

## Slovakia

**Capital:** Bratislava  
**Population:** 5,379,455 (2001 census)  
**GDP\*:** \$109.587 billion  
**Currency:** Euro  
**Language:** Slovak



### Summary

In 2007 there were 590,000 cars produced in Slovakia by three car producers: Volkswagen, Kia and Peugeot-Citroen. This number is expected to grow to 800,000 vehicles by 2010, when all three factories are running at full capacity. Automobile and automotive parts and components manufacturing accounts for more than 30% of Slovak exports and more than 30% of Slovak Gross Domestic Product, which makes it the biggest driving force for the country's economy.

### Current Market Trends

Slovakia's domestic car market should show strong growth over the next five years. Slovakia is already the world's largest per capita automotive producer, but it is last in the EU in vehicle ownership. Slovakia's ratio is 4.8 people per car, while the EU average is 1.76 people per car. U.S. made cars have found a niche market in Slovakia. Cadillac, Corvette and Hummer all sell vehicles here through dealerships.

	2006	2007	2008 (estimated)
Total Market Size	9,371	7,413	14,325
Total Local Production	11,536	10,842	17,325
Total Exports	6,894	9,583	11,000
Total Imports	4,729	6,154	8,000
Imports from the U.S.	10.9	13.4	14.06

Slovak Statistical Office, OTII, ITA (in Millions of USD)

Rapid technological changes are expected in the automotive industry over the next five years. Changes are expected mainly in the following areas: breaking systems, adaptive speed control, intelligent parts of passive and active safety (radar security systems, video transfer systems, automatic stirring control of vehicles in a traffic jam, etc.), global navigation and the use of satellites, among others.

### Current Demand

The following specific items were the leading exports from the U.S. to Slovakia, ranked by thousands of U.S. dollars from January – September 2007:

Item	2005	2006	2006 thru Sep	2007 thru Sep
Total	10,947	13,400	10,402	15,560
8703--motor cars & vehicles for transporting persons	2,603	5,244	3,281	8,846
8701--tractors (other than works trucks HS 8709)	6,136	5,438	5,077	2,933
8708--parts & access for motor vehicles ( 8701-8705)	1,469	1,663	1,268	1,517
8711—motorcycles & cycles with aux motor	631	971	734	1,409
8705--special purpose motor vehicles	0	0	0	591
8709--works trucks, no lift; static tractors	7	0	0	144
8707--bodies (including cabs), for specif. motor vehicles	0	0	0	43

8712--bicycles & oth cycles (inc del tricycle) no motor	11	20	7	34
8714--parts & access for cycles & invalid carriages	90	57	30	31
8716--trailers etc; other vehicles, not mech. propeld	0	5	5	13

Other automotive sector products that are attractive for sale in Slovakia include:

- SUVs and other motor vehicles principally designed for the transport of persons (other than those of heading 8702), including station wagons and racing cars
- Tractors, self-propelled, not fitted with lifting or handling equipment, of the type used in factories, warehouses, dock areas or airports for short distance transport of goods tractors of the type used on railway station platforms; parts of the foregoing vehicles
- Parts and accessories of motor vehicles, like tractors, and special-purpose motor vehicles other than those principally designed for the transport of persons or goods (for example, breakdown trucks, crane trucks, fire-fighting vehicles, concrete-mixer trucks, road sweeper trucks, spraying trucks, mobile workshops and mobile radiological units
- Research and development, mainly in brake systems, adaptive speed control, intelligent parts of passive and active safety, global navigation and use of satellites
- E-technology and education
- Automotive aftermarket parts and accessories



The collection and assessment of recycled vehicles is currently under implementation in Slovakia. Since this is a new business requirement, the best prospects for U.S. companies are in the consulting and technical fields and also in environmental automotive cleanup.

## Trade Events

Annually, there are three sophisticated and cost-effective automotive trade shows held in Slovakia, where domestic and international companies congregate to seek new partners. They are:

**Autosalon, Autoservis, Motocykel** - held in Bratislava

There is also the [C.S.I.L. CAR SUBSUPPLIERS INDUSTRY](#) exhibition (This year's 4<sup>th</sup> international fair of producers and subcontractor for automotive industry and logistics) along with [CAR PLAST](#) (international fair of plastics, tire and compositors for automotive industry). More info: <http://www.incheba.sk>

**Autocee Conference** – held in Hotel Carlton in Bratislava

<http://www.wbresearch.com/autocee/index.html>

**Autosalon in Nitra** – <http://www.agrokomplex.sk/?pl=40>

## Available Market Research

The Slovak Automotive Industry (May 2008)

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