EMPLOYMENT STRUCTURE ANALYSIS IN ARGEŞ COUNTY

ANALIZA OCUPĂRII FORŢEI DE MUNCĂ ÎN JUDEŢUL ARGEŞ

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Abstract: *Argeş county records the highest productivity within South Muntenia region (calculated as GDP/ inhabitant, with the best forecast of employment and economic increase. Although a higher GDP decrease than in Prahova county is forecasted, the highest probability of economic growth is anticipated for Argeş county in 2011. This paper intends to analyze the labor market evolution in Argeş county, based on the data provided by the Statistics Agency of Argeş County. The result of data interpretation is a general image of Argeş labor market.*

Key words*: employment structure, Argeş county, labor market, economic activities.*

INTRODUCTION

In Romania, the structural changes of the transition period brought on the labor market a substantial reduction in labor and employment, and significant adjustments in the economic sectors, age and employment status, demographic trends and massive migration contributing themselves to these changes.

Employment trends in Romania registers, processes and trends that reflect the direct and indirect influences of the national economy system, suggesting that employment issues are still far from being solved quickly and efficiently.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

In order to achieve employment in the county of Arges analysis we used the data from the Statistical Institute Arges County, as well as information from the Regional Employment Plan 2009-2013 South-Muntenia Region. Based on these data we carry out a comparative analysis

to highlight developments in employment in the county of Arges to whole and by sectors of economic activity.

RESULTS AND DISCUTIONS

Twenty years of transition have caused radical changes in the labor market of Argeş county. The number of employees has dramatically decreased to almost a half, while the number of retirees has grown. On the other hand, the restructure of Argeş economy involved thousand fired employees.

Fig. 1. Employment evolution in Argeş county between 1995 and 2009



Source:Results adapted from National Institute of Statistics

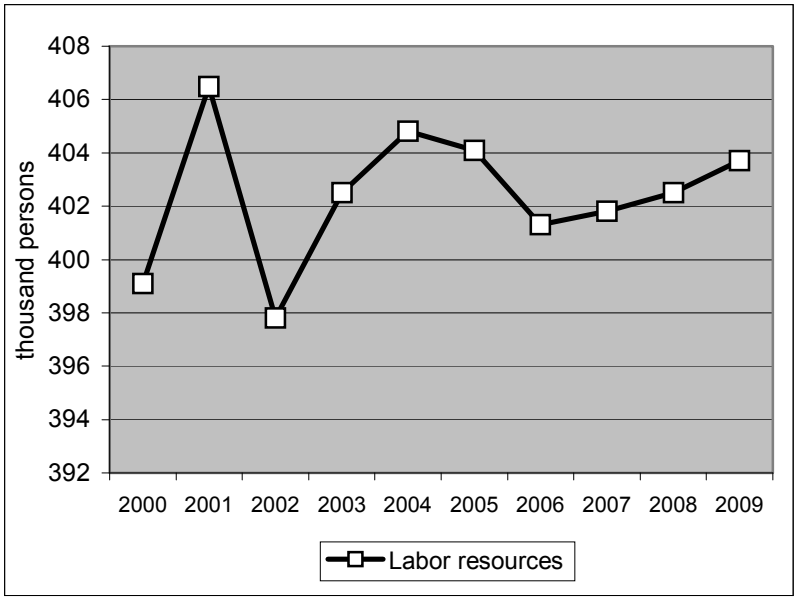
In 1995, the number of employees reached 207.9 thousands, while in 2000 the value decreased to 166.8 thousands, meaning a decrease with 19.8% in only five years. As figure 1 shows, the number of employees continued to decrease in the period 2000-2009. However, the decrease during these nine years recorded 18.22%, lower than that of the period 1995-2000.

The employment evolution in Argeş county between 1995 and 2009 was decreasing: 12.41% decrease, and from 284.4 thousands to 249.1 thousand persons in absolute values. The period 2007-2008 was favorable as the employment increased with 6.9 thousand persons in absolute value,

followed by a decrease in 2009 of 14.4 thousand persons due to the diminution of the economic activity in certain sectors affected by the economic crisis.

The labor resources in Argeş county fluctuated in the period 2000-2009. In 2000-2001 the labor resources increased with 7.1 thousand persons, while in 2002 they decreased substantially with 8.7 thousand persons. Starting with 2006, the labor resources of the county recorded an ascending trend of 5.9% until 2010.

Fig. 2. Labor resource evolution in Argeş county between 2000 and 2009



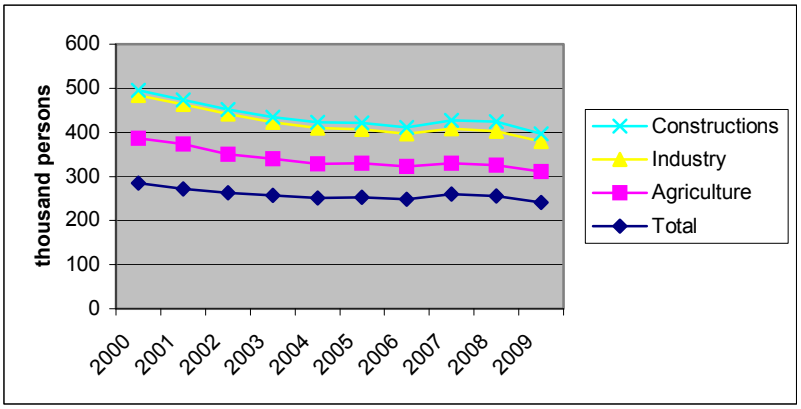
Source:Results adapted from National Institute of Statistics

As the private companies developed, they asked for more labor. Our research showed that labor in each part of the county achieved appropriate qualification for the positions required by the existing large companies.

The economic recession of the latest years upset situations: certain activities diminished in some areas, while private production and service developed in others.

The local economic activities forecasted to grow in the near future are: construction, services, tourism, agro-tourism and agriculture.

Fig. 3. Employment evolution by activity sector in Argeş county between 2000 -2009



Source:Results adapted from National Institute of Statistics

The highest share of employment structure by economic activity in this county goes to **agriculture**, followed by industry and construction. Among these three mentioned activities, construction developed the most in the period 2000-2009, since its number of employees doubled.

The employees in agriculture decreased with 32.75% between 2000 and 2008, though agriculture share in total employed population remained the highest, respectively 28.64% in 2009.

Considering Romanian tradition in agriculture, there is hope to make an ecologic agriculture in the future, if the qualified workers are trained accordingly (workers in plant growing).

Large **constructions** are only in early stages, and labor is insufficient. This economic activity will require qualified labor in all fields related directly and indirectly with construction.

The employees in construction doubled in 2000-2008, from 10.9 thousands in 2000 to 21.5 thousand persons in 2008; this was followed by a slight decrease of 14% in 2009. The employment share in construction reached 7.65% in 2009. Though it is a small share compared to those of dominant activities, agriculture and industry, construction kept on growing during the analyzed period and it is forecast to grow in the near future.

Services are growing, and their most numerous employees are in tourism, professional and general services.

The employees in hotels and restaurants grew by 2.6 times in the period 2000-2008. Although the share of this activity is small in total

employment, the high potential for tourism of this county will contribute to a higher number of employees in this field in the future.

As Romanian tourism develops according to the European legislation, and quality of tourism services increases, the human factor is crucial in achieving a high quality in tourism.

Tourism development would open new perspectives for the unemployed, including seasonal job reduction, by the job offers in tourism and the opportunities for the companies providing services, as the number of tourists grows.

The low professional standard of personnel in rural tourism, caused by the lack of information regarding rural tourism practicing and promoting, is the main reason of low quality services in some touristic areas. An explanation could be that the owners of rural touristic boarding houses come from other activities and do not have the necessary training to deal with the exigency of present tourism.

In 2000, Argeş county had 34.6% of employees in **industry**. Many industrial companies closed after 1990 (Argeşana, Rolast, part of Arpechim, etc.) and many people were fired. However, industry recovered after 2007 with 30% of total employment. This was mainly due to the company Dacia Renault, which was taken by the French in 1999 and employed many workers since 2005.

CONCLUSIONS

According to the presented data, the employment in Argeş county decreased in the analyzed period, although the employment structure by activity of national economy showed that construction and services grew, while agriculture decreased. However, agriculture keeps on holding the highest employment share in the county, respectively 28.64%.

The decrease of employment can be put also on the outbreak of the crisis, the closing of business activity during the crisis but also to the leaving of many Romanians to work abroad.

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