

Romania



Capital City: Bucharest.

Background: The principalities of Wallachia and Moldavia – for centuries under the suzerainty of the Turkish Ottoman Empire – secured their autonomy in 1856; they united in 1859 and a few years later adopted the new name of Romania. The country participated in the 1941 German invasion of the USSR. The post-war Soviet occupation led to the formation of a Communist ‘people’s republic’ in 1947 and the abdication of the king. The long oppressive rule of dictator Nicolae Ceausescu lasted until he was overthrown in the late 1980s. The Communist dominated government fell in 1996. Although Romania completed accession talks with the European Union (EU) in December 2004, it must continue to address corruption and undertake economic and democratic reforms to fulfill the requirements for EU accession, scheduled to take place in 2007 or 2008. Romania joined NATO in March of 2004.

Geography:

- **Location:** Southeastern Europe, bordering the Black Sea, between Bulgaria and Ukraine.
- **Area comparative:** 3 times the size of Ireland.
- **Climate:** Temperate; cold, cloudy winters with frequent snow and fog; sunny summers with frequent showers and thunderstorms.
- **Natural resources:** Petroleum, timber, natural gas, coal, iron ore, salt, arable land, hydropower.
- **Natural hazards:** Earthquakes, most severe in south and southwest; geologic structure and climate promote landslides.
- **Environment issues:** Soil erosion and degradation; water pollution; air pollution in south from industrial effluents; contamination of Danube delta wetlands.

People:

- **Population:** 22,303,552
- **Birth rate:** 10.7 births per 1,000.
- **Infant mortality:** 25.5 deaths per 1,000 live births.
- **Life expectancy:** *Total population:* 71.63 years, *male:* 68.14 years, *female:* 75.34 years.



Religion: Eastern Orthodox 86.8%, Protestant 7.5%, Roman Catholic 4.7%, other, mostly Muslim and unspecified 0.9%, none 0.1%.

Government:

- **Type of government:** Republic.
- **Administrative divisions:** 41 counties and 1 municipality.
- **Independence:** 9 May 1877 from the Ottoman Empire.
- **National holiday:** Unification Day (of Romania and Transylvania), 1 December.

Economy:

- **Unemployment:** 5.9%
- **Population below the poverty line:** 25%
- **Agricultural products:** Wheat, corn, barley, sugar beets, sunflower seed, potatoes, grapes, eggs, sheep.
- **Industries:** Textiles and footwear, light machinery and car assembly, mining, timber, construction materials, metallurgy, chemicals, food processing, petroleum refining.

Education:

- **Literacy:** *Definition:* age 15 and over can read and write. *Total population:* 98.4%, *male:* 99.1%, *female:* 97.7%.
- **Language:** Romanian, Hungarian, German.

Communication:

- **Telephone lines:** Landlines: 4,389,100, Mobile lines: 10,215,400.
- **TV stations:** 48
- **Internet users:** 4.5 million.

Asylum: The Irish Government considers Romania a 'safe country of origin'. Nevertheless in 2005 there was 385 asylum claims by Romanian nationals, while in the first ten months of 2006 there were 268 asylum applications (7.5% of the total).

Internally Displaced Persons: The Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre at the end of November 2006 did not record an internally displaced population in Romania.

Migration: In the first ten months of 2006 the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment issued 1,266 work permits to Romanian nationals.

Sources:

CIA - *The World Factbook* -- Romania, <https://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/ro.html>, 20/07/06.

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<http://www.entemp.ie/labour/workpermits/statistics.htm>, 1/11/2006.

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Map from <https://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/docs/refmaps.html>

Photo from www.axiommedia.org/.../romania_people.htm