



A U S T R A L I A   A N D

# The Slovak Republic

## Key engagement

Australia and the Slovak Republic (also known as Slovakia) established diplomatic relations upon the foundation of the Slovak Republic in 1993.

Australia and the Slovak Republic cooperate closely in international peace and security forums

## Outlook

A comprehensive and ambitious Australia-EU FTA will boost business and trade opportunities between Australia and the Slovak Republic.

## Bilateral relations

Australia and the Slovak Republic share a commitment to the fundamental values of democracy, peace and free trade. Australia and the Slovak Republic have warm and friendly relations. The Embassy of the Slovak Republic in Tokyo has diplomatic accreditation to Australia. It has a Consulate-General in Sydney and Honorary Consulates in Brisbane, Melbourne, and Perth. The Slovak Republic closed its Embassy in Canberra on 31 December 2022.

## Foreign policy

Human rights are central to Slovak foreign policy. The Slovak Republic became a member of the United Nations (UN) in 1993. Under the Slovak Republic’s initiative, the UN Human Rights Committee adopted in 2011 “The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child”. The Slovak Republic held the Presidency of the UN General Assembly from 2017 to 2018.

The Slovak Republic is a member of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the World Trade Organisation, and the Schengen Zone.

The Slovak Republic’s security is centered around NATO. The Slovak Republic joined NATO in 2004. Slovak and Australian soldiers were stationed together in Uruzgan Province, Afghanistan, during the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) that ran from 2001-2014.

## FAST FACTS



Slovak visitors to Australia (2021) 525



Australian resident returns from the Slovak Republic (2021) 156



Resident Australian population born in the Slovak Republic (2021 census) 4, 781



Australian residents of Slovak descent (2021 census) 13,338



Slovak working holidaymakers (June 2022) 268

## High level engagement

2015      Former Slovak Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs, Mr Miroslav Lajčák, visited Australia with a small business mission.

2013      Former Governor-General, Her Excellency the Honourable Quentin Bryce AC CVO visited the Slovak Republic and met with then President of the Slovak republic, His Excellency Dr Ivan Gašparovič.



## Agreements and Arrangements with Slovak Republic

2015	Work and holiday visa arrangement
2012	Agreement between Australia and the Slovak Republic on Social Security
2000	Agreement with the Government of the Slovak Republic on Trade and Economic Cooperation
1999	Double Taxation Agreement

Texts of bilateral agreements are available at the [Australian Treaties Database](#).

## Political Overview

The Slovak Republic was established on 1 January 1993 after Czechoslovakia split into two independent states - the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic.

Legislative power is held in a unicameral parliament (the National Council) in which Deputies (MPs) are elected for four-year terms. The Head of Government is the Prime Minister, who is appointed by the President who serves as Head of State.

## Public diplomacy

The Australian Embassy in Vienna supports a number of activities throughout the year to promote Australian culture, business credentials, and present Australia as an active supporter of the rules-based global trading system. In June 2019, the Embassy hosted a mini-retrospective of Australian feature films in Bratislava, drawing on a two-month 'Film Continent Australia' festival in neighboring Vienna. The film festival highlighted Australia's cultural diversity and promoted Australia's excellence in film, including Indigenous film. The Embassy also takes advantage of visits to the Slovak Republic and other opportunities to engage with senior government representatives, businesses, universities and the alumni community.

Australian Embassy in Vienna is responsible for the Slovak Republic

[Home \(embassy.gov.au\)](#)

[Twitter](#)

## Economic diplomacy

Two-way goods and services trade between Australia and the Slovak Republic was valued at \$607.5 million in 2020-21. Trade was weighed heavily in the Slovak Republic's favour. Imports from the Slovak Republic to Australia were valued at \$583.5 million, while Australian exports to the Slovak Republic were valued at \$24 million.

Major merchandise imports from the Slovak Republic to Australia included passenger motor vehicles, heating and cooling equipment and transmission shaft & parts.

Major merchandise exports to the Slovak Republic from Australia included services, electrical circuits equipment, and leather.

[More economic and trade information.](#)

Australia continues to seek opportunities to promote Australian business and raise awareness of potential benefits of increased trade between Australia and Europe, including the Slovak Republic. This work has intensified since the launch of the Australia-EU FTA negotiations in June 2018.

[More information about the Australia-EU FTA.](#)

## Business

Australian companies with business interests in the Slovak Republic include Howe Leather (leather upholstery), Macquarie Group (infrastructure), Prospech (mining) and QBE (insurance).

Austrade's [office in Prague](#) is responsible for the Slovak Republic

## Travel

See [Smartraveller](#) for information on travelling to Slovakia.