

Banská Bystrica Region

S A R I O

Slovak Investment and Trade Development Agency

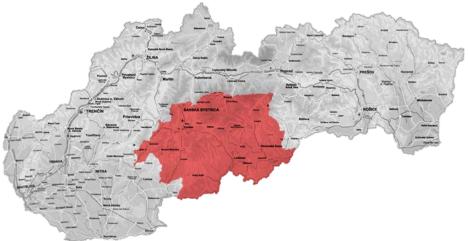
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1. General information

The Banská Bystrica region is the largest and the least densely populated region of Slovakia. It is situated in the southern part of Central Slovakia and is formed by lowlands in the south and mountains in the north. The region shares a common national border only with Hungary. It shares its remaining borders with five other regions of Slovakia: Nitra, Trenčín, Žilina, Prešov and Košice. The region has several types of settlements, ranging from the city of Banská Bystrica itself, to medium-sized cities, towns, villages and small settlements throughout the mountains and lowlands. From an ethnic point of view, the Banská Bystrica region is relatively heterogeneous. While Slovaks form 97% of the entire population in its northern districts, in the south there is a considerable national group of Hungarians, who represent almost 30% of the region's population. The Banská Bystrica region comprises 13 districts, 24 towns and 516 villages. It has a population of 658 490 inhabitants and a population density of 69/km².

Strong points of the region are: affluence of work force; high educational level in regional centres; big base of raw materials for many sectors, good position in export of metallurgy, wood processing, glass processing, ceramic and chemical industry; affluence of available brownfields and greenfields suitable for building of industrial parks and zones; potential for bonds foreign investor-subcontractor from region; suitable natural, climate and cultural conditions for development of tourism with sources of mineral, thermal and healing springs; insertion of south railway corridor Bratislava - Zvolen - Košice (including the relay Fil'akovo - Šiatorská Bukovinka) to the net of trans-European railroads TEN under the project TINA and highway connection from Banska Bystrica to Bratislava (capital).



Region (district)	Area (km²)	Municipalities	Towns	Inhabitants	Population density (per km²)
Banská Bystrica	809. 426	42	1	111 148	137
Banská Štiavnica	292. 287	15	1	16 509	57
Brezno	1 265. 211	30	1	63 696	50
Detva	449. 219	15	2	32 871	72
Krupina	584. 900	36	2	22 779	39
Lučenec	825. 639	57	2	74 681	88
Poltár	476. 246	22	1	22 400	47
Revúca	730. 384	42	3	40 326	55
Rimavská Sobota	1 471. 081	107	3	84 837	56
Veľký Krtíš	848. 400	71	2	45 280	54
Zvolen	759. 068	26	2	68 994	89
Žarnovica	425. 549	18	2	26 915	63
Žiar nad Hronom	517. 676	35	2	48 054	92
Banská Bystrica region	9 455. 083	516	24	658 490	69

Source: Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic, data as of 31 December 2013

1.1. Transport and Infrastructure

The entire road system in the region includes 3 144 km of roads, of which 574 are the I. class roads. There are two significant roads crossing the region, the north-south one, classified as E 77 in the European road network, and the east-west road, classified as E 571. The highway R1 from Banska Bystrica to Bratislava has been completed recently. The International Airport Sliac is used for chartered flights and private flights.

Two main railways connecting Slovakia's south with north and west with east cross the region. They are integrated into an extensive network of regional railroads.

The suppliers of telephone services are Slovak Telekom, a.s., which offers fixed lines, and T-Mobile Slovensko, a.s., Orange Slovensko, a.s., and Telefónica O2 Slovakia, s.r.o., all of which offer mobile services. Rates are the same throughout the entire Slovak Republic. Gas and electricity supply rates are the same for each whole region. The price of water supply and sewage are independent and thus vary within each region's districts.

2. Economy and Industry

The industry is distributed unevenly across the region, with a high concentration in the north, where the most productive sectors are located, including metallurgy, machinery, automotive, wood processing, pharmaceutical, electrotechnical, defence and polygraph industries. The south is home to mining industry, food processing and other industries complementary to agriculture.

2.1. Structure of Industry

Mainly because of the region's long mining tradition, its dominant industry is metallurgy, which represents more than 60% of all industrial exports and is the primary area of activity of the region's largest enterprises. Other important sectors are woodwork, machinery, chemistry, pharmacy, defence, mining and food processing. The regional centre of Banská Bystrica is becoming more service and trade oriented destination.

Main Production Sectors

- Pharmaceutical Industry
- Machinery Industry
- Mining Industry
- Food Industry
- Wood, Paper and Furniture Industry
- Defence Industry
- Chemical Industry
- Electrotechnical Industry
- Automotive Industry
- Building Industry

2.2. Non-industrial Sectors in the Region

The economic structure of the region is strongly influenced by its geographical conditions. The mountainous north has always been a centre of mining and manufacturing, while the south has had a rural character.

Agricultural land of middle quality forms 44% of the region's area. It is used primarily for growing corn and maize. In the north, the presence of meadows and grassy plains provide a base for the raising of livestock. The largest woodland areas in Slovakia are also found here, covering 49% of the entire region.

The region has a long tradition in mining. Deposits of various metals, especially in Kremnica and Banská Štiavnica, have been exploited since the 13th century. Today, however, mining activities in those cities are in decline. The centre of mining is shifting into areas focusing on the production of non-metallic materials. One important activity for the future is the silicate zone near Lučenec and Revúca.

3. Significant Companies

Company	Country of origin	Employees	Sector/Product	Investment location
Slovenská Pošta a.s.	Slovakia	14 847	Post service	Banská Bystrica
Slovenský Vodohospodársky Podnik š.p.	Slovakia	3 600	Water management	Banská Štiavnica
LESY Slovenskej Republiky	Slovakia	3 547	Forestry	Banská Bystrica
Železiarne Podbrezová a.s.	Slovakia	3 120	Steel pipes and canals	Podbrezová
CBA Slovakia s.r.o.	Slovakia	2 480	Supermarkets and Retail	Lučenec
Yura Eltec Corporation Slovakia, s.r.o.	South Korea	1 700	Cables for Automotive	Rimavská Sobota, Hnúšťa
PPS Group a.s.	Slovakia	1 400	Metal construction and Machinery	Detva
Stredoslovenská Vodárenská Prevádzková Spoločnosť	Slovakia	1 110	Water distribution	Banská Bystrica
Slovenská autobusová doprava Zvolen, a.s.	Slovakia	980	National and International Transport	Zvolen
COOP Jednota, Krupina, spotrebné družstvo	Slovakia	960	Retail	Krupina
Slovenské Magnezitové Závody	Slovakia	898	Magnesite production and distribution	Jelšava
EKOLTECH, spol. s r.o.	Slovakia	850	Furniture Production	Fil'akovo
Slovmag a.s., Lubeník	Russia	600	Magnesite Mining	Lubeník
ŽELEZNIČNÉ OPRAVOVNE A STROJÁRNE ZVOLEN a.s.	Slovakia	600	Railways repair system	Zvolen
Continental Automotive Systems Slovakia, s.r.o	Germany	600	Brakes Prouduction	Zvolen
Banskobystrická regionálna správa ciest, a.s.	Slovakia	524	Roads Administration	Banská Bystrica
Nemak Slovakia s.r.o.	Germany	540	Aluminium Metalurgy	Žiar nad Hronom
Biotika, a.s.	Slovakia	502	Pharmacy	Slovenská Ľupča
Slovalco, a.s.	UK/Norway	470	Aluminium Metalurgy	Žiar nad Hronom

Source: GLOBAL Slovakia, 2013

4. Industrial parks

Industrial parks in the Banska Bystrica region and some of the companies established within those industrial parks:

Industrial Park	Municipality	Total Area (Ha)	Available Area (Ha)	Type of IP
Industrial Park Majer - Šalková	Banská Bystrica	35.7	20	GF
Industrial Park ZSNP Žiar and Hronom	Žiar and Hronom	287	15	GF
Industrial Park Žarnovica Pod Lipou	Žarnovica	19	19	GF
Industrial Park Žarnovica - Preglejka	Žarnovica	10.3	10.3	BF
Industrial Park Malý Krtíš	Malý Krtíš	25	2.5	GF
Industrial Park Vígľaš	Vígľaš	37.5	20	GF
Industrial Park INOPARK Vígľaš	Vígľaš	166	166	GF
Industrial Park Detva – Areál PPS	Detva	3	0	BF
Industrial Park Kriváň	Kriváň	20	12	GF
Industrial Park Lučenec JUH – Phase II.	Lučenec	6.2	1.9	GF
Industrial Park Poľana Lučenec	Lučenec	11.7	1.3	BF
Industrial Park Tomášovce	Tomášovce	32	32	GF
Industrial Park Gemer – Rimavská Sobota	Rimavská Sobota	11.5	11.5	BF
Industrial Park Cukrovar – Rimavská Sobota	Rimavská Sobota	34	24	BF
Industrial Park Kasárne – Rimavská Sobota	Rimavská Sobota	9.7	4.1	BF
Industrial Zone NORTH – Rimavská Sobota	Rimavská Sobota	13.8	13.8	GF
Industrial Park Poltár	Poltár	23	20	GF
Industrial Park Tornal'a	Tornal'a	4.2	1.6 (GF)	BF
Industrial Park Hnúšťa	Hnúšťa	38.4	5	BF
Industrial Zone Krupina	Krupina	26	3	GF
Industrial Park Utekáč	Utekáč	2.7	0.5	BF

Source: SARIO, 2013

Caption: GF - Greenfield, BF - Brownfield



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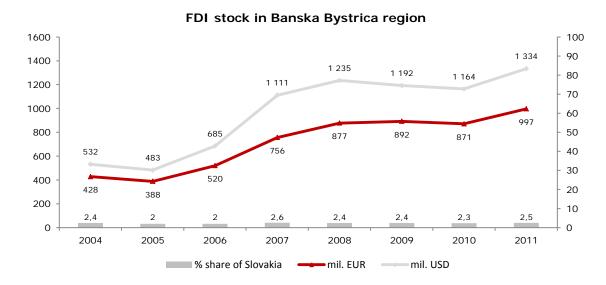
Industrial park/Companies established within IP	Employees*	Sector	Product	Country of origin
1. Industrial Park	Krupina South			
Lind Mobler Slovakia, s.r.o.	356	Furniture	Upholstered furniture	Denmark
Way Industry, a.s.	237	Machinery	Instruments and machines for mining and construction	Slovakia
Wittur, s.r.o.	112	Machinery	Elevators, escalators, lifting and towing equipment	Austria
Brother Industries, Ltd.	266	Electrotechnical	Production and retrofitting of PC printer cartridges	Japan
2. Industrial Park	L <mark>učenec</mark> South			
Johnson Controls Lučenec, s.r.o.	819	Automotive	Automotive interior systems made of polyurethane foam	USA
D&J Design, s.r.o.	130	Furniture	Furniture components	Slovakia
3. Industrial Park I	Majer Šalková			
Burgmaier Precison Slovakia s.r.o.	70	Machinery	Accurate machining parts for automotive industry	Germany
MED-ART, spol.s.r.o.	110	Pharmaceutical	Distribution of medicines, medical supplies, cosmetics,diagnostics and homeopathics	Slovakia
AS Trading s.r.o.	23	Wholesale	Sale of formwork and scaffolding systems and of mobile scaffolds	Slovakia
4. Industrial Park I	Malý Krtíš			
Technogym E.E., s.r.o.	500	Machinery	Exercise equipment and machines for fitness centers	Italy
Sisme Slovakia s.r.o	152	Electrotechnical	Electric motors, generators and a transformers	Italy
5. Industrial Park	ZNSP Žiar and	Hronom		
Slovalco, a.s.	470	Metallurgy	Aluminium metals	UK,Norway
Nemak Slovakia, s.r.o.	540	Metallurgy	Aluminium parts for automotive industry	Germany
Fagor Ederlan Slovakia	175	Metallurgy	Metals for automotive industry	Spain
Sapa Profily, a.s.	409	Metallurgy	Pressed aluminium profiles	Sweden
Remeslo Strojal,s.r.o.	200	Machinery	Metal constructions	Slovakia, USA
Dalkia Industry	120	Power Engineering	Supply of electricity, gas, steam and cold air	Slovakia
6. Industrial Park I	Detva – Areál	PPS		
PPS Group,a.s.	1400	Machinery	Metal constructions	Slovakia, The Czech Republic, Austria, Sweden
PPS Personálne služby,s.r.o.	150	Administration	Administrative and Human Resources services	Slovakia
7. Industrial Park	Hnúšťa			
Yura Eltec Corpoartion Slovakia,s.r.o.	960	Automotive	Cable harnesses for automotive industry	South Korea

Reisner & Wolff Slovakia, s.r.o.	100	Machinery	Bridge bearings	Austria
Gallai & Wolff Slovakia s.r.o.	25	Machinery	Metal constructions	Austria
8. Industrial Par	k Tornaľa			
Himolla Group	150	Furniture	Leather sofas	Germany
LVD S2,a.s.	54	Machinery	Forming and sheet processing machines	Belgium
9. Industrial Par	k Kriváň			
Kops, s.r.o.	42	Machinery	Components for hydraulic systems	Slovakia
Ojala Slovakia,s.r.o.	201	Electrotechnical	Distribution boxes	Finland
Luka Masív - Katarína Očenášová	23	Furniture	Furniture and furniture components	Slovakia
10. Industrial Pa	ark Fiľakovo			
Ekoltech, spol.s.r.c	850	Furniture	Furniture	Slovakia
Thorma Výroba,k.s.	320	Home Appliances	Stoves, cookers and fireplaces	Germany
Festap s.r.o.	150	Home Appliances	Enamel bathtubs and shower bowls	Slovakia
11. Industrial Pa	ark Kasárne – R	imavská Sobota		
Yura Eltec Corporation Slovakia, s.r.o.	740	Automotive	Cable harnesses for automotive industry	South Korea
Kissling Slovensko,s.r.o.	48	Electrotechnical	Industrial microswitches and switches	Switzerland, Germany

Source: SARIO, 2013 * Informative data, exact data not available

5. Foreign Direct Investment

FDI inflow to the Banská Bystrica region is growing rapidly. A significant inflow was recorded in the period 2007-2010, when the amount of FDI in the region reached in average 878 mil. EUR, which accounted more that 2.5% of the FDI for the whole Slovakia.



Source: National Bank of Slovakia

Structure of companies according to the number of employees

Number of employees	0 –	19 ^{*)}	20 – 49		20 – 49 50 – 249		250 or more	
Region	Total	Share %	Total	Share %	Region	Total	Share %	Total
Banská Bystrica	12 615	9.9	367	8.3	251	9.1	46	7.7
SR	146 110	100	4 412	100	2 761	100	598	100

^{*)} Including companies where the number of employees is not available Source: Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic, data as of 31 December 2012

6. Labour Market

The Banská Bystrica region registered more than 122 thousand employees in 2012, with slightly less than a quarter employed in the industry sector. Less than 6% work in agriculture.

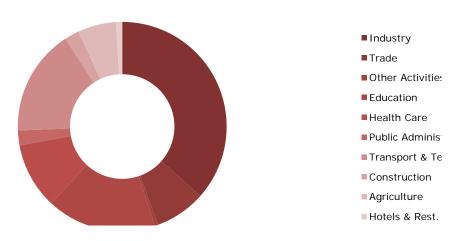
6.1. Employment

Number of employees and % share in sectoral classification

Sector	Employees	Share (%)
Industry	39 194	32,1
Education	18 171	14,9
Transport, Storage, Post, Telecommunications	17 633	14,4
Public Administration, Defence, Compulsory Social Security	11 683	9,6
Health Care and Social Welfare	10 983	9,0
Wholesale and retail	8 459	6,9
Agriculture	6 347	5,2
Administrative and Support Services	2 454	2,0
Construction	2 451	2,0
Art, amusement and recreational activities	1 951	1,6
Hotels and Restaurants	1 037	0,8
R&D, other technical activities	937	0,8
Other Activities	528	0,4
ICT	406	0,3
Banská Bystrica Region	122 234	100

Source: Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic, data as of 31 December 2012

Sector-specific Employment Breakdown

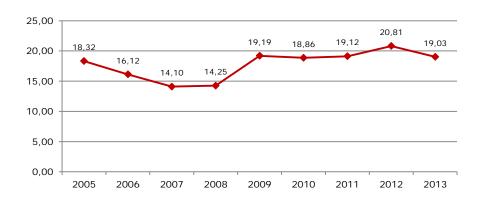


Data as of 31 December 2012 Source: Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic

6.2. Unemployment

The unemployment rate has been steadily decreasing in the last few years, with some growth in 2009 and 2012 due to the effects of the financial crisis. It reached 20.81 % in 2012. Besides the unemployed, there is the possibility of the economically active population in the region commuting to other regions or to neighbouring countries. In the case of the Banská Bystrica region this amounts to approximately 10 000 economically active inhabitants.

Unemployment rate in the Banska Bystrica region (%)



Source: Centre for Labour, Social Affairs and Family, 2013

The following chart shows data on the economically active population in the Banská Bystrica region, including the number of unemployed, their structure and the resulting unemployment rate.

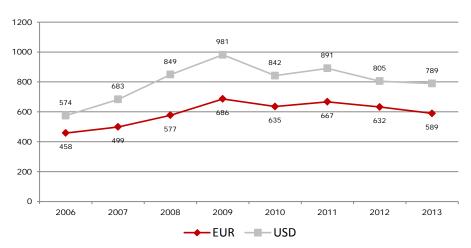
	Economically	of which		Available	Registered	
District	active population	The unemployed	Women	Graduates	job applicants	unemployment rate (%)
Banská Bystrica	58 292	6 200	2 818	527	5 738	9,84
Banská Štiavnica	8 121	1 740	822	124	1 620	19,95
Brezno	31 057	5 713	2 647	244	5 258	16,93
Detva	16 086	2 642	1 398	160	2 428	15,09
Krupina	10 885	2 193	862	120	1 962	18,02
Lučenec	35 132	8 502	3 782	333	7 926	22,56
Poltár	10 869	3 220	1 329	169	3 009	27,68
Revúca	19 278	6 798	2 961	190	6 123	31,76
Rimavská Sobota	40 747	14 514	6 336	421	13 136	32,24
Veľký Krtíš	21 841	5 545	2 415	275	5 197	23,79
Zvolen	34 313	3 986	2 032	378	3 633	10,59
Žarnovica	13 040	2 572	1 308	125	2 419	18,55
Žiar nad Hronom	23 753	3 724	1 989	247	3 479	14,65
Banská Bystrica	323 414	67 349	30 699	3313	61 928	19,15

Data as of 31 January 2014

Source: Centre of Labour, Social Affairs and Family

7. Wages and Salaries

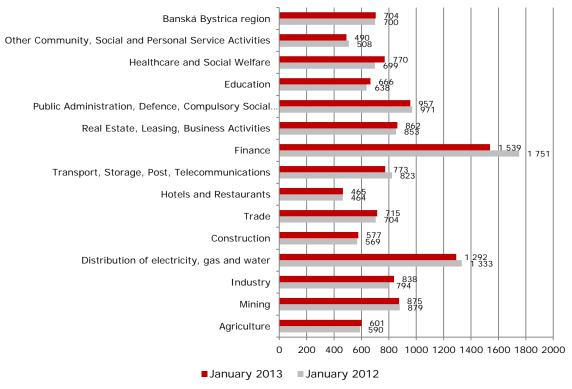




Source: Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic, Exchange rate used based on central parity of the given year

Average monthly wage (salary) in EUR in specific sectors in 10 2013 in comparism to 2012.

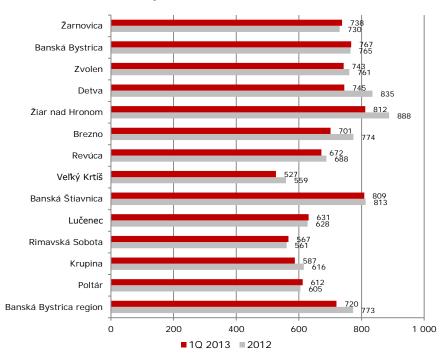
The highest nominal salaries are being earned in finance, distribution of electricity, gas and water and public administration.



Source: Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic, Exchange rate used based on central parity of the given year

Average monthly wage (salary) in EUR by district in 2013

The following table shows average salaries by districts in the region, in companies with 20 or more employees. The highest average monthly wages (salary) within the Banská Bystrica region are paid in the Žiar nad Hronom, Banská Bystrica and Zvolen districts.



Source: Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic, Exchange rate used based on central parity of the given year

7.1. Education

The following table shows the number of students and graduates in high schools last year, divided by by field of education in the region.

Specialization/Field of study	Students 2012/2013	Graduates 2011/2012
Electrotechnics	2 461	623
Machinery and other metal processing production	1 344	443
Construction	1 298	331
Chemistry	99	34
Agriculture	903	275
Woodprocessing & Furniture	322	137
Transport and telecommunications	706	240
Business Academy	7 656	1 876
General Education	8 336	2 070
Medical	1 156	376
Arts	931	266
Other	2 010	362

Source: Institute for Information and Forecasting in Education, school year 2012/2013

The following table shows the number of students and university graduates last year, divided by field of study in the region.

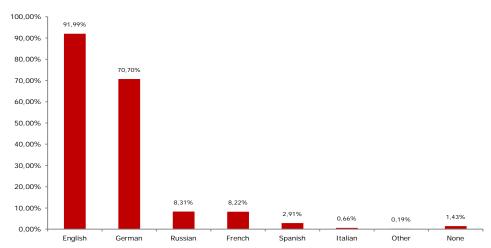
University, Faculty	Town	Students	Graduates
SLOVAK HEALTH UNIVERSITY		611	336
Faculty of health	Banská Bystrica	611	336
UNIVERSITY OF MATEJ BEL		11 387	3 924
Natural Science	Banská Bystrica 1	1 468	606
Economics	Banská Bystrica 1	2 773	986
Law	Banská Bystrica 1	1 176	444
Political Sciences	Banská Bystrica 1	787	259
Humanities	Banská Bystrica 1	2 872	875
Education	Banská Bystrica 1	2 310	754
ACADEMY OF ARTS	Banská Bystrica	586	212
TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY ZVOLEN		4 482	1 463
Environmental science and Production	Zvolen 1	437	140
Forestry	Zvolen 1	732	274
Wood Technology	Zvolen 1	1 625	586
Ecology and Environmental sciences	Zvolen 1	601	247

Source: Institute for Information and Forecasting in Education Students, as to date 31.12.2012, Graduates, as to date 31.12.2012

7.2. Language skills

The following chart shows data on foreign language skills among high school students.

Language skills among high school students (%)



Source: Institute for Information and Forecasting in Education, school year 2010/2011

Students and graduates attending bilingual high schools in the Banská Bystrica region

Town	Language	Students	Graduates
Banská Bystrica	Slovak/German	107	37
Banská Bystrica	Slovak/French	141	21
Banská Bystrica	Slovak/Spanish	148	30
Banská Štiavnica	Slovak/English	106	0
Tisovec	Slovak/English	294	54

Source: Institute for Information and Forecasting in Education, school year 2011/2012, data as 15 July 2013

8. Regional public authority, central municipality and regional development institutions

Town Hall Banska Bystrica

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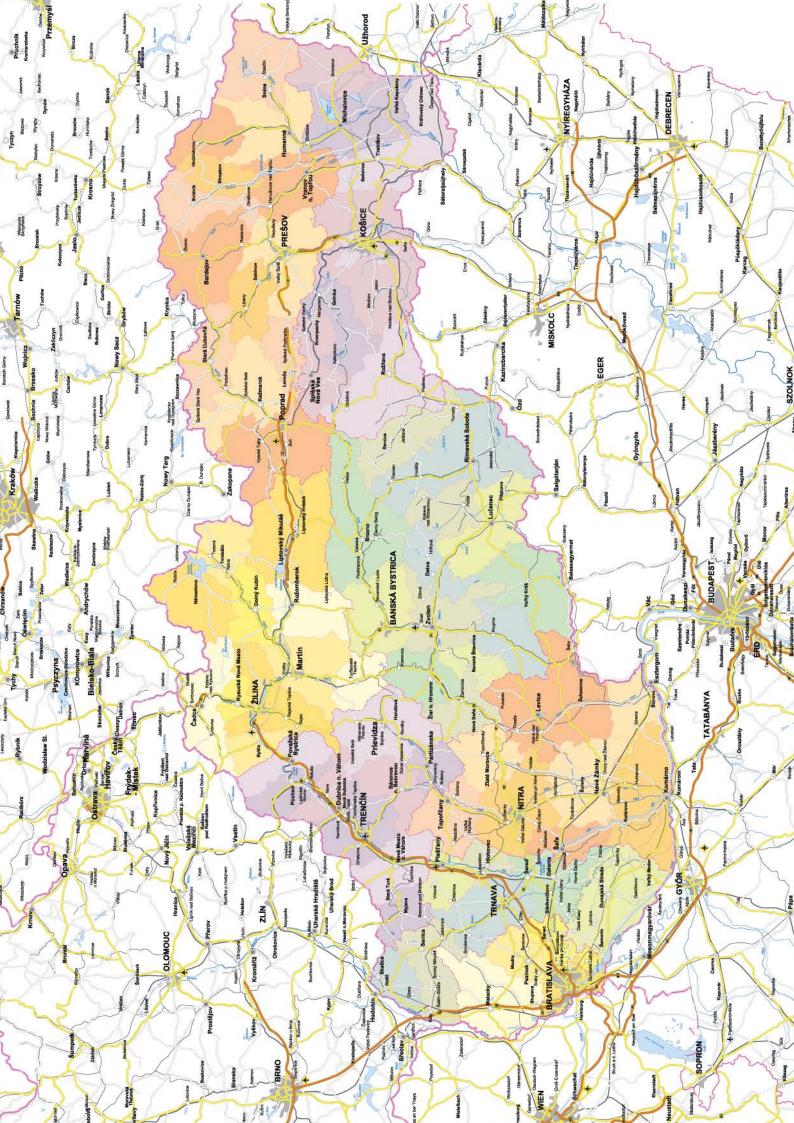
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