

CONTENTS

CONTENTS

10 largest employment agencies 3

Labour market 4-11

General overview of the labour market in Slovakia 4

Wages & labour costs 8

What skills do BSC employees need? 11

Legislation 12-22

Is employment bureaucracy growing in Slovakia? 12

Hiring foreigners is now easier 16

Is cooperation with the self-employed illegal? 18

Law firms in Slovakia 21

FAQ: Working in Slovakia 22

Who's Who 23-29

Professionals at HR departments 22

Education & training 30-33

Schools should teach values, not skills 30

Job fairs in Slovakia 32

Training companies 33

Trends 34-43

Luring Slovaks back from abroad 34

Innovation: In search of people for logistics 36

Survey: Better salaries help solve lack of labour force 38

Changing requirements for job candidates 40

What are the best employee benefits? 41

Human resources sector highlights 42

Tables & contact details 44-50

Who's Who: Professionals at HR companies 44

Job portals 45

Human capital consulting firms 46

Recruitment agencies 47

Executive search firms 48

Temporary employment agencies 49

Awards & events focusing on HR 50

Index 51

Since the start of 2019, the big automotive plants have been sending mixed messages. Some, like Kia, admit Brexit, scheduled to take place one month after this guide is published, is likely to have a negative impact on their production. Some work positions have been eliminated for now, and other carmakers, like Volkswagen, report they also plan to cut down on their workforce this year.

On the other hand, the latest arrival on the industrial map of Slovakia, the Nitra plant of the British Jaguar Land Rover, aims to hire hundreds of employees in the coming months.

Speaking of Brexit, some companies hope that the changing circumstances will prompt Slovaks living in the UK to consider returning back home to fill vacancies that companies, mostly in the IT sector, have been struggling to fill.

Even though salaries have risen in Slovakia in the past few years, and the average salary of the national economy has exceeded €1,000 for the first time in 2018, they still do not match western Europe, including the UK. Experts chalk this up to work productivity, which still lags behind in Slovakia compared to, say, Austria.

At the end of the day, regardless of the benefits employers offer, salary remains a decisive factor for people. This is a key message that HR experts are sending out: to tackle the lack of labour force, higher salaries remain the most efficient tool.

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