parental allowance.

# • Risk of poverty and inequality of income distribution

Income of some households is so low that it is under the at-risk-of-poverty threshold. In the period after 1997, approximately 11 percent of people lived under the at-risk-of-poverty threshold in Slovenia, the fewest in 2002 (9.9 percent), the most in 2008 (12 percent). Data on the at-risk-of-poverty rate by different socio-economic groups of persons and households show that households without working members are in the worst position, especially the ones with dependent children. By household type, one-member households, single parent households, couples with three or more children and elderly couples (both older than 64) without dependent children are in the worst position. By activity status, in the worst position are unemployed and retired persons. At-risk-of-poverty rate is high also for women older than 64 and tenants.



One of the distinctive characteristics of Slovenian households' income is its very equal distribution. The distribution of income can be measured with the Gini coefficient. If its value were (hypothetically) zero, it would mean that each individual has the same income. If the value of the coefficient were (hypothetically) one, it would mean that all income belongs to one individual. In Slovenia, the Gini coefficient amounted to approximately 0.224 in the period from 1997 to 2009. By years, the income distribution equality was changing; however, in 2007 it was not significantly different from the income distribution equality in 1997. In 2009, income of Slovenian households was the most equally distributed among all EU countries.

In 2009, Slovenian households with the highest income had on average 3.2-times higher disposable income than households with the lowest income. This ratio was the lowest in the EU; the differences between countries are large and the ratio ranges from 3.2 in Slovenia to 7.3 in Latvia. The average European household of the top income bracket had on average 4.9-times higher income than the household in the lowest income bracket.

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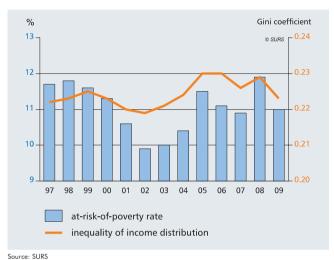
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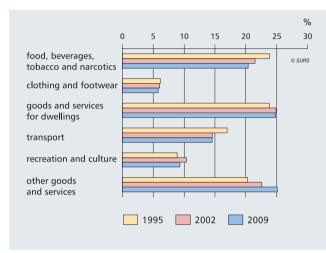
# At-risk-of poverty rate and inequality of income distribution (both with income in kind)



# • What do we spend our income on?

Households spend most of their disposable income on the purchases of goods and services for final consumption. In the last fifteen years, some important changes have occurred in the structure of consumption: the share of expenditure on goods (especially durable goods) has decreased while the share of expenditure on services has increased. From 1995 to 2009 the share of expenditure for the purchases of food and non-alcoholic beverages decreased the most (from 18 percent in 1995 to 15 percent in 2009), followed by the share of expenditure on transport (from 17 percent in 1995 to 15 percent in 2009). In the same period there was the largest increase in the share of households' expenditure on health products (from 2.4 percent in 1995 to 3.9 percent in 2009), and other various goods and services (8.3 percent in 1995, 9.4 percent in 2009).

# Structure of household final consumption



Source: SURS

When looking at the changing structure of consumption, we cannot ignore the fact that many products have been only recently present on the market and we haven't even heard of some of them twenty years ago. This certainly applies to the internet. The number of internet connections has increased in only three years, from 2007 to 2010, by 40 percent, while in 1991 only few people were aware of its existence. Only 14 percent of households had a personal computer in 1993, but in 2008 already 61 percent of households had it. In 2000, only 22 percent of households had a **mobile phone** while in 2008 the share rose to 90 percent. The share of households with musical hi-fi equipment rose from 10 percent in 1991 to 51 percent in 2008. Dishwashers were present in 11 percent of households in 1991 and in 2008 in 49 percent, the share of households with microwave ovens rose from 11 percent in 2000 to 51 percent in 2008. On the other hand, we can also find products that have become less present in households. In 1991, 18 percent of households had a black and white TV, while in 2008 the share fell to only 5.6 percent. Similarly, 82 percent of Slovenian households had a classical phone in 2008, but the share of households has been decreasing since 2001, coinciding with the period of the most intensive households equipping with mobile phones.



Share of households that owned individual products, %

	1991	2008
Black and white TV	18	6
Dishwasher	11	49
Hi-fi	10	51
Car	67	79
Freezer	80	81
Radio	78	87
Washing machine	93	96
Colour TV	80	97
Refrigerator	94	98
20112		

Source: SU

The share of income devoted by households for the purchase of individual products is highly dependent on the size of income. Above, we realized that by improving the overall material position, the share of expenditure on food had declined, while the share of expenditure on services increased. Similar holds true for the structure of final consumption, if compared according to households' income. In 2008, twenty percent of households with the lowest income devoted to the purchase of food and non-alcoholic beverages 25 percent of their final consumption expenditure, while twenty percent of households with the highest income devoted to the purchase of food and non-alcoholic beverages only 14 percent of their expenditure. Large differences are present also in the expenditure for housing, water, electricity, etc. Its share in the structure of final consumption of households with the lowest income was 21 percent, and in the structure of final consumption of households with the highest income 9.6 percent.

The opposite stands for expenditures related to **transportation** (for example the purchase of passenger cars, fuel, etc.): in 2008, twenty percent of households with the lowest income devoted 7.8 percent of their final consumption expenditure for these purchases, while twenty percent of households with the highest income devoted 22 percent of their final consumption expenditure to such expenditure. The share of expenditure on **recreation and culture** is 8.1 percent in households with the lowest income and 13 percent in households with the highest income.

The size of income also affects the ability of households to afford a particular purchase. In 2009, for example, two thirds of Slovenian households were able to afford a **vacation**; however, from twenty percent of households with the lowest income only 37 percent were able to afford a vacation, while from twenty percent of those with the highest income, as many as 93 percent of households were able to afford a vacation.

# Did you know?

• In 2009, the average Slovenian resident spent 114 euro per month for the purchase of food, 49 euro for electricity, gas and other fuels, 39 euro for the purchase of a car, 36 euro for cloths, 26 euro for beverages, 25 euro for telephone services, 13 euro for shoes and 5 euro for drugs.

Part of the households' savings is devoted to the purchase of a dwelling. The total value of dwellings that households owned at the end of 1994, was nearly 24 billion euro, while the value at the end of 2007 stood at just under 70 billion euro, equivalent to 1.9-times GDP created in that year. A distinctive feature of people in Slovenia is that most of us live in our own homes. In 1991, 69 percent of all dwellings were privately owned, but after the purchase of social dwellings, based on the Housing Act of October 1991, particularly in the years 1991, 1992 and 1993, the share of privately-owned dwellings grew to 92 percent by 2002.

# Did you know?

- The average size of the dwelling has risen since 1991. In 1991, the average dwelling measured 69 square meters while in 2009 it measured already 77 square meters.
- The number of persons per dwelling fell from 3.1 in 1991 to 2.4 in 2009.

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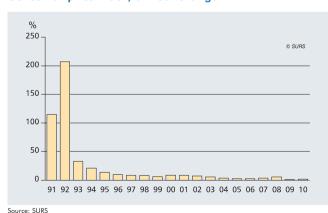


# Price growth

Our purchasing power is affected not only by the size of our income but also by the prices of the products that we buy. In 2010, consumer prices were on average 1,155 percent higher than in 1991. This means that the general price level of products that households buy for the final consumption increased by the same percent.

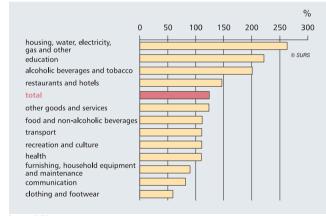
The growth of consumer prices was the highest in the first two years of an independent state; it was 115 percent in 1991 and 207 percent in 1992. The price growth considerably decreased after that, already in 1993 the average level of consumer prices rose only by 33 percent. The growth in prices was then with smaller fluctuations decreasing until the period prior to euro adoption, when we recorded inflation of 2.5 percent in 2005 and 2006. Over the next two years. inflation has increased slightly, and then in 2009 dropped to its lowest level in the last twenty years, when the prices of consumer goods rose only by 0.9 percent.

# Consumer price index, annual change



The growth of prices in individual product groups varied. From 1995 to 2010, the prices of goods increased on average by 107 percent, the prices of services increased by 175 percent, while the total growth of consumer prices was 124 percent. A more detailed review shows that during the same period the lowest increase was recorded in the prices of clothing and footwear (59 percent), communications (82 percent) and household equipment (90 percent). The highest increase was recorded in housing rents and prices of water, electricity and other services for dwellings (263 percent), education (222 percent) and alcoholic beverages and tobacco (201 percent).

# Consumer price index, change from 1995



Source: SURS

We can conclude that the size of our income and prices influence how much work we have to do in order to buy certain goods or services. In the period after 1991, the time of work needed for the purchase of many products by employee with average wage significantly decreased.

# Working time needed for the purchase of one unit of the product by employee with average net wage

	1991	2010
Rice (kg)	45 min	23 min
White flour (kg)	15 min	9 min
Brown bread (kg)	25 min	19 min
Egg	4 min	2 min
Milk (I)	14 min	8 min
Grapes (kg)	61 min	32 min
Potato (kg)	13 min	6 min
Sugar (kg)	25 min	8 min
Table salt (kg)	17 min	4 min
Roasted coffee (kg)	4 h 40 min	1 h 15 min
Beer (I)	33 min	18 min
Children's sweat suit	9 h 36 min	5 h 23 min
Terry towel	2 h 13 min	1 h 27 min
Pencil	16 min	6 min
Passenger car, Renault Clio	4389 h 2 min*	1867 h 28 min
Telephone subscription		
(monthly fee)	3 h 9 min	1 h 54 min
Cinema performance ticket	53 min	50 min
Men's haircut	2 h 17 min	2 h 25 min
* Data for 1995		

Source: SURS



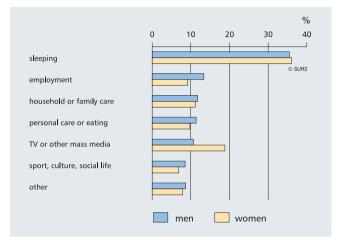
# • (Spare) time is money

Wealth can come in a variety of forms. In paragraphs above we described its monetary dimension. But for most of us it is also important to have enough spare time. Thus, wealth may also be described through the availability and use of time available to us. Let us then look at what people in Slovenia do in an average day.

In 2000, an average Slovenian resident aged 10 years or more slept about eight hours and a half per day (men 8.5 hours, women 8.7 hours). The largest differences between men and women can be found in time used for employment, and household and family care. Men spent on average 3.2 hours for employment, women one hour less. At the same time, women devoted significantly more time to household and family care, namely 4.5 hours, while men devoted two hours less. For personal care and eating, men spent 2.8 hours and women 2.7 hours. For watching TV and monitoring of other mass media, men spent 2.7 hours and women 2.4 hours. Men devoted to sport, culture, hobbies and social life 2.1 hours, women 1.7 hours. The remaining two hours were spent on travelling, for studies, and participatory and religious activities.



# Time use of people aged 10 or more, 2000



Source: SURS

One can define spare time as the time that remains after we take from 24 hours the time for sleeping, eating, employment, household and family care, and time for education. Obviously, we have significantly more spare time during weekends. An average man in Slovenia aged 10 years or more had in 2000 on a weekday 4.6 hours of spare time and 7.0 hours on a Saturday or Sunday. An average woman in Slovenia aged 10 years or more had on a weekday 3.9 hours of spare time and 5.7 hours on a Saturday or Sunday. Both men and women devoted on a weekday about 45 percent of their spare time to watching television; on a Saturday or Sunday they spent slightly more than a third of spare time in watching television.

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Time use for spare time, persons aged 10 or more, 2000

	Men		Women	
	weekday	Saturday, Sunday	weekday	Saturday, Sunday
TOTAL	4 h 37 min	7 h 00 min	3 h 54 min	5 h 43 min
Watching television	2 h 04 min	2 h 35 min	1 h 45 min	2 h 02 min
Socialising with family and talking	41 min	1 h 19 min	39 min	1 h 10 min
Sport - recreation	32 min	57 min	24 min	40 min
Reading	23 min	22 min	23 min	22 min
Hobbies or games	17 min	25 min	07 min	10 min
Participatory or religious activities	06 min	18 min	05 min	18 min
Other	34 min	1 h 04 min	31 min	1 h 01 min

Source: SURS

Quite common leisure activity, which is becoming increasingly important, is sport and recreation. One of the biggest sporting events in Slovenia is the Ljubljana Marathon. When it was first organized in 1996 it was attended by 673 runners. In the following years the number of participants grew rapidly reaching 11,158 in its fifteenth repetition in 2010. In the period from 1996 to 2010 the number of runners increased by 1,558 percent. There is also a mass participation in an event called the Path along the wire (in Slovenian "Pot ob žici"). The number of participants in recreational march and in different categories of the run (runners compete in groups of three) increased by 70 percent in the last ten years. In 2000 the event involved 15,252 participants, in 2010 already 25,939. Among cycling events, the Franja marathon is very famous. The first was organised in 1982 with the participation of around 700 cyclists; most of them used common, non-racing types of bicycles. During the first years there was also a gravel section on the route, seven kilometres long, from the top of Kladje to Sovodenj which caused many punctured tires. Due to the event and protests of local residents, asphalt was later laid. In 2010 the marathon was attended by 3,385 cyclists or 384 percent more than in 1982.

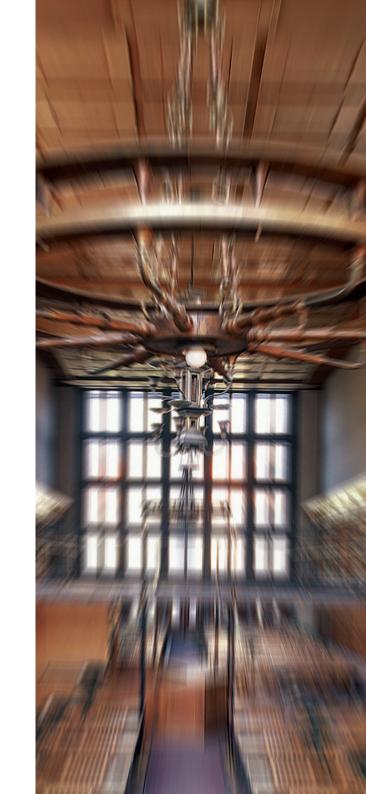
# Did you know?

- From 1991 to 2010, our athletes won 22 Olympic medals, 15 at the Summer and 7 at the Winter Olympics. Three medals were gold (Iztok Čop and Luka Špik, and Rajmond Debevec in 2000, Primož Kozmus in 2008), 7 silver and 12 bronze.
- During this period, Slovenian athletes won one medal per 90 thousand residents. With such result, they are lagging behind Norway (29 thousand residents per medal) and Austria (80 thousand), but they are significantly ahead of countries such as Croatia (167 thousand), Italy (275 thousand), USA (438 thousand) and China (three million 437 thousand residents per one Olympic medal).

Some of our spare time is dedicated to culture. Even there some significant changes happened in the last twenty years. The number of visitors in museums, galleries and exhibition grounds increased by 7.2 percent from 1994 to 2009 (2.4 million in 1994, 2.6 million in 2009). Cinema attendance grew from 1.8 million in 1991 to 2.8 million in 2009 (55 percent increase); during this period we also produced 115 long feature films. The number of book titles published increased by 150 percent; in 1991 2,459 titles were published, in 2009 6,139. There was also a sharp increase in loans to users in public libraries. In 1991, visitors borrowed 9.2 million units of library material in public libraries and in 2008 as much as 177 percent more (25.6 million units).

We can conclude this overview of leisure activities with travel. In recent years, about 60 percent of Slovenian population aged 15 or more have gone on tourism trips. Approximately one fifth of tourists travel only in Slovenia, slightly more than 60 percent only abroad, and slightly less than 20 percent in Slovenia and abroad. In 2009 an average tourist spent on a private trip 48 euro per day (men one euro more than women), in Slovenia 36 euro and 55 euro abroad. The average private trip in Slovenia involved 2.9 nights, the average private trip abroad 6.1 nights. Croatia remains by far the most popular destination for private travel abroad, although its attractiveness has been slightly declining in recent years. In 2009, among all private trips abroad 57 percent were to Croatia. The share of trips to other countries was much lower with Italy, and Bosnia and Herzegoving ranked second and third (seven and six percent share, respectively).

2 0 20 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA





#### **ECONOMIC RESULTS**

"Grain by grain a loaf, stone by stone a palace." Slovenian proverb

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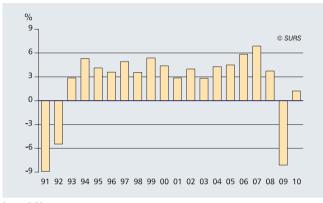
# • Difficulties at the beginning and at the end

Establishing of an independent state, change of the economic system and general economic development are factors that contributed to big changes in the Slovenian economy after 1991. First years after declaring independence were very difficult for the economy. This is reflected in a substantial decline of economic activity in first two years; in 1991 GDP fell by 8.9 percent in real terms and in 1992 by 5.5 percent. But already in 1993 economic activity started to grow and this lasted until 2008.

The highest growth rates were recorded in the period of economic boom, especially in 2007 when economy expanded by 6.9 percent in real terms. In 2009, which was marked by a severe economic recession in considerable part of the developed world, Slovenian economy shrank by 8.1 percent in real terms but already in 2010 we again recorded slight 1.2 percent GDP growth.

From 1991 to 2010, GDP grew in real terms by 73 percent. In nominal terms, GDP increased by 2,311 percent in this period, from approximately 1.5 billion euro in 1991 to 36 billion euro in 2010.

# GDP annual real growth



Source: SURS

# GDP per capita in purchasing power



Source: Eurostat

Due to continuous economic growth which exceeded the growth in other EU countries Slovenia was catching-up the economic development of the EU average. In 1995, Slovenian GDP per capita in purchasing power reached 74 percent of the EU average, while in 2009 it amounted to 88 percent of the EU average.

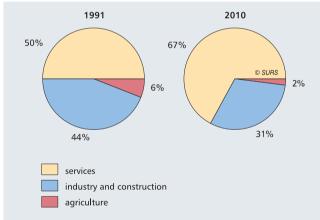
Slovenian GDP was increasing despite the fact that the employment growth was substantially lagging behind the GDP growth. Consequently, there was a constant rise in labour productivity measured as a ratio between real GDP growth and employment growth. From 1991 to 2010, labour productivity rose by 77 percent or slightly more than the real GDP grow in the same period.



# • Changes in economy structure

The structure of the economy has changed significantly since 1991 and similar changes have also been observed in other countries. The share of agricultural activity in GDP dropped by more than half, from 5.7 percent of GDP in 1991 to 2.4 percent in 2010. There was also a sharp decrease in the share of industry and construction; these activities were creating 44 percent of GDP in 1991 and only 31 percent in 2010. There was, however, a strong increase in the share of services, from 50 percent in 1991 to 67 percent in 2010.

# **Activity share in GDP**

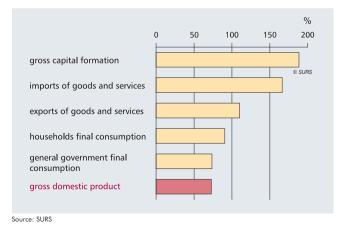


Source: SURS



Considerable changes occurred also in the expenditure structure. In 1991, Slovenian economy was still a typical regional economy of that period which exported over 80 percent of its GDP and imported over 70 percent of its GDP. Due to the loss of the Yugoslav market, the share of export decreased dramatically in the following years and reached its lowest value in 1999 (that year it accounted for 48 percent of GDP). In 2010, the share of export in GDP was 63 percent, which is still considerably less than in 1991. Compared to 1991, the highest increase in the structure of GDP was recorded by gross capital formation. Also in real terms gross capital formation increased the most in this period, by 189 percent. Household final consumption expenditure increased much less; in 2010 it was 91 percent higher in real terms than in 1991.

# Real growth 1991-2010



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# Regional development

Not all Slovenian regions reached the same level of economic development. From Slovenian average, measured in regional GDP per capita, the Osrednjeslovenska region (region around the capital) is evidently outstanding. In the period after 1995 it increased its advantage and in 2008 its GDP per capita was 42 percent higher than the national average. The contrary is evident for the region which lags the most behind Slovenia's average. The Pomurska region (region in the most eastern part of the country) lagged behind Slovenia's average by 25 percent in 1995. In the following years its lag increased and by 2008 its GDP per capita was already 35 percent lower than average GDP per capita in Slovenia. Consequently, there was an increase in the difference between the most and the least developed regions in the period after 1995; in 1995 it was 63 percentage points and in 2008 77 percentage points.

# Regional GDP per capita





Source: SURS



# Did you know?

- In 2008, the Osrednjeslovenska region had a time lead of eight years in economic development compared to Slovenian average.
- The Pomurska and Zasavska regions had a time lag of ten years in economic development compared to Slovenian average.

Regional differences in economic development are thus not decreasing despite the growing number of municipalities. In 1991 there were 62 municipalities; in 1995 the enforcement of the Establishment of Municipalities and Municipal Boundaries Act increased the number of municipalities to 147 and in 1999 to 192. In 2003, the Šmartno pri Litiji municipality was established and since 2008 there have been 210 municipalities in Slovenia. In 2011 the number came to 211 with the establishment of municipality Mirna.

Regardless of matters mentioned above, the differences in economic development among Slovenian regions are among the lowest in the EU; in 2007 Slovenia ranked sixth on the scale of regional GDP dispersion among EU countries.

# **FUNCTIONING OF THE GOVERNMENT**

"Beware of little expenses: a small leak will sink a great ship." Benjamin Franklin

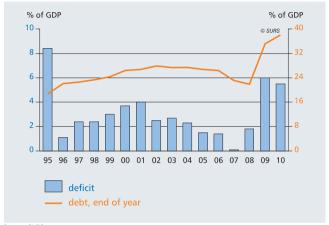
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## Government deficit and debt

The government sector is an important part of the Slovenian economy, currently creating around 16 percent of GDP. In all years from 1995 to 2010 government created current deficit, meaning that its revenues were not sufficient to cover its spending. The highest deficit was created in 1995, but it is important to mention that it was mainly due to the recording of transaction related to the return of property confiscated after World War II. After 1995 the deficit was between 0.1 percent and 4.0 percent of GDP each year. In 2009, the economic crisis caused the deficit to increase substantially to 6.0 percent of GDP and in 2010 the revenue of the general government sector was 5.6 percent of GDP lower than its spending.



# General government deficit and debt



Source: SURS

Due to the continued creation of the current deficit and other reasons, the level of government debt was also increasing after 1994. At the end of 1994, government gross debt amounted to 1,618 million euro or 19 percent of GDP. During the following years the debt to GDP ratio gradually increased and reached 27 percent of GDP by 2004. Between 2004 and 2008, the debt to GDP ratio declined to the level of 22 percent of GDP in 2008. In 2009, the debt sharply increased due to the economic crisis by as much as 4,269 million euro reaching 12,449 million euro or 35 percent of GDP.

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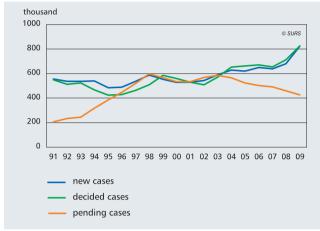




# • Does our government care about social issues?

Most of the government expenditure is intended for social protection. Social protection includes expenditure associated with different risks and needs such as sickness, disability, old age, family and children, unemployment and other social exclusion (mainly expenditure for pensions and for other social benefits). From 1999 on the share of this expenditure was declining until 2007 when it reached its lowest level (15 percent of GDP). During the following two years, the share rose to 18 percent of GDP in 2009. Health represents the second largest group of expenditure. Its share was also declining in most years after 1999, but in 2009 it grew substantially and amounted to 6.8 percent of GDP. The third largest group is **expenditure on education**; its value in 2009 was equal to 6.7 percent of GDP. For defence the government earmarked 1.5 percent of GDP in 2009, which was 0.4 of a percentage point more than in 1999.

#### Number of court cases



Source: Ministry of Justice

# Judicial system

One of the nation-building systems which is often a subject of debates in the Slovenian society is the judicial system. The number of judges has doubled since 1991; from 512 at the end of 1991 to 1,011 at the end of 2009. The number of new court cases increased significantly as well; from 556 thousand in 1991 to 825 thousand in 2009 (48 percent increase). The number of decided cases increased by half, but the number of pending cases doubled at the same time. The decided to pending cases ratio declined until 1998 but after 1999 it has been increasing with some minor annual fluctuations thus showing the elimination of court backlogs.

After 1991, and especially after 1994 and the enforcement of the new Criminal Procedure Act, the number of convicted juveniles decreased significantly. In 1991, 1,076 juveniles were convicted due to criminal offence and in 2009 418. In 2009, most juveniles were convicted of criminal offence against property (64 percent), 14 percent of criminal offence against life and body, 2.6 percent of criminal offence against sexual inviolability and 19 percent of other reasons. In the last twenty years one can observe an increase in the number of juveniles convicted of criminal offences against life and body, and a decrease in the number of convictions of criminal offences against property.

The number of adults convicted of criminal offences dropped significantly between 1991 and 1995, but after that it began to grow again and in 2009 it reached almost the same number as in 1991 (approximately eight thousand). During that period, 44 percent of them were convicted of criminal offences committed against property, 11 percent of criminal offences against life and body, 1.2 percent against sexual inviolability and 45 percent of other criminal offences. The majority of convicted adults are men (88 percent), the share of convicted women is therefore 12 percent.

# Did you know?

- 90 percent of people in Ljubljana (the capital) and 89 percent of people in Maribor (the second largest city) felt safe in their neighbourhood after dark.
- In 2008 the most frequent crime in Ljubljana was car vandalism.



# OUR POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

"No man is good enough to govern another man without that others consent."

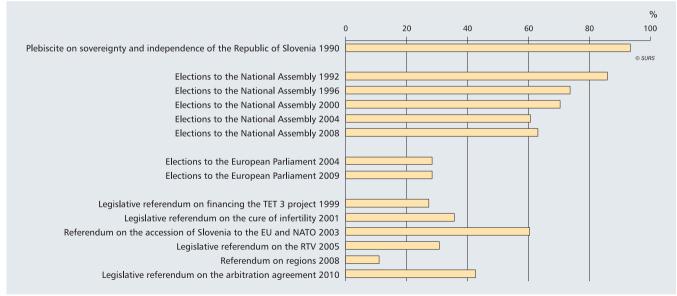
Abraham Lincoln

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At the plebiscite on sovereignty and independence of the Republic of Slovenia, held on 23 December 1990, 93 percent of all eligible voters took part in the voting. Such a high voter turnout was not repeated at any election or referendum again.

A relatively high turnout was recorded also at the election to the National Assembly in 1992 (86 percent) but then the turnout was smaller at all subsequent elections to the National Assembly until 2004. That year only 61 percent of voters took part in the voting. At the election in 2008, the voter turnout was slightly higher, 63 percent. The same turnout was achieved at the referendum on Slovenia's accession to the EU and Nato when 60 percent of all eligible voters took part in the voting.

#### Turnout at elections and referendums



Sources: SURS and National Electoral Commission

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STATISTICAL OFFICE OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA

The lowest voter turnout was achieved on various referendums, for example on the referendum on regions in 2008 with the voter turnout of only 11 percent, the referendum on the Radio-Television Slovenia in 2010 with the voter turnout of 15 percent, the referendum on financing the construction of the thermal power plant Trbovlje 3 in 1999 with the voter turnout of 27 percent, the referendum on infertility treatment and procedures of biomedically-assisted procreation with the participation of only 36 percent of eligible voters, etc. A very low turnout was also recorded at the election to the European Parliament, in 2004 and 2009, as only 28 percent of all eligible voters took part in the voting.



In this publication we presented some parts of the journey Slovenia and its residents had to walk during independence. We can conclude it with data on voter turnout that the enthusiasm for the possibility to live in an independent state and the possibility to influence and make important decisions that the residents of Slovenia showed in the second half of the 1980s is no longer present in recent years. We leave it to readers to make their own conclusions on this basis and form their own expectations for the next twenty years.

With its monitoring of developments in the society and its detection of changes, statistics is, after all, inseparably embedded in our daily lives. Each of us is thus part of this statistical mosaic which at the end can be summarized by the following saying:

"Everyone becomes a part of history whether they like it or not and whether they know it or not".

Philip Roth

Unless otherwise indicated, all data in this publication relate to Slovenia.

Data on regions relate to statistical regions.

The publication contains data available up to 15 April 2011.

Unless otherwise indicated either in text, graphs, tables or below, the source of all data in this publication is the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia.

# Population of Slovenia

All data on the Slovenian population are shown as of the beginning of a year.

# Population of Slovenia by country of birth

Source: Eurostat, migr pop3ctb.

# Population, foreign-born, by country

Source: OECD, International Migration Outlook 2010.

www.oecd.org/document/2/0,3746,en 2649 39023663 45634233 1 1 1 1,00.html

## Asylum applications

Source: MNZ, Report of the Migration and Integration Directorate for 2010. www.mnz.gov.si/fileadmin/mnz.gov.si/pageuploads/DMI/Statisticno\_porocilo\_-\_SLO\_-Lektorirano 01.pdf

# Life satisfaction

Source: Eurobarometer.

ec.europa.eu/public\_opinion/cf/showtable.cfm?keyID=1&nationID=25,&startdate=2004.10&enddate=2010.06&lang=sI

# Positive and negative experiences index

Source: OECD, Factbook 2010.

doi: 10.1787/factbook-2010-table262-en

## Caesarean sections

Source: OECD, Health Data 2010, October 2010.

www.irdes.fr/EcoSante/DownLoad/OECDHealthData FrequentlyRequestedData.xls

## Length of stay for a normal delivery

Source: OECD, Health Data 2010, October 2010.

www.irdes.fr/EcoSante/DownLoad/OECDHealthData FrequentlyRequestedData.xls

# History of the Matura

Source: Mateja Ribarič, Historical development of Matura in Slovenia 1849/50-1994/95. www.ssolski-muzej.si/slo/schoolchronicles.php?action=detail&item=318#mateja

# Data on general Matura

Source: National Examination Centre.

www.ric.si/splosna\_matura/statisticni\_podatki/

# Studying abroad

Source: CMEPIUS

(Centre of the Republic of Slovenia for Mobility and European Educational and Training Programmes). www.cmepius.si/files/cmepius/userfiles/erasmus/report ERA.pdf

# Value hierarchy of family

Source: Public Opinion Centre, Public opinion survey 2006.

www.cjm.si/sites/cjm.si/files/file/e-dokumenti/Vrednotne orientacije 2006.pdf

#### Attendance at childbirth classes

Source: IVZ, Perinatal Information System of Slovenia.

www.ivz.si/Mp.aspx?ni=46&pi=5&\_5\_id=56&\_5\_PageIndex=0&\_5\_groupId=185&\_5\_newsCategory =& 5\_action=ShowNewsFull&pl=46-5.0.

## Fathers present at birth

Source: IVZ, Perinatal Information System of Slovenia.

www.ivz.si/Mp.aspx?ni=46&pi=5&\_5\_id=56&\_5\_PageIndex=0&\_5\_groupId=185&\_5\_newsCategory =& 5\_action=ShowNewsFull&pl=46-5.0.

#### Induced abortion

Sources: SURS, Statistical yearbooks; IVZ, Foetal Mortality Information System.

#### Registered unemployed

Source: Employment Service of Slovenia.

www.ess.gov.si/\_files/63/Gibanje%20BP\_1987-2009.pdf

www.ess.gov.si/ files/1972/12 2010.doc

# Retirement, pensioners, pension qualifying period, period of receiving pension

Source: ZPIZ.

www.zpiz.si/wps/wcm/connect/zpiz+internet/zpiz/prvastran/zavod/zavarovanci+in+uzivalci+pravic

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#### Home care

Source: Social Protection Institute of the Republic of Slovenia, Providing the Social Assistance at Home–Analyses for 2009.

www.irssv.si/publikacije/leto-2010/index.html

# Sheltered housing for the elderly

Sources: MDDSZ.

www.mddsz.gov.si/index.php?id=6800

Centre for Lifelong Informing and Solidarity Relations between Generations.

www.seniorji.info/Oskrbovano - varovano stanovanje

Real-estate Fund of Pension and Disability Insurance Institute.

www.ns-piz.si/oskr stan.html

# Third Age University

Source: The Third Age University of Slovenia. www.univerzazatretjeobd-drustvo.si/porast.htm

# Causes of death

Sources: IVZ, SURS.

# Death due to suicide, EU statistics

Source: Eurostat, tps00122.

# Death due to transport accidents, EU statistics

Source: Eurostat, tps00165.

## Organic farming

Source: Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food.

## Information about the construction of highways.

Source: Motorway Company of the Republic of Slovenia.

www.dars.si/Dokumenti/O avtocestah 21.aspx

#### Number of vehicles

Source: MNZ.

# Greenhouse gas emissions

Source: ARSO.

 $okolje.arso.gov.si/onesnazevanje\_zraka/pages.php?op=print\&id=toplogredni\_plini$ 

kazalci.arso.gov.si/?data=indicator&ind id=157

# Number of treatment plants

Source: ARSO, Collection of data on municipal and common treatment plants. okolje.arso.gov.si/onesnazevanje voda/upload/File/Podatki cistilne za splet 2009.xls

## Weather data

Source: ARSO.

## Natural disasters

Source: Ministry of Defence, reports by the Administration of the Republic of Slovenia for Civil Protection and Disaster Relief.

www.sos112.si/slo/clanek.php?catid=3&id=103

www.sos112.si/slo/clanek.php?catid=3&id=3809

www.sos112.si/slo/clanek.php?catid=3&id=3496

# Health status of the adult population of Slovenia

Source: IVZ, the European Health Interview Survey (EHIS 2007)

www.ivz.si/podatkovne\_zbirke?pi=5&\_5\_Filename=422.xls&\_5\_Mediald=422&\_5\_AutoResize =false&pl=46-5.3.

#### Cancer statistics

Sources:

Institute of Oncology, Ljubljana, Cancer Registry of the Republic of Slovenia.

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Institute of Oncology, Ljubljana, Cancer in Slovenia 2007.

www.onko-i.si/fileadmin/onko/datoteke/dokumenti/LP 2007.pdf

Institute of Oncology, Ljubljana, Some basic facts and trivia from the latest Annual Report by the Cancer Reaistry of Slovenia.

www.onko-i.si/fileadmin/onko/datoteke/dokumenti/rakvSlo 2009.pdf

## Number of physicians

Source: IVZ, Health Care Providers Database.

# Issued prescriptions

Source: IVZ, Health statistics yearbooks 1999-2009.

#### Sick-leave

Source: IVZ, Data on temporary and permanent absence from work on account of illness, injury, care and other causes.

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IVZ, Selected Health Indicators - Slovenia, EU (1998–2008).

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www.ivz.si/Mp.aspx?ni=46&pi=5&\_5\_id=56&\_5\_PageIndex=0&\_5\_groupId=185&\_5\_newsCategory =& 5\_action=ShowNewsFull&pl=46-5.0.

IVZ. Health in Slovenia.

www.ivz.si/Mp.aspx/

Zdravje\_v\_Sloveniji.pdf?ni=164&pi=5&\_5\_attachmentID=3061&\_5\_attachmentName=Zdravje +v+Sloveniji& 5 mimeType=application%2Fpdf& 5 action=DownloadAttachment&pl=164-5.3.

# Alcohol consumption

Sources:

IVZ, Data on the use of pure alcohol per capita for the last 10 years (and estimates of unregistered use). www.ivz.si/alkohol?pi=5&\_5\_Filename=attName.png&\_5\_Mediald=3239&\_5\_AutoResize =false&pl=12-5.3.

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www.mz.gov.si/fileadmin/mz.gov.si/pageuploads/javno\_zdravje\_09/Alkohol\_Stanje\_v\_Sloveniji.doc

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www.mz.gov.si/fileadmin/mz.gov.si/pageuploads/mz\_dokumenti/mz\_dokumenti\_2007/prepovedane\_droge\_in\_alkohol/alkohol\_in\_alkoholna\_politika\_v\_Sloveniji\_in\_EU.pdf.

# Consumption ob food by type and calorie consumption

Sources:

WHO/Europe, European Health for All Database (HFA-DB)

data.euro.who.int/hfadb/

OECD Health Data 2010: Statistics and Indicators, October 2010.

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# Average height and weight, body mass index

Source: IVZ, the European Health Interview Survey (EHIS 2007).

www.ivz.si/podatkovne\_zbirke?pi=5&\_5\_Filename=422.xls&\_5\_Mediald=422&\_5\_AutoResize =false&pl=46-5.3.

# Household saving rate, EU statistics

Source: Eurostat, nasa ki.

# Minimum wage

Sources:

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## **Pensions**

Source: ZPIZ.

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#### Social transfers

Source: MDDSZ

# Household income distribution, EU statistics

Households by income quintile.

Sources: Eurostat, ilc di12, Statistics in Focus 16/2011.

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## Liubliana marathon

Source: Ljubljana marathon. www.ljubljanskimaraton.si

#### Path along the wire

Source: Path along the wire.

www.pohod.si/index.asp?s=8&p=1&l=sl

# Marathon Franja

Source: Marathon Franja. www.franja.org/domov.html

# References and Notes



Olympic medals

Sources: International Olympic Committee, Eurostat, U.S. Census Bureau, China Statistical Yearbook 2009.

GDP value for 1991

Value is roughly calculated according to the current methodology.

GDP per capita in purchasing power

Source: Eurostat, prc ppp ind.

Time lead and time lag in regional economic development compared to Slovenian average Economic development is calculated as the value of GDP per capita, converted to constant prices by using the implicit deflator of the national GDP.

Time leads and time lags are calculated according to the S-time-distance method, developed by dr. Payle Sicherl.

Dispersion of regional GDP

Source: Eurostat, nama\_r\_e0digdp.

Number of judges

Source: Ministry of Justice.

Number of courts cases

Source: Ministry of Justice, Court statistics, Analysis of court backlogs.

Voter turnout

Source: National Electoral Commission.

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# **ABBREVIATIONS**

ARSO	Environmental Agency of the Republic of Slovenia
DURS	Tax Administration of the Republic of Slovenia

GDP Gross domestic product

European Union EU

Institute of Public Health of the Republic of Slovenia IVZ

MDDSZ Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs

Ministry of the Interior MNZ

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development OECD

Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia **SURS** 

STA Government Communication Office

UKOM Slovenian Press Agency

ZPIZ Pension and Disability Insurance Institute of Slovenia