

## Romania

The accession to the European Union on 1 January 2007 was accompanied by a significant increase in migration movements. Romania's migration pattern is mainly characterised by emigration. The number of Romanians working abroad in 2009 is estimated to be around 3 million persons. However, data on emigration of Romanian citizens or persons born in Romania is limited.

Only a small fraction of actual outflows is captured by officially registered emigration. The number of newly registered emigrants increased in 2009 by 17%, to 10 000. The main destination countries of officially registered emigration are Canada (20%), Germany (19%), and the United States (18%).

A better approximation of actual emigration is provided by the statistics of the main destination countries. For example, the Romanian population residing in Italy increased by around 90 000 (to a total of 887 800) in 2009, and the corresponding increase in Spain has been 33 000 (to a total of 751 700).

The National Agency for Employment mediates temporary labour emigration through bilateral employment agreements. In 2009, it has mediated 111 000 persons in 2009 based on bilateral employment agreements, while in the same period of 2008 the number of workers mediated was only 52 400. Virtually all of the employment contracts relate to Germany.

Remittances flows to Romania are the largest in the EU. Romanians abroad remitted more than EUR 3 billion in 2009, which is a decline of more than 40% compared with 2008. About two-thirds of remittance flows to Romania in recent years were from Italy and Spain, the two countries with the largest Romanian migrant populations.

According to the Romanian Office for Immigration, the immigrant population in Romania increased from 2008 to 2009 by 4%, to a total of 88 500. Most immigrants legally staying in Romania in June 2010 are non-EU citizens, mainly from Moldova (21%), Turkey (11%) and China (15%). The main immigrants from EU countries originate from Italy and Germany (7% and 6%, respectively).

In light of the economic downturn, the Romanian government tried to regulate immigration inflows by reducing the limits for work authorisations (to 8 000 in 2009 compared with 15 000 in 2008). Nevertheless, despite the reduction of work authorisations, actual

admissions were well below that figure. According to the Romanian Office for Immigration, 4 200 work permits were issued in 2009, a decrease by over 60% compared with the previous year. The work permits were mainly granted for permanent workers (61%) and posted workers (34%). Most immigrant workers come from Turkey (28%) and China (28%).

In 2009, there were about 830 asylum applications submitted in Romania, a decrease of about one-fourth compared with 2008. Most of these applications were submitted from citizens of Moldova (15%), Pakistan (12%) and Afghanistan (9%). Preliminary data for 2010 suggest a slight increase in asylum applications.

The accession to the Schengen area represents a main strategic objective of Romania in the area of migration policy. Schengen standards include strengthening border controls with non-member states, provisions on a common policy on the temporary entry of persons (including the Schengen visa), the harmonisation of external border controls, and cross-border police and judicial co-operation. In this process, Romanian state institutions co-operated and took action for drafting coherent programs, for co-ordinating and monitoring activities related to the implementation and meeting of Schengen standards. In January 2011, Romania passed the last stage of technical procedures which Romania had to follow in order to access the Schengen area. However, Romania's admission to the Schengen system, originally foreseen for March 2011, has been postponed as no consensus on this issue has yet been reached by the present Schengen member countries.

Finally, in 2010, the government proposed new legislation which transposes a number of EU directives. The legislative procedure is still ongoing. If accepted, the new legislative framework would bring a number of significant changes in the administrative procedures related to the facilitation of labour migration, combating irregular migration, and the stay and residence of foreigners in Romania. Among other changes, it is foreseen to provide all foreigners in Romania with a personal identification number.

### For further information:

[www.insse.ro/cms/rw/pages/index.ro.do](http://www.insse.ro/cms/rw/pages/index.ro.do)

[www.mai.gov.ro/engleza/english.htm](http://www.mai.gov.ro/engleza/english.htm)

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

## Recent trends in migrants' flows and stocks

ROMANIA

Migration flows (foreigners) National definition	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average		Level ('000)
					2000-04	2005-09	2009
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>							
Inflows	0.5	0.2	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.4	8.6
Outflows	0.7	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5	10.2
<b>Migration inflows (foreigners) by type</b>	<b>Thousands</b>		<b>% distribution</b>		<b>Inflows of top 10 nationalities as a % of total inflows of foreigners</b>		
<i>Permit based statistics (standardised)</i>	2008	2009	2008	2009			
Work	..	..	..	..			
Family (incl. accompanying family)	..	..	..	..			
Humanitarian	..	..	..	..			
Free movements	..	..	..	..			
Others	..	..	..	..			
Total	..	..	..	..			
<b>Temporary migration</b>	2005	2008	2009	Average 2005-09			
<i>Thousands</i>							
International students	..	7.8	..	..			
Trainees	..	..	..	..			
Working holiday makers	..	..	..	..			
Seasonal workers	..	..	..	..			
Intra-company transfers	..	..	..	..			
Other temporary workers	..	..	..	..			
<b>Inflows of asylum seekers</b>	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average 2000-04	Average 2005-09	Level 2009
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>							
	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	835
<b>Components of population growth</b>	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average		Level ('000)
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>							
Total	-1.1	-2.2	-1.4	-1.7	-2.2	-1.9	-36
Natural increase	-0.9	-1.9	-1.5	-1.6	-2.0	-1.7	-34
Net migration	-0.2	-0.3	0.1	-0.1	-0.2	-0.1	-2
<b>Stocks of immigrants</b>	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average		Level ('000)
<i>Percentage of the total population</i>							
Foreign-born population	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Foreign population	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	89
<b>Naturalisations</b>	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average		Level
<i>Percentage of the foreign population</i>							
	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
<b>Labour market outcomes</b>	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average		
<i>Employment/population ratio</i>							
Native-born men	..	63.7	65.6	65.2	..	64.8	
Foreign-born men	..	76.2	78.8	78.1	..	..	
Native-born women	..	51.5	52.5	52.0	..	52.3	
Foreign-born women	..	..	43.5	61.3	..	..	
<i>Unemployment rate</i>							
Native-born men	..	8.1	7.0	8.0	..	7.8	
Foreign-born men	..	4.0	5.1	7.9	..	..	
Native-born women	..	6.8	5.0	6.2	..	6.0	
Foreign-born women	..	..	5.9	4.6	..	..	
<b>Macroeconomic indicators</b>	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average		Level
<i>Annual growth in %</i>							
Real GDP	2.4	4.2	7.3	-7.1			
GDP/capita (level in USD)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Employment (level in thousands)	0.0	0.1	0.2	-1.3	-3.1	0.3	9 244
<i>Percentage of the labour force</i>							
Unemployment	7.3	7.2	5.8	6.9	7.6	6.7	

Notes and sources are at the end of the chapter.

StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932441610>