

EXTERNAL MIGRATORY DYNAMICS OF THE ROMANIAN POPULATION AT THE END OF THE 20TH CENTURY AND THE BEGINNING OF THE 21ST CENTURY DETERMINED BY THE CHANGE OF RESIDENCE

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Abstract: The present paper analyses the definitive external migratory dynamics of the Romanian population determined by the change of residence before and after the Revolution in December 1989, respectively between 1980-2006. In order to highlight this phenomenon better, we analysed the evolution of the number of emigrants, then we highlighted the destination countries of emigrants, as well as the analysis of the structure of population involved in the migratory phenomenon, especially the structure of the emigrants according to the two genders, age groups and their ethnic structure.

Key words: emigrants, country of destination, structures of the emigrants.

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INTRODUCTION

Territorial dynamics of the population is widely spread all over the planet. One of thirty-five persons on Earth leaves his country of origin in search of a better living abroad. By analysing this phenomenon, we can conclude that migration plays a key role in development and in reducing the poverty. It has clear advantages that can be increased, but also disadvantages that can be minimized (Ilieș, Stașac, 2005).

For the host country, benefits manifest themselves mainly on the labour market by: contribution of the migrants to *reducing the labour shortage*, or in highly qualified jobs, specialized labour, or with reduced skills or unskilled labour for jobs where local labour is reserved and *by contributing to increase of production*, including the export of the countries of “adoption”, sometimes even in their countries of origin, and also as regards the inter-cultural exchange, reducing of the process of demographic aging (migrants are usually young people, aged between 18 and 40) etc (Țarcă, 1997).

Romania is not a country with tradition in international migration. Comparing the historical and scientific references of countries such as Poland, Morocco or Mexico, the Romanian history of migration records few and quantitatively unimportant flows of migration. Furthermore, Romania has represented a pole of attraction, in certain moments in history, for immigrants either

from neighboring countries or even from the West (Italy). The first recordings of remarkable flows of migration come from the 1848's – the time spent in Western Europe by young people of rich origin, as well as a relatively minor flow of permanent migration to the United States by families from Transylvania, quickly assimilated on arrival. In conclusion, Romanians have had, during time, a relative territorial stability within the national space (IOM, 2009).

EXTERNAL MIGRATION DETERMINED BY THE CHANGE OF RESIDENCE

The definitive migration started at the beginning of the 90's was mainly formed of German ethnics who were assimilated by the reunited Germany. Another flow of migration with ethnical determination was the one towards Hungary. When the number of Transylvanian Saxons and Jews became less, the flows towards Germany and, respectively Israel, diminished. In the middle of the 90's, the definitive migration was mainly towards the United States and Canada, countries with tradition in intellectual migration. A cause of the departure of these Romanian intellectuals was the fall of the research system in Romania and the poor salary perspectives as opposed to qualification. The beginning of the 2000's marks a propagation of the flows, equally scattered between North America, Hungary and Western countries such as Italy or Germany. In conclusion, the definitive external migration in Romania has two main stages: one in which migration is stimulated by the ethnic factor of the emigrants, towards destinations like Germany, Hungary and Israel, and a stage of professional migration (intellectuals) of the technic field, towards North America and Western Europe, stimulated by the assimilation of the highly qualified labour by the countries of destination (figure 1).

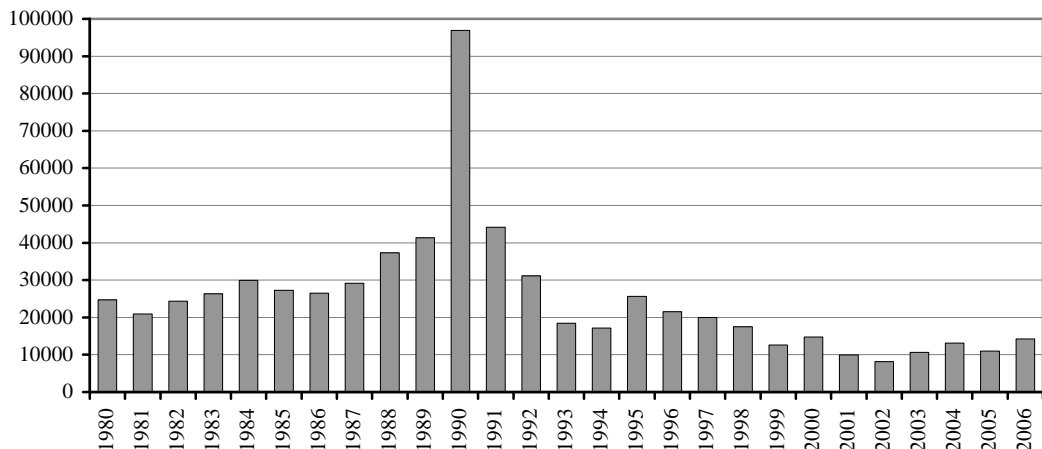


Figure 1. Romanian citizens who settled their permanent residence abroad (1980-2006)

(Data source: www.insse.ro, <https://statistici.insse.ro/shop/>)

The intensity of the emigration phenomenon between 1980-2006

Between 1980-2006, 647.580 persons emigrated from Romania, the general coefficient of emigration being, at that time, 1,10 ‰ of the total number of inhabitants of Romania. By analysing this phenomenon, we highlighted the following periods:

- the first period between 1980 and 1989 is characterized by high values of the general coefficient of emigration (0,93÷1,78 ‰), the annual average ratio for this period being 1,26 ‰, and the tendency is increasing the whole period, emigration having an ethnic nature and directed towards Germany (51,57 % of the total migratory flow) towards USA (11,7 % of the total migratory flow).

- the second period which can be noticed on the whole year of 1990, when, by the opening of the borders as a result of a change in the political situation of Romania, the emigration reached

extremely high rates (4,11 ‰), especially with the Romanian citizens of German ethnicity (68,22 % of the total number of emigrants in that year), Germany being chosen by 69,25 % of the number of emigrants in that year.

- the third period is between 1991 and 1995, characterized by a rate of emigration of 1,69 ‰, the countries of destination being Germany (41,94 %) and Hungary (12,69 %), this stage marking the end of the ethnic emigration.

- the fourth period is between 1996 and 2001 and has a rate of emigration of 0,76 ‰, where the chosen countries of destination were Germany (24,66 %), USA (16,65 %), Canada (12,52 %) and Italy (10,43 %);

- the fifth period is between 2002 and 2006 and has a rate of emigration of 0,52 ‰, the countries of destination being: Germany (18,58 %), USA (16,22 %), Canada (14,34 %) and Italy (12,35 %).

Destination countries of the emigrants

From 1980 to 1989, because of the Romanian government policy during the Communist period, and after 1990 because of complex reasons, the main destination country of the Romanian emigrants was Germany. Of 647.580 emigrants between 1980-2006, 45.29 % moved to Germany. Other countries where Romanian emigrants moved to between 1980-2006, were: USA¹ – 11,31 % of the emigrants who changed the residence outside Romania and Hungary² – 8,98 % (figure 2).

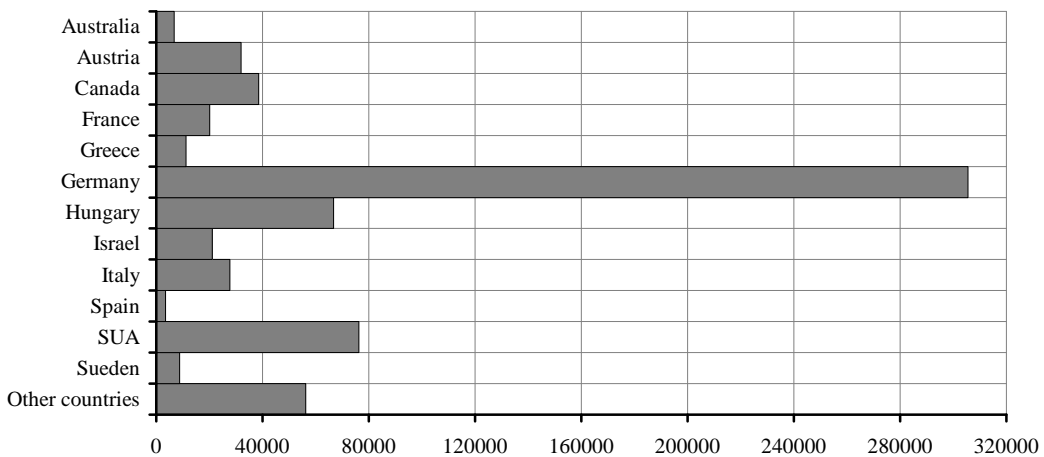


Figure 2. Emigrants by country of destination (1980-2006)

(Data source: Statistical yearbook 1993-2008, www.insse.ro, <https://statistici.insse.ro/shop/>)

The structure of the emigrants by the two genders

Analysing the structure of the emigrants by gender between 1980-2006, we see that the number of women who emigrated exceeds the male emigrants, the ratio for the entire period being 1.16:1. From this point of view (of the male/female emigrants), three distinctive periods are singled out: (a) 1980-1991- with a value of the average ratio of 1,05; (b) 1992-2001 - with a value of the average ratio of 1,11; and (c) 2002-2006 - with a value of the average ratio of 1,52. During the period under analysis there were years when the men/women ratio was subunitary, that is the number of male emigrants exceeded the number of female emigrants; In this sense we can distinguish the following years: 1988 (0,98), 1992 (0,64) and 2001 (0,98) (figure 3).

¹ over 3000 people/year emigrated to USA, during 1980-1990, and fewer after 1990.

² over 10.000 people/year emigrated to Hungary between 1988-1990.

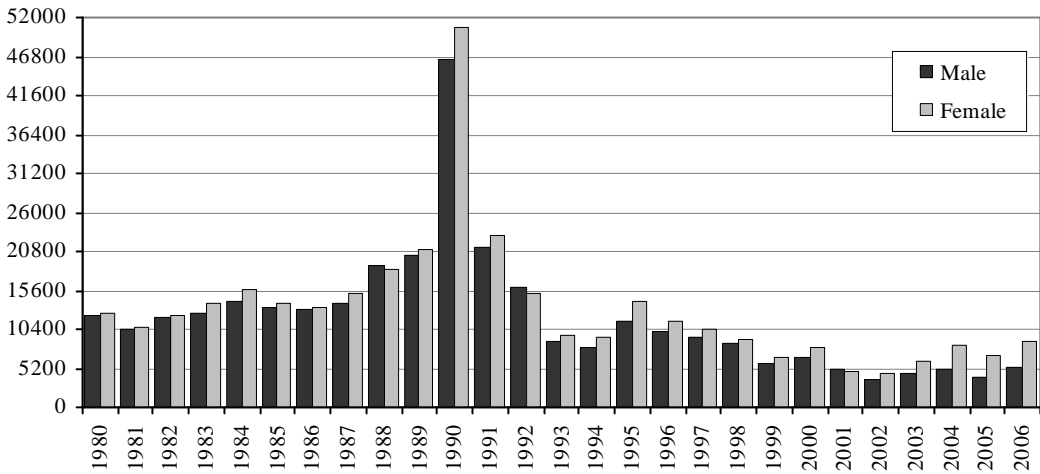


Figure 3. Emigrants by sex (1980-2006)

(Data source: Statistical yearbook 1993-2008, www.insse.ro, <https://statistici.insse.ro/shop/>)

The structure of the emigrants by age groups

Besides directly losing the population that changes the residence and settles abroad, the demographic decline also determines, in time, the degradation of the structure of population by age groups. In Romania, during 1980-2006, out of the total of 647.580 emigrants, almost half of them were between 18 and 40 years of age, while almost a quarter of the total number of emigrants that changed their residence outside the country, were minors, under 18 years of age (figure 4).

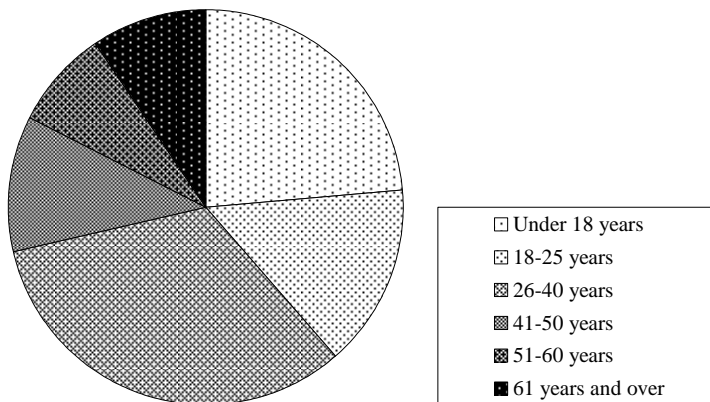


Figure 4. Emigrants by age group (1980-2006)

(Data source: Statistical yearbook 1993-2008, www.insse.ro, <https://statistici.insse.ro/shop/>)

The ethnic structure of the emigrant population

Before 1989 the cause of emigration was mainly ethnic, over 60% of the emigrants being of other nationality, especially Germans, Hungarians and Jews, the main destination countries being: Germany, Hungary and Israel, but also the USA. 1990 represents, as regards quantity, the peak of contemporary Romanian emigration. The opening of the borders and the placement of the evolution of the country on an uncertain course determined almost over 97.000 Romanians to leave the country (over 60.000 German ethnics and almost 24.000 Romanian ethnics). Between 1990-1995 the number of German and Hungarian ethnics who changed their residence outside Romanian borders diminished with every year, and in 1995 only 25,37 % of the emigrants changed

their residence. In comparison with 1990, the balance of the citizens from the two ethnic groups was 73,37 %. During the whole period, out of 647.580 emigrating citizens with residence outside Romanian borders, over half of them were Romanian ethnics and a third were German ethnics (figure 5).

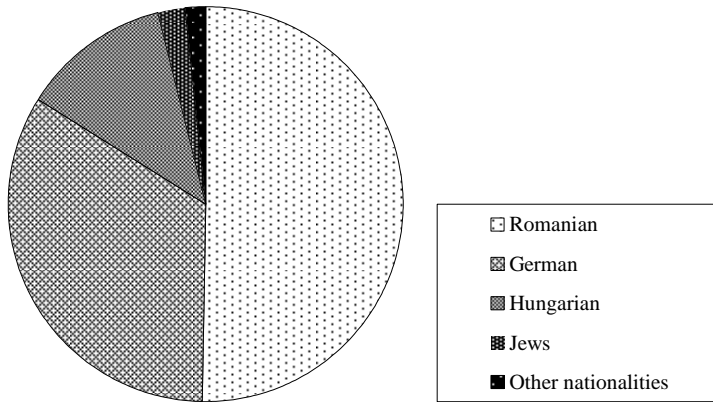


Figure 5. Emigrants by nationality (1980-2006)

(Data source: Statistical yearbook 1993-2008, www.insse.ro, https://statistici.insse.ro/shop/)

The flow of external migration

In 2006, 14.197 persons (0.658 ‰) emigrated from Romania and only 7.714 persons settled (immigrated) here, resulting a final migratory balance of -6.483 persons (figure 6).

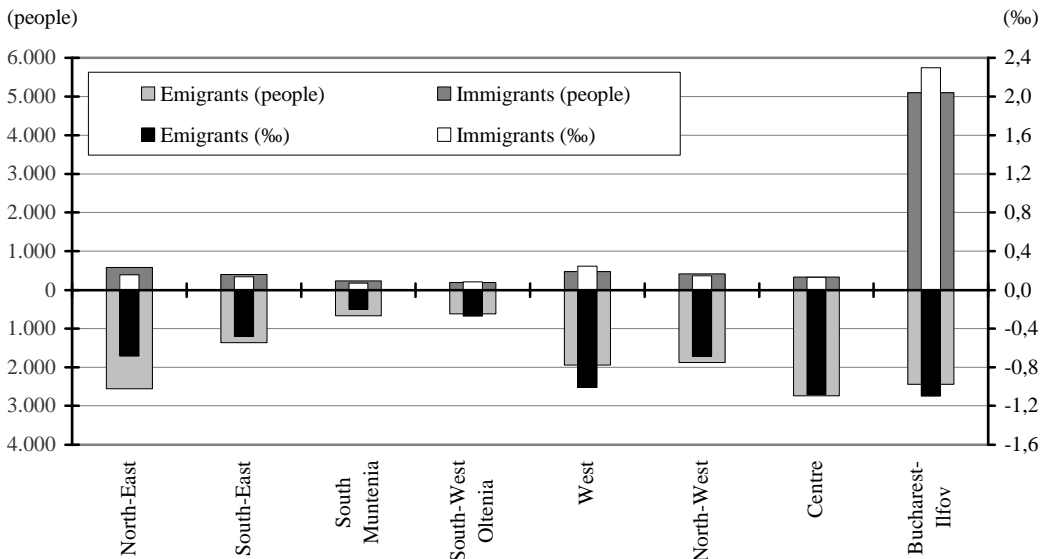


Figure 6. Emigrants and immigrants, by development regions, in 2006

(Data source: Statistical yearbook 1993-2008, www.insse.ro, https://statistici.insse.ro/shop/)

The biggest balance of persons that left Romania and settled in another country, in 2006, was recorded in Bucuresti-Ilfov region, from where 2.440 persons of the total number of inhabitants (approx. 1,1 ‰) left, and the smallest balance was recorded in South-Muntenia, from where 663 persons of the total number of inhabitants (approx. 0,2 ‰) left.

The biggest balance of persons who settled in Romania in 2006 was recorded also in the Bucuresti-Ilfov region, where 5096 persons of the total number of inhabitants (approx. 2,3 ‰) arrived, and the smallest balance was recorded also in the South-Muntenia region, where 239 persons of the total number of inhabitants (approx. 0,07 ‰) arrived.

CONCLUSIONS

The external migration of the Romanian population with the final change of residence during 1980-2006 had its own characteristics, of which we can identify the following:

The emigration had an ethnic character in the first years after the political events that took place in Romania, after 1989;

The main causes for changing the residence outside the country, especially after 1990, are of economical nature;

The intensity of the emigration flow had its peak in 1990 and was gradually reduced during 1993-2006, even more diminished than during 1980-1989;

The most important destination countries of the Romanian emigrants are Germany, USA and Hungary;

The number of female emigrants that changed their residence exceeds the number of male emigrants;

Almost half of the persons that left Romania and settled elsewhere between 1980-2006 were aged between 18 and 40 years old.

The București-Ilfov region has the biggest balance as regards emigration with definitive settlement as well as in the case of immigrants to this region.

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