

## Romania

The country's accession to the European Union was associated with significant increases in migration movements, still predominantly outwards. Following accession on 1 January 2007, Finland, Sweden, Czech Republic, Cyprus, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovenia, Slovakia have completely opened their labour markets to workers from Romania. At the beginning of the second phase of transitional agreements (1 January 2009), they were followed by Greece, Hungary, Portugal and Spain. Denmark joined on 30 April 2009.

According to the National Agency for Employment and the Labour Inspectorate, in 2007, about 55 260 persons emigrated from Romania under mediated temporary employment contracts. The decrease compared to the previous year is mainly due to fewer (-29%) contracts concluded through the Office for Labour Force Migration, while those through private agencies increased by 19.5% (in 2007, they were 37 640 and 17 620, respectively, compared to 53 000 and 15 000 in 2006). Most of the mediated contracts were issued to workers sent to Germany (27 817), Spain (9 733) and the U.S. (7 125). While Romania joined the EURES European job search system upon accession, only 63 Romanian workers found a job through it in 2007. However, official figures from Romania strongly underestimate emigration, since most Romanians emigrating do not use official mediated channels and do not necessarily report their movements to the authorities.

Immigration data from key destination countries, Italy and Spain, suggest continuously increasing emigration from Romania in 2007. According to the Italian National Institute for Statistics, at the end of 2007, the number of Romanians resident in Italy was 1 016 000 persons, triple the stock in 2006 (when it was about 340 000), making Romanians the largest foreign community resident. Also in Spain, the stock of Romanian nationals with permits continued to increase in 2007. On 1 January 2008, Spanish municipal registries recorded a total of 729 000 Romanians, 38% more than the previous year. In both Spain and Italy, however, many of the persons registered as inflows in 2007 were already in the country before January 2007.

Remittances to Romania fell, from EUR 5.3 billion in 2006 to EUR 4.8 billion in 2007, although they still were equivalent to 5.5% of GDP.

Inflows to Romania remain modest. According to official data, the number of immigrants in Romania fell slightly in 2007. In 2007, the total number of foreign citizens (either from third countries and EU/EEA) with valid permits amounted to 49 775, 4 225 less than in 2006. However, the number of persons with permanent permits rose by about 18% (from 5 429 in 2006, to 6 652 in 2007).

The main origin countries of temporary migrants remained Moldova (11 852), Turkey (6 227) and China (4 336). Temporary residents from EU/EEA originated mainly from Italy, Germany and France. Most of the permanent migrants originated from China (1 070), Turkey (976), and Syria (757).

As regards the number of work permits granted to foreigners in 2007, official data from the newly-created Romanian Office for Immigration cover only the period July-December. In this period, 3 638 work authorizations (as work permits were renamed) were issued to foreigners, mainly Turkish citizens (49%), followed by Chinese (17%) and Moldavians (15%). Both in terms of number of authorizations granted, and of countries of origin, the situation remained stable compared to the previous year. About 74% of the work authorizations issued in the second half of 2007 were for permanent workers, 21% for posted workers.

Under the National Strategy on Immigration for 2007-2010, administrative procedures regarding the employment and posting of foreigners have been simplified, and special procedures now apply for admission of highly skilled third-country nationals. During 2008, 10 000 new work authorizations were issued to non-EU nationals as posted workers employed by foreign entities.

An action plan with the purpose of encouraging the return of Romanian citizens to Romania was initiated in 2007 and adopted at the beginning of 2008 by a Government Decision.

For further information:

<http://www.insse.ro/cms/rw/pages/index.ro.do>

<http://www.mai.gov.ro/engleza/english.htm>

<http://ori.mai.gov.ro/>