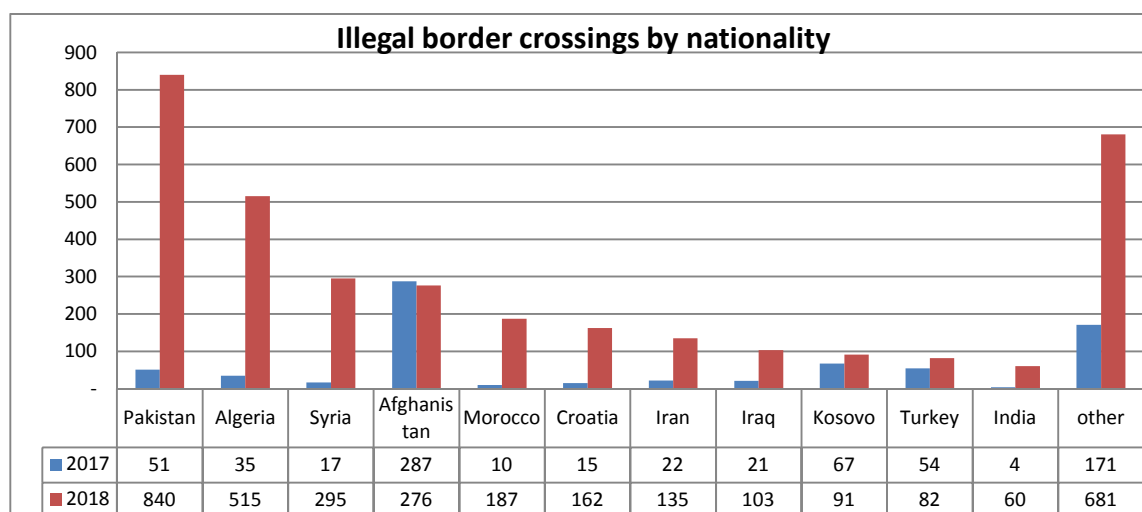


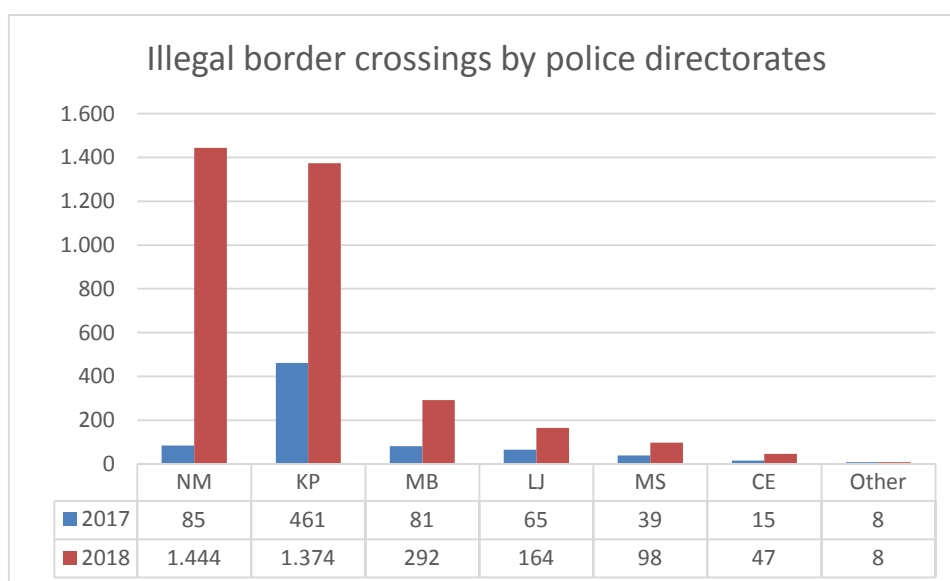
ILLEGAL MIGRATION IN THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA

From 1 January to 30 June 2018, the police recorded a total of 3,427 persons illegally crossing the state border of the Republic of Slovenia. Last year's comparative figure stood at 754. The current figure represents a 354.5 per cent increase on the number reported during the first half of 2017.

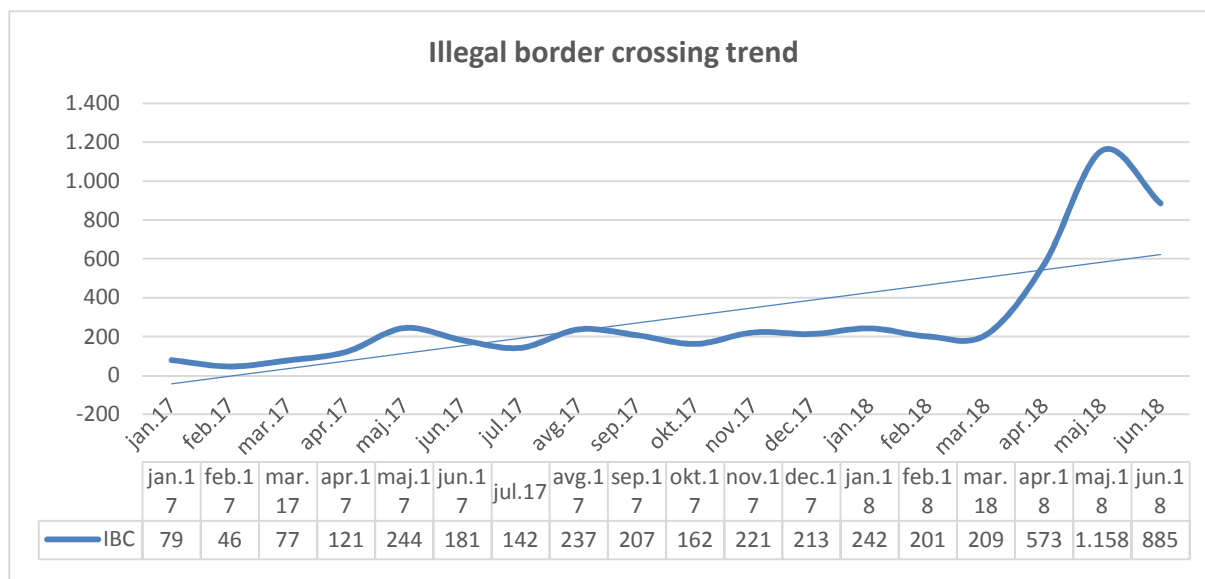
Pakistani, Algerian and Syrian nationals constitute the three largest nationality groups reported. Their numbers have gone up significantly. The distribution is shown below.



The largest number of unauthorised border crossings, i.e. 42 per cent of the total figure, was reported by Novo mesto (NM) Police Directorate. The second most burdened area was the area of Koper (KP) Police Directorate with 40 per cent. The data are shown on the chart below.



Since the beginning of 2017, we have observed an overall upward trend in illegal crossings of the border, with some fluctuations. After a significant increase in April and, especially, in May, the number of illegal crossings dropped.



Illegal entries on the internal borders

While patrolling inland or performing border checks on the external border, the police detected 408 violations committed by foreigners who had illegally entered Slovenia on its internal border without possessing a proper travel document or permit (e.g. residence permit or visa). The corresponding figure last year was 415. This represents a 2 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 |
| Nationality | | | | | | | | | | |
| China | 1 | 3 | 34 | 30 | | 1 | | | 35 | 34 |
| Albania | 2 | 3 | 41 | 23 | | 1 | | | 43 | 27 |
| Serbia | 3 | 7 | 25 | 20 | | | | | 28 | 27 |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | 28 | 20 | 16 | 7 | | | | | 44 | 27 |
| Other | 66 | 115 | 188 | 165 | 10 | 13 | 1 | 0 | 265 | 293 |
| Total | 100 | 148 | 304 | 245 | 10 | 15 | 1 | 0 | 415 | 408 |

Entry refusals at Slovenia's border crossing points

A total of 1,977 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 1,923. The number of persons who were refused increased by 3 per cent.

| Nationality / Border | Land borders | | Air borders | | Sea borders | | Total | |
|------------------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|------------|-------------|----------|--------------|--------------|
| | 2017 | 2018 | 2017 | 2018 | 2017 | 2018 | 2017 | 2018 |
| Albania | 422 | 401 | 148 | 132 | | | 570 | 533 |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | 436 | 438 | 4 | 7 | | | 440 | 445 |
| Serbia | 341 | 367 | 5 | 2 | | | 346 | 369 |
| Macedonia | 194 | 202 | 11 | 3 | | | 205 | 205 |
| Kosovo | 57 | 87 | 2 | | | | 59 | 87 |
| Turkey | 25 | 24 | 36 | 32 | | | 61 | 56 |
| other | 230 | 271 | 12 | 10 | | 1 | 242 | 282 |
| Total | 1.705 | 1.790 | 218 | 186 | 0 | 1 | 1.923 | 1.977 |

Illegal residence

The police dealt with 2,101 foreigners due to 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 1,887. This represents a 11.3 per cent increase.

| Nationality | 2017 | 2018 |
|------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Albania | 429 | 437 |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | 467 | 410 |
| Serbia | 282 | 388 |
| Macedonia | 242 | 368 |
| Moldova | 167 | 256 |
| Turkey | 76 | 88 |
| Ukraine | 51 | 23 |
| Montenegro | 21 | 22 |
| other | 152 | 109 |
| Total | 1.887 | 2.101 |

Implementation of interstate readmission agreements

a) Returning persons to foreign law enforcement agencies

Based on international agreements, Slovenia's police handed over (returned) 1,061 foreigners to foreign law enforcement authorities. The corresponding figure with regard to the same period last year was 436. A great majority of these, i.e. 1,001 persons, were returned on the border with Croatia. The number of returned persons in the corresponding period of 2017 was 346. Nationals of Pakistan represent the largest group (324) of persons returned at the border with Croatia. In the same period last year, 15 Pakistani nationals were returned to the Croatian law enforcement authorities.

Taking charge of persons handed over by other law enforcement authorities

Based on international agreements, 249 persons were handed over to Slovenia by foreign law enforcement authorities. The figure for the comparative period in 2017 was 193 persons. Of these, 15 of the persons returned were Slovenian nationals.

| Country | Admission from | | Readmission to | |
|--------------|----------------|------------|----------------|--------------|
| | 2017 | 2018 | 2017 | 2018 |
| Italy | 46 | 157 | 59 | 32 |
| Austria | 21 | 13 | 6 | 7 |
| Croatia | 5 | 4 | 346 | 1.001 |
| Hungary | 16 | 11 | 4 | 1 |
| air borders | 105 | 64 | 21 | 20 |
| Total | 193 | 249 | 436 | 1.061 |

Overview of the situation

In 2017 and in the beginning of 2018, the trend in irregular migration was unstable but showing steady growth. As expected, there was a significant rise in the number of illegal migrants in April and May this year. This trend was driven by elements such as good weather, the new alternative route across Bosnia and Herzegovina and large numbers of migrants building up in the Western Balkan area. The June 2018 decrease in illegal border crossings is the result of additional measures undertaken to stem illegal migration in the Western Balkans. Over the recent period we also noticed a change in the nationality structure of illegal migrants.

The overall number of persons that Slovenia takes back from foreign law enforcement, especially at the border with Italy, is growing. Many of the migrants that Slovenia takes back leave the accommodation centres intended for applicants for international protection and continue their journey towards destination countries.

The number of persons handed over has also gone up, which can be attributed to improved cooperation with the Croatian law enforcement authorities. Nevertheless, this number is still not comparable to the number of illegal crossings. This trend is heavily driven by the fact that a large number of persons declare their intention to seek international protection only to be able to continue their journey to the intended destination. 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 the accommodation centres and continue to move on illegally. This mode is bound to continue due to the nature of accommodation facilities, which allow seekers to leave the centres any time.

The number of irregularly staying foreigners dealt with by the police continues to grow. The most common ground on which foreigners are found to be staying in Slovenia illegally is the overstay of permitted residence. This issue is mainly related to traffic flows within the Europe area.

A huge majority of foreigners who illegally enter Slovenia on the Schengen internal borders come from Italy, but their numbers have declined by a quarter. However, the figures also show a 48 per cent rise in illegal entries into Slovenia on the border with Austria. These are mainly persons from countries posing a low migration risk or persons already enjoying a valid status in one of the Member States but lacking appropriate travel documents 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 significantly. 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 06/07/2018. Subsequent data entries or up-dates may affect the above statistical data.

Uniformed Police Directorate
Border Police Division