

Romania



Migration movements in and out of Romania were marked by the country's accession to the European Union on 1 January 2007. Although data on migration flows for Romania are difficult to

obtain, there are several indications that this was associated with significant increases in migration movements, which continue to be strongly dominated by emigration.

In 2006, about 68 000 persons emigrated from Romania under mediated temporary employment contracts (53 000 through the Office for Labour Force Migration and 15 000 by private agencies). However, as in other countries with significant emigration, official figures from Romania strongly underestimate actual emigration as persons emigrating do not necessarily report this to the authorities. An indication of actual flows is given by immigration data from key destination countries, that is, Spain and Italy. These figures show a strong increase in immigration from Romania in 2006, a trend which accelerated in 2007. The year-by-year increase in the stock of Romanian nationals with permits between 31 December 2006 and 31 December 2007 in Spain was about 393 000, which represents almost a tripling of the stock in one year. Romania is now the most important origin country of immigration to Spain. For Italy, preliminary figures indicate a doubling of the stock of resident Romanian citizens for 2007 (the 2006 stock was about 340 000). In both Spain and Italy, however, it seems that many of the persons registered as inflows in 2007 were already in the country before January 2007.

Remittances to Romania continued their strong increase in recent years. In 2006, remittances amounted to EUR 5.3 billion, more than 5% of GDP, and a 40% increase over 2005.

Inflows to Romania remain modest, despite an apparent increase in the context of accession. The total number of foreigners with valid permits amounted to about 54 000 in 2006, which represents just 0.2% of the total population. This is a slight increase of 8% compared to 2005. However,

the number of persons with a permanent permit (about 5 400 in total) rose by more than 50%.

The main origin countries of the migrant stock remained Moldova (11 400), Turkey (6 300) and China (5 000) – all of these showing increases in 2006 in the range of 10-19%. Initial figures for 2007 show a continuation of this trend for these three countries.

In 2006, the total number of work permits amounted to almost 8 000, more than twice the 2005 number. Turkish citizens held 27% of work permits in 2006, followed by Moldavians and Chinese citizens.

In July 2007, a new central authority, the Romanian Office for Immigration, was established under the auspices of the Ministry of Interior and Administrative reforms. The new office unites a number of tasks from previously separate offices and agencies, including the Office for Labour Force Migration. The new Office for Immigration is responsible for a broad range of tasks including the granting of visas, employment authorisations, receiving and deciding on asylum applications, and for managing national data and information on foreigners.

Also effective as of June 2007, several changes were made to Romania's work permit scheme. It introduced a new residence permit for work purposes, replacing the previously required separate work and temporary residence permits. Along with these changes, citizens from EU/EEA countries and their family members were exempted from the previous requirement to have a work permit. This also applies to third country nationals who are seconded from an EU/EEA country, provided they were previously resident in an EU/EEA country.

In addition, penalties for businesses employing foreign nationals without the proper authorisation were raised significantly.

For further information...

www.insse.ro/cms/rw/pages/index.ro.do

www.mai.gov.ro/engleza/english.htm

<http://aps.mira.gov.ro/>

Flow data on foreigners

Migration flows (foreigners) <i>National definition</i>	1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		Level ('000)			
					1995-2000	2001-2006	2006			
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>										
Inflows	0.2	0.5	0.2	..	0.3	0.2	..			
Outflows	1.1	0.7	0.5	0.7	0.8	0.5	14.2			
Migration inflows (foreigners) by type <i>Permit based statistics (standardised)</i>	Thousands		% distribution		Inflows of top 10 nationalities as a % of total inflows of foreigners					
	Work		
Family (incl. accompanying family)	..	..	..	..		
Humanitarian	..	..	..	..		
Free movements	..	..	..	..		
Others	..	..	..	..		
Total	..	..	..	..		
Temporary migration	2000	2005	2006	Annual average						
	<i>Thousands</i>										2000-2006
International students	..	..	..	..		
Trainees	..	..	..	..		
Working holiday makers	..	..	..	..		
Seasonal workers	..	..	..	..		
Intra-company transfers	..	..	..	..		
Other temporary workers	..	..	..	..		
Inflows of asylum seekers	1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		Level ('000)			
	<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>				1995-2000	2001-2006	2006			
	-	0.1	-	-	0.1	-	0.5			

Macroeconomic, demographic and labour market indicators

Macroeconomic indicators	1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		Level
					1995-2000	2001-2006	2006
Real GDP (growth, %)
GDP/capita (growth, %) – level in US Dollars
Employment (growth, %) – level in thousands	..	-0.1	0.2	2.2	..	-1.5	8 838
Unemployment (% of labour force)	..	7.2	7.2	7.3	7.1	7.4	..
Components of population growth	1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		Level ('000)
					1995-2000	2001-2006	
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>							
Total
Natural increase	-1.6	-0.9	-1.9	..	-1.6	-2.2	..
Net migration
Total population	1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		Level ('000)
					1995-2000	2001-2006	2006
<i>(Annual growth %)</i>							
Native-born
Foreign-born
National	..	-0.1	-0.2	-0.2	..	-0.2	21 512
Foreign	..	11.7	0.2	8.3	..	-4.5	54
Naturalisations	1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		Level
					1995-2000	2001-2006	2006
<i>As a percentage of foreign population</i>							
	..	0.6	-	0.1	0.9	0.3	29

Notes and sources are at the beginning of the Chapter.

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