

Romania

Romania's migration pattern is mainly characterised by emigration, especially following accession to the European Union on 1 January 2007. The number of Romanians working abroad in 2010 is estimated to be around 3 million persons. However, data on emigration of Romanian citizens or persons born in Romania is limited.

Officially registered emigration captures only a small fraction of actual outflows. The number of newly registered permanent emigrants in 2010 was about 7 900, down 23% from 2009. 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 80 000 (to a total of 969 000) in 2010, and the corresponding increase in Spain was 33 000 (to a total of almost 864 300).

The National Agency for Employment mediates temporary labour emigration through bilateral employment agreements. Only five out of 13 agreements signed are currently operating: with Germany for seasonal workers and students, and with France and Switzerland for the exchange of trainees. By far the largest number of mediated employment contracts relates to Germany, as restrictions on labour market access for Romanian workers are still in force. Further, when Spain reintroduced transitional arrangements for Romanian workers in August 2011, the bilateral employment agreement for employment in agriculture regained relevance. In 2010, the number of mediated employment contracts remained roughly stable compared with 2009, at 110 100, 1 000 less than in 2009 but still more than double the 2008 figure.

According to the Romanian Office for Immigration, the immigrant population in Romania increased by 10% from 2009 to 2010, to a total of 97 400, representing less than 5% of the total population. Around 60% of those immigrants were non-EU citizens, mainly from Moldova (18%), Turkey (9%) and China (7%).

In light of the economic downturn, the Romanian government tried to regulate immigration inflows by reducing the quota for work authorisations, to 8 000 in both 2009 and 2010 compared with 15 000 in 2008. Actual admissions in 2009 and 2010 were, however, well below that figure. According to the Romanian Office for Immigration, 4 200 work permits were issued in 2009, a decrease of over 60% compared with the previous year. A further decrease was recorded in 2010, when almost 3 000 permits were issued, representing less than 40% of the quota allotted. The work permits were mainly granted for permanent workers (77%) and posted workers (13%). Most immigrant workers come from Turkey (21%) and China (18%). The 2011 quota for work authorisations was set at 5 500.

In 2010, almost 890 asylum applications were submitted in Romania, a slight increase compared with the 2009 figure (830). The main origin countries of applicants were Afghanistan, Moldova and Pakistan. Preliminary data for 2011 suggest a further increase in asylum applications.

In the second half of 2011, several amendments to the law on foreigners were approved, which adapt Romanian legislation to the EU framework on migration and to the Schengen *acquis*. Romania's admission to the Schengen system, originally foreseen for March 2011, has been postponed.

The new legislation transposes a number of EU directives – namely the “Blue Card”, “Employer Sanctions”, “Return” and “Long-Term Residents” directive, the directives on family reunification and on posted workers, as well as the regulation on a common Visa Code. Other changes concern the implementation of EU legislation in the area of free movement, with the extension of the rights already recognised to EEA citizens also to Swiss citizens, and the abolition of the obligation of registering for EU citizens and their family members.

In addition, the new legislation provides for the issuance of a personal identification number to all foreigners in Romania – including asylum seekers – for the access to social security services (including health, education and social assistance benefits) and the fulfilment of legal obligations

Other changes include tighter requirements for the issuance of business visas and simpler procedures for the issuance of work authorisations. Amendments were also introduced to the immigration regime for posted workers, with the creation of a special visa and the reinstatement of the labour market test for posted workers who wish to continue working permanently for the same employer. Status change from study to work is now facilitated, conditional on a full-time employment contract in the same domain as prior studies.

Romania's National Strategy for Immigration for the period 2011-14 was adopted in May 2011, with its main objectives being: promoting legal immigration, strengthening control over irregular immigration, developing a national asylum system, and integrating foreign residents.

For further information:

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

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	2009	2010	Average		Level ('000)
					2001-05	2006-10	2010
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>							
Inflows	0.5	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.4	7.1
Outflows	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Migration inflows (foreigners) by type	Thousands		% distribution		Inflows of top 10 nationalities as a % of total inflows of foreigners		
Permit based statistics (standardised)	2009	2010	2009	2010			
Work	..	..	..	..
Family (incl. accompanying family)	..	..	..	..
Humanitarian	..	..	..	..
Free movements	..	..	..	..
Others	..	..	..	..
Total	..	..	..	..
Temporary migration	2005	2009	2010	Average			
<i>Thousands</i>							
International students	..	..	..	..
Trainees	..	..	..	..
Working holiday makers	..	..	..	..
Seasonal workers	..	..	..	..
Intra-company transfers	..	..	..	..
Other temporary workers	..	..	..	..
Inflows of asylum seekers	2000	2005	2009	2010	Average		Level
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>							
	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	887
Components of population growth	2000	2005	2009	2010	Average		Level ('000)
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>							
Total	-1.1	-2.2	-1.7	-2.3	-7.4	-1.8	-48
Natural increase	-0.9	-1.9	-1.6	-2.2	-2.2	-1.8	-48
Net migration	-0.2	-0.3	-0.1	0.0	-5.3	-0.1	-1
Stocks of immigrants	2000	2005	2009	2010	Average		Level ('000)
<i>Percentage of the total population</i>							
Foreign-born population	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Foreign population	..	..	0.3	0.3	..	0.2	58
Naturalisations	2000	2005	2009	2010	Average		Level
<i>Percentage of the foreign population</i>							

Labour market outcomes	2000	2005	2009	2010	Average		
<i>Employment/population ratio</i>							
Native-born men	..	63.7	65.2	65.7	..	65.2	
Foreign-born men	..	76.2	78.1	82.8	..	..
Native-born women	..	51.5	52.0	52.0	..	52.4	
Foreign-born women	..	-	59.6	56.1	..	..
<i>Unemployment rate</i>							
Native-born men	..	8.1	8.0	8.2	..	7.8	
Foreign-born men	..	-	-	-	..	..
Native-born women	..	6.8	6.2	6.9	..	6.0	
Foreign-born women	..	-	-	-	..	..
Macroeconomic indicators	2000	2005	2009	2010	Average		Level
<i>Annual growth in %</i>							
Real GDP	2.9	4.2	-7.1	-1.3	5.7	2.5	
GDP/capita (level in USD)	3.4	4.4	-6.9	-1.1	6.5	2.7	11 893
Employment (level in thousands)	..	0.2	-0.9	0.2	-2.0	0.4	8 822
<i>Percentage of the labour force</i>							
Unemployment	6.8	7.2	6.9	7.3	7.2	6.7	

Notes and sources are at the end of the part.

StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932616505>