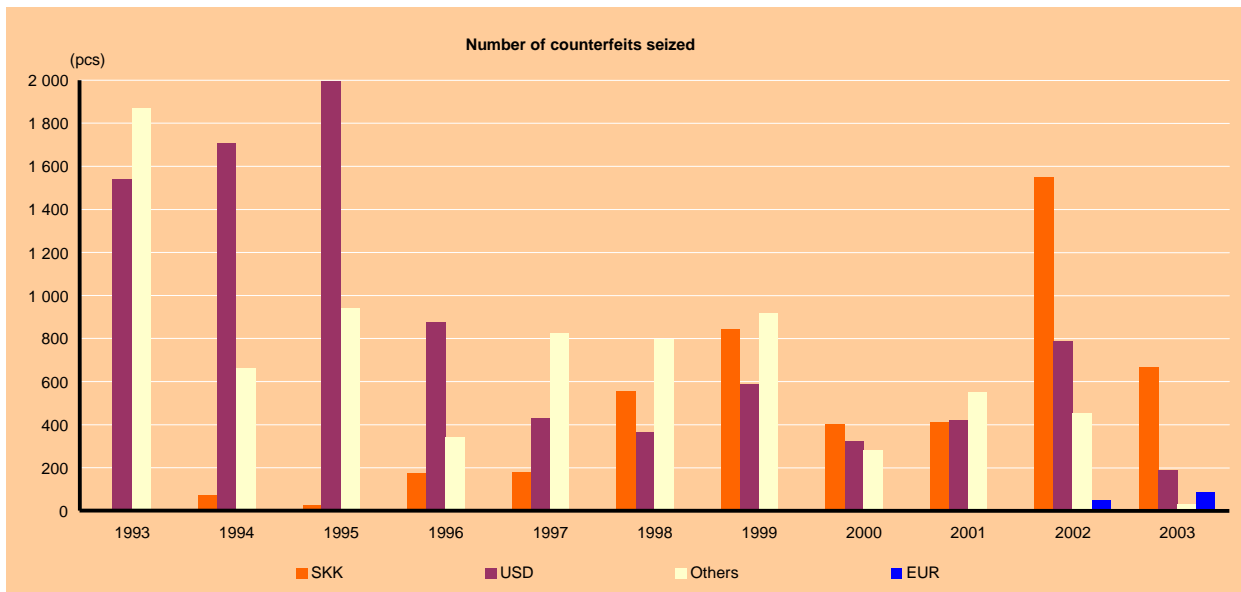
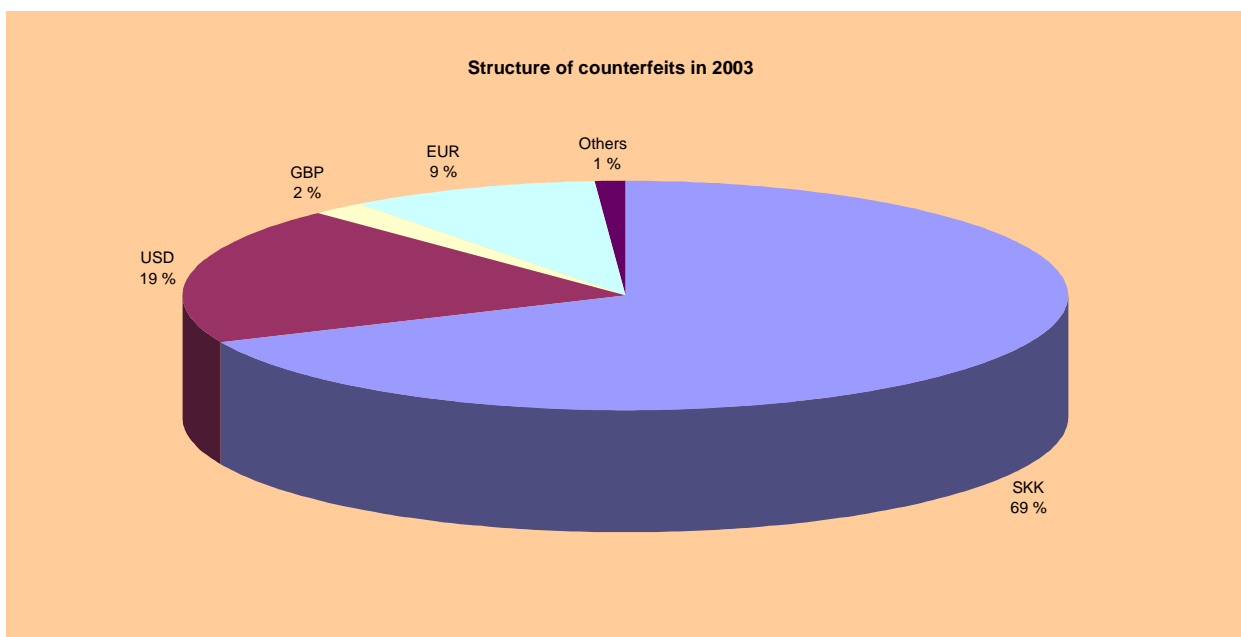


COUNTERFEIT MONEY SEIZED IN THE TERRITORY OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

In 2003, a total of 973 items of counterfeit Slovak or foreign currency were seized in the territory of the Slovak Republic. This represents only about a third of the number of counterfeits seized in 2002. As many as 75.8% of the total number of counterfeits found in 2003 were seized directly in circulation by financial institutions and security services, which process the money from supermarkets. In 2002, the same proportion of counterfeits was seized by the police before they were put into circulation. The number of counterfeits seized in circulation increased by 41.6% in comparison with the previous year, and was the highest for the last five years.



The largest numbers of counterfeits were Slovak korunas (69%), US dollars (19%) and euros (9%).



Counterfeits of Slovak koruna

In 2003, 665 counterfeits of the Slovak currency and one altered banknote were seized. The greatest occurrence was recorded in the Bratislava Region, with 242 individual counterfeit items found in 228 cases. Counterfeit 1000 Sk banknotes were the most numerous, with counterfeit 500 Sk banknotes in the second place.

Number of counterfeit Sk seized

(in pcs)

	5000	1000	500	200	100	50	20	10	5	*	Total
1999	13	649	47	4	108	17	5	0	0	1 ^{1/}	844
2000	12	246	84	5	43	9	3	0	0	0	402
2001	2	278	55	15	54	4	3	0	0	0	411
2002	14	1 307	105	17	49	38	17	2	0	0	1 549
2003	14	396	131	58	31	27	8	0	0	1 ^{2/}	666

* ^{1/}Altered counterfeit and ^{2/}composed banknote

Counterfeit US dollars

In 2003, 186 items of counterfeit US dollars and one imitation were found in 153 cases. In comparison with the previous year, the number of counterfeit US dollars decreased by 76%.

Number of counterfeit USD seized

(in pcs)

	1	5	10	20	50	100	Altered	Total
1999	1	0	2	5	22	550	10	590
2000	2	0	0	5	11	292	13	323
2001	1	0	3	9	7	398	2	420
2002	4	1	1	1	11	768	4	790
2003	0	0	0	3	3	176	5	187

Counterfeit euros

In 2003, 87 counterfeit euro banknotes and one altered banknote were seized in the territory of the Slovak Republic; 85 of these were found in financial institutions, 2 were seized by the police before they were put into circulation and one was found by a non-bank currency exchange office.

The 50 EUR banknote is one of the most frequently counterfeited. It formed 46.6% of the total number of counterfeit euro banknotes seized in the territory of Slovakia in 2003.

Number of counterfeit EUR seized

(in pcs)

	10	20	50	100	200	500	Altered	Total
2002	0	2	31	14	0	1	0	48
2003	2	18	41	9	13	4	1	88

Counterfeits of other foreign currencies

The majority of convertible currencies disappeared with the introduction of the single European currency. No counterfeits of the currencies replaced by the euro were recorded in the territory of Slovakia in 2003, while 32 items of counterfeits of other foreign currencies were seized. They consisted of counterfeit British pounds, Czech crowns, Canadian dollars, Polish zlotys and Swiss francs. The majority of them (29 items) were found in financial institutions.

Number of counterfeits seized of other foreign currencies

(in pcs)

	GBP	CZK	CAD	PLN	CHF	HUF	Other currencies	Total
1999	13	186	2	1	0	0	717	919
2000	8	21	0	5	2	1	244	281
2001	1	243	6	9	1	1	288	549
2002	9	369	1	6	1	0	69	455
2003	20	3	6	2	1	0	0	32