

**MINISTRY OF LABOUR, SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND FAMILY
OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC**

Report

on the Social Situation of the Population of the Slovak Republic for 2018

Bratislava 2019

TABLES OF CONTENTS

TABLES OF CONTENTS	1
List of Abbreviations	3
INTRODUCTION	5
1 THE MAIN MACROECONOMIC AND DEMOGRAPHIC INDICATORS IN THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC	7
1.1 Basic Macroeconomic Characteristics.....	7
1.2 Selected Demographic Indicators.....	9
2 LABOUR MARKET, WAGES, WORKING CONDITIONS and Social Economy	11
2.1 Labour Market.....	11
2.1.1 Economic Activity of the Population.....	11
2.1.2 Development of Employment.....	15
2.1.3 Development of Unemployment.....	23
2.1.4 Active Labour Market Measures.....	36
2.2 Wages and Working Conditions.....	39
2.2.1 Wages.....	41
2.2.2 Total Labour Costs.....	45
2.2.3 Collective Bargaining.....	49
2.2.4 Occupational Safety and Health.....	51
2.3 Social Economy.....	53
2.3.1 Social Economy and Social Enterprises.....	53
2.3.2 New Legislative Framework.....	53
2.3.3 Disadvantaged Person and Vulnerable Person.....	54
2.3.4 Registered Social Enterprise.....	54
2.3.5 Support for Social Enterprises.....	55
2.3.6 Social Economy Infrastructure.....	55
2.3.7 Allowances for Support of Employment of Disadvantaged and Vulnerable Persons.....	56
2.3.8 Investment Aid for Social Enterprises.....	56
3 SOCIAL PROTECTION	57
3.1 Social Insurance.....	57
3.1.1 Sickness Insurance.....	60
3.1.2 Pension Insurance.....	61
3.1.3 Accident Insurance.....	63
3.1.4 Guarantee Insurance.....	63
3.1.5 Unemployment Insurance.....	64
3.2 Pension Saving.....	65
3.2.1 Old-age Pension Saving Insurance.....	65
3.2.2 Supplementary Pension Saving.....	71
3.3 State Social Support.....	74
3.3.1 Child Allowance.....	74
3.3.2 Child Allowance Supplement.....	75
3.3.3 Parental Allowance.....	75
3.3.4 Childcare Allowance.....	76
3.3.5 Childbirth Allowance.....	78
3.3.6 Multiple Children Birth Allowance.....	78
3.3.7 Funeral Allowance.....	79
3.4 Social Assistance.....	80
3.4.1 Material Need Assistance.....	80

3.4.2	Subsidies for Children in Material Need.....	88
3.4.3	Substitute Child Maintenance	90
3.4.4	Social and Legal Protection of Children and Social Guardianship.....	91
3.4.5	Allowances for Alternative Care Support	95
3.4.6	Compensation for Social Consequences of Severe Disabilities	97
3.4.7	Social Services	109
3.4.8	Subsidies to Support the Development of the Social Area within the Authority of MoLSAF	124
3.4.9	European System of Integrated Social Protection Statistics (ESSPROS Methodology)	126
3.5	European Social Fund and European Regional Development Fund	133
4	STANDARD OF LIVING AND SOCIAL COHESION	137
4.1	Poverty and Social Exclusion	137
4.2	Gender Equality and Equal Opportunities.....	145
5	COMPARISON OF SELECTED INDICATORS ACROSS EU28 COUNTRIES IN THE CONTEXT OF EUROPE 2020 STRATEGY	150
	Macroeconomic Environment.....	150
	Smart and Inclusive Growth	151
	List of Annexes.....	157
	Annex to Chapter 1	157
	Annex to Chapter 2	157
	Annex to Chapter 3	158
	Annex to Chapter 4	159
	Annex to Chapter 5	159
	Annex to Chapter 1.....	161
	Annex to Chapter 2.....	167
	Annex to Chapter 3.....	207
	Annex to Chapter 4.....	249
	Annex to Chapter 5.....	261

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

- a. s.** – joint-stock company
ALMM – active labour market measures
b. c. – current prices
BA – Region of Bratislava
BB – Region of Banská Bystrica
J&IEs – job and information exchange
COICOP – Classification of Individual Consumption according to Purpose
d. f. – pension fund
d.d.f. – supplementary pension fund
DDS, d. d. s. – supplementary pension fund management company
DI – deinstitutionalisation
DDP – demand-driven project
DSS, d. s. s. – pension fund management company
EA19 – the European Union countries paying in euros in 2018 (*Belgium, Germany, Estonia, Greece, Spain, France, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Austria, Portugal, Finland, Cyprus, Malta, Slovenia, Slovakia*)
EEA – European Economic Area
EC – European Commission
ESF – European Social Fund
ESSPROS – European System of Integrated Social Protection Statistics
ESIF – European Structural and Investment Funds
EU – European Union
EU SILC – European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions
EU15 – the first 15 member states of the European Union (*Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Austria, Portugal, Finland, Sweden, the United Kingdom*)
EU28 – 28 member states of the European Union (*Belgium (BE), Bulgaria (BG), the Czech Republic (CZ), Denmark (DK), Germany (DE), Estonia (EE), Ireland (IE), Greece (GR), Spain (ES), France (FR), Croatia (HR), Italy (IT), Cyprus (CY), Latvia (LV), Lithuania (LT), Luxembourg (LU), Hungary (HU), Malta (MT), the Netherlands (NL), Austria (AT), Poland (PL), Portugal (PT), Romania (RO), Slovenia (SI), Slovakia (SK), Finland (FI), Sweden (SE), the United Kingdom (GB)*)
FOC – financial on-the-spot control
FO – natural person
GDP – gross domestic product
CHD – sheltered workshop
CHP – sheltered workplace
CHzP – occupational disease and/or occupational poisoning
I&AS – information and advisory services
ISCP – Information System on Labour Costs
LMIG – Labour Market Internet Guide
ITMS – IT Monitoring System for Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund
KE – Region of Košice
CMC – Coordinating Methodological Centre for Gender-based and Domestic Violence
HLCA – higher-level collective agreement
RUR – registered unemployment rate
MF SR – Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic
mil. – million
bil. – billion
MoLSAF – Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic; the ministry
MRC – marginalised Roma communities
NACE, SK NACE Rev. 2 – statistical classification of economic activities
NBS – National Bank of Slovakia

NEET – young people aged 15 – 24 who do not attend a school, work or participate in a professional training (i.e. not in employment, education or training)

NP – national project

NR – Region of Nitra

OMC – Open Method of Coordination

OP HR – Operational Programme Human Resources

OPS – professional advisory services

OZP – disabled citizen

pp – percentage point

PIAAC – Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies

PISA – Programme for International Student Assessment

PM – job

PO – Region of Prešov

PP – monetary allowance

PPS – purchasing power standard

GPG – gender pay gap

RO – managing authority

DAPS – Department of Advisory and Psychological Services

RSD MIS – management information system for managing social benefits

s. c. – constant prices

SK ISCO-08 – statistical classification of occupations, 2012 version

SOŠ – secondary vocational school

SLPC&SG – social and legal protection of children and social guardianship

Report – Report on the Social Situation of the Population of the Slovak Republic

SFOA – serious fatal occupational accident

SR – the Slovak Republic

SŠ – secondary school

ŠVVP – special educational needs

SZČO – self-employed person

SŽM – subsistence minimum amount

SO SR – the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic

thous. – thousand

TN – Region of Trenčín

TT – Region of Trnava

ŤZP – severely disabled person / severe disablement

UoZ – job seeker

COLSAF, Central Office – Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family

local OLSAF – office of labour, social affairs and family

VPM – job vacancy

VŠ – university

LFS – Labour Force Survey

WI – work intensity

Coll. – Collection of Laws

ZA – Region of Žilina

ZoZ – job changer

ZŠ – primary school

INTRODUCTION

The Report on the Social Situation of the Population of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter simply the Report) for the previous calendar year is prepared annually by the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter simply MoLSAF or the ministry), and is submitted to the Government of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter simply the Government of the SR), the Economic and Social Council of the Slovak Republic and the Parliamentary Committee on Social Affairs. The aim of the Report is to inform about the state and development of the social situation of the population in Slovakia based on socio-economic indicators acquired from national statistical surveys, the Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family (hereinafter simply COLSAF) and the Social Insurance Agency administrative data sources.

The first chapter of the Report provides a brief overview of the basic macroeconomic and demographic indicators in Slovakia in 2018.

The second chapter describes the legislative changes in employment services, labour relations and social dialogue in 2018. It focuses on labour market trends from both aggregated and structural perspectives. It monitors individual active labour market policy measures, trends in wages, working conditions in collective bargaining and occupational safety and health. This part of the Report also includes the analysis of full labour costs and a new subchapter of the social economy sector, which creates new comprehensive regulation of the functioning of and support for social enterprises in the Slovak Republic.

The state, main forms and changes in the system of social protection in 2018 are covered by the third chapter. The chapter provides a year-on-year comparison and analysis of individual elements of social insurance, pension saving, state social support system and social assistance. It also provides information on subsidies provided by MoLSAF and the Operational Programme Human Resources supported by the European Social Fund and the European Regional Development Fund. The chapter includes the outputs of the European System of Integrated Social Protection Statistics (ESSPROS), one of the fundamental tools of statistical monitoring of the systems, current state and development of the social protection in the European Union (hereinafter simply EU) member states.

The fourth chapter contains available data from the evaluation of the poverty and social exclusion indicators. It also provides information on the state of gender equality and equal opportunities in Slovakia in 2018.

The fifth chapter provides a comparison of selected indicators between EU member states in the context of the Europe 2020 strategy which sets out the main targets of EU following the Lisbon Strategy.

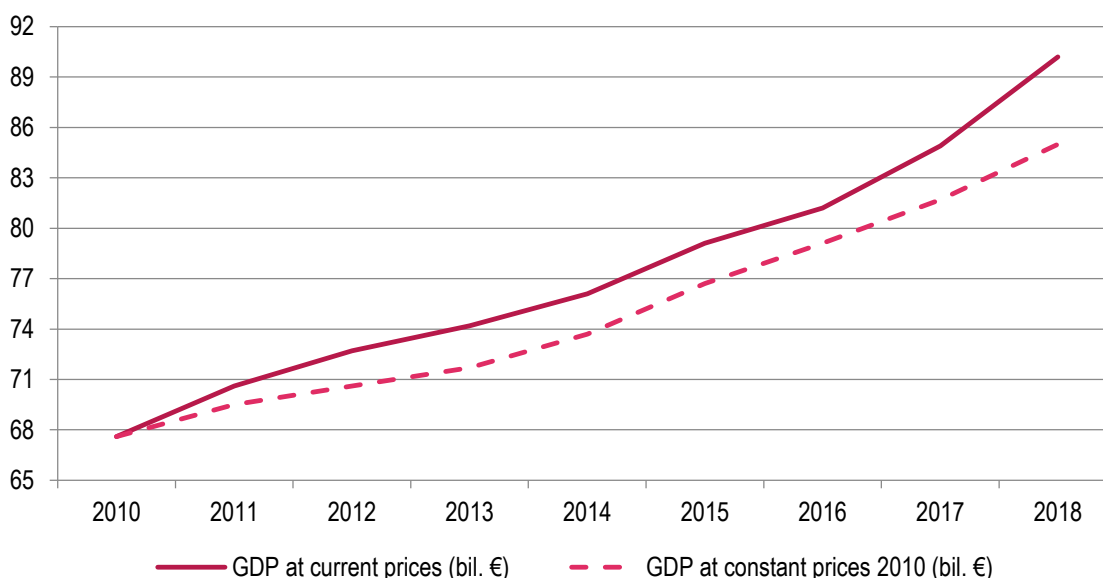
1 THE MAIN MACROECONOMIC AND DEMOGRAPHIC INDICATORS IN THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

1.1 Basic Macroeconomic Characteristics¹

In 2018, the dynamics of economic performance growth remained unchanged. It was accompanied by a positive development in the labour market – the total employment in the economy grew, the number of unemployed and the unemployment rate decreased. The average monthly wage increased in both nominal and real terms.

The gross domestic product (GDP) at constant prices increased by 4.1 %, which was by 0.9 pp more than in the previous year (according to the ESA 2010 national accounts methodology). GDP at current prices reached 90.2 billion euros, representing an increase of 6.3 % compared to 2017.

Graph 1.1 Development of the Gross Domestic Product (HDP) at Current and Constant Prices



Source: SO SR, data extracted on 18/03/2019

There was a year-on-year increase of 4.8 % in the volume of foreign demand and of 4.2 % in the volume of domestic demand. Domestic demand increased due to the growth of gross capital formation by 8.9 % (of which gross fixed capital formation by 6.8 %), and total final consumption also rose. The increase in total final consumption was mainly caused by a rise in household final consumption of 3 % (3.5 % in 2017), final consumption of government increased only slightly by 1.9 % (1.7 % in 2017), and final consumption of non-profit institutions serving households rose by 1.4 % (an increase of 2.4 % in 2017).

A year-on-year **inflation rate** which was measured by the consumer price index averaged 2.5 % in 2018. Compared to 2017, the growth rate of prices increased by 1.2 pp.

Consumer prices increased in all months of the last year, with a rise in regulated prices (1.3 %) year-on-year. On average, core inflation in 2018 rose to 2.8 % year-on-year. The dynamics of net inflation growth (excluding changes in direct taxes) increased by 0.9 pp to 2.3 % year-on-year. The overall growth of prices by Classification of Individual Consumption according to Purpose (COICOP) was mostly affected by a rise in prices for transport (+ 4.6 %), food and non-alcoholic beverages (+ 3.9 %), and hotels, cafés and restaurants (+ 3.4 %). However, prices rose in all categories.

Along with an increase in the economic growth rate, the labour market situation further improved in 2018. It concerns the growth of total employment determined by both methodologies of the Statistical Office of the Slovak

¹ Data source: Štatistická správa o základných vývojových tendenciách v hospodárstve SR v 4. štvrťroku 2018 (Statistical Report on Basic Development Tendencies in the Slovak Economy in Q4 2018, in Slovak only), the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic 2018, SO SR DATAcube database, and the Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family

Republic (by the Labour Force Survey and statistical reporting), as well as a decline in the unemployment rate ascertained by the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter simply SO SR). The registered unemployment rate and the total average number of registered unemployed persons continued their downward trend from the previous year, where a decline in long-term unemployment significantly contributed to the positive development.

According to the Labour Force Survey conducted by SO SR in Slovak households, **total employment** in 2018 increased by 1.4 % (36 thous. persons) and represented on average 2,566.7 thous. employed persons (national employment concept²); the number of employees increased (by 2.0 % to 2,187.7 thous.) and that of entrepreneurs decreased (by 1.5 % to 377.9 thous.). According to the statistical reporting of SO SR, which is carried out in enterprises in the Slovak Republic, the average number of people employed in the Slovak economy in 2018 increased by 1.9 % (43.9 thous. persons) to 2,392.8 thous. persons. The number of short-term migrants decreased by 6.5 % year-on-year (by 9.7 thous. persons) and averaged 139.6 thous. After deducting short-term migrants for work abroad, the increase in the number of the employed in the Slovak Republic was according to this methodology slightly higher than according to statistical reporting (by 1.9 %). In terms of industry, the growth of the average number of persons employed in manufacturing (+ 3.0 %), transportation and storage (+ 3.7 %), construction (+ 3.3 %), and accommodation and food service activities (+ 6.4 %) contributed the most to the growth of employment in the domestic economy according to statistical reporting. On the other hand, the growth of employment was hampered by a decrease in the average number of people employed in arts, entertainment and recreation services (- 2.6 %). The rate of growth in employment rates rose in 2018 by 1.3 pp to 72.4 %.

According to the records of both the Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family and the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic, **unemployment**³ decreased on average in 2018. The total average number of registered job seekers declined year-on-year by 20.15 % to 181,703 persons⁴, of which the number of available job seekers decreased by 22.5 % to 149,239 persons⁵. The number of unemployed according to the Labour Force Survey (LFS) decreased by 19.9 % to 179.5 thous. persons. The average **registered unemployment rate** decreased over 2018 to 5.4 % (by 1.7 pp)⁶. **According to the Labour Force Survey, the unemployment rate** decreased to 6.6 % in annual average, yielding a 1.5 pp year-on-year decrease. According to the SO SR data from quarterly statistical reporting, the job vacancy rate reached 1.2% and the average **number of job vacancies** increased year-on-year by 3,965 (18.8%) to 25,088 vacancies.

The **average nominal monthly wages**⁷ of employees in the economy for 2018 increased on average by 6.2 % to €1,013.00 year-on-year. Taking into account the development of consumer prices, the real wages increased to a lesser extent, namely by 3.6 %. A more in-depth structural comparison of macroeconomic indicators and a comparison on an international scale are given in the subsequent chapters of the Report.

Current income of households⁸ increased in nominal terms by 6 % year-on-year. Remuneration of employees (€39,068.9 mil.) traditionally accounted for the largest part of the total of €74,629.2 mil. Gross operating surplus and gross mixed income amounted to €18,572.9 mil., social benefits⁹ to €12,466.3 mil., other current transfers to €3,585.6 mil., and property income (received) to €935.5 mil. (annual increase of 31.6 %). The nominal increase in current income of households was affected mostly by remuneration of employees, which increased by 8 % year-on-year, of which gross wages and salaries increased by 8.3 %. The growth was also supported by a year-on-year increase in social benefits (+ 5.2 %), a year-on-year increase in gross operating surplus and gross mixed income (+ 2 %), and a year-on-year increase in other current transfers (+ 4 %). None of the components of income of households declined in nominal terms year-on-year.

Current expenditure of households¹⁰ amounted to €22,781.3 mil. and compared to 2017, increased in nominal terms by 7.5 %. The growth in current expenditure was mainly related to the increase in expenditure

² Employment according to the Labour Force Survey is employment of the resident population (commonly referred to as "national" or "residential" employment, the so-called *national employment concept*). It refers to the population with usual residence in the country and also includes short-term migration for work abroad, i.e. people who commute abroad for work or travelled abroad for work or plan to stay abroad for a maximum period of one year.

³ according to the Labour Force Survey

⁴ according to the Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family

⁵ according to the Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family

⁶ according to the Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family

⁷ according to quarterly statistical reporting

⁸ according to ESA 2010 methodology, quarterly accounts

⁹ other than social transfers in kind

¹⁰ according to ESA 2010 methodology, quarterly accounts

property income (+ 46.6 %) and current taxes on income, property (+ 10.9 %). Net social contributions increased by 7% and other current expenditure transfers rose by 3.0% year-on-year. After payment of current expenditure, the households were left with gross disposable income of €51,848.0 mil., a year-on-year increase of 5.4 %.

Out of the gross disposable income, the households used €48,194.0 mil. for final consumption. The remainder, €4,611.9 mil., were gross savings. The final consumption of households in 2018 rose nominally by 5.4 % and gross savings by 9.4 %. Gross saving rate (the proportion of gross saving to gross disposable income) decreased by 0.2 pp to 8.9 %. Households spent more money at current prices in 2018, mainly on food and non-alcoholic beverages (+ 5.8 %), transport (+ 7.5 %), and recreation and culture (+ 5.1 %). Expenditure on housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels increased by 4.1 %, on furniture, furnishings and routine house maintenance by 8.4%, on hotels, cafés and restaurants by 7.7 %, on miscellaneous goods and services by 5.5 %, and on clothing and footwear by 7.3 %. The expenditures in other areas of consumption increased only slightly. Similarly to the previous years, the largest part of private consumption expenditure was spent in terms of proportion on housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels (24 %, the share of total private consumption decreased by 0.3 pp year-on-year) and food and non-alcoholic beverages (19 %, the same share as in 2017).

During 2018, construction of 22,055 dwellings began, 19,071 dwellings were completed; as at 31 December, there were 77,773 dwellings under construction. There was a total loss of 1,495 dwellings, of which 1,413 by clearance. The number of dwellings under construction increased by 3.7 % and the number of completed dwellings by 12.5 % compared to 2017. The number of started dwellings increased by 10.7 % year-on-year.

The macroeconomic indicators are summarised in Annex to Chapter 1.

1.2 Selected Demographic Indicators

In 2018, a total of 57,639 children were born alive in Slovakia according to data from SO SR, which is 330 more than in 2017. The number of deaths increased to 54,293, which represents a year-on-year increase of 379 deaths.

After its growth in 2017, the marriage rate decreased slightly and disrupted the upward trend between 2013 – 2017. The divorce rate continued again its downward trend recorded between 2009 – 2016 and decreased slightly compared to the previous year 2017. In 2018, a total of 31,177 couples got married and 9,560 couples divorced. The number of marriages decreased by 132 and the number of divorces decreased by 58 year-on-year. This development has caused the drop in the divorce rate (30.66 divorces per 100 marriages).

As a result of mortality increase and fertility decline in 2018, the natural population growth decreased to 3,346, which represents a year-on-year decrease of 709 persons. Through foreign migration, Slovakia gained 3,955 persons, where 7,253 persons immigrated and 3,298 persons emigrated. Migration balance increased by 233 persons year-on-year. Total population growth thus decreased by 476 persons (to 7,301 persons) year-on-year.

As of 31 December 2018, the total population of the Slovak Republic was **5,450,421 persons**. The share of **women** in the total population was **51.2 %**.

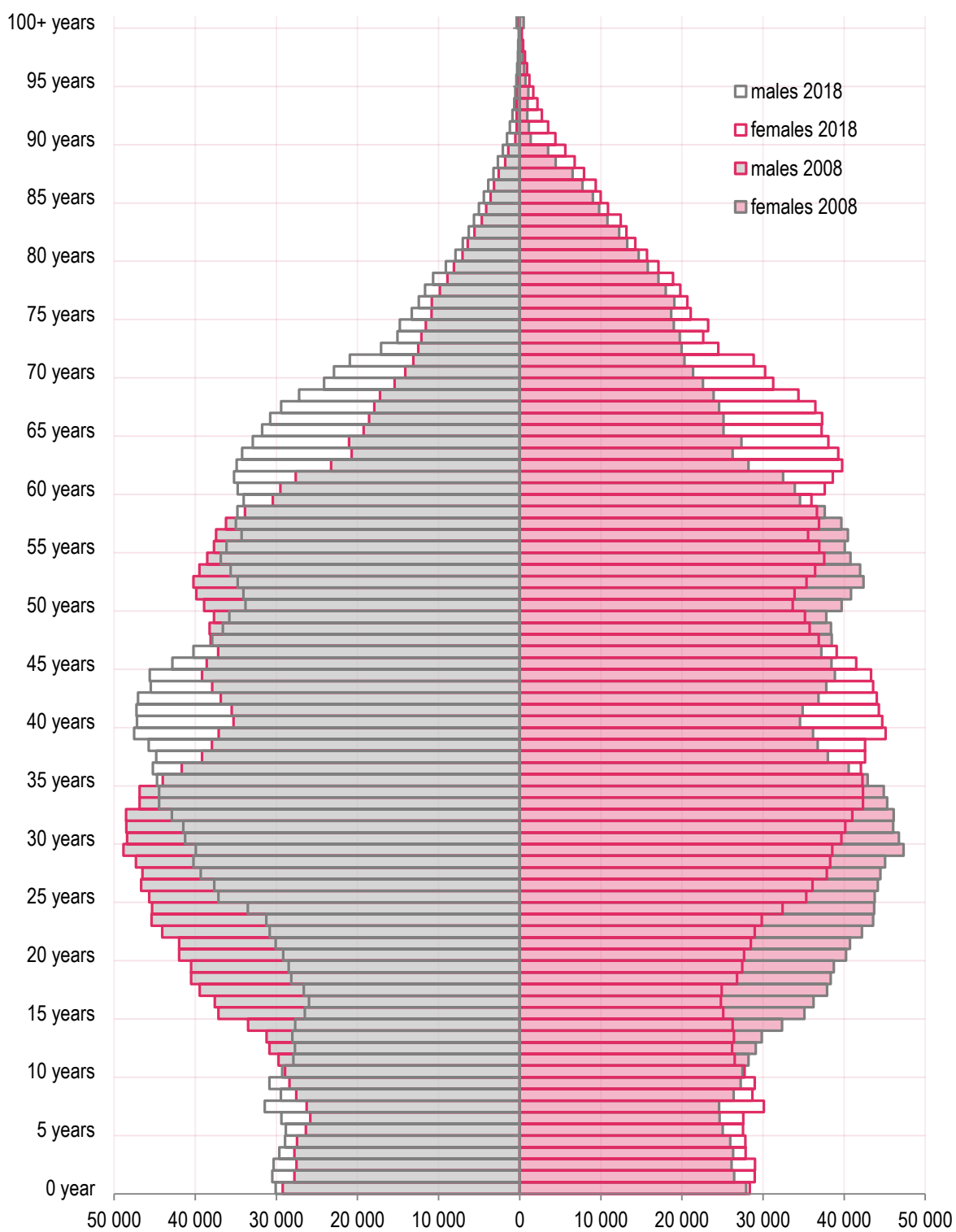
Table 1.1 Population Increase in SR, 2017 and 2018

Year	Live births	Deaths	Natural population growth	Net migration	Total population growth
2017	57,969	53,914	4,055	3,722	7,777
2018	57,639	54,293	3,346	3,955	7,301

Source: SO SR

At the end of 2018, the number of children aged 0 – 14 years reached 858,042, accounting for 15.7 % of the total Slovak population. The number of the post-working-age population reached 874,319 (16 % of the total population) and the number of the working-age population reached 3,718,060 (68.2 %). Compared to 2008, the total population increased by 0.7 %, while the number of the pre-working-age and post-working-age population increased (by 2.6 % and 33.6 % respectively), the working-age population decreased by 5.2 %. Compared to 2008, the share of the post-working-age population increased by 3.9 pp and the share of the pre-working-age population rose by 0.3 pp.

Graph 1.2 Age Structure of the Slovak Population, 2008 and 2018



Source: SO SR

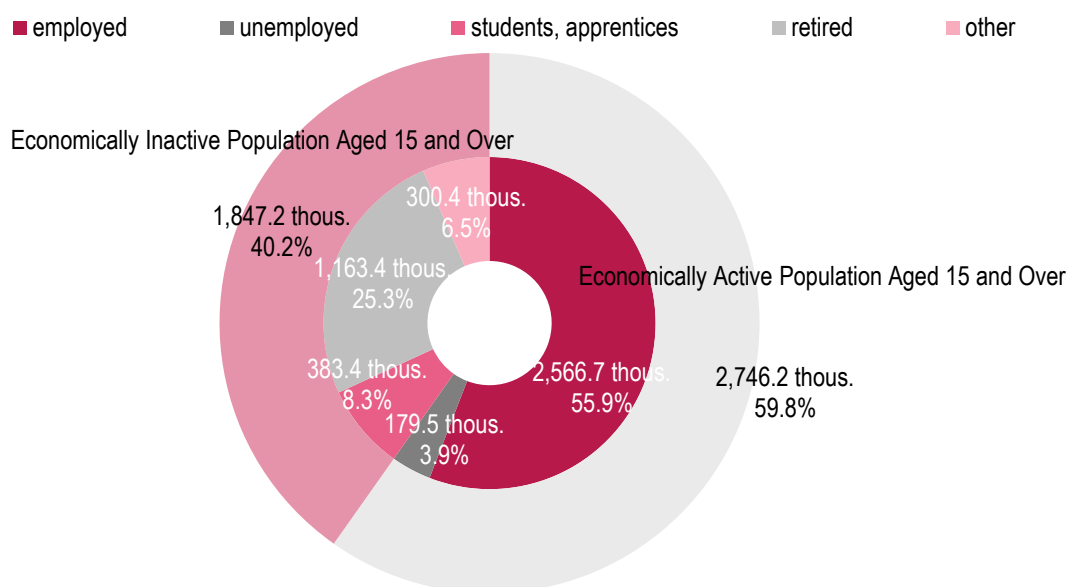
2 LABOUR MARKET, WAGES, WORKING CONDITIONS AND SOCIAL ECONOMY

2.1 Labour Market

2.1.1 Economic Activity of the Population

According to SO SR data from the Labour Force Survey (SO SR, LFS) in 2018, 59.8 % persons were economically active and 40.2 % economically inactive in the total population aged 15 and over.

Graph 2.1 Balance of the Slovak Population Aged 15 and over in 2018



Source: SO SR

According to LFS, the average number of **economically active Slovak population** in 2018 declined by 8.4 thous. persons to 2,746.3 thous. persons (1 % year-on-year), while a year-on-year decrease in the number of economically active was only recorded for women (by more than 10 thous.). On the contrary, the number of economically active men grew year-on-year (an increase of almost 2 thous.). As a result of this development, the share of economically active women in the total economically active population in 2018 decreased by 0.2 pp year-on-year (from 45.4 % to 45.2 %).

The decline in the number of economically active population was primarily influenced by the decrease in the number of unemployed, of which only a part was reflected in the overall growth of the number of the employed, or they become economically inactive.

Out of the total average number of economically active population, 93.4 % were the employed (91.9 % in 2017) and 6.6 % were the unemployed (8.1 % in 2017).

Compared to the previous year, **the number of economically inactive persons** increased by 6.7 thous. persons and reached 1,847.2 thous.

The structure of the economically inactive population aged 15 and over has not significantly changed year-on-year. Pensioners receiving old-age or disability pension (63.0 %) accounted for the highest share, while their share in the total number of economically inactive increased by 0.8 pp year-on-year. Students and apprentices were the second largest group, but their share in the total number of economically inactive population aged 15 and over dropped (from 21.1 % to 20.8 %) year-on-year.

The overall **rate of economic activity** of the population aged 15 and over reached 59.8 %, representing a year-on-year decrease of 0.1 pp. However, it decreased only for women (by 0.4 pp to 52.3 %). By contrast, it increased for men (by 0.1 to 67.8 %).

The development of the structure of the economically active population divided into 5-year age groups points to the gradual ageing of the workforce in the Slovak Republic. The number of economically active people aged 40 – 49 years especially increased year-on-year. Compared to 2017, the number of economically active in the 5-year

age groups of 15 – 19 years and over 60 years also increased. In the other 5-year age groups, there was a year-on-year decline in the number of economically active population.

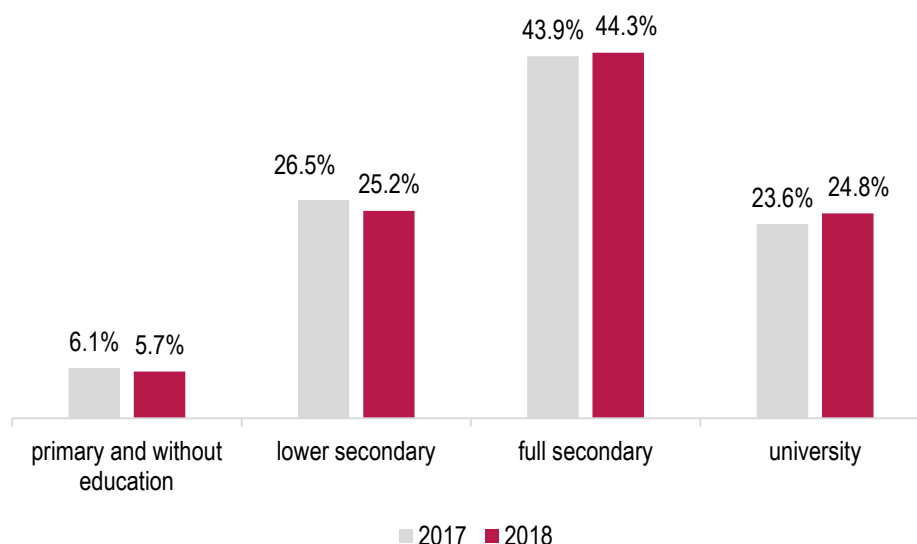
Table 2.1 Economically Active Population by Age, 2018

Age group	Total		Year-on-year change	
	thous. persons	%	thous. persons	pp
Total	2,746.3	100.0	-8.4	X
of which age group:				
15 – 19 years	21.9	0.8	1.2	0.0
20 – 24 years	167.9	6.1	-14.0	-0.5
25 – 29 years	314.0	11.4	-7.5	-0.3
30 – 34 years	349.8	12.7	-5.0	-0.2
35 – 39 years	384.1	14.0	-12.6	-0.4
40 – 44 years	406.0	14.8	10.2	0.4
45 – 49 years	337.4	12.3	14.3	0.6
50 – 54 years	316.3	11.5	-1.5	0.0
55 – 59 years	292.3	10.6	-1.0	0.0
60 – 64 years	123.0	4.5	3.1	0.1
65 years and over	33.7	1.2	4.6	0.1

Source: SO SR, LFS

The structure of economically active population **by education** does not change significantly. Compared to 2017, the share of economically active population with primary and lower secondary education decreased, and on the other hand, the share of economically active population with full secondary and university education increased.

Graph 2.2 Comparison of the Educational Structure of Economically Active Population in SR



Source: SO SR

Table 2.2 Comparison of the Structure of Economically Active Population in Individual Regions by Education

Region / indicator		Economically active population average per year			
		2017	2018	2017	2018
Bratislava	Total	352	354	100	100
	Primary and without education	9	9	2.6	2.6
	Lower secondary	53	50	14.9	14
	Full secondary	140	142	39.9	40
	University	150	154	42.6	43.3
Trnava	Total	299	289	100	100
	Primary and without education	17	16	5.8	5.5
	Lower secondary	100	90	33.4	31
	Full secondary	123	122	41.3	42.3
	University	58	61	19.5	21.2
Trenčín	Total	301	301	100	100
	Primary and without education	8	8	2.7	2.6
	Lower secondary	90	95	29.8	31.5
	Full secondary	137	133	45.4	44.3
	University	67	65	22.2	21.6
Nitra	Total	348	344	100	100
	Primary and without education	24	20	6.8	5.8
	Lower secondary	91	92	26.1	26.8
	Full secondary	157	162	45.2	47.1
	University	76	70	21.8	20.3
Žilina	Total	343	345	100	100
	Primary and without education	10	10	3	2.9
	Lower secondary	107	105	31.1	30.4
	Full secondary	155	156	45.1	45.4
	University	71	74	20.8	21.4
Banská Bystrica	Total	337	333	100	100
	Primary and without education	36	31	10.7	9.2
	Lower secondary	87	72	25.8	21.5
	Full secondary	148	158	43.9	47.5
	University	66	73	19.6	21.8
Prešov	Total	401	398	100	100
	Primary and without education	30	28	7.5	7.1
	Lower secondary	110	106	27.5	26.6
	Full secondary	178	174	44.5	43.8
	University	83	90	20.6	22.6
Košice	Total	374	382	100	100
	Primary and without education	33	34	8.9	8.9
	Lower secondary	92	83	24.6	21.6
	Full secondary	170	169	45.6	44.2
	University	78	97	20.9	25.3

Legend:

Primary education - primary and without education.

Lower secondary education - apprenticeship and secondary vocational without a school-leaving exam.

Full secondary education - full secondary apprenticeship with a school-leaving exam + full secondary vocational + full secondary general + advanced vocational.

University education - the first-, second- and third-level university degree

Source: SO SR

A year-on-year growth in the rate of economic activity was primarily reached by 5-year age groups of 45 and over and slightly by a 5-year age group of 15 - 19 years. In the other 5-year age groups, there was a year-on-year decline or stagnation in the rate of economic activity.

Table 2.3 Rate of Economic Activity of the Population Aged 15+, by Age and Sex (Annual Average in %)

Age group	Total		Males		Females	
	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018
Total	59.9	59.8	67.7	67.8	52.7	52.3
15 – 19 years	7.5	8.1	8.7	9.4	6.2	6.7
20 – 24 years	54.7	52.8	65.5	65.5	43.4	39.6
25 – 29 years	81.0	80.8	92.8	91.0	68.8	70.1
30 – 34 years	82.0	82.0	94.3	95.6	69.1	67.8
35 – 39 years	87.5	85.7	95.2	94.0	79.4	76.8
40 – 44 years	91.1	91.1	94.9	94.7	87.1	87.3
45 – 49 years	90.8	92.2	91.3	93.9	90.2	90.5
50 – 54 years	87.4	88.0	89.0	88.8	85.8	87.2
55 – 59 years	80.1	81.5	81.7	82.9	78.5	80.2
60 – 64 years	32.7	33.5	37.4	39.1	28.6	28.6
65 years and over	3.6	4.0	4.8	5.6	2.8	2.9

Source: SO SR, LFS

Youth (aged 15 – 24 years) accounted for 6.9 % of the total economically active population in 2018 and, due to an absolute year-on-year decline in their number (13 thous. persons), their share in the total economically active population decreased slightly year-on-year (by 0.5 pp). In terms of the structure of economically active youth, a year-on-year decrease in the number of the employed (by 3 thous. persons, relatively by 1.8 %), as well as in the number of the unemployed (by 10 thous. persons, relatively by 26.0 %) was recorded in 2018.

Older people (aged 55 – 64 years) accounted for 15 % of the total economically active population in 2018, representing the same share as in 2017. Among the economically active people in the above-mentioned age group, the number of the employed rose (by 5.3 thousand persons) and the number of the unemployed dropped by 3.0 thous. persons.

Proportional representation of individual regions in the total number of economically active population remains almost unchanged in the long term. The shares of individual regions in the total economically active population in 2018 ranged from 10.5 % to 14.5 %. The largest part of economically active population lives in the regions of Prešov and Košice (28.4 % of the total economically active population lives in the two regions), while the largest part of the employed of the total economically active population lives in the regions of Trenčín and Bratislava (approximately 97 %), and on the other hand, the lowest part lives in the regions of Prešov, Banská Bystrica and Košice (about 90 %).

Table 2.4 Structure of Economically Active Population by Regions in 2018

Region	Total economically active population in thous. persons			Employment rate aged 20 – 64 years in %	Total unemployment rate in %
	total	of which the employed	of which the unemployed		
SR in total	2,746.3	2,566.7	179.5	72.4	6.6
Bratislava	354.4	344.2	10.3	79.9	2.9
Trnava	289.1	274.3	14.8	73.2	5.1
Trenčín	300.9	292.0	8.9	75.6	3.0
Nitra	343.6	327.5	16.1	72.9	4.7
Žilina	344.5	325.6	18.9	72.4	5.5
Banská Bystrica	333.0	301.1	32.0	71.3	9.6

Prešov	398.4	358.4	40.0	68.8	10.0
Košice	382.4	343.8	38.7	67.5	10.1

Source: SO SR, LFS

The number of economically active population increased only in three regions (Košice, Bratislava, and Žilina); in 4 regions, there was a year-on-year decrease in the number of economically active population. The number of economically active population stagnated in the region of Trenčín. On the other hand, the number of economically inactive population dropped in 3 regions (Košice, Trenčín, and Žilina) and in the other 5 regions, the number of economically inactive population rose.

Table 2.5 Increases/Decreases in the Number of Economically Active and Inactive Population in 2018 by Regions

Region	Economically active population aged 15+ (thous. persons) of which			Economically inactive population aged 15+ (thous. persons)
	total	the employed (thous.)	the unemployed (thous.)	
SR in total	-8.4	36.0	-44.5	6.7
Bratislava	2.8	7.2	-4.3	1.4
Trnava	-9.9	-7.2	-2.7	9.9
Trenčín	0.0	3.4	-3.4	-2.3
Nitra	-4.4	1.6	-6.0	1.7
Žilina	1.4	5.5	-4.10	-1.7
Banská Bystrica	-4.4	5.0	-9.3	2.3
Prešov	-2.8	9.1	-11.9	3.7
Košice	8.8	11.6	-2.7	-8.3

Source: SO SR, LFS

2.1.2 Development of Employment

Employment can be monitored using several statistical surveys. The surveys differ in concepts of employment, definitions and data collection methodology.

One possibility for monitoring the development of the number of the employed, or employees are the **statistics of the Social Insurance Agency**. The Social Insurance Agency is a public body which administers social insurance, i.e. sickness insurance, pension insurance (old-age and disability), accident insurance, guarantee insurance, unemployment insurance, and old-age pension savings. Given the mandatory nature of social insurance and pension saving, the Social Insurance Agency holds data on all employers and employees, who pay or for whom are paid social security contributions and compulsory pension saving contributions, including persons working under agreements on work performed outside an employment relationship, as well as on self-employed persons with compulsory sickness and pension insurance. Definitions of an employer, employee and self-employed person are given by Act No. 461/2003 Coll. on Social Insurance, as amended (hereinafter simply the Social Insurance Act or SIA). The Social Insurance Agency statistics do not include data on members of the Police Force, the Slovak Intelligence Service, the National Security Authority, Corps of Prison and Court Guard, Railway Police, Fire Fighting and Rescuing Corps, Mountain Rescue Service, customs officers, professional soldiers of the armed forces and extraordinary service soldiers, since their social security is covered by specific legislation. Neither they cover the Slovak population working only abroad nor performance of work without the obligation to pay social insurance contributions (e.g. the self-employed with income below the established income which gives rise to compulsory social insurance). Developments in the reporting of the employed in the statistics of the Social Insurance Agency may be affected by legislative changes in social insurance.

The Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic carries out two more surveys allowing to monitor the development of employment; they differ from each other in the data collection methodology.

The Labour Force Survey carried out in households by the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic provides internationally comparable data on economic activity, employment, unemployment and other important characteristics of the workforce of the Slovak population. An employed person means a person aged 15+ who was

carrying out work for at least one hour for pay or profit (full-time or part-time job, temporary, casual or seasonal job) in the reference week, as well as contributing family workers of entrepreneurs; including those working abroad for up to one year, commuting abroad for work, performing work under agreements and paid activation work. An employed person also means a person who was not carrying out work in the reference week due to illness, holiday, maternity leave, training, bad weather and strike or dispute, except for persons on long-term unpaid leave from work and persons on parental leave.

The enterprise statistics on employees conducted by the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic is based on a statistical survey in enterprises (enterprise reporting) and captures all economic activities. According to enterprise reporting, employees are defined as persons who are in employment agreed for an indefinite or definite period of time (irrespective of their nationality) and are in the employ, service, civil service or are members of an employer organisation. Practising students of secondary vocational schools (apprentices), persons on maternity and parental leave and persons working under agreements on work performed outside the employment relationship, private entrepreneurs (and their partners) unless they have an employment contract concluded with the organisation, are excluded from the number of employees. Employed persons are defined as employees and entrepreneurs.

2.1.2.1 Employment according to the Social Insurance Agency Statistics

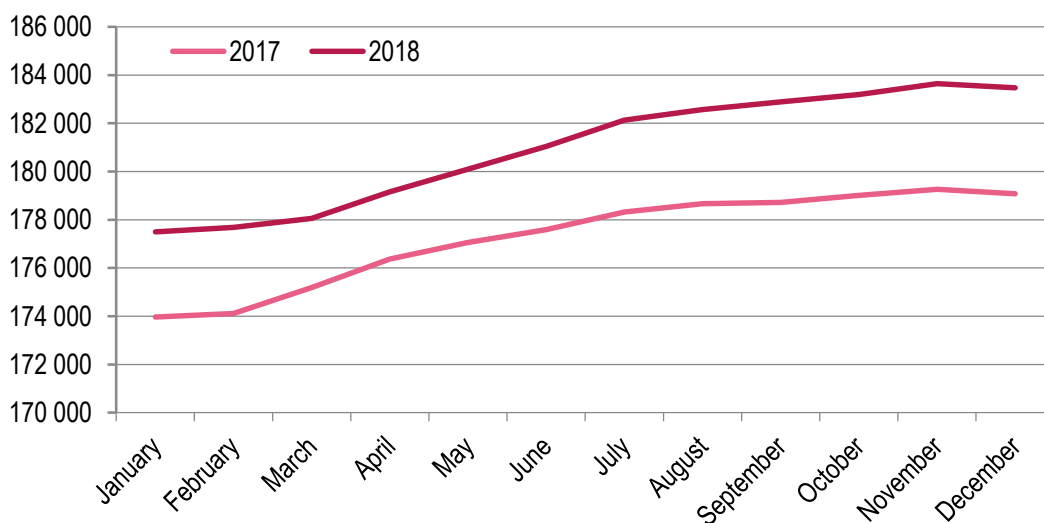
In 2018, the Social Insurance Agency recorded a monthly average of 181,348 employers who had employees in a monthly average of 1,958,798 legal relationships with regular monthly income and 59,174 legal relationships with irregular income. In addition to these legal relationships with regular monthly income and irregular income, employers employed employees under agreements on work performed outside the employment relationship, i.e. work performance agreements, contract works and student holiday (temporary) work agreements, broken down into regular monthly income and irregular income, which reached a monthly average of 400,568 in 2018.

In 2018, the Social Insurance Agency recorded a monthly average of 211,205 self-employed persons with compulsory social insurance scheme.

In 2018, the average monthly number of employers grew by 2.05 % (by 3,641) year-on-year; the average monthly number of employees in legal relationship with regular monthly income increased by 2.18 % (by 41,845). The average monthly number of employees in legal relationship with irregular income grew by 3.37 % (by 1,927) and the average monthly number of agreements on work performed outside the employment relationship declined by 1.10 % (by 4,439). The average monthly number of self-employed persons with compulsory insurance swelled by 0.85 % (by 1,784).

Overall, the Social Insurance Agency recorded a monthly average of 2,629,745 insurance relationships in 2018, which was 41,117 more insurance relationships than in 2017 (by 1.59 %).

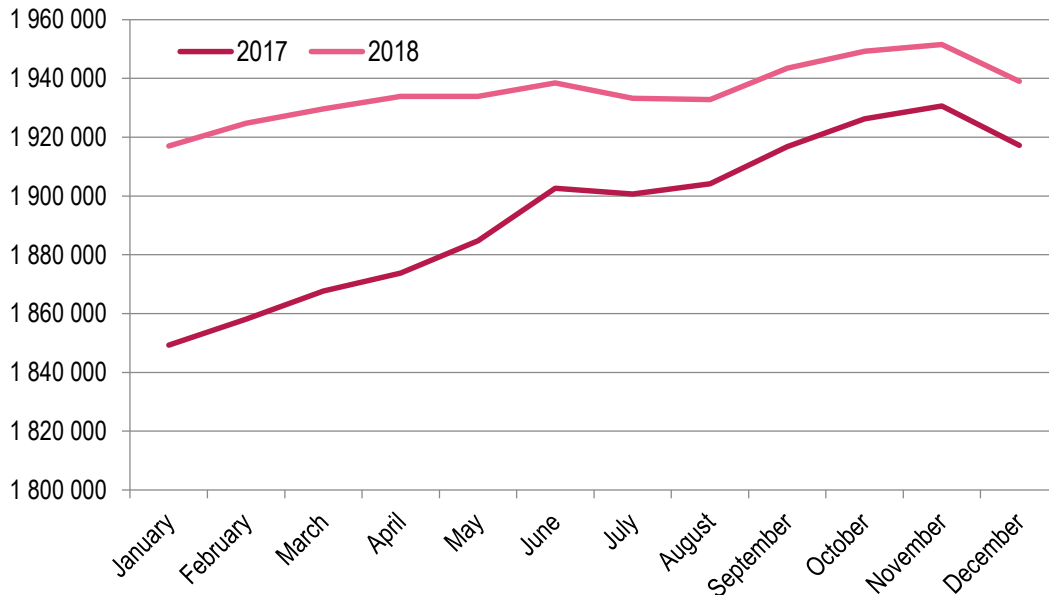
Graph 2.3 Number of Employers Registered in the Social Insurance Agency in 2017 and 2018



Source: Social Insurance Agency

In December 2018, the Social Insurance Agency recorded 183,942 employers, an increase of 4,354 employers in comparison with December 2017 (by 2.42 %).

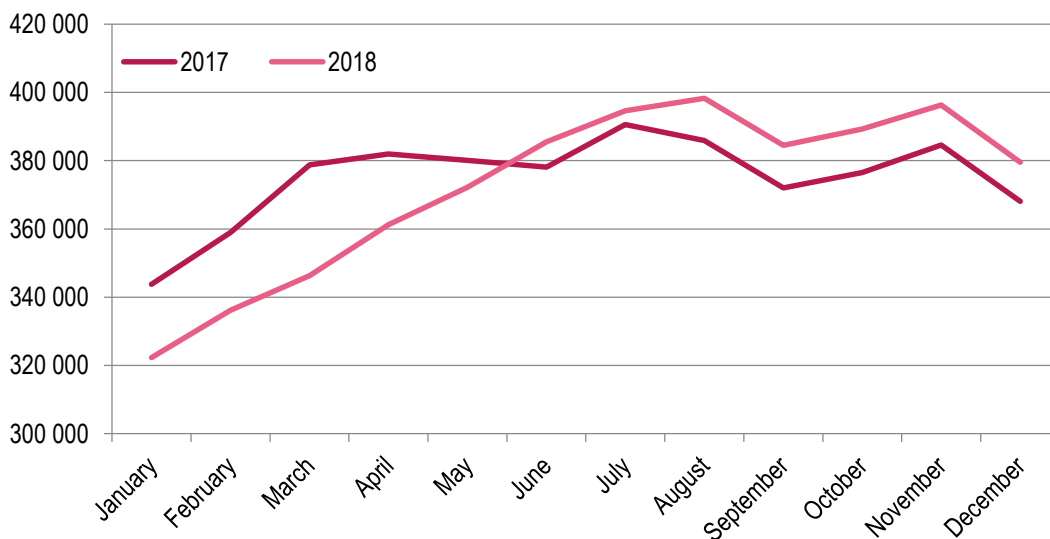
Graph 2.4 Number of Legal Relationships with Regular Monthly Income Registered in the Social Insurance Agency in 2017 and 2018



Source: Social Insurance Agency

In December 2018, the Social Insurance Agency recorded 1,962,251 legal relationships with regular monthly income, an increase of 20,623 legal relationships in comparison with December 2017 (by 1.06 %).

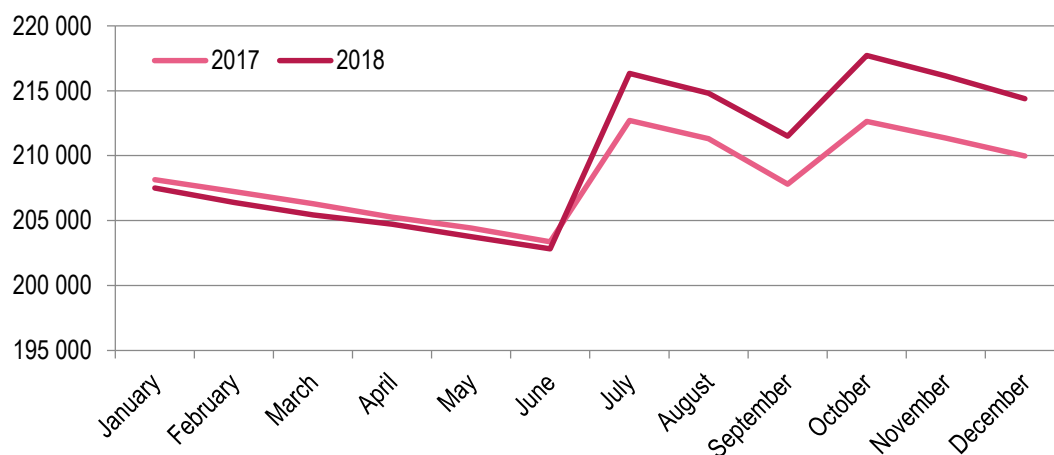
Graph 2.5 Number of Agreements on Work Performed outside the Employment Relationship Registered in the Social Insurance Agency in 2017 and 2018



Source: Social Insurance Agency

In December 2018, the Social Insurance Agency recorded 410,519 agreements on work performed outside the employment relationship, an increase of 7,909 agreements in comparison with December 2017 (by 1.96 %).

Graph 2.6 Number of Self-employed Persons Registered in the Social Insurance Agency in 2017 and 2018



Source: Social Insurance Agency

In December 2018, the Social Insurance Agency registered 215,983 self-employed persons with compulsory insurance, an increase of 4,912 persons in comparison with December 2017 (by 2.33 %).

2.1.2.2 Employment according to Labour Force Survey¹¹ by SO SR

Positive labour market developments, which started with a recovery of the total employment growth in the economy in 2014, also continued in 2018. Due to strong demand growth on the labour market, which persisted last year, not only the year-end, but also the average state of total employment in SR increased to a new, historically highest level.

According to SO SR data, the total average number of the employed in SR in 2018 increased year-on-year by 1.4 % (36.0 thous.) to 2,566.7 thous., while total employment growth slowed slightly (by 0.1 pp) compared to 2017.

According to the Labour Force Survey (LFS), the lower growth rate of total employment was related to the decrease in the number of short-term migrants for work abroad (staying up to one year) and the number of persons performing activation work.

The number of short-term workers abroad decreased by 6.5 % year-on-year (ca. 10 thous. persons) and averaged nearly 140 thous. persons. The number of persons performing activation work declined by 24.9% (ca. 15 thous. persons) and reached an average of approx. 47 thous. persons.

This means that the growth was mainly supported by growth of employment in the domestic economy (excluding persons working abroad¹²).

By employment status, the share of employees in total employment growth was more pronounced, when the number of employees rose by 2.0 % year-on-year and the dynamics of their year-on-year growth accelerated slightly (1.8 % in 2017). On the other hand, the number of entrepreneurs decreased by 1.5 % year-on-year, with a decline only in the number of entrepreneurs with employees (- 7.6%); the number of entrepreneurs without employees increased slightly (by 0.1%). The number of contributing family workers also dropped (by 33.3%).

By gender, the number of employed men increased more intensely (by 2.0 %) than the number of employed women (by 0.7 %).

¹¹ LFS methodology is in accordance with international definitions and recommendations of the International Labour Organization (ILO) and Eurostat, including persons on maternity leave and working abroad for up to 1 year

¹² Short-term employment, i.e. persons who worked abroad for up to one year, including commuting to work for an unlimited time period.

Compared to 2017, the share of employees with **part-time jobs** decreased in 2018. This job opportunity was used on average by 5.7 % of the total number of employees, which was 1.0 pp less than in 2017. The share was traditionally higher for women (8.3 %) than for men (4.4 %).

By age, a year-on-year employment growth was virtually recorded in all 5-year age groups, most notably in the youngest 5-year age group. A decrease was observed only in the 5-year age groups of 20 – 29 and 35 – 39 years. The year-on-year development of the number of the employed by individual 5-year age groups is shown in the table below.

Table 2.6 Number of the Employed by Age in 2018 (Annual Average)

Indicator	Number of the employed (thous. persons)	Share in SR (in %)	Index 2018/2017
Total	2,566.7	100.0	101.4
of which age group:			
15 – 19 years	13.9	0.5	123.0
20 – 24 years	147.5	5.7	96.4
25 – 29 years	286.7	11.2	98.8
30 – 34 years	326.1	12.7	100.4
35 – 39 years	362.0	14.1	98.4
40 – 44 years	384.3	15.0	103.6
45 – 49 years	320.9	12.5	106.0
50 – 54 years	298.5	11.6	101.7
55 – 59 years	274.4	10.7	100.5
60 – 64 years	119.1	4.6	103.3
65 years and over	33.4	1.3	116.8

Source: SO SR, LFS

The long-term upward trend in the educational level of employed persons also continued in 2018. Compared to 2017, the number of the employed with secondary and university education especially increased, while the number of the employed with lower education (primary and apprenticeship education without a school-leaving exam) decreased.

Table 2.7 Employed by Level of Education in 2018 (Annual Average)

Indicator	Number of the employed (thous. persons)	Share in SR (in %)	Index 2018/2017
Total	2,566.7	100.0	101.4
of which education:			
Primary	107.8	4.2	92.1
Secondary vocational (apprenticeship) without a school-leaving exam	638.4	24.9	96.4
Full secondary vocational (apprenticeship) with a school- leaving exam	174.6	6.8	104.3
Full secondary general with a school-leaving exam	108.4	4.2	103.3
Full secondary vocational with a school-leaving exam	852.0	33.2	102.0
Advanced vocational	23.9	0.9	111.2
University	661.1	25.8	106.3
Without school education	0.2	0.0	200.0

Source: SO SR, LFS

By regions, the number of employed persons grew year-on-year in all regions (ranging from 0.5 % to 3.5 %) excluding the region of Trnava (decrease of 2.6 %).

A positive fact is that employment growth in the regions of Eastern Slovakia is gradually accelerating more considerably.

Table 2.8 Number of the Employed by Regions in 2018 (Annual Average)

Region	Number of the employed (thous. persons)	Share in SR (in %)	Index 2018/2017
SR in total	2,566.7	100.0	101.4
of which:			
Bratislava	344.2	13.4	102.1
Trnava	274.3	10.7	97.4
Trenčín	292.0	11.4	101.2
Nitra	327.5	12.8	100.5
Žilina	325.6	12.7	101.7
Banská Bystrica	301.1	11.7	101.7
Prešov	358.4	14.0	102.6
Košice	343.8	13.4	103.5

Source: SO SR, LFS

Out of the total number of employed persons in SR in 2018, 139.6 thous. persons **worked abroad**¹³, accounting for 5.4 % of the total number of employed persons in SR. The number of short-term workers abroad decreased year-on-year by almost 10 thous. (6.5 %); their share of the total number of the employed also dropped (by 0.5 pp).

Migrants are dominated by workers in construction, industry, health service and social work (assistance). In terms of age, these are mainly workers aged 25 – 44 years, and their share of the total number of persons working abroad accounted for more than ½.

In the long term, the highest number of persons finding work abroad was mainly from the region of Prešov (almost 21 % of the total number of Slovak citizens working abroad on a short-term basis). With regard to European countries, Slovak citizens primarily worked in the Czech Republic and Austria.

The number of Slovak citizens working abroad on a short-term basis dropped in five regions, while in three regions their number rose. The share of short-term workers abroad in the total number of the employed in a given region ranged from 1.9 % in the region of Bratislava to 8.0 % in the region of Prešov.

2.9 Development of Foreign Labour Migration by Regions in 2018

Region	Employed abroad (thous. persons)	index 2018/2017	Share in SR (in %)	Share of employed abroad in total employment in SR, or region (in %)
SR in total	139.6	93.5	100.0	5.4
of which:				
Bratislava	6.6	81.5	4.7	1.9
Trnava	7.9	91.9	5.6	2.9
Trenčín	8.6	74.1	6.1	2.9
Nitra	22.0	105.3	15.8	6.7
Žilina	25.8	113.2	18.5	7.9
Banská Bystrica	19.4	110.2	13.9	6.4
Prešov	28.8	75.4	20.6	8.0
Košice	20.6	94.9	14.8	6.0

¹³ Short-term employment, i.e. persons who worked abroad for up to one year, including commuting to work for an unlimited time period.

Source: SO SR, LFS

The **employment rate for persons aged 20 – 64 years** increased year-on-year by 1.3 pp to 72.4 %; the increase was recorded for both sexes (by 1.8 pp to 79.2 % for males and by 0.8 pp to 65.5 % for females).

By age, the highest specific employment rate was reached in 5-year age groups from 35 to 54 years (over 80 %). For men, the specific employment rate of 80 % and over was reached in all 5-year age groups from 25 to 54 years; for women, the specific employment rate of 80 % and over was reached in 5-year age groups from 40 to 54 years.

Compared to 2017, the specific employment rate only decreased in the age group of 35 - 39 years. In the other 5-year age groups, there was a year-on-year increase in the employment rate ranging from 0.4 pp in the age group of 20 - 24 years to 2.6 pp, of which the highest year-on-year increase was observed in the 5-year age group of 45 - 49 years.

The specific **employment rate of young people (aged 15 - 24 years)** reached an average of 27.5 % and was 0.6 pp higher than in 2017. However, it increased year-on-year only for men (by 1.6 pp to 34 %). On the contrary, the employment rate for young women dropped (by 0.6 pp to 20.6 %).

The specific **employment rate of older people (aged 55 - 64 years)** reached 54.2 % and was 1.2 pp higher than in 2017. It increased for both sexes, more considerably for males (by 1.8 pp to 58.4 %) than for females (by 0.8 pp to 50.4 %). More detailed figures are given in Annex to Chapter 2, Table 2.

By education, the highest specific employment rate was reached in groups of persons with advanced vocational training (83.2 %) and university education. On the contrary, the lowest specific employment rate was reached by persons without school education (1.3 %) and with primary education (20.6 %). This means that almost 80 % of the population aged 15 - 64 with primary education did not work. Compared to 2017, the employment rate declined only for persons with primary education. More detailed figures are given in Annex to Chapter 2, Table 2.

Among the individual regions, the highest rate of employment of the population aged 20 - 64 years was reached by the region of Bratislava (79.9 %). On the other hand, its lowest level was reached in the region of Košice (67.5 %), but it rose by 2.4 pp year-on-year, which is the highest increase among all regions. The employment rate for the population aged 20 - 64 years grew in all regions, ranging from 0.7 pp to 2.4 pp, with the exception of the region of Trnava (a decrease of 1.4 pp).

The faster growth in the number of the employed and employment rates in the regions with traditionally the lowest employment rate was reflected in a reduced number of interregional differences in the rate of employment of the population aged 20 - 64 years. The difference between the lowest and the highest rate of employment of the population aged 20 - 64 years in 2017 was 14.1 pp, while it decreased to 12.4 pp in 2018 (Annex to Chapter 2, Table 3).

**Table 2.10 Employment Rate for the Population Aged 20 – 64 Years by Regions
(Annual Average in %)**

Region	Employment rate for the population aged 20 – 64		Change 2018/2017 (pp)
	2017	2018	
SR in total	71.7	72.4	1.3
Bratislava	79.2	79.9	0.7
Trnava	74.6	73.2	-1.4
Trenčín	73.9	75.6	1.7
Nitra	71.9	72.9	1.0
Žilina	70.9	72.4	1.5
Banská Bystrica	69.2	71.3	2.1
Prešov	67.0	68.8	1.8
Košice	65.1	67.5	2.4

Source: SO SR, LFS

2.1.2.3 Employment according to Statistical Reporting by SO SR

According to the quarterly statistical reports, the average number of the employed in the national economy in 2018 amounted to 2,392,806 persons. Compared to 2017, it grew by 1.9 %, which represented an increase of 43.9 thous. persons in absolute terms. Regarding the **sectorial structure**, out of the total number of the employed in SR in 2018, 3.6 % worked in agriculture (a year-on-year decrease of 0.1 pp), 23.4 % in industry (a year-on-year increase of 0.2 pp), 7.0 % in construction industry (a year-on-year increase of 0.1 pp), and 66.0 % in the service (tertiary) sector (66.2 % in 2017).

Compared to 2017, employment rate grew in all size categories of enterprises (ranging from 0.2 % to 4.3 %). Small and medium-sized enterprises, including sole traders accounted for 69,5 % of the total employment in SR in 2018, which was 0.3 pp less than in 2017.

Table 2.11 Employment by Size Classes of Enterprises (Annual Average)

Number of employees	2017			2018		
	Persons	Index 2017/2016	Share in %	Persons	Index 2018/2017	Share in %
0 – 19	369,074	104.3	15.7	384,984	104.3	16.1
20 – 49	232,904	101.3	9.9	236,509	101.5	9.9
50 – 249	400,568	101.3	17.1	403,445	100.7	16.9
250 – 499	155,288	108.5	6.6	160,305	103.2	6.7
500 – 999	149,618	95.8	6.4	152,499	101.9	6.4
1,000 and over	404,978	102.6	17.2	417,315	103.0	17.4
Sole traders* (estimate)	636,500	100.4	27.1	637,750	100.2	26.6
Total	2,348,930	101.8	100.0	2,392,806	101.9	100.0

Source: SO SR, Štatistická správa o základných vývojových tendenciách v hospodárstve SR v 4. štvrtroku 2017 (Statistical Report on Basic Development Tendencies in the Slovak Economy in Q4 2018, in Slovak only)

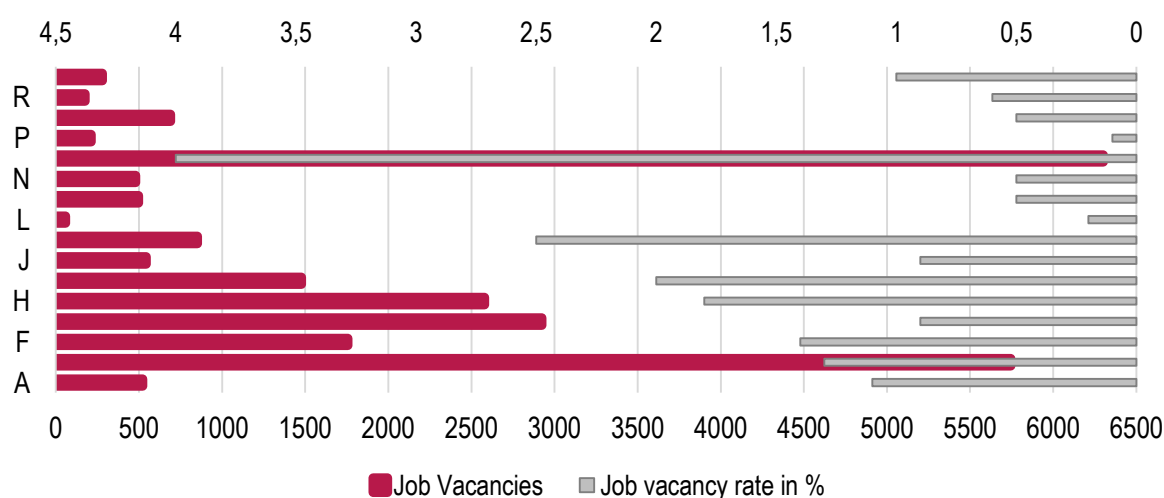
*including employees of sole traders

2.1.2.4 Job Vacancies

According to statistical reports, a total of 25,088 job vacancies on average were available in the national economy in 2018. Compared to 2017, their number increased by 18.8 % (3,965 job vacancies) in absolute terms.

By sectors, the number of job vacancies increased year-on-year in most of them. Their decline was observed in education, expert, scientific and technical activities, arts, entertainment and recreation services, and real estate activities.

Graph 2.7 Number of Job Vacancies and Job Vacancy Rate in 2018



Legend:

A Agriculture, forestry and fishing

B,C,D,E Industry in total

F Construction

G Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles

H Transportation and storage

I Accommodation and food service activities

J Information and communication

K Financial and insurance activities

L Real estate activities

M Professional, scientific and technical activities

N Administrative and support service activities

O Public administration and defence; compulsory social security

P Education

Q Health and social work activities

R Arts, entertainment and recreation

S Other service activities

Source: Štatistická správa o základných vývojových tendenciách v hospodárstve SR 4. štvrťrok 2018 (Statistical Report on Basic Development Tendencies in the Slovak Economy in Q4 2018, in Slovak only)

In absolute terms, the number of job vacancies increased the most in manufacturing (by 758 jobs), construction (by 737 jobs), wholesale and retail trade, and repair of motor vehicles (by 578 jobs).

By regions, in 2018, the most job vacancies were in the region of Bratislava (specifically 9,362 representing 37.3 % of the total average number of job vacancies in SR). The number of job vacancies rose in all the regions, ranging from 9.9 % to 35.4 %, and the year-on-year growth rate of job vacancies increased significantly in the regions of Eastern Slovakia.

Table 2.12 Job Vacancies in 2018 by Regions (Annual Average)

Region	Job Vacancies		Index 2018/2017	Job vacancy rate in %
	Number	Share in SR (in %)		
SR in total	25,088	100.0	118.8	1.2
of which:				
Bratislava	9,362	37.3	109.9	2.6
Trnava	2,490	9.9	121.0	1.3
Trenčín	2,412	9.6	117.5	0.9
Nitra	2,083	8.3	130.1	1.3
Žilina	2,383	9.5	121.3	1.1
Banská Bystrica	2,359	9.4	131.5	1.2
Prešov	2,183	8.7	121.6	0.7
Košice	1,816	7.2	135.4	0.6

Source: SO SR, Štatistická správa o základných vývojových tendenciách v hospodárstve SR vo 4. štvrťroku 2018 (Statistical Report on Basic Development Tendencies in the Slovak Economy in Q4 2018, in Slovak only)

In 2018, the job vacancy rate (a percentage of the number of job vacancies to the sum of the number of job vacancies and occupied jobs) in SR was 1.2 %, representing a year-on-year slight increase (+ 0.1 pp). The highest job vacancy rate was 2.6 % in the region of Bratislava. In other regions, the job vacancy rate ranged from 0.6 % in the region of Košice to 1.3 % in the regions of Trnava and Nitra.

2.1.3 Development of Unemployment

Unemployment, like employment, can be monitored using several conceptually different approaches.

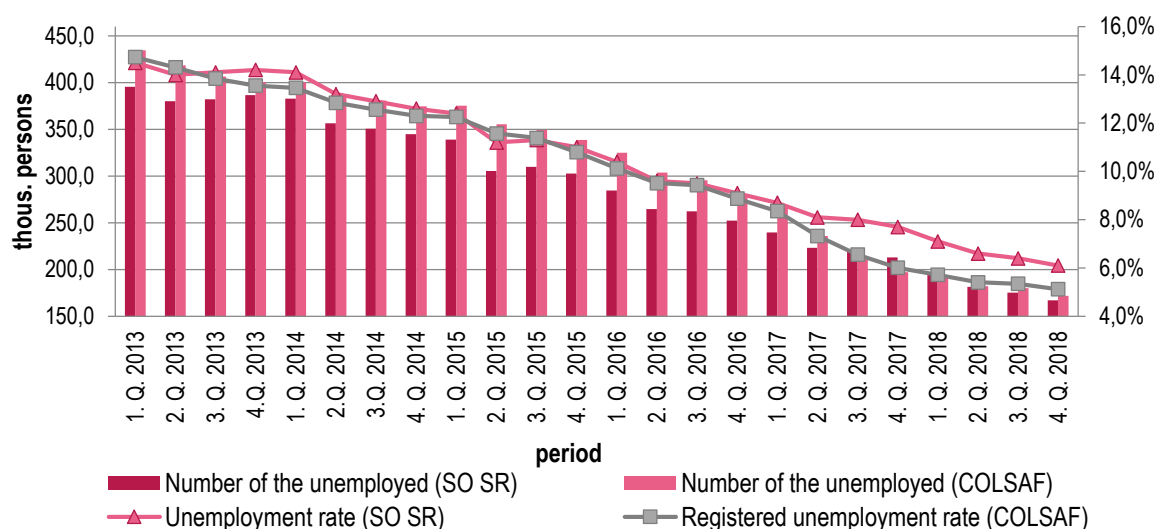
The unemployment monitoring methodology **based on registers of offices of labour, social affairs and family** differs significantly from the methodology of unemployment monitoring based on the LFS. It describes different populations due to a different definition of an unemployed person, depends on the motivation to register,

as well as the legislative conditions of registration. Although not internationally comparable, it provides administrative data reported on a monthly basis and at the lowest administrative-territorial level.

The Labour Force Survey carried out by SO SR in households, defines the unemployed in line with the ILO definition as persons aged 15-74 years who simultaneously meet the following three conditions:

1. they are not working for pay or profit during the reference week;
2. they are actively seeking work during the last four weeks or who found a job to start within 3 months at the latest and
3. they are able to start work within the next two weeks following the reference week.

Graph 2.8 Development of Unemployment, Comparison of Data by SO SR and COLSAF

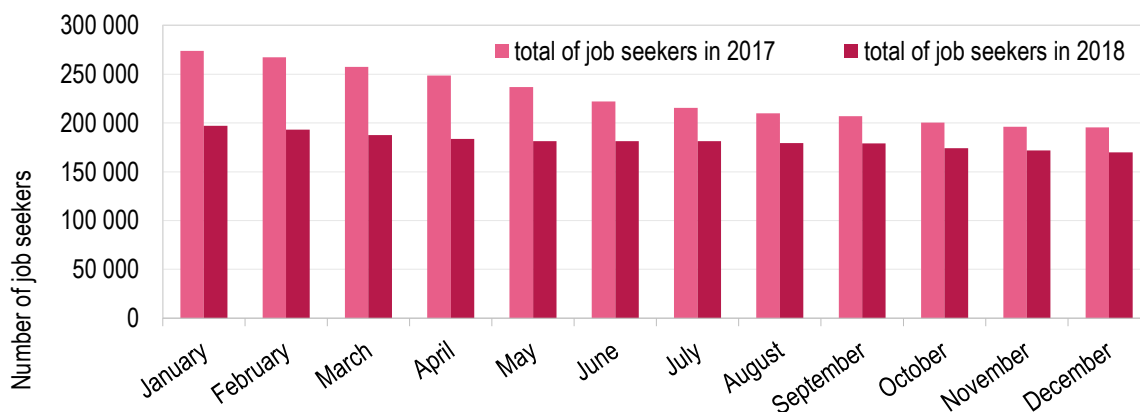


Source: SO SR (LFS), COLSAF

2.1.3.1 Unemployment according to Registers of Offices of Labour, Social Affairs and Family

In Slovakia, there were 181,703 registered job seekers on average in 2018. The development of registered unemployment in individual months was characterised by a positive trend throughout the year. The number of registered unemployed was lower in each month of 2018 than in the same month of the previous year, both for males and females, even decreasing again during 2018 on a month-on-month basis. In comparison with 2017, the average monthly number of registered job seekers fell by 45,839 persons, i.e. by 20.15 % (in 2017, there was an average of 227,542 registered job seekers).

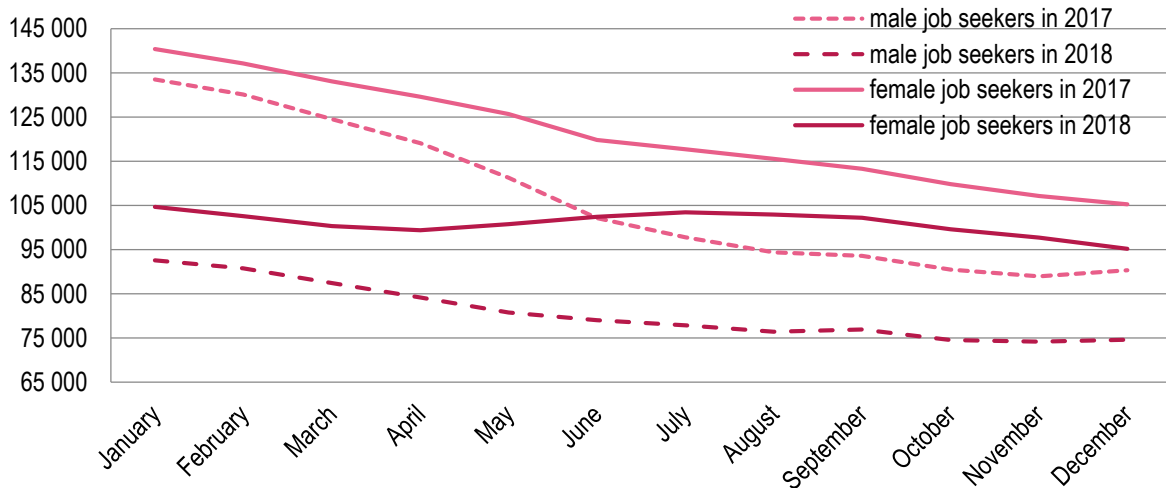
Graph 2.9 Number of Job Seekers in Individual Months of 2017 and 2018



Source: COLSAF

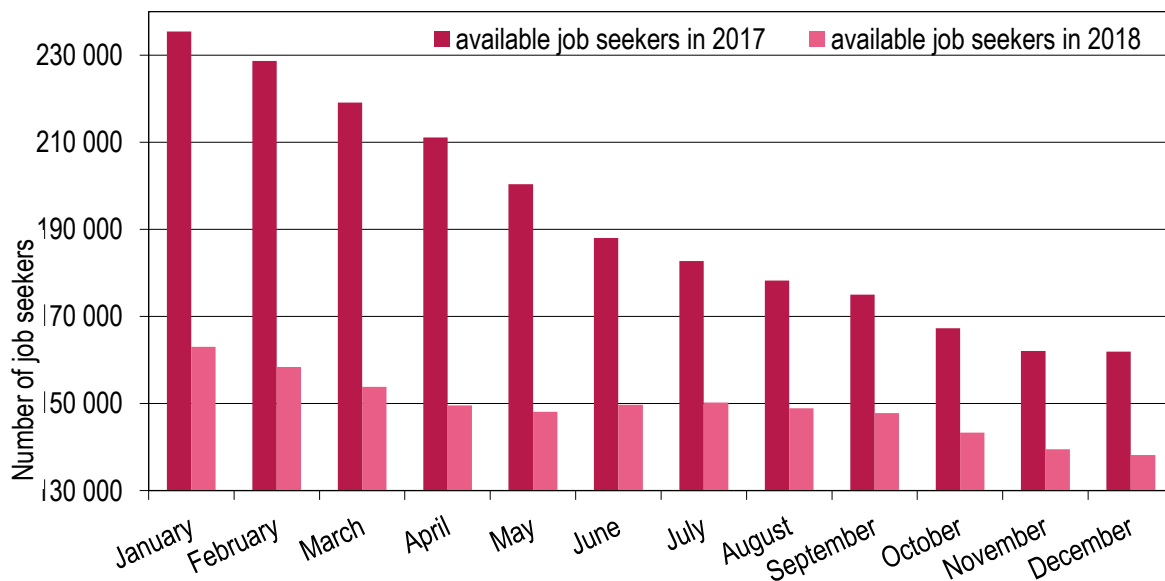
Of the total average number of registered job seekers, 100,937 were women (55.55 %). This represents a decrease of 20,261 persons (16.72 %) compared to 2017 (on average 121,198 women). The greatest share of women in the total average number of registered job seekers in 2018 was recorded in the region of Nitra (60.61 %). In other regions, the proportion ranged from 53.64 % (the region of Prešov) to 59.45 % (the region of Trnava).

Graph 2.10 Number of Unemployed Males and Females in Individual Months of 2017 and 2018



Source: COLSAF

Graph 2.11 Number of Available Job Seekers in Individual Months of 2017 and 2018

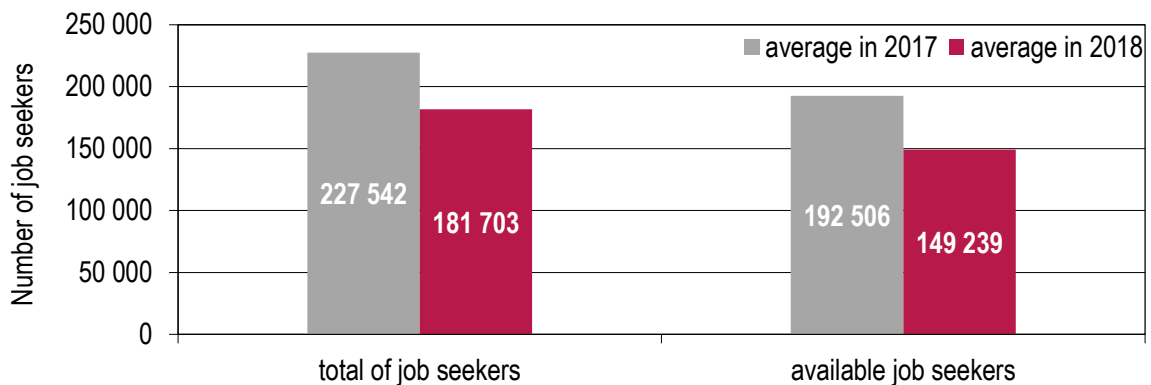


Source: COLSAF

The average number of available¹⁴ job seekers reached 149,239 persons in 2018. This represents a year-on-year decrease of 43,267 persons, i.e. by 22.48 % (in 2017 there were 192,506 available registered job seekers on average).

¹⁴ An available job seeker is a job seeker who can take up employment immediately after being offered a vacancy. It is a registered unemployed person with no objective obstacles for recruitment.

Graph 2.12 Comparison of Average Numbers of Job Seekers in 2017 and 2018

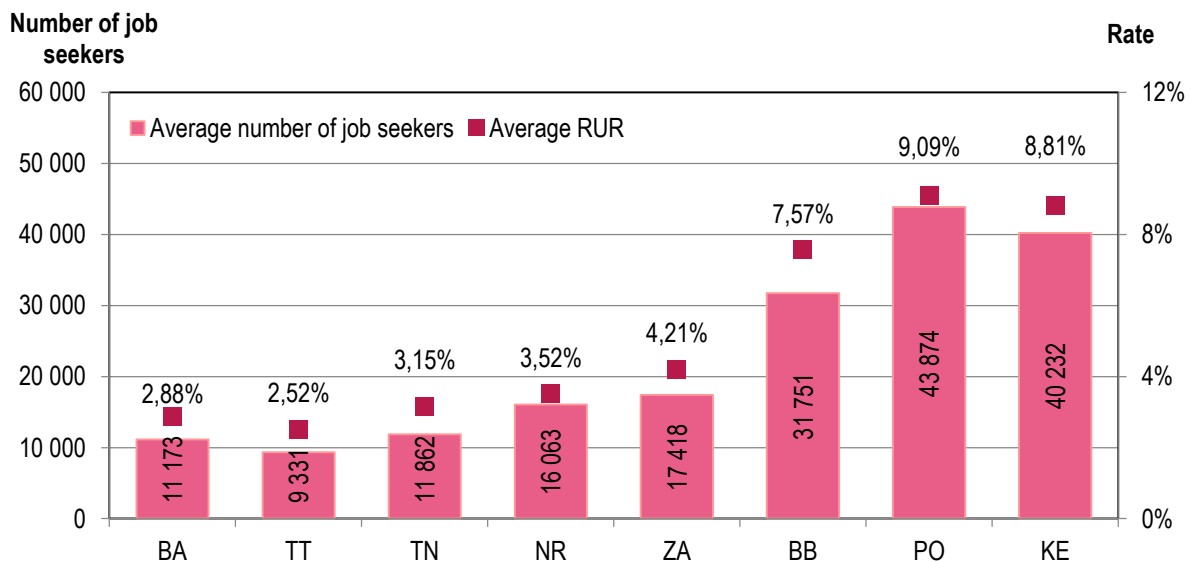


Source: COLSAF

The registered unemployment rate (calculated from the available number of job seekers) in individual quarters **declined gradually during the year**. It was lower in 2018 than in 2017 in all quarters. The average reached for 2018 was 5.42 % (an average year-on-year decrease of 1.64 pp).

By regions, in 2018, the highest average rate of registered unemployment was recorded in the region of Prešov (9.09 %) and the lowest in the region of Trnava (2.52 %). In addition to the region of Prešov, the national average registered unemployment rate (5.42 %) was also exceeded in the region of Košice (with an annual average of 8.81 %) and the region of Banská Bystrica (with an annual average of 7.57 %).

Graph 2.13 Average Registered Unemployment Rate and Average Number of Job Seekers by Slovak Regions in 2018

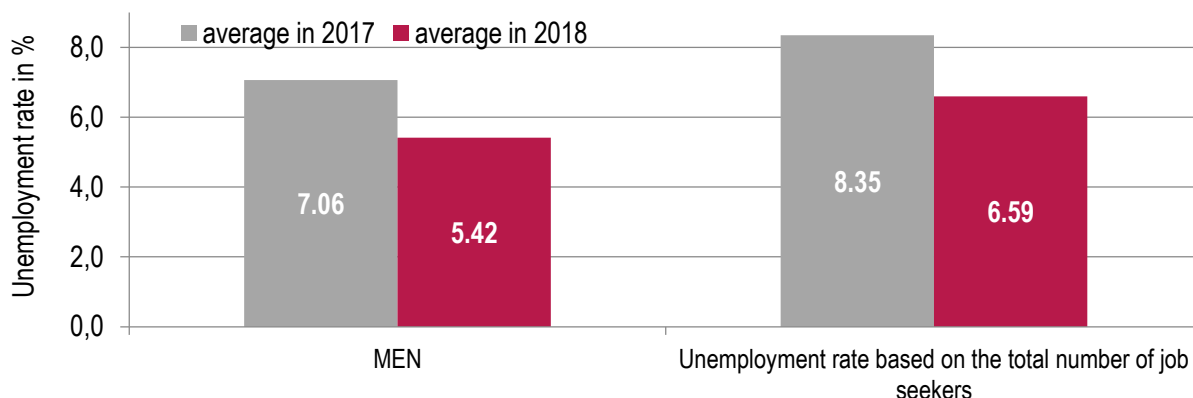


Source: COLSAF

A year-on-year decline in the average registered unemployment rate was observed in all Slovak regions, ranging from 0.70 pp in the region of Trnava to 2.85 pp in the region of Banská Bystrica. A year-on-year decrease in the average registered unemployment rate above the national average (1.64 pp) was recorded in the three regions: Prešov (- 2.38 pp), Košice (- 2.50 pp), and Banská Bystrica (- 2.85 pp). A decrease of 0.70 pp was recorded in the region of Trnava, a decrease of 0.75 pp in the region of Bratislava, a decrease of 1,10 pp in the region of Trenčín, a decrease of 1.34 pp in the region of Žilina, and a decrease of 1.63 pp in the region of Nitra. (The graphical representation of the registered unemployment rate is given in Annex to Chapter 2, Graph 1).

The unemployment rate calculated from the total number of job seekers reached an annual average of 6.59 % in 2018, representing a year-on-year decrease of 1.76 pp.

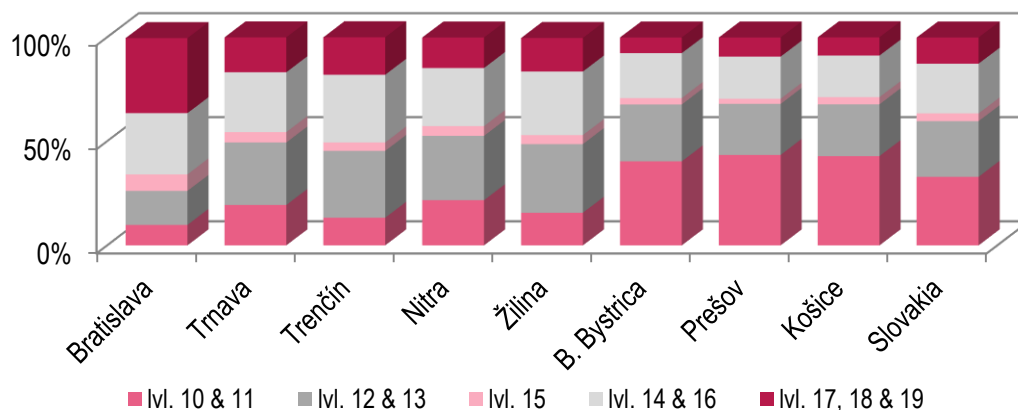
Graph 2.14 Average Registered Unemployment Rate and Unemployment Rate Calculated from the Total Number of Jobs Seekers in SR in 2017 and 2018



Source: COLSAF

The structure of job seekers by education¹⁵ in 2018 remained unchanged in comparison with the previous year. The highest average monthly number was reached by job seekers only with primary education (level 11) or with unfinished primary education (level 10), namely 59,777 persons (32.90 %). Job seekers with secondary vocational education (including lower secondary vocational education, i.e. educational levels 12 and 13) accounted for the second highest number (48,566 persons, 26.73 %). The following group is represented by job seekers with full secondary vocational education (level 14) with the number of 42,618 persons (23.45 %). A less numerous group comprised academically qualified job seekers (levels 17, 18, and 19) with the number of 22,858 (12.58 %), where most of them had the second-level degree – master’s degree (18,382 persons, 10.12 %). The smallest group consisted of academically qualified job seekers who earned the third-level degree – PhD degree, with an average number of 651 persons (0.36 %). The least numerous groups also included job seekers with advanced vocational education (level 16), with the number of 841 persons (0.46 %) and job seekers with full secondary general education (level 15), with the number of 6,781 persons (3.73 %).

Graph 2.15 Percentage of Job Seekers by Levels of Education in Slovak Regions in 2018



Source: COLSAF

¹⁵levels of education

10 Unfinished primary education	15 Full secondary general education
11 Primary education	16 Advanced vocational education
12 Lower secondary vocational education	17 University education – bachelor’s degree
13 Secondary vocational education	18 University education – master’s degree
14 Full secondary vocational education	19 University education – PhD degree
N/A Not specified	

By regions, the highest number of registered unemployed job seekers with primary or unfinished primary education (levels 10, 11) was in three regions. These were the regions of Prešov (43.41 %), Košice (42.85 %), and Banská Bystrica (40.31 %). In the regions of Žilina (32.93 %), Nitra (30.89 %) and Trnava (29.99 %), the largest groups of unemployed job seekers comprised those with lower secondary and secondary vocational education (levels 12,13). In the region of Trenčín (32.54 %), job seekers with full secondary vocational education and advanced vocational education (levels 14 and 16) accounted for the highest share in the total number of registered unemployed job seekers; there was an exchange of the order compared to the last year, when the highest percentage was reached by job seekers with levels 12,13. In the region of Bratislava, the highest share (36.08 %) in the number of registered unemployed job seekers was held by academically qualified persons with levels 17, 18, and 19.

By age structure, the largest group of job seekers in 2018 consisted of persons aged 55 – 59 years (23.5 thous., 12.94 % of all registered job seekers). The second largest group included job seekers aged 15 – 24 years with the number of 23.2 thous. persons (12.79 %), followed by job seekers aged 40 – 44 years with the number of 21.9 thous. persons (12.09 %).

Table 2.14 Structure of Job Seekers by Age in Slovak Regions in 2018 (in %)

Area (Slovak regions)	of which								
	15 – 24 y.	25 – 29 y.	30 – 34 y.	35 – 39 r.	40 – 44 y.	45 – 49 y.	50 – 54 y.	55 – 59 y.	over 60 y.
Bratislava	8.88	12.69	13.75	15.82	13.52	9.29	9.14	11.09	5.81
Trnava	12.52	11.99	12.24	12.93	11.92	9.59	10.62	12.54	5.64
Trenčín	12.23	12.06	11.90	11.45	10.98	9.43	11.41	13.82	6.72
Nitra	10.79	10.22	10.57	11.77	12.24	10.44	12.20	15.24	6.52
Žilina	13.98	12.37	10.97	10.57	10.60	10.53	11.58	13.77	5.63
Banská Bystrica	10.91	10.09	11.17	11.49	12.76	10.92	12.98	14.65	5.01
Prešov	15.73	12.04	12.03	12.11	11.83	10.71	10.78	11.27	3.50
Košice	12.66	11.14	11.68	12.13	12.42	11.62	11.69	12.49	4.17
Slovakia	12.79	11.41	11.68	12.06	12.09	10.68	11.50	12.94	4.85

Source: COLSAF

By duration of registration as a job seeker, in 2018, the average number of job seekers registered for more than 12 months was 74,684, a year-on-year decrease of 33,341 persons (30.86 %). The share of job seekers registered for more than 12 months in the total number of job seekers declined by 6.37 pp to 41.10 %; the average number of job seekers registered for less than 12 months declined by 12,498 persons (10.46 %) year-on-year. The number of job seekers registered for more than 48 months decreased year-on-year to 37,036 persons and accounted for 20.38 % of the total number of job seekers. In the group of job seekers registered for less than 48 months, the most job seekers were in the category of up to 3 months (47,121 persons, 25.93 %). The number of job seekers decreased year-on-year in all their groups.

The highest average number of female job seekers in 2018 was reported in the group of those registered for up to 3 months (23,707 persons, 23.49 %). The second highest number of female job seekers was in the group of registered for more than 48 months (22,792 persons, 22.58 %).

The average duration of registration as a job seeker in 2018 decreased year-on-year to 9.18 months (10.16 months in 2017).

Table 2.13 Average Number of Job Seekers by Duration of Registration in Months in 2018, by Slovak Regions (in Persons)

Area (Slovak regions)	total	of which										
		up to 3 months	4-6 months	7-9 months	10-12 months	13-18 months	19-24 months	25-30 months	31-36 months	37-42 months	43-48 months	over 48 months
Bratislava	11,173	4,080	2,749	1,338	696	673	389	234	165	132	109	610
Trnava	9,331	3,826	2,283	1,052	522	492	257	159	107	86	66	479
Trenčín	11,862	4,309	2,626	1,296	675	684	408	273	184	149	124	1,134
Nitra	16,063	5,121	3,327	1,710	927	1,004	616	399	301	279	246	2,133
Žilina	17,418	5,574	3,588	1,853	1,007	1,103	738	513	358	277	211	2,198
Banská Bystrica	31,751	6,743	4,867	2,910	1,821	2,099	1,484	1,153	865	745	622	8,442
Prešov	43,874	9,634	6,653	4,018	2,574	2,988	2,078	1,594	1,252	1,099	873	11,112

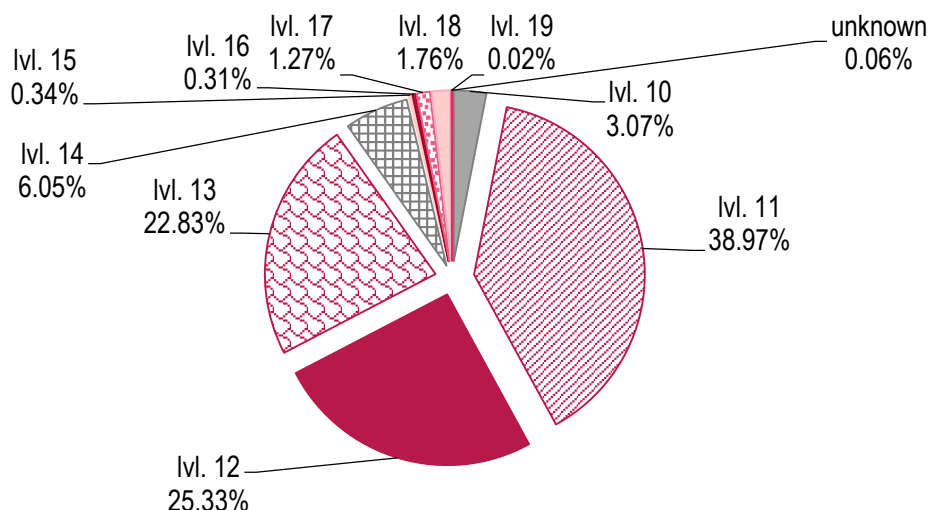
Košice	40,232	7,834	5,565	3,508	2,334	2,949	2,181	1,626	1,265	1,120	922	10,928
Slovakia	181,703	47,121	31,658	17,684	10,557	11,991	8,150	5,950	4,498	3,885	3,173	37,036

Source: COLSAF

In 2018, a monthly average of 80,054 **job vacancies** was reported at local Offices of Labour, Social Affairs and Family (hereinafter simply local OLSAFs), representing a year-on-year increase of 20,008 job vacancies per month. From a regional perspective, the highest average monthly number of reported job vacancies in 2018 was in the regions of Bratislava (20,026 job vacancies), Trnava (16,066 job vacancies) and Trenčín (10,459 job vacancies). The lowest average monthly number of job vacancies was offered in the region of Banská Bystrica (4,789 job vacancies).

Considering demand structured by finished education, in 2018, the most job vacancies required primary education (31,195 job vacancies, 38.97 %) and lower secondary vocational education (20,281 job vacancies, 25.33 %). The lowest number of job vacancies was available for job seekers with advanced vocational education (251 job vacancies, 0.31 %) and university education with PhD degree (14 job vacancies, 0.02 %). In 2018, there was no shift in the structure, but the number of job vacancies requiring primary education rose by 6.34 % year-on-year. The numbers in other groups did not change significantly.

Graph 2.16 Job Vacancies in 2018 by Education Requirements



Source: COLSAF; levels of education are defined in the footnote 15

By regions, the highest number of job vacancies for job seekers with primary education was reported in the regions of Trnava (9,880 job vacancies) and Bratislava (7,981 job vacancies), the lowest in the region of Prešov (771 job vacancies). The highest number of job vacancies for job seekers with lower secondary vocational education was reported in the region of Bratislava (5,989 job vacancies), followed by the region of Trenčín (3,087 job vacancies), and the lowest was recorded in the region of Banská Bystrica (1,221 job vacancies).

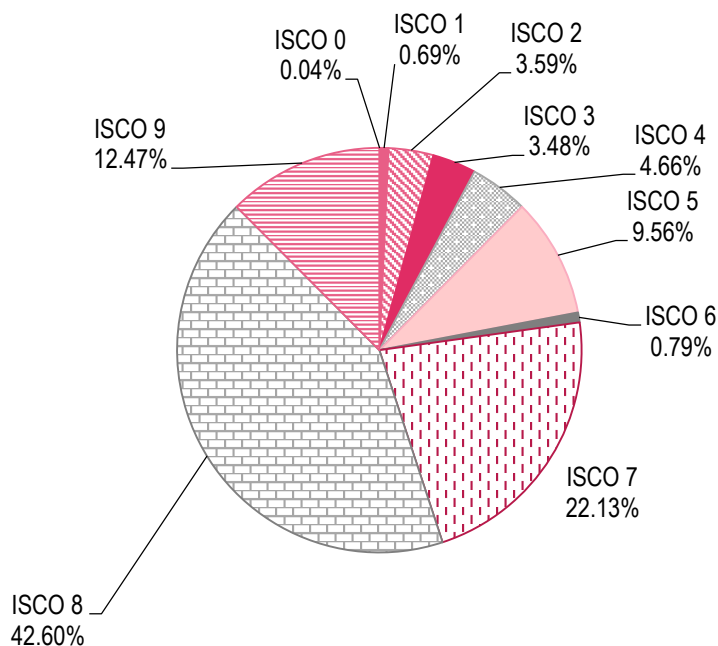
According to the SK ISCO-08 classification¹⁶, in 2018 the highest average number of **job vacancies** reported at local OLSAFs were jobs for plant and machine operators and assemblers (34,100 job vacancies,

¹⁶ SK ISCO-08

- 1 Legislators, senior officials and managers
- 2 Professionals
- 3 Technicians and associate professionals
- 4 Clerks
- 5 Service workers and shop and market sales workers
- 6 Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers
- 7 Craft and related trades workers
- 8 Plant and machine operators and assemblers
- 9 Elementary occupations
- 0 Armed forces occupations

42.60 %), for craft and related trades workers (17,718 job vacancies, 22.13 %), and for elementary occupations (9,979 job vacancies, 12.47 %). The lowest number of reported job vacancies comprised jobs for staff members of the armed forces (29 job vacancies, 0.04 %). There was no shift in the structure in 2018, but the number of job vacancies for plant and machine operators and assemblers increased by 12,327 job vacancies and for craft and related trades workers by 5,682 job vacancies year-on-year. The numbers in other groups did not change significantly.

Graph 2.17 Job Vacancies in 2018 by SK ISCO-08



Source: COLSAF

By regions, the highest number of job vacancies for plant and machine operators and assemblers was reported in the regions of Trnava (9,195 job vacancies) and Bratislava (8,494 job vacancies). The highest number of job vacancies for craft and related trades workers was offered in the regions of Bratislava (3,831 job vacancies) and Žilina (2,357 job vacancies). The elementary occupations were offered the largest number of job vacancies in the regions of Bratislava (2,977 job vacancies) and Trnava (2,221 job vacancies).

Disadvantaged job seekers

A disadvantaged job seeker is defined in Act No. 5/2004 Coll. on Employment Services and on alterations and amendments to certain acts, as amended, as follows:

- a citizen below 26 years of age, who has completed his/her systematic professional education in full-time study courses less than two years ago and failed to obtain his/her first regularly paid employment (hereinafter simply the school-leaver);
- a citizen over 50 years of age;
- a citizen maintained in the register of job seekers for at least 12 consecutive months (hereinafter simply the long-term unemployed citizen);
- a citizen with less than secondary vocational education;
- a citizen who had no regularly paid employment for at least 12 consecutive calendar months before registering as a job seeker;
- a third country national who has been granted asylum or has been granted subsidiary protection;
- a citizen living as a solitary adult with one or more people dependent on his/her care or caring for at least one child before the end of compulsory education;
- a disabled citizen.

These conditions define persons who have difficulties entering the labour market due to their age, duration of their job seeker registration, lack of practice, health, inability to continue the previous job, family reasons or position in society, and, therefore, require intensified care.

Table 2.15 Average Number of Disadvantaged Job Seekers in 2018 by Slovak Regions (in Persons)

Disadvantaged job seekers according to Section 8 of Act No. 5/2004 Coll.								
Area	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)
Region of Bratislava	506	2,905	2,380	1,113	5,376	0	25	197
Region of Trnava	592	2,684	1,686	1,826	4,563	0	24	377
Region of Trenčín	720	3,783	3,017	1,595	5,951	0	69	657
Region of Nitra	837	5,450	5,048	3,502	8,872	0	147	447
Region of Žilina	1,217	5,390	5,486	2,776	9,989	0	38	757
Region of Banská Bystrica	1,087	10,357	15,544	12,926	21,314	0	209	1,117
Region of Prešov	2,154	11,199	21,176	19,463	30,673	0	93	1,706
Region of Košice	1,665	11,393	21,150	17,537	28,483	0	239	1,182
Slovakia	8,778	53,161	75,485	60,737	115,220	0	844	6,439

Source: COLSAF

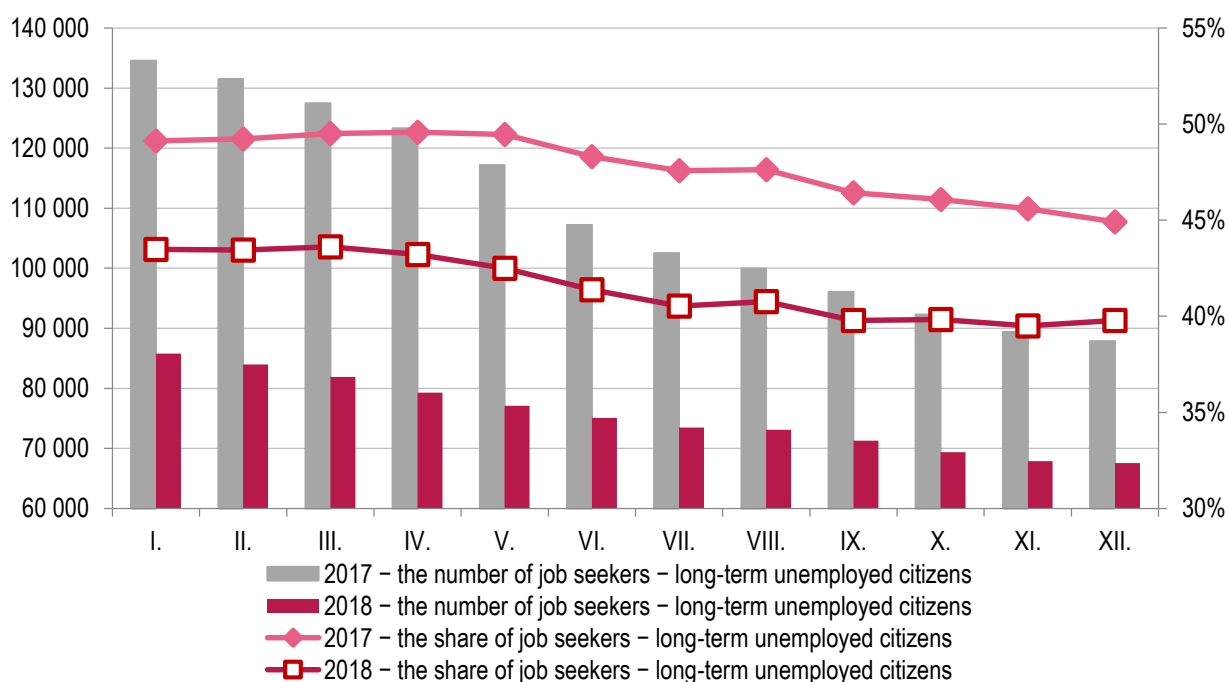
In regional terms, the highest number of disadvantaged job seekers in all groups (except for subpara. (b), (f), and (g)) was recorded in the region of Prešov. High numbers of disadvantaged job seekers were also recorded in the regions of Košice and Banská Bystrica. In 2018, the most numerous groups of disadvantaged job seekers in all Slovak regions were job seekers with no regularly paid employment for 12 months prior to enrolment and the long-term registered persons.

The largest group of disadvantaged job seekers are citizens who **had no regularly paid employment for at least 12 consecutive calendar months before registering as job seekers**, i.e. had no job that lasted at least 6 consecutive months. In 2018, there were on average 115,220 of them, representing a year-on-year decrease by 35,068 persons, i.e. 23.33 % (150,288 persons in 2017). Their share in the total average number of job seekers was 63.41 %, representing a year-on-year decrease of 2.46 pp (66.05 %).

The long-term unemployed citizens are the second most numerous disadvantaged group. In 2018, 75,485 long-term unemployed citizens were registered on average. Their number decreased by 33,639 persons (30.83 %) year-on-year.

The share of the long-term unemployed citizens in the total average number of job seekers in 2018 accounted for 41.54 %, a year-on-year decline of 6.42 pp (47.96 %).

Graph 2.18 The Number of the Long-term Unemployed Citizens in 2017 and 2018 and Their Share in the Total Number of Job Seekers



Source: COLSAF

In 2018, the average monthly number of job seekers from among **school graduates** reached 8,778 persons. It dropped by 3,123 persons (26.24 %) in comparison with 2017 (11,901 job seekers). Their share in the total average number of job seekers fell year-on-year by 0.40 pp from 5.23 % in 2017 to 4.83 % in 2018.

The development in the number of school-leaver job seekers is cyclical and affected mainly by the inflow of school-leavers into the register in accordance with the schedule of a school year for secondary schools and universities. The inflow of school-leavers generally peaks in September, when, after the holidays of secondary and vocational schools, the school-leavers get recorded at local OLSAFs. Another high inflow occurs in June due to the inflow of university graduates. Outflow is more pronounced in September, when some of the school-leavers are deregistered to continue their systematic professional education.

At the end of 2018, local OLSAFs registered 7,308 unemployed full-time study school-leavers, accounting for 4.30 % of the total number of registered job seekers (4.72 % in 2017). Compared with the same period of the previous year (9,230 persons), this represented a decline of 1,922 school-leavers (20.82 % relatively).

In terms of educational structure, the largest group at the end of 2018 comprised 3,359 school-leavers with full secondary vocational education (45.96 % of all registered school-leaver job seekers) and 1,623 university graduates with the second-level degree – master’s degree (22.21 %). The third largest group consisted of 1,107 job-seekers – school-leavers with secondary vocational education (15.15 %).

By the field of study, at the end of 2018 the “Social Sciences and Services” graduates accounted for the largest share (52.57 %; 3,842 persons). At the end of 2018, the number of job seekers in this group fell by 1,023 persons compared to 2017, while the percentage dropped by 0.14 pp year-on-year. The second most numerous group included “Technical Sciences” graduates with the number of 2,363 persons (32.33 %). A year-on-year decrease of 609 persons was observed in this group, while the percentage increased by 0.13 pp year-on-year.

In 2018, the average monthly number of registered job seekers **over 50 years of age** was 53,161. In comparison with 2017 (63,514 persons), this represented a decrease of 10,354 persons (16.30 %). Their share in the total average number of job seekers was 29.26 %, an increase of 1.35 pp compared to 2017 (27.91 %).

In 2018, there was a registered average of 6,439 **disabled** job seekers and their number decreased year-on-year by 1,579 persons. The share of disabled job seekers in the total number of job seekers in 2018 was 3.54 %, a year-on-year decrease of 0.02 pp.

The share of job seekers living as solitary adults with one or more persons dependent on their care or caring for at least one child before the end of compulsory education in the total average number of job seekers in 2018 declined by 0.02 pp to 0.46 %. In 2018, their registered number reached an average of 844 persons, which was 244 less than in 2017.

**Table 2.16 The Share of Selected Disadvantaged Groups of Job Seekers
in Total Number of Job Seekers (in %)**

Disadvantaged job seekers	2017	2018	year-on-year change (pp)
School-leavers	5.23	4.83	-0.4
Job seekers over 50 years of age	27.91	29.26	1.35
Long-term unemployed citizens	47.96	41.54	-6.42
Job seekers who had no regularly paid employment for at least 12 months before registering	66.05	63.41	-2.64
Disabled job seekers	3.52	3.54	0.02

Source: COLSAF

2.1.3.2 Unemployment according to Labour Force Survey by SO SR

Growth in total employment was accompanied by a decline in unemployment and its dynamics accelerated slightly on a year-on-year basis. According to the LFS methodology, the number of unemployed in 2018 decreased by 19.9 % (approx. 45 thous. persons) year-on-year, representing 179.5 thous. persons. Thus, the unemployment rate (according to LFS) dropped by 1.5 pp year-on-year and reached 6.6 %.

The average unemployment rate in 2018 decreased for both sexes year-on-year (by 1.4 pp to 7.0 % for females and by 1.7 pp to 6.2 % for men). A more considerable decline in the male unemployment rate compared to the female unemployment rate was reflected in an increase in the gender unemployment gap. In 2017 the male unemployment rate was 0.5 pp lower than the female unemployment rate, while in 2018 this difference amounted to 0.8 pp.

The specific **unemployment rate of youth (aged 15-24 years)** decreased year-on-year by 4.0 pp to 14.9 % for both sexes (by 4.1 pp to 16.1 % for females and by 3.8 pp to 14.3 % for males). The specific **unemployment rate of older people (aged 55-64 years)** decreased by 0.7 pp year-on-year and reached 5.3 %; it decreased for both sexes (by 1.2 pp to 4.5 % for males and by 0.4 pp to 6.1 % for females).

Table 2.17 Unemployment by Age in 2018 (Annual Average)

Region	Unemployed			Unemployment rate	
	thous. persons	Share in SR (in %)	Index 2018/2017	in %	Year-on-year change (pp)
SR in total	179.5	100.0	80.1	6.6	-1.5
of which age group					
15 – 19 years	8.0	4.4	85.1	36.4	-8.6
20 – 24 years	20.4	11.3	70.3	12.2	-3.7
25 – 29 years	27.3	15.2	86.7	8.7	-1.1
30 – 34 years	23.7	13.2	78.5	6.8	-1.7
35 – 39 years	22.1	12.3	76.5	5.8	-1.5
40 – 44 years	21.7	12.1	86.8	5.3	-1.0
45 – 49 years	16.5	9.2	80.9	4.9	-1.4
50 – 54 years	17.8	9.9	73.3	5.6	-2.1
55 – 59 years	17.9	10.0	87.7	6.1	-0.9
60 – 64 years	4.0	2.2	88.9	3.2	-0.6
65 years and over	0.3	0.2	50.0	0.7	-1.2

Source: SO SR, LFS

By the level of education, persons with primary education had almost 5 times higher unemployment rate (30.8 %) than the total unemployment rate in SR. On the other hand, the lowest unemployment rate was recorded for persons with advanced vocational education (2.3 %) (Annex to Chapter 2, Table 5).

By economic activity of the last employment, the unemployed who worked in industry accounted for the largest share (19.4 %). However, 25.7 % of the total average number of the unemployed in 2018 were those who had not been employed yet and those who had not been employed for 8 years or more (12.9 %).

Higher job creation in all regions and the integration of disadvantaged people into the labour market in 2018 positively reflected in the development of the number of the unemployed and the unemployment rates in all regions. The unemployment rates in regions with the highest (above-average) unemployment rate in the long term (i.e. the regions of Košice, Prešov and Banská Bystrica) continued to decline significantly.

In 2018, the number of the unemployed fell in all regions, ranging from 6.5 % in the region of Košice to 29.5 % in the region of Bratislava. The most unemployed were concentrated in the regions of Prešov and Košice (almost 44 % of the total number of the unemployed in SR).

However, a decline in the regional unemployment gap is still ongoing. The unemployment rate was above the Slovak average only in three regions (Banská Bystrica, Prešov, and Košice), while in the other regions it was

below the Slovak average. Positive development in the regions with the lowest and the highest unemployment rate was reflected in the decrease of regional gap from 8.8 pp in 2017 to 7.1 pp in 2018.

Table 2.18 Unemployment by Regions in 2018 (Annual Average)

Region	thous. persons	Unemployed Share in SR (in %)	Index 2018/2017	Unemployment rate in %	Unemployment rate Year-on-year change (pp)
SR in total	179.5	100.0	80.1	6.6	-1.5
of which:					
Bratislava	10.3	5.7	70.5	2.9	-1.3
Trnava	14.8	8.2	84.6	5.1	-0.8
Trenčín	8.9	5.0	72.4	3.0	-1.1
Nitra	16.1	9.0	72.9	4.7	-1.6
Žilina	18.9	10.5	82.2	5.5	-1.2
Banská Bystrica	32.0	17.8	77.5	9.6	-2.7
Prešov	40.0	22.3	77.1	10.0	-2.9
Košice	38.7	21.6	93.5	10.1	-1.0

Source: SO SR, LFS

The trend towards a gradual reduction in the rate of long-term unemployment was also ongoing in 2018.

According to SO SR data, an average of 104.3 thous. long-term unemployed (for over 12 months) lived in Slovakia in 2018, accounting for 58.1 % of the total number of the unemployed in SR. The number of the long-term unemployed fell by almost 30 thous. year on-year.

A positive development was observed in the group of the very long-term unemployed (for 2 years and more), whose number among the long-term unemployed decreased more significantly. The least educated persons had the largest share in the long-term unemployed. In Q4 2018, the unemployed who only attained primary or secondary vocational (apprenticeship) education without a school-leaving exam accounted for around 58.2 % of the total number of the long-term unemployed, thus representing about 51.1 % of the total number of the unemployed. At the same time, the aforementioned educational groups of the population are characterised by an above-average share of the long-term unemployed in the total number of the unemployed. A significantly higher share of the long-term unemployed was recorded in pre-retirement age groups (namely the long-term unemployed in the 55-59 age group accounted for approx. 69.6 % of the total number of the unemployed in Q4 2018). With regard to the distribution of long-term unemployment by individual regions, the largest share was reported in the region of Prešov, amounting to approx. 25.7 % of the total number of the long-term unemployed in SR. A significantly above-average share of the long-term unemployed of the total number of the unemployed (over 60 %) was mainly in the regions of Banská Bystrica, Prešov, and Košice. Only in three regions (Bratislava, Trnava, and Trenčín) the long-term unemployed accounted for less than 50 % of the total number of the unemployed.

Table 2.19 Unemployment by Its Duration in 2018 (Annual Average)

Duration of unemployment	Number of the unemployed (thous. persons)	Share of the total number of the unemployed (in %)	Index 2018/2017
Total	179.5	100.0	79.2
of which:			
up to 1 month	17.4	9.7	87.0
1 month to 3 months	15.9	8.9	87.8
3 months to 6 months	16.7	9.3	79.1
6 months to 1 year	25.3	14.1	76.2
1 year or over, of which:	104.3	58.1	79.1
1 to 2 years	26.8	14.9	79.5
over 2 years	77.5	43.2	79.0

Source: SO SR, LFS

2.1.4 Active Labour Market Measures

2.1.4.1 Evaluation of Legislative changes in Employment Services in 2018

Employment Services Act

In 2018, active labour market measures (ALMM) were aimed at promoting labour mobility, the creation of real jobs at both local and regional levels and the maintenance of the employment rate of a wider group of disadvantaged job seekers.

ALMM in the reporting period were carried out through the application of Act No. 5/2004 Coll. on Employment Services and on alterations and amendments to certain acts, as amended (hereinafter simply the Employment Services Act), which was amended in 2018 by:

- **Act no. 57/2018 Coll.** on Regional Investment Aid and on alterations and amendments to certain acts, namely in the field of investment aid to support initial investments by making a contribution for new jobs. The Act became effective as of 1 April 2018;
- **Act No. 63/2018 Coll.**, altering and amending Act No. 311/2001 Coll., the Labour Code, as amended, and which alters and amends certain acts imposing the obligation upon an employer to also state the amount of the basic wage component when publishing its job offer. The Act became effective as of 1 May 2018;
- **Act No. 64/2018 Coll.**, altering and amending Act No. 5/2004 Coll. on Employment Services and on alterations and amendments to certain acts, as amended, especially in promoting labour mobility and the conditions of employment of third-country nationals:
 - the conditions for entitlement to an allowance for commuting and an allowance for promoting mobility for work became more attractive. The maximum monthly allowances increased, the commuting allowance started to be provided irrespective of the mode of transport to work, the restriction of its provision in one municipality was removed, and the period of its provision for disadvantaged job seekers was extended. The scope for promoting mobility for work was also broadened by introducing a combination of both allowances to enable the provision of the allowance for promoting mobility for work to employees who move to their place of employment during or immediately after the period of receiving the commuting allowance;
 - a relocation allowance was introduced to cover the costs of a citizen's relocation to a new place of residence due to work;
 - the employer's obligations to whom third-country nationals are posted to work were extended to include the obligation to ensure adequate accommodation for posted workers, as well as the obligation to provide relevant documents proving their posting;
 - the conditions of employment of third-country nationals in selected professions were simplified, specifically in the professions showing a lack of skilled labour and in districts with the average registered unemployment rate of less than 5 %. The Act became effective as of 1 May;
- **Act No. 108/2018 Coll.**, altering and amending Act No. 404/2011 Coll. on Residence of Aliens and on alterations and amendments to certain acts, as amended, and which alters and amends certain acts stipulating the conditions of employment of third-country nationals performing work in the Slovak Republic. The Act became effective as of 1 May 2018;
- **Act No. 112/2018 Coll.** on Social Economy and Social Enterprises and on alterations and amendments to certain acts which provide for terminology in this social area, stipulate compensatory allowances for integration enterprises and the conditions of awarding exclusive contracts in public procurement in order to fulfil the mandatory share of employment of citizens with disabilities and introduce a contribution for integration enterprises. The Act became effective as of 1 May 2018 (except for Art. XIII (15) and (16) which came into effect as of 1 July 2018, Art. I Section 7(7), Section 16(1)(c), Sections 22 and 23, Art. XII and Art. XIV which came into effect as of 1 January 2019, Art. XVIII the fifth paragraph which shall become effective as of 1 January 2020, and Art. XIII the first paragraph, the third paragraph, the fifth paragraph, the eighth paragraph, the twelfth paragraph and paragraph 21 of Section 72ag which shall become effective as of 1 January 2021);
- **Act No. 177/2018 Coll.** on Certain Measures to Reduce Administrative Burdens by Using Public Administration Information Systems and on alterations and amendments to certain acts (the Anti-

bureaucracy Act), primarily amending certain provisions concerning temporary employment agencies, supported employment agencies and also providing for the area of demonstrating a clean criminal record for legal entities or natural persons and the removal of administrative burdens on natural persons and legal entities, since it is purposeless for public authorities to require proof of the facts contained in the documented extracts from relevant registers if they are able to verify such facts themselves through public administration information systems or such facts are known to them from their official activities. The Act became effective as of 1 September 2018;

- In addition to the aforementioned amendments, in 2018 a provision of Act No. 81/2017 Coll. came into force, which alters and amends Act No. 5/2004 Coll. on Employment Services and on alterations and amendments to certain acts, as amended, and alters and amends certain acts, namely Article I(10) allowing applicants to submit an application for inclusion in the register of job seekers, inter alia, on the basis of an application submitted by electronic means and signed by qualified electronic signature.

2.1.4.2 ALMM to Support Employability and Employment Growth and Their Implementation in 2018

According to the Employment Services Act, in 2018, these ALMM were offered to job seekers, job changers and employees, to place or retain them in the labour market:

a) increasing employability of job seekers and job changers

- Information and advisory services (Sect. 42)
- Professional advisory services (Sect. 43)
- Work preparation and training of a job seeker (Sect. 46)
- Contribution to a graduate practical training (Sect. 51)
- Contribution to activation programmes in the form of minor services for a municipality or self-governing region (Sect. 52)
- Contribution to activation programmes in the form of voluntary service (Sect. 52a)

b) support of employment, job creation and retention

- Employment mediation (Sect. 32)
- Work preparation and training of employees (Sect. 47)
- Contribution to self-employment (Sect. 49)
- Contribution to support the employment of disadvantaged job seekers (Sect. 50)
- Integration of disadvantaged job seekers applying for a job with an employer providing temporary employment (Sect. 50b)
- Contribution to support development of local and regional employment (Sect. 50j)
- Contribution to support job retention (Sect. 50k)
- Contribution to support job creation in the first regularly paid employment (Sect. 51a)
- Contribution to commuting (Sect. 53)
- Contribution to support mobility for work (Sect. 53a)
- Contribution to transport to work (Sect. 53b)
- Contribution to relocation for work (Sect. 53c)
- Contribution to new jobs created (Sect. 53d)
- Financial support for employment retention in small and medium-sized enterprises (Sect. 53e)
- Contribution for integration enterprises (Sect. 53f)
- Compensatory allowances for integration enterprises (Sect. 53g)
- Projects and programmes (Sect. 54)
- Contribution to establishing a sheltered workshop or workplace (Sect. 56)
- Contribution to retaining the employment of a disabled citizen (Sect. 56a)
- Contribution to self-employment of a disabled citizen (Sect. 57)
- Contribution to activities of an assistant at work (Sect. 59)
- Contribution to cover the operating costs of a sheltered workshop or workplace and transportation costs of employees (Sect. 60).

Most of the ALMM were implemented through national projects financed by the European Social Fund and co-financed from the state budget. In 2018, a total of **1,135,761 job seekers, job changers, or employees/jobs** were financially supported with a total amount of more than **184.1 mil. euros**. An overview of the implementation

of individual ALMM in 2018 is given in Annex to Chapter 2 (Overview of the Implementation of Active Labour Market Measures) and in Table 7.

2.2 Wages and Working Conditions

Evaluation of Legislative changes in Wages and Working Conditions in 2018

Minimum Wage

In accordance with Act No. 663/2007 Coll. on Minimum Wage, as amended, with effect from 1 January 2018, the Government of the Slovak Republic adopted the Decree of the Government of the Slovak Republic No. 278/2017 Coll. providing for the amount of the minimum wage for 2018. The said Decree established the minimum wage of **480.00 euros per month** and **2.759 euros** per hour worked. Compared to the minimum wage of 435.00 euros paid in 2017, it was a year-on-year increase of 10.34 %.¹⁷

Labour Code

As of 1 May 2018 Act No. 63/2018 Coll., altering and amending Act No. 311/2001 Coll., the Labour Code, as amended and altering and amending certain acts, came into effect. The said amendment introduced several changes; the most important of them include provisions on wage benefits for work, the implementation of which was divided into two stages (the 1st stage from 1 May 2018 and the 2nd stage from 1 May 2019). The amendment in 2018 introduced the following changes:

- the amount of a wage benefit for work on holidays increased from 50 % to 100 % of an employee's average earnings;
- when assessing the entitlement to a wage benefit for night work, the said amendment increased the wage benefit from at least 20 % of the minimum wage per hour and introduced two levels of wage benefits – for risky work, the amendment increase the wage benefit to at least 35 % of the minimum wage per hour with effect from 1 May 2018 until 30 April 2019; for general work, the amendment increased the wage benefit to at least 30 % of the minimum wage per hour with effect from 1 May 2018 to 30 April 2019;
- it introduced a wage benefit for work on Saturdays, which amounts to at least 25 % of the minimum hourly wage from 1 May 2018 to 30 April 2019;
- it introduced a wage benefit for work on Sundays, which amounts to at least 50 % of the minimum hourly wage from 1 May 2018 to 30 April 2019;
- the amendment stipulated that an employment relationship established by agreements on work performed outside an employment relationship shall be subject to certain provisions of the Labour Code governing employees' benefit entitlements for work on Saturdays, Sundays, night work and difficult working conditions, for which the minimum benefit amount is derived from the amount of the minimum hourly wage. The amendment also specifically established the procedure for calculating the benefit entitlement of an employee working under an agreement if he/she performs work on holidays;
- it extended the provision of Section 118 to include a new paragraph 4, under which wage also means a cash benefit that can be provided by an employer to an employee for work on summer holidays (the so-called 13th wage) and Christmas holidays (the so-called 14th wage);
- the amendment also deals with some sub-areas, the regulation of which was required by practical knowledge in order to reduce administrative burdens on employers and set forth procedures and options for addressing employees' benefit entitlements in specific cases.

Act on the Legal Status and Salaries of Mayors of Municipalities

- As of 1 December 2018 Act No. 320/2018 Coll., altering and amending Act No. 253/1994 Coll. on the Legal Status and Salaries of Mayors of Municipalities as amended, came into effect. The amendment introduced the following changes:

¹⁷ On 10 October 2018, the Government of the Slovak Republic adopted the Decree of the Government of the Slovak Republic No. 300/2018 Coll., establishing the minimum wage for 2019 of 520.00 euros per month for an employee who is paid a monthly salary and 2.989 euros per each hour worked by an employee, thus increasing the amount of the minimum wage by 8.33 % year-on-year.

- it increased the existing multiples adjusting the basic salary of mayors of municipalities depending on the population of a given municipality (village, town or city) by ca. 10 %;
- it limited the scope for an optional increase in the basic salary of a mayor by a municipal board's decision from 70 % to 60 %;
- it introduced a graduated entitlement to severance pay depending on the length of a mayor's term of office.

Act on Travel Allowances

With regard to travel allowances, MoLSAF Measure No. 148/2018 Coll. on Food Allowances was adopted.

- MoLSAF Measure No. 148/2018 Coll. on Food Allowances increased the amounts of food allowances for business trips as follows:
 - for a 5- to 12-hour business trip from **€4.50** to **€4.80**;
 - for a 12- to 18-hour business trip from **€6.70** to **€7.10**;
 - for a business trip longer than 18 hours from **€10.30** to **€10.90**.

The employee became entitled to the increased amounts of food allowances as of 1 June 2018.

A rise in the amount of food allowances in the time zone of 5- to 12-hour business trip increased:

- **the maximum amount** of an employer's allowance for food from **€2.48** to **€2.64** for one main meal, including a drink;
- **the minimum value** of a meal (luncheon) voucher from **€3.38** to **€3.60**, for which an employee is to purchase one main meal, including a drink.

2.2.1 Wages

According to SO SR data, the **average nominal monthly wage** of employees in the national economy¹⁸ amounted to **€1,013.00** in 2018, which represents a year-on-year increase by €59.00 (6.2 %). The growth of the nominal wage was 1.6 pp faster than in 2017. In 2018, **the average real monthly wage** of employees in the national economy rose by 3.6% year-on-year.

Graph 2.19 Development of the Average Monthly Wage since 2008 (in %)



Source: SO SR, Štatistická správa o základných vývojových tendenciách v hospodárstve SR 4. štvrťrok 2018 (Statistical Report on Basic Development Tendencies in the Slovak Economy in Q4 2018, in Slovak only)

The lead of growth of the average monthly nominal wage in the national economy over growth in the total labour productivity at current prices, which started in 2014, also continued in 2018. The total labour productivity at current prices, the growth of which creates scope for the growth of nominal wage in the national economy, rose by 4.3 %.

As in previous years, 2018 saw significant regional differences in the wage developments. **In the respective regions**, the average nominal monthly wages ranged from €775.00 (the region of Prešov) to €1,272.00 (the region of Bratislava), with a difference of €497.00. The average nominal monthly wage was higher than the national average only in the region of Bratislava; in other regions it was below the Slovak average.

The average nominal wage of employees in 2018 was higher than in 2017 in all regions; its year-on-year growth in 2018 was below the Slovak average in three regions (Bratislava, Nitra, Prešov). Compared to 2017, the year-on-year rate of nominal wage growth was faster in almost all regions in 2018 (it slowed down only in the region of Trenčín).

Table 2.20 Average Monthly Nominal Wage and Its Growth in 2017 and 2018 by Regions

	2017		2018	
	average wage in €	index 2017/2016	average wage in €	index 2018/2017
Region of Bratislava	1,200	103.4	1,272	106.0
Region of Trnava	890	106.3	952	107.0
Region of Trenčín	895	108.2	951	106.3
Region of Nitra	789	104.5	832	105.4
Region of Žilina	855	104.9	911	106.5
Region of Banská Bystrica	807	104.0	859	106.4

¹⁸ According to quarterly statistical reporting; less entrepreneurs' income; data are adjusted by a statistical estimate of non-registered wages; indices are calculated from comparable data.

Region of Prešov	734	103.7	775	105.6
Region of Košice	869	105.3	929	106.9
Slovak Republic	954	104.6	1013	106.2

Source: SO SR

By economic activities, the highest average nominal monthly wage was paid to employees carrying out financial and insurance activities (€1,857.00) and in the sector of information and communication (€1,849.00); both sectors had the highest year-on-year increase in the average wage in absolute terms (of more than €100.00, a national average was €59.00).

Compared to 2017, the average nominal monthly wage increased for all economic activities (a year-on-year increase of 1.5 to 9.5 %, or from €13.00 to €130.00 respectively).

Table 2.21 Average Monthly Nominal Wage and Its Growth in 2017 and 2018 by Economic Activities

Economic activities (SK NACE rev. 2)	2017		2018	
	average wage in €	index 2017/2016	average wage in €	index 2018/2017
A Agriculture, forestry and fishing	735	102.4	774	105.3
B,C,D,E Industry in total	1,046	104.8	1,119	107.0
B Mining and quarrying	1,079	96.9	1,179	109.3
C Manufacturing	1,031	105.4	1,102	106.9
D Electricity, gas, steam and air-condition supply	1,661	102.2	1,749	105.3
E Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	922	100.7	989	107.3
F Construction	670	102.9	713	106.4
G Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	866	104.3	933	107.7
H Transportation and storage	960	106.2	1,004	104.6
I Accommodation and food service activities	576	104.0	595	103.3
J Information and communication	1,719	98.8	1,849	107.6
K Financial and insurance activities	1,748	100.1	1,857	106.2
L Real estate activities	936	102.9	963	102.9
M Professional, scientific and technical activities	1,072	108.3	1,121	104.6
N Administrative and support service activities	887	100.2	900	101.5
O Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	1,215	105.2	1,311	107.9
P Education	879	105.9	920	104.7
Q Health and social work activities	945	104.1	1,013	107.2
R Arts, entertainment and recreation	737	106.0	807	109.5
S Other service activities	618	103.3	672	108.7
Economy in total	954	104.6	1,013	106.2

Source: SO SR

Both the average nominal monthly wage and the average real monthly wage increased year-on-year in all **size classes of enterprises** (the increase in real wage ranged between 0.6 % and 5.5 %, the increase in nominal wage ranged from 3.1 % to 8.1 %). Compared to 2017, its year-on-year growth in 2018 was faster in almost all size classes of enterprises (with the exception of enterprises with 20 - 49 employees). The average nominal monthly wage below the national average was paid to employees in smaller enterprises with fewer than 50 employees, including employees of sole traders; however, the average wage is also gradually increasing in these smaller enterprises.

Table 2.22 Average Monthly Nominal Wage by Size Classes of Enterprises

Number of employees	2017 (in €)	Indices 2017/2016		2018 (in €)	Indices 2018/2017	
		nominal wage	real wage		nominal wage	real wage
0 – 19	714	101.7	100.4	736	103.1	100.6
20 – 49	933	107.7	106.3	984	105.5	102.9
50 – 249	1,029	104.7	103.4	1,099	106.8	104.2
250 – 499	1,103	106.1	104.7	1,183	107.3	104.7
500 – 999	1,169	105.7	104.3	1,242	106.2	103.6
1,000 and over	1,247	105.4	104.0	1,348	108.1	105.5
Sole traders (estimate) ¹⁾	616	101.3	100.0	635	103.1	100.6
Total	954	104.6	103.3	1,013	106.2	103.6

Source: SO SR, Štatistická správa o základných vývojových tendenciách v hospodárstve SR v 4. štvrtroku 2017, Štatistická správa o základných vývojových tendenciách v hospodárstve SR v 4. štvrtroku 2018 (Statistical Report on Basic Development Tendencies in the Slovak Economy in Q4 2017, Statistical Report on Basic Development Tendencies in the Slovak Economy in Q4 2018, both in Slovak only) ¹⁾ wages of employees of sole traders

2.2.1.1 Average Monthly Gross Wages in Business and Non-business Sectors

The system of quarterly and annual statistical reporting in enterprises provides the basic data on the number of employees and total wages, but does not provide data with a more structured breakdown (e.g. by classification of occupation, age, work experience, education, gender) that is necessary for monitoring labour costs. Therefore, *the Information System on Labour Costs (ISCP)*, under the responsibility of MoLSAF, is also a part of the wage statistics and includes a regular longitudinal quarterly survey of average hourly and monthly earnings of employees in a detailed breakdown¹⁹. Due to different data sources, the average wages from the ISCP are somewhat different from the average wages according to the SO SR data obtained by statistical reporting.

According to the results of a nationwide survey from ISCP, **the average gross monthly wage** in the national economy in 2018 was **€1,163.00** (€1,203.00 in the business sector and €1,027.00 in the non-business sector). The median monthly gross wage in 2018 was €925.00, of which €933.00 in the business sector and €904.00 in the non-business sector.

The highest average gross monthly wage in 2018, taking into account the **level of education**, was earned by employees with university education with the third-level degree (PhD degree), namely €1,674 representing 144 % of the average gross monthly wage in the national economy. The wage of employees with university education with the third-level degree (PhD degree) averaged €2,323.00 in the business sector and €1,495.00 in the non-business sector (Annex to Chapter 2, Table 8).

By classification of occupations, the highest average gross monthly wage (€2,470.00) was earned by legislators, senior officials and managers (€2,637.00 in the business sector and €1,846.00 in the non-business sector) (Annex to Chapter 2, Table 9).

By age, the highest average gross monthly wage (€1,275.00) was earned by employees aged 35-39 years (in the business sector: €1,333.00 earned by employees aged 40-44 years, and in the non-business sector: €1,053.00 earned by employees aged 60 years and over) (Annex to Chapter 2, Table 10).

By regions, the highest average gross monthly wage (€1,523.00) was earned by employees in the region of Bratislava (€1,595.00 in the business sector and €1,205.00 in the non-business sector) (Annex to Chapter 2, Table 11).

By type of ownership, the highest average gross monthly wage (€1,463.00) was paid to employees of foreign-owned companies (€1,463.00 in the business sector to employees of foreign-owned companies and €1,198.00 in the non-business sector to employees of state-owned organisations).

The lowest average gross monthly wage in 2018 **by the level of education** was earned by employees with primary education (€790.00). The wage of employees with primary education reached €840.00 in the business sector and €593.00 in the non-business sector.

By classification of occupation, the lowest average gross monthly wage (€662.00) was earned by employees in elementary occupations (€714.00 in the business sector and €558.00 in the non-business sector).

By age, the lowest average gross monthly wage (€719.00) was earned by employees aged up to 20 years (€725.00 in the business sector and €601.00 in the non-business sector).

By type of ownership, the lowest average gross monthly wage (€869.00) was earned by employees in organisations owned by associations, political parties and churches (€918.00 by business sector employees of cooperative organisations, €831.00 by non-business sector employees of associations, political parties and churches).

By regions, the lowest average gross monthly wage (€916.00) was earned by employees in the region of Prešov (€901.00 in the business sector in the region of Prešov and €953.00 in the non-business sector in the region of Prešov).

An analysis of the **proportion of the components of the total average gross monthly wage** in 2018 (€1,163.00) shows that the basic wage accounted for the biggest proportion (66 %). Another important component of the average gross monthly wage comprised payments for days not worked, which accounted for 12 %, and the third largest component consisted of bonuses and remuneration (11 %) (Annex to Chapter 2, Table 13).

Considering gender, the average gross monthly wage in 2018 earned by men was €1,303.00 (€1,327.00 in the business sector and €1,120.00 in the non-business sector), while the average gross monthly wage in 2018 earned by women reached €1,015.00 (€1,027.00 in the business sector and €993.00 in the non-business sector).

¹⁹ Regular monitoring and evaluation of the level of average income and the structure of wages in the detailed breakdown by specific occupations arises from Council Regulation (EC) No 530/1999 concerning structural statistics on earnings and on labour costs and Commission Regulation (EC) No 72/2002 as regards quality evaluation of structural statistics on earnings.

The average gross monthly wage of women thus accounted for 77.9 % of the average gross monthly wage of men; the equivalent level was recorded in the same period of the previous year.

The amounts of wages earned by men and women approximate to each other the most in Class 4 - Clerks. The most striking differentiation between the sexes was observed in Class 1 - Legislators, senior officials and managers (Annex to Chapter 2, Table 12).

The average gross wage for **full-time employment** was €1,206.00 (€1,243.00 in the business sector and €1,074.00 in the non-business sector). Women working full-time earned an average of €1,060.00 per month (€1,072.00 in the business sector and €1,037.00 in the non-business sector), while men working full-time earned an average of €1,338.00 per month (€1,357.00 in the business sector and €1,179.00 in the non-business sector) (Annex to Chapter 2, Table 15).

By the level of education, in 2018, the highest average monthly wage was earned by women working full-time who attained university education with third-level degree – PhD degree (€1,900.00 in the business sector and €1,510.00 in the non-business sector). Academically qualified men with the third-level degree – PhD degree earned the highest average monthly wage in both the business and the non-business sector (€2,755.00 and 1,723.00 respectively). The lowest average monthly wages were earned by employees with primary education in both the business and the non-business sector. The biggest differences in wages between the business and the non-business sector with the same level of education were recorded in the category of men with university education, who holds the third-level degree – PhD degree, where the difference was €1,032.00. The wage difference in the group of women in the same category was €390.00 (Annex to Chapter 2, Table 14).

Considering the **main classes of SK ISCO-08**, men and women working full-time earned, in both the business and the non-business sector, the most on average in Class 1 – Legislators, senior officials and managers. Men were paid the lowest wage on average in Class 9 – elementary occupations (€820.00 in the business sector and €659.00 in the non-business sector). Women earned the lowest average wages (just as men) in Class 9 – elementary occupations (€678.00 in the business sector and €563.00 in the non-business sector) (Annex to Chapter 2, Table 15).

The average hourly earnings for labour-law purposes (Section 134 of the Labour Code) is determined only in the business sector. The average hourly earnings data by individual criteria are given in Annex to Chapter 2, Tables 16 - 20.

In line with the above-mentioned results of the comparison of earnings of both business and non-business sector employees, a more favourable result in the long term was recorded in the business sector. The biggest wage differences between men and women were recorded in managerial occupations. Men in the business sector earn by €784.00 more and women by €443.00 more than in the non-business sector.

Of the total number of employees (1,236,308) in the Information System on Labour Costs (ISCP) sample in 2018, regardless of working hours, 64.32 % of employees earned a wage below the determined national average (€1,163.00). Among the employees working full-time, 1.78 % earned the minimum wage.

2.2.2 Total Labour Costs

According to SO SR data (the data for 2017 were available at the time of the preparation of the report), the development of the Slovak economy was reflected in the acceleration of the total labour costs, which increased year-on-year by 6.2 %, i.e. to €17,909.00 per employee.

Out of the total labour costs in 2017, the total **direct costs** amounted to 72.60 % and the total indirect costs were 27.51 %, from which the subsidies received by the employer are deducted (- 0.11 %).

Table 2.23 Dynamics of Yearly Labour Costs per Employee in SR (in €)

Type of cost	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Total labour costs of which:	14,554	15,018	15,721	16,121	16,867	17,909
– direct costs	10,633	10,902	11,438	11,764	12,301	13,001
– indirect costs	3,936	4,132	4,305	4,375	4,578	4,927

Source: SO SR, Total labour costs survey

In 2017, the employer spent an average of €1,492.00 per month per employee, which was €86.00 more than in the previous year. The annual growth rate of the average monthly labour costs in 2017 increased by 1.6 pp compared to 2016 (Annex to Chapter 2, Table 21).

Direct costs per employee increased in 2017 by 5.7 % to €1,083.00, and their development accelerated by 1.1 pp compared to 2016. In the group of direct cost items, wages increased by 5.3 %, of which basic (tariff) wages and salaries rose by 5.8 % and bonuses and remuneration by 2.3 %. Out of €944.00 paid for wages, €728.00 were the basic (tariff) wages and salaries, €127.00 were bonuses and remuneration, and €54.00 were paid for extra pays and additional payments, wage benefits (an increase of 8.8 %). Bonuses for being on call to work outside the workplace increased by 2.8 %, payments for days not worked rose by 8.5 % to €130.00, and bonuses based on profit after taxation increased by 18.5 %.

In 2017, the **indirect labour costs** amounted to €411.00. Compared to the level reached in 2016, their development accelerated by 3 pp. Compulsory social security contributions increased by 7.9 % to €372.00, non-compulsory social security contributions grew by 6.7 % to €8.00. Among other indirect cost items, social benefits reached the level of the previous year (€12.00), of which food allowances fell by 4.9 %. Other payments to the social fund increased by 7.7 %. Social benefits provided by employers rose by 10.2 %, of which income compensation for an employee's temporary incapacity for work increased by 17.2 % and the costs of severance pay decreased by 1 %. The costs of vocational training for employees rose by 4.4 %. Other indirect labour costs increased by 1.7 %, of which the costs of recruitment rose by 17.1 %.

Table 2.24 Structure of Monthly Labour Costs in SR in 2017

Labour cost items	Share %	€	Index 2017/2016
1. – 16. TOTAL LABOUR COSTS	100.00	1,492	106.2
1. – 7. DIRECT COSTS	72.60	1,083	105.7
1. Wages	63.25	944	105.3
2. Payments for days not worked	8.68	130	108.5
3. Payments to employees' savings schemes	0.00003	0	18.2
4. Bonuses for being on call (to work outside the workplace)	0.19	3	102.8
5. Bonuses based on profit after taxation	0.33	5	118.5
6. Other direct costs for employees	0.14	2	108.4
7. Wages and salaries of apprentices	0.01	0	185.8
8. – 15. INDIRECT COSTS	27.51	411	107.6
8. Statutory social security contributions	24.95	372	107.9
9. Supplementary social security contributions	0.54	8	106.7
10. Social benefits	0.75	11	110.2
11. Employer's social insurance contributions for apprentices	0.0001	0	318.6
12. Social benefits	0.80	12	100.0
13. Employee vocational training costs paid by the employer	0.26	4	104.4
14. Wage-related fees and sanctions	0.003	0	66.4
15. Other indirect labour costs paid by the employer	0.21	3	101.7
16. SUBSIDIES	-0.11	-2	-156.6

Source: SO SR, Total labour costs survey

The long-term trend towards increasing differentiation in labour costs between economic activities also continued in 2017. The highest year-on-year growth in labour costs was recorded in the following economic activities: real estate activities (+ 10.5 %), arts, entertainment and recreation (+ 9.3 %), professional, scientific and technical activities (+ 8.2 %), accommodation and food service activities (+ 8.1%), transportation and storage (+ 8%), construction (+ 7.7%), and wholesale and retail trade (+ 7.6%). Compared to the previous year, labour costs did not decrease in any economic activity. In terms of the dynamics of monthly labour costs, their development accelerated year-on-year in arts, entertainment and recreation, transportation and storage, construction, professional, scientific and technical activities, accommodation and food service activities, wholesale and retail trade, manufacturing and education. In other economic activities, the development of monthly labour costs slowed down. The largest slowdown was observed in public administration and compulsory social security (4.2 pp), electricity, gas, steam supply (2.8 pp), and real estate activities (2.1 pp).

Above-average labour costs were spent in more than a third of economic activities. Just as in the previous year, the economic activity "information and communication" dominated with the highest labour costs (€2,654.00), which exceeded the average national level by 77.8 %. It was followed by financial and insurance activities (€2,627.00), electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply (€2,402.00), professional, scientific and technical activities (€1,901.00), mining and quarrying (€1,692.00), real estate activities (€1,580.00), manufacturing (€1,539.00). The rest of economic activities reached values below the national average. The least money per employee was spent in accommodation and food service activities (€907.00), other service activities (€974.00), administrative and support service activities (€1,090.00), arts, entertainment and recreation (€1,170.00), and agriculture, forestry and fishing (€1,190.00).

Considering the size of organisations, the most money per employee was spent by organisations with 1,000 or more employees (€1,732.00). Above-average levels were recorded in organisations with 500 – 999 employees (€1,648.00), 250 – 499 employees (€1,560.00), and 100 – 249 employees (€1,551.00). The lowest labour costs were recorded in small enterprises with 1 – 9 employees (€1,165.00) and organisations that employ 10 – 19 people (€1,300.00).

Regional differences in labour costs increased year-on-year by 13.6 %. Monthly labour costs in individual regions ranged from €1,204.00 (in the region of Prešov) to €1,894.00 (in the region of Bratislava), with an above-average level reached only in the region of Bratislava. Compared to 2016, monthly labour costs increased in all

regions. As for the dynamics of labour costs, their year-on-year growth accelerated in the regions of Bratislava, Trenčín, Banská Bystrica, and Trnava. In other regions, the development of monthly labour costs was slowed down.

Table 2.25 Monthly Labour Costs per Employee in 2017 by Regions (in €)

Labour cost items	BA	TT	TN	NR	ZA	BB	PO	KE
1. – 16. TOTAL LABOUR COSTS	1,894	1,411	1397	1,297	1,352	1,272	1,204	1,374
1. – 7. DIRECT COSTS	1,373	1,021	1,019	948	982	925	871	998
1. Wages	1,198	891	889	825	853	808	755	864
2. Payments for days not worked	157	123	124	116	120	110	106	128
3. Payments to employees' savings schemes	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	-
4. Bonuses for being on call to work	3	3	2	2	2	4	3	3
5. Bonuses based on profit after taxation	9	3	2	3	5	2	5	2
6. Other direct costs for employees	5	2	1	1	1	1	1	0
7. Wages and salaries of apprentices	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	0
8. – 15. INDIRECT COSTS	526	390	379	350	371	348	333	377
8. Statutory social security contributions	469	354	350	324	340	319	300	345
9. Supplementary social security contributions	11	8	6	5	8	7	5	9
10. Social benefits	17	12	9	8	9	8	8	8
11. Employer's social insurance contributions for apprentices	0	0	-	0	0	-	0	-
12. Social benefits	18	11	9	9	9	10	9	10
13. Employee vocational training costs paid by the employer	7	3	2	3	3	2	2	2
14. Wage-related fees and sanctions	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	0
15. Other indirect labour costs paid by the employer	4	2	2	1	2	1	9	3
16. SUBSIDIES	-4	-0	-1	-1	-1	-1	-0	-0

Source: SO SR, Total labour costs survey

2.2.3 Collective Bargaining

Pursuant to Act No. 2/1991 Coll. on Collective Bargaining, as amended (hereinafter simply the Collective Bargaining Act), the binding effect of higher-level collective agreements (hereinafter simply HLCAs) was extended to other employers in 2018.

The Collective Bargaining Act provides for a mechanism for a representative HLCA. Subject to compliance with precisely defined conditions, the ministry published a notification in the Collection of Laws of the Slovak Republic to the effect that a HLCA is representative and applies to other employers in the sector (division) or in a part of the sector (group). The range of employers on whom such representative HLCA is binding is set forth directly in the Collective Bargaining Act. In 2018, MoLSAF received five notifications of a representative HLCA, including an amendment thereto:

- The higher-level collective agreement for 2017 – 2019 concluded on 21 April 2017 between the Trade Union KOVO and the Slovak Glass Association, as amended by Amendment 1 with effect from 1 May 2017 to 30 April 2019 is representative in the sector designated at group level 23.1 – Manufacture of glass and glass products and 23.9 – Manufacture of abrasive products and non-metallic mineral products n.e.c. This representative higher-level collective agreement is binding on other employees and their employers in the sector designated at group level 23.1 – Manufacture of glass and glass products and 23.9 – Manufacture of abrasive products and non-metallic mineral products n.e.c.
- The higher-level collective agreement for 2018 – 2019 concluded on 6 February 2018 between the KOVO Trade Union and the Union of Engineering Industry of the Slovak Republic with effect from 1 February 2018 to 31 December 2019 is representative in the sector designated at division level 25 – Manufacture of fabricated metal products, except machinery and equipment, 26 – Manufacture of computer, electronic and optical products, 30 – Manufacture of other transport equipment. This representative higher-level collective agreement is binding on other employees and their employers in the sector designated at division level 25 – Manufacture of fabricated metal products, except machinery and equipment, 26 – Manufacture of computer, electronic and optical products, 30 – Manufacture of other transport equipment.
- The higher-level collective agreement concluded on 1 April 2018 between the KOVO Trade Union, the Independent Christian Trade Unions of Slovakia and the Association of Metallurgy, Mining and Geology of the Slovak Republic with effect from 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2020 is representative in the sector designated at group level 23.5 – Manufacture of cement, lime and plaster, 24.1 – Manufacture of basic iron and steel and of ferro-alloys, 24.4 – Manufacture of basic precious and other non-ferrous metals, 33.1 – Repair of fabricated metal products, machinery and equipment, and 82.9 – Business support service activities n.e.c. This representative higher-level collective agreement is binding on other employees and their employers in the sector designated at group level 23.5 – Manufacture of cement, lime and plaster, 24.1 – Manufacture of basic iron and steel and of ferro-alloys, 24.4 – Manufacture of basic precious and other non-ferrous metals, 33.1 – Repair of fabricated metal products, machinery and equipment, and 82.9 – Business support service activities n.e.c.
- The higher-level collective agreement for 2018 – 2022 concluded on 31 May 2018 between the KOVO Trade Union and the Association of Electrotechnical Industry of the Slovak Republic with effect from 1 June 2018 to 31 May 2022 is representative in the sector designated at group level 27.3 – Manufacture of wiring and wiring devices. This representative higher-level collective agreement is binding on other employees and their employers in the sector designated at group level 27.3 – Manufacture of wiring and wiring devices.
- The higher-level collective agreement concluded on 29 February 2012 between the Association of Construction Entrepreneurs of Slovakia and the Integrated Trade Union, as amended by Amendment 1 of 19 February 2013, Amendment 2 of 21 February 2014, Amendment 3 of 24 March 2015, Amendment 4 of 29 March 2016, Amendment 5 of 28 August 2017, and Amendment 6 of 19 April 2018, with effect from 1 March 2012 to 31 December 2021, is representative in the sector designated at division level 41 – Construction of buildings, 42 – Civil engineering, 43 – Specialised construction activities, and 71 – Architectural and engineering activities; technical testing and analysis. This representative higher-level collective agreement is binding on other employees and their employers in the sector designated at division level 41 – Construction of buildings, 42 – Civil engineering, 43 – Specialised construction activities, and 71 – Architectural and engineering activities; technical testing and analysis.

In 2018, 14 HLCAs concluded in the private sector and 16 amendments to HLCAs were deposited with MoLSAF, of which 15 amendments were concluded in the private sector and 1 amendment in the public sector.

HLCAs concluded in the public sector in 2017 and valid in 2018 were deposited in the Collection of Laws of the Slovak Republic only in January 2018. The number of HLCAs concluded in 2017 swelled by other 3 HLCAs and 2 amendments to HLCAs concluded in 2018, which means that the total number of concluded HLCAs and amendments thereto increased by 5 year-on-year. Compared to the previous year, the said increase was due to the overall development of the economy, as well as the economic results of employers who are associated in employers' unions.

In 2018, MoLSAF registered a total of 21 disputes, of which 18 disputes over the conclusion of collective agreements or amendments thereto were settled before a mediator, which is one dispute more than in the previous year. 13 disputes were resolved successfully before a mediator and the collective agreement was concluded; 4 disputes settled before a mediator were unsuccessful; in the case of 1 dispute, contracting parties had reached an agreement before a mediator became involved in the dispute. 3 disputes were settled in the proceedings before an arbitrator due to the designation of the trade union competent to conclude a collective agreement pursuant to Section 3a of the Collective Bargaining Act, which is one dispute less than in the previous year.

All of the disputes concerned the conclusion of collective agreements in the private sector. There were no disputes over the conclusion of collective agreements in the public sector.

2.2.4 Occupational Safety and Health

Legislative changes

In 2018, there were no legislative changes in occupational health and safety.

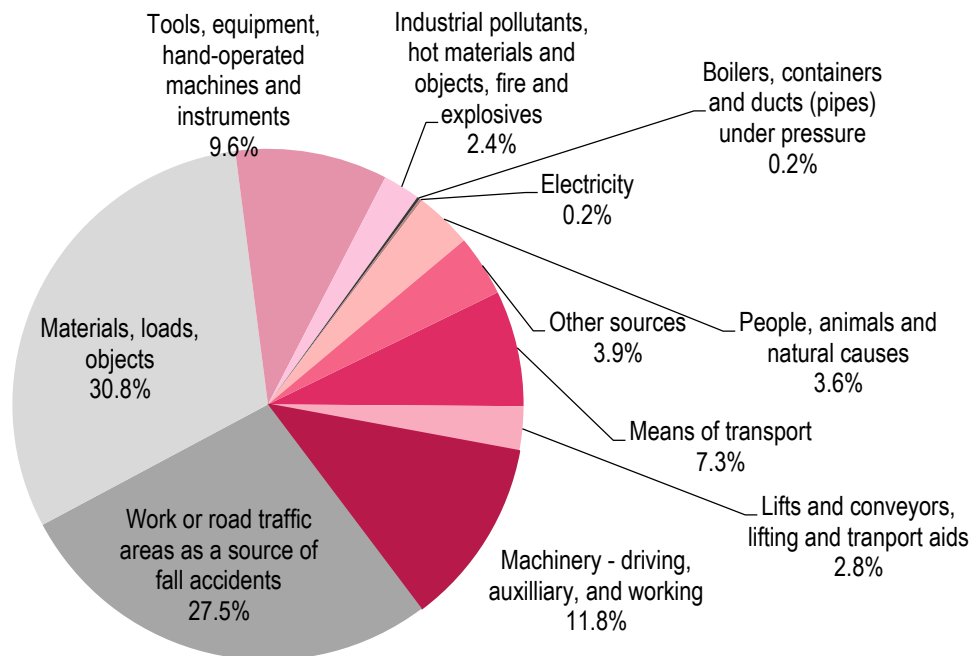
Occupational accidents

In 2018, a total of 9,080 registered occupational accidents were reported. Of the said number, 38 were serious fatal occupational accidents (hereinafter simply SFOAs), which means three SFOAs less than in 2017 (a decrease of 7.3 %). In the reporting year, there were 69 occupational accidents with severe personal injury (hereinafter simply SPIs). Compared to 2017, the number of SBHs decreased by 49 cases (41.5 %). In 2018, a total of 8,973 other registered occupational accidents were documented, i.e. accidents causing incapacity for work for more than 3 days without fatalities and accidents with severe personal injury (hereinafter simply OAs), constituting a year-on-year decline of 783 cases (8.0 %).

Most of SFOAs (81.58 %) were aggregated in three main source groups: means of transport (15 cases – 39.47 %), work or road traffic areas as a source of fall accidents (8 cases – 21.05 %), and materials, loads, objects (8 cases – 21.05 %). The most frequent sources of serious occupational accidents with SPIs included prime movers, auxiliary and working machinery, machine tools (18 cases – 26.09 %), means of transport (16 cases – 23.19 %), and handling materials, loads, objects, sharp edges or their fall (14 cases – 20.29 %).

In addition to unascertained causes (especially in traffic accidents (12 cases – 31.58 %), where labour inspectors only determine the mode of vehicle driving), the most common causes of SFOAs primarily comprised the use of unsafe working procedures or methods, including unauthorized action (13 cases – 34.21 %). The most common causes of occupational accidents with SPIs were unascertained causes (20 cases – 28.98 %), of which 13 SPIs were caused by traffic accidents. The use of unsafe working procedures or methods, including non-professional conduct (16 cases – 23.19 %) was the second most numerous cause.

Graph 2.20 Distribution of Other Registered Occupational Accidents by Source of Accident



Source: National Labour Inspectorate

Hazardous work

In 2018, the total number of employees performing hazardous work slightly increased by 2,834 employees (a total of 106,536), of which 463 were females (a total of 23,362). Similarly to previous years, most workers were exposed to noise, chemicals, physical load, vibrations, chemical carcinogens, mutagens and reproductive toxicants, heat and cold stress, and biological factors in 2018.

Compared to 2017, there were no significant changes in the monitoring of hazardous work by prevailing activity. Similarly to the previous period, in 2018 most employees performed hazardous work in manufacturing (75,352 employees) and human health and social work activities (9,208 employees). The largest share of women (79.9 %) among employees performing hazardous work is in human health and social work activities.

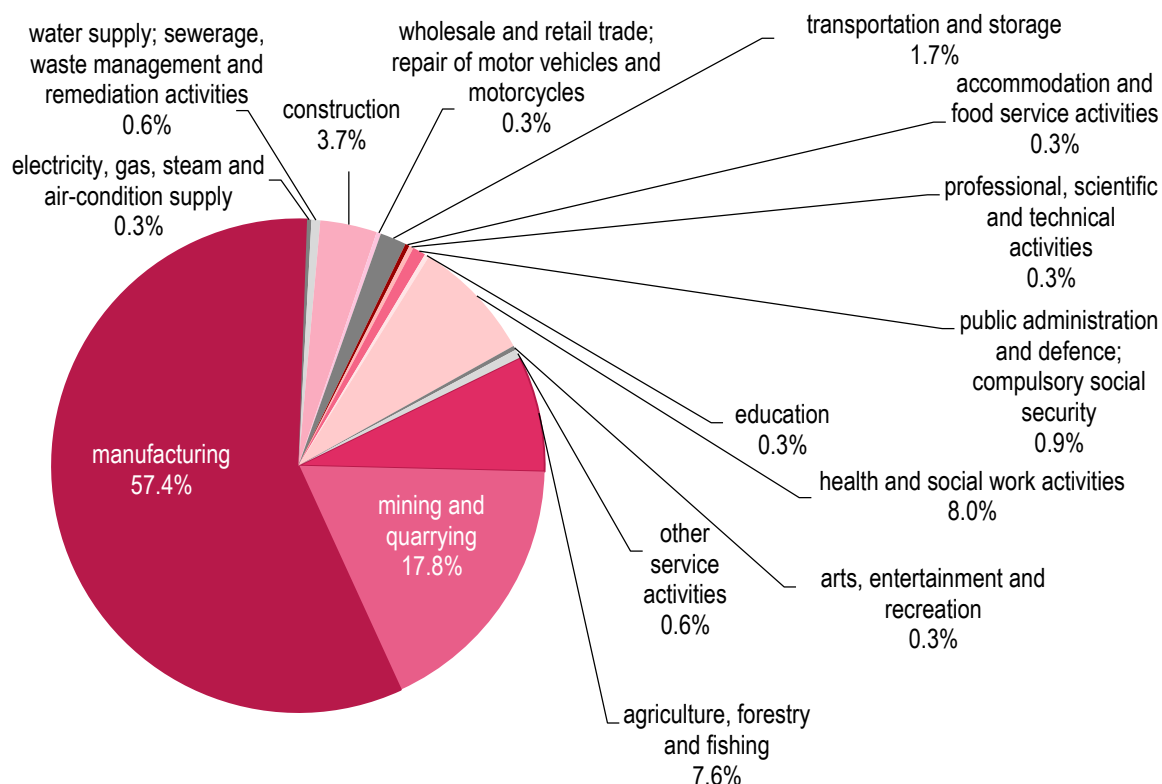
Occupational diseases

In 2018, a total of 307 occupational diseases and occupational poisonings were reported in the Slovak Republic, of which women accounted for 39.4 % (121 cases) of the total number of newly ascertained cases. Compared to the year 2017, in which 354 occupational diseases were reported, the number of reported occupational diseases dropped by 47 cases (13.3 %) year-on-year.

The most frequently reported occupational diseases (ODs) in 2018 were upper limb disorders caused by long-term excessive and one-sided loading, which were reported for 147 employees (47.9 % of all reported ODs in SR) and upper limb disorders caused by vibrations, which were reported for 55 employees (17.9 % of all reported ODs in SR). Noise-induced hearing impairments were reported for 28 employees (9.1 % of all reported ODs in SR).

The highest incidence of occupational diseases by the sectoral classification of economic activities was in manufacturing – 162 reported cases (52.8 % of all reported ODs in SR), mining and quarrying – 43 reported cases (14 % of all reported ODs in SR), agriculture, forestry and fishing – 34 reported cases (11.1 % of all reported ODs in SR), human health and social work activities – 24 reported cases (7.8 % of all ODs in SR), and in construction – 20 reported cases (6.5 % of all ODs in SR).

Graph 2.21 Occupational Diseases by Classification of Economic Activities



Source: National Health Information Centre

Note: Publication for 2018 is not available at the time of the preparation of the Report.

2.3 Social Economy

The year 2018 became crucial to the social economy in Slovakia. Recent social developments have called for a social economy act which would establish a framework for the functioning of social entrepreneurship in a different, socially responsible way of doing business that combines general interest, economic performance, social aspects, and democratic functioning. In line with the European trend, on 13 March 2018, the National Council of the Slovak Republic passed Act No. 112/2018 Coll. on Social Economy and Social Enterprises and on alterations and amendments to certain acts²⁰ (hereinafter simply the Social Economy Act), which entered into force on 1 May 2018; the Social Economy Act introduces the comprehensive regulation of the social economy sector in general and creates new comprehensive regulation of the functioning of and support for social enterprises in the Slovak Republic.

2.3.1 Social Economy and Social Enterprises

In line with the European trend, the Slovak Republic defined the measures to strengthen economic growth and employment in the strategy documents, and in education, employment and social inclusion, it set a goal of raising the employment rate of the population aged 20 – 64 to 72% by 2020 (from 65 % between 2011 and 2013) and lifting at least 170 thous. people from the risk of poverty or social exclusion (the base year is 2008). The experience of several European countries imply that a considerable progress can be achieved by supporting the measures to tackle socio-economic problems. Addressing the issues of unemployment and persisting high levels of poverty remains a priority throughout the European Union, including Slovakia. Despite economic recovery and job creation, it is still difficult for some population groups to reap the benefits of economic recovery, and therefore, it is necessary to implement measures to support various disadvantaged population groups, including the long-term unemployed, disabled, members of marginalised communities, low-skilled workers, young or older people, measures to promote their social inclusion, as well as measures aimed at redressing regional imbalances or combating poverty. Social challenges require the full exploitation of the potential of social innovation, for which scope is also created in the Slovak Republic, namely in a relatively unexplored area of the social economy.

2.3.2 New Legislative Framework

The Social Economy Act creates new comprehensive regulation of the social economy sector and comprehensive regulation of the functioning, control of and support for social enterprises in the Slovak Republic. The Social Economy Act introduces and defines concepts, establishes entities, providing support, defines the social economy sector and the state administration in this area, thus legislatively defining the social enterprise in a much broader context than contained in the existing legal provisions of Act No. 5/2004 Coll. on Employment Services and on alterations and amendments to certain acts²¹. As the name of the Act itself suggests, the Social Economy Act establishes a legislative framework for the whole social economy sector, not only for social enterprises. The Act defines the social economy as a summary of non-state activities which are mainly aimed at making a positive social impact. The Act also defines social entrepreneurship as a special type of business, which consists of the continuous supply of goods or services on the market, however, with the main objective of making a positive social impact. The new legislation allows social enterprises to attain countless socially beneficial goals far beyond the scope of labour integration or tackling employment issues. They can reach their goals by providing socially beneficial services in several areas, such as health care, social work, education and training, physical culture development, environmental protection and others, while also achieving their work integration goals.

The Social Economy Act is aimed at creating a favourable business environment for social entrepreneurship in Slovakia, bringing social entrepreneurship to order in terms and regulations, removing barriers to the development of the social economy, creating a support system for social enterprises, and stipulating rules to prevent the abuse of social enterprise status.

A specific feature of the social economy is that it can carry out activities related to production, distribution or consumption through the market, as is the case for social enterprises, but it can also do so outside the market, as is the case for non-market social economy entities. Therefore, the Act clearly defines that the said activities can be

²⁰ https://www.slov-lex.sk/pravne-predpisy/SK/ZZ/2018/112/vyhlasene_znenie.html

²¹ <https://www.slov-lex.sk/pravne-predpisy/SK/ZZ/2004/5/20180401.html>

carried out as part of an economic activity just as such term is construed in state aid, but also as part of a non-economic activity. Social economy entities that perform their activities as part of a non-market, non-economic activity do not fall under the rules of state aid.

The Slovak legislative establishment of a social enterprise introduced by the Social Economy Act is based on the definition created by the Regulation on a European Union Programme for Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI). The Act does not establish a new separate legal form for social entrepreneurship, but creates a coherent concept for entities of any legal form that undertake to meet the conditions of social entrepreneurship. The Social Economy Act defines the scope of a social enterprise by making a positive social impact within the bounds and in the context of social benefit, whether at the level of society as a whole (public interest) or selected community (community interest). A social enterprise under this Act carries out its activities in the social economy so that its main objective is to make a positive social impact, either through the goods or services it produces, supplies, provides or distributes, or through the way they are produced or provided – which means the way in which vulnerable or disadvantaged persons are involved in their production or provision.

2.3.3 Disadvantaged Person and Vulnerable Person

Following the example of the European legislation, the Social Economy Act introduces the definitions of a disadvantaged and vulnerable person; a disadvantaged person means a natural person who either has not been employed in the previous six months, except for an employment relationship not exceeding 40 days in the aggregate in a calendar year and if the total monthly wage or remuneration has not been higher than the subsistence minimum for one adult person under a special regulation, or is a person with disability. This definition covers, for example, persons over 50 years of age, persons who completed education lower than secondary vocational education, or persons belonging to a national or ethnic minority who needs to gain work experience in order to find permanent employment, or persons under 26 years of age who completed their systematic professional education in full-time study courses less than two years ago, and other defined disadvantaged groups. In line with the aim of advanced European legislations, the Social Economy Act provides for a broader view of persons with disabilities, and not only persons recognised as disabled under specific regulations, but also persons who are not recognised as disabled, but have long-term disabilities reducing their physical, mental and sensory abilities that prevent their full and effective involvement in the work environment compared to a healthy individual. The definition of vulnerable persons is equally extensive and covers, *inter alia*, natural persons in an unfavourable social situation under a special regulation, natural persons after release from imprisonment, custody or protective rehabilitation, asylum seekers or foreigners who are provided subsidiary protection under special regulations. A broad definition of disadvantaged and vulnerable persons allows these groups to become not only recipients of socially beneficial service, but also direct participants; it also enables them to become employees of social enterprises, many of which act as the intermediate labour market, thus increasing their social status and becoming fully included in functional society.

With its approach, the Social Economy Act promotes not only the idea of employing long-term unemployed persons who are registered at local OLSAFs, but also those who did not work or were not listed in the register of job seekers at local OLSAFs. By adopting this attitude, the Social Economy Act supports not only the idea of employing long-term unemployed persons registered at local Offices of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, but also those long-term unemployed who are not registered at such offices.

2.3.4 Registered Social Enterprise

In the procedure, MoLSAF grants the status of a registered social enterprise to applicants that meet the legal conditions. The conditions for registered social enterprises are exhaustively stipulated by the Social Economy Act. The ministry monitors and evaluates compliance with such conditions throughout the period of holding the status. It also maintains a list of holders of the registered social enterprise status and updates it regularly. In case of non-compliance with the conditions, obligations or misuse of support, the Social Economy Act directly imposes strict sanctions.

It defines three types of registered social enterprises according to the purpose of their activities – integration enterprise, social housing enterprise, and other registered social enterprise.

Integration social enterprise makes a positive social impact by promoting employment through the employment of disadvantaged and vulnerable persons. A positive social impact is measured by the percentage of employed disadvantaged and vulnerable persons, where a positive social impact is deemed to be made in the

event of employment of at least 30 % of disadvantaged persons, or 30 % of vulnerable persons, or 40% of disadvantaged and vulnerable persons of the total number of employees.

The purpose of defining **social housing enterprise** is to create scope for the development of rental housing in the non-profit sector, following the foreign models also existing in Slovakia. A positive social impact of a social housing enterprise means the provision of socially beneficial rental housing on condition that a municipality or a higher territorial unit (self-governing region) may not have a majority interest in this type of registered social enterprise. Socially beneficial rental housing means the provision of housing, management, maintenance and renovation of the housing stock through the construction, conversion or acquisition of flats in order to rent them out to eligible persons, which are defined by the Social Economy Act as natural persons who form a household and whose total monthly income under special regulations does not exceed four times the amount of the subsistence minimum. A positive social impact means the lease of at least 70 % of flats to eligible persons for rent corresponding to the cost of the flat.

Other registered social enterprise can be engaged in a very wide range of activities, from environmental activities (e.g. recycling, electricity or heat generation from renewable sources) through social and humanitarian aid by means of goods or services (e.g. goods specifically designed for and required by those dependent on such aid) up to cultural activities (e.g. non-profit provision of cultural opportunities for residents of smaller municipalities). All general provisions of the Social Economy Act apply to other registered social enterprises, including the need to make a positive social impact which is assessed individually when submitting an application for granting the status of registered social enterprise.

In 2018, MoLSAF granted the status of registered social enterprise to the first 7 applicants that met the conditions stipulated by the Act, of which 3 in the Region of Prešov, 3 in the Region of Košice, and 1 in the Region of Bratislava. All registered social enterprises were recognised as integration registered social enterprises. Five of them operate in the least developed districts.

2.3.5 Support for Social Enterprises

The current economic boom provides an opportunity to step up the introduction of social innovation aimed at improving the inclusiveness, resilience and fairness of labour markets, social protection systems, increasing the employment of hard-to-employ individuals, the employability of the low-skilled or redressing regional imbalances, thereby promoting convergence towards better living and working conditions of the Slovak population. As one form of modern innovative tools, the social economy offers social entrepreneurship which prefers a social mission to making profit, thus contributing to solving social problems of society, but also to economic growth. So far incomplete and fragmented legislation and statistics of the third sector, volunteering and social entrepreneurship have been a major problem and barrier to the development of the social economy in SR.

The newly created Social Economy Act is part of the overall strategy of the social economy development in the Slovak Republic. The social economy is built on three pillars – the legislative environment, advisory infrastructure, and financial support. Both the social economy and social entrepreneurship are a relatively new phenomenon for the public, the awareness of which needs to be raised with more information. Lack of information and experience could lead to the untapped potential and opportunities offered by the Social Economy Act for addressing persistent social problems, especially by targeting disadvantaged and vulnerable groups of people, for whom no effective measures have been taken yet in the public or general business sector. In addition, there was no system of financial assistance to support the activities of the social economy and social enterprises. The Social Economy Act therefore introduces and defines direct and indirect support for social enterprises. Since this is new legislation, it is necessary to take the individual steps gradually.

2.3.6 Social Economy Infrastructure

The national project “Social Economy Institute” implemented through the MoLSAF Implementation Agency is one of those three pillars, because it will create and pilot the functioning of the social economy supporting infrastructure, which will be built throughout Slovakia. The main objective of the project is therefore to create and pilot the functioning of the supporting infrastructure for the social economy in the whole territory of the Slovak Republic through the Central Coordination Unit of the Social Economy and Regional Centres of the Social Economy. The respective Regional Centres of the Social Economy will be established in each regional city. Their role is to provide free information to the public on social entrepreneurship, explain the rules of the functioning of

social enterprises and promote the public interest in their establishment and operations. A media campaign aimed at raising public awareness and the social dimension in business is an important part of the project. The correct application of the Act requires the creation of a uniform methodology, vocational training for staff who will provide the necessary assistance and support to potential applicants for the establishment of social enterprises, and the identification of social economy entities in the regions. By its intervention, the project will significantly contribute to the establishment of social enterprises at national and local level, support the development of regional employment and the intermediate labour market, improve opportunities for those interested in social entrepreneurship aimed at creating and providing goods and services for socially vulnerable persons (Annex to Chapter 2, Table 22).

2.3.7 Allowances for Support of Employment of Disadvantaged and Vulnerable Persons

In relation to the provisions of the Social Economy Act, altering and amending Act No. 5/2004 Coll. on Employment Services, in 2018 MoLSAF prepared the **national project “Support for Integration Enterprises”** aimed at supporting registered integration social enterprises. The said national project implements active labour market measures in the regions through local OLSAFs; these measures are aimed at promoting employment and reducing unemployment of disadvantaged persons, severely disadvantaged persons and vulnerable persons through the provision of allowances pursuant to Sections 53f and 53g of Act No. 5/2004 Coll. on Employment Services²². Disadvantaged persons, severely disadvantaged persons and vulnerable persons represent a specific group of disadvantaged citizens who are often dependent on the assistance and support of the environment. A disadvantage resulting, for example, from disability, age, long-term unemployment or lower level of education restricts access of such citizens to employment opportunities in the unprotected (open) labour market, which has an impact on their difficulties in finding a foothold on the labour market. These groups may also comprise persons who have or have not completed primary education, live only in the environment of their community, and the nearest town is the most distant place they have been to in their lifetime. They have communication problems, which also result in mobility problems, as they are unable to move outside the community. These facts are the main reason, why substantial financial support is provided for integration enterprises in the form of allowances that enable the creation of conditions for retaining employment in jobs in integration enterprises and subsequently in the open labour market. This is primarily done by financial contributions to the wage costs associated with the employment of disadvantaged or vulnerable persons, the additional costs associated with the employment of persons who are disadvantaged due to their state of health, the costs of assistance for other disadvantaged persons employed, and the so-called incentive allowance for an integration enterprise in the event that an employee terminates his/her employment in the integration enterprise within two years from the commencement of the employment and is employed in the open labour market by an employer that is not an integration enterprise.

2.3.8 Investment Aid for Social Enterprises

In 2018, MoLSAF intensively worked on the preparation of another **national project titled “Investment Aid for Social Enterprises – Non-repayable Component”**, which is aimed at developing and launching a functional investment support system for social enterprises, thus contributing to strengthening the employment of disadvantaged and vulnerable persons. Under the Social Economy Act, one of the defined forms of support for social enterprises is the provision of investment support as a combination of grants and financial instruments, i.e. a repayable and non-repayable component. The national project will create conditions for the provision of a non-repayable component of aid for social enterprises, specifically in a compulsory combination with support from repayable financial resources. The activities will include support for social economy entities to foster structurally stable employment by promoting entrepreneurship, establishing and supporting enterprises in a wider area of the social economy and enterprises in relation to the labour market and regional labour market needs, namely through grant support for social enterprises to cover some of the costs of their investment plan.

For more details on the social economy issues, see Annex to Chapter 2, Tables 22 to 24.

²² <https://www.slov-lex.sk/pravne-predpisy/SK/ZZ/2004/5/20180701.html>

3 SOCIAL PROTECTION

Social protection in the Slovak Republic is ensured by the social security system, consisting of social insurance, state social support, and social assistance.

3.1 Social Insurance

Social insurance protects the economically active population in the event of loss or reduction of earned income due to temporary work incapacity, need of treatment or care for a child under 10 years of age in legally defined cases, pregnancy or maternity, in old age or the event of death, in the event of reduced income earning capacity due

to long-term ill health, in the case of health damage or death due to an accident at work, an accident in the line of duty or occupational disease, in the event of an employer's insolvency and inability to settle employees' claims and to pay the compulsory contributions to old-age pension saving, in the case of loss of income as a result of loss of employment and to provide income in unemployment.

Under Act No. 461/2003 Coll. on Social Insurance, the social insurance system is divided into **sickness insurance, pension insurance, accident insurance, guarantee insurance, and unemployment insurance.**

In 2018, the following measures and changes introduced by amendments to the Social Insurance Act and relevant actions came into effect in social insurance:

With effect from 1 January 2018

Adjustment

Act No. 266/2017 Coll. established a minimum rate of the adjustment of pension benefits for 2018 - 2021 and a minimum rate of the adjustment of the injuries annuity for the same period. In the said period, pension benefits for pensioners increase under the applicable legislation by the percentage of a year-on-year growth in consumer prices for pensioners' households, but at least by a fixed amount of 2 % of the average amount of the relevant type of pension.

As of 1 January 2018, the minimum fixed amounts of pension increase are as follows:

- €8.40 for old-age pension;
- €2.60 for old-age pension paid in the amount of one half;
- €8.20 for early old-age pension;
- €3.00 for early old-age pension paid in the amount of one half;
- €7.20 for disability pension granted due to decreased earning capacity by more than 70 %; disability pension under Section 266 of the Act and social pension;
- €2.70 for disability pension granted due to decreased earning capacity by more than 70 % paid in the amount of one half and disability pension under Section 266 of the Act paid in the amount of one half;
- €4.10 for disability pension granted due to decreased earning capacity by up to 70 %;
- €1.70 for disability pension granted due to decreased earning capacity by up to 70 % paid in the amount of one half;
- €5.40 for widow's and widower's pensions;
- €2.40 for widow's pension paid in the amount of one half and widower's pension paid in the amount of one half;
- €2.60 for orphan's pension;
- €1.30 for orphan's pension paid in the amount of one half.

Recalculation of pensions granted before 2004

Pursuant to Act No. 184/2017 Coll., the Social Insurance Agency started to recalculate and increase the amounts of old-age pensions which had been calculated according to the legislation effective before 1 January 2004 and are lower than the amounts of old-age pensions determined under Act No. 461/2003 Coll. on Social Insurance effective from 1 January 2004 due to the high level of solidarity.

Christmas allowance

In 2018, a one-off increase of €12.74 in the amount of the Christmas allowance was again granted to those Christmas allowance recipients whose pension or total of pensions amount to no more than 2 times the subsistence minimum (€410.14 inclusive). The one-off increase together with the Christmas allowance could thus be granted in the amount of up to €100.00.

Pension age

The retirement age for 2018 was established by Decree of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic No. 227/2017 Coll. on Adjusting the Retirement Age and Reference Age for 2018 and is 62 years and 139 days.

Change in the conditions for entitlement to unemployment benefits and their payment

For the purpose of allowing access to unemployment benefits to a higher number of insured persons who have paid unemployment insurance contributions (for at least two years in the last four years before being registered as job seekers), the conditions for entitlement to unemployment benefits and the duration of the unemployment support period are unified for all insured persons. In order for insured persons to be entitled to unemployment benefits, they are required to be insured for at least two years in the last four years before being registered as job seekers. The unemployment benefit payment period (i.e. support period) is unified to 6 months for all insured persons, including those who have only been paid the unemployment benefits for 4 months, because they previously worked for a definite period or were paid the benefit from voluntary unemployment insurance.

Alteration of the conditions for entitlement to supplementary benefits

The legislation effective until 31 December 2017 allowed a beneficiary who was granted both a Slovak old-age pension and a Czech old-age pension to be entitled to supplementary benefits. As of 1 January 2018, insured persons who were granted a Slovak early old-age pension also became entitled to supplementary benefits.

Changes in the collection of insurance contributions

The reduction of administrative burdens for the vast majority of persons for whom old-age insurance contributions are paid by the state, specifically they are no longer required to submit applications and notices of cancellation at the commencement or termination of pension insurance. This condition is replaced by the provision of data by the Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic to the Social Insurance Agency in cases where, due to the exercise of its competence, it is aware of their social status (e.g. recipients of parental allowances, persons receiving care allowances).

A flat rate of accident insurance contributions of 0.8 % applies even after 31 December 2017, i.e. SR will not switch over to a differentiated rate depending on hazard classes and a bonus-malus system. This action prevented the creation of administrative burdens on the Social Insurance Agency and employers in particular, as the complicated setting of a variable accident insurance rate for employers was abandoned.

With effect from 1 July 2018

Pensioners have the right to determine an agreement on work performed outside the employment relationship, under which they will not hold the status of an employee for the purposes of pension insurance. Pensioners and their employers are thus exempt from paying compulsory pension insurance contributions, and employers are also exempt from payments to the Solidarity Reserve Fund. The exemption amounts to the assessment base of €200.00 per month, corresponding to a maximum of €2,400.00 per year. The foregoing applies to pensioners who were granted an old-age pension, disability pension, early old-age pension, invalidity pension for years of service, and a pension for years of service, provided that they reached the retirement age.

With effect from 01 January 2019

Concurrent receiving of maternity benefits

The legislation clearly provided for the option of concurrent receiving of maternity benefits for the child's father and mother, if the father, upon agreement with the mother, started to take care of the older child and the mother concurrently takes care of their other child. In addition, a more favourable calculation of the probable assessment base for determining the maternity benefit was established for so-called chain births.

Pension age

As of 1 January 2019, the method of determining the retirement age is changed. The retirement age is determined in years and calendar months and is known for five years in advance.

The retirement age of an insured person who

- a) will reach 62 years of age in 2019 is 62 years and 6 calendar months;
- b) will reach 62 years of age in 2020 is 62 years and 8 calendar months;
- c) will reach 62 years of age in 2021 is 62 years and 10 calendar months;
- d) will reach 63 years of age in 2022 is 63 years;
- e) will reach 63 years of age in 2023 is 63 years and 2 calendar months.

3.1.1 Sickness Insurance

Sickness insurance covers social events, such as temporary incapacity for work, pregnancy or maternity. The following benefits are paid from the sickness insurance system: **sickness benefits** (normally provided to employees only from the 11th day of the temporary incapacity for work), **nursing benefits**, **maternity benefits**, and **equalization benefits**.

According to Act No. 462/2003 Coll. on Income Replacement During Temporary Incapacity for Work and on alterations and amendments to certain acts, as amended, for the first 10 days of the employee's temporary incapacity for work the employer pays an employee an

income replacement during the employee's temporary incapacity for work, and the Social Insurance Agency pays the employee sickness benefits only from the 11th day of his/her temporary work incapacity.

Sickness benefits expenditure²³ paid in 2018 from the Social Insurance Agency budget reached €661.2 million. In comparison with 2017, the expenditure was higher by €96.4 million (growth index of 1.17). The rise in expenditure was due to a higher number of cases and an increase in the average amount of sickness benefits paid.

In 2018, the average monthly numbers of paid sickness benefits were as follows:

- sickness benefits: 121,846 cases;
- nursing benefits: 14,041 cases;
- equalization benefits: 72 cases;
- maternity benefits: 32,364 cases.

The average monthly number of cases swelled by 9,063 year-on-year. The highest increase in the average number of cases in absolute terms was recorded for sickness benefits (+ 5,123 cases). This increase was due to a higher average percentage of temporary incapacity for work. The average percentage of temporary incapacity for work (hereinafter simply TIW) due to disease and injury reached 3.25 % in 2017; TIW in 2018 increased to 3.78 % of the average number of insured persons in a given year (the lowest average percentage of TIW was recorded in the region of Bratislava – 2.33 % and the highest in the region of Prešov – 4.67 %). The average duration of sick leave in 2018 amounted to 42.98 days (the lowest average duration was 34.75 days in the region of Bratislava and the highest was 48.97 days in the region of Žilina), representing a year-on-year decrease of 0.77 days. By gender, sickness benefit recipients comprised 509,974 females (58.8 %) and 357,512 me (41.2 %).

The highest percentage increase in numbers was recorded for maternity benefits (+ 10.5 %). This increase was also influenced by the growing number of male recipients of maternity benefits, namely the number of such male recipients reached 12,836 in 2018 (a year-on-year increase of 95.9 %) and their share in the total number rose from 9.6 % to 16.9 %. In 2018, the average amount of maternity benefit was €840.10 for males, which is 36.6 % higher than the average amount for females and also affected a significant increase in the total average amount of maternity benefit paid.

The table below provides an overview of sickness benefits paid and average amounts of sickness benefits.

Table 3.1 Number of Cases and Average Amount of Sickness Benefits in 2018

Benefit	Number of paid benefits in 2018	Index 2018/2017	Average amount of benefit in 2018 (€)	Index 2018/2017
Sickness benefit	1,462,146	104.4 %	268.02	106.6 %
Nursing benefit	168,488	106.7 %	102.72	109.0 %
Equalization benefit	862	87.3 %	100.22	129.8 %
Maternity benefit	388,367	110.5 %	653.41	115.2 %

Source: Social Insurance Agency

²³ A summary of expenditures of the basic sickness insurance fund (BSIF) and sickness benefits in 2018 is given in Annex to Chapter 3, Table 1.

3.1.2 Pension Insurance

Pension insurance is divided into **old-age insurance** (insurance in case of death and to provide income in old age) and **disability insurance** (insurance in case of reduced income earning capacity due to long-term ill health and in case of death). The following pensions are paid from the pension insurance scheme: old-age pension, early old-age pension, disability pension, widow's pension, widower's pension, and orphan's pension.

In the terminology of pension benefits, **overlapping** of pensions means receiving the so-called direct pension (old-age, early old-age or disability) concurrently with the indirect pension (widow's pension or widower's pension) or, alternatively, receiving disability pension with the rate of a reduction in earning capacity of up to 70 % and over 70 % concurrently with orphan's pension.

As of 31 December 2018, a total of 1,685,109 pension insurance benefits were paid (excluding pensions paid by the state, e.g. so-called disabled at youth, spousal pensions, social pensions, as well as excluding pensions paid out abroad and pensions not taken into automated registration). A total of 27,813 pensions were paid out abroad.

In comparison with 31 December 2017, the number of paid pensions²⁴ in December 2018 was higher by 5.2 thous., representing a year-on-year increase of 0.3 %. In 2018, there was a year-on-year decline in the number of paid orphan's pensions (- 0.2 thousand), widow's pensions (- 0.8 thousand), and early old-age pensions (- 1.6 thousand). The most significant year-on-year increase was recorded in the number of old-age pensions (+ 4.8 thousand).

Table 3.2 Number of Paid Pensions and Average Amounts of Pensions in 2017 and 2018

Pension type	Number of paid pensions as at:		Average amount of (solo) pension in €:	
	31/12/2017	31/12/2018	31/12/2017	31/12/2018
Old-age (solo + overlapping) in total	1,064,393	1,069,255	428.31	444.26
Early old-age (solo + overlapping) in total	16,467	14,879	405.26	410.87
Disability (solo + overlapping) in total	235,706	237,616	265.59	268.89
Widow's (solo + overlapping)	294,914	294,053	250.06	255.94
Widower's (solo + overlapping)	47,147	48,348	195.40	201.67
Orphan's	21,253	20,958	131.07	133.71
Total	1,679,880	1,685,109	x	x
Pensions not taken into automated registration	11	55	x	x
Pensions paid out abroad	26,534	27,813	x	x

Source: Social Insurance Agency

²⁴ More detailed statistical data on the number of beneficiaries and amounts of individual pensions are given in Annex to Chapter 3, Tables 2 - 5.

In 2018, pensions increased by 0.8 %, which is the percentage of a year-on-year growth in consumer prices for pensioners' households reported by SO SR for the first half of 2017, but they increased at least by a fixed amount of 2 % of the average amount of the relevant type of pension reported by the Social Insurance Agency as at 30 June 2017.

Table 3.3 Average Amount of Overlapping Pensions at the End of 2017 and 2018

Pension type	Average amount of pension* in €	
	2017	2018
old-age overlapping with widow's (females)	469.6	487.8
old-age overlapping with widower's (males)	547.4	573.5
early old-age overlapping with widow's (females)	492.0	498.3
early old-age overlapping with widower's (males)	510.1	550.6
disability overlapping with widow's (females)	395.0	402.6
disability overlapping with widower's (males)	418.2	427.1

Source: Social Insurance Agency

*average amount calculated from the aggregated amount of both pensions

The threshold amount of the old-age unreduced pension which has already been adjusted by the relevant percentage (and not by using the minimum percentage adjustment of 2 % of the average monthly amount of the relevant pension) was €1,050.10.

Table 3.4 Pension Threshold Amounts Already Adjusted by the Relevant Percentage in 2018

Pension type	Threshold amount	Pension threshold amount paid in the amount of one half
old-age	1,050.10	325.10
early old-age	1,025.10	375.10
disability with a reduction rate over 70 %	900.10	337.60
disability with a reduction rate of up to 70 %	512.60	212.60
widow's and widower's	675.10	300.10
orphan's	325.10	162.60

Source: MoLSAF

Expenditure²⁵ on (system) pension insurance benefits in 2018 was almost €7.1 billion, representing a year-on-year rise in expenditure of 4.2 %. In addition, the state-paid pension benefits (a spousal pension, social pension, the so-called disability at youth pension, increase for immobility, increase due to sole source of income, resistance pension and increase for rehabilitation, including supplementary allowances for civil service and supplement benefits, a minimum pension) reached €87.4 million, of which expenditure on increasing the amounts of old-age pension and disability pension paid after reaching the retirement age **to the amount of the minimum pension**²⁶ amounted to €16 million. Since 1 January 2018, the Social Insurance Agency has been recalculating old-age pensions for pensioners who were granted old-age pensions under the legislation effective before 1 January 2004. As at 31 December 2018, a total of 56.2 million euros were used to increase such recalculated old-age pensions and paid to 109,616 pensioners.

Expenditure on payment of Christmas allowances²⁷ to some pension beneficiaries (without supplements, i.e. net of expenditure on Christmas allowances, paid in previous years) amounted to €74.5 million in 2018, while it

²⁵ An overview of expenditure on pension benefits as at 31/12/2018 is given in Annex to Chapter 3, Table 5.

²⁶ Paid from the state budget.

²⁷ It is a state social benefit.

was €75.8 million in 2017. In 2018 the total number of pensioners who were paid Christmas allowances was 1,179,494 persons, while in 2017 it was 1,175,964 persons.

The ratio of the average solo old-age pension paid as at 31 December 2018 to the average monthly wage (gross) for 2018 in the Slovak economy was 43.9 % (€1,013.00), a slight decrease compared to 2017 (- 1 pp). The ratio of the average solo old-age pension newly granted in 2018 to the average monthly wage (gross) for 2018 in the Slovak economy was 50.9 % (€1,013.00). As at 31 December 2018, a total of 4,731 recipients of solo old-age pensions (0.6 %) were recorded as exceeding the average monthly wage in the Slovak economy.

3.1.3 Accident Insurance

Accident insurance is the employer's insurance against **damage to health or death due to an accident at work, an accident in the line of duty or occupational disease**. Accident insurance benefits include the additional accidental benefit, injuries annuity, lump-sum settlement, survivor's injuries annuity, lump-sum compensation, professional rehabilitation and rehabilitation benefit, retraining and retraining benefit, compensation for pain and suffering and compensation for difficulties with social reintegration, compensation of cost related to medical treatment and compensation of expenses related to funeral. Under accident insurance, self-employed persons neither act as entities, nor are given the option of voluntary participation in this type of insurance.

A total amount of benefits paid in 2018²⁸ was €50.8 million, representing a slight year-on-year increase in expenditure (+ 4.9 %). The injuries annuity was the most frequent and financially demanding benefit. In 2018²⁹ a total of 86,599 injuries annuities were paid, a year-on-year increase of 1.0 %. The average amount of the injuries annuity for 2018 was €316.28, representing a slight increase compared to 2017; the expenditure of €27.4 million were spent on payment of these annuities (53.0 % of all expenditures of the basic accident insurance fund). The additional accidental benefit was the second most frequently paid benefit in 32,081 cases (a year-on-year increase of 1.8 %). Compensation for pain and suffering had the highest average amount per one case (€20,795.00), however, it only concerns two cases.³⁰

The injuries annuity increased by 2 % in 2018.

3.1.4 Guarantee Insurance

Guarantee insurance is insurance against the employer's insolvency resulting in its inability to settle the employee's claims. The employer of an employee in employment and of a cooperative member who is in employment with the cooperative is compulsorily insured. The insurance benefits include, for example, wage replacement, severance pay to which the employee is entitled upon termination of employment, claims for reimbursement of travel expenses, removal expenses and other expenses incurred in performing work duties, etc., if the employer is unable to meet its obligations towards employees due to becoming insolvent. Guarantee insurance benefits are paid from the guarantee insurance scheme. In addition, the guarantee insurance covers compulsory contributions to pension saving, unpaid by the employer to the basic fund of contributions to pension saving within the legally stipulated time limit. Under guarantee insurance, self-employed persons do not act as entities and, due to the nature of insurance relationships, voluntary participation in this type of insurance is not possible³¹.

A total of 1,702 benefits were paid in 2018 (Table 3.5), which represents a year-on-year **increase of almost 18 %**. The total expenditure of the guarantee insurance fund in 2018 was €16.1 million (i.e. expenditure on guarantee benefits and expenditure on mandatory contributions to pension saving unpaid by the employer to the basic fund of contributions to pension saving within the legally stipulated time limit), a year-on-year increase of 23.0 %. In 2018, the average benefit amounted to €1,517.59, representing a year-on-year decline of 4.4 %.

²⁸ An overview of the basic accident insurance fund expenditure is given in Annex to Chapter 3, Table 6.

²⁹ The average amounts and numbers of paid accident insurance benefits and state-paid accident insurance benefits are given in Annex to Chapter 3, Tables 7 and 8.

³⁰ This benefit is paid under the legislation in force and effect until 31 December 2003, pursuant to the transitional provision.

³¹ An overview of the basic guarantee insurance fund expenditures is given in Annex to Chapter 3, Table 9.

Table 3.5 Guarantee Insurance Benefit Expenditure, Number of Cases and Average Benefit Amount in € in 2018

Period	Number of cases	Average benefit amount in €	Guarantee insurance benefit expenditure in thous. €
January	18	1,644.44	29.60
February	174	2,057.46	358.00
March	122	1,686.41	205.74
April	110	1,884.90	207.34
May	67	1,534.42	101.35
June	299	720.53	214.26
July	162	700.50	113.48
August	155	1,564.50	242.12
September	394	1,893.03	745.85
October	45	1,884.84	82.49
November	118	1,779.37	209.97
December	38	1,813.76	68.92
Total	1,702	x	2,579.12
Average	142	1,517.59	214.93

Source: Social Insurance Agency

3.1.5 Unemployment Insurance

The unemployment insurance is insurance against loss of income from the employee activity as a result of loss of employment and insurance to provide income in unemployment. The unemployment insurance covers payment of **unemployment benefits**.

In 2018, the average monthly number of unemployment benefit recipients³² was 33,132 persons, representing an increase of 4.0 % compared to the average monthly number in 2017. The increase in the number of recipients was also connected with the moderation of conditions for entitlement to unemployment benefits, since insured persons (except for those who have been granted a period of unemployment insurance from employment for a definite period, or from a period of voluntary unemployment insurance) were provided with an extended decisive period, in which the necessary minimum period of unemployment insurance is determined from three to four years and with the unification of the unemployment support period. There was a total of 124,222 unemployment benefit recipients in 2018, of which 65,515 were women (52.7 %) and 58,707 were men (47.3 %). In terms of age structure, the largest share of unemployment benefit recipients was observed in the group of persons aged 30 – 34 years (the largest group of male unemployment benefit recipients consisted of men aged 25 – 29 years and the largest group of female unemployment benefit recipients comprised women aged 30 – 34 years).

The unemployment benefit expenditure in 2018 amounted to €183.7 million, representing a year-on-year rise in such expenditure of 9.6 %. The average monthly benefit in 2018 amounted to €409.71, which is 4.6 % more than in 2017.

³² More detailed statistics on paid unemployment benefit and unemployment benefit recipients are given in Annex to Chapter 3, Tables 10 and 11.

3.2 Pension Saving

Pension saving consists of old-age pension saving and supplementary pension saving:

II. pillar – old-age pension saving, contribution defined, financed through capitalization, carried out by pension fund management companies pursuant to Act No. 43/2004 Coll. on Old-age Pension Saving and on alterations and amendments to certain acts, as amended, which entered into force on 1 January 2005.

III. pillar – supplementary pension saving, contribution defined, financed through capitalization, carried out by supplementary pension fund management companies pursuant to Act No. 650/2004 Coll. on Supplementary Pension Saving and on alterations and amendments to certain acts, as amended, which entered into force on 1 January 2005.

3.2.1 Old-age Pension Saving Insurance

The aim of introducing old-age pension saving, which is a part of the mandatory pension system, was to diversify the risks of different methods of financing pension benefits, i.e. the continuous method of financing and the capitalization method of financing.

Old-age pension saving (II. pillar) is contribution defined and financed by contributions to old-age pension saving paid to personal pension accounts of the savers.

Subject to the terms and conditions stipulated by law, old-age pension and early old-age pension are paid from the old-age pension saving, namely in the following forms:

- certain annuity,
- pension paid by programme withdrawal,
- life annuity.

Payment of a widow's, widower's and/or orphan's pension may be agreed upon along with life annuity. Pension offers are mediated by the Central Information Offering System, which is administered by the Social Insurance Agency.

In relation to old-age pension saving, Act No. 97/2017 Coll. came into force in 2018, altering and amending Act No. 43/2004 Coll. on Old-age Pension Saving and on alterations and amendments to certain acts, as amended, and which alters and amends certain acts. The legislative change enabled the payment of old-age and early old-age pensions in the form of programme withdrawal or certain annuity if the sum of the amounts of pension benefits (old-age pension, early old-age pension, disability pension, widow's pension, widower's pension paid from I. pillar, which also includes an increase in the pension to the amount of the minimum pension; similar pensions paid under Act No. 328/2002 Coll. on Social Security for Policemen and Soldiers and on alterations and amendments to certain acts, as amended; a similar pension paid from abroad and the amount of life annuity from II. pillar) is higher than the reference amount. The reference amount is the average monthly old-age pension from the Social Insurance Agency (I. pillar) to which insured persons became entitled after 31 December 2003. The reference amount which is determined by the Social Insurance Agency was €432.40 in 2018. The said change is effective from 1 February 2018.

In 2018, there were no changes in the number or composition of the pension fund management companies. As at 31 December 2018, six pension fund management companies (hereinafter simply PFMCs) operated on the old-age pension saving market:

- Aegon, d.s.s., a.s., Bratislava,
- Allianz – Slovenská dôchodková správcovská spoločnosť, a.s., Bratislava,
- Axa d.s.s., a.s., Bratislava,
- Dôchodková správcovská spoločnosť Poštovej banky, a.s., Bratislava;
- NN d.s.s., a.s., Bratislava (former ING d.s.s.),
- VÚB Generali, d.s.s., a.s., Bratislava.

Table 3.6 shows the net value of assets managed by individual pension fund management companies by type of pension fund as at 31/12/2018.

Table 3.6 Distribution of Assets in Pension Funds as at 31/12/2018 (in million €)

Pension fund management company	Bond guaranteed pension fund	Mixed non-guaranteed pension fund	Equity non-guaranteed pension fund	Index non-guaranteed pension fund	Total as at 31/12/2018	Percentage of assets
AEGON, d.s.s., a.s.	593.85	0.00	61.86	39.16	694.87	8.6 %
Allianz - Slovenská d.s.s., a.s.	2,123.30	0.00	439.72	0.00	2,563.02	31.8 %
AXA d.s.s., a.s.	1,537.09	0.00	196.18	407.52	2,140.79	26.6 %
DSS Poštovej banky d.s.s. a.s.	351.78	0.00	51.19	25.13	428.10	5.3 %
NN d.s.s., a.s.	612.08	35.41	112.57	80.53	840.59	10.4 %
VÚB Generali d.s.s., a.s.	1,048.60	45.72	90.01	208.18	1,392.51	17.2 %
Total	6,266.70	81.13	951.53	760.52	8,059.88	100.0 %
Percentage of assets	77.8 %	1.0 %	11.8 %	9.4 %		

Source: NBS 2018; calculation: MoLSAF

In 2018, the Social Insurance Agency made compulsory **contributions** to pension saving in the amount of **€628.1 mil.**, a year-on-year increase of 19.6 %. This increase is due to a rise in wages and in the contribution rate from 4.25 % to 4.5 % with effect from 1 January 2018. The net value of savers' assets in pension funds increased from €7.6 bil. as at 31 December 2017 to €8.1 bil. as at 31 December 2018, representing a year-on-year increase of 6.1 %.

Allianz - Slovenská d.s.s, a. s. and Axa d.s.s., a.s. had the largest share in the Slovak old-age pension saving market in 2018 (representing together almost 60 % of the market). The most resources still remain in bond guaranteed pension funds, followed by equity, index and mixed non-guaranteed pension funds. Compared to 2017, there was a slight change in the distribution of assets in pension funds in favour of index funds (by 1.6 % in total). This shift in the distribution of assets may also be related to the fact that savers entering the II. pillar tend to choose more risky (non-guaranteed) funds.

Table 3.7 Comparison of the Distribution of Assets in Pension Funds for all PFMCs

Date	Percentage of the distribution of assets in pension funds for all PFMCs			
	Bond g.p.f.	Mixed n.p.f.	Equity n.p.f.	Index n.p.f.
31/12/2017	79.49 %	0.98 %	11.69 %	7.84 %
31/12/2018	77.75 %	1.01 %	11.81 %	9.44 %

Source: NBS 2018; calculation: MoLSAF

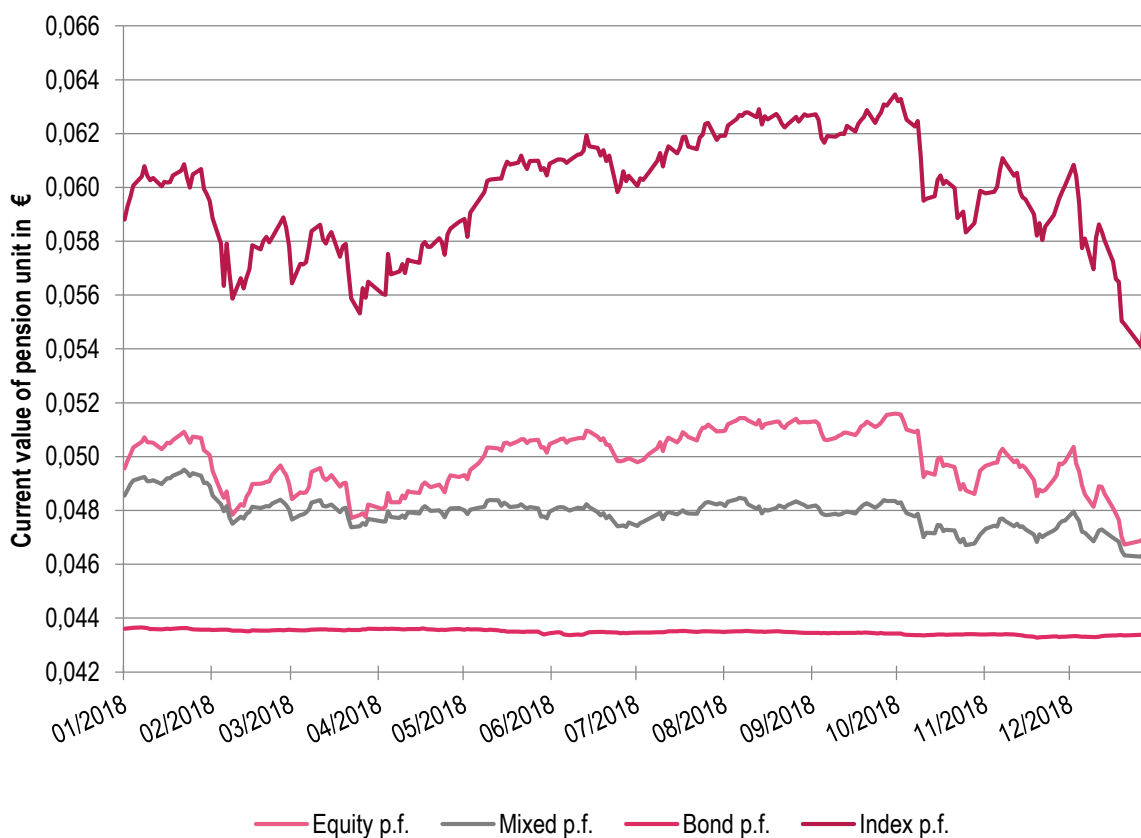
The average annual appreciation in all types of funds **significantly decreased** year-on-year, which was mainly caused by market fluctuations due to U.S. sanctions, concerns about the slowdown in global economic growth, protests in France, ambiguities around Brexit, and disagreements between the European Commission and Italy on budget approval.

Table 3.8 Annual Appreciation in Individual Pension Funds

Pension funds	Appreciation in 2017	Appreciation in 2018
Bond guaranteed	1.08 %	-0.51 %
Mixed non-guaranteed	5.49 %	-4.00 %
Equity non-guaranteed	6.26 %	-4.97 %
Index non-guaranteed	6.73 %	-6.61 %

Source NBS 2018; calculation: MoLSAF

Graph 3.1 Development of the Current Value of Pension Unit in Individual Pension Funds in 2018



Source: NBS 2018; MoLSAF calculation

The number of old-age pension saving savers as at 31/12/2018 was 1.49 million (Table 3.9) and almost 1.1 million savers on average made savings on a monthly basis. The distribution of savers in the individual pension fund management companies remained virtually unchanged compared to 2017.

Table 3.9 Number of Savers in Old-age Pension Saving Funds as at 31/12/2018

Pension fund management company	Number of savers	Percentage of savers
AEGON, d.s.s., a.s.	141,738	9.5 %
Allianz - Slovenská d.s.s., a.s.	447,263	30.1 %
AXA d.s.s., a.s.	365,869	24.6 %
DSS Poštovej banky d.s.s. a.s.	104,170	7.0 %
NN d.s.s., a.s.	149,499	10.1 %
VÚB Generali d.s.s., a.s.	278,980	18.8 %
Total	1,487,519	100.0 %

Source: Social Insurance Agency 2018; MoLSAF calculation

By age structure of savers,³³ the largest group in the old-age pension saving scheme comprised savers aged 31 – 40 years (about 35.3 % of the total number of savers).

Table 3.10 Breakdown of Savers by Age as at 31/12/2018

Age group	Number of savers	Percentage
up to 20	5,466	0.4 %
21 – 30	213,805	14.4 %
31 – 40	525,028	35.3 %
41 – 50	496,658	33.4 %
51 and over	246,562	16.6 %
Total	1,487,519	100.0 %

Source: Social Insurance Agency 2018; MoLSAF calculation

³³Graph of the age structure of savers and distribution of savers by age are given in Annex to Chapter 3

Payment of Pensions from the II. Pillar

In 2018, at least one pension insurance contract, or an agreement on pension payment by programme withdrawal was concluded by 1,621 savers. Thus, MoLSAF keep records of 1,621 savers who accepted the offer in 2018 and then concluded at least one contract for pension payment from the II. pillar; with respect to type of pension paid from the old-age pension saving system, 75 % of the savers receive old-age pensions and 25 % early old-age pensions.

In both 2017 and 2018, contracts for pension payment from the old-age pension saving system could be concluded in 3 insurance companies:

- Allianz - Slovenská poisťovňa, a.s.,
- Generali poisťovňa, a.s.,
- Union poisťovňa, a.s.

Agreements on pension payment by programme withdrawal could be concluded in 6 pension fund management companies:

- Aegon, d.s.s., a.s.,
- Allianz – Slovenská dôchodková správcovská spoločnosť, a.s.,
- Axa d.s.s., a.s.,
- Dôchodková správcovská spoločnosť Poštovej banky, a.s.,
- NN d.s.s., a.s.,
- VÚB Generali, d.s.s., a.s.

In 2018, the share of savers' contracts with pension fund management companies increased significantly and the share of savers' contracts with insurance companies decreased. In 2017 every third saver decided to conclude a contract with an insurance company, while in 2018 it was only every seventh saver. A growing majority of savers decided to conclude a contract for pension payment with a pension fund management company. A change in the breakdown of contracts was introduced by the legislative change of February 2018, which enabled the payment of old-age and early old-age pensions in the form of programme withdrawal or certain annuity if the sum of the amounts of pension benefits exceeds the reference amount.

Among insurance companies, the highest number of contracts (362) were concluded with Union. It was followed by Generali with 109 contracts and Allianz with 18 contracts. The interest in pensions of Union was apparently the greatest, because in most cases Union offered higher pensions than the other two insurance companies. But in its offers, Union expected a higher guaranteed yield (0.9 %) than Generali (0 %). A higher guaranteed yield allowed for in the calculation of an insurance company should, on average, be reflected in a higher monthly pension offered by that insurance company. However, an insurance company may produce a yield other than the guaranteed yield. If an insurance company produces a yield higher than the guaranteed yield, it is legally obliged to distribute at least 90 % of this surplus yield among pensioners. In 2017, Generali and Union achieved higher-than-guaranteed appreciation for both life annuity and certain annuity.

In 2018, the concluded insurance contracts for pensions paid from the old-age pension saving scheme could be divided into five categories:

- life annuity from the entire saved amount;
- life annuity in combination with programme withdrawal (from a portion of the saved amount) or with certain annuity (from a portion of the saved amount);
- certain annuity from the entire saved amount;
- programme withdrawal from the entire saved amount;
- a pension for savers under the "small saved amount" scheme, which is paid in the form of programme withdrawal or as certain annuity of no more than the median of minimum monthly amounts of life annuity without survivor's coverage and increase that insurers are willing to pay.

In 2018, a total of 346 (21 %) savers started to receive life annuities from the entire saved amount, a total of 42 (3 %) savers started to receive life annuities as well as pensions in the form of programme withdrawal from a portion of the saved amount, or they started to receive life annuities as well as annuities certain from a portion of the saved amount, paid out for 5, 7 or 10 years.

Annuities certain started to be paid from the entire saved amount to 67 savers (4 %), and a contract for programme withdrawal paid from the entire saved amount was concluded by 1,034 savers (64 %), where only those savers were entitled to such forms of pensions who met the condition (*valid from 1 February 2018*) that the sum of the amounts of pension benefits is higher than the reference amount. Pensions under the “small saved amount” scheme began to be paid to 132 (8 %) savers.

Table 3.11 Offers and Contracts for Pension Payment from the Old-age Pension Saving Scheme in 2018

Contracts concluded for:	Life annuity from the entire saved amount	346 (21 %)
	Life annuity in combination with programme withdrawal (from a portion of the saved amount) /or with certain annuity (from a portion of the saved amount)	42 (3 %)
	Certain annuity from the entire saved amount	67 (4 %)
	Programme withdrawal from the entire saved amount	1,034 (64 %)
	Pension under the “small saved amount” scheme	132 (8 %)
	TOTAL	1,621 (100 %)

Source: Social Insurance Agency; MoLSAF calculation

Table 3.11 shows that the most contracts concluded were in the form of programme withdrawal from the entire saved amount, where the average amount of the programme withdrawal from the entire saved amount (not allowing for the savers with programme withdrawal under the “small saved amount” scheme), which started to be paid as of 1 February 2018 (after the legislative change), reached €10,780.04.

3.2.2 Supplementary Pension Saving

Supplementary (voluntary) pension saving is part of the so-called III. pillar of the pension scheme, in which funds of participants are managed by supplementary pension fund management companies (hereinafter simply SPFMC).

The aim of supplementary pension saving is to allow participants in the supplementary pension saving scheme (hereinafter simply the participant) to gain a supplementary pension income in old age or supplementary pension income in the event of termination of work included by a decision of a health protection authority in category III or IV or until termination of work of an employee who is a dance artist or wind instrument player.

The participant is an employee who concluded a policy on supplementary pension saving with SPFMC (hereinafter simply the personal pension saving policy), or other natural person who was 18 years or over at the date of the conclusion of the personal pension saving policy.

Employees performing work classified by a decision of a health protection authority in category III or IV and employees who are dance artists or wind instrument players are required to conclude personal pension saving policies and their employers are obliged to conclude employer contracts within 30 days of the commencement of such work. Employers' contribution shall amount to at least 2 % of the assessment base.

Through supplementary pension saving, a participant saves money in SPFMC, which invests them for the purpose of its appreciation. The resulting sum of a supplementary pension saving benefit depends on the amount of funds that the participant and the employer transferred to the SPFMC throughout the saving period and on the appreciation rate.

The following benefits are paid from the supplementary pension saving upon fulfilment of the conditions stipulated in the Act:

- supplementary old-age pension, in the form of
 - lifelong supplementary old-age pension,
 - provisional supplementary old-age pension,
- supplementary long-term service pension, in the form of
 - lifelong supplementary long-term service pension,
 - provisional supplementary long-term service pension,
- supplementary single equalization,
- early withdrawal.

Participants who concluded their personal pension saving policies before 1 January 2014 and did not agree with the relevant SPFMC on the change of the personal pension saving policy (containing the abandonment of the benefit plan) are to continue their personal pension saving policies with benefit plans which stipulate special conditions for receiving benefits. Thus, the option of receiving supplementary compensation remains, but such participants are not entitled to a new benefit of early withdrawal. Neither may they claim the benefit of reducing the tax base by the amount of contributions they paid, up to a total of €180.00 per year.

As at 31 December 2018, there were 4 supplementary pension fund management companies active in the market, namely:

- AXA d.d.s., a.s., Bratislava,
- Doplnková dôchodková spoločnosť Tatra banky, a.s., Bratislava,
- NN Tatry – Sympatia d.d.s., a.s.,
- Stabilita, d.d.s., a. s., Košice.

Act No. 109/2018 Coll., altering and amending Act No. 650/2004 Coll. on Old-age Pension Saving and on alterations and amendments to certain acts, as amended, and which alters and amends certain acts, came into effect in 2018. Through legislative amendments, Directive (EU) 2016/2341 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 December 2016 on the activities and supervision of institutions for occupational retirement provision (IORPs) has been transposed into the Slovak legislation. With regard to the supplementary pension saving scheme, MoLSAF Measure No. 295/2018 Coll. Establishing Specimens of Personal Account Statements and Statements in Supplementary Pension Saving came into force in 2018. In addition to making the information on supplementary pension saving more transparent, the new form of statements also contains information on pension benefit forecasts. MoLSAF Measure No. 296/2018 Coll. on Information about Benefits from the Supplementary Pension Saving Scheme also came into force in 2018. The measure amended the content and structure of information about

supplementary pension saving scheme benefits provided to participants. Both measures entered into force as of 1 January 2019.

The number of participants in the III. pillar with non-zero assets on the contributory pension account was approx. 803 thousand as at 31 December 2018. It was an increase of more than 6 % compared to the end of 2017. The number of beneficiaries decreased year-on-year by 13 % to roughly 27 thousand. The number of participants in the saving period increased year-on-year in each of the supplementary pension fund management companies, while the number of participants in the pay-out period decreased year-on-year in all of the supplementary pension fund management companies. There was no considerable redistribution of participants among individual supplementary pension fund management companies year-on-year.

Table 3.12 Number of Participants in the Saving and Pay-out Period as at 31/12/2017 and 31/12/2018

Company	2017				2018			
	Number of participants in the saving period	Number of participants in the pay-out period	Total	Percentage of participants	Number of participants in the saving period	Number of participants in the pay-out period	Total	Percentage of participants
Axa d.d.s., a.s.	132,605	1,200	133,805	17.0 %	141,030	1,001	142,041	17.1 %
DDS Tatra banky, a.s.	201,109	9,086	210,195	26.7 %	221,147	8,832	229,979	27.7 %
NN Tatrý - Sympatia, d.d.s., a.s.	299,112	4,266	303,378	38.5 %	313,262	2,852	316,114	38.1 %
Stabilita, d.d.s., a.s.	124,515	16,095	140,610	17.8 %	127,761	13,908	141,669	17.1 %
Total	757,341	30,647	787,988	100.0 %	803,200	26,603	829,803	100.0 %

Source: Association of Supplementary Pension Fund Management Companies; MoLSAF calculation

In 2018, there was a year-on-year decline in the total funds prematurely paid in the form of supplementary pension insurance compensation, early withdrawal, and supplementary single equalization. But even in 2018, more funds were paid through lump-sum benefits compared to benefits paid for a longer period (supplementary old-age pensions and supplementary pensions for service).

Table 3.13 Overview of Supplementary Pension Saving Scheme Benefits as at 31/12/2017 and 31/12/2018

Type of benefit	Amount of benefits (mil. €) in 2017	Amount of benefits (mil. €) in 2018
Supplementary old-age pension	35.97	36.48
Supplementary long-term service pension	0.08	0.10
Supplementary compensation	16.27	14.17
Early withdrawal	4.80	4.45
Supplementary single equalization	39.64	37.67

Source: Association of Supplementary Pension Fund Management Companies; MoLSAF calculation

Compared to 2017, the net value of assets managed in supplementary pension funds rose by approximately 4.5 % to €2.01 billion.

It is still true that one of the reasons why participation in supplementary pension saving is so attractive is the participation of employers in the supplementary pension schemes of their employees. From 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2018, a total of 481 thousand participants received at least one contribution to the supplementary pension schemes from their employers. Further 74 thousand participants made at least one contribution to the supplementary pension saving schemes only by themselves. There were 248 thousand participants with non-zero assets in the contributory fund, who remained in 2018 without their contribution as well as without a contribution

from the employer, representing an increase of 6 % compared to 2017 (234 thousand contracts with no contribution).

The average employer's contribution increased from €26.90 in 2017 to approximately €33.50 in 2018. The average contribution of participants was €16.90 in 2017 and increased by 6.8% to €18.00 in 2018.

Compared to 2017, supplementary pension funds of all the companies reported negative results in the appreciation of the funds (Table 3.14), which was mainly caused by market fluctuations due to U.S. sanctions, concerns about the slowdown in global economic growth, protests in France, ambiguities around Brexit, and disagreements between the European Commission and Italy on budget approval. The average annual appreciation in supplementary pension funds in 2018 was ranging around the level of - 4.6 % compared to + 3.7 % in 2017. The performance of individual contributory supplementary pension funds reached the annual level ranging from - 11.1 % for the contributory supplementary pension fund (hereinafter simply "d.d.f.") "Comfort life 2050 DDS" of Tatra banka to - 0.5 % for the Conservative Contributory d.d.f. of NN Tatra - Sympatia. The average amount saved by participants with assets in contributory supplementary pension funds declined year-on-year by ca. 1.3 %, specifically from ca. €2,450.00 in 2017 to ca. €2,417.00 in 2018. The decline in the average amount saved by participants was caused by the negative appreciation in participants' assets as a result of the unfavourable situation on the markets and the increased number of new participants who have low savings due to the short period of making contributions.

Table 3.14 Details of the Amounts of and Appreciation in the Assets in Supplementary Pension Funds as at 31 December 2018

Company	Assets in contributory supplementary pension funds (mil. €)	Assets in pay-out supplementary pension funds (mil. €)	Total assets (mil. €)	Annual appreciation in supplementary pension funds ³⁴
Axa d.d.s., a.s.	284.3	5.9	290.2	- 2.9 %
DDS Tatra banky, a.s.	604.0	18.1	622.1	- 6.9 %
NN Tatra - Sympatia, d.d.s., a.s.	755.4	21.0	776.4	- 3.1 %*
Stabilita, d.d.s., a.s.	297.4	22.9	320.3	- 5.2 %
Total	1,941.1	67.9	2,009	- 4.6 %

Source: NBS, calculation: MoLSAF

* On 1 July 2018, NN Tatra – Sympatia d.d.s., a.s. introduced a new Index contributory d.d.f. which, due to its short existence, has not been included in the annual appreciation in supplementary pension funds.

³⁴ The annual appreciation in supplementary pension funds is the average of the annual appreciation in the funds of the relevant supplementary pension fund management company, weighted by the ratio of the net asset value of the relevant fund to the net asset value of all the funds of that supplementary pension fund management company.

3.3 State Social Support

State support for families is mainly provided by the system of **state social benefits**, constituting a set of monetary payments, with which the state participates in dealing with several life events, especially for families with dependent children³⁵. State social benefits contribute to covering the costs of nurture and other personal needs of children and also the costs associated with other social events.

The state social support system in 2018 consisted of the following lump-sum and recurring benefits:

- child allowance,
- child allowance supplement,
- parental allowance,
- childcare allowance,
- birth allowance,
- multiple children birth allowance,
- funeral allowance.

3.3.1 Child Allowance

By the number of beneficiaries, a child allowance is the most extensive state social support benefit. A child's parent and a natural person who was entrusted with the care of a child (including a dependent child of full legal age) by a court's decision are entitled to a child allowance. With effect from 1 January 2004, the adoption of Act No. 600/2003 Coll. on Child Allowance and on altering and amending Act No. 461/2003 Coll. on Social Insurance, as amended, introduced the provision of a flat-rate child allowance per month for each dependent child under 25 years of age who attends full-time study courses at a secondary school or university regardless of parental income. With effect from 1 April 2004, this Act also introduced a single payer of the child allowance – local OLSAFs.

With effect from 1 January 2018, MoLSAF Measure No. 234/2017 Coll. adjusted the amount of the child allowance from €23.52 to €23.68 and the amount of the child allowance supplement from €11.02 to €11.10.

Table 3.15 Child Allowance

Year	Average monthly number of beneficiaries	Average monthly number of dependent children
2017	650,649	1,085,960
2018	649,300	1,084,156

Source: RSD MIS, including allowances paid out abroad

In 2018, the average monthly number of child allowance beneficiaries reached 649,300 per 1,084,156 dependent children. Compared to 2017, the average monthly number of beneficiaries decreased by 1,349 and the average monthly number of dependent children dropped by 1,804. The average monthly number of beneficiaries in relative terms fell by 0.21 % year-on-year and the average monthly number of children decreased by 0.17 % year-on-year; this decrease is considered long-term (however, it slowed down in 2017) and is caused by the demographic development and the family structure in Slovakia.

The amount paid for child allowances and child allowance supplements in 2018 was €313,071,926.00, a year-on-year increase of €1,634.3 thousand.³⁶

The highest number of beneficiaries is traditionally recorded in the regions of Prešov, Košice, and Žilina (this is related to the total population of each region), and so is the number of children and, consequently, the highest spending. In these three regions, the average number of children per applicant is the highest, while in the regions of Bratislava and Trnava the ratio is the lowest. Beneficiaries receiving the allowance for one dependent child are traditionally the most numerous group (more than 50 % of the total number of beneficiaries). The overall structure of beneficiaries changed only slightly year-on-year, specifically to the detriment of beneficiaries with one child.

³⁵ In addition to the state social benefit system, the state support families by other means, for example by **maternity benefit** (sickness insurance benefit), **tax credit** (competence of tax offices), and **maternity and parental leave**.

³⁶ data from the Draft Closing Account of Budget Section 22 - MoLSAF

Table 3.16 Child Allowance Beneficiaries by Number of Children

year/number	2017	2018
one child	330,763	329,212
	50.80 %	50.70 %
two children	244,172	244,486
	37.50 %	37.65 %
three children	55,032	55,271
	8.45 %	8.51 %
four or more children	21,152	20,849
	3.25 %	3.21 %

Source: RSD MIS

3.3.2 Child Allowance Supplement

Act No. 532/2007 Coll., altering and amending Act No. 600/2003 Coll. on Child Allowance and on alterations and amendments to Act No. 461/2003 Coll. on Social Insurance and on alterations and amendments to Act No. 599/2003 Coll. on Assistance in Material Need and on alterations and amendments to certain acts, as amended, with effect from 1 January 2008 put into practice the child allowance supplement, granted to parents who receive an old-age pension, early old-age pension, disability pension due to decreased earning capacity by more than 70 %, or a pension for service after reaching the age of entitlement to an old-age pension, care allowance, provided that they are not in gainful employment and were not granted a tax credit.

The person entitled to claim the child allowance supplement means a child's parent or a person to whom the dependent child is placed in alternative care.

The Act stipulates that the child allowance supplement may be granted to the entitled person only if no tax credit under Section 33 of Act No. 595/2003 Coll. on Income Tax, as amended is granted for the dependent child for which the entitled person receives the child allowance.

With effect from 1 January 2018, MoLSAF Measure No. 234/2017 Coll. adjusted the amount of the child allowance supplement from €11.02 to €11.10.

The average monthly number of child allowance supplement beneficiaries was 1,882, representing a year-on-year decrease of 178 beneficiaries (8.6 %) per month on average. The average monthly number of children for whom the supplement was received decreased year-on-year by 208 children to 2,482 (by 7.7 %).

3.3.3 Parental Allowance

A parental allowance is a state social benefit which the state grants to the entitled person to provide proper care for a child under three or six years of age, if the child is in long-term ill health. The entitled person means a child's parent, but also a spouse of a child's parent if they share a household, or any other natural person who was entrusted with the care of the child by a court's decision (this person is entitled to such allowance for three years from the effective date of the court's decision, but only until the child reaches the age of six).

A person is entitled to the parental allowance if he/she provides proper care for the child (personally or through other adult natural person or legal entity), so the parents are allowed to engage in gainful activity in any form during the period of receiving parental allowances. The amount of income from those activities and working hours affect neither the entitlement to the parental allowance nor the amount thereof. At the time of engagement in gainful activity, parents may provide care for their child either by other parent, grandparent or other adult natural person, or a by the child's placement in a private, church or state facility, including kindergartens.

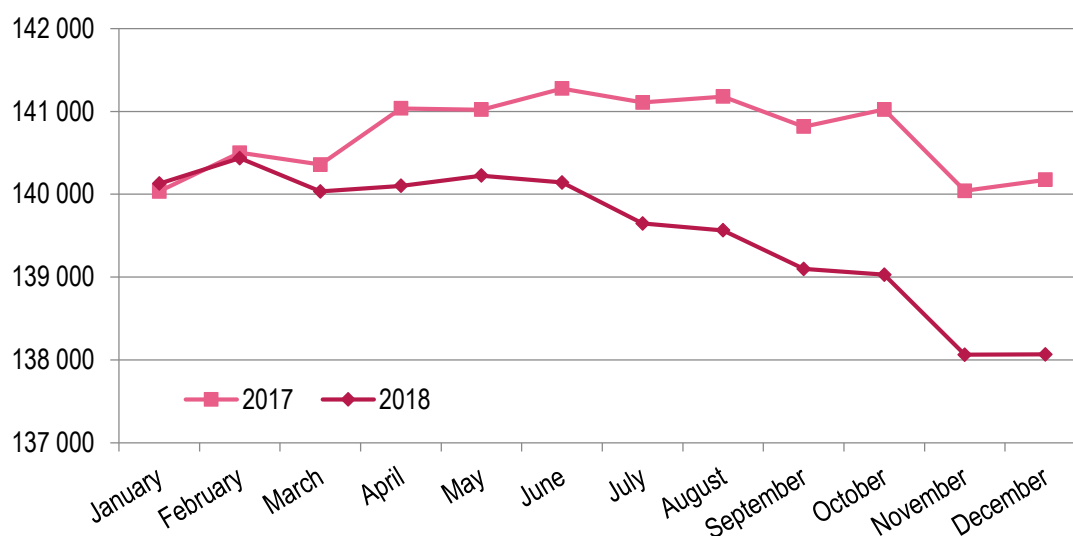
With effect from 1 January 2018, MoLSAF Measure No. 233/2017 Coll. adjusted the amount of the parental allowance from €213.20 to €214.70.

In the event that two or more children were born at the same time, the parental allowance shall be increased by 25 % for each additional child born at the same time.

If an older child in the care of a parent neglects compulsory education, i.e. misses monthly more than 15 lessons without excuse for at least three consecutive calendar months, the amount of the parental allowance is reduced to 50 %. The parental allowance remains reduced for three calendar months.

The development of the number of parental allowance beneficiaries in Slovakia in 2017 and 2018 is shown in the following graph.

Graph 3.2 Number of Parental Allowance Beneficiaries



Source: RSD MIS

In 2018, parental allowances were granted to an average of 139,545 beneficiaries per month, which represents a year-on-year decrease of 1,169 beneficiaries per month on average.

In 2018, men accounted for 2.6 % of all beneficiaries (3,580) on average, and their share slightly increased.

In 2018, the total spending for parental allowances was €368,688,188.00 (representing a year-on-year increase of €7,389,520.00; 2.0 %).³⁷

3.3.4 Childcare Allowance

By providing a childcare allowance, the state contributes to a parent or natural person being entrusted with the care of the child to cover the costs incurred in caring for the child.

A childcare allowance is provided pursuant to Act No. 561/2008 Coll. on Childcare Allowance and on alterations and amendments to certain acts, as amended, within three or six years of the age of the child with long-term ill health if childcare is provided by another natural person or legal entity at the time of work performance or during the full-time study, e.g. by placing the child in a facility (day nursery, kindergarten).

The monthly amount of the allowance varies by type of care provider:

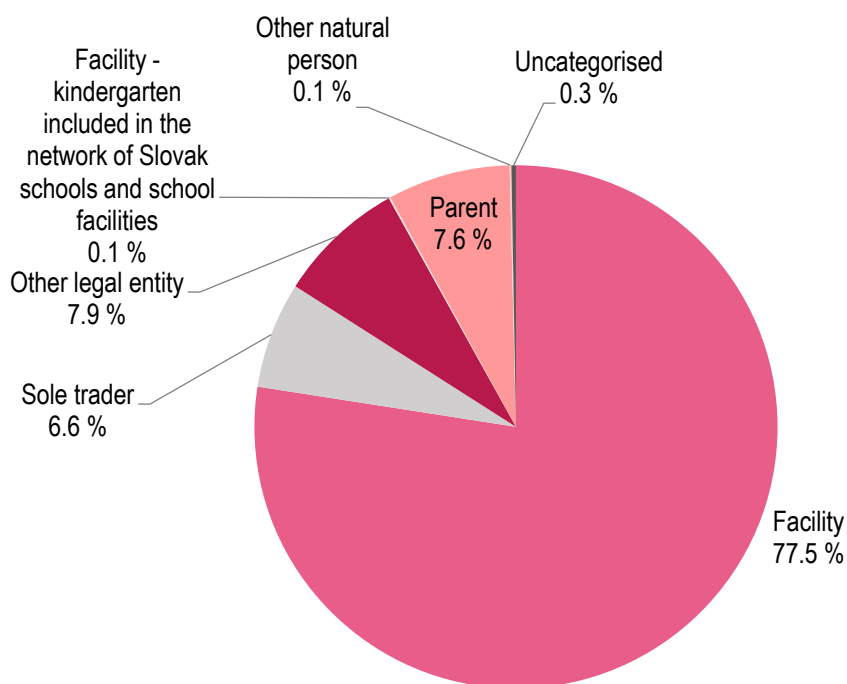
- it amounts to no more than €280.00, if childcare is provided, for example, by a private facility, natural person by virtue of a trade licence, a civic association, and others;
- it amounts to no more than €80.00, if childcare is provided by a kindergarten included in the network of schools and school facilities of the Slovak Republic and established by a municipality or a local government authority;
- it amounts to €41.10, if childcare is provided by a natural person without a trade licence (e.g. a relative of the child's parent).

Distribution of beneficiaries by individual types of care providers is given in Graph 3.3.

The amount of the childcare allowance can be adjusted by the Regulation of the Government of the Slovak Republic as of 1 January of the calendar year.

³⁷ data from the Draft Closing Account of Budget Section 22 - MoLSAF

Graph 3.3 Overview of the Number of Childcare Allowance Beneficiaries by Care Provider



Source: RSD MIS

In 2018, childcare allowances were provided to a monthly average of 3,465 beneficiaries (a year-on-year increase of 91 beneficiaries per month on average) for 3,577 children (a year-on-year increase of 93 children per month on average) with a total spending of €11,688,550.00 (a year-on-year increase of 2.82 %).

The year-on-year growth in the number of beneficiaries was mainly influenced by the increased maximum monthly amount of the allowance and by simplifying its provision. Given that the childcare allowance is linked to the parent's gainful employment, there are considerable regional imbalances in its use.

Table 3.17 Districts with the Most and the Least Use of Childcare Allowances

District	Average monthly number of beneficiaries in 2018
Medzilaborce	1
Detva	1
Poltár	1
Senec	167
Bratislava V	203
Bratislava II	233

Source: RSD MIS

3.3.5 Childbirth Allowance

A childbirth allowance is a *one-time benefit* of the state social support, legislatively regulated by Act No. 383/2013 Coll. on Childbirth Allowance and Multiple Children Birth Allowance, as amended, effective as from 1 January 2014. By providing this allowance, the state enables parents to cover the expenses associated with satisfying the necessary needs of the newborn.

The amount of the allowance depends on the order of childbirth – for the first, second and third childbirth, the amount of allowance is €829.86, for the fourth and next childbirth, it amounts to €151.37. If two or more children were born at the same time and at least two of them lived for 28 days, the amount of the allowance increases at the childbirth by €75.69 for each child who lived for at least 28 days.

A mother who gave birth to the child is entitled to apply for the allowance; a father of the child may also be an applicant for the allowance in cases stipulated by law. Besides childbirth, the conditions for the entitlement include, among others, the applicant's permanent residence and domicile in the Slovak Republic, regular monthly preventive medical examinations from the fourth month of pregnancy to childbirth, and the conclusion of an agreement on general outpatient care of the child.

Table 3.18 Childbirth Allowance in 2017 and 2018

Year	Number of childbirth allowance beneficiaries		Number of beneficiaries of increased allowances
	total	of which in the increased amount	
2017	54,884	51,724	611
2018	54,710	51,683	678

Source: RSD MIS

In 2018, childbirth allowances were granted to 54,710 beneficiaries for 55,438 children (of which the increased amounts were granted to 51,683 beneficiaries for 52,342 children), which is 174 beneficiaries and 97 children more than in 2017. The funds spent on childbirth allowances and increased childbirth allowances totalled €44,011,206.00, which is €14,167.00 more than in 2017 (an increase of 0.03 %) ³⁸.

3.3.6 Multiple Children Birth Allowance

A multiple children birth allowance is a state social support benefit, by which the state contributes annually to parents or entitled persons for the increased costs associated with care for three or more children born simultaneously, or repeatedly born twins or more children at the same time in the course of two years.

With effect from 1 January 2014, Act No. 383/2013 Coll. on Childbirth Allowance and Multiple Children Birth Allowance and on alterations and amendments to certain acts, as amended, adjusted the amount of the allowance to €110.36 per each child regardless of the age of children. But at least three of the children must be under 15 years of age, where the age limit of the children born in the first order is assessed.

In 2018, the allowances were received by 121 beneficiaries for 377 children (the number of both beneficiaries and children declined year-on-year by 3 and 9 respectively). A total of €41,606.00 was spent on payment of multiple children birth allowances.

³⁸ data on spending were obtained from the Draft Closing Account of Budget Section 22 of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic

3.3.7 Funeral Allowance

With effect from 1 January 1999, a funeral allowance is a *lump-sum* benefit of the state social support, legislatively regulated by Act No. 238/1998 Coll. on Funeral Allowance, as amended. With this benefit, the state financially helps a natural person who arranged a funeral to cover the expenses related to arranging the funeral of the deceased.

In 2018, the amount of the funeral allowance remained unchanged at €79.67. In 2018, the funeral allowances were paid for a total of 50,966 deceased persons, which is 215 fewer than in 2017.

The funds spent on payment of funeral allowances amounted to €4,069,760.00 (a year-on-year decrease of €10,708.00, 0.26 %)³⁹. The number of beneficiaries is only influenced by one demographic indicator – mortality of permanent or temporary residents of the Slovak Republic.

³⁹ data from the Draft Closing Account of Budget Section 22 - MoLSAF

3.4 Social Assistance

This chapter provides an overview of social assistance provision by means of material need assistance, social and legal protection and social guardianship, compensation for social consequences of severe disabilities, social services, etc., as well as costs incurred in providing such services in the budget section of MoLSAF. (see Annex to Chapter 3, Table 38)

The adjustment of the *amounts of the subsistence minimum* according to Act No. 601/2003 Coll. on Subsistence Minimum and on alterations and amendments to certain acts, as amended, has also an impact on developments in the social assistance system, composed of the above-mentioned areas, but also on developments in state social benefits. With respect to the development of indices that adjust the amounts of the subsistence minimum, as of 1 July 2014 the system of the adjustment of subsistence minimum amounts was set not to reduce the standard of living of the population, especially the recipients of individual social assistance benefits as part of social assistance and state social benefits, or other systemic measures concerning the general population.

Based on data from the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic, as of 1 July 2018 the ministry increased the amounts of the subsistence minimum for the first adult person to €205.07 per month, for the second adult person to €143.06 and for a dependent child or non-dependent minor to €93.61 according to specific coefficients, such as growth in the cost of living of low-income households and growth in net monetary income per capita⁴⁰.

3.4.1 Material Need Assistance

With effect from 1 January 2014, the material need assistance is regulated by Act No. 417/2013 Coll. on Material Need Assistance and on alterations and amendments to certain acts, as amended. The Act is based on the philosophy of motivation and active participation of household members in solving their unfavourable social situations. The Act aims to ensure directness, merit and the protection of those who cannot, on their own, or are not able to ensure or increase their income by work; this is based on the constitutional guarantee of ensuring basic living conditions. There is also a parallel aim to motivate the long-term unemployed who are granted material need assistance to find a foothold on the labour market, or to get employment even for a lower wage. The subject of the Act is to provide material need assistance, a special allowance and one-off benefit.

Material need assistance includes a *material need allowance* (set at six levels), *protection allowance*, *activation allowance*, *dependent child allowance*, and a *housing allowance*. The amount of a social assistance benefit in material need is determined as the difference between the amount of claims and income of individual household members and is provided in a single amount; the conditions for provision are exhaustively stipulated in the above-mentioned Act on Material Need Assistance.

With effect from 1 May 2017, the condition of allowing for income of household members who receive a special allowance was adjusted, namely from 75 % to 50 % of their income from employment or similar employment relationship. The aim was to increase the motivation of people who are long-term unemployed or long-term inactive in the system of assistance in material need so that they address their unfavourable situation by finding a foothold on the labour market, i.e. by getting employment. This involved strengthening the existing instrument which is to provide a special allowance for a period of twelve months by increasing the assistance in material need for this household group. It primarily concerns those households that, despite the fact that at least one of their members gets employment, remain in the system of assistance in material need. It is a case of making a positive impact on the income situation of these families and reducing the risk of poverty.

⁴⁰ According to data from the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic, the cost-of-living growth coefficient of low-income households for the decisive period (in this case: April 2018 / April 2017) was 1.028, while the net monetary income growth coefficient per capita for Q1 2018 was 1.0625 compared to Q1 2017.

Amounts of Material Need Assistance and Special Allowance in 2018

MATERIAL NEED ALLOWANCE:	
- single person	€61.60
- single person with a child or a maximum of four children	€117.20
- single person with more than four children	€171.20
- couple without children	€107.10
- couple with a child or a maximum of four children	€160.40
- couple with more than four children	€216.10
MATERIAL NEED SUPPLEMENTS	
<i>PROTECTION ALLOWANCE:</i>	
- for a household member under Sect. 7(2)(a), (b), (d) to (f)	€63.07
- for a household member under Sect. 7(2)(h) – (ill health)	€34.69
- for a household member who is a pregnant woman	€13.50
- for a household member who is a parent of a child under 1 year of age	€13.50
<i>ACTIVATION ALLOWANCE</i>	€63.07
<i>DEPENDENT CHILD ALLOWANCE</i>	€17.20
<i>HOUSING ALLOWANCE</i>	
- one-person household	€55.80
- multi-person household	€89.20
<i>SPECIAL ALLOWANCE</i>	
- the first 6 calendar months	€126.14
- the next 6 calendar months	€63.07

Source: MoLSAF

In 2018, there was a monthly average of 72,024 material need assistance beneficiaries, which represents a year-on-year decrease of 17.9 % (a monthly average 15,702 beneficiaries in absolute terms). Based on administrative data, the total material need assistance funding in 2018 reached €126,251,149.00⁴¹. Compared to 2017, there was a decrease in such funding of €28,248,586.00 (- 18.28 %). **The average monthly amount** of material need assistance in 2018 was **€134.19**, representing a year-on-year decline of €0.40. The development of the number of material need assistance beneficiaries and the total funding were primarily and significantly influenced by emphasizing the principles of directness, merit, protection and active participation of the persons concerned in solving their unfavourable social situations. A change in the conditions for assessing income for persons receiving a special allowance (effective from 1 May 2017) had also a substantial impact on the development of the number of material need assistance beneficiaries.

In 2018, the system of material need assistance registered a monthly average of 44,040 beneficiaries who were simultaneously registered job seekers, representing 61.1 % of the total number of material need assistance beneficiaries. There was a significant year-on-year decrease in the average monthly number of beneficiaries in the said group, namely a decrease of 13,685 persons (- 23.7 %). The total number of jointly assessed household members in material need was 160,212, of which 59,002 persons (36.8 %) were registered job seekers. Compared to 2017, the total number of jointly assessed household members also significantly dropped, specifically by 32,465 persons (16.8 %).

⁴¹ data from the Draft Closing Account of the Budget Section of MoLSAF

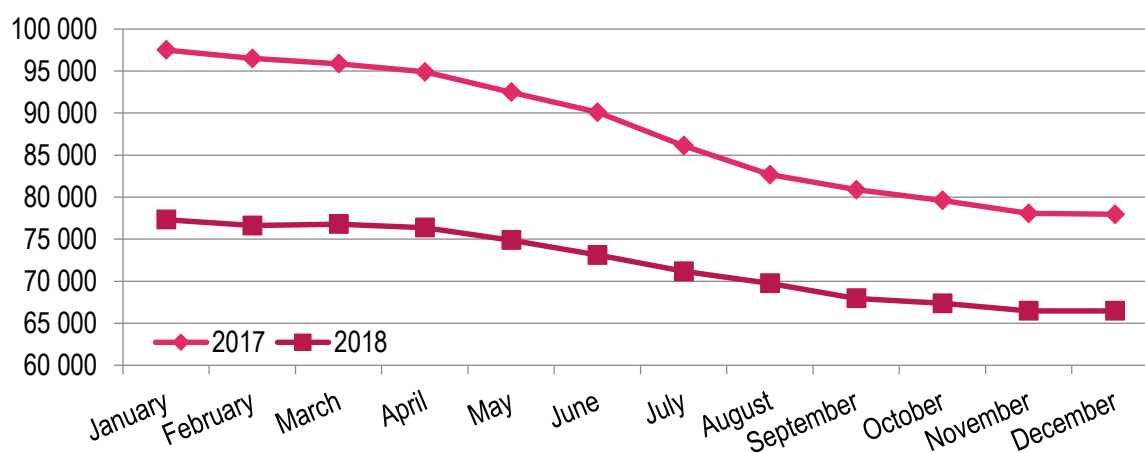
Table 3.19 Average Monthly Number of Material Need Assistance Beneficiaries and Annual Funding in 2017 – 2018

	2017	2018
Total number of beneficiaries	87,727	72,024
of which registered job seekers	57,725	44,040
Number of jointly assessed household members	192,677	160,212
of which registered job seekers	77,916	59,002
Total funding in €	154,499,735	126,251,149
Average amount of material need allowance and supplements in €	134.60	134.19

Source: RSD MIS, the funds according to the Draft Closing Account of the Budget Section of MoLSAF; the calculation of the average amount of the benefit is based on the funds paid under a standard claim

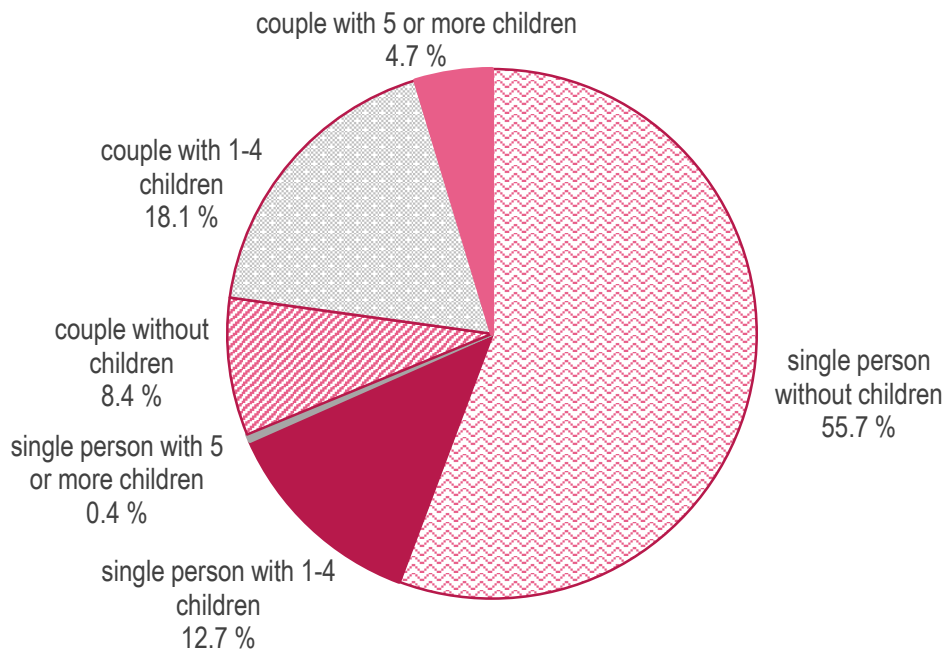
The following graphic representation shows that the number of material need assistance beneficiaries in 2018 had a downward trend and was reflected in all groups of beneficiaries, most notably for single persons without children. A lower decrease was observed for single persons with one to four children, couples with one to four children, and couples without children. The share of individual groups in the system, especially that of individuals, also changed slightly, mainly due to the introduction of changes in the material need assistance system in the previous year, concerning the provision of a special allowance and a change in the assessment of income for special allowance beneficiaries. These changes also considerably affected the overall development of the number of material need assistance beneficiaries, see Graph 3.4.

Graph 3.4 Number of Material Need Assistance Beneficiaries in 2017 and 2018



Source: RSD MIS

Graph 3.5 Percentages of Individual Groups of Material Need Assistance Beneficiaries in 2018

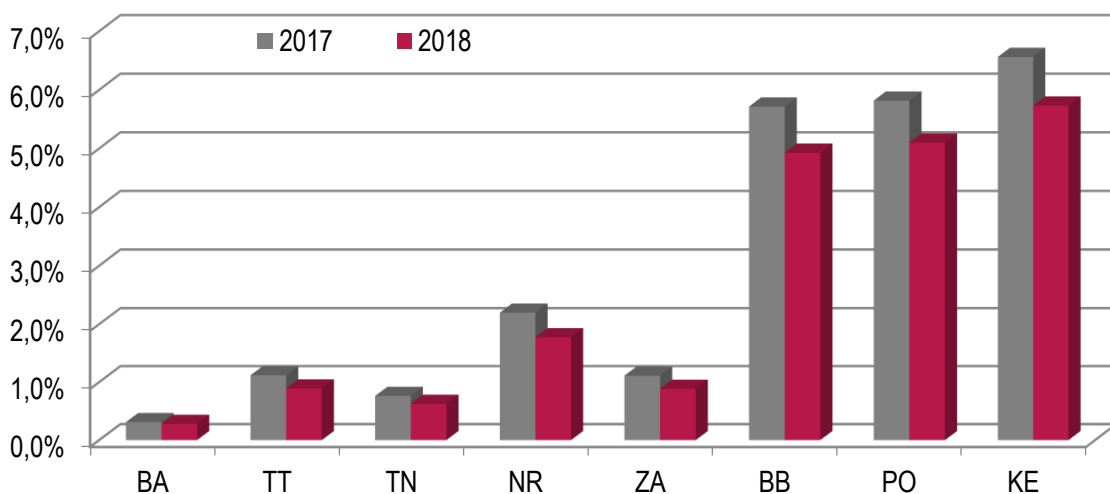


Source: RSD MIS

When comparing the structure of material need assistance beneficiaries between 2017 and 2018, there was a decrease in the number of beneficiaries in all household groups. With regard to individual groups, the number of single persons without children decreased by 18.4 %, single persons with one to four children by 18.1 %, single persons with five or more children by 10.3 %, couples without children by 15.3 %, couples with one to four children by 18.4 %, and couples with five or more children by 13.9 %. The share of individual groups in the total number of material need assistance beneficiaries was not significantly changed.

In 2018, a monthly average of 160,212 household members were jointly assessed in the material need assistance system, accounting for 2.9% share in the total population of Slovakia. There was a year-on-year fall in the number of household members of 16.8 % (32,465 persons). At the same time, there was a slight year-on-year decrease (0.6 pp) in the proportion of the total number of household members in the material need assistance system to the total population.

Graph 3.6 Share of Household Members in the Material Need Assistance System in Total Populations of Individual Regions in % (at the End of the Year)

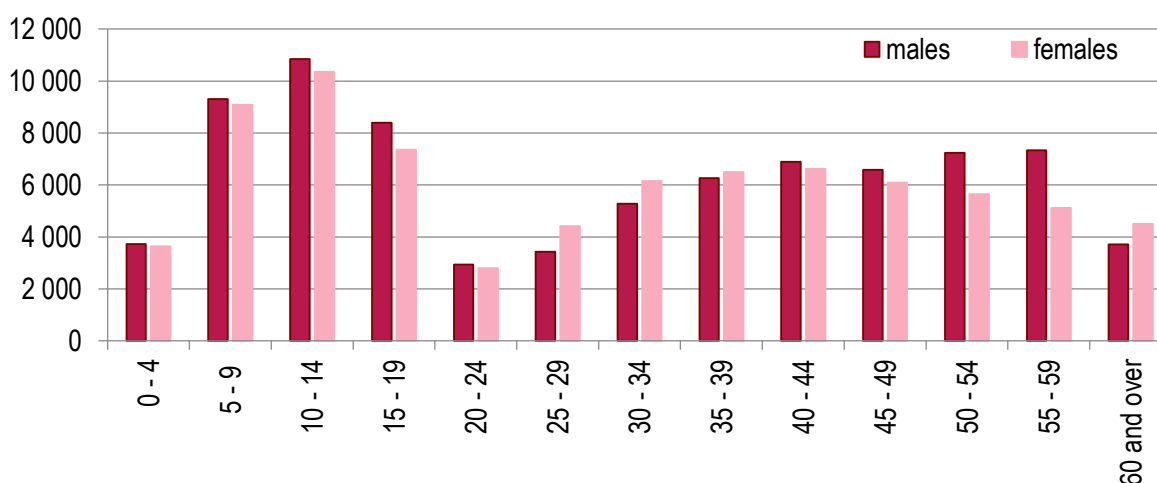


Source: RSD MIS and SO SR

The highest share of household members in the material need assistance system for the reference period (at the year-end) was in the regions of Košice, Prešov, and Banská Bystrica. The lowest proportion was reported in the region of Bratislava. This regional distribution has persisted for a long time.

Of the total number of household members in the material need assistance system, i.e. jointly assessed persons, 51.1 % were men and 48.9 % were women. Compared to 2017, there was no significant change in the ratio between the sexes. The following graph shows the structure of household members in the material need assistance system by age and sex. In each age group, there is a higher share of men than women, except for the groups aged 25 – 29 years (28.9 % more women), 30 – 34 years (16.4 % more women), 35 – 39 years (3.6 % more women), and 60 years and over. The number of women in the last mentioned age group is 21.4 % higher than the number of men. The situation was improved year-on-year (in 2017, the share of women in this age group was 37.4 % higher), mainly thanks to the adjustment of pensions by a fixed amount; however, this state has persisted since 2006 and in addition to demographic developments, it is also influenced by lower pensions of women, resulting from their previous lower earnings during job careers. This age group primarily lives in households of single adults without children (67.9 % persons in the material need assistance system in this age group), with women accounting for 63.9 % of this subgroup. Compared to the previous year, the share of women in the given age group dropped by 4.5 %. The share of the target group in the total number of persons in material need is 5.1 %, a year-on-year rise of 0.6 pp.

Graph 3.7 Household Members in the Material Need Assistance System by Age and Sex in 2018



Source: RSD MIS

Based on the purpose and contents of material need assistance, consisting of a *benefit in material need* (at six levels), *protective allowance* (at three levels), *activation allowance*, *dependent child allowance*, and a *housing allowance* (at two levels), the number of beneficiaries developed as follows:

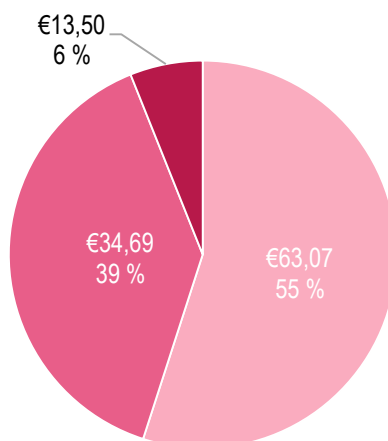
Protection allowance is designed to cover special expenses of household members, who cannot get or increase their income by work. It is provided under conditions stipulated by law, in the amount of

- €63.07 per month for household members who are in pension age, disabled with a decrease in earning capacity by more than 70 %, single parents caring for a child under 31 weeks of age, provide personal care for a health-disabled person, etc.;
- €34.69 per month in the case of ill health (disease, injury or quarantine, lasting for more than 30 consecutive days);
- €13.50 per month for pregnant women and parents of a child under 1 year of age.

In 2018, household members were granted a monthly average of 14,011 entitlements to protection allowances, of which 7,073 household members were entitled to €63.07; 5,458 were entitled to €34.69; 850 were entitled to €13.50, of which 272 were parents caring for a child under 1 year of age and 578 were pregnant women. Graph 3.8 below shows the share of protection allowances by their amounts in the total number of protection allowances provided.

Compared to 2017, the total number of entitlements granted to protection allowances decreased by 21.5 %.

**Graph 3.8 Distribution of Granted Protection Allowances by Amount of Entitlement
(Average for 2018)**



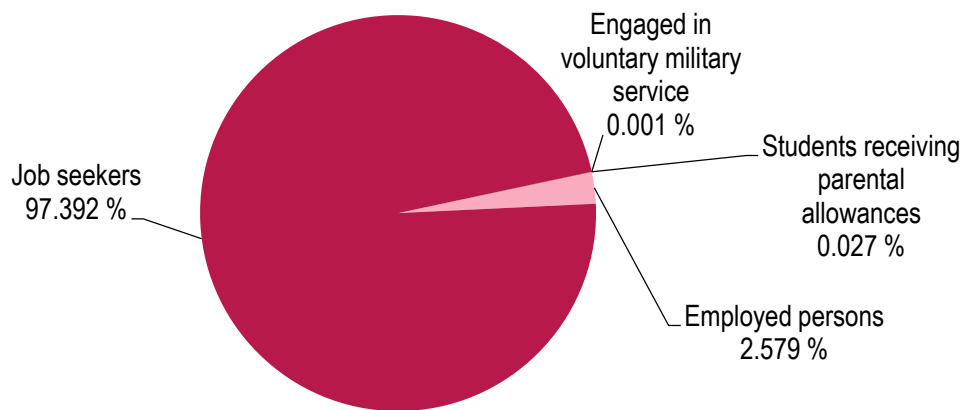
Source: RSD MIS

Activation allowance is designed to support the acquisition, maintenance, deepening and increasing knowledge, professional skills, practical experience and work habits to enhance career prospects in the labour market. Each member of the household who is employed, registered as a job seeker or is paid a parental allowance is entitled to an activation allowance. In case of registered job seekers, the reasons for granting the entitlement to an activation allowance are: enhancing qualifications, taking part in education and training for the labour market, or carrying out minor municipal services.

In 2018, entitlements to the activation allowance were granted to a monthly average of 32,533 household members, of which 839 household members were employed, 31,685 registered job seekers, and 9 members - students receiving parental allowances. Of the total number of registered job seekers entitled to the activation allowance, 24,856 household members were engaged in minor services for a municipality or self-governing region, accounting for 76.4 % of the total number of entitlements granted to the activation allowance. The change effective from 1 May 2017 on reduced inclusion of income in the event that a special allowance beneficiary remains in the material need assistance system was also reflected in the increased number of activation allowances granted subject to the condition that income from employment or a similar employment relationship amounts to at least the minimum wage. The development is shown in Graph 3.9.

The number of granted entitlements to the activation allowance decreased by 16.2 % year-on-year. In terms of the activation of persons in the material need assistance system, 53.7 % of the total monthly average number of persons who are also registered job seekers are entitled to activation allowances, a year-on-year increase of 4.8 pp. The graph below shows the distribution of activation allowances granted solely due to employment and job seekers, since the numbers of students receiving parental allowances and persons engaged in voluntary military service are negligible.

Graph 3.9 Distribution of Granted Activation Allowances by Reason for Entitlement (Average for 2018)



Source: RSD MIS

Graph 3.10 Number of Activation Allowances Granted to Employed Persons with Income at the Level of the Minimum Wage for 2017 - 2018



Source: RSD MIS

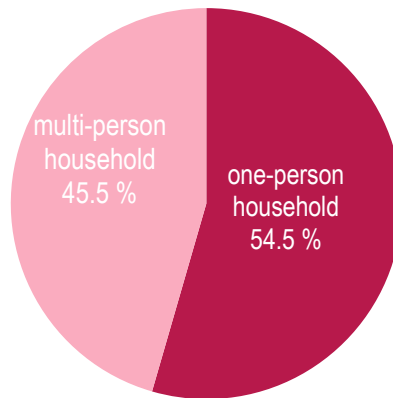
Dependent child allowance is designed to support nurture, education and overall development of the child, who duly fulfils compulsory school attendance. The allowance entitlement amounts to €17.20 per month for each dependent child. In 2018, entitlements to the dependent child allowance were granted for a monthly average of 36,472 dependent children, accounting for 90 % of the total average number of dependent children at the age of compulsory education in the material need assistance system. The number of entitlements granted to the dependent child allowance dropped by 14.2 % year-on-year, which was also caused by the decrease in the number of material need assistance beneficiaries.

Housing allowance is designed to cover housing costs. The entitlement is granted if any household member is the owner or co-owner of an apartment, the owner or co-owner of a house, a tenant of an apartment, a tenant of a house or a tenant of a room in a facility for permanent housing, or lives in an apartment or in a house with lifetime right of use. The entitlement to the housing allowance is also granted if household members live in assisted living facilities, facilities for the elderly, social services homes or specialised facilities with year-round residence, refuges, half-way houses, emergency housing facilities or crisis centres.

In 2018, entitlements to the housing allowance were granted to a monthly average of 35,115 households. The entitlement to a housing allowance was granted to 48.8 % of the total number of households/material need assistance beneficiaries. The number of households entitled to the housing allowance declined by 18.1 % year-on-

year. This situation follows the overall state, resulting in the decreased number of material need assistance beneficiaries.

**Graph 3.11 Distribution of Granted Housing Allowances by Household Size
(Average for 2018)**



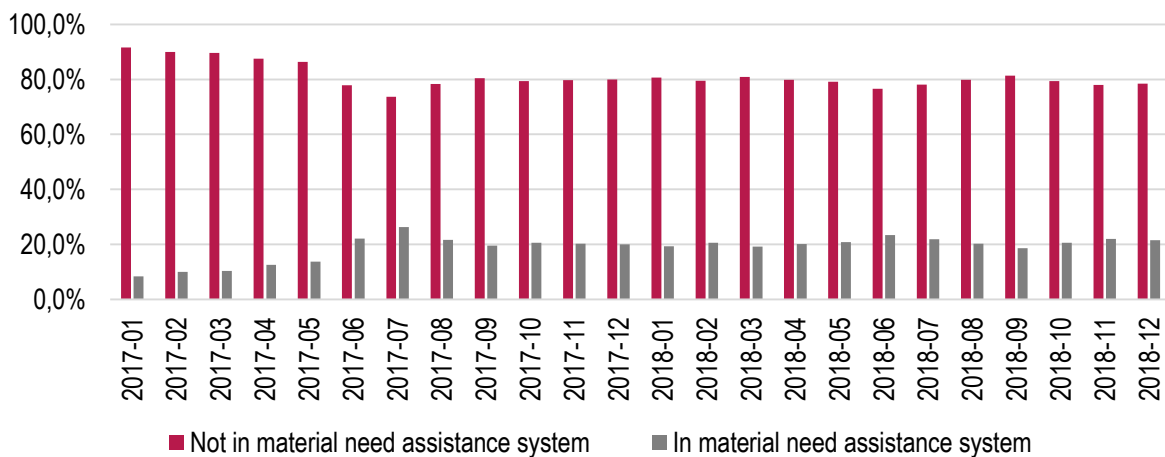
Source: RSD MIS

Special Allowance

The material need assistance system also defined the conditions for granting a special allowance. With effect from 1 January 2015, the overlapping of material need assistance, income from employment, and a special allowance was enabled. This measure focuses on the motivation of the long-term unemployed and long-term inactive persons in the material need assistance system to enter or return to the labour market. Experience shows that a special allowance is an effective and attractive tool that improves the overall situation of families in material need through an active approach to enhancing their social and income situation by labour market participation. A material need assistance beneficiary who enters into employment and his/her income ranges from the one-half of the minimum wage to twice the amount of the minimum wage, may receive a special allowance concurrently with the wage during 12 months (6 months in the amount of €126.14 and 6 months in the amount of €63.07). In relation to the granting of special allowances, with effect from 1 May 2017 the conditions for providing material need assistance were altered, namely by reducing the inclusion of income for beneficiaries of this allowance.

In 2018, special allowances were provided to a monthly average of 6,777 persons, of which 79.3 % were not provided material need assistance, more specifically 20.7 % were assessed within households for the purpose of providing material need assistance.

Graph 3.12 Share of Special Allowance Beneficiaries in 2017 and 2018

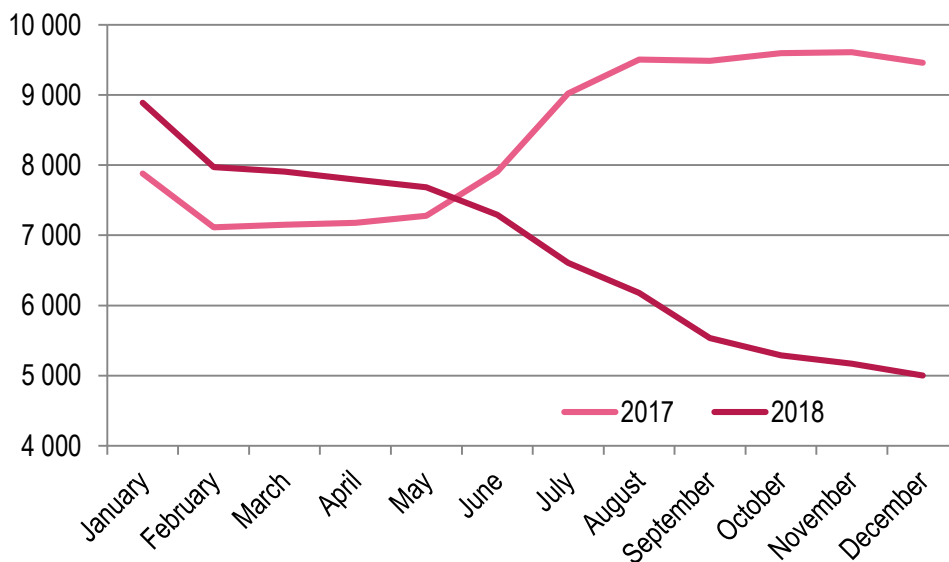


Source: RSD MIS

Graph 3.12 shows that the aforementioned change in the material need assistance system resulted in the increased number of material need assistance beneficiaries who are also special allowance beneficiaries. Increased motivation led to finding employment of at least at the minimum wage level (see Graph 3.10) and strengthening the overlapping of wages and state support in the form of material need assistance and special allowance.

Of the total average monthly number of special allowances provided, 49 % were granted in a lower amount, 46 % in a higher amount, and only 5 % in an aliquot amount. The total spending on special allowances reached €7,760,133.00. The number of provided allowances decreased by 19.6 % year-on-year.

Graph 3.13 Number of Special Allowances Provided in 2017 and 2018



Source: RSD MIS

3.4.2 Subsidies for Children in Material Need

Subsidies for children in material need are support measures aimed at increasing the motivation of children from low-income families for compulsory school attendance and implemented through the MoLSAF grant programme. Through the grant programme, MoLSAF provides subsidies to support eating habits of a child at risk of social exclusion and subsidies to support school performance of such child. Subsidies are granted to the founder of a school facility which the child attends; the school facility directly provides the child with school supplies or meals from the subsidy.

The granting of subsidies for the support of eating habits of a child at risk of social exclusion and subsidies to support school performance of such child is provided for by Act No. 544/2010 Coll. on Subsidies within the Authority of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic, as amended.

In 2018, the total spending on subsidies to support eating habits of a child at risk of social exclusion reached €6,928,630.00⁴². The average monthly number of children who were granted the subsidy totalled 53,554, representing a year-on-year decrease of 15.5 % (9,839 children).

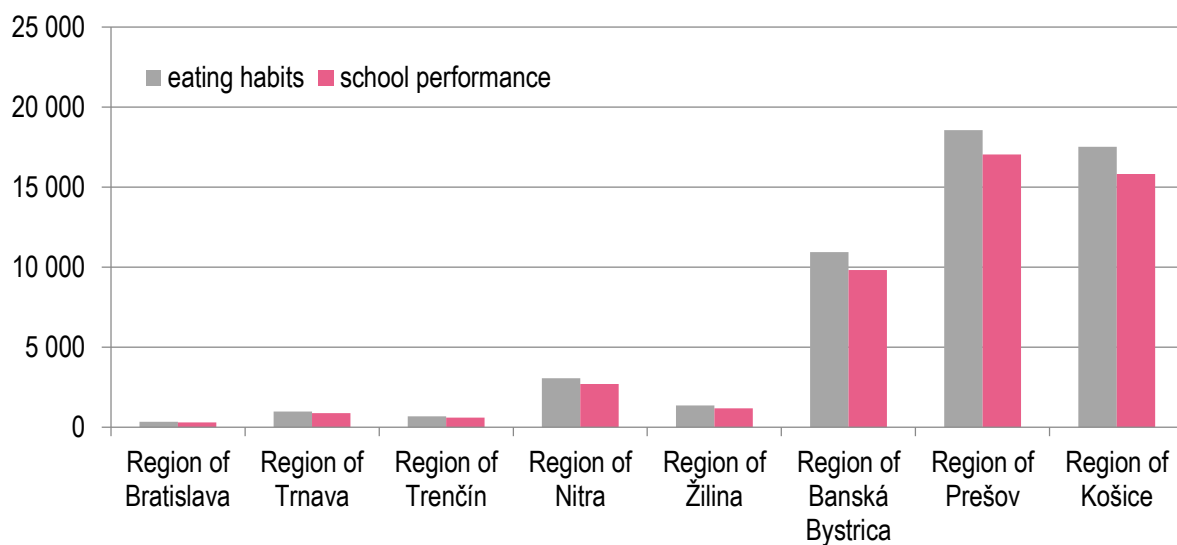
The subsidy to support school performance of a child at risk of social exclusion amounted to €1,598,212.00⁴³ and was granted for 51,286 children in the first half of 2018 (a decrease of 16.3 % compared to the first half of 2017) and for 45,558 children in the second half of 2018 (a decrease of 13.6 % compared to the second half of 2017).

The drop in the number of children for whom the above-mentioned subsidies were granted was mainly influenced by the decreased number of material need assistance beneficiaries who are households with children.

⁴² a figure from the Draft Closing Account of Budget Section 22 - MoLSAF

⁴³ a figure from the Draft Closing Account of Budget Section 22 - MoLSAF

Graph 3.14 Regional Distribution of Children with Subsidies Granted in 2018 (Average)



Source: RSD MIS

In terms of regional distribution of the children for whom subsidies were granted under the above-mentioned Act on Subsidies within the Authority of MoLSAF, the situation is captured in the previous graph. The largest number of subsidies was provided (in terms of regional distribution of the children) in the regions of Prešov, Košice, and Banská Bystrica.

3.4.3 Substitute Child Maintenance

Substitute child maintenance is the amount granted by the state to provide nutrition of the entitled child in the event that the obliged person (parent or another natural person liable to pay maintenance) does not fulfil the child maintenance obligation.

Act No. 201/2008 Coll. on Substitute Child Maintenance and on alterations and amendments to Act No. 36/2005 Coll. on Family and on alterations and amendments to certain acts as amended by Decision of the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic No. 615/2006 Coll., sets forth the provision of substitute child maintenance by the state in cases where the obliged person fails to fulfil the maintenance obligations towards dependent children and where the orphan's pension or the sum of orphan's pensions for a dependent child is below the minimum maintenance amount established by the Act on Family.

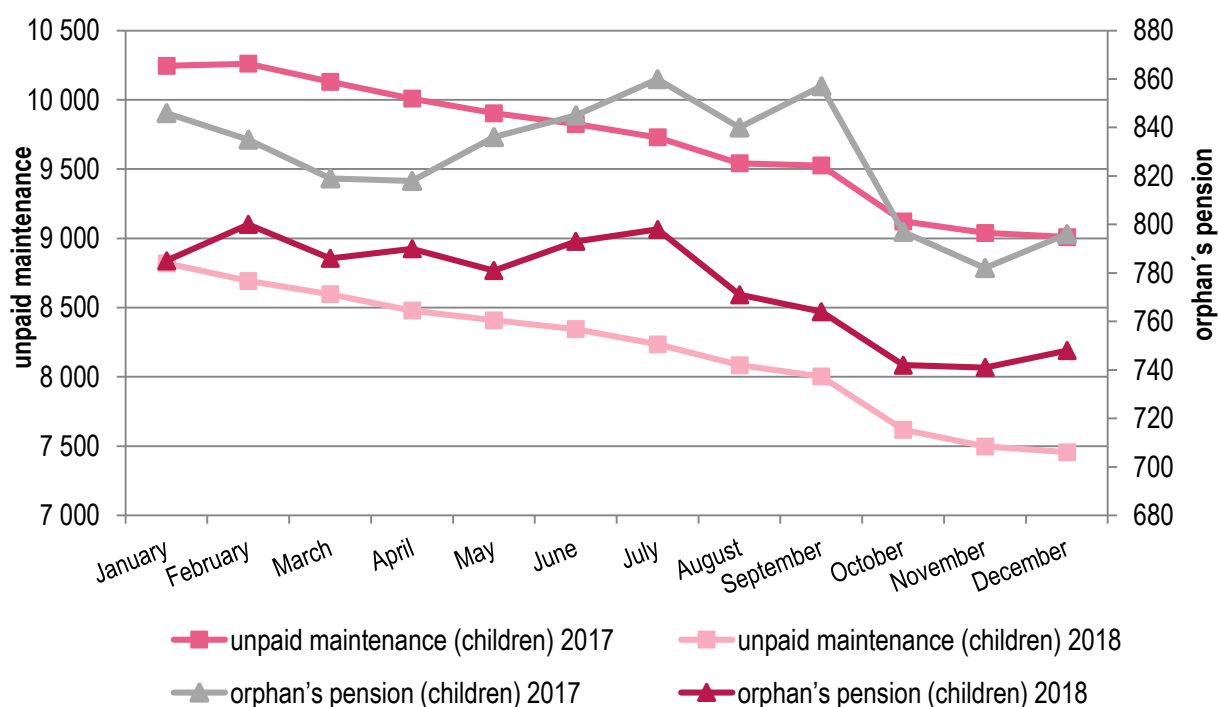
In 2018, there was a monthly average of 5,325 recipients of substitute child maintenance due to unpaid maintenance, representing a year-on-year decrease of 1,105 recipients. A monthly average of 8,186 children received the maintenance for this reason (representing a year-on-year decrease of 1,509 children).

In 2018, the average monthly number of recipients of substitute child maintenance due to low orphan's pension was 455, representing a year-on-year decrease of 49 recipients. In 2018, a monthly average of 775 children received the maintenance for this reason (representing a year-on-year decrease of 53 children).

The total spending on substitute child maintenance in 2018 was €7,022,890.00 (a year-on-year decrease of €989,927.00)⁴⁴.

The maximum amount of substitute child maintenance given by law is 1.2 times the subsistence minimum for a dependent child. In 2018, the maximum entitlement to substitute child maintenance per child amounted to €112.33.

Graph 3.15 Number of Beneficiaries (Children) of Substitute Child Maintenance in 2017 and 2018



Source: RSD MIS

⁴⁴ data from the Draft Closing Account of Budget Section 22 - MoLSAF

3.4.4 Social and Legal Protection of Children and Social Guardianship

The measures of social and legal protection of children and social guardianship (hereinafter simply SLPC&SG) are performed for a child, an adult person, a family, group or community under Act No. 305/2005 Coll. on Social and Legal Protection of Children and Social Guardianship and on amendments and supplements to certain acts, as amended (hereinafter simply Act on SLPC&SG).

In 2018, measures of social and legal protection of children and social guardianship were implemented by 753 employees of 46 local OLSAFs, namely in the sections of social affairs and family and departments of social and legal protection of children and social guardianship (authorities of social and legal protection of children and social guardianship).

In 2018, the measures of SLPC&SG were implemented for 14,294 new families and 20,697 new children.

The authority of local OLSAFs as SLPC&SG bodies is, inter alia, to file motions and suggestions in matters of minor children to competent courts. In 2018, local OLSAFs filed with courts 1,297 motions and suggestions to grant an urgent injunction (1,039 in 2017), 304 motions and suggestions to order institutional care (227 in 2017), and 34 motions and suggestions to abolish institutional care (43 in 2017). In 2018, the SLPC&SG authorities submitted 24,227 reports on nutrition and education of minors (22,871 in 2017) to courts or other state authorities.

On their own initiative, the request of a court or another person, the SLPC&SG authorities surveyed a child's opinion on its situation in the case of 23,210 children in total (21,623 in 2017).

If necessary in the interests of the child, the SLPC&SG authority decides to impose an upbringing injunction. In 2018, the SLPC&SG authorities imposed 527 upbringing injunctions (712 upbringing injunctions in 2017) for 961 children (1,183 children in 2017). In 2018, the courts granted a total of 812 upbringing injunctions (790 upbringing injunctions in 2017) for 1,373 children (1,309 children in 2017).

Social Guardianship for Children

In 2018, social guardianship measures were implemented by 118 employees of local OLSAFs – social guardians for children, specialised in this field. In the reference year, the measures were implemented for a total of 15,521 children (Table 3.20). On average, one social guardian addressed the situation of 132 children.

In terms of reasons for imposing, the measures of social guardianship for children were implemented for 1,649 adolescents due to commission of a criminal activity and for 626 children who committed an act that would be criminal if committed by a criminally responsible person. In 2018, assistance and protection in a misdemeanour procedure were provided to 2,756 children. In 2018, the social guardians carried out guardianship measures for 175 children due to drug experimentation and addiction (13 of the children were under 14 years of age). Measures due to other addictions were implemented for 28 children. A total of 6,869 children were in the care of social guardians due to neglect of school attendance. A total of 469 children exhibited disorders in relation to other children, parents or other adult person; 1,628 children with behavioural disorders were also treated; social guardians dealt with running away from home or a facility in 6 cases. The number of children for whom social guardianship was carried out due to being victims of a crime dropped to 337. Social guardianship measures were also provided for 888 children who witnessed a crime.

Table 3.20 Number of Children under Social Guardianship in 2017 and 2018

Year	Total number of children	Number of children			
		under 14 years		15 – 18 years	
		boys	girls	boys	girls
2017	15,469	4,552	2,681	5,594	2,642
2018	15,521	4,614	2,971	5,307	2,629

Source: V(MoLSAF)12-01

Social Guardianship for Adults

In 2018, social guardianship measures were carried out by 49 social guardians for 4,179 adult clients. On average, one social guardian addressed the situation of 85 clients.

Measures of social guardianship for adults were mainly carried out for clients after release or conditional release on parole. In order to facilitate their social reintegration, it is possible to provide a social reintegration allowance under the Act on Social and Legal Protection of Children. In 2018, social guardians provided social reintegration allowances to 3,112 persons. The total spending on social reintegration allowances in 2018 reached €197,054. A year-on-year comparison is given in Annex to Chapter 3, Table 12.

Domestic Violence, Maltreated, Neglected and Abused Children

In the area of domestic violence, maltreated, neglected and abused children, local OLSAFs carried out SLPC&SG measures based on reasonable suspicion for a total of 1,259 children in the reference year. In 139 cases, the SLPC&SG authorities filed a motion to institute a prosecution. Further information is given in Annex to Chapter 3, Table 13.

Institutional Care and Protective Care

As at 31 December 2018, the ministry recorded 3,529 children placed in institutional care and 17 children in protective care. A total of 5,223 children were placed in all types of facilities for enforcement of a court's decision.

As at 31 December 2018, 90 *children's homes* were registered in Slovakia, with a total number of 4,495 minors and 252 young adults. Of the total number of 90 children's homes, 43 children's homes were established as homes of children and 47 children's homes were established as centres of children.

The children's homes carry out the ordered institutional care, urgent injunctions and upbringing injunctions in a separate group, a specialised separate group, a separate diagnostic group, or a professional family.

As at 31/12/2018, a total of 612 professional families were in children's homes, with 1,310 children and young adults being placed in their care. The forms of care in children's homes and the number of children placed in various forms of care in children's homes are shown in Annex to Chapter 3, Tables 14 to 16.

Unaccompanied Minors

In 2018, SLPC&SG measures were implemented for 27 unaccompanied minors.

Alternative Family Care – Alternative Personal Care, Foster Care, Guardianship, Pre-adoption Care and Adoption

In 2018, a total of 1,250 children were placed in an alternative family environment⁴⁵ (alternative personal care, foster care, guardianship, and pre-adoption care). An overview of the children placed in individual forms of the alternative family environment in 2018 is given in Table 3.20.

As at 31/12/2018, a total of 8,640 children were entrusted to alternative personal care, foster care, and guardianship. The total number of children entrusted to the various forms of alternative family care and a comparison with the previous year are shown in Annex to Chapter 3, Table 17.

In 2018, a total of 201 children were adopted by virtue of a final court decision, of which 7 children were adopted abroad. A total of 97 children were entrusted to pre-adoption care, 5 of which were entrusted abroad.

⁴⁵ Alternative childcare is provided for by Act No. 36/2005 Coll. on Family and on alterations and amendments to certain acts. Generally, we distinguish several types of alternative family care: entrusting a minor to the personal care of a natural person other than the parent; foster care; guardianship if the guardian personally cares for the child; this does not apply if the guardian personally cares for a child whose parents are not of full legal age; temporary custody of a child awarded to a person who is interested in becoming a foster parent; custody of a child awarded to a natural person by a court's decision ordering interlocutory injunction if the court takes action to place the child in alternative care of such natural person; placing a child in pre-adoption care or custody of a child awarded to a natural person by a court's decision ordering interlocutory injunction if the court takes action to place the child in pre-adoption care. In order to support alternative family care, the state provides various allowances for alternative care support listed in Subchapter 3.4.5.

Table 3.21 Number of Children Entrusted to Alternative Family Care in 2017 and 2018

Year	Adoption (entrusted to pre- adoption care)	Alternative personal care	Foster care	Guardianship	Total
2017	135	1,033	65	149	1,382
2018	97	930	67	156	1,250

Source: V(MoLSAF) 12-01

Advisory and Psychological Services

In 2018, the Departments of Advisory and Psychological Services (hereinafter simply DAPSs) of local OLSAFs had 92 employees who provided 66,203 consultations in a total of 8,843 cases. 7.49 consultations on average were provided in one case.

The core activities of DAPSs were:

a) psychological partnership, marriage and family counselling, psychological assessment, psychological crisis intervention

- to help the child, parent or adult person in dealing with upbringing, marriage, family and other social problems;
- to assist spouses, parents of minor children, as well as their minor children in the process of and after divorce;
- to help with regulation of contacts of parents with the child;
- to examine the child's views in matters concerning it if the child and/or the family are clients of DAPSs;
- to help individuals and families with problems involving violence and drug addiction;
- to assist individuals and families in crisis situations and major life changes.

b) specialised training of individuals – persons interested in providing alternative family care

- psychological assessments of preconditions and training of individuals – persons interested in providing alternative family care;
- training of individuals for the professional provision of alternative care.

Basic statistics on activities of DAPSs are given in Annex to Chapter 3, Tables 18 and 19.

Accreditation Process in 2018

The ministry, as the administrative body in the area of granting accreditations under Act No. 305/2005 Coll. on Social and Legal Protection of Children and Social Guardianship and on alterations and amendments to certain acts, as amended, and under Act No. 448/2008 Coll. on Social Services and on alterations and amendments to Act No. 455/1991 Coll. on Trade Licensing as amended, as amended, makes decisions *on granting accreditations for the implementation of selected measures of the social and legal protection of children and social guardianship* pursuant to Act on Social and Legal Protection of Children and Social Guardianship, *for educational programmes and professional activities* under the Social Services Act.

The Ministry decides in matters of accreditation after the previous statement of the MoLSAF Accreditation Commission (hereinafter simply the Accreditation Commission) established as an advisory body of the Minister of Labour, Social Affairs and Family for the assessment of applications for accreditation or for the renewal or revocation of existing accreditation. A total of 9 meetings of the Accreditation Commission were held in 2018.

With regard to social services in 2018, the ministry decided to grant accreditations for 18 entities, of which 14 entities got accredited for educational programmes and 4 entities for professional activities. In the reference period, accreditations were renewed to 19 entities for educational programmes and to 22 entities for professional activities. Two entities were not accredited for professional activities.

In respect of the social and legal protection of children and social guardianship in 2018, the ministry decided to grant accreditation to one new entity for the implementation of measures in a non-residential form. In 15 procedures, accreditations were renewed for the implementation of selected measures, namely for 1 children's

home, 2 crisis centres, 5 social reintegration centres, and 7 accredited institutions that implement measures in a non-residential form. In this period, the ministry also made decisions on 20 accreditation changes, which related to the change of decisions on granting accreditation, specifically in the parts – responsible representative, place of performance, capacity, section wording. In 2018, the accreditation of one accredited institution (social reintegration centre) was revoked, while the accreditation of one accredited institution terminated due to its expiration and the fact that the accredited institution did not apply for its renewal (within the time limit stipulated by law). As at 31 December 2018, the accreditation of three entities terminated upon their own requests.

In relation to the amendment to Act No. 305/2005 Coll. and Section 100n of Act No. 305/2005 Coll., the facilities (children's homes, crisis centres, and social reintegration centres) which had been accredited as of 31 March 2018 were obliged to draw up a programme pursuant to Section 45(6) of Act No. 305/2005 Coll., and for the purposes of accreditation this programme was deemed to be a change of decisive facts which are assessed by the Accreditation Commission under Section 83(6) of Act No. 305/2005 Coll. In 2018, the ministry received a total of 56 programmes from the Centres for Children and Family.

**Table 3.22 Number of Accredited Institutions to Implement SLPC&SG Measures
as at 31 December 2018**

Number of accredited institutions	
Institutions implementing measures of social and legal protection of children and social guardianship under Act No. 305/2005 Coll.	42
Children's home	22
Crisis centre	14
Social reintegration centre	18
TOTAL	96

Source: V(MoLSAF) 12-01

3.4.5 Allowances for Alternative Care Support

By means of financial allowances, Act No. 627/2005 Coll. on Allowances for Alternative Childcare Support, as amended, supports the performance of personal childcare by a different natural person if the parents do not or cannot ensure such care by themselves.

With effect from 1 September 2018, Measure of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family No. 233/2018 adjusted the amounts of allowances for supporting alternative family care as follows:

Table 3.23 Amounts of Allowances for Supporting Alternative Care in 2018

Allowances for alternative care support	Until 31 Aug 2018	From 1 Sep 2018
Lump-sum allowance upon entrusting a child to alternative care	€503.50	€517.59
Lump-sum allowance upon termination of alternative care	€928.74	€954.74
Recurring allowance for a child in alternative care	€139.09	€142.98
Recurring allowance for an alternative parent	€176.84	€181.79
Increase in recurring allowance for an alternative parent	€125.78	€129.30
Special recurring allowance for an alternative parent	€72.86	€74.90

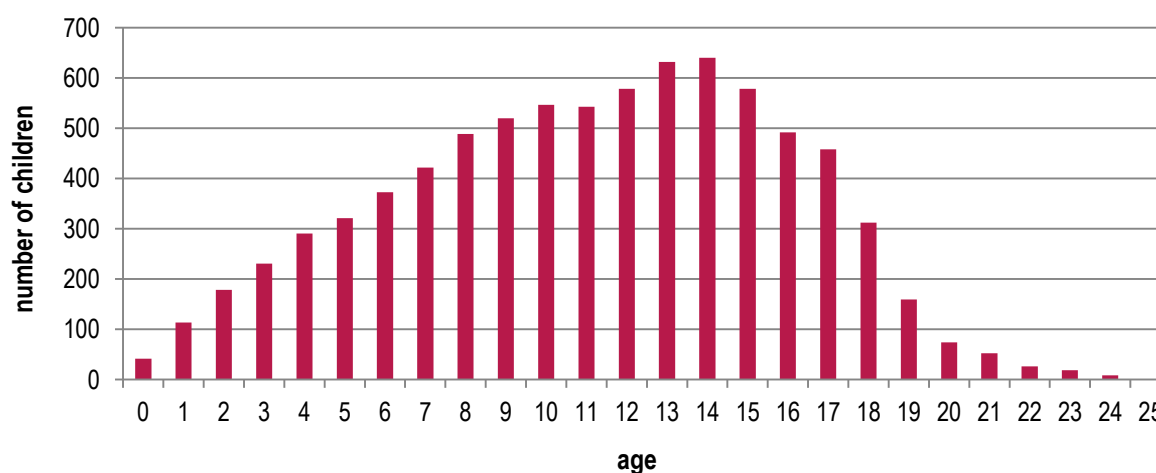
Source: MoLSAF

Lump-sum allowance upon entrusting a child to alternative care is provided for a child when it is entrusted to alternative care to support the satisfaction of the child's basic needs. In 2018, the allowance was provided for 799 children, which is 13 children less than in 2017. Of the total number of children, 75.2 % were entrusted to alternative personal care, 7.4 % were entrusted to foster care, 5.9 % were entrusted to pre-adoption care by a court's interlocutory injunction, 6.1% were placed to pre-adoption care, and 5.4% were entrusted to guardians. A total of €416.6 thousand was spent on payment of the allowances, representing a year-on-year increase of €10.1 thousand.

Lump-sum allowance upon termination of alternative care is provided to support the child in becoming independent. In 2018, the allowance was granted for 535 children, which is 47 children more than in 2017. Of the total number of children, alternative personal care ceased to exist in 69.9 % cases, foster care in 25.1 % cases, and guardianship terminated in 5 % cases. A total of €487.0 thousand was spent on payment of the allowances, representing a year-on-year increase of €30.6 thousand.

Recurring allowance for a child in alternative care is provided for supporting the satisfaction of the child's needs, especially to cover the costs of nurture, upbringing, education and housing of the child. In the reference period, the allowance was paid to a monthly average of 8,126 children (representing a year-on-year increase of 54 children), in a total amount of €10,498.5 thousand (a year-on-year increase of €570.5 thousand). By respective forms of alternative care, an average of 70.6 % of children were placed in alternative personal care, 18.3 % of children in foster care, 4.8 % of children in alternative care by a court's interlocutory injunction, 3.4 % of children in temporary entrustment, and 2.9 % of children were entrusted to guardians.

Graph 3.16 Number of Children with Granted Recurring Allowances for a Child in Alternative Care by Age



Source: RSD MIS

Recurring allowance for an alternative parent is provided to support the performance of personal care of a child entrusted to the alternative care of an alternative parent. In the reference period, the allowance was paid to a monthly average of 1,151 alternative parents for 1,438 children (1,168 alternative parents for 1,475 children in 2017). If an alternative parent personally cared for three or more children who are siblings, the recurring allowance for an alternative parent increased by €125.78 per month. In the reference period, there was a monthly average of 49 such cases. The total spending on payment of the allowances reached €2,578.0 thousand (a year-on-year decrease of €16.8 thousand).

Special recurring allowance for an alternative parent is provided to support the performance of personal care of a severely disabled child entrusted to alternative care. In the reference period, the allowance was paid to a monthly average of 56 alternative parents caring for a total of 60 severely disabled children (representing a year-on-year increase of 1 alternative parent and 2 severely disabled children). The total spending on payment of the allowances was €59.0 thousand (a year-on-year increase of €5.7 thousand).

Foster parent remuneration – Section 19(3) A natural person, whose entitlement to foster parent remuneration according to regulation in force until 31 December 2005 lasts after 31 December 2005 and the entrusted child is a direct relative, is provided the remuneration until cessation of entrustment of the child. In 2018, the foster parent remuneration was paid to a monthly average of 35 beneficiaries (a year-on-year decrease of 33 beneficiaries) to whom 35 children were entrusted (a year-on-year decrease of 37 children). The total spending on payment of foster parent remuneration was €20.8 thousand (a year-on-year decrease of €20.6 thousand).

In 2018, the total spending on allowances for alternative family care reached €14,142,473.00, representing a year-on-year increase of €637,518.00⁴⁶.

⁴⁶ data from the Draft Closing Account of Budget Section 22 - MoLSAF

3.4.6 Compensation for Social Consequences of Severe Disabilities

By its Resolution No. 357 of 22 August 2018, the Government of the Slovak Republic adopted the **II. Report on the Implementation of Measures Resulting from the National Programme for the Development of the Living Conditions of Persons with Disabilities for 2014 – 2020 and a Proposal for its Update**, which documents the fulfilment of tasks in 2016 – 2017.⁴⁷ All ministries, other central state administration bodies, advisory bodies of the Government of the Slovak Republic, territorial self-government bodies, and persons with disabilities participated in the implementation of measures and submitted documents for evaluation through their representative organisations. The report is based on the structure of the UN Convention *on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*; it unifies the areas of interest into larger units with an internal structure and sets priorities for individual time periods within these clusters. The report also contains new measures in the respective areas, as well as new methods of implementation in the original measures, which will have a significant impact on improving the lives of persons with disabilities.

Legal relations for the provision of allowances for compensation of social consequences of severe disabilities and the issue of a card of a severely disabled person, a card of a severely disabled person with a guide, and a parking card for a severely disabled person are regulated by Act No. 447/2008 Coll. on Allowances for Compensation for Severe Disabilities and on alterations and amendments to certain acts, as amended (hereinafter simply the Act on Allowances), which entered into force as of 1 January 2009. The purpose of these legal regulations is to support the social inclusion of persons with severe disabilities (hereinafter simply a SDP or SDPs) with their active participation, while preserving their human dignity in the following four areas: *the area of mobility and orientation, communication area, area of extra costs, and the self-care area*.

Act No. 191/2018 Coll., altering and amending Act No. 447/2008 Coll. on Allowances for Compensation for Severe Disabilities and on alterations and amendments to certain acts, as amended, and which alters and amends Act No. 461/2003 Coll. on Social Insurance, as amended, came into effect as of 1 July 2018. Act No. 191/2018 Coll. introduced the following major changes:

- it extended the range of parties to legal relationships to include beneficiaries of subsidiary protection;
- a new Annex 18 was drawn up, which identifies disabilities for the purpose of issuing a parking card, thereby the Act extended the range of persons who can be issued with the parking card;
- it refined the definition of reliance on individual transport by a passenger vehicle (severe mobility disorders, mental disorders, and severe sphincter disorders);
- it stipulated that loans and borrowings are not deemed to be income for the purpose of providing allowances for compensation; however, movable and immovable property purchased from such funds shall be treated as property.
- it extended the range of SDPs who may receive compensatory allowance for extra costs of ensuring the operation of a passenger vehicle (the range was extended by SDPs included in the chronic dialysis programme or transplantation programme or by those receiving acute oncological treatment and, for haemato-oncological illness, also maintenance treatment);
- it improved the conditions for payment of allowances for compensation abroad so that such allowances continue to be provided even if a SDP stays outside the territory of the Slovak Republic for a maximum of 303 consecutive days due to school attendance (extension from 60 days to 303 days);
- it abolished the obligation to repay a lump-sum allowance for compensation or a proportion thereof after the death of a SDP; the said obligation shall apply only if a SDP has not used the allowance for the purpose of its provision.

With regard to the care allowance:

- it increased all amounts of care allowances and established them as fixed amounts;
- it introduced the option of establishing the amounts of care allowances always as of 1 July by a regulation of the Government of the Slovak Republic;

⁴⁷ The report is published on the website of MoLSAF.

- it abolished the reduction of the care allowance on the grounds that a SDP attends a school facility for more than 20 hours per week, as well as if a SDP is placed in an institutional health care facility for more than 30 days and a carer is a guide of that person in such facility;
- it established the amount of the increase in such allowance due to caring for a dependent child in the event that a carer has no income from employment or receives no pension benefit; the amount increased from €49.80 to €100.00 per month;
- it increased the protection of the income of a SDP under care from 1.7 times the subsistence minimum amount for one adult person (hereinafter simply the "SM") to 2 times the SM for the purpose of determining the amount of the care allowance provided to a working-age carer (not receiving a pension benefit);
- it introduced a new mechanism for the breakdown of the amount of the allowance for carers receiving any of the statutory pension benefits by copying the breakdown of the allowance provided to working-age carers;
- the allowance for carers receiving a pension benefit amounts to 50 % of the amount of the allowance for working-age carers;
- it introduced the provision of the allowance for the whole calendar month in which a SDP under care died, as well as for the calendar month following that calendar month;
- it established the amount of the care allowance provided to a working-age carer as follows:
 - a) if a carer takes care of one SDP, from 125 % of the SM to a fixed amount of €369.36;
 - b) if a carer takes care of at least two SDPs, from 162.1 % of the SM to a fixed amount of €492.34;
 - c) if a carer takes care of one SDP who receives an outpatient form of social service for more than 20 hours per week, from 112.01 % of the SM to a fixed amount of €326.16;
 - d) if a carer takes care of at least two SDPs who receive an outpatient form of social service for more than 20 hours per week, from 152.83 % of the SM to a fixed amount of €461.81;
 - e) if a carer takes care of one SDP who receives an outpatient form of social service for more than 20 hours per week and at the same time, that carer takes care of a SDP who does not receive an outpatient form of social service or receives such form of social service for no more than 20 hours per week, from 158.39 % of the SM to a fixed amount of €480.05;
- it established the amounts of the care allowance granted to a carer receiving any of the statutory pension benefits as follows:
 - a) if a carer takes care of one SDP, from 46.38 % of the SM to a fixed amount of €184.71;
 - b) if a carer takes care of at least two SDPs, from 61.22 % of the SM to a fixed amount of €246.20;
 - c) if a carer takes care of one SDP who receives an outpatient form of social service for more than 20 hours per week, from 46.38 % of the SM to a fixed amount of €163.06;
 - d) if a carer takes care of at least two SDPs who receive an outpatient form of social service for more than 20 hours per week, from 61.22 % of the SM to a fixed amount of €230.88;
 - e) if a carer takes care of one SDP who receives an outpatient form of social service for more than 20 hours per week and at the same time, that carer takes care of a SDP who does not receive an outpatient form of social service or receives such form of social service for no more than 20 hours per week, from 61.22 % of the SM to a fixed amount of €240.00.

With regard to the personal assistance allowance:

- it set the rate per hour of personal assistance as a fixed amount;
- it introduced the option of establishing the amount of the rate per hour of personal assistance always as of 1 July by a regulation of the Government of the Slovak Republic;
- it increased the rate per hour of personal assistance from 1.39 % of the SM to a fixed amount of €3.82;
- it abolished the reduction in the amount of the personal assistance allowance on the grounds that income of a SDP exceeds 4 times the SM (i.e. income is no longer allowed for);
- it extended the group of personal assistance allowance recipients by SDPs for whom SLPC&SG measures are implemented or who receive care in the facilities of social and legal protection of children and social guardianship;

- it introduced two new personal assistance activities (assisting a SDP in the care of a child under three years of age, mediation of communication in augmentative and alternative forms).

Under the Act on Allowances, SDPs may, after assessing their state of health, be issued with a *card of a severely disabled person*, a *card of a severely disabled person with a guide*, and a *parking card for a severely disabled person*. These cards allow SDPs to use certain discounts and benefits, thus contributing to compensation for social consequences of severe disabilities and their social inclusion. As at 31 December 2018, a total of 328,713 cards of a severely disabled person were valid, a year-on-year increase of 5,185 cards. The number of valid parking cards for a severely disabled person totalled 91,681, a year-on-year increase of 5,388 cards. We assume that the said increase was caused by legislative changes effective from 1 July 2018.

Table 3.24 Number of Valid Cards

Type of card	Period	
	As at 31 Dec 2017	As at 31 Dec 2018
Cards of severely disabled persons (without a guide)	166,110	170,269
Cards of severely disabled persons with a guide	157,418	158,444
TOTAL: Cards of severely disabled persons without/with a guide	323,528	328,713
Parking cards for severely disabled persons	86,293	91,681

Source: MoLSAF (RSD MIS)

Under the Act on Allowances, social consequences of severe disabilities may be compensated by monetary allowances (hereinafter simply “allowances”), which are divided into **recurring and lump-sum**.

Since 1 July 2018, as of which Act No. 191/2018 Coll. came into effect, two groups of *recurring allowances for compensation* were established and divided by method of determining their amount into:

1. Recurring allowances for compensation, which amount to the established SM; this means they are adjusted depending on the adjustment of the subsistence minimum amounts as of 1 July of the current calendar year. These include an allowance for transport and compensatory allowance for extra costs (of special diet, of hygiene or wear and tear of clothing, underwear, shoes and household furnishings, of ensuring the operation of a passenger vehicle, of the care of a specially trained dog). As of 1 July 2018, Decree of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic No. 196/2018 Coll. on the Adjustment of Subsistence Minimum Amounts established the subsistence minimum to the amount of **€205.07** per month. Subsequently, the amounts of the aforementioned recurring allowances were adjusted as of 1 July.
2. Recurring allowances for compensation, which were established as fixed amounts. These include a care allowance and a rate per hour of personal assistance. The amounts of the care allowance and of the rate per hour of personal assistance can be re-established by a regulation of the Government of the Slovak Republic always as of 1 July.

An overview of the amounts of all recurring compensation allowances is given in Table 3.25.

Table 3.25 Overview of Recurring Compensation Allowances

Types of recurring allowances	Amount in € ⁴⁸ until 30 June 2018	Amount in €from 1 July 2018
Personal assistance allowance – rate per hour	2.78	3.82
Allowance for transport	101.78	104.63
Compensatory allowance for extra costs:		
- of special diet		
a) diseases and disorders listed in the first group of Annex 5 to the Act on Allowances	37.03	38.07
b) diseases and disorders listed in the second group of Annex 5 to the Act on Allowances	18.52	19.04
c) diseases and disorders listed in the third group of Annex 5 to the Act on Allowances	11.12	11.43
- of hygiene or wear and tear of clothing, underwear, shoes and household furnishings	18.52	19.04
- of ensuring the operation of a passenger vehicle	33.32	34.25
- of the care of a specially trained dog	44.43	45.67
Care allowance:		
- a natural person (carer) does not receive any of the statutory pension benefits:		
a) takes care of one SDP	249.35	369.36
b) takes care of two or more SDPs	323.36	492.34
c) takes care of one SDP who spends more than 20 hours per week in a facility	223.44	326.16
d) takes care of two or more SDPs who spend more than 20 hours per week in a facility	304.87	461.81
e) takes care of one SDP who spends more than 20 hours per week in a facility and at the same time, takes care of another SDP who is not in a facility or spends there at most 20 hours per week	315.96	480.05
- a natural person (carer) receives any of the statutory pension benefits		
a) takes care of one SDP	92.52	184.71
b) takes care of two or more SDPs	122.13	246.2
c) takes care of one SDP who spends more than 20 hours per week in a facility		163.06
d) takes care of two or more SDPs who spend more than 20 hours per week in a facility		230.88
e) takes care of one SDP who spends more than 20 hours per week in a facility and at the same time, takes care of another SDP who is not in a facility or spends there at most 20 hours per week		240.00

Source: MoLSAF

The maximum amounts of *lump-sum compensation allowances* are set by the Act on Allowances as *fixed amounts*. The determination of a specific amount of the lump-sum compensation allowance is affected by income of a severely disabled person (hereinafter simply a SDP or SDPs) and costs, for example, of an aid, a passenger vehicle, an adjustment (depending on the type of allowance). Taking into account the income of a SDP, the principle of solidarity is maintained, i.e. the lower the income of a SDP is, the higher the lump-sum compensation allowance

⁴⁸ The calculation of a personal assistance allowance, allowance for transport, and a care allowance is also based on other parameters, such as income of a SDP

may be provided. An overview of the maximum amounts of lump-sum compensation allowances is given in Table 3.26.

Table 3.26 Maximum Amounts of Lump-sum Compensation Allowances

Type of lump-sum compensation allowance	Maximum amount in €
Allowance for the purchase of an aid	8,630.42
– for the purchase of a second mechanical wheelchair	1,659.70
– for the purchase of a second electric wheelchair	4,979.09
– for the purchase of a second hearing aid	331.94
Allowance for training of using an aid	8,630.42
Allowance for the adjustment of an aid	8,630.42
Allowance for the purchase of a lifting device	11,617.88
Allowance for the purchase of a passenger vehicle	6,638.79
– for the purchase of a passenger vehicle with an automatic gearbox	8,298.48
Allowance for the adjustment of a passenger vehicle	6,638.79
Aggregate of allowances for adapting an apartment and allowances for adapting a family house over the period of 7 years	6,638.79
Aggregate of allowances for adapting a garage over the period of 7 years	1,659.70

Source: MoLSAF

In 2018, the total spending on compensation allowances was €293,219,372.00, of which the total spending on allowances provided to SDPs reached €143,788,146.00. The average monthly number of beneficiaries – SDPs was 159,278. The average monthly number of beneficiaries of a care allowance, which is granted to natural persons caring for (nursing) SDPs (carers), was 53,356 and the funds spent for this purpose amounted to €149,431,226.00.

Table 3.27 Overview of Spending in 2018

Compensation allowances	Average monthly number of beneficiaries	Spending in €
Allowances granted to SDPs	159,278	143,788,146
Care allowance*	53,356	149,431,226
TOTAL		293,219,372

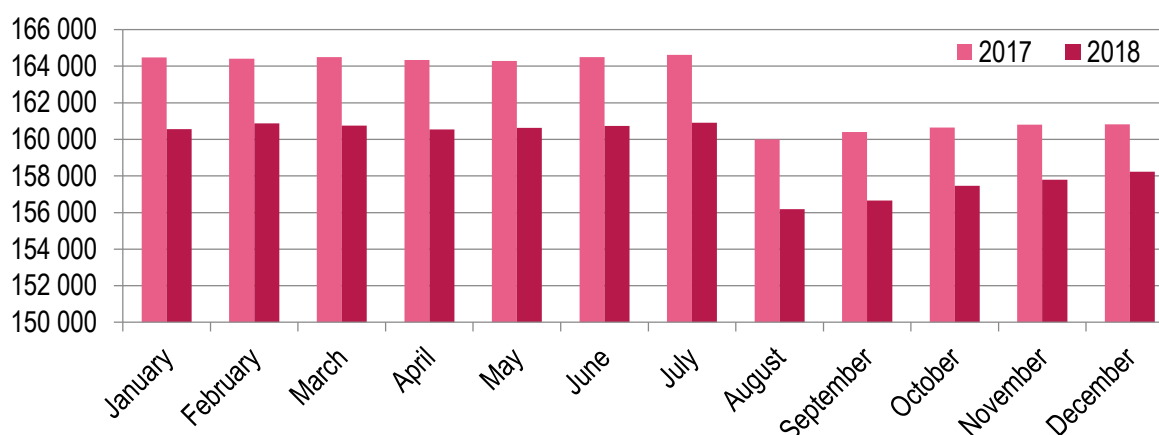
Source: RSD MIS

*A care allowance is granted to a natural person caring for a person with severe disabilities (SDP)

When comparing data on compensation allowances in 2018 with the previous year, the total spending on all compensation allowances rose in 2018 by €49.0 mil. This fact was caused by legislative changes which, with effect from 1 July 2018, established more favourable conditions for providing the care allowance (an increase in all amounts of the allowance and in the protection of income of a SDP under care) and the personal assistance allowance (a rise in the rate per hour of personal assistance and cancellation of allowing for income of a SDP).

In contrast to the previous years, in 2018 the average monthly number of beneficiaries of the care allowance (for carers) increased by 147 persons and the total spending on payment of such allowances rose by €38.75 mil. due to the above-mentioned legislative changes. In respect of compensation allowances provided to SDPs, in 2018 the average monthly number of their beneficiaries decreased by 3,541, but the total spending rose by €10.27 mil. The increased total spending was primarily influenced by positive changes relating to the personal assistance allowance.

Graph 3.17 Number of SDPs with Provided Compensation Allowances in 2017 and 2018



* Each allowance beneficiary figures in the given numbers only once, even if he/she receives more allowances
Source: RSD MIS

In 2018, spending on **recurring allowances** totalled €269.58 mil. By the number of beneficiaries, in 2018 the highest average monthly number (154,665) was recorded for beneficiaries of the compensatory allowance for extra costs (all types of extra costs in total). By the purpose of provision, this compensation allowance is divided into four groups; within this breakdown, the highest average monthly number of beneficiaries was associated with compensation of extra costs of hygiene or wear and tear of clothing, underwear, shoes and household furnishings (84,564 beneficiaries), followed by compensation of extra costs of ensuring the operation of a passenger vehicle (67,711 beneficiaries), compensation of extra costs of special diet (51,874 beneficiaries), and compensation of extra costs of the care of a specially trained dog (58 beneficiaries). One person with severe disabilities (SDP) may be compensated for his/her extra costs by several types of allowances. The second most numerous group consists of beneficiaries of the care allowance, with an average monthly number of 53,356 beneficiaries.

In 2018, the total spending on payment of 6,854 **lump-sum** compensation allowances reached €23.4 mil. The highest number of allowances were provided for the purchase of aids (2,540), followed by allowances provided for the purchase of passenger vehicles (1,404) and allowances provided for the purchase of lifting devices (918).

An overview of spending on individual types of compensation allowances in 2017 and 2018 is given in Table 3.28.

Table 3.28 Number of Beneficiaries and Spending on Individual Types of Allowances for Compensation of Severe Disabilities

Recurring compensation allowances	Average monthly number of beneficiaries	2017		2018		Spending in €
		Average monthly amount of allowance in €	Spending in €	Average monthly number of beneficiaries	Average monthly amount of allowance in €	
Personal assistance allowance	9,802	383.48	45,835,122	10,100	443.49	55,045,675
Allowance for transport	3,046	84.18	3,135,013	3,102	87.96	3,221,829
Compensatory allowance for extra costs:	158,424	31.69	62,007,899	154,665	32.78	61,884,759
– of special diet	53,136	22.64	14,706,858	51,874	23.15	14,660,576
– of hygiene or wear and tear of clothing, underwear, shoes and household furnishings	86,931	18.44	19,539,932	84,564	18.73	19,326,996
– of ensuring the operation of a passenger vehicle	68,521	33.19	27,727,790	67,711	33.7	27,864,831
– of the care of a specially trained dog	61	44.25	33,319	58	44.13	32,355
Care allowance	53,209	165.47	110,681,082	53,356	215.03	149,431,226
Lump-sum compensation allowances	Number of granted allowances*	Average amount of allowance in €	Spending in €	Number of granted allowances*	Average amount of allowance in €	Spending in €
Allowance for the purchase of an aid	2,846	781.55	2,224,284	2,540	791.48	2,009,948
Allowance for training of using an aid	27	1,186.18	32,027	13	518.08	6,735
Allowance for the adjustment of an aid	17	761.35	12,943	18	905.27	16,295
Allowance for repair of an aid	824	366.71	302,166	779	361.34	280,986
Allowance for the purchase of a lifting device	743	9,332.34	6,933,928	918	9,261.34	8,466,655
Allowance for the purchase of a passenger vehicle	1,436	6,765.54	9,715,316	1,404	6,775.38	9,516,086
Allowance for the adjustment of a passenger vehicle	138	3,815.75	526,573	133	3,726.00	495,576
Allowance for adapting an apartment	386	2,575.77	994,245	356	2,597.25	918,776
Allowance for adapting a family house	654	2,365.70	1,547,169	686	2,425.16	1,667,102
Allowance for adapting a garage	3	1,402.39	4,207	7	1,268.33	9,098
Total spending on compensation allowances in €		243,951,975			293,219,372	

Source: RSD MIS, the calculation of the average monthly amount of recurring allowances is based on spending without any additional fees for a delayed claim

* summary data for 12 months

The total number of **lump-sum allowances** provided in 2018 decreased year-on-year by 220, while the total spending on payment of such allowances rose by €1,094,398.00. The number of provided allowances only increased for four types of allowances and decreased for six types of allowances as follows:

a) **increase** in the number of lump-sum allowances provided in 2018 of:

- 175 allowances for the purchase of a lifting device (the average amount of the allowance decreased by €71.00)
- 32 allowances for adapting a family house (the average amount of the allowance increased by €59.46)
- 4 allowances for adapting a garage (the average amount of the allowance decreased by €134.06)
- 1 allowance for the adjustment of an aid (the average amount of the allowance increased by €143.92)

b) **decrease** in the number of lump-sum allowances provided in 2018 of:

- 306 allowances for the purchase of an aid (the average amount of the allowance increased by €9.93)
- 45 allowances for repair of an aid (the average amount of the allowance decreased by €5.37)
- 32 allowances for the purchase of a passenger vehicle (the average amount of the allowance decreased by €9.84)
- 30 allowances for adapting an apartment (the average amount of the allowance increased by €21.48)
- 14 allowances for training of using an aid (the average amount of the allowance decreased by €668.10)
- 5 allowances for the adjustment of a passenger vehicle (the average amount of the allowance decreased by €89.75)

The total spending on payment of **recurring allowances** in 2018 rose by €47,924,372.00 year-on-year. The average monthly number of beneficiaries of these allowances in 2018 compared to 2017 was as follows:

a) **increase** in the average monthly number of beneficiaries of:

- 298 personal assistance allowances (**an increase** in the total spending of €9.211 mil.)
- 147 care allowances (**an increase** in the total spending of €38.750 mil.)
- 56 allowances for transport (**an increase** in the total spending of €86.8 thous.)

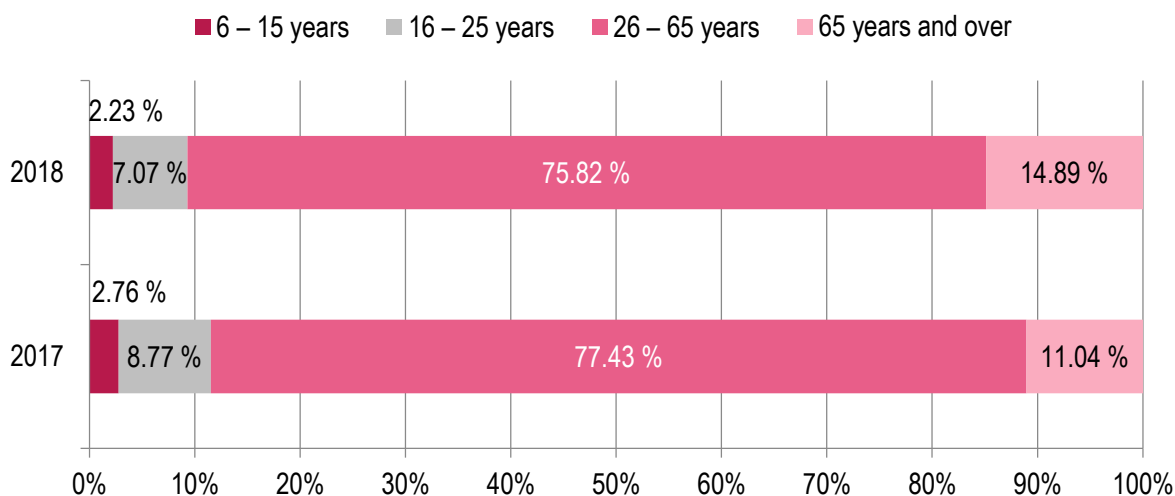
b) **decrease** in the average monthly number of beneficiaries of:

- 3,759 compensatory allowance for extra costs (all types of extra costs in total, and subsequently a **decrease** in the total spending of €123.1 thous.)

The average monthly amounts of recurring allowances in 2018 slightly increased year-on-year (depending on the adjustment of the subsistence minimum amounts), except for the care allowance and the personal assistance allowance.

The increase in the average monthly number of personal assistance allowance beneficiaries persists in the long term. The average monthly amount of such allowance in 2018 increased by €60.01 and corresponds to 138 hours of personal assistance per month, for which the allowance was granted. This increase in the personal assistance allowance was most significantly influenced by a rise in the rate per hour of personal assistance of €1.04 with effect from 1 July 2018. An overview of the average monthly number of beneficiaries in 2018 by age is given in Graph 3.16 and Table 3.29.

Graph 3.18 Distribution of the Average Monthly Number of Personal Assistance Allowance Beneficiaries by Age in 2017 and 2018



Source: RSD MIS

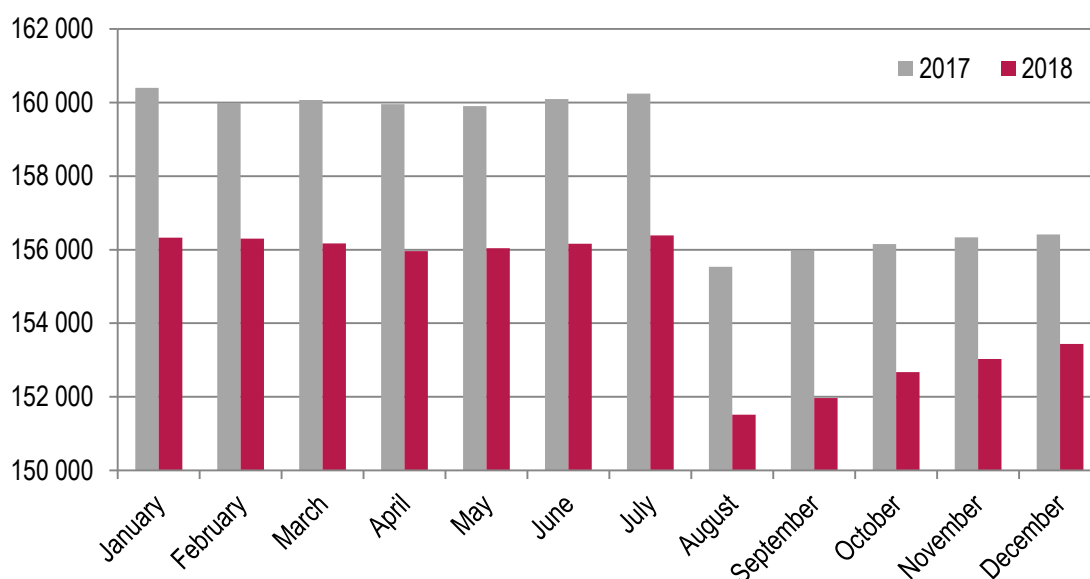
Table 3.29 Average Monthly Number of Personal Assistance Allowance Beneficiaries by Age in 2017 and 2018

	2017	2018
6 – 15 years	271	225
16 – 25 years	860	714
26 – 65 years	7,592	7,659
over 65 years	1,082	1,504

Source: RSD MIS

A decrease in the average monthly number of beneficiaries of the compensatory allowance for extra costs was reflected in each type of extra costs. The average monthly number of beneficiaries of the compensatory allowance for extra costs of hygiene or wear and tear of clothing, underwear, shoes and household furnishings decreased year-on-year by 2,367, followed by a decrease in the average monthly number of beneficiaries of the compensatory allowance for extra costs of special diet (a decrease of 1,262 beneficiaries), the compensatory allowance for extra costs of ensuring the operation of a passenger vehicle (a decrease of 810 beneficiaries), and the compensatory allowance for extra costs of the care of a specially trained dog (a decrease of 3 beneficiaries). The aforementioned decreases in the average monthly number of beneficiaries were affected by several facts, most significantly by the death of beneficiaries. Another reason was the failure to meet some of the statutory conditions.

Graph 3.19 Number of Beneficiaries of Compensatory Allowances for Extra Costs in 2017 and 2018



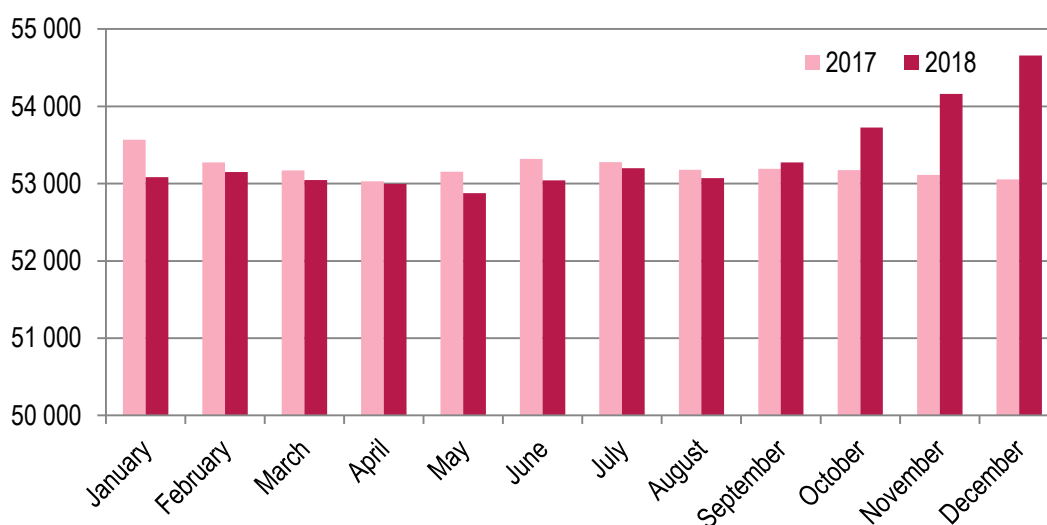
Source: RSD MIS

The care allowance is the only compensation allowance which is not granted to a SDP, but directly to a natural person caring for (nursing) the SDP (carer). The amount of the allowance depends on several factors. If a carer receives any of the statutory pension benefits, the allowance for nursing is set at a flat rate⁴⁹. If a carer (of working age) does not receive such a pension benefit, the amount of the allowance is also influenced by the income of a SDP under care. If a SDP under care dies, the care allowance shall be granted to the carer for the entire calendar month in which the SPD under care died, as well as for the calendar month following that calendar month.

For the purpose of determining the amount of the care allowance for working-age carers, the income of a SDP is protected up to 2 times the SM, or if a dependent child is a SDP, its income is protected up to 3 times the SM. From 1 July 2018, after the adjustment of the subsistence minimum amounts, the income protection thresholds for SDPs under care amount to €410.14 per month (2 times the SM) and €615.21 per month (3 times the SM). The care allowance may be increased by €100.00 per month if a carer has no income from employment or does not receive pension insurance benefits or service benefits and cares for a SDP who is a dependent child.

⁴⁹ If a SDP under care receives an increase in the pension for the lack of mobility, the amount of the care allowance is reduced by such increase, regardless of whether the carer receives or not any of the statutory pension benefits.

Graph 3.20 Number of Care Allowance Beneficiaries in 2017 and 2018



Source: RSD MIS

In 2018, the average monthly number of care allowance beneficiaries increased year-on-year by 147 beneficiaries; the average monthly number of SDPs under care also swelled year-on-year by 164.

The average monthly numbers for the respective care allowances were changed as follows:

- **an increase** of 531 working-age beneficiaries (an increase in the number of SDPs under care of 568 persons)
- **a decrease** of 326 beneficiaries receiving a pension benefit (a decrease in the number of SDPs under care of 347 persons)
- **a decrease** of 58 beneficiaries receiving the allowance under a transitional provision, i.e. under the act effective until 31 December 2008 (a decrease in the number of SDPs under care of 58 persons); these beneficiaries are constantly decreasing in number and are gradually switching over to the conditions of payment stipulated by the Act on Allowances effective from 1 January 2009.

More details on the provided care allowances are given in Table 3.30.

Table 3.30 Care Allowance in 2017 and 2018 – Detailed Structure of Spending

Care allowance	Average monthly number of beneficiaries	2017 Average monthly number of SDPs under care	Average monthly amount of allowance in €	Average monthly number of beneficiaries	2018 Average monthly number of SDPs under care	Average monthly amount of allowance in €
1. FO¹⁾ receiving a pension benefit	21,791	22,153	89.87	21,465	21,806	122.07
2. FO not receiving a pension benefit	31,064	32,010	219.33	31,595	32,578	279.82
3. FO receiving the allowance under the transitional provision	354	362	93.7	296	305	121.82
Care allowance TOTAL	53,209	54,524	165.47	53,356	54,688	215.48

Source: RSD MIS

¹⁾ FO – a natural person receiving the care allowance (beneficiary)

Legislative changes adopted with effect from 1 July 2018 stipulated more favourable conditions for the provision of the care allowance as follows:

- For the allowance provided to working-age carers, the statutory monthly amount increased by €120.01 and the income protection threshold for SDPs under their care also increased by €61.50.
- For the allowance provided to carers receiving a pension benefit, the statutory monthly amount increased by €92.19 (income is not allowed for).

These changes affected the increased number of beneficiaries and the average monthly amounts of provided care allowances. The total average monthly amount of the care allowance in 2018 rose by €50.01 to €215.48 per month year-on-year, of which the care allowance provided to working-age beneficiaries increased by €60.49 to €279.82 per month, the care allowance provided to beneficiaries receiving a pension benefit increased by €32.20 to €122.07 per month, and the allowance paid under the transitional provision increased by €28.12 to €121.82 per month.

The amounts of the care allowances increased more significantly after legislative changes effective from 1 July 2018. However, given the effective date of the changes, this fact was reflected in the annual average amount of this allowance to a lesser extent. In December 2018, the average monthly amount of the allowance was €297.55, of which the allowance provided to working-age beneficiaries amounted to €374.16, the allowance provided to beneficiaries receiving a pension benefit was €183.28.

3.4.7 Social Services

Since 2009, social services in the Slovak Republic have been provided in accordance with **Act No. 448/2008 Coll. on Social Services and on alterations and amendments to Act No. 455/1991 Coll. on Trade Licensing (Trade Licensing Act), as amended, as amended** (hereinafter simply the Social Services Act). The Social Services Act sets forth legal relations and conditions for the provision of social services aimed at supporting the social inclusion of citizens and satisfying the social needs of persons in an unfavourable social situation.

The unfavourable social situation is a threat to a natural person by social exclusion or a limitation of his/her ability to socially integrate and, for various reasons, solve his/her own problems independently.

Social services under the Social Services Act shall be provided by means of professional, service and other activities the provider is obliged to provide or arrange if clearly specified. Professional activities, such as social counselling, social rehabilitation, stimulation of comprehensive development of children with disabilities, as well as other activities may also be provided independently on the basis of accreditation under the conditions stipulated by the Social Services Act. Social services are public services and are provided without making profit, but the law also allows the provision of social services within a trade or business, i.e. based on profit.

The Social Services Act divides social services into several groups, depending on the nature of the unfavourable social situation or the target group, namely *social services of crisis intervention, social services to support families with children, social services to address the unfavourable social situation due to a severe health disability, ill health or due to reaching the retirement age, social services using telecommunication technologies, and support services.*

For the provision of social services with the character of long-term care, provided to individuals in need of assistance of another person, the Social Services Act regulates *health and social assessment activities*, determining the dependence of the individual on social services. The Social Services Act regulates the provision of health care in the range of nursing care in selected social service facilities directly by takes care of as employees of such facilities and also stipulates the option of providing social services in an institutional care facility.

A special part of the Act provides for the financing of social services from the budgets of local self-governments and from the MoLSAF state budget section. For the financing of non-public providers, the Act differentiates between non-profit providers and those that are business entities providing services for making profit which cannot be supported from public funds.

The Social Services Act regulates *supervision* over compliance with this Act and other generally binding legal regulations in the provision of social services. The ministry, with effect from 1 September 2019, assess the quality of provided social services under the quality terms laid down in Annex 2 to the Social Services Act.

In the area of social services, MoLSAF *grants accreditation for educational programmes and accreditation for professional activities*. In 2018, the ministry decided to grant accreditations for eighteen entities, of which fourteen entities got accredited for educational programmes and four entities for professional activities. In the reference period, accreditations were renewed to nineteen entities for educational programmes and to twenty-two entities for professional activities. Two entities were not accredited for professional activities.

As of 1 January 2018, the amendment to the Social Services Act came into effect; one of its main objectives was to strengthen the co-financing of social services in order to ensure the availability and sustainability of social services by granting a monetary allowance for the provision of social services in facilities conditional upon dependence (*assisted living facilities, facilities for the elderly, nursing service facilities, rehabilitation centres, social services homes, specialised facilities, and day-care centres*) specifically to each client depending on the degree of dependence on the help of others (Table 20 in Annex to Chapter 3). The purpose of granting a monetary allowance for the provision of social services in facilities conditional upon dependence from the state budget through the ministry's budget section is to co-finance the economically eligible costs incurred by a social service provider for wages and contributions paid by employers in a specific social service facility. The mechanism thus established strengthens the multi-source funding of social services and contributes to their long-term sustainability and availability, as well as to promoting employment and employability and regulating the level of remuneration of social services employees. The amendment also altered the conditions for granting a monetary allowance for the provision of social services in crisis intervention facilities from the state budget to public providers at local level and a monetary allowance for the provision of social services in a night shelter to non-public providers (Table 21 in Annex to Chapter 3). Alterations to the financing of social services also created disposal scope in the budgets of municipalities and higher territorial units (self-governing regions) for the provision and arrangement of other types of social services in the public interest.

Other changes adopted by this amendment included increasing the compulsory income balance of the nursing service recipient, assistance in personal childcare care and outpatient social services in a social service facility without the provision of meals after payment for their provision to 1.65 times the subsistence minimum for one adult person, as well as refining the contents of early intervention service, the conditions for providing childcare in a childcare facility for children under three years of age, carrying out social assessment activities, particulars of the application for registration and the application for accreditation for professional activity, the contents of a community plan of social services and the concept of social services development.

In order to ensure continuity and efficiency of social services provided and also encourage people dependent on the help of others to stay in their natural family environment as long as possible, MoLSAF continues to devote itself to the process of deinstitutionalisation of social services in Slovakia. In 2011, the Government of the Slovak Republic approved the *Strategy of Deinstitutionalisation of the Social Services System and Alternative Care (hereinafter simply the DI Strategy)*, by which the Slovak Republic is committed to the global trend of systematic removal of the model of institutional isolation and segregation of persons requiring long-term assistance and care in specialised facilities, namely children in alternative care, persons with disabilities and senior citizens, and its replacement by an alternative model of services and measures which come, by nature, as close as possible to the conditions of normal life. Such a change in the model is one of the objectives of the current EU policy on social inclusion and health disability, and is part of Slovakia's commitments in the area of international human rights. MoLSAF approved the *National Action Plan for the Transition from Institutional to Community-based Care in the Social Services System for 2016 – 2020* (hereinafter simply the National DI Action Plan), as well as *National Priorities for the Development of Social Services for 2015 – 2020*, where it identified as one of the national priorities "to support the transition of the recipients of social services from institutional to community-based care".

Since August 2018, the National Project *Deinstitutionalisation of Social Service Facilities – Support for Transformation Teams* has been implemented as a follow-up to the National Project "Support for the Transformation and Deinstitutionalisation of the Social Services System" implemented in the previous programming period. This project introduces the first step of the synergic support for the transition from institutional to community-based care in the Slovak Republic, resulting from Slovakia's international commitments in human rights and the implementation of the DI Strategy. The synergy of project support from the Integrated Regional Operational Programme of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic will also be ensured through the transformation plans of individual facilities.

The National Project *Support for Nursing Service*, implemented in the current programming period, is a follow-up to the project of the same title from the previous programming period. Its main objective is to support the further development of home nursing service in order to prevent the placement of individuals dependent on the help of others in self-servicing in housing social care facilities, create/retain jobs and thereby support employment in all Slovak regions. The national project supported by the European Social Fund was implemented for 33 months (November 2015 – July 2018) throughout the Slovak Republic. Besides ensuring the provision of nursing service, the output of the project was a proposal for a system to provide optimal financial support for this social service. The national project implementation supported a total of 3,783 jobs for carers. The number of nursing service recipients reached 5,537⁵⁰. After the completion of the national project, the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic reappraised the follow-up support for nursing service through the European Structural Funds by combining two forms of support: a national project and demand-driven projects with a total allocation of €63 mil. The aim is to support again around 3,000 jobs for carers. In addition to the provision of nursing service, other activities will be supported, such as training for carers and self-governments in providing nursing service to ensure the effective, targeted and timely provision of nursing service.

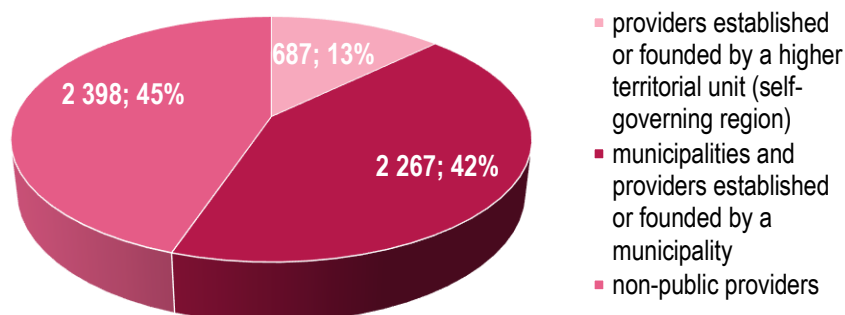
⁵⁰ Source: Implementation Agency of MoLSAF

Social Service Providers

As at 31 December 2018, a total of 5,352 social service providers were registered in SR, of which 687 (13 %) were established or founded by higher territorial units (self-governing regions) and 2,392 (45 %) were non-public providers. The largest share in the provision of social services (3,193, 49 %) was observed for municipalities and social service providers established or founded by municipalities, which is mainly due to the self-governing authority of municipalities in providing and arranging for nursing service, for which a total of 952 “municipal” providers are registered.

The difference in the number of entities providing social services compared to data from statistical reports is caused by better up-to-dateness of data from the central register, but also by the fact that one provider is registered separately for each place of performance and the form of social service. More detailed figures are given in Annex to Chapter 3, Table 22.

Graph 3.21 Share of Social Service Providers



Source: Central Register of Social Service Providers for Q4 2018

Social Service Facilities⁵¹

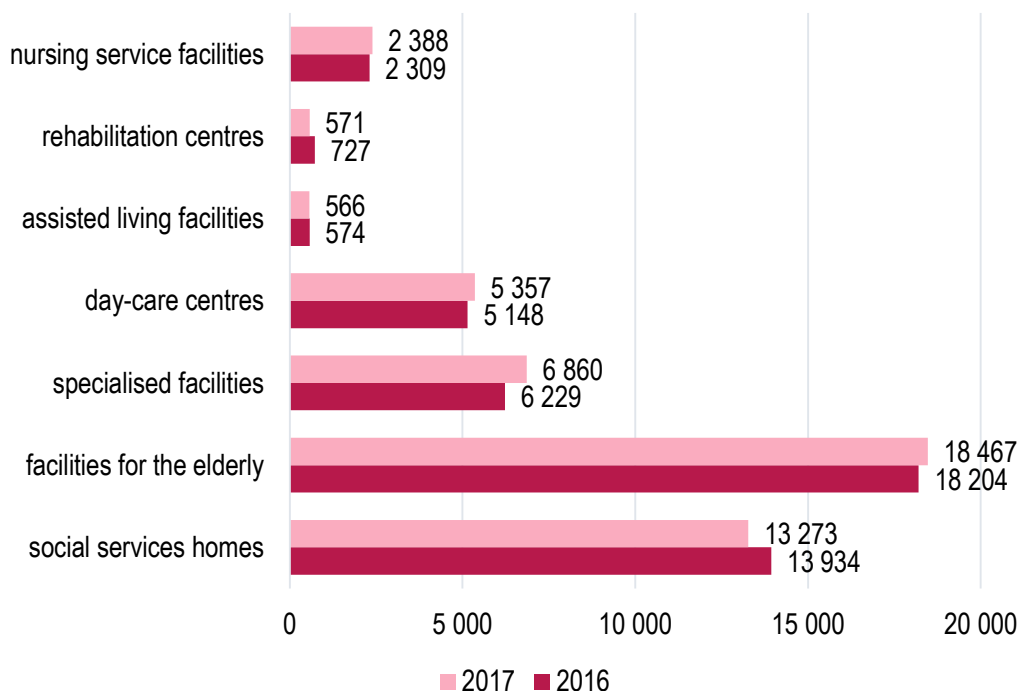
As at 31/12/2017, there were 5,443,120 inhabitants in the Slovak Republic, of which 55,058 (54,848)⁵² recipients (1.0 %) were provided social services in 1,435 (1,292) social service facilities of selected types, established by municipalities, self-governing regions or private providers. Social services in facilities, the provision of which is conditional upon dependence on the help of others (hereinafter simply “DHO facilities”), were provided to 45,617 (45,037) recipients in 1,262 (1,131) facilities (facilities for the elderly, social services homes, specialised facilities, day-care centres, assisted living facilities, rehabilitation centres, nursing service facilities).

In 2018, there was a total of 51,476 (51,125) beds in all monitored types of social service facilities in Slovakia, of which 42,857 (40,646) were associated with year-round care (83.3 %), 645 (598) with weekly care (1.3 %), 7,974 (6,968) with daily care (15.5 %). Of the total number of the beds, 47,482 (47,125) beds (92.2 %) were recorded in DHO facilities. The graph below shows the capacity of the respective DHO facilities.

⁵¹ At the time of publication of this Report, the data on social service facilities monitored by SO SR are available only for 2017

⁵² The number in parentheses is for 2016

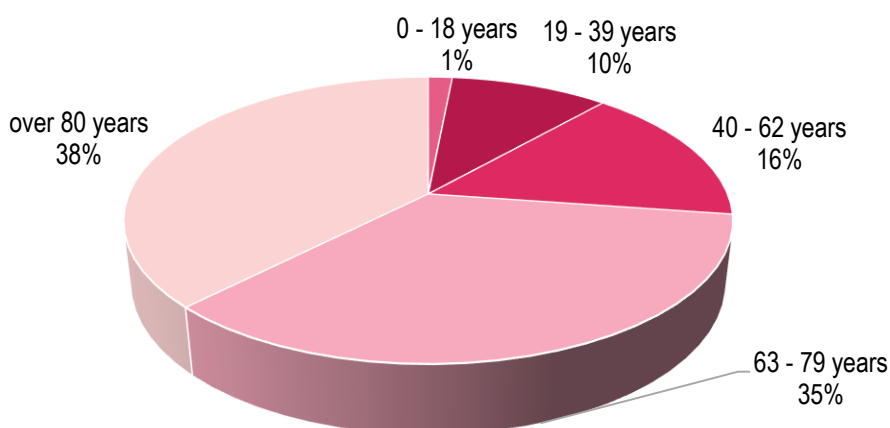
Graph 3.22 Capacity of Social Care Facilities Conditional upon Dependence on the Help of Others



Source: Selected data from SO SR – Social Service Facilities in the Slovak Republic

Of the total number of 55,058 recipients in the monitored social service facilities: 34,472 (34,061) were persons of retirement age (62.6 %); 22,740 (8,461) persons were nursed as bedridden (41.3 %) and 8,593 (8,723) persons had limited legal capacity or were completely deprived of legal capacity (15.6 %). The age structure of social service recipients in DHO facilities is shown in Graph 3.23, which clearly points out that persons aged 63 - 79 years and over 80 years accounted for the largest share (73 %) of the total number of these social service recipients.

Graph 3.23 Age Structure of Social Service Recipients in DHO facilities



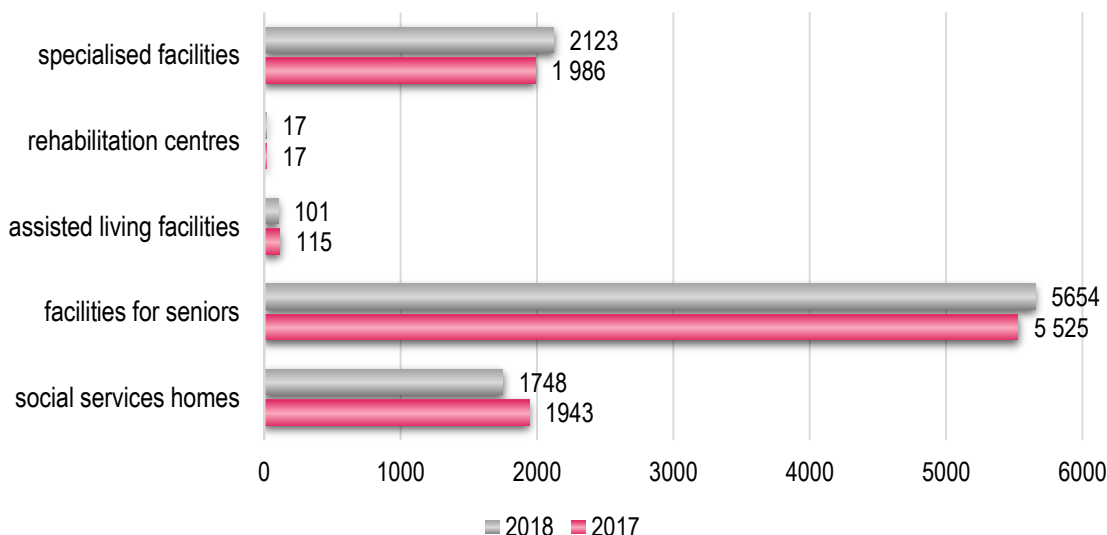
Source: Selected data from SO SR – Social Service Facilities in the Slovak Republic

As at 31 December 2017, the total expenditure of social service facilities reached €441,448,921.00 (€404,883,075.00), of which €275,045,963.00 (€248,044,526.00), i.e. 62.3 %, was spent on wages and compulsory social insurance contributions. Other expenditure was spent on goods and services, acquisition of fixed assets and healthcare. Expenditure on social services in DHO facilities amounted to €429,367,172.00 (€393,702,614.00), accounting for 97.3 % of the total expenditure in all types of social service facilities monitored by SO SR.

As at 31 December 2017, the monitored social service facilities had 25,106 employees, representing a year-on-year decrease of 44 employees. There were 24,406 employees in DHO facilities (97.2 % of the total number of employees).

In 2018, there was a total of 9,643 (9,586) individuals - applicants for the provision of social services in DHO facilities, most of them in facilities for the elderly (5,654 persons) and social services homes (1,748 persons). Compared to 2016, the total number of applicants increased by 57 persons. The number of waiting-list applicants for the provision of social services in the respective DHO facilities is shown in Graph 3.24.

Graph 3.24 Waiting-list Applicants for the Provision of Social Services in DHO Facilities



Source: V(MoLSAF) 10- 01

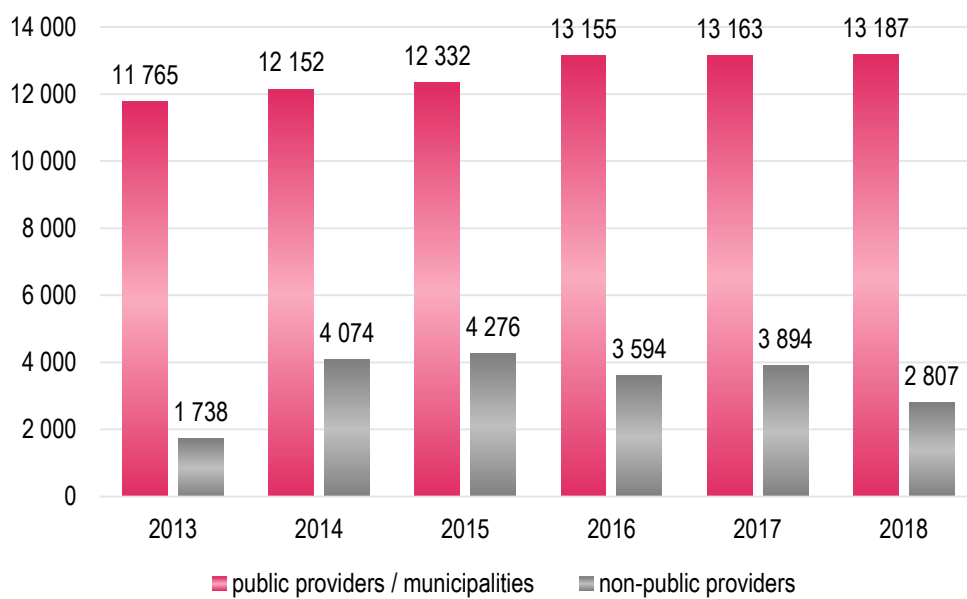
More detailed statistics on social service facilities are given in Annex to Chapter 3, Tables 25 – 28. ⁵³

Nursing Service

In 2018, a total of 15,994 individuals received nursing service, of which **municipalities** provided this social service to 13,187 persons (82 % of the total number of nursing service recipients), a year-on-year increase of 24 persons. **Non-public providers** provided nursing service to 2,807 clients, representing a year-on-year decrease of 1,087 persons under care. The likely cause of this is the end of support for nursing service from the national project in 2018. The following graph shows the number of nursing service recipients between 2013 and 2018, according to which the development of this indicator for municipalities is basically constant, with only a minimal increase in the number of recipients, while for non-public (private) providers, there are fluctuations in the number of their clients related to the current system of support from the EU funds. Further information is contained in Annex 3, Table 23.

⁵³ Source: Selected data from SO SR

Graph 3.25 Nursing Service Recipients



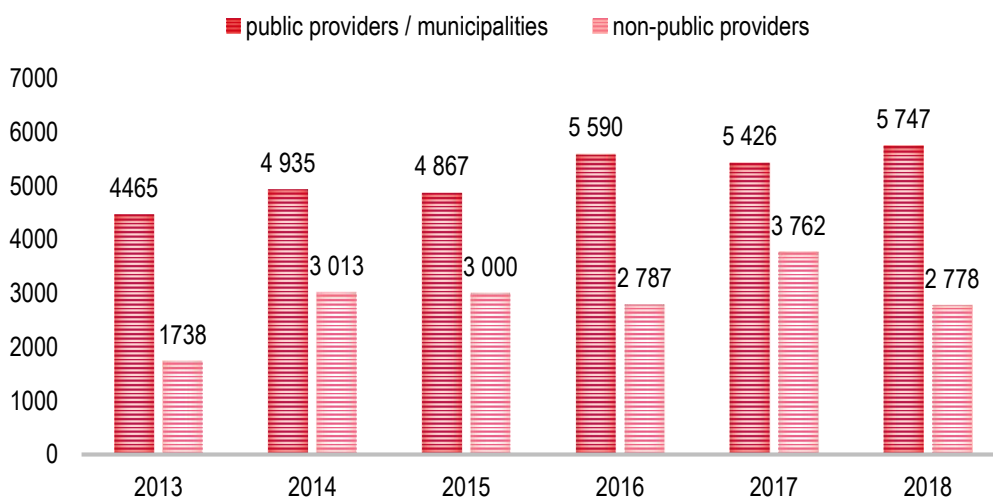
Source: V(MoLSAF) 11-01 and V(MoLSAF) 07-01

As at 31 December 2018, nursing service was provided by 5,747 employees of⁵⁴ towns and villages, representing a year-on-year increase of 321 employees (5.6 %).

In the reference period, non-public providers employed 2,807 carers, which is 984 carers (35.1 %) less than in 2017, despite an increase in the number of nursing service providers of 45. Just as in the case of recipients, the reason is probably the end of financial support from the national project in 2018. This factor is also a source of fluctuations in the number of nursing service employees between 2013 and 2018 (Graph 3.26).

Nursing service is provided using all institutes of industrial (labour-law) relations (employment relationship, work contract, work performance agreement).

Graph 3.26 Nursing Service Employees



Source: V(MoLSAF) 11-01 and V(MoLSAF) 07-01

⁵⁴ The numbers of employees are recalculated to full-time equivalents.

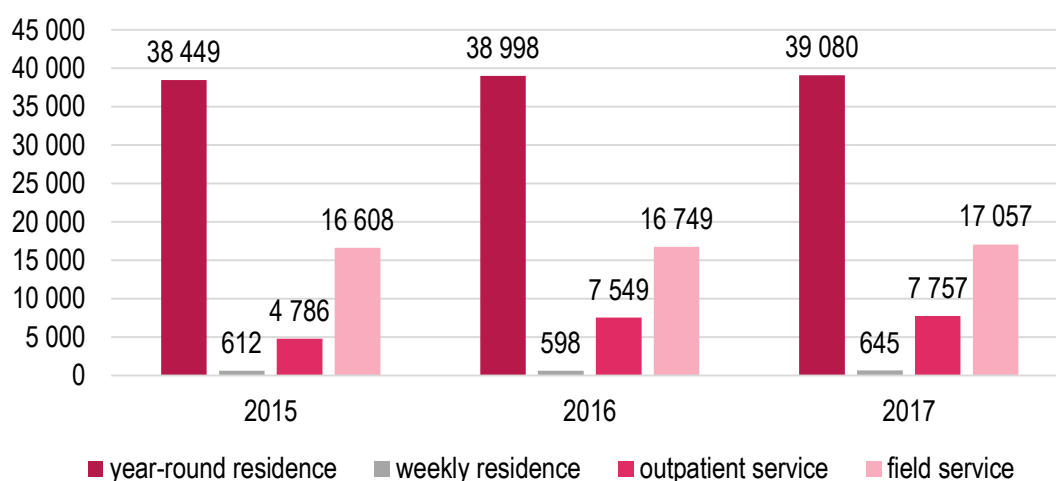
In 2018, municipalities spent a total of €41.4 mil. for providing nursing service, while revenue from payments of €6.7 mil. covered only 16.1 % of this expenditure; the remainder was paid by municipalities from their own budgets. In the case of non-public providers, income from payments covered approx. €3.4 mil. (22.4 %) of the total spending on nursing service (almost €15 mil.). Other statistics on nursing service are given in Annex to Chapter 3, Table 21.

Social Services for Dependence on the Help of Others (hereinafter simply “DHO social services”)

In accordance with the Social Services Act, DHO social services are provided for persons who are dependent on the help of others, which means the provision of nursing service and social services in DHO facilities. From among all types of social services, these are the most in-demand services; their provision is the most expensive in terms of professional and personnel requirements, and their physical and financial unavailability are also regularly pointed out. Demand for this type of social services is likely to continue increasing due to demographic trends and population ageing. At the end of the last decade, the 65+ population accounted for about 12 % of the total Slovak population, and by 2030 the percentage is expected to increase to 21.2 %. The 80+ population accounted for ca. 2.5 % of the total Slovak population at the end of the last decade, with an expected increase to 6.5 % by 2030. Given the current age structure of social service recipients in DHO facilities, the said demographic data implies an increase in demand for DHO social services and a thereto-related rise in the total financial costs of this type of social services covered from public sources.

In order to provide a broader comparative overview of the development and structure of DHO social services, the graphs below summarise data on recipients and employees of DHO social services and expenditure on these social services.

Graph 3.27 Number of Beds/Clients Receiving DHO Social Services by Form

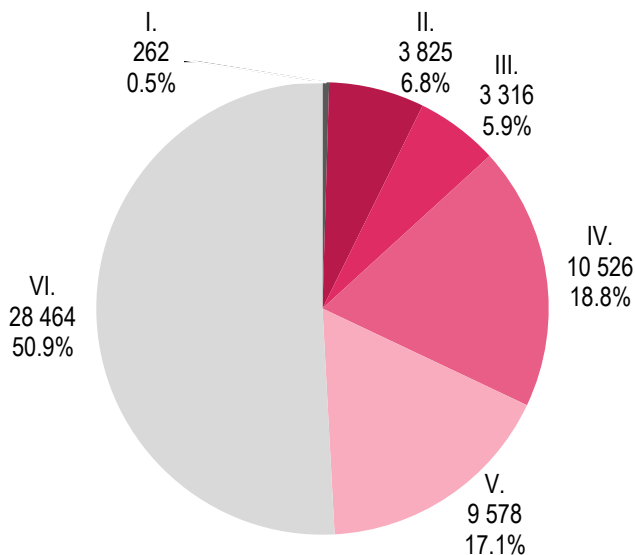


Source: Selected data from SO SR – Social Service Facilities in SR and V(MoLSAF) 11-01

Graph 3.27 provides data on the proportion of capacities of DHO social services by form of rendered social service. The graph clearly shows that capacities increase year-on-year for each form of social service, but the proportion of individual forms of social services remains unchanged. This means that despite the started process of the deinstitutionalisation of social services and support for field social service from the European Structural Funds, DHO social services with year-round residence continue to account for the highest share (over 60 %). The field (nursing) social service makes up 26 %. It can be assumed that the structure of the spectrum of forms of rendered social services remains unchanged mainly due to persistent and ever-increasing demand for year-round residential social services, but also the lack of offered capacities of other forms of social services.

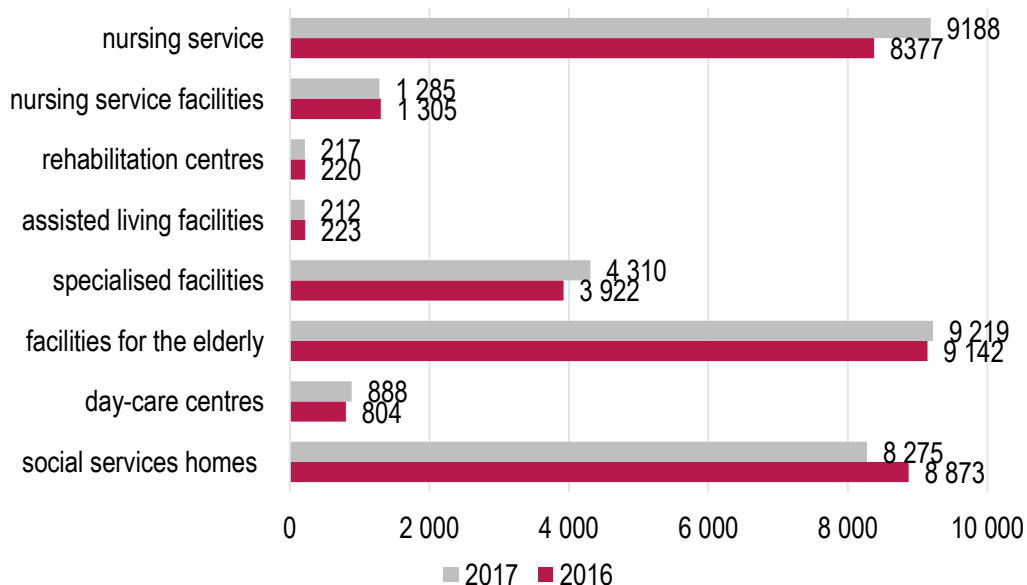
The structure of DHO social service recipients is provided in Graph 3.28, which shows that the DHO social services are mostly rendered to individuals dependent on the help of others in V. and VI. degrees (68 % of the total number of DHO social service recipients).

Graph 3.28 Structure of DHO Social Service Recipients by Degree of Dependence



Source: Selected data from SO SR – Social Service Facilities in SR and V(MoLSAF) 11-01

Graph 3.29 Employees of DHO Social Services

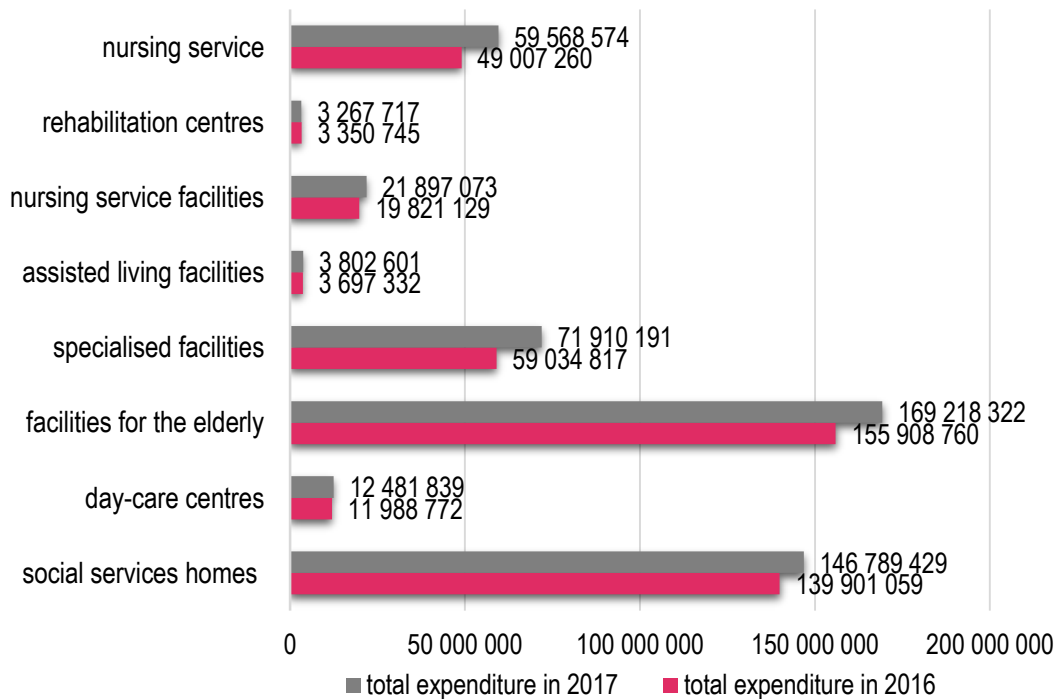


Source: Selected data from SO SR – Social Service Facilities in SR and V(MoLSAF) 11-01

The graph on *Social Service Employees* provides data on the number of employees in individual types of DHO social services in 2016 and 2017. A larger increase in the number of employees can only be observed in specialised facilities and nursing service (in relation to the support for its provision from the Structural Funds), but in respect of the other types of DHO social services the number of employees is rather stagnating or even decreasing (for social services homes by 598 employees). The reason for such decrease may be the changed registrations of social services homes or parts thereof into specialised facilities.

The graph on *Expenditure on DHO Social Services* clearly shows that there is a downward trend, regardless of the type of social service, which only confirms the high financial demands for the provision of this type of social services. Just as in the number of employees, the highest increase was recorded for nursing service and specialised facilities, namely of more than 21 % of expenditure.

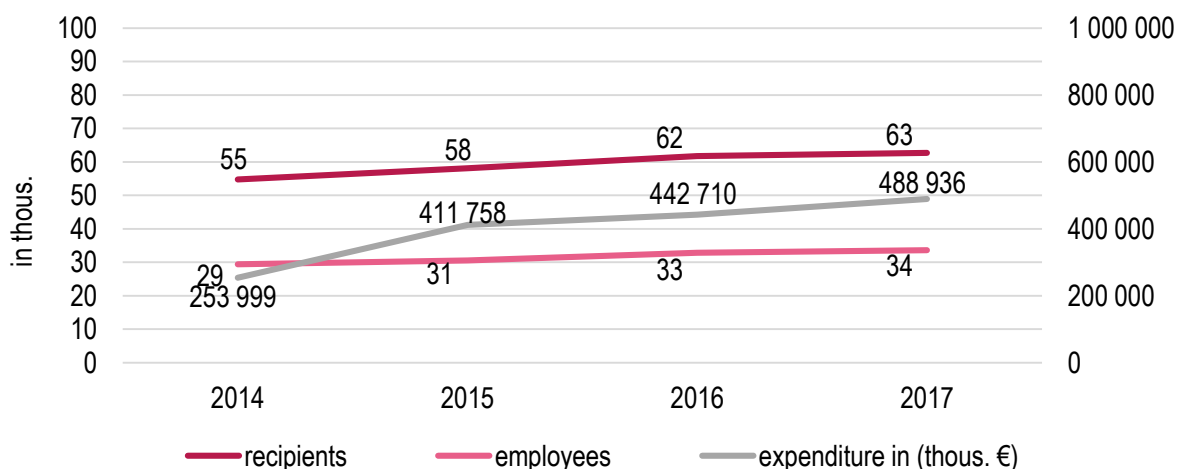
Graph 3.30 Total Expenditure on DHO Social Services



Source: Selected data from SO SR – Social Service Facilities in SR and V(MoLSAF) 11-01

Data in Graph 3.31 represent the development of the basic indicators of DHO social services, i.e. the number of recipients, employees and expenditure on these social services between 2014 and 2017. The graph shows that while the number of recipients and employees of these social services has increased by about 14 % since 2014 (an average year-on-year increase of 4.5 %), the expenditure in 2017 was 92 % higher than in 2014 (on average, a year-on-year increase of 26.6 %).

Graph 3.31 Development of DHO Social Services



Source: Selected data from SO SR – Social Service Facilities in SR and V(MoLSAF) 11-01

Other Social Services

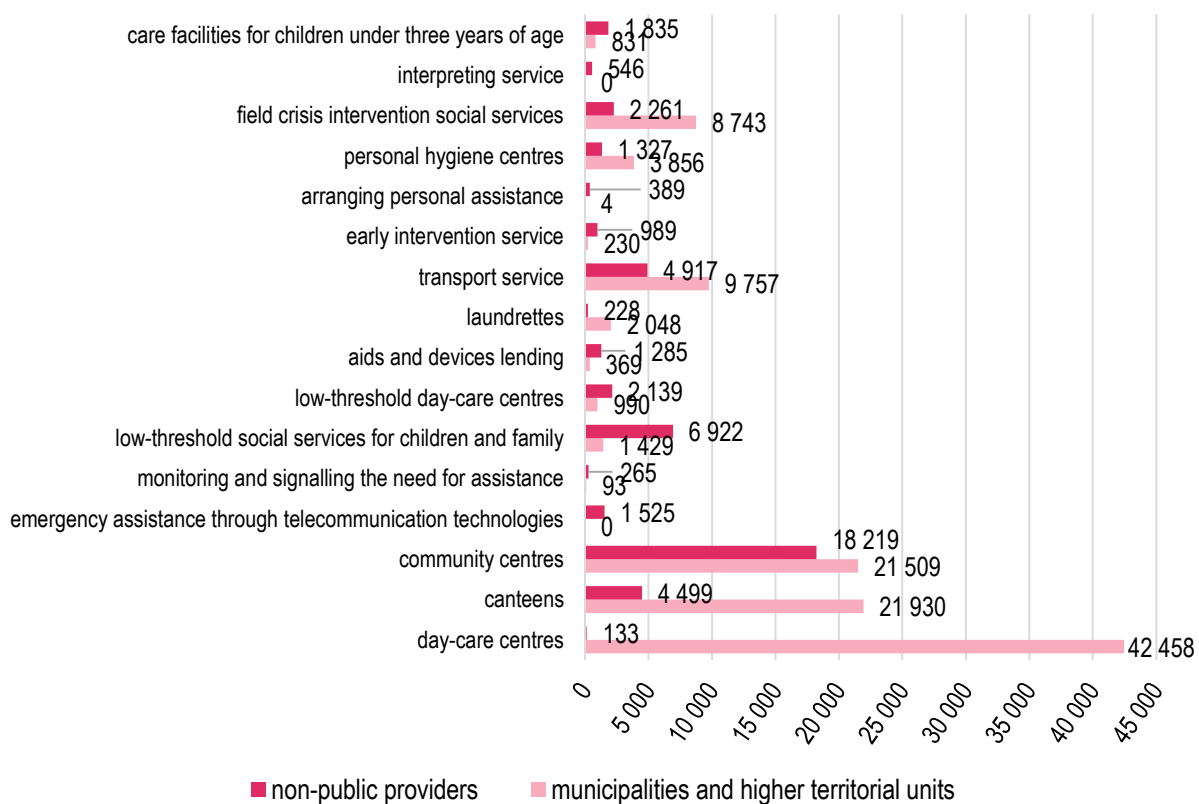
In accordance with the Social Services Act, selected professional activities (basic social counselling, specialised social counselling, and social rehabilitation) can also be provided separately as a social service. In 2018, these professional activities were carried out by 121 non-public providers for 27,968 clients; their revenue amounted to almost €1,952 thous, thus covering their expenditure of almost €2,322 thous. for 84 %. Other statistics on the professional activities are given in Annex to Chapter 3, Table 22.

With regard to **social service facilities** and **selected types of social services, not monitored by SO SR**, as at 31 December 2018 municipalities, higher territorial units or non-public social service providers established in Slovakia 1,057 social service providers that rendered these social services to 162,018 clients through 3,361 employees, with the total spending of almost €27.4 mil. and revenue of €23.8 mil.

For some social services, the highest number of both providers and recipients was recorded in **municipalities**. These are primarily 222 day-care centres, in which municipalities rendered social services to 42,458 clients (non-public providers had 133 clients in 5 day-care centres), 92 canteens, in which meals were provided for 21,930 clients (in contrast to 22 canteens of non-public providers with 4,499 clients), but also laundrettes, personal hygiene centres, field crisis intervention social service, and the provision of transport service. Social services, such as low-threshold day-care centres, low-threshold social service for children and family, early intervention service, emergency assistance through telecommunication technologies, and care facilities for children under three years of age were mostly rendered by **non-public providers**. Further statistics on selected types of social services provided by municipalities, higher territorial units or non-public providers are given in Annex to Chapter 3, Table 29.

An overview of the proportion of clients of public and non-public providers of selected types of social services (where the number of recipients reached at least 100) is provided in Graph 3.32, showing which types of social services are mostly rendered by public and which by non-public social service providers.

Graph 3.32 Number of Recipients of Selected Types of Social Services by Form of Provider



Source: V(MoLSAF) 10-01, V(MoLSAF) 11-01 and V(MoLSAF) 07-01

Co-financing of Social Services

In accordance with the amendment to Act No. 448/2008 Coll. on Social Services and on alterations and amendments to Act No. 455/1991 Coll. on Trade Licensing (Trade Licensing Act), as amended, effective as of 1 January 2018, MoLSAF made budget appropriations for co-financing selected types of social services.

Based on the submitted applications and concluded contracts with 196 municipalities (*villages and towns*) and 402 non-public (private) social service providers, MoLSAF made budget appropriations of €118,207,606.00 to co-finance social services in 2018, of which €46,465,943.00 were for public providers (405 facilities) and €71,741,663.00 were for private providers (825 facilities). The approved expenditure budget of €137,664,378.00 was adjusted to €113,376,913.00 during the year. The actual expenditure amounted to €113,333,305.00 and was spent at 100.0 %.

- Pursuant to Section 71 (6) and (7) of the Social Services Act – the financial contribution to finance social services for public providers was made for the following types of social services: day-care centres (€1,629,926.00), social services homes (€1,029,996.00), night shelters (€668,880.00), specialised facilities (€1,218,870.00), refuges (€1,049,400.00), assisted living facilities (€19,053.00), emergency housing facilities (€293,400.00), nursing service facilities (€6,027,609.00), and facilities for the elderly (€34,528,809.00).
- In accordance with Sections 78a and 78aa of the Social Services Act, the financial contribution to render social services for non-public providers was made for the following types of social services: day-care centres (€4,975,717.00), social services homes (€10,594,634.00), night shelters (€974,880.00), specialised facilities (€11,688,811.00), assisted living facilities (€872,262.00), rehabilitation centres (€410,561.00), nursing service facilities (€4,712,291.00), and facilities for the elderly (€37,512,507.00).

As at 31 December 2018, 366 recipients of the financial contribution repaid the total amount of €4,874,301.00 to the account of MoLSAF, of which €1,005,895.00 were repaid by public social service providers and €3,868,406.00 by non-public (private) social service providers, mostly due to vacancies in social service facilities.

As part of the financial settlement with the state budget for 2018, after 1 January 2019 recipients of the financial contribution repaid further funds of €1,485,181.00, of which €325,864.00 were repaid by public social service providers and €1,159,317 by private social service providers; The funds of €11,148.00 will be repaid in the course of 2019 on the basis of an approved repayment schedule from a non-public social service provider. Non-settled funds amount to €51,320.00. In view of the foregoing, it can be concluded that in 2018 social service providers used a total of €111,785,656.00 to cover the eligible costs of social services from the budget appropriations made by MoLSAF. Out of such amount, public providers used €45,134,184.00 and private providers used €66,651,472.00.⁵⁵

Expenditure used on co-financing social services under the Social Services Act in 2018 were €25,097,641.00 (28.4 %) higher than in 2017, mainly due to a changed method of financing social services from 1 January 2018, where the amount of the financial contribution was determined according to the form of social service in a social service facility, the structure of social service recipients by the degree of an individual's dependence on the help of others, the increased number of beds in social service facilities, as well as due to the fact that the financial contribution to providing social services in facilities conditional upon dependence was made to non-public providers in assisted living facilities, rehabilitation centres, social services homes, and specialised facilities. Until 31 December 2017, the said four types of social service were financed from the funds of the respective higher territorial units.

⁵⁵ These are **preliminary data** given that pursuant to Instruction of the Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic No. MF/009261/2019-441 the date for the settlement of financial relations with the state budget for 2018 is set to 30 June 2019.

Control of the Use of the Financial Contribution to Finance Social Service in Social Service Facilities

Pursuant to Section 9a of the Basic Rules of Financial Control and Audit laid down in Sections 20 to 27 of the Act on Financial Control, the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic also performs financial on-the-spot controls (hereinafter simply “FOCs”) in social service facilities that were granted a subsidy from the state budget under Act No. 544/2010 Coll. on Subsidies within the Authority of MoLSAF, as amended (hereinafter referred to as the “Subsidies Act”) and a financial contribution under the Social Services Act.

In 2018, the ministry conducted 14 FOCs, of which 2 FOCs were carried over from 2017 to 2018. The public funds audited in completed FOCs totalled €957,231.16.

The FOCs conducted identified 127 deficiencies, of which 40 deficiencies associated with the violation of financial discipline under Section 31(1)(b) of Act No. 523/2004 Coll. on the Public Administration Budget Rules and on alterations and amendments to certain acts (hereinafter simply the “Budget Rules Act”) amounted to €134,731.49, 6 deficiencies associated with the violation of financial discipline under Section 31(1)(j) of the Budget Rules Act amounted to €97,102.56 and 1 deficiency associated with the violation of financial discipline under Section 31(1)(n) of the Budget Rules Act amounted to €49,363.51. Other 80 deficiencies were associated with the breach of the obligation under Act No. 357/2015 Coll. on Financial Control and Audit and on alterations and amendments to certain acts, under Act No. 431/2002 Coll. on Accounting, as amended, Act No. 25/2006 Coll. or Act No. 343/2015 Coll. on Public Procurement and on alterations and amendments to certain acts, as amended, Act No. 213/1997 Coll. on Non-profit Organisations Providing Welfare Services, the Social Services Act, and under Act No. 311/2001 Coll. – the Labour Code. The resulting document of 3 FOCs was referred to the Departments of Control, Complaints and Petitions of the Government Audit Office to initiate an administrative procedure due to the violation of financial discipline by the obliged person.

- 2 FOCs carried over from 2017 to 2018 concerned the use of the financial contribution to finance social service under Section 78a of the Social Services Act in special-purpose churches and non-profit organisations (non-public social service providers).
The FOCs conducted identified violations of financial discipline pursuant to Section 31(1)(b) of the Budget Rules Act totalling €57,932.21. Furthermore, violations of Act No. 431/2002 Coll. on Accounting, Act No. 213/1997 Coll. on Non-Profit Organisations Providing Welfare Services, Act No. 25/2006 Coll. on Public Procurement and on alterations and amendments to certain acts, and the Social Services Act were identified. The findings of 2 FOCs conducted were referred to the Government Audit Office to initiate an administrative procedure.
- 8 FOCs related to budget means provided in the form of subsidies in accordance with the Subsidies Act within the authority of MoLSAF, of which 5 FOCs were conducted in non-public social service providers (non-profit organisations, civic associations) and 3 FOCs were conducted in public social service providers.
- The FOCs did not reveal any violation of financial discipline under the Budget Rules Act.
- 4 FOCs were aimed at checking compliance with the rules of economy, efficiency, effectiveness and reasonable spending of public funds provided for financing social services under Section 78a of the Social Services Act in 2 non-profit organisations (non-public social service providers) and 2 municipalities (public social service providers). In all cases, the FOCs conducted identified violations of financial discipline pursuant to Section 31(1)(b) of the Budget Rules Act totalling €126,546.43. In 1 case, the obligation to repay the funds did not amount to the violation of financial discipline, as the levy together with the fine according to Section 31(13) of the Budget Rules Act did not exceed €40.00. In 2 cases, the obliged person paid funds amounting to the violation of financial discipline of €57,366.19 to the ministry’s account by the end of the FOC and in one case, the findings of the FOC were referred to the Government Audit Office to initiate an administrative procedure.

3 FOCs in non-public social service providers (a non-profit organisation and civic associations) to check compliance with the rules of economy, efficiency, effectiveness and reasonable spending of the public funds of €179,069.68 provided in 2018 to finance social services under Section 78a of the Social Services Act were carried over to 2019.

Supervision of Social Services Provision

In accordance with Sections 98 and 99 of the Social Services Act, the state supervises, through MoLSAF,⁵⁶ compliance with the Social Services Act and the generally binding legal regulations in:

- the provision of social services and the manner in which they are delivered, particularly in terms of respect for fundamental human rights and freedoms;
- concluding contracts for social services;
- compliance with the obligations imposed by contracts for social services;
- carrying out professional activities for which accreditation was granted.

In the execution of supervision of social services provision (hereinafter simply the “supervision”), MoLSAF proceeds under Act No. 10/1996 Coll. on Control in the State Administration and under MoLSAF Guideline No. 50/2012 of 18 December 2012 on Supervision of Social Services Provision effective as of 1 January 2013 and Supplement 1 thereto of 19 September 2013 effective as of 20 September 2013.

Overview of Supervision in 2018

Number of supervisions carried over from 2017 and completed in 2018	3
Number of commenced and completed supervisions in 2018, according to the action plan	8
Number of commenced and completed supervisions in 2018, beyond the action plan	11
Total number of executed and completed supervisions in 2018	22
Number of commenced and pending supervisions in 2018, according to the action plan	1
Number of commenced and pending supervisions in 2018, beyond the action plan	5

Overview of Check of Compliance with Measures in 2018

Number of planned checks of compliance with the measures adopted for 2018	1
Number of conducted and completed checks of compliance with adopted measures in 2018, beyond the action plan of the department	0

Of the total number of 22 checks conducted in 2018, the resulting document was a record of the result of supervision in 1 case, a report on the result of supervision in 19 cases and an official record was drawn up in 2 cases. In one case, a social service provider did not render social service any longer; prior to the commencement of supervision, a higher territorial unit applied for removal from the register of social service providers. In another case, a social service provider was removed from the register of social service providers upon its request during the execution of supervision.

In 2018, supervisions were executed for providers of social services in residential form (20) and for providers of social services in field form – nursing service (2).

Commenced and pending supervisions in 2018 (6) were carried over to 2019.

Supervisions broken down by type of social service	Facilities for the elderly	Specialised facilities	Social services homes	Nursing Service
Supervisions executed in 2018	11	3	6	2
Supervisions carried over to 2019	4	1	1	0

All supervisions in 2018 were executed in social service providers to address the unfavourable social situation due to severe disability, ill health or due to reaching the retirement age. Most of them were executed in social service facilities providing social service in residential form for the target group of senior citizens.

In total, 22 supervisions completed in 2018 discovered that social service providers violated Act No. 460/1992 Coll. – the Constitution of the Slovak Republic, the Social Services Act and other generally binding legal regulations.

⁵⁶ Execution of supervision of social services provision in accordance with Act No. 448/2008 Coll. on Social Services and on alterations and amendments to Act No. 455/1991 Coll. on Trade Licensing (Trades Licensing Act), as amended, as amended

A more detailed overview of individual violations in 2018 is given in Annex to Chapter 3 “Violations of Act No. 460/1992 Coll. – the Constitution of the Slovak Republic, the Social Services Act and other generally binding legal regulations”.

On the basis of a comparison of the deficiencies identified in 2018 with the findings of previous years, it can be stated that the aforementioned deficiencies are mostly repeated every year.

Registration, monitoring and assessment of social service providers' notifications of the use of non-physical and physical restraints

Section 10(5) and (6) of the Social Services Act obliges social service providers, among others, to maintain a register of the use of non-physical and physical restraints on social service recipients (hereinafter simply the “use of restraints”). Pursuant to Section 10(6) of the Social Services Act, social service providers are obliged to notify MoLSAF of the use of restraints on social service recipients immediately after such restraints are used. Data sent from this register were monitored and applied by MoLSAF in planning and execution of supervisions.

On the basis of the received notifications of restraints used on social service recipients in 2018, there were records of a total of 392 restraints, of which 260 non-physical and 132 physical restraints. In 2018, social service providers preferred the use of non-physical restraints to the use of physical restraints in accordance with the Social Services Act, which MoLSAF regards as positive.

Table 3.31 Overview of the Number of Received Notifications of the Use of Restraints

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
total	70	161	228	305	320	336	265	316	392
physical	60	125	149	216	256	238	129	147	132
non-physical	10	36	79	89	64	98	136	169	260

Source: MoLSAF

From the effective date of the Social Services Act, supervision also includes check of compliance with the provisions of Section 10 of the Social Services Act, concerning the social service provider's obligation to protect the life, health and dignity of a social service recipient, i.e. when using a physical or non-physical restraint on a social service recipient in accordance with the Social Services Act.

The non-physical restraints mean dealing with the situation mainly through verbal communication, distraction, or active listening. Physical restraints mean dealing with the situation using a variety of special grips, by placing the client in a room intended for safe stay or using medications as advised by a physician specialised in psychiatry. The use of non-physical restraints takes precedence over the use of physical restraints.

The restraints may be used on recipients only if all other possible strategies or procedures have been used unsuccessfully to prevent the behaviour of the recipients which directly threatens their life or health or the health and life of others and the risks arising from non-restriction of the recipients are greater than the risks arising from their restriction.

The total number of social service providers' notifications on the restraints used on recipients in 2018 (392) was the highest number of social service providers' notifications since the Social Services Act came into effect.

Table 3.32 Number of Social Service Providers' Notifications of the Use of Non-physical and Physical Restraints in 2018, by Regions

Region	Number of notifications from public providers	Number of notifications from private providers	Total
Bratislava	40	9	49
Trnava	49	12	61
Nitra	22	7	29
Trenčín	71	0	71
Žilina	15	0	15
Banská Bystrica	114	5	119
Košice	13	2	15
Prešov	28	5	33
TOTAL	352	40	392

Source: MoLSAF

Data from the records of social service providers' notifications of the use of physical and non-physical restraints on recipients show a higher number of notifications received from public social service providers. According to the central register of social service providers published on www.employment.gov.sk, the number of public social service providers is higher, i.e. it cannot be stated that public providers use restraints on recipients more than non-public providers. By the number of restraints used – the lowest number was reported by providers from Žilina and Košice Self-Governing Regions, while the highest number was reported by providers from Banská Bystrica Self-Governing Region. This figure may not correspond to reality, since not all social service providers consistently apply Section 10 of the Social Services Act in practice, i.e. restraints used are not always listed in the register of non-physical and physical restraints or the recorded use of restraints is not reported to MoLSAF. This fact was confirmed by the findings of the supervisory work in 2018.

Compared to the total number of social service facilities in the Slovak Republic, the number of recorded notifications of the use of non-physical or physical restraints on social service recipients appears to be very low and therefore when executing supervision, MoLSAF pays increased attention to the fulfilment of obligations by social service providers in the protection of the life, health and dignity of social service recipients.

Imposing fines for violations of the Social Services Act

In compliance with the Social Services Act, MoLSAF may/shall impose a fine for:

- administrative offences under Section 101;
- the provision of professional, service and other activities without being listed in the register of social service providers maintained by the relevant higher territorial unit;
- a disciplinary penalty;
- a fine for failure to comply with the measures to remove the identified deficiencies within a specified time limit.

In accordance with the Social Services Act, a total of 3 fines were lawfully imposed in 2018, 2 for an administrative offence pursuant to Section 101 of the Social Services Act and 1 for the provision of social service without being listed in the register of social service providers pursuant to Section 99(5) of the Social Services Act.

- In 2018, for the violation of the Social Services Act which constituted an administrative offence under Section 101 thereof, by its final decision MoLSAF imposed a fine of €700.00 on a public social service provider (Section 38 – a social services home) for the violation of Section 10(1), (3), (4) and (6) of the Social Services Act: the social service provider used an illicit physical restraint in its facility – a net bed and, when providing the social service, it repeatedly used non-physical and physical restraints on the social service recipient, and it failed to

record the use of such restraints in the register of physical and non-physical restraints and report such use to MoLSAF.

- In 2018, for the violation of the Social Services Act which constituted an administrative offence under Section 101 thereof, by its final decision MoLSAF imposed a fine of €1,000.00 on a non-public social services provider (Section 35 – a facility for the elderly) for the violation of Section 9(1), Section 72(3), (6), (8), (9), (10), (11), Section 72a(1), (6), Section 73(9), and Section 74(8) of the Social Services Act: the social service provider failed to evaluate the course of the provided social service with the participation of the recipient in its facility; it failed to include fees for individual professional, service and other activities in its price lists and none of its price lists were published on the provider's website or other publicly available place; the provider's contract for social services set forth the option of increasing the fees contrary to the law; the provider included in other activities the provision of the activity – assistance in exercising rights and legally protected interests – for a fee despite the fact that Section 72(6) of the Social Services Act stipulates that such activity shall not be subject to a fee; the provider's contract for other activities set fees for other activities without specifying the activities provided to the recipient and for the purpose of setting the fee for other activities the provider assessed the recipient's income and property; it failed to take account of the recipient's property to determine a fee for the social service; it incorrectly settled an overpayment for the period of the recipient's absence in the facility; it failed to allow for the current recipient's income (it did not use as a basis for setting a fee the recipient's income (pension) granted to him/her by the Social Insurance Agency's decision, but the income reduced by execution deductions); the provider incorrectly set a fee from another person who paid the difference for the recipient; the provider's contract for other activities under Section 15(3) of the Social Services Act established for all recipients all activities that the provider considered other activities even if a recipient did not receive them; the provider's contract for other activities also contained activities that cannot be deemed other activities under the said provision of the Social Services Act and did not clearly specify fees for individual activities.
- For the violation of the Social Services Act which constituted the facts of the case in Section 99(5) of the Social Services Act, in 2018 MoLSAF imposed a fine of €35,000.00 on a legal entity (Ltd) pursuant to Section 99(5) of the Social Services Act for the provision of a social service (Section 41 – nursing service) without being listed in the register of social service providers maintained by the relevant higher territorial unit and also prohibited the legal entity from continuing to provide such social service, since the legal entity violated Section 61 of the Social Services Act, under which a social service provider may render the social service only upon being listed in the register maintained by a higher territorial unit.

3.4.8 Subsidies to Support the Development of the Social Area within the Authority of MoLSAF

In 2018, MoLSAF provided subsidies from the budget section in accordance with Act No. 544/2010 Coll. on Subsidies within the Authority of MoLSAF, as amended by Act No. 393/2012 Coll. (hereinafter simply the Subsidies Act). The subsidies provided totalled €2,651,222.00, of which €2,510,792.00 were granted to legal entities.

Subsidies to support the development of social services and subsidies to support the implementation of measures of social and legal protection of children and social guardianship (Section 3 of the Subsidies Act) were granted in the amount of €1,719,555.00 (201 supported applications), of which capital transfers in the amount of €978,915.00 were used to buy passenger and special vehicles, technical equipment to improve the treatment of clients with limited mobility, material equipment, to create a barrier-free environment, for renovation and construction work, and for heating equipment and other technology. As part of this expenditure, the amount of €34,600.00 was spent on drug policy. Rehabilitation activities (Section 6 of the Subsidies Act) were supported by granted subsidies of €612,000.00 (27 applications), membership of an international organisation in the social area (Section 7 of the Subsidies Act) was supported by the amount of €49,570.00 (22 applications), editorial activities (Section 8 of the Subsidies Act) by the amount of €127,167.00 (20 applications), of which €2,000.00 were spent on drug policy, and humanitarian aid (Section 9 of the Subsidies Act) was supported by the amount of €2,500.00 (1 application). Within subsidies to support rehabilitation activities, subsidies aimed at preventing social exclusion and promoting the restoration of mental and physical condition of a natural person who receives old-age, early old-age or service pension and does not perform any activity with entitlement to income from employment or business were granted to three entities in the amount of €513,700.00, through which a contribution to recreation was provided to 10,274 applicants. In terms of the legal form of a subsidy recipient, budget appropriations were made to municipalities and higher territorial units for facilities established/founded by them in the amount of €861,907.00,

civic associations in the amount of €799,367.00, trade unions in the amount of €276,700.00, non-profit organisations in the amount of €473,948.00, and religious organisations in the amount of €98,870.00.

In accordance with Section 9(1) and (2) of the Subsidies Act, a subsidy of €140,430.00 to support humanitarian aid was provided for 369 natural persons in a critical life situation or an extremely unfavourable social situation to enable them to address such situation.

Table 3.33 Provision of Subsidies within the Authority of MoLSAF

Purpose of subsidy:	Supported projects			Granted subsidy in €		
	2017	2018	Index 2018/2017	2017	2018	Index 2018/2017
– to support the development of social services and the implementation of measures of social and legal protection of children and social guardianship	207	201	97.1	1,614,436	1,719,555	106.5
– to support rehabilitation activities, membership of international organisations, editorial activities and humanitarian aid to legal entities	64	70	109.4	832,575	791,237	95.0
– to support humanitarian aid (natural persons)	490	369	75.3	146,150	140,430	96.1

Source: Draft final account for 2018

3.4.9 European System of Integrated Social Protection Statistics (ESSPROS Methodology)⁵⁷

According to the Lisbon Treaty, the EU member states and the European Union as a whole are obliged, when defining and implementing their policies, to put emphasis on full employment, social protection of all citizens and fighting against social exclusion.

For the sake of monitoring the development of social protection in the EU member states, the European Commission (EC) requires access to current and detailed data on systems, current state and development of social protection in the member states. One of the basic tools for statistical observation of social protection is the **European System of Integrated Social Protection Statistics (ESSPROS⁵⁸)**. Since 2008 (reference year 2006), EU member states provide data under Regulation (EC) No 458/2007⁵⁹ of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European system of integrated social protection statistics (ESSPROS), with four implementing Commission Regulations No 1322/2007⁶⁰, No 10/2008⁶¹, No 110/2011⁶² and No 263/2011⁶³.

ESSPROS consists of the following modules:

- Social protection receipts and expenditure
- Qualitative information
- Number of pension beneficiaries (without double counting)
- Net social protection benefits.

Internationally comparable data on social protection receipts and expenditure for EU member states are available on the Eurostat webpage (the EU member states) and in the SO SR publications⁶⁴. The latest data are for 2016 (means-tested social protection benefits for EU-28 are only available for 2015).

Receipts of social protection programmes comprise social contributions (from employers, employees, self-employed and voluntary contributors), general government contributions (state budget payments, regional and local government payments and compulsory social security funds), transfers from other schemes and other receipts.

Expenditure includes social benefits by functions, administrative costs and other expenditures. Social protection includes all interventions from public or private organisations which aim to relieve households and individuals from the burdens of defined risks or needs, provided there is neither a simultaneous nor an individual agreement.

Eight functions of social protection are specified in the ESSPROS manual:

- sickness/health care
- disability
- old age
- survivors
- family/children
- unemployment
- housing
- social exclusion not elsewhere classified.

Social protection expenditure (gross)⁶⁵ is recorded without deduction of taxes or other compulsory fees paid by beneficiaries (e.g. the social security contributions).

EU member states have significantly different systems for financing social protection, depending on whether they prefer insurance systems (54.5 % of total receipts at EU28 level in 2016). The graph below gives an overview of the structure of social protection receipts per EU member state.

⁵⁷ Some data for 2016 are not available at the time of the preparation of the Report.

⁵⁸ <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/3859598/5917481/KS-RA-11-014-EN.PDF/ee86d517-3348-4c20-94ee-a37c330755b1>

⁵⁹ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2007:113:0003:0008:SK:PDF>

⁶⁰ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/SK/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32007R1322&from=EN>

⁶¹ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/SK/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32008R0010&from=EN>

⁶² <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2011:034:0029:0032:SK:PDF>

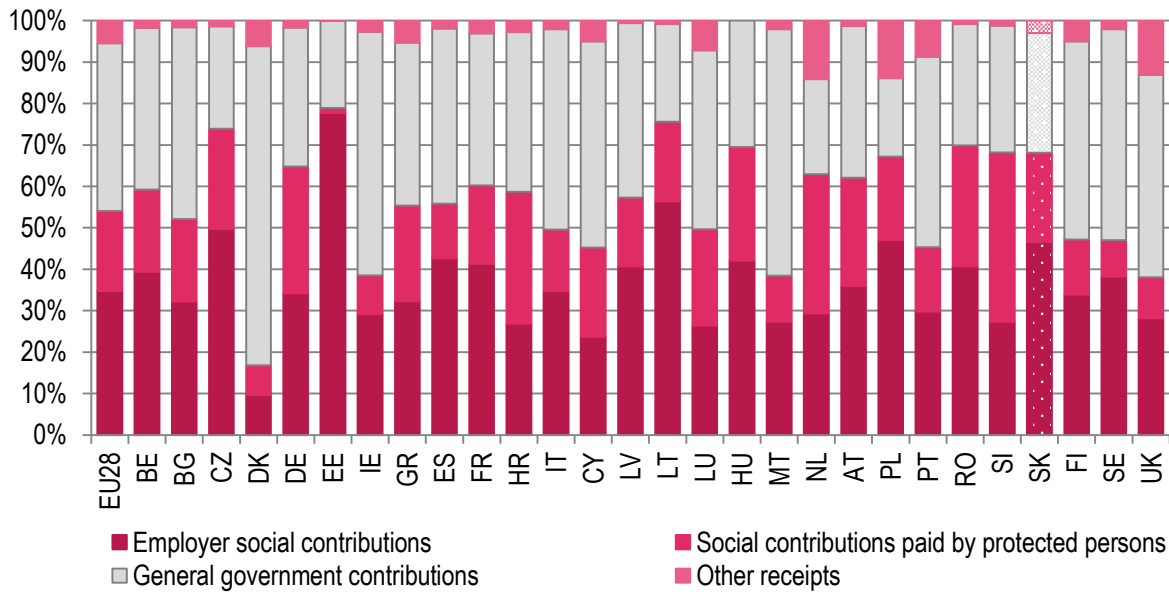
⁶³ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2011:071:0004:0008:SK:PDF>

⁶⁴ https://slovak.statistics.sk/wps/portal/ext/themes/demography/social/publications!/ut/p/b1/jZDLdDolwEEW_xS_opZTXsq

[CUGoI8rCibw8IYilAL4_cLBDcmVGc3mXMyd4ZUpCRVV7-aa_1s-q6-i31InzNHur5vcLiWA8ikUMChAGI6AKcBwEJxf
PIJvoHc81TkW2aAWbOvAUy_LFLKPSaCdb4Lh3FA3SK2KWDMfiB4xJwYcGNhQfJl5V5mmuDmf_k1C374R1JNiC7B
BOhepF_yAZZCCvsHMFyRRH17IY9WKVWikTe2eqOmflqs/dl4/d5/L2dJQSEvUUt3QS80SmtFL1o2X1E3SThCQiFBMDg1NzAwSU5TVTAwVIMwME4w/](https://slovak.statistics.sk/wps/portal/ext/themes/demography/social/publications!/ut/p/b1/jZDLdDolwEEW_xS_opZTXsq)

⁶⁵ <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/3433488/5280189/KS-SF-09-102-EN.PDF>

Graph 3.33 Structure of Social Protection Receipts in EU28, 2016



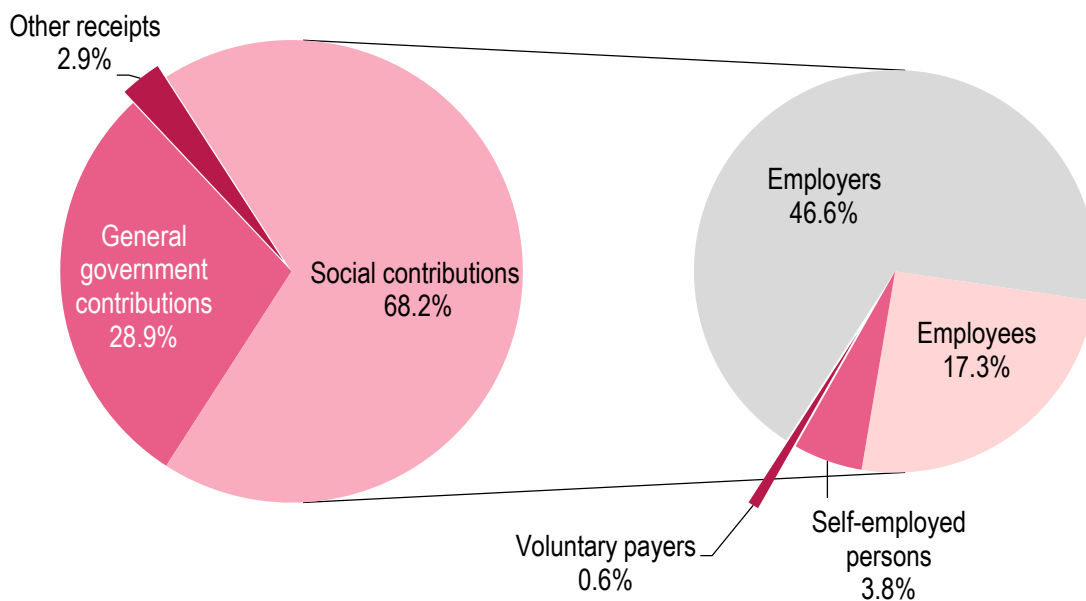
Source: Eurostat – ESSPROS, data extracted on 31/05/2019

Differences in financing among EU member states are caused by historical development. The highest shares of social contributions were recorded in Estonia (79.0 %), Lithuania (75.6 %), and the Czech Republic (73.9 %), with the lowest share of income from protected persons (1.2 %) and the highest share of income from employers (77.8 %) in Estonia. Income from protected persons reached the largest share in Slovenia (40.9 %), Croatia (31.8 %), the Netherlands (33.6 %), and Germany (30.6 %), while in Slovenia, the Netherlands, and Croatia, the share of income from protected persons is higher than from employers. Social protection is mostly funded from public administration contributions in Denmark (77.0 %), Ireland (58.8 %), and Malta (57.4 %).

In 2016, the total receipts for the social protection system in Slovakia increased year-on-year by €0.7 bil. and reached €15,600.70 mil. (19.2 % of GDP).

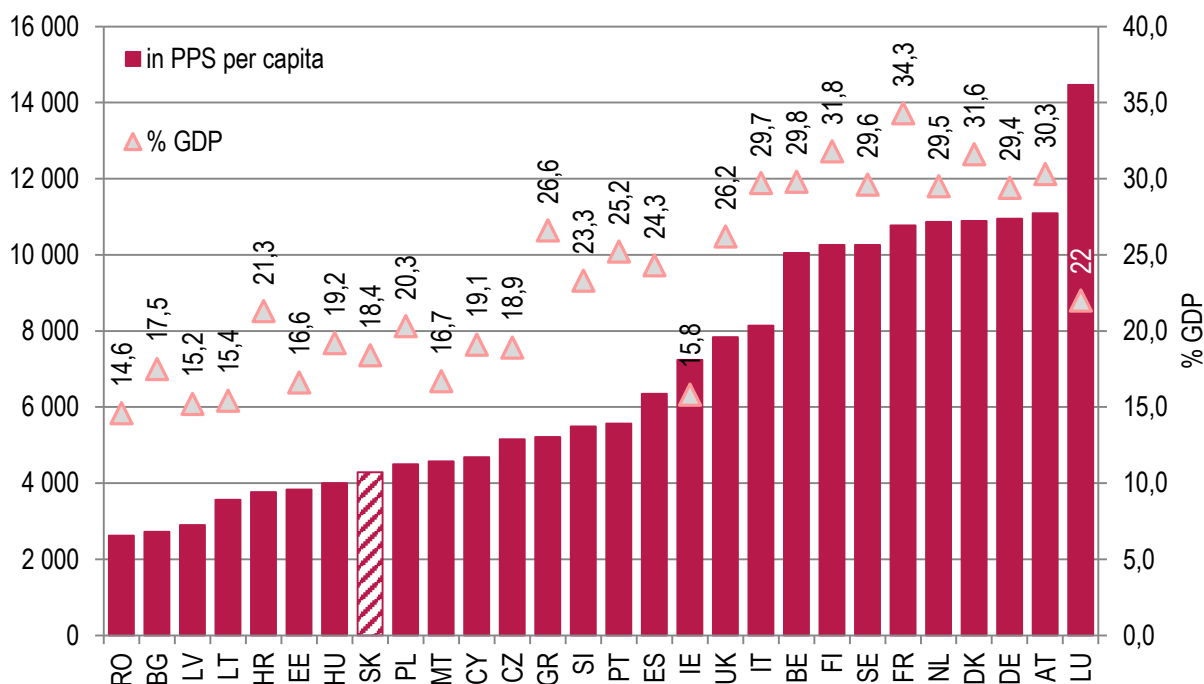
The structure of social protection receipts is shown in graph 3.34.

Graph 3.34 Structure of Social Protection Receipts in SR by Type, 2016



Source: SO SR – ESSPROS

Graph 3.35 Gross Social Protection Expenditure per capita in PPS and in % of GDP, 2016

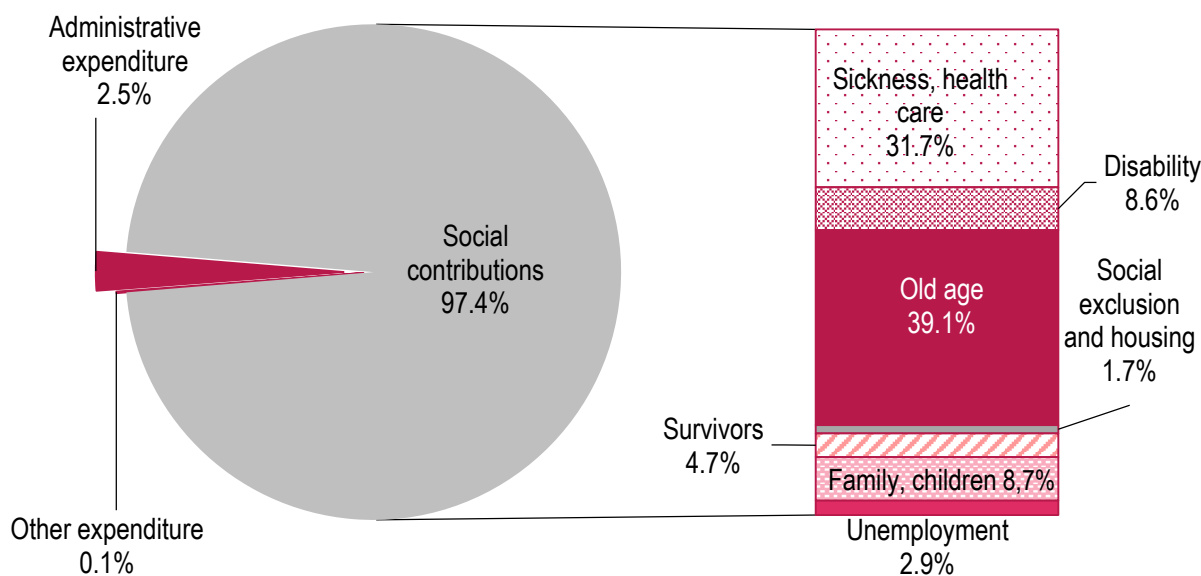


Source: Eurostat – ESSPROS, data extracted in 2019

The total gross social protection expenditure in EU28 (2016) amounted to 8,232 PPS per capita (4,287 PPS per capita in SR) and 28.1 % of GDP (18.4 % in SR). Differences between individual countries are somewhat proportional to the different levels of wealth; expenditure in PPS per capita traditionally rises slightly year-on-year, with the exception of Estonia and Latvia in 2015 (where expenditure increased more significantly year-on-year). There was no year-on-year decline in such expenditure in any of the EU28 countries.

In 2016, the total gross expenditure (without deduction of taxes and social contributions paid by beneficiaries) on social protection in SR increased year-on-year by 3.7 % and reached €14,901.00 mil. (18.4 % of GDP). The structure of social protection expenditure in SR by functions is shown in Graph 3.36.

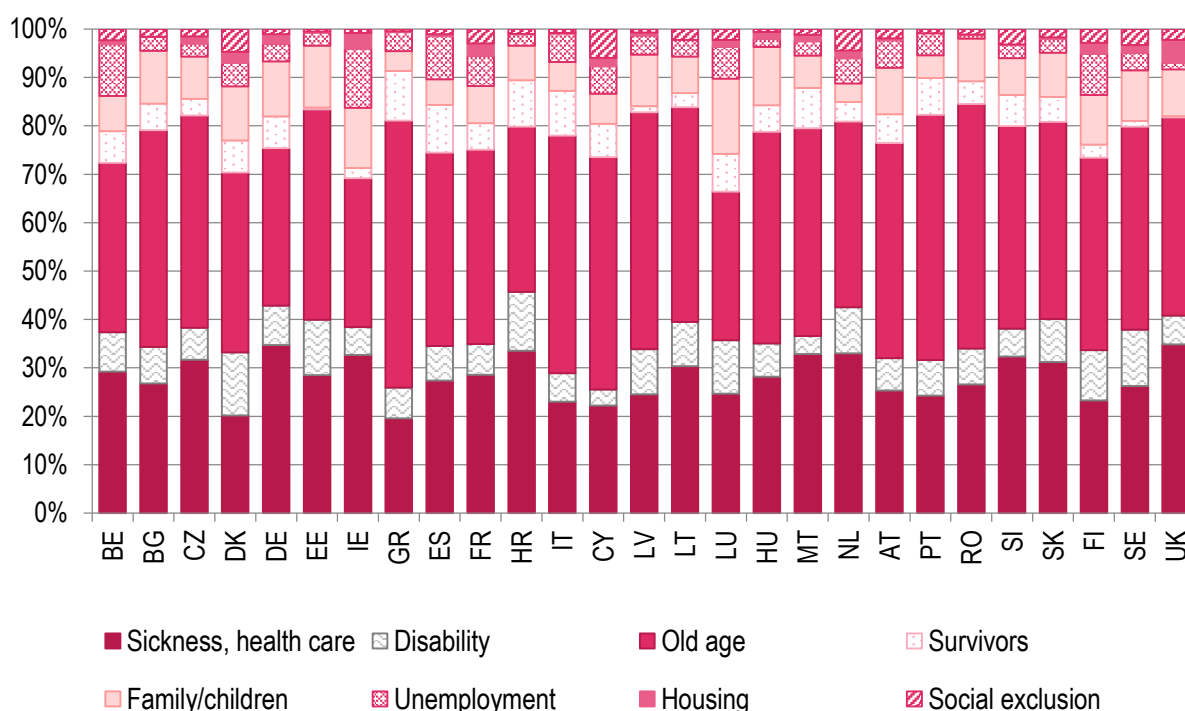
Graph 3.36 Gross Social Protection Expenditure in SR, 2016



Source: SO SR – ESSPROS, data extracted on 13 March 2019

Social benefits expenditure (the following graph) with *sickness/health care-related* function accounted for 29.5 % of all benefits, with the highest share in Ireland (38.1 %) and the lowest in Cyprus (18.6 %). The highest share of social benefits expenditure with disability-related function was reached in Denmark (13.1 %) and the lowest in Malta (3.6 %), with the European average of 7.4 %. The lowest share of social benefits expenditure with *old age-related* function was recorded in Ireland (31.4 %) with the youngest population; the highest share of the expenditure was used for this purpose in Greece (54.9 %), which is also the only country where most of the total expenditure was spent for this purpose. The EU28 average (2016) reached 40.1 %. The share of expenditure with *survivors-related* function for the EU28 reached 5.5 % on average. The EU28 average of expenditure with *family/children-related* function accounted for 8.7 %. The share of this expenditure in Luxembourg reached 15.4 %, while in the Netherlands and Greece it was only 4.0 %. The highest share of paid *unemployment* benefits was reached in Ireland (10.1 %) and Belgium (9.1 %), the lowest in Romania (0.6 %), with the EU28 average at 4.7 % (2016). Expenditure on *housing and social exclusion* accounts for a smaller share of the total expenditure, with 2.0 % and 2.2 % respectively at EU28 level. A greater share of the total expenditure on housing is spent only in the United Kingdom (4.9 %) and on social exclusion in Cyprus (6.6 %), Denmark (5.1 %), and the Netherlands (4.7 %).

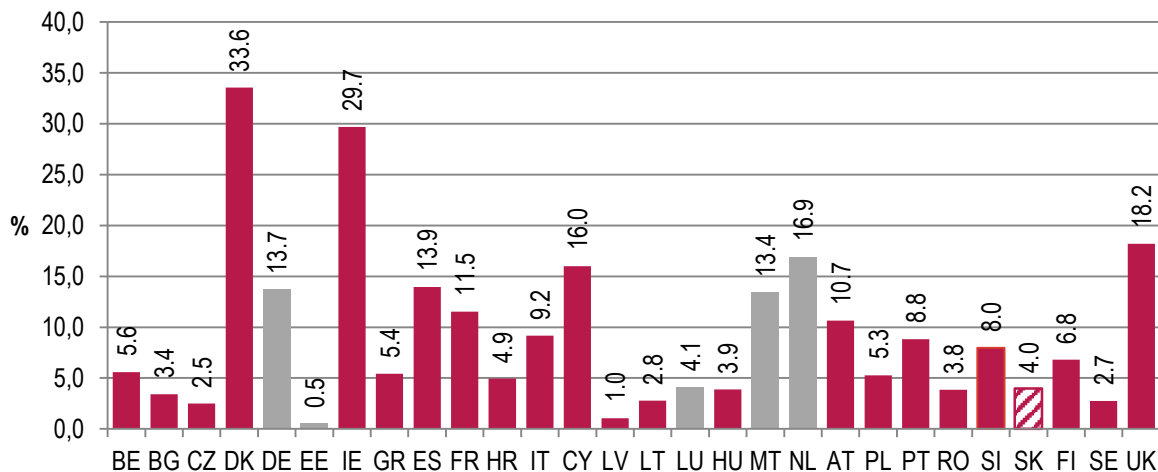
Graph 3.37 Structure of Social Benefits Expenditure by Function, 2016



Source: Eurostat – ESSPROS, data extracted on 04/06/2019

In 2015, 4.4 % of all social benefits in SR were means-tested. The highest proportion of means-tested benefits was observed in Denmark (36.4 %, as more than half of disability and old-age benefits are means-tested) and Ireland (30.2 %, more than half of disability and unemployment benefits paid), and the lowest in Estonia (0.5 %, only housing and social exclusion benefits paid are tested).

Graph 3.38 Means-tested Social Protection Benefits (% of Total Social Benefits), 2016*

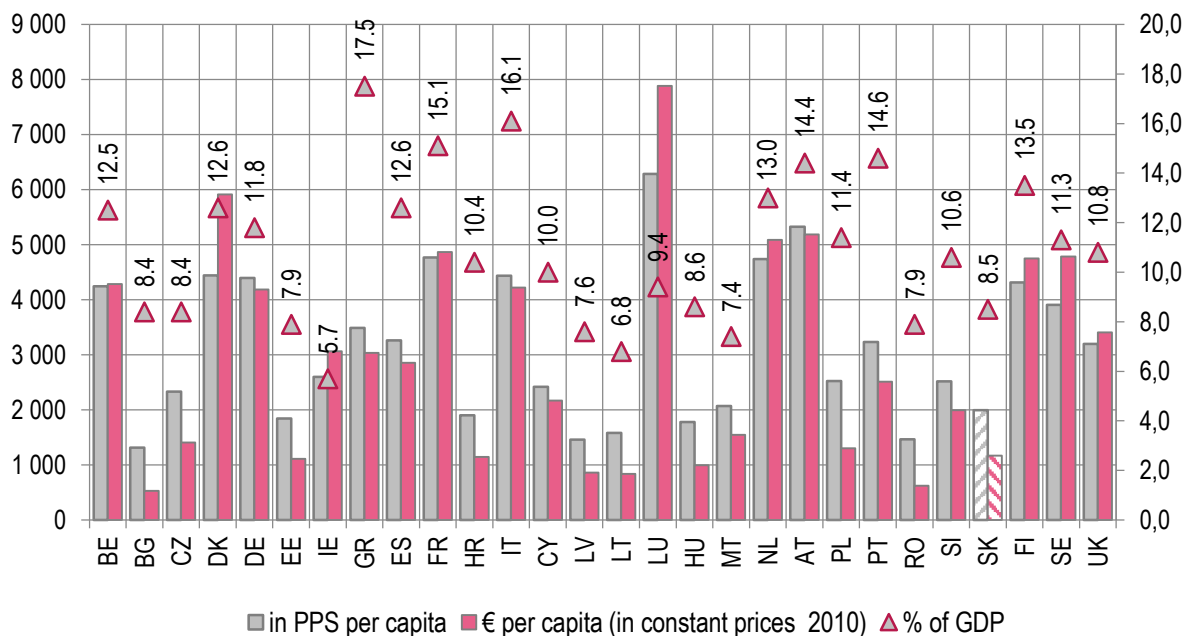


Source: Eurostat – ESSPROS, data extracted on 12/06/2019

* data for 2016 were not available for some countries (DE, EE, LU, MT, NL)

The total gross expenditure on pensions in EU28 (2015) amounted to 3,723 PPS per capita (in SR: 1,993 PPS per capita), €3,437 per capita at constant prices of 2010 (in SR: €1,167 per capita at constant prices) and 12.6 % of GDP (8.6 % in SR). The lowest expenditure on pensions, expressed as a share of GDP, was reported by Ireland (5.7 % of GDP) with the EU28 youngest population, while the highest expenditure on pensions was recorded in Greece (17.5 % of GDP) and Italy (16.1 % of GDP), ranking among the countries with the highest proportion of the population aged over 65. More significant differences between countries are reflected in expenditure on pensions expressed in PPS per capita. The lowest expenditure in PPS per capita is reached over a long period in Bulgaria (1,315), and the highest in Luxembourg (6,282).

Graph 3.39 Pensions Expenditure, 2016

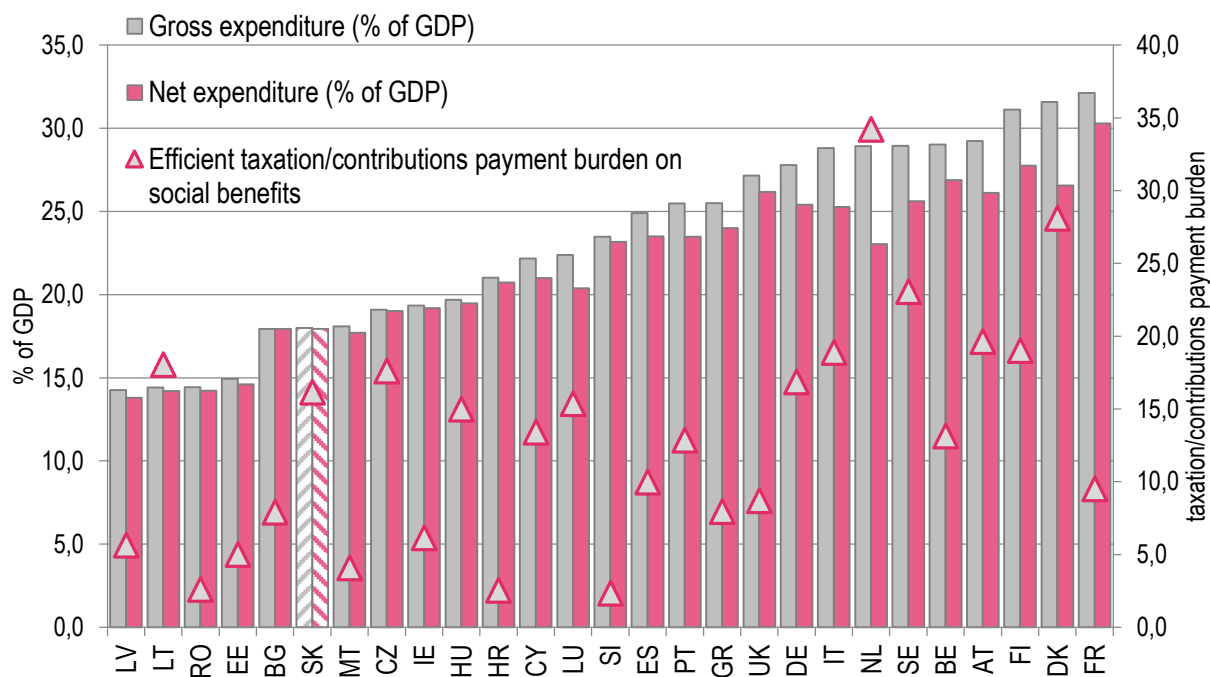


Source: Eurostat – ESSPROS, data extracted on 04/06/2019

The 2015 results from the net benefits module are available in the Eurostat database for all the EU28 countries. The highest proportion of social benefits in 2015 was subject to taxation or payment of social contributions in Greece (72.98 %); more than 60 % was also recorded in Poland, Italy, Portugal, Estonia, and

France. The lowest proportion of social benefits which were subject to taxation and payment of social contributions was reported by Bulgaria (0.4 %), Slovakia (1.83 %), and the Czech Republic (2.39 %). The highest taxation/contributions payment burden on social benefits was recorded in the Netherlands (34.3 %), while the lowest in Slovenia (2.4 %).

Graph 3.40 Gross and Net Social Protection Expenditure (% of GDP), 2015



Source: Eurostat – ESSPROS, data extracted on 04/06/2019

3.5 European Social Fund and European Regional Development Fund

In 2018, contracts and projects continued to be concluded and implemented within the Operational Programme “Human Resources” (hereinafter simply “OP HR”) in the programming period 2014 - 2020.

Within OP HR, support is provided for human resources development, employment increase especially with regard to the employment of young people under 29 years of age after graduation, integration of marginalised Roma communities (hereinafter simply “MRCs”), and technical facilities in municipalities with the presence of MRCs. The OP HR global objective in education, employment and social inclusion is to support human resources development, lifelong learning, the full integration of the unemployed into the labour market, and the improvement of their social situation. The OP HR global objective is achieved in line with the Europe 2020 strategy, goals of the National Reform Programme and in connection with the Partnership Agreement using soft (non-investment) and hard (investment) measures in seven priority axes through their specific objectives:

1. Education

- to increase inclusiveness and equal access to quality education and enhance the outcomes and competencies of children and pupils;
- to improve the quality of vocational education and training, while reflecting the needs of the labour market;
- to improve the quality of university education and human resources development in the area of research and development in order to achieve the interconnection between university education and the needs of the labour market;
- to improve the quality and efficiency of lifelong learning, with emphasis on developing key competences, deepening skills and increasing qualifications.

2. Youth employment initiative

- to increase the employment, employability and participation of young people in the labour market by introducing a guarantee for young unemployed people (registered job seekers) who are Not in Education, Employment, or Training (the so-called “NEET”).

3. Employment

- to increase employment, employability and reduce unemployment, with particular emphasis on the long-term unemployed, the low-skilled, older people and the disabled;
- to improve access to the labour market by applying effective tools to promote employment, including mobility to find employment, self-employment and activities in rural areas;
- to increase the employment of persons with parental responsibilities (women in particular) by improving the conditions for reconciling work and family life;
- to reduce horizontal and vertical gender segregation in the labour market and training for employment;
- to increase the quality and capacity of public employment services to an appropriate level in line with changing labour market needs and requirements, transnational job mobility, and increase the involvement of partners and private employment services in addressing employment problems.

4. Social inclusion

- increasing the participation of the most disadvantaged and vulnerable persons in society, including their participation in the labour market;
- prevention and elimination of all forms of discrimination;
- transition from institutional to community-based care;
- establishing standard clinical procedures and standard procedures for prevention and integrate them into the national health care system.

5. Integration of marginalised Roma communities

- to increase the educational level of members of marginalised communities, especially Roma communities, at all levels of education with emphasis on pre-primary education;
- to enhance the financial literacy, employability and employment of marginalised communities, especially Roma communities;
- to promote access to health care and public health, including preventive health care, health education, and improve standards of housing hygiene;

6. Technical facilities in municipalities with the presence of marginalised Roma communities / European Regional Development Fund

- to ensure growth of the number of Roma households with access to improved housing conditions;
- to improve access to quality education, including early childhood education and care;

- to improve access of MRC members to social infrastructure;
- to increase the employment rate of MRCs in social economy entities in areas with the presence of MRCs.

7. Technical assistance

Soft measures are implemented through the European Social Fund (ESF) within the priority axes focused on education, employment, social inclusion, and MRC integration. Investment measures are implemented through the European Regional Development Fund, namely a priority axis focused on technical facilities in municipalities with the presence of marginalised Romany communities. A separate priority axis "Technical Assistance" is intended to implement the operational programme within the managing authority and intermediate bodies under the control of the managing authority (MA) and represents support from such EU funds for the implementation of the other above-mentioned priority axes.

The total allocation of funds for OP HR amounts to €2,640.90 mil., of which €2,217.30 mil. comes from EU funds and €423.54 mil. is from national income (state budget and own resources).

Table 3.34 Share of Priority Axes in the Total Allocation for OP HR

Priority axis	EU support	National resources	Allocation for Axis
1	458,746,509	90,338,909	549,085,418
2	206,715,082	21,560,340	228,275,422
3	795,924,737	154,045,542	949,970,279
4	294,699,291	73,972,687	368,671,978
5	139,000,000	24,529,413	163,529,413
6	243,662,462	42,999,259	286,661,721
7	78,600,000	16,103,753	94,703,753

Source: MA for OP HR

On 21 September 2018, OP HR was revised by an implementing decision of the European Commission. This change related to the enhancement of the quality of education, its connection to the needs of the labour market and the promotion of inclusion, increasing the participation of the Slovak population in lifelong learning and second chance education, while also focusing attention on promoting measures in the adaptability of persons to the labour market, namely on both changed conditions and adaptation to changes. In 2018 – 2020, the Operational Programme Human Resources will continue to promote measures aimed at increasing the employment of women caring for children under three years of age, as well as enhancing transparency and simplifying its implementation.

Under REGULATION (EU) 2018/1719 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 14 November 2018 amending Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, the Operational Programme Human Resources was changed for the programming period 2014 – 2020. Priority Axis 2 of the Operational Programme Human Resources for the programming period 2014 - 2020 was subject to change. The draft change was aimed at taking account of alterations to the financial programming of the Youth Employment Initiative. The change was approved by the European Commission Implementing Decision on 19 December 2018.

In 2018, a total of **15 invitations to national projects (NP) and 10 calls for demand-driven projects (DDP)** were announced for Priority Axes 1 - 6 within OP HR. They were divided as follows:

- within Priority Axis 1 *Education* (4 calls for DDPs, 1 invitation to NP) support was targeted at
 - carrying out PIAAC assessment;
 - working with children/pupils with special educational needs in order to make their start and performance in primary schools as successful as possible;
 - developing education/study programmes of universities together with employers so that such programmes reflect their real needs and requirements for university graduates;
 - adjusting educational practices in the form of teacher clubs to increase PISA literacy at primary and secondary schools;
- within Priority Axis 2 *Youth Employment Initiative* (1 invitation to NP) support was aimed at
 - increasing the employment of young people aged under 25 and 29 years;

- within Priority Axis 3 *Employment* (1 call for DDP, 6 invitations to NP) support was targeted at
 - increasing the employment of disadvantaged job seekers through selected active labour market measures and persons with disabilities;
 - increasing the employment, adaptability and reducing the unemployment of persons with disabilities;
- to promote the building of client-oriented public employment services within Priority Axis 4 *Social inclusion* (2 calls for DDP, 7 invitations to NP) support was targeted at
 - supporting the development of social work in the family environment of clients in the area of social affairs and family;
 - selected social services of crisis intervention at community level;
 - promoting innovations in field social work;
 - enhancing the development of nursing service in order to prevent clients from being placed in housing facilities;
 - supporting the deinstitutionalisation of alternative care;
 - creating uniform procedures for prevention at the respective levels of healthcare provision;
 - establishing a systemic institutional provision of counselling in gender discrimination, including gender-based violence;
- within Priority Axis 5 *Integration of Marginalised Roma Communities* (1 call for DDP) support was aimed at
 - establishing and functioning of local civil order service in municipalities with marginalised Roma communities;
- within Priority Axis 6 *Technical Facilities in Municipalities with Marginalised Roma Communities* (2 calls for DDP) it was targeted at
 - supporting the construction, renovation or extension of the capacities of pre-school facilities in municipalities with MRCs;
 - constructing flats that will be included in the “housing ready” system.

An overview of calls (for DDP) and invitations (to NP) announced in 2018 is shown in Annex to Chapter 3, Table 35.

In addition, an indicative timetable of calls for the submission of applications for non-repayable financial contribution for 2019 has been published on: <http://www.employment.gov.sk/sk/esf/programove-obdobie-2014-2020/harmonogram-vyziev/>.

More information on OP HR (including the draw-down of financial resources) for 2018 will be available after the publication of the OP HR Annual Report for 2018 on: <http://www.employment.gov.sk/sk/esf/>.

4 STANDARD OF LIVING AND SOCIAL COHESION

4.1 Poverty and Social Exclusion

Monitoring poverty and social exclusion in Slovakia is carried out in the context of the Open Method of Coordination (hereinafter simply OMC), created at the level of the European Union for the joint coordination of member states' policies to combat poverty and social exclusion. One of the main strategic objectives of the EU is to considerably reduce poverty and continue with pursuing this goal by 2020⁶⁶.

To measure progress in achieving strategic objectives aimed at reducing poverty and social exclusion, especially for mutual comparison of individual states, common indicators (the so-called *Laeken indicators*) had been approved in achieving results, which later underwent development and are currently called *OMC Social Inclusion Indicators*.

The measurement of poverty and social exclusion is based primarily on the harmonized EU SILC⁶⁷ survey on income and living conditions. The survey is the major source of many income indicators, such as the at-risk-of-poverty rate and the indicators for a more comprehensive assessment of poverty and social exclusion, material deprivation or a cluster of indicators measuring the risk of poverty or social exclusion. This cluster of indicators (the at-risk-of-poverty rate⁶⁸, severe material deprivation⁶⁹ and very low work intensity⁷⁰) defines the group of people who live at risk of poverty or social exclusion, i.e. people with low income and/or those who cannot afford some of the critical needs for their lives and/or living in families where nobody works or works only occasionally. At national level, the goal of the Slovak Republic is to reduce the risk of poverty or social exclusion, namely to lift at least 170 thousand people out of the risk of poverty or social exclusion by 2020.

According to the EU SILC 2017 survey, 856.2 thousand people were at risk of poverty or social exclusion in Slovakia, accounting for 16.3 % of the total population. Compared to the EU SILC 2008 survey results (base period),⁷¹ ca. 255 thous. people were lifted out of the risk of poverty or social exclusion, which means that the national goal was achieved at 150 %. The measures adopted primarily in the areas of employment policy, social policy and national economic policy had a major impact on the achievement of such goal.

Compared to the EU SILC 2016 survey, the rate and risk of poverty or social exclusion fell by 1.8 pp.

More detailed breakdown of this cluster is shown in Graph 4.1, which represents the composition of the target group by the three indicators above.

⁶⁶ Lifting at least 20 million people out of the risk of poverty and social exclusion by 2020.

⁶⁷ The first statistical survey in Slovakia was carried out in 2005; complete **results of the twelfth survey conducted in 2017 are currently available**.

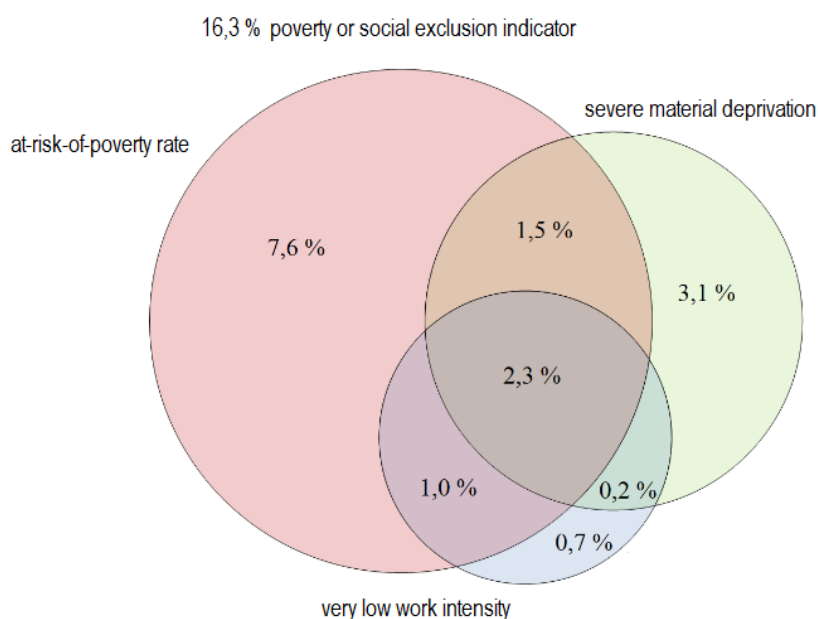
⁶⁸ The rate expresses the proportion of people living below the poverty line, i. e. below 60 % of the median equivalised disposable income of all residents (after social transfers).

⁶⁹ It expresses the proportion of people who cannot afford 4 of the 9 items that characterise the economic burden and consumer durables: arrears on mortgage or rent payment, utility bills, hire purchase instalments or other loan payments, the capacity of the household to pay for keeping its home adequately warm, the capacity to face unexpected financial expenses, the capacity to afford paying for a one-week holiday away from home annually, the capacity to afford a meal with meat, chicken, fish (or vegetarian equivalent) every second day, or to afford household furnishings including a colour TV, a washing machine, a car, and a telephone.

⁷⁰ It expresses the proportion of people aged 0-59 years living in households where the adults work less than 20 % of the total time during the past year.

⁷¹ For the assessment of the objectives of the Europe 2020 Strategy

Graph 4.1 Share of People at Risk of Poverty or Social Exclusion, EU SILC 2017



Source: SO SR, EU SILC 2017, UDB

Table 4.1 Development of Cluster Indicator of At-risk-of-poverty or Social Inclusion and Indicators It Consists of, in %

	EU SILC 2008	EU SILC 2009	EU SILC 2010	EU SILC 2011	EU SILC 2012	EU SILC 2013	EU SILC 2014	EU SILC 2015	EU SILC 2016	EU SILC 2017
At-risk-of-poverty rate	10.9	11.0	12.0	13.0	13.2	12.8	12.6	12.3	12.7	12.4
Severe material deprivation	11.8	11.1	11.4	10.6	10.5	10.2	9.9	9.0	8.2	7.0
Very low work intensity	5.2	5.6	7.9	7.7	7.2	7.6	7.1	7.1	6.5	5.4
At-risk-of-poverty or social exclusion rate	20.6	19.6	20.6	20.6	20.5	19.8	18.4	18.4	18.1	16.3

Source: SO SR

According to the EU SILC 2017 results, the values of individual indicators forming the cluster indicator of at-risk-of-poverty or social exclusion rate have also been changed. Compared to the 2016 survey, there was a significant decrease in all three levels of indicators monitoring poverty or social exclusion, namely in the case of income poverty by 0.3 pp, severe material deprivation by 1.2 pp and very low work intensity by 1.1 pp (Table 4.1).

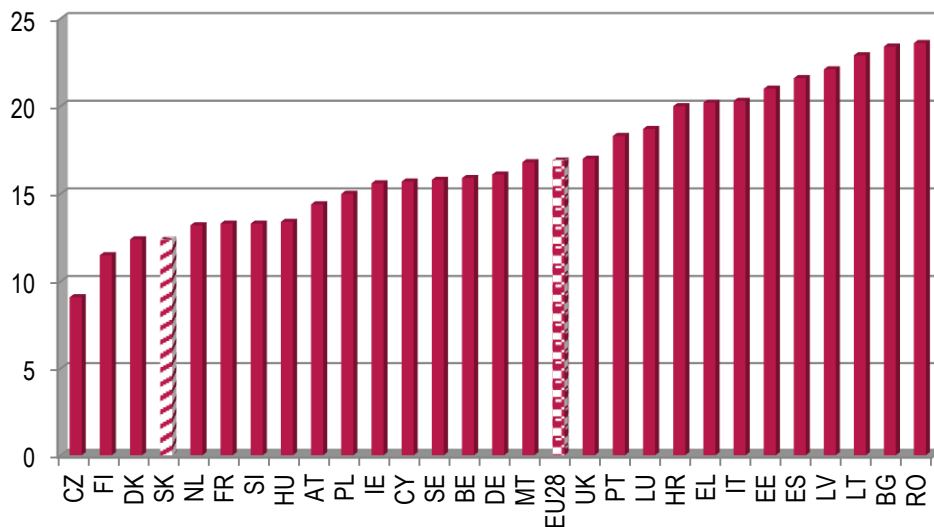
According to the EU SILC 2017, the most vulnerable to the risk of poverty or social exclusion were single-parent families with children – 45 % (below the EU28 average – 47 %), multi-member families with more than three children – 35.4 % (above the EU28 average – 30.7 %), single persons under 65 years of age – 30.7 % (below the EU28 average – 36.5 %) and, last but not least, people living alone – 23.5 % (below the EU28 average - 32.5 %). Considering age distribution, the highest risk rate is present in the group of children aged 0 - 17 years (22.5 %, i.e. below the EU28 average – 24.9 %) and children aged 0 - 15 years (22.1 %, i.e. below the EU28 average - 24.4 %). Based on the EU SILC 2017 survey, at-risk-of-poverty or social exclusion rate was decreased by 1.9 pp for children aged 0 - 17 years and by 2.6 pp for children aged 0 - 15 years.

To characterise the poor population in society in general, an at-risk-of-poverty threshold⁷² was set to define the share of population living in poverty. It is a relative poverty threshold, which measures the extent to which funds of households decline below the median level of income of the society. This indicator mainly expresses the risk of poverty and depends on the socio-economic development of the society in a given country.

⁷² At-risk-of-poverty threshold is set at 60 % of the median equivalised disposable income (after social transfers)

According to the EU-SILC 2017, the at-risk-of-poverty rate in SR was 12.4 % (males - 12.4 %; females - 12.3 %), which is below the EU28 average (16.9 %). There was a year-on-year decrease of 0.3 pp. Compared to the EU28 countries, the Slovak Republic ranks among the countries with the lowest at-risk-of-poverty rate (Graph 4.2), which is due to low income inequality.

Graph 4.2 At-risk-of-poverty Rate in EU Member States, EU SILC 2017

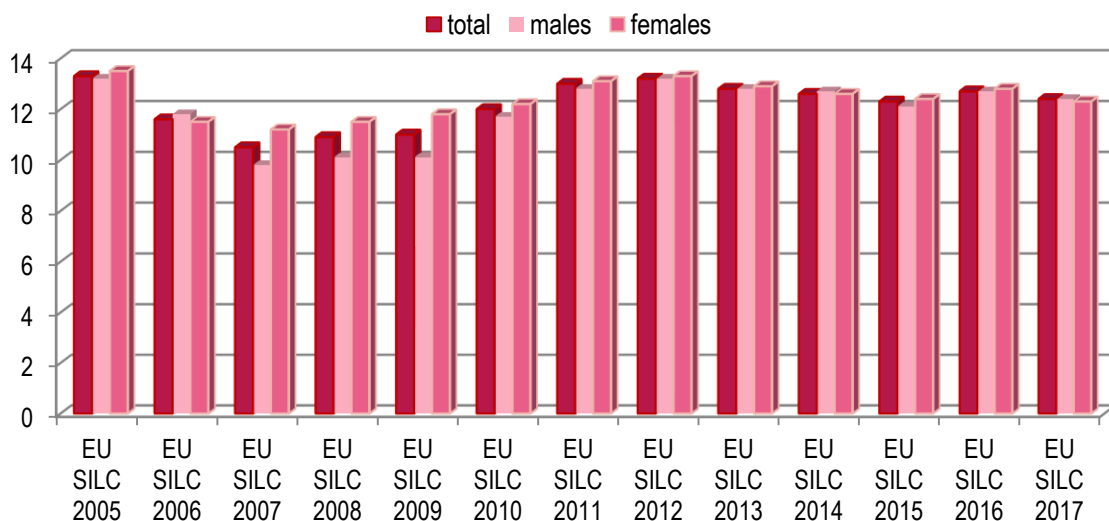


Source: Eurostat

According to the EU SILC 2017 survey, the number of people at risk of poverty declined year-on-year (by about 18,000 people). Over the years shown in the EU SILC 2005 to 2017 surveys, first there was a considerable decrease in the at-risk-of-poverty rate (EU SILC 2007 – 10.5 %), followed by a slight increase (EU SILC 2012) and a slight decrease (see Graph 4.3). Compared to the initial year of the survey (EU SILC 2005), the 2017 survey value was lower by 0.9 pp.

The at-risk-of-poverty rate development is influenced by the socio-economic situation in a country and subsequently by the development of the household income situation. The development of the at-risk-of-poverty rate shown in the EU SILC 2013 – 2017 surveys was mainly due to the process of income inequality levelling in households in low income zones.

Graph 4.3 At-risk-of-poverty Rate Development in SR (2005 – 2017)



Source: SO SR, EU SILC 2005 – 2017, UDB

An important role in reducing the risk of poverty is played by the setting of the social protection system and its expenditure, i.e. social transfers including old-age and survivors' benefits. In the case of non-provision of social transfers excluding old-age and survivors' benefits, the at-risk-of-poverty rate would have increased by 5.1 pp to 17.5 % in 2017, and in the case of non-provision of social transfers including old-age and survivors' benefits the at-risk-of-poverty rate would have increased by 25 pp to 37.4 %. Compared to the previous year, there was a decrease in both the at-risk-of-poverty rate before social transfers excluding old-age and survivors' benefits and the at-risk-of-poverty rate before social transfers including old-age and survivors' benefits, namely a decrease of 0.9 pp and 0.5 pp respectively (Annex to Chapter 4). The Impact of social transfers on reducing the risk of poverty (excluding old-age and survivors' benefits) was 29.1 %, while that of social transfers including old-age and survivors' benefits amounted to 66.8 %.

A comparison of the at-risk-of-poverty thresholds (for single-person households) in the respective years of the survey is shown in Table 4.2. The threshold according to the EU SILC 2013 (€337.00) compared to 2012 (€346.00) decreased by 2.7 %, i.e. about €10.00, which was caused by changes in the income situation of the population due to trends in employment and unemployment. A regrowth was recorded in surveys of the EU SILC 2014 and 2015, when the value exceeds the EU SILC 2012 level. According to the EU SILC 2017 data, the at-risk-of-poverty threshold for single-person households increased by 3.3 %, i.e. by €11.00 to €359.00 in absolute terms. Compared to the base year (2005), the at-risk-of-poverty threshold grew by 91 % (€171.00).

Table 4.2 Development of At-risk-of-poverty Threshold for Single-person Households

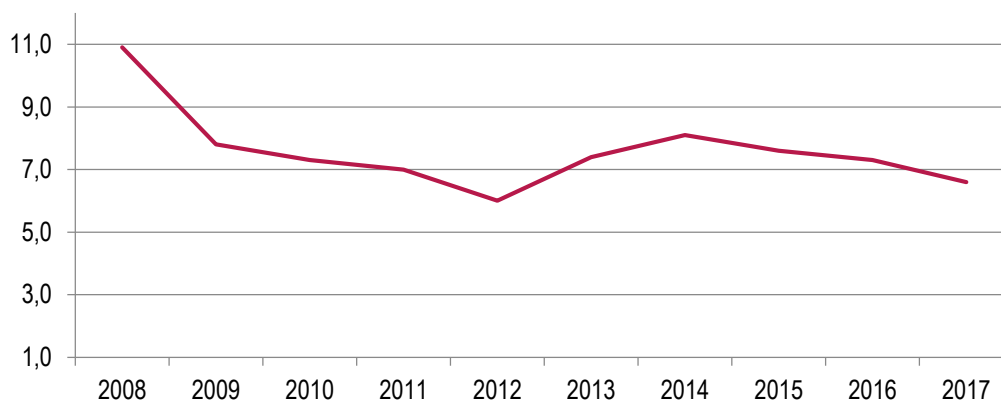
	EU SILC 2005	EU SILC 2006	EU SILC 2007	EU SILC 2008	EU SILC 2009	EU SILC 2010	EU SILC 2011	EU SILC 2012	EU SILC 2013	EU SILC 2014	EU SILC 2015	EU SILC 2016	EU SILC 2017
Year, €	2,256	2,547	2,945	3,223	3,403	3,670	3,784	4,156	4,042	4,086	4,158	4,171	4,310
Month, €	188	212	245	269	284	306	315	346	337	341	347	348	359

Source: Eurostat/SO SR

Using the at-risk-of-poverty rate anchored at a fixed moment in time,⁷³ it is possible to capture the aspect of absolute poverty. According to EU SILC 2017, the value of this indicator (6.6 %) decreased year-on-year by 0.7 pp (males - 6.9 %, females - 6.2 %) (Annex to Chapter 4). A year-on-year decrease was recorded for working-age adults from 6.9 % to 6.3 % (- 0.6 pp). There was also a year-on-year decrease for children aged 0 – 17 years from 13.1 % to 11.5 % (- 1.6 pp). On the contrary, a slight increase was observed for older people aged 65+ from 1.3 % to 1.5 % (+ 0.2 pp). Using this indicator, the standard of living of the population linked to the economic growth of the country can be monitored. Graph 4.4 illustrates the development of the at-risk-of-poverty rate anchored at a fixed moment in time, with the most significant decline recorded in the EU SILC 2012 survey, which was also related to the weakening of the financial crisis impact on the economic development in Slovakia. However, according to the EU SILC 2013 and 2014 surveys, there was a slight increase influenced by the development of the income situation of the population, especially low-income households. A re-decrease was recorded in EU SILC 2015 to 2017 surveys.

⁷³ At-risk-of-poverty rate anchored at a fixed moment in time is defined as the percentage of persons living below the at-risk-of-poverty threshold calculated in 2008, uprated by inflation.

Graph 4.4 Development of At-risk-of-poverty Rate Anchored at a Fixed Moment in Time (2008)



Source: Eurostat

In connection with capturing the dispersion around the at-risk-of-poverty threshold, 5.3 % of people (a year-on-year decrease of 0.2 pp) in Slovakia had their income below 40 % of the median equivalised disposable income,⁷⁴ 7.8 % of people (a year-on-year decrease of 0.3 pp) had their income below 50 % of the median equivalised disposable income and 18.3 % of people (a year-on-year decrease of 1.2 pp) had their income below 70 % of the median equivalised disposable income (based on the EU SILC 2017 survey).

According to EU SILC 2017, the relative median at-risk-of-poverty gap, representing the difference between the median income of people at risk of poverty and the at-risk-of-poverty threshold, only decreased by 0.1 pp to 26 %. This situation is primarily influenced by the population income distribution, reflecting the income distribution inequality (Gini coefficient), which dropped slightly to 23.2 % year-on-year (by 1.1 pp).

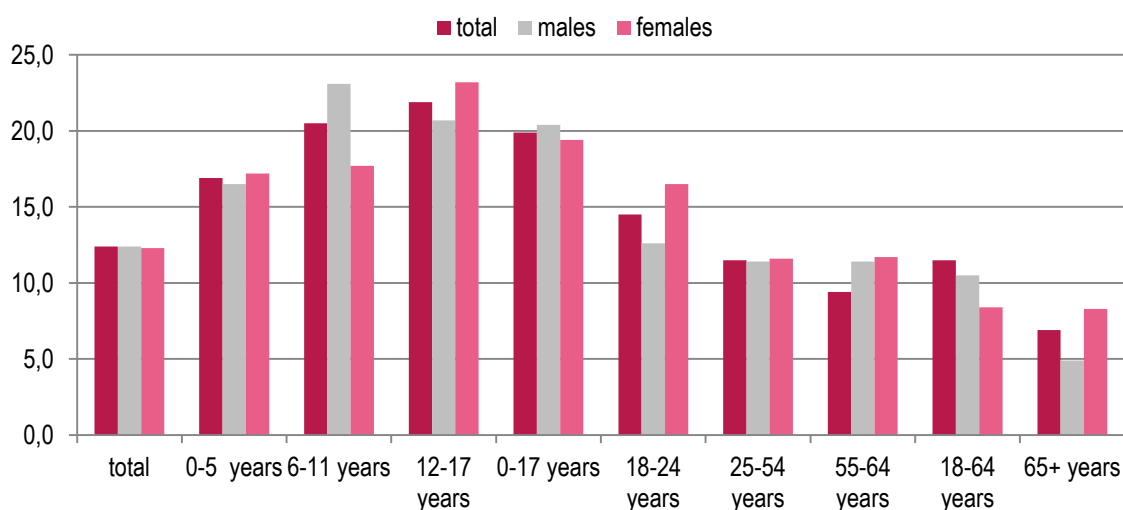
According to income inequality measurements made in the EU SILC 2017 survey, 20 % of persons with the highest income received 3.5 times more income than 20 % of those with the lowest income. Compared to the previous survey (EU SILC 2016), there was a decrease of only 0.1 pp.

According to EU SILC 2017, the most vulnerable age group in terms of income poverty comprise children aged 12 - 17 years (21.9 %) and 6 - 11 years (20.5 %); the at-risk-of-poverty rate of children aged 0 - 17 years reached 19.9 %, representing a year-on-year decrease of 0.9 pp. The 65+ age group repeatedly had the lowest at-risk-of-poverty rate (6.9 %) which, however, increased year-on-year by 1.2 pp mainly due to a faster growth of total income.

The risk of poverty for children aged 0 - 15 years is being monitored in the Slovak Republic. The 2017 survey results show that 19.7 % of children in this age group were at risk of poverty, and compared with the 2016 survey, the indicator declined by 1.5 pp. The risk of child poverty is primarily related to the income situation of families, especially multi-member families, or households with children. In terms of global assessment, it is clear that there are changes in the population structure connected to the risk of poverty due to changes in the income situation of the population. While the total at-risk-of-poverty rate of males and females is relatively even, gender gaps are significant in the respective age groups, as shown in Graph 4.5. The gender gap decreased year-on-year in favour of females of lower age (under 18 years) and in the 65+ age group. In 2015, the difference between the at-risk-of-poverty rates of females and males aged 65+ was 3.6 pp (EU SILC 2015), which decreased in 2016 to 2.2 pp (EU SILC 2016). On the other hand, the gender gap increased significantly to the detriment of females in the 18 - 24 age group.

⁷⁴ Equivalised household disposable income is the disposable income of households (gross household income after deduction of regular property taxes, regular inter-household transfers, income taxes and social security contributions) divided by the equivalised household size. The equivalised household size is calculated using the so-called modified OECD equivalence scale, which assigns a coefficient of 1 to each first adult household member, a coefficient of 0.5 to each additional adult household member and persons aged 14 or over, and a coefficient of 0.3 to each child under 14 years of age.

Graph 4.5 At-risk-of-poverty Rate by Age Groups (2017)

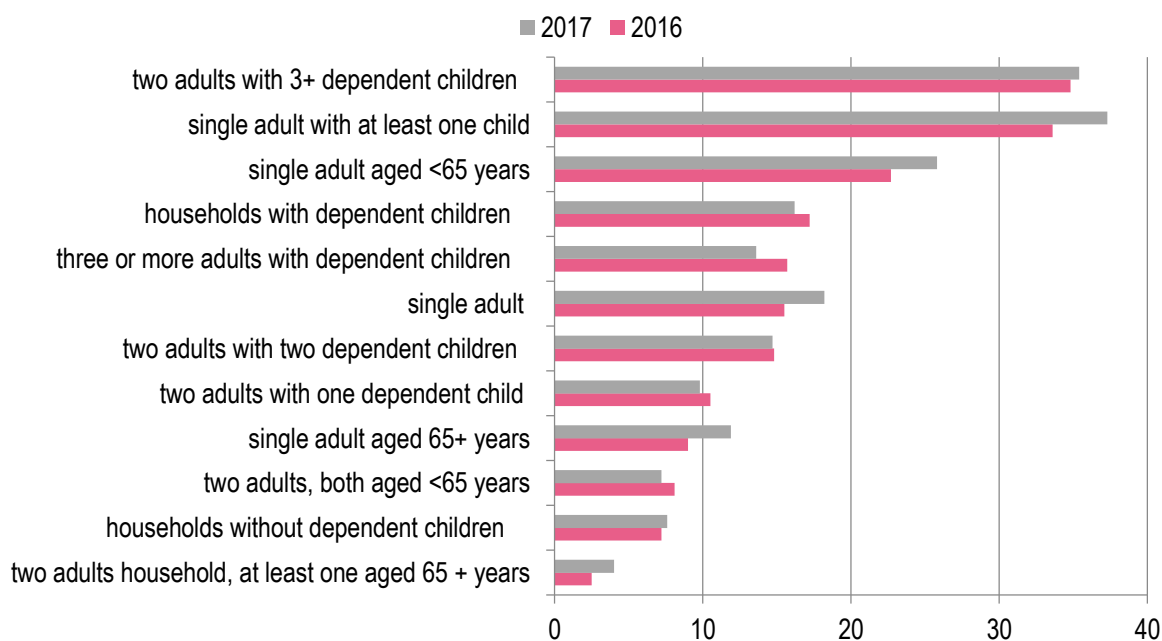


Source: SO SR, EU SILC 2017, UDB

In the group of children aged 0 - 17 years, another relationship can also be observed, namely the share of their population living in jobless households or households with very low work intensity. Based on the Labour Force Survey (LFS) results, the share of children aged 0 - 17 years slightly increased in jobless households from 7.7 % to 8.0 % (+ 0.3 pp). A decrease was recorded in this age group according to the EU SILC 2017 results if they live in households with very low work intensity (occasional work) from 8.2 % to 7.1 % (- 1.1 pp).

By type of household, families with three or more children (35.4 %), single parents with at least one child (37.3 %) and single adults under 65 years of age (25.8 %) are at the highest risk of poverty. The lowest risk of poverty was reported for households with two adults, where at least one of them is older than 65 years (4.0 %). Compared with the previous year, there was an increase in the risk of poverty among families with three or more children (+ 1.1 pp), single parents with at least one child (+ 3.7 pp) and single adults under 65 years of age (+ 3.1 pp). The at-risk-of-poverty rate of single adults aged 65+ increased year-on-year by 2.9 pp. A slight year-on-year increase in the at-risk-of-poverty rate was observed in the overall group of single adults (+ 2.7 pp).

Graph 4.6 Comparison of At-risk-of-poverty Rates by Household Type (2016 and 2017)



Source: Eurostat, SO SR, EU SILC 2016 and 2017, UDB

The EU SILC 2017 results on at-risk-of-poverty rates by economic activity show that the unemployed in Slovakia were at the highest risk of poverty, namely 49.2 % (a year-on-year increase of 1.6 pp). The employed at risk of poverty accounted for 6.3 % of the total number of the employed, representing a year-on-year decrease by 0.2 pp. The lower the work intensity⁷⁵ of household members is, the higher the risk of poverty for households is. In the group of households with dependent children, the risk of poverty increases with the increasing number of people who are dependent on the household income. Low work intensity as one of the indicators for defining the number of people living at the risk of poverty or social exclusion (in this case, $WI < 0.2$) declined year-on-year to 5.4 % (- 1.1 pp) (EU SILC 2016 – 6,5 %). More comparisons relating to work intensity are given in Annex to Chapter 4.

The risk of poverty or social exclusion is also influenced by housing costs. The EU SILC 2017 survey showed that the housing costs of 8.4 % of the population amount to more than 40 % of household disposable income. Compared to the previous survey, there was an increase of 0.7 pp. The situation is more serious for people at risk of poverty, as 38.9 % of them live in households with housing costs of more than 40 % of household disposable income. Compared to the previous survey, this group showed a significant increase of 3.3 pp. According to the 2017 survey, by housing ownership, the largest and the most cost-burdened is the group of households reliant on sublet housing (at a reduced price or free of charge), which accounts for 21.3 % of households. A year-on-year comparison illustrates a significant increase in the indicator of 3.7 pp. The share of owners of a mortgaged apartment or an apartment on a housing loan dropped from 15.1 % to 8.6 % (by 6.5 pp). Crowded apartments and homes⁷⁶ were occupied by 36.4 % of the Slovak population, which is well above the EU28 average (15.7 %). Households with three or more children (62.0 %) as well as single parents with at least one child (53.4 %) are affected by this situation most frequently. Another important factor is the accommodation tenure status. Most of the people living in overcrowded dwellings are people who are renting the dwelling, either paying the market price or at a reduced cost or free of charge (in both cases the value is 57.1 %). The state of the dwelling, or more precisely its quality is also an important factor. According to the EU SILC 2017 survey, 6.7 % of the population lived in dwellings with leaking roofs and damp walls and 2.9 % of the population in dwellings considered too dark.

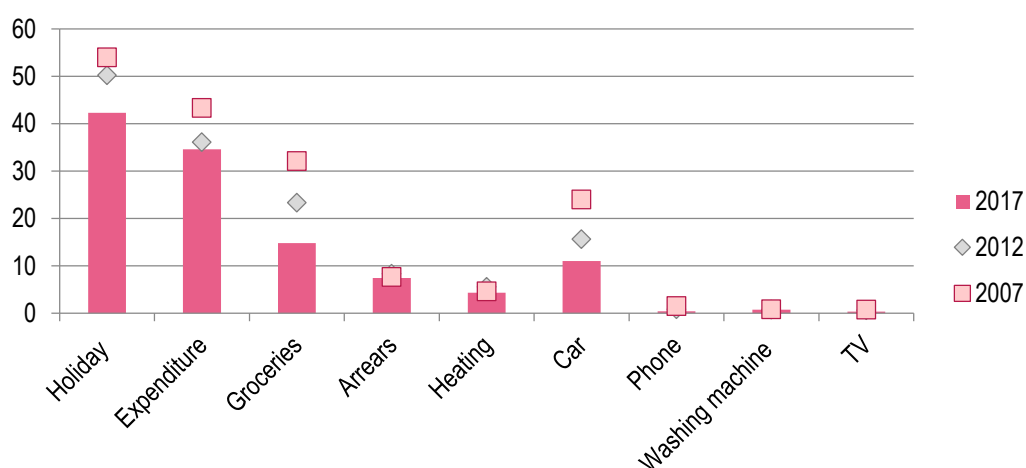
The above-mentioned measurements and evaluations of indicators are based mainly on income. Measurement of absolute poverty can be based on measurements of the lack of material goods, financial difficulties and the inability of people to live a decent life in the studied population. These shortcomings are measured by a methodology based on the indicator of “material deprivation”. Unlike the severe material deprivation, which is part of the cluster indicator of at-risk-of-poverty or social inclusion, a citizen was considered materially deprived if he/she could not afford three of nine items in the first two dimensions (economic burden and consumer durables).

Assuming this definition, 16.4 % of persons were materially deprived according to the EU SILC 2017 survey (a year-on-year decrease of 2.7 pp). The severely materially deprived (who could not afford four of nine items) accounted for 7.0 % of the population according to EU SILC 2017 (a decrease of 1.2 pp compared to EU SILC 2016). The highest rate of severe material deprivation was observed in the group of single parents with at least one child, or single-parent families with children (22.7 %), where the rate decreased by 1.8 pp year-on-year. The severe material deprivation of parents with more than three children, i.e. multi-member families (14.7 %) declined year-on-year by 0.2 pp (EU SILC 2016 – 14.9 %). The most widespread problem within material deprivation items consisted in the inability to afford paying for a one-week annual holiday away from home, which concerned 44.9 % of the population and the ability to face unexpected costs, which involved 37.9 % of the population. The situation has changed significantly during the whole reference period, see Graph 4.7.

⁷⁵ It refers to the number of months that all working-age household members have been working during the income reference year as a proportion of the total number of months that could theoretically be worked within the household.

⁷⁶ The overcrowding rate expresses the proportion of persons in the population living in households with lack of space by some of the following criteria: a) one room for a household, b) room for a couple in the household c) room for each person aged 18 and over d) room for a pair of same sex aged 12-17, e) room for persons aged 12-17 not included in previous categories, f) room for a pair of children under the age of 12.

Graph 4.7 Material Deprivation Items for Selected Time Periods (% of the Slovak Population)



Source: EU SILC 2007, 2012, 2017, Eurostat

Persistent poverty⁷⁷

According to the EU SILC 2016 survey, 7.7 % of persons in Slovakia were at persistent risk of poverty, where women were more vulnerable to such risk than men (men – 7.4 %, women – 8.0 %). Based on an international comparison, the Slovak Republic ranks among to the EU countries with a lower proportion of people living in persistent poverty (EU28 – 11.0 %). Earned income plays an important role in Slovakia with regard to lifting out of the risk of poverty or persistent poverty. If the at-risk-of-poverty threshold increased to 70 % of the national median equivalised disposable income, the persistent at-risk-of-poverty rate would rise to 15.2 %. If the threshold were lowered to 50 % of the median, the persistent at-risk-of-poverty rate would be 3.7 % of the Slovak population.

Several groups in Slovakia can be identified as the most vulnerable to longer persistence of poverty. By household type, these are mainly single-parent families with at least one child (10.6 %), multi-member families (10.5 %) and single person households (8.6 %); they are also the most vulnerable groups when monitoring the risk of poverty on an annual basis. An important differentiating factor is education. As expected, the persistent poverty incidence increases with decreasing levels of education. 17.4 % of persons aged 16+ with primary and lower secondary education were persistently under the at-risk-of-poverty threshold. Persistent poverty is also associated with a higher frequency of the subjective feeling of health deterioration than in the general population.

⁷⁷ The persistent at-risk-of-poverty rate is defined in the OMC as the percentage of the population whose equivalised disposable income was below the at-risk-of-poverty threshold in a given year and at least two of the three previous years. The latest data are available for 2016.

4.2 Gender Equality and Equal Opportunities

Dealing with gender equality in connection with the implementation of the National Strategy for Gender Equality and the National Action Plan for Gender Equality 2014-2019 also continued in 2018 by coordinating the programmes of gender equality and equal opportunities, as well as by institutional strengthening and enhancement of the status of the Government Council for Human Rights, National Minorities and Gender Equality and its Committee on Gender Equality as the advisory body of the Government of the Slovak Republic, being chaired by the Minister of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic.

Pursuant to Art. 7 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the Member States and the European Commission shall ensure that equality between men and women and the integration of gender perspective are taken into account and promoted and that during the preparation and implementation of programmes (Art. 7 of Act No. 311/2001 Coll. – the Labour Code) “appropriate steps” are taken to prevent any discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation. In order to achieve these objectives in the Slovak Republic, the horizontal principles of non-discrimination and equality between men and women are applied in projects co-financed by the European Structural and Investment Funds.

In 2018, the following projects continued to be implemented:

Prevention and Elimination of Gender Discrimination

The project is aimed at establishing a systemic institutional provision of counselling and research activities in gender discrimination, including gender-based violence. A special activity comprises the performance of tasks related to the prevention and elimination of gender-based violence, namely the activities of the **Coordinating Methodological Centre for Gender-based Violence** including the **National Helpline for Women Experiencing Violence**. The project is a prerequisite for the creation, stabilisation and maintenance of integrated protection and support system for victims of gender-based violence and a concerted effort to reduce and prevent it. It involves systematising and interlinking various procedures and measures of both legislative and non-legislative nature so that their coordination will lead to a joint effort of public authorities and non-public entities to prevent and reduce gender-based violence.

The national project consists of two main activities:

- *Promoting effective mechanisms* to eliminate gender discrimination through *education* (the development of original research, methodologies, monitoring and educational campaigns, training in gender equality, prevention of gender discrimination) and *counselling* (providing advice on issues related to discrimination based on sex and gender for public authorities and support for research and analytical activities).
- *Supporting the development of services and measures for victims of violence, especially for women* through the activities of the **Coordinating Methodological Centre for the Prevention of Violence against Women** (the development of multi-institutional cooperation, coordination of regional teams of experts, creation of action plans for individual Slovak regions, building of intervention teams in training and education, development of methodological guidances and standards for providing support and protection for people experiencing violence and their children, development of research, monitoring and awareness-raising activities on gender-based violence. Within this activity, the National Helpline for Women Experiencing Violence continues with and develops its operations (through expert advice it provides 24-hour distance crisis support for victims of discrimination – women experiencing violence).

All activities of the national project Prevention and Elimination of Gender Discrimination will be completed by February 2022. The project outputs in the form of expert publications, analyses, strategies, campaigns, and organised educational events will be posted on www.zastavmenasilie.sk, <https://www.gender.gov.sk/>, <https://www.ceit.sk/IVPR/>, as well as on social, electronic and print media.

Counselling and Education in the Prevention and Elimination of Discrimination II

Following the inevitable substantial change in the conditions for making a contribution, this demand-driven call was re-launched and is aimed, on the one hand, at promoting *activities leading to gender sensitisation and*

increased awareness of the prevention of all forms of discrimination and ways of protection against it (for employers with an emphasis on *microenterprises* (small and medium-sized enterprises – SMEs), public administration employees and first-contact workers) and, on the other hand, at *advisory and other ancillary services* for persons at risk of discrimination. The call also supports awareness-raising activities through conferences and information campaigns. By the end of 2018, a total of 32 applications for a non-repayable financial contribution (hereinafter simply the “applications for NFC”) were contracted.

Promoting the reconciliation of work and family life (work-life balance)

A demand-driven call for Promoting the Reconciliation of Work and Family Life was also launched in 2018, with the aim of continuing in good practice verified in the national project “**Family and Work**”. In less developed regions, the call supported the creation of *effective tools for the integration of mothers with young children* (also with special educational needs) *into the labour market, especially after returning from parental leave* by promoting flexible jobs in the form of temporary countervailing measures (hereinafter simply “TCMs”). It supported *forms of flexible jobs* (part-time employment (Section 49 of the Labour Code), job sharing (Section 49a of the Labour Code), home office and telework (Section 52 of the Labour Code).

Another activity supported by the call for less and more developed regions involved support for *flexible forms of care of children* (also with special educational needs) to reconcile work and family life. By the end of 2018, a total of 24 applications for NFC were approved.

However, support for the employment of women with small children through the demand-driven call of OP HR DDP 2017/3.2.1/01 did not arouse interest of applicants. The setting of the call and the minimum amount of funds requested did not allow small and medium-sized enterprises to be involved if they wanted to fill only one or two jobs. In addition, even the project with a small financial amount posed a disproportionately high administrative burden on an applicant. The approved intention of the National Project **Reconciliation of Work and Family Life** responded to the situation, where persons with custody duties will be employed through COLSAF.

Planned calls

In 2018, the preparation of a demand-driven call was launched to support new flexible forms of childcare with a view to reconciling work and family life. Furthermore, the European Commission pre-approved the intention of the National Project Every Child Counts that is aimed at introducing system support for children with non-standard development from an early age.

In order to support activities of civic associations and non-profit organisations, under the Subsidies Act (Section 9a) a **subsidy scheme of MoLSAF was established to promote gender equality**, namely for educational, counselling, awareness-raising, publishing and analytical activities. The scheme to promote gender equality supported 18 NGOs in 2018. In 2018, subsidies to promote gender equality were approved in the amount of **€117,925** for 20 civic associations and non-profit organisations. The amount drawn totalled €95,619.21 for 18 applicants.

One of the tasks of the *National Action Plan for the Prevention and Elimination of Violence against Women 2014 - 2019* was to establish the **Coordinating Methodological Centre for Gender-based and Domestic Violence** (hereinafter simply “CMC”) and ensure its sustainability. The CMC project is funded by a grant from the Kingdom of Norway through the Norwegian Financial Mechanism and co-financed from the state budget of the Slovak Republic.

An important role of the CMC is also to implement research and monitoring of violence against women and domestic violence in cooperation with the Norwegian partner.

The operation of the nationwide free **NONSTOP helpline for women** also continued in 2018. In 2018, the National Helpline for Women Experiencing Violence got a total of 3,219 calls, of which 2,625 (**82 %**) were received

and answered; the difference of 594 calls consists of those that were not redirected to the counsellor⁷⁸. The average length of one call was 8.64 minutes.

In 2018, there were 328 women (new clients) experiencing violence (on average, 27 more new clients per month), from which 747 calls (28.5 %) were received; women who experienced violence mostly called one or more times depending on their needs, the level of identification with violence and intervention provided. In 2018, we keep records of 167 new female clients and third-party clients calling on behalf of women experiencing violence.⁷⁹

The most common **form of violence** that calling women encounter is **psychological violence**, which was reported by 61 % of the total number of new calling clients. **Physical violence** is the second most common form of violence identified for calling women. 159 calling women had experience with physical violence, accounting for more than 48 % of the total number of calling women. More information is provided in Table 3 in Annex to Chapter 4.

When comparing the values of gender equality indicators for 2018, although there was a year-on-year increase in gender gaps in some areas, a decrease was recorded in most of them. The gap between employment rates for females and males aged 15-64 years increased year-on-year from 11.7 pp to 12.7 pp. In the group of young people aged 15-24 years, the gender gap between female and male employment rates increased year-on-year from 11.3 pp to 13.4 pp. The most significant gender gap between female and male employment rates was observed in the group of parents of children under 6 years of age – the gender gap reached 46.7 pp and was well above the EU28 average.

Compared to 2017, the gender gap between female and male employment rates increased by 0.3 pp and reached the level of - 0.8 pp, which means that the female unemployment rate was 0.8 pp higher than the male unemployment rate. The EU28 gender gap between female and male employment rates was - 0.4 pp.

In respect of the gender pay gap (hereinafter simply “GPG”), it can be stated that during the year the gross gender pay gap increased slightly for median hourly earnings from 12.64 % to 13.10 % to the detriment of females (for average hourly earnings, from 17.98 % to 18.05 %). This state was mainly caused by the unequal distribution of women and men across sectors – an increasing segregation index. In the business sector, the gross gender gap decreased slightly year-on-year for median hourly earnings from 17.74 % to 17.20 % (for average hourly earnings, from 19.58 % to 19.25 %, see Annex to Chapter 4, Table 2).

In the social area, gender gaps remained low, but compared to 2017, several gender gap indicators were changed in favour of women. The 2018 data show that women were at a lower risk of income poverty, a lower rate of material deprivation, a lower proportion of people living in households with low work intensity, and a lower risk of poverty or social exclusion than men.

With regard to pensions, the level of gender gaps in Slovakia remained well below the EU28 average, but increased year-on-year by 0.7 pp.

⁷⁸ From the perspective of the Reporting System of the National Helpline for Women, these calls are those that were in the waiting queue, in the Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system or in the waiting queue during the first 30 seconds of the call.

⁷⁹ Thus, the total number of calls from women experiencing violence is higher than the mentioned 747 calls, since this number also includes calls from women experiencing violence who have repeatedly contacted the National Helpline for Women and become its clients in previous years. The number of calls in internal databases of the National Helpline for Women increases by repeated calls, but such client remains in the database pertaining to the year when she contacted the National Helpline for Women for the first time.

Table 4.3 Summary of Gender Equality Indicators

Indicator	Females		Males		Gender gap	
	SK	EU28	SK	EU28	SK	EU28
Labour Market						
Employment rate (in %, 20 – 64 years, 2018, Eurostat)	65.5	66.7	79.2	79.2	13.7	12.5
Employment rate (in %, 15 – 64 years, 2018, Eurostat)	61.2	63.6	73.9	74.1	12.7	10.5
Youth employment rate (in %, 15 – 24 years, 2018, Eurostat)	20.6	33.4	34.0	37.8	13.4	4.4
Employment rate for parents with children under 6 years of age (the youngest child's age) (in %, 15 – 64 years, 2018, Eurostat)	42.6	63.1	89.3	91	46.7	27.9
Unemployment rate (in %, for working population, 2018, Eurostat)	7	7.2	6.2	6.8	-0.8	0.4
Youth unemployment rate (in %, 15 – 24 years, 2017, Eurostat)	16.1	14.8	14.3	16.3	-1.8	
Gender segregation in occupations (index in the range of 0 – 50 in %; 2017, EC*)					29.4	24
Gender segregation in economic sectors (index in the range of 0 – 50 in %; 2017, EC*)					23.5	18.8
Length of service - years worked (Eurostat, 2018)	31.6	36.5	33.7	38.6	2.1	2.1
Income						
Average gender gap in pensions (in %, group aged 65-79 years, 2017, EK)					8.8	35.7
Gender pay gap and average hourly earnings (in % of hourly earnings; 2018, Trexima pre SK / Eurostat pre EU28)	6.26		7.64		18.0	16
Average gross monthly earnings in unadjusted form (in €, GPG in %; 2018, Trexima)	1,015		1,303		22.1	-
Average hourly earnings in the public sector (in €, GPG in %; 2018, Trexima)	6.33		7.06		10.4	-
Average hourly earnings in the business sector (in €, GPG in %; 2018, Trexima)	6.23		7.72		19.3	-
Education level						
Population aged 25 – 64 years with tertiary (university) education (in %; ISCED 5-8, 2018, Eurostat)	26.5	33.4	19.8	29.5	-6.7	-3.9
Population aged 25 – 64 years with upper secondary education (in %; 2018, Eurostat)	63.7	44.3	72.9	47.9	9.2	3.6
Early leavers from education and training – population aged 18 – 24 years with less than secondary education (in %, ISCED 0-2; 2018, Eurostat)	9.6	8.9	8.7	12.3	0.9	-3.4
Young people aged 15 – 24 years not in education, employment, or training – NEET (in %, 2018, Eurostat)	12	10.8	8.4	10	3.6	0.8
Poverty						
At-risk-of-poverty rate after social transfers (in %, 2017, EU SILC, Eurostat)	12.3	17.6	12.4	16.3	-0.1	1.3
At-risk-of-poverty rate before social transfers (in %, 2017, EU SILC, Eurostat)	17.5	26.3	17.5	24.9	0	1.4
People living in households with low work intensity (in %, population aged 18 – 59 years, 2017, EU SILC, Eurostat)	4.7	10.8	5	9.7	-0.3	1.1
Severe material deprivation rate (in %, 2016, EU SILC, Eurostat)	6.8	6.8	7.2	6.4	-0.4	0.4
At-risk-of-poverty or social exclusion rate (in %, 2017, EU SILC, Eurostat)	16.2	23.3	16.3	21.6	-0.1	1.7

Indicator	Females		Males		Gender gap	
	SK	EU28	SK	EU28	SK	EU28
Demography						
Total fertility	1.48		1.6			
Life expectancy at birth (in years, 2016, Eurostat)	80.7	83.6	73.8	78.2	-6.9	-5.4
Healthy life expectancy at birth (in years, 2016, Eurostat)	57	64.2	56.4	63.5	-0.4	-0.7
Decision-making						
Political participation at European level (in %, European Parliament, 2018, EP/EIGE**)	30.8	36.8	69.2	63.2	38.4	26.4
Political participation at national level (in %, national parliaments, 2018, National Council of SR/EIGE**)	20.7	31.2	79.3	68.8	58.6	37.6
Political participation in national governments (in %, 2018, Government of SR/EIGE**)	33.3	30.7	66.7	69.3	33.4	38.6
Political participation at regional level - in the leadership of regional councils (in %, 2018, EIGE**)	12.5	22.2	87.5	78.8	75	56.6
Political participation at regional level – representation in regional/county offices (in %, 2018, EIGE**)	14.2	33.3	85.8	66.7	71.6	33.4
Political participation at municipal level – municipal councils (in %, 2018, EIGE**)	25.8	32.1	74.2	67.9	48.4	35.8
Political participation – leadership of political parties with at least 5 % of the seats in national parliaments (in %, 2018, EIGE**)	0	18.4	100	81.6	100	63.2
The rate of participation in the management of the largest companies listed on the stock exchange (CEO and male and female managers in %, 2018, EIGE**)	22.2	6.7	77.8	93.3	55.6	86.6
Gender composition of the Supreme Court (in %, 2018, National Council of SR/EIGE**)	56.8	41.5	43.2	58.5	-13.6	17
Gender composition in public media councils (in %, 2018, EIGE)	22.2	35.8	77.8	64.2	55.6	28.4
Gender equality index (in %, 2015/2012 /2010 /2005, EIGE**)					52.4/ 52.4/ 53.0/ 52.5	66.2/ 65.0/ 63.8/ 62.0

Notes: Gender gap = values for males minus values for females in percentage points (pp), unless otherwise stated. A negative difference means a difference in favour of women. The dark background shows the results where we achieve a better level than the EU average. On the contrary, the pale background (with white letters) contains the values that significantly exceed the EU average.

* European Commission, 2018: 2018 Report on equality between women and men in the EU.

**EIGE: European Institute for Gender Equality, <http://eige.europa.eu/gender-statistics/dqs>

5 COMPARISON OF SELECTED INDICATORS ACROSS EU28 COUNTRIES IN THE CONTEXT OF EUROPE 2020 STRATEGY

The Europe 2020 strategy – a strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth – adopted by the European Council on 17 June 2010 is the EU strategy for economic growth and employment in the current decade. The Europe 2020 strategy should help turn the EU into a smart, sustainable and inclusive economy with high levels of employment, productivity and social cohesion. It is the successor of the Lisbon Strategy, which set the EU targets by 2010. The main targets of the Europe 2020 strategy are measured by eight main indicators, four of which are directly related to the social sphere. These targets have been transferred into national targets, which take into account the specific situation of individual EU countries and also maximize their commitment to achieve the European targets, to ensure the contribution of each EU country to the implementation of the Strategy.

The following data reflect the socio-economic situation in Slovakia compared to other EU countries and in the context of achieving the Europe 2020 goals. The indicators are calculated using uniform methodology, with Eurostat as a source, and may therefore be somewhat different from the data of national statistical institutes. The annex to this chapter contains tables with data for individual EU28 countries for the last year available.

Macroeconomic Environment

The **GDP** growth of Slovakia in 2018 was, as in previous periods, more favourable than in the EU28, which recorded a real GDP growth of 2.0 %. In a year-on-year comparison, real GDP in Slovakia grew by 4.1 % on average. Investments and private consumption were the main drivers of such growth. The real GDP growth accelerated year-on-year by 0.9 pp. Among the EU countries, GDP grew most in Ireland (6.7 %), Malta (6.6 %), and Poland (5.1%). GDP grew in all EU28 countries, with the slowest growth in Italy (0.9 %), Belgium (1.4 %), Denmark (1.4 %), Germany (1.4 %), and the United Kingdom (1.4 %). According to the spring forecast of the European Commission⁸⁰ (EC), economic growth in Slovakia should continue in the following period. A slight slowdown is expected in 2019 and 2020 (3.8 % and 3.4 % respectively). Private consumption is expected to remain an important driver of growth and, thanks to positive developments in the labour market, will maintain growth rates comparable to those in previous years. Generation of investments is also expected to slow down. The European Commission estimates that real GDP growth will also continue on average in Europe, at 1.4 % in 2019 and 1.6 % in 2020. In addition to Slovakia, the growth of 3 % or more is expected in 2020 in Malta, Ireland, Bulgaria, Romania, and Poland.

In 2017, the Slovak **GDP per capita** (in PPS⁸¹) reached 76.1 % of the EU28 average, a year-on-year increase of 0.7 pp. Lower values of per capita GDP than in Slovakia (compared with the EU28) were recorded in Bulgaria, Romania, Croatia, Latvia, Hungary, Greece, and Poland.

The deflation period in the EU28 ended in 2017. Subsequent price increases also continued in 2018 and were observed in all member states. **Harmonised inflation rate** in Slovakia rose to 2.5 % in 2018. The EU28 average inflation increased to 1.9 %. According to EC estimates, inflation in Slovakia is expected to be 2.4 % in 2019 and 2.3 % in 2020, supported mainly by a rise in energy and service prices. Food prices are also expected to further rise to 2.6 %. The EU28 inflation is expected to reach 1.6 % in 2019 and 1.7 % in 2020.

Labour market conditions continued to improve in Slovakia despite the fact that the year-on-year growth of **employment rate** in 2018 slowed down by 0.2 pp to 2.0 % according to the domestic concept (ESA 2010). On average, employment also increased in the EU28, although not as significantly as in Slovakia (by 1.3 %, ESA 2010). The largest increases in employment were recorded in Malta (5.6 %), Cyprus (4.0 %), and Luxembourg (3.7 %). Employment in Bulgaria fell year-on-year (by 0.1 %). In the coming years, employment growth in Slovakia is expected to continue (0.8 % and 0.4 % in 2019 and 2020 respectively), which will be first at the same level and subsequently slightly lower than the EU28 average (0.8 % and 0.7 % in 2019 and 2020 respectively).

⁸⁰ https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/economy-finance/ecfin_forecast_spring_070519_sk_en.pdf

⁸¹ PPS (Purchasing Power Standard) is an artificial exchange rate of currencies in individual countries, taking into account the price levels of goods and services purchased in these countries. It can be understood as a price index comparing the prices of goods and services in those countries. It is used to express different economic contexts more realistically than in the official exchange rates of currencies of the countries concerned.

In 2018, the **public finance deficit** in Slovakia decreased year-on-year by 0.1 pp to 0.7 % of GDP, thus reached its historical minimum and was comparable to the EU28 average deficit (0.6 %). The main reason for the improvement was an increase in budget revenues driven by rapid economic growth. The highest deficits in the EU28 were recorded in Cyprus (4.8 %), Romania (3.0 %), Spain (2.5 %), and France (2.5 %). According to the EC forecast, the 2019 deficit in Slovakia should further decrease to 0.5 % of GDP, mainly due to growth in household consumption and a strong labour market. A slight increase to 0.6 % of GDP is expected in 2020. In 2018, the **consolidated government debt** (general government gross debt) in Slovakia declined to 48.9 % of GDP (81.5 % of GDP in the EU28). Debt values above 100 % of GDP were reported in Greece (181.1 %), Italy (132.2 %), Portugal (121.5 %), Cyprus (102.5 %), and Belgium (102.0 %). The debt-to-GDP ratio in Slovakia is expected to further decline and fall to 46.0 % in 2020.

Smart and Inclusive Growth

The main target of the Europe 2020 strategy is to increase the **employment rate** for men and women aged 20-64 years to 75 %. SR is supposed to contribute to this European target by increasing the employment rate of its population in this age group to 72 %. A higher employment rate in Europe is to be achieved mainly through higher employment of women, older people, young people, people with low qualifications and legal migrants. In 2018, the employment rate in the group aged 20-64 years, on the EU28 average, increased year-on-year by 1.0 pp to 73.2 % (by 0.9 pp to 67.4 % for women and by 1.0 pp to 79.0 % for men). The employment rate in Slovakia increased by 1.3 pp to 72.4 % year-on-year; Slovakia thus achieved its national Europe 2020 employment target. In contrast to the previous year, in 2018 the employment rate increased more for men than women (by 1.7 pp to 79.2 % and by 0.8 pp to 65.5 % for men and women respectively). In 2018, the highest employment rate in the EU28 was recorded in Sweden (82.6 %), which thereby achieved its national target in this area (80.0 %) for the fifth consecutive year. High employment rates above 79 % were also reached in the Czech Republic (79.9 %), Germany (79.9 %), Estonia (79.5 %), and the Netherlands (79.2 %). The lowest employment rate was observed in Greece, where it increased only to 59.5 % in 2018. The lower economic activity rates for women and older people contribute to the lower rate of total employment.

The **female employment rate** lags behind the male employment rate in Slovakia (by 13.7 pp in 2018) as well as on the EU28 average (by 11.6 pp). In 2018, the gender employment gap increased year-on-year in both the EU28 and Slovakia, however, the increase in Slovakia was more considerable (by 0.1 pp and 0.9 pp respectively). The largest employment gap between men and women are in Malta (22.3 pp), Greece (21.0 pp), Italy (19.8 pp), and Romania (18.3 pp). Larger employment gaps between men and women than in Slovakia were recorded in Hungary (15.3 pp), the Czech Republic (15.2 pp), and Poland (14.4 pp). High female employment rates above 75 % were reported by Sweden (80.4 %), Lithuania (76.7 %), Germany (75.8 %), and Estonia (75.6 %), of which Lithuania has the smallest gender employment gap (2.3 pp).

Policies to reconcile work and private life are necessary to support female employment. In general, access to childcare services is the main factor affecting the participation of women in the labour market. Since women are more likely to provide care for children and family than men, parenthood and family responsibilities affect their employment to a larger extent, particularly in circumstances where there is a lack of childcare services and other care services for dependent family members, or the services are too expensive and, consequently, less available. The gap between male and female employment rates is most pronounced for care of a child under six years of age, where the gap is 46.7 pp (42.6 % and 89.3 % for women and men aged 15 – 64 years respectively). In the EU28, the gap is lower (26.5 pp). Slovakia has the third largest gap in the EU28 with regard to care of a child under six years. It is higher only in the Czech Republic and Hungary. The gap is decreasing with the age of the child. With regard to care of a child aged 6 – 11 years, the employment gender gap in Slovakia is lower than the EU28 average (9.0 pp versus 14.8 pp), and with regard to care of a child over 12 years, the employment gender gap in Slovakia is only 4.1 pp (versus 10.2 pp in the EU28). In a year-on-year comparison, the employment gender gap with regard to a child in each age group increased, as male employment increased more than female employment, which even fell slightly for children under 6 years of age.

The fact that maternity influences female employment can also be proved by data on the employment rate for women aged 25 – 54 years without children in SR (83.5 %), which exceeds the employment rate for women without children in the EU28 (78.5 %) and is very similar to the employment rate for men in this age group without children (84.0 %). The low employment rate for women with a child under 6 years of age reflects a lack of childcare facilities (especially for children under 3 years of age) and low use of flexible working arrangements. The European Council

advises the Slovak Republic to improve the opportunities for women employment, particularly by expanding the provision of affordable and quality childcare.

One of the priorities of the European Union is to ensure the availability of affordable and good quality care services for children between 0 years and the mandatory school age. The Barcelona target from 2002, included in the Lisbon Strategy, based on the requirement *to remove barriers to women's participation in the labour market, while taking the demand into account and, in accordance with the national systems, to establish care facilities for at least 90 % of children between three years and the mandatory school age and at least 33 % of children under three years of age by 2010*, is also incorporated in the Europe 2020 strategy. According to the EU SILC data, **formal childcare** was provided in facilities for 34.2 % of children under three years of age in the EU28 in 2017. In Slovakia, the use of such care has been very low in the long term. According to EU SILC, only 0.6 % of children under three years of age used formal childcare facilities in 2017. However, other data sources show that in 2018 only 7 % of children under three years of age used formal childcare facilities.⁸² Formal care for children aged 3 – 6 years in Slovakia is provided on a wider scale. In 2017, such care was provided for 73.7 % of children (the EU28 average: 84.8 %), 64.0 % of children were provided with care for over 30 hours a week (the EU average: 49.9 % of children of this age), and 9.7 % of children were cared for up to 30 hours a week (EU28: 34.9 % of children). Providing quality care services and universal access to quality pre-school education are included not only in the preventive measures to increase female employment, but also in those against early school leaving. Access to early childhood care is expected to improve in SR. MoLSAF supports flexible forms of work and childcare in the current programming period within the Operational Programme Human Resources.

Achieving the employment rate of 75 % by 2020 also largely depends on further increasing the employment of older people. The demographic challenges associated with the ageing of population motivate the EU to jointly increase the participation of older people in the labour market and support further extension of their work lives. The **employment rate for older people** (55 – 64 years) in Slovakia has been continuously increasing since 2001, with a year-on-year increase of 1.2 pp to 54.2 % in 2018. This rate of employment has also been increasing in the EU28, where it is higher on average (58.7 %). In contrast to 2017, in which the employment rate in Slovakia increased more for older women than for older men, in 2018 there was a higher year-on-year increase in the employment rate for older men (by 1.8 pp to 58.4 % and by 0.8 pp to 50.4 % for older men and older women respectively). In the long-term, the highest employment rate for older women has been observed in Sweden (75.8 %); a high employment rate has also been achieved in Estonia (71.5 %).

Longer work lives and raising employment rates should also be supported through better access to lifelong learning. Inclusive growth also means investing in training and upgrading skills with a view to helping people of all ages to prepare for expected changes in the labour market. Slovakia is still lagging behind in this area. In 2018, **adult participation in education** was the fourth lowest in the EU28, although it increased by 0.6 pp year-on-year. In 2018, 4.0 % of people aged 25 - 64 years were involved in further education or training, while the EU28 average was 11.1 %. A lower share of adults involved in lifelong learning in 2018 was in Romania (0.9 %), Bulgaria (2.5 %), and Croatia (2.9 %). The highest share of adults involved in lifelong learning in 2018 was in Sweden (29.2 %), Finland (28.5 %), and Denmark (23.5 %). A low rate of further education or training of adults may have an adverse effect on employability, especially among low-skilled workers; it thereby weakens the efforts to reduce structural unemployment.

Unemployment rate in Slovakia has been significantly decreasing in recent years. In 2018, the labour market situation improved again and the unemployment rate decreased by 1.6 pp to 6.5 %, thus getting below the EU28 average (6.8 %). Unemployment rate in Slovakia decreased more for males (by 1.8 pp to 6.1 %) than for females (by 1.4 pp to 7.0 %). In most of other EU28 countries, the unemployment rate decreased on average by 0.8 pp. Higher unemployment rates than the unemployment rate in Slovakia were recorded in Greece (19.3 %), Spain (15.3 %), Italy (10.6 %), France (9.1 %), Croatia (8.5 %), Cyprus (8.4 %), Latvia (7.4 %), Finland (7.4 %), and Portugal (7.0 %). The lowest unemployment rate was in the Czech Republic (2.2 %) and Germany (3.4 %). According to the EC spring forecast, the unemployment rate will continue to fall, namely to 5.9 % and 5.6 % in 2019 and 2020 respectively. The share of the unemployed in the economically active population is also expected to decrease on the EU28 average, namely to 6.5 % and 6.2 % in 2019 and 2020 respectively. According to the forecast of positive developments in Slovakia, the unemployment rate will remain below the EU28 average in 2019 and 2020.

⁸² In 2018, nursery schools provided care for 8,616 children under 3 years of age, and registered facilities for children under 3 years of age in 2018 had the capacity for 3,368 children, i.e. a total of 11,984 children, accounting for ca. 7 % of the total number of children aged 0 - 2 years.

Source: MoLSAF; Slovak Centre of Scientific and Technical Information

The key to achieving the ambitious targets of smart and sustainable growth for all are the young people, especially their successful entry into the labour market. Young people today face challenges in education and training systems, as well as when entering the labour market. The **youth unemployment rate** (up to 25 years) in the EU has always been higher than the overall unemployment rate. Young people rank among the main target groups of the active labour market policy in Slovakia. Thanks to this (among others), since 2013 Slovakia has been successful in reducing the high unemployment rate of this age group which has grown rapidly, especially during the crisis and post-crisis period. In 2018, the youth unemployment rate in Slovakia dropped year-on-year for the sixth consecutive year, specifically by 4.0 pp to 14.9 %, thus getting below the EU28 average (15.2 %, a decrease of 1.6 pp). Despite a year-on-year decrease, the youth unemployment rate in 2018 exceeded 30 % in some EU countries, namely in Greece (39.9 %), Spain (34.3 %), and Italy (32.2 %). The lowest youth unemployment rate in 2018 was observed in Germany (6.2 %), the Czech Republic (6.7 %), and the Netherlands (7.2 %).

A higher rate of youth unemployment highlights the difficulties of the labour force in this age group to find employment. On the other hand, when comparing countries, it must be taken into account that the size of this labour force (i.e. economically active population in this age) differs among individual countries, since it depends on the number of young people in education. A high proportion of young people in Slovakia are students, resulting in a **low rate of economic activity of young people up to 25 years**. In 2018, the labour force accounted for 32.3 % of the total population aged 15 – 24 years. On the EU28 average, the proportion of the labour force is higher among the young people up to 25 years (41.7 %). 91.6 % of the young people up to 25 years in Slovakia were economically inactive in 2018 due to participating in the education process (the EU28 average is 87.0 %). Taking into account the number of young people in education, the proportion of **young people under 25 years who are not in education, employment, or training (the so-called NEET)** in Slovakia amounted to 10.2 % in 2018 (a year-on-year decrease of 1.9 pp), which is below the EU28 average (10.5 %). Based on the recommendations of the European Council concerning youth unemployment, Slovakia is creating schemes guaranteeing a rapid supply of quality jobs, graduate practice or training for young people under 25 years who have lost their jobs or are struggling to find employment after completing the education or training.

Another main target of the EU in the Europe 2020 strategy is to ensure that at least 40 % of the population aged 30 – 34 years complete university (tertiary) or equivalent education. High-skilled population is crucial for dealing with issues related to demographic changes and social inclusion in Europe. According to EC, a growing number of jobs require e-skills, while the EU economy suffers from a shortage of highly skilled workers in information and communication technologies. In 2018, the **share of tertiary educated population** aged 30 – 34 years in Slovakia increased year-on-year by 3.4 pp to 37.7 %, more for men (by 4.4 pp to 31.1 %) than for women (by 2.2 pp to 44.6 %), where the aim is to achieve 40 % by 2020. On the EU28 average in 2018, 40.7 % of the population aged 30 – 34 had tertiary education.

Dropping out of school with less than secondary education limits the potential of young people and can prevent their successful transition to the labour market. In the EU28, a large proportion of young people leave school prematurely and do not get further education. Despite the long-term decline, 10.6 % of people aged 18 – 24 years dropped out of education prematurely in the EU28 in 2018. Lack of qualifications is a major barrier to inclusion, since education is essential for inclusion in the labour market, quality of work, remuneration, but also for a successful continuation of lifelong training for the labour market. To achieve smart and inclusive growth, the target was set to keep young people in education and reduce **the share of early school leavers** to at least 10 %. In the long-term, the Slovak Republic has been ranked among the EU countries with a relatively low share of early school leavers. In 2018, the share decreased year-on-year by 0.7 pp to 8.6 %, while Slovakia's target is to reduce this percentage below 6 % by 2020. By gender, there were more female than male early school leavers (8.8 % and 8.3 % respectively). Early school leaving in marginalised Roma communities requires significant attention as well. In this context, the European Council advises the Slovak Republic to strengthen the participation of Roma children in the mainstream of education from early childhood.

Low-skilled workers are in a particularly difficult position in the Slovak labour market. Their unemployment rate has long been the highest and the employment rate has long been among the lowest in the EU28. In 2018, the **unemployment rate of people** aged 25 – 64 years with **ISCED 0 – 2 level** of education (i.e. lower secondary education or second stage of basic education) in Slovakia increased year-on-year by 0.2 pp to 27.6 % and was more than double the EU28 average (12.5 %). The lowest unemployment rates of low-skilled people was recorded in Malta (4.3 %), Great Britain (5.0 %), the Netherlands (5.1 %), and Romania (5.4 %). The **employment rate of low-skilled people** (ISCED 0 – 2) aged 25 – 64 years in SR is well below the EU28 average. In 2018 it reached 37.9 % in Slovakia, while it decreased by 0.9 pp year-on-year. Among the EU28 countries, only Croatia reaches lower employment rate for this group of people (37.5 %). The average employment rate of low-skilled people in the

EU28 is 56.8 %. The employment rates for low-skilled people are above 60 % in Portugal (70.0 %), Great Britain (65.7 %), Estonia (65.5 %), Sweden (64.0 %), the Netherlands (62.6 %), Denmark (62.5 %), Cyprus (62.0 %), Germany (61.0 %), Malta (60.9 %), and Luxembourg (60.8 %).

The decreased unemployment rate in Slovakia in 2018 also involved the long-term unemployed. The **long-term unemployment rate** in Slovakia decreased year-on-year by 1.1 pp to 4.0 % (4.0 % and 4.1 % for men and women respectively), however, it still ranks among the highest in the EU28. The share of the long-term unemployed in the economically active population slightly decreased on the EU28 average, namely by 0.5 pp to 2.9 %. The highest long-term unemployment rates persist in Greece (13.6 %) and Spain (6.4 %); a higher long-term unemployment rate than in Slovakia was also observed in Italy (6.2 %). The lowest long-term unemployment rate in 2018 was recorded in the Czech Republic (0.7 %), Poland (1.0 %), Denmark (1.1 %), Malta (1.1 %), Great Britain (1.1%), and Sweden (1.2 %). The higher long-term unemployment rate in the Slovak economy points out the presence of structural imbalances in the labour market. Long-term unemployment results in the marginalisation of a part of the economically active population and thereto-related high social costs. A very high long-term unemployment rate is observed in the group of people who only completed primary education. Therefore, the European Council advises Slovakia to take additional measures to address long-term unemployment, namely to improve the activation measures for the long-term unemployed and other disadvantaged groups, including personalised services and targeted training.

High tax and insurance contribution payments on earned income can affect employment in a negative way. These effects can pertain mainly to certain groups, especially the low-skilled workers or low-wage earners, as the supply of and demand for the work of these groups are generally more sensitive to changes in this respect. The Slovak system of taxes and insurance contributions as well as the social system generally motivate people to accept a job and seek to increase earned income, as evidenced mainly by the indicators of the unemployment trap and the low wage trap. However, the taxation/insurance contribution burden on low earnings in Slovakia (according to the tax wedge indicator for an individual with a wage of 67 % of the average wage) is higher than the EU28 average.

In 2015, **tax wedge for low earnings**⁸³ (the share of taxes and insurance contributions paid by employees and employers in the total labour cost) in Slovakia was ranging above the EU28 average (38.8 % in SR versus 38.4 % in the EU28).

The **unemployment trap**⁸⁴ indicator allows to measure disparities in income during the transition from the social benefits system to the labour market. The unemployment trap is very low in Slovakia, which means that the Slovak social and tax system motivates an unemployed individual to get a job, even a low-paid one. The unemployment trap in the EU28 maintains a relatively high level compared to SR (74.00 % in 2015). Although in 2015 the unemployment trap in Slovakia increased slightly year-on-year (by 0.23 pp to 44.74 %), it remains well below the EU28 average. Slovakia has the smallest unemployment trap across Europe. The value means that after accepting a job with a wage at 67 % of the average wage, the previously unemployed individual gains an increase in the net income of 55.26 %. (In the EU28, an individual in such a situation would hypothetically gain an increase in the net income of only 26 % on average).

Low wage trap,⁸⁵ just like the unemployment trap, expresses incentives or disincentives to work, in this case for higher wages. In 2015, the low wage trap for one-earner couples with two children in Slovakia declined year-on-year by 1.48 pp to 49.91 % and has long been ranging below the EU28 average (59.82 % in 2015). The low wage trap for a single adult in 2015 reached 29.77 %, which was well below the EU28 average (44.58 %). The low wage trap data in Slovakia in 2015 indicate that the rise in gross wages from 33 % to 67 % of the average wage increases the net income of one-earner couples with two children by 50.09 % and the net income of a single adult by 70.23 %. Whether it is a case of single adults or one-earner couples with two children, the low wage trap in Slovakia is rather one of those lower in Europe (newer data on the taxation/insurance contribution burden on low earnings in Slovakia are not available at the time of the Report preparation).

Another goal of the Europe 2020 strategy and the support for inclusive growth is to reduce the **population at risk of poverty or social exclusion** by at least 20 million (to 19.4 %). Due to the unavailability of 2018 data, the

⁸³ The indicator refers to a single person without children and with earnings of 67 % of the average wage.

⁸⁴ The unemployment trap refers to a situation where the net employment earnings are relatively low in comparison with the benefits provided in unemployment. Conversely, it is a percentage increase in disposable income when the employee returns to employment after a period of unemployment and receives a wage of 67 % of the average wage. The indicator applies to single persons without children.

⁸⁵ The low wage trap is measured as a percentage of decrease in gross earnings combined with income tax, social contributions and any other social benefits if the wage increases from 33 % to 67 % of the average wage. In other words, it expresses the increase of net income in % if gross income increases.

following values are only for 2017. In the EU28, there were 112.979 million people (22.4 %) at risk of poverty or social exclusion in 2017, representing a decrease of 4.412 million people compared to 2008. The goal is monitored by means of the indicator composed of three sub-indicators. People at risk of poverty and social exclusion were either living in households with very low work intensity⁸⁶, and/or they were living at risk of poverty after social transfers⁸⁷ and/or they were severely materially deprived⁸⁸. These are people who live in households where nobody works or works only occasionally and/or low-income households and/or who cannot afford one of the critical needs for their lives. People are counted only once, although they may be present in a number of sub-indicators. The total number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion is less than the sum of the number of people in each of the three forms of poverty and social exclusion, as some people may suffer from various forms simultaneously.

Within the Europe 2020 strategy, the Slovak Republic has set the goal to reduce the total number of such persons

by 170 thousand (to 17.2 %) by 2020 (compared to the base year 2008). In Slovakia, there were 856 thousand people at risk of poverty or social exclusion in 2017, which was 255 thousand less than in 2008. In 2017, the share of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion in Slovakia fell by 1.8 pp to 16.3%, mainly due to a decrease in the share of people living in households with very low work intensity and a decrease in the share of people suffering from severe material deprivation (the share of people at risk of income poverty fell only slightly). Of the total Slovak population in 2017, 12.4 % were at risk of poverty (a year-on-year decrease of 0.3 pp), 7.0 % were **the severely materially deprived** (a year-on-year decrease of 1.2 pp) and 5.4 % were people **living in households with very low work intensity** (a year-on-year decrease of 1.1 pp). Women were slightly less at risk of poverty or social exclusion (16.2 %) than men (16.3 %).

In 2017, the highest share of persons at risk of poverty or social exclusion was observed in Bulgaria (38.9 %), Romania (35.7 %) and Greece (34.8 %), and the lowest in the Czech Republic (12.2 %) and Finland (15.7 %). With regard to the respective elements defining the risk of poverty or social exclusion, the highest share of people with disposable income below the at-risk-of-poverty threshold in 2017 was observed in Romania (23.6 %); a high share of over 20 % was also recorded in Bulgaria (23.4 %), Lithuania (22.9 %), Spain (21.6 %), Latvia (22.1 %), Estonia (21.0 %), Greece (20.2 %), Italy (20.3 %), and Croatia (20.0 %). The lowest share of people with such low income was in the Czech Republic (9.1 %). The share of people in the EU28 who are severely materially deprived was the lowest in Sweden (1.1 %), Luxembourg (1.2 %), and Finland (2.1%), while the highest was recorded in Bulgaria (30.0 %), Greece (21.1 %), and Romania (19.7 %). The highest share of people under 59 years of age living in households with low work intensity is in Ireland (16.5 %) and Greece (15.6 %), while the lowest was recorded, besides Slovakia (5.4 %), in the Czech Republic (5.5 %).

In terms of age, children are at higher risk of poverty or social exclusion than other age groups in most EU countries, including Slovakia. In 2017, 24.9 % of children under 18 years of age (21.9 % of people over 18 and 18.2 % of people over 65) experienced at least one of the three forms of poverty or social exclusion in the EU28. In Slovakia, 22.5 % of children under 18 years of age were at risk of poverty or social exclusion versus 14.9 % of those over 18 and 12.1 % of those over 65. In 2017, the share of children at risk of poverty or social exclusion in Slovakia decreased year-on-year by 1.9 pp; a decline was also recorded in the share of people over 18 and over 65 at risk of poverty or social exclusion (- 1.8 pp and - 0.2 pp respectively).

⁸⁶ Population living in households with very low work intensity are people aged 0 – 59 years living in households where adults work less than 20 % of the total possible time during the past year (students are excluded).

⁸⁷ Persons with equivalised disposable income under at-risk-of-poverty threshold, defined as 60 % of the national median equivalised disposable income (after all social transfers counted as part of income). Equivalised income is calculated for every individual as household disposable income divided by the size of the household, which uses the following weights for individual household members: 1.0 for the first adult, 0.5 for all other household members over 14 years, and 0.3 for a child under 14 years of age.

⁸⁸ Material deprivation covers indicators relating to economic strain, durables, housing deprivation, and environment of the dwelling. Severely materially deprived people have living conditions limited by a lack of resources and experience at least 4 of the following 9 deprivation items: they cannot afford a) to pay mortgage or rent payments, utility bills, hire purchase instalments or other loan payments on time, b) to pay for keeping their home adequately warm, c) face unexpected financial expenses, d) eat meal with meat, chicken, fish or vegetarian equivalent every second day, e) a one-week holiday away from home annually, f) a car, g) a washing machine, h) a colour TV, i) a telephone (including mobile phones).

Table 5.1 Development of the Selected Key Indicators of the Europe 2020 Strategy

Europe 2020 key indicators/year		SR											EU28										
		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Employment rate of people aged 20-64 years (EU target = 75 %, SR target = 72 %)	total	68.8	66.4	64.6	65.0	65.1	65.0	65.9	67.7	69.8	71.1	72.4	70.3	69.0	68.6	68.6	68.4	68.4	69.2	70.1	71.1	72.2	73.2
	females	60.3	58.2	57.4	57.4	57.3	57.8	58.6	60.3	62.7	64.7	65.5	62.8	62.3	62.1	62.2	62.4	62.6	63.5	64.3	65.3	66.5	67.4
	males	77.4	74.6	71.9	72.5	72.8	72.2	73.2	75.0	76.9	77.5	79.2	77.9	75.7	75.1	75.0	74.6	74.3	75.0	75.9	76.9	78.0	79.0
Share of early school leavers without qualifications (EU target = 10 %, SR target = 6 %)	total	6.0	4.9	4.7	5.1	5.3	6.4	6.7	6.9	7.4	9.3	8.6	14.7	14.2	13.9	13.4	12.7	11.9	11.2	11.0	10.7	10.6	10.6
	females	4.9	4.1	4.9	4.6	4.6	6.1	6.6	6.8	7.2	10.3	8.8	12.7	12.3	11.9	11.5	10.9	10.2	9.6	9.5	9.2	8.9	8.9
	males	7.1	5.7	4.6	5.4	6.0	6.7	6.9	6.9	7.6	8.5	8.3	16.7	16.1	15.8	15.3	14.5	13.6	12.8	12.4	12.2	12.1	12.2
Share of tertiary educated population aged 30- 34 years (EU target = 40 %, SR target = 40 %)	total	15.8	17.6	22.1	23.2	23.7	26.9	26.9	28.4	31.5	34.3	37.7	31.2	32.3	33.8	34.8	36.0	37.1	37.9	38.7	39.1	39.9	40.5
	females	17.6	19.8	26.2	27.3	28.2	31.8	31.5	34.4	39.4	42.4	44.6	34.3	35.7	37.3	38.6	40.2	41.4	42.3	43.4	43.9	44.9	45.8
	males	14.0	15.5	18.2	19.4	19.4	22.3	22.5	22.8	24.0	26.7	31.1	28.0	29.0	30.3	31.0	31.8	32.8	33.6	34.0	34.4	34.9	35.7
Population at risk of poverty and social exclusion in % (EU target = 19.4 %, SR target = 17.4 %)		20.6	19.6	20.6	20.6	20.5	19.8	18.4	18.4	18.1	16.3	:	:	:	23.8	24.3	24.8	24.6	24.4	23.8	23.5	22.4	:
- persons living in households with very low work intensity in %		5.2	5.6	7.9	7.7	7.2	7.6	7.1	7.1	6.5	5.4	:	:	:	10.3	10.5	10.6	11.0	11.3	10.7	10.5	9.5	:
- persons living at risk of poverty after social transfers in %		10.9	11.0	12.0	13.0	13.2	12.8	12.6	12.3	12.7	12.4	:	:	:	16.5	16.8	16.9	16.7	17.2	17.3	17.3	16.9	:
- severely materially deprived persons in %		11.8	11.1	11.4	10.6	10.5	10.2	9.9	9.0	8.2	7.0	:	:	:	8.4	8.8	9.9	9.6	8.9	8.1	7.5	6.6e	:

Source: EUROSTAT, SO SR

Notes: Data on poverty are calculated by SO SR on the basis of EU SILC; the previous year is the reference year for the survey of income; e – estimate, p – preliminary data; in 2011 a change in the time series for the employment rate of people aged 20 – 64 years in SR; in 2011 and 2014 a change in the time series for the share of early school leavers and in the time series for the share of tertiary educated population in both SR and the EU28.

LIST OF ANNEXES

Annex to Chapter 1

Table 1	Basic Indicators of Economic Development in the Slovak Republic
Table 2	Consumer Price Indices
Table 3	Construction and Decline in the Number of Apartments
Table 4	Population of the Slovak Republic by Regions
Graph 1	The Average Age of the Population in 2018 in the Slovak Districts

Annex to Chapter 2

Table 1	Economically Active Population in 2018
Table 2	Employment Rate by Age and Education in 2018 (Annual Average in %)
Table 3	Number of the Employed by Regions in 2018 (Annual Average)
Table 4	Structure of Employment by SK NACE Rev. 2 Sectors
Table 5	Unemployment Rate by Age and Education in 2018 (Annual Average in %)
Graph 1	Registered Unemployment Rate in the Slovak Districts (Average for 2018)
Table 6	Number of Job Seekers – School-leavers by the End of 2018
Table 7	ALMM Instruments Overview of the Implementation of Active Labour Market Measures
Table 8	Average Gross Monthly Wage in Business and Non-business Sectors by Education Level – 2018
Table 9	Average Gross Monthly Wages in Business and Non-business Sectors by Classification of Occupations SK ISCO-08 – 2018
Table 10	Average Gross Monthly Wages in Business and Non-business Sectors by Age Groups – 2018
Table 11	Average Gross Monthly Wages in Business and Non-business Sectors by Regions – 2018
Table 12	Average Gross Monthly Wages and Selected Components of Employees' Wages by Gender – 2018
Table 13	Shares of Employees in the Zones of Average Gross Monthly Wages – 2018
Table 14	Average Gross Monthly Wages in Business and Non-business Sectors by Education Level (Full-time Employment) – 2018
Table 15	Average Gross Monthly Wages in Business and Non-business Sectors by Classification of Occupations SK ISCO-08 and Gender (Full-time Employment) – 2018
Table 16	Average Hourly Wages by Regions in Business Sector (€/hour)
Table 17	Average Hourly Wages by Economic Activities in Business Sector (€/hour)
Table 18	Average Hourly Wages by Size Classes of Enterprises in Business Sector (€/hour)
Table 19	Average Hourly Wages by Age in Business Sector (€/hour)
Table 20	Average Hourly Wage by Gender in Business Sector – Q4 2018
Table 21	Monthly Labour Costs per Employee in SR in 2018 by Economic Activities
Table 22	Announced Invitations to National Projects and Demand-driven Calls for 2018
Table 23	Number of Registered Social Enterprises by Type in 2018
Table 24	Number of Registered Social Enterprises in the Least Developed Districts in 2018

Annex to Chapter 3

Table 1	Basic Sickness Insurance Fund (BSIF) Expenditure and Sickness Insurance Benefits in 2018
Table 2	Number of Beneficiaries of Solo Paid Pensions and Overlapping with Widow's/Widower's Pension as at 31 December 2018
Table 3	Number of Pension Beneficiaries and Amount of Solo Pension Insurance Benefits by Sex
Table 4	Breakdown of Pension Beneficiaries by Pension Amount as at 31 December 2018
Table 5	Overview of Pension Insurance Benefits Expenditure as at 31 December 2018
Table 6	Basic Accident Insurance Fund (BAIF) Expenditure in 2018
Table 7	Average Amount and Number of Paid Accident Insurance Benefits in 2018
Table 8	State-paid Accident Insurance Benefits
Table 9	Basic Guarantee Insurance Fund (BGIF) Expenditure in 2018
Table 10	Paid Unemployment Benefits, Number of Cases and Average Benefit Amount in 2018
Table 11	Number of Unemployment Benefit Recipients by Age and Gender in 2018
Graph 1	Distribution of Savers in the II. Pillar by Age as at 31 December 2018
Graph 2	Age Distribution of Savers in the II. Pillar as at 31 December 2018
Graph 3	Regional Distribution of Childcare Allowance Beneficiaries, Average Monthly Number of Beneficiaries in 2018
Graph 4	Regional Distribution of Persons in the Material Need Assistance System, Share of These Persons in the Total Population as at 31 December 2018 – under intradepartmental consultation procedure
Table 12	Number of Beneficiaries and Social Reintegration Allowance Spending in 2016 and 2017
Table 13	Assistance Provided to Maltreated, Sexually Abused and Bullied Children in 2018
Table 14	Children Placed in Facilities for Court Decision Enforcement /Preliminary Injunction, Upbringing Injunction, Institutional Care and Protective Care/
Table 15	Individual Forms of Care in Children's Homes
Table 16	Number of Children and Young Adults in Individual Forms of Care in Children's Homes as at 31 December
Table 17	Total Number of Children Entrusted to Individual Forms of Alternative Family Care in 2016 and 2018
Table 18	Basic Statistics on Activities of DAPs in 2016 and 2017
Table 19	Activities of the Departments of Advisory and Psychological Services in 2016 and 2017
Table 20	Allowance for the Provision of Social Services in Facilities Conditional upon Dependence
Table 21	Allowance for the Provision of Social Services in Crisis Intervention Facilities
Table 22	Number of Registered Social Services
Table 23	Nursing Service (Municipalities + Non-public providers)
Table 24	Independent Professional Activities
Table 25	Number and Capacity of Social Service Facilities
Table 26	Number of Social Service Recipients in Social Service Facilities
Table 27	Expenditure of Social Service Facilities
Table 28	Employees of Social Service Facilities (Total) in 2016 and 2017
Table 29	Selected Types of Social Services Provided by Municipalities, Higher Territorial Units or Non-public Social Service Providers as at 31 December 2018
Table 30	Number of Applicants for the Provision of Social Services in Selected Types of Social Services Facilities
Table 31	Number of Employees, Wages and Selected Wage Components (in €) in Social Service Facilities, by Aggregated Occupation Categories, 2018 Violations of Act No. 460/1992 Coll. – the Constitution of the Slovak Republic, the Social Services Act and other generally binding legal regulations
Table 32	Gross Social Protection Expenditure, 2016
Table 33	Social Protection Receipts, 2016
Table 34	Pensions Expenditure and Pensions Expenditure Structure, 2016
Table 35	Number of Pension Beneficiaries by Sex, Indices 2016/2015 and 2016/2006
Table 36	Taxes and Social Contributions Paid from Social Benefits, 2015
Table 37	Announced Invitations to National Projects and Demand-driven Calls for 2018

Table 38 Spending in the Budget Section 22 - MoLSAF, by Programme Budgeting

Annex to Chapter 4

Table 1	List of Selected Indicators of Social Inclusion (2015 – 2016)
Table 2	Gross Monthly Wage and Hourly Earnings in Business and Non-business Sector in 2018
Table 3	Forms of Violence Identified for Calling Women
Graph 1	A Violent Person's Relationship with Calling Women
Graph 2	Persons Close to Women Experiencing Violence

Annex to Chapter 5

Table 1	Selected Indicators in the Context of Europe 2020 Strategy in the EU28 Countries in 2018 – Macroeconomic Environment
Table 2	Selected Indicators in the Context of Europe 2020 Strategy in the EU28 Countries for the Last Year Available – Smart and Inclusive Growth

ANNEX TO CHAPTER 1

Table 1 Basic Indicators of Economic Development in the Slovak Republic*

Indicator	Unit of measure	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT ¹⁾						
Gross domestic product at current prices	bil. €	76.1	79.1	81.2	84.9	90.2
index, same period of previous year = 100	%	102.6	104.0	102.6	104.5	106.3
Gross domestic product at constant prices ²⁾	bil. €	73.7	76.7	79.1	81.7	85.0
index, same period of previous year = 100	%	102.8	104.2	103.1	103.2	104.1
INFLATION ³⁾						
Annual inflation rate						
last month of the period	%	-0.1	-0.5	0.2	-0.1	0.2
on average for the period	%	-0.1	-0.3	-0.5	1.3	2.5
ECONOMIC ACTIVITY ACCORDING TO LFS⁴⁾						
Number of the employed	thousand persons	2,363.0	2,424.0	2,492.1	2,530.7	2,566.7
index, same period of previous year = 100	%	101.4	102.6	102.8	101.5	101.4
Number of the unemployed	thousand persons	358.7	314.3	266.0	224.0	179.5
index, same period of previous year = 100	%	92.9	87.6	84.6	84.2	80.1
Unemployment rate	%	13.2	11.5	9.7	8.1	6.6
EMPLOYMENT						
Average number of persons employed in the economy, in total ⁵⁾	thousand persons	2,204.6	2,251.6	2,307.0	2,348.9	2,392.8
index, same period of previous year = 100	%	101.3	102.1	102.5	101.8	101.9
AVERAGE MONTHLY WAGE						
of employees in the Slovak economy in total ⁶⁾						
nominal	€	858	883	912	954	1013.0
index, same period of previous year = 100	%	104.1	102.9	103.3	104.6	106.2
real – index, same period of previous year = 100 ⁷⁾	%	104.2	103.2	103.8	103.3	103.6

Source: SO SR, Štatistická správa o základných vývojových tendenciách v hospodárstve SR vo 4.štvrtroku 2018 (Statistical Report on Basic Development Tendencies in the Slovak Economy in Q4 2018, in Slovak only)

*Data for previous years were revised in May 2019.

¹⁾ ESA 2010 methodology, data in 2018 are based on refined quarterly estimates

²⁾ at constant prices calculated as chain-linked volumes by reference year 2010

³⁾ calculated from consumer prices, since 2005 with annual weights updates

⁴⁾ LFS – Labour Force Survey; on average per period; working person according to LFS are all persons aged 15 years or older who work, in the reference week, at least 1 hour for wage, salary or other form of remuneration or work for profit, including persons performing contractual work, seasonal workers, persons on maternity leave, persons working abroad for less than one year, migrant workers and persons performing activation work;

⁵⁾ according to quarterly statistical reporting, employed persons are employees and entrepreneurs, less women on maternity leave

⁶⁾ according to quarterly statistical reporting; less entrepreneurs' incomes; data are adjusted by statistical estimate of non-registered wages

⁷⁾ index of real wages is calculated as a proportion of nominal wage index and consumer price index

Table 2 Consumer Price Indices

COICOP classes	Constant weights in ‰	Same period of previous year = 100					year
		March	June	September	December	2018	
SR total	1,000.000	102.4	102.8	102.7	101.9	102.5	
of which:							
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	174.864	105.7	104.8	103.7	100.9	103.9	
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	52.715	100.3	102.2	101.9	101.6	101.6	
Clothing and footwear	43.811	102.5	101.5	102.5	101.4	101.5	
Housing, water, electricity, gas, and other fuels	258.693	101.6	101.9	102.4	103.2	102.1	
Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance	62.609	100.2	100.9	101.1	101.9	101.0	
Health	28.377	101.7	102.2	101.9	101.9	101.6	
Transport	86.600	102.2	106.5	106.1	100.5	104.6	
Post and telecommunication	33.888	100.0	98.0	100.6	101.1	100.0	
Recreation and culture	88.594	101.5	102.3	101.0	100.4	101.4	
Education	17.611	101.0	100.9	100.7	101.0	101.0	
Hotels, cafés and restaurants	68.251	103.1	103.2	103.8	104.0	103.4	
Miscellaneous goods and services	83.987	102.9	102.6	102.2	102.7	102.6	

Source: SO SR, Štatistická správa o základných vývojových tendenciách v hospodárstve SR - 4. štvrťrok 2018 (Statistical Report on Basic Development Tendencies in the Slovak Economy in Q4 2018, in Slovak only)

Table 3 Construction and Decline in the Number of Apartments

Indicator		Number of apartments - construction			Decline in the number of apartments	
		commenced in 2018	under construction as at 31/12/2018	completed in 2018	total in 2018	of which by clearance in 2018
Apartments in total	a)	22,055	77,773	19,071	1,495	1,413
	b)	110.7	103.7	112.5	99.9	103.5
Of which (sector):						
public	a)	277	1,113	195	22	21
	b)	86.8	73.0	86.3	115.8	116.7
private	a)	21,778	76,660	18,876	1,473	1,392
	b)	111	104.4	112.9	99.7	103.3
Of total apartments						
Apartments in family houses	a)	15,042	48,011	12,687	x	x
	b)	106.6	105.1	109.9	x	x

Source: SO SR (DATACube)

a) number

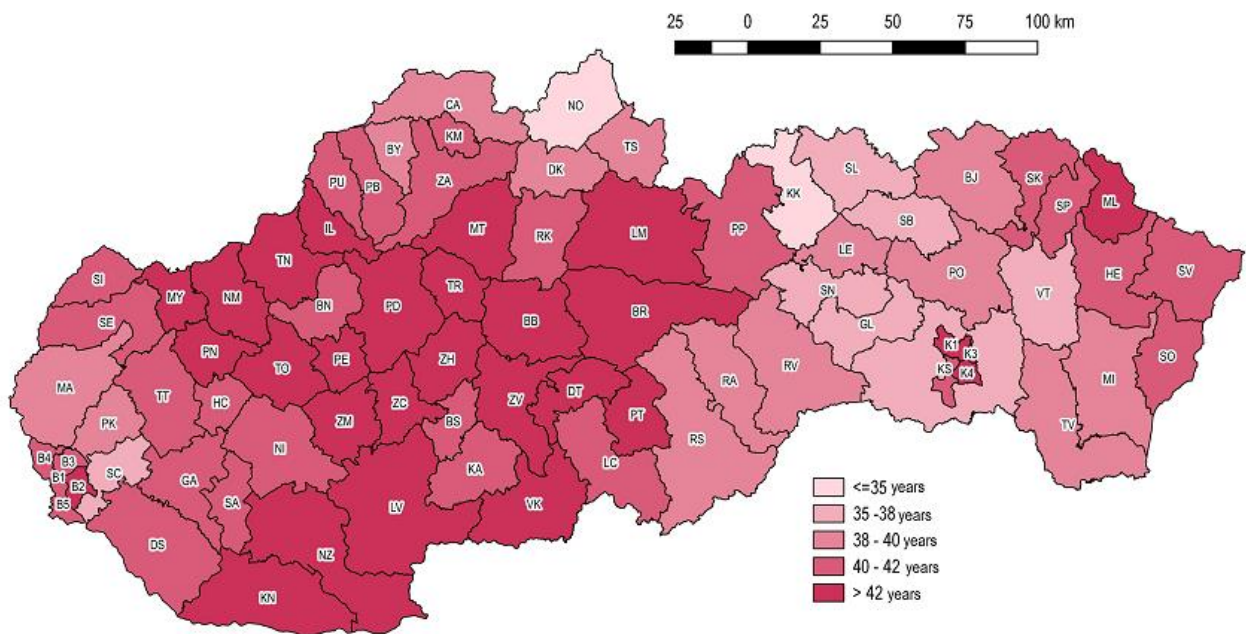
b) index, same period of previous year = 100

Table 4 Population of the Slovak Republic by Regions

	Number of permanent residents as at 31 December 2018	Share of the total number of permanent residents in SR	Index 2018/2017
Region of Bratislava	659,598	12.1 %	101.3 %
Region of Trnava	563,591	10.3 %	100.2 %
Region of Trenčín	585,882	10.7 %	99.7 %
Region of Nitra	676,672	12.4 %	99.7 %
Region of Žilina	691,368	12.7 %	100.0 %
Region of Banská Bystrica	647,874	11.9 %	99.7 %
Region of Prešov	825,022	15.1 %	100.1 %
Region of Košice	800,414	14.7 %	100.1 %
Slovak Republic	5,450,421	100.0 %	100.1 %

Source: SO SR

Graph 1 The Average Age of the Population in 2018 in the Slovak Districts



Map background © Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre Authority of Slovak Republic

Source: SO SR

ANNEX TO CHAPTER 2

Table 1 Economically Active Population in 2018

Level of education	in thousand			index 2018/2017		
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
15+	2,746.3	1,505.8	1,240.4	99.7	100.1	99.2
By age groups						
15 – 19 years	21.9	13.1	8.9	105.8	106.5	106.0
20 – 24 years	167.9	106.5	61.4	92.3	95.5	87.2
25 – 29 years	314.0	180.5	133.4	97.7	96.2	99.6
30 – 34 years	349.8	208.6	141.2	98.6	99.6	97.1
35 – 39 years	384.1	217.1	167.0	96.8	97.8	95.6
40 – 44 years	406.0	216.6	189.3	102.6	102.7	102.4
45 – 49 years	337.4	173.8	163.6	104.4	105.8	103.0
50 – 54 years	316.3	158.7	157.6	99.5	98.7	100.3
55 – 59 years	292.3	145.0	147.2	99.7	99.4	99.8
60 – 64 years	123.0	67.4	55.7	102.6	105.0	100.2
65 years and over	33.7	18.6	15.1	115.8	121.6	108.6
By education (15+ years)						
Primary and without education	156.1	86.7	69.3	93.1	99.4	86.1
Lower secondary	690.7	446.1	244.6	94.7	94.7	94.8
Full secondary	1,217.2	654.2	563.0	100.7	101.3	100.0
University	682.3	318.8	363.5	105.1	106.3	104.2

Source: SO SR, LFS

**Table 2 Employment Rate by Age and Education in 2018
(Annual Average in %)**

Indicator	Total	Males	Females
15+	55.9	63.7	48.6
15 – 64 years	67.6	73.9	61.2
20 – 64 years	72.4	79.2	65.5
By age groups			
15 – 19 years	5.2	6.0	4.4
20 – 24 years	46.4	57.9	34.3
25 – 29 years	73.7	83.1	63.9
30 – 34 years	76.5	90.1	62.2
35 – 39 years	80.7	89.6	71.3
40 – 44 years	86.2	90.0	82.2
45 – 49 years	87.7	89.8	85.6
50 – 54 years	83.0	83.5	82.5
55 – 59 years	76.5	78.1	75.0
60 – 64 years	32.5	38.3	27.2
65 years and over	4.0	5.6	2.9
By education (15 – 64 years)			
Primary	20.6	24.1	17.4
Secondary vocational (apprenticeship) without a school-leaving exam	71.5	76.4	63.8
Full secondary vocational (apprenticeship) with a school-leaving exam	80.7	86.7	71.6
Full secondary general	50.9	56.8	47.0
Full secondary vocational	79.0	86.3	71.9
Advanced vocational	83.2	79.3	84.6
University – bachelor's degree	59.0	63.2	56.4
University - master's degree	83.4	90.9	77.6
University - PhD degree	86.2	91.5	80.5
Without school education	1.3		2.6

Source: SO SR, LFS

Table 3 Number of the Employed by Regions in 2018 (Annual Average)

Region	Number of the employed (thous. persons)	Share in SR (in %)	Index 2018/2017
SR in total	2,566.7	100.0	101.4
of which:			
Bratislava	344.2	13.4	102.1
Trnava	274.3	10.7	97.4
Trenčín	292.0	11.4	101.2
Nitra	327.5	12.8	100.5
Žilina	325.6	12.7	101.7
Banská Bystrica	301.1	11.7	101.7
Prešov	358.4	14.0	102.6
Košice	343.8	13.4	103.5

Source: SO SR, LFS

Table 4 Structure of Employment by SK NACE Rev. 2 Sectors

	2017			2018		
	Average number of the employed	Index 2017 /2016	Percentage (%)	Average number of the employed	Index 2018 /2017	Percentage (%)
Economy in total	2,348,930	101.8	100 %	2,392,806	101.9	100 %
A Agriculture, forestry and fishing	87,353	96.0	3.7	86,663	99.2	3.6
B,C,D,E Industry in total	543,782	103.1	23.2	559,281	102.9	23.4
B Mining and quarrying	6,337	95.3	0.3	6,345	101.1	0.3
C Manufacturing	500,059	103.6	21.3	515,009	103.0	21.5
D Electricity, gas, steam and air-condition supply	16,605	98.4	0.7	16,862	101.5	0.7
E Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	20,781	97.9	0.9	21,065	101.4	0.9
F Construction	161,314	102.5	6.9	166,631	103.3	7.0
G Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	373,217	102.4	15.9	376,791	101.0	15.7
H Transportation and storage	149,454	103.3	6.4	154,954	103.7	6.5
I Accommodation and food service activities	60,204	102.6	2.6	64,074	106.4	2.7
J Information and communication	71,539	104.2	3.0	73,501	102.7	3.1
K Financial and insurance activities	42,374	98.0	1.8	42,007	99.1	1.8
L Real estate activities	24,920	106.8	1.1	24,652	98.9	1.0
M Professional, scientific and technical activities	109,910	104.8	4.7	111,166	101.1	4.6
N Administrative and support service activities	138,504	95.0	5.9	140,502	101.4	5.9
O Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	147,468	100.8	6.3	149,365	101.3	6.2
P Education	168,749	101.4	7.2	170,904	101.3	7.1
Q Health and social work activities	159,701	100.5	6.8	162,509	101.8	6.8
R Arts, entertainment and recreation	52,984	104.4	2.3	51,616	97.4	2.2
S Other service activities	57,456	103.7	2.4	58,190	101.3	2.4

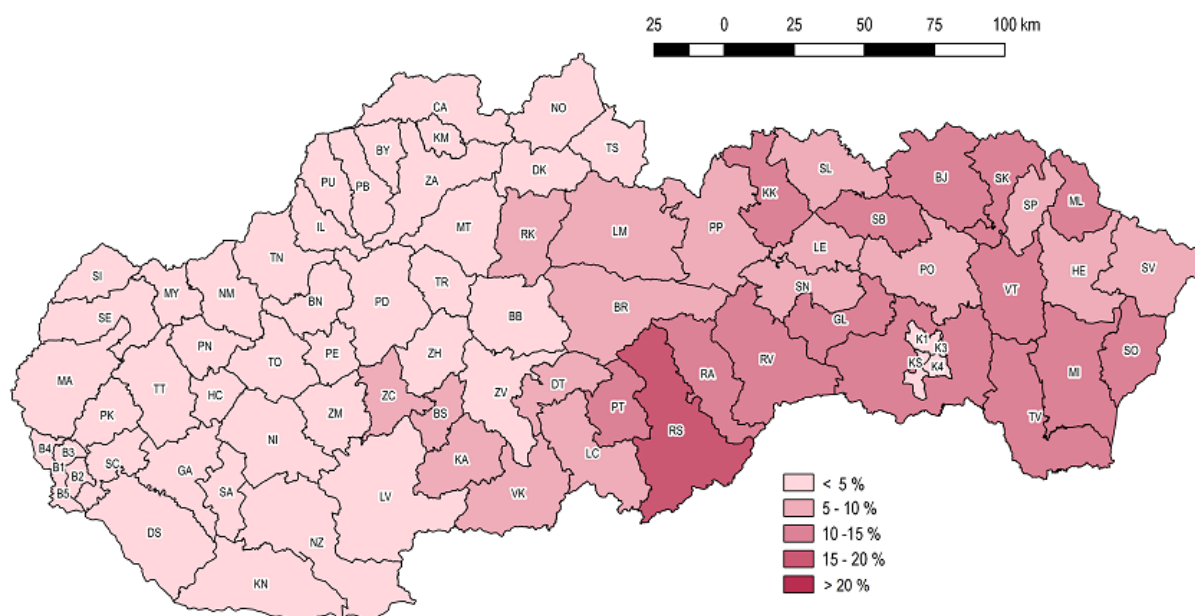
Source: SO SR, quarterly statistical statements

**Table 5 Unemployment Rate by Age and Education in 2018
(Annual Average in %)**

Indicator	Total	Males	Females
Total	6.6	6.2	7.0
By age groups			
15 – 19 years	36.4	36.8	35.9
20 – 24 years	12.2	11.5	13.3
25 – 29 years	8.7	8.7	8.8
30 – 34 years	6.8	5.8	8.3
35 – 39 years	5.8	4.7	7.2
40 – 44 years	5.3	5.0	5.8
45 – 49 years	4.9	4.4	5.4
50 – 54 years	5.6	5.9	5.4
55 – 59 years	6.1	5.7	6.5
60 – 64 years	3.2	1.8	4.9
65 years and over	0.7	0.8	0.6
By education			
Primary	30.8	31.5	30.0
Secondary vocational (apprenticeship) without a school-leaving exam	7.6	7.2	8.3
Secondary vocational (apprenticeship) with a school-leaving exam	5.5	5.0	6.5
Full secondary general	7.4	6.3	8.2
Full secondary vocational	4.3	3.3	5.6
Advanced vocational	2.3	2.5	2.3
University – bachelor's degree	3.0	1.6	4.0
University - master's degree	3.1	2.6	3.6
University - PhD degree	2.5	2.7	2.3
Without school education	80.6	-	80.6

Source: SO SR, LFS

Graph 1 Registered Unemployment Rate in the Slovak Districts (Average for 2018)



Map background © Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre Authority of Slovak Republic

Source: COLSAF

Table 6 Number of Job Seekers – School-leavers by the End of 2018

Indicator	Number of job seekers
School-leavers in total	7308
of which	
Lower secondary or secondary vocational education (education levels 12, 13)	1,293
Secondary specialised education (education level 14)	3,359
Secondary general education (education level 15)	591
Advanced vocational education (education level 16)	58
University education – bachelor's degree (education level 17)	383
University education – master's degree and PhD degree (education levels 18, 19)	1,624

Source: COLSAF

Table 7 ALMM Instruments

ALMM under applicable Sect. of the Employment Services Act	2017		2018	
	Number of job seekers/ persons enrolled, or number of supported jobs/ job seekers/ persons	Spending (€)	Number of job seekers/ persons enrolled, or number of supported jobs/ job seekers/ persons	Spending (in €)
Section 32	3,234	41,041	2,770	35,988
Sect. 42*	1,101,446	0	906,396	0
Section 43	66,337	139	60,366	46
Section 46	14	1,200	14	4,240
Section 47	249	925,103	225	1,453,754
Section 49	2,667	9,543,242	2,123	9,063,813
Section 50	2,699	5,807,186	1,383	6,160,863
Sect. 50j	3,614	12,459,578	3,788	15,071,792
Sect. 50k	178	47,895	0	42,937
Section 51	5,439	2,914,052	4,154	2,224,319
Section 51a	1,986	9,976,281	632	4,514,453
Section 52	12,094	3,388,164	8,281	2,338,129
Section 52a	4,951	6,135,106	5,486	5,942,652
Section 53	5,252	923,740	12,899	2,344,822
Section 53a	843	1,236,594	629	1,122,118
Sect. 53b	88	20,051	153	57,117
Section 53c	0	0	108	105,359
Section 53d	452	4,589,322	830	2,445,053
Section 53g	0	0	12	5,441
Section 54	112,164	72,743,230	114,686	94,237,768
Section 56	242	607,551	167	682,252
Section 56a	21	31,180	22	32,195
Section 57	77	393,154	76	379,297
Section 59	1,077	4,916,625	1,128	5,801,578
Section 60	9,763	28,467,161	9,433	30,051,864
Total	1,334,887	165,167,593	1,135,761	184,117,850

Source: COLSAF

* Sect. 42 Information and advisory services – These are ALMMs provided by own employees of the local OLSAFs, without entitlement to financial resources allocated to ALMMs.

Overview of the Implementation of Active Labour Market Measures

Employment mediation (Sect. 32)

For the purpose of employment mediation, local OLSAFs provide partial reimbursement of travel expenses related to job interview attendance or selection procedure attendance, or related to attendance in a joint recruitment event organised by COLSAF or local OLSAFs in the Slovak Republic for a Slovak employer or an employer from any of the EU member states. In 2018, a total of 2,770 job seekers were included in this instrument, which was 464 registered job seekers less than in 2017. The total spending amounted to €35 988.23, which is €5,052.27 less than in 2017.

Job exchanges

In cooperation with employers, local OLSAFs and COLSAF also carried out job exchanges in 2018.

“Job Fair – Job Expo 2018 and European Job Days 2018”

The 8th year of **“Job Fair - Job Expo 2018”** can be designated as one of the important and successful activities of this kind, which was organised by COLSAF and held on 26 and 27 April 2018 in the premises of agrokomplex NÁRODNÉ VÝSTAVISKO, š.p. (In English: an agricultural complex NATIONAL EXHIBITION CENTRE, state-owned enterprise) in Nitra together with the twentieth international job exchange **“European Job Days 2018”**.

The event was attended by 49,813 people; 223 exhibitors (of which 171 employers and educational advisory organisations and 52 foreign exhibitors represented by the Czech Republic, Hungary, Austria, Bulgaria, the Netherlands, Germany, Sweden, Norway, Belgium, Finland, and Slovenia) participated in the event, with an offer of more than 28,000 job vacancies (of which 13,328 offered by Slovak employers present, more than 12,000 offered on job portals, and 2,145 offered by foreign exhibitors). Interactive lectures, accompanying events, talks, and workshops were organised as part of the event.

Job vacancies of employers and their plans for the future were presented on the stage for Slovak employers (e.g. Jaguar Land Rover, Confederation of Trade Unions of the Slovak Republic, ZF Slovakia, Volkswagen Slovakia, and others). Working and living conditions in individual countries, as well as job vacancies and employment opportunities offered by foreign employers were presented on the stage for foreign employers. A total of 145 lectures, workshops, and company presentations were presented to visitors on both days, of which 36 on the stage for foreign employers.

Part of the event also dealt with the presentation of dual education in a separate hall, where the employer was accompanied by a cooperating secondary school.

“Austrian-German Day 2018”

On 18 October 2018, COLSAF organised the 7th International Job and Information Exchange **“Austrian-German Day 2018”** at the Congress Hotel Center in Košice. In 2018, the job exchange was organised for the first time in the East Slovak region.

The event was attended by 27 exhibitors from among employers, intermediary agencies and labour offices from Austria and Germany.

The exhibitors offered job fair attendees a total of 632 job vacancies in Austria and Germany, and the EURES Slovakia network stand offered further 4,000 job vacancies in other EU/EEA countries from the database www.eures.sk. For the fifth time, Austrian-German Day also took place in ONLINE form, which meant that those who could not come to the job exchange in person could show interest in the offered vacancies via an ONLINE platform established by the European Commission. Visitors to the ONLINE form of Austrian-German Day also had the opportunity to watch the job exchange events and exhibitors' presentations in live broadcast “Livestream”. Based on ranking statistics of the web portal www.europeanjobdays.eu, a total of 115 people applied for jobs of exhibitors registered on the ONLINE platform and had 17 job interviews using the Netop communication tool.

582 people attended the job exchange in person. Together with applicants registered on the ONLINE platform, 697 people were looking for a job in Austria or Germany through the event. The exhibitors' satisfaction can be proved by 121 promises of employment declared directly during the job fair.

Hungarian Day 2018

Given considerable interest and labour demand shown by Hungarian employers operating in the border region of Komárno/Komárom, on 22 March 2018 COLSAF organised the 3rd international job exchange “**Hungarian Day**”. The event was held on the premises of J. Selye University and was attended by 13 exhibitors, who offered 555 vacancies, especially in automotive industry and its associated manufacture, chemical and engineering industry. The job exchange was attended by 1,035 persons interested, 75 of whom met employers’ requirements and were designated as suitable for the jobs offered. At the event, 37 promises of employment were declared and 8 work contracts were concluded on the spot. A testing room was also established at the job exchange; the company Prohuman 2004 Kft. tested 12 applicants and subsequently evaluated the tests; employment contracts were concluded on the spot and selected applicants started their job on 23 March 2018.

Since student jobs were also offered, 185 students of J. Selye University also attended the event. Concurrently with the job exchange, the networks EURES Slovakia and EURES Hungary were presented in the lecture hall; the employers Birt Group Kft. and WHC Personal Kft. introduced their job offers and thereto-related conditions. These presentations were attended by ca. 200 persons interested.

Employers rated this year as the most successful, especially in terms of the quality of candidates (qualified applicants, mainly welders, car mechanics, electricians) and expressed a high level of satisfaction with the organisation and course of the event.

“Job and Information Exchanges”

In 2018, **18 local OLSAFs** organised **35 Job and Information Exchanges (J&IEs)**, at which job vacancies were presented. Employees of local OLSAFs provided clients with professional advice on career planning, information on national activation programmes and the opportunity to undergo practical trainings for graduates with an employer, an allowance for commuting, education and training opportunities for the labour market, an activation allowance, as well as other activation and protection allowances. The EURES network staff offered information and advice on job opportunities in the EU/EEA countries and Switzerland. In addition to advice on how to look for job offers, the staff provided professional advice on living and working conditions in the EU countries, as well as practical advice on what to remember before going and after coming from abroad. Clients were thus able to get the “comprehensive picture” of the current labour market offers and job opportunities under one roof.

The J&IEs were attended by 455 employers, 255 primary schools, and 200 secondary schools. 7,364 primary school pupils and 1,525 secondary school students participated in J&IEs.

Employers offered a total of 33,936 job vacancies, and 13,182 job vacancies were offered within the EURES network. The J&IEs were attended by 17,056 job seekers, of which 360 were recruited and 841 job seekers were given a promise of employment from an employer.

The J&IEs were held in regional cities/towns – Bratislava, Čadca, Komárno (2), Košice (10), Levice, Liptovský Mikuláš (2), Nitra, Poprad (2), Prešov (2), Revúca (2), Rimavská Sobota (2), Ružomberok, Senica, Spišská Nová Ves (2), Trebišov (2), Trenčín, Trnava, Žilina.

In November and December 2018, **25 local OLSAFs** organised **Job and Information Mini Exchanges** for attendees, participants in the “Ready for Work” project. The offices invited to the Job and Information Mini Exchanges those job seekers who took a course in the “Ready for Work” project, and yet were listed in the register of job seekers. A total of 96 employers and 1,880 job seekers attended the Job and Information Mini Exchanges. Employers offered 3,038 job vacancies to the project participants. 71 participants in the “Ready for Work” project were recruited, and further 297 were given promises of employment from employers.

Information and advisory services (Sect. 42)

An important part of the labour market policy related to the employment mediation in 2018 was to provide job seekers, job changers, employers and students with information and advisory services concerning career choice, job opportunities and job changes, selection of employees and adaptation of an employee in a new job.

Local OLSAFs provide information and advisory services to their clients individually or in groups, either in information and advisory centres on employers’ premises or in schools.

Information and advisory services were provided in 2018 to 225,954 clients, of which 122,834 were women (54.36 %) and 103,120 men (45.64 %). Of the total number of clients, 3,918 were persons with disabilities (1.73 %). By age, the largest proportion of the total number (12.18 %) was accounted for by clients aged 25 – 30 years

(27,523); by duration of registration, clients registered for 0 - 3 months accounted for the largest share (38.69 %; 87,413 persons). By level of education, the largest share of clients (27.61 %) was recorded for those with primary education (62,377 persons). Increased emphasis was placed on the services provided to clients when they first visited a local OLSAF, when they were informed about being registered as a job seeker, subsequently when they submitted the application for registration as a job seeker, etc., as well as during planned visits of job seekers, or as needed, either individually or in groups.

In 2018, information and advisory services were provided 906,396 times, of which 477,299 times (52.66 %) in individual form and 429,097 times (47.34 %) in group form.

Preventive advice (Sect. 42(2)(a))

Preventive and advisory services for primary and secondary schools – career choice

In terms of increasing employment, it is important to provide advice to primary and secondary school pupils through information and advisory services concerning career choice (hereinafter simply “I&AS concerning career choice”) provided by local OLSAFs. In terms of contents, the I&AS concerning career choice for primary school pupils (hereinafter simply “PS pupils”) focus mainly on informing them about the characteristics of occupations and the prerequisites and requirements for doing a particular occupation through an application of the Labour Market Internet Guide (hereinafter simply “LMIG”).

The I&AS concerning career choice for secondary school pupils (hereinafter simply “SS pupils”) are mainly aimed at providing information on professions required on the labour market, communication with potential employers, services provided by local OLSAFs.

The I&AS concerning career choice were provided in 2018 to 16,452 pupils, of which 6,154 were PS pupils (37.40 %) and 10,298 were SS pupils (62.60 %). These services were provided to 422 schools (222 primary schools and 200 secondary schools).

As part of the I&AS concerning career choice, interactive lectures focused on advice about the choice of a suitable profession, or the choice of a suitable secondary school and advice about labour market orientation were organised for PS pupils and SS pupils at the job fair JOB EXPO 2018. The lectures intended for PS pupils were attended by 331 pupils from 10 schools, and 336 pupils from 9 schools attended the lectures intended for SS pupils.

In 2018, information exchanges were also organised for PS pupils as part the I&AS concerning career choice. Their main objective was primarily to increase interest of PS pupils in craft and technical jobs in connection with their shortage in the labour market. A total of 20 local OLSAFs organised 24 information exchanges. In 2018, a total of 531 schools participated in information exchanges (201 primary schools and 330 secondary schools), where 76 employers made their presentations.

Professional advisory services (Sect. 43)

A local OLSAF may provide a registered job seeker and a job changer with professional advisory services (hereinafter simply “PASs”) aimed at influencing the choices and behaviour of registered job seekers, harmonising the personal qualities of registered job seekers and requirements for particular occupations, contributing to the social and working adaptation of registered job seekers, via

- identification of personal abilities and skills of a registered job seeker and evaluation of their competences,
- designing individual action plans to support employment prospects of disadvantaged job seekers,
- diagnosis and identification of labour market barriers,
- creating personality profiles of registered job seekers to identify activities, measures and services necessary for their labour market integration.

In 2018, a total of 432,752 PASs were provided to clients. The most common forms of the service include a repeated group advisory activity, a repeated advisory interview outside I&AS, and individualised activities. PASs were provided for a total of 60,366 clients.

The total number of job seekers who were provided PASs in 2018 comprised 34,577 women (57.28 %) and 25,789 men (42.72 %).

In terms of duration of registration, job seekers registered for more than 24 months and those registered for 0 - 3 months participated in PASs in the greatest number (21,781 job seekers – 36.09 % and 16,192 job seekers –

26.82 % respectively). PASs were most provided for registered job seekers aged 20 - 25 years (11,365; 18.83 %) and those aged 25 - 30 years (10,850; 17.98 %).

By level of education, job seekers with primary education and those with full secondary vocational education accounted for the largest shares (16,811 – 27.85 % and 15,134 – 25.07 % respectively).

A total of 50,393 disadvantaged job seekers were provided with PASs, representing 83.48 % of all registered job seekers provided with PASs. Disadvantaged job seekers who participated in PASs most frequently were the clients who had no regularly paid employment for at least 12 consecutive calendar months before being registered as job seekers (39,237 job seekers, accounting for 65 % of all job seekers involved in PASs).

Spending on internal PASs (reimbursement of travel and accommodation expenses and food allowances) in 2018 reached the minimum amount of €46.00.

At the job fair JOB EXPO 2018, persons interested were offered the opportunity to take advantage of career guidance which is provided by professional counsellors in individualised form and primarily to job seekers in connection with their focus on the labour market. At this fair, 52 counselling interviews for unemployed citizens and 1 counselling interview for a secondary school pupil were conducted by 6 professional counsellors.

Work preparation and training of a registered job seeker (Sect. 46)

Work preparation and training for the labour market (hereinafter simply “training”) is a theoretical or practical training of job seekers which is necessary for them to find employment and which enables them to acquire new professional knowledge, skills and abilities to work in a suitable job. Training under the Employment Services Act does not mean increasing the level of education.

Training of a registered job seeker is carried out in the form of:

- a job seeker’s training provided by a local OLSAF;
- a training provided on the job seeker’s own initiative.

Local OLSAFs can provide a training for registered job seekers if it is needed for their placement in the labour market, based on assessment of their abilities, work experience, professional skills, level of education and health capacity for work, especially in the case of a lack of professional knowledge and skills and a need to change knowledge and professional skills due to labour market demand and loss of ability to perform work in the current occupation. Such training is carried out by a training provider selected under Act No. 343/2015 Coll. on Public Procurement and on alterations and amendments to certain acts, as amended. In 2018, the training provided by the local OLSAF was not conducted, as public procurement for training service providers was ongoing.

If the local OLSAF is not able to provide the training for a registered job seeker, the job seeker may ensure the required training on his/her own initiative. The local OLSAF reimburses 100 % of the costs (up to €600.00) after commencement of employment or self-employment. In 2018, agreements on self-initiated training in the agreed amount of €9,800.00 were concluded with 19 registered job seekers, of which 14 job seekers started to attend the agreed training sessions (7 men and 7 women). The largest group comprised job seekers aged 30 – 49 years (9 job seekers, accounting for 64.29 % of the total number of the registered). By level of education, job seekers with full secondary vocational education accounted for the largest proportion (42.86 %, i.e. 6 job seekers). There were 8 disadvantaged job seekers in total (57.14 % of the total number of the registered), while the largest group consisted of 6 job seekers who, under Section 8(e) of the Employment Services Act, had no regularly paid employment for at least 12 consecutive calendar months prior to being registered as job seekers. In 2018, an allowance for self-initiated training was provided for 8 job seekers, of which 4 job seekers concluded agreements on providing a self-initiated training allowance in 2017 and other 4 job seekers concluded such agreements in 2018. The total spending on payment of such allowance in 2018 reached €4,240.20. A lack of interest in this active labour market measure can be explained by preferring innovative practices in providing training to traditional forms of training. Innovative practices are a more flexible response to a mismatch between labour supply and labour demand. Just as in the previous year, in 2018 mainly REPAS+ and KOMPAS+ measures were used.

Work preparation and training of employees (Sect. 47)

Work preparation and training of employees is carried out by the employer in order to further extend the work scope of its employees. The purpose of the aid is to support the training of the employer’s employees in order to increase their level of education, work potential and adaptability, among others, thereby preventing mass redundancies and increasing their competitiveness. The training takes place during working hours and is an obstacle to work on the part of the employee. A financial contribution is granted in the form of reimbursement upon

submitting paid accounting documents proving the actual amount of eligible costs. It is granted to the employer upon a written agreement concluded with the local OLSAF. Under the written agreement concluded, the local OLSAF may provide a contribution to work preparation and training of the employee of up to 70 % of the eligible costs of work preparation and training of employees. Eligible costs are the costs demonstrably incurred by the employer in direct connection with the performance of work preparation and training of employees.

In 2018, the contribution to work preparation and training of employees was provided to one employer (the agreement was concluded in 2017). In the reference period of 2018, a total of 225 employees were enrolled for training, of which 219 were men and 6 women. For this purpose, a total amount of €1,453,753.86 was spent by the end of 2018.

Contribution to self-employment (Sect. 49)

A local OLSAF may provide a registered job seeker who meets the conditions stipulated by the Employment Services Act with a contribution to partial reimbursement of the costs associated with the creation of a self-employed post and subsequent conduct of such self-employed activity for at least three years. The contribution is granted to registered job seekers who will carry on a trade under the Trade Licensing Act or carry on agricultural production, including production in forest management under the Act on Private Business Activities of Citizens. The amount of the contribution is based on the multiple of the total labour costs defined by the Employment Services Act and the average unemployment rate registered in a given district. In terms of supporting job creation, this instrument helps registered job seekers enter the open labour market as self-employed persons. The contribution is of an optional nature (there is no legal claim to such contribution).

In 2018, a total of 2,123 registered job seekers were supported by this contribution, which is 544 less than in 2017 (2,667 registered job seekers). The total spending in 2018 was €9,063,813.00, which is 479,429.00 less than in 2017.

Contribution to support the employment of a disadvantaged job seeker (Sect. 50)

The contribution to support the employment of a disadvantaged job seeker is provided to an employer who employs a disadvantaged job seeker by placing him/her in a job created. It is a versatile widely designed contribution to support the employment of disadvantaged job seekers registered as job seekers for at least 3 months and is provided to cover a portion of the total labour costs. The amount of the contribution depends on the average unemployment rate registered in a given district. The contribution is provided for a maximum period of 12 calendar months or for a maximum period of 24 calendar months in the case of a disadvantaged job seeker registered as a job seeker for more than 24 months. The employer is obliged to retain the created job for which it received the contribution at least for the duration corresponding to the half of the agreed period of providing the contribution.

In 2018, a total of 1,383 disadvantaged job seekers (542 women, 841 men) were registered for the use of this ALMM instrument, and the total spending amounted to €6,160,863.00 (a year-on-year decrease of 1,316 disadvantaged job seekers and an increase in the total spending of €353,677.00).

Contribution to support development of local and regional employment (Sect. 50j)

The contribution may be provided to an employer that is a municipality or self-governing region, legal entity founded or established by a municipality or self-governing region, if they employ a disadvantaged job seeker registered for at least three months under a fixed time contract with working hours amounting to at least half of the set weekly working time. The monthly amount of the contribution is 80 % of the total labour costs of an employee, at most 60 % of the total labour costs calculated from the average wage of an employee in the economy of the Slovak Republic for the first three quarters of the calendar year preceding the calendar year in which the contribution is provided. The contribution is provided for a maximum period of nine calendar months without the possibility of repeated provision for employing the same employee for a period of two years immediately following the termination of employment.

In 2018, a total of 3,788 disadvantaged job seekers were supported, of which 1,874 were citizens over 50 years of age and 2,387 were the long-term unemployed. The total spending on the contribution to support the development of local and regional employment in 2018 reached €15,071,792.00 (a year-on-year increase of 174 job seekers and €2,612,214.00).

Contribution to support job retention (Sect. 50k)

The aim of this measure is to support the mitigation of impacts leading to the dismissal of employees by employers who, in accordance with the Labour Code, determined in a written agreement with employees' representatives specific substantive operational reasons that prevent the employer from assigning work to employees, and this constitutes an obstacle on the part of the employer for which an employee shall be entitled to wage compensation in the amount stipulated in the agreement, being a minimum of 60 % of average earnings; the agreement cannot be substituted by a decision of the employer.

The contribution may be provided to an employer that retained the jobs for at least three months before applying for the contribution, even in the case of persisting serious operational reasons defined in a written agreement with the employees' representatives, based on which the employer will, upon agreement with the local OLSAF, limit its operating activity for a transitional period so that employees are not assigned work to the extent of at least 6 % and at most 20 % of the stipulated weekly working hours. The monthly amount of the contribution is 50 % of wage compensation of the employee, but no more than 50 % of the average wage of the employee in the economy of the Slovak Republic for the first three quarters of the calendar year preceding the calendar year in which the contribution is provided. The contribution is provided for a maximum duration of 12 months. Only employees registered for this ALMM in 2017 were supported by this measure in 2018; spending on their wages in 2018 reached €42,937.00.

Contribution to a graduate practical training (Sect. 51)

Until 31 April 2017, practical trainings for graduates were aimed at ensuring the acquisition of professional skills and practical experience with an employer, which correspond to the educational attainments by graduates in the relevant group of apprenticeships or study fields, as well as the acquisition and deepening of professional skills or practical experience that will extend the opportunities of graduates in the labour market, thus having a direct impact on increasing the employability of job seekers. From 1 May 2017, Act No. 81/2017 Coll., altering and amending the Employment Services Act, cancelled the connection to the relevant group of apprenticeships or study fields, and graduates are not required to undergo practical trainings in the apprenticeship/field they served/studied. The target group comprises graduates – citizens under 26 years of age who completed their systematic professional education in full-time study courses less than two years ago, failed to find their first regularly paid employment and hold the graduate status for the entire duration of the graduate practical training. Section 6(2)(a) of the Employment Services Act stipulates that a job seeker may not be in an employment relationship when undergoing a graduate practical training.

In 2018, a total of 4,154 job seekers were enrolled for graduate practical trainings (of which 4,017 job seekers were enrolled for Activity 1 of the national project "Graduate Practical Trainings Start Employment"), which is 1,285 job seekers less than in 2017. The 2018 spending on this contribution totalled €2,224,319.00 (of which €2,155,305.00 was spent on Activity 1 of the national project "Graduate Practical Trainings Start Employment"), which is €689,733.00 less than in 2017.

Contribution to support job creation in the first regularly paid employment (Sect. 51a)

The ALMM is aimed at supporting the creation of a job in the first regularly paid employment with employers that create jobs for job seekers under 25 years of age who are registered as job seekers for at least 3 months, or for job seekers under 29 years of age who are registered as job seekers for at least 6 months and had no regularly paid employment before entering into employment relationship if such employment relationship is agreed for at least half of the stipulated weekly working hours.

In 2018, a total of 632 job seekers were supported by this ALMM (of which 622 job seekers were enrolled for Activity 1 of the national project "Succeeding in the Labour Market"), which is 1,354 job seekers less than in 2017. The 2018 spending on this contribution totalled €4,514,452.83 (of which €4,482,906.30 was spent on Activity 1 of the national project "Succeeding in the Labour Market"), which is €5,461,828.17 less than in 2017.

Contribution to activation programmes in the form of minor services for a municipality or self-governing region (Sect. 52)

Activation programmes in the form of minor services for a municipality or self-governing region support the maintenance of work habits of the long-term unemployed who are beneficiaries of social assistance benefits in material need and material need supplements. Minor services for a municipality or self-governing region are carried out by a long-term unemployed citizen continuously for a maximum of six calendar months with a limit of 20 hours

per week except the week in which the activation programme started, with the possibility of extension for a maximum of further twelve calendar months. A local OLSAF provides a municipality or self-governing region with a contribution that can be used to cover a portion of the cost of personal protective equipment, accident insurance of the long-term unemployed, a portion of the cost of working tools and a portion of other costs related to the provision of minor services for a municipality or self-governing region and to cover a portion of the total labour cost of the employee who organises the activation programme.

In 2018, a total of 8,281 registered job seekers were placed in the activation programmes in the form of minor services for a municipality or self-governing region, which was 3,813 registered job seekers less than in 2017. The total spending on this contribution amounted to €2,338,128.63, which is €1,050,035.47 less than in 2017.

Contribution to activation programmes in the form of voluntary service (Sect. 52a)

Voluntary service is a form of activation of registered job seekers by carrying out voluntary activities aimed at gaining practical experience for the labour market needs. During periods of voluntary service performance, the local OLSAFs provide job seekers with a flat-rate contribution in amount of the subsistence minimum for one adult person, to cover the necessary expenses for meals, accommodation, and travel expenses between the place of permanent or temporary residence and the place of voluntary service.

In 2018, a total of 5,486 registered job seekers were placed in the activation programmes in the form of voluntary service, which is 535 job seekers less than in 2017. The total spending on this contribution amounted to €5,942,651.76, which is €192,454.43 less than in 2017.

Contribution to commuting (Sect. 53)

The monthly contribution is provided to cover a portion of travel expenses for commuting between the place of permanent or temporary residence of the employee and the place of employment specified in the contract.

In 2018, a total number of 12,899 persons received the contribution, which is 7,647 persons more than in the previous year. The total amount spent on this contribution was €2,344,822.28, which is €1,421,082.28 more than in 2017.

Contribution to support mobility for work (Sect. 53a)

In connection with obtaining employment, the contribution to support mobility for work is provided to job seekers as reimbursement of a portion of the costs they demonstrably incur in changing the current permanent or temporary residence to new permanent or temporary residence in the Slovak Republic.

In 2018, a total of 629 job seekers received the contribution, which is 214 job seekers less than in the previous year. The total amount spent on this contribution was €1,122,117.78, which is €114,476.22 less than in 2017.

Contribution to transport to work (Sect. 53b)

The contribution to transport to work may be provided by a local OLSAF to an employer under a written agreement if the employer provides daily transport of employees to and from work due to the fact that collective transport is not demonstrably carried out at all or not to the extent corresponding to the needs of the employer.

In 2018, the contribution to transport to work was provided to 153 employees. The amount spent on this contribution totalled €57,117.00 (a year-on-year increase of 65 employees transported; the total spending on this contribution rose by €37,066.00).

Contribution to relocation for work (Sect. 53c)

In connection with obtaining employment, the contribution to relocation for work is provided to job seekers as reimbursement of a portion of the costs they demonstrably incur in relocation and the costs of changing the current permanent residence to new permanent residence in the Slovak Republic.

In 2018, the contribution was provided to 108 persons. The total spending on this contribution amounted to €105,359.22. The contribution was not provided in 2017.

Contribution to creating new jobs (Sect. 53d)

In 2018, the contribution to creating new jobs was granted to investment aid recipients in the total amount of €2.45 million; the investment aid was granted to 14 eligible investors.

In 2018, the contribution was provided for the implementation of two investment plans in Banská Bystrica Self-governing Region, four investment plans in Prešov Self-governing Region, six investment plans in Košice Self-governing Region, and two investment plans in Trenčín Self-governing Region.

Of the total regional investment aid granted to investors in 2018, investment aid in the form of a contribution to creating new jobs amounted to €2.45 million for 430 jobs retained for one year and 400 jobs retained for 2 years.

By size classes of enterprises, investment aid in the form of a contribution to creating new jobs was granted to one medium-sized enterprise in the total amount of €0.02 mil., to one small enterprise in the total amount of €0.01 mil., and the remainder of €2.42 mil. was provided to twelve large enterprises.

Contribution for integration enterprises (Sect. 53f)

A local OLSAF grants this contribution under a concluded written agreement to an integration enterprise that terminates an employment relationship upon agreement no later than two years from the commencement of such employment relationship with an employee who was a disadvantaged person pursuant to Section 2(5) of the Social Economy Act and who has been employed by an employer that is neither an integration enterprise nor a dependent person of an integration enterprise provided that the employment relationship with such employer is agreed for at least half of the stipulated weekly working hours and if the number of such employees is at least 10 % of the employees of the integration enterprise for six consecutive calendar months. In 2018, no application for this contribution was submitted to a local OLSAF.

Compensatory allowances for integration enterprises (Sect. 53g)

A local OLSAF grants compensatory allowances under a concluded written agreement to an integration enterprise to cover the wage costs of the employment of disadvantaged or vulnerable persons pursuant to the Social Economy Act, the additional costs of the employment of persons who are disadvantaged due to their state of health and the costs incurred in providing assistance for employed disadvantaged persons other than persons who are disadvantaged due to their state of health. In 2018, compensatory allowances were provided to 2 employers to support the employment of 12 persons.

Projects and programmes (Sect. 54)

Active labour market measures mean:

- national projects approved by MoLSAF and implemented by COLSAF or a local OLSAF,
- projects aimed at improving the status of registered job seekers in the labour market, approved by MoLSAF and implemented by COLSAF,
- projects aimed at improving the status of registered job seekers in the labour market, approved by COLSAF and implemented by a local OLSAF,
- projects to improve the status of registered job seekers or job changers, approved by MoLSAF or COLSAF and implemented by a local OLSAF, legal entity or a natural person,
- pilot projects to test new active labour market measures, approved by MoLSAF and implemented by COLSAF,
- pilot projects or pilot programmes aimed at supporting development of regional or local employment, approved by COLSAF and implemented by a local OLSAF.

The projects and programmes are financed by the European Social Fund and co-financed from the state budget, or are funded from the state budget or other resources.

National Project “Practice to Employment”

The aim of the national project is to gain or enhance and deepen the professional skills, knowledge and practical experience of young people under 29 years of age by means of mentored initiation and practice with an employer that creates a job in order to enter and remain in the labour market. The national project was implemented in all self-governing regions of Slovakia except for Bratislava Self-governing Region within the framework of the Operational Programme Human Resources and is financed from the EU funds and the state budget of the Slovak Republic. The project is focused on supporting the creation of jobs for the young unemployed and their employment through mentored initiation and practice, and is also one of the measures to support the integration of young people into the labour market. The target group comprises job seekers under 25 years of age registered as job seekers for at least 3 months, who are not in employment, education or training (the so-called “NEET”) as well as NEETs under

29 years of age registered as job seekers for at least 6 months. Mentored initiation takes the first 3 to 6 months of employment under the guidance of a mentor; when completed, it is followed by practice depending on the duration of the mentored initiation. Until 31 March 2017, the financial contribution was provided to an employer who, for the purposes of the mentored initiation and practice, created a job for a definite period of at least 9 months or for an indefinite period of time and concluded a part-time employment contract with a job seeker, whereby the job created could be supported for no more than 9 months. From 1 April 2017, after the approval of MoLSAF – EU funds Section, a change was made to the project, which allowed employers to enter into a full-time employment contract with a job seeker for a minimum of 6 months and a maximum of 9 months or for an indefinite period of time, whereby the job created may be supported for at least 6 months and at most 9 months.

In 2018, a total of 2,855 registered job seekers were included in the national project, which is 1,951 job seekers less than in 2017. The total spending amounted to €17,479,305.00, which is €7,409,225.00 more than in 2017.

National Project “Practice to Employment in Bratislava Self-governing Region”

The national project is analogous to the national project “Practice to Employment” in Bratislava Self-governing Region and is financed exclusively from the state budget of the Slovak Republic. In 2018, a total of 19 registered job seekers were included in the national project, which is 2 job seekers less than in 2017. The total spending amounted to €142,376.00, which is €99,728.00 more than in 2017.

National Project “Graduate Practical Trainings Start Employment”

The objective of the national project is to increase the employment and employability of young people and integrate them into the labour market, especially those unemployed, without education or training, and the possibility of creating jobs for young people in the business of an employer where they underwent graduate practical trainings. The project is targeted at NEETs under 29 years of age who, at the time of joining the project, meet the definition of a school graduate under the Employment Services Act: citizens below 26 years of age who have completed their systematic professional education in full-time study courses less than two years ago, failed to obtain their first regularly paid employment and are registered as job seekers at local OLSAFs in the authorised area of the project. The project is implemented through two main activities as the active labour market measure under Sections 51 and 54 of the Employment Services Act.

Main activity 1:

Providing a flat-rate financial contribution to graduate practical trainings pursuant to Section 51 of the Employment Services Act. A graduate practical training is conducted for three to six months with a limit of 20 hours per week, without the possibility of extending and repeating it. Once it is completed, the employer issues a school graduate with a certificate confirming the completion of a graduate practical training. A total of 4,017 job seekers were included in Activity 1 in 2018, which is 1,227 job seekers less than in 2017; the total spending amounted to €2,155,305.00 (€675,771.00 less than in 2017.)

Main activity 2:

Providing a financial contribution to an employer who gives employment to a registered job seeker from the eligible target group without undue delay, but in any event within 30 calendar days of the completion of the graduate practical training in such employer’s business (unless otherwise agreed with the local OLSAF) in accordance with Section 51 of the Employment Services Act. The employer undertakes to create a full-time job for a period of at least 9 months, and this job will be supported by a financial contribution for a maximum of 6 months. Subsequently, the employer is required to retain this job for the next 3 months. A total of 5 job seekers were included in Activity 2 in 2018, which is 17 job seekers less than in 2017; the total spending amounted to €6,648.00 (€30,928.00 less than in 2017.)

National Project “Succeeding in the Labour Market”

The aim of the national project is to improve the status of young people under 29 years of age in the labour market, increase their employability and employment. The project is targeted at NEETs under 25 years of age registered as job seekers for at least 3 months and NEETs under 29 years of age registered as job seekers for at least 6 months, focusing mainly on the long-term unemployed (in accordance with the Youth Guarantee in the Slovak Republic). The project is implemented through two main activities as the active labour market measure under Sections 51a and 54 of the Employment Services Act.

Main activity 1:

Providing a financial contribution to support the creation and subsequent retention of jobs for young job seekers who had no first regularly paid employment before entering into employment, which means they have never obtained regularly paid employment lasting for at least six consecutive months, if the employment relationship is agreed for at least half of the stipulated weekly working hours and the employer applies for such contribution in writing. The financial contribution is not provided for the employment of a job seeker whose employment for the same period was supported by a financial contribution under Sections 50, 50j, 56a or 60. A total of 622 job seekers were included in Activity 1 in 2018, which is 1,252 job seekers less than in 2017; the total spending amounted to €4,482,906.30 (€4,832,707.70 less than in 2017.)

Main activity 2:

Providing a financial contribution to support the creation of a job through self-employment of young people who will create a job, where they will carry on a trade for at least 2 years. A total of 167 job seekers were included in Activity 2 in 2018, which is 167 job seekers more than in 2017 due to the fact that the commitment of funds was suspended in 2017. The total spending amounted to €422,509.08, which is €158,747.92 less than in 2017, during which only the rest of the 2016 commitments was financed.

National Project “Involvement of the Unemployed in the Restoration of Cultural Heritage”

The national project is aimed at improving the position of job seekers and disadvantaged job seekers in the labour market, enhancing their employability and employment, reducing long-term unemployment and supporting the development of local and regional employment by providing financial contributions to eligible employers to support the creation of short-term jobs for the unemployed in a wider area of the restoration of cultural heritage, such as castles, fortresses, city walls, manor houses, mansions, monasteries, historical parks and historical buildings, with the prospect of long-term employment in the area. The integration of unemployed job seekers and disadvantaged job seekers into the cultural heritage restoration project also pursues the objectives of a positive impact of the national project on the Slovak economy, tourism development and overall recovery in regions affected by high unemployment, with a multiplier effect on accommodation, restaurant and other services.

The target group is composed of job seekers and disadvantaged jobs seekers. Eligible applicants mean employers whose subsidy was approved pursuant to Act No. 434/2010 Coll. on the Provision of Subsidies within the Authority of the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic, as amended, within the subsidy programme “**Let’s Restore Our House**”, subprogramme **1.4 Restoration of Historical Parks and Architectural Areas in a Critical Structural and Technical Condition**, which is aimed at restoring cultural heritage through the unemployed.

In 2018, a total of 36 employers (municipalities, civic associations, foundations, etc.) were involved in the cultural heritage restoration project within the authority of 23 local OLSAFs, which is the same number of both local OLSAFs and employers as in the previous year.

Within this national project, 733 job seekers/disadvantaged job seekers contributed to the restoration of cultural monuments in 2018, which is 60 persons less than in the previous year. The total number of included job seekers consisted of 659 males (89.9 %) and 74 females (10.09 %). By age of job seekers involved, most of them (343 persons, 46.79 %) consisted of job seekers aged 30 - 49 years and the second largest group comprised job seekers aged 50+ (271 persons, 36.97 %). By duration of registration, job seekers/disadvantaged job seekers registered for 4 to 6 months and long-term registered job seekers accounted for the highest proportions (292 persons – 39.84 % and 223 persons – 30.43 % respectively). During the implementation of the national project, the involved unemployed gained work habits and experience in historic masonry, blacksmithing, carpentry, and archaeology. In 2018, the total spending on the national project amounted to **€3,292,760.72**, which is €444,642.7 less than in 2017.

National Project “Placement of the Long-term Unemployed Citizens in the Labour Market Using Non-state Employment Services”

The national project has been implemented since March 2017 and is aimed at improving the position of long-term unemployed job seekers in the labour market, enhancing employability and employment, restoring work habits and providing active assistance in their placement in the labour market through temporary employment agencies. The target group comprises citizens registered as job seekers for at least 24 consecutive months.

A long-term unemployed job seeker is deemed to be placed in the labour market if a temporary employment agency concludes with the long-term unemployed job seeker from an eligible target group a contract of employment agreed within the stipulated weekly working hours and covering the entire period of the calendar month, provided that the temporary employment agency assigns the temporary agency employee to at least one user employer in the period of the second to sixth/ninth calendar month from the commencement of employment. If a temporary agency employee is also assigned to a user employer in the period of the seventh to ninth month from the commencement of employment with the temporary employment agency, a local OLSAF will pay a lump-sum allowance to the temporary employment agency upon proving such fact.

The allowance is lump-sum, paid for the placement of a long-term unemployed job seeker in the labour market and is intended to reimburse a portion of the necessary costs incurred by a temporary employment agency in such placement. The maximum period of providing the allowance is 9 calendar months.

In 2018, 17 long-term unemployed job seekers (12 males and 5 females) were placed in the labour market; the total spending on payment of this allowance reached €98,775.00.

National Project “Chance of Employment”

The national project has been implemented since 25 September 2015 in all Slovak regions except for Bratislava Self-governing Region. The target group comprises disadvantaged job seekers with special regard to the long-term unemployed. A financial contribution is granted to an employer if it has created a job in any of the specified areas of public employment for at least 3 months. The employment relationship can be agreed for a period of 3 to 9 months, or, alternatively, for an indefinite period of time. The financial contribution is granted to the employer for a minimum period of 3 calendar months and a maximum period of 9 calendar months. In 2018, 117 job seekers were included in the national project, which is 447 job seekers less than in 2017; the total spending amounted to €781,911.00, a year-on-year decrease of €4,185,195.00. The national project was completed in September 2018.

National Project “Chance of Employment for Bratislava Self-governing Region”

The national project has been implemented as an equivalent of the national project “Chance of Employment” in the Bratislava Self-governing Region with the same goal since 11 January 2016. In 2018, 63 job seekers were included in the national project, which is 67 job seekers less than in 2017; the total spending amounted to €347,318.00, a year-on-year increase of €26,941.00. The national project was completed in November 2018.

National Project “The Way out of the Circle of Unemployment”

The project is aimed at supporting employment and reducing unemployment of long-term unemployed job seekers by acquiring and enhancing job skills. The eligible target group comprises disadvantaged job seekers under Section 8(1)(c) of the Employment Services Act. The main activity of the NP is to provide a financial contribution to an employer that employs a job seeker from the eligible target group by placing him/her in a created full-time/part-time job for at least 15 months or an indefinite time period, and the financial contributions are provided to the employer on a monthly basis for a maximum of 12 or 15 months, depending on the duration of registration of the job seeker employed. In 2018, 35 job seekers were included in this national project, which is 1,063 job seekers less than in 2017; the total spending amounted to €2,951,723.00 (€24,317,564.00 less than in 2017). The decrease was due to the fact that from 1 July 2017 only the rest of commitments made was financed.

National Project “Chance for Young People”

The objective of the national project is to improve the position of job seekers - NEETs in the labour market, enhance employability and employment and reduce long-term unemployment by supporting job creation. The eligible target group comprises job seekers - NEETs under 29 years of age registered as job seekers for at least 12 consecutive months. The main activity of the NP is to provide financial contributions to an employer that employs a job seeker from the eligible target group by placing him/her in a created full-time/part-time job for at least 3 months or an indefinite time period, and the financial contributions are provided to the employer on a monthly basis for a

minimum of 3 months and a maximum of 9 months. In 2018, 1,140 job seekers were included in this national project, which is 335 job seekers less than in 2017; the total spending amounted to €7,733,983.52 (€7,436,264.00 more than in 2017). The national project started to be implemented in June 2017; from 1 July 2018 only the rest of commitments made was financed.

National Project “We Want to Be Active in the Labour Market (50+)”

The aim is to improve the status of disadvantaged job seekers pursuant to Section 8(1)(b) of the Employment Services Act – citizens over 50 years of age (hereinafter simply the “job seekers aged 50+”), increase their employability and employment through the provision of financial contributions to support the creation of jobs in less developed regions. A financial contribution is provided to an employer that employs a disadvantaged job seeker aged 50+ by placing him/her in a job created if such employment is concluded for at least 12 months. The financial contribution is granted for a maximum of 12 months. The employer is obliged to retain this job created for at least 12 months. In 2018, a total of 590 job seekers were included in this national project, which is 468 job seekers less than in 2017. In 2018, the total amount spent was €1,680,814.00, which is €81,274.00 more than in 2017.

National Project “Restart – the Opportunity for the Long-term Unemployed to Return to the Labour Market”

The objective of the national project is to contribute to increasing the employability and employment of long-term unemployed citizens, reducing long-term unemployment and supporting the development of local and regional employment in selected regions by promoting the motivation and activation of long-term unemployed citizens to look for employment and by creating conditions for long-term unemployed citizens to gain or restore work habits and skills directly with the employer. The target group comprises long-term unemployed citizens registered as job seekers for more than 24 consecutive months. This national project has been implemented since July 2017 through the following two measures:

Measure 1

Support for active long-term unemployed citizens – providing a financial contribution to active long-term unemployed citizens registered as job seekers for more than 24 consecutive months, who will find employment and will be removed from the register of job seekers due to entering into an employment relationship and proven commencement of employment. The financial contribution is granted monthly for a period of one to twelve months under a concluded agreement between the employee and a local OLSAF and on the basis of the “Employer’s Confirmation of the Duration of Employment”. In 2018, this measure supported a total of 1,814 long-term unemployed citizens, which is 578 citizens more than in 2017. The total spending reached €1,802,729.00 (a year-on-year increase of €1,578,579.00).

Measure 2

Induction trainings in the employer’s premises in order to gain and restore work habits – providing a monthly financial contribution for the conduct of induction trainings in the employer’s premises under Section 54(1)(a) of the Employment Services Act. A form of activation of long-term unemployed citizens by conducting induction trainings for them in the employer’s premises, aimed at allowing long-term unemployed citizens to gain and deepen practical experience for the needs of the labour market. In 2018, this measure supported a total of 1,910 long-term unemployed citizens, which is 1,055 long-term unemployed citizens more than in 2017. The total spending in 2018 amounted to €3,083,260.10 (a year-on-year increase of 2,896,454.10).

National project “Restart for Young Job Seekers”

The objective is to improve the position of young people under 29 years of age in the labour market, increase their employability, employment and support the development of local and regional employment in selected regions by promoting the motivation and activation of young people under 29 years of age to look for employment. The target group is composed of job seekers (NEETs) under 29 years of age. This national project was implemented from July 2017 to December 2017 through the following two measures:

Measure 1

Support for personalised counselling for young job seekers

Measure 1 enabled the provision of counselling for young job seekers in the range of 30 hours/13 activities/job seeker. The counselling process was focused on developing skills for managing one’s own

career, with particular emphasis on planning. From the beginning of the project until 31 December 2018, 19,634 job seekers were included in this measure, of which 13,641 job seekers were provided with professional counselling in 2018. The spending on this measure totalled €705,944.44.

Subject to compliance with the stipulated conditions, a job seeker may receive a lump-sum allowance to cover a portion of the costs of his/her participation in the counselling process (travel allowance, food allowance, etc.) in the amount of €4.64 per each day of the participation. The maximum amount of a lump-sum allowance for full participation in the counselling process is €60.32.

Measure 2

Support for active young job seekers

The measure involves providing a financial contribution to active young job seekers who will find employment and will be removed from the register of job seekers due to entering into an employment relationship and proven commencement of employment. The financial contribution will be provided monthly for a period of one to twelve months under a concluded agreement between the employee (former young job seeker) and a local OLSAF. In 2018, a total of 1,637 job seekers were included in this national project, which is 5,183 job seekers less than in 2017. The total spending in 2018 amounted to €4,843,712.00 (a year-on-year decrease of €3,158,884.00). The commitment of funds was stopped on 15 August 2018.

National Project “Restart for Young Job Seekers 2”

The objective is to improve the position of young people under 29 years of age in the labour market, increase their employability, employment and support the development of local and regional employment in selected regions by promoting the motivation and activation of young people under 29 years of age to look for employment. The target group is composed of job seekers (NEETs) under 29 years of age. The national project has been implemented since August 2018.

The national project involves providing a financial contribution to active young job seekers who will find employment and will be removed from the register of job seekers due to entering into an employment relationship and proven commencement of employment. The financial contribution will be provided monthly for a period of one to twelve months under a concluded agreement between the employee (former young job seeker) and a local OLSAF. In 2018, a total of 7,859 job seekers were included in this national project with the total spending of €1,297,476.00.

National Project “Path to the Labour Market”

The national project is aimed at improving the position of job seekers in the labour market, increasing the employability and employment of job seekers and disadvantaged job seekers by promoting job creation, reducing unemployment, especially long-term unemployment, and supporting the development of local and regional employment in the least developed districts with high rates of registered long-term unemployment.

Within the project, a financial contribution can be provided in the following districts:

Region of Banská Bystrica – districts of Lučenec, Rimavská Sobota, Poltár, Revúca, Veľký Krtíš,

Region of Košice – districts of Rožňava, Sobrance, Trebišov,

Region of Prešov – districts of Kežmarok, Sabinov, Svidník, Vranov nad Topľou

Activity 1

Promoting job creation for job seekers.

The activity involves providing a financial contribution to an employer that employs a job seeker from the eligible target group if the employment relationship is agreed for at least half of the stipulated weekly working hours:

- for a definite period of time of at least 20 months; or
- for an indefinite period of time, subject to a condition of employment for at least 20 months.

In 2018, 322 job seekers were included in this activity (698 job seekers less than in 2017) with the total spending of €5,834,566.44 (a year-on-year increase of €4,407,568.44). The 2018 spending is a follow-up to the 2017 spending. The commitment of funds for Activity 1 was stopped on 31 July 2018.

Activity 2

Providing a financial contribution to support job creation for disadvantaged job seekers, with particular regard to long-term unemployed citizens in social enterprises of labour integration.

A local OLSAF will provide financial contributions to an employer that employs a disadvantaged job seeker from the eligible target group by placing him/her in a created job if the employment relationship is agreed for at least half of the stipulated weekly working hours and for a definite period of time of at least 24 months or an indefinite period of time, subject to a condition of employment for at least 24 months.

In 2018, 27 job seekers were included in this activity (10 job seekers more than in 2017) with the total spending of €143,768.76 (a year-on-year increase of €129,712.76). The 2018 spending is a follow-up to the 2017 spending. The commitment of funds for Activity 2 was stopped on 31 October 2018.

Activity 3

Providing a financial contribution to an employer that employs a disadvantaged job seeker under the employment relationship agreed for at least half of the stipulated weekly working hours and for a definite period of time (of 3 to 12 months) or an indefinite period of time.

The job must be retained for at least 3 months. The financial contribution is provided according to the agreed duration of the employment relationship, however, for a maximum of 12 months.

In 2018, 542 job seekers were included in this activity (2,836 job seekers less than in 2017) with the total spending of €12,283,212.12 (a year-on-year increase of €4,683,872.12). The 2018 spending is a follow-up to the 2017 spending. The commitment of funds for Activity 3 was stopped on 31 July 2018.

Activity 4

Providing a financial contribution for self-employment of job seekers who will, as self-employed persons, carry on a self-employed activity in various sectors.

Job seekers may also create a job for self-employment in agricultural primary production.

The creation of such job means the commencement and continuous conduct of a self-employed activity for at least two years.

In 2018, 83 job seekers were included in this activity (372 job seekers less than in 2017) with the total spending of €1,121,182.05 (a year-on-year decrease of €481,752.95). The commitment of funds for Activity 4 was stopped on 31 July 2018.

Activity 5

Providing a financial contribution to an applicant who was a job seeker and was removed from the register of job seekers due to entering into an employment or similar relationship to cover a portion of travel expenses incurred in commuting for work and who commutes from the place of permanent residence or temporary residence to the place of employment specified in the employment contract, even in one municipality.

The financial contribution is granted for a maximum of 12 consecutive months.

In 2018, 3,209 job seekers were included in this activity (885 job seekers less than in 2017) with the total spending of €1,755,815.84 (a year-on-year increase of €1,198,052.84). The 2018 spending is a follow-up to the 2017 spending.

Activity 6

Encouraging a job seeker to find employment through an intensive and individualised counselling process that takes into account the job seeker's individual social situation.

The counselling process is aimed at developing the employability of job seekers (increasing motivation, setting career goals, communicating with employers, job search techniques, etc.). This measure enables the provision of counselling for job seekers in the range of 35 hours/13 activities/job seeker. The planned number of job seekers to be involved in this activity is 36,000.

Subject to compliance with the stipulated conditions, a long-term unemployed job seeker may receive a lump-sum allowance to cover a portion of the costs of his/her participation in the counselling process (travel allowance, food allowance, etc.) in the amount of €6.18 per each day of the participation. The maximum amount of a lump-sum allowance for full participation in the counselling process is €80.34.

From the beginning of the project in March 2017 until 31 December 2018, 11,342 job seekers were provided with personalised services, of which 8,747 job seekers were included in the activity in 2018 (6,566 job seekers, accounting for 75.07 % of the total number of those included in the activity, were long-term unemployed). Spending on this activity totalled €573,444.00.

National Project "Path to the Labour Market 2"

The national project is aimed at improving the position of job seekers in the labour market, increasing the employability and employment of job seekers and disadvantaged job seekers by promoting job creation, reducing

unemployment, especially long-term unemployment, supporting the development of local and regional employment in the least developed districts with high rates of registered unemployment.

Within the project, a financial contribution can be provided in the following districts:

Region of Banská Bystrica – districts of Lučenec, Rimavská Sobota, Poltár, Revúca, Veľký Krtíš,

Region of Košice – districts of Rožňava, Sobrance, Trebišov, Gelnica, Košice-okolie, Michalovce,

Region of Prešov – districts of Kežmarok, Sabinov, Svidník, Vranov nad Topľou, Bardejov, Medzilaborce, Snina, Levoča, Stropkov.

The implementation of the national project started in June 2018.

Three measures will be implemented in the proposed national project “Path to the Labour Market 2”, namely:

Measure 1

Promoting job creation for job seekers

The measure involves providing a financial contribution to an employer that employs a job seeker from the eligible target group if the employment relationship is agreed for at least half of the stipulated weekly working hours:

- for a definite period of time of at least 20 months; or
- for an indefinite period of time, subject to a condition of employment for at least 20 months.

In 2018, a total of 1,139 job seekers were included in Measure 1 with the total spending of €146,267.44. Since the national project was launched in June 2018, it is not possible to compare the number of the job seekers included with their number throughout 2017.

Measure 2

The measure involves *providing a financial contribution to an employer that employs a job seeker under the employment relationship agreed for at least half of the stipulated weekly working hours and for a definite period of time (of 3 to 12 months) or an indefinite period of time.*

The job must be retained for at least 3 months. The financial contribution is provided according to the agreed duration of the employment relationship, however, for a maximum of 12 months.

In 2018, a total of 930 job seekers were included in Measure 2 with the total spending of €346,731.83. Since the national project was launched in June 2018, it is not possible to compare the number of the job seekers included with their number in 2017.

Measure 3

The measure involves *providing a financial contribution for self-employment of job seekers who will, as self-employed persons, carry on a self-employed activity in various sectors.* Job seekers may also create a job for self-employment in agricultural primary production.

The creation of such job means the commencement and continuous conduct of a self-employed activity for at least two years.

In 2018, a total of 173 job seekers were included in Measure 3 with the total spending of €603,705.88. Since the national project was launched in June 2018, it is not possible to compare the number of the job seekers included with their number in 2017.

National Project “Support for Personalised Counselling for Long-term Unemployed Job Seekers”

Activity 1

The balance of competencies for long-term unemployed job seekers is made up by external suppliers selected in accordance with Act No. 343/2015 Coll. on Public Procurement. The activity is designed for long-term unemployed job seekers who have no idea of how to find a foothold on the labour market or who, for objective reasons, need to change their speciality and in this respect, need advisory support in the form of a balance of competencies, aimed at helping them find career direction and gain skills for managing their own careers. Activity 1 is implemented in the range of 10 meetings/38 hours/long-term unemployed job seeker. The planned number of long-term unemployed job seekers to be involved in this activity is 30,000.

Subject to compliance with the stipulated conditions, a long-term unemployed job seeker may receive a lump-sum allowance to cover a portion of the costs of his/her participation in the counselling process (travel allowance, food allowance, etc.) in the amount of €4.64 per each day of the participation. The maximum amount of a lump-sum allowance for full participation in the counselling process is €46.40.

In 2018, personalised services were provided to 309 long-term unemployed job seekers. In view of the start of this activity in December 2018, no funds were spent on its implementation.

Activity 2

Support for personalised counselling for long-term unemployed job seekers is given by internal professional counsellors of local labour offices and is aimed at encouraging hard-to-place long-term unemployed job seekers to find employment through individual and group counselling activities. These activities are primarily aimed at the analysis and comprehensive assessment of the overall potential in terms of employability on the labour market, identifying barriers, establishing measures to enhance employment opportunities on the labour market, mobilising individual resources and strengthening incentives to proactively address long-term unemployment. Activity 2 is implemented in the range of 14-15 meetings/41-45 hours/long-term unemployed job seeker. A total of 129 new professional counsellors were recruited and trained in Activity 2. The planned number of long-term unemployed job seekers to be involved in this activity is 50,000.

Subject to compliance with the stipulated conditions, a long-term unemployed job seeker may receive a lump-sum allowance to cover a portion of the costs of his/her participation in the counselling process (travel allowance, food allowance, etc.) in the amount of €4.64 per each day of the participation. The maximum amount of a lump-sum allowance for full participation in the counselling process is €69.60.

In 2018, personalised services were provided to 11,255 long-term unemployed job seekers. Spending on this activity totalled €448,043.24 .

National Project “We Are Looking for a Job Together”

The national project has been implemented since 1 January 2016 by COLSAF and 43 local OLSAFs in all Slovak regions except for the Bratislava Self-governing Region through the two main activities. Activity 1 – Job Fair and Activity 2 – Support for the EURES Network Development and Advice on Labour Mobility within the EU/EEA aimed at providing quality and tailor-made employment services, motivating job seekers and other clients as employers to actively cooperate with local OLSAFs in employment mediation, not only by presenting job vacancies, but also by offering the option to directly select suitable employees from among the clients included in the target groups.

The objective of the project is to improve the status of job seekers and disadvantaged job seekers, increase employability, enhance the interconnection between public and non-public employment services and work with employers. A total of €2,106,529.84 was spent since the project started.

Centrally approved projects

Under Section 54, a total of 2 projects for the estimated number of agreed jobs to be created for 243 persons in 2019 were approved in 2018 via projects centrally approved by the Evaluation Committee for Assessment, Evaluation and Approval Recommendation of Submitted Projects and Programmes within the active labour market measures according to Section 54(1)(c), (d), and (f). The approved funds amount to €499,682.00 and their drawdown will be reflected in 2019 and 2020. In 2018, a total of 28 persons (including those from projects approved in 2017) were included in the centrally approved projects (27 men and 1 women). The spending on projects approved in 2017 and 2016 totalled €324,711.00.

RE-PAS retraining allowance (Section 54(1)(d))

RE-PAS projects are designed for all job seekers including the disadvantaged in the labour market who have difficulties finding employment and need to flexibly respond to labour market requirements. A job seeker who has difficulties finding a job can choose a type of employment for which he/she wishes to retrain and a retraining provider which is to carry out the retraining required. Retraining is aimed at preparing a job seeker for finding employment so that he/she acquires theoretical and practical knowledge, competences and skills in a selected training (retraining) course. A local OLSAF paid 100 % of the costs of retraining (a retraining course fee) for the job seeker, but no more than the amount specified in the agreement on the provision of retraining allowance it concluded with the job seeker.

In 2018, 247 job seekers started retraining (under agreements concluded in 2017), of which 88 men (35.63 %) and 159 women (64.37 %). By age, the largest group comprised job seekers aged 30-49 years (181 job seekers, 73.28 %). By level of education, job seekers with full secondary vocational education accounted for the largest share (99 job seekers, 40.08 %). Of the total number of job seekers included, 161 were disadvantaged (65.18 %)

and the largest group under Section 8 of the Employment Services Act consisted of those job seekers who had no regularly paid employment for at least 12 consecutive calendar months before being registered as job seekers (94 job seekers, 38.05 %).

In 2018, retraining allowances were provided to a total of 1,692 job seekers (under agreements on the provision of retraining allowance, which were concluded in 2017). The total spending on the provision of retraining allowances was €1,156,663.41.

The provision of retraining allowances was terminated as of September 2018.

Support for RE-PAS+ retraining of job seekers (Section 54(1)(d))

Retraining (REPAS+) means preparing a job seeker for finding employment so that he/she acquires professional knowledge and skills in a retraining course. A job seeker who has difficulties finding a job can choose a type of employment for which he/she wishes to retrain and a retraining provider which conducts retraining. A local OLSAF pays the job seeker a retraining allowance (a retraining course fee), as well as travel and food allowances of €4.64 for each day of attendance at the retraining course.

In 2018, 13,308 job seekers were enrolled on retraining courses, of which 6,648 men (49.95 %) and 6,660 women (50.05 %). By age, the largest group comprised job seekers aged 30-49 years (5,155 job seekers, 38.74 %). By level of education, job seekers with full secondary vocational education accounted for the largest share (4,698 job seekers, 35.30 %). Of the total number of job seekers included, 9,699 were disadvantaged (72.88 %) and the largest group under Section 8 of the Employment Services Act consisted of those job seekers who had no regularly paid employment for at least 12 consecutive calendar months before being registered as job seekers (7,588 job seekers, 57.01 %).

In 2018, the allowance to support job seekers' retraining was provided to 13,043 job seekers. The total spending on the provision of this allowance was €10,247,562.26, of which €8 871 360.85 was spent on retraining course fees and €1,376,201.41 was spent on travel and food allowances.

Support for job seekers' core competencies KOMPAS+ (Section 54(1)(d))

Competency courses (KOMPAS+) support selected job seekers' core competencies they can use on the labour market, such as communication skills (including social competencies), personal development (including managerial and entrepreneurial competencies), computer skills, language skills. With a view to strengthening core competencies, a job seeker can choose a competency course he/she wishes to attend and a competency course provider that conducts such competency course. A local OLSAF pays the job seeker a competency course allowance (a competency course fee), as well as travel and food allowances of €4.64 for each day of attendance at the competency course.

In 2018, 8,873 job seekers were enrolled on competency courses, of which 3,375 men (38.04 %) a 5,498 women (61.96 %). By age, the largest group comprised job seekers aged 24 years (3,310 job seekers, 37.30 %). By level of education, job seekers with full secondary vocational education accounted for the largest share (2,285 job seekers, 25.75 %). Of the total number of job seekers included, 6,883 were disadvantaged (77.57 %) and the largest group under Section 8 of the Employment Services Act consisted of those job seekers who had no regularly paid employment for at least 12 consecutive calendar months before being registered as job seekers (5,939 job seekers, 66.93 %).

In 2018, the allowance to support job seekers' core competencies was provided to 9,837 job seekers. The total spending on the provision of this allowance was €6,691,907.65, of which €5,942,636.63 was spent on competency course fees and €749,271.02 was spent on travel and food allowances.

Project "Ready for Work"

Under Resolution of the Government of the Slovak Republic No. 589 of 13 December 2017 on the Basis for Measures to Remove Barriers to the Sustainable Development of the Automotive Industry in Slovakia, COLSAF implements the "Ready for Work" project (hereinafter simply the "project") in cooperation with local OLSAFs pursuant to Section 54 (1)(d) of the Employment Services Act. This project is divided into 2 phases and its implementation is ensured by an external provider.

Phase 1 is characterised by the implementation of the Inclusive Education programme aimed at increasing the competencies necessary for easier placement of project participants in engineering and automotive manufacturing. Upon completion of Inclusive Education, job seekers will be prepared for the position of production

operator. The first phase should gradually include 20,000 job seekers. The implementation of Inclusive Education started on 28 May 2018.

Phase 2 of the project is focused on vocational trainings in accredited training programmes (Mechatronic Engineer, Industrial Mechanic, Toolmaker, Jigs Mechanic, Electrical Automation Technician, Auto-Electrician, Auto-Mechanic, Mechatronic Engineer in Automotive Industry, Logistics and Warehouse Management Worker, CNC Machine Operator, Metalworker, Machine Engineer – Locksmith and Automation Worker in Engineering Manufacturing). The target group is composed of participants selected from the first phase of the project in the total number of 3,100 job seekers.

From the beginning of the project until 31 December 2018, 5,492 job seekers were included in the project, of which 3,560 men (64.82 %) and 1,932 women (35.18 %). By age, the largest group comprised job seekers aged 30-49 years (2,679 job seekers, 48.78 %). By level of education, job seekers with secondary vocational education accounted for the largest share (2,025 job seekers, 36.87 %). Of the total number of job seekers included, 4,530 were disadvantaged (82.48 %) and the largest group under Section 8 of the Employment Services Act consisted of those job seekers who had no regularly paid employment for at least 12 consecutive calendar months before being registered as job seekers (3,524 job seekers, 64.17 %).

The total spending on the provision of this allowance was €4,820,828.14, of which allowances for course fees paid to external providers amounted to €4,371,445.00 and lump-sum allowances paid to job seekers amounted to €449,383.14.

Internal Project “Be Active - Find Employment”

In 2018, the internal incentive project “Be Active - Find Employment”, designed for young people under 29 years of age, continued to be implemented by COLSAF and local OLSAFs. The project is implemented in accordance with the National Plan for Youth Guarantee Implementation in the Slovak Republic, which was discussed and acknowledged by the Government of the Slovak Republic at its meeting on 5 February 2014.

The objective of the project is to motivate young job seekers under 29 years of age to increase employment by raising their interest in using the acquired skills, knowledge and practical experience in practice on the open labour market, but also their employability.

Within this project, job seekers have the opportunity to use individual active labour market measures, professional counselling, participation in selection processes, national and regional projects implemented by local OLSAFs, an independent information and advisory tool – a web portal to look for job vacancies (LMIG) - www.istp.sk (Labour Market Internet Guide) to help clients, among others, save money, their time (spent looking for a suitable job based on their personal requirements) and contact the employer from the creature comforts of home.

The project is implemented by own employees of local OLSAFs without financial claims from ALMM.

From the beginning of the project until 31 December 2018, 95,352 job seekers /young people under 29 years of age/ were included in the project, accounting for 91.37 % of the total number of job seekers under 29 years of age (104,349).

Internal project “Get Employed by Being More Active”

On 25 November 2016, the Monitoring Committee for OP HR approved the Action Plan for Strengthening the Integration of the Long-term Unemployed into the Labour Market in the Slovak Republic. The main objective of this plan is to propose and implement a comprehensive approach based on in-depth individual assessment measures and adequate advice for the long-term unemployed to improve their employability prospects, remove employment barriers and assess their previous job search efforts, taking into account other aspects of improving their quality of life. The long-term unemployed accounted for ca. 50 % of the total number of registered job seekers. Within the Europe 2020 target indicators, Slovakia has set a target of reducing the rate of long-term unemployment. With a view to achieving this target, specific measures were taken in both legislation and implementation. One of the measures involves the implementation of the internal project “Get Employed by Being More Active”.

The objective of the project is to increase the employment and employability of the long-term unemployed on the labour market through an intensive individual approach by employees of local OLSAFs, but also by the long-term unemployed for 4 months. Another priority is to use the free web portal www.istp.sk (Labour Market Internet Guide), where employers publish job vacancies and job seekers can create their profile to generate suitable job vacancies, create a curriculum vitae and match their personal profile with the employer's requirements. The activities will be carried out by own personnel.

The so-called labour integration agreement is concluded with selected job seekers. The project is implemented by own employees of local OLSAFs without financial claims from ALMM.

From the beginning of the project until 31 December 2018, 67,101 long-term unemployed job seekers were included in the project, accounting for 49.87 % of the total number of long-term unemployed job seekers at the beginning of the project implementation. Through intensive individual work, 12,932 job seekers were placed in the labour market, representing 19.27 % of the number of long-term unemployed job seekers included in the internal incentive project.

Contribution to establishing a sheltered workshop or workplace (Sect. 56)

A local OLSAF may provide a contribution to establishing a sheltered workshop or workplace to an employer who employs a disabled citizen registered as a job seeker for at least one month by placing him/her to a job created in such sheltered workshop or workplace. The contribution is provided to cover a portion of the costs of creating a job for a disabled citizen in a sheltered workshop or workplace, which are necessary to ensure work performance by the disabled citizen and are associated with creating such job.

The amount of the contribution is linked to the total labour costs, calculated from the average wage of an employee in the Slovak economy, depending also on the average registered unemployment rate in the district where the employer establishes a sheltered workshop or workplace. The retention period for a job created in a sheltered workshop or workplace is at least 2 years.

In 2018, this active labour market measure supported 122 jobs (155 jobs in 2017), in which 167 disabled citizens (242 in 2017) were placed; the total spending on this ALMM reached €682,252.00 (€607,551.00 in 2017).

Contribution to retaining the employment of a disabled citizen (Sect. 56a)

A local OLSAF may provide an employer who employs more than 25 % disabled citizens of the average registered number of employees under Section 63(3) of the Act and does not have the status of a sheltered workshop or workplace with a contribution to retaining the employment of a disabled citizen if it applies for such contribution in writing. The contribution is provided to the employer for the payment of advance compulsory health insurance contributions, social insurance contributions and compulsory old-age pension contributions paid by the employer on a monthly basis from the wages of an employee who is a disabled citizen.

In 2018, this measure supported 22 disabled citizens. The total spending on this measure amounted to €32,195.00 (a year-on-year increase of 1 disabled citizen and a year-on-year rise in the total spending of €1,015.00).

Contribution to self-employment of a disabled citizen (Sect. 57)

A local OLSAF may provide a disabled citizen with a contribution for a self-employed activity carried on in a sheltered workplace for at least two years. The contribution is granted to a disabled citizen registered as a job seeker, who will carry on a trade under the Trade Licensing Act or carry on agricultural production, including production in forest management under the Act on Private Business Activities of Citizens. The amount of the contribution is based on the multiple of the total labour costs defined by the Employment Services Act and the average unemployment rate registered in a given district.

In 2018, this measure supported the creation of 76 self-employed posts for disabled citizens, which is 1 post less than in 2017. The total spending on these contributions in 2018 was €379,297.00, a year-on-year decrease of €13,857.00.

Contribution to activities of an assistant at work (Sect. 59)

A contribution to activities of an assistant at work is provided to an employer who employs a disabled citizen or a self-employed person who is a disabled citizen. The contribution is provided in cases where the type of disability and the work performed by a disabled citizen require services of a work assistant. A maximum amount of the contribution is 70 % of the total labour costs defined by the Employment Services Act.

In 2018, local OLSAFs supported 775 (969 in 2017) beneficiaries (of which 417 employers and 358 self-employed persons with disabilities), with a total of 1,128 work assistants being assigned to work assistant posts, representing an increase of 51 work assistants. In 2018, the total spending on these contributions reached €5,801,578.00 (representing a year-on-year increase of €884,953.00).

Contribution to cover the operating costs of a sheltered workshop or workplace and transportation costs of employees (Sect. 60)

A contribution to cover the operating costs of a sheltered workshop or workplace and transportation costs of employees is provided to an employer in a sheltered workshop or workplace if it applies for such contribution in writing.

In 2018, this measure supported a total of 9,433 disabled citizens employed in sheltered workshops and workplaces (a year-on-year decrease of 330 disabled citizens). The total spending on the contributions to cover these costs in 2018 reached €30,051,864.00, representing a year-on-year increase of €1,584,703.00.

Table 8 Average Gross Monthly Wage in Business and Non-business Sectors by Education Level – 2018

€

Education level	Business and non-business sectors in total	Business sector	Non-business sector
SR total	1,163	1,203	1,027
Primary	790	840	593
Apprenticeship	933	972	652
Secondary (without a school-leaving exam)	895	933	697
Apprenticeship with a school-leaving exam	1,081	1,117	828
Full secondary general	1,079	1,121	897
Full secondary vocational	1,108	1,158	942
Advanced vocational	1,169	1,300	1,064
University – bachelor's degree	1,239	1,384	1,040
University – master's degree	1,627	1,888	1,252
University – PhD degree	1,674	2,323	1,495

Source: Trexima, Information System on Labour Costs, Q4 2018

Table 9 Average Gross Monthly Wages in Business and Non-business Sectors by Classification of Occupations SK ISCO-08 – 2018

€

SK ISCO-08 main classes	Business and non-business sectors in total	Business sector	Non-business sector
SR total	1,163	1,203	1,027
Legislators, senior officials and managers	2,470	2,637	1,846
Professionals	1,450	1,777	1,178
Technicians and associate professionals	1,271	1,358	1,033
Clerks	975	993	887
Service workers and shop and market sales workers	794	815	711
Skilled agricultural and forestry workers	835	852	644
Craft and related trades workers	1,098	1,105	805
Plant and machine operators, and assemblers	1,030	1,034	869
Elementary occupations	662	714	558

Source: Trexima, Information System on Labour Costs, Q4 2018

Table 10 Average gross monthly wages in business and non-business sectors by age groups – 2018

€

Age group	Business and non-business sectors in total	Business sector	Non-business sector
Total	1,163	1,203	1,027
under 20 years	719	725	601
20 – 24 years	867	876	753
25 – 29 years	1,062	1,088	923
30 – 34 years	1,210	1,254	995
35 – 39 years	1,275	1,331	1,038
40 – 44 years	1,271	1,333	1,053
45 – 49 years	1,200	1,242	1,067
50 – 54 years	1,137	1,174	1,030
55 – 59 years	1,102	1,136	1,016
60 years and over	1,101	1,128	1,053

Source: Trexima, Information System on Labour Costs, Q4 2018

Table 11 Average Gross Monthly Wages in Business and Non-business Sectors by Regions – 2018

€

Region	Business and non-business sectors in total	Business sector	Non-business sector
Total	1,163	1,203	1,027
Bratislava	1,523	1,595	1,205
Trnava	1,108	1,139	985
Trenčín	1,086	1,111	970
Nitra	1,021	1,037	965
Žilina	1,073	1,099	989
Banská Bystrica	1,003	1,005	999
Prešov	916	901	953
Košice	1,099	1,135	1,007

Source: Trexima, Information System on Labour Costs, Q4 2018

Table 12 Average Gross Monthly Wages and Selected Components of Employees' Wages by Gender – 2018

€

Gender / wage components	of which components of average gross monthly wage						
	Average gross monthly wage	basic wage	bonuses and remuneration	extra pays and additional payments	payments for days not worked	other wage components	
Total	€	1,163	768	125	83	143	42
	%	100	66	11	7	12	3
Males	€	1,303	844	160	89	156	51
	%	100	65	12	7	12	4
Females	€	1,015	689	87	76	129	32
	%	100	68	9	7	12	3

Source: Trexima, Information System on Labour Costs, Q4 2018

Table 13 Shares of Employees in the Zones of Average Gross Monthly Wages – 2018

Wage zones of average gross monthly wage in €	Total		Shares of employees by SK ISCO-08 main classes in %								
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		
less than 200	0.55	0.16	0.69	0.29	0.70	0.88	0.35	0.11	0.12	0.97	
200.01 – 250	0.44	0.08	0.45	0.15	0.39	0.60	0.11	0.12	0.06	1.46	
250.01 – 300	0.43	0.07	0.34	0.13	0.42	0.99	0.22	0.11	0.07	1.25	
300.01 – 350	0.44	0.11	0.38	0.14	0.44	1.23	0.27	0.08	0.06	1.02	
350.01 – 400	0.51	0.09	0.42	0.17	0.60	1.44	0.11	0.10	0.12	1.20	
400.01 – 450	0.82	0.14	0.48	0.28	0.74	1.71	0.51	0.34	0.17	2.41	
450.01 – 500	3.05	0.45	0.74	0.71	1.98	4.50	3.21	1.76	1.12	11.83	
500.01 – 550	2.98	0.43	0.72	0.65	2.15	4.85	5.08	1.75	2.07	12.88	
550.01 – 600	4.06	0.54	0.94	1.20	4.87	7.70	5.37	2.74	4.09	10.57	
600.01 – 650	4.53	0.58	1.12	1.46	5.37	10.14	6.91	3.20	5.36	8.89	
650.01 – 700	4.88	1.12	1.35	2.42	5.96	10.76	7.02	4.07	5.99	8.12	
700.01 – 750	5.04	1.60	2.06	3.31	6.38	9.74	8.74	4.67	6.04	7.28	
750.01 – 800	5.09	1.90	2.52	4.20	6.71	8.88	8.91	5.13	6.01	5.67	
800.01 – 850	5.00	1.93	3.02	4.63	6.90	6.89	7.81	5.38	6.12	4.84	
850.01 – 900	4.95	1.76	3.66	5.23	6.40	5.36	7.04	5.75	6.15	4.18	
900.01 – 950	4.75	1.85	3.85	5.50	6.11	4.03	6.60	5.52	6.17	3.45	
950.01 – 1,000	4.47	1.91	4.05	5.39	5.39	3.18	5.35	5.51	5.68	2.64	
1,000.01 – 1,100	7.97	3.68	8.45	10.13	8.65	4.77	9.24	9.72	8.89	4.08	
1,100.01 – 1,200	6.72	3.61	8.40	9.10	6.72	3.44	6.56	8.10	7.87	2.53	
1,200.01 – 1,300	5.61	3.36	7.88	7.80	5.31	2.24	4.25	6.90	6.17	1.62	
1,300.01 – 1,400	4.59	3.66	6.70	6.61	4.01	1.56	2.77	5.95	4.73	0.92	
1,400.01 – 1,500	3.72	3.57	5.58	5.36	3.05	1.38	1.50	4.87	3.87	0.68	
1,500.01 – 1,600	2.98	3.64	4.52	4.22	2.37	0.88	0.81	4.04	3.03	0.44	
1,600.01 – 1,700	2.39	3.58	3.72	3.47	1.76	0.68	0.37	3.27	2.49	0.23	
1,700.01 – 1,800	1.98	3.40	3.11	2.97	1.41	0.50	0.29	2.68	1.75	0.20	
1,800.01 – 1,900	1.62	3.30	2.64	2.45	1.14	0.36	0.16	2.03	1.27	0.39	
1,900.01 – 2,000	1.36	3.30	2.34	1.99	0.85	0.29	0.15	1.53	1.07	0.14	
2,000.01 – 2,100	1.13	2.88	2.17	1.65	0.67	0.20	0.09	1.14	0.75	0.09	
2,100.01 – 2,200	0.94	2.54	1.97	1.35	0.50	0.17	0.07	0.86	0.54	0.05	
2,200.01 – 2,300	0.78	2.45	1.68	1.17	0.41	0.14	0.05	0.62	0.38	0.06	
2,300.01 and over	6.20	42.33	14.06	5.89	1.66	0.72	0.11	1.95	0.99	0.12	

Source: Trexima, Information System on Labour Costs, Q4 2018

Note: data on all employees regardless of working time

Explanatory notes:

SK ISCO-08 main classes:

1 – Legislators, senior officials and managers, 2 – Professionals, 3 – Technicians and associate professionals, 4 – Clerks, 5 – Service workers and shop and market sales workers, 6 – Skilled agricultural and forestry workers, 7 – Craft and related trades workers, 8 – Plant and machine operators, and assemblers, 9 – Elementary occupations

Table 14 Average Gross Monthly Wages in Business and Non-business Sectors by Education Level (Full-time Employment) – 2018

Education level	Business and non-business sectors in total			Business sector			Non-business sector		
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
SR total	1,206	1,338	1,060	1,243	1,357	1,072	1,074	1,179	1,037
Primary	820	911	725	868	948	768	618	643	606
Apprenticeship	958	1,060	768	995	1,078	811	678	800	610
Secondary (without a	928	1,024	786	963	1,039	827	735	873	661
Apprenticeship with a	1,110	1,239	890	1,144	1,257	914	859	967	808
Full secondary general	1,117	1,289	995	1,158	1,311	1,024	934	1,040	911
Full secondary vocational	1,136	1,312	1,003	1,186	1,337	1,025	969	1,016	961
Advanced vocational	1,209	1,378	1,142	1,322	1,552	1,163	1,115	1,052	1,130
University – bachelor's	1,281	1,573	1,121	1,436	1,688	1,213	1,068	1,191	1,039
University – master's	1,690	2,033	1,415	1,943	2,207	1,589	1,310	1,441	1,266
University – PhD degree	1,807	1,984	1,585	2,431	2,755	1,900	1,624	1,723	1,510

Source: Trexima, Information System on Labour Costs, Q4 2018

Table 15 Average Gross Monthly Wages in Business and Non-business Sectors by Classification of Occupations SK ISCO-08 and Gender (Full-time Employment) – 2018

SK ISCO-08 main classes	Business and non-business sectors in total			Business sector			Non-business sector		
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
SR total	1,206	1,338	1,060	1,243	1,357	1,072	1,074	1,179	1,037
Legislators, senior officials and managers	2,515	2,838	1,967	2,687	2,944	2,126	1,873	2,160	1,683
Professionals	1,506	1,821	1,314	1,813	2,047	1,533	1,234	1,352	1,199
Technicians and associate professionals	1,289	1,476	1,127	1,377	1,520	1,194	1,049	1,141	1,026
Clerks	1,013	1,112	969	1,031	1,123	982	921	914	922
Service workers and shop and market sales workers	833	945	770	858	962	797	739	872	675
Skilled agricultural and forestry workers	840	877	779	856	893	793	663	683	631
Craft and related trades workers	1,109	1,167	865	1,115	1,175	867	824	835	730
Plant and machine operators, and assemblers	1,036	1,091	861	1,040	1,097	862	891	903	603
Elementary occupations	700	791	627	755	820	678	587	659	563

Source: Trexima, Information System on Labour Costs, Q4 2018

Table 16 Average Hourly Wages by Regions in Business Sector (€/hour)

Region	Q1/2018	Q2/2018	Q3/2018	Q4/2018
Bratislava	9.12	9.13	9.14	9.17
Tmava	6.42	6.41	6.52	6.65
Trenčín	6.42	6.49	6.63	6.68
Nitra	6.00	6.03	6.16	6.20
Žilina	6.32	6.39	6.59	6.61
Banská Bystrica	5.88	5.96	5.97	6.08
Prešov	5.21	5.24	5.29	5.38
Košice	6.42	6.53	6.59	6.65
SR	6.89	6.96	7.04	7.09

Source: Trexima, Information System on Labour Costs, Q1, Q2, Q3, Q4 2018

Table 17 Average Hourly Wages by Economic Activities in Business Sector (€/hour)

SK NACE rev. 2 categories of economic activities 2	Q1/2018	Q2/2018	Q3/2018	Q4/2018
	8	8	8	8
A Agriculture, forestry and fishing	5.24	5.25	5.47	5.56
B Mining and quarrying	6.99	7.12	7.14	7.27
C Manufacturing	6.96	7.03	7.15	7.21
D Electricity, gas, steam and air-condition supply	9.97	10.22	10.28	10.35
E Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation	6.37	6.06	6.30	6.42
F Construction	6.05	6.13	6.27	6.34
G Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	6.35	6.40	6.49	6.55
H Transportation and storage	6.17	6.28	6.34	6.33
I Accommodation and food service activities	4.14	4.20	4.35	4.45
J Information and communication	11.63	11.97	11.96	12.14
K Financial and insurance activities	11.00	11.29	11.44	11.32
L Real estate activities	6.78	6.76	6.86	6.89
M Professional, scientific and technical activities	8.84	9.06	8.88	8.98
N Administrative and support service activities	5.64	5.62	5.63	5.39
O Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	9.18	9.34	9.76	10.49
P Education	5.20	5.34	5.56	5.50
Q Health and social work activities	6.92	7.07	7.22	7.37
R Arts, entertainment and recreation	5.61	5.70	5.73	5.87
S Other service activities	4.68	4.81	5.14	4.87

Source: Trexima, Information System on Labour Costs, Q1, Q2, Q3, Q4 2018

Table 18 Average Hourly Wages by Size Classes of Enterprises in Business Sector (€/hour)

Size classes (number of employees)	Q1/2018	Q2/2018	Q3/2018	Q4/2018
1 – 9	5.86	5.98	6.00	6.24
10 – 19	6.18	6.21	6.30	6.36
20 – 49	6.42	6.57	6.55	6.50
50 – 99	6.85	6.91	6.93	6.97
100 – 249	6.99	6.99	7.07	7.15
250 – 499	6.95	7.01	7.19	7.29
500 – 999	7.21	7.23	7.24	7.29
1,000 and over	7.92	7.95	8.05	7.95

Source: Trexima, Information System on Labour Costs, Q1, Q2, Q3, Q4 2018

Table 19 Average Hourly Wages by Age in Business Sector (€/hour)

Age group	Q1/2018	Q2/2018	Q3/2018	Q4/2018
under 19 years	4.28	4.31	4.39	4.50
20 – 24 years	5.00	5.09	5.14	5.21
25 – 29 years	6.13	6.22	6.32	6.38
30 – 34 years	7.12	7.18	7.30	7.34
35 – 39 years	7.64	7.73	7.83	7.84
40 – 44 years	7.60	7.70	7.86	7.88
45 – 49 years	7.08	7.22	7.29	7.39
50 – 54 years	6.75	6.82	6.93	7.00
55 – 59 years	6.56	6.57	6.71	6.81
60 years or over	6.73	6.77	6.83	6.98

Source: Trexima, Information System on Labour Costs, Q1, Q2, Q3, Q4 2018

Table 20 Average Hourly Wage by Gender in Business Sector – Q4 2018

Indicator	Total	Gender		Share (%)
		Males	Females	Females/Males
Average hourly wage (€/hour)	7.09	7.72	6.23	80

Source: Trexima, Information System on Labour Costs, Q4 2018

Table 21 Monthly Labour Costs per Employee in SR in 2017 by Economic Activities

in €/employee/month

SK NACE Rev.2 categories	total labour costs	total direct costs	of which		total indirect costs	of which		subsidies
			wages and salaries	payments for days not worked		statutory social security contributions	supplementary social security contributions	
SR average	1,492	1,083	944	130	411	372	8	-2
A Agriculture, forestry and fishing	1,190	861	751	106	329	299	6	-0
B Mining and quarrying	1,692	1,203	1,024	167	488	428	24	-
C Manufacturing	1,539	1,110	965	137	429	385	10	-0
D Electricity, gas, steam and air-condition supply	2,402	1,683	1,428	224	719	597	36	-
E Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation	1,334	970	813	134	388	334	16	-24
F Construction	1,328	971	844	119	357	332	3	-0
G Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	1,431	1,048	925	113	384	356	4	-0
H Transportation and storage	1,340	969	842	122	382	341	11	-10
I Accommodation and food service activities	907	666	591	69	241	227	1	-0
J Information and communication	2,654	1,917	1,692	203	737	638	9	-
K Financial and insurance activities	2,627	1,877	1,625	235	750	643	22	-
L Real estate activities	1,580	1,152	1,004	129	429	391	6	-0
M Professional, scientific and technical activities	1,901	1,402	1,221	148	500	466	6	-1
N Administrative and support service activities	1,090	801	707	87	291	275	2	-2
O Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	1,460	1,050	942	102	410	359	11	-0
P Education	1,344	978	821	156	366	341	7	-0
Q Health and social work activities	1,478	1,084	941	126	394	373	7	-1
R Arts, entertainment and recreation	1,170	864	752	88	307	288	3	-0
S Other service activities	974	731	654	76	265	252	1	-22

Source: SO SR, Total labour costs survey

Explanatory note:(-) – the phenomenon did not occur

Table 22 Announced Invitations to National Projects and Demand-driven Calls for 2018

Name of the national project/applicant Call for DDP/Inviting party	Description	Project eligible period/ call announcement date	Allocation of the non-repayable fin. contribution / EU support in €
Priority axis 3 Employment			
NP Social Economy Institute Applicant: MoLSAF Implementation Agency	<p>In accordance with the newly established Act No. 112/2018 Coll. on Social Economy and Social Enterprises, the main objective of the project is to create and pilot the functioning of the supporting infrastructure for the social economy (SE) in the whole territory of the Slovak Republic through the Central SE Coordination Unit and Regional SE Centres. Their role will be to provide free information to the public on social entrepreneurship, explain the rules of the functioning of social enterprises and promote the public interest in their establishment and operations. The correct application of the Act requires the creation of a uniform methodology, vocational training for staff who will provide the necessary assistance and support to potential applicants for the establishment of social enterprises, and the identification of SE entities in the regions. A media campaign aimed at raising public awareness of SE and the social dimension in business is included in the project.</p>	<p>05/2018 – 05/2022</p>	<p>8,843,328.83</p>
NP Support for Integration Enterprises Applicant: Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family	<p>The objective of the project is to increase employment, employability and reduce unemployment, with particular emphasis on the long-term unemployed, the low-skilled, older people and the disabled. The project is aimed at promoting employment and reducing unemployment of disadvantaged persons, severely disadvantaged persons and vulnerable persons through the provision of allowances to integration enterprises. Support is provided through active labour market measures pursuant to Sections 53f and 53g of Act No. 5/2004 Coll. on Employment Services.</p>	<p>02/2019 – 12/2023</p>	<p>49,997,240.00</p>
NP Investment Aid for Social Enterprises – Non-repayable Component Applicant: MoLSAF Implementation Agency	<p>To increase employment, employability and reduce unemployment, with particular emphasis on the long-term unemployed, the low-skilled, older people and the disabled. The implementation of the national project will create conditions for the provision of a non-repayable component of aid for social enterprises, specifically in a compulsory combination with support from repayable financial resources. The activities will include support for social economy entities to foster structurally stable employment by promoting entrepreneurship, establishing and supporting enterprises in a wider area of the social economy and enterprises in relation to the labour market and regional labour market needs, namely through grant support for social enterprises to cover some of the costs of their investment plan. The objective is to create a functional system of investment aid for social enterprises pursuant to Act No. 112/2018 Coll. on Social Economy and Social Enterprises.</p>	<p>Q4/2018 – 12/2023</p>	<p>49,500,000.00</p>

Note: *These are national projects only

Source: MoLSAF

Table 23 Number of Social Enterprises by Type in 2018

Type of registered enterprise	2018
Integration social enterprise	7
Social housing enterprise	0
Other registered social enterprise	0
Total	7

Source: MoLSAF

Table 24 Number of Registered Social Enterprises (RSE) in the Least Developed Districts (LDD) in 2018

Name of the RSE	District	LDD
Hrhovské služby, s.r.o.	Levoča	1
Združenie na pomoc ľuďom s mentálnym postihnutím v SR	Bratislava	0
Ľudia a perspektíva OZ	Spišská Nová Ves	0
Obecný podnik Jedľová, s.r.o.	Svidník	1
NYOS, spol. s r.o.	Michalovce	1
Thermostav s.r.o.	Trebišov	1
Obecné služby Raslavice s.r.o.	Bardejov	1
Total		5

Source: MoLSAF

ANNEX TO CHAPTER 3

Table 1 Basic Sickness Insurance Fund (BSIF) Expenditure and Sickness Insurance Benefits in 2018

Paid benefits (thousand €)	January	February	March	April	May	June	First half of 2018
Sickness benefit	32,889.9	33,720.9	34,686.8	37,711.0	32,643.2	31,934.1	203,586.0
Nursing benefit	1,391.0	1,414.1	2,449.6	1,709.3	1,270.8	1,198.5	9,433.4
Equalization benefit	4.5	5.7	8.1	7.4	8.7	10.5	44.9
Maternity benefit	18,931.1	19,322.4	17,816.5	20,020.9	19,816.0	21,217.6	117,124.6
Total	53,216.6	54,463.1	54,961.1	59,448.6	53,738.6	54,360.7	330,188.8
Settlement of benefits under Section 112(9)	0.0	0.0	-0.4	0.0	0.0	-3.7	-4.1
Total expenditure of BSIF	53,216.6	54,463.1	54,960.7	59,448.6	53,738.6	54,357.0	330,184.6

Paid benefits (thousand €)	July	August	September	October	November	December	2018
Sickness benefit	30,650.7	30,672.9	30,324.6	29,606.1	33,331.4	32,171.7	390,343.4
Nursing benefit	1,245.3	1,068.0	1,202.3	1,170.4	1,699.4	1,405.1	17,233.8
Equalization benefit	7.9	9.5	5.5	7.3	6.8	4.2	86.0
Maternity benefit	21,236.3	22,898.5	23,329.6	22,679.1	23,623.1	22,691.1	253,582.2
Total	53,140.2	54,648.8	54,862.0	53,462.8	58,606.7	56,272.1	661,235.4
Settlement of benefits under Section 112(9)	0.0	-1.4	0.0	-4.7	-1.5	0.0	-11.8
Total expenditure of BSIF	53,140.2	54,647.5	54,862.0	53,458.1	58,659.3	56,272.0	661,223.6

Source: Social Insurance Agency

Number of cases of settled benefits	January	February	March	April	May	June	First half of 2018
Sickness benefit	125,103	132,074	147,468	151,270	124,599	112,090	792,604
Nursing benefit	14,793	14,111	24,489	17,309	12,299	11,833	94,834
Equalization benefit	58	61	83	73	86	87	448
Maternity benefit	30,570	30,869	30,867	30,975	31,306	31,805	186,392
Total	170,524	177,115	202,907	199,627	168,290	155,815	1,074,278

Number of cases of settled benefits	July	August	September	October	November	December	2018
Sickness benefit	110,912	106,403	105,338	109,761	119,989	117,139	1,462,146
Nursing benefit	12,293	9,808	10,637	11,231	15,860	13,825	168,488
Equalization benefit	72	74	66	82	70	50	862
Maternity benefit	32,457	33,661	34,083	33,883	34,167	33,724	388,367
Total	155,734	149,946	150,124	154,957	170,086	164,738	2,019,863

Source: Social Insurance Agency

Average monthly amount of benefit in €	January	February	March	April	May	June	First half of 2018
Sickness benefit	263.97	256.19	236.27	250.25	263.13	285.97	259.30
Nursing benefit	94.56	100.77	100.41	99.32	104.00	101.76	100.14
Equalization benefit	78.72	93.76	100.04	101.15	101.35	120.43	99.24
Maternity benefit	619.68	626.40	577.67	646.84	633.38	667.63	628.60

Average monthly amount of benefit in €	July	August	September	October	November	December	2018
Sickness benefit	277.32	289.34	289.27	270.77	278.74	275.77	268.02
Nursing benefit	101.64	109.47	113.66	104.68	107.52	102.10	102.72
Equalization benefit	109.60	129.15	83.81	88.44	97.06	83.97	100.22
Maternity benefit	654.68	680.81	684.92	669.76	691.81	673.55	653.41

Source: Social Insurance Agency

Type of benefit	Number of beneficiaries			Average monthly amount of benefit in €		
	males	females	total	males	females	total
Sickness benefit	305,582	338,683	644,265	277.34	256.08	268.02
Nursing benefit	39,094	107,634	146,728	124.36	95.06	102.72
Equalization benefit		323	323		100.22	100.22
Maternity benefit	12,836	63,334	76,170	840.11	614.98	653.41
Total	357,512	509,974	867,486	312.55	335.25	328.26

Source: Social Insurance Agency

Table 2 Number of Beneficiaries of Solo Paid Pensions and Overlapping with Widow's/Widower's Pension as at 31 December 2018

Pension type	Number of solo pension beneficiaries	Number of overlapping pensions beneficiaries (with widow's or widower's)	Total of beneficiaries
Old-age	771,997	297,258	1,069,255
Early old-age	14,157	722	14,879
Disability (including 15,553 so-called disabled at youth)	245,007	8,162	253,169
Widow's – solo	30,703	x	30,703
Widower's – solo	5,555	x	5,555
Orphan's	20,958	x	20,958
Spousal pension	287	x	287
Social	1,425	x	1,425
TOTAL	1,090,089	306,142	1,396,231

Source: Social Insurance Agency

Table 3 Number of Pension Beneficiaries and Amount of Solo Pension Insurance Benefits by Sex

Pension type	Number of beneficiaries as at 31 Dec 2018	Average amount as at 31 Dec 2018
Old-age	1,069,255	444.3
males	426,205	492.6
females	643,050	396.2
Early old-age	14,879	410.9
males	8,719	436.8
females	6,160	371.6
Disability	237,616	268.9
males	117,513	291.7
females	120,103	245.5
Widow's (females) solo	30,703	255.9
Widower's (males) solo	5,555	201.6
Orphan's	20,958	133.7
males	6,069	129.5
females	14,889	135.3
Total	1,378,966	x

Source: Social Insurance Agency

Table 4 Breakdown of Pension Beneficiaries by Pension Amount as at 31 December 2018

Pension amount in €	Number of pension beneficiaries : males + females total					
	Old-age solo + old-age overlapping with widow's or widower's	Early old-age solo + early old-age overlapping with widow's or widower's	Disability solo* + disability overlapping with widow's or widower's	Widow's-solo	Widower's-solo	Orphan's
up to 130	6,998	21	17,628	1,306	663	10,995
130.1 – 200	14,929	44	67,401	4,265	2,228	7,384
200.1 – 265	20,071	1,060	44,498	13,193	1,892	1,663
265.1 – 325	101,878	3,185	44,870	7,709	551	637
325.1 – 425	323,526	4,768	54,353	3,317	176	241
425.1 – 530	344,188	3,122	16,052	719	34	32
530.1 – 665	173,928	1,848	5,782	180	10	5
over 665.1	83,738	831	2,585	14	1	1
Total	1,069,256	14,879	253,169	30,703	5,555	20,958

Source: Social Insurance Agency

* including disability at youth pensions

Table 5 Overview of Pension Insurance Benefits Expenditure as at 31 December 2018

	Basic old-age insurance fund (BOIF) in thousand €	Basic disability insurance fund (BDIF) in thousand €	Total
<i>Pension type</i>	Expenditure	Expenditure	Expenditure
Old-age	5,472,742	x	5,472,742
Early old-age	93,768	x	93,768
Disability	x	785,798	785,798
Widow's	494,742	96,900	591,642
Widower's	53,670	14,045	67,715
Orphan's	1,518	34,115	35,633
Total	6,116,440	930,858	7,047,298
settlement of benefits under Section 112(9) of Act No. 461/2003 Coll.	54	245	299
total	6,116,494	931,103	7,047,597
State-paid benefits			
spousal pension			91
social pension			4,403
increase in pension due to immobility			3,137
increase due to sole source of income			22
resistance pension, increase for rehabilitation and deportation			3,476
extra payment for political prisoners			1,788
extra payment due to participation in the national struggle for liberation and to the widows and widowers of deceased participants			1,569
one-off financial contribution to political prisoners according to Act No. 462/2002 Coll.			0
supplement for civil service			351
disability at youth pension			56,186
increase in the amount of old-age pension and that of disability pension paid after reaching pension age to the amount of the minimum pension and reimbursement of the costs associated with the procedure for entitlement			15,981
compensation benefit			791
sports representative benefit			73
Christmas allowance – supplement for previous years			2,174
Christmas allowance – 2018			74,531
Total			164,573
Overall aggregate			7,212,170

Source: Social Insurance Agency

Table 6 Basic Accident Insurance Fund (BAIF) Expenditure in 2018

Type of benefit	in thousand €						
	January	February	March	April	May	June	First half of 2018
additional accidental benefit	435	511	361	444	441	467	2,658
injuries annuity	2,247	2,245	2,164	2,304	2,253	2,262	13,475
lump-sum settlement	19	13	10	5	18	34	100
survivor's injuries annuity	26	26	27	26	47	30	182
lump-sum compensation	129	65	3	11	34	67	310
professional rehabilitation and rehabilitation benefit	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
retraining and retraining benefit	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
pain compensation and compensation for difficulties with social reintegration	1,261	1,152	974	1,034	1,443	1,340	7,204
compensation of cost related to medical treatment	12	8	9	8	11	11	59
compensation of expenses related to funeral	9	0	3	0	4	5	21
payment of claims from previous years	0	0	1	40	0	0	41
Total	4,137	4,021	3,552	3,873	4,251	4,217	24,051
settlement of benefits under Section 112(8)	-1	0	18	-12	0	-22	-16
18 % transfer of funds to BOIF for receipt of injuries annuity	255	279	257	265	270	290	1,615
Total expenditure of BAIF	4,391	4,300	3,827	4,127	4,521	4,485	25,650
Type of benefit	July	August	September	October	November	December	2018
additional accidental benefit	416	417	431	419	436	416	5,194
injuries annuity	2,278	2,193	2,214	2,265	2,197	2,294	26,915
lump-sum settlement	9	17	5	11	12	10	165
survivor's injuries annuity	26	26	26	26	27	26	340
lump-sum compensation	0	26	24	45	73	70	548
professional rehabilitation and rehabilitation benefit	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
retraining and retraining benefit	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
pain compensation and compensation for difficulties with social reintegration	1,218	1,352	1,209	993	1,220	869	14,065
compensation of cost related to medical treatment	9	7	9	12	21	13	131
compensation of expenses related to funeral	4	8	8	8	7	4	60
payment of claims from previous years	24	0	61	11	0	0	137
Total	3,983	4,045	3,989	3,792	3,992	3,703	47,556
settlement of benefits under Section 112(8)	0	-9	0	0	-5	-5	-35
18 % transfer of funds to BOIF for receipt of injuries annuity	285	281	272	275	286	282	3,295
Total expenditure of BAIF	4,268	4,317	4,260	4,067	4,273	3,980	50,816

Source: Social Insurance Agency

Table 7 Average Amount and Number of Paid Accident Insurance Benefits in 2018

Type of benefit	Number of paid accident insurance benefits as at 31/12/2018	Average amount of paid accident insurance benefit in €
Compensation for loss of earnings during incapacity for work *	0	0
Compensation for loss of earnings after incapacity for work	0	0
Compensation for loss in pension	0	0
Reimbursement of maintenance of survivors	0	0
Compensation for pain	2	20,795.16
Compensation for difficulties with social reintegration	6	15,813.00
Compensation of cost related to medical treatment	26	51.86
Compensation of expenses related to funeral	0	0
Lump-sum compensation of survivors	0	0
Compensation for loss of earnings during incapacity for work after 1 January 2004	0	0
Pain compensation (Section 99 of SIA)**	8,599	723.37
Compensation for difficulties with social reintegration (Section 99 of SIA)	1,529	5,224.86
Compensation of cost related to medical treatment (Section 100 of SIA)	981	134.83
Compensation of expenses related to funeral (Section 101 of SIA)	35	1,707.86
Lump-sum settlement (Section 90 of SIA)	59	2,497.24
Lump-sum compensation (Section 94 of SIA)	52	10,891.64
Additional accidental benefit (Section 85 of SIA)	32,081	161.88
Professional rehabilitation and rehabilitation benefit	0	0
Retraining and retraining benefit	0	0
Injuries annuity	86,599	316.28
Survivor's injuries annuity	2,125	160.78

Source: Social Insurance Agency

* Benefits in lines 1 – 10 are paid under legislation in force and effect until 31 December 2003

** Benefits in lines 11 – 23 are paid according to the Social Insurance Act (including reclassified injuries annuities)

Table 8 State-paid Accident Insurance Benefits

	Number of benefits paid in 2018 (in thousand €)
Compensation of occupational accidents and occupational diseases of repealed employers founded by the State or the National Property Fund of the Slovak Republic	513
Claims arising from the employer's liability for damages in case of accidents at work and occupational diseases incurred before 1 April 2002 at an employer with the status of state authority given by a special regulation	41
Accident benefits provided to persons listed in Section 17(2) and (3) of the Social Insurance Act	14
State liability for injuries suffered by soldiers of compulsory military service (under Section 293(6))	16

Source: Social Insurance Agency

Table 9 Basic Guarantee Insurance Fund (BGIF) Expenditure in 2018

Period	BGIF expenditure in thousand €		
	for guarantee insurance benefit	payment of pension saving contributions	Total
January	29.60	1,804.81	1,834.41
February	358.00	247.70	605.69
March	205.74	1,780.67	1,986.41
April	207.34	1,083.24	1,290.57
May	101.35	215.80	317.15
June	214.26	1,876.55	2,090.82
July	113.48	1,213.87	1,327.35
August	242.12	1,380.69	1,622.81
September	745.85	1,195.85	1,941.70
October	82.49	1,211.46	1,293.95
November	209.97	1,329.04	1,539.01
December	68.92	190.06	258.99
2018	2,579.12	13,529.75	16,108.88

Source: Social Insurance Agency

Table 10 Paid Unemployment Benefits, Number of Cases and Average Benefit Amount in 2018

Month	Number of unemployment benefit recipients		Number of paid unemployment benefits		Average amount of unemployment benefit in €		Total unemployment benefit expenditure in thousand €	
	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018
	January	33,374	29,919	37,165	33,476	387.54	414.46	14,352
February	34,508	32,732	39,048	37,266	381.72	403.71	14,818	15,017
March	33,115	31,654	37,499	36,446	352.94	375.50	13,179	13,673
April	32,216	30,654	36,536	34,729	379.80	402.86	13,913	13,985
May	31,613	31,096	35,833	35,594	373.40	392.50	13,339	13,950
June	31,967	32,566	36,453	37,347	387.23	407.85	14,075	15,203
July	30,378	32,648	33,664	36,943	389.49	406.06	13,083	14,993
August	31,040	34,541	35,004	39,114	406.73	417.48	14,208	16,300
September	31,300	35,643	35,197	40,353	416.08	426.26	14,609	17,212
October	31,713	36,229	35,976	41,005	394.16	403.50	14,147	16,558
November	30,676	35,119	34,878	39,658	404.66	418.57	14,042	16,580
December	30,436	34,781	34,594	39,592	401.37	414.26	13,855	16,394
Total	118,786	124,222	431,847	451,523	x	x	167,621	183,723
Average	31,861	33,132	35,987	37,627	391.7	409.7	13,968	15,310

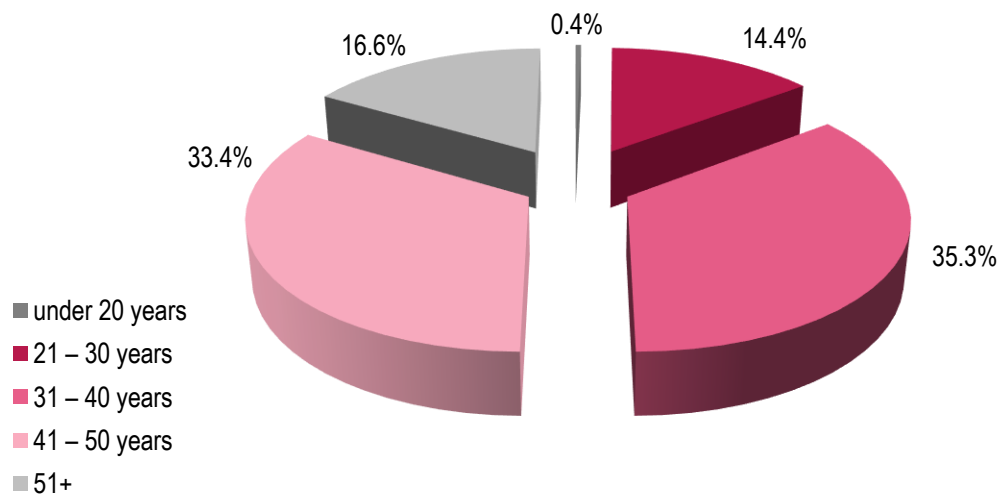
Source: Social Insurance Agency

Table 11 Number of Unemployment Benefit Recipients by Age and Gender in 2018

Age groups	Gender		
	males	females	total
under 19 years	8	2	10
20 – 24 years	4,193	3,160	7,353
25 – 29 years	9,615	9,107	18,722
30 – 34 years	9,286	10,248	19,534
35 – 39 years	8,448	10,202	18,650
40 – 44 years	7,533	9,360	16,893
45 – 49 years	5,539	7,451	12,990
50 – 54 years	5,457	6,930	12,387
55 – 59 years	5,239	6,719	11,958
over 60 years	3,362	2,308	5,670
unknown	27	28	55
Total	58,707	65,515	124,222

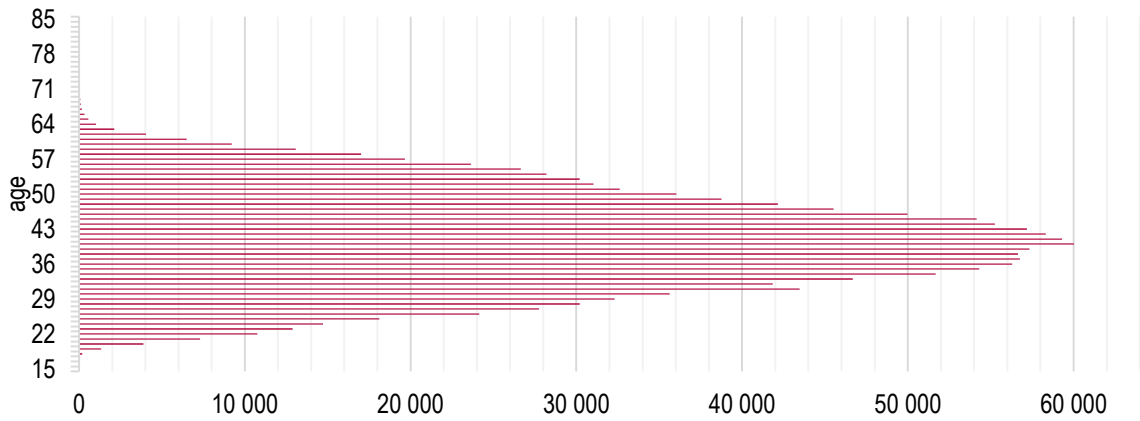
Source: Social Insurance Agency

Graph 1 Distribution of Savers in the II. Pillar by Age as at 31 December 2018



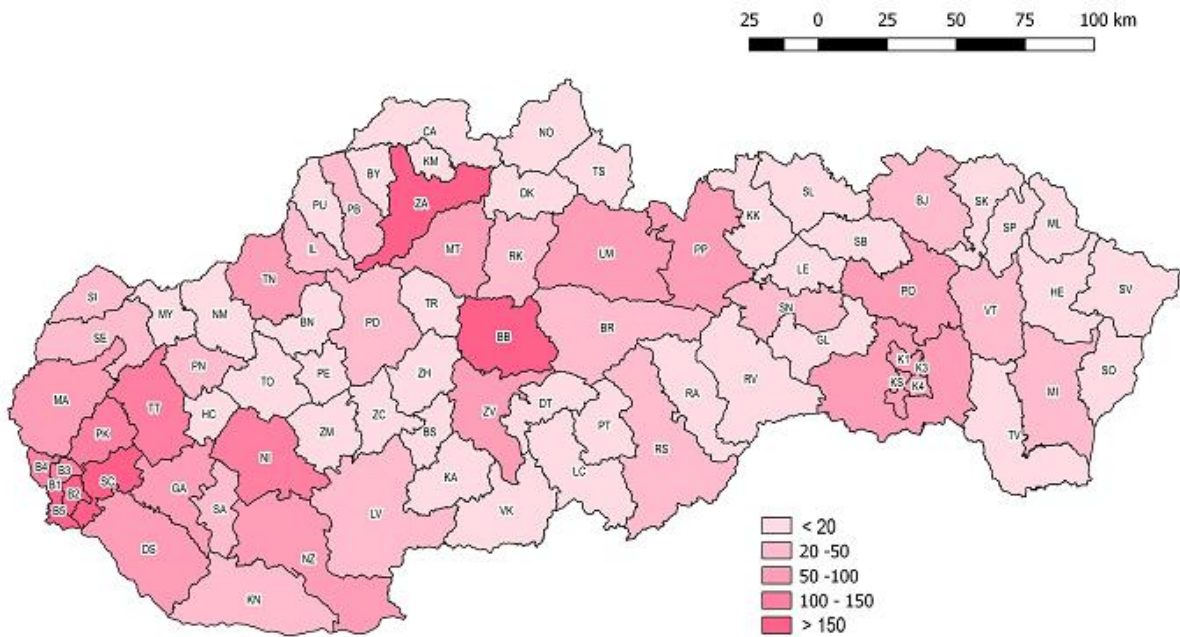
Source: Social Insurance Agency; processed by: MoLSAF

Graph 2 Age Distribution of Savers in the II. Pillar as at 31 December 2018



Source: Social Insurance Agency; processed by: MoLSAF

Graph 3 Regional Distribution of Childcare Allowance Beneficiaries, Average Monthly Number of Beneficiaries in 2018



Map background © Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre Authority of Slovak Republic

Source: RSD MIS

Graph 4 Regional Distribution of Persons in the Material Need Assistance System, Share of These Persons in the Total Population as at 31 December 2018

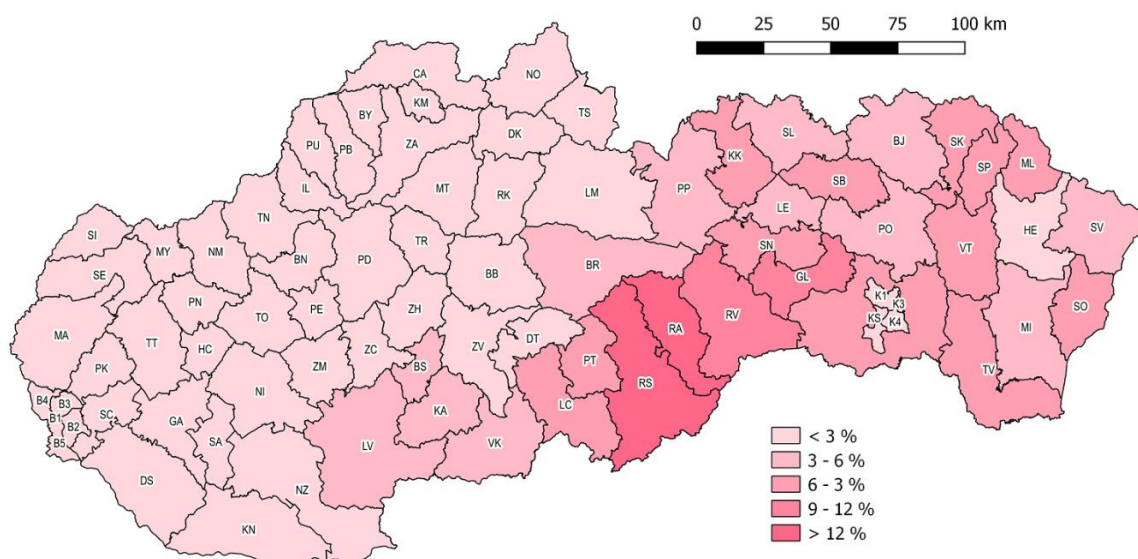


Table 12 Number of Beneficiaries and Social Reintegration Allowance Spending in 2017 and 2018

	number of beneficiaries	spending
2017	3,423	194,619
2018	3,112	197,054

Source: RSD MIS

Table 13 Assistance Provided to Maltreated, Sexually Abused and Bullied Children in 2018

Assistance provided to maltreated, sexually abused and bullied children		Physical maltreatment	Psychological maltreatment	Sexual abuse	Bullying	Exploitation for commercial purposes (pornography, prostitution)	Child Abuse and Neglect (CAN Syndrome)	Total	
Number of registered children	Total	124	28	218	10	9	870	1,259	
	of which	under 6 years	37	3	13	1	0	316	370
		under 15 years	69	12	101	5	5	422	614
		under 18 years	18	13	104	4	4	132	275
Number of the authority's motions to institute a prosecution		total	26	5	87	2	0	19	139

Source: V(MoLSAF)12-01

Table 14 Children Placed in Facilities for Court Decision Enforcement /Preliminary Injunction, Upbringing Injunction, Institutional Care and Protective Care/ as at 31 December

Facility for court decision enforcement		2017	2018
Crisis centres		270	140
Social reintegration centres		65	31
Diagnostic centres		46	51
Social services homes		37	26
Children's homes		4,295	4,437
Re-education homes	IC	455	521
	PC	24	17

Source: V(MoLSAF)12-01

Note: IS – institutional care, PC – protective care

Table 15 Individual Forms of Care in Children's Homes

Form of care	2017	2018
Professional families	639	612
Separate groups	273	278
Other groups	148	151

Source: V(MoLSAF) 5-01

Table 16 Number of Children and Young Adults in Individual Forms of Care in Children's Homes as at 31 December

Number of children	2017	2018
placed in a professional family	1,373	1,310
placed in a separate group	2,421	2,647
placed in other group	789	790

Source: V(MoLSAF) 5-01

Table 17 Total Number of Children Entrusted to Individual Forms of Alternative Family Care in 2017 and 2018

Year	Alternative personal care	Foster care	Guardianship	Total
2017	6,634	1,548	557	8,739
2018	6,647	1,411	582	8,640

Source: V(MoLSAF)12-01

Table 18 Basic Statistics on Activities of DAPs in 2017 and 2018

Year	Number of cases	Number of clients	Number of consultations
2017	9,410	21,038	80,268
2018	8,843	19,980	66,203

Source: Annual Report on Performance of Advisory and Psychological Services

Table 19 Activities of the Departments of Advisory and Psychological Services in 2017 and 2018

Issue	2017		2018	
	Number of cases	Number of consultations	Number of cases	Number of consultations
Family	1,773	7,338	1,566	7,249
Divorce and after-divorce	2,423	11,984	2,548	13,495
Partnership, marriage	703	3,435	661	3,537
Personality	580	2,892	525	3,031
Alternative family care	2,409	24,505	2,076	16,389
Other/Various	350	976	321	801
Drug or other addiction	117	732	125	701
Professional family	101	3,367	98	1,863
Crisis intervention	42	123	37	164
Upbringing injunctions	912	24,916	886	18,973
Total	8,700	80,268	8,843	66,203

Source: Annual Report on Performance of Advisory and Psychological Services

Table 20 Allowance for the Provision of Social Services in Facilities Conditional upon Dependence

Degree of a natural person's dependence on the help of others	Amount of allowance for the provision of housing social service/month/place	Amount of allowance for the provision of outpatient social service/month/place occupied for at least 8 hours
II. degree	€87.00	€43.50
III. degree	€195.75	€97.88
IV. degree	€261.00	€130.50
V. degree	€369.75	€184.88
VI. degree	€456.75	€228.38

Table 21 Allowance for the Provision of Social Services in Crisis Intervention Facilities

Type of social service	Amount of allowance per place in a facility for a month	Amount of allowance per place in a facility for a financial year
night shelters	€120.00	€1,440.00
refuges	€150.00	€1,800.00
“halfway houses” (refuges for young adults who grew up in institutional care)	€150.00	€1,800.00
emergency housing facilities	€150.00	€1,800.00

Table 22 Number of Registered Social Services

Type of social service	Total number of registered social services	providers established or founded by a higher territorial unit (self-governing region)	of which	
			municipalities and providers established or founded by a municipality	non-public providers
Basic social counselling	175	4	10	161
Specialised social counselling	196	10	1	185
Field crisis intervention social services	58	1	18	39
Low-threshold day-care centres	33	0	9	24
Integration centres	7	1	1	5
Community centres	355	0	229	126
Night shelters	54	1	34	19
Refuges	102	15	30	57
"Halfway houses" (refuges for young adults who grew up in institutional care)	26	3	0	23
Low-threshold social services for children and family	57	0	27	30
Emergency housing facilities	38	6	7	25
Personal childcare assistance	8		7	1
Temporary childcare facilities	3	2	1	0
Services to support work-life balance	21	0	1	20
Care facilities for children under three years of age	194	0	39	155
Early intervention service	73	26	0	47
Assisted living facilities	77	36	7	34
Facilities for the elderly	494	81	142	271
Type of social service	Total number of registered social services	providers established or founded by a higher territorial unit (self-governing region)	of which	
			municipalities and providers established or founded by a municipality	non-public providers
Nursing service facilities	151	0	81	70
Rehabilitation centres	40	17	0	23
Social services homes	497	312	35	150
Specialised facilities	282	143	10	129
Day-care centres	257	1	79	177
Nursing service	1272	0	952	320
Transport service	171	2	81	88
Guide and reading service	10	0	0	10
Interpreting service	16	0	0	16
Arranging interpreting service	2	0	0	2
Arranging personal assistance	16	0	2	14
Aids and devices lending	97	0	27	70
Monitoring and signalling the need for assistance	13	0	8	5
Emergency assistance provided through telecommunication technologies	23	0	1	22
Assistance in the exercise of custody rights and performance of obligations	13	2	2	9
Day-care centres	259	2	253	4
Support for independent living	6	4	0	2
Canteens	192	18	126	48
Laundrettes	34	0	27	7
Personal hygiene centres	30	0	20	10

TOTAL	5,352	687	2,267	2,398
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Source: Central Register of Social Services

Table 23 Nursing Service

	Number of clients		Providers' employees (recalculated numbers)		Providers' revenue from payments (in €)	Providers' expenditure (in €)
	2017	2018	2017	2018	2018	2018
municipalities	13,163	13,187	5,590	5,747	6,680,886	41,430,571
non-public providers	3,894	2,807	3,762	2,778	3,439,275	14,933,066
TOTAL	17,057	15,994	9,352	8,525	10,120,161	56,363,637

Source: V(MoLSAF) 11-01 and V(MoLSAF) 07-01

Table 24 Independent Professional Activities (Non-public Providers)

Type of social service	Number of services		Number of recipients		Employees (recalculated numbers)		Providers' revenue (in €)	Providers' expenditure (in €)
	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	2018	2018
basic social counselling	66	51	8,794	9,090	132	182	194,803	304,847
specialised social counselling	73	62	17,757	18,027	221	171	1,600,094	1,697,128
social rehabilitation	10	8	1,302	851	32	11	156,726	319,671
TOTAL	149	121	27,853	27,968	385	364	1,951,623	2,321,646

Source: V(MoLSAF) 07-01

Table 25 Number and Capacity of Social Service Facilities

Type of facility	Number of SSFs as at 31 Dec 2016	Total	Number of beds as at 31/12/2016 of which, care provided				Number of SSFs as at 31 Dec 2017	Total	Number of beds as at 31/12/2017 of which, care provided		
			all year round	weekly	daily	temporarily			all year round	weekly	daily
Social service facilities in total	1,292	51,125	40,646	598	6,968	2,913	1,435	51,476	42,857	645	7,974
of which											
social services homes	280	13,934	11,822	490	459	5	291	13,273	11,165	500	1,608
facilities for the elderly	362	18,204	18,140	1	63	0	387	18,467	18,330	1	136
specialised facilities	136	6,229	6,067	17	145	0	153	6,860	6,641	32	187
day-care centres	195	5,148	112	30	4,326	680	260	5,357	10	61	5,286
assisted living facilities	34	574	574	0	0	0	37	566	566	0	0
emergency housing facilities	30	642	381	0	20	241	34	654	654	0	0
refuges	77	2,030	1,457	0	16	557	81	1,997	1,997	0	0
rehabilitation centres	24	727	27	32	666	2	26	571	44	23	504
nursing service facilities	100	2,309	1,651	28	30	600	108	2,388	2,324	28	36
night shelters	38	1,088	189	0	85	814	41	1,088	871	0	217
half-way houses	16	240	226	0	0	14	17	255	255	0	0

Source: Selected data from SO SR – Social Service Facilities in the Slovak Republic; data for 2018 are not available at the time of the Report preparation

Table 26 Number of Social Service Recipients in Social Service Facilities

Type of facility	Recipients as at 31 Dec 2016	Recipients as at 31 Dec 2017	persons of pensionable age	antipsychotic treatment	taking antidepressants	nursed as bedridden	of which in 2017				
							deprived of legal capacity	limited legal capacity	foreigners	men/ boys	women/ girls
social services homes	13393	12,651	4,837	6,248	2,809	7,010	5,601	408	4	6,702	5,949
facilities for the elderly	17,540	18,089	17,944	5,039	4,480	9,728	282	190	28	4,955	13,134
specialised facilities	5,887	6,579	5,082	3,108	1,955	4,420	1,487	140	9	2,508	4,071
day-care centres	4,891	4,925	4,046	210	299	363	112	51	2	1,655	3,270
assisted living facilities	534	536	42	228	135	97	149	27	0	334	202
emergency housing facilities	574	509	10	1	11	0	0	2	2	175	334
refuges	1,860	1,853	281	126	123	30	6	9	3	1,110	743
rehabilitation centres	614	569	130	71	45	35	47	7	0	271	298
nursing service facilities	2,178	2,268	2,096	538	509	1,057	36	39	2	683	1,585
night shelters	7,158	6,807	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
half-way houses	219	272	4	21	8	0	0	0	2	188	84
TOTAL	54,848	55,058	34,472	15,590	10,374	22,740	7,720	873	52	18,581	29,670

Source: Selected data from SO SR – Social Service Facilities in the Slovak Republic; data for 2018 are not available at the time of the Report preparation

Table 27 Expenditure of Social Service Facilities

Type of facility / establisher / founder	Total expenditure (in €) in 2016	of which					Total expenditure (in €) in 2017	of which				
		current expenditure	wages and salaries	statutory social security contributions	acquisition of assets	on health care		current expenditure	wages and salaries	statutory social security contributions	acquisition of assets	on health care
TOTAL	404,883,075	141,375,643	183,239,886	64,804,640	8,992,578	804,306	441,448,921	143,662,785	203,130,311	71,915,652	16,956,739	814,161
social services homes	139,901,059	42,356,920	67,081,284	23,755,748	4,381,970	141,006	146,789,429	41,048,528	69,848,448	24,909,694	9,524,204	265,837
facilities for the elderly	155,908,760	60,595,742	66,916,678	23,552,745	2,471,804	447,579	169,218,322	62,511,505	74,361,879	26,207,953	3,575,729	318,388
specialised facilities	59,034,817	19,500,738	27,906,402	9,795,641	1,011,570	150,089	71,910,191	22,094,649	34,533,713	12,095,485	2,527,416	117,428
day-care centres	11,988,772	5,519,367	4,430,338	1,654,482	72,002	6,760	12,481,839	4,655,314	5,538,210	1,997,435	68,263	5,609
assisted living facilities	3,697,332	1,316,790	1,627,173	584,825	130,055	1,605	3,802,601	1,159,284	1,758,289	628,442	152,429	791
emergency housing facilities	2,740,571	944,640	1,209,454	434,009	26,832	5,809	3,355,260	904,356	1,200,583	458,671	588,727	910
refuges	5,681,566	2,017,274	2,266,466	830,951	435,938	3,907	5,743,036	1,972,568	2,484,335	883,794	250,333	5,881
rehabilitation centres	3,350,745	901,755	1,718,474	603,810	81,155	397	3,267,717	813,914	1,746,113	607,795	56,357	534
nursing service facilities	19,821,129	7,009,247	9,017,928	3,210,047	346,171	45,984	21,897,073	7,345,524	10,428,829	3,688,783	167,689	97,062
night shelters	1,832,270	856,479	648,654	233,871	6,614	0	2,184,065	877,698	897,976	313,093	22,220	1,081
half-way houses	748,277	329,043	291,502	102,295	4,800	0	799,388	279,445	331,936	124,507	23,372	640

Source: Selected data from SO SR – Social Service Facilities in the Slovak Republic; data for 2018 are not available at the time of the Report preparation

Table 28 Employees of Social Service Facilities (Total) in 2016 and 2017

Type of facility	Average registered number of employees recalculated	Average registered number of employees recalculated
	2016	2017
social services homes	8,873	8,275
facilities for the elderly	9,142	9,219
specialised facilities	3,922	4,310
day-care centres	804	888
assisted living facilities	223	212
emergency housing facilities	152	155
refuges	345	335
rehabilitation centres	220	217
nursing service facilities	1,305	1,285
night shelters	123	171
“halfway houses” (refuges for young adults who grew up in institutional care)	41	39
TOTAL	25,150	25,106

Source: Selected data of SO SR – Social Service Facilities in the Slovak Republic;
data for 2018 are not available at the time of the Report preparation

Table 29 Selected Types of Social Services Provided by Municipalities, Higher Territorial Units or Non-public Social Service Providers as at 31 December 2018

Type of social service	Number of services		Number of recipients		Employees (recalculated numbers)		Providers' revenue (in €)		Providers' expenditure (in €)	
	municipalities and higher territorial units	non-public providers	municipalities and higher territorial units	non-public providers	municipalities and higher territorial units	non-public providers	municipalities and higher territorial units	non-public providers	municipalities and higher territorial units	non-public providers
low-threshold day-care centres	8	11	990	2139	13	535	157,742	418,322	174,169	447,325
personal childcare assistance	3	0	1	0	1	0	430	0	2,829	0
temporary childcare facilities	3	0	55	0	35	0	270,354	0	270,359	0
low-threshold social services for children and family	11	32	1,429	6922	50	84	221,641	178,862	237,104	200,370
transport service		55	9,757	4917	35	85	297,273	570,634	388,496	689,680
guide and reading service	0	3	0	27	0	4	0	981	0	951
interpreting service	0	8	0	546	0	20	0	180,152	0	200,629
arranging interpreting service	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1,100	0	1,021
arranging personal assistance	4	7	4	389	0	4	1,705	32,647	1,705	33,758
aids and devices lending	21	29	369	1285	8	32	16,676	83,283	15,160	62,764
monitoring and signalling the need for assistance	7	1	93	265	3	10	8,017	95,388	14,352	94,380
emergency assistance through telecommunication technologies	0	11	0	1525	0	47	0	63,468	0	60,764
assistance in the exercise of custody rights and performance of obligations	6	2	12	19	5	4	12,168	2,260	12,153	2,189
day-care centres	222	5	42,458	133	443	32	1,762,432	240,286	2,526,673	243,386
integration centres	1	3	10	89	1	5	7,375	48,585	7,375	48,483
canteens	92	22	21,930	4499	282	100	4,871,891	613,546	5,634,481	704,150
laundrettes	20	6	2,048	228	19	14	33,830	15,208	131,053	15,324
personal hygiene centres	19	8	3,856	1327	8	30	31,767	65,396	60,496	71,357
community centres	84	37	21,509	18219	253	167	2,984,411	1,160,920	3,947,077	1,003,454
support for independent living	3	2	19	31	4	10	26,703	10,158	13,513	10,788
early intervention service	13	17	230	989	31	105	386,339	996,389	359,404	1,050,386
field crisis intervention social services	43	21	8,743	2261	95	86	888,342	215,700	981,136	221,055
services to support work-life balance	3	10	0	28	0	16	0	96,513	0	68,640
care facilities for children under three years of age	59	144	831	1835	235	449	3,304,938	3,470,669	4,049,725	3,322,990
TOTAL	622	435	114,344	47,674	1,521	1,840	15,284,034	8,560,467	18,827,260	8,553,844.08

Report on the Social Situation of the Population of the Slovak Republic for 2018
Annex to Chapter 3

Source: V(MoLSAF) 10-01, V(MoLSAF) 11-01 and V(MoLSAF) 07-01

Table 30 Number of Applicants for the Provision of Social Services in Selected Types of Social Services Facilities

Type of social service facility		Number of applicants as at 31/12/2017	Number of applicants as at 31/12/2018	
Social services homes	for children	with physical disabilities	4	4
		with mental and behavioural disorders	60	64
		with physical disabilities, mental disorders and behavioural disorders	66	79
	for adults	with physical disabilities	135	91
		with mental and behavioural disorders	523	510
		with sensory disabilities	25	12
		with multiple disabilities	1,130	988
Facilities for the elderly		4,541	5,525	
Assisted living facilities		68	115	
Rehabilitation centres		4	17	
Specialised facilities		1,316	1,986	
TOTAL for SR		7,699	9,586	

Source: V(MoLSAF) 10- 01

Table 31 Number of Employees, Wages and Selected Wage Items in Social Service Facilities, by Aggregated Occupation Categories, 2018

Category of employees	of which													
	Number of employees	of which females	Total of wages	Total salary	Functional salary	scale salary	extra pay for management	personal bonus	wage compensation	shift differential	Bonuses	Pay for overtime	Additional and extra pays	
	(persons)	(persons)	(€)	[€/ month]	[€/ month]	[€/ month]	[€/ month]	[€/ month]	[€/ month]	[€/ month]	[€/ month]	[€/ month]	[€/ month]	
TOTAL	16,732	14,719	130,665,084	805	563	438	7	105	6	7	84	6	58	
Professional and administrative staff	950	783	11,225,813	1,121	811	563	47	198	2	1	149	2	21	
Special-needs teachers	87	77	888,399	960	687	562	4	114	5	1	103	4	15	
Assistant special-needs teachers	66	64	506,156	764	485	406	0	72	0	6	112	2	80	
Employees ensuring healthcare provision	1,290	1,260	12,966,500	989	671	522	10	116	10	10	97	13	92	
Auxiliary healthcare employees	918	850	7,298,874	798	527	404	1	97	11	13	84	9	95	
Employees performing social agenda	191	170	1,767,991	886	640	504	11	116	5	4	85	3	40	
Employees performing social work	1,083	949	9,875,121	884	647	511	8	121	4	2	99	1	19	
Ergotherapists	178	147	1,412,556	804	611	471	2	127	11	0	79	0	6	
Psychologists	43	40	335,704	891	689	556	5	122	5	0	86	0	3	
Special pedagogues	23	20	248,538	1,030	764	654	16	89	0	1	76	0	5	
Professional care workers	3,331	3,105	23,361,536	745	496	396	0	81	7	12	73	13	85	
Craft and manual employees	1,968	1,454	12,439,263	643	465	369	0	86	6	3	73	3	26	
Catering staff	1,157	1,047	7,918,375	718	498	391	3	95	1	8	78	5	58	
Unspecified	5,447	4,753	40,420,258	790	561	436	7	104	7	6	77	4	58	

Source: WAGES (MoLSAF) 1-02

Violations of Act No. 460/1992 Coll. – the Constitution of the Slovak Republic, the Social Services Act and other generally binding legal regulations

a) Violations of Act No. 460/1992 Coll., the Constitution of the Slovak Republic:

- restriction of the freedom of movement of social service recipients - restriction of the number of days of stay outside a facility subject to the approval of a request by the director of the facility; if not approved, the stay is designated as “unauthorised” with full payment for a non-provided social service;
- imposing bans and orders without legal grounds – in notices on entrances, visiting hours specified in internal regulations, ban on visits to rooms, ban on alcohol in facilities for the elderly under threat of contract termination, ordering seniors to clean their rooms etc.

b) Violations of the Social Services Act:

- failure to respect the rights of recipients of the year-round residential (housing) social service – unavailability of information on payment for social service in a comprehensible form, failure to enable, through selected representatives, to participate in the determination of living conditions in a facility with regard to issues related to the conditions and quality of providing social service, the concealment of the recipients’ right to compensation for damage caused by a social service provider (Section 6);
- failure by social service providers to fulfil their obligations – disregard for individual needs, failure to provide social services at a professional level (Section 7);
- failure by social service providers to fulfil their obligations in planning the provision of social services according to individual needs, abilities and goals of social service recipients – failure to draw up individual plans or programmes of social rehabilitation (Section 9(1) and (2));
- failure to observe the maximum number of social service recipients per employee and the minimum percentage of professional staff of the total number of employees (Section 9(4));
- failure to meet conditions for the quality of the social service provided and notify employees and social service recipients of the procedures, rules and conditions of the provision of social services (Section 9(8) and (9));
- failure by social service providers to fulfil their obligations – failure to draw up and implement a supervision programme (Section 9(12));
- failure by social service providers to fulfil their obligations in the protection of life, health and dignity – failure to maintain a register of physical and non-physical restraints on social service recipients, failure to record restraints, the use of unauthorised restrictions (net bed); failure to submit records of the use of restraints to the ministry, a court-appointed guardian or a relative (Section 10);
- breach by social service providers of the obligation in the performance of professional, service and other activities, in ensuring the performance of such activities or creating conditions for their performance to the extent stipulated by law for the type of social service they provide – failure to provide professional, service and other activities for a given type of social service, the provision of only basic social counselling, failure to provide help for dependent social care recipients to the extent specified in the report on dependence (Sections 15 to 18 in conjunction with Sections 35, 38, 39, 40);
- failure to respect a social service recipient’s need for special diet, the provision of meals unsuitable for diabetics, failure to allow social service recipients to choose from the number of meals provided (Section 17(4) and (5));
- non-publication of a price list, setting a fee for social service contrary to the price list – a non-public social service provider, charging a fee for activities for which a social service recipient shall not pay under the Social Services Act, failure by social service providers to monitor social service recipients’ income to set a fee, failure by social service providers to monitor social service recipients’ assets, failure to request a declaration of a natural person’s assets containing an attested signature or accepting the declaration without indicating whether or not the natural person has assets exceeding 10,000 euros (Section 72);

- failure to monitor a social service recipient's income, ascertaining a social service recipient's income to set a fee for a wrong period, failure to monitor the income of jointly assessed persons (Section 72a);
 - not guaranteeing the balance of a social service recipient's income or guaranteeing the balance of income in contravention of the Social Services Act (Section 73);
 - concluding contracts for social services in an incomprehensible way for a social service recipient (Section 74);
 - concluding contracts which are mixed in nature, imposing the obligation to pay the fee by a contract for social services only upon a so-called "acceding person" and not upon a social service recipient or upon both a social service recipient and other person, entering into contracts which do not contain particulars prescribed by law (Section 74);
 - concluding contracts for social services which only specify a total fee without itemising it for individual professional, service and other activities; inclusion of a fee for other activities under Section 15(3) in a fee for social service (Section 74);
 - increasing a fee for social service without legal grounds specified in the Social Services Act or without a concluded amendment to a contract for social services, defining its own reasons for termination by social service providers of a contract for social services in violation of the Social Services Act (Section 74);
 - violation of the legal obligation relating to qualifications required for employees of social service providers (Section 84);
 - signature of a contract for social services by other person on behalf of a social service recipient without a power of attorney, a court judgement or a certificate of health issued by an attending physician (Section 92(6));
- c) **Violations of Act No. 40/1964 Coll., the Civil Code**, as amended, when concluding a contract for social services or a contract for other activities – Section 43, Section 710(3) and (4);
- d) **Violations of Act No. 447/2008 Coll. on Allowances for Compensation for Severe Disabilities**, as amended, in conjunction with Section 72(8) of the Social Services Act, in monitoring the income and assets of social service recipients;
- e) **Violations of provisions of the founder's/establisher's generally binding regulation** (this applies to public social service providers);
- f) **Violations of provisions of a contract for social services**, mainly non-compliance with obligations thereunder.

Table 32 Gross Social Protection Expenditure, 2016

Area	Social protection expenditure as % of GDP	Social protection expenditure in PPS per capita	Social benefits expenditure by function (in %)					
			Old age + survivors	Sickness/health care	Disability	Family/children	Unemployment	Housing, social exclusion
EU28	28.1	8,233.3	45.6	29.5	7.4	8.7	4.6	4.2
EU15	28.9	9,090.2	45.3	29.6	7.4	8.6	4.8	4.3
EA19	29.2	9,162.9	46.1	29.4	7.2	8.2	5.6	3.5
Belgium	29.6	10,065.7	44.9	26.6	8.6	7.5	9.0	3.3
Bulgaria	17.5	2,730.4	50.0	27.5	7.4	10.4	3.2	1.6
Czech Republic	18.9	5,204.3	47.0	32.4	6.4	8.8	2.6	2.8
Denmark	31.1	10,940.7	42.8	20.6	13.1	11.4	4.7	7.4
Germany	29.4	10,998.0	38.7	34.9	8.0	11.4	3.5	3.4
Estonia	16.6	3,858.4	41.8	29.8	11.4	13.0	2.9	1.1
Ireland	15.8	7,192.5	33.7	38.1	5.4	8.6	10.1	4.1
Greece	26.2	5,219.5	65.1	20.5	5.9	4.0	3.7	0.9
Spain	24.3	6,315.1	50.4	27.6	7.1	5.4	8.1	1.5
France	34.3	10,843.0	45.5	28.6	6.4	7.6	6.2	5.6
Croatia	21.3	3,875.9	43.3	33.4	10.9	8.6	2.4	1.5
Italy	29.5	8,141.6	57.8	23.1	5.8	6.2	6.1	1.0
Cyprus	19.1	4,616.3	56.2	18.5	4.2	7.1	5.5	8.4
Latvia	15.1	2,889.5	49.0	25.0	9.1	11.1	4.7	1.2
Lithuania	15.4	3,568.9	45.9	31.4	9.3	7.8	3.3	2.3
Luxembourg	21.9	14,627.7	39.5	24.6	10.8	15.4	5.8	3.9
Hungary	19.1	3,956.2	50.0	27.6	6.3	11.9	1.7	2.4
Malta	16.4	4,583.1	52.5	33.0	3.6	5.9	2.7	2.3
Netherlands	29.5	10,777.4	42.6	32.9	9.4	4.0	4.7	6.4
Austria	29.9	11,077.7	50.0	25.3	6.3	9.6	5.8	3.0
Poland	20.3	4,485.8	55.6	23.2	6.7	12.8	0.9	0.8
Portugal	25.1	5,556.0	57.9	25.2	7.2	4.9	3.8	1.0
Romania	14.6	2,699.1	54.6	27.1	6.9	9.6	0.6	1.2
Slovenia	23.3	5,526.7	48.1	33.2	5.3	7.5	2.6	3.2
Slovakia	18.3	4,315.3	45.0	32.5	8.8	9.0	3.0	1.7
Finland	31.9	10,197.6	43.4	22.7	9.9	9.9	8.3	5.9
Sweden	29.6	10,222.4	43.2	25.9	10.9	10.3	3.5	6.2
United Kingdom	26.2	7,764.0	42.3	32.6	6.6	9.9	1.4	7.2

Preliminary data: EU28, EU15, EA19, DE, ES, IT, LV, LT, HU, SI, SK, SE, UK

Source: Eurostat ESSPROS, data extracted on 05/05/2019

Table 33 Social Protection Receipts, 2016

Area	Receipts as % of GDP	Receipts in PPS per capita	Employers' social contributions	Structure of receipts (%)		
				Social contributions paid by protected persons	General government contributions	Other receipts
EU28	29.6	8,677	34.9	19.7	40.4	5.1
EU15	30.6	9,596	34.4	19.5	41.2	5.0
EA19	30.1	9,417	36.4	22.5	37.8	3.3
Belgium	29.5	10,009	39.4	19.8	39.0	1.8
Bulgaria	18.7	2,923	32.2	20.0	46.3	1.6
Czech Republic	19.4	5,355	49.7	24.2	24.7	1.4
Denmark	35.1	12,345	9.6	7.2	77.0	6.2
Germany	31.2	11,657	34.2	30.6	33.5	1.7
Estonia	16.2	3,766	77.8	1.2	21.0	0.1
Ireland	16.4	7,461	29.2	9.4	58.8	2.7
Greece	25.9	5,156	32.2	23.1	39.3	5.3
Spain	22.8	5,931	42.6	13.2	42.3	1.9
France	34.4	10,858	41.3	18.9	36.7	3.1
Croatia	22.9	4,171	26.9	31.8	38.5	2.8
Italy	30.2	8,340	34.8	14.8	48.4	2.1
Cyprus	19.2	4,641	23.7	21.6	49.8	5.0
Latvia	15.3	2,923	40.7	16.6	42.1	0.6
Lithuania	16.8	3,904	56.4	19.2	23.6	0.8
Luxembourg	24.7	16,495	26.4	23.3	43.2	7.2
Hungary	18.9	3,915	42.1	27.4	30.5	0.0
Malta	16.4	4,581	27.3	11.1	59.4	2.1
Netherlands	33.5	12,260	29.3	33.6	23.0	14.1
Austria	29.5	10,923	36.1	26.2	36.5	1.3
Poland	20.7	4,564	47.0	20.2	18.9	13.9
Portugal	26.7	5,915	29.8	15.6	46.0	8.7
Romania	15.2	2,803	40.7	29.2	29.3	0.8
Slovenia	22.9	5,423	27.3	40.9	30.6	1.2
Slovakia	19.2	4,518	46.6	21.6	28.9	3.0
Finland	32.8	10,516	33.9	13.3	47.8	5.0
Sweden	32	11,057	38.2	8.8	50.9	2.1
United Kingdom	30.8	9,146	28.2	9.9	48.8	13.1

Preliminary data: EU28, EU15, EA19, DE, GR, ES, IT, LV, LT, HU, SI, SK, SE, UK

Source: Eurostat ESSPROS, data extracted on 05/06/2019

Table 34 Pensions Expenditure and Pensions Expenditure Structure, 2016

Area	Total pensions expenditure				Pensions structure expenditure by category (%)					
	in € per capita (at constant 2010 prices)	in PPS per capita	as % of GDP	old-age pension	anticipated old-age pension	partial pension	disability pension	early retirement due reduced work capacity	to survivor's pension	early retirement due labour market reasons
EU28	3,437.04	3,695.44	12.6	76.6	3.1	0.0	6.6	2.0	11.4	0.2
EU15	4,038.07	4,048.88	12.9	76.8	2.8	0.0	6.5	2.1	11.5	0.2
EA19	3,999.36	4,179.92	13.3	74.7	3.3	0.0	5.9	2.2	13.6	0.3
Belgium	4,286	4,246	12.5	69.5	0.0	0.0	13.8	0.0	14.0	2.7
Bulgaria	531.87	1,315	8.4	77.4	10.4	0.0	8.8	0.0	3.5	0.0
Czech Republic	1,407	2,329	8.4	81.3	1.8	0.0	9.9	0.0	7.0	0.0
Denmark	5,911	4,444	12.6	66.5	5.2	0.0	0.1	15.2	13.1	0.0
Germany	4,184	4,396	11.8	73.7	3.3	0.0	1.1	6.6	15.2	0.1
Estonia	1,109	1,841	7.9	61.4	22.6	0.0	15.2	0.0	0.7	0.0
Ireland	3,065	2,600	5.7	81.1	0.0	0.0	13.4	0.0	5.5	0.1
Greece	3,033	3,488	17.5	78.6	0.0	0.0	6.5	0.0	14.7	0.2
Spain	2,857	3,264	12.6	64.2	6.8	0.0	10.6	0.0	18.4	0.0
France	4,868	4,770	15.1	81.7	0.0	0.0	7.1	0.1	10.9	0.2
Croatia	1,149	1,900	10.4	53.2	13.7	0.0	15.7	0.0	17.3	0.0
Italy	4,219	4,434	16.1	72.4	6.7	0.0	1.7	2.6	16.0	0.6
Cyprus	2,171	2,417	10	74.2	8.3	0.0	1.3	2.4	13.8	0.0
Latvia	863.86	1,461	7.6	86.1	2.5	0.0	9.9	0.0	1.5	0.0
Lithuania	839.19	1,583	6.8	79.1	3.6	0.0	12.7	0.0	4.6	0.0
Luxembourg	7,883	6,282	9.4	53.2	19.3	0.0	8.2	0.0	17.7	1.7
Hungary	995.83	1,778	8.6	81.2	6.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	12.1	0.0
Malta	1,545	2,073	7.4	78.3	0.0	0.0	5.0	0.0	16.3	0.4
Netherlands	5,089	4,737	13	76.9	0.0	0.0	14.5	0.0	8.6	0.0
Austria	5,185	5,323	14.4	76.3	4.5	0.0	7.2	0.0	11.8	0.1
Poland	1304.53	2522.76	11.4	69.5	8.0	0.0	7.7	0.1	14.5	0.1
Portugal	2,512	3,233	14.6	73.3	3.6	0.0	10.8	0.0	12.1	0.2
Romania	623.68	1,465	7.9	85.3	0.5	1.0	3.4	3.6	6.2	0.0
Slovenia	1,993	2,515	10.6	63.7	20.2	0.4	4.0	0.0	11.7	0.0
Slovakia	1,167	1,994	8.5	73.9	2.8	0.0	11.9	0.0	10.0	1.5
Finland	4,748	4,312	13.5	78.7	4.2	0.3	10.8	0.0	6.0	0.0
Sweden	4,784	3,909	11.3	82.9	5.5	0.0	8.8	0.0	2.8	0.0
United Kingdom	3,410	3,198	10.8	88.2	0.0	0.0	11.0	0.0	0.7	0.0

Preliminary data: EU28, EU15, EA19, DE, GR, ES, IT, LV, LT, HU, SI, SK, SE, UK

Source: Eurostat – ESSPROS, data extracted on 05/06/2019

Table 35 Number of Pension Beneficiaries by Sex, Indices 2016/2015 and 2016/2006

Area	Number of pension beneficiaries*			Index 2016/2015	Index 2016/2006	Pension beneficiaries in population (%)
	total*(persons)	males (%)	females (%)			
Belgium	2,862,251	48.5	51.5	102.0	124.6	25.3
Bulgaria	2,183,465	42.0	58.0	100.2	96.1	30.6
Czech Republic	2,950,043	41.4	58.6	100.6	107.8	27.9
Denmark	1,488,528	45.4	54.6	101.1	120.2	26.0
Germany	23,324,957	43.9	56.1	100.3	103.3	28.3
Estonia	422,034	39.5	60.5	101.2	110.7	32.1
Ireland	939,124	50.1	49.9	103.2	137.5	19.7
Greece	2,617,056	47.6	52.4	97.4	103.6	24.3
Spain	9,558,626	50.9	49.1	101.2	114.7	20.6
France	19,138,000	45.8	54.2	101.0	111.7	28.7
Croatia	1,233,375	45.7	54.3	100.4	:	29.6
Italy	15,907,414	47.4	52.6	99.2	96.2	26.2
Cyprus	141,251	52.1	47.9	99.8	135.3	16.6
Latvia	588,639	37.6	62.4	99.1	98.5	30.0
Lithuania	934,923	38.7	61.3	99.9	101.4	32.6
Luxembourg	180,673	55.4	44.6	103.3	139.1	31.0
Hungary	2,191,120	36.2	63.8	101.0	:	22.3
Malta	88,479	57.2	42.8	102.7	123.3	19.4
Netherlands	3,543,100	45.8	54.2	100.4	112.9	20.8
Austria	2,424,877	45.3	54.7	100.6	107.7	27.8
Poland	9627199	40.3	59.7	100.5	95.4	25.4
Portugal	3,007,164	44.8	55.2	99.8	104.2	29.1
Romania	5,247,379	41.9	58.1	99.2	90.8	26.6
Slovenia	639,962	44.4	55.6	100.5	110.9	31.0
Slovakia	1,436,589	41.5	58.5	101.5	113.4	26.5
Finland	1,558,900	44.7	55.3	101.2	113.6	28.4
Sweden	2,694,383	46.4	53.6	101.2	109.8	27.2
United Kingdom	15,543,660	44.1	55.9	99.4	:	23.7

Source: Eurostat – ESSPROS, data extracted on 06/06/2019

* Number of pensioners without double counting

Preliminary data: GR, UK

: - the datum is not available

Table 36 Taxes and Social Contributions Paid from Social Benefits, 2015

Area	Social protection expenditure			Social benefits	
	Gross expenditure (% of GDP)	Net expenditure (% of GDP)	% of benefits subject to taxation	% of benefits subject to social contributions	Efficient taxation/contributions payment burden
Belgium	28.99	26.88	58.52	44.4	13.34
Bulgaria	17.34	17.33	:	0.45	7.9
Czech Republic	18.42	18.34	2.39	0.96	18.27
Denmark	30.96	26.06	56.29	:	28.12
Germany	27.85	25.4	50.84	47.87	17.31
Estonia	16.16	15.82	62.11	0.44	4.75
Ireland	15.13	14.74	36.39	7.33	7
Greece	25.75	24.43	72.96	67.06	7.04
Spain	24.18	22.83	56.71	8.05	9.82
France	31.94	30.09	59.93	36.19	9.64
Croatia	21.43	21.17	52.61	52.61	2.31
Italy	28.83	25.17	64.85	0.65	19.56
Cyprus	19.42	18.28	43.49	:	13.5
Latvia	14.72	14.22	56.85	2.15	6.07
Lithuania	14.76	14.49	9.86	9.86	18.48
Luxembourg	21.74	19.69	58.73	59.37	15.88
Hungary	19.03	18.79	5.58	10.06	10.47
Malta	17.31	16.94	50.74	:	4.3
Netherlands	28.4	22.65	59.01	59.01	34.32
Austria	29.06	25.96	52.77	53.01	19.83
Poland	18.98	16.69	69.86	64.36	17.26
Portugal	24.71	23.05	62.16	55.76	10.84
Romania	14.25	14.03	55.94	:	2.86
Slovenia	23.34	23.04	55.15	:	2.4
Slovakia	17.68	17.64	1.62	0.83	15.47
Finland	31.45	28.08	56.92	56.92	18.89
Sweden	28.82	25.48	49.86	:	23.25
United Kingdom	27.42	26.49	40.15	2.47	8.43

Source: Eurostat – ESSPROS, data extracted on 05/06/2019

: - the datum is not available

Table 37 Announced Invitations to National Projects and Demand-driven Calls for 2018

Name of the national project/ applicant Call for DDP / Inviting party Priority axis 1 Education	Description	Call announcement date / project eligible period	Allocation of the non-repayable fin. contribution / EU support in €
NP International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC) Applicant: NUCEM	The identification and assessment of the level of adult competences used in work life.	27/07/2018 - 31/08/2018 60 months	5,500,000.00 4,122,882.50
DDP Reading, Mathematical and Scientific Literacy in Primary Schools Inviting party: Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic	The creation, innovation and implementation of educational programmes aimed at enhancing reading, scientific, mathematical, environmental, language and ICT skills, including financial literacy, business knowledge, and economic thinking, etc. Support for the development of key competences of teaching and professional staff, including language and ICT skills.	07/06/2018 - 08/04/2019 12 - 24 months	18,000,000.00
DDP Reading, Mathematical, Financial and Scientific Literacy at Grammar Schools Inviting party: Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic	The creation, innovation and implementation of educational programmes aimed at enhancing reading, scientific, mathematical, environmental, language and ICT skills, including financial literacy, business knowledge, and economic thinking, etc. Support for the development of key competences of teaching and professional staff, including language and ICT skills.	09/11/2018 – unspecified 18 - 36 months	20,000,000.00
DDP More successful in Primary Schools II Inviting party: Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic	Activities contributing to equalizing pupils' disadvantages and ensuring equal opportunities in the educational process. Activities developing cooperation with parents and community. Activities promoting an intercultural environment to prevent discrimination, eliminate segregation, social exclusion in schools and classrooms (e.g. through the development and implementation of local action plans for inclusive education). Improving the process of diagnosing and re-diagnosing children and pupils in order to prevent the unjustified postponement of compulsory school attendance, school failure rate of children and their inclusion in special classes and schools. Activities aimed at creating suitable conditions for the joint education of majority and children/pupils with special educational needs with regard to children/pupils from marginalised Roma communities.	09/11/2018 – unspecified 18 - 36 months	11,200,000.00

Name of the national project/ applicant Call for DDP / Inviting party	Description	Call announcement date / project eligible period	Allocation of the non-repayable fin. contribution / EU support in €
	Activities aimed at improving the school success rate of pupils, including pupils with special educational needs.		
DDP Linking Higher Education with Practice Requirements Inviting party: Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic	Support for managerial/entrepreneurial, innovation and problem-solving skills in higher education. The creation and innovation of study programmes with an emphasis on labour market needs, including practically based bachelor study programmes and programmes for further education in cooperation with the private sector and organisations representing the business sector, small and medium enterprises.	27/12/2018 – unspecified the minimum duration for the implementation of project activities is not specified	15,000,000.00
Priority Axis 2 Youth Employment Initiative			
NP Restart for Young Job Seekers 2 Applicant: Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family	Objective: improving the position of unemployed young people (the so-called “NEET”, i.e. Not in Employment, Education or Training) under 29 years of age (hereinafter simply “young job seekers”) in the labour market, enhancing their employability by motivating them to be more active in tackling their unemployment, thus supporting the development of local and regional employment in less developed regions (hereinafter simply “LDRs”) in the Slovak Republic.	06/07/2018 07/2018 – 09/2023	29,942,400.00 27,114,190.61
Priority axis 3 Employment			
NP Involvement of the Unemployed in the Restoration of Cultural Heritage – 2 Applicant: Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family	Objective: to improve the position of job seekers and disadvantaged job seekers in the labour market, enhance their employability and employment, reduce long-term unemployment, and support the development of local and regional employment. The set objective will be secured by providing financial contributions to employers (the active measure on the labour market pursuant to Section 54 of Act No. 5/2004 Coll. on Employment Services, as amended).	18/04/2019 03/2018 – 02/2021	10,604,999.60 9,014,249.66
NP Path to the Labour Market 2 Applicant: Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family	Objective: to improve the position of job seekers and disadvantaged job seekers in the labour market, enhance their employability and employment by promoting job creation, reduce unemployment, especially long-term unemployment, and support the development of local and regional employment in the least developed districts with high rates of registered unemployment.	28/06/2018 06/2018 – 05/2023	49,920,663.80 42,432,564.23
NP Support for the Employment of Disabled Citizens – 3	Objective: promoting employment, adaptability and reduction of the unemployment of disabled citizens by providing allowances.	06/07/2018	50,000,000.00

Name of the national project/ applicant Call for DDP / Inviting party	Description	Call announcement date / project eligible period	Allocation of the non-repayable fin. contribution / EU support in €
Applicant: Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family		01/2018 – 05/2020	42,500,000.00
NP Effective Service Delivery Approach to the Citizen – 2 Applicant: Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family	Objective: building client-oriented public employment services so that they are delivered in a targeted, comprehensive and accessible way, following the effort to provide assistance to the citizen at one place; the delivery of such services is also focused on another group of clients of local labour offices – employers; the modernization of services provided by local OLSAFs in accordance with the needs and requirements of the labour market with a view to directing towards both a satisfied client and a satisfied employee.	19/07/2018 05/2018 – 04/2021	34,076,840.59 28,965,314.50
NP Support for the Employment of Job Seekers through Selected Active Labour Market Measures – 4 Applicant: Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family	The national project will ensure the implementation of selected active labour market measures (hereinafter referred to as “ALMM”) under the Employment Services Act.	19/10/2018 09/2018 – 12/2022	50,000,000.00 42,500,000.00
NP Social Economy Institute Applicant: Implementation Agency of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic	Objective: to create and pilot the functioning of the infrastructure to support social economy throughout the Slovak Republic, through the Central Coordination Unit of Social Economy (hereinafter simply “CCU SE”) and regional social economy centres (hereinafter simply “RSECs”). CCU SE as the central office for social economy in SR will cover individual RSECs in all regional towns. Their role will be to provide free information to the public on social entrepreneurship, explain the rules of the functioning of social enterprises and promote the public interest in their establishment and operations.	07/12/2018 06/2018 – 05/2022	8,279,432.08 7,037,517.27
DDP Boosting Jobs Inviting party: Implementation Agency of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic	Objective: to support regional employment through employers that are business entities by providing quality job opportunities to persons from the target group (job seekers, disadvantaged job seekers) with the option of using mentoring and tutoring.	17/10/2018 17/10/2018 – 12/2023	50,000,000.00
Priority axis 4 Social Inclusion			
NP Healthy Communities 3A	Objective: to improve access to quality services for people at risk of poverty and social exclusion in the Region of Bratislava to ensure the necessary conditions to meet their basic life needs. The main focus is on remedying the situation of marginalised Roma communities in respect of social determinants of health through the implementation	21/02/2018	303,557.12 151,778.56

Name of the national project/ applicant Call for DDP / Inviting party	Description	Call announcement date / project eligible period	Allocation of the non-repayable fin. contribution / EU support in €
<p>Applicant: Healthy Regions as a state-funded organisation of the Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic</p>	<p>and development of health mediation and education in marginalised Roma communities located in the more developed region, preferably in 7 municipalities: Plavecký Štvrtok, Malacky, Záhorská Ves, Vysoká pri Morave, Malé Leváre, Rohožník, Závod, where a higher number of marginalised population is concentrated. The pilot implementation of project activities also envisages extending their scope to other locations throughout the eligible area with a view to responding to the current situation of labour migration (workers' dormitories).</p>	<p>01/2018 – 06/2020</p>	
<p>NP Prevention and Elimination of Gender Discrimination</p> <p>Applicant: Institute for Labour and Family Research</p>	<p>Objective: ensuring the systemic institutional provision of counselling in gender discrimination, including gender-based violence, and strengthening the professional capacities of ILFR in implementing the policy of eliminating discrimination based on sex or gender not only in terms of conducting research, but also providing basic counselling in gender discrimination.</p>	<p>01/03/2018</p> <p>01/2018 – 02/2022</p>	<p>4,870,994.10</p> <p>3,950,083.96</p>
<p>NP Development of New and Innovated Procedures for Prevention and Putting Them into Medical Practice</p> <p>Applicant: Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic</p>	<p>Objective: creating uniform procedures for prevention at the respective levels of healthcare provision. Its specific objectives include: raising awareness of prevention; the introduction of tools to enhance active participation in the prevention of the population (primary prevention); increasing the proportion of the detection of preventable diseases in the form of secondary prevention (screening) in individual areas, which should reduce specific morbidity and mortality from preventable diseases in the entire Slovak population; improving accessibility and reducing inequalities in accessibility to prevention tools, especially in respect of preventable deaths; enhancing patient protection and the quality of preventive care through a systemic change of the organisation providing such care.</p>	<p>20/07/2018</p> <p>06/2018 – 11/2021</p>	<p>2,332,350.74</p> <p>1,982,498.13</p>
<p>NP Deinstitutionalisation of Social Service Facilities – Support for Transition Teams</p> <p>Applicant: Implementation Agency of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic</p>	<p>Objective: to prepare, build and systematically support transition teams in the development of transition plans for specific social service facilities involved in the transition from institutional to community-based care and start transition processes in the communities, where the already transformed facilities will be located. This support will result in the development of transition plans for specific social service facilities, which are necessary to ensure synergy with the Integrated Regional Operational Programme.</p>	<p>03/08/2018</p> <p>05/2018 – 10/2023</p>	<p>8,799,083.38</p> <p>7,135,530.00</p>

Name of the national project/ applicant Call for DDP / Inviting party	Description	Call announcement date / project eligible period	Allocation of the non-repayable fin. contribution / EU support in €
<p>NP Chance of Return</p> <p>Applicant: General Directorate of the Prison and Judicial Guard Corps</p>	<p>Objective: to reduce the risks of social exclusion and increase competences in finding employment on the labour market for those serving a custodial sentence. As part of the project, an innovative system of comprehensive support for convicted persons will be established and piloted in the resulting sections of partner institutions for the execution of imprisonment. Through the unique status of an applicant (a body with a nationwide authority in matters of prison service), the project will link separate penitentiary and post-penitentiary care policies (the provision of post-penitentiary care will already start in prisons), reduce the risks of reoffending and limit the occurrence of possible crisis situations in the surroundings of persons coming back from a prison. The evaluated project results will be incorporated into generally binding legal regulations and internal managing acts of the recipient and partners. The project will be implemented in all Slovak regions except for the Region of Bratislava.</p>	<p>04/09/2018</p> <p>10/2018 – 09/2022</p>	<p>11,360,045.37</p> <p>9,656,038.56</p>
<p>NP Support for the Deinstitutionalisation of Alternative Care III</p> <p>Applicant: Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family</p>	<p>Objective: supporting the deinstitutionalisation of alternative care, primarily increasing the availability of professional assistance and improving the implementation of measures for the social and legal protection of children and social guardianship for children and families in both less and more developed regions.</p>	<p>24. 10. 2018</p> <p>11/2018 – 04/2023</p>	<p>48,085,111.89</p> <p>39,407,000.00</p>
<p>NP Support for the Development and Availability of Field Nursing Service</p> <p>Applicant: Implementation Agency of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic</p>	<p>Objective: to increase the availability of nursing service for persons with severe disabilities, ill health and for senior citizens by supporting nursing service in small municipalities with up to 1,000 inhabitants that do not provide nursing service under the Social Services Act, to raise awareness of municipalities' obligation to provide or arrange for nursing service, and to promote increasing professionalism in the provision of nursing service by supporting the education and supervision of supported carers.</p>	<p>27/12/2018</p> <p>01/2019 – 05/2021</p>	<p>4,928,395.09</p> <p>4,120,103.00</p>

Name of the national project/ applicant Call for DDP / Inviting party	Description	Call announcement date / project eligible period	Allocation of the non-repayable fin. contribution / EU support in €
<p>DDP Subsidies to Promote Gender Equality II</p> <p>Inviting party: Implementation Agency of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic</p>	<p>Objective: to raise awareness of the prevention of and protection against all forms of discrimination.</p> <p>The call is aimed at supporting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – the institutional development of specialised advisory services to combat all forms of discrimination; – awareness-raising activities focused on the prevention of all forms of discrimination; – the development of services, measures for victims of violence, women in particular; – training of first-contact workers; – sensitization and educational activities aimed at reducing and preventing discrimination for employers; – training of first-contact workers (employees of offices, social service facilities, etc.) in preventing and combating all forms of discrimination; – employers and institutions in preventing discrimination, introducing diversity management and education in these areas, including the implementation of temporary compensatory measures. 	<p>26/02/2018</p> <p>26/02/2018 – 12/2023</p>	<p>10,000,000.00</p>
<p>DDP Nursing Service Support</p> <p>Inviting party: Implementation Agency of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic</p>	<p>Objective: to support regional employment through employers that are business entities by providing quality job opportunities to persons from the target group (job seekers, disadvantaged job seekers) with the option of using mentoring and tutoring.</p>	<p>17/10/2018</p> <p>17/10/2018 – 12/2023</p>	<p>50,000,000.00</p>
Priority axis 5 Integration of Marginalised Roma Communities			
<p>DDP Support for the Comprehensive Provision of Local Civil Order Service in Municipalities with MRCs</p> <p>Inviting party: Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic</p>	<p>Supporting the comprehensive provision of local civil order service in municipalities with marginalised Roma communities.</p>	<p>31/08/2018 – unspecified</p>	<p>20,000,000.00</p>
Priority axis 6 Technical Facilities in Municipalities with Marginalised Roma Communities			

Name of the national project/ applicant Call for DDP / Inviting party	Description	Call announcement date / project eligible period	Allocation of the non-repayable fin. contribution / EU support in €
DDP The Call for the Construction and Renovation of Pre-school Facilities with an Emphasis on Expanding the Capacity of Pre-school Facilities in Municipalities with Marginalised Roma Communities Inviting party: Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic	Support for the construction of new pre-school facilities in municipalities with MRCs. Support for the renovation of and extension/superstructure to existing pre-school facilities in municipalities with MRCs with an emphasis on capacity expansion	09/10/2018 unspecified	– 25,000,000.00
DDP Improved Forms of Housing for Municipalities with Marginalised Roma Communities with Elements of the “Housing Ready” System Inviting party: Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic	Support for “housing ready” programmes in the social mobility and integration of MRC members	09/11/2018 unspecified	– 45,000,000.00
Priority axis 7 Technical Assistance			
Invitation No. OPLZ-MSVvaS-PO7-SC71/72-2018-TP1 – Technical Assistance Projects	Support for the effective implementation of the operational programme. Ensuring publicity, providing information and support for beneficiaries in the implementation process.	27/07/2018 unspecified	– 6,536,255.00

Source: Managing Authority, ITMS

Table 38 Spending in the Budget Section 22 - MoLSAF, by Programme Budgeting

Code of the programme	Title of the programme	Approved budget	Adjusted budget	Actual spending as at 31/12/2018	%
07C	Social Inclusion	1,887,019,701	1,864,132,558	1,863,266,991	100.0
07C0A	Support for Social Services	137,664,378	113,376,913	113,333,305	100.0
07C0B	OP of European Aid to the Most Deprived	10,024,989	14,057,498	14,057,498	100.0
07C0B01	- Social Inclusion of the Most Deprived	10,024,989	14,057,498	14,057,498	100.0
07C01	Material Need Assistance	173,336,906	141,415,211	140,944,487	99.7
07C0101	- Material Need Allowance	150,596,356	126,377,259	126,251,149	99.9
07C0102	- Subsidy for the Special Recipient	205,000	145,212	143,606	98.9
07C0103	- Subsidy for Support of Eating Habits	11,800,500	7,227,685	6,928,630	95.9
07C0104	- Subsidy to Support School Performance	2,750,000	1,602,183	1,598,212	99.8
07C0106	- Substitute Child Maintenance	7,985,050	6,062,872	6,022,890	99.3
07C02	Support for Families	1,044,978,756	1,032,937,223	1,032,871,012	100.0
07C0201	- Child Allowance	315,074,993	313,096,342	313,071,926	100.0
07C0202	- Parental Allowance	372,916,957	368,713,128	368,688,188	100.0
07C0206	- Other Benefits to Support Families	47,850,120	48,136,544	48,122,571	100.0
07C020A	- State-paid Social Contributions for Persons Caring for a Child	304,380,836	295,380,836	295,380,836	100.0
07C020B	- Childcare Allowance	4,755,850	7,610,373	7,607,491	100.0
07C03	Compensation for Social Consequences of Severe Disabilities	281,435,012	293,377,280	293,219,372	99.9
07C04	Initiatives in Social Inclusion	3,109,702	2,865,086	2,776,617	96.9
07C040A	- Other Initiatives	3,109,702	2,865,086	2,776,617	96.9
07C040G	- Evaluation and Implementation of the Horizontal Priority	0	0	0	0.0
	Equal opportunities				
07C05	Caring for Vulnerable Children	97,171,797	99,105,186	99,066,539	100.0
07C0501	- Alternative Family Care	14,780,683	14,142,360	14,142,473	100.0
07C0502	- Institutional Care in State Children's Homes	68,600,814	72,218,652	72,210,577	100.0
07C0503	- Institutional Care in Private Facilities	12,590,300	11,919,174	11,894,403	99.8
07C0504	- Prevention and Remediation (NGO)	1,200,000	825,000	819,086	99.3
07C06	Unsystematic Social Insurance Benefits	77,998,161	86,998,161	86,998,161	100.0
07C07	Christmas Allowance for Pensioners	61,300,000	80,000,000	80,000,000	100.0
07E	Creation and Implementation of Policies	167,911,324	185,285,458	185,282,218	100.0
07E03	Management, Conceptual and Research Activities	14,890,687	17,097,080	17,096,969	100.0

Report on the Social Situation of the Population of the Slovak Republic for 2018
Annex to Chapter 3

Code of the programme	Title of the programme	Approved budget	Adjusted budget	Actual spending as at 31/12/2018	%
07E0301	- Apparatus of the Ministry	14,890,687	17,097,080	17,096,969	100.0
07E04	Execution of State Administration in Social Affairs, Family, Labour and Employment	151,658,081	167,060,717	167,057,751	100.0
07E0401	- Specialised State Administration	138,489,635	152,815,048	152,813,095	100.0
07E0402	- Other State Administration	13,168,446	14,245,669	14,244,656	100.0
07E05	Implementation of ESF Projects	1,362,556	1,127,661	1,127,498	100.0
07E0501	Implementation Agency	1,362,556	1,127,661	1,127,498	100.0
	Inter-ministerial Programmes and Subprogrammes, in which the Section Participates and Coordinates				
06G	Human Resources	268,424,252	258,225,215	258,224,318	100.0
06G04	Active Labour Market Policies and Increasing Employment - MoLSAF	41,475,961	39,936,325	39,935,474	100.0
06G0404	- National Programmes for Development of ALMPs and Increasing Employment	37,451,857	37,491,272	37,490,421	100.0
06G040J	- Individual State Aid	4,024,104	2,445,053	2,445,053	100.0
06G1S	OP Human Resources 2014 - 2020 – MoLSAF	226,948,291	218,288,890	218,288,844	100.0
06G1S01	- Employment	121,066,196	118,191,030	118,191,030	100.0
06G1S02	- Social Inclusion	34,830,258	37,324,378	37,324,332	100.0
06G1S03	- Technical Assistance	13,931,142	7,928,599	7,928,599	100.0
06G1S04	- Youth Employment Initiative	57,120,695	54,844,883	54,844,883	100.0
	Subprogrammes the Section Deals with as a Participant in an Inter-ministerial Programme				
0EK	State-funded Information Technology	17,204,954	24,293,723	24,293,484	100.0
0EK0H	State-funded Information Technology from the MoLSAF Budget	17,204,954	24,293,723	24,293,484	100.0
0EK0H01	Internal Management Systems	4,429,969	6,005,066	6,005,066	100.0
0EK0H02	Specialised Systems	4,734,819	8,623,125	8,623,125	100.0
0EK0H03	Supporting Infrastructure	8,040,166	9,665,532	9,665,293	100.0
06H09	Economic Mobilisation – MoLSAF	45,189	42,945	42,929	100.0
09706	Contributions of SR to International Organisations – MoLSAF	595,000	595,000	532,547	89.5
0AR05	MoLSAF – Drugs Policy	50,000	42,645	36,600	85.8
	Total expenditure for the section	2,341,250,420	2,332,617,544	2,331,679,087	100.0

Source: MoLSAF, Draft state final account

ANNEX TO CHAPTER 4

Table 1 List of Selected Indicators of Social Inclusion (2015 – 2017)

	2015			2016			2017			Difference		
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
Primary indicators												
At-risk-of-poverty or social exclusion rate (entire population)	18.4	18.1	18.6	18.1	18.1	18.2	16.3	16.3	16.2	-1.8	-1.8	-2.0
Impact of social transfers on reducing the risk of poverty (including pensions)	35.3	35.3	35.8	31.0	29.8	31.6	29.1	29.1	29.7	-1.8	-0.7	-1.8
Impact of social transfers on reducing the risk of poverty (including pensions)	67.7	65.9	69.5	66.5	63.9	68.4	66.8	64.9	68.9	0.4	1.0	0.5
At-risk-of-poverty rate by sex (entire population)	12.3	12.1	12.4	12.7	12.7	12.8	12.4	12.4	12.3	-0.3	-0.3	-0.5
At-risk-of-poverty rate (aged 0-5 years)	16.3	12.3	20.2	19.4	18.1	20.6	16.9	16.5	17.2	-2.5	-1.6	-3.4
At-risk-of-poverty rate (aged 6-11 years)	23.0	23.0	23.1	22.7	22.4	23.0	20.5	23.1	17.7	-2.2	0.7	-5.3
At-risk-of-poverty rate (aged 12-17 years)	20.5	18.1	22.9	20.2	19.6	20.9	21.9	20.7	23.2	1.7	1.1	2.3
At-risk-of-poverty rate by sex (0-17 years)	20.1	18.1	22.1	20.8	20.2	21.5	19.9	20.4	19.4	-0.9	0.2	-2.1
At-risk-of-poverty rate by sex (18-24 years)	12.8	12.0	13.6	14.8	11.2	18.5	14.5	12.6	16.5	-0.3	1.4	-2.0
At-risk-of-poverty rate by sex (25-54 years)	11.7	11.9	11.5	12.2	12.5	11.9	11.5	11.4	11.7	-0.7	-1.1	-0.2
At-risk-of-poverty rate by sex (55-64 years)	10.2	11.6	8.9	9.5	10.5	8.6	9.4	10.5	8.4	-0.1	0.0	-0.2
At-risk-of-poverty rate by sex (18-64 years)	11.6	11.9	11.3	12.0	12.0	12.1	11.5	11.4	11.6	-0.5	-0.6	-0.5
At-risk-of-poverty rate by sex (65+)	5.6	3.4	7.0	5.7	4.3	6.5	6.9	4.9	8.3	1.2	0.6	1.8
At-risk-of-poverty threshold – single person household (€)	4,158			4,171			4,310			139		
At-risk-of-poverty threshold – single person household (PPS)	6,132			6,304			6,551			247		
At-risk-of-poverty threshold – household with 2 adults and 2 children (€)	8,732			8,758			9,051			293		
At-risk-of-poverty threshold – household with 2 adults and 2 children (PPS)	12,877			13,239			13,758			519		
Persistent at-risk-of-poverty rate (entire population)	7.4	7.2	7.7	7.7	7.4	8.0	x	x	x	0.3	0.2	0.3
Persistent at-risk-of-poverty rate (aged 0-17 years)	14.6	13.1	16.0	15.0	11.6	18.5	x	x	x	0.4	-1.5	2.5
Persistent at-risk-of-poverty rate (aged 18-64 years)	6.8	6.9	6.7	7.3	7.4	7.3	x	x	x	0.5	0.5	0.6
Persistent at-risk-of-poverty rate (aged 65+ years)	3.3	1.6	4.5	2.7	2.6	2.7	x	x	x	-0.6	1.0	-1.8
Relative median at-risk-of-poverty gap (entire population)	28.9	32.6	25.5	26.1	27.8	24.3	26.0	28.8	23.9	-0.1	1.0	-0.4

Report on the Social Situation of the Population of the Slovak Republic for 2018
Annex to Chapter 4

	2015			2016			2017			Difference		
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
Relative median at-risk-of-poverty gap (aged 0-5 years)	24.3	33.8	22.6	34.1	35.2	30.6	29.5	25.4	37.4	-4.6	-9.8	6.8
Relative median at-risk-of-poverty gap (aged 6-11 years)	27.2	22.6	33.8	26.6	32.0	24.7	31.5	29.5	33.1	4.9	-2.5	8.4
Relative median at-risk-of-poverty gap (aged 12-17 years)	40.1	36.0	42.6	35.0	28.6	35.9	29.5	32.3	29.4	-5.5	3.7	-6.5
Relative median at-risk-of-poverty gap (aged 0-17 years)	29.9	27.5	33.3	31.6	33.1	30.6	30.3	28.2	31.5	-1.3	-4.9	0.9
Relative median at-risk-of-poverty gap (aged 18-64 years)	31.3	34.0	28.7	26.4	27.1	26.1	28.0	29.7	25.0	1.6	2.6	-1.1
Relative median at-risk-of-poverty gap (aged 65+ years)	10.4	14,0(u)	9.8	10.3	11,6(u)	9.8	9.6	9,3(u)	9.7	-0.7	-2.3	-0.1
Long-term unemployment rate	7.6	6,9(u)	8.3	5.8	5,5(u)	6.2	5.1	5.2	4.9	-0.7	-0.3	-1.3
Population living in households with very low work intensity (aged 0-59 years)	7.1	7.4	6.9	6.5	6.6	6.3	5.4	5.3	5.4	-1.1	-1.3	-0.9
Population living in households with very low work intensity (aged 0-5 years)	7.0	5.9	8.2	8.6	8.0	9.3	6.8	5.1	8.4	-1.8	-2.9	-0.9
Population living in households with very low work intensity (aged 6-11 years)	9.4	8.4	10.5	8.6	7.8	9.5	7.1	6.2	8.0	-1.5	-1.6	-1.5
Population living in households with very low work intensity (aged 12-17 years)	7.5	5.8	9.3	7.5	6.5	8.7	7.5	7.5	7.4	0.0	1.0	-1.3
Population living in households with very low work intensity (aged 0-17 years)	8.0	6.7	9.3	8.2	7.4	9.2	7.1	6.4	7.9	-1.1	-1.0	-1.3
Population living in households with very low work intensity (aged 18-59 years)	6.9	7.5	6.2	6.0	6.4	5.5	4.8	5.0	4.6	-1.2	-1.4	-0.9
Children living in jobless households (aged 0-17 years)	9.3	:	:	7.7	:	:	8.0	:	:	0.3	:	:
Children living in jobless households (aged 18-59 years)	7.5	7.5	7.5	6.4	6.3	6.6	6.6	6.4	6.8	0.2	0.1	0.2
Early school leavers not in education or training	6.9	6.9	6.8	7.4	7.6	7.2	9.3	8.5	10.3	1.9	0.9	3.1
Severe material deprivation (entire population)	9.0	8.9	9.1	8.2	8.1	8.3	7.0	7.2	6.8	-1.2	-0.9	-1.5
Material deprivation rate (entire population)	20.3	19.4	21.2	19.1	18.4	19.7	16.4	15.9	16.9	-2.7	-2.5	-2.8
Material deprivation rate (aged 0-5 years)	18.3	17.5	19.1	16.3	16.2	16.4	15.1	14.8	15.5	-1.2	-1.4	-0.9
Material deprivation rate (aged 6-11 years)	24.1	24.6	23.6	22.7	23.0	22.4	17.8	17.9	17.7	-4.9	-5.1	-4.7
Material deprivation rate (aged 12-17 years)	24.1	22.5	25.8	23.0	21.7	24.3	20.1	18.5	22.0	-2.9	-3.2	-2.3
Material deprivation rate (aged 0-17 years)	22.3	21.7	22.9	20.9	20.7	21.2	17.8	17.2	18.5	-3.1	-3.5	-2.7
Material deprivation rate (aged 18-64 years)	18.8	18.6	19.1	17.7	17.6	17.8	14.9	15.0	14.9	-2.8	-2.6	-2.9
Material deprivation rate (aged 65+ years)	25.0	20.8	27.6	22.9	19.4	25.1	21.3	19.3	22.6	-1.6	-0.1	-2.5
Secondary indicators												
At-risk-of-poverty rate by household type:												

Report on the Social Situation of the Population of the Slovak Republic for 2018
Annex to Chapter 4

	2015			2016			2017			Difference		
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
one adult aged <65 years	21.2	:	:	22.7	:	:	25.8	:	:	3.1	:	:
one adult aged 65 + years	9.4	:	:	9.0	:	:	11.9	:	:	2.9	:	:
single person	15.0	20.7	12.0	15.5	21.9	12.2	18.2	25.1	14.5	2.7	3.2	2.3
two adults household, at least one aged 65 + years	4.5	:	:	2.5	:	:	4.0	:	:	1.5	:	:
two adults, both aged <65 years	9.0	:	:	8.1	:	:	7.2	:	:	-0.9	:	:
single parent with at least one child	29.9	:	:	33.6	:	:	37.3	:	:	3.7	:	:
two adults with one dependent child	9.2	:	:	10.5	:	:	9.8	:	:	-0.7	:	:
two adults with two dependent children	14.7	:	:	14.8	:	:	14.7	:	:	-0.1	:	:
two adults with 3+ dependent children	32.9	:	:	34.8	:	:	35.4	:	:	0.6	:	:
three or more adults with dependent children	13.9	:	:	15.7	:	:	13.6	:	:	-2.1	:	:
households with dependent children	15.7	:	:	17.2	:	:	16.2	:	:	-1.0	:	:
households without dependent children	7.9	:	:	7.2	:	:	7.6	:	:	0.4	:	:
At-risk-of-poverty rate by work intensity of household members (aged 18-59 years)												
households without children – low work intensity other than very low work intensity (0.2 - 1)	3.5	:	:	3.8	:	:	4.1	:	:	0.3	:	:
Households without children – low work intensity (0.2 - 0.45)	27.0	:	:	33.9	:	:	34.7	:	:	0.8	:	:
households without children – medium work intensity (0.45 - 0.55)	7.9	:	:	12.7	:	:	16.5	:	:	3.8	:	:
Households without children – high work intensity (0.55 - 0.85)	3.3	:	:	2.7	:	:	3.6	:	:	0.9	:	:
Households without children – very high work intensity (0.85 - 1)	2.6	:	:	2.9	:	:	3.0	:	:	0.1	:	:
households with children – low work intensity other than very low work intensity (0.2 - 1)	8.0	:	:	8.8	:	:	8.5	:	:	-0.3	:	:
households with children – low work intensity (0.2 - 0.45)	38.1	:	:	49.4	:	:	58.9	:	:	9.5	:	:
households with children – medium work intensity (0.45 - 0.55)	22.1	:	:	29.1	:	:	25.0	:	:	-4.1	:	:
households with children – high work intensity (0.55 - 0.85)	8.8	:	:	10.6	:	:	7.8	:	:	-2.8	:	:
households with children – very high work intensity (0.85 - 1)	4.8	:	:	4.8	:	:	5.6	:	:	0.8	:	:
At-risk-of-poverty rate by the most frequent activity status (aged 18+ years)												
unemployed	45.5	48.5	42.0	47.6	49.8	45.2	49.2	53.2	45.1	1.6	3.4	-0.1

Report on the Social Situation of the Population of the Slovak Republic for 2018
Annex to Chapter 4

	2015			2016			2017			Difference		
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
employed	6.0	6.5	5.5	6.5	6.9	6.0	6.3	6.8	5.8	-0.2	-0.1	-0.2
retired	6.2	4.4	7.3	6.0	4.9	6.8	7.6	6.2	8.6	1.6	1.3	1.8
other inactive persons	15.7	14.1	16.6	19.8	17.4	21.2	19.6	17.0	21.0	-0.2	-0.4	-0.2
At-risk-of-poverty rate by accommodation tenure status												
owner or accommodation provided for free	11.4	11.0	11.7	12.0	12.0	12.1	11.2	11.2	11.2	-0.8	-0.8	-0.9
tenant	20.5	22.0	19.0	19.7	19.9	19.6	24.4	24.1	24.7	4.7	4.2	5.1
Dispersion around the at-risk-of-poverty threshold – 40 % of national median equivalised disposable income	5.7	6.0	5.4	5.5	5.8	5.3	5.3	5.6	5.0	-0.2	-0.2	-0.3
Dispersion around the at-risk-of-poverty threshold – 50 % of national median equivalised disposable income	8.4	8.7	8.2	8.1	8.2	8.0	7.8	8.0	7.6	-0.3	-0.2	-0.4
Dispersion around the at-risk-of-poverty threshold – 70 % of national median equivalised disposable income	18.8	18.0	19.5	19.5	18.8	20.2	18.3	17.9	18.6	-1.2	-0.9	-1.6
At-risk-of-poverty rate of children living in working households	6.5	4.9	8.1	6.4	6.1	6.6	x	x	x	-0.1	1.2	-1.5
Population with low education level (aged 25-39 years)	90.2	46.2	44.0	81.7	40.6	41.2	x	x	x	-8.5	-5.6	-2.8
Population with low education level (aged 40-59 years)	122.9	50.4	72.4	118.2	51.5	66.6	x	x	x	-4.7	1.1	-5.8
Population with low education level (aged 55-64 years)	105.8	34.6	71.2	97.9	33.1	64.9	x	x	x	-7.9	-1.5	-6.3
Population with low education level (aged 25-64 years)	273.4	114.9	158.5	258.4	110.1	148.5	x	x	x	-15.0	-4.8	-10.0
Depth of material deprivation	3.7	3.8	3.7	3.6	3.7	3.6	3.7	3.8	3.6	0.1	0.1	0.0
Housing cost overburden rate (entire population)	9.1	8.5	9.6	7.7	6.9	8.5	x	x	x	-1.4	-1.6	-1.1
Housing cost overburden rate (aged 0-5 years)	12.7	10.7	14.8	10.1	11.3	9.0	x	x	x	-2.6	0.6	-5.8
Housing cost overburden rate (aged 6-11 years)	12.6	11.0	14.4	8.9	7.0	11.0	x	x	x	-3.7	-4.0	-3.4
Housing cost overburden rate (aged 12-17 years)	8.7	7.8	9.7	8.7	8.9	8.5	x	x	x	0.0	1.1	-1.2
Housing cost overburden rate (aged 0-17 years)	11.4	9.9	12.9	9.2	8.9	9.5	x	x	x	-2.2	-1.0	-3.4
Housing cost overburden rate (aged 18-24 years)	7.1	6.2	8.1	6.9	5.3	8.4	x	x	x	-0.2	-0.9	0.3
Housing cost overburden rate (aged 25-29 years)	8.2	7.5	8.9	5.8	5.7	5.8	x	x	x	-2.4	-1.8	-3.1
Housing cost overburden rate (aged 18-64 years)	8.7	8.6	8.8	7.2	6.6	7.9	x	x	x	-1.5	-2.0	-0.9

Report on the Social Situation of the Population of the Slovak Republic for 2018
Annex to Chapter 4

	2015			2016			2017			Difference		
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
Housing cost overburden rate (aged 65+ years)	8.1	5.5	9.8	8.1	4.9	10.1	x	x	x	0.0	-0.6	0.3
Housing cost overburden rate – poor	34.5	33.4	35.6	35.6	34.5	36.7	x	x	x	1.1	1.1	1.1
Housing cost overburden rate – not poor	5.5	5.1	6.0	3.7	2.9	4.4	x	x	x	-1.8	-2.2	-1.6
Housing cost overburden rate (I. quintile)	26.7	:	:	27.9	:	:	x	x	x	1.2	:	:
Housing cost overburden rate (II. quintile)	8.4	:	:	6.8	:	:	x	x	x	-1.6	:	:
Housing cost overburden rate (III. quintile)	6.0	:	:	2.5	:	:	x	x	x	-3.5	:	:
Housing cost overburden rate (IV. quintile)	3.2	:	:	0.9	:	:	x	x	x	-2.3	:	:
Housing cost overburden rate (V. quintile)	1.1	:	:	0.5	:	:	x	x	x	-0.6	:	:
Housing cost overburden rate by accommodation tenure status												
owner, with a mortgage or housing loans	30.9	:	:	15.1	:	:	x	x	x	-15.8	:	:
owner, without a mortgage or housing loans	6.0	:	:	5.7	:	:	x	x	x	-0.3	:	:
tenant, lease at market price	8.4	:	:	13.9	:	:	x	x	x	5.5	:	:
tenant, lease at a reduced price or for free	9.1	:	:	17.6	:	:	x	x	x	8.5	:	:
Housing cost overburden rate by degree of urbanisation												
densely populated area (towns/cities)	12.1	:	:	7.0	:	:	x	x	x	-5.1	:	:
moderately populated area	8.6	:	:	7.9	:	:	x	x	x	-0.7	:	:
sparsely populated area	7.8	:	:	8.0	:	:	x	x	x	0.2	:	:
Housing cost overburden rate by household type												
single adult aged <65 years	26.6	:	:	27.4	:	:	x	x	x	0.8	:	:
single adult aged 65+ years	17.6	:	:	22.3	:	:	x	x	x	4.7	:	:
single adult	22.0	25.9	19.8	24.7	23.9	25.2	x	x	x	2.7	-2.0	5.4
two adults household, at least one aged 65 + years	5.0	:	:	3.1	:	:	x	x	x	-1.9	:	:
two adults, both aged <65 years	11.7	:	:	8.4	:	:	x	x	x	-3.3	:	:
single adult with at least one child	29.6	:	:	32.3	:	:	x	x	x	2.7	:	:
two adults with one dependent child	14.5	:	:	11.3	:	:	x	x	x	-3.2	:	:
two adults with two dependent children	12.5	:	:	8.2	:	:	x	x	x	-4.3	:	:

Report on the Social Situation of the Population of the Slovak Republic for 2018
Annex to Chapter 4

	2015			2016			2017			Difference		
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
two adults with 3+ dependent children	7.4	:	:	8.6	:	:	x	x	x	1.2	:	:
three or more adults with dependent children	8.8	:	:	7.0	:	:	x	x	x	-1.8	:	:
households with dependent children	9.5	:	:	7.9	:	:	x	x	x	-1.6	:	:
households without dependent children	8.6	:	:	7.5	:	:	x	x	x	-1.1	:	:
Overcrowding rate (entire population)	37.8	38.3	37.3	37.9	38.5	37.4	36.4	36.8	36.1	-1.5	-1.7	-1.3
Overcrowding rate (aged 0-5 years)	39.9	40.6	39.1	39.4	37.0	41.7	37.8	35.6	40.0	-1.6	-1.4	-1.7
Overcrowding rate (aged 6-11 years)	50.8	50.8	50.8	48.3	49.5	47.0	43.3	45.1	41.3	-5.0	-4.4	-5.7
Overcrowding rate (aged 12-17 years)	60.0	60.4	59.7	59.8	59.6	60.0	55.0	52.9	57.5	-4.8	-6.7	-2.5
Overcrowding rate (aged 0-17 years)	50.5	50.9	50.1	49.8	49.8	49.9	45.7	45.1	46.3	-4.1	-4.7	-3.6
Overcrowding rate (aged 18-64 years)	38.9	39.0	38.8	39.1	39.4	38.9	37.9	38.0	37.8	-1.2	-1.4	-1.1
Overcrowding rate (aged 65+ years)	15.8	11.8	18.2	17.1	14.0	19.0	18.4	16.1	19.8	1.3	2.1	0.8
Overcrowding rate – under poverty threshold	57.6	56.8	58.3	54.2	54.7	53.7	55.6	55.6	55.7	1.4	0.9	2.0
Overcrowding rate – over poverty threshold	35.0	35.8	34.3	35.6	36.2	35.0	33.7	34.1	33.3	-1.9	-2.1	-1.7
Overcrowding rate by accommodation tenure status												
owner, with a mortgage or housing loans	30.2	:	:	28.2	:	:	29.0	:	:	0.8	:	:
owner, without a mortgage or housing loans	35.7	:	:	36.8	:	:	35.4	:	:	-1.4	:	:
tenant, lease at market price	61.6	:	:	57.6	:	:	57.1	:	:	-0.5	:	:
tenant, lease at a reduced price or for free	56.9	:	:	56.5	:	:	51.1	:	:	-5.4	:	:
Overcrowding rate by degree of urbanisation												
densely populated area	36.0	:	:	35.9	:	:	34.3	:	:	-1.6	:	:
moderately populated area	45.9	:	:	45.7	:	:	42.5	:	:	-3.2	:	:
sparsely populated area	32.0	:	:	32.4	:	:	32.3	:	:	-0.1	:	:
Overcrowding rate by household type												
single adult aged <65 years	26.7	:	:	23.4	:	:	19.3	:	:	-4.1	:	:
single adult aged 65+ years	14.8	:	:	17.5	:	:	17.8	:	:	0.3	:	:
single adult	20.5	22.6	19.4	20.3	22.1	19.4	18.5	19.4	18.0	-1.8	-2.7	-1.4

Report on the Social Situation of the Population of the Slovak Republic for 2018
Annex to Chapter 4

	2015			2016			2017			Difference		
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
two adults household, at least one aged 65 + years	9.6	:	:	9.4	:	:	8.3	:	:	-1.1	:	:
two adults, both aged <65 years	10.9	:	:	11.1	:	:	11.6	:	:	0.5	:	:
single adult with at least one child	65.8	:	:	59.8	:	:	53.4	:	:	-6.4	:	:
two adults with one dependent child	26.4	:	:	26.7	:	:	27.2	:	:	0.5	:	:
two adults with two dependent children	40.1	:	:	40.8	:	:	37.4	:	:	-3.4	:	:
two adults with 3+ dependent children	73.0	:	:	70.0	:	:	62.0	:	:	-8.0	:	:
three or more adults with dependent children	61.2	:	:	61.0	:	:	58.4	:	:	-2.6	:	:
households with dependent children	50.1	:	:	49.7	:	:	47.3	:	:	-2.4	:	:
households without dependent children	22.0	:	:	23.1	:	:	23.1	:	:	0.0	:	:
Context indicators												
Inequality of income distribution – S80/S20 – income quintile share ratio	3.5	3.6	3.5	3.6	3.7	3.5	3.5	3.6	3.4	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1
Inequality of income distribution – Gini coefficient	23.7	:	:	24.3	:	:	23.2	:	:	-1.1	:	:
Life expectancy at birth	76.7	73.1	80.2	77.3	73.8	80.7	x	x	x	0.6	0.7	0.5
Life expectancy at age of 65 years	17.2	15.0	18.8	17.5	15.3	19.2	x	x	x	0.3	0.3	0.4
At-risk-of-poverty rate anchored in time (2005) – entire population	7.6	7.9	7.3	7.3	7.5	7.1	x	x	x	-0.3	-0.4	-0.2
At-risk-of-poverty rate anchored in time (2008) aged 0-17 years	13.0	11.8	14.2	13.1	13.0	13.2	x	x	x	0.1	1.2	-1.0
At-risk-of-poverty rate anchored in time (2008) aged 18-64 years	7.4	7.9	6.9	6.9	6.9	6.9	x	x	x	-0.5	-1.0	0.0
At-risk-of-poverty rate anchored in time (2008) aged 65+ years	1.3	1.0	1.5	1.3	1.4	1.3	x	x	x	0.0	0.4	-0.2
At-risk-of-poverty rate before social transfers, excluding pensions	19.0	18.7	19.3	18.4	18.1	18.7	17.5	17.5	17.5	-0.9	-0.6	-1.2
At-risk-of-poverty rate before social transfers, including pensions	38.1	35.5	40.7	37.9	35.2	40.5	37.4	35.3	39.5	-0.5	0.1	-1.0
In-work poverty (aged 18+ years)	6.0	6.5	5.5	6.5	6.9	6.0	6.3	6.8	5.8	-0.2	-0.1	-0.2
Unemployment trap	44.7	:	:	x	:	:	x	:	:	x	:	:
Low wage trap	29.8	:	:	x	:	:	x	:	:	x	:	:
Housing deprivation rate by items												
dwelling with a leaking roof, damp walls, floors or foundation, or rot in window frames of floor	6.3	6.1	6.5	6.2	6.3	6.1	x	x	x	-0.1	0.2	-0.4
dwelling having neither a bath, nor a shower	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.1	0.1	0.1

Report on the Social Situation of the Population of the Slovak Republic for 2018
Annex to Chapter 4

	2015			2016			2017			Difference		
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
dwelling not having indoor flushing toilet for the sole use of their household	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.6	1.3	x	x	x	0.0	0.2	-0.1
considering their dwelling as too dark	3.1	3.2	2.9	2.7	2.8	2.6	x	x	x	-0.4	-0.4	-0.3
Severe housing deprivation (entire population)	4.2	4.3	4.1	4.3	4.3	4.3	5.2	5.3	5.0	0.9	1.0	0.7
Severe housing deprivation (aged 0-5 years)	3.7	3.1	4.4	3.6	4.3	2.9	5.0	5.3	4.7	1.4	1.0	1.8
Severe housing deprivation (aged 6-11 years)	9.3	9.9	8.6	7.4	7.7	7.1	8.3	8.7	7.8	0.9	1.0	0.7
Severe housing deprivation (aged 12-17 years)	9.1	8.7	9.5	10.0	8.3	12.1	11.0	9.7	12.6	1.0	1.4	0.5
Severe housing deprivation (aged 0-17 years)	7.5	7.4	7.6	7.2	6.9	7.5	8.3	8.1	8.5	1.1	1.2	1.0
Severe housing deprivation (aged 18-64 years)	3.7	3.8	3.5	3.9	3.9	3.9	4.9	5.0	4.7	1.0	1.1	0.8
Severe housing deprivation (aged 65+ years)	2.4	2.3	2.5	2.3	2.2	2.4	2.7	2.6	2.8	0.4	0.4	0.4
Severe housing deprivation – under poverty threshold	15.2	15.4	15.1	16.0	16.3	15.7	20.7	21.9	19.5	4.7	5.6	3.8
Severe housing deprivation – over poverty threshold	2.6	2.8	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.6	3.0	3.0	3.0	0.5	0.5	0.4
Median of the housing cost burden distribution	17.1	16.7	17.5	16.7	16.2	17.1	x	x	x	-0.4	-0.5	-0.4
Median of the housing cost burden distribution (aged 0-17 years)	19.6	19.4	20.0	18.9	18.7	19.0	x	x	x	-0.7	-0.7	-1.0
Median of the housing cost burden distribution (aged 18-64 years)	16.1	15.7	16.5	15.7	15.3	16.1	x	x	x	-0.4	-0.4	-0.4
Median of the housing cost burden distribution (aged 65+ years)	18.7	18.1	19.2	19.3	17.9	20.2	x	x	x	0.6	-0.2	1.0
Median of the housing cost burden distribution – under poverty threshold	31.3	31.2	32.6	30.6	30.2	31.4	x	x	x	-0.7	-1.0	-1.2
Median of the housing cost burden distribution – over poverty threshold	16.0	15.6	16.3	15.6	15.1	16.0	x	x	x	-0.4	-0.5	-0.3

Source: Eurostat

Explanatory notes: u – low reliability, b – break in time series, n - not significant, x - data not yet available

In the case of missing data for 2017, a difference between 2015 and 2016 is calculated, otherwise it is a difference between data for 2016 and 2017

Table 2 Gross Monthly Wage and Hourly Earnings in Business and Non-business Sector in 2018

Sector	Gender	Gross monthly wage		Hourly earnings	
		average	median	average	median
Non-business	Females	993	899	6.33	5.92
	Males	1,120	922	7.06	6.04
	Total	1,027	904	6.52	5.95
	GPG* in %	11.31	2.48	10.41	2.08
Business	Females	1,027	821	6.23	5.18
	Males	1,327	1,023	7.72	6.25
	Total	1,203	933	7.09	5.76
	GPG in %	22.61	19.72	19.25	17.20
Total	Females	1,015	847	6.26	5.41
	Males	1,303	1,012	7.64	6.23
	Total	1,163	926	6.97	5.8
	GPG in %	22.06	16.35	18.05	13.1

Source: Trexima

*GPG – gender pay gap

The most common **form of violence** that calling women encounter is **psychological violence**, which was reported by 61 % of the total number of new calling clients. **Physical violence** is the second most common form of violence identified for calling women. 159 calling women had experience with physical violence, accounting for more than 48 % of the total number of calling women. More details are given in the table below.

Table 3 Forms of Violence Identified for Calling Women*

Forms of violence	% of calling women	Present/identified violence
Psychological violence	58.84	193
Physical violence	48.48	159
Social violence	8.23	27
Economic violence	16.16	53
Sexual violence	4.88	16
Dangerous threats	25.61	84
Dangerous persecution	3.05	10
Divorce/breakup violence	4.27	14
Unidentified violence	7.01	23

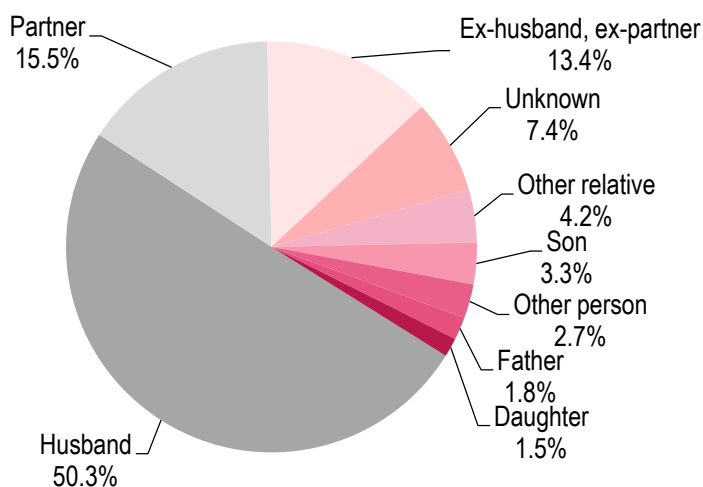
Source: NHW - Analysis of data from the activities of the National Helpline for Women Experiencing Violence in 2018.

* Present/identified violence describes a particular form of violence if a calling women has clearly described this type of violence. Undetected/unidentified violence describes cases where it was not possible to determine whether or not a calling woman was experiencing the form of violence.

A violent person's relationship with calling women

When identifying the form of violence, in all cases calling women stated who was the violent person or what a relationship they have with the violent person. The NHW activities are primarily focused on gender-based violence, and therefore, the further analysis includes male violent persons. In most cases, calling women experienced husband violence (169 cases). The second largest group consisted of partners – 52 cases, followed by ex-husbands and ex-partners, where we can speak of “post-breakup violence” (45 cases); a lower number of women identified their son or another family member as a perpetrator of violence (11 and 14 cases respectively).

Graph 1 A Violent Person's Relationship with Calling Women



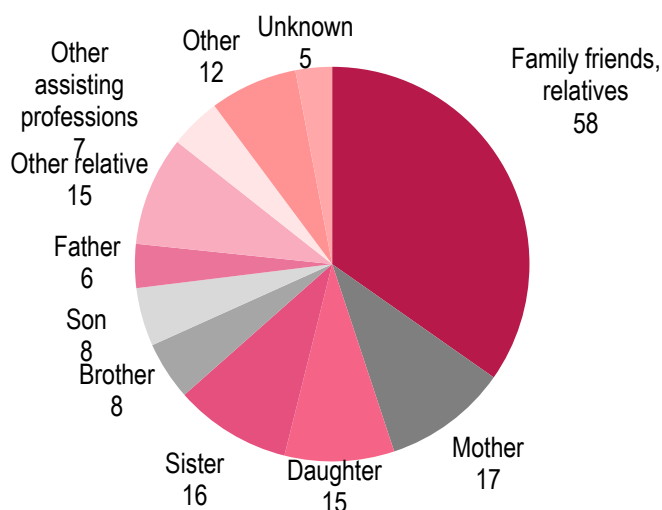
Source: NHW internal database

Persons close to women experiencing violence

Since the beginning of NHW activities, the helpline has also been contacted by persons who act as “third parties” in a violent relationship and call due to violence against women who are their close persons. We regard the information related to this call category as an important indicator when analysing data resulting from NHW activities, as calling persons describe direct experience of violence against a woman in their environment.

In 2018, NHW keeps records of 167 new female clients and third-party clients calling on behalf of a women experiencing violence. The priority for this type of call is to communicate information to the woman experiencing violence through a third party, including a recommendation that she herself contacts the helpline. Most of the calls recorded were received from acquaintances or other family members (35 %), who did not specify what a relationship they have with the woman experiencing violence. The second largest group of third-party callers consists of mothers of daughters (17%) living in a violent relationship.

Graph 2 Persons Close to Women Experiencing Violence⁸⁹



Source: NHW internal database

⁸⁹ The group of other family members includes, for example, a sister-in-law, a grandmother for her granddaughter, an aunt for her niece, etc. The group of other assisting professions comprised professionals calling on behalf of their female clients experiencing violence, such as community centre social workers, low-threshold facilities, etc.

ANNEX TO CHAPTER 5

Table 1 Selected Indicators in the Context of Europe 2020 Strategy in the EU28 Countries in 2018 – Macroeconomic Environment

	eu28	be	bg	cz	dk	de	ee	ie	gr	es	fr	hr	it	cy	lv	lt	lu	hu	mt	nl	at	pl	pt	ro	si	sk	fi	se	uk
GDP per capita in PPS, (EU28=100)*	100	117	49	89	128	124	79	181	67	92	104	62	96	85	67	78	253	68	96	128	127	70	77	63	85	76	109	121	105
Real GDP growth (%)	2.0	1.4	3.1	2.9	1.4	1.4	3.9	6.7	1.9	2.6	1.5	2.6	0.9	3.9	4.8	3.5	2.6	4.9	6.6	2.7	2.7	5.1	2.1	4.1	4.5	4.1	2.3	2.3	1.4
Real GDP growth – 2019 forecast	1.4	1.2	3.3	2.6	1.7	0.5	2.8	3.8	2.2	2.1	1.3	2.6	0.1	3.1	3.1	2.7	2.5	3.7	5.5	1.6	1.5	4.2	1.7	3.3	3.1	3.8	1.6	1.4	1.3
Employment growth (%)	1.3	1.2	-0.1	1.6	1.8	1.3	1.2	3.5	1.7	2.5	0.9	2.4	0.8	4.0	1.6	1.1	3.7	2.2	5.6	2.5	1.7	0.3	2.3	0.2	3.0	2.0	2.7	1.8	1.2
Harmonised index of consumer prices	1.9	2.3	2.6	2.0	0.7	1.9	3.4	0.7	0.8	1.7	2.1	1.6	1.2	0.8	2.6	2.5	2.0	2.9	1.7	1.6	2.1	1.2	1.2	4.1	1.9	2.5	1.2	2.0	2.5
General government balance (%GDP)	-0.6	-0.7	2.0	0.9	0.5	1.7	-0.6	0.0	1.1	-2.5	-2.5	0.2	-2.1	-4.8	-1.0	0.7	2.4	-2.2	2.0	1.5	0.1	-0.4	-0.5	-3.0	0.7	-0.7	-0.7	0.9	-1.5
Public debt (%GDP)	81.5	102.0	22.6	32.7	34.1	60.9	8.4	64.8	181.1	97.1	98.4	74.6	132.2	102.5	35.9	34.2	21.4	70.8	46.0	52.4	73.8	48.9	121.5	35.0	70.1	48.9	58.9	38.8	86.8

Source: Eurostat, European Commission, * data for 2017, data for 2018 are not available at the time of the Report preparation

Table 2 Selected Indicators in the Context of Europe 2020 Strategy in the EU28 Countries for the Last Year Available – Smart and Inclusive Growth

		eu28	be	bg	cz	dk	de	ee	ie	gr	es	fr	hr	it	cy	lv	lt	lu	hu	mt	nl	at	pl	pt	ro	si	sk	fi	se	uk
Employment rate, aged 20 – 64 years (1)	total	73.1	69.7	72.4	79.9	78.2	79.9	79.5	74.1	59.5	67.0	71.3	65.2	63.0	73.9	76.8	77.8	72.1	74.4	75.0	79.2	76.2	72.2	75.4	69.9	75.4	72.4	76.3	82.6	78.7
	females	67.4	65.5	68.3	72.2	74.8	75.8	75.6	68.1	49.1	61.0	67.6	60.1	53.1	68.9	74.8	76.7	68.0	66.8	63.4	74.2	71.7	65.0	72.1	60.6	71.7	65.5	74.5	80.4	73.8
	males	78.9	73.9	76.5	87.4	81.5	83.9	83.4	80.3	70.1	73.1	75.2	70.3	72.9	79.3	79.0	79.0	76.0	82.1	85.7	84.3	80.7	79.4	78.9	78.9	79.0	79.2	78.2	84.7	83.7
Employment rate, aged 55 – 64 years (2)	total	58.7	50.3	60.7	65.1	70.7	71.4	68.9	60.4	41.1	52.2	52.1	42.8	53.7	60.9	65.4	68.5	40.5	54.4	49.7	67.7	54.0	48.9	59.2	46.3	47.0	54.2	65.4	77.9	65.3
	females	52.4	45.6	56.4	56.6	66.4	66.9	71.5	52.3	30.0	44.9	50.4	35.2	43.9	51.9	64.7	66.9	35.2	44.9	32.1	58.8	44.8	39.1	54.6	35.7	41.9	50.4	66.5	75.8	60.6
	males	65.4	55.1	65.4	74.0	74.9	76.1	65.9	68.6	53.3	59.7	54.0	51.0	64.2	70.3	66.3	70.5	45.5	65.5	67.2	76.6	63.5	59.8	64.5	57.9	52.2	58.4	64.3	80.0	70.3
Lifelong learning rate (aged 25 – 64 years) (3)	total	11.1	8.5	2.5	8.5	23.5	8.2	19.7	12.5	4.5	10.5	18.6	2.9	8.1	6.7	6.7	6.6	18.0	6.0	10.8	19.1	15.1	5.7	10.3	0.9	11.4	4.0	28.5	29.2	14.6
	females	12.1	9.0	2.6	8.7	27.8	8.0	23.2	14.6	4.5	11.5	21.0	3.4	8.6	6.6	8.4	8.3	18.4	6.4	12.4	20.0	16.5	6.3	10.8	0.9	13.5	3.8	32.4	36.1	16.2
	males	10.1	8.1	2.4	8.3	19.2	8.5	16.2	10.3	4.5	9.5	15.9	2.4	7.6	6.8	4.8	4.9	17.6	5.6	9.3	18.3	13.7	5.1	9.8	1.0	9.4	4.2	24.7	22.4	12.9
Unemployment rate (4)	total	6.8	6.0	5.2	2.2	5.0	3.4	5.4	5.8	19.3	15.3	9.1	8.5	10.6	8.4	7.4	6.2	5.6	3.7	3.7	3.8	4.9	3.9	7.1	4.2	5.1	6.5	7.4	6.3	4.0
	females	7.1	5.6	4.7	2.8	5.1	2.9	5.3	5.7	24.2	17.0	9.1	9.4	11.8	8.8	6.4	5.4	5.9	4.0	3.6	4.0	4.7	3.9	7.5	3.5	5.7	7.0	7.3	6.3	4.0
	males	6.6	6.3	5.7	1.8	4.8	3.8	5.4	5.8	15.4	13.7	9.0	7.7	9.8	8.1	8.4	6.9	5.3	3.5	3.8	3.7	5.0	3.9	6.7	4.7	4.6	6.1	7.4	6.4	4.1
Youth unemployment rate (aged 15 – 24 years) (5)	total	15.2	15.8	12.7	6.7	9.4	6.2	11.8	13.8	39.9	34.3	20.8	23.7	32.2	20.2	12.2	11.1	14.2	10.2	9.2	7.2	9.4	11.7	20.3	16.2	8.8	14.9	17.0	16.8	11.3
	females	14.5	15.3	11.9	7.2	8.2	5.1	11.4	12.6	43.9	33.3	20.0	29.4	34.8	16.2	11.8	10.1	11.9	10.7	6.9	6.6	9.4	12.1	20.9	16.2	9.6	16.1	16.8	15.5	10.3
	males	15.7	16.2	13.2	6.4	10.5	7.1	12.3	14.8	36.4	35.2	21.4	19.6	30.4	25.0	12.5	12.0	16.3	9.8	11.3	7.7	9.4	11.5	19.8	16.3	8.3	14.3	17.3	18.0	12.2
Youth economic activity rate (aged 15 – 24 years) (6)	total	41.7	29.6	23.7	30.4	63.2	50.3	47.3	46.7	23.3	33.0	37.7	33.5	26.1	39.2	37.7	36.5	33.1	32.3	55.5	68.9	56.7	35.1	34.2	29.5	38.6	32.3	53.1	54.2	57.1
	females	38.9	27.7	19.3	26.2	64.0	47.8	45.0	45.0	21.5	30.8	34.0	28.8	21.9	41.8	34.7	34.1	32.3	27.2	55.9	69.8	53.8	30.7	31.7	24.2	34.3	24.5	54.7	55.4	55.6
	males	44.3	31.4	27.8	34.4	62.4	52.5	49.6	48.4	25.1	35.1	41.2	37.9	29.9	36.5	40.5	38.8	33.9	37.1	55.1	68.0	59.5	39.2	36.6	34.6	42.4	39.7	51.5	53.1	58.5
Economically inactive youth in education or training (7)		87.0	94.0	84.9	93.7	75.5	87.3	89.0	86.7	90.9	89.7	89.0	89.7	87.0	86.1	93.1	90.6	80.4	87.4	89.9	73.9	87.7	90.3	90.6	84.4	92.4	91.6	68.7	69.2	81.5
	total	10.5	9.2	15.0	5.6	6.8	5.9	9.8	10.1	14.1	12.4	11.1	13.6	19.2	13.2	7.8	8.0	5.3	10.7	7.3	4.2	6.8	8.7	8.4	14.5	6.6	10.2	8.5	6.1	10.4

Report on the Social Situation of the Population of the Slovak Republic for 2018
Annex to Chapter 5

		eu28	be	bg	cz	dk	de	ee	ie	gr	es	fr	hr	it	cy	lv	lt	lu	hu	mt	nl	at	pl	pt	ro	si	sk	fi	se	uk
Youth (aged 15 – 24 years) not in employment, education or training (NEET) (8)	females	10.9	8.9	16.8	7.8	6.7	6.5	8.9	9.9	14.0	11.9	10.5	14.0	19.4	11.7	7.6	7.6	6.0	14.0	7.8	4.2	7.1	10.1	8.4	17.8	7.2	12.0	8.4	6.1	11.2
	males	10.1	9.4	13.3	3.6	6.9	5.4	10.8	10.2	14.2	13.0	11.8	13.2	19.1	14.8	8.1	8.4	4.6	7.6	6.8	4.2	6.6	7.3	8.4	11.4	6.1	8.4	8.7	6.2	9.7
	total	40.7	47.6	33.7	33.7	49.1	34.9	47.2	56.3	44.3	42.4	46.2	34.1	27.8	57.1	42.7	57.6	56.2	33.7	34.2	49.4	40.7	45.7	33.5	24.6	42.7	37.7	44.2	52.0	48.8
Share of population with tertiary education aged 30 – 34 years (9)	females	45.8	54.5	40.8	40.6	56.6	35.4	57.5	60.4	51.3	48.6	51.2	41.9	34.0	64.4	55.2	68.2	59.8	40.5	37.0	52.6	44.2	55.5	42.5	28.1	56.3	44.6	52.5	59.1	52.0
	males	35.7	40.6	27.0	27.3	41.8	34.5	37.7	51.7	37.5	36.1	41.0	26.5	21.7	49.2	30.6	47.5	52.5	27.3	31.7	46.2	37.2	36.3	24.1	21.4	31.6	31.1	36.2	45.3	45.5
	total	56.1	45.6	46.2	50.9	60.6	60.7	65.7	51.5	49.9	56.6	52.2	37.2	51.7	61.6	57.5	46.9	58.9	55.7	61.7	62.6	55.6	42.0	69.6	55.2	50.8	36.4	52.9	62.0	65.1
Low skilled employment rate (ISCED 0-2) (10)	females	45.3	36.8	36.4	43.1	51.8	53.4	58.1	35.0	35.2	45.6	45.0	30.3	35.5	51.1	47.5	41.8	51.8	46.2	40.8	51.3	50.8	30.2	61.8	40.7	40.9	29.4	43.0	52.9	56.0
	males	66.4	53.4	55.3	61.3	67.2	68.6	69.7	63.4	63.9	66.0	59.8	46.2	66.3	71.9	63.3	50.0	65.7	67.2	81.1	73.7	62.6	52.7	76.5	71.5	61.0	45.0	59.2	69.4	73.6
	total	13.3	13.2	15.5	10.7	8.0	8.8	10.3	9.9	22.3	22.1	16.2	11.6	14.6	9.8	16.5	17.9	8.4	10.3	5.6	6.6	11.4	9.9	7.4	5.8	8.6	29.8	15.9	19.0	6.4
Low skilled unemployment rate (ISCED 0-2) (11)	females	14.1	13.0	16.4	11.0	7.8	7.1	12.6	11.8	27.4	26.4	16.0	11.4	17.3	10.1	18.1	15.5	9.6	10.6	5.9	7.4	9.6	9.1	8.4	3.7	9.3	29.1	17.9	21.5	6.2
	males	12.8	13.3	15.0	10.4	8.1	10.2	9.1	9.1	19.3	19.4	16.4	11.8	13.3	9.6	15.7	19.1	7.4	10.1	5.5	6.0	13.2	10.4	6.6	7.3	8.1	30.4	14.7	17.3	6.5
	total	2.9	2.9	3.0	0.7	1.1	1.4	1.3	2.1	13.6	6.4	3.8	3.4	6.2	2.7	3.1	2.0	1.4	1.4	1.1	1.4	1.4	1.0	3.1	1.8	2.2	4.0	1.6	1.2	1.1
Long-term unemployment rate (12)	females	3.0	2.6	2.6	0.8	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.8	17.5	7.4	3.7	3.8	6.9	2.8	2.4	1.7	1.5	1.5	0.8	1.5	1.3	1.0	3.2	1.3	2.4	4.1	1.4	1.0	0.9
	males	2.8	3.2	3.4	0.6	1.0	1.6	1.5	2.3	10.5	5.4	3.9	3.1	5.6	2.6	3.8	2.3	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.5	1.0	3.0	2.2	2.0	4.0	1.8	1.3	1.2
	total	10.6	8.6	12.7	6.2	10.2	10.3	11.3	5.0	4.7	17.9	8.9	3.3	14.5	7.8	8.3	4.6	6.3	12.5	17.5	7.3	7.3	4.8	11.8	16.4	4.2	8.6	8.3	9.3	10.7
Share of early school leavers (13)	females	8.9	6.5	12.8	6.1	7.8	9.1	6.4	3.9	3.6	14.0	6.9	3.1	12.3	6.0	5.0	3.0	5.9	12.3	15.5	5.3	5.7	3.7	8.7	16.1	3.0	8.8	7.4	8.0	9.1
	males	12.2	10.6	12.6	6.4	12.5	11.5	16.1	6.1	5.7	21.7	10.8	3.5	16.5	9.9	11.4	6.1	6.8	12.6	19.4	9.3	8.9	5.8	14.7	16.7	5.3	8.3	9.2	10.4	12.2
	total	38.4	49.4	33.6	39.9	34.3	45.2	38.0	21.6	34.6	35.9	43.3	35.3	40.9	41.7	39.2	31.2	49.0	19.0	32.2	45.1	35.0	36.2	38.3	38.6	38.8	38.0	40.6	26.0	
Unemployment trap – single person (15)		74.0	92.2	81.6	80.3	89.6	73.1	62.9	71.8	50.6	81.4	76.5	80.1	80.8	87.9	81.6	87.6	78.4	57.1	82.3	68.1	81.8	80.3	49.4	89.6	44.7	76.3	68.9	61.7	
Low wage trap – single person (15)		44.6	60.6	21.6	49.4	40.1	47.6	22.9	45.9	21.7	27.2	50.5	28.1	41.0	31.1	27.1	56.8	34.5	22.4	75.2	44.3	56.1	30.9	31.3	48.4	29.8	56.9	38.6	46.9	
Low wage trap – couple with 2 children (one earner) (15)		59.8	48.2	31.4	87.2	89.3	83.4	42.0	74.4	17.9	14.0	81.1	23.7	5.1	44.6	84.8	104.9	36.7	22.8	68.9	96.9	44.7	28.2	33.4	74.3	49.9	100.0	68.7	80.8	
Population at risk of poverty or social exclusion in % (16)	total	22.4	20.3	38.9	12.2	17.2	19.0	23.4	22.7	34.8	26.6	17.1	26.4	28.9	25.2	28.2	29.6	21.5	25.6	19.3	17.0	18.1	19.5	23.3	35.7	17.1	16.3	15.7	17.7	22.0
	females	23.3	21.4	40.4	13.9	16.6	20.3	25.6	23.5	35.7	27.1	17.6	27.2	29.8	26.4	31.1	31.3	22.8	26.1	20.2	17.3	19.3	19.6	24.0	36.5	18.3	16.2	15.7	18.3	23.0
	males	21.6	19.1	37.2	10.5	17.8	17.6	21.0	21.8	33.9	26.0	16.6	25.5	27.8	24.0	24.9	27.5	20.3	24.9	18.5	16.7	16.8	19.3	22.5	34.9	15.8	16.3	15.6	17.0	21.0
Population at risk of poverty or social exclusion, aged <18, in % (17)		24.9	22.0	41.6	14.2	14.5	18.0	18.8	25.2	36.2	31.3	22.3	25.8	32.1	25.5	23.9	31.6	23.6	31.6	23.0	16.6	23.0	17.9	24.2	41.7	15.1	22.5	15.1	19.4	27.4
Population at risk of poverty or social exclusion, aged 18+, in % (18)	total	21.9	19.9	38.3	11.8	17.9	19.2	24.5	21.8	34.5	25.5	15.7	26.5	28.2	25.2	29.2	29.2	21.0	24.3	18.6	17.1	17.0	19.8	23.1	34.3	17.5	14.9	15.8	17.2	20.5
	females	22.9	21.0	40.2	13.9	17.6	20.6	27.1	23.0	35.5	26.1	16.3	27.5	29.4	26.3	32.2	32.0	22.3	24.8	20.0	17.6	18.4	20.1	23.9	35.4	19.1	15.0	16.1	17.9	21.9
	males	20.8	18.7	36.2	9.5	18.2	17.7	21.6	20.4	33.4	24.9	15.1	25.3	26.9	24.0	25.5	25.7	19.6	23.7	17.1	16.7	15.5	19.5	22.2	33.0	15.9	14.8	15.5	16.4	19.1
At-risk-of-poverty rate (19)	total	16.9	15.9	23.4	9.1	12.4	16.1	21.0	15.6	20.2	21.6	13.3	20.0	20.3	15.7	22.1	22.9	18.7	13.4	16.7	13.2	14.4	15.0	18.3	23.6	13.3	12.4	11.5	15.8	17.0
	females	17.6	16.9	24.9	10.7	11.7	17.1	23.3	16.5	20.2	22.2	13.6	20.9	21.1	16.8	24.6	24.2	19.4	13.7	17.3	13.3	15.3	14.9	18.7	24.2	14.5	12.3	11.4	16.2	17.9
	males	16.3	14.9	21.8	7.6	13.0	15.0	18.4	14.7	20.2	21.0	12.9	18.9	19.4	14.6	19.1	21.4	17.9	13.1	16.1	13.2	13.5	15.1	17.8	22.9	12.0	12.4	11.5	15.4	16.1
Persons living in households with very low work intensity in % (20)	total	9.5	13.5	11.1	5.5	10.0	8.7	5.8	16.2	15.6	12.8	8.1	12.2	11.8	9.4	7.8	9.7	6.9	6.6	7.1	9.5	8.3	5.7	8.0	6.9	6.2	5.4	10.7	8.8	10.1
	females	9.9	14.4	10.8	5.9	9.4	9.0	4.8	17.1	17.0	13.2	8.3	12.1	12.5	10.1	7.6	8.8	8.0	6.8	7.9	9.7	9.2	5.8	8.2	7.7	6.8	5.4	9.7	9.2	10.6

Report on the Social Situation of the Population of the Slovak Republic for 2018
Annex to Chapter 5

	eu28	be	bg	cz	dk	de	ee	ie	gr	es	fr	hr	it	cy	lv	lt	lu	hu	mt	nl	at	pl	pt	ro	si	sk	fi	se	uk	
	males	9.1	12.6	11.4	5.1	10.6	8.4	6.6	15.2	14.2	12.4	7.8	12.3	11.2	8.6	7.9	10.6	5.9	6.3	6.4	9.3	7.5	5.5	7.9	6.2	5.7	5.3	11.7	8.5	9.6
	total	6.6	5.1	30.0	3.7	3.1	3.4	4.1	5.2	21.1	5.1	4.1	10.3	10.1	11.5	11.3	12.4	1.2	14.5	3.3	2.6	3.7	5.9	6.9	19.7	4.6	7.0	2.1	1.1	4.1
Severely materially deprived in % (21)	females	6.8	5.4	31.1	4.0	2.6	3.9	4.5	5.4	21.2	5.3	4.4	10.4	10.0	11.4	11.8	13.1	1.2	14.7	3.4	2.7	3.9	6.0	7.2	19.7	4.8	6.8	2.2	1.3	4.3
	males	6.4	4.8	28.8	3.5	3.6	2.9	3.6	5.0	21.0	4.9	3.9	10.2	10.3	11.7	10.7	11.5	1.1	14.3	3.2	2.5	3.6	5.8	6.5	19.7	4.3	7.2	2.0	1.0	3.9

Source: Eurostat; (1) – (13) – data for 2018, (14) – (15) – data for 2015, (16) – (21) – data for 2017;

: - data not available

eu28 – European Union (28 member states), be – Belgium, bg – Bulgaria, cz – the Czech Republic, dk – Denmark, de – Germany, ee – Estonia, ie – Ireland, gr – Greece, es – Spain, fr – France, hr – Croatia, it – Italy, cy – Cyprus, lv – Latvia, lt – Lithuania, lu – Luxembourg, hu – Hungary, mt – Malta, nl – the Netherlands, at – Austria, pl – Poland, pt – Portugal, ro – Romania, si – Slovenia, sk – Slovakia, fi – Finland, se – Sweden, uk – the United Kingdom