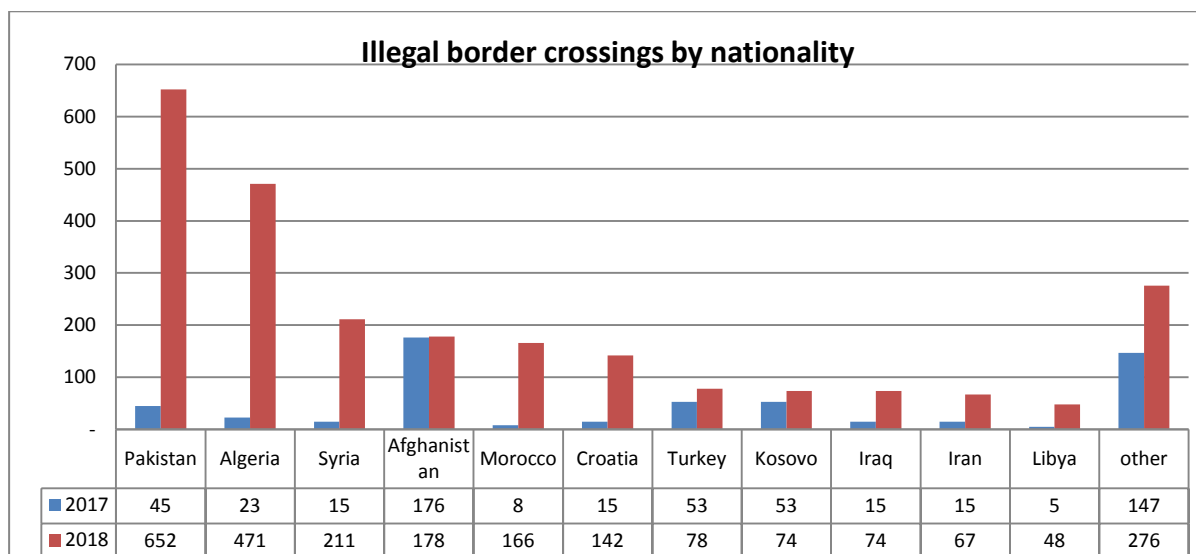


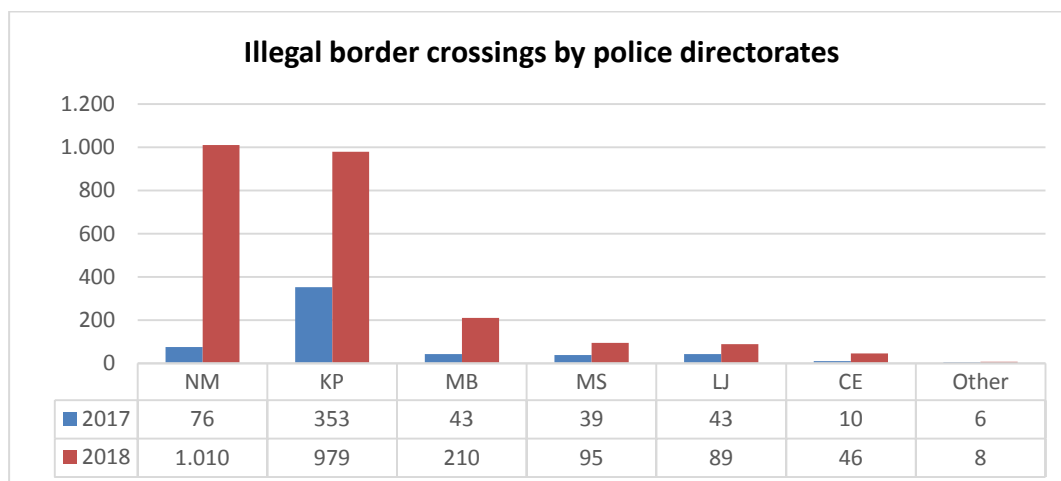
ILLEGAL MIGRATION IN THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA

From 1 January to 31 May 2018, the police recorded a total of 2,437 illegal crossings of the state border of the Republic of Slovenia. Last year's comparative figure stood at 570. The current figure represents a 327.5 per cent increase on the number of illegal migrants who came to Slovenia in the January-May period last year.

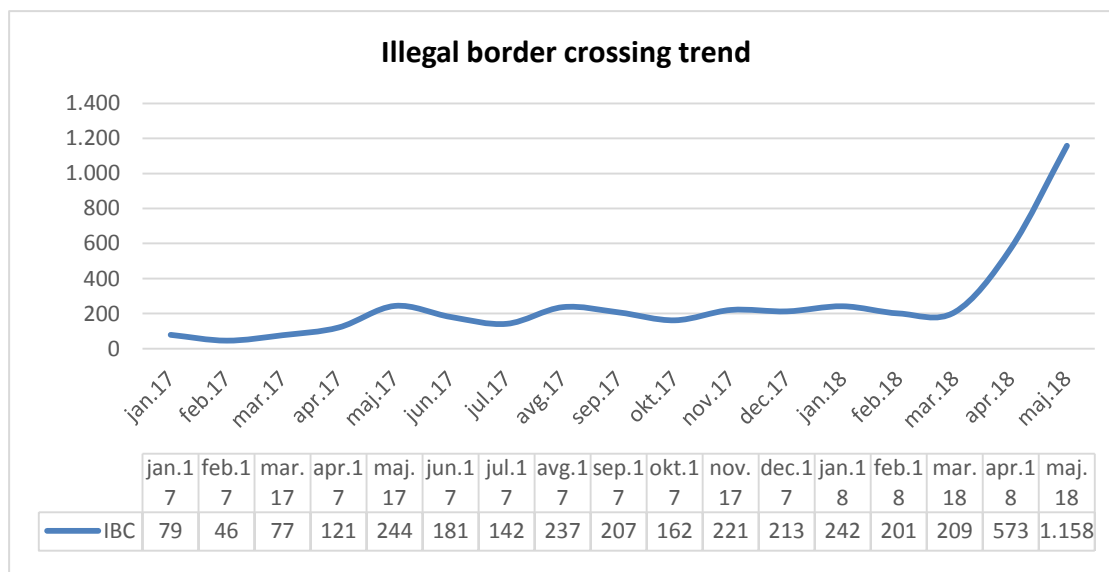
Pakistani, Algerian and Syrian nationals constitute the three largest nationality groups reported. Their numbers have gone up significantly. The most obvious change in the nationality pattern is that Algerians are no longer the strongest group of irregular migrants. The data are shown on the chart below.



The largest number of unauthorised border crossings, i.e. 41 per cent of the total figure, was dealt with by Novo mesto Police Directorate. The second most burdened area was Koper Police Directorate (in the littoral part of Slovenia), which received 40 per cent of the total figure of migrants. The data are shown on the chart below.



Since the beginning of 2017 illegal crossings have been on the rise but the trend was unstable. The figures rose significantly this April and the sharply increasing trend has continued since.



Illegal entries on the internal borders

While patrolling inland or performing border checks on the external border, the police detected 313 foreigners who had made an unauthorised entry into Slovenia on the internal border and failed to possess a proper travel document or permit (e.g. residence permit or visa). The corresponding figure last year was 344. This represents a 9 per cent decrease in comparison with the same period last year.

Border	Austria		Italy		Hungary		Air borders		Total	
	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018
China	0	1	32	24	0	1	0	0	32	26
Albania	2	2	33	22	0	1	0	0	35	25
Bosnia and Herzegovina	27	18	14	7	0	0	0	0	41	25
Serbia	2	4	20	17	0	0	0	0	22	21
Other	46	86	157	120	10	10	1	0	214	216
Total	77	111	256	190	10	12	1	0	344	313

Entry refusals at Slovenia's border crossing points

A total of 1,749 third-country nationals were refused entry at the state border on the grounds of non-compliance with the requirements to enter Slovenia or another Member State of the European Union, based on the Schengen Borders Code. The majority of these were banned from entering Slovenia on the land border with Croatia. Last year, the number of entry refusals stood at 1,689. The trend increased by 3.6 per cent.

Nationality / Border	Land borders		Air borders		Sea borders		Total	
	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018
Albania	371	358	142	124	0	0	513	482
Bosnia and Herzegovina	379	401	4	7	0	0	383	408
Serbia	292	321	5	2	0	0	297	323
Macedonia	178	185	11	3	0	0	189	188
Kosovo	52	73	1	0	0	0	53	73
Turkey	21	20	28	30	0	0	49	50
other	196	215	9	9	0	1	205	225
Total	1.489	1.573	200	175	0	1	1.689	1.749

Illegal residence

The police dealt with 1,733 foreigners because of their unauthorised stay in the Republic of Slovenia or another Member State of the European Union. The figure for the corresponding period in 2017 was 1,577. This represents a 9.8 per cent increase.

Nationality	2017	2018
Albania	359	358
Bosnia and Herzegovina	400	351
Serbia	248	312
Macedonia	188	294
Moldova	150	225
Turkey	62	61
Montenegro	17	21
Ukraine	39	19
Other	114	92
Total	1.577	1.733

Implementation of interstate readmission agreements

a) Returning persons to foreign law enforcement agencies

Based on international agreements, Slovenia' police handed over (returned) 409 foreigners to foreign law enforcement authorities. The corresponding figure relevant to the same period last year was 368. A great majority of these, i.e. 370 persons, were returned on the border with Croatia. The number of returned persons in the corresponding period of 2017 was 298. Nationals of Pakistan represent the largest group (55) of persons returned at the border with Croatia. In the same period last year the Croatian law enforcement took back 12 Pakistani nationals.

b) Taking charge of persons handed over by other law enforcement authorities

Based on international agreements, 167 persons were handed over to Slovenia by foreign law enforcement authorities. The figure for the comparative period in 2017 was 157 persons. Of these, 13 persons returned were Slovenian nationals.

Country	Admission from		Readmission to	
	2017	2018	2017	2018
Italy	38	97	47	12
Austria	14	12	3	8
Croatia	5	3	298	370
Hungary	16	10	3	1
air borders	84	45	17	18
Total	157	167	368	409

Overview of the situation

In 2017 and at the beginning of 2018, irregular migration was unstable but showing steady growth. As expected, the significant rise in the number of illegal migrants in April this year was driven by improved weather conditions, the new alternative route across Bosnia and Herzegovina and large numbers of migrants building up in the Western Balkan area. Irregular migration is showing clear signs of sharp growth. Slovenia expects the trend to continue and the volume of migration to swell. Over the recent period we also noticed a change in the structure of illegal migrants by nationality.

The number of persons taken back from foreign law enforcement authorities is a bit larger when compared to the corresponding period last year. Many of these migrants leave accommodation centres, which are guaranteed under the international protection mechanism, and continue their journey towards destination countries.

The significant decrease in the number of persons who are sent back to the neighbouring states is the result of many persons lodging applications for international protection. Migrants take advantage of the international protection mechanism only to be able to continue their journey. This pattern is a reality in the entire territory of the Western Balkans. Once apprehended illegal migrants immediately declare their intention to lodge an application for international protection after which they leave accommodation centres and continue their journey. This modus operandi will absolutely continue due to the nature of accommodation facilities, which allow seekers to go outside at any time.

The number of foreigners who are processed for illegal stay continues to grow. The most common ground on which foreigners are found to be staying illegally is the overstay of permitted residence. This issue is mainly related to traffic flows within Europe.

A huge majority of foreigners who make an illegal entry in the Republic of Slovenia on the Schengen internal borders come from Italy, but their numbers have declined by a quarter. However, the figures also show a 44 per cent rise in illegal entries into Slovenia on the border with Austria. These entries are made by persons from countries posing a low migration risk or persons already enjoying a valid status in one of the Member States but lacking a proper travel document to enter Slovenia.

The number of entry refusals as regards third-country nationals has increased slightly. The overstaying nationals mainly come from the states of the Western Balkan region; the distribution by nationality has not changed. The number of entry refusals is directly related to traveller trends recorded at border crossing points.

Specific notes for this release: The statistical data were captured on 7 June 2018. Subsequent data entries or up-dates may affect the above statistical data.

Uniformed Police Directorate
Border Police Division