



# Domestic systemically important banks and their capital buffers

April 2026

## Summary

One of the tasks of Národná banka Slovenska (NBS) is to identify which domestic banks are systemically important for the Slovak banking sector – i.e those classified as other systemically important institutions (O-SIIs<sup>1</sup>) – and to calibrate their capital buffers. The purpose of the buffer applied specifically to O-SIIs is to cover risks arising from their significance for the domestic financial sector and the national economy. Together with other capital buffers – in particular the countercyclical capital buffer (CCyB), the capital conservation buffer (CCoB), and, where applicable, the systemic risk buffer (SyRB) – it forms an additional pillar of resilience for the Slovak banking sector, strengthening the sector's capacity to lend to the domestic economy even under adverse scenarios.

NBS decision-making on O-SIIs consists of two key processes and therefore two separate decisions. The first is the calculation of banks' scores, which forms the basis for determining the list of O-SIIs. The second is the decision setting the capital buffer rates for those banks identified as O-SIIs.

Based on data as at 31 December 2025, the list of banks identified as O-SIIs remains unchanged compared with the previous decision based on end-2024 data. The sole change in O-SII buffer rates concerns Československá obchodná banka, a.s. (ČSOB), whose buffer rate was increased from 1.00% to 1.25%. This is related to the acquisition of 365.bank, a.s. by ČSOB's parent undertaking, KBC Group, completed in January 2026. The buffer rates applied to the other O-SIIs remain at the levels set in the previous decision.<sup>2</sup>

## The list of O-SIIs remains unchanged

The list of O-SIIs is determined according to banks' individual scores, calculated in two steps pursuant to EBA guidelines.<sup>3</sup> In the first step, the O-SII score is calculated using the standardised EBA methodology. In the second step, a 'national methodology' is applied. The standardised methodology (first step) is uniform across all EU banking sectors and uses ten indicators to calculate the score. The national methodology (second step) determines scores based on nine indicators that better capture the specific features of domestic banks' business models (Table 2). The score calculated in the second step is used not only to identify potential additions to the O-SII list, but also to calibrate the O-SII buffer for each bank on the list.

In the latest two-step exercise, based on data as at end-2025, the five banks that exceeded the threshold score for O-SII identification (350 basis points) will continue to be designated as O-SIIs. They are as follows:

- Československá obchodná banka, a.s. (ČSOB)
- Prima banka Slovensko, a.s. (Prima banka)
- Slovenská sporiteľňa, a.s. (SLSP)
- Tatra banka, a.s. (Tatra banka)
- Všeobecná úverová banka, a.s. (VÚB)

<sup>1</sup> Other systemically important institutions as defined in Section 33a(1)(c) of Act No 483/2001 on banks and in Article 131(1) of Directive No 2013/36/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2013 on access to the activity of credit institutions and the prudential supervision of credit institutions and investment firms, amending Directive 2002/87/EC and repealing Directives 2006/48/EC and 2006/49/EC.

<sup>2</sup> Decision No 2/2024 of Národná banka Slovenska of 22 April 2024 on the setting of O-SII buffer rates.

<sup>3</sup> EBA Guidelines of 14 December 2014 ([EBA/GL/2014/10](#)).

## One change to O-SII buffer rates

**Most of the O-SII buffer rates applied to domestic banks remain unchanged, the only exception being the rate for ČSOB.** This buffer rate will be raised by 25 basis points to 1.25%, owing mainly to the acquisition of 365.bank by Belgium’s KBC Group, the parent of ČSOB. Although the bank’s score had already increased significantly by the end of 2025, its systemic importance will rise more markedly following the acquisition of 365.bank, hence the increase in its buffer rate.

**Both VÚB and Tatra banka also recorded notable changes in their scores, though not sufficient to warrant adjustments to their O-SII buffer rates.** Compared with the previous year’s O-SII assessment exercise, the overall scores of several banks changed, though there was no change in their ranking by systemic importance. All the O-SIIs remain in the same buffer buckets. At the same time, the current O-SII buffer calibrations for Slovak banks comply with the ECB floor methodology for O-SII capital buffers.

Table 1

### O-SII buffer rates

Bank	O-SII buffer rate as from 1 January 2026	O-SII buffer rate as from 1 January 2027
Slovenská sporiteľňa, a.s.	2.00%	2.00%
Všeobecná úverová banka, a.s.	1.75%	1.75%
Tatra banka, a.s.	1.50%	1.50 %
Československá obchodná banka, a.s.	1.00%	1.25%
Prima banka Slovensko, a.s.	0.25%	0.25%

Source: NBS.

Note: O-SII stands for other systemically important institution.

**The Slovak banking sector has sufficient capital headroom to finance the domestic economy.**

The aggregate capital adequacy ratio at the end of 2025 remained at a very healthy level (21.2% of risk-weighted assets). The sector’s capital headroom, i.e. capital held in excess of minimum regulatory requirements,<sup>4</sup> amounted to €1.7 billion (3.9% of risk-weighted assets) at the end of 2025.

<sup>4</sup> Including the minimum requirement for own funds and eligible liabilities (MREL).

# Annex 1

## Legislative framework

**Under Section 33d(1) of Act No 483/2001 on banks, as amended ('the Banking Act'), NBS is required to identify domestic systemically important banks that are to be designated as O-SIIs and to publish the list of these O-SIIs on its website.** In addition, under Section 33d(6) of the Banking Act, NBS may decide to set an O-SII buffer requirement for each O-SII.

Under Section 33d(14) of the Banking Act, NBS is required annually to reassess the identification of O-SIIs and to report the assessment results to the systemically important institutions concerned and the European Systemic Risk Board. These decisions are usually submitted to the NBS Bank Board in April or May.

Pursuant to Section 33d(10) of the Banking Act, where an O-SII is a subsidiary of either a global systemically important institution (G-SII) or an O-SII which is an EU parent institution and is subject to an O-SII buffer on a consolidated basis, the buffer that applies at the individual or sub-consolidated level for the O-SII may not exceed the lower of:

- a) the sum of the higher of the G-SII or the O-SII buffer rate applicable to the group on a consolidated basis and 1% of the total risk exposure amount calculated in accordance with the applicable legislation;
- b) 3% of the total risk exposure amount calculated in accordance with the applicable legislation,<sup>5</sup> or the O-SII buffer rate authorised by the European Commission to be applied to the group on a consolidated basis.

The level of the capital buffer applied to O-SIIs is therefore effectively capped at either 3% or the O-SII/G-SII buffer applicable to the parent institution plus 1%.

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<sup>5</sup> Article 92(3) of Regulation (EU) No 575/2013.

# Annex 2

## Methodological framework

For identifying O-SIIs, NBS uses the methodology set out in EBA Guidelines EBA/GL/2014/10, whereby the O-SII identification process is divided into two steps. The first step consists of calculating each bank's scores for 10 indicators set by the EBA. A bank's overall score is calculated on the basis of the weights assigned to these indicators, with the cut-off score for identifying O-SIIs set at 350 basis points. The second step consists of calculating scores for nine indicators set by NBS. These indicators are as follows: total assets, retail loans, retail deposits, business loans, corporate deposits, government bonds, interbank claims, interbank liabilities, and covered bonds. They better reflect the nature of systemic risk in the Slovak banking sector, with the indicator weights distributed proportionally across the sector's different segments. The cut-off score for identifying O-SIIs is set at 350 basis points. The list of indicators and their weights – constituting the methodology for identifying O-SIIs – is shown in Table 2.

Table 2

### Indicators for determining O-SIIs in the 1 and 2 steps

Indicators	First step – weight	Second step – weight
Total assets	25.00%	20.00%
Value of domestic payment transactions	8.33%	
Private sector deposits from depositors in the EU	8.33%	
Private sector loans to recipients in the EU	8.33%	
Value of OTC derivatives (notional)	8.33%	
Cross-jurisdictional liabilities	8.33%	
Cross-jurisdictional assets	8.33%	
Intra-financial system liabilities	8.33%	
Intra-financial system assets	8.33%	
Debt securities outstanding	8.33%	
Retail loans		10.00%
Retail deposits		10.00%
Business loans		10.00%
Corporate deposits		10.00%
Government bonds		10.00%
Interbank claims		7.50%
Interbank liabilities		7.50%
Covered bonds		15.00%

Sources: EBA, and NBS.

Note: O-SII stands for other systemically important institution; EU stands for European Union; OTC derivatives – over-the-counter derivatives; EBA stands for European Banking Authority.