THE EVOLUTION OF THE MAIN DEMOGRAPHIC PHENOMENA IN ROMANIA (2007-2009)

EVOLUȚIA PRINCIPALELOR FENOMENE DEMOGRAFICE ÎN ROMÂNIA (2007-2009)

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Abstract: *Romania's population has decreased continuously. Among the multiple causes of this decrease are low birth rate, high death, and emigration. The mutations in the social-economic structure of the country have led to a dynamic territorial mobility of the population; at the same time, they have direct consequences upon the socio-demographic structure of the population. In the past years, demographic migration has become a common fact. The young and mature population migrates from the rural to the urban environment, motivated by the living and working conditions in the urban centres. The economic effects of the demographic evolution will be seen in time.*

Key words: *demography, structure of population, birth rate, death rate, migration*

INTRODUCTION

Romania is Europe's twelfth country in point of size. It covers an area of 238,391 km^2 and lies in the south-east of Central Europe. The country's population decreased from 22.41 million inhabitants in 2001 to 21.46 million inhabitants in 2009. The average density also decreased from 94,0 inhabitants/km^2 in 2001 to 90.1 inhabitants/km^2 in 2009.

Romania's territory is divided into hamlets, villages, towns, municipalities and counties. In each county, the local authorities are represented by county councils, local, municipal, town and village councils.

(Table 1)

Eight development regions were set as territorial units, each made up of 4-7 counties by the voluntary association of the county councils. These regions are the framework for the development, implementation and evaluation of the regional development policy and the economic and social cohesion programmes. Macroregion is the fourth type of regional divisions created in Romania in 1998 and corresponds to the NUTS I nomenclature of the EU Member States. Like the development regions, the Romanian macroregions do not have administrative stature and a government form of their own; they serve only regional statistics purposes.

Table 1

Romania's administrative-territorial organization

Macroregion / Development regions	Total surface (km^2)	Number of inhabitants	Number of towns and municipalities	Of which municipalities	Number of villages	Number of hamlets
Macroregion 1	**68,259**	**5,243,139**	**100**	**35**	**759**	**3,588**
North-West	34,159	**2,718,648**	43	15	402	1,800
Center	34,100	**2,524,491**	57	20	357	1,788
Macroregion 2	**72,612**	**6,526,805**	**81**	**28**	**861**	**3,861**
North-East	36,850	**3,714,050**	46	17	506	2,414
South-East	35,762	**2,812,755**	35	11	355	1,447
Macroregion 3	**36,274**	**5,527,750**	**57**	**17**	**551**	**2,110**
Bucharest-Ilfov	1,821	**2,256,543**	9	1	32	91
South-Muntenia	34,453	**3,271,207**	48	16	519	2,019
Macroregion 4	**61,246**	**4,172,265**	**82**	**23**	**689**	**3,397**
South-West Oltenia	29,212	**2,250,565**	40	11	408	2,070
West	32,034	**1,921,700**	42	12	281	1,327
Romania	**238,391**	**21,469,959**	**320**	**103**	**2,860**	**12,956**

Source: Romanian Statistical Yearbook, 2010

According to the law on the Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics and the requirements of the EC 1059/2003 Regulation on the establishment of a common classification of territorial units for statistics (NUTS), for macroregions have been established:

a) Macroregion 1: *North-West* – total area 34,159 km² (14.3% of the Romanian territory). It consists of six counties: Bihor, Bistrita-Nasaud, Cluj, Maramures, Satu Mare and Salaj. It has a strategic geographic position, as it is the gate to Romania from the European Union and Ukraine. *Centre* - total area 34,100 km^2 (14.31% of the Romanian territory), includes Alba, Brasov, Covasna, Harghita, Mures and Sibiu Counties. It lies in the centre of Romania.

b) Macroregion 2: *North-East* – the largest region of the country, covering 36,850 km^2 (15.46% of the Romanian territory), is made of six

counties: Bacau, Botosani, Neamt, Iasi, Suceava and Vaslui. *South-East* – 35,762 km² (15% Romanian territory) and is the second region in size. It consists of the following counties: Braila, Buzau, Constanta, Galati, Tulcea and Vrancea.

c) Macroregion 3: *South-Muntenia* – 34.453 km^2 (14.45% of the Romanian territory); it is situated in the south-east, and includes Arges, Calarasi, Dambovita, Giurgiu, Ialomita, Prahova and Teleorman Counties. *Bucharest-Ilfov* – Bucharest - the capital of the country - and Ilfov County. It lies in the central part of the Romanian Plain, on an area of 1,821 km^2, of which 13.1% is the administrative territory of Bucharest and 86.9% belongs to Ilfov County.

d) Macroregion 4: *South-West Oltenia* – 29,212 km^2; has five counties: Dolj, Olt, Valcea, Mehedinti and Gorj. It coincides largely with the old historical region Oltenia. *West* –32,034 km^2 (13.4% of the country's area) and is made of Arad, Caras-Severin, Hunedoara and Timis Counties. It is part of the Danube-Cris-Mures-Tisa Euroregion (DCMT).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The economic and social changes that have taken place in Romania since the 1990's have led to major changes in the demographic phenomena, and the number and the structure of the population. The constant decrease in Romania's population has several causes, such as low birth rate, high death rate, migration etc. The present paper provides information about the current state of the population and the demographic evolution in Romania, as these two elements have a great influence on the economic and social development of the country. The trends of the main demographic phenomena provide useful information about the future evolution of the number and age structure of Romania's population.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The economic and social changes that have taken place in Romania since the 1990's have led to major changes in the demographic phenomena, and the number and the structure of the population. The constant decrease in Romania's population has several causes, such as low birth rate, high death rate, and internal and intense external migration. In 2009, Romania had 21,469,959 inhabitants, 67,604 less than 2007. The population has decreased in all the development regions of the country (Table 2).

On July 1 2009, the North-East was the first of the eight regions as regards population, with 3,714,050 inhabitants (17.29% of the total population) and a density of 100.8 inhabitants/km^2, which is more than the national average. On the last place was the West Region with 1,921,700 inhabitants and 60.0 inhabitants/km^2, far below the national average of 90.1 inhabitants/km^2.

Table 2

Population and density of Romania (2007 - 2009)

Macroregion/ Development regions	Total population			Density (inhabitants/km^2)		
	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009
Romania	**21,537,563**	**21,504,442**	**21,469,959**	**90.3**	**90.2**	**90.1**
Macroregion 1	**5,249,467**	**5,245,573**	**5,243,139**	**76.9**	**76.8**	**76.8**
North-West	2,725,563	2,722,063	2,718,648	79.8	79.7	79.6
Center	2,523,904	2,523,510	2,524,491	74.0	74.0	74.0
Macroregiunea 2	**6,557,072**	**6,538,667**	**6,526,805**	**89.8**	**90.0**	**89.9**
North-East	3,726,642	3,719,102	3,714,050	101.1	100.9	100.8
South-East	2,830,430	2,819,565	2,812,755	79.1	78.8	78.7
Macroregiunea 3	**5,526,733**	**5,532,551**	**5,527,750**	**152.4**	**152.5**	**152.4**
Bucharest-Ilfov	2,225,932	2,248,026	2,256,543	1222.4	1,234.5	1,239.2
South-Muntenia	3,300,801	3,284,525	3,271,207	95.8	95.3	94.9
Macroregiunea 4	**4,204,291**	**4,187,651**	**4,172,265**	**68.6**	**68.4**	**68.1**
South-West Oltenia	2,279,849	2,262,274	2,250,565	78.0	77.4	77.0
West	1,924,442	1,925,377	1,921,700	60.1	60.1	60.0

Source: Romanian Statistical Yearbook, 2008, 2009, 2010

As far as the structure of population on sexes is concerned, on July 1 2009, the male share of the population was smaller than the female one, a situation common to all development regions. In the Bucharest-Ilfov Region, both the male and the female population increased. (Table 3)

Table 3

Population structure on sexes (2007 - 2009)

Macroregion/ Development region	Total (number of persons)						Share of male population (%)		
	Male			Female					
	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009
Macroregion 1	**2,565,334**	**2,562,362**	**2,560,191**	**2,684,133**	**2,683,211**	**2,682,948**	48.86	**48.84**	**48.82**
North-West	1,329,235	1,326,914	1,324,678	1,396,328	1,395,149	1,393,970	48.76	48.74	48.72
Center	1,236,099	1,235,448	1,235,513	1,287,805	1,288,062	1,288,978	48.97	48.95	48.94
Macroregion 2	**3,230,628**	**3,218,935**	**3,211,425**	**3,326,444**	**3,319,732**	**3,315,380**	49.26	**49.22**	**49.20**
North-East	1,842,670	1,837,825	1,834,800	1,883,972	1,881,277	1,879,250	49.44	49.41	49.40
South-East	1,387,958	1,381,110	1,376,625	1,442,472	1,438,455	1,436,130	49.03	48.98	48.94
Macroregion 3	**2,653,743**	**2,657,806**	**2,654,904**	**2,872,990**	**2,874,745**	**2,872,846**	48.01	**48.03**	**48.02**
Bucharest-Ilfov	1,043,044	1,055,792	1,060,445	1,182,888	1,192,234	1,196,098	46.85	48.77	46.99
South-Muntenia	1,610,699	1,602,014	1,594,459	1,690,102	1,682,511	1,676,748	48.79	46.96	48.74
Macroregion 4	**2,047,015**	**2,038,508**	**2,030,699**	**2,157,276**	**2,149,143**	**2,141,566**	48.68	**48.68**	**48.67**
Sud-Vest Oltenia	1,118,019	1,108,175	1,102,378	1,161,830	1,154,099	1,148,187	49.03	48.98	48.98
Vest	928,996	930,333	928,321	995,446	995,044	993,379	48.27	48.32	48.30
Romania	**10,496,720**	**10,477,611**	**10,457,219**	**11,040,843**	**11,026,831**	**11,012,740**	**48.73**	**48.72**	**48.70**

Source: Romanian Statistical Yearbook, 2008, 2009, 2010

Concerning the distribution on the two residential areas, significant differences were noticed among the eight regions in 2006. In the South-East, West, North-West, Central, and Bucharest-Ilfov regions, most of the

population lived in urban areas, whereas in the North-East, South-Muntenia and South-West regions the population was mainly rural. In all regions, the share of the male urban population was higher than that of the female urban population. The female population is predominant both in the rural areas and the whole country (Table 4).

Table 4

Population structure on sexes and residential areas (2007 - 2009)

Macroregion/ Development region	Urban (number of persons)						Rural (number of persons)					
	Male			Female			Male			Female		
	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009
Romania	**5,683,983**	**5,658,512**	**5,649,707**	**6,193,676**	**6,176,816**	**6,173,809**	**4,812,737**	**4,819,099**	**4,807,512**	**4,847,167**	**4,850,015**	**4,838,931**
Macro-region 1	**1,423,762**	**1,417,790**	**1,415,889**	**1,536,818**	**1,533,277**	**1,533,444**	**1,141,572**	**1,144,572**	**1,144,302**	**1,147,315**	**1,149,934**	**1,149,504**
North-West	698,182	695,273	693,647	756,947	755,709	755,355	631,053	631,641	631,031	639,381	639,440	638,615
Center	725,580	722,517	722,242	779,871	777,568	778,089	510,519	512,931	513,271	507,934	510,494	510,889
Macro-region 2	**1,532,880**	**1,519,506**	**1,514,648**	**1,650,635**	**1,641,889**	**1,639,639**	**1,697,748**	**1,699,429**	**1,696,777**	**1,675,809**	**1,677,843**	**1,675,741**
North-East	779,502	773,222	771,006	839,046	835,058	834,002	1,063,168	1,064,603	1,063,794	1,044,926	1,046,219	1,045,248
South-East	753,378	746,284	743,642	811,589	806,831	805,637	634,580	634,826	632,983	630,883	631,624	630,493
Macro-region 3	**1,618,980**	**1,621,533**	**1,621,971**	**1,808,651**	**1,810,486**	**1,810,911**	**1,034,763**	**1,036,273**	**1,032,933**	**1,064,339**	**1,064,259**	**1,061,935**
Bucharest-Ilfov	960,171	970,400	973,199	1,095,652	1,102,428	1,104,231	82,873	85,392	87,246	87,236	89,806	91,867
South-Muntenia	658,809	651,133	648,772	712,999	708,058	706,680	951,890	950,881	945,687	977,103	974,453	970,068
Macro-region 4	**1,108,361**	**1,099,683**	**1,097,199**	**1,197,572**	**1,191,164**	**1,189,815**	**938,654**	**938,825**	**933,500**	**959,704**	**957,979**	**951,751**
South-West Oltenia	526,066	519,162	518,674	560,464	556,263	556,115	591,953	589,013	583,704	601,366	597,836	592,072
West	582,295	580,521	578,525	637,108	634,901	633,700	346,701	349,812	349,796	358,338	360,143	359,679

Source: Romanian Statistical Yearbook, 2008, 2009, 2010

Table 5 presents the large difference between the urban population (56.3%) and the rural one (43.7%) at the national level in 2009. The urban population is increasing, while the rural one is decreasing: South-East – urban population 55.1%, rural population 44.9%, West – urban population 63.1%, rural population 36.9%, Central – urban population 59.41%, rural population 40.6%), Bucharest-Ilfov - urban population 92.1%, rural population 7.9%

Table 5

Population of regions per sexes and residential areas (2007-2009)

Macroregion/ Development region	Total (number of persons)			Sex (%)						Residential areas (%)					
				Male			Female			Urban			Rural		
	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009
Macro-region 1	**5,249,467**	**5,245,573**	**5,243,139**	48.87	48.85	48.83	51.13	51.15	51.17	**56.4**	**56.3**	**56.3**	**43,6**	**43.7**	**43.7**
North-West	2,725,563	2,722,063	2,718,648	48.77	48.75	48.73	51.23	51.25	51.27	53.4	53.3	53.3	46.6	46.7	46.7
Center	2,523,904	2,523,510	2,524,491	48.97	48.96	48.94	51.03	51.04	51.06	59.6	59.4	59.4	40.4	40.6	40.6
Macro-region 2	**6,557,072**	**6,538,667**	**6,526,805**	49.27	49.23	49.20	50.73	50.77	50.80	**48.6**	**48.3**	**48.3**	**51,4**	**51.7**	**51.7**
North-East	3,726,642	3,719,102	3,714,050	49.44	49.42	49.40	50.56	50.58	50.60	43.4	43.2	43.2	56.6	56.8	56.8
South-East	2,830,430	2,819,565	2,812,755	49.04	48.98	48.94	50.96	51.02	51.06	55.3	55.1	55.1	44.7	44.9	44.9
Macro-region 3	**5,526,733**	**5,532,551**	**5,527,750**	48.02	48.04	48.03	51.98	51.96	51.97	**62.0**	**62.0**	**62.1**	**38,0**	**38.0**	**37.9**
Bucharest-Ilfov	2,225,932	2,248,026	2,256,543	46.86	46.97	46.99	93.14	53.03	53.01	92.4	92.2	92.1	7.6	7.8	7.9
South-Muntenia	3,300,801	3,284,525	3,271,207	48.80	48.77	48.74	51.20	51.23	51.26	41.6	41.4	41.4	58.4	58.6	58.6
Macro-region 4	**4,204,291**	**4,187,651**	**4,172,265**	48.69	48.68	48.67	51.31	51.32	51.33	**54.8**	**54.7**	**54.8**	**45.2**	**45.3**	**45.2**
South-West Oltenia	2,279,849	2,262,274	2,250,565	49.04	48.98	48.98	50.96	51.02	51.02	47.7	47.5	47.8	52.3	52.5	52.2
West	1,924,442	1,925,377	1,921,700	48.27	48.32	48.31	51.73	51.68	51.69	63.4	63.1	63.1	36.6	36.9	36.9
Romania	**21,537,563**	**21,504,442**	**21,469,959**	**48.74**	**48.72**	**48.71**	**51.26**	**51.28**	**51.29**	**55.1**	**55.0**	**55.1**	**44.9**	**45.0**	**44.9**

Source: Romanian Statistical Yearbook, 2008, 2009, 2010

The low birth rate in our country has certain particularities. The main factors that have reduced it are economic and social. The structure of the employment population has changed considerably and this has led to a

greater territorial and professional mobility and a longer instruction period.

The issue of providing the necessary income, the situation on the labour market, the difficulty in finding a house are serious obstacles for many couples in starting a family. Most young couples do not have children or postpone having them. This decision is determined by the cultural and psychological background and by the economic and social life of the family.

In 2009, 222,388 children were born, 176,516 less than in 1990, but 7,669 more than in 2007. In 2009, the birth rate was 10.4 new-borns per 1,000 inhabitants, lower than 1990 (3,6‰) and 2007 (10,0‰). In 2009, 257,213 people died, 5,248 more than 2007 and 25,337 more than in 1990. The general death rate was 12,0 deaths per 1,000 inhabitants. In 2007, it was 11,7‰ an in 1990 it was 6‰ (Table 6).

In 2009, the natural growth was –1.6 per 1,000 inhabitants. It had a positive value only in the Bucharest-Ilfov region: 0.4 per thousand inhabitants. The low birth rate is the result of the economic conditions in general and the lack of medical services in particular, mainly in the rural areas. In 2009, the highest infant death rate was in the South-West Oltenia and North-East Region: 11.1 deaths (infants less than one year old) per thousand inhabitants, compared to the national average of 10.1. This may be explained by the high level of poverty mainly in the rural areas and the poor education about health and minimum hygiene.

Table 6

Natural migration/movement of population in Romania (2007-2009)

Development regions	Rates per 1,000 population															Dead-born per 1,000 births (live-births and dead-born)			Infant deaths per 1,000 live-births		
	Live birth			Deaths			Natural increase			Marriages			Divorces								
	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009
Romania	**10.0**	**10.3**	**10.4**	**11.7**	**11.8**	**12.0**	**-1.7**	**-1.5**	**-1.6**	**8.8**	**6.9**	**6.3**	**1.69**	**1.66**	**1.51**	**4.7**	**4.5**	**4.3**	**12.0**	**11.0**	**10.1**
Macro-region 1	**10.3**	**10.9**	**10.8**	**11.3**	**11.3**	**11.6**	**-1.0**	**-0.4**	**-0.8**	**9.0**	**6.6**	**6.3**	**1.64**	**1.49**	**1.56**	**5.4**	**5.0**	**5.5**	**12.1**	**10.7**	**10.1**
North-West	10.2	10.7	10.6	11.7	11.6	11.8	-1.5	-0.9	-1.2	8.7	6.8	6.5	1.53	1.48	1.46	5.6	5.5	5.3	11.8	10.9	10.2
Center	10.4	11.0	11.0	10.9	11.1	11.2	-0.5	-0.1	-0.2	9.4	6.5	6.1	1.75	1.51	1.68	5.2	4.4	5.6	12.5	10.5	10.0
Macro-region 2	**10.7**	**10.8**	**10.6**	**11.1**	**11.2**	**11.5**	**-0.4**	**-0.4**	**-0.9**	**8.5**	**6.7**	**6.0**	**1.73**	**1.87**	**1.56**	**4.2**	**4.2**	**4.1**	**13.6**	**11.9**	**10.9**
North-East	11.4	11.5	11.1	10.8	11.0	11.3	0.6	0.5	-0.2	8.4	6.6	6.1	1.59	1.86	1.64	3.8	3.5	3.9	14.2	11.1	11.1
South-East	9.8	10.0	10.0	11.4	11.6	11.8	-1.6	-1.6	-1.8	8.7	6.7	5.9	1.91	1.89	1.45	4.9	5.1	4.5	12.7	13.0	10.5
Macro-region 3	**9.7**	**10.1**	**10.5**	**12.2**	**12.2**	**12.4**	**-2.5**	**-2.1**	**-1.9**	**8.9**	**7.9**	**6.7**	**1.71**	**1.68**	**1.49**	**4.6**	**3.9**	**3.9**	**9.7**	**9.8**	**8.7**
Bucharest-Ilfov	10.2	10.9	11.4	11.4	11.1	11.0	-1.2	-0.2	0.4	9.1	10.4	8.2	1.71	1.69	1.46	4.0	3.4	2.9	7.2	7.0	6.4
South-Muntenia	9.3	9.6	9.9	12.8	13.0	13.3	-3.5	-3.4	-3.4	8.7	6.3	5.6	1.71	1.67	1.51	5.1	4.2	4.7	11.4	12.0	10.6
Macro-region 4	**8.8**	**9.1**	**9.2**	**12.5**	**12.6**	**12.8**	**-3.7**	**-3.5**	**-3.6**	**8.8**	**6.5**	**6.0**	**1.65**	**1.50**	**1.37**	**4.6**	**5.1**	**3.7**	**12.1**	**11.3**	**10.9**
South-West Oltenia	8.5	8.7	8.9	12.7	12.9	13.0	-4.2	-4.2	-4.1	9.3	6.1	5.7	1.23	1.35	1.20	2.8	3.4	2.5	12.0	11.3	11.1
West	9.2	9.6	9.6	12.2	12.2	12.5	-3.0	-2.6	-2.9	8.2	7.0	6.3	2.15	1.69	1.58	6.5	6.8	5.0	12.2	11.4	10.6

Source: Romanian Statistical Yearbook, 2008, 2009, 2010

The difference of the death rates between sexes has been the same in the past years, a fact best reflected in life expectancy. It has been noticed

that both at the national level and in the residential areas, life expectancy is seven years longer for the female population (Table 7).

In Romania, in 2009, life expectancy was 73.33 years. In these years, life expectancy for women was 77.09, while for men it was only 69.68. Life expectancy is higher in the urban areas than in the rural ones: 74.16 – 72.23.

Table 7

Average life span per sexes and residential areas (2008, 2009) (years)

Development regions	Per sexes						Per residential areas											
							Urban						Rural					
	Total		Male		Female		Total		Male		Female		Total		Male		Female	
Macro-region 1	**72.83**	**73.20**	**69.42**	**69.67**	**76.33**	**76.83**	**73.52**	**73.93**	**70.12**	**70.44**	**76.85**	**77.36**	**71.93**	**72.22**	**68.47**	**68.64**	**75.70**	**76.15**
North-West	72.39	72.82	68.95	69.25	75.90	76.47	73.05	73.52	69.64	69.92	76.40	77.08	71.60	71.98	68.09	68.39	75.37	75.86
Center	73.34	73.62	69.95	70.12	76.83	77.24	73.95	74.31	70.59	70.92	77.27	77.64	72.38	72.55	68.99	68.97	76.17	76.54
Macro-region 2	**73.03**	**73.23**	**69.40**	**69.49**	**76.86**	**77.19**	**73.74**	**74.10**	**70.23**	**70.44**	**77.26**	**77.78**	**72.17**	**72.28**	**68.48**	**68.50**	**76.35**	**76.58**
North-East	73.14	73.38	69.57	69.78	76.91	77.18	73.97	74.35	70.52	70.73	77.40	77.94	72.36	72.55	68.73	68.96	76.44	76.60
South-East	72.92	73.04	69.24	69.13	76.81	77.20	73.56	73.87	70.00	70.15	77.15	77.63	71.92	71.87	68.17	67.82	76.21	76.55
Macro-region 3	**73.55**	**73.81**	**69.86**	**69.99**	**77.24**	**77.64**	**74.32**	**74.72**	**70.68**	**71.00**	**77.79**	**78.27**	**72.29**	**72.31**	**68.50**	**68.36**	**76.42**	**76.69**
Bucharest-Ilfov	74.46	74.94	70.82	71.23	77.87	78.43	74.67	75.17	71.04	71.51	78.04	78.56	72.03	72.40	68.31	68.15	75.89	76.96
South-Muntenia	72.97	73.07	69.25	69.21	76.85	77.14	73.72	73.96	70.10	70.18	77.31	77.75	72.31	72.30	68.51	68.37	76.47	76.65
Macro-region 4	**72.66**	**73.03**	**69.27**	**69.60**	**76.16**	**76.57**	**73.20**	**73.68**	**69.96**	**70.32**	**76.41**	**77.00**	**71.87**	**72.11**	**68.33**	**68.57**	**75.75**	**76.00**
South-West Oltenia	72.81	73.08	69.45	69.64	76.33	76.69	73.63	74.10	70.67	70.87	76.61	77.37	71.84	71.93	68.19	68.30	75.88	75.98
West	72.47	72.96	69.04	69.53	75.94	76.41	72.83	73.32	69.35	69.85	76.24	76.71	71.87	72.34	68.49	68.95	75.46	75.95
Romania	**73.03**	**73.33**	**69.49**	**69.68**	**76.68**	**77.09**	**73.76**	**74.16**	**70.29**	**70.58**	**77.16**	**77.67**	**72.05**	**72.23**	**68.42**	**68.51**	**76.05**	**76.36**

Source: Romanian Statistical Yearbook, 2009, 2010

The mutations in the social-economic structure of the country have led to a dynamic territorial mobility of the population. This has direct consequences upon the number and the social-demographic structure of the population. In the domestic migration, the urban-rural flow (29.21%) is larger than the rural-urban flow (21.24%), but smaller than the urban-urban flow (29.21%).

In 2009, although the national migration balance was zero, the West (+2,353), North-West (+1,691) and Bucharest-Ilfov (+7,205) regions were the only regions with a positive migration balance. Together with domestic migration, external migration is a very important factor for the population structure. The changes in the Romanian political and social system has made it possible for the population to immigrate in the EU states, USA and Canada. The national statistics indicate the most legal emigrants have had a high education and qualification level, thus proving the selective character of the immigration policy in the destination countries.

CONCLUSIONS

The decrease of the population in the past twelve years has been

caused mainly by the negative natural growth, a consequence of the higher death rate, the smaller birth rate and the migration to other parts of the country or abroad. Although in the last years there has been some concern regarding health improvement and providing health care services, the trends of the death rate are not encouraging at all. Unemployment, low-paid jobs and poor skills determine the massive migration of the active population to other economically developed areas in the country or abroad.

The urban population is concentrated in the developed urban centres. The migration from cities to villages is the result of the people's necessity to provide for their basic needs, not only because the industrial sector in which they worked (situated mainly in the urban areas) is now undergoing a massive reorganisation process, but also because the farmland is being restored, as stipulated by law. In the past years, demographic migration has become a common fact. The young and mature population migrates from the rural to the urban environment, motivated by the living and working conditions in the urban centres. Consequently, the remaining rural inhabitants are mostly old-aged.

Demography has great influence on regional economic and social development; as a result, the analysis of the demographic situation and the medium and long-term demographic prognosis are the foundation of realistic development plans and strategies.

The economic effects of the demographic evolution will be seen in time and will bring about changes in the various subpopulations (school children, fertile population, inhabitants able to work). They will be felt after 2005, when the generations born after 1990, small in number, will be part of the population fit for work.

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