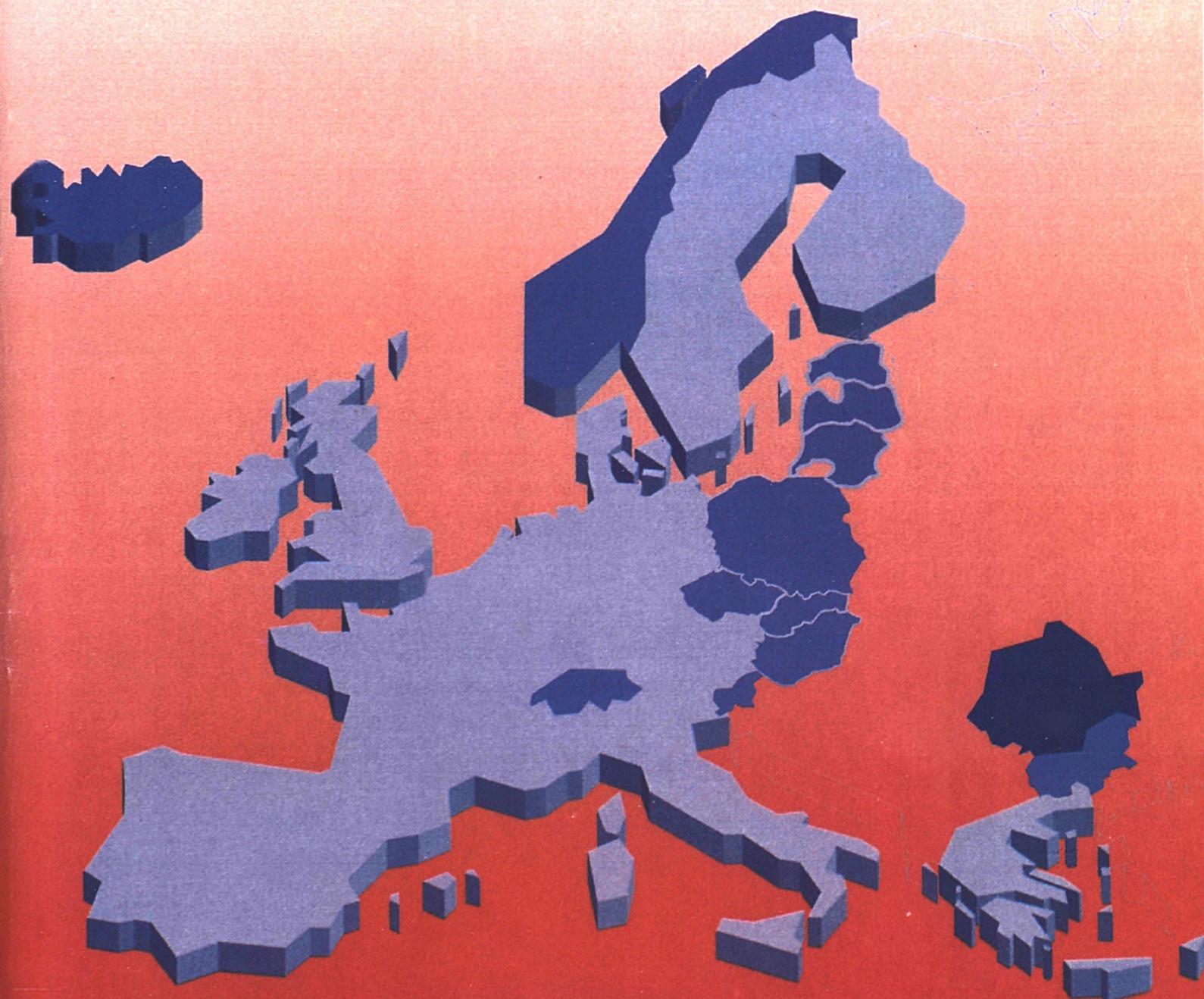
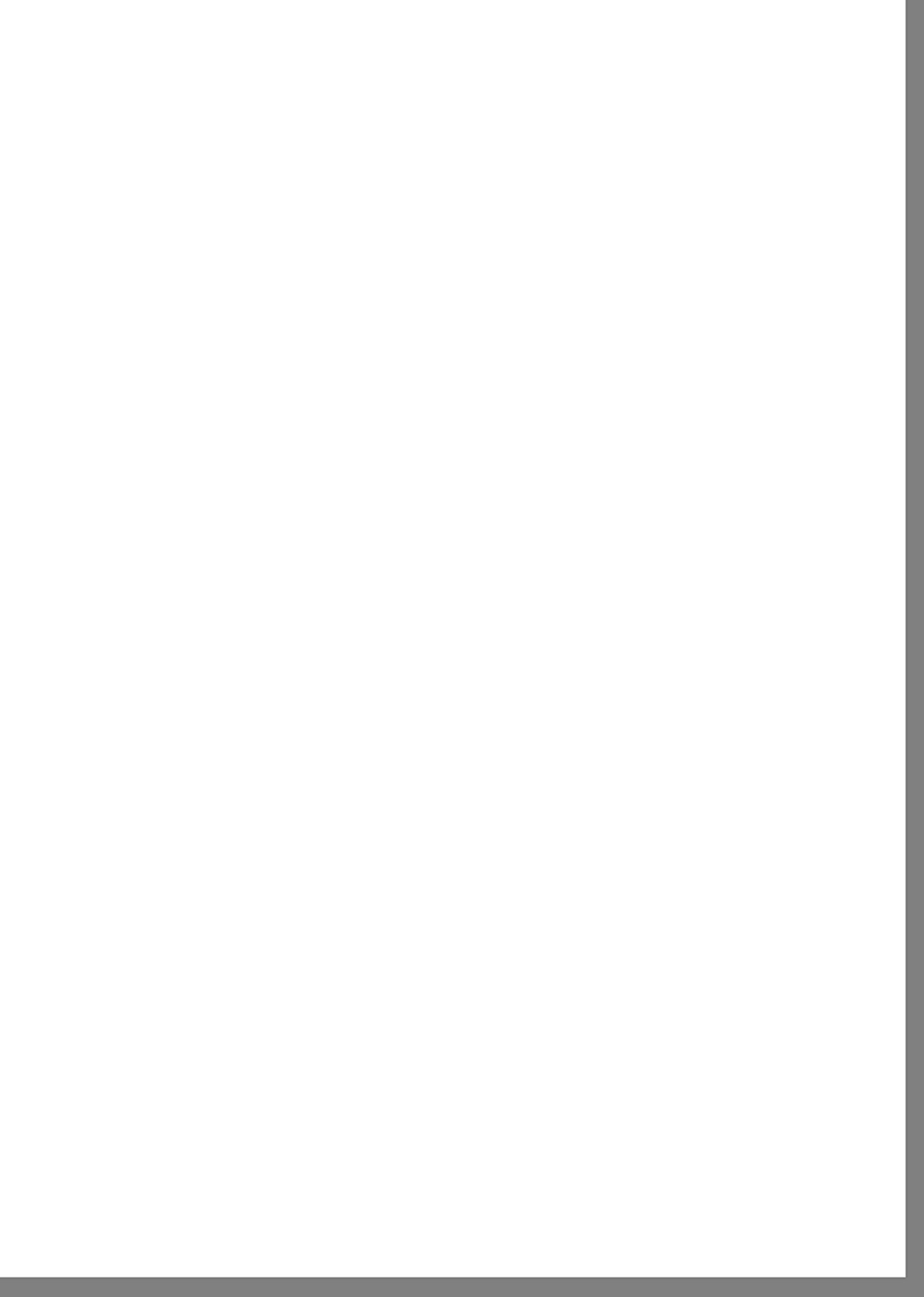


PORTRAIT OF THE REGIONS

VOLUME 11
ROMANIA





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VOLUME 11
ROMANIA



EUROPEAN COMMISSION



Statistical Office of the European Communities

A great deal of additional information on the European Union is available on the Internet. It can be accessed through the Europa server (<http://europa.eu.int>).

Cataloguing data can be found at the end of this publication.

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Foreword

As accession negotiations with candidate countries have proceeded, decisionmakers both within and outside the European institutions have become increasingly aware of the diversity to be found within the countries seeking membership of the European Union. Just as with the current 15 Member States, this rich variety at the regional level needs sound strategies to exploit strengths and to improve structural weaknesses.

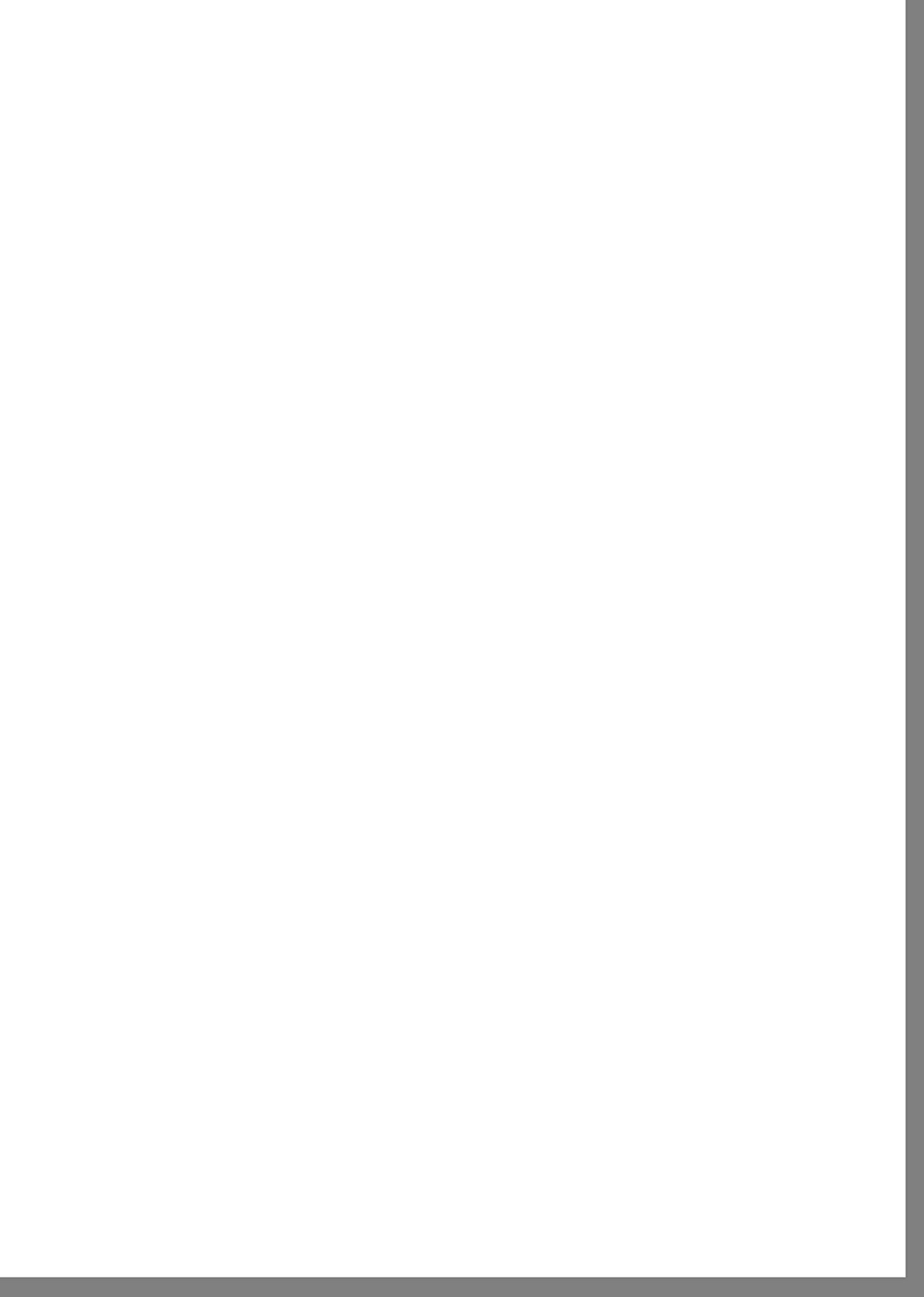
Since the publication of the first volume of the "Portrait of the Regions" in 1994, the series has played an important role in raising awareness of regional disparities. The format of detailed profiles on individual regions, supported and supplemented by high-quality maps and photographs and illustrated by informative graphs, has proved highly popular. The need for a similar source of information on the countries of Central and Eastern Europe resulted in a volume on Hungary in 1997. Following a long period of preparation, the "Portrait of the Regions" series was considerably extended during the year 2000 with the publication of Volumes 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10. Regional coverage was thus extended to the Czech Republic and Poland, Slovakia, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania and, finally, to Bulgaria.

Administrative difficulties emerging late in 2000 made it impossible to proceed with the original proposal to include Romania in Volume 7, although preparation had proceeded almost to the point of publication. These difficulties have now been eliminated and a great deal of information, describing Romania's development regions (Level 2) and *judets* or counties (Level 3 regions), can now be made available as Volume 11.

I would like to express my appreciation to all those from the Romanian National Statistical Office and from the Phare Programme who contributed to this valuable work and made possible its publication.



Yves Franchet
Director-General of Eurostat



This volume was produced with the collaboration of the Statistical Office of Romania and coordinated by ECOS-Overture. Its publication was made possible by the financial support of the Phare programme. Its contents do not necessarily reflect the official views of the institutions of the European Communities.



ECOS-Overture is the European Commission's programme for cooperation between the regions and cities of the European Union and their counterparts in Central and Eastern Europe.



This project is financed by the European Union's Phare Programme, which provides grant finance to support its partner countries in central and eastern Europe to the stage where they are ready to assume the obligations of European Union membership.



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Structure of the publication

Each of the 8 major regions is presented in accordance with a uniform layout on six pages:

Page 1:

- overview (1)
- natural resources (2)

Page 2:

- economic structure (3)

Page 3:

- employment and unemployment (4)
- training and labour supply (5)

Page 4:

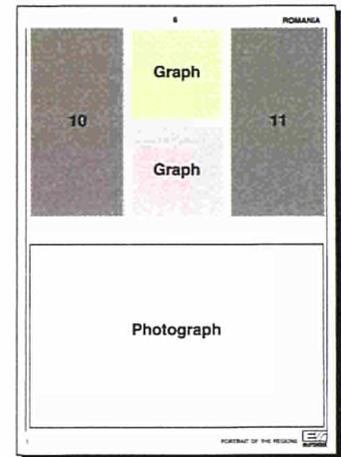
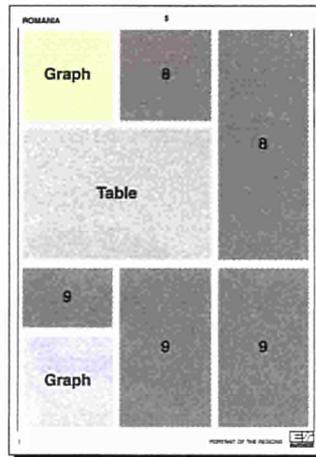
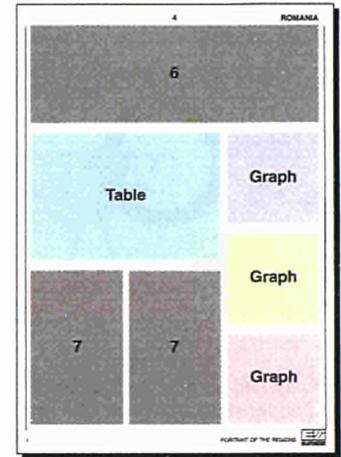
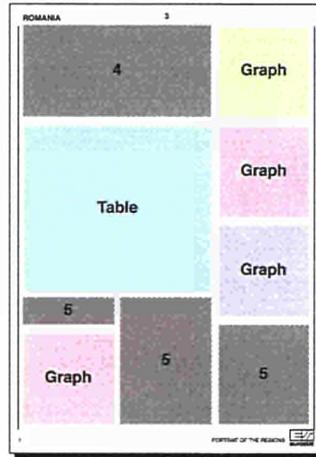
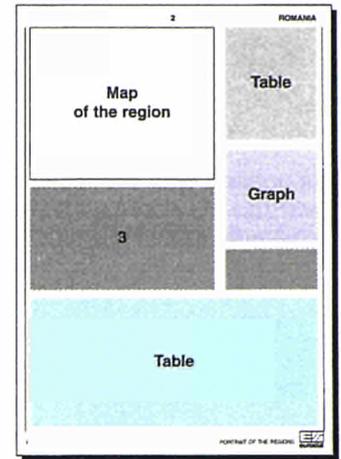
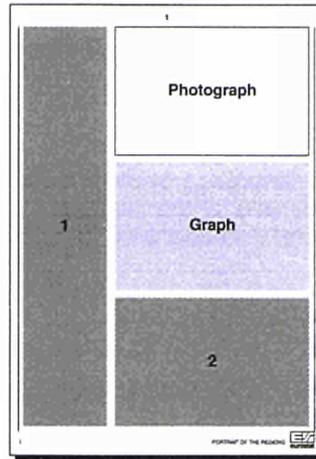
- population structure and trends (6)
- public utilities and services (7)

Page 5:

- industry and agriculture (8)
- wages and incomes (9)

Page 6:

- environment (10)
- transport and communications (11)



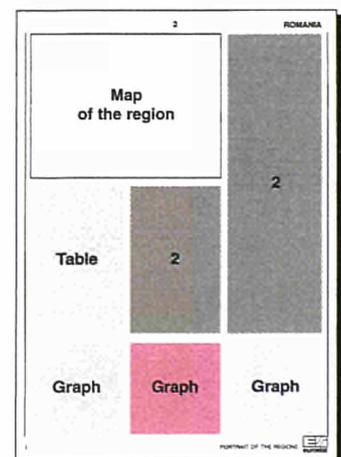
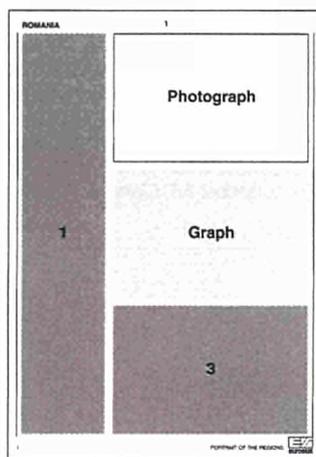
The smaller regions (judet) are presented in alphabetical order after the major regions to which they belong, each in accordance with a uniform layout on two pages:

Page 1:

- overview (1)
- economic structure (3)

Page 2:

- population and employment (2)



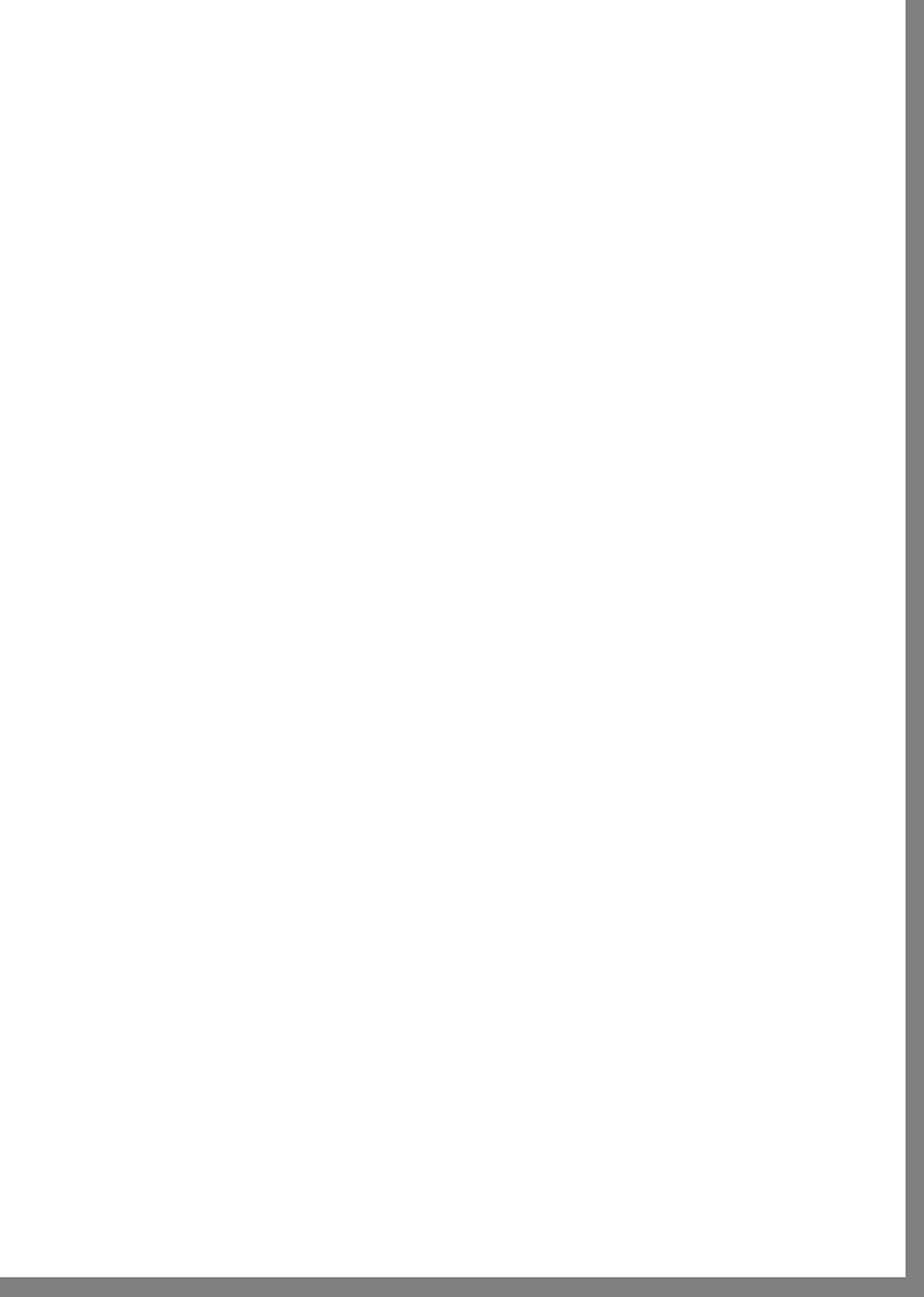
The PORTRAIT OF THE REGIONS consists of eleven volumes:

- Volume 1 Germany
Benelux
Denmark
- Volume 2 France
United Kingdom
Ireland
- Volume 3 Portugal
Spain
Italy
Greece
- Volume 4 Austria
Finland
Sweden
Iceland
Liechtenstein
Norway
Switzerland
- Volume 5 Hungary
- Volume 6 Czech Republic
Poland
- Volume 7 Slovakia
- Volume 8 Estonia
Latvia
Lithuania
- Volume 9 Slovenia
- Volume 10 Bulgaria
- Volume 11 Romania

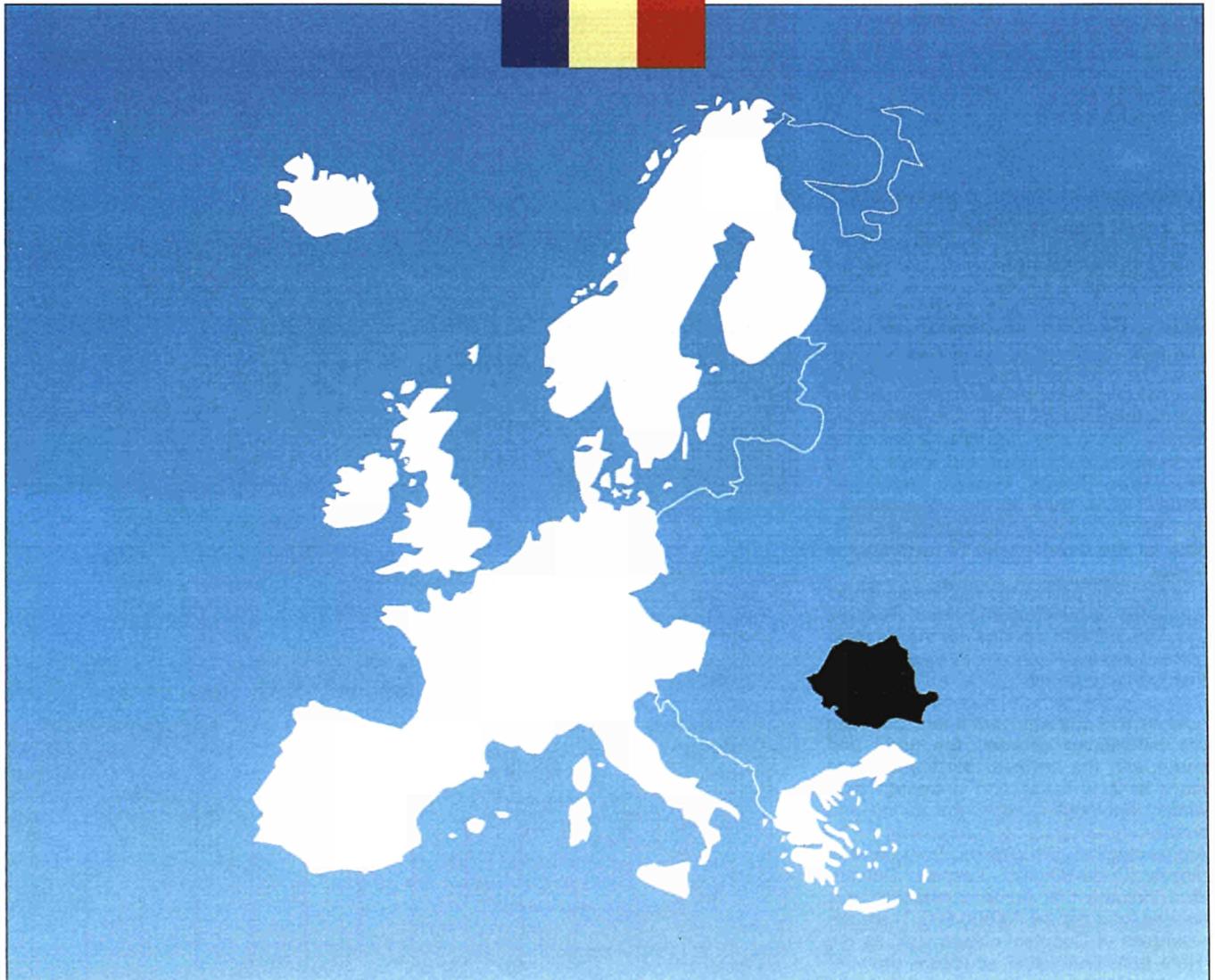
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Central Region	94
Western Region	110
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VOLUME 11



ROMANIA



Romania is located north of the Balkan Peninsula on the lower Danube and adjoining the Black Sea. The 45th parallel and meridian 25° East (midway between the Atlantic coast and the Urals) intersect close to its capital, Bucharest. Roughly circular in shape, Romania borders to the north-east and east on the Republic of Moldova, to the north and east on the Ukraine, to the south on Bulgaria, to the south-west on Yugoslavia, and to the west on Hungary. Although river valleys, the coastal plain and the Danube Delta are major topographical features, much of the country comprises the rugged terrain of the Carpathians and associated mountain ranges. With an area of 238 391 km², Romania is the eleventh largest country in Europe. Its population of 22.6561 million (1st January, 1996) includes significant ethnic minorities, particularly Hungarians, Gypsies and Germans. Some 54.9% of

the population was urban in 1995 and the falling birth rates and relatively higher death rates (10.4 births and 12.0 deaths per 1 000 inhabitants in 1995) have resulted in decreasing natural growth. Within Romania's eight regions there are 41 counties (the Municipality of Bucharest constitutes a separate administrative area one of which is the capital, Bucharest), 262 towns (including 79 municipalities) and 2 686 communes (with about 13 000 villages). The Romanian language, descended from the Latin spoken in Dacia and Moesia when part of the Roman Empire, and the primacy of the Orthodox faith, reflect Romania's turbulent history. In the form of the principalities of Wallachia, Moldavia and Transylvania, Romanians managed to retain their identity despite occupation by the Ottoman, Tsarist Russian and Austro-Hungarian empires. Romania achieved full independence as a single nation state in

1918 after great loss of life in World War I, repeated in World War II. The Communist era, and the personal dictatorship of Nicolae Ceausescu, were swept away by a people's revolution in December 1989. Extensive reprivatation of State property has been undertaken as part of the transition from the former hypercentralised economy. The private sector's contribution to GDP was estimated at 45% at the end of 1995, up from 16% in 1990. Despite Romania's considerable agricultural potential and extensive mineral resources (particularly oil, coal, natural gas and metals), this transition involved a period of great economic hardship, and industrial output in 1992 was 54% lower than in 1989.

NORTH-EASTERN REGION

From prehistoric civilisations to hydroelectricity

The North-Eastern Region consists of the Romanian part of Moldavia, occupying over 15.5% of Romania's total area. The relief is rich and varied with mountains, plateaux, alpine hills, valleys and meadows. The mountains sweep down from the west to the east with the highest peak in the Ceahlău Massif at 1 904 m. Valleys are formed in a north-south direction, making them suitable for vines and forestry. The Prut, Siret, Bistrița, Moldova, Vaslui and Bârlad rivers make up the water network and the mountain watercourses are suitable for the development of hydroelectric power.

The northern part of the region has ample resources of minerals and there are more than 40 mineral springs in the Dornele plateau alone, which are famous for their therapeutic qualities.

Generally, the climate is continental, with cold winters and warm summers, but there are differences between the north and south with the northern parts subject to more serious frosts and snowstorms in winter and cold rains in the spring and autumn.

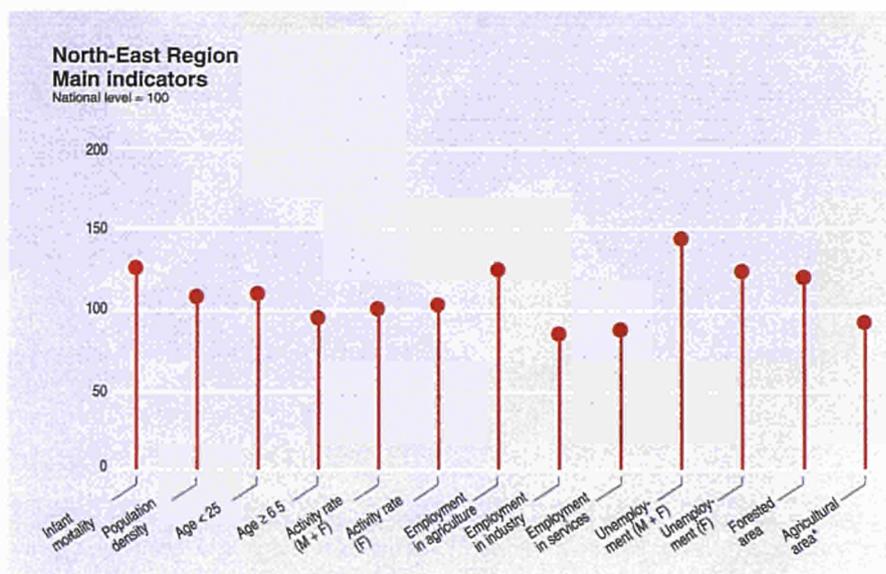
Archaeological discoveries from several places (Buda-Blăgești, Lespezi, Cotnari, etc.) indicate that humans inhabited this area as long ago as 10 000 B.C. There are examples of Cucuteni culture such as the 'Hora from Frumușica' sculpture, the vessel at Izvoarele and the unique statue 'the Thinker' at Târpești, testimony to a once flourishing Neolithic civilisation.

The many Dacian fortresses in this area demonstrate the unprecedented economic, military and political development of the centralised, independent Dacian State led by Burebista in the middle of the last century B.C.

Much development also occurred here in the reign of Ștefan cel Mare (1457-1504). In Iași a century later, Mihai Viteazu pronounced the first Union of the three historical provinces, Transylvania, Walachia and Moldavia (Transilvania, Valahia and Moldova in Romanian). The 1848 Romanian Revolution also began in this region, again in Iași.



Mountain farm in the Rarău Range.

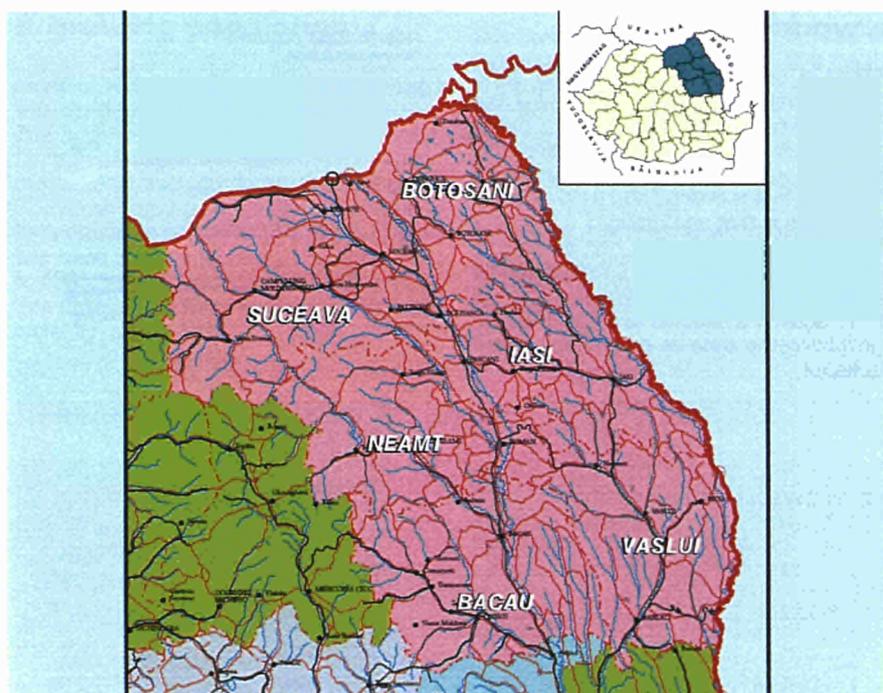


Iron, limestone and rare plants

The territory has considerable mineral reserves: ferrous metals, sulphides, minerals, bituminous shale in the area of Palaeogene flysch, rock salt and potassium salts. In the alpine areas, limestone, dolomites, gritstone, clays, marble, ballast and sand and mineral waters are present. Springs containing sulphates, sulphides and chlorides also contribute to the wealth of natural resources in the area.

The southern part of the region has important deposits of petroleum and natural gas, and in the Zărnești - Comănești Plateau, there are reserves of brown coal and lignite. Around Suceava the fauna is rich. The many

rare plants include listed species such as 'bear's grapes', 'midget birch', 'motley tulip' which are protected by law.



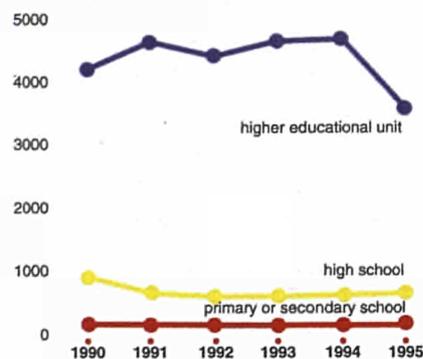
Which regions are similar to North-Eastern Region?

Area:
36 000-38 000 km²
Pohjois-Pohjanmaa (FIN)
Baden-Württemberg (D)

Age structure:
11% over 65
Vorarlberg (A)
Uusimaa (FIN)

Employment structure:
28% industry
Liège (B)
Champagne - Ardenne (F)
Bremen (D)

North-East region:
Pupils per educational establishment



Many young men train for industry and construction

The trends in education in the North East were the same as the rest of Romania. The number of primary, secondary and high schools increased during the 1990-95 period, as did the number of teaching staff. This is despite the fact that the number of enrolled pupils decreased from the 1990 levels and only showed a gradual upturn after 1993.

Overall, in 1995 the North-Eastern Region provided the largest share (19.5%) of educational establishments in Romania, as befitting the region with the highest percentage (17.7% of the national total) of enrolled pupils.

The number of colleges and universities in the North East increased from 7 to 12 between 1990 to 1995. The number of enrolled students increased from 29 721 in 1990 to 43 448 in 1995, i.e. by 46.2% over the five years. On average, women accounted for 51.0% of all students over this period and there was a slightly higher increase (47.8%) in their numbers over the same period.

In the first quarter of 1996, women accounted for 43.7% of all employees. Young people were mainly employed in industry and construction, reflecting their professional training and their search for higher incomes. However, only 39.9% of all workers

in industry and 14.0% of those in construction were women.

District	Area	Population			Activity	Unemployment	Employment		
		1995	1 000	Inhabitants/km ²			Change (%)	(%)	(%)
Region	km ²	1995	1995	1995	1990-95	1995	1995	1995	1995
Country							(%) Agriculture	(%) Industry	(%) Services
1. NORTH-EAST	36 850	3 785	103	0.6	59.4	13.7	43.0	29.0	28.0
Bacău	6 621	744	112	1.2	55.5	10.5	31.0	39.6	29.4
Botoșani	4 986	463	93	-0.4	59.1	17.2	54.3	20.8	24.9
Iași	5 476	818	150	0.4	62.4	12.7	36.5	27.5	36.0
Neamț	5 896	586	99	0.5	62.2	17.3	46.1	31.3	22.6
Suceava	8 554	710	83	1.2	59.5	11.9	48.0	25.6	26.4
Vaslui	5 318	464	87	0.0	57.4	14.8	51.9	25.4	22.8

Agriculture employs most of the workforce

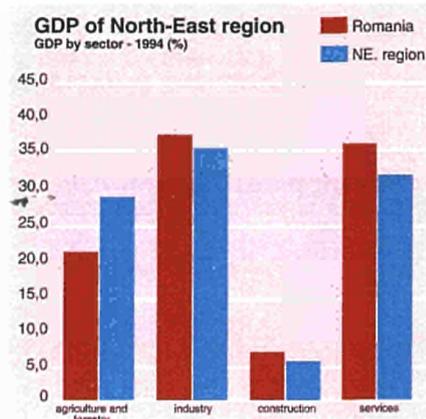
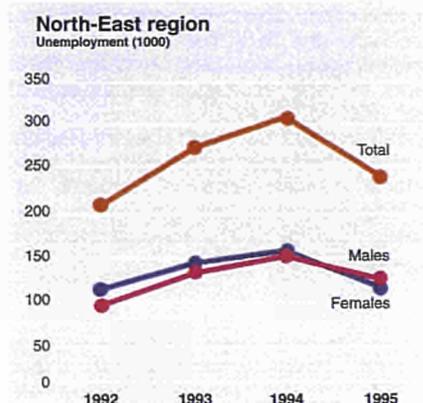
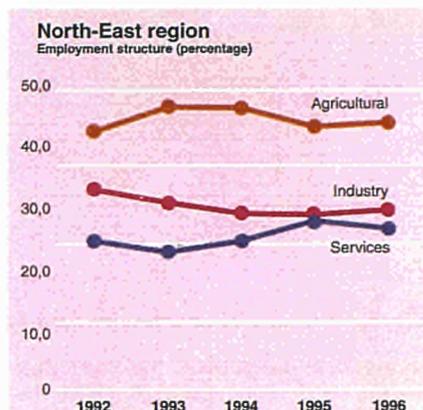
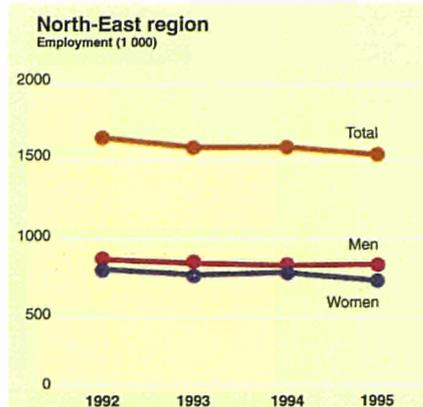
Employment structure and trends showed clear signs of a more traditional way of life in the North-Eastern region. In 1996 most (46.5%) of the workforce was engaged in agriculture, the largest percentage of people in Romania to work the land. Only 28.3% of the workforce was engaged in the industrial sector and only 25.2% in the services sector, the smallest percentages in the country. In common with most other parts of the country, the percentages of the workforce employed by each sector varied with age and, to a lesser extent, with sex. Of working males, 32% under 25, and 27% of working females in the same age group,

worked in services, compared with 9.8% and 11% respectively of working males and females over 50. For both working males and females under 25, approximately half worked in agriculture, compared with 80% of working males over 50 and 84% of working females in that age group.

The North-Eastern Region had an activity rate of 59.4% in 1995, but it registered the highest overall unemployment rate of 13.7% against a national average of 9.5%, highlighting the zone as an unemployment blackspot.

Employment by sector, gender and age group in the first quarter 1996

	Total number of employed people	Of which in:			
		Agriculture and forestry	Industry	Construction	Services
Total employment	1 689 214	785 335	419 195	58 917	425 767
a. Males, total	951 260	431 416	251 858	50 695	217 291
- 15 - 24 years	164 274	78 274	24 200	9 182	52 618
- 25 - 34 years	214 146	58 258	84 009	12 619	59 260
- 35 - 49 years	293 631	72 090	119 017	24 402	78 122
- 50 - 64 years	192 026	135 998	24 632	4 492	26 904
- 65 years and over	87 183	86 796			387
b. Females, total	737 954	353 919	167 337	8 222	208 476
- 15 - 24 years	96 595	52 558	17 698		26 339
- 25 - 34 years	164 628	38 150	65 018	3 469	57 991
- 35 - 49 years	253 271	74 983	74 472	4 278	99 538
- 65 years and over	75 279	73 175	526		1 578



Traditional economic structure

The North-Eastern Region had the lowest GDP per capita of all the Romanian regions in 1994. The percentage of the region's GDP contributed by the agricultural sector was 28.3%, the highest percentage of all the regions. Industry contributed 35.1%, construction 5.1% and services 31.3%. This contribution is lower than the national average of 35.7% from the services sector. The planned economy before 1989 left some industrial sections with larger production capacities than the market demand and resources could supply. Although the area is an agriculturally-based region, on

31 August 1996 the North East had 281 large industrial enterprises, a number surpassed only by the Northern and Southern Regions, the two most industrialised regions in Romania. These large enterprises were mainly in manufacturing though, in common with other regions, the percentage of large manufacturing enterprises was small compared with the percentage of large mining and quarrying and energy enterprises. Of manufacturing enterprises employ fewer than 20 people whereas more than half of the mining and quarrying and energy enterprises, 86% have more than 200 employees.

A growing population

In 1995, 16.7% of the country's population was resident in the North-Eastern Region. The population density was 102.7 inhabitants per km², which is almost 8% above the national average. Uniquely among the Romanian regions, the natural increase of the population of the North-Eastern Region has been positive for every year from 1990 to 1995.

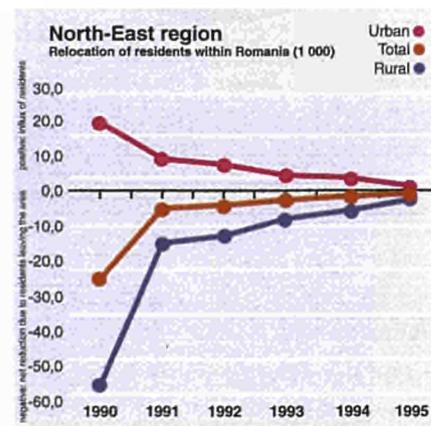
The birth rate in this region has been consistently higher than any other region in

Romania in this same period. In 1990 the birth rate was 16.5 births per 1 000 inhabitants and despite falling to 12.9 by 1995, this was still above the national average of 10.4 for 1995. The area also had the lowest overall mortality rates in Romania for every year in this period, although this rate rose from 9.2 deaths per 1 000 inhabitants in 1990 to 10.8 in 1995. However, the area suffered the highest levels of infant mortality. In 1995, there were 26.4 deaths (of children aged less than one year) per 1 000 live births.

People aged 25 or younger accounted for 40.9% of the population in 1995, with 55.2% of this age group, and 55.7% of the total inhabitants, living in rural areas. During the period 1990 to 1995, many left the rural areas for the towns. The net rate of migration reduced from -25.2 per 1 000 inhabitants in 1990 to -1.0 per 1 000 inhabitants in 1995.

Population by age — 1995

	M+F 1 000	M+F %	M %	F %
<15 years	869	23.0	23.7	22.3
15-24	680	18.0	18.7	17.3
25-39	758	20.0	20.7	19.3
40-54	625	16.5	16.3	16.7
55-64	424	11.2	10.8	11.6
≥65	430	11.4	9.9	12.8
Total	3 785	100.0	100.0	100.0



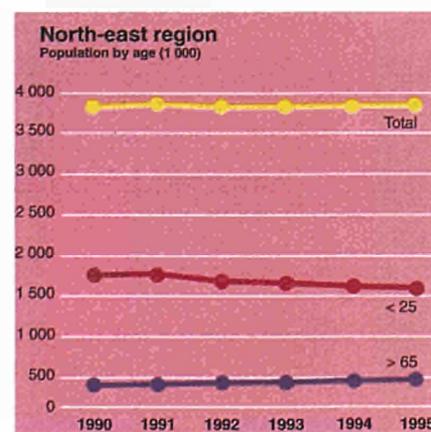
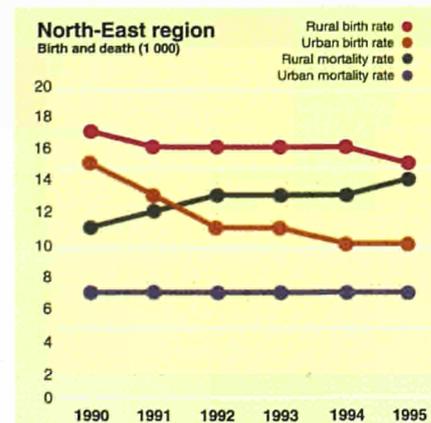
New houses for the growing population

In 1994, 22.8% of all Romania's dwellings which were completed in that year, were in this region, the highest percentage in the country. Almost 85% of them were built with private money or by private property developers.

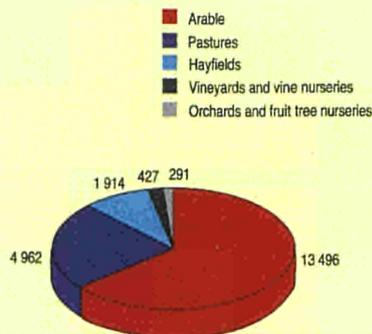
By 1995, all 32 towns in the region were connected to the drinking water supply and the sewerage network. A further 254 rural localities were connected to the water supply and 68 were connected to the sewerage network. The density of gas pipeline in the region was 3.0 km/100 km², which is less than half the national average of 6.4 km/100 km².

There were 61 hospitals in the region in 1995, with 7.5 beds per 1 000 inhabitants. This ratio is slightly less than the national average. A new public hospital had opened since 1994, as well as a number of private establishments including dental surgeries, medical laboratories and drug stores.

Other public utilities in the region, in 1995, included 91 museums, 14 theatres, 131 cinemas and 498 public libraries. The total number of books in the libraries was equivalent to 2.2 volumes per inhabitant of the region.



North-East region
Agricultural area (km²)



Petroleum refineries and a large agricultural sector

The North-Eastern Region is not as industrialised as some other regions in the country, but all branches of industry operate there. A large enterprise with 12 hydroelectric power stations is situated in the Bicăz area. Mining and quarrying is important with deposits of natural gas, petroleum, coal and salt being extracted. The presence of petroleum in the region has led to the development of the 'Repo' refining plant in Oneşti, and the chemical plant 'Carom', also in Oneşti. This chemical plant processes petroleum products and produces synthetic rubber, chloro-soda products, plas-

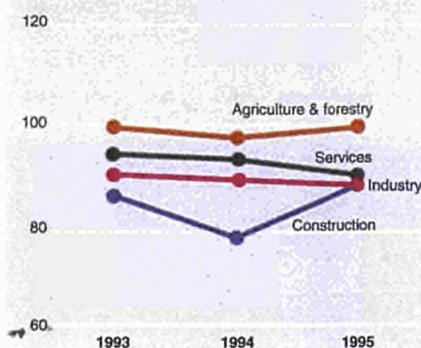
tics, intermediaries for detergents, pesticides and synthetic fibres. Another petrochemical refinery exists at Dărmăneşti, which produces acicular coke. (Romania is the only country in Central and Eastern Europe to produce this type of coke, and is the fifth biggest producer in the world.) Other goods manufactured in the region include industrial machines, clothes and knitwear, radio-receivers and radio-cassette players. More than 30% of the medicines manufactured in Romania are made in Iaşi County to the north east of the region.

Agriculture is important. In 1994, 16% of Romania's GDP from the agricultural sector came from this region. Only the South-Western Region contributed more. Livestock breeding was well developed with the region having over 13% of the country's goats and sheep and 21% of the national cattle herd. The region also contains arable land and many crops are grown. These include wheat, maize, potatoes and sugar beet, whose yields per hectare are typically greater than the national averages. Fruit trees and grapevines are also cultivated, and the Cotnari, Bucium and Bohotin areas are homes to some internationally famous vineyards.

Number of industrial enterprises by branches on August 31st, 1996

	Total number of enterprises	of which:		
		0 - 19 employees	20 - 199 employees	200 employees and over
Total industry	4 916	4 181	454	281
- mining and quarrying	25	6	5	14
- manufacturing	4 849	4 173	438	238
- energy	42	2	11	29

North-East region
Wages by sector (national level = 100)



Lowest wages and largest percentage of income from social benefit in Romania

Salaries in all sectors were lower in the region than in Romania as a whole, in 1995. Those for agriculture were closest of all sectors to the national average (99% of Romanian average), but they were the lowest of all the sectors within the region. Salaries in services were almost 20% more than in agriculture, while salaries in industry and construction were higher still, being 36% and 35% more respectively, than those in agriculture.

Salaries were the main source of income in the region, contributing 37.4% of total incomes in 1995. This is less than the national average of 44.2%. The second

major contributor to total incomes, at 33.6% was equivalent of products consumed from own resources. Only one other region, the South-Western Region, derived a higher proportion of total income from this source. The national average in 1995 was 27%. The region also had the highest percentage among Romanian regions of income derived from social benefits.

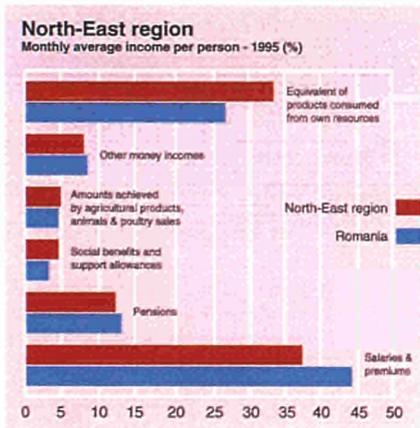
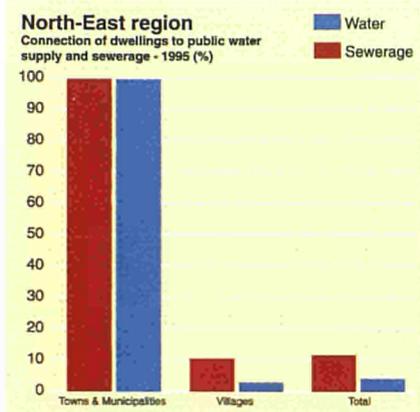
Dusts from cement works, sulphur and nitrogen compounds and lead

In recent years, levels of pollution have been monitored closely within the region. This monitoring is particularly concerned with lead, since in 1994 increased levels were detected in the soil compared with the 1993 levels.

In 1995, 3.3% of the region's forests were affected to some extent by pollution. Most of the polluted forests (77%) were only slightly affected but 4 518 ha (10.8% of the polluted area) were moderately seriously affected and 5 000 ha (12% of the polluted area) were severely affected.

A very small proportion of the affected area of forest had been polluted by industrial waste. Dusts from cement and lime works were a bigger problem than industrial pollution, causing damage to approximately 10% of the affected areas. Sulphur compounds, dusts and gas from thermal power stations, and nitrogen compounds, other dusts and gas were other major polluters, each causing damage to some 15% of the affected areas.

Radioactivity is also monitored in the region. Throughout the period 1993 - 95, the levels of radioactivity steadily decreased.



Recent infrastructure modernisation

In line with the general drive to improve the overall infrastructure in Romania, the region's transport network has undergone continuous extension and modernisation in recent years. By 1995 the density of public roads in the region, at 34.5 km/100 km², had surpassed the national average of 31 km/100 km². The length of road in the region (12 702 km) was 17.4% of the total Romanian road length. In 1995 the length of railway track was 1 507 km, which was 13.3% of the national total. One third of the length of the region's railway lines were electrified.

There are three airports within the region, at Bacău, Iași and Suceava. These are not international airports but do provide internal flights to other parts of the country. Nonetheless, they have all been updated and modernised during the last few years.

In 1995, there were 385 231 telephone subscribers in the region, which represented one telephone subscription for every 9.8 inhabitants. The national average was 7.7 inhabitants per subscription, hence there are fewer telephones, on average, in the region than in Romania as a whole. However, the number of telephone subscriptions in the region increased constantly from 1980 and had more than doubled by 1994.



Rural landscape in the Târgu Neamț area.

BACĂU COUNTY

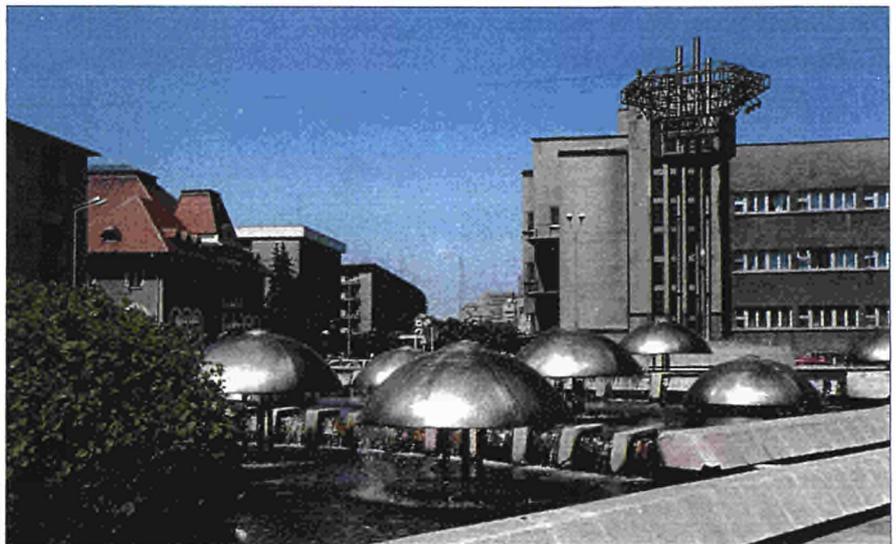
Diverse vegetation

The county of Bacău accounts for 6 621 km², 2.8% of Romania's territory, making it a medium-sized county.

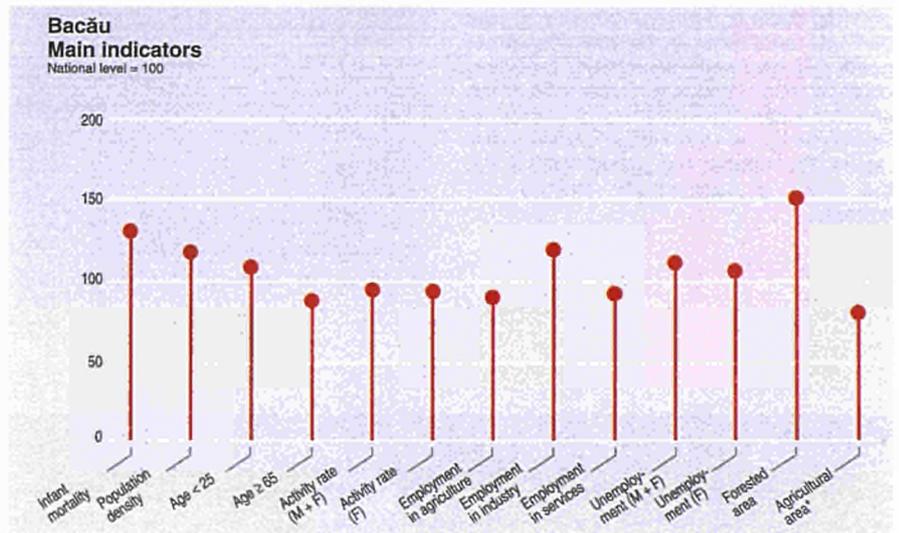
The Bacău area has been occupied by various peoples through the ages. During periods of migration, various groups passed through this region, heading across the southern plains towards the warmer South. Besides migratory groups, settlers also came to the Bacău area. Archaeological evidence records the presence of people and their communities in this area since Palaeolithic times. The development of the area can also be traced through historic texts. The towns of Bacău and Trotuș were first mentioned from the beginning of the 15th century, during the reign of Prince Alexander the Good. In 1864, the Bacău area became a county by decree with Bacău town as the major municipality.

The town itself is situated on the Siret River, a large river which flows from north to south through the middle of the county. In this county the river is bordered on the east by the western part of the Moldavian plateau, and the land west of the river eventually rises to the Carpathian Mountains. The most notable summit in the county is the Grinduș peak (1 664 m) in the Tarcău range. The Siret Valley lies 100 m above sea level and other rivers flowing through the county include the Trotuș, Bistrița and the Tutova. This landscape also gives rise to several mineral springs, some of which have been converted into spas.

There is a broad range of vegetation in the county of Bacău, due to the varied relief, climate and sub-surface diversity. Indeed, the county is widely covered with forests. Spruce pine forests and other firs are found on the higher peaks in the north-west of the county, while the lower mountains are covered by large, mixed forests containing deciduous and coniferous species, including beech and a variety of firs.



Entering Bacău City from the south.



New houses and a wide range of crops

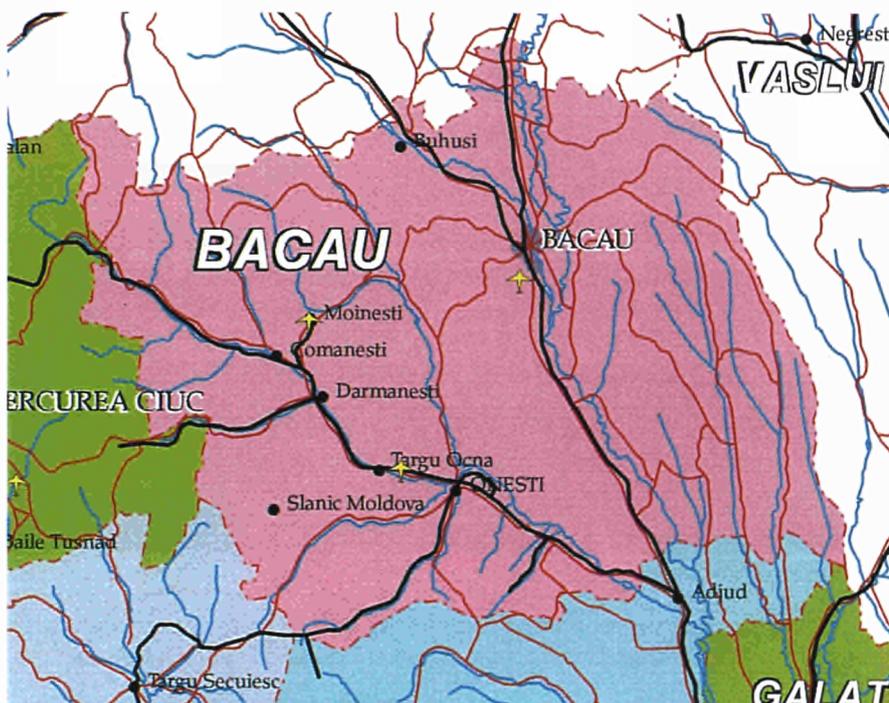
Employment figures for Bacău at the end of 1995 showed that 39.6% of the work force was employed in industry and construction, 31.0% were engaged in agriculture and forestry and 29.4% of all employees were in the services sector. Of the 91 600 (to the nearest hundred) workers in industry, 75.9% were in manufacturing, followed by 17.1% in mining and quarrying, and 7.0% in gas, water, electric and thermal energy. The county of Bacău completed 2 031 dwellings in 1995, the second largest number per county when compared to the rest of Romania. This construction was aided by private investment; 90% of these new houses were built with private funds. The county also possesses 226 km of railway and 2 303 km of roads, including 525 km of national roads.

According to the last land use survey carried out in 1995, 49.0% of the total county area is given over to agriculture. Arable farming occupies 56.7% of the agricultural land, pastures take up 26.9%, hayfields 12.6% and orchards, vineyards and nurseries account for the remaining 37% of land used for agriculture. The county's range of produce includes sugar beet, cereals, sunflower oil, potatoes, vegetables, grapes and fruits, both in the private and public sectors. Bacău also farms a considerable amount of livestock, ranking third in the country for the number of cattle in 1995. Forests and wooded areas occupied 279 535 ha or 42.2% of the total land area in Bacău in 1995 and its timber volume reached 663 500 m³.

Decreasing migration

The 1992 census recorded 737 512 inhabitants in the county of Bacău. Of these inhabitants, 50.3% lived in urban areas and 49.8% were male. The census showed that 98.2% of the people were ethnic Romanians and that the Orthodox faith accounted for 81.6% of the population. Overall 17.1% were Roman Catholic (compared to a national average of 5%). In 1995 the population of the county had increased to 744 167, i.e. from 3.2% to 3.3% of the national total. The population density was 112.4 people per km², the sixth largest in Romania. The county also recorded the eighth largest birth rate (12.3%) in the country, with rural areas showing the highest number of births. In 1995, the mortality rate was 10.1%, a slight increase compared with the previous five years, the majority of deaths being in rural areas. However, infant mortality continued its downward trend.

Population growth was achieved through the rise in the birth rate and there were no significant changes in the population structure by gender in either urban or rural areas against the 1992 figures. The migration rate in Bacău fell noticeably between 1990 and 1995; in 1990 the rate of migration from the communes was - 49.2 per 1 000 inhabitants and +12.8 in municipalities and towns, as many people were leaving the rural areas, often to move into the towns of the county. In 1995, the migration rate was - 3 per 1 000 inhabitants in communes and villages and +1.7 in the municipalities and towns. Also in 1995, 10.3% of the population in the county were aged 65 and over, and 68.8% of this age group were living in rural areas. The youth (up to 24 years of age) of the county were evenly divided. At the end of 1995 the unemployment rate in this county was 10.5%. However, partly due to the large population in Bacău, the employed made up 3% of the national total, the eighth largest proportion in the country.



Which regions are similar to Bacău?

Area:

6 600-6 700 km²

- Cosenza (I)
- Pas-de-Calais (F)
- Castellon De La Plana (E)

Age structure:

40-41% under 25

- Ceuta y Melilla (E)
- Madeira (P)

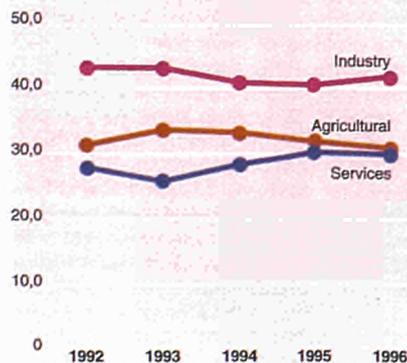
Employment structure:

39-40% industry

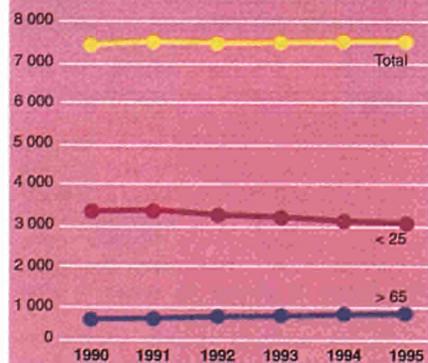
- Detmold (D)
- La Rioja (E)

By the end of 1995, the county had 702 industrial units, of which 643 were privately-funded enterprises. There were 18 government-controlled industries and bodies, and 41 companies combining state and mixed sources of capital. Of all industrial enterprises, 96% were in manufacturing, with 84% of this activity being undertaken by small business enterprises (i.e. those employing fewer than 20 people). The main industrial products manufactured within Bacău county were: paper, cardboard and pasteboard (supplying 25% of all domestic production), gasoline (18.6%), diesel oil (17.3%), chemical fertilisers (11%), crude oil (9.38%) and salt (239 500 tonnes).

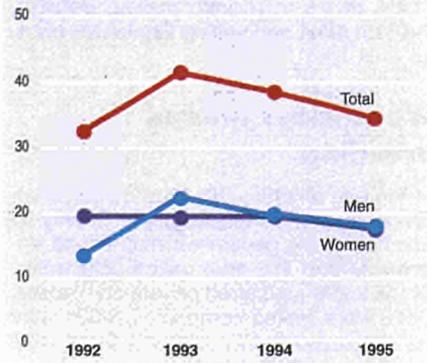
Bacău
Employment structure (percentage)



Bacău
Population by age (1 000)



Bacău
Unemployment (1 000)



BOTOȘANI COUNTY

Agriculture dominates frontier region

The county of Botoșani is situated in the north-eastern corner of the country on the border with the Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova, with the counties of Iași to the south and Suceava to the west.

Botoșani Municipality has been the principal town since Botoșani was made the administrative centre for the county in 1741. Both the county and the town are mentioned for the first time in documents dating from 1439. However, the town is much older than these documents record. In 1938 the total county area was 4 062 km² but had expanded to 4 986 km² by 1996, which represents 2.1% of the national territory. There is a relatively dense water network across Botoșani; waters and lakes take up 139.5 km² (or 2.8%) of its total surface area. This 2.8% water coverage ranks as the 16th largest proportion of water to land amongst the counties of Romania.

The geological composition has been influenced by this extensive water coverage over centuries. For example, Botoșani County is rich in bentonitic clay deposits and possesses tufa deposits formed by springs rich in lime. In the Prut River Valley, there are underlying limestone rock formations. Other clays and marls are spread over a large portion of the county. There are also some important deposits of peat and coal. Botoșani's other geological resources include sands of high quality and deposits of lime, andesite, and sulphur.

The county is also well-known for its parks and gardens, especially in and around Botoșani Municipality. There are forests close to the town and in the Tudora area there is a yew tree nature reserve. However, only 11.5% of its territory is covered by forest, which is less than most counties in Romania. Most of the land in Botoșani is given over to agriculture. At the end of 1995 there were 387 680 ha of agricultural land, 77.8% of the total area, making Botoșani the 11th most agricultural Romanian county.

World-class animal breeding

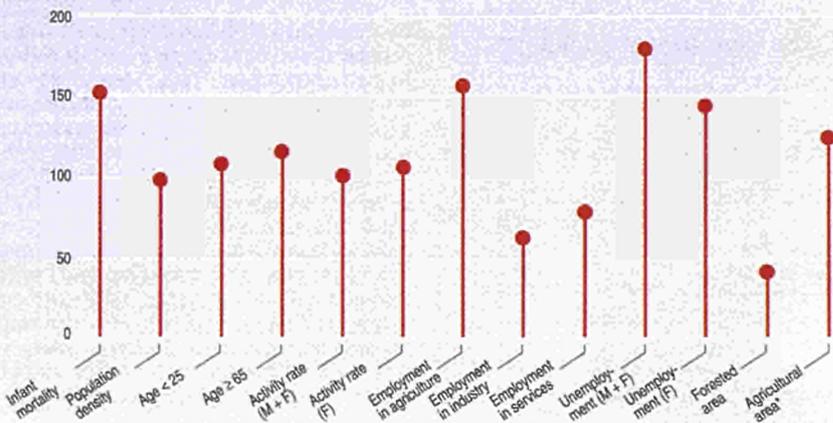
At the end of 1995, 131 state-owned companies existed in the Botoșani County, of which 14 were government-controlled enterprises and 117 were mixed companies. Of the 9 298 registered private companies, 3 528 were limited companies, 3 581 were self-employed individuals and there were 1 780 family associations.



Landscape in Moldavia.

Botoșani Main indicators

National level = 100



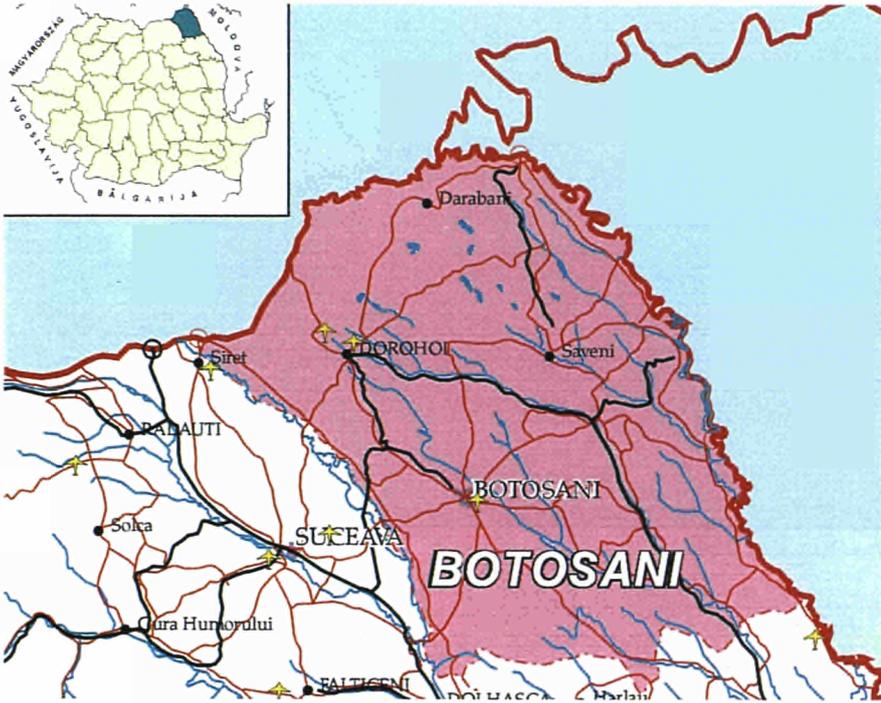
The manufacturing and industrial sectors in Botoșani included several different fields of interest. In 1995, the food and beverage industry accounted for 19.4% of all industry, followed by chemicals (17.5%), the manufacture of fabrics, furs and leather goods (11.4%) and electrical devices and appliances (10.9%). Other branches included mineral products (11.0%), textiles and textile products (9.2%) and machinery and tools (7.8%).

The first scientific research institution was set up on 15 May 1909 at Popăuți with the purpose of improving the breeding stock of 'Steppe Grey' Moldavian cows and 'Karakul' thoroughbred rams. 'Karakul' rams were successfully crossed with the 'Tzurcana' breed of sheep to create a new hybrid species.

In 1948, the institute became involved in broader research into animal breeding and

was brought under the auspices of the Academy of Agricultural and Forestry Sciences. In 1971, as an acknowledgement of its achievements in research, the station was chosen to host the second international 'Symposium for the breeding of Karakul sheep', which was attended by representatives of more than 20 countries from Europe, America and Africa.

Botoșani is heavily dependent on mixed farming with agriculture lands spread over 387 680 ha of the county. Arable areas cover the largest portion, some 291 479 ha, followed by pastures 75 094 ha and hayfields 14 187 ha. Vineyards and nurseries take up 3 312 ha with mixed fruit orchards, including tree nurseries, covering a further 3 608 ha. Forests and other vegetation cover 57 215 ha, with waterways, lakes and ponds occupying 13 947 ha. The remaining 39 727 ha are used for other activities.



Which regions are similar to Botoșani?

- Land use:**
78-79% agriculture
Sicilia (I)
Csongrád (HU)
- Population density:**
460-463 inhabitants per km²
Trento (I)
Wesel (D)
- Age structure:**
14% over 65
Berlin (D)
Zuid-Holland (NL)
Brabant Wallon (B)

By 1995, the railway network in Botoșani County covered 159 km, making a network density of 3.2 km/km². The public roads system covered 1 824 km, with a density of 36.6 km/100 km².

High unemployment

On 1 July 1995, it was calculated that there were 462 792 inhabitants in Botoșani County and 40.0% of the population lived in urban areas.

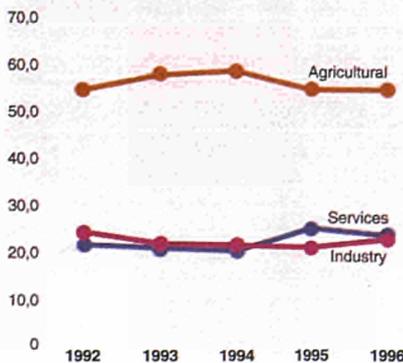
In 1990 the birth rate was 16.7 births per 1 000 inhabitants but this had fallen to 13.2 in 1995. Also, the mortality rate increased from 11.0 deaths per 1 000 inhabitants in 1990 to 12.8 in 1994 and 1995. Migration has also played a major role in determining population size in Romania since restrictions on movement were lifted; in the county of Botoșani in 1990 the migration rate was - 42.3 (i.e. there was a net loss of 42.3 people) per 1 000 inhabitants. The overall migration rate has since dropped to - 2.0 per 1 000 inhabitants in 1995. During this period there was a much higher emigration rate in rural areas while urban areas recorded a net increase because many people left the countryside to find more profitable jobs in the towns. Consequently, the rate of population growth has been falling, from 5.7 per 1 000 inhabitants in 1990 to 0.4 in 1995.

In 1995, females accounted for 51.0% of Botoșani's inhabitants. Young people (i.e. those aged less than 15) accounted for 22.6% of population, with older people (55 and older) representing 26.2% of the community.

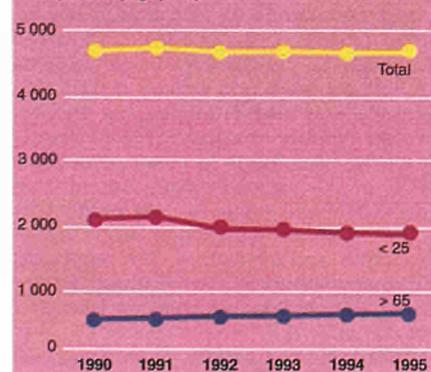
The 1992 census revealed that ethnic Romanians numbered 457 359 (99.1% of the population), there were 2 025 Gypsies (0.4%) and 695 Russian-Livonians (0.2%). The census also showed that 96.7% (i.e. 442 373) of the people were Orthodox; Pentecostals, Catholics, Roman Catholics and others together accounted for 3.0% (or 7 662 individuals).

Unemployment rose after 1990, peaking at 42 380 in 1994. In 1995 the census showed that the total number of registered unemployed stood at 36 306 (16 889 were female); this corresponded to an unemployment rate of 17.2% (16.4% for women).

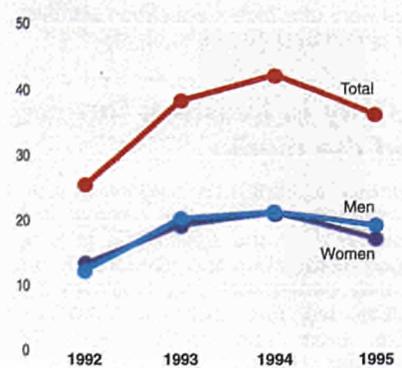
Botoșani
Employment structure (percentage)



Botoșani
Population by age (1 000)



Botoșani
Unemployment (1 000)



IAȘI COUNTY

Romania's second cultural centre

Iași County is a medium-sized county, covering 5 476 km² or 2.3% of Romania. The Moldova River forms the western border of the county and to the east, the Prut River forms the international border with the Republic of Moldova.

The water network also includes the Siret, Vaslui and Bârlad Rivers and some lakes and ponds that are managed to prevent flooding and to store water as a precaution against summer droughts.

During the second and third millennium BC, the area represented one of the most brilliant Neolithic cultures in Europe. Evidence of its existence in the Neolithic era and its subsequent evolution comes from archaeological discoveries in Cucuteni and a Dacian fortress at Cotnari. The stone manors in Iași, Hârlău and Târgu-Frumos have been famous since the Middle Ages and there are many other historical buildings of note, including Ruginoasa Palace, once owned by the ruler Alexandru Ioan Cuza.

In 1565, Iași became the capital of the historical province of Moldavia and the Royal City of the Moldavian kings. Today, Iași Municipality is the county's principal town. It was in Iași town that 'Mihai the Brave' succeeded in implementing the short-lived Union of the three Romanian historical regions in 1600. Later, Iași was the starting place for the 1848 Revolution.

'Iași Province' was first mentioned in 1716 in the writings of Dimitrie Cantemir. The area was recognised as a significant cultural centre with the advent of the Higher School of Slavonian and Greek Language and the Vasilian Academy and as one of the first printing centres in the 17th century.

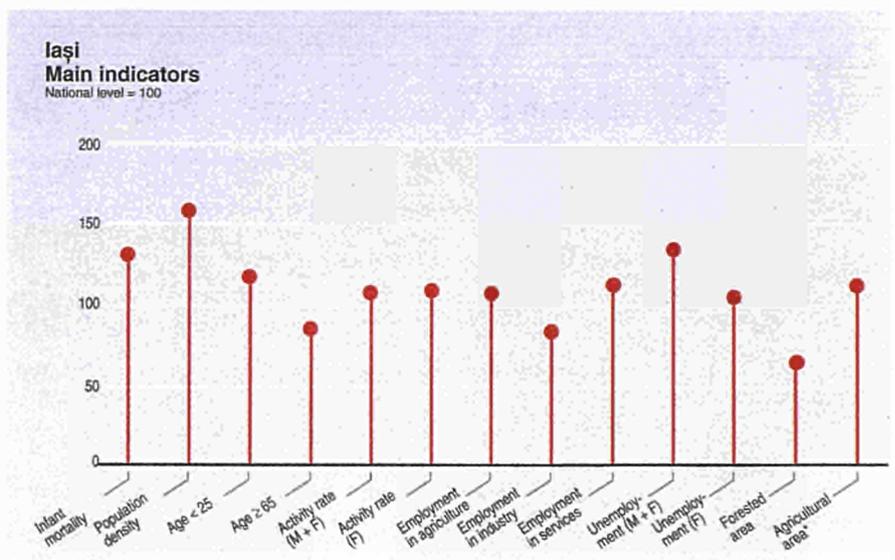
Today, Iași enjoys the reputation of a 'town-museum', university centre and economic zone. The first school for engineers was built here in 1814 and, in 1860, Romania's first university. Iași County is second only to Bucharest in the number of higher education institutions and faculties. In 1995, there were nine higher education establishments and over 38 000 students.

Activity in livestock farming and the media

In 1995, the 375 881 ha of agricultural land represented 2.5% of the national total. About 22% of the agricultural area belonged to the state and almost 79% was privately owned, including 61% owned by families. Iași has traditionally produced maize, sugar beet, potatoes and other vegetables. However, while Iași produced



The Palace of Culture, The Art Museum.



fairly high crop yields in terms of output weight per hectare (12th greatest barley yield, 18th highest yield of wheat and rye) in 1995, Iași performed better in livestock farming. In absolute numbers, it farmed 4.2% of the national sheep flock, the third largest percentage in Romania, 3.6% of cattle, ranking fourth nationally, and was in sixth place for the number of pigs (3.4% of the national herd) and poultry (3.6%) respectively. Iași also produced the second greatest number of eggs (5.1% of Romania's total), was fourth for meat production (3.7% of the national total), seventh for wool (3.2%) and eighth for milk production (3.3%). Climatic conditions also favour silviculture and viniculture. The vineyards of Cotnari, Copou, Bucium, Tomești, Răducăneni, Bohotin are well known in Romania and abroad.

In 1995, industrial activity was carried out

by 1 011 enterprises, of which 1 008 were involved in manufacturing and three in energy production. Three were public sector services with over 200 employees and 43 were state companies, of which 31 had over 200 employees.

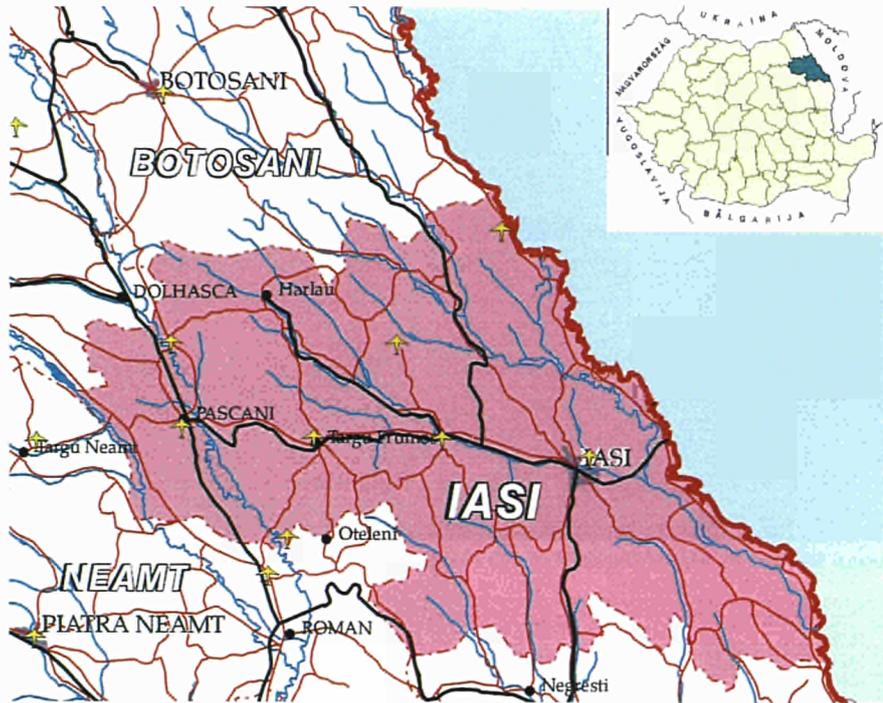
In 1995, Iași Municipality produced more radios than anywhere else in Romania, about 58% of the national total of receivers, cassette recorders and music systems. There were three private radio stations, two private television stations, three literary magazines, seven periodicals, four newspapers and 14 publishing houses. Iași also produced 34% of medicines, mostly antibiotics. Other main areas of activity include engineering, chemistry, steel and electronics. There are more than 50 institutes and research centres in all of these fields and also in physics, computing, biology and horticulture.

A growing population

On 1st July 1995, Iași was calculated to be the third most populous county with 818 345 inhabitants or 3.6% of the Romanian total. Just over half lived in urban areas. In 1992, 98.9% of all inhabitants were ethnic Romanian and overall 93.4% were Orthodox and 4.9% were Roman Catholic. Social and economic difficulties, together with legislative changes during the transitional period after 1990, are blamed for the reduction in the birth rate from 16.4 births per 1 000 inhabitants in 1990 to 13.2 in 1995, yet this was still the fourth highest rate in Romania. The mortality rate increased from 8.2 deaths per 1 000 inhabitants in 1990 to 10.2 in 1995, the fifth lowest rate in Romania in 1995. Consequently, the natural increase of 8.2 inhabitants per 1 000 in 1990 fell to 3.0 in 1995, the greatest reduction in Romania and the decrease was especially marked in urban areas. Nevertheless, the population is still growing.

The population breakdown by age reflects the evolution of demographic ageing due to the falling birth rate. In 1995, there were 42 000 fewer people in the under 14 age group than in 1990. Over the same period there were 14 000 more people over the age of 65.

Between 1992 and 1995, demographic trends and the restructuring processes of the economy did not cause any significant changes in the activity rate, which was 50.1% in 1995. In the same year, Iași had 342 600 employees, the third highest number after Bucharest and Prahova. The share of the workforce in industry decreased from 32.7% in 1992 to 27.5% in 1995. The service sector employed 36.0% of workers and 36.5% were in agriculture in 1995. In 1994, the rate of unemployment had been 16.1% and although it fell to 12.7% in 1995 this was still higher than the national average. The female unemployment rate was 11.8%, slightly higher than the Romanian average.

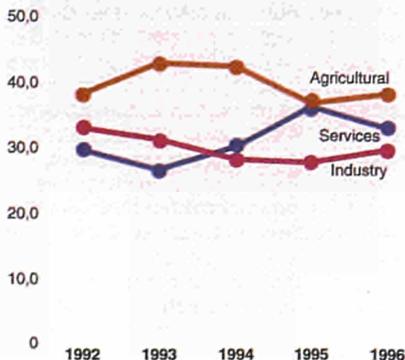


Which regions are similar to Iași?

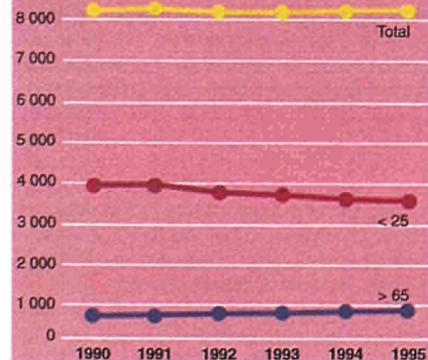
- Population:**
0.8 million inhabitants
Malmöhus län (S)
Venezia (I)
Zaragoza (E)
- Population density:**
149-150 inhabitants per km²
Greiz (D)
Cornwall, Devon (UK)
- Land use:**
69% agriculture
Alentejo (P)
Haute-Normandie (F)
Wales (UK)

There are direct road and rail links to Bucharest and all the northern counties for goods and passenger transport. It also possesses the only direct route for international rail traffic between eastern Romania and the capital of the Republic of Moldova, Kishinev (as it is transliterated from the Russian, the city's Romanian name being 'Chisinau'). Flights from Iași Airport go to Bucharest, to western Romania via Arad and to Kishinev in the east.

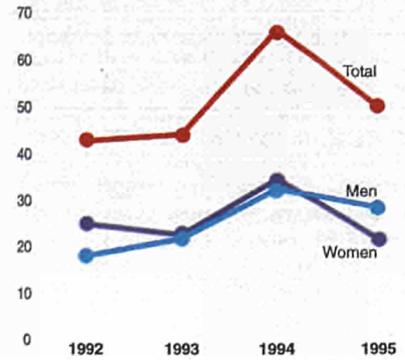
Iași
Employment structure (percentage)



Iași
Population by age (1 000)



Iași
Unemployment (1 000)



NEAMŢ COUNTY

Varied topography and artificial lakes

Neamţ county covers 5 896 km², which represents 2.5% of Romanian territory. Suceava county is to the north, Iaşi and Vaslui counties are to the east, Bacău county is to the south and Harghita is to the west. The county's principal town is Piatra Neamţ Municipality.

In the west of the county the Carpathian Mountains dominate the topography. The relief descends in 'steps', from these mountains to the sub-Carpathian slopes, then to the plateaux and finally to the valleys of the Bistriţa and Moldova Rivers.

These rivers make up 90% of the county's waterway network. Water covers 1.8% of this county, mostly due to the largest dam in Romania, the Izvorul Muntelui Lake by the town of Bicaz. All of the lakes in Neamţ are artificial, specially designed for hydro-electrical energy, flood control, irrigation, fishery and leisure.

The climate and topographical relief support the existence of many different species of flora and fauna, which range from the alpine zone to the plains and meadows. The 'Ceahlău' national park in particular contains numerous species of plants and animals within the 5 200 ha of land it covers. Consisting of cretaceous conglomerates, the 1907 m Ceahlău Massif is a striking example of the power of erosion and makes Neamţ one of the most remarkable landscapes in Romania. Other nature reserves include the Şugău Quays and the limestone Munticelu Massif as well as the Munticelu Cave, a unique feature of the karst zone of the Eastern Carpathians. This landscape also includes some useful mineral deposits.

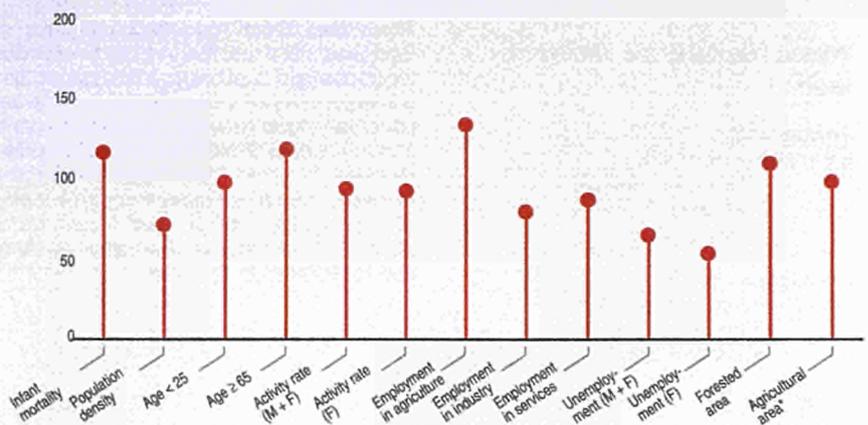
Archaeological discoveries in this area date back approximately 10 000 years to the Upper Palaeolithic Era when modern man was emerging and this area was intensely populated. During the Neolithic period (about 4 000 to 2 400 BC), one of the most advanced and flourishing Neolithic civilisations in Europe lived in this area. These were the Cucuteni people, named after a small locality in the neighbouring county of Iaşi where the first artefacts from this culture were discovered. Artefacts include the famous 'Hora of Frumuşica', a representation of a dance, the beautiful vase of Izvoare and the statue 'Gânditorul' (Thinker) from Popeşti. Neamţ also has some medieval churches and monasteries.



Izvorul Muntelui Lake at the foot of the Ceahlău massif.

Neamţ Main indicators

National level = 100



Many small private companies

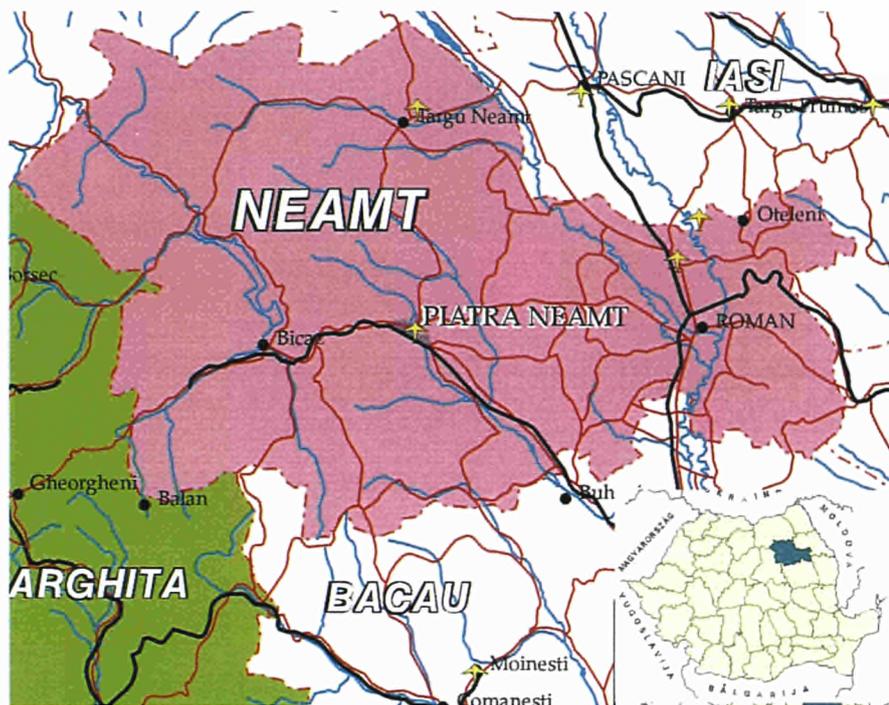
At the end of 1995, the agricultural area covered 48.2% of the county and 1.9% of Romania. Arable farming occupied 59.9% of the agricultural land, pastures covered 24.5% and hayfields covered 14.1%. Vineyards, orchards and tree nurseries accounted for the rest of the agricultural area. In 1995, arable crops and root crops accounted for 60% of the total agricultural production. In the same year, the private sector contributed 93.3% of the county agricultural output and 2.5% of the national production. Privately-owned farms concentrated on producing potatoes, sugar beet and milk, as well as rearing cattle.

In 1995, Neamţ produced the third greatest average yield (kg/ha) of sunflowers among the counties. It also produced the sixth

greatest average yield of wheat and rye and possessed the ninth largest herd of cattle (3.0% of the total) from which it produced the fifth highest milk yield (3.5% of Romania's milk).

Manufacturing accounted for 92.2% of industrial activity, 13th place in the country: of the 1 537 industrial enterprises, 1 528 were involved in manufacturing and 9 were in the energy field. Only 2.7% of enterprises engaged more than 200 employees whereas 90.4% have fewer than 20 employees. Private capital companies accounted for 96.7% of all enterprises of which 92.6% were considered small businesses. Private enterprises were usually in urban areas.

In 1995, Neamţ County made significant contributions to Romanian industrial production. It produced 81.7% of the nation's agricultural seed sowing machines, 28.7%



Continued population growth and highest rate of unemployment

On 1st January 1980, it was calculated that there were 550 480 inhabitants in Neamț. On 1st July 1992, the population was 581 312, which continued to increase. Calculations revealed that there were 585 955 inhabitants on 1 July 1995, which represented 2.6% of Romania's population.

Unlike most Romanian counties, Neamț experienced a positive rate of natural increase from 1990 to 1995, although this rate fell from a net natural increase of 6.2 people per 1 000 inhabitants in 1990 to 1.4 in 1995. This was caused by a birth rate of 15.2 births per 1 000 inhabitants and a mortality rate of 9.0 deaths per 1 000 inhabitants in 1990 and 11.8 births per 1 000 inhabitants and 10.4 deaths per 1 000 inhabitants in 1995.

The Land Fund Law produced favourable conditions in rural areas, which reduced the overall migratory flow and placed the county 39th for migration in 1995. Only 41.1% of the population lived in urban areas, partly due to the relatively low rate of migration from the rural areas.

In 1992, 99.0% of the population was ethnic Romanian. 86.9% of the population were Orthodox, followed by 10.8% Roman Catholics.

Demographic ageing continued over the last 15 years. Those aged over 65 accounted for 8.1% of the county population in 1980 and 11.3% in 1995. The number of people younger than 25 fell from 45.7% of the population in 1980 to 39.2% in 1995.

In 1995, the activity rate was 62.2%. Neamț had the highest overall unemployment rate in Romania at 17.3%. The female unemployment rate was 19.2%, the third highest figure in Romania. Agriculture was the main employer with 46.1% of the workforce, industry employed 31.3% of workers and 22.6% of the labour force was in the services sector.

Which regions are similar to Neamț?

Area:

5 900 km²

- Lincolnshire (UK)
- Seine-et-Marne (F)
- Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg (HU)

Land use:

48% agriculture

- Oberösterreich (A)
- Comunidad de Madrid (E)

Employment structure:

46% agriculture

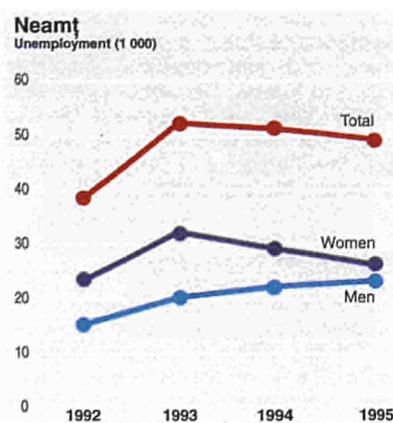
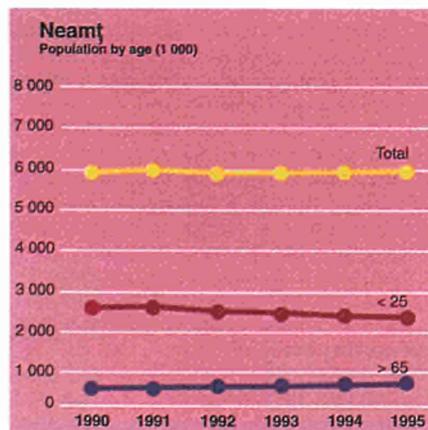
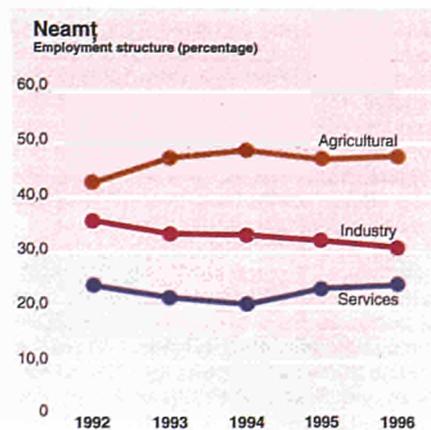
- Peloponnisos (EL)
- Radomskie (PL)

of all steel tubes, 20.0% of cultivators, 13.5% of cement, 8.9% of sugar and 12.0% of all timber. It also produced considerable quantities of paper, cardboard and knitwear.

There were 432 located sources for air pollution, of which 60% were seasonal or non-continuous operations. There were 199 purification installations to reduce pollution levels.

There are five important research units: the Săvinești Research Centre for Chemical Fibres, the Secuieni Agro-zootechnical Research Station, the Mărgineni Cattle Breeding Research Station, the Sugar Beet Research and Production Station at Roman and the Piatra Neamț Medical Plants Research and Processing Centre.

Neamț had the second lowest railway network density, 2.3 km of track/100 km² in 1995 and there were 30.7 km of public road per 100 km².



SUCEAVA COUNTY

Capital of the historical region of Moldavia

Suceava is the second largest county in Romania, covering 8 554 km² which is 3.6% of the national territory. However, from 1945 to 1968, it was considerably larger as it then also included the present Botoşani county. The Ukraine is on the northern border.

There are four municipalities, four towns and 396 villages arranged into 90 communes. The town of Suceava experienced a golden period during the Middle Ages when the Muşatin princes, including the famed ruler, Ştefan cel Mare şi Sfânt, made the town their royal residence and capital of the historic province of Moldavia from 1388 until 1565. Suceava Municipality still is the principal town of the county, the meeting point for several major roads, the junction between two main railway lines and situated on the Suceava River.

The Suceava River flows from the northern highland and curves into the east of the county before joining the Siret River. The Siret is the main river in Suceava, running roughly along the county border with Botoşani with several tributaries extending into Suceava. The Moldova River also collects water from its tributaries in the central and north-western highlands. In all, there is a prodigious flow of water from the mountains and the county has considerable potential for hydroelectricity. Streams, lakes, swamps and important reserves of underground water complete the water network.

This highland is formed by the Eastern Carpathians, which are in the west of Suceava. The Pietrosu Peak (2 100 m) is one of the highest points. The lower ground of the Suceava Plateau covers the eastern third of the county.

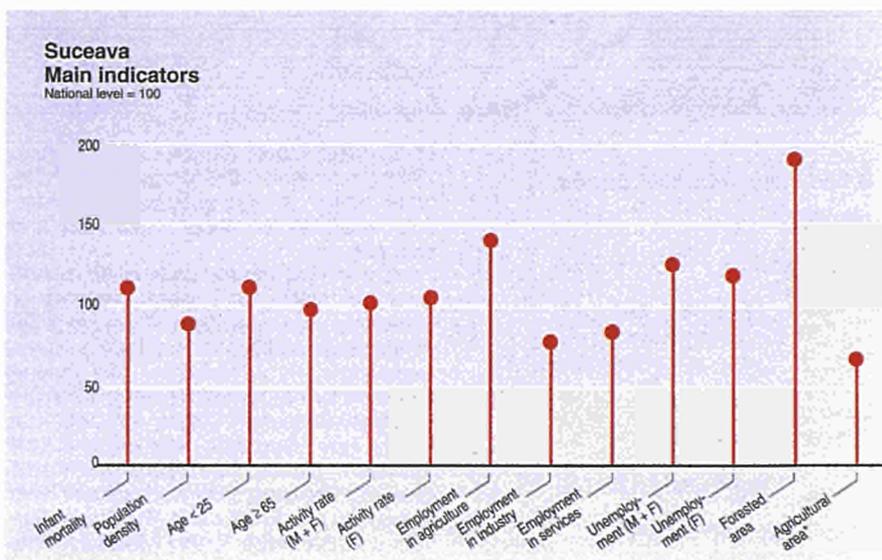
Natural resources include metallic ores, manganese, complex sulphides, barium sulphate and salt deposits, mountain springs and forests. Numerous plants and animals are listed and protected by law and there are mountain reservations for animals such as the Carpathian buck, brown bear, lynx, marten, fox and wolf.

Leaders in forestry

In 1995, agriculture (including forestry) was the largest sector in terms of its labour force. Of the 284.400 people active in Suceava (2.8% of the Romanian total), agriculture engaged 48.0%. The services sector was the next largest industry with



Detail of murals in Voroneţ Church.



26.4% of the workforce and industry employed 25.6% of workers.

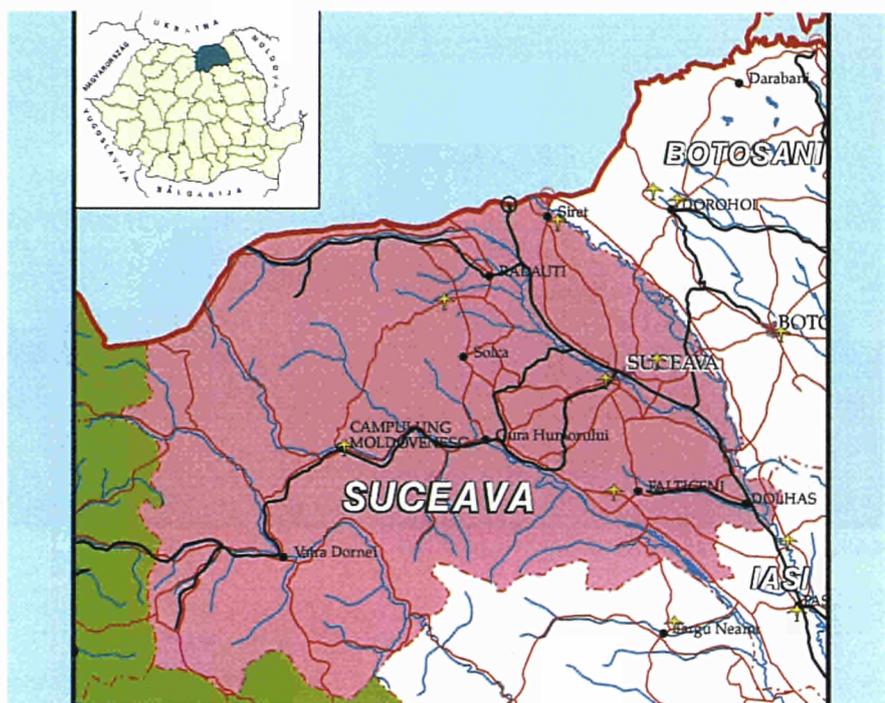
Forestry is a major area of activity in Suceava. At the end of 1995, forests covered 456 579 ha which was 53.4% of the county, the largest area of county land given over to forestry in Romania. It represented 6.8% of the total Romanian forest land.

The lumber trade produced more than a quarter of the total industrial output in Suceava and the county was the largest producer of timber in Romania. Suceava held third place in Romania for pulp and paper production. In the same year, 1.3% of coniferous forests were affected by drought. The soil quality deteriorated due to natural acidity, erosion, pollution and overworking the land.

At the end of 1995, agricultural land covered 40.9% of the county, the second smallest proportion of county land after

Bucharest Municipality. However, as Suceava is a large county, this was 2.4% of the Romanian agricultural area. Furthermore, this land is well-suited to livestock (particularly cattle and sheep) farming and so at the start of 1995 Suceava owned the most cattle in Romania with 5.2% of the national total. It produced the greatest amount of milk and the sixth largest amount of meat (5.8% and 3.4% of the national total respectively). Overall, the food sector contributed over 17% of Suceava's industrial output.

In 1995, 87.1% of industrial companies had fewer than 20 employees and only 4.9% had more than 200 employees. There were 13 public sector services, 62 state capital companies and 967 private companies. Manufacturing accounted for 98% of factories and 82.3% of industrial employees, mining occupied 1.2% of factories and



One of the largest population growths

Calculations indicated that on 1st January 1980, the population of Suceava was 652 219, 701 339 on 1st July 1990, and by 1st January 1996, this had increased to 710 332.

In 1990, the rate of natural increase was 7.3 people per 1 000 inhabitants (as there were 16.8 births and 9.5 deaths per 1 000 inhabitants), the fourth highest rate of growth in Romania. Even though this rate decreased over the following years, in 1992, it was the highest rate of growth relative to the other counties and remained so until 1995 when it fell to second place with a rate of increase of 2.8 (13.5 births and 10.7 deaths) per 1 000 inhabitants. This growth was positive in both urban and rural areas. In 1992, 96.7% of the people were ethnic Romanians, 1.4% were Ukrainians, 0.7% were Gypsies, 0.4% were Poles, 0.4% were Lipovenians and 0.3% were Germans. 90.6% of the community belonged to the Orthodox Church.

On 1st July 1995, the 709 604 inhabitants represented 3.1% of the Romanian population. The population density was 83.0 inhabitants per km² and 35.9% lived in urban areas.

On July 1st 1995, people younger than 25 represented 41.0% of the total population, the fourth highest percentage in a comparison of the counties. This age group was divided between urban and rural areas in proportion to the overall population distribution, i.e. 35.3% of the under-25s lived in the towns. However, 11.6% of the county population was over 65 but only 21.2% of these people lived in the urban areas.

From 1990 to 1995, the rate of migration decreased from -16.5 per 1 000 inhabitants (which represented a movement from the villages to the urban areas) to -0.7. At the end of 1995, the activity rate stood at 59.5%. There were 55 600 fewer employees than in 1990. The unemployment rate was 11.9% (13.4% for women). The under-25s accounted for 44.9% of the unemployed.

Which regions are similar to Suceava?

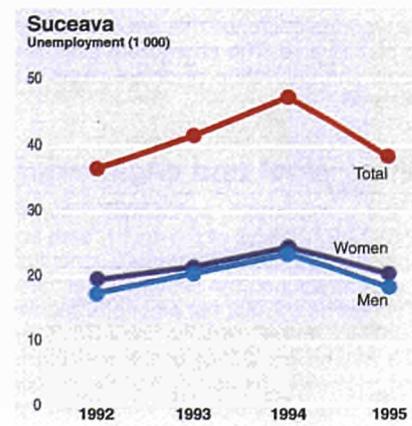
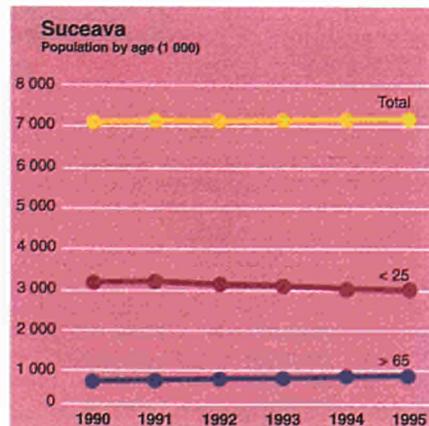
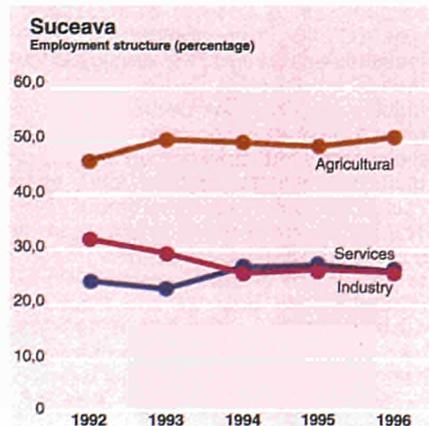
Population density:
83 inhabitants per km²
Zakynthos (EL)
Freyung-Grafenau (D)
Manche (F)

Age structure:
11-12% over 65
Uusimaa (FIN)
Voralberg (A)
Limburg (B)

Land use:
53-54% forest
Liguria (I)
Pohjois-Suomi (FIN)

11.1% of industrial workers and the energy sector utilised 0.8% of factories and 6.6% of the sector's workforce.

By the end of 1995, the transport network had been extended and modernised due to industrial and agricultural demand. There were 2 330 km of public roads at a density of 27.2 km/100 km² and 449 km (203 km electrified) of railway track, a density of 5.3 km/100 km². Suceava County Airport also has flights to Bucharest.



VASLUI COUNTY

Deciduous forests and hills

Vaslui county is situated in the south of the North Eastern Region of Romania. The county covers 5 318 km², which is 2.2% of Romanian territory. Iași county lies to the north, the counties of Bacău, Neamț and Vrancea to the west, Galați county to the south and the Prut River forms the eastern international border with the Republic of Moldova.

Vaslui county lies in the central-eastern part of the Moldavian Plateau and so it is a hilly area. There are other rivers that collect water from the uplands, including the Tutova River in the west, the Elan River in the east and the central Bârlad River with its numerous northern tributaries. Water covers 94 980 ha or 1.8% of the county area.

Bârlad Municipality is situated on the Bârlad River, as is Vaslui Municipality, the principal town of the county. The main road to Kishinev, the capital of the Republic of Moldova, passes through these cities and through Huși Municipality. There are four other towns and 71 communes consisting of 456 villages.

Archaeological studies have revealed 12 Palaeolithic settlements in the area and tools, weapons and ornaments have been discovered in Bronze Age settlements. By the end of the Bronze Age, sheep breeding had become widespread in this area. The Iron Age saw the development of the Dacian culture and ceramics dating from the second and third centuries demonstrate the degree of skill and workmanship of the native population. The economic activity of the county was established in the second half of the seventh century and particularly developed from the eighth to the 12th centuries.

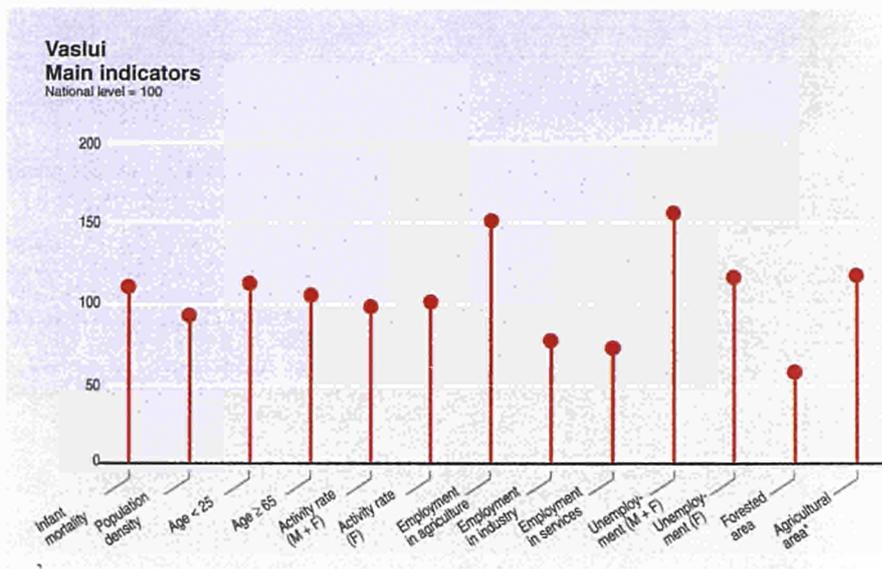
Forests cover 84 271 ha, which is 15.8% of the county, the 15th smallest proportion among the counties. Oak and beech are the main species due to the climate and the rich brown soil. Timber from these large forests has long been used to build the wooden churches that are characteristic of this area. The chernozem soils also favour the cultivation of cereal crops and orchards.

Wine, wool and engineering

At the end of 1995, agriculture occupied 72.8% (387 309 ha) of the county area and represented 2.6% of Romania's agricultural land. Vaslui had the second largest area of vineyards (17 692 ha) among Romanian counties. Arable farming claimed most (273 811 ha or 70.7%) of the agricultural land. However, the county had the second lowest average yields for wheat and rye



Monument of Ștefan cel Mare.



(2 227 kg/ha) and maize (1 554 kg/ha), the third lowest average yield of sunflower produce (816 kg/ha) and was 12th for sugar beet production (17 047 kg/ha) and barley and two-row barley (2 721 kg/ha). Other main crops include potatoes (7 365 kg/ha) and soya.

In the same year, the county had the eighth greatest number of sheep (3.1% of the national flock) and produced the 13th greatest quantity of wool (652.4 tonnes, 2.6% of Romania's production). It owned 2.5% of the national cattle herd and just 1.3% of Romania's pigs.

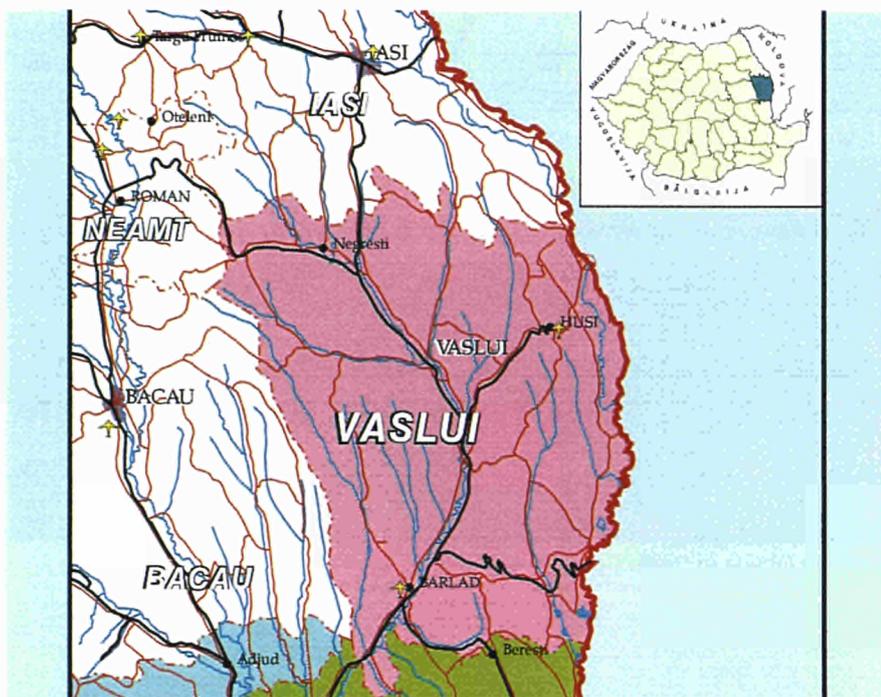
In 1995, the total value of the county's agricultural production amounted to ROL 440.2 billion (ECU 165.6 million at 1995 yearly average exchange rates), which was 1.9% of the national total. Vegetable production was valued at ROL 243.0 billion (ECU 91.4 million).

Within industry, manufacturing accounted for 97.9% of enterprises, 1.7% belonged to the energy sector and 0.4% were in mining and quarrying in 1995. There were six public sector services, 37 state companies and 246 private companies. Of these industrial enterprises 75% employed fewer than 20 employees.

Industrial activity was centred around engineering (which accounted for 35.7% of the county's industrial output) and the production of textiles, clothes, food, chemicals, building materials and timber.

The improvement of the environment is a current concern and research is underway to prevent soil erosion (notably in Perieni), excessive land drainage and leaching of soil nutrients. In 1994, ROL 5 196 billion was spent on environmental protection.

At the end of 1995, 73 localities were connected to the mains water supply, an



High birth rate

On 1st January 1980, it was calculated that there were 450 221 inhabitants. On 1st July 1991, the population was estimated at 468 921 but on 1st July 1992, the population was recorded as 463 964. On 1 July 1995, there were 463 701 inhabitants, which constituted 2.0% of the Romanian population. Most (99.4%) of the county's residents were ethnic Romanians and 97.2% belonged to the Orthodox Church. Throughout the period 1990 to 1995, this county had the highest or second highest birth rate in Romania. In 1990, there were 17.3 births per 1 000 inhabitants and 13.7 in 1995. The mortality rate increased from 9.6 deaths per 1 000 inhabitants, the ninth lowest among the counties in 1990 to 11.5, the 14th lowest in 1995. Hence the rate of natural increase fell from 7.7 people per 1 000 inhabitants (the second highest rate) in 1990 to 2.2 (the fourth greatest rate) in 1995. However, the migration rate also fell, from -49.5 per 1 000 inhabitants in 1990 to -1.4 in 1995.

In 1995, 44.0% of the population lived in urban areas. Those aged less than 25 accounted for 41.7% of the population, of whom 46.2% lived in towns. Those aged 25 to 64 accounted for 45.8% of the community, of whom 48.5% were in urban areas. Those aged 65 and over represented 12.5% of the county population but only 20.4% lived in the towns.

In 1990, there were 202.400 people in work and 172.700 (1.8% of the national total) in 1995. Agriculture engaged 51.9% of the county's labour force, industry employed 25.4% and services 22.8%.

From 1992 to 1994 the rate of unemployment increased but in 1995 it fell to 14.8%, a decrease of 9.3% on the previous year. By the end of 1995, the registered unemployed accounted for 3.0% of the Romanian total.

Which regions are similar to Vaslui?

Area:
5 300-5 350 km²
Roma (I)
Islands (UK)
Torunskie (PL)

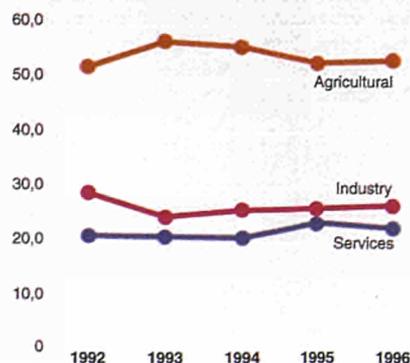
Population density:
87 inhabitants per km²
Vercelli (I)
Médio Tejo (P)
North Yorkshire (UK)

Land use:
16% forest
Picardie (F)
Molise (I)

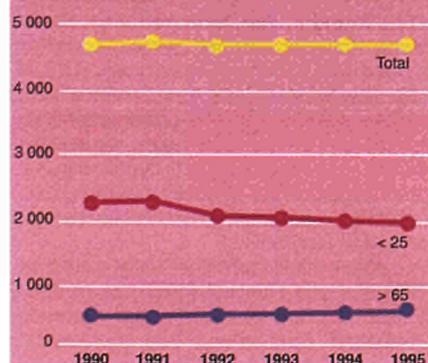
increase on the 68 localities in 1990. Four localities were linked to the public sewerage network, unchanged since 1990.

Railways were built in this county as early as 1872. The transport infrastructure in 1995 included 250 km of railway track at a density of 4.7 km/100 km² and 2 098 km of road, which equalled 39.4 km/100 km², the fifth highest road density in Romania.

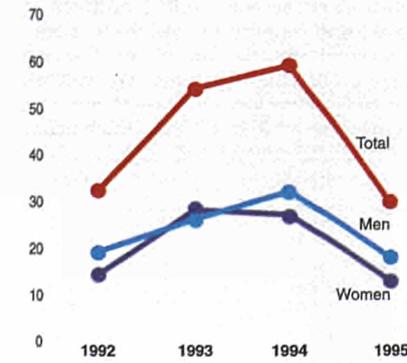
Vaslui
Employment structure (percentage)



Vaslui
Population by age (1 000)



Vaslui
Unemployment (1 000)



SOUTH-EASTERN REGION

Heart of the Danube delta and melting pot between continents

The South-Eastern Region has natural borders in the Prut and Danube rivers and the Black Sea, and administrative borders with the Southern and North-Eastern regions. The confluence of the Danube with two of its major tributaries, the Siret and Prut rivers (the junction of old and important commercial routes), occurs within the region. The Danube then goes on to form Europe's largest delta comprising three branches: Chilia, Sfântul Gheorghe and Sulina. The region, with its 245 km Black Sea shoreline, has played an important political, economic and social role in Romanian history.

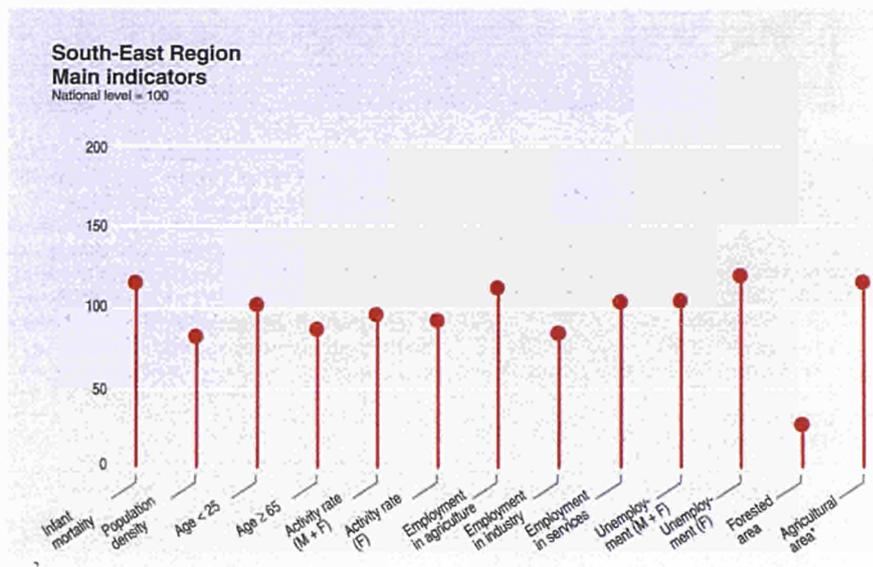
The region contains the historical province of Dobrogea which is a narrow pathway between two different 'worlds', namely the Euro-Asian Steppes and Mediterranean Europe. This area was the route taken by migrating groups coming from the East to the warmer Balkans and from Asia Minor in search of conquest. Such migrants ranged from shepherds and Getic farmers to Scythian cavalry, Hellenic tradesmen, seamen and Roman legions. To the north of Dobrogea are the oldest geological rock formations in Romania, consisting of mountains, plateaux and hills of pre-Cambrian age, and to the south is the Bărăgan plain.

Dobrogea was ruled by the Romans for seven centuries and archaeological traces still remain of the Roman towns of Moviodonum (Isaccea) and Troesmis (Turcoaia), and the Greek Argonum (one of the oldest Roman towns). Dobrogea territory became part of Romania after the war of independence of 1877-78, and this pathway to the Black Sea made a significant contribution to the economic and social development of the country.

The climate is temperate-continental, with typically more severe weather patterns in the west and more moderate in the south of the region. In the area of the Danube meadows hot summers and mild winters are normally experienced. The eastern area is influenced by the Black Sea, which causes delays in the cooling and warming of the air, thus resulting in long warm autumns and cold late springs.



Rural landscape in Brăila County.



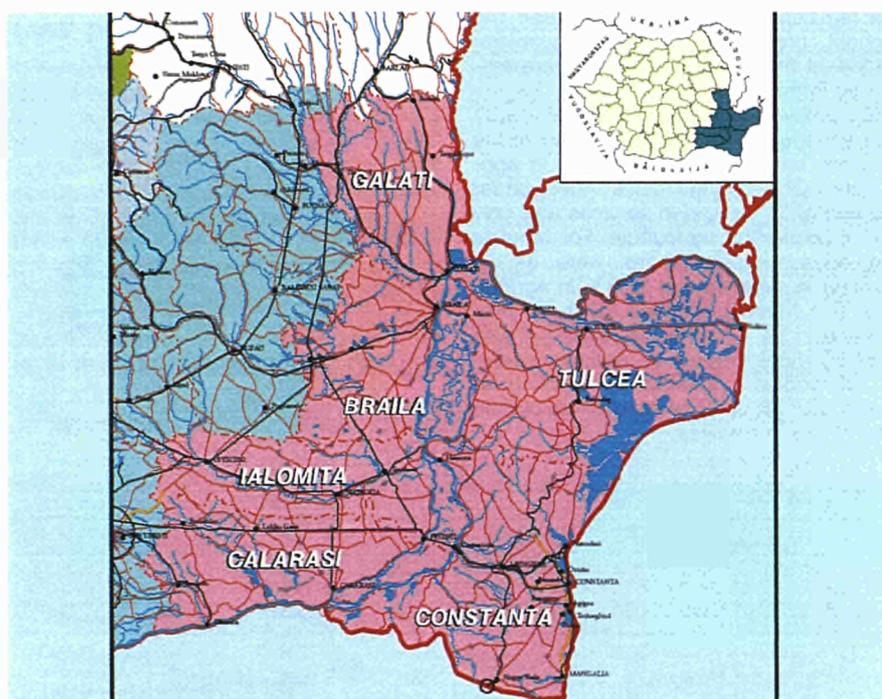
Delta rich in wildlife - and hydrocarbons

There are many different natural resources within the South-Eastern region, in particular the diverse mineral deposits which can be found in the Dobrogea area. These include iron ore, copper pyrites, complex lead and zinc sulphurs, quartz sands, hard rocks (particularly granites), marble and varieties of limestone. The continental platform of the Black Sea holds significant reserves of minerals and hydrocarbons. These deposits are increasingly being exploited using sea-drilling equipment manufactured in Romania.

The region also contains salty lakes at Techirghiol and Nuntași which are of special interest due to their major reserves of sapropel mud which has therapeutic

properties. A further natural resource of the region is the agricultural land of the Bărăgan Plain which is known as 'the country's granary'.

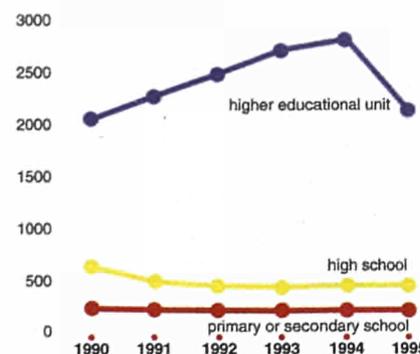
The region has a number of areas which have been designated as nature reserves. These include the reserves at Insula Mică, Brăila or the Danube delta, which contain flora and fauna considered to be unique in Europe.



Which regions are similar to South Eastern Region?

- Land use:**
72-73% agriculture
Nord-Pas-de-Calais (F)
Fejér (HU)
- Population density:**
about 79 inhabitants per km²
Vendée (F)
Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (D)M
- Age structure:**
38% under 25
Région de Murcia (E)
Západné Slovensko (SK)

South-east region:
Pupils per educational establishment



High school enrolment fell by a quarter over five years

In 1995, there were 441 122 pupils enrolled in 2 634 educational establishments. This represents about 10% of the nation's educational establishments and about 12% of the nation's pupils. The number of pupils in 1995 had increased by 1.8% from 1994 but was 11% lower than in 1990. This was mainly due to a 24% decrease in high-school pupils. The number of primary and secondary pupils had decreased by just 6% over the same period, while the number of students in higher education had increased by 55%.

The numbers of all types of educational establishments increased between 1990 and 1995. However, although the number of higher educational establishments in the region had increased from four in 1990 to six in 1995 (which partly explains the increase in students over the period), the South East had the second smallest number of universities and colleges among the regions. Nationally, there were 95 higher educational establishments in 1995.

District	Area km ²	Population		Activity (%)	Unemploy- ment (%)	Employment			
		1 000	Inhabitants/km ²			Change (%)	(%) Agriculture	(%) Industry	(%) Services
Region	1995	1995	1995	1990-95	1995	1995	1995	1995	
Country	34 343	2690	78	-1.2	56.5	10.0	38.6	28.2	33.2
1. SOUTH-EAST	4 766	391	82	-2.9	54.2	10.8	39.4	32.7	28
Brăila	5 088	336	66	-1.6	50.6	8.8	57.8	20.6	21.6
Călărași	7 071	747	106	-1.0	57.6	8.7	30.5	26.8	42.7
Constanța	4 466	643	144	-1.1	59.1	11.7	32.6	37.7	29.7
Galați	4 453	305	69	0.5	54.6	8.6	52.5	18.6	28.9
Ialomița	8 499	268	32	-1.2	60.2	11.0	37.7	22.3	40.0
Tulcea									

ROMANIA

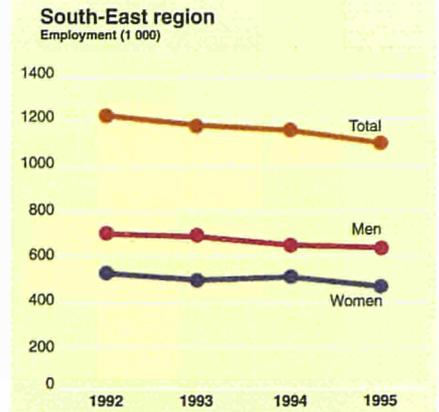
Young people in services, older people in agriculture

Although the South-Eastern Region has a young population with a high level of training, in 1995 the overall unemployment rate was 10.0%, higher than the national average of 9.5%. This was mostly due to the high unemployment rate among females (13.6% in the region compared with the national average of 11.4%). The unemployment rate among males in this region was lower than the national average (7.2% in the region compared with 7.9% nationally).

In 1995, the activity rate was 64.3% for males and 48.9% for females. Overall,

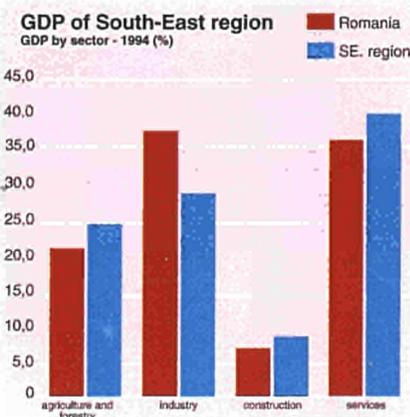
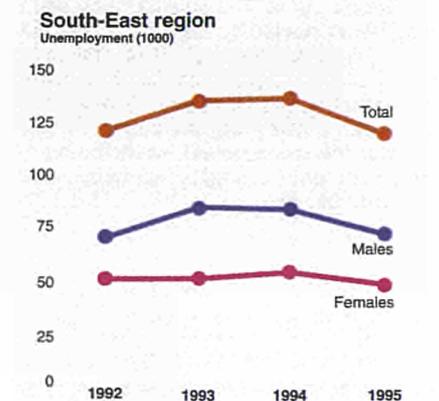
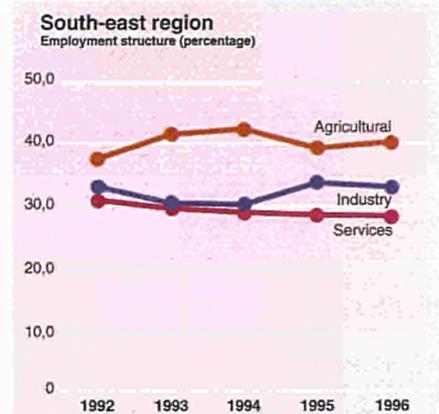
38.6% of those employed worked in agriculture, 28.2% in industry and 33.2% in services. Males accounted for 58% of the total workforce in the region. Over 33% of male employees worked in industry or construction compared with only 24% of working females. The service sector had the highest proportion of female workers; 43.9% of the female workforce were employed in this sector.

The employment structure also varied with age. Younger people tended to work in the services sector and older people in agriculture. Of working males 46% under the age of 25 worked in services and only 28.1% worked in agriculture. For females the corresponding figures were 54.3% working in services and 22.8% in agriculture. This trend is reversed for those over the age of 50, however. Of working males over 50, 58% worked in agriculture and 21.4% worked in services. Of working females over 50, 71% worked in agriculture and 21.1% in services.



Employment by sector, gender and age group in the first quarter 1996

	Total number of employed people	Of which in:			
		Agriculture and forestry	Industry	Construction	Services
Total employment	1 029 786	331 594	243 203	62 842	392 147
a. Males, total	624 385	201 717	155 724	52 717	214 227
- 15 - 24 years	85 897	24 113	15 531	6 831	39 422
- 25 - 34 years	138 371	31 109	38 519	12 157	56 586
- 35 - 49 years	255 046	62 069	81 254	24 586	87 137
- 50 - 64 years	117 751	59 115	20 058	9 143	29 435
- 65 years and over	27 320	25 311	362		1 647
b. Females, total	405 401	129 877	87 479	10 125	177 920
- 15 - 24 years	47 414	10 818	10 828		25 768
- 25 - 34 years	90 265	19 302	26 529	2 003	42 431
- 35 - 49 years	177 967	36 250	43 746	7 226	90 745
- 50 - 64 years	69 637	45 494	4 271	896	18 976
- 65 years and over	20 118	18 013	2 105		



Industrial GDP is below the national average

In 1994, the region was ranked sixth among Romanian regions in terms of GDP per capita, at just over ROL 2 million per inhabitant, and contributed 11.2% of the national GDP. The region is less industrial than the Romanian average with 28.3% of the region's GDP coming from industry compared with 37% of the national GDP. Agriculture and services account for a greater proportion of GDP in the South-Eastern Region than in Romania as a whole, with 24% of the region's GDP coming from agriculture and 39.4% from services. The corresponding figures for shares

of the national GDP are 20.6% from agriculture and 35.7% from services. Of the total number of enterprises in industry at 31 August 1996, the majority (2165 of a total of 2378) were in the private sector. Most enterprises (91%) in the private sector were small, employing fewer than 20 employees, whereas 80% of the public sector enterprises and 61% of the companies with majority state capital had more than 200 employees. Of all industrial enterprises (including both private and public sectors), 98% were manufacturing companies.

Low population density

A favourable environment and good conditions ensured the development of towns and villages in the area. On 1 July 1995, the population of the South-Eastern Region represented 11.9% of the total Romanian population. The regional population density was 78.3 inhabitants per km², which is below the national average of 95 persons per km².

The region had a young population: 38.1% of the population was younger than 25, and 59.6% was younger than 40. Following the trend throughout Romania after 1990, the

population in the region decreased by 3 980 people during 1994-95. The mortality rate was 11.4 deaths per 1 000 inhabitants in 1995, compared with 11.1 in 1994. Infant mortality rate fell significantly from 29.1 deaths per 1 000 births in 1994 to 24.3 in 1995.

In 1990, there was a dramatic population migration. In total 109 466 people moved from rural areas to the urban centres, the largest migration flow to the towns and cities during the period 1990-95. The migration rate per 1 000 inhabitants in 1990 was -83.2 for the rural area, decreasing in 1991 to -12.3 per 1 000 inhabitants. In

1990, more people moved out of the region than moved into it, but in subsequent years more arrived than left, with a net increase of 0.6 persons per 1 000 inhabitants during 1995. For all years from 1990 to 1994 there was movement away from rural areas to the urban areas. However, in 1995 there was migration into both urban and rural areas within the region, with an urban migration rate of 0.8 persons per 1 000 inhabitants and a rural inward migration rate of 0.4 persons per 1 000 inhabitants.

Population by age — 1995

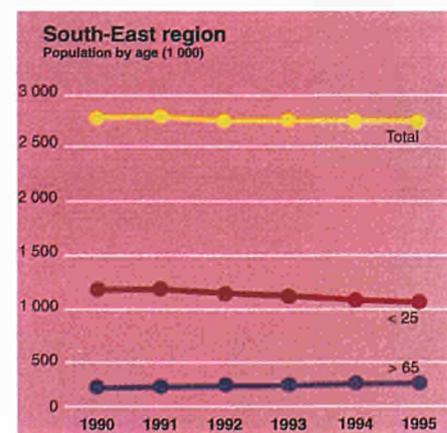
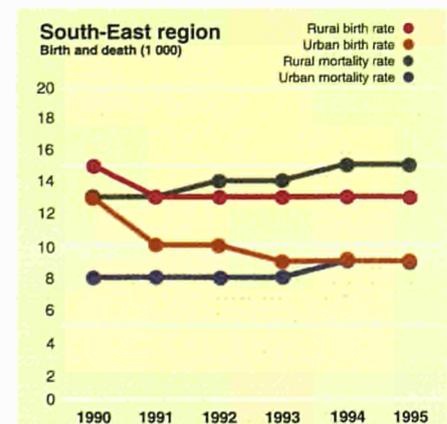
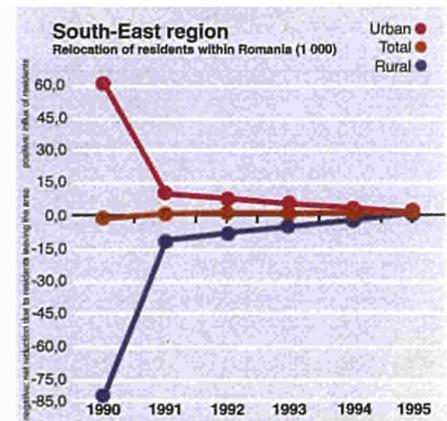
	M+F 1 000	M+F %	M %	F %
<15 years	567	21.1	21.6	20.5
15-24	456	17.0	17.4	16.5
25-39	579	21.5	22.2	20.9
40-54	502	18.7	18.7	18.6
55-64	304	11.3	10.9	11.7
≥65	282	10.5	9.1	11.9
Total	2 690	100.0	100.0	100.0

No natural gas deposits

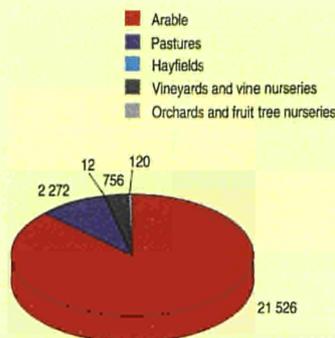
In 1994 and 1995, the South-Eastern Region had one of the highest rates of new dwellings completed of all the Romanian regions. In 1995, 5 734 dwellings were completed, of which almost 65% were produced from private funds.

Natural gas distribution to households in the region accounted for 6% of the total national volume, though the length of gas pipeline in the region represented only 2.7% of the national total. This small percentage of pipelines within the region is due to the fact that no natural gas deposits exist, and there is little industrial demand for natural gas within the region.

In 1995, all dwellings in the towns and municipalities were connected to the water supply, and 97% were connected to the sewerage system. In the villages, 25% of dwellings were connected to the water supply and 3.9% to the sewerage system. In 1995, there were 266 cities and villages connected to the mains water supply in the region, which accounted for 10.2% of all the cities and villages in the country which were connected to the water supply. The number of towns and villages in the region connected to the public sewerage network accounted for 10.9% of the national total.



South-East region
Agricultural area (km²)



Varied agriculture, ship-building and a new nuclear power station

By tradition, the South East is an agricultural region. Conditions in the region favour the cultivation of maize (mainly in the north), wheat (mainly in the centre of the region), spring barley, plants destined for industrial processing and sunflowers. The yields per hectare for these crops are typically higher than national averages. Also, work has been done on land improvement in the 'Brăila Lakes' area which has led to 76.700 ha of alluvial soil being available for agricultural use in 'Insula Mare a Brăilei'.

As well as crop growing, the area is well known for animal breeding. In 1994 the animal breeding production in the region amounted to 12.2% of the national total.

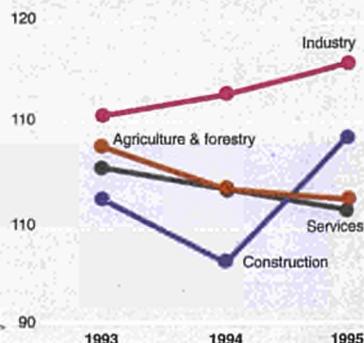
Vines and fruit trees are grown on the south and south-west slopes of the Dobrogea Hills. The vineyards of Murfatlar, Însurăței, Greaca and Hotarele are well known both at home and abroad for the quality of their wines.

The Iron and Steel Works in Galați is a major producer for the steel industry, providing raw materials for 60% of domestic companies in Romania. Shipbuilding (including oil rigs) is carried out in the Brăila, Galați, Constanța and Oltenița shipyards. The Pulp, Paper and Artificial Yarns Works in Brăila was set up to take advantage of the supply of reeds from the Danube delta as raw materials. This enterprise has since been expanded and now includes factories producing wood-chip boards and furniture. The Midia-Năvodari Chemical Works is another important plant for the South-Eastern Region and, in 1996, Romania's first nuclear power station at Cernavodă was brought into operation, contributing a considerable amount of electricity to the country.

Number of industrial enterprises by branches on August 31st, 1996

	Total number of enterprises	of which:		
		0 - 19 employees	20 - 199 employees	200 employees and over
Total industry	2 378	1 868	339	171
- mining and quarrying	19	7	3	9
- manufacturing	2 335	1 860	331	144
- energy	24	1	5	18

South-East region
Wages by sector (national level = 100)



Higher than average wages

Salaries in 1995 in the South-Eastern Region were higher than the national average for all sectors. Overall, salaries in this region were 4.4% above the national average but there was some variation between sectors. In agriculture, forestry and fish farming, salaries were 2.2% higher than the national average; in industry they were 15.7% higher, in construction 8.9% higher and in services 2.1% higher. Labour costs were also 4.4% higher in the region than the national average.

These salaries accounted for 65% of the income of the salary earners and 46.3% of total incomes of the population of the region. The value of goods consumed from people's own resources (homegrown food, etc.) represented 29% of total incomes. Other sources of income included pensions and social benefits and support allowances.

Of total consumption expenditure, food accounted for 62.7%. Non-food consumption was 26% and the rest was for payment of services. Compared with the national average, overall consumption expenditure was 3.8% higher, but both non-food expenses and services were 5.8% lower.

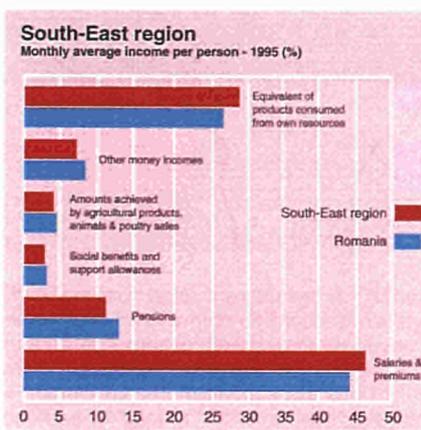
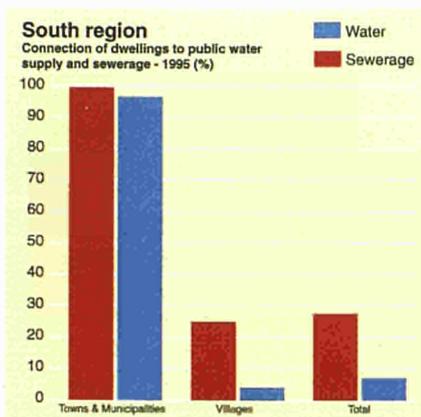
Air and water pollution

Economic development and, particularly, industrialisation of the region have had a negative effect on the air, water, and soils in the region. The air is subject to pollution by ammonia, dusts in suspension, various particles, sulphur compounds and nitrogen compounds.

In 1994, the quality of the water in the navigable channels, lakes and the sea was generally adequate. Recent years have seen an improvement in the quality of surface water. This improvement is mainly due to measures that were adopted to filter used water. The quality of water in the harbours has not seen such an improvement and these waters were still polluted, mainly from petroleum products.

Nine per cent of the region's forests were affected by pollution, of which 18.6% were affected moderately or severely. Four of the 22 026 ha of forest which were affected by pollution were affected by liquid and solid industrial waste; the remaining 22 022 ha were affected by other (unspecified) causes.

In 1994, the expenditure on environmental protection in the South-Eastern Region was 13.5% of the total spent nationally on environmental protection.



Highly developed river and sea transport

In 1995, the length of railway track in the region represented 12.6% of the Romanian railway network. The length of electrified track was 15.3% of the nation's total. The railway network density in this region was 41.7 km per 1 000 km², slightly below the national average of 47.7 km per 1 000 km². A similar situation was found for the public road network. In 1994, there were 8 218 km of public roads which represented the smallest proportion (11.3%) of all public roads in Romania. The density of public roads in the region was 24.0 km per 100 km², less than the country average of 30.6 km per 100 km². There was almost no change in the region's transport infrastructure between 1994 and 1995.

River and sea transport is highly developed in this region. The River Danube divides into three main channels in the Danube delta. The Sulina branch provides a connection between Tulcea on the River Danube and Sulina on the coast of the Black Sea. Further south the Danube - Black Sea Channel also permits navigation from the Black Sea to the river, onwards to central and northern Europe and, ultimately, through to the North Sea. This channel has a length of 64 km from Cernavodă to Agigea. Harbours at the coastal towns of Constanța, Mangalia and Midia cater for the country's sea transport.

The South-Eastern Region is connected to other regions and countries by two airports, one at Tulcea and the Mihail Kogălniceanu Airport at Constanța.



The Black Sea.

BRĂILA COUNTY

Gateway to the Danube delta

Located in the south-eastern plain of Romania, the county of Brăila covers 4 766 km², or 2.0% of the total country area. Water covers 7.9% of the territory, the second largest percentage in Romania.

The principal county town, also called Brăila, was first mentioned in archives in 1368 and is known as the gateway to the world of the historical region of Walachia. The town of Brăila is situated on the Danube River, which flows through the county before continuing through the neighbouring county of Tulcea and finally flowing into the Black Sea. Brăila's development has been influenced by its proximity to the Black Sea in the east and the Bărăgan Plain to the west, which is rich in livestock and cereal crops.

In the 14th century, Brăila became Walachia's most important harbour and main fishing centre. Trade in the town flourished and its market place became so important for grain that its standard unit of measure, the 'chila of Brăila' or 400 ocale (544.3 kg) was introduced in both Walachia and Moldavia.

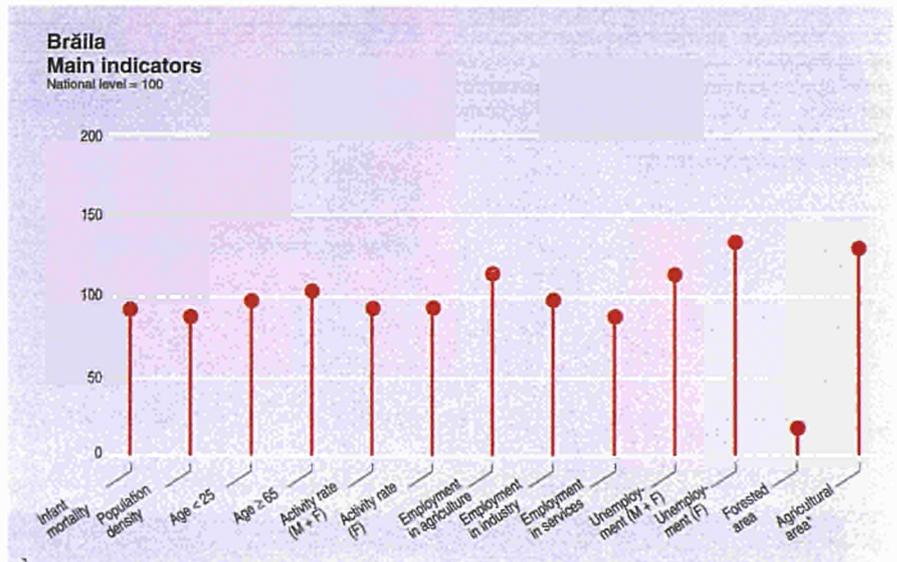
As the first maritime port on the Danube, Brăila was a free port where several nationalities such as Greeks, Turks, Russians, Bulgarians, Jews and Armenians lived in harmony and mutual respect for each other's traditions and faiths, enriching the town's spiritual and cultural life.

Mud and water from the local salt lakes have special therapeutic qualities and several water-treatment stations have been installed. Local resources include pockets of oil and natural gas and deposits of loess provide raw material for ceramics.

Brăila is host to several nature reservations, such as Brăila Small Island, an interior delta rich in flora and fauna and the large (8.9 km²) Jirlău Lake, an important ornithological refuge. Another important site is Brăila Big Island, which was reclaimed by draining the Brăila Lake. It is home to two species of yellow milfoil and one species of bellflower characteristic of the Dobrogea Mountains. It was recognised as monument to nature in 1994.



The Danube River in the southern part of the județ.



Port stimulates industrial development

Agriculture occupies 80.0% of Brăila, the 16th highest figure among Romanian counties. Arable farming covers most (88.1%) of this agricultural land.

The rich soil in Brăila produces high yields of the main crops of maize, oats, wheat, sunflower seeds, vegetables, rice, potatoes and grapes. Of the agricultural area, 94.4%, the highest percentage in Romania, is irrigated.

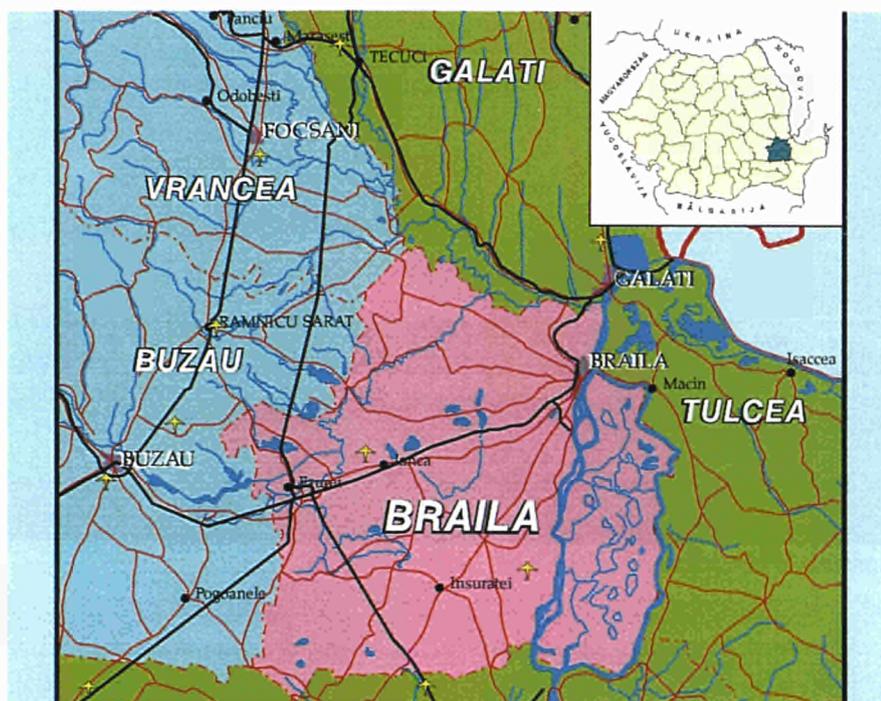
The county has considerable industrial potential. The main companies of Brăila Municipality are: Laminorul (rolled steel and steel wires), Promex (excavators and hydraulic and pneumatic equipment), Shipyard (shipbuilding and ship maintenance), Brainconf (textiles and clothing), Celhart Donaris (pulp and paper), Dunacor (artifi-

cial fibres, yarn and cellophane), Pal (chipwood, furniture, and wood products), Zagna-Vădeni (canned fruits and vegetables) and Fortuna Ianca (sugar beet).

There are four research institutes: Cephart (pulp and paper), Romprocef (chemistry), Ceprorex (engineering and equipment) and Sccass (improvement of saline soils).

In 1881, Brăila was the third town in Romania (after Bucharest and Galați) to establish a stock exchange. The stock market was re-structured in 1995 to meet the new social and economic conditions that prevailed.

May 1994 saw the establishment of 'The Centre for the Development of Small- and Medium-Sized Enterprises in Brăila', which was part of a network of five similar centres throughout Romania. This Foundation created 'The Business Incubator', which con-



Urbanism and declining population

Brăila has experienced the fluctuations in population size common to nearly all areas of Romania. On 1 January 1980, it was calculated that 389 405 people lived in the county of Brăila. On 1 July 1992, the population stood at 393 631. However, the population has decreased steadily since then and by the same date in 1996, the population was calculated to have fallen to 390 768 inhabitants.

On 1 July 1995, it was calculated that there were 391 075 inhabitants of which 260 784 people (or 66.7% of the population) lived in urban areas. Brăila Municipality alone accounted for 60% of all urban dwellers; 235 909 people lived there on 1 January 1996, making it the tenth most populated town in Romania. The municipality was second only to Bucharest in terms of population density. However, the overall population density for Brăila is 82.1 inhabitants per km², which is below the national average of 95.1.

In 1995, there were 198 702 females in Brăila County, some 50.8% of Brăila's population. Inhabitants aged less than 25 comprised 35.6% of the population, the 31st lowest percentage in Romania.

The 1992 census showed that 98% of the people were ethnic Romanians, but in Brăila there are also small communities of Greeks and Russian Lipovenians. The population is 99% Orthodox.

At the end of 1995, the number of registered unemployed stood at 18 378, equivalent to an overall unemployment rate of 10.8% which was considerably higher than the national rate of 9.5%. There were 11 757 registered unemployed females, which equates to an unemployment rate of 15.0%, again greater than the national rate of 11.4%. Over half the workforce was employed in either agriculture or industry (39.1% and 26.8% respectively).

Which regions are similar to Brăila?

Population:

0.4 million inhabitants
Mellersta Norrland (S)
Zuidoost Zuid-Holland (NL)

Age structure:

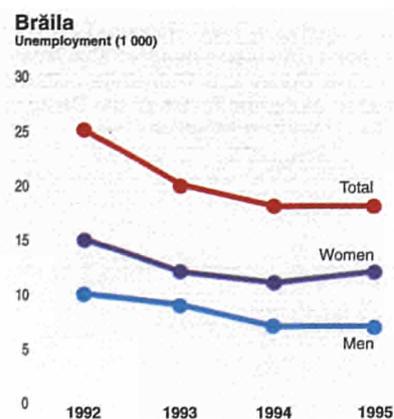
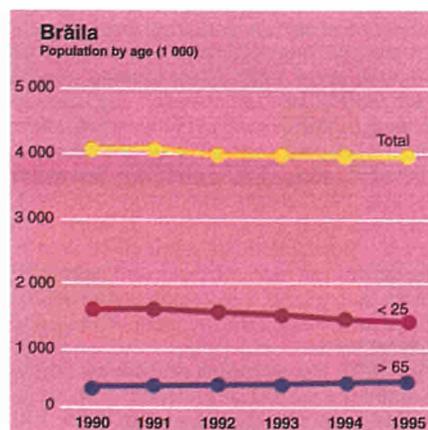
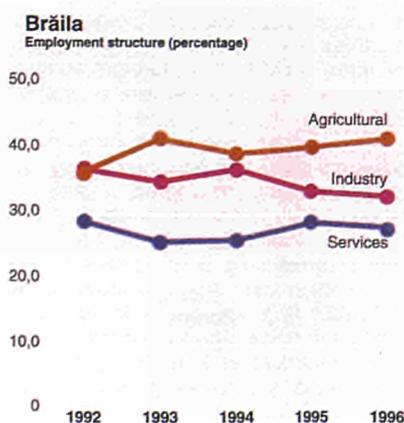
36% under 25
Puglia (I)
Haute-Normandie (F)

Employment structure:

32% industry
Friuli-Venezia-Giulia (I)
Picardie (F)
Darmstadt (D)

tributed to the development of the private sector in Brăila. The local Chamber of Commerce (for industry and agriculture) also organises an annual 'National Agricultural Fair'.

Brăila's harbour and docks play an important role in the county's economy. Brăila town boasts the first Romanian maritime port to be established on the Danube. This part of Europe's longest river is navigable from Brăila to the Black Sea town of Sulina (approximately 250 km) for ships up to 20 000 dwt. The harbour has four quays that can simultaneously accommodate four 8 000 dwt ships. Anchorages out in the river can hold another three ships of up to 20 000 dwt. Additionally, 65.5 ha around the harbour have been designated a free zone in an effort to bolster the local economy.



CĂLĂRAȘI COUNTY

Agriculture exploits rich soils

The county of Călărași came into existence in January 1981, making it one of the youngest counties in Romania. It occupies 5 088 km², which is 2.1% of the national territory. The counties of Giurgiu and Ilfov lie to the west, Ialomița to the north and Constanța to the east.

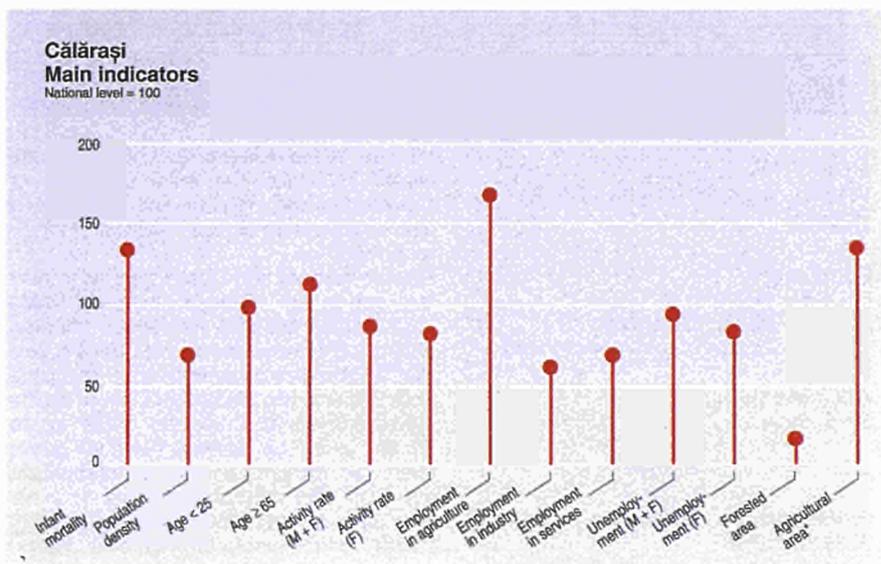
The Danube (or in Romanian, the Dunărea) River forms Călărași's southern border before turning north in the east of the county towards the Danube delta. Bulgaria lies on the opposite bank of the river. Indeed, the Danube acts as a natural boundary between all the adjacent territories of Bulgaria and Romania. Directly south of the principal town of Călărași is a ferry across the frontier river to Bulgaria. In Călărași the river divides to create the Borcea basin, reuniting with the main flow further north. The Danube and its tributaries and the Argeș River also feed into several ponds and lakes, which are characteristic of this area. The relief also includes meadows and the county occupies part of the Walachian Plain.

The soils in this area include both chernozems (black soils rich in humus and carbonates) and fine-grained, fertile alluvial soils consisting of the sediment deposited by the rivers and streams. This rich, fertile and mostly flat land supports a strong agricultural industry. Agricultural land covers 84.1% of the county, the second largest proportion of land given over to agriculture in Romania. The soils in this county favour the cultivation of cereals. Călărași county ranked among the top ten producers for every cereal crop in a comparison of the agricultural output all of the Romanian counties in 1995. Călărași also has resources of oil, gas, sands, gravel and clays.

Such conditions have favoured human habitation in the area since Neolithic times. The native Boian and Gumelnița cultures flourished along the banks of the Danube, Borcea, Argeș and Moștiștea rivers.



Agricultural landscape.



Shift to market economy

Agriculture dominates the economy in Călărași. In 1995, the county produced 2.9% of Romania's entire agricultural output despite the decline in the number of livestock since 1990. Crop farming generated 62.0% of the county's agricultural revenue in 1995, mostly in cereal cultivation which occupied over 60% of the county's cultivated area. The Fundulea Research Institute for Cereals and Technical Plants has developed hundreds of varieties and hybrids. The three other research centres in the county are for medical and aromatic plants, sugar beet and irrigated cultivation. The private sector owned 62% of the agricultural land.

After 1990, the economy of Călărași county entered a period of transition towards a market economy. By the end of 1995, the

County Office for Trade registered 14 autonomous companies (including subsidiaries), 170 companies of mixed private and public capital, 5 130 private and co-operative companies, 13 foreign capital companies and 3 companies with capital from state, private and foreign sources. There were 1 223 family businesses and 2 072 people had registered as self-employed. Due to the introduction of the Land Fund Law, 192 new private agricultural companies were created.

Călărași county accounts for about 1% of Romania's industrial output, achieved mainly in producing or processing some foods, metals, coal, textiles, materials for the ship-building industry, building materials, pulp and paper. The food industry, metallurgy, construction and the textile and clothing industry attracted most of the new private investments.



Rural with high female employment

On 1st July 1992 there were 339 788 inhabitants but on 1 January 1996, the population was calculated at 335 350. During the period 1990-95, it had fallen by 5 455 persons due to a decrease in births and an increase in outward migration.

By the end of 1995, there were 1 020 females to every 1 000 men. Figures also showed that there were 7 200 more people over the age of 60 in 1995 than in 1990. In 1995, this age group accounted for 19.9% of the community. In the same year, young persons aged 0-14 comprised 20.6% of the total population. There were 15 700 fewer children under fifteen in 1995 than there had been in 1990.

On 1 July 1995, 60.0% of the population was living in rural areas, with an even spread among the age groups. In the urban population, those under 25 accounted for 39.3% of inhabitants, those aged 25 to 54 comprised 44.1% and those aged 55 and over constituted only 16.7% of urban residents.

The 1992 census recorded that 97.9% of the people were ethnic Romanians, 1.9% were Gypsies and other nationalities accounted for the remaining 0.2%. The Orthodox faith was almost universal, claiming 99.2% of the population in this county.

At the end of 1995, the activity rate of the community (employed plus unemployed divided by the population over 15) was 50.6%. The employment rate was 46.2%. There were 53.400 women in employment in this same year, accounting for 43.3% of the workers in the county. According to the 1995 figures, 57.8% of the labour force was working in agriculture and forestry, 20.6% in industry (16.1% in manufacturing, 3.0% in construction, 1.4% in energy production and 0.1% in mining) and 21.6% in the services sector. At the end of 1995, the unemployment rate stood at 8.2%.

Which regions are similar to Călărași?

Population:
330-340 000 inhabitants
Vejlse amt (DK)
Brabant Wallon (B)
Livorno (I)

Population density:
66 inhabitants per km²
Kavala (EL)
Potsdam-Mittelmark (D)
Cova da Beira (P)

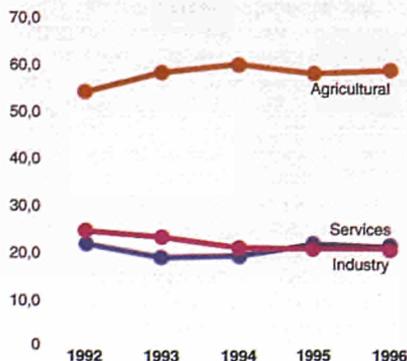
Age:
13% over 65
Sardegna (I)
Noord-Holland (NL)

In 1995, there were 243 km of railway track in the county and the road network consisted of 1 102 km, of which 385 km were classified as national roads. However, only 35.9% of public roads in the county had been modernised.

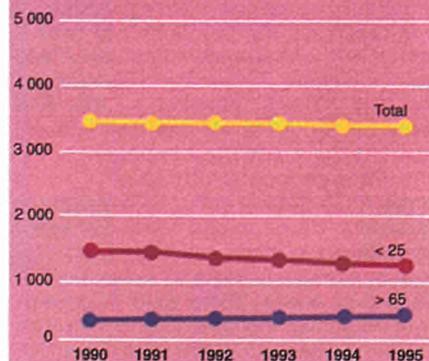
At the end of 1995, drinking water was supplied to 53.8% of the localities in Călărași county, the entire network covering 593.5 km. The public sewerage system reached only 9.4% (i.e. 5) localities, with 136.1 km of pipes.

In 1995, there were eight banks; five had been established with state capital, two with private capital and one was a mixed capital bank. The county also had 152 post offices and 32 443 telephone sets with 26 684 subscribers.

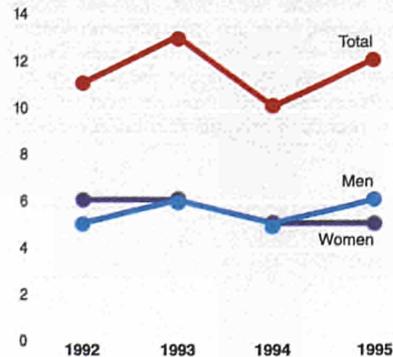
Călărași
Employment structure (percentage)



Călărași
Population by age (1 000)



Călărași
Unemployment (1 000)



CONSTANȚA COUNTY

Settled by ancient Greeks

Constanța county lies in the extreme southeast of Romania on the western shores of the Black Sea. The southern part the county borders on Bulgaria. Its area of 7 071 km² accounts for 3% of national territory and the principal town is Constanța. The county has ten other towns, Basarabi, Cernavodă, Eforie, Hârșova, Mangalia, Medgidia, Năvodari, Negru Vodă, Ovidiu and Techirghiol, and 189 villages arranged into 52 communes.

The area is steeped in history, having been conquered and settled by the Greeks in the mid-seventh century B.C., with the most important centres being at Histria, Tomis (modern-day Constanța) and Callatis (now Mangalia). Roman domination followed during the first century B.C. and to commemorate their victory in the region they built the Tropaeum Traiani monument in Adamclisi.

The economic growth of Constanța county was stimulated by its coastal position and the harbour experienced strong development and expansion after completion of the Cernavodă bridge over the River Danube towards the end of the 19th century.

The Casimcea Plateau in the north consists of old or recently dried-up lakes and inlets. To the south, the Dobrogea Plateau resembles a high plain with some abrupt and sheer sea cliffs.

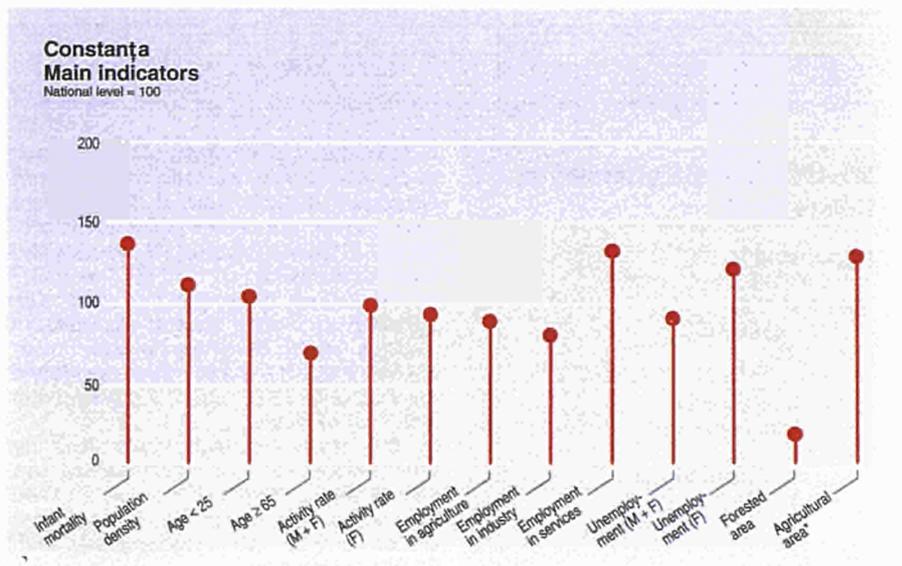
The Danube forms the western county border and provides 137 km of irrigation to the county, flowing through the Carasu, and Baci and Casimcea valleys. Recently, this waterway network was upgraded when the Danube – Black Sea Canal (64.2 km) and the Poarta Albă – Midia Canal (27.5 km) became operational.

Natural lakes, meadows, and sea lagoons are a feature of the county. Techirghiol and Nuntași salt lakes have important reserves of sapropel, which possesses specific therapeutic qualities.

Local mineral resources include stone, phosphates, iron ore and mineral waters. The continental shelf of the Black Sea is known to have significant reserves of hydrocarbonates and minerals and oil and gas exploration has recently been expanded.



Tropaeum Traiani memorial in Adamclisi to Trajan's victories.



Major Black Sea port

The economy encompasses enterprises in manufacturing, agriculture, transport and tourism.

Constanța has the third-largest proportion of territory given over to agriculture. It ranks sixth for the production of wine – some 5.9% of the national harvest – and has the highest percentage of land under irrigation. Sheep breeding in the area accounts for 3.9% of Romania's flock, making it the fourth most important county in this aspect of agriculture.

Of the 720 industrial enterprises located in Constanța, Năvodari and Medgidia, seven are engaged in mining and quarrying, 706 were in manufacturing and seven were in the field of energy. There were 11 government-controlled industries, each with over 200 employees, 45 state capital compa-

nies and 664 private companies, of which 86% had fewer than 20 employees.

The most significant industrial activities include chemistry and petro-chemistry, oil extraction and by-products, food and beverages, shipbuilding and ship repairs, cement and asbestos-cement goods.

Cernavodă is the location for Romania's first nuclear power station: the first 720 MW reactor became operational in 1996.

In 1994, the county had high production figures for crude oil (10.4% of national production) as well as petrol (22.2% of the county's industrial output), diesel oils (22.4%), shipbuilding (21.2%), cultivators (12.9%), cement (22.6%), wine (4.4%) and edible oils (11.9%).

Constanța has a number of research centres devoted to the county's economic and social requirements. The Irrigated Crops Research Institute and the Fruit Tree Pro-



Urban population, large services sector

In 1995, the total population of Constanța county was calculated at 746 839 persons. Birth rates in the county were generally above the national average and the mortality rate was the lowest in the country for a long time. The main contribution to population growth was migration to the area, particularly to the town of Constanța. This trend reached its peak in 1990 but started to decrease after 1992, although more slowly than in other regions.

According to the 1992 census, there were 748 769 inhabitants in Constanța county. Ethnic Romanians represented 91.7% of the community with the following minorities registered: Turks (3.2%), Tartars (3.2%) and Russians (0.8%). Of the community 91,1% belonged to the Orthodox Church, Moslems accounted for 6.5% and 0.9% were Roman Catholic.

In 1995 the urban population accounted for 73.8% of the total population, making Constanța one of the three most urbanised counties.

Although in 1992 and 1993 slightly more than half of the people living in the county were employed, this figure fell to about 45% in 1995, mainly due to job losses.

In 1995, 42.6% of those employed worked in the services sector, followed by 30.5% in agriculture and forestry and 17.0% in industry. The construction sector engaged 6.3% of the national labour force, the second-highest figure in the country.

Constanța's unemployment rate of 8.7% at the end of 1995 was below the national average; unemployed females comprised 13.8% of the county total.

Which regions are similar to Constanța?

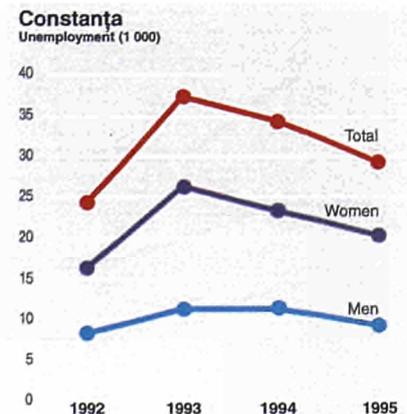
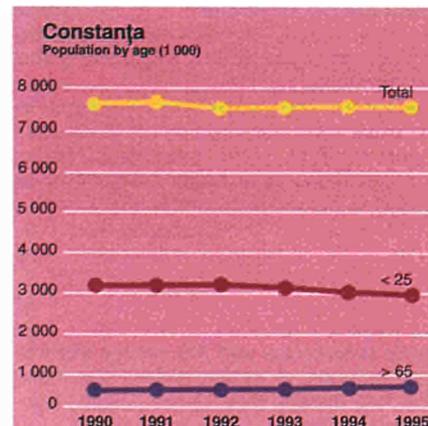
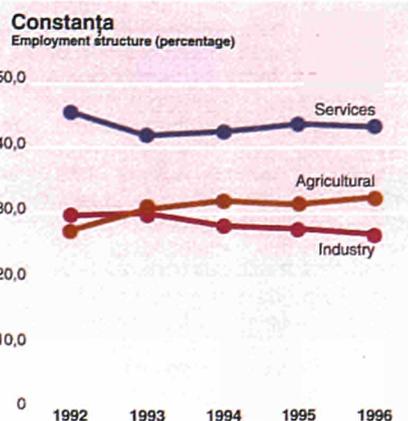
Population density:
106 inhabitants per km²
Friesland (NL)
Bord.-Centr.-Fife-Loth.T (UK)
Udine (I)

Area:
7 000-7 100 km²
Nuoro (I)
Salzburg (A)

Employment structure:
42-43% services
Dytiki Makedonia (EL)
Opolskie (PL)

duction and Research Institute are both located in Valul lui Traian; the world renowned Wine-Growing Research Station is in Murfatlar; the Central Research Station for Sheep Breeding is in Palas and there is also a Romanian Institute for Sea Research.

Constanța Harbour is one of the largest in Europe and handles a significant volume of this county's trading. The Danube - Black Sea Canal has an important influence in river transport, completing the link between the harbours of Constanța and Rotterdam, and thus the Black Sea with the North Sea, via the recently built Danube - Main - Rhine Canal.



GALAȚI COUNTY

A confluence of rivers

Galați county is situated in the South-Eastern Region of Romania on the border with the Republic of Moldova. It occupies 1.9% of Romania's territory, covering 4 466 km², which makes it the ninth smallest county in Romania. Vaslui county lies to the north, Brăila to the south and Vrancea to the west. The principal town is also called Galați, which is situated next to the large Lake Brateș. Galați Municipality includes an inland port and a naval base, as it is ideally located on the Danube River. The Danube flows for 22 km along part of the southern border of Galați county and it meets with the largest rivers of Moldavia, the Siret and the Prut (which forms the eastern international border) and their tributaries, in the south of the county.

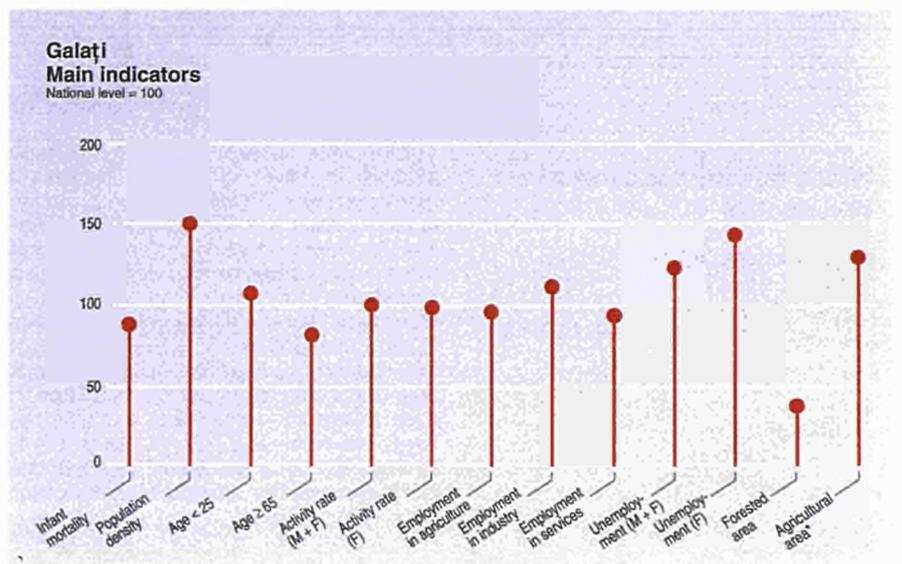
Galați county has played an important economic, social and cultural role within Romanian history due to its position at the crossroads of some old and important commercial routes and rivers.

The Lower Trajan Wall still spans the south of the county and continues into Moldova, almost to the Black Sea. It was built by the Roman Emperor Trajan (98-117 A.D.) who ruled over the Roman Empire at its height. In 106 A.D. he defeated Decebalus and annexed most of Dacia (an ancient region bounded by the Carpathians, the Tisza and the Danube, an area roughly corresponding with modern Romania) as a province of the Roman Empire.

Plains (mostly given over to farming) dominate this county, but there is some hilly ground in the Moldavian Plateau to the north. The rich waterway network across the county allows successful intensive farming with 46% of the arable area being serviced by its irrigation systems. Agriculture is very important to Galați: 80.3% of the county is occupied with farming, the sixth largest proportion among Romanian counties, while forests cover a further 9.8%. Galați has additional natural resources of crude oil and natural gas.



Iron and steel plant in Galați.



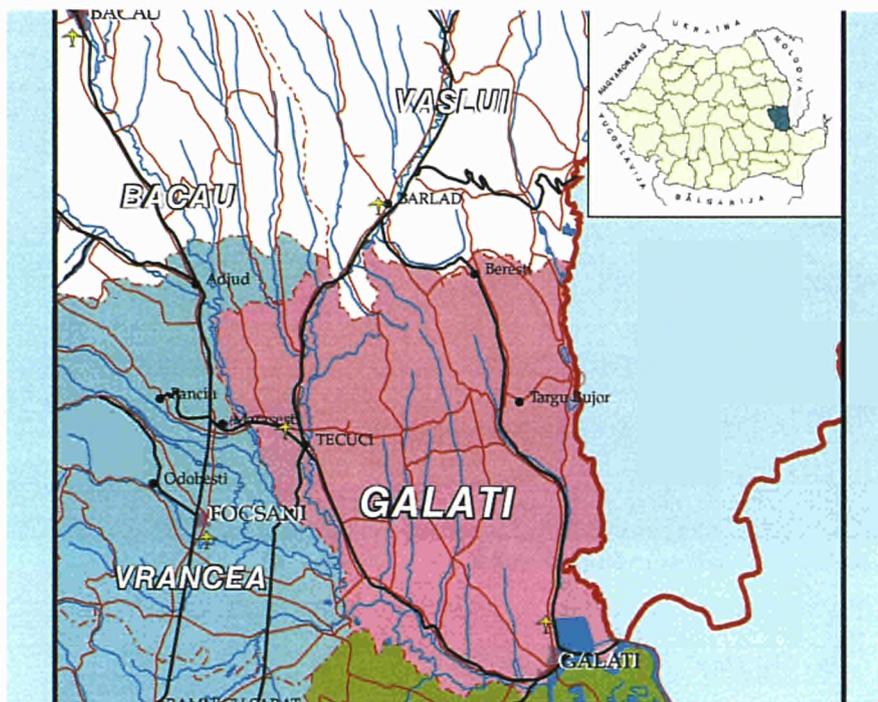
Steel, shipbuilding and research

Galați county is Romania's fourth-largest industrial centre, its major strengths being iron and steel production, engineering and the food industry.

The mining and processing of metals, in particular the manufacture of steel, accounts for 83% of the county's economy. In recent years, the Sidex Company has produced around 56% of the total Romanian steel output. This company also produces 55% of finished steel goods and 90% of cold-rolled steel plates and strips. Galați's iron and steel works also provide raw materials for 60% of Romania's economic enterprises and the county exports to a number of industrialised countries, including Japan, Italy, Great Britain, Germany and China.

Shipbuilding is another well-established industry in Galați. This traditional activity, due to the proximity of the River Danube and the Black Sea, has developed to include the manufacture of larger vessels. The shipyard can produce ships of up to 55 000 dwt, including cargo boats, container ships and oil-drilling platforms.

As an established cultural centre, Galați county has long invested in scientific research. Scientific activity has been directed towards the development of the main sectors of the local economy, namely iron metallurgy, shipbuilding and agriculture. The Icepronav Institute is an internationally-renowned research and design unit in the development of the shipbuilding industry. Specialists from the Faculty of Metallurgy and Materials Science and the Sidex Steel Company collaborated to determine the properties of certain kinds of



Slight population increase

It was calculated that Galati had a total population of 643 017 on 1 July 1995 and its population density of 144 inhabitants per km² was the fifth highest in Romania. In the same year, 60.3% of the population lived in urban areas.

The recorded population had fallen from an estimated high of 651 484 residents in 1991 to a lower actual figure of 639 800 in the following year. Since 1992, the population has increased, albeit slowly, an unusual phenomenon in Romania. This is despite a continuing decline in the birth rate and a slowly increasing mortality rate. During the last decade, the county has experienced a growth in the number of inhabitants aged over 55 and a reduction of those under 25. In 1990, the mortality rate was 8.5 deaths per 1 000 inhabitants and in 1995, 10.5 deaths per 1 000 inhabitants. In the same period, the birth rate fell from 13.9 births per 1 000 inhabitants to 11.2 births per 1 000 inhabitants. However, the infant mortality rate has almost halved, from 30.6 deaths per 1 000 live births in 1990 to 18.4 in 1995, slightly lower than the national average.

The Census of 7 January 1992 showed that 98.7% of the people were ethnic Romanians with 98.4% belonging to the Orthodox church.

In 1995, there were 34 998 registered unemployed, including 21 678 women. This equates to an unemployment rate of 11.7% for men, which was higher than the national rate of 9.5%. At 16.3%, the female unemployment rate in Galati was considerably higher than the national rate of 11.4%. At the end of 1995, the county's active population was 298 200, down 6.14% on the 1992 figures and reflecting a loss of 24 400 jobs over this period. The overall activity rate was 59.14% at the end of 1995, the same as the national activity rate.

Which regions are similar to Galati?

Population density:
144 inhabitants per km²
Isere (F)
Norfolk (UK)
Oeste (P)

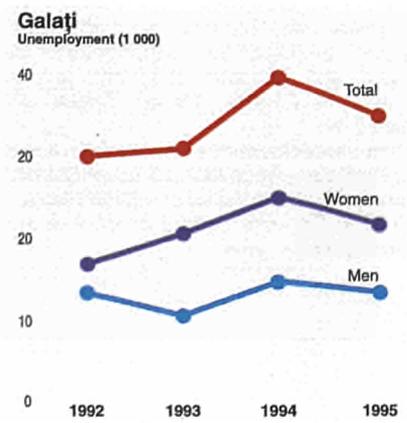
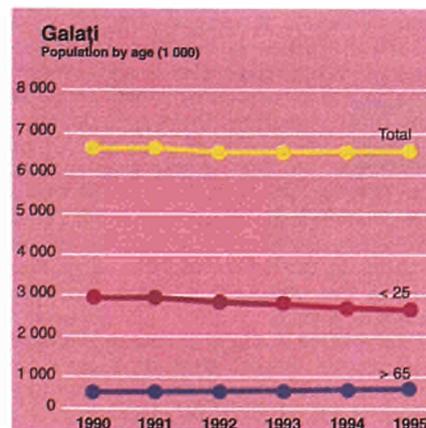
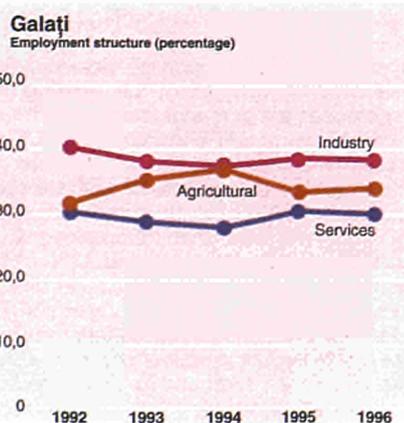
Employment structure:
37-38% industry
Cataluña (E)
Bayern (D)

Land use:
10% forest
Heves (HU)
Pays de la Loire (F)
Praha (CZ)

steel to be used in shipbuilding, engineering and the Cernavodă nuclear power station.

The food and beverages sector accounts for over 8% of Romanian production on average and is involved in the processing of meat, milk and edible oils, milling and bakery as well as the canning of fruit and vegetables. Meat and meat products are processed at a modern slaughtering unit, which houses Romania's largest refrigerated supply of products for export to the USA.

In addition to the port, Galati is well-served by the railway network. As of 1995, there are 6.4 km of track per 100 km², the seventh highest density in Romania. There are 1 412 km of public roads or 31.7 km per 100 km², about average for Romania.



IALOMIȚA COUNTY

Low-lying and lacking in resources

Ialomița county is situated at the cross-roads of some old and important commercial highways. Ialomița lies astride the route from Bucharest to Moldavia and to the Romanian Black Sea resorts. It is the sixth smallest county in Romania, covering 4 453 km², which is 1.9% of the national territory. The principal town is Slobozia Municipality. There are two other municipalities, Fetești and Urziceni, the town of Țândărei and 130 villages arranged into 49 communes.

Ialomița's topography reflects its position in the eastern part of the Romanian (or Bărăgan) plain. This basin was formed slowly through progressive marine sedimentation. After the Black Sea receded, wind erosion shaped the sand dunes and hillocks and created extensive loess deposits in this area. Secondary valleys were formed and so heights range from 81 m at the Crăsani Peak to 8 m north of the Borcea tributary.

The Danube, the Borcea tributary, the Old Danube, Ialomița and Prahova rivers flow through Ialomița county and feed into various lakes, the most important being Lake Amara. The Danube flood plain was created by side erosion and accumulation between the Danube and the breakaway Borcea tributary. The Borcea Lake, a specific feature of this plain, was dammed, drained, and is now used for agriculture. The 36 km wide Ialomița flood plain on the left bank of the Borcea tributary is much smaller than the Danube plain.

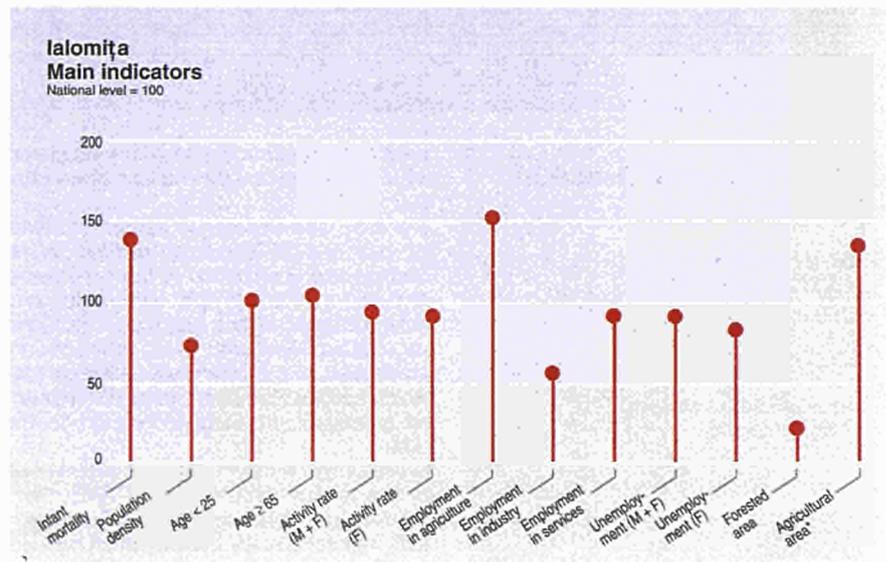
The climate is continental with much variation in temperature, low rainfall and frosts in early Autumn until late Spring.

Ialomița County is poor in mineral resources but some oil and natural gas deposits have been identified in Urziceni, Colelia and Grindu. Other resources include loess in Urziceni and Țândărei, building sand in Hagieni, the black therapeutic mud of the Amara and Fundata lakes and sulphur springs at Ciulnița, Perieți, Amara and Valea Ciorii.

Human settlements can be traced back to the Neolithic period about 3 000 BC. Local communities developed along the banks of the River Danube, in the Borcea area and in the Ialomița Valley.



Lake Bentul Latelinor in Balta Ialomiței.



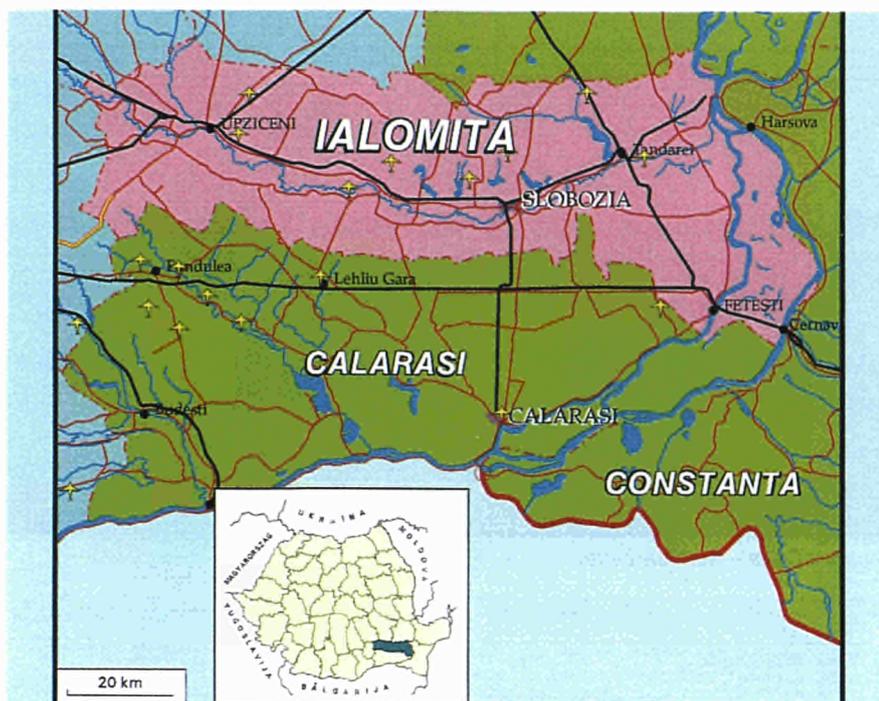
An agrarian economy

Ialomița's economy reflects the available resources of the area. Agriculture is the prime example. It occupies 373 737 ha or 83.9% of the county, the third largest percentage of land given over to agriculture in Romania. It is the county's main employer and other industries, the food industry in particular, are dependent upon agricultural production. In 1995, arable land covered 346 608 ha, which represented 92.7% of the county's agricultural area and 3.7% of Romania's arable land, the eighth largest amount or the fourth highest proportion among the counties. In the same year, Ialomița produced 3.2% of Romania's wheat and rye, 4.4% of the maize yield and the second largest crop of sugar beet (5.6% of the national amount) and sunflower (8.5% of the total). More than half

the agricultural area, 199 000 ha, is irrigated. The high cereal and fodder yields also provide good conditions for pig rearing: in 1995, Ialomița owned 6.2% of the national herd, the third largest percentage in Romania.

The county has a poorly-developed industrial base. Almost all of the existing 196 enterprises are in manufacturing, with only one unit in mining and quarrying. Of the industrial enterprises, two are classified as public sector enterprises, 22 as state companies and 173 as private companies, 85% of which had fewer than 20 employees.

In 1994, the county produced 17% of the domestic output of chemical fertilisers, 17% of edible oils, 9.5% of sugar and 7% of bricks and ceramic blocks. Ialomița was the fourth largest producer of sugar, edible oils and tinned food and in 1995, the second highest producer (72.8 thousand ton-



Reversing the trend of outward migration

Spectacular increases in population growth were recorded in 1864, 1889, 1893 and 1895, when inhabitants of the submountainous areas settled in the Bărăgan Plain.

On 1 January 1980, calculations revealed that there were 304 406 inhabitants in Ialomița but only 303 423 on 1 July 1990. On 1 July 1992, there were 305 603 inhabitants, a population increase of 0.7% since 1990 but population growth has since slowed. On 1 January 1996, it was calculated that there were 305 848 inhabitants. From 1990 to 1995, the birth rate and mortality rate fluctuated. Overall, births declined and deaths increased in both urban and rural areas. However, outward migration decreased: in 1990, the rate of migration was 45.4 inhabitants per 1 000 but there was an influx of + 2.1 inhabitants per 1 000 in 1995. Initially, most people left the rural areas (at a rate of -72.1 inhabitants per 1 000 in 1990) to live in the towns and cities where the migration rate was only -0.6 inhabitants per 1 000 in 1990 but in 1995 there was a slight reversal of this trend in Ialomița: -2.1 inhabitants per 1 000 in urban areas and + 5.2 inhabitants per 1 000 in rural areas. In 1995, 41.7% of the population lived in urban areas.

On 7 January 1992, the majority (96.2%) of the people were ethnic Romanians, 3.2% were Gypsies and other nationalities accounted for the remaining 0.6%. The census also indicated that 99.2% of the people were Orthodox.

During 1990-95, the number of jobs diminished by 11 000. By the end of 1995, the activity rate was 54.6% and there were 11 387 registered unemployed in Ialomița. The unemployment rate stood at 8.6%, 9.4% for women, both below the national averages. Of the total labour force, 52.5% work in agriculture and forestry, 28.9% in services and only 18.6% in industry.

Which regions are similar to Ialomița?

Population:

about 300 000 inhabitants
Dytiki Makedonia (EL)
Aude (F)
Aachen, Landkreis (D)

Population density:

68 inhabitants per km²
Castellon De La Plana (E)
Tolna (HU)

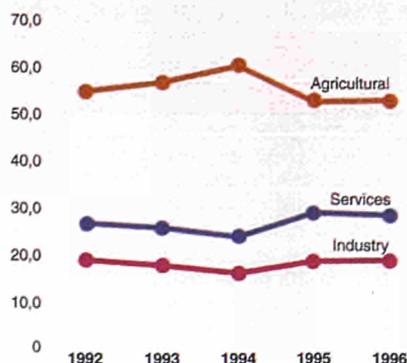
Age:

38% under 25
Frevoland (NL)
Norte (P)

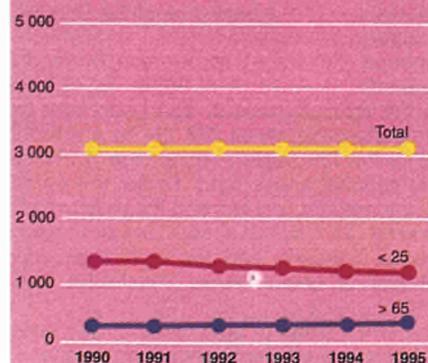
nes or 3.9% of the total live weight) of meat.

Within industry, construction was the second largest employer, utilising 5.7% of the total workforce in Ialomița in 1995. In the services sector, trade was the biggest source of jobs with 10.4% of the total workforce, followed by transport with 4.5%. In the same year there were 6.2 km of railway track per 100 km², the main lines going to Bucharest, Constanța, Buzău and Ploiești. A 15 km motorway connects Fetești Municipality and Cernavodă, part of the road network which has a density of 24.7 km per 100 km², the ninth lowest density in Romania.

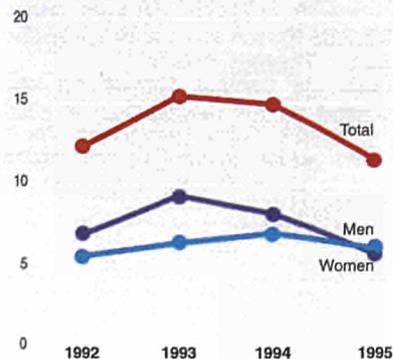
Ialomița
Employment structure (percentage)



Ialomița
Population by age (1 000)



Ialomița
Unemployment (1 000)



TULCEA COUNTY

Wetland once part of the Ottoman Empire

Tulcea county is in the north eastern part of the historical province of Dobrogea which is a forested region between the Danube and the Black Sea. It is the fourth largest county, covering 8 499 km² or 3.6% of the national territory. Tulcea Municipality is the principal town.

The relief comprises the Dobrogea Horst to the west, which is the oldest land formation in the country, and the Danube delta to the east, which covers more than 4 000 km². Three main tributaries divide the delta: Chilia to the north, Sfântu Gheorghe to the south and Sulina in the middle, which carries ships to the Danube. South of the Sfântu Gheorghe, the Razim Lagoon penetrates far into the county. Thus there are three main islets with numerous natural and artificial channels. In 1990, the delta was declared an environmental, ecological and bird reserve under Unesco's protection with many species of birds, insects, reptiles and about 160 species of fish. Bulrushes and reeds are a local resource.

The forests are mainly deciduous. The lime forests unique to this area are used for bee breeding.

Northern Dobrogea (in particular the Baia commune and the Danube plain) was inhabited by the Hamangia culture during the Neolithic period.

Hellenistic colonisation of the western shores of the Black Sea began in the seventh century B.C. and greatly influenced the Geto-Dacian population.

In the first century A.D., the Roman Empire conquered and ruled Dobrogea for seven centuries.

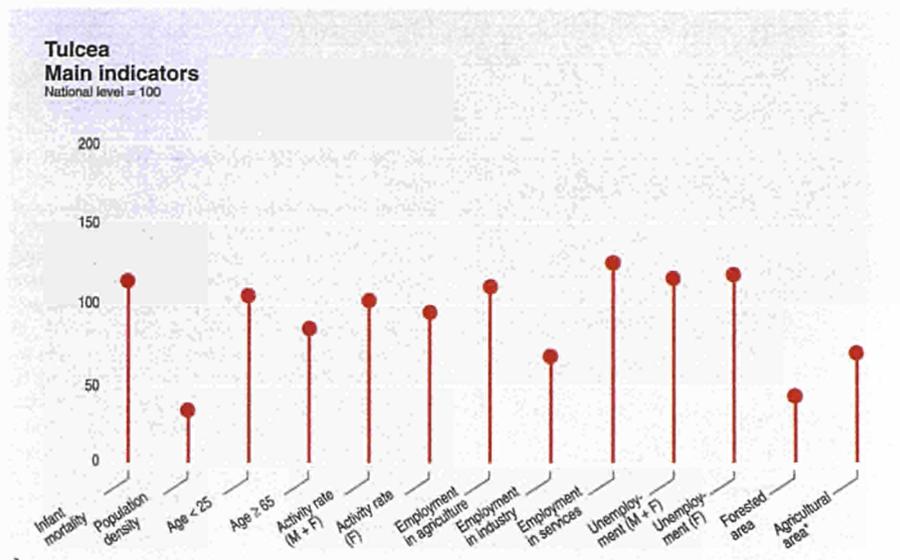
During the 12th and 14th centuries, Genoese merchants, who were interested in the trade on the Danube, built strong fortresses in this area.

In 1485, the territory became part of the Ottoman Empire and was colonised by Turks and Tartars. The town of Babadag became the most powerful Ottoman town in the area. Dobrogea remained under Turkish rule until the end of the war for independence (1877-78) when the north passed to Romania and the south to Bulgaria after the Berlin Congress of 1878.

In 1853, the Danube Commission was established for the development of trade on the Danube. Sulina Harbour became a free port, which opened up the Sulina channel to ships. The free zone was re-established in 1977.



Danube Delta – Matilda Lake.



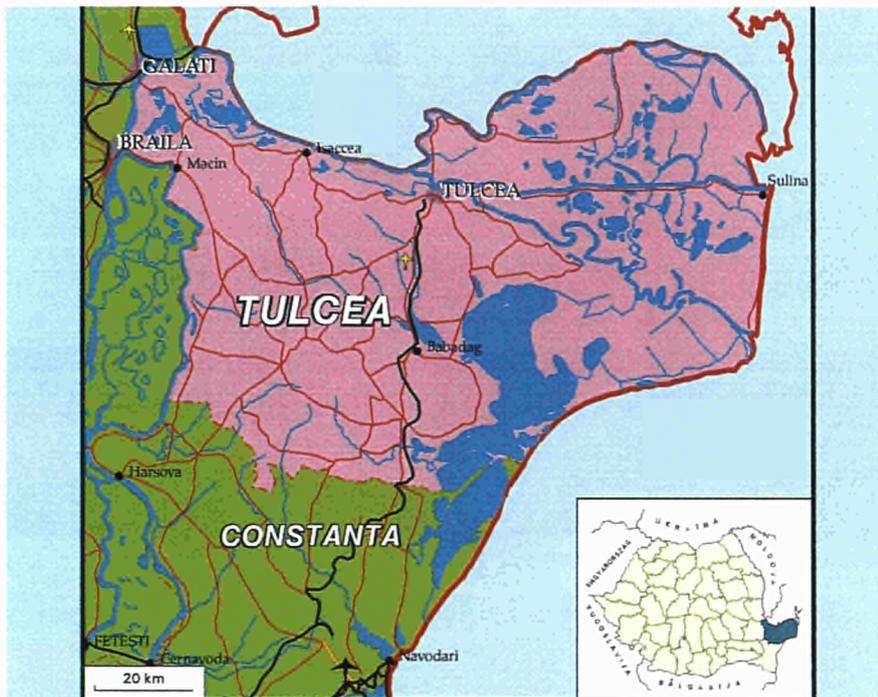
Poor infrastructure and low agricultural yields

In 1995, agricultural land covered only 42.5% of the total county territory, the third smallest proportion among the Romanian counties. This is explained by the fact that water covers 41.6% (353 386 ha) of the county due to the presence of the Danube delta and the Razim, Golovita and Smecia lagoons, the largest proportion by far in Romania. However, in 1995, most (79.8%) of the agricultural land was given over to arable farming; these 288 194 ha accounted for the 13th largest percentage (3.1%) of the national arable land. Under the communist regime, women and the elderly performed the traditional activities of fishing, animal breeding and the cultivation and harvest of cereal crops, vegetables and vines.

The small areas of agriculture in this wetland prevent efficient agricultural mechanisation.

Furthermore, a lack of tractors and agricultural machinery, poor fertilisers and drought for several years have reduced harvests. In 1995, Tulcea county contributed less than 1% to Romania's agricultural output, the lowest overall agricultural production. The county recorded the lowest average yields (kg/ha) of wheat and rye, maize and sunflower crops and the second and third lowest average yields of barley and sugar beet respectively.

From 1990 to the beginning of 1995, the number of cattle, sheep and pigs all roughly halved. In 1995, the county had the second smallest number of cattle and produced the least meat and cow and buffalo milk. However, in the same year, it produced the fifth largest quantity of wool (3.5% of the national total) and was 16th for sheep milk production.



Falling employment in traditional industries

On 1 January 1980, calculations indicated that 260 440 people were living in Tulcea County, which rose to 270 886 by 1 July 1990. By mid-1995, the figure was calculated at 267 671, representing 1.2% of the national population. The population density was 31.5 inhabitants per km², the lowest in Romania.

In 1990, there were 14.3 births and 11.1 deaths per 1 000 inhabitants, thus the rate of natural increase was 3.2 people per 1 000 inhabitants. In 1995, there were 9.9 births but 11.5 deaths per 1 000 inhabitants and hence the rate of natural increase was -1.6 people per 1 000 inhabitants. Over the same period, internal migration was relatively low but greater from rural areas.

The 1992 census declared that ethnic Romanians accounted for 88.7% of the population, Russian Lipovenians 7.5%, Ukrainians 1.4%, Turks and Tartars 1.3% and Gypsies 0.5%. In all 91.1% of people belonged to the Orthodox Church; 6% were Christians and 1.3% were Moslems. In 1995, one-third of the population lived in Tulcea Municipality. Overall, 49.1% of the community lived in urban areas. Those under 25 accounted for 38.7% of the population, of which 51.0% lived in towns. Those aged 25 to 64 represented 51.3% of the population, of which 51.2% were in urban areas and those aged 65 or older accounted for 10.0% of the county's population, of which only 30.2% resided in the towns.

The 1995 activity rate was 60.2%. In total 112 100 people were employed, 40.0% in services, 37.7% in agriculture and 22.3% in industry. The unemployment rate fell to 11.0% (13.4% for women) in 1995. Prior to 1995, unemployment was high due to reduced activity in some industries such as the sugar industry, fishing, steel, shipbuilding and construction.

Which regions are similar to Tulcea?

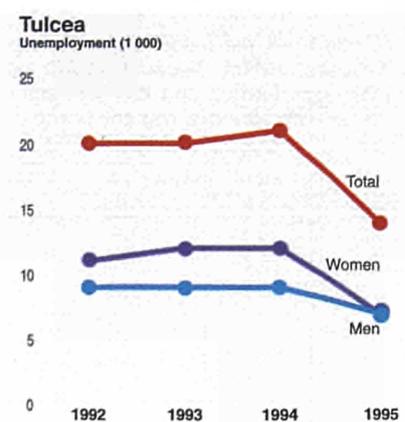
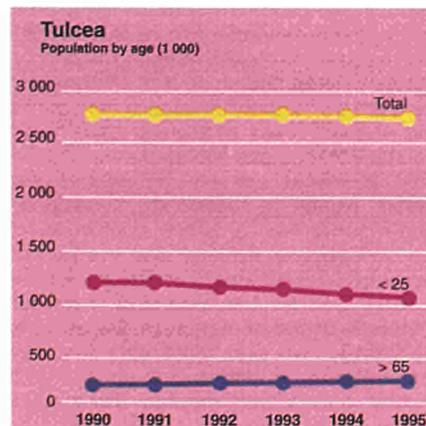
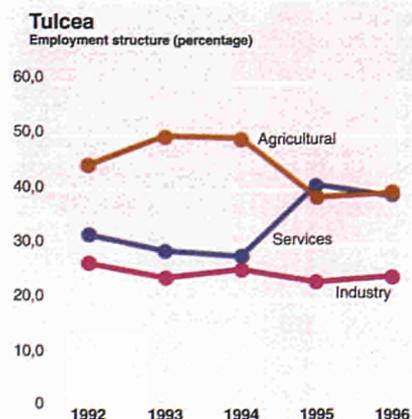
Population:
267-268 000 inhabitants
Frevoland (NL)
Klagenfurt-Villach (A)
Brugge (B)

Area:
8 500 km²
Baixo Alentejo (P)
Örebro län (S)

Land use:
43% agriculture
Zeeland (NL)
Lisboa e Vale do Tejo (P)
Sydsverige (S)

Between 1970 and 1980 there was intensive industrialisation, particularly in Tulcea, and the economy was dominated by steel, shipbuilding and sea fishing. In 1995, the county was the only producer of ferrous alloys and achieved the second greatest production of alumina and men's shirts. There were 241 industrial units (most in manufacturing) including five public sector services, 28 companies and 208 private enterprises.

The Danube is navigable from Sulina on the coast to Galați and Brăila, allowing ships to carry supplies for the steel and fishing industries. This was once the cheapest means of transport until inflation made it more expensive than rail and road. However, in 1995, there were only 14.0 km of road and 0.8 km of railway track per 100 km², the lowest network densities by far in Romania.



SOUTHERN REGION

From Romania's highest peaks to the Walachian Plain

The Southern Region resembles a large amphitheatre, where the Carpathian Mountains are to the north and the Walachian Plain lies to the south, stretching to the River Danube and the Bulgarian border. The mountains in this region have the highest peaks in Romania, especially in the Făgăraş Range, which includes Moldoveanu Mountain (2 544 m) and Negoiu Mountain (2 535 m), while in the Bucegi Mountains there is Omu Peak (2 505 m). The range to the east comprises the Penteleu, Podu Calului, Siriu, Monteoru and Ivăneţu mountains and includes alpine and hill formations with altitudes from 960 to 1 783 m. The plains of Câmpia Bărăganului and Câmpia Siretului in the south form a considerable part of the agricultural land. The waters of the Siret, Buzău, Prahova, Ialomiţa, Argeş, Dâmboviţa and Danube rivers irrigate the rich soil to provide successful farming while the terrain of the northern hills has supported wine production for centuries. In addition to the irrigation network provided by the rivers, the mountains and alpine areas have numerous natural glacial lakes and dams. The land is also suited to forestry, as shown by the fact that the percentage of land coverage by forests in this region exceeds the national average. The climate in the region is influenced from the east, south and north, giving rise to long hot summers and continental-type cold winters. Vegetation and fauna reflect the climate and vary from area to area.

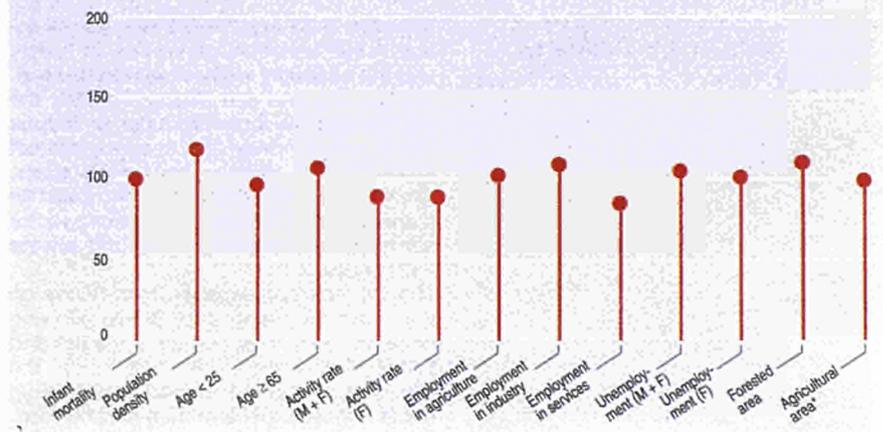
The region was home to the Geto-Dacian culture, but underwent periods of conquest by the Romans, the Turks and migrating tribes. The area saw strong development through one of the region's leaders, Mircea Cel Bătrân, who established the town of Târgovişte as his royal residence. During the Middle Ages the feudal state of 'Ţara Românească' (which became known as Walachia) was formed and its north-eastern border with Moldova was the scene of pitched battles during both World Wars.



Haymaking in Dâmboviţa County.

South Region Main indicators

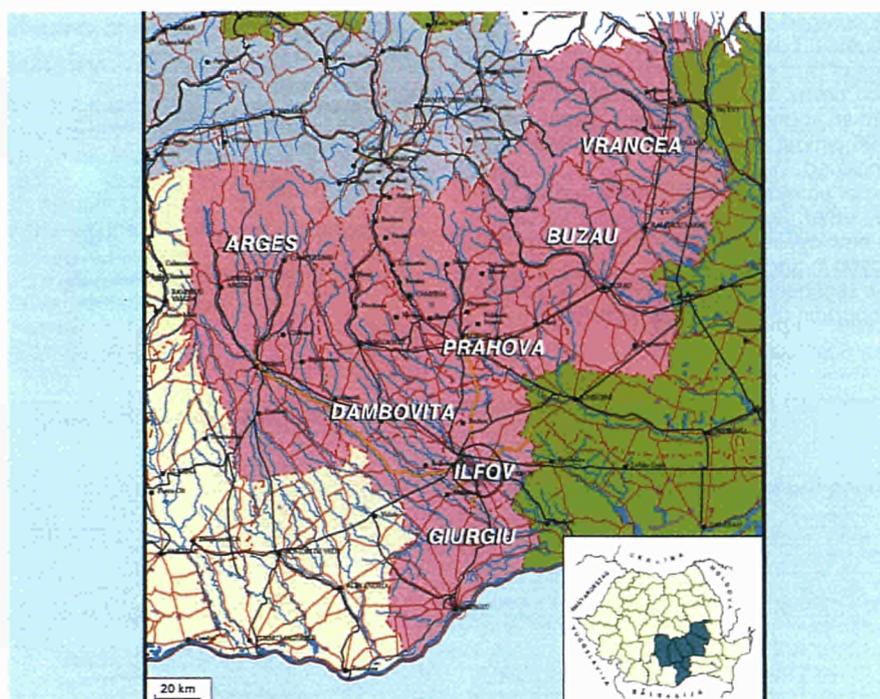
National level = 100



Sands, salt and a wealth of hydrocarbons

Deposits of crude oil, natural gas, coal and salt are characteristic of this region. The crude oil of Ploieşti in Prahova County has been extracted since last century and there are also important sites in the central and western areas at Moreni, Gura Şuţii, Ocniţa, Şotânga and Monteoru. Coal is mined virtually throughout the region, except in the south. Limestone, diorite sands and gritstone contribute to the construction industry and the quartz sands of Crivineni are used for glass production. Salt for the food and chemical sectors is mined in numerous places with the best-known and most abundant reserves located in Slănic. Salt springs and mineral waters with reputed therapeutic

qualities are located at Pucioasa, Nehoiu, Monteoru, Valea Cerbului and Valea Poieniţei. Forestry, spread over one-third of the Southern Region, supplies the lumber and timber trades and contributes to ecological stability.



Which regions are similar to Southern Region?

Population:
3.6 millions inhabitants
Darmstadt (D)
Milano (I)

Population density:
114 inhabitants per km²
Parma (I)
Wesermarsch (D)

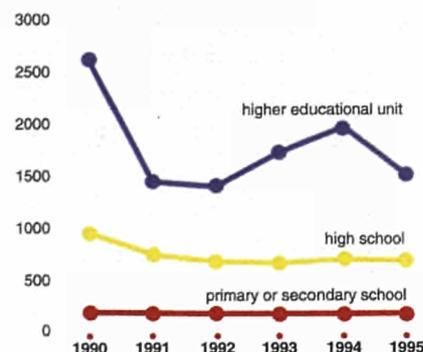
Land use:
31% forest
Umbria (I)
Bourgogne (F)
Zala (HU)

The number of students and colleges doubled over five years

The social and economic changes in the region, especially in the industrialisation of this zone, prompted diversification within the education system to meet the modernisation of the economy. In line with the rest of Romania, the number of educational establishments rose from 4 466 in 1990 to 4 977 in 1995, despite a dip in the number of enrolled pupils and students between 1990 and 1993 in this region. In 1995, 386 103 pupils enrolled in primary and secondary schools representing 15.2% of the total in the country and 114 528 pupils (14.5% of the Romanian total) enrolled in high schools.

There were 5 222 students enrolled at four higher education establishments in 1990 which doubled to 11 868 students at eight state universities or new private colleges in Târgoviște, Pitești, Buzău and Ploiești in 1995. However, partly due to the proximity of the many colleges in Bucharest, in 1995 only 3.5% of the country's students attended colleges in the Southern Region.

South region:
Pupils per educational establishment



District Region	Area km ²	Population			Activity (%)	Unemploy- ment (%)	Employment		
		1 000	Inhabitants/km ²	Change (%)			(%) Agriculture	(%) Industry	(%) Services
Country	1995	1995	1995	1990-95	1995	1995	1995	1995	1995
1. SOUTH	31 675	3 595	114	-0.8	53.2	9.9	35.8	37.0	27.2
Argeș	6 826	679	99	-0.2	60.2	7.3	29.8	42.8	27.4
Buzău	6 103	513	84	-1.6	54.6	13.4	46.7	28.1	25.3
Dâmbovița	4 054	557	137	-1.7	57.2	10.1	39.1	37.9	23.0
Giurgiu	3 526	303	86	-3.8	46.7	9.8	58.7	16.8	24.6
Ilfov	1 593	279	175	4.3	52.1*	5.7*	44.7*	32.5*	22.8*
Prahova	4 716	872	185	-1.0	59.6	9.0	22.3	45.5	32.2
Vrancea	4 857	393	81	-0.2	62.9	8.3	45.3	29.3	25.4

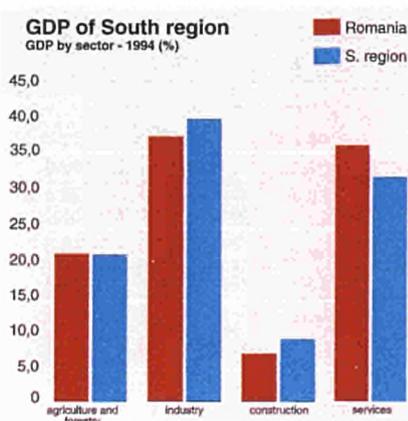
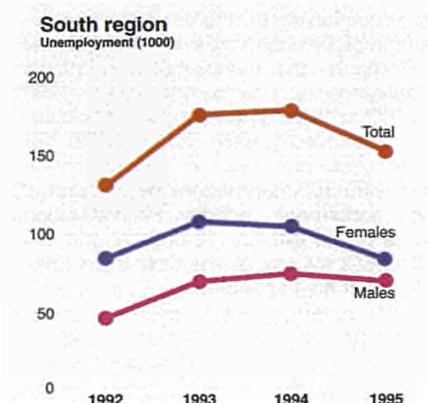
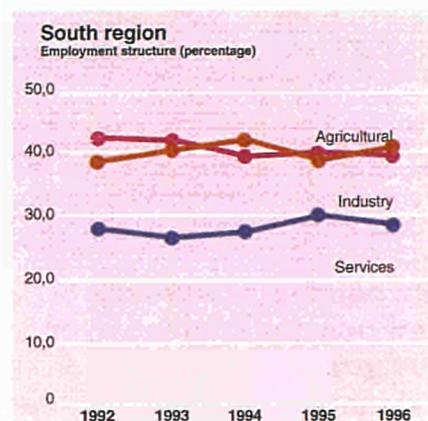
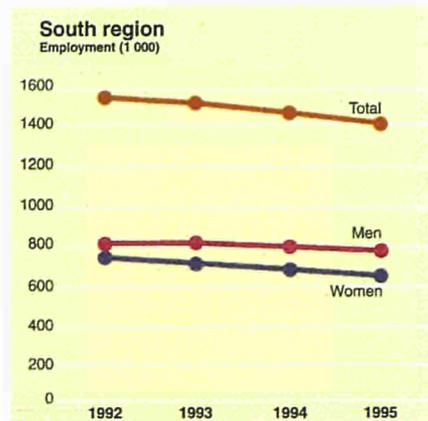
Low unemployment, strong industrial base

In the first quarter of 1996, the total unemployment rate in the Southern Region was 8.7% while the country average was 9.5%. However, while the male unemployment rate was 8.2%, the female unemployment rate was 9.4% but this was still lower than the national female unemployment rate of 11.4%. Males accounted for 55.3% of the employed, outnumbering female employees in industry, construction and services. In 1996, the industry and construction sector employed the largest percentage (36.7%) of the workforce. The rich deposits of minerals and commodities in the region

encouraged the development of a strong industrial base, comparable to the industries of Bucharest and the Central Region. Rich plains and alpine pastures, together with an abundance of forests meant that in 1996 almost one third of all workers were employed in agriculture. The agricultural sector employed more elderly people than any other sector in this region; 66.8% of all employees aged 50 or more were employed in agriculture. The services sector employed the smallest proportion (30.9%) of the workforce.

Employment by sector, gender and age group in the first quarter 1996

	Total number of employed people	Of which in:			
		Agriculture and forestry	Industry	Construction	Services
Total employment	1 554 077	503 265	519 288	51 186	480 338
a. Males, total	858 956	229 529	315 771	45 904	267 752
- 15 - 24 years	122 901	19 765	37 242	5 899	59 995
- 25 - 34 years	205 984	29 966	94 722	12 028	69 268
- 35 - 49 years	293 647	42 759	142 204	18 391	90 293
- 50 - 64 years	117 539	83 177	40 449	9 586	44 327
- 65 years and over	58 885	53 862	1 154		3 869
b. Females, total	695 121	273 736	203 517	5 282	212 586
- 15 - 24 years	75 298	31 095	16 265		27 938
- 25 - 34 years	168 378	32 771	69 158	2 150	64 299
- 35 - 49 years	257 296	59 238	104 139	3 132	90 787
- 50 - 64 years	139 245	97 216	12 865		29 164
- 65 years and over	54 904	53 416	1 090		398



Economy driven by petroleum industry

The region saw strong development during the twentieth century and was favoured by its position at the crossroads of several main European routes. Agriculture, crude oil and coal mining are the traditional activities that have been developed in the region, particularly since the 1920s and 1930s. Industry has mainly developed during the last few decades. On 31 August 1996, there were 328 industrial enterprises with more than 200 employees in this area. A number of tourist resorts, particularly along the Prahova Valley, exploit the region's outstanding natural beauty. The

services sector is relatively new in Romania, strongly establishing itself in the last decade.

The Southern Region contributed the largest proportion (16.8%) of the Romanian GDP in 1994 and was recorded as having the third highest GDP per inhabitant, primarily due to the strong industrial sector. The development of agriculture and industry has boosted the services sector, with GDP in the services sector recorded at 31.3% of the region's total GDP for 1994.

Above-average population density

The Southern Region has seen intense human activity in culture, civilisation and war since ancient times due to its geographical position and good conditions for human habitation. On 1 July 1995, 15.9% of the Romanian population was resident in this area. The population density was 113.5 inhabitants per km², which is above the national average. The majority (20.7%) of the regional population was aged between 25 and 39 years,

19.8% were under 15 years of age and those over 65 accounted for 12.9% of the total. Over 60% of people lived in rural areas.

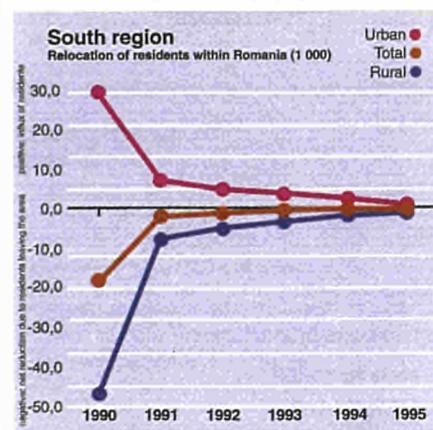
In the same year, the birth rate was 10.4 births per 1 000 inhabitants, which was in line with the national average but the mortality rate was slightly (0.4%) above the average for the country as a whole.

The general downward trend in the size of the national population was also apparent in the Southern Region with a decrease of 11 100 people between 1994 and 1995, which includes a natural net decrease of

7 200 people. However, the rate of migration from the villages to the urban centres fell from -47.0 per 1 000 persons in 1990 to -1.4 in 1995.

Population by age — 1995

	M+F 1 000	M+F %	M %	F %
<15 years	713	19.8	20.6	19.1
15-24	588	16.3	17.0	15.7
25-39	745	20.7	21.6	19.9
40-54	646	18.0	18.2	17.8
55-64	439	12.2	11.7	12.7
≥65	464	12.9	10.9	14.8
Total	3 595	100.0	100.0	100.0



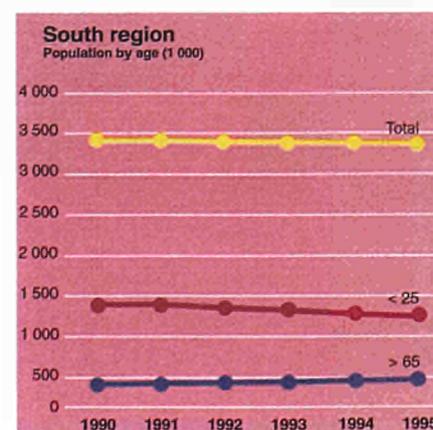
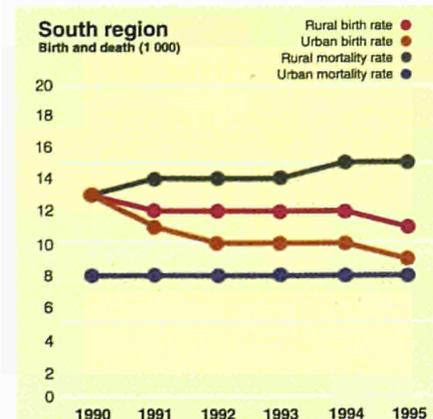
Improvements in public utilities and services

The communal administrations have improved town facilities in recent years. In 1995, compared to the whole country, this region had the third highest percentage (24.1%) of localities with a drinking water supply and ranked fifth for the number of localities (4.3%) connected to the public sewerage network.

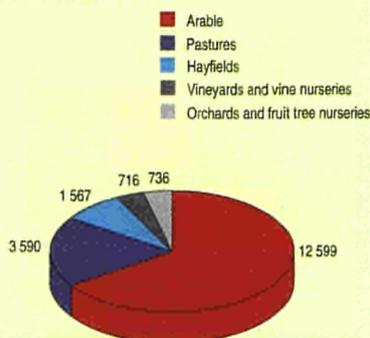
There were 2 247 km of gas distribution pipeline in 1994, accounting for 16.4% of the total length of gas pipelines in Romania. The amount of gas distributed for domestic use was 607 365 m³.

1995 saw the completion of 6 429 homes, of which 5 409 were built from private funds.

Within the region there were 61 hospitals accounting for 14.8% of the national total, while the number of hospital beds was 12% of the Romanian total. Three public hospitals closed during the 1994-95 period.



South region
Agricultural area (km²)



The most industrialised region

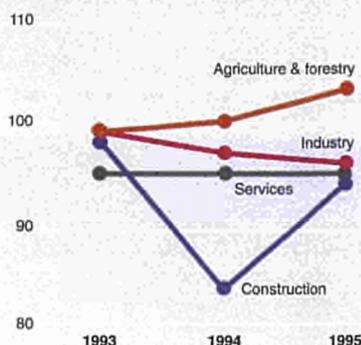
Conditions in the plains favour the cultivation of cereals, sunflowers, sugar beet and potatoes. In 1995, this region produced the largest quantities of barley, maize, wheat and rye in the country. Vegetables are farmed extensively on the river flats, while fruit trees are grown on the slopes and on the poorer soils. Vineyards in the north of the region at Dealu Mare, Pietroasele, Panciu, Odobesti and Cotești produce wine that is exported all over the world. Forestry has also been long established in the northern uplands.

Industry in the region includes the mining and processing of coal, oil, natural gas and clay. The oil processing industry in the Ploiești region is home to the largest refineries in Romania. Also, there are important hydroelectric power stations in the Argeș region. Most railway equipment and welding tools are produced in Buzău and Dacia and ARO cars are manufactured at Colibași and Câmpulung. Shipbuilding is centred around the Danube River to the south. Small and medium-sized enterprises also contribute significantly to manufacturing in this region, notably for handicrafts and carpets.

Number of industrial enterprises by branches on August 31st, 1996

	Total number of enterprises	of which:		
		0 - 19 employees	20 - 199 employees	200 employees and over
Total industry	4 012	3 297	387	328
- mining and quarrying	47	14	6	27
- manufacturing	3 929	3 279	371	279
- energy	36	4	10	22

South region
Wages by sector (national level = 100)



The largest increases in agricultural wages

In 1995, the average monthly gross salary in the Southern Region was at 97% of the national level. The highest wages were paid to those working in industry, closely followed by those in construction. Industry also saw the second largest increase in average wages between 1993 and 1995, achieving an increase of 260%, similar to other regions in Romania. However, unlike most other regions, the average agricultural wage increased the most with an increase of 270%. Labour costs were close (93.6%) to the national figure.

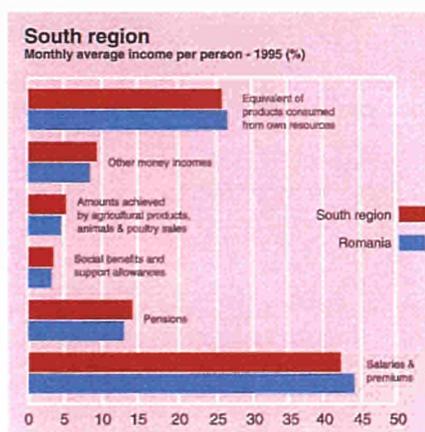
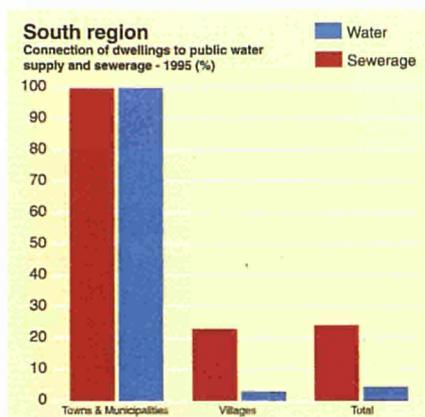
Most of the active population was employed and salaries and premiums were the main source of income, contributing 42.3% of the monthly average income per person compared to 43.0% nationally in 1995. On average, the equivalent of 26.2% of income was produced and consumed from own

resources, as against 27.6% nationally. The Southern Region had a high proportion (9.2%) of income from sources other than salaries and wages, second only to Bucharest (14%).

Region received one-fifth of environmental protection budget

Woodland and forests covered 987 927 ha, or 31.2%, of the region in 1995. This land provides a significant amount of revenue for the region, as does the industry in this area and both have to co-exist. This is just one of the reasons why the forests are monitored carefully for evidence of pollution. Along with water sampling, surveys of forest land have given basic indications of environmental quality. In 1994, 46 983 ha (or 4.8%) of land covered by forests were affected by drought to varying degrees. Another 40 194 ha (or 4.1%) of forests were affected by other factors. Pollution such as dusts from cement and lime works, nitrogen compounds and particularly sulphur compounds affected 6 789 hectares (0.7%) of woods and forests.

Recognition of the situation prompted the authorities to spend 21.7% of the national budget allocated for environmental protection in the Southern Region in 1994. Industry and new enterprises are also encouraged to be environmentally friendly.



Media dominated by nearby Bucharest

In 1995, there were 1 566 km of railway lines in the Southern Region, amounting to 13.8% of the total length of railway track in Romania. In the same year 624 km (or 39.8%) of the region's total railway network consisted of electrified lines. This also formed the majority of the country's electrified railway network.

The road network for goods and passengers consisted of 12 150 km of public roads, which was 16.7% of the national total and was the highest density in the country with 38 km of public roads per 100 km².

Otopeni lies to the south of the region, where Otopeni International Airport is located, the main gateway for entering and leaving Romania.

As most of the mass-communication services are supplied from Bucharest, the region has very few radio and television stations. Only six public radio stations (the smallest number compared to other regions) and seven private stations were operating in the zone in 1994. There were three public television companies and two private television companies.



Valea Berii in the Ciucas Mountains

ARGEŞ COUNTY

Romania's hilly orchard

Located in the central-southern part of Romania, the county of Argeş has an area of 6 826 km², representing 2.9% of the country's territory.

The relief form of Argeş resembles that of a large natural amphitheatre. To the north are the Făgăraş Mountains, which contain the highest peaks in the Romanian Carpathians; Moldoveanu (2 544 m) and Negoil (2 535 m). The Getic sub-Carpathians and plateaux rise to the east and run slightly southward with the Piteşti Plain nestling against the foothills.

The Argeş River runs through the centre of the county and the principal town, Piteşti Municipality. Other rivers include the Dâmboviţa in the north-east, two tributaries of the Olt in the north-west and in the south, the Cotmeana, Teleorman and Neajlov.

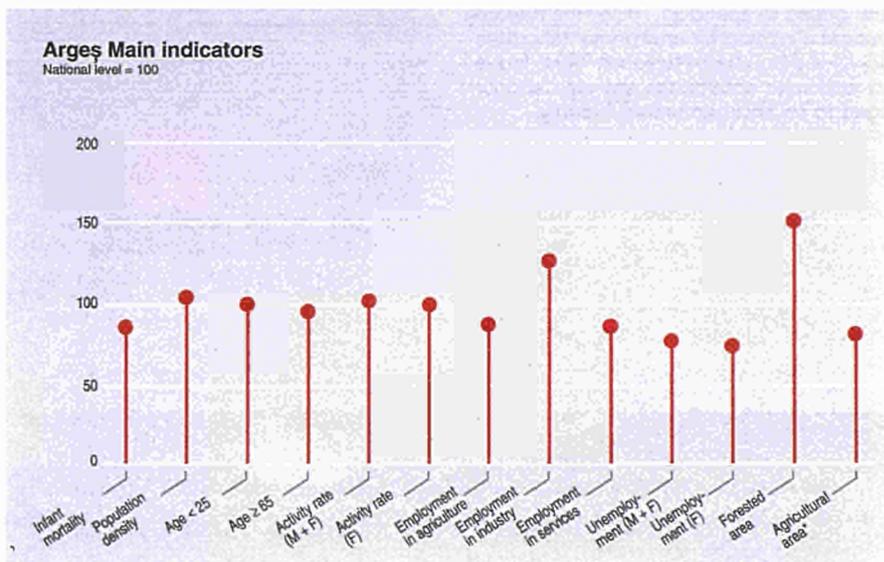
In total 50.5% of the county is under mixed agriculture, while forests and other vegetation cover the remaining 42.5%. Argeş has fine alpine pastures suited to animal rearing, especially for sheep and cattle, together with assorted deciduous and coniferous trees in the forests which occupy the slopes. These sub-Carpathian hills provide excellent conditions for orcharding and Argeş is the country's leading producer of a wide range of fruit, especially plums, apples and pears. Arable land, rich pastures and meadows are to be found in the lower plains with soils favourable to many kinds of cereals.

A variety of important mineral resources, such as lignite, crude oil, natural gas, limestone, building stones, sands, mineral salts and thermal waters are found locally.

For the first part of this century, Argeş retained the distinct rural character that had dominated the region through the centuries and kept many of the old feudal and traditional ways. Industrialisation was slow in developing throughout Argeş, even though there always had been some main urban centres. Curtea de Argeş, Câmpulung and Piteşti have long histories stretching back to the formation of the feudal province 'Ţara Românească'. After 1948, however, industrialisation progressed rapidly.



Local production of DACIA and ARO cars.



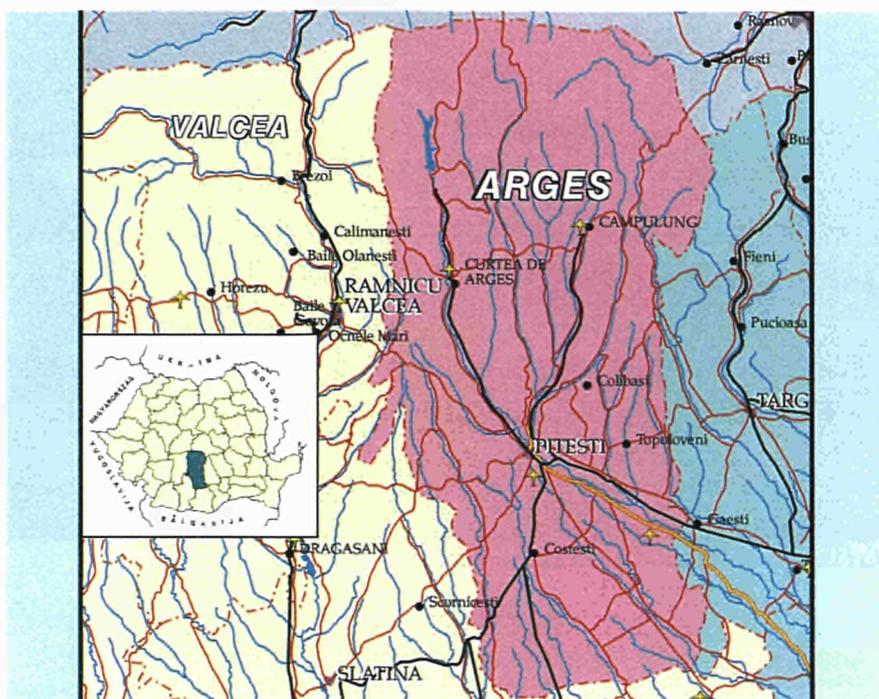
Roads boost industrial growth

Argeş county has become one of Romania's major industrial centres, producing 5.1% of the national output in 1995. It incorporates a wide and varied manufacturing base in such fields as electronics, electric machinery and apparatus, cars, specialist tools, electric and thermal energy, crude oil and gas processing. Other major products include cars, petrochemical goods, timber and cement, all of which command a significant portion of the country's export market.

As of 1995 there were eight research centres located in the county, some covering scientific development and design activity. They include the Nuclear Research Institute, the Car Designing and Research Insti-

tute and several research institutes for agriculture.

The agriculture sector in Argeş is also important as it makes a large contribution to the overall needs of the country. In 1995, it had the fifth highest average yield of wheat and rye. It produces high quality products including cereals, oils, and various root crops as well as maintaining orchards known for the quality of their fruit. Animal breeding, although suffering some decreases in livestock numbers after 1990, has continued to profit from the favourable natural conditions. In 1995, Argeş had the fifth largest number of cattle, 3.5% of the national herd, and it produced the second greatest quantity (4.2%) of Romania's milk. At the end of 1995, agricultural land occupied 3 450.35 km² of Argeş, which is 50.5% of the total area of the county. Forests



Homogeneous population, recently urbanised

The development of the demographic structure in Argeş is closely related to the economic and political progress of the local settlements, villages and communes. The most significant growth period was recorded at the beginning of this century, mainly due to a sharp increase in the birth rate. In 1912, the population stood at 362 509 inhabitants: it increased to 483 741 by 1956 and expanded further to 676 731 in 1989.

In 1930, only 10.2% of county's population was classified as urban, reaching 12.6% in 1948. After this date, due to the expansion of the industrial base, the urban population increased significantly, new towns appeared and a large part of the rural population (mainly the young) migrated towards the towns.

According to the 1995 figures, the county of Argeş had 678 705 inhabitants, of whom 49.0% were males. Some 47.5% of the total population lived in the municipalities and towns. The county was recorded as almost entirely comprising ethnic Romanians (98.9%).

By the end of 1995, 303 800 (to the nearest hundred) people had jobs, of whom 30.0% were employed in agriculture and forestry, and 38.2% in the industrial sector. It should be noted that in recent years significant shifts have taken place within the workforce environment. An increasing number of additional employers have appeared during the transition to a market economy. After 1990, a steady decline in the number of employees in state-run industrial and transport sectors has been balanced by an overall increase in jobs in education, medicine, social work, finance, banking and administration. This was reflected in the figures for 1995, when the unemployment rate was recorded at 7.3%, well below the national average.

Which regions are similar to Argeş?

Area:
6 800 km²

- Rheinland-Pfalz (D)
- Torino (I)
- Cumbria (UK)

Age structure:
11% over 65

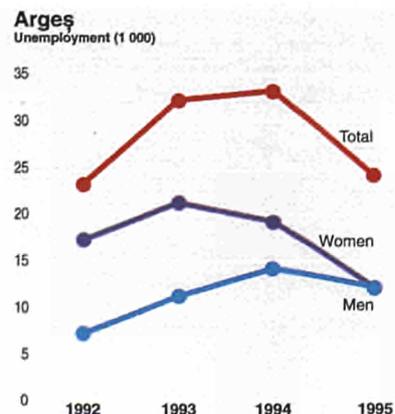
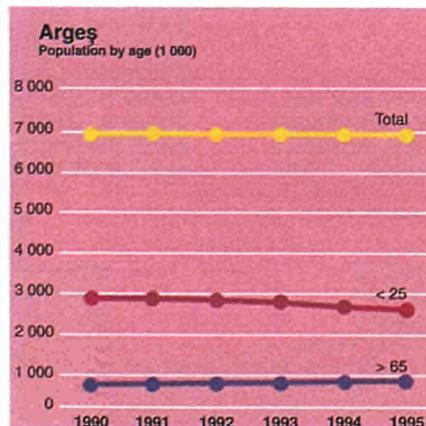
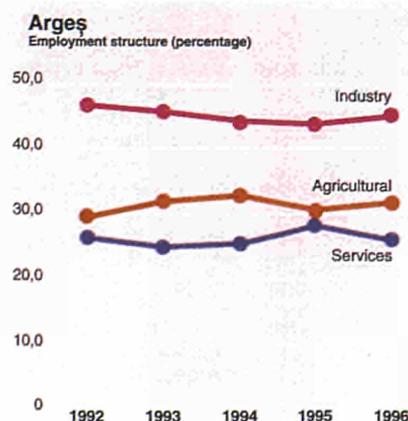
- Uusimaa (FIN)
- Voralberg (A)

Employment structure:
29-30% agriculture

- Ionía Nisia (EL)
- Galicia (E)

occupied 42.5% of the total area, the fourth largest proportion in the country. This is significant because the forests provide employment in the timber and building trades as well as in tourism and furniture production.

Argeş benefits from a good road infrastructure. The Bucharest to Piteşti highway was the first to be built, allowing passenger and freight road traffic easy access from the capital northwards through the mountain passes. The northern part of the county contains many mountain and valley roads connecting Argeş with the neighbouring Sibiu county on the other side of the Carpathians. In 1995, there were 38.9 km of public road per 100 km², the sixth greatest road density among the counties. However, the railway network density ranked the 10th smallest at 3.3 km per 100 km².



BUZĂU COUNTY

Mineral wealth and trading role

The county of Buzău covers 6 103 km² and is situated in southe-astern Romania. The north of the county is part of the Carpathian range, known locally as the Buzău and Vrancea Mountains (the county of Vrancea borders Buzău to the north). These peaks give way to the Sub-Carpathian hills and then to the lowlands of the south. The Buzău River flows through the centre of the county and past the county town, which is also called Buzău. The county encompasses most of Southern Romania's Buzău River Basin.

There is plenty of evidence to support the presence of people in the area from ancient times. Documents from 372 AD mention a fourth century friar named Sava the Goth, who is believed to have drowned in the Mousaios (Buzău) River during his mission there to convert the native population and pagan Goths to Christianity.

The town of Buzău is mentioned in documents dating from 1431 which describe it as a commercial trading and handicraft centre. Its importance as an entrepôt trading centre is demonstrated by the presence of a customs office.

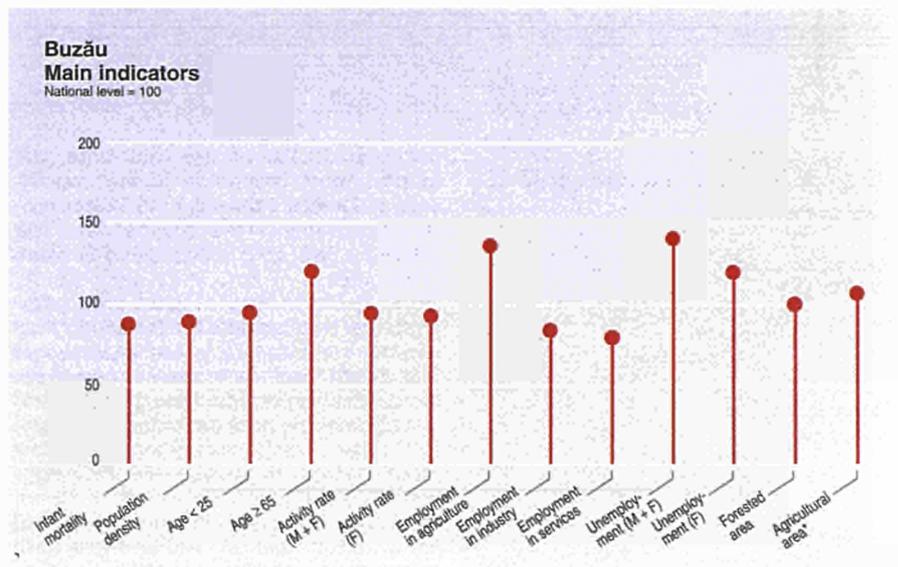
During the 18th and 19th centuries, the extraction of oil and coal began and expanded. Local craft workshops diversified and the first industrial centres for wood, oil, textiles and cereals were established.

Buzău county is notable for its important mineral deposits and natural resources, including crude oil, natural gas, coal, amber, limestone, quartz, diatomite, salt, sandstone, sand and shingle. There are important springs, containing minerals such as sulphur, iron compounds and salt rich in iodine. Due to its mountainous regions and the winds that can sweep over the plains, there is potential for both hydroelectric power and wind-generated energy.

The county also possesses fertile soils and forests. Specific to the county of Buzău is the "gărdurărița" plant which grows in the Oozy volcanic area, the only place in Europe where this plant is located.



Mud vulcano in Pâcelele (Berca depression).



Key industrial goods

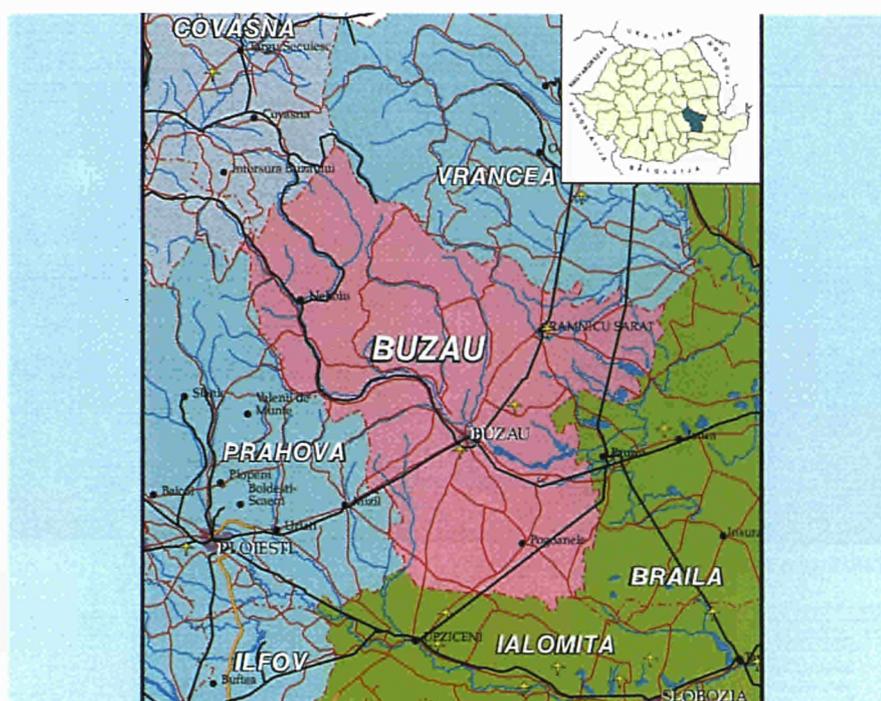
In 1996, the agriculture and forestry sector employed the majority (45.9%) of the workforce. In the same year, the services sector accounted for 26.5% of employees, indicating a small and gradual increase of this sector over five years. Industry (including mining and engineering) employed 27.6% of the workers in the county, showing a continuing, slight decrease in its share of the workforce since 1993.

The industrial activity of the county was carried out by 614 industrial (mostly manufacturing) enterprises; of these, 84% employ fewer than 20 people. Out of the total number of industrial enterprises, 92% were privately owned.

The county of Buzău plays an important role in the Romanian economy, producing much of the nation's railway equipment and

turning out the highest production of welding electrodes and zinc coated wires. The county also produces window glass, technological equipment for chemistry and metallurgy, polyethylene manufactured products, glassware for domestic use, wood products, edible oils and sugar. Local crude oil deposits have given rise to two centres of the petroleum industry; one drills for oil and the other concentrates on processing the oil.

Buzău county benefits from a good communications infrastructure. In the 19th century, the railway linking Moldavia with the capital, Bucharest, passed through Buzău. Additionally, Buzău is linked directly by road and railway with Bucharest, Constanța, Brăila and the port of Galați on the Danube. In 1995, the county had 33.8 km of public roads per 100 km² of territory and 3.8 km of railways per 100 km².



Recent high unemployment

On 1st January 1996, the population of the Buzău county was calculated at 513 010 inhabitants, representing 2.3% of the population of Romania.

The population of this county increased quickly after the 1930s and the population grew by over 8 000 during the 1967-70 period, largely due to a net natural increase (i.e. more births than deaths). After this period, the growth rate slowed because of decreasing birth rates and as a result of inter-county migration.

In 1995, 27.7% of people in the county were over 55, the third largest percentage among the counties, indicating an ageing population. Also, although the urban population has doubled in size since the 1960s, the rural community still accounted for 58.7% of the population in 1995. The 1992 census had shown that 97.8% of the population were ethnic Romanians and 2.2% were Gypsies.

Employment decreased after 1990, partly due to redundancies in the manufacturing sector, the ageing population and the enactment of social-protection legislation for the unemployed. From 1990 to 1995, the number of employed fell from 246.600 to 195.600, although there was an upturn to 205.400 employees in 1996. The pace of development in the private sector proved insufficient for the creation of enough new jobs, although it performed well in trading. Against a background of economic crisis, the unemployment rate reached a peak of 15.2% in 1994.

In 1995, the unemployment rate was 13.4%. There were 30 380 (14 150 females) registered unemployed, a significant decrease from 38 747 in 1994. This can be explained by the adoption of measures to retrain the unemployed for new employment opportunities and the needs of the economy. In the same year the activity rate was 54.6%, close to the national rate of 58.9%.

Which regions are similar to Buzău?

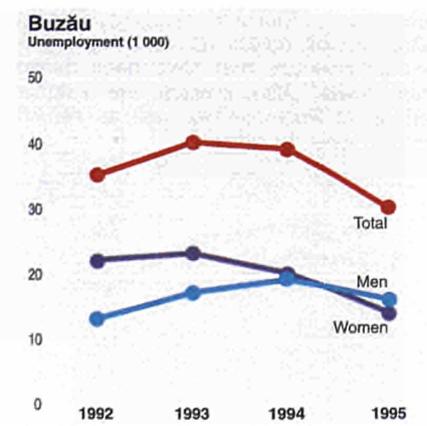
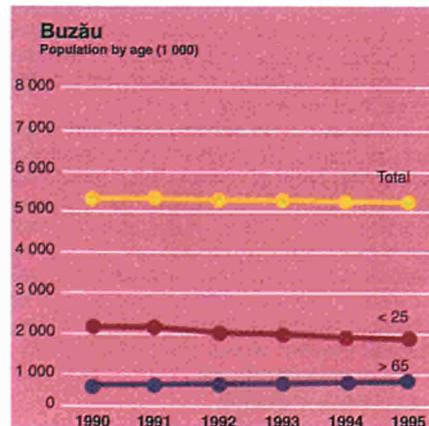
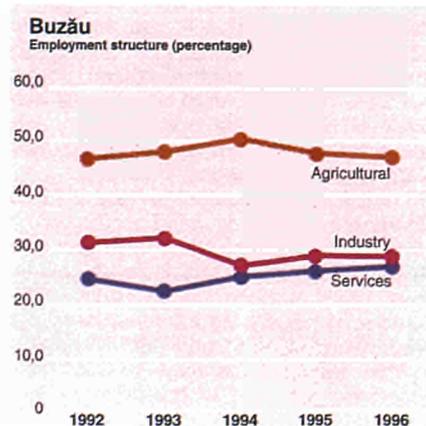
Population density:
84 inhabitants per km²
Regen (D)
Sarthe (F)

Area:
6 100 km²
Orne (F)
Dorset, Somerset (UK)
Nordjyllands amt (DK)

Land use:
66-67% agriculture
Bretagne (F)
West-Vlaanderen (B)

The national averages were 30.6 km of road per 100 km² and 4.8 km of railway track per 100 km² respectively.

Agricultural land in the county occupies 65.9% of its total area or 2.7% of the total agricultural area in Romania. Both the climate and relief conditions of Buzău county are favourable for the production of cereals, sunflower oil and seeds, sugar beet and potatoes, as well as supporting various fruit orchards. The vineyards, in particular those at Dealu Mare and Dealu Călnăului, are well known and they export wine to many countries.



DÂMBOVIȚA COUNTY

Ancient capital of Walachia

Dâmbovița county is situated between the southern slopes of the Carpathians and the plain of Walachia, with Prahova county to the east and Argeș to the west. The relief of the county consists of mountains, hills and plains ranging from Omu Peak (2 505 m) to south Poiana (128.9 m).

The county's 4 054 km² represent 1.7% of Romanian territory, making it the sixth smallest county. The principle town is Târgoviște, which is located in the centre of Dâmbovița.

Archaeological discoveries in the Argeș, Ialomița and Dâmbovița riverbeds, as well as in Târgoviște town itself, confirm an active human presence as early as the Palaeolithic Age.

Târgoviște became the historic capital of the region of Walachia during the feudal period when, between 1386 and 1418, Mircea cel Bătrân established his royal residence there. During the following centuries, Târgoviște continued to be the region's main city, forging a policy of independence under the reigns of Vlad Țepeș ('Vlad the Impaler', otherwise known as Dracula), Radu the Great, Neagoe Basarab, Radu of Afumați, and Petru Cercel.

In 1660, the Royal Court was destroyed by the Ottoman Turks and Bucharest became the new capital of the area in 1698, although Târgoviște continued to be involved in political and economic affairs. Thus Târgoviște and other towns in Dâmbovița witnessed many important events, such as the revolution led by Tudor Vladimirescu in 1821, the revolution of 1848, the historical Union of the three Regions in 1859, the War of Independence in 1877, the Peasants Revolt of 1907 and the two World Wars.

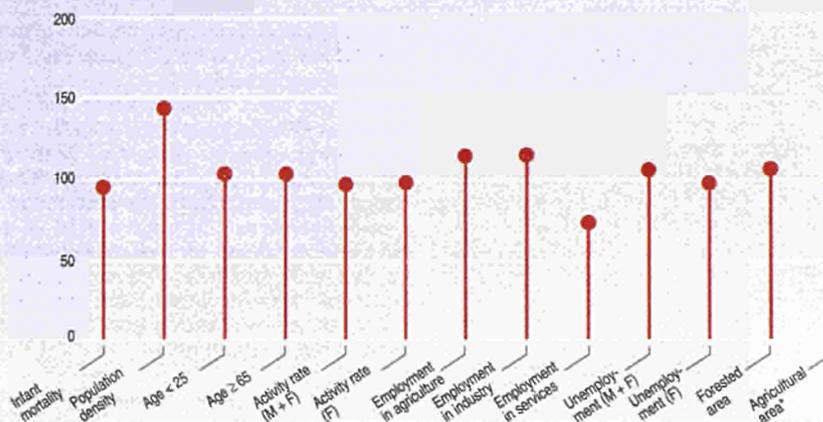
Dâmbovița county has important deposits of various raw materials: stone in the mountains, marls, plaster, salt (extraction dates from 1600) and most importantly, petroleum, oil, natural gas and major lignite coal reserves that have been mined since 1880. Also present are sulphur springs at Pucioasa, as well as natural mineral water for drinking.



Trekking in the Dâmbovicioara gorge.

Dâmbovița Main indicators

National level = 100



Leading agricultural county with a dense road network

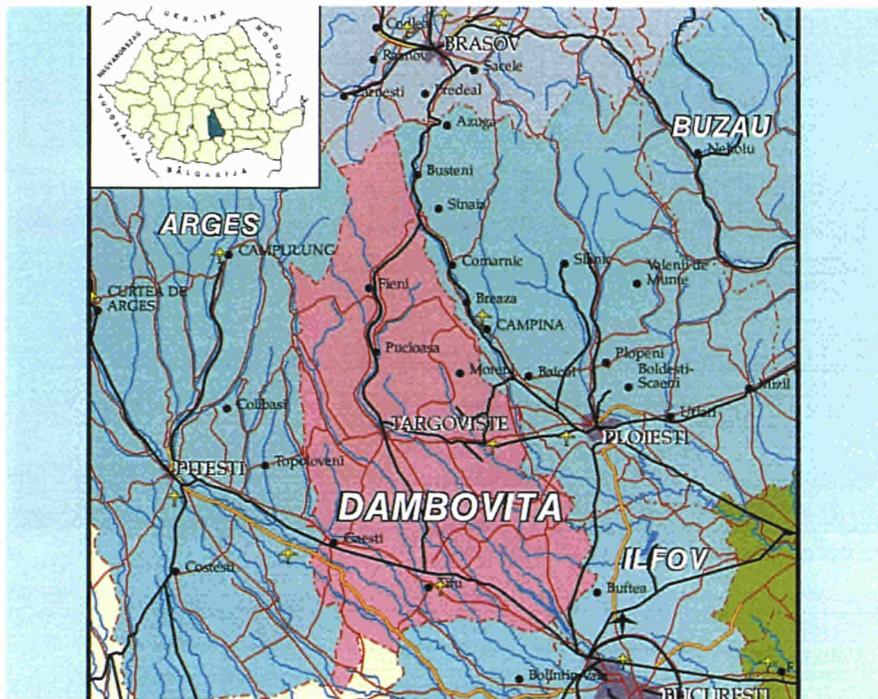
The county is divided between the industrial south, which is dominated by the steel industry, industrial machinery, textiles and the food industry, and the north whose economy is based on cereals and other crops, fruit growing and forestry.

Industrial output is centered on such large manufacturing factories as Combined Works for Special Steel, the Combined Works of Binder and Asbo-Cement and 'Electric Star' Fieni Refrigerators and Freezers Găești.

Sites of petroleum, gas, coal and mineral extraction and exploitation are located in Moreni, Târgoviște, Găești and Titu. The Doicești Electric Works and hydroelectricity plants at Dobrești and Scropoasa power the county's economy.

In 1995, there were 650 industrial enterprises, of which 97.5% were engaged in manufacturing and 86% had fewer than 19 employees. There were ten public-sector services with more than 200 employees but 92% of all industrial enterprises were privately owned. The private sector was active in food, textiles, leather goods, footwear, wood and plastics.

On average, Dâmbovița harvests 2.7% of Romania's total agricultural production. In 1995 its poultry flock was the largest of all Romanian counties and it produced the third largest number of eggs. However, the number of poultry, and consequently egg production, halved in 1993 and still remains at this reduced capacity. Arable crops accounted for 56% of the county's total



A decline in the active population

On 1 July 1995, calculations revealed that there were 557 125 inhabitants in Dâmbovița, which was 2.5% of the national population. Once again, this was a drop from the 1990 population of 566 509 residents. There are six towns and one municipality in this county and the total urban population was 175 541 in 1995. Overall 381 584 people, i.e. 68.5% of the population, lived in rural areas.

In the same year, those under 25 years accounted for 38.0% of the county population, which is slightly above the national figure of 37.6%. This is despite the fact that the birth rate has fallen from 13.9 births per 1 000 inhabitants in 1990 to 10.9 in 1995. The infant mortality rate has also fallen, from 28.1 deaths per 1 000 live births in 1990 to 19.9 in 1995, an average rate in Romania. People over 55 years made up 23.7% of the inhabitants of Dâmbovița, also slightly higher than the national share of 23.4% in 1995.

Significant decreases were noted in the population's participation in the county's economy. Fewer were economically active, mainly due to a rise in the number of elderly. At the same time, there was a reduction in the numbers of students enrolling for school and pre-school classes.

Male unemployment has more than doubled since 1992 whereas female unemployment peaked at 16 261 in 1994 and has since fallen. By the end of 1995, the number of registered unemployed persons stood at 25 335, of which just over half (12 926) were women. The total unemployment rate in 1995 was 10.1%, slightly higher than the national rate of 9.5%. At 11.1%, the rate for women was very slightly lower than the national female unemployment rate of 11.4%.

At the end of 1995, agriculture and forestry accounted for 39.1% of those employed, 37.9% were in industry and 23.0% of the workforce were in the services sector.

Which regions are similar to Dâmbovița?

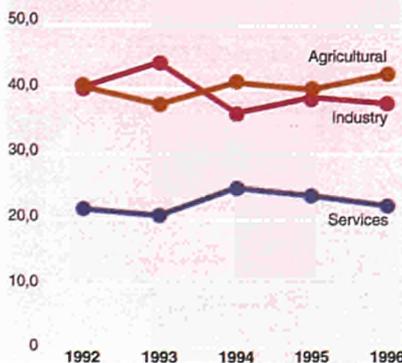
- Area:**
about 4 000 km²
Serres (EL)
Burgenland (A)
Las Palmas (E)
- Age structure:**
38% under 25
Nord-Pas-De-Calais (F)
Murcia (E)
- Employment structure:**
37-38% industry
Pais Vasco (E)
Heves (HU)
Thüringen (D)

harvest. In 1995, it produced the fourth largest sunflower crop and the seventh and eighth biggest barley and maize crops respectively.

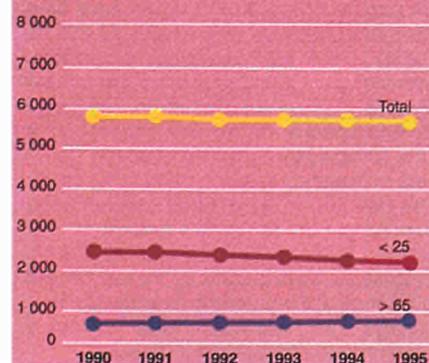
Seven institutes for scientific research and development covered areas such as engineering, technology, agricultural sciences and human and social sciences.

Although Dâmbovița county has the third densest road network in Romania at 42.8 km/100 km², many roads are in poor condition and only 23.4% are classified as modern. The density of the railway network is 4.2 km/100 km², which is below the national average of 4.8 km/100 km².

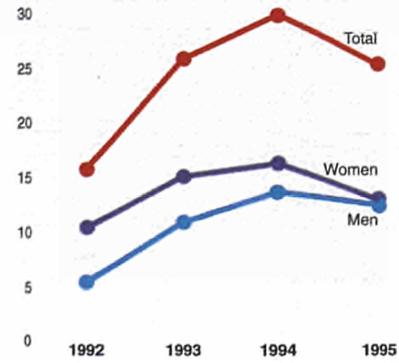
Dâmbovița
Employment structure (percentage)



Dâmbovița
Population by age (1 000)



Dâmbovița
Unemployment (1 000)



GIURGIU COUNTY

A major port on the Danube

Giurgiu county is situated in the southern part of Romania within the larger geographic unit known as the Câmpia Română. Its neighbours are Călărași county to the east, Teleorman county to the west, the capital, Bucharest, and Argeș county to the north-west and Dâmbovița county to the north. As with all of the southern Romanian counties, the River Danube acts as the county boundary and, furthermore, the international border with Bulgaria to the south. With an area of 3 526 km², this is the third smallest county in Romania. There are three towns including one municipality, 46 communes and 166 villages.

The principal town is Giurgiu Municipality. This market town and port was founded by the famed Genoese traders and was a customs point at the crossroads of a number of ancient and important commercial routes. Even today, Giurgiu is one of the major border crossing points over the Danube into Bulgaria for commercial and passenger traffic. For many years in Romania's recent history, Giurgiu Municipality has been the most important Romanian port on the River Danube providing a waterway link to the rest of Europe for the export of grain, timber, cattle, fish, petroleum and oil.

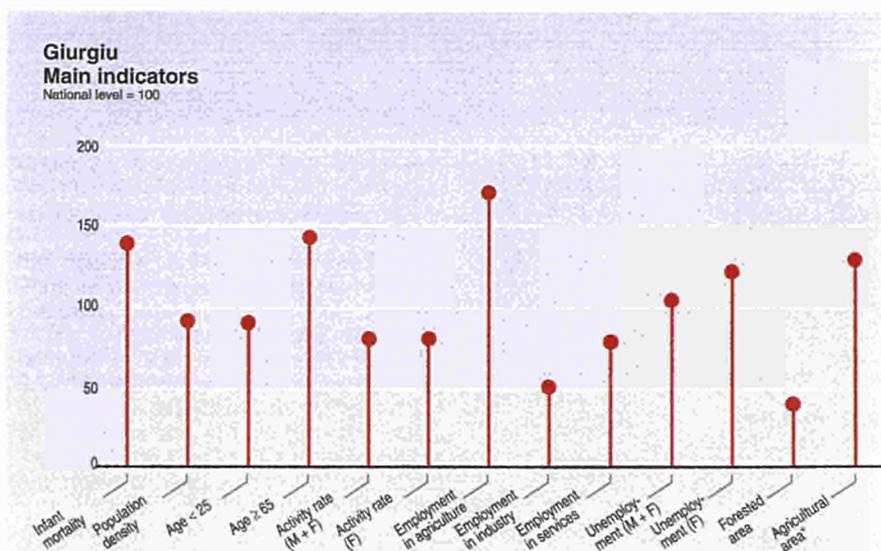
In addition to the rich crude oil deposits found in the northern part of the county, various grades of sand and gravel are extracted from the bed of the Danube and other rivers.

The Argeș River and its tributaries run through the middle of Giurgiu and there are several large lakes near the Danube. Rivers and lakes occupy 14 800 ha or 4.3% of the county, the sixth largest proportion in Romania.

The county is very flat and the land is mostly given over to forestry and agriculture, arable farming in particular.



The historic Neajlov Bridge in Călugăreni.

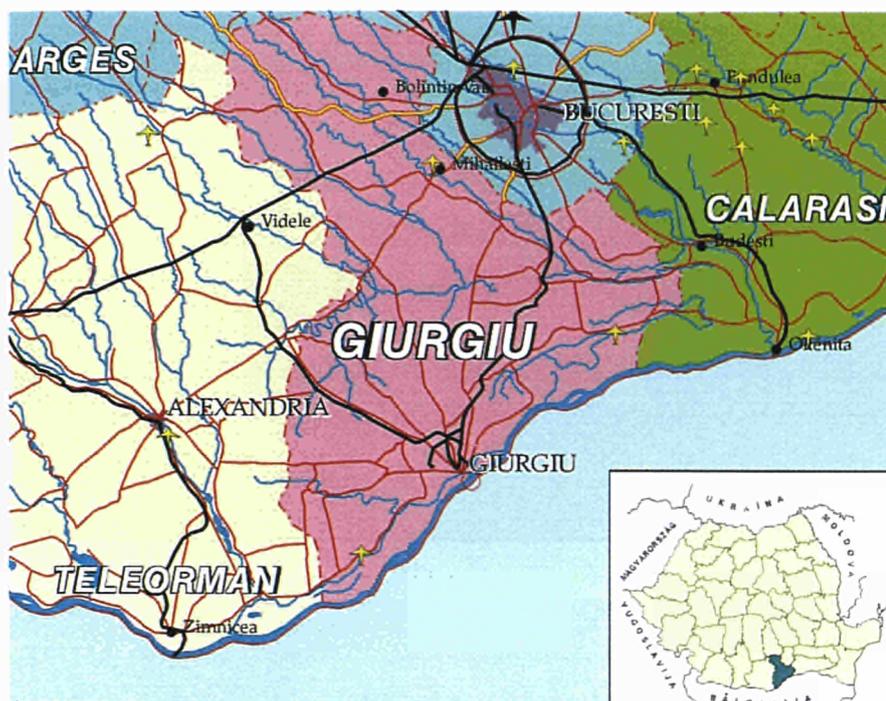


Agriculture is the main industry

Whereas at the end of 1995 farming occupied 277 153 ha of the land in Giurgiu, representing 78.6% of the county and the 10th largest proportion of agricultural land in Romania, forests covered only 37 502 ha (10.6%) – the ninth smallest proportion. Nevertheless, Giurgiu supplied the market with 118 800 m³ of timber in 1995 and acted to ensure the rational management of the forests by replanting over 435 ha. Three of the four research units in the county are devoted to agricultural development, namely the Station for Research and Production of Sugar Beet Culture in Giurgiu Municipality, the Institute for Research and Technological Engineering in Irrigation and Drainage at Băneasa and Vineyard Research and Production in Greaca.

At the end of 1995, there were 19 state-funded agricultural enterprises, 78 private farms averaging 638 ha each, 13 agricultural limited companies, 131 family associations maintaining an average of 118 ha each and about 80 000 individual small farmers. The private sector owned over 77% of the total agricultural area and almost 80% of all the arable land.

In other areas of industry, there were 17 public sector enterprises, 148 companies with public and co-operative capital, 3 280 enterprises with private capital, nine companies with mixed capital and 1 090 entrepreneurs. Private sector investment was prevalent in areas as diverse as brewing, baking and the processing of meat and meat products and the manufacture of furniture, metal structures, textiles, clothing and chemicals. However, it should be noted that with the exception of the food



Largely rural population

On 1 January 1996, it was calculated that there were 301 974 people living in Giurgiu county, of which 49.0% were male. Once again, this is in keeping with the gradual population decline; in 1990 calculations indicated that there were 314 945 residents.

In 1995, there were 85.9 inhabitants per km², about average for Romania. Only 30.6% of the inhabitants were living in urban areas, the largest age group being those aged between 25 and 39. Those over 65 of age accounted for 17.1% of the total population in Giurgiu county, the second largest proportion of elderly people among Romanian counties. In the same year, 82.5% of this age group lived in rural areas. The mortality rate has risen from 14.2 deaths per 1 000 inhabitants in 1990 to 16.7 in 1995.

The birth rate fell from 12.8 births per 1 000 inhabitants in 1990 to 10.8 in 1995. The infant mortality rate has fluctuated over the same period, falling from 31.9 deaths per 1 000 live births in 1990 to 20.2 in 1992 but rising again to 29.1 in 1995. This was the third highest infant mortality rate in Romania for 1995.

In 1995, those under 15 accounted for 18.6% of the population, the fifth smallest proportion of children in Romania.

In 1992, 96.4% of the population declared themselves to be ethnic Romanians, Gypsies accounted for 3.5% of the population and other nationalities made up the remaining 0.1%. Of its inhabitants 98.8% belonged to the Orthodox Church.

In 1995, the activity rate was 46.7%, considerably less than the national rate of 58.9%. The overall unemployment rate was 9.8% but the female unemployment rate was 13.8%. Agriculture and forestry employed 58.7% of the workforce, by far the largest proportion of employees. Industry employed 12.8% of the labour force and 28.5% of workers were in the service sector.

Which regions are similar to Giurgiu?

Population:
about 300 000 inhabitants
Aude (F)
L'Aquila (I)
Zala (HU)

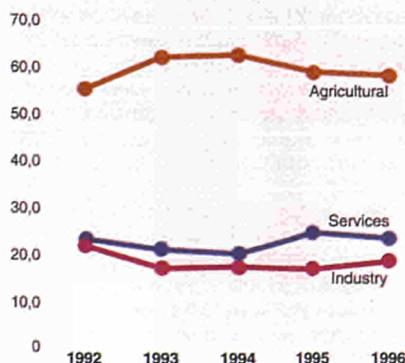
Area:
3 500 km²
Kozani (EL)
Humberside (UK)
Haut-Rhin (F)

Land use:
11% forest
Basse-Normandie (F)
Canarias (E)

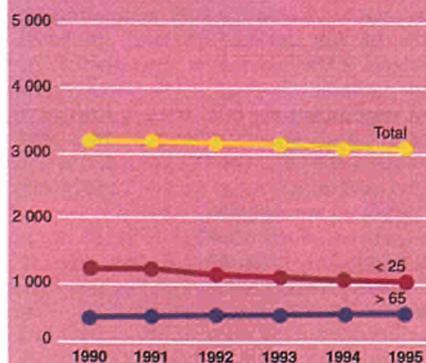
industry, the raw materials for industries established after the second World War mostly have to be imported.

The transport network is relatively small, just 3.2 km of railway track per 100 km² and 29.2 km of public roads per 100 km² but this infrastructure is very favourably located. Due to its geographical position, Giurgiu is at the hub of several roads, rivers and railways. Furthermore, the economy will benefit from the planned modernisation of the Giurgiu customs post and the Giurgiu to Bucharest motorway.

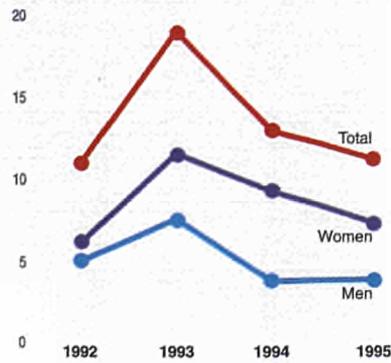
Giurgiu
Employment structure (percentage)



Giurgiu
Population by age (1 000)



Giurgiu
Unemployment (1 000)



ILFOV COUNTY

Surrounds Bucharest Municipality

Ilfov county is located in the centre of the Walachian Plain. The county surrounds the Municipality of Bucharest and is itself surrounded by the neighbouring counties of Prahova to the north, Dâmbovița in the west, Giurgiu to the south-west, Călărași to the south-east and Ialomița in the east. The county area is 1 593 km², which makes it the smallest county in Romania, not including the Municipality of Bucharest. The county has one town, Buftea, 38 communes and 103 villages.

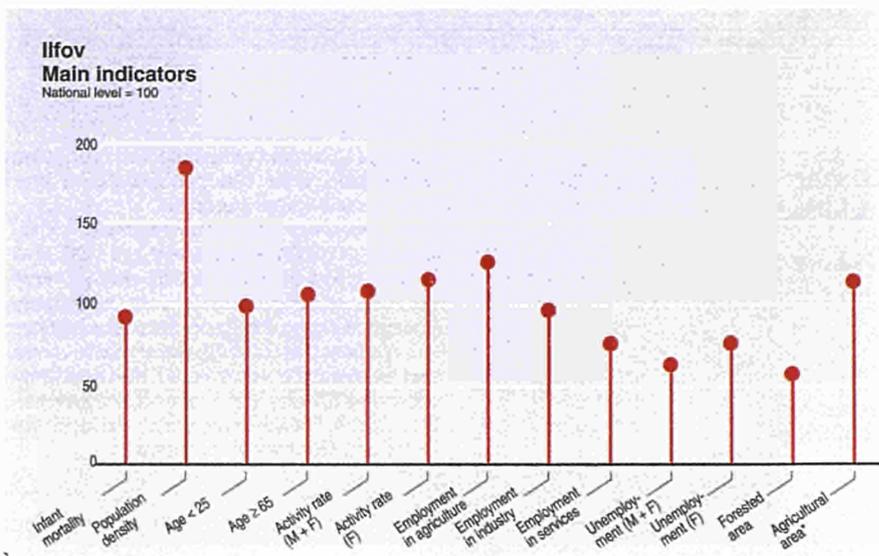
Ilfov and the Municipality of Bucharest became separate administrative units in mid-1996. The proximity of Bucharest affects the range of services in Ilfov. For example, there were 29 higher education institutes in Bucharest Municipality in 1995 and none in Ilfov. Education in this county focused on the 116 pre-school establishments, 125 primary and secondary schools and nine high schools in existence in 1995. In the same year there were just 36 libraries including 15 public libraries in Ilfov.

The topographical relief mostly consists of plains crossed by rivers, which maintain rich and fertile meadows. The area that was previously occupied by the well-known Vlăsia Woods is now the Vlăsia Plain, which is crossed by the Ialomița, Argeș, Sabar and Dâmbovița rivers. The Ialomița is a fast-flowing river, as are the Argeș and the Dâmbovița. These rivers are used both for irrigation and for supplying water to the Bucharest Municipality. The ten main lakes in the county also contribute to the water network but mostly they provide Ilfov and Bucharest with a supply of fish. Water covers 65.02 km² of the territory in Ilfov, 4.08% of its total area, the seventh largest proportion among the Romanian counties.

The main historical and cultural sites are at Buftea, Brănești, Cernica and Mogoșoaia. In particular, there are notable monasteries at Cernica, Pasărea, Țigănești, Mogoșoaia, Snagov, Căldărușani and Buftea.



Market gardening.



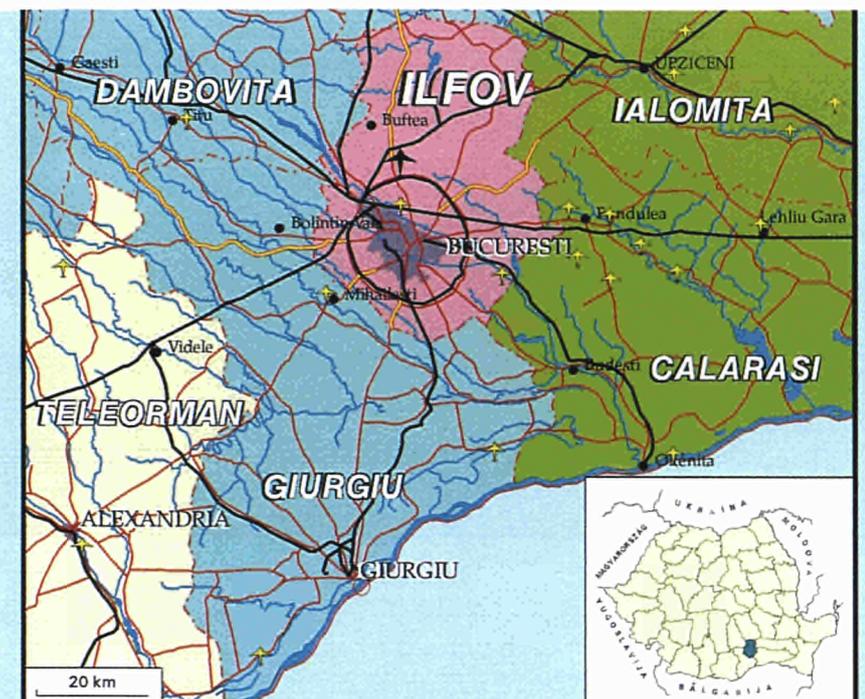
Diverse agriculture and an excellent transport network

Agriculture has considerable potential due to the good soil quality, climate and the skilled labour force. At the end of 1995, agriculture occupied 117 372 ha or 64.45% of the county. Arable farming accounted for 94% of the agricultural land, orchards covered 2.1%, vineyards occupied 1.7% and pastures covered 2.1%. Root crops and vegetables are cultivated in low-lying, well-irrigated areas while fruit trees and vineyards are grown on the slopes. The rest of the land is put out to cereal crops, technical plants and fodder.

Ilfov is the smallest county and yet its farms are particularly productive as they need to provide for the population of Ilfov and help feed the capital, Bucharest. In 1995, Ilfov produced the most eggs (6.0% of the total) from the second largest number of poultry

(4.8%) in Romania and it was 11th for the number of pigs (3.0% of the national herd). In terms of average yields (kg/ha), it had the fifth largest maize yield and the tenth greatest barley yield. The cultivation of root crops and vegetables has developed considerably in order to meet the increasing needs of Bucharest and rising demand from the food canning industry as well as Ilfov's own requirements. The main areas for growing root crops and vegetables are Nuci, Măgurele, Dărăști, Berceni, Vidra, Ciolpani, Gruiu and 1 Decembrie. Apiculture, sericulture (the rearing of silkworms for silk) and fishing are also practised.

The most developed industries are: the food industry, with factories at Buftea, Popești-Leordeni, Glina, Chitila, Chiajna and Bragadiru; metalworking, carried out



New boundaries

On 1 January 1980, Bucharest was still part of Ilfov and the official population of the county was 790 196. After mid-1996, the population was retrospectively recalculated at 267 090 inhabitants for 1 July 1990, which increased by 4.3% to 278 541 residents on 1 July 1995. The population density was 174.9, the third highest after Bucharest and Prahova. The majority of the population is ethnic Romanian and most of the people belong to the Orthodox Church. Other than the retrospectively recalculated population figures and trends, no data exist prior to 1994 for Ilfov. In 1994, the natality rate was 9.5 births per 1 000 inhabitants and 9.4 in 1995, the sixth lowest rate among the Romanian counties. The infant mortality rate in 1994 was 21.8 deaths per 1 000 live births which had fallen to 19.3 in 1995. The overall mortality rate increased from 12.7 deaths per 1 000 inhabitants in 1994 to 13.2 in 1995. Thus the rate of natural increase was -3.2 people per 1 000 inhabitants in 1994 and -3.8 in 1995. In 1995, 53 838 inhabitants were under 15 years of age, accounting for 19.3% of the population. There were 35 114 people over 65 years of age, which represented 12.6% of the community.

There were 6 718 (4 082 of them female) registered unemployed people at the end of 1995 but the number of employees is not recorded for this year. Using data collected during the first quarter of 1996, the overall unemployment rate can be approximated to 5.7% and to 7.4% for the female unemployment rate. With the same method, the preliminary calculation of the activity rate is 52.1%. In 1996, 13.9% of all employees worked in agriculture and forestry, 53% were in industry and 33.1% worked in the services sector.

Which regions are similar to Ilfov?

Area:
about 1 600 km²
Dinant (BE)
Groot-Rijmond (NL)

Land use:
16% forest
Picardie (F)
Molise (I)
Lubelskie (PL)

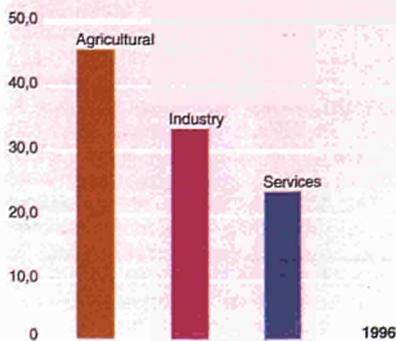
Employment structure:
53% in industry
33.1% in services
Tolna (HU)

at Buftea, Otopeni, Voluntari and Chitila; the production of measuring and testing instruments at Otopeni; and the repair of transport and agricultural equipment at Otopeni and Ștefănești.

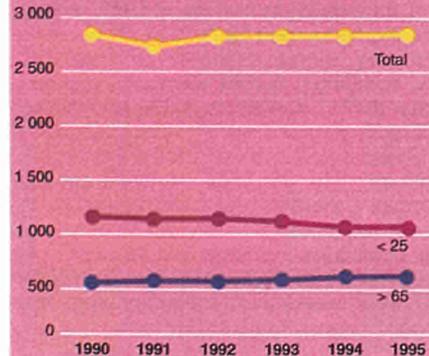
A film studio is located at Buftea and is one of the main studios in the Romanian film industry. Buftea has also developed a handicraft sector producing goods such as footwear, leather goods, textile, knitwear and ready-made clothes.

The road network has been continually upgraded since 1990 to facilitate passenger and goods transport within Ilfov and to the rest of Romania. In 1995, there were 45.7 km of road and 11.5 km of rail track per 100 km², both by far the greatest network density among the Romanian counties. Furthermore, Otopeni International Airport is in Ilfov, the main exit point between Romania and the rest of the world.

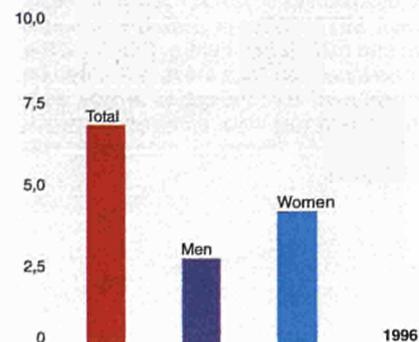
Ilfov
Employment structure (percentage)



Ilfov
Population by age (1 000)



Ilfov
Unemployment (1 000)



PRAHOVA COUNTY

At the crossroads of the historic provinces

Prahova county is located in the centre of the Southern Region of Romania with the counties of Dâmbovița to the west, Buzău to the east and Ilfov to the south. Brasov County lies to the north in the Central Region. It covers 4 716 km², which is 2.0% of the national territory.

Prahova is situated on the southern slopes of the horseshoe bend in the Carpathian Mountains but the topographical features of the county are varied. It resembles a large amphitheatre with the mountains to the north and the Walachian Plain to the south. The mountains account for 26.2% of the county area, hills cover 36.5% of the land and plains cover 37.3%. The highest altitudes are in the range of mountains which contains the Omu Peak (2 505 m), which it shares with Dâmbovița, and the lowest point is the Prahova riverbed (70 m above sea level).

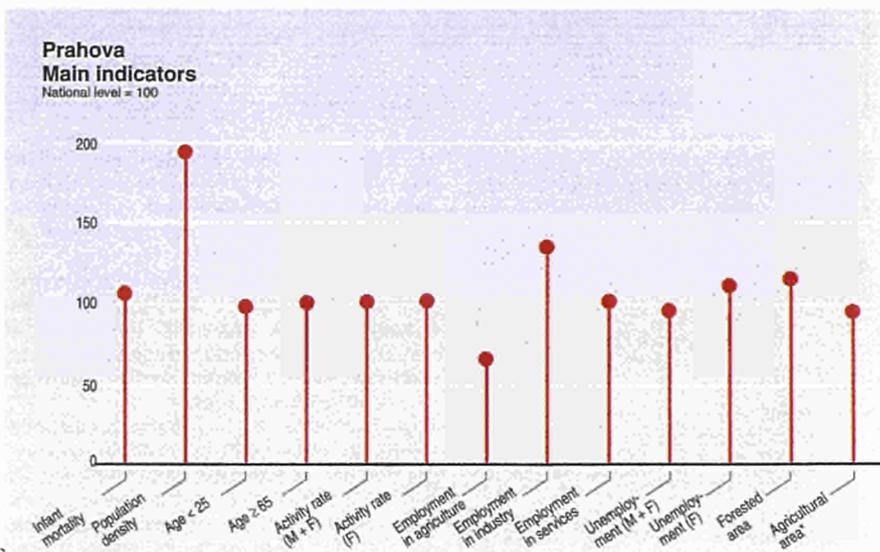
The county has a large water network consisting mainly of the Prahova River basin. Tributaries of the Prahova and Buzău rivers collect water from the northern highland. Water covers 96.6 km² or 2.1% of the county territory.

Situated at a major crossroads between the historic Romanian provinces and close to Bucharest, Prahova has been important since the feudal age for its position and wealth of natural resources. The main natural resources are crude oil, natural gas and lignite; marl, exploited mainly for fertiliser and cement production; gritstone for the glassware industry; and volcanic tuff and plaster used in the construction industry. Another major resource is salt and the county's salty springs, with their therapeutic properties, are exploited for health spas.

The discovery of crude oil ensured the county's position as one of Romania's top industrial centres. During 1856 and 1857, the first Romanian petroleum refinery was established in Râfov, part of Ploiești. Ploiești Municipality is now the principal town and main urban centre. Câmpina, the second most populous town, is situated on the main road from Ploiești to Brașov, as is Sinaia, the former royal summer residence notable for its historical monastery and Peleş Castle.



The Peleş Castle.



Industrialised and productive

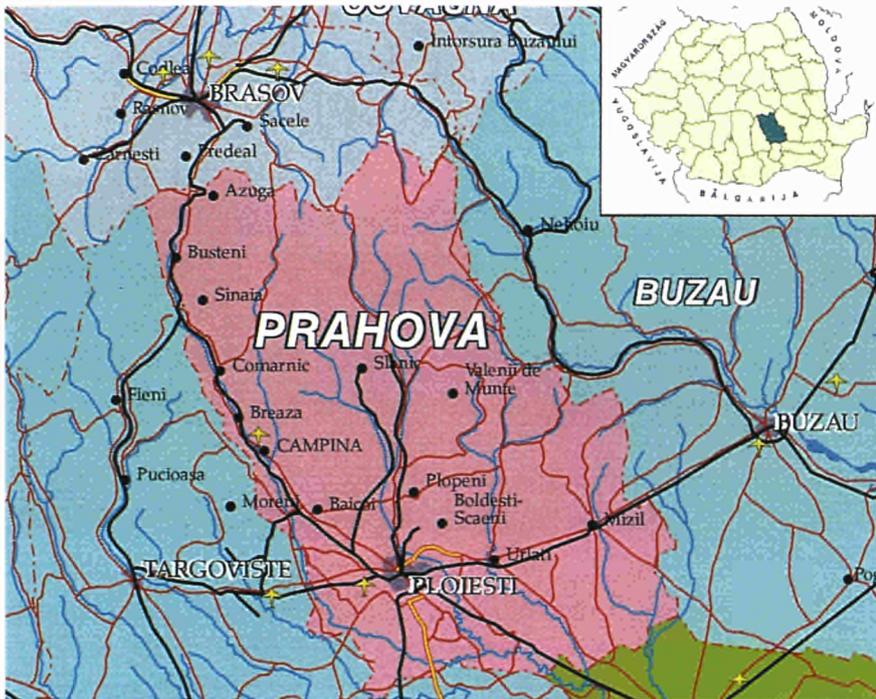
Prahova is the second most industrialised county in Romania due to the oil fields in Ploiești and the development of chemical and engineering industries. In 1995, oil processing accounted for 50% of the county's industrial output followed by machines and equipment (8.5%), electricity, gas and water (8.3%), chemicals (5.5%) and mining and quarrying (5.5%).

The leading companies are the Petrobrazi, Petrotel, Astra and Vega refineries, Steaua Romania, Victoria and Dero Lever. As in nearly all Romanian counties, manufacturing dominates industrial employment. On December 31st 1995, 132.5 thousand people were working in manufacturing, the second largest figure in Romania.

Prahova is a leading producer of gasoline, diesel, petroleum, mineral oil, toluene, xylene, machinery, equipment for geological exploring, drilling and oil exploitation equipment, tyres, glass, phosphates, sulphuric acid, dyes and varnishes.

Industrialisation has caused pollution, although levels appear to be falling. In 1995, 34 000 tonnes of the main pollutants, ash, slag, oil and related substances were released into the environment.

In 1995, Prahova's agricultural land was only 1.9% of the national total and 1.6% of the arable land. Nevertheless, it accounted for 2.2% of overall Romanian agricultural production including the second greatest sunflower average yield (1 706 kg/ha), the third greatest maize and barley yield (4 708 kg/ha and 4 337 kg/ha respectively) and the seventh highest wheat and rye yield



Similar urban and rural populations

Between and 1 January 1980 and 1 July 1990, the population grew by 4.9% from 839 408 to 880 465 despite the birth rate falling from 12.2 births per 1 000 inhabitants in 1990 to 10.7 in 1991 while the mortality rate dropped from 11.6 deaths per 1 000 inhabitants to 10.8. In 1995, Prahova had the seventh lowest birth rate in Romania, 9.4 births per 1 000 inhabitants, and the mortality rate was 10.6 deaths per 1 000. Hence the rate of natural increase fell from +1.6 people per 1 000 inhabitants in 1990 to 0.1 in 1991 and by 1995, it was 2.2 people per 1 000 inhabitants. In 1995, the population stood at 871 919 (a population density of 184.9 inhabitants/km²).

In 1995, 52.4% of the population lived in urban areas. The age distribution differed less between rural and urban areas in this county than in some other parts of Romania but there was still evidence of the trend for those of working age to live in towns and cities and for the elderly to live in rural areas. 51.7% of those under 25, 57.3% of those aged 25 to 54 and 45.2% of those over 55 lived in urban areas.

In 1980, those aged less than 25 accounted for 40.9% of the total population whereas in 1995, they accounted for only 35.7% - the 11th lowest percentage among Romanian counties. Conversely, those over 65 constituted 9.4% of the population in 1980 but 12.1% in 1995, indicating the ageing of the community.

According to the 1992 census, 98.6% of the people were ethnic Romanians and 97.7% belonged to the Orthodox Church. At the end of 1995, industry and construction engaged 45.5% of the 382 thousand workers, the service sector employed 32.2% and 22.3% were in agriculture, forestry and hunting. Total unemployment (9.0%) was below the national average but the 12.7% rate for women was above it.

Which regions are similar to Prahova?

Area:
about 4 700 km²
Borders (UK)
Haute-Corse (F)
Brescia (I)

Age structure:
36% under 25
Pohjois-Suomi (FIN)
Haute-Normandie (F)
Jihomoravsky (CZ)

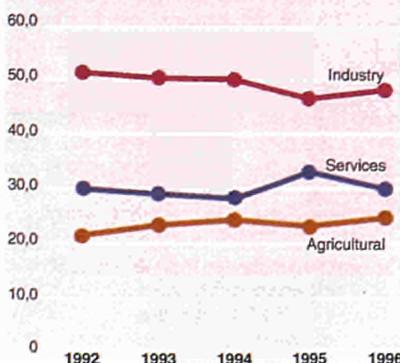
Employment structure:
21-22% agriculture
Kentriki Makedonia (EL)
Açores (P)

(3 605 kg/ha). The private sector owned 75% of the county's agricultural area, including 86% of arable land, and achieved 88% of the county harvest.

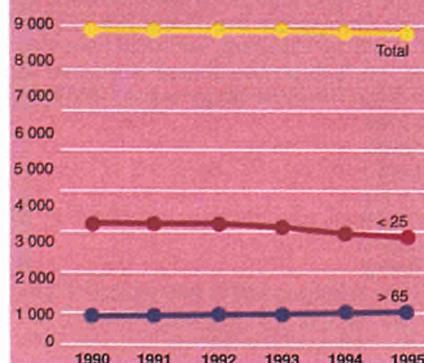
Proximity to Bucharest stimulates local trade and in 1995 it had the sixth highest retail sales volume in Romania. 40.3 thousand (10.5%) of workers were in trade, the third highest proportion in the country. It had the third highest number of employees in construction, transport and mail and telecommunications.

The old and established commercial roads and the railways have been upgraded since 1989. In 1995, there were 42.9 km of road and 7.4 km of rail track per 100km², the second and third highest densities respectively in Romania. It also had the third greatest number of telephone lines with 124 subscriptions per 1 000 inhabitants.

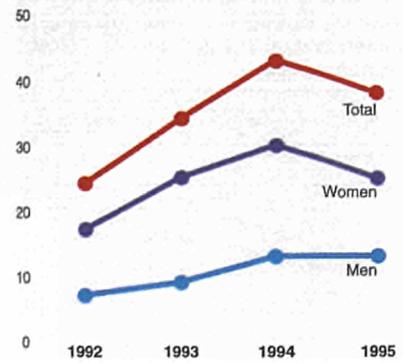
Prahova
Employment structure (percentage)



Prahova
Population by age (1 000)



Prahova
Unemployment (1 000)



VRANCEA COUNTY

Epicentre of seismic activity

The county of Vrancea is situated on the eastern side of the central curvature of the Carpathian Mountains. Bacău county is to the north, Vaslui and Galați counties (and, therefore, the Republic of Moldova beyond them) to the east, the counties of Buzău and Brăila to the south and Covasna county lies to the west.

Vrancea was first mentioned in documents dating from 1431. The county town is Focșani Municipality and there are five other towns and 331 villages organised into 59 communes.

The Siret River, flowing along most of the eastern county border, is the main river in Vrancea. All of the other rivers in the county are tributaries of the Siret, including the Trotuș in the north, the Putna and Râmnic rivers and the Zăbala River, which flows through the heart of the western highlands. Waters and lakes cover 143.1 km² or 3.0% of the county, the 14th largest proportion and area of water coverage in Romania.

The Vrancea Mountain Range and the sub-Carpathians form the highlands in the west and the Siret Plain lies in the east of the county. The topographical features are diverse in structure, age and origin because of the varied geology of the county.

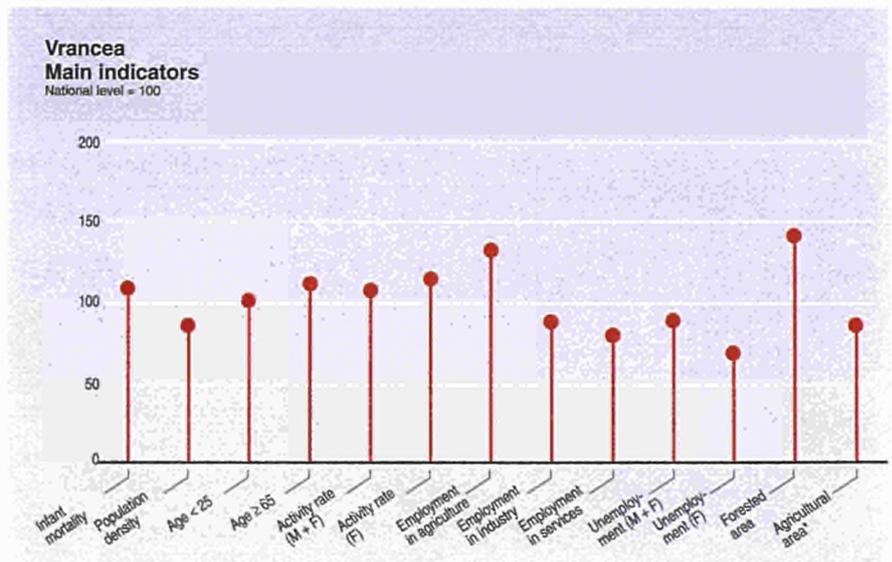
This area experiences the most seismic activity in Romania and often it is the epicentre of earthquakes. The last major earthquake was in 1977, which caused loss of life and destroyed many buildings in the capital, Bucharest.

Natural resources include salt, building materials, clays for ceramics, mineral springs and, to a lesser degree, quantities of crude oil, natural gas and coal. 'Focul Viu' in Andreiașu de Jos is a spectacular natural phenomenon consisting of continually burning natural gas emissions.

Vrancea is also rich in forestland. The county covers 4 857 km², 39.5% (191 782 ha) of which was covered by forests in 1995. This represented 2.9% of Romania's forestland. There are also 22 nature reserves covering an area of 15 000 ha, which harbour six protected animal species and six protected plant species.



Vrancea Mountains.



Most extensive vineyards

By the end of 1995, agriculture occupied 255 284 ha, which was 52.6% of the county. This accounted for just 1.7% of Romanian agricultural land. Most (57.5%) of the county's agricultural area was occupied by arable farming but the 11.2% (28 718 ha) occupied by vineyards and vine nurseries was the largest percentage and area in Romania. The state sector owned 27.3% of the total agricultural area.

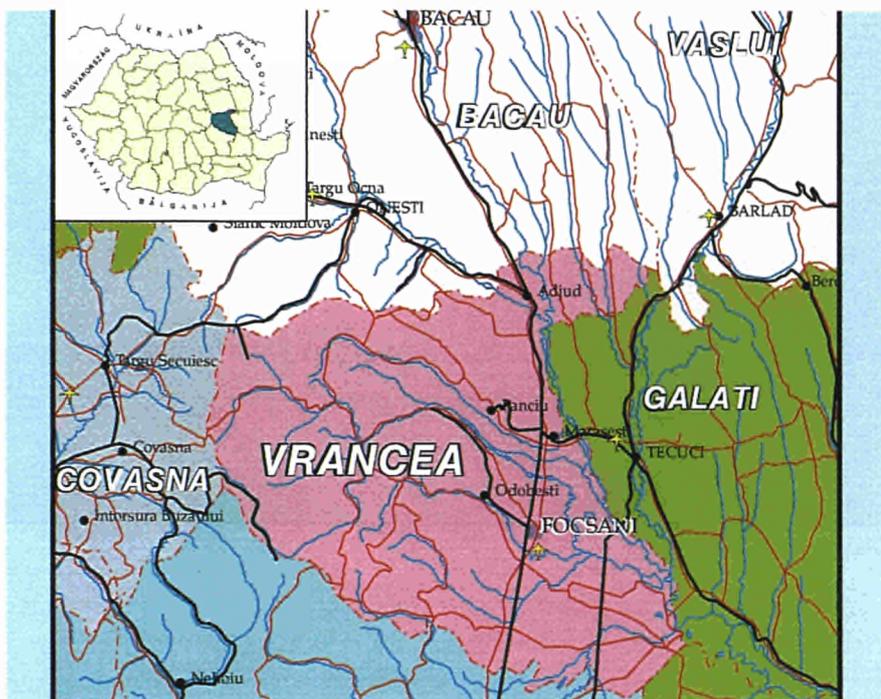
Forests and forestry vegetation were spread over 191 782 ha (2.9% of Romania's forestland) which was 39.5% of the county area, the 11th largest proportion of county land given over to forestry.

In the same year, Vrancea had the second highest average yield (4 440 kg/ha) of barley. It had the 17th highest average yield (1 351 kg/ha) of sunflowers and was 20th

for sugar beet production (19 955 kg/ha). However, it had the fifth lowest average yield (2 267 kg/ha) of maize and was tenth lowest (2 819 kg/ha) for wheat and rye.

The county relief lends itself to livestock breeding but due to its relatively small size, in 1995, it had the ninth lowest number of cattle (1.7% of the national herd) and the 12th lowest number of sheep and pigs (1.9% and 1.4% of the Romanian herds respectively). Hence it produced the 15th smallest amount of wool and the 16th smallest quantity of milk, meat and eggs (despite having the 16th greatest number of poultry).

Industry was the next largest employer in Vrancea. Of the industrial companies, 87.4% employed fewer than 20 people and only 5% engaged more than 200 employees. However, 64.3% of state capital companies had over 200 employees while



Growing but ageing population

On 1 January 1980 there were 379 415 people in Vrancea, which increased to 394 926 by 1 July 1992. On 1 July 1995, there were 393 237 inhabitants, 1.7% of Romania's population. In total 99% of the people were ethnic Romanians and 97.6% belonged to the Orthodox Church, 38.9% lived in urban areas.

In 1990, there were 14.9 births and 10.2 deaths per 1 000 inhabitants. In 1995, there were 11.8 births and 11.7 deaths per 1 000 residents. Thus the rate of natural increase fell from 4.7 people per 1 000 inhabitants in 1990 to 0.1 in 1995, which was still the 11th highest rate of natural increase among the Romanian counties. However, there has been a negative rate of natural increase in the rural areas since 1991 (except for 1992 and 1993).

There also has been a greater rate of migration from rural areas since 1990, when the migration rate was -41.6 per 1 000 inhabitants compared to -0.7 in urban areas, until 1995, when the rate was only -0.6 in rural areas compared to -2.6 in towns. Consequently, the overall rate of migration fell strongly, from -26.6 per 1 000 inhabitants in 1990 to -1.4 in 1995.

On 1 January 1980, 42.4% of the population was younger than 25 but by 1 July 1995, this had fallen to 37.3%. The 25 to 65 age group increased from 47.1% to 49.4% of the population and those over 65 increased from 10.5% to 13.3% over the same period.

At the end of 1990, there were 181.700 employees, which dropped slightly to 179.100 in 1995 but as a percentage of the national workforce, it increased from 1.7% to 1.9% in 1995. Agriculture engaged 45.3% of the labour force, industry employed 29.3% and services engaged 25.4%.

The unemployment rate decreased continually after 1993. In 1995, the overall rate was 8.3% and 7.6% for women. The number of unemployed accounted for 1.6% of the national total.

Which regions are similar to Vrancea?

Age structure:
13% over 65

- Madrid (E)
- Limburg (NL)
- Baranya (HU)

Employment structure:
30% industry

- Väli-Suomi (FI)
- Región de Murcia (E)
- Overijssel (NL)

Land use:
39% forest

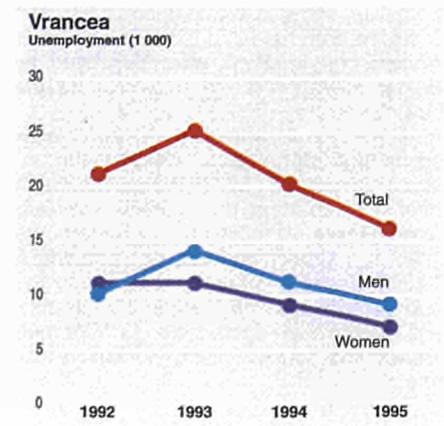
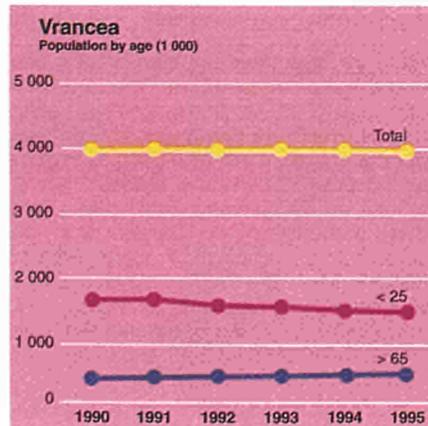
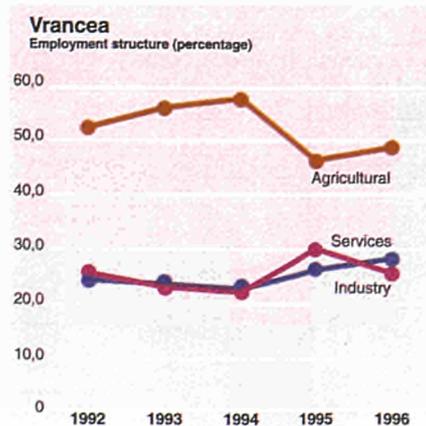
- Toscana (I)
- Alsace (F)

91.6% of private companies employed fewer than 20 people.

Manufacturing accounted for 98.6% of the county's industrial enterprises. There were 16 main areas of industry in Vrancea. The food industry had the highest output followed by the steel, textiles, timber and wood processing industries.

The power stations and asphalt factories contribute greatly to air pollution while agricultural animal waste and chemicals are the main soil pollutants. Millions of lei have been allotted to prevent and fight pollution. In 1995, there were just 3.5 km of railway track per 100 km² (60.4% electrified) but it had the seventh greatest road density at 38.9 km/per 100 km² (16.3% classified as modern).

Three radio stations and two private television stations also served the county.



SOUTH-WESTERN REGION

Mediterranean weather influences

The South-Western Region includes six counties and covers 15% of Romania. The counties of Gorj and Vâlcea are in the north of the region, containing the mountains and hillocks of the Getic sub-Carpathians. To the south are counties of Dolj, Olt and Teleorman, whose territories are on the Romanian Plain. In the west, the county of Mehedinți contains both relief forms.

The region is separated from the Central and the Western regions by the Retezat, Parâng and Lotru mountain ranges, reaching altitudes of up to 2 400 m. In the south and south-west, the Danube River forms the international border with Yugoslavia and Bulgaria.

Due to the region's position, it is more influenced by Mediterranean weather patterns than by the temperate-continental systems that affect the neighbouring regions. It is generally warmer in the South-Western Region than in the Central and the Northern Regions and rainfall varies from one year to another.

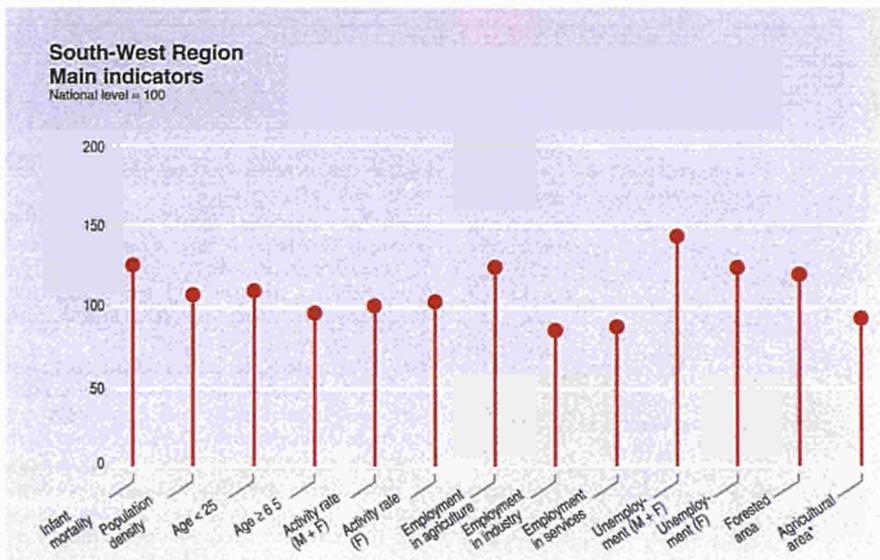
The region is crossed by numerous rivers, mostly tributaries of the Olt and Jiu rivers, which spring from the southern slopes of the Meridional Carpathians. In order to compensate for the sometimes insufficient rainfall, several complex irrigation systems have been implemented, particularly in the south of the region, the area mostly affected by the long-lasting droughts.

Human settlements in the region can be traced back to the Paleolithic Age. The Romans entered the ancient Kingdom of Dacia through the area of the South-Western Region in 105 AD, crossing the Danube on the bridge built by Apolodor of Damascus, one of the most important feats of Roman engineering. The bridge was 1 135 m long and was supported by 20 pillars, some of which can still be seen today on both banks of the Danube. Other Roman constructions were destroyed by Bulgar migrants at the beginning of the seventh century.

After the Roman retreat, the region resisted foreign domination. Despite the insecurity created by repeated Ottoman offensives south of the Danube, the Țara Românească principality preserved its internal authority and did not become a Turkish pashalik. Thus monasteries in the sub-Carpathians and Meridional Carpathians were less accessible to Ottoman armies and so maintained Romanian culture.



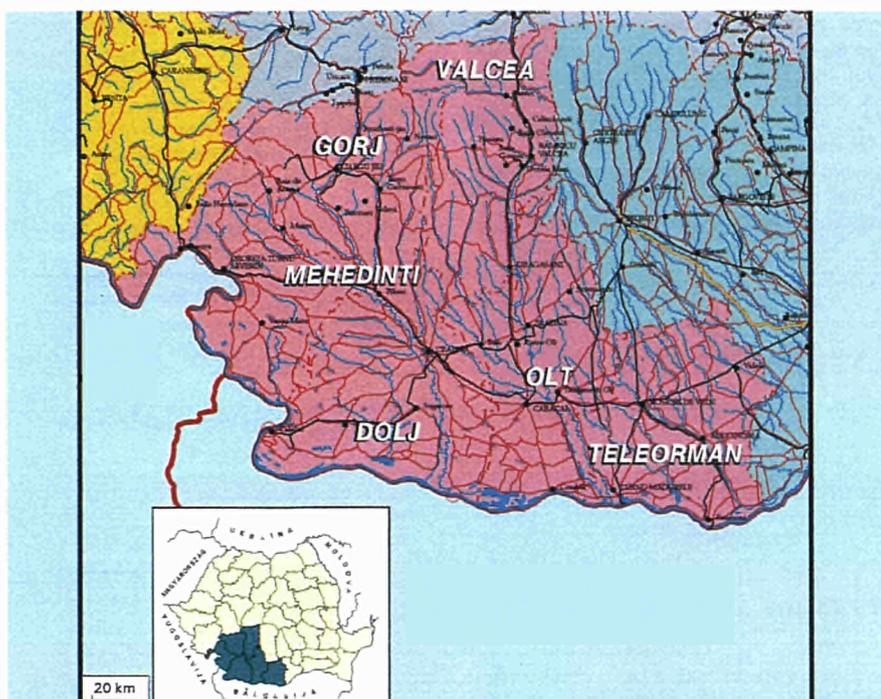
Church in Dolj County.



Supplying the country with electricity

Within the area there are significant crude oil and lignite deposits and the latter are used to fuel the region's thermal power stations, which are the largest in Romania. The region's rivers are also used for hydroelectric power. There is a chain of power stations on the Olt and Lotru rivers, two power stations on the Danube and the hydroelectric complex of Cerna-Motru-Tismana. Thus the region plays a major role in supplying electricity to the country. Furthermore, deposits of natural gas have recently been located and exploitation of this resource is under way.

The Romans built baths around the region's therapeutic mineral springs which today have been commercially exploited by the construction of health resorts with spas and recreational facilities, such as those at Olănești and Călimanești-Căciulata.



Which regions are similar to Southwest Region?

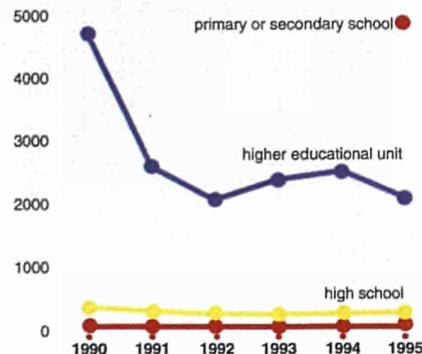
- Area:**
3 400-3 500 km²
Westösterreich (A)
Nord Ovest (I)
- Land use:**
66-67% agriculture
West Midlands (UK)
West -Vlaanderen (B)
- Employment structure:**
43-45% in agriculture
Anatoliki Makedonia,
Thraki (EL)
Plock (PL)

Increasing numbers of enrolled pupils and students

In 1995, the rate for enrolment in high schools was above the national average due to a period of population growth in the early 1980s. The number of pupils in high schools in 1995 was almost 5% higher than the number of high school pupils in 1994. The number of higher education students increased by nearly 11% between 1994 and 1995, and the number of higher education establishments increased from three to four in the same period. However, despite these increases, the number of higher education students in the region was lower than the national average. This is due main-

ly to the region's proximity to Bucharest which has many diverse higher educational establishments and therefore offers more courses than are available within the South-Western Region. Furthermore, this region's university in Craiova became a university only at the beginning of the 1960s and does not have the traditions of the establishments in Bucharest.

South-West region
Pupils per educational establishment



District	Area km ²	Population		Activity (%)	Unemploy- ment (%)	Employment			
		1 000	Inhabitants/km ²			Change (%)	(%) Agriculture	(%) Industry	(%) Services
Region	1995	1995	1995	1990-95	1995	1995	1995	1995	1995
Country	35 001	2 910	83	-1.2	58.4	9.9	45.7	28.6	25.7
1.SOUTH-WEST	7 414	756	102	-2.6	56.2	12.6	48.7	24.7	24.8
Dolj	5 602	397	71	205	67.4	3.9	31.2	44.0	24.8
Gorj	4 933	329	67	0.5	54.6	6.2	46.1	26.5	27.4
Mehedinți	5 498	519	94	-2.1	54.7	8.5	50.3	24.7	25.0
Olt	5 790	473	82	-4.2	55.5	10.	58.1	21.2	20.8
Teleorman	5 765	436	76	1.3	65.2	15.2	37.9	32.2	29.9
Vâlcea									

Industry dominates output due to state protection

An overall unemployment rate of 6.4% was recorded in the first quarter of 1996, with the rate for women at 8.4%, nearly double that of men. The activity rate of 58% is higher than the national average.

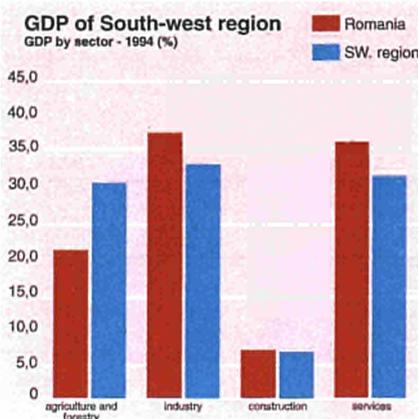
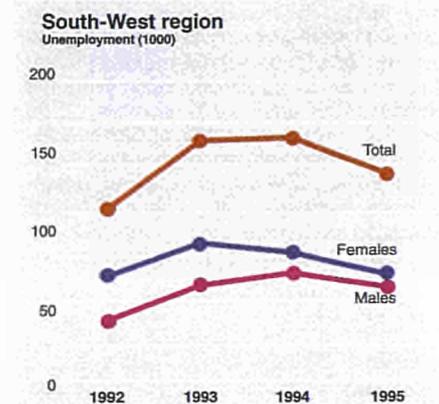
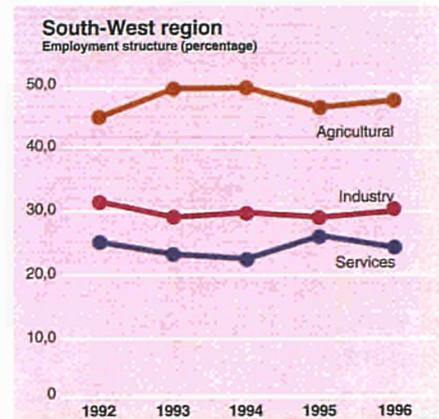
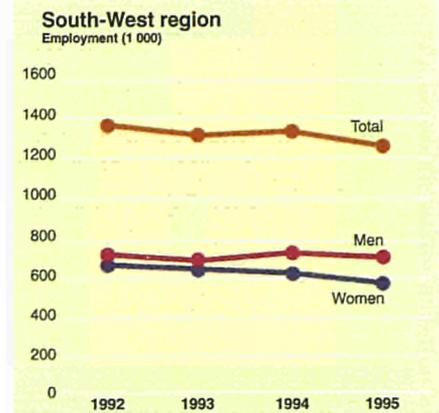
Agriculture plays an important role in the region. In the first quarter of 1996, 47% of employed persons worked in agriculture (farming alone employed about 44% of the workforce), 30% in industry and 23% in services. The region's industry contributes a large share of the production output, especially in the areas of mining, quarrying and energy, where large public service

sector bodies and big companies with majority state capital perform their duties under the protection of the government. This has been ongoing since the early 1990s and to some extent has delayed economic reforms in the region.

Conversely, the average number of employees in research, development and designing activities per 1 000 inhabitants was about 40% of the national average.

Employment by sector, gender and age group in the first quarter 1996

	Total number of employed people	Of which in:			
		Agriculture and forestry	Industry	Construction	Services
Total employment	1 299 671	578 459	328 320	47 474	345 418
a. Males, total	725 842	292 330	202 612	39 130	191 770
- 15 - 24 years	92 397	31 781	20 991	4 181	35 444
- 25 - 34 years	163 126	38 499	66 144	13 967	44 516
- 35 - 49 years	249 424	55 675	92 373	15 646	85 730
- 50 - 64 years	154 005	102 448	21 625	5 336	24 596
- 65 years and over	66 890	63 927	1 479		1 484
b. Females, total	573 829	286 129	125 708	8 344	153 648
- 15 - 24 years	49 310	21 423	10 954		16 933
- 25 - 34 years	133 094	32 393	52 345	2 835	45 521
- 35 - 49 years	208 260	68 657	56 112	4 636	78 855
- 50 - 64 years	116 799	97 720	6 297	873	11 909
- 65 years and over	66 366	65 936			430



Slower economic reforms and private sector expansion

In 1994, the region's GDP per capita was ROL 2 029 000, 7.5% below the national average. Of the total GDP for the region, industry contributed 32.6%, agriculture and forestry 30% and services 31%. So although agriculture employed the most workers and the services sector employed the fewest, both contributed a similar amount to the region's GDP.

By the end of August 1996, there were over 2 570 enterprises within the region's industrial base. Most of them were in manufacturing and were small companies employing less than 20 people. Mining, quarrying and energy production were still concentrated in autonomous bodies and large state enterprises. Private companies ac-

counted for about 90% of the total number of enterprises established after 1990.

The economic reforms and expansion of the private sector had a slower evolution within this region than most others. For example, at the end of August 1996, in the Northern Region there were 2.9 times more private companies functioning than in the South-Western Region (7 600 in the North compared with 2 570 in the South-West). Of the 32 760 private enterprises established in Romania by the end of 1996, 20% were in the North as opposed to only 7% in the South-West.

Migration from rural areas to towns

On the 1 of July 1995, the South-Western Region had an estimated 2 910 378 inhabitants with a population density that was 12.5% less than the national average. The birth rate in 1995 was close to the national average, but the general mortality rate was 11.7% higher and infant mortality higher by 1.4%. The fact that the mortality rate was greater than the birth rate combined with outward migration led to a reduction in the population for that year.

Overall 35% of the inhabitants were younger than 25, a proportion that was below the country average, while the proportion of elderly people was higher than the national average: 14% of people were over 65.

This same migration pattern has been observed in all years since 1990. In that year, the rate of migration from the rural areas was -48.0 per 1 000 inhabitants and the rate of migration into urban areas was +31.9 per 1 000 inhabitants. In 1995, these rates had dropped to 1.2 departures from rural areas per 1 000 inhabitants and 0.8

arrivals in urban areas per 1 000 inhabitants. Since 1990, the migration into urban areas has been consistently less than the migration from the rural areas and hence during this time there has been a net migration from the region as a whole. Despite the trend of movement from rural areas to urban areas, in 1995 the rural population was still greater than the urban population. Almost 57% of the region's population lived in the rural areas whereas the national average in 1995 was 45.1%.

Population by age — 1995

	M+F 1 000	M+F %	M %	F %
<15 years	568	19.5	20.3	18.7
15-24	455	15.6	16.3	15.0
25-39	577	19.8	20.8	18.8
40-54	526	18.1	18.3	17.8
55-64	379	13.0	12.5	13.5
≥65	407	14.0	11.8	16.1
Total	2 910	100.0	100.0	100.0

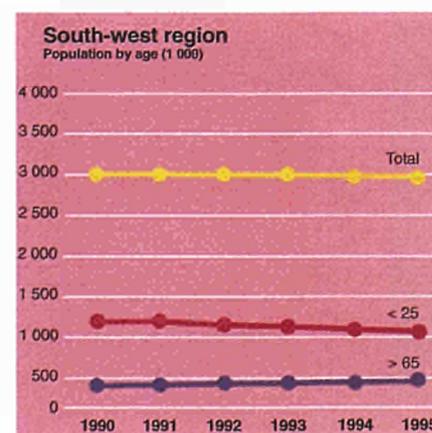
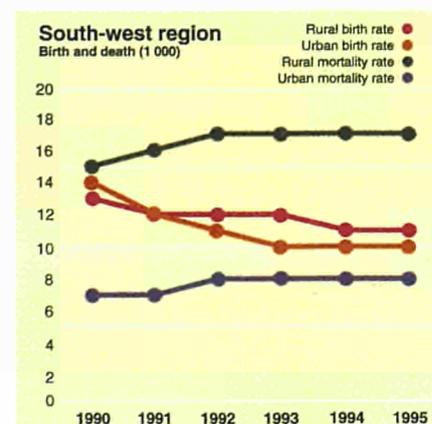
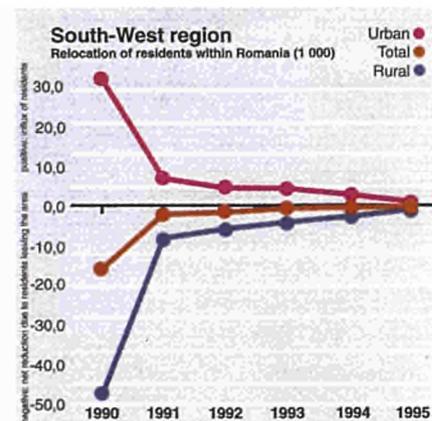
Public utilities and services concentrated in urban areas

Within the South-Western Region there are 2 311 villages and 37 towns in 472 communes. Of these, 294 localities, including all 37 towns, were connected to the water mains facility in 1995. At the end of 1995, 67 localities (including 30 rural localities) were connected to the public sewerage network.

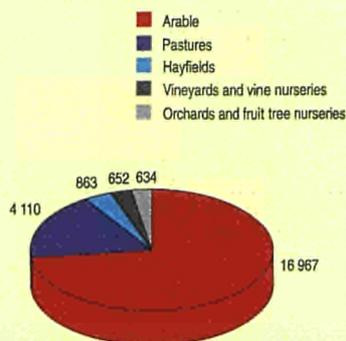
The network of gas distribution pipelines is less developed than the average national network. By the end of 1995, there were only 2.7 km of gas pipelines per 100 km² compared with the national average of 6.4 km per 100 km².

In 1995, there were 507 public libraries and 64 museums in the region. The libraries provided more volumes per 1 000 inhabitants than the national average, but since they (and the museums) are concentrated in the towns, and because of the spread of the rural population, the urban dwellers derive more benefits from these facilities than the rural community.

The region is served by 47 hospitals, but there has been a reduction in the number of hospital beds during the period after 1990. In 1995, the region had 6.8 beds per 1 000 inhabitants which is almost 8% lower than the national average of 7.64 hospital beds per 1 000 inhabitants.



South-West region Agricultural area (km²)



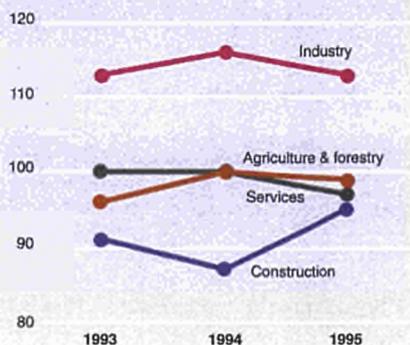
Number of industrial enterprises by branches on August 31st, 1996

	Total number of enterprises	of which:		
		0 - 19 employees	20 - 199 employees	200 employees and over
Total industry	2 572	2 074	275	223
- mining and quarrying	40	3	3	34
- manufacturing	2 485	2 067	254	164
- energy	47	4	18	25

Diverse manufactured products but declining animal husbandry

Agricultural land accounted for 66.4% of the area of the region, 6.9% higher than the national average. While the percentage of arable land is greater than the national average, the proportion of pasture land is below it. Also, livestock breeding has not developed consistently with available resources, and in 1995, livestock per 1 000 ha was 15.9% below the national average for cattle, 24.2% below the national average for pigs and 21.7% below for sheep. Manufacturing industry within the region supplies the national economy with a wide range of products such as caustic soda, cement, chemical fertilisers, electricity, motorcars, tractors, diesel and electric locomotives, bearings and textiles, with a high proportion of these goods intended for export.

South-West region Wages by sector (national level = 100)



Cheap labour and a modest standard of living

The costs of the labour force employed in agriculture, forestry, construction and services were lower than the national average in 1995. However, in industry the labour costs (led by the state sector) exceeded national levels by 10.5%. Within the South-Western Region, salaries were 37% lower in manufacturing than in mining and quarrying and 42% less than in the energy sector. Both salaries and labour costs in the region were lower in agriculture than in any other sector.

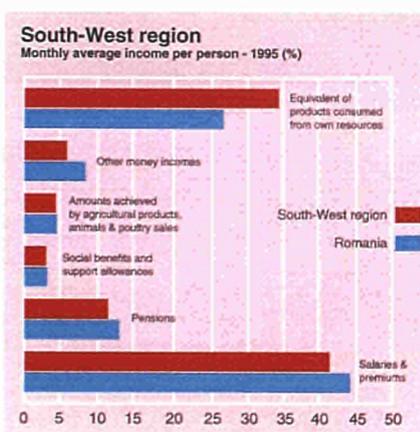
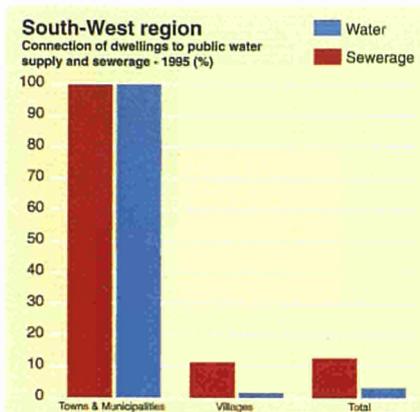
On average, salaries were the main source of income within the region, accounting for 41% of all income. This was less than the national average of 44.2%. The equivalent value of products consumed from own resources accounted for over 34% of the average total income, which was above the national average of 27.6% and the highest percentage among the regions.

The most polluted forests in Romania

During the last four decades, many large-scale industrial enterprises were established in the region that have caused serious environmental damage.

Large areas of agricultural land were lost to the coal mining industry and the land that is no longer used for mining is now no longer suitable for farming. A number of industrial enterprises released high quantities of pollutants into the environment. These include the thermal power stations in Oltenia, the chemical plants in Drobeta-Turnu-Severin, Craiova and Turnu Măgurele, the aluminium works at Slatina and the cement factory in Târgu Jiu.

The South-Western Region had the largest proportion of polluted forests in Romania. Overall 11.8% of the region's forestland was classified as polluted compared to 5.9% of the national forested area. The main recorded pollutants were gaseous and particulate sulphur compounds from thermal power stations, dusts from cement factories, gaseous and particulate nitrogen compounds and industrial liquid and solid waste.



Road improvement; weaker development of railways and telecommunications

In 1995, there were 11 378 km of public roads or 32.5 km per 100 km², a greater density than the national average of 30.6 km per 100 km². Priority was given to improving the road system to ensure good communication between the eastern and northern Romanian regions and its southern and western Balkan neighbours. The railway network, which was granted less priority, had just 1 277 km of track, including 580 km of electrified lines. The railway network density was 3.6 km per 100 km², considerably less than the national network density of 4.8 km per 100 km².

Telecommunications were not very well developed in the South-Western Region. At the end of 1994, this region had 227 702 telephone subscribers, which was the smallest number among the Romanian regions. There was an 83% growth in the number of subscribers between 1980 and 1994, while the numbers of subscribers doubled in other regions during the same period.



Landscape in Mehedinți.

DOLJ COUNTY

Southern county of lakes

Dolj County covers 7 414 km², which is 3.1% of Romanian territory, making it the seventh largest county in Romania. The Danube River flows along the south of Dolj forming a 150 km border with Bulgaria. Craiova Municipality, the principal town, is situated on the River Jiu. There are four other towns (Băilești, Calafat, Filiași and Segarcea), 94 communes and 380 villages. Calafat is an important custom point on the border with Bulgaria and is served by a ferryboat.

First mentioned in the year 1444 as Județul de Baltă (Lake County), the county stretched from Blahnița Lake in the north in what is now Mehedinți county to Bistrețu Lake in the south of Dolj. A document dated 1 June 1475 mentioned Craiova as the capital of Dolj county. During this period the 'Great Banat of Oltenia' was founded, becoming an important military base against the Ottoman Turks, preventing them from crossing the Olt River.

Up until the 18th century, Dolj county and most of Oltenia was the theatre of military operations against the Ottoman, Habsburg and Russian Empires. The revolution led by Tudor Vladimirescu in 1821 and the 1848 Revolution were further opportunities for the inhabitants of Dolj county and Craiova to fight for social and national causes.

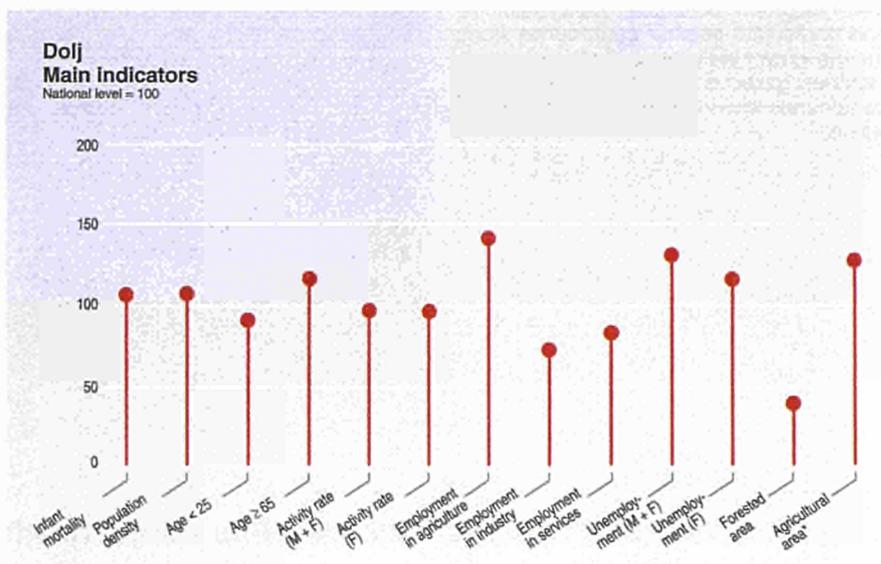
The southern plain dominates the topographical relief but there are hilly districts to the north. Water resources comprise the Danube River between the localities of Cetate and Dăbuleni, the River Jiu which bisects the county as it flows from north to south, and lakes and ponds such as Fântâna Banului, Golenți, Ciuperceni and Bistreț.

The climate is temperate with some Mediterranean influences, enhanced by the shelter of the northern hills and its southerly position.

Dolj county has reserves of crude oil, natural gas, coal in the Băilești plain and the Bălăcetei hills, clay, sand, ballast and mineral waters in Gighera and Urzicuța.



The main square in Craiova.



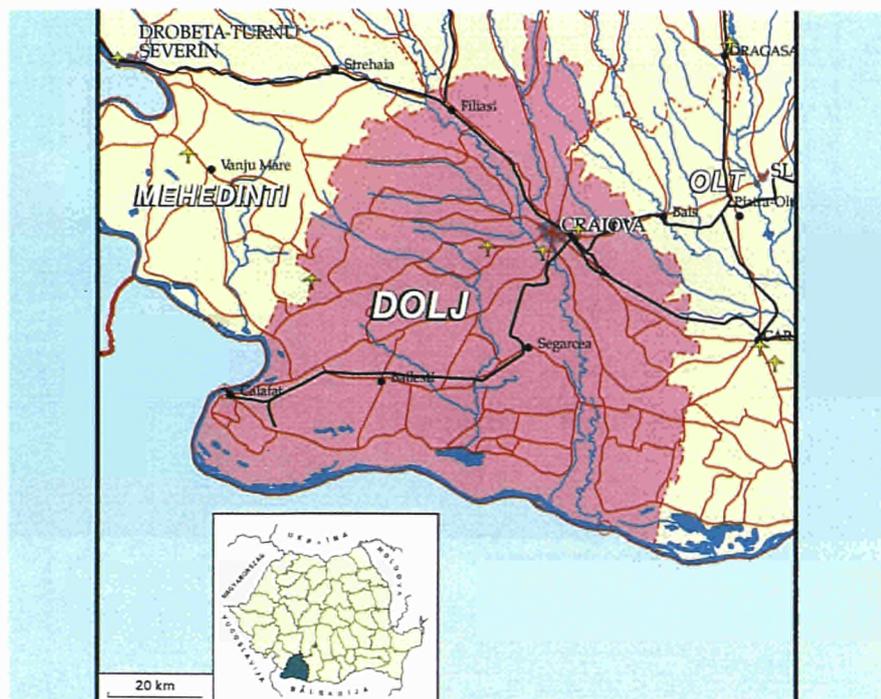
Energy to power key industries

Dolj county makes a significant industrial contribution to the national economy, producing cars, power transformers, automatic transformers, electric motors and agricultural tractors. Its well-developed food industry manufactures edible oils, sugar and beer.

There are seven enterprises in the energy sector, of which Ișalnița Thermal Power Station produces an output of 1 035 MW. Other enterprises consist of 10 public-sector services, 35 state-funded companies and 731 private-capital companies, of which 93% had fewer than 20 employees. In 1994, Dolj produced 9.3% of Romania's total energy output. The industrial sector also manufactured a considerable pro-

portion of many other important products for the national economy, including 98.9% of all 0.25 kVA transformers, 77.5% of mechanical ploughs, 27.1% of electric motors (0.25 kW and above), 14.9% of mechanical cultivators, 12.9% of chemical fertilisers and 8.1% of cars. The food industry produced 11.5% of Romania's edible oils and 5.1% of beer, while the mining industry produced 3.9% of the nation's natural gas.

In 1995, Dolj farmed 588 572 ha or 4.0% of Romanian's agricultural land, the second highest figure for farmland in Romania. Most (485 597 ha) of this land is occupied by arable farming, 5.2% of the national total in 1995, the second largest amount of arable land in Romania. Vineyards cover 18 965 ha – representing 6.5% of Romania's vineyards and the third largest area of land



High unemployment, more agricultural workers

Calculations revealed that there were 756 318 residents in Dolj county on 1 July 1995, which was 3.3% of Romanian's population. This was the fourth largest county population in the country. Urban areas housed 50.4% of Dolj's inhabitants and 48.9% of the population was male. During 1990-95, the birth rate fell in both urban and rural areas while the death rate increased. Consequently, there were 19 843 fewer inhabitants in 1995 than there were in 1990. The overall rate of migration has been relatively low in Dolj compared to other counties in Romania. Although in 1990 some 84.9 inhabitants out of every 1 000 left the communes to settle in the urban areas, this trend has slowed considerably since. The other main demographic trend is the accentuated ageing of the population, particularly in rural areas. In 1995, 37.7% of the rural community were over 55 compared to 17.2% of the population in the towns.

The census of 7 January 1992, showed that 97.5% of the community were ethnic Romanians and 99% of all residents declared themselves to be Orthodox. Employment fell from 360 500 in 1990 to 301 700 in 1995. The number of agricultural workers increased from 43.6% of the total workforce in 1992 to 49.5% in 1996, while employment in industry, especially in manufacturing, fell from 23.3% in 1992 to 21.7% in 1996. Employment in the services sector also fell from 33.1% in 1992 to 28.8% of the labour force in 1996. These changes particularly affected employment among the county's youth. By the end of 1995, there were 43 489 unemployed people in Dolj, which was 4.4% of the total number of unemployed in Romania. The unemployment rate was 12.6%, 13.1% for women. This made Dolj county one of the worst unemployment blackspots in Romania.

Which regions are similar to Dolj?

Population density:
102 inhabitants per km²
Trier (D)
Plockie (PL)
Asturias (E)

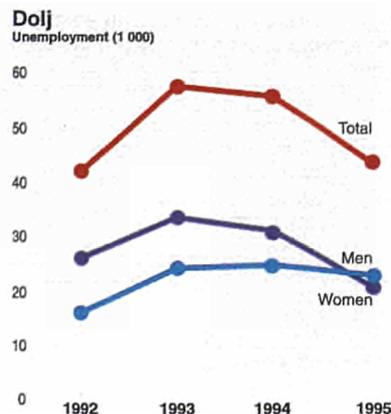
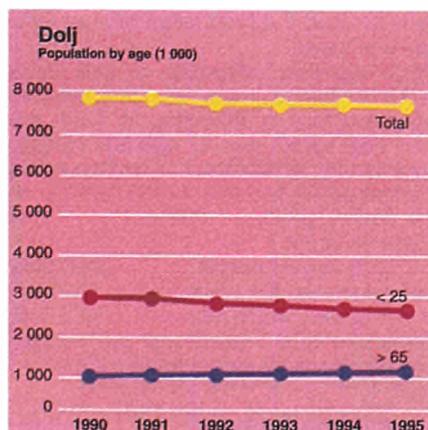
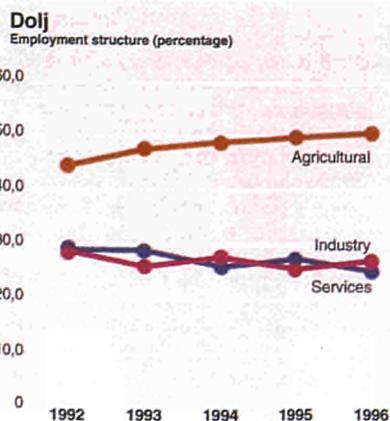
Age structure:
14% over 65
Lorraine (F)
Tübingen (D)

Land use:
79-80% agriculture
Basse-Normandie (F)
Csongrád (HU)

given over to viticulture in the country. The county's irrigation system covered some 300 000 ha.

In 1995, Dolj county achieved 3.1% of total agricultural production in Romania, which was the fifth largest contribution. Cereals and root crop production accounted for two-thirds of this agricultural output and cattle, pigs, sheep and poultry provided the remainder.

The transport network centres around Craiova, the principal town. Dolj, with only 221 km of railway line (3.0 km of track per 100 km²) has the fifth lowest density in Romania. By contrast, its 28.5 km of public roads per 100 km² is in line with the national average.



GORJ COUNTY

Varied relief and rich natural deposits

Gorj county was once part of the historical region of Northern Oltenia Province. The county covers 5 602 km², which represents 2.3% of Romania's territory. The principal town is Târgu-Jiu Municipality, founded beside the Jiu River. There are six other towns (Bumbești-Jiu, Motru, Novaci, Rovinari, Târgu Cărbunești and Țicleni), 63 communes and 414 villages.

The relief of Gorj county can be divided into three main physical and geographical units. These are the Southern Carpathian slopes of the Godeanu, Vâlcan and Parâng Mountains; the Getic Sub-Carpathians between the Motru and the Olteț rivers; and the hills of the south, which belong to the Getic Plateau. Altitudes range from Mândra Peak at 2 518 m in the Parângu Mare Range to 100 m in the Jiu Valley in the south of the county.

The waterway network comprises the River Jiu, the Gilort River and its tributaries, the Olteț and the Cerna rivers. There are several notable glacial lakes: Gâlcescu, Tăuri, Slăveiu, Mija, Pasărea and Godeanu.

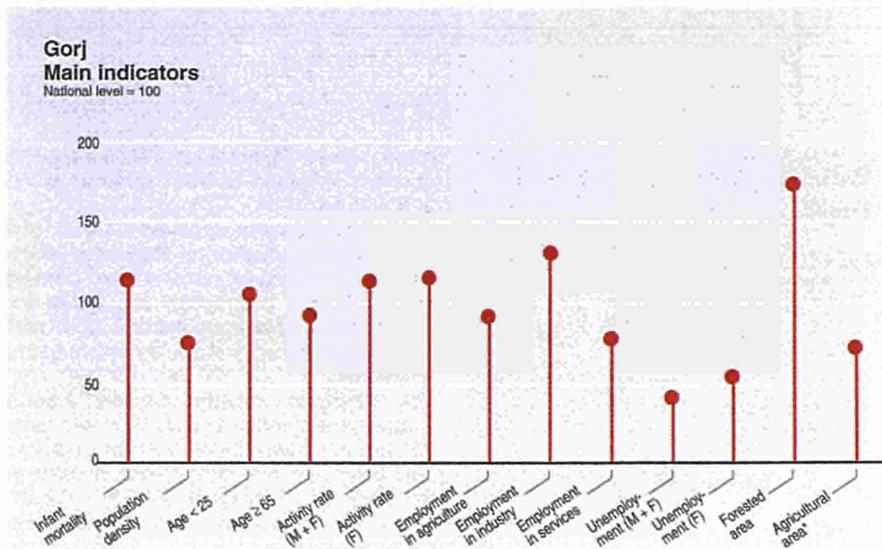
Significant mineral deposits include lignite, anthracite, oil, graphite, natural gas, mineral waters and masonry materials such as limestone and marl.

Forests in the mountainous areas are composed of beech, evergreen oak and cerris; alder, poplars and willow trees are common along the banks of the rivers.

This county has long been a distinct administrative unit. From the 10th century to the 13th century it was part of the Litovoi Principality. The territory that Gorj covers today was called Jales County in documents dating from 1385, when it came under the rule of Dan I, and in 1387, during the reign of Mircea cel Bătrân. Only at the end of the 15th century was it referred to as Gorj county. In 1861, Alexandru Ioan Cuza, the ruler of Walachia and Moldavia (Valahia and Moldova in Romanian) united these two principalities as a single state called Romania. However, Gorj county remained an independent economic and administrative unit.



Mixed farming in the Racovița area.



Flourishing energy sector

In 1995, the main activity in Gorj was industry, in particular, mining, quarrying, manufacturing and the production of electricity, gas and water.

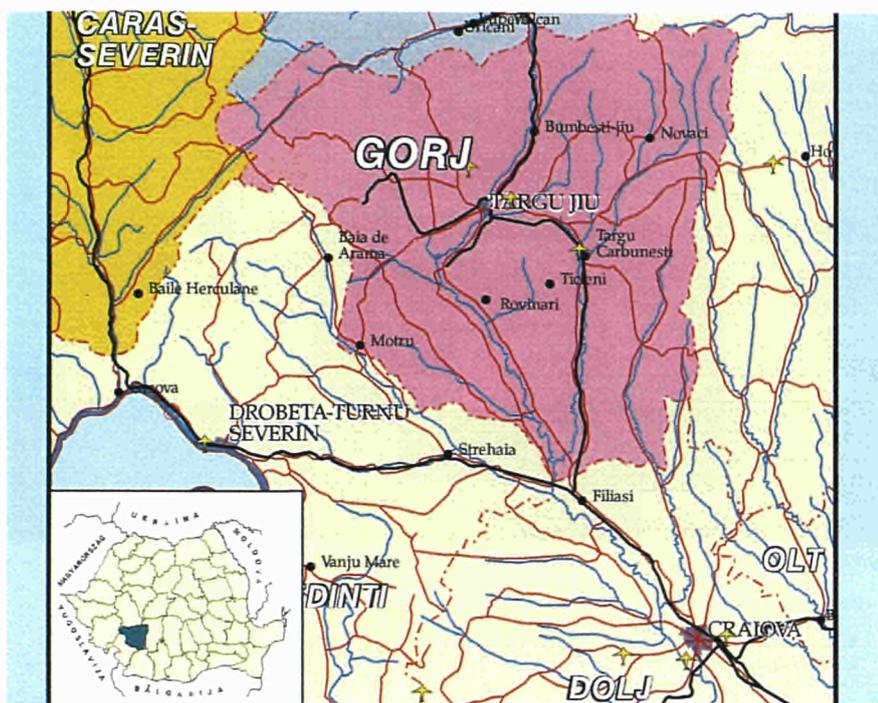
Gorj's significant deposits of coal mean that it mines and processes more coal than anywhere else in Romania. In 1995, the total coal output was 27 633 000 tonnes, contributing 80% of the fuel for Romania's thermal power stations. In the same year, the county produced 391 511 tonnes of crude oil and 2.7 billion m³ of natural gas, the sixth largest output in Romania. Gorj also generated 8.1 billion kWh of electricity in that year, which represented 13.7% of Romania's total output and the second highest electricity output among the counties.

The railway network covers 236 km, includ-

ing 233 km of electrified track, which allows the transportation of coal to the power stations within the county, or to other stations in neighbouring counties.

In 1995, there were 345 industrial enterprises, including 313 manufacturing enterprises. Of these companies, 250 employed fewer than 20 people. In the mining industry there were 22 units with over 200 employees and in the field of energy production there were 10 units, of which 6 had over 200 employees, including the electricity power stations, Turceni and Rovinari, which produce a combined output of 4 030 MW.

In 1995, the county had 33 public sector services, such as the lignite mining corporation in Târgu Jiu, as well as 29 state companies and 283 private-capital companies, of which 88% had fewer than 20 employees.



Lowest unemployment rate in Romania

On 1 July 1995, it was calculated that there were 397 170 inhabitants in Gorj county which represented 1.8% of Romania's population. The population has been increasing, from 355 771 on 1 January 1980 to 397 524 on 1 January 1996, according to calculations. However, the rate of population growth has slowed and may now have reached a plateau phase.

Between 1990 and 1995, the birth rate fell in both the towns and communes, from 15.0 births per 1 000 inhabitants in 1990 to 11.7 in 1995. During the same period the mortality rate increased slightly from 10.9 deaths per 1 000 inhabitants in 1990 to 11.3 in 1995. This phenomenon was more obvious in the rural areas where the mortality rate was double that of the urban areas. This is explained by the fact that in 1995, 75.3% of those over 55 lived in rural areas. In the same year, urban residents accounted for 42.7% of the total population.

The census of 1992 indicated that ethnic Romanian constituted 98.7% of the population and 98.9% of inhabitants belonged to the Orthodox Church.

By the end of 1995, the activity rate was 67.4%, the highest rate in Romania, reflecting the strong industrial potential in the county. The female activity rate was 60.8%, the second highest figure in the country. In total 198 800 people were employed in the county, which was a decrease of 7.5% on the 1990 labour force but in the same year the overall unemployment rate in Gorj county was 3.9%, the lowest unemployment rate in Romania. The female unemployment rate was 6.1%, the fourth lowest rate among the Romanian counties.

In 1995, industry employed 44.0% of all workers, the largest proportion of the labour force. Agriculture and forestry employed 31.2% of the workforce and the services sector employed 24.8%.

Which regions are similar to Gorj?

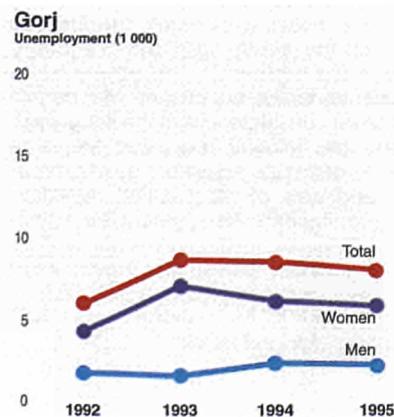
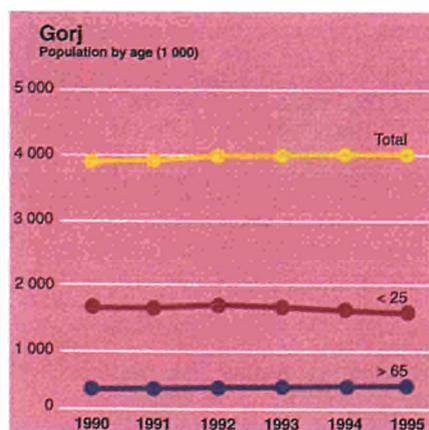
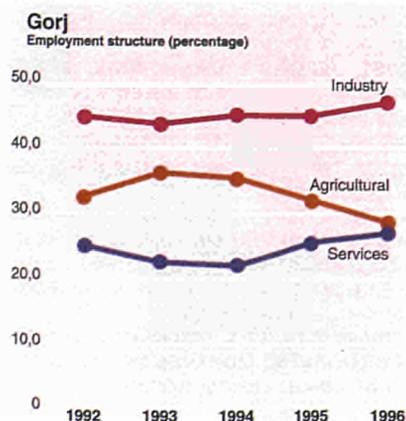
Area:
about 5 600 km²
Kymenlaakso (FI)
Creuse (F)

Land use:
44-45% agriculture
Namur (B)
Nord Est (I)
Slupskie (PL)

Employment structure:
29-31% agriculture
Galicia (E)
Stereia Ellada (EL)

Forests cover 273 868 ha or 48.9% of the county, making it the third most heavily forested county in Romania. Orchards and nurseries occupied a further 13 266 ha or 2.4% of land, the fourth largest area or fifth largest proportion of orchards among the Romanian counties. Hence Gorj produces much timber and fruit, especially plums. Gorj also has extensive areas devoted to pastures and hayfields to support livestock breeding.

Gorj's forest wealth has long provided the timber for woodcarving on house doors and fronts, a distinctive architectural feature of this county. Other significant crafts include pottery and knitting.



MEHEDIŢI COUNTY

Bridge between Dacia and Roman Oltenia

MehediŃi county lies in the south-western part of Romania, and accounts for 2.1% of the national territory. Its neighbours are Yugoslavia and Bulgaria to the south-west, with the Danube River forming the border for 192 km.

There are 344 villages and five towns, including Dobreta Turnu-Severin Municipality, the principal town and a port on the Danube. The Danube flows through the famous Iron Gate Gorge (*PorŃile de Fier*), which stretches 160 km from Turnu-Severin to Orşova.

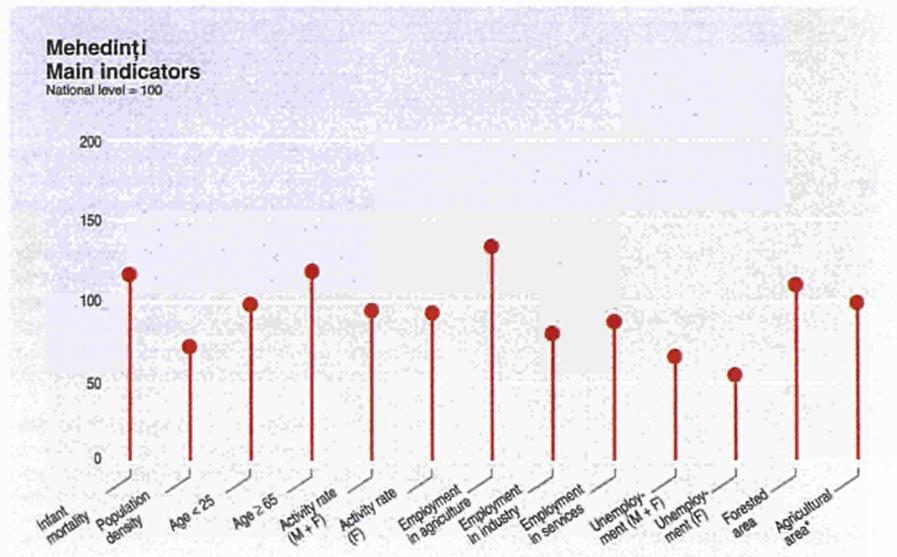
It was through this gateway of Drobeta that the Romans passed to complete their conquest of the Dacians in 105 A.D. Apollodor of Damascus built the Trajan Bridge over the River Danube in 103 A.D. here, a fine example of Roman engineering that provided a connection between the Roman Empire and Dacia. A Roman camp was built of stone in Drobeta to guard the Trajan Bridge while north Drobeta was settled and pacified; it became the most important urban centre in the Roman Oltenia region. The local community and the Walachian rulers carried out raids and battles of insurgency during the Roman occupation and again against the Ottoman and Austrian empires from the 14th to the 18th centuries. They were active in the revolutions of 1821 (which contributed to the fall of feudalism to usher in the modern Romanian State) and 1848 and the Russo-Romanian war against the Ottoman Empire in 1877 which led to Romania's proclamation of independence in the same year.

The county relief resembles a vast amphitheatre consisting of mountains, plateaux and plains, the lowest point in the south-west. Altitudes in the county range between 1 446 m (Vârful lui Stan) and 40 m in the Danube meadows.

The river network includes the Danube River to the south-west and the Motru River in the north-east. The county has a continental-temperate climate with certain Mediterranean influences in the southwest. Among the mineral resources are large reserves of lignite, asbestos, quartz, zirconium and ores of magnesium, molybdenum and titanium. Also present are significant reserves of building materials such as granite, marble, limestone, gravel, sand and clays, including bentonite, which is used as filler in the building, paper and pharmaceutical industries.



Iron Gate gorge in Orşova.



Arable farming and energy production

The main areas of activity were agriculture, forestry, hunting and wood exploitation in terms of the size of the workforce. In 1995, forests covered 149 426 ha or 30.3% of MehediŃi. Agricultural activity occupied 294 520 ha, which was 59.7% of the county territory. Most of this land (63.2%) was given over to arable farming, followed by pastures which covered 26.9% of the agricultural land, hayfields occupied 3.7%, vineyards covered 3.3% (the eighth largest proportion among the counties) and orchards covered 3.0% of the agricultural area (the ninth largest percentage in Romania).

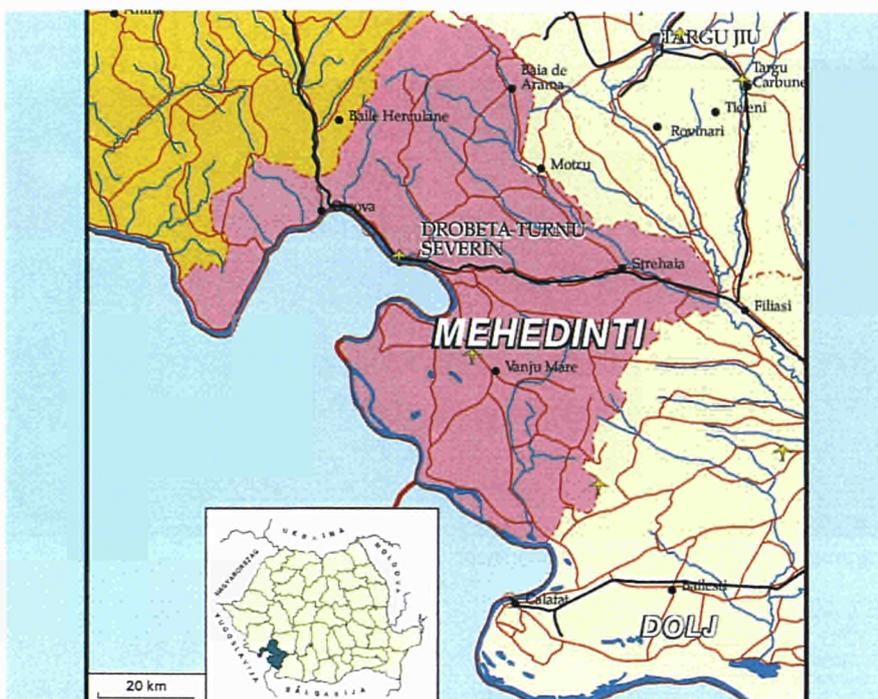
MehediŃi has relatively few livestock animals compared to other Romanian counties. Farming mostly consisted of arable

cultivation, followed by vegetables, orchards and vineyards. In 1995, the main arable crops were maize (the 15th greatest producer among the counties) and barley (the 18th highest production) in terms of average yield (kg/ha).

In 1995, industry employed fewer people than either agriculture or the services sector. In 1995, the county had 130 industrial enterprises, with 120 in manufacturing industry, two in mining and eight in the energy sector.

There were seven public sector services with more than 200 employees, 33 state-owned companies and 90 private companies. The large majority (87%) of these had fewer than 20 employees.

The most important industrial units were the PorŃile de Fier (Iron Gate) I and II hydroelectric power plants and the Dobreta electric power station which supplies 15%



An ageing population

On 1 January 1980, calculations indicated that there were 327 045 inhabitants. According to calculations, this had fallen to 326 816 by 1 January 1990, but then increased by 1.7% between 1990 and 1992. When a census was taken in 1992, ethnic Romanians accounted for 97.5% of the 332 440 residents and the remaining 2.5% included Serbs, Czechs, Germans and Gypsies. Most (98.2%) of the people were Orthodox.

Between 1992 and 1995 the continuing decline in the birth rate, a slight increase in the mortality rate and an increase in migratory trends, especially in rural areas, caused a drop of 1.2% (nearly 4 000 people) in the population. As of 1 July 1995, it was calculated that there were 328 517 inhabitants, 51.2% in rural areas.

The distribution of the age groups between urban and rural areas was typical of a Romanian county. Primarily, in Mehedinți the majority (71.0% of the total) of the people aged over 55 lived in the rural communities and most (58.7%) of those aged between 25 and 54 (the majority of the workforce) lived in the urban areas. The urban population accounted for 53.2% of those under 25.

In 1980, the over-65 age-group accounted for 11.8% of the county population and the under-25 age-group represented 38.2%. In 1995, 14.2% of the population in Mehedinți was over 65, the fifth largest percentage among the counties. It also had the seventh smallest proportion (35.3%) of those under 25.

By the end of 1995, the activity rate was 54.6%. There were 135 400 employees, almost 11% less than in 1990. Agriculture employed 46.1% of the labour force, industry engaged 26.5% and 27.4% were in the service sector. Incomes were below the national average but the unemployment rate of 6.2% was also below the Romanian average of 9.5%. The unemployment rate for women was even lower at 6.0%, also well below the national rate of 11.4%.

Which regions are similar to Mehedinți?

Area:

about 5 000 km²
Malmöhus län (S)
Algarve (P)
Ioannina (EL)

Age structure:

14% over 65
Manner-Suomi (FIN)
Notio Aigaio (EL)
Friesland (NL)

Employment structure:

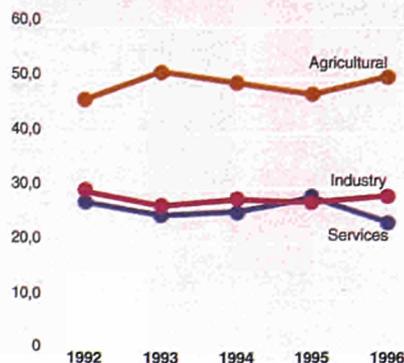
26% industry
Friesland (NL)
Bretagne (F)
Scotland (UK)

of Romania's total energy production.

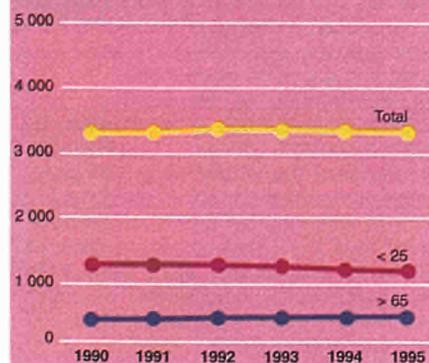
In 1994, Mehedinți county made important contributions to national production levels. It produced 4.2% of Romania's coal, 4.3% of the nation's textile goods, 16.5% of all paper and cardboard, 37.7% of railway goods wagons and completed 15.7% of all shipbuilding and ship repairs.

In 1995, the county had 1 874 km of public roads which was 38 km of road per 100 km². This was the eighth highest road network density in Romania. However, Mehedinți had the third lowest railway network density at 2.6 km of track per 100 km². There were 129 km of railway track, all of it electrified.

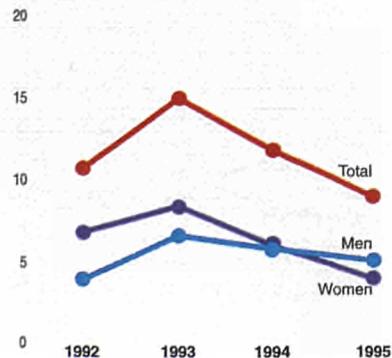
Mehedinți
Employment structure (percentage)



Mehedinți
Population by age (1 000)



Mehedinți
Unemployment (1 000)



OLT COUNTY

Steppes watered by major rivers

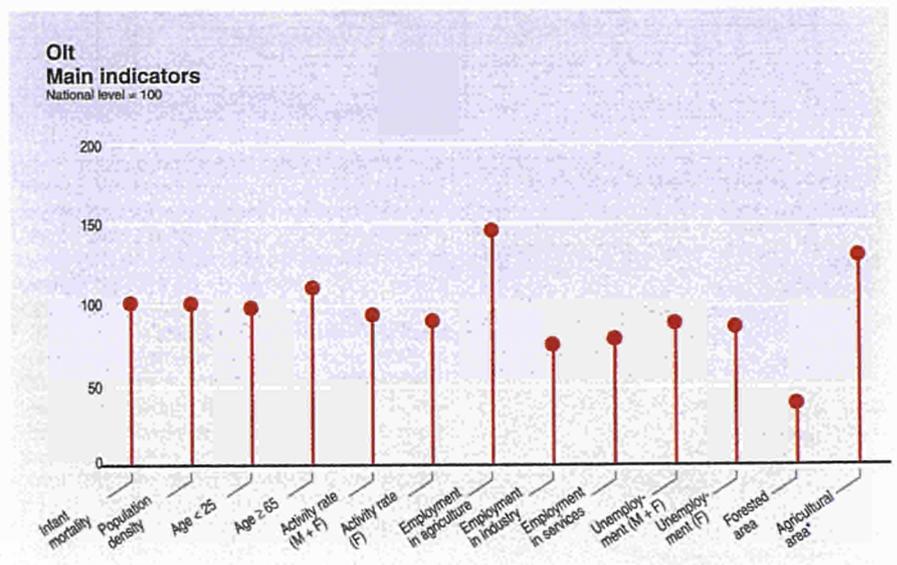
Olt county was once part of the historical principality of Walachia, a vassal state of the Ottoman Empire from the 15th century until its union with Moldavia in 1859. This county stretches from the River Danube, its 47 km-long southern border and the international border with Bulgaria, to Argeş and Vâlcea and the foothills of the Transylvanian Alps in the north. Teleorman county is to the east and Dolj county is to the west. Olt has always been an important transport corridor between the Danube River and the Carpathians. Archaeological digs have revealed that the area has been the site of settlements and habitation throughout the ages. Slatina Municipality, the principal town, and Caracal Municipality are both linked to Craiova, the principal town of Dolj, and other major towns in neighbouring counties by Olt's two major roads. There are five other towns and 378 villages in Olt, many situated near the main river, the Olt, or the Oltet, one of its tributaries.

The navigable Olt River flows through the length of the county for 100 km before entering the Danube in neighbouring Teleorman. The Vedeia River flows through the north of Olt county.

The county covers 5 498 km² and comprises 2.3% of Romania. The topographical relief is characterised by two distinct units, the Getic Plateau, which covers 24.0% of the territory and forms the highland in the north, and the Walachian Plain, which covers 76.0% of the county area in the south. The quality of soil varies considerably between the steppes and the forests. Agriculture covers 80.5% of the land, the fifth largest percentage in Romania, while forests cover 10.5%, the eighth smallest proportion among the counties.



Fragmentation of land ownership induced by Property Act.



Growing private sector

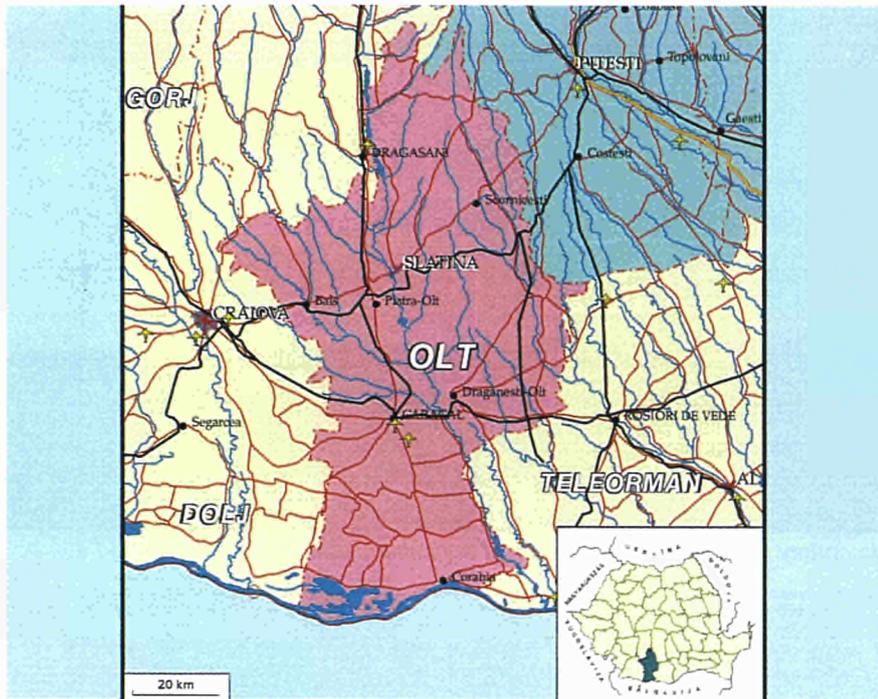
After the fall of Ceauşescu and his totalitarian regime in December 1989, a new multi-party system and a market economy were introduced. The transition period towards a market economy proved difficult and produced a degree of social and economic hardship but economic decline was halted in this and other counties.

The restructuring of the economy produced a cross-section of enterprises. By 1995 the county's Office of Trade Registration declared that there were 125 state-owned companies (25 public services and 100 joint ventures) but 6 568 private companies and 2 111 self-employed persons and family businesses. Also, there were 106 mixed-capital companies, of which three were limited companies, and 103 joint-venture companies.

Industrial activity achieved over 60% of the county production. The majority of industrial enterprises were in manufacturing and mining and the main products include: aluminium and alloys, rolled aluminium, steel tubes, bearings, motor pistons, freight cars, graphite electrodes, textiles, clothing, knitwear, motor tyres, electric cables, railway wagon axles and bogies. The food industry produces sugar, cheese, butter, bread, tinned vegetables and fruit.

Since 1989, agriculture has undergone some important changes reflected in the present ownership structure, as well as in the production and creation of new markets. The agriculture industry is divided between families, registered agricultural companies, co-operatives or associations and companies stemming from former state units.

At the end of 1995, the private sector held



Increasing elderly population

On 1 January 1980, calculations revealed that there were 531 231 residents in Olt. On 1 July 1990, the population was calculated at 530 425, which gradually declined; in 1995, there were 519 030 inhabitants according to calculations, a 2.3% decrease since 1980. The population density was 94.4 inhabitants per km².

The rate of natural increase has dropped from 1.4 per 1 000 inhabitants in 1990 to -2.7 in 1995: the birth rate fell from 13.0 births per 1 000 inhabitants in 1990 to 10.6 in 1995 and the mortality rate fluctuated between 11.6 deaths/1 000 inhabitants in 1990 and 13.3 in 1995. The infant mortality rate also fluctuated during the same period. In 1990, there were 31.1 infant deaths per 1 000 live births and 21.2 deaths per 1 000 births in 1995. Olt recorded a negative migration rate throughout the same period, from -24.8 per 1 000 inhabitants in 1990 to -1.5 in 1994 and 1995. The vast majority left the rural areas to live and work in the towns.

In 1992, 39.2% of inhabitants lived in urban areas. In 1995, 39.8% of the population lived in towns and cities. In the same year, only 20.6% of those aged over 55 but 45.4% of those under 25 and 47.9% of those between 25 and 54 lived in urban areas.

In 1980, those over 65 accounted for 10.1% of the overall county population but in 1995, they constituted 13.4%, greater than the national figures of 9.5% of the entire population in 1980 and 12.0% in 1995.

In 1992, 98.9% of the people were ethnic Romanians.

In 1990, there were 247.200 people employed in Olt. In 1995, there were 208.400 employees, giving an employment rate of 50.1%. Agriculture engaged 50.3% of the labour force, industry employed 24.7% and 25.0% were in the service sector. The overall activity rate was 54.7%, 46.9% for women.

In 1995, there were 19 331 registered unemployed people compared to 29 261 people in 1994. The 1995 overall unemployment rate was 8.5%, 9.6% for women, both below the national rates.

Which regions are similar to Olt?

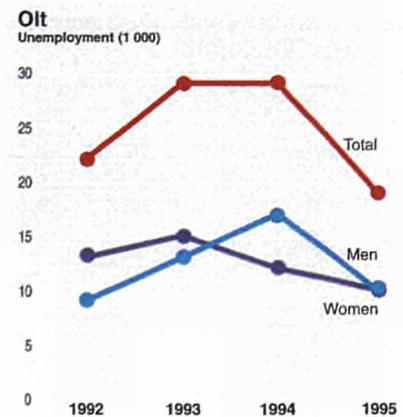
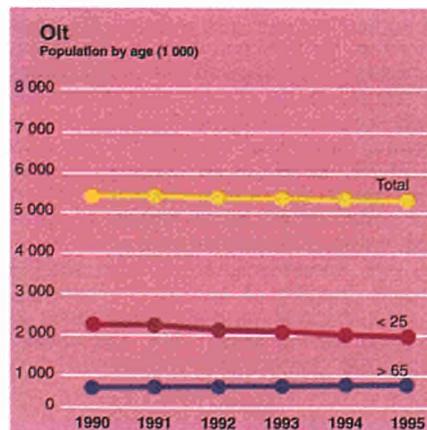
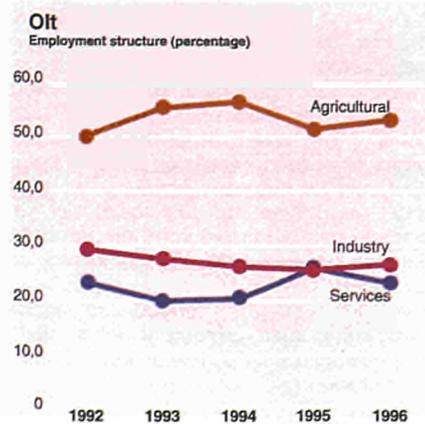
Population:
about 0.5 million inhabitants
León (E)
Udine (I)
Plockie (PL)

Population density:
94 inhabitants per km²
Kentriki Makedonia (EL)
Oberall(u) (D)

Age:
13% over 65
Puglia (I)
Madrid (E)
Baranya (HU)

82.2% of arable land and produced 86.8% of all cereals and grains, 73.1% of sunflower products, 63.3% of sugar beet and 81.3% of the vegetable harvest. It also owned 93.9% of cattle, 66.0% of pigs, 96.5% of sheep and 98.5% of poultry. The private sector has also provided commercial services, including architectural design, housing maintenance and repairs and installation of cable television. Since 1989, retail activity within the private sector has increased, achieving over 60.0% of all retail sales in 1995.

Closely connected to the growth of industry and agriculture, the transport network has been extended and updated. In 1995, there were 4.2 km of railway track and 37.2 km of public road per 100 km². Besides conventional means of transport, Olt county has navigable rivers and a port at Corabia on the River Danube.



TELEORMAN COUNTY

Many rivers in a fertile plain

Teleorman county is located in the middle of the Walachian Plain. Bulgaria is on its southern border, the counties of Argeş and Dâmboviţa are to the north, Giurgiu county is to the east and Olt is to the west.

It covers 5 790 km², which is 2.4% of the country. In 1995, the county contained three municipalities (Alexandria, Roşiori-de-Vede and Turnu Măgurele), two other towns (Videle and Zimnicea) and 231 villages arranged into 83 communes. Alexandria Municipality is the principal town, situated on two major roads (one runs between Bucharest and the Bulgarian border and the other leads to Roşiori-de-Vede and then Craiova) and the Vedeia River.

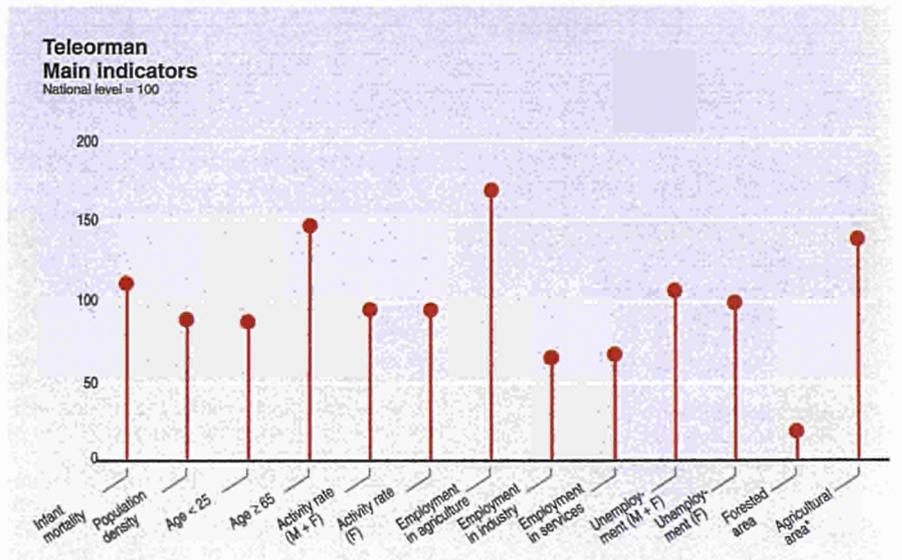
The Vedeia flows for 120 km across this flat county to the Danube, which forms the 119 km international border with Bulgaria. The entire length of the Danube is navigable and thus there are ports at Turnu Măgurele and Zimnicea. The third longest river is the Călmăţui, which flows for 112 km through Teleorman. The Teleorman River flows 89 km down the centre of the county before joining the Vedeia while the Olt River flows for just 20 km across the south-west corner. There are also natural and artificial lakes that incorporate fish farming. Water covers 3.5% of the county, the ninth highest proportion in Romania.

The boundaries of Teleorman county have remained relatively unchanged. The first documents to mention Teleorman date back to May 1441 and are entitled *Vlad Dracul Voievod*, ("Vlad 'Dragon', Ruler of the Polity"). This ruler of Walachia was the father of Dracula, the inspiration for the fictional character.

This county is part of the Walachian Plain with fertile reddish-brown earth rich in chernozems and so a very large area is suitable for arable farming. There are also reserves of crude oil and natural gas in the north-east of the county.



No county has a greater proportion of agricultural land.



A large agricultural producer

By the end of 1995, there were 495 899 ha of agricultural land in Teleorman. This was 85.7% of the total county area, the largest percentage of land given over to agriculture in any Romanian county. It also was the sixth largest percentage (3.4%) of the national agricultural area. Most (451 992 ha or 91.1%) of Teleorman's agricultural land was used for arable farming, which accounted for the fourth highest percentage (4.8%) of Romania's total arable area. In 1995, Teleorman produced the second largest quantity of cereals in Romania, 1 118.200 tonnes of grain, an increase of 231.800 tonnes since 1994. The county produced the most maize (545.100 tonnes), the third greatest amounts of wheat and rye (488.400 tonnes) and sun-

flower crops (74.300 tonnes), and 48.200 tonnes of sugar beet. However, due to the size of the agricultural area, the average yields (kg/ha) were relatively low. Also, the number of livestock (and thus meat production) has decreased since 1989 due to insufficient restocking.

There is an agricultural research station at Drăganeşti-Vlaşca and in the 1989/90 school year, over 87% of the high school pupils attended courses on agro-industrial or industrial subjects. However, in 1995, most pupils went to non-vocational high schools and an increasing number chose courses on economics, teaching or computing.

The main industrial products are textiles, food, electronics, furniture, building materials and combined fodder. In 1995, the volume of industrial output was lower than in 1989 but 7.6% higher than in 1994. Crude



Falling population, ageing community

During this century the population increased considerably, from 347 800 in 1912 to 418 649 in 1930, to 510 488 in 1956 and then to 516 222 in 1966 and 518 943 in 1977. The population peaked at 521 695 on 1 January 1980 but this had fallen to 494 039 by 1 July 1990, according to the components calculation method. On 1 January 1996, there were 472 720 inhabitants, according to calculations.

In 1990, there were 11.8 births but 13.4 deaths per 1 000 inhabitants, so the rate of natural increase was -1.6 people per 1 000 inhabitants. By 1995, the population was shrinking at an even greater rate, -6.2 people per 1 000 inhabitants, as there were 15.5 deaths and only 9.3 births per 1 000 inhabitants. Teleorman has had the greatest or second greatest rate of natural decrease among the counties since 1990. Infant mortality was also higher than the national average over this period, peaking at 30.0 deaths per 1 000 births in 1994 but falling to its lowest level of 22.7 deaths per 1 000 births in 1995.

These factors have contributed to the ageing of the population. In 1995, 17.7% of the inhabitants were over 65 (the largest percentage in Romania) compared to 11.8% in 1980. Also, in 1980, those under 25 had accounted for 35.9% of the population which fell to 31.7% in 1995, the smallest proportion of under-25s in Romania.

Migration has also been a significant factor in the population decline but the rate did fall from -39.4 per 1 000 inhabitants in 1990 to -0.3 in 1995. Many people migrated to the nearby capital, Bucharest.

From 1990 to 1995, the number of jobs has remained relatively constant. At the end of 1995, 195,500 people were employed, 58.1% of them in agriculture (the second highest percentage in Romania), 21.2% in industry and 20.8% in services (the lowest percentage in Romania). The unemployment rate was 10.0%, 11.1% for women.

Which regions are similar to Teleorman?

Population:

about 473 000 inhabitants

Ave (P)

Dresden, Kreisfreie Stadt (D)

Population density:

82 inhabitants per km²

Pieria (EL)

Campobasso (I)

Rügen (D)

Age:

32% under 25

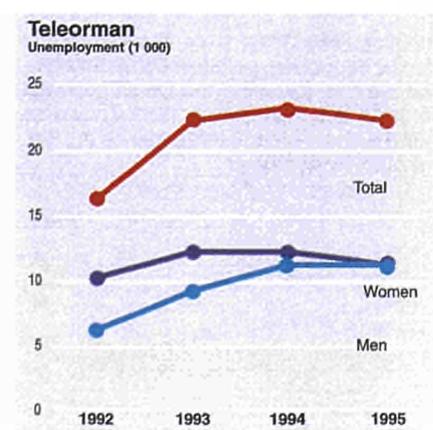
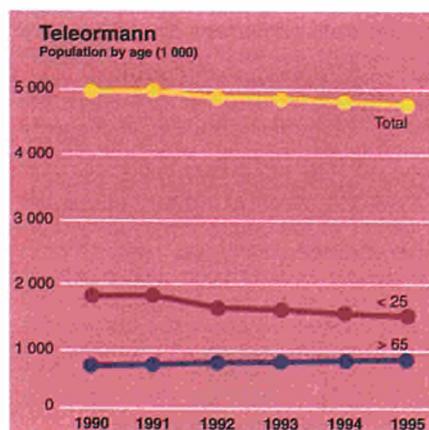
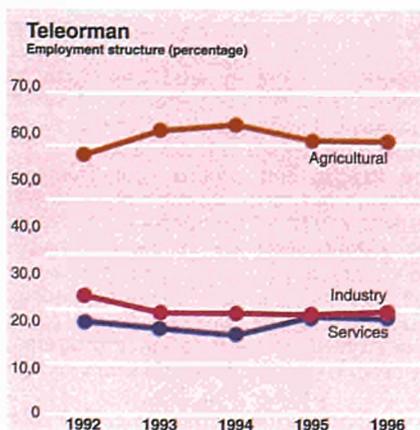
Västsverige (S)

Bourgogne (F)

oil production was lower than in 1989 but has remained stable at around 670 000 tonnes per year.

Electricity is provided by the National Energy System (RENEL). The county does not supply enough natural gas or other forms of heating to meet the requirements of the population and industry.

Transport and the growing trade to Bulgaria and other localities are the main service industries. In 1995, there were 294 km (5.1 km/ 100 km²) of railway track, including 79 km of the main electrified line between Bucharest and Craiova. There were 24.7 km of road per 100 km² (the ninth lowest road density), 46% were asphalted and 49% paved. The ports at Turnu Măgurele and Zimnicea also provide transport for passengers and goods along the Danube but require modernisation.



VÂLCEA COUNTY

Seat of Mircea cel Bătrân

Vâlcea county covers 5 765 km² or 2.4% of Romanian territory. The county is comprised of various geographical regions but it is dominated by the Transylvanian Alps. The peaks of the Făgăraş and Lotru mountain ranges form the county's northern border and together with the Căpăţânei and Cozia mountains form part of the Lovişte Plateau. The Getic Plateau also dominates the alpine areas.

Glacial lakes can be found near Lotru and the Latoriţa basin and salt lakes with therapeutic qualities are located in Ocnele Mari and Ocniţa. Artificial lakes have also been constructed to supply the 1 200 MW hydro-electric power stations on the Olt and Lotru rivers. The Olteţ River flows through the western upland of Vâlcea. Water covers 122 20 ha (2.1%) of the county's territory.

The area has a temperate, continental climate with short summers and long winters. The rainfall is greater in the mountains than in the warmer plains.

Natural resources include white mica, salt, crude oil, natural gas, coal, limestone, gritstone, marble and tuff. The county has mineral waters in the mountains and in the hills orchards are cultivated for a variety of fruit including apples and plums.

There are two municipalities, Râmnicu Vâlcea (the county's principal town) and Drăgăşani, and there are six other towns (Govora, Olăneşti, Călimăneşti, Horezu, Brezoi, Ocnele Mari), 77 communes and 564 villages.

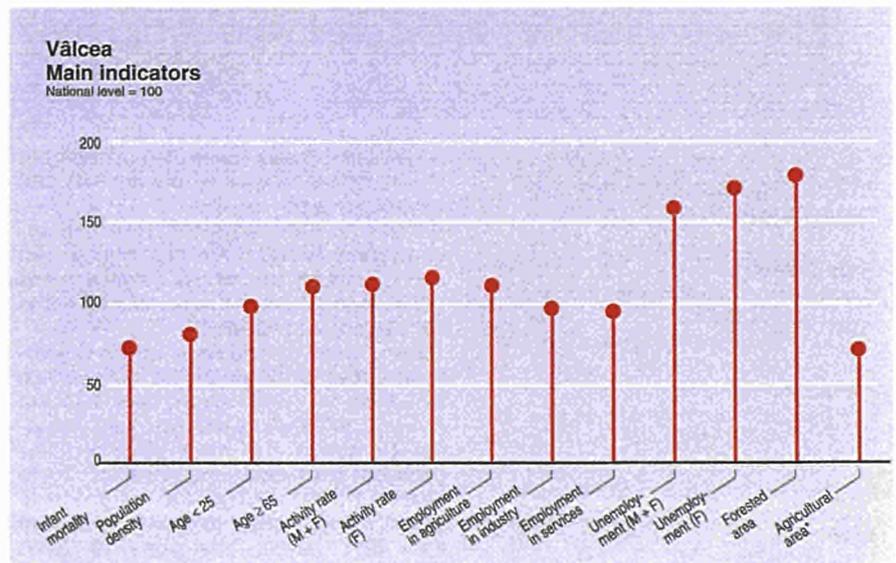
Vâlcea became a prosperous area in the 14th century and in 1389, Râmnicu Vâlcea became a royal town. The county is mentioned in muniments dated 1392 held by the local ruler, Mircea cel Bătrân.

Around this period Cozia Monastery was built on the banks of the Olt River, north of Călimăneşti.

The local people participated in the revolution led by Tudor Vladimirescu in 1821 (the same year that Greek nationalists lost to an Ottoman army in Drăgăşani) and the revolution of 1848. They were involved in the internal economic, political, social and cultural reforms following the Union between Moldavia and Walachia in 1859. They also fought in the war for independence in 1877 and both World Wars.



Lake Vidra in the Lotru valley.



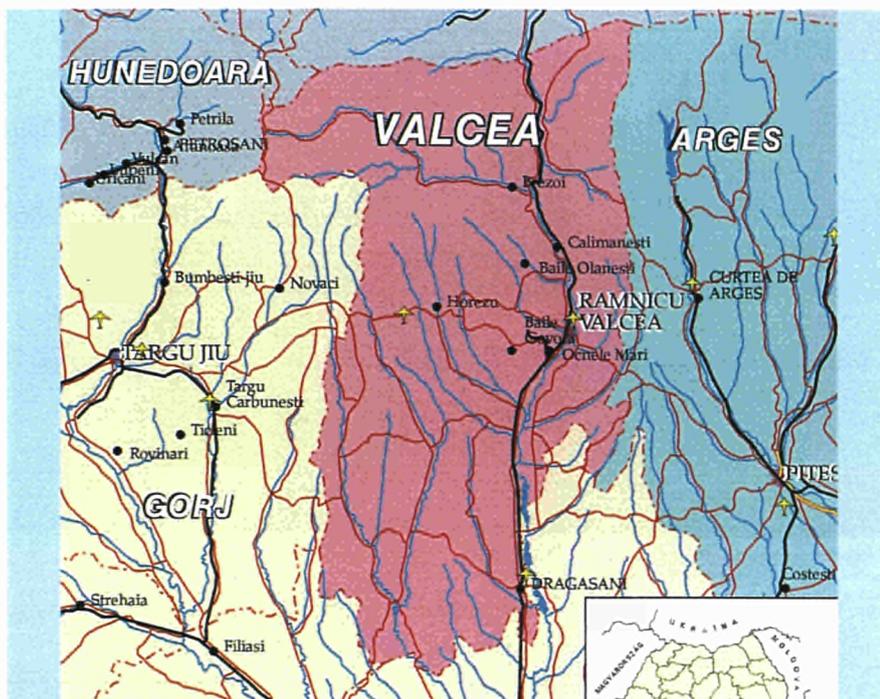
High productivity in chemicals, wood products and grain

In 1995, there were 14 public sector services (including 13 with over 500 employees), 36 state companies and 567 private companies. Most (over 90%) of the enterprises engaged fewer than 20 employees. There were 617 industrial enterprises, including 598 in manufacturing, 11 in energy production and eight in mining and quarrying.

In 1994, the chemical industry accounted for 59.7% of the county's production output and Vâlcea county was ranked first in Romania for its production volume of soda ash, caustic soda, salt, hydrochloric acid, lime and wooden panels. It produced the second greatest quantity of chipboard and the third largest quantity of pesticides. The county also produced significant amounts of coal, footwear and beech timber.

Forestry, timber production and wood processing are strong industries in Vâlcea. In 1995, forests covered 287 923 ha, 49.9% of Vâlcea, which was the second largest proportion of county land given over to forestry. This also accounted for 4.3% of Romania's forestland, the sixth greatest percentage among the counties.

The forests and orchards of Râmnicu Vâlcea to the north and the vineyards and the arable land of Drăgăşani in the south have been developed considerably. The climate and rich soil favour the cultivation of fruit trees and vines and livestock breeding. Orchards and tree nurseries cover 17 706 ha or 7.1% of the county's agricultural area, the second greatest area and proportion in Romania. Vâlcea also has the second greatest proportion of pastureland, 44.3%



Population decline and rising unemployment after 1992

The population rose from 420 530 on 1 January 1980 to 430 656 on 1 July 1990 (based on calculations), peaked at 439 050 in 1992 and then slowly declined to 436 144 in 1995. In 1990, there were 14.3 births and 11.0 deaths per 1 000 inhabitants and so the rate of natural increase was 3.3 people per 1 000 inhabitants. During the period from 1990 to 1995 the birth rate fell and the mortality rate rose slightly, especially in rural areas. The (albeit decreasing) rate of migration and the rate of natural decrease were the cause of the gradual population decline after 1992. In 1995, there were 10.3 births but 11.7 deaths per 1 000 inhabitants and therefore the rate of natural increase was -1.4 people per 1 000 inhabitants.

The census of 1992 indicated that 99% of the community were ethnic Romanians and 99.4% belonged to the Orthodox Church. In 1995, the residents of Vâlcea accounted for 1.9% of the national population, with 40.6% living in urban areas. Those younger than 25 represented 36.1% of the community, 44.6% of whom lived in the towns and cities. Those aged 65 or more accounted for 13.1% of the total community but only 21.0% of this age group lived in the towns. The majority of the working population (i.e. those aged between 25 and 64) represented 50.8% of inhabitants, of whom 42.8% lived in urban areas.

The activity rate increased during the 1990-95 period; it was 65.2% in 1995. However, in 1990, there were 214.700 employees but in 1995, 193.300. In 1992, there were 18 139 registered unemployed people which almost doubled to 34 572 in 1995 when the unemployment rate was 15.2% (3.5% of Romania's unemployed) and 19.3% for women. Agriculture employed the largest proportion (37.9%) of the labour force, industry engaged 32.2% and the services sector employed 29.9% of the workforce.

Which regions are similar to Vâlcea?

Population:

about 0.4 million inhabitants

- Namur (B)
- Alessandria (I)
- Neuss (D)

Area:

about 7 500 km²

- Tarn (F)
- Dyfed (UK)

Land use:

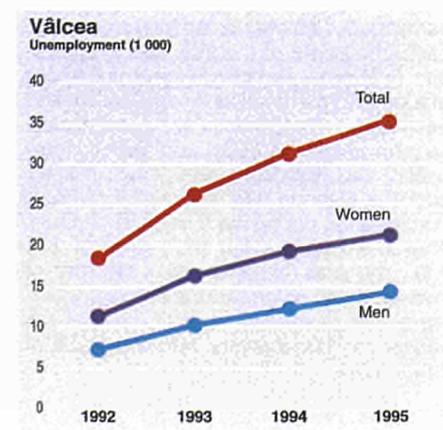
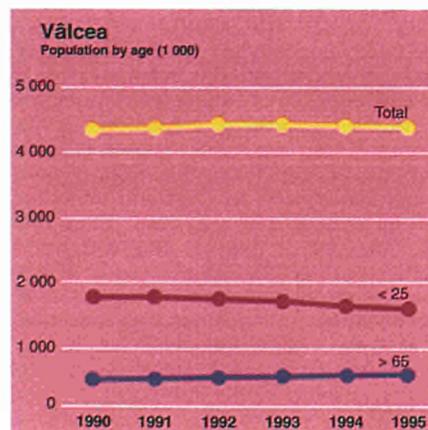
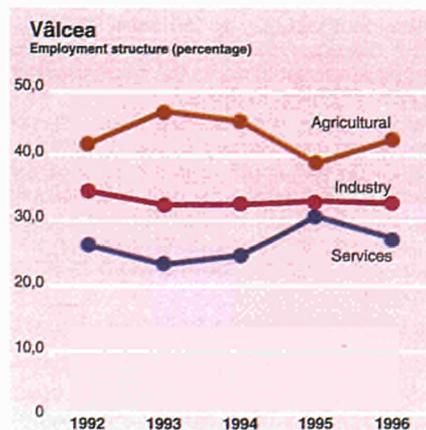
50-52% forest

- Suedoestreich (A)
- Cantabria (E)

of the county's agricultural area. There were only 86 630 ha of arable land, the third smallest area among the Romanian counties and just 34.5% of the county's agricultural area. Yet Vâlcea had the greatest average yields (kg/ha) of wheat and rye, barley and sunflower crops and the second greatest average yield of maize in 1995.

There are four scientific and technical research units. Chemical research is conducted at Incerchim Râmnicu Vâlcea, nuclear energy research at the Isotopic Separation Institute, the Fruit Growing and Production Research Station is in Râmnicu Vâlcea and the Wine Growing and Production Research Station is in Drăgășani.

There are just 2.8 km of rail track per 100 km² (the fourth lowest county network density) but 35.2 km of public road per 100 km² (the 13th highest density) to serve agriculture and industry.



NORTHERN REGION

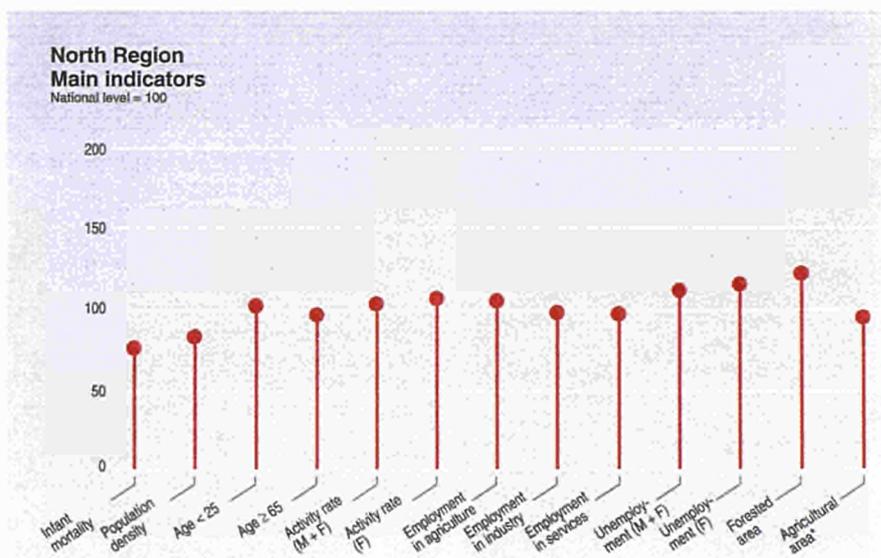
Harsh environment: hardworking people

The rugged environment and harsh climate of the Carpathian Mountains, which enclose the region on three sides, have produced a resilient, hard-working population. The Eastern Carpathians form a substantial border between the North-Eastern and Northern Regions and the Euro-Asian weather systems. They consist of volcanic mountains (Harghita, Gurghiuului and Călimani ranges) and mountains containing flysch deposits (Ciuc, Tarcău, Giurgeu, Bărcău and Bistrița ranges). Between these two geological types, there is a series of intra-Carpathian plateaux where the lowest temperatures in Romania were recorded (the 'cold pole'). The Western Carpathians form the region's border with the Western Region but they are breached by the plain of the Someș River which gradually widens in the north-west to connect the north of the region to the Pannonic Plain. In the south of the region, the Târnave Plateau forms the border with the Central Region. To the north of the region is the international border with Ukraine. The main, central part of the region consists of the hills of the Transylvanian Plain.

The climate is basically temperate-continental but there are local differences throughout the region. The greatest variations in temperature occur in the east. There are also large variations in rainfall and periods of heavy rain alternate with droughts. Archaeological traces in the region indicate that the first human settlements occurred in the Paleolithic age. These settlements were mainly in the Someș River Plain, but also in the hills of the Transylvanian Plain and in the intra-Carpathian Plateau. The region was part of a principality set up by the Dacian leader 'Burebista' in the last century B.C. After the Roman conquest in 107 A.D., all the region's counties, except for Maramureș, came under Roman rule: Maramureș became the home of the free Dacian civilisation. In all other counties in the region traces of a joint Roman and Dacian civilisation have been found. These traces show that Potișsa (now known as Turda) and Napoca (now called Cluj-Napoca) were municipalities, and that Napoca was the capital of Dacia Porolissensis during the time of Roman rule. After the Romans left the region in 271 A.D., the area experienced a number of invasions and colonisations before becoming a part of the Habsburg Empire at the end of the 17th century, remaining part of it until 1918.



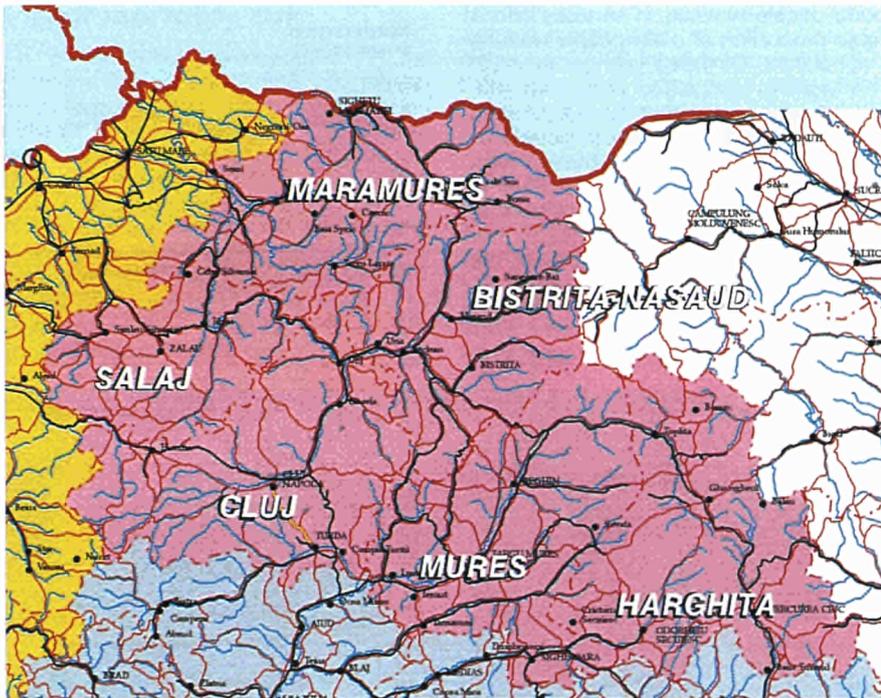
Lake Lacul Roșu and Uciğașul Mountain.



Precious metals and Romania's main supplier of natural gas

The energy industry is highly developed in the Northern Region. This is largely due to its large deposits of natural gas. The region is the main supplier of natural gas to the country. It also has major reserves of non-ferrous ores, significant quantities of precious metals such as gold and silver, as well as copper, zinc and lead. There are also reserves of marble, clay and limestone, together with quartz sands which are used as raw materials in the glassware and construction industries. The presence of all these natural resources has led to mining and quarrying being an important economic sector within the region.

A further potential valuable resource in the region is the large number of mineral springs and their diverse usage. In Harghita county alone, over 2 000 springs have been identified but, so far, there has been little development of these springs as tourist attractions, nor is the mineral water from the springs exported. Dams built on the region's rivers, mainly the Mureș and Someș in the mountains, the Olt in the south and the Tisa to the north, allow the generation of hydroelectric power, which contributes further to the energy industry. These dams have also created lakes that provide the region's water supplies.



Which regions are similar to Northern Region?

Population density:
79 inhabitants per km²
Nordjyllands amt (DK)
Západočský (CZ)

Age structure:
38% under 25
Murcia (E)
Norte (P)
Frevoland (NL)

Land use:
34% forest
Tirol (I)
Limousin (F)

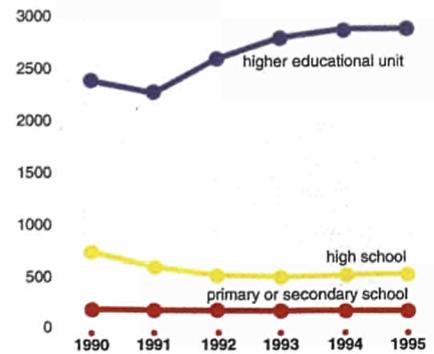
Growing university population but falling school enrolment

From 1990 to 1995, the numbers of all types of educational establishments (primary schools, high schools and higher educational establishments) have increased in the region. In the same period, the number of primary school pupils reduced every year, while the number of high school pupils decreased every year up to 1993 and then increased slightly in 1994 and 1995 (though the number of pupils in 1995 was almost 27% lower than the 1990 figure). Although the number of high school pupils rose by 2.6% in 1995 compared with the previous year, the number of pupils per

1 000 inhabitants was below the national average. Conversely, the number of higher education students in the region has increased every year from 1990 to 1995. The number of higher education establishments increased from 12 in 1994 to 14 in 1995. An almost identical percentage increase in the number of higher education students occurred in the same period. There were 34 208 students in higher education in 1994 and 39 966 in 1995, an increase of 16.8%.

North region:

Pupils per educational establishment



District	Area km ²	Population		Change (%)	Activity (%)	Unemploy- ment (%)	Employment		
		1 000	Inhabitants/km ²				(%) Agriculture	(%) Industry	(%) Services
Country	1995	1995	1995	1990-95	1995	1995	1995	1995	1995
1.NORTH	35 551	2 808	79	-2.7	60.8	10.6	36.1	33.0	31
Bistrita-Nasaud	5 355	328	61	-0.2	59.1	15.3	15.6	27.7	26.8
Cluj	6 674	728	109	-2.2	62.3	9.4	26.8	37.8	35.4
Harghita	6 639	346	52	-4.4	62.2	10.8	37.1	31.8	31.1
Maramures	6 304	537	85	-3.9	59.4	7.2	41.2	31.1	27.8
Mures	6 714	606	90	-2.5	61.3	12.5	36.5	33.6	29.9
Salaj	3 864	263	68	-2.2	57.8	10.3	40.8	28.1	31.0

ROMANIA

Low unemployment

In the first quarter of 1996, the overall unemployment rate was 8.7% compared with the national average of 9.3%. The male unemployment rate was 8.5%, lower than the national average of 8.7%, and the female unemployment rate was 9.1%, also less than the national average of 10.0%. Also during the first quarter of 1996, the activity rate of the region was 48.0%, which was very similar to the national average of 48.1%. In 1995, agriculture, forestry and hunting accounted for 36.1% of the region's workforce, industry for 33.0% and services 31.0%. The employment structure varies with age with a higher proportion of

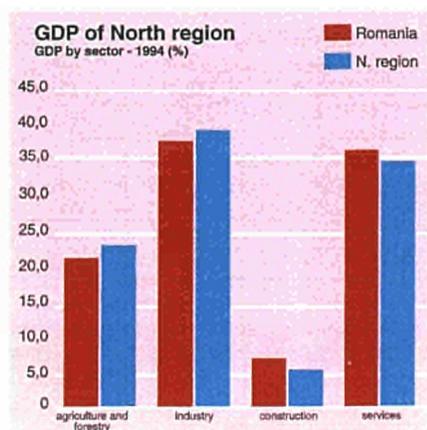
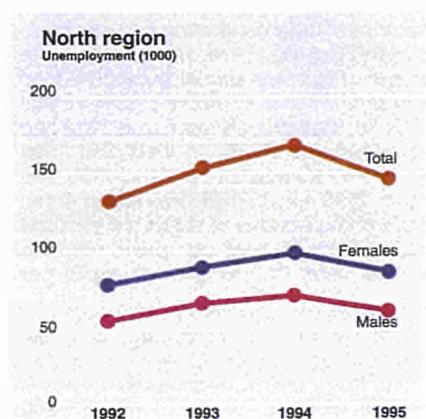
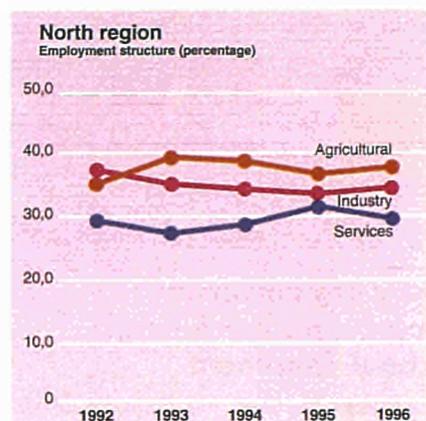
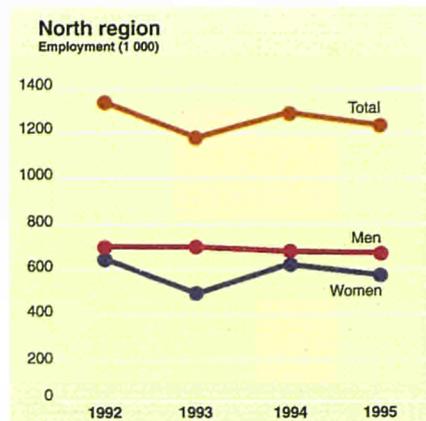
young people working in services and a higher proportion of older people working in agriculture. Of males younger than 25, 34% work in agriculture compared with 70% of males older than 50. Of females under 25, 42% work in services compared with only 13% of females over 50. Although the industry sector is a major employer in the region, the number of employees in research, development and design per 1 000 inhabitants was only 50% of the national average.

Employment by sector, gender and age group in the first quarter 1996

	Total number of employed people	Of which in:			
		Agriculture and forestry	Industry	Construction	Services
Total employment	1 304 980	448 242	424 313	49 002	383 423
a. Males, total	743 796	244 893	260 861	44 275	193 767
- 15 - 24 years	112 870	38 043	30 410	6 716	37 701
- 25 - 34 years	193 694	38 499	84 729	13 337	57 129
- 35 - 49 years	267 510	48 734	122 803	19 179	76 794
- 50 - 64 years	118 826	72 416	21 557	5 043	19 810
- 65 years and over	50 896	47 201	1 362		2 333
b. Females, total	561 184	203 349	163 452	4 727	189 656
- 15 - 24 years	65 512	19 670	17 449	568	27 825
- 25 - 34 years	139 837	29 139	56 389	1 830	52 479
- 35 - 49 years	225 378	51 789	81 565	2 329	89 695
- 50 - 64 years	95 748	68 554	7 537		19 657
- 65 years and over	34 709	34 197	512		

Many small manufacturing and private enterprises

In 1994, the average Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per inhabitant was ROL 2 180 000, close to the national average. The contributions from each sector to the region's GDP were very similar to the national averages. Industry contributed 38.5% (the largest share) of the region's GDP, compared to the national industrial GDP share of 37.0%. Services in the Northern Region contributed the second highest share (34.1%) of the GDP while the national average was 35.7%. In 1996, the majority of industrial enterprises within the region were in manufacturing, and 89% of these manufacturing enterprises employed fewer than 20 peo-



ple. In contrast, more than half of the 117 enterprises engaged in mining and quarrying or in energy production employed more than 200 employees. Furthermore, 95% of the 7 035 industrial enterprises were private companies, 62 were autonomous bodies and 273 were companies with state capital. More than half of the autonomous bodies and companies with state capital employed more than 200 employees compared with only 1.3% of the private companies.

Infant mortality cut

On 1 July 1995, the population of the Northern Region was 2 808 075 inhabitants. Its population density was below the national average by almost 17%, mainly due to the large area of mountainous terrain within the region.

People younger than 25 accounted for 38.0% of the population, higher than the national figure of 37.2%. Those over 65 accounted for 11.6% of the regional community compared to 12.0% nationally. The infant mortality rate was 25% lower than the national level.

The birth rate in the region has been decreasing in recent years. In 1990, it was 14.2 births per 1 000 inhabitants, and in 1995 there were 10.7 births per 1 000 inhabitants. Despite this decrease, in 1995 the region's birth rate was higher than the national average. However, from 1993 to 1995, the mortality rate has been higher than the birth rate.

From 1991 to 1995, the population has been decreasing. This was partly also due to migration. Since 1990, there has been a trend of migration from rural areas to the urban areas, and in 1995, over half of the region's inhabitants lived in urban areas.

Between 1990 and 1995, the migration from the rural areas in the region has been greater than the rate of migration into the urban areas, thus during this period the region has experienced a net outward migration.

Population by age — 1995

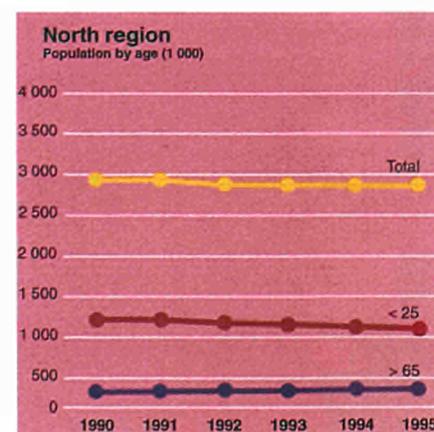
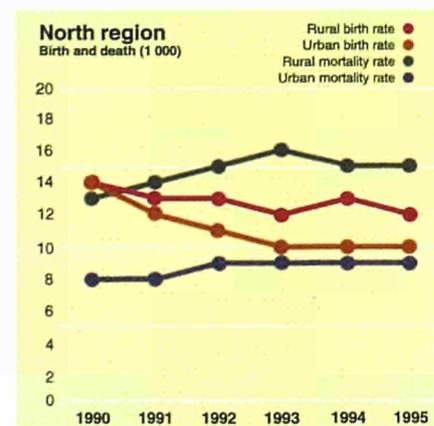
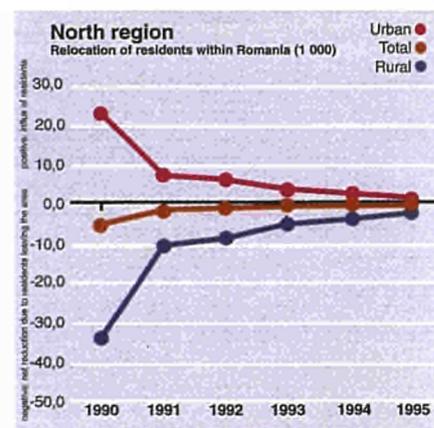
	M+F 1 000	M+F %	M %	F %
<15 years	586	20.9	21.6	20.2
15-24	481	17.1	17.7	16.6
25-39	592	21.1	21.8	20.4
40-54	520	18.5	18.6	18.4
55-64	302	10.8	10.3	11.2
≥65	327	11.6	10.0	13.2
Total	2 808	100.0	100.0	100.0

Well placed for medical care

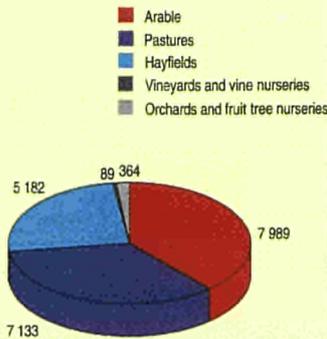
By the end of 1995, 45 public hospitals with 24 343 hospital beds were functioning in the region. The number of hospital beds per 1 000 inhabitants was 13.5% above the national average. A long tradition of medical care exists in the Cluj-Napoca and Târgu Mureş hospitals and in 1995 the mortality rate in the region was lower than the national average.

The region has 418 public libraries providing 2.7 volumes per inhabitant on average, which exceeds the national average of 2.1. In 1995, 694 localities, of which 656 were rural, were connected to the drinking water mains. The public sewerage network was less developed, with only 117 localities enjoying this facility of which 79 were in rural areas.

Natural gas deposits and their exploitation allowed the expansion of the gas distribution network. By the end of 1995, there were 12 km of gas distribution pipes per 100 km², compared with the national average of 6.4 km per 100 km².



North region
Agricultural area (km²)



Livestock, exports and wooden goods

Some food crops, mainly cereals and potatoes, are grown in the region, though the climate and soil conditions make it more suited to the breeding of livestock. Consequently, in 1995 the number of cattle per 1 000 ha of agricultural land was 16.6% more than the national average, and the number of sheep per 1 000 ha was 7.7% above the national average. However, the rearing of pigs is less common in the region as in the same year the number of pigs per 1 000 ha was 17.7% below the national average.

More than 88% of people employed in industry worked in manufacturing in 1995. A high proportion of the goods produced in the region is exported. Because of the large areas of forests within the region, much of its industry is concerned with the manufacture of wooden goods. These goods include furniture, musical instruments, holiday villas and other wooden pre-fabricated buildings. Other products manufactured in the region (and with a high proportion intended for export) include: footwear, glassware, household ceramics, textiles and pulp and paper. Also manufactured in the region, but mainly for the home market, are products from the chemical industry such as medicines, cosmetics and camera film.

Number of industrial enterprises by branches on August 31st, 1996

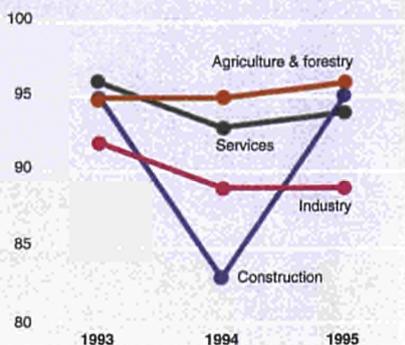
	Total number of enterprises	of which:		
		0 - 19 employees	20 - 199 employees	200 employees and over
Total industry	7 035	6 199	514	322
- mining and quarrying	60	20	10	30
- manufacturing	6 918	6 171	485	262
- energy	57	8	19	30

Income is lower than the national average

Salaries in the region were below the national level by almost 8% in 1995 and labour costs were also less than the national average by 12%. Overall, salaries increased by 51% from 1994 to 1995. The sector with the biggest (56%) increase was construction, and the lowest (46%) increase was for services. Furthermore, in 1995, the monthly average salaries for farming were 25% less than those in construction and 21% below salaries in industry.

In 1995, the overall average income per inhabitant in the northern region was 3.5% lower than the national level. The breakdown of income sources was very similar to the national figures. In the Northern Region, 41% of the average income was derived from salaries compared to the national average of 44%. The other major contributor to income was the value of products consumed from own resources which accounted for 29% of the average monthly income in this region and for 27% in the whole of Romania.

North region
Wages by sector (national level = 100)

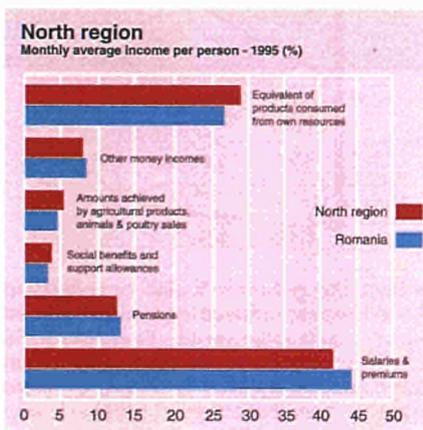
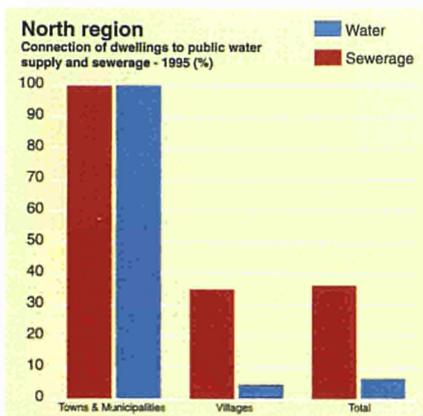


Deforestation but relatively little pollution, except for wastes

In 1995, 3.1% of forests were classified as being affected by pollution in the Northern Region compared to 5.9% nationally. However, the proportion of forest affected by pollution due to the effects of liquid and solid wastes from industry was five times higher than the national average. The main sources of these pollutants are chemical factories and plants that process non-ferrous ores.

Of the total area of forests that were affected by pollution, 85.8% were only slightly affected, 10.8% were moderately affected and 3.4% were severely affected.

Other environmental problems were caused by deforestation of the hills in different parts of the region, leading to soil erosion in some areas, especially on the Transylvanian Plateau where forests had been cut down to provide agricultural land. This area also suffered from droughts, the effects exacerbated by deforestation.



Transport network limited by mountainous terrain

Even though the region has a high proportion of mountainous areas which are more suitable for roads rather than railways, in 1995 there were 4.8 km of track per 100 km², close to the national figure, while the public road density was 28 km per 100 km², 8% lower than the national average. The road and rail systems provided relatively quick connections to the Central and Western Regions. The connection with the North-Eastern Region is more difficult due to the two parallel mountain chains that make up the East Carpathians. Only two railway lines cross the range, through Ghimeş Pass in the south and Mestecăniş Pass in the north. There are no international airports in the region but the airport at Cluj provides internal flights to Romania's other major airports, and there are also local airports at Baia Mare, Satu Mare and Târgu Mureş.

In 1995, there were some 340 600 telephone subscribers and approximately 411 100 telephones. The region was close to the national average for telephone subscribers with 8.2 persons per subscription.



Hill grazing in Mureş.

BISTRIȚA NĂȘĂUD COUNTY

A rich and varied past

The northern county of Bistrița-Năsăud is flanked to the east by the Carpathian Mountains and to the north by the border county of Maramureș. It covers 5 355 km², or 2.2% of the national territory and the principle town is Bistrița.

The area has many archaeological sites dating from Neolithic times through to the Dacian-Roman period. Documents reveal the social structure before and after the retreat of the Roman administration around the third century A.D. The area retains a strong emphasis on its Dacian heritage and it has played an important part in the history of Romania. In the 16th century the people supported the efforts of Prince Mihai Viteazu to weld the Romanian peoples into a united nation within its own territory.

The historic town of Bistrița attained the status of free city with powers of legislation in the year 1353.

Volunteers from the area were noticeably involved in the 1877 war of independence against the Ottoman Empire, and in 1918, after World War I, lent effective support in setting up the modern day Romanian State through the Union of Alba Iulia (the county town of Alba).

Although the 1930 census showed the local population to be 72.5% Romanian, the county was handed over to Hungary in 1940 by decree of the Vienna dictate during World War II, but was returned to Romanian sovereignty after 1945.

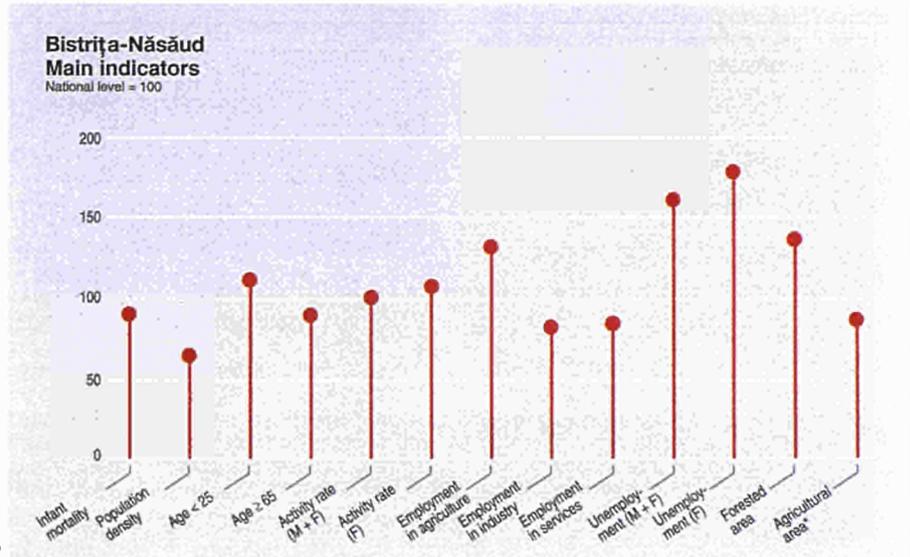
The topography consists of hilly areas and massifs. The Țibleș and Rodna Mountains to the north, Bârgău and Căliman Mountains to the east and lowlands to the southwest give the appearance of a large amphitheatre, a common feature for counties that lie against the horseshoe bend of the Carpathian mountain range.

The waterway network is vast; the Someșul Mare basin, the Bistrița and Mureș rivers cover most of the territory and there are glacial lakes, such as the Lala Mare and the Lala Mică in the Rodna Mountains.

There is a range of mineral deposits: non-ferrous ores such as copper, zinc and lead are mined, while clay, marble and graphite are also exploited. Natural gas and salt are to be found in the Rodna and Bârgău areas and the county has natural therapeutic springs in Sângeorz-Băi, Lunca, Ilnei and Rodna.



A typical mountain house.



Progressive agriculture, small-scale industry

In 1995, over 57% of the active population was employed in agriculture and 29.3% in industry (over 80% of this figure in manufacturing industries). The same census indicated that other categories of services were less developed.

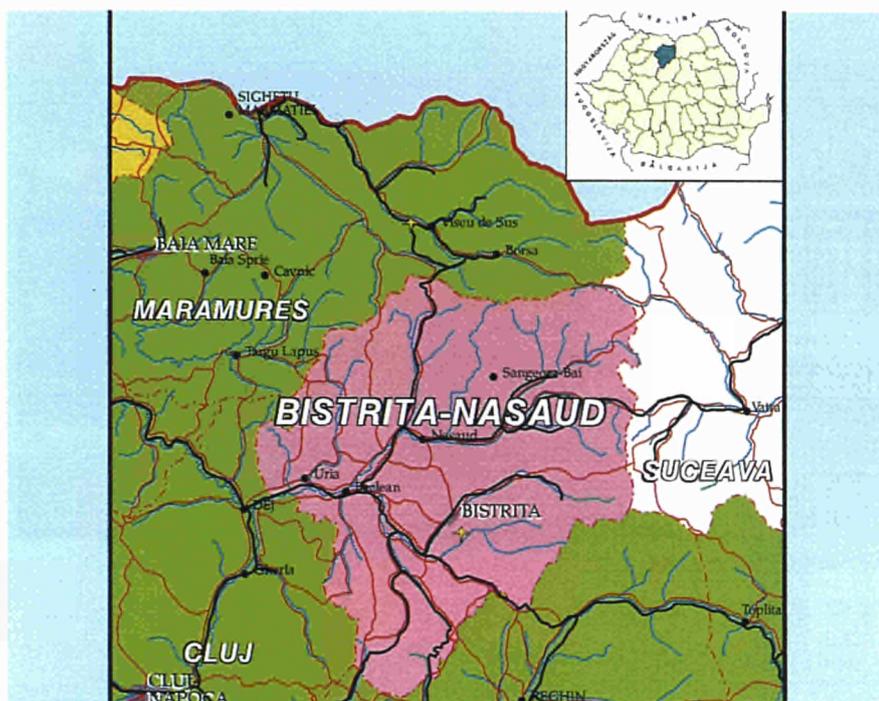
At the end of 1995, the land used for agriculture in Bistrița-Năsăud accounted for 1.9% of all the agricultural land in Romania. Two-thirds of the land given over to agriculture belonged to the private sector. Overall, 53.1% of Bistrița-Năsăud was occupied by agricultural land while forests covered 38.4%.

The breakdown of agricultural land was as follows: 60.3% pastures and hayfields, 35.6% arable land and 3.7% devoted to

orchards and fruit-tree nurseries. Significant increases in yields per hectare were recorded during 1990-95 for the county's main crops. Wheat and rye improved by 37.4%, barley and two-row barley by 9.0%, maize by 56.6% and sugar beet by 34.2%. The potato yield for 1995 placed Bistrița-Năsăud fifth in the national table.

The 1990-95 period showed a decline in the number of livestock but the number of sheep remained stable over these five years at 3.0% of the total number of sheep in Romania.

Mining, quarrying, and energy production were areas of increased activity during this period with manufacturing industries involving engineering, electronics, plastics and wood processing. Of the 813 industrial enterprises recorded in 1995, 90% employed up to 20 people and 95%



Ageing population, high unemployment

In 1995, it was calculated that Bistrița-Năsăud had 328 436 inhabitants (or 1.4% of the national population) following a population decrease of 0.3% between 1990 and 1995. During this period the urban population, which was mainly concentrated in the Bistrița Municipality, increased from 36.5% to 37.3% of the total county population.

The 1992 census recorded that 90.4% of people were ethnic Romanians, 6.5% were Hungarian, 2.8% were Gypsies and 0.3% were German. Further analysis showed that 83.4% of the population belonged to the Orthodox Church, 5.1% to the Reformed Church and 5.0% to the Pentecostal Church.

Females accounted for 50.3% of the population in 1995. The young (ages 0-24) made up 41.3% of the total population in Bistrița-Năsăud. People over the age of 55 accounted for 20.5% (women in this age group for 11.2%) of the population. This is an increase on previous years and reflects a steady fall in the birth rate over many years. With fewer young people, the overall population is older and there has been a consequent overall increase in the mortality rate. Infant mortality showed a steady and significant decrease from 1989, placing Bistrița-Năsăud in 17th position in the national table and also below the national average.

The abolition of some restrictive regulations after 1989 accounted for increased mobility in Bistrița-Năsăud, which resulted in some economic and social restructuring. Between 1990 and 1995, employment decreased steadily, partly due to the reduction of people available to work as the population shrank and aged. In 1995, the unemployment rate dropped to 15.3% from 20.9% in 1993 but this was still above the national average of 9.5%. The female unemployment rate in Bistrița-Năsăud was 20.3% in 1995.

Which regions are similar to Bistrița-Năsăud?

Area:

- about 5 300 km²
- Roma (I)
- Haut-Saone (F)
- Norfolk (UK)

Age structure:

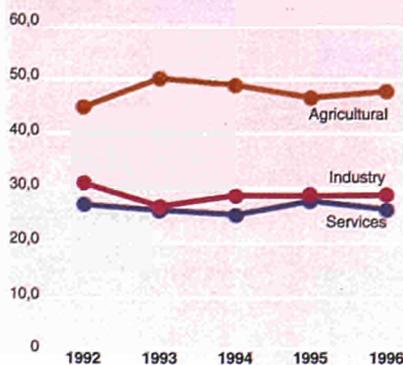
- 40-41% under 25
- Madeira (P)
- Lomzynskie (PL)

Employment structure:

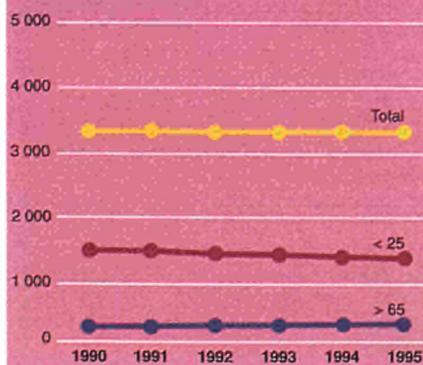
- 27-28% industry
- Tirol (A)
- Molise (I)
- Manner-Suomi (FI)

belonged to the private sector. During the last 25 years, Bistrița-Năsăud has experienced an industrialisation policy that has improved the county's manufacturing capacity and output. This rapid industrialisation also required an accompanying modernisation of technology. Considerable progress has been made in the construction of dwellings, with 85% being built from private funds in 1995 compared to 42.5% in 1990. The railway network comprised 6.8 km per 100 km², well above the national average of 4.7 km per 100 km², but the road system density was 24.5 km per 100 km², below the national average.

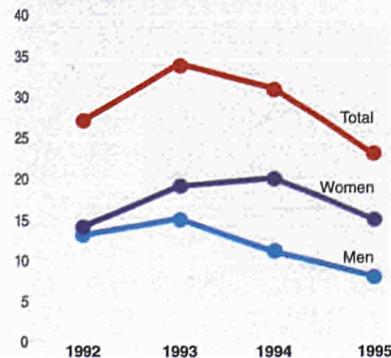
Bistrița-Năsăud
Employment structure (percentage)



Bistrița-Năsăud
Population by age (1 000)



Bistrița-Năsăud
Unemployment (1 000)



CLUJ COUNTY

Border wars

Cluj county is situated in north-western Romania's Transylvania region. Administratively part of the Northern Region, its 6 674 km² represent 2.8% of Romania's territory. Cluj Napoca became a free city in 1405 and is now a municipality and the county town. It is a major trade centre of Transylvania, situated on the Someşul Mic River and in the pass to north Transylvania.

The relief is predominantly a hilly one with the Apuseni Mountains in the south covering almost two thirds of the county. There are three main rivers flowing through the county, the Someşul Mic, the Arieşul Inferior and the Crişul Repede. Some natural lakes, reservoirs and ponds add to Cluj's water resources. The lakes and water-courses in the mountains have the potential to generate hydroelectricity.

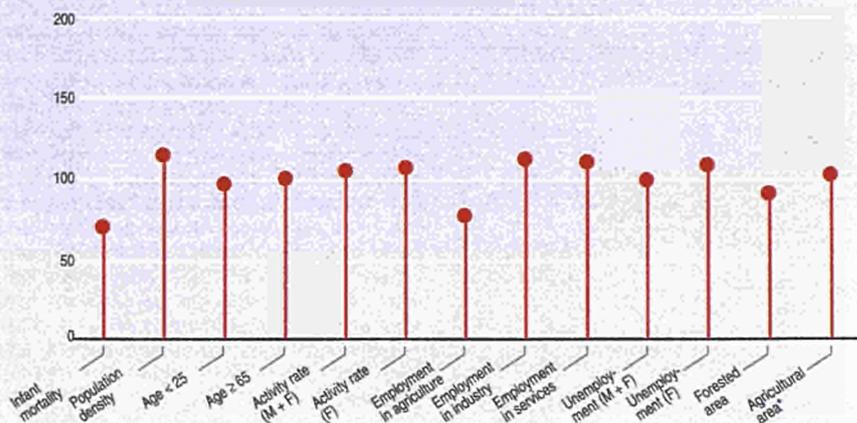
Archaeological discoveries can trace human presence in the area to the Neolithic age, with further evidence of a flourishing Geto-Dacian civilisation in the second century B.C. Cluj has been at the centre of the movement towards Romanian nationhood. It was at Bobâlna in 1437, that the peasants raised their standard against perceived oppression and injustice, with tragic results for the rebel population the following year. From 1683, Cluj was occupied by the Austrians and remained under their direct control until 1699. In 1848, the Austro-Hungarian Empire was preoccupied by revolution and insurrections in its capital, Vienna. In the same year a revolution occurred in Romania. In Transylvania this revolution was a reaction to the Austro-Hungarian administration in the area and it acted as a catalyst for the movement towards the unification of Romania. Cluj was part of this revolution, producing some of the country's most revered figures including the national hero, Avram Iancu.



Cluj Napoca town hall.

Cluj Main indicators

National level = 100

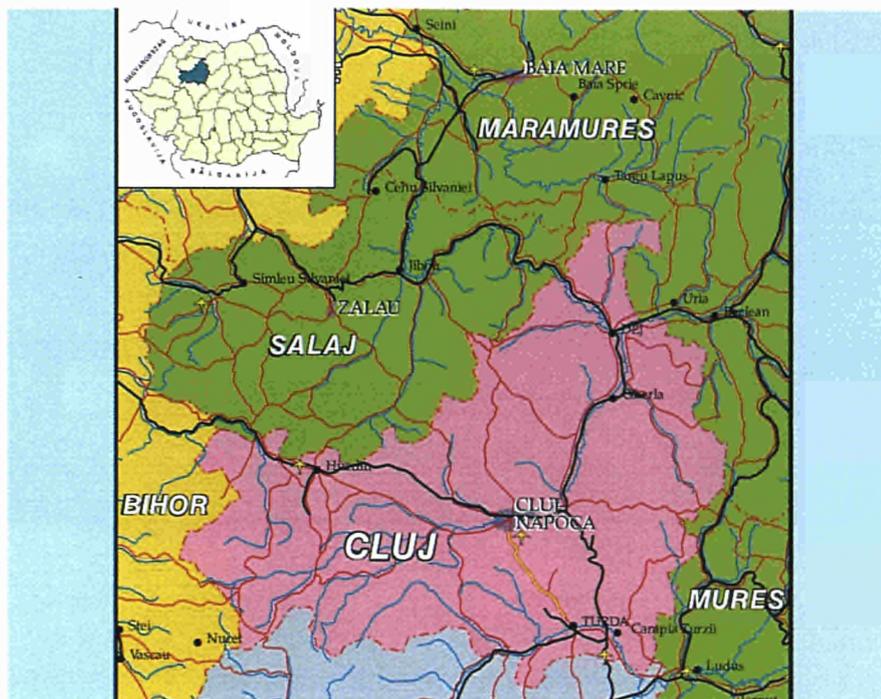


Strong in research

In 1995, there were 334.900 employed people in Cluj county. The largest proportion, 37.8%, worked in industry, 35.4% were employed in the service sector and 26.8% of the workforce was in agriculture. In the same year, the industrial sector comprised 1 967 enterprises, of which 15 were in mining, 14 in the field of energy production and 1 938 were in manufacturing. Within the county, there were 1 873 private enterprises, of which 94.6% employed fewer than 20 persons. Cluj county's industrial output exceeds the Romanian average production levels for such items as household ceramics (22.3% of Cluj's total output), medicinal products (17.9%), paper (11.1%), footwear (11.1%), salt (10.0%), raw steel (5.3%), rolled steel (4.9%) and television sets (4.0%).

Cluj county has 23 research institutes engaged in a variety of activities such as engineering, mechanics, electronics, applied physics, food science, agriculture, forestry, ecology and medical science. Most of this research is carried out in the Cluj-Napoca Municipality, often as part of international projects.

In 1995, agricultural lands covered 63.6% of Cluj county, with a further 25.4% under forests. In the same year, the arable harvest accounted for 54% of the county's agricultural yield. Cluj achieved 2.8% of Romania's total agricultural production, the 12th largest contribution in the country. The county also produced the fifth largest amount of animal produce, 3.2% of the national total. Furthermore, Cluj farms 3.4% of the all cattle and sheep in Romania.



Dramatically falling birth rate

On 1 July 1995, calculations revealed that there were 727 656 people in Cluj county. This was the seventh largest county population in Romania and it accounted for 3.2% of the national population. However, this was a 2.2% decrease on the calculated 1990 population of 744 049. The number of live births in 1995 had decreased by 30.9% when compared to 1990 figures and deaths in 1995 had increased by 6.6% over deaths recorded in 1990. Over the same period, Cluj county consistently experienced one of the lowest birth rates in Romania. In 1995, there were 8.8 births per 1 000 inhabitants in Cluj, the third lowest birth rate in the country. The infant mortality rate has fluctuated between 1990 and 1995 but fell from 19.5 deaths per 1 000 live births in 1990 to 14.8 in 1995, the joint third lowest rate in Romania.

In 1995, there were 109.0 inhabitants per km², the ninth highest population density of the counties in Romania. Urban dwellers accounted for 68.6% of the county's population, with almost two-thirds of the urban population concentrated in Cluj-Napoca Municipality. Those aged over 65 accounted for 9.0% of the urban population and 19.3% of the rural population. The 0-14 age-group was divided fairly evenly between urban and rural areas and constituted 18.5% of the total county population, less than the national average of 20.5%.

The 1992 census revealed that 77.6% of the people were ethnic Romanians, 19.9% were Hungarians, 2.2% were Gypsies and 0.3% other nationalities. Of all people 70.0% were Orthodox, 14.1% were Protestant, 4.6% Roman Catholic, 5.5% Greek Catholic and 2.2% Pente-costal. 'Other denominations', or blank returns, accounted for the remaining 4.2%.

In 1995, 460 people out of 1 000 had a job, the fifth highest figure among Romanian counties and notably higher than the national average of 418. The activity rate was 62.3%, slightly higher than the national rate and the unemployment rate was 9.4%.

Which regions are similar to Cluj?

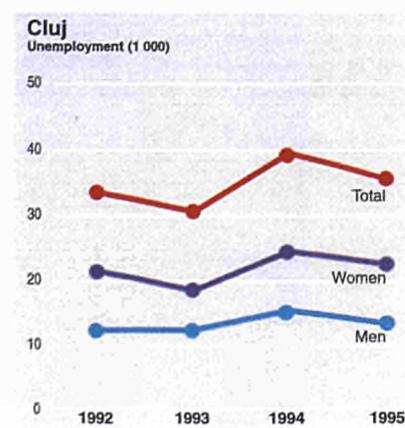
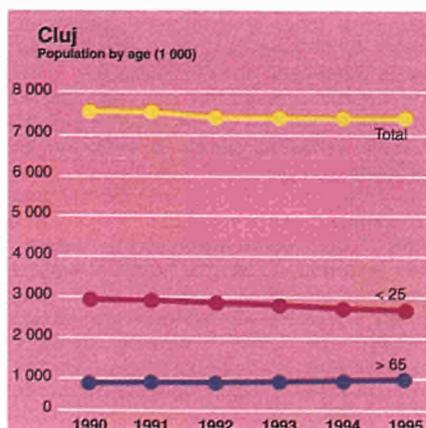
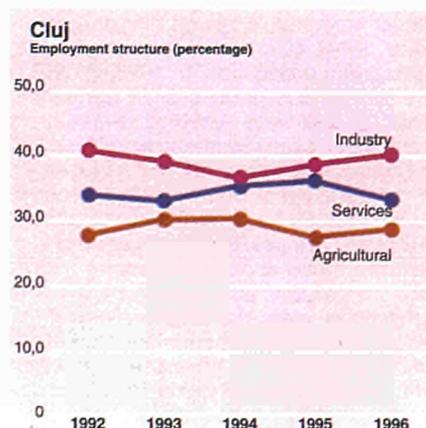
Population density:
107-109 inhabitants per km²
Macerata (I)
Magdeburg (D)
Bydgoskie (PL)

Age structure:
35% under 25
Calabria (I)
Veszprém (HU)

Land use:
64% agriculture
Yorkshire and Humberside (UK)
Campania (I)
Lodzkie (PL)

The water distribution network expanded by 13.2% during the period from 1990 to 95 to include 185 localities, making Cluj the leading county in Romania in terms of the number of its localities connected to the main water supply.

The public sewerage system in 1995 was 6.6% larger than in 1990. Covering 31 localities, the mains sewerage network was the third largest in the country. Cluj-Napoca Municipality has an airport for internal flights and is well connected to the rest of Romania by road and rail.



HARGHITA COUNTY

A mountainous region with over 2 000 mineral springs

Harghita County is situated in the horse-shoe bend of the Carpathian Mountains in the eastern part of Transylvania. The counties of Neamţ and Bacău lie to the east, Covasna and Braşov to the south, Mureş to the west and Suceava to the north. Due to this position, mountains and hills extend over 60% of the territory. Harghita covers 6 639 km², making it the 13th largest county in Romania.

Miercurea-Ciuc Municipality is the county's principal town. There are eight other towns in Harghita, the largest ones being Odorheiu Secuiesc Municipality, Gheorgheni, Cristuru-Secuiesc, Topliţa and Corund. The other, smaller localities include 49 communes and 236 villages.

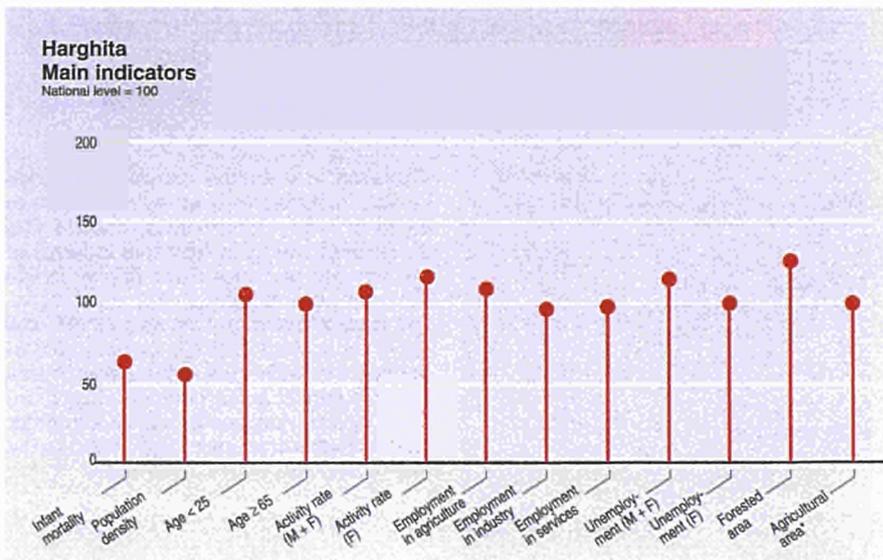
Seven of the nine towns and municipalities are inhabited by a Hungarian majority and as a result about 40 000 pupils are taught in Hungarian, their native language, by more than 2 300 Hungarian-speaking teachers. Culture in Harghita is also enriched by Hungarian influences. The Popular Creation and Customs Centre promotes the development of the arts, particularly amongst the Hungarian population.

There are three main river basins created by the Mureş, Olt and Bistriţa rivers. Harghita has the only volcanic lake in the country, Sfânta Ana and the biggest natural lake in Romania, Lacul Roşu (the Red Lake), is also situated here. Harghita is famous for possessing more than 2 000 natural springs which provide mineral waters for drinking or for therapeutic use. Despite the extent of this network, water only covers 0.6% of the county, the smallest percentage of water coverage among the Romanian counties.

The ground contains many natural resources, such as volcanic tuff, copper pyrites, salt, clays, compact limestone, andesite and basalt. Over one third of the county is covered by forest and Harghita is rich in pastures and meadows which provide further resources and raw materials.



Typical beech forest in Harghita.



A high standard of education and training

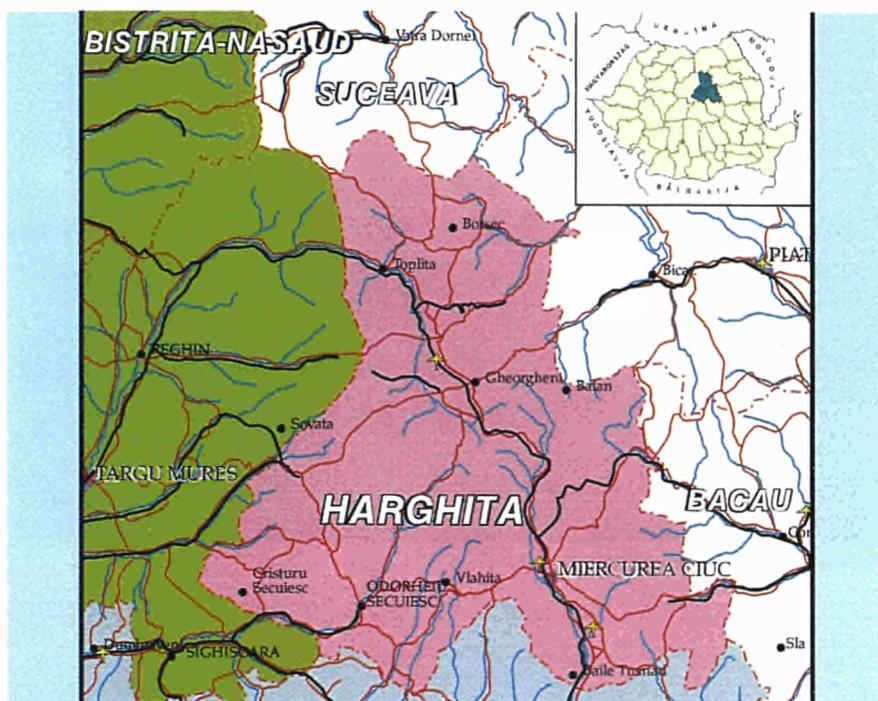
In 1992, 78% of the adult population had graduated from university or secondary school. Only 1.4% of adults were illiterate, one of the lowest rates in Romania.

The county's economy has progressed over recent years; a significant share of the county's industrial goods is exported. In particular, private capital enterprises in various fields of activity have experienced remarkable growth.

Most of the people employed in industry were engaged in manufacturing. The main industries are based on steel, wood processing, timber, food, textiles, knitwear and clothing. The main industrial products were: copper, pyrites, prepared dolomite and kaolin, meat products, dairy products,

footwear, timber, furniture, steel and tractors.

Agriculture is another major part of the economy, dominated by livestock (mainly cattle) breeding, although this only represents about 40% of the value of the total agricultural production. In 1995, 61.2% of the county was given over to agriculture, while 35.0% was covered with forest. Harghita had the greatest area of hayfields in Romania, covering 164 059 ha or 40.4% of the agricultural land. Pastures accounted for 148 156 ha or 36.5% of the agricultural area. The pastures and hayfields support the cattle and sheep rearing. Arable land constituted only 22.8% of the total agricultural area, the smallest proportion among the Romanian counties. Cereal and maize cultivation is widespread but with relatively low average yields. In 1995, pota-



The largest Hungarian majority in Romania

On 1 July 1995, there were 345 860 inhabitants in this county. The population density was low, 52.1 inhabitants per km², the third lowest figure for a Romanian county. On 1 January 1980, there were 342 854 residents in Harghita which had risen to 364 166 on 1 January 1990, according to calculations. However, the population has since declined, most notably during the period 1991-92.

A falling birth rate, rising mortality rate and migration contributed to the decline in the population figures. The birth rate fell from 13.7 births per 1 000 inhabitants in 1990 to 10.7 in 1995. During the same period, the mortality rate rose from 10.1 deaths per 1 000 inhabitants to 11.9. However, in 1995 the county registered the lowest rate of infant mortality in Romania, 13.2 deaths per 1 000 births, and recorded a higher than average life expectancy of 70.1 years. In 1992, ethnic Hungarians constituted 84.7% of the community, the largest Hungarian population in Romania, while only 14.1% was ethnic Romanian. Two thirds of the people were members of the Roman Catholic Church.

In 1995, urban residents accounted for 45.7% of the population, below the country average of 54.3%. Those over 65 years of age accounted for 11.8% of the population, less than the national average of 12.0%.

There were 18 316 registered unemployed people in 1995, so the unemployment rate was 10.8% (higher than the national average) and 11.2% for women (lower than the national average). By the end of August 1996, the overall unemployment rate had fallen to 7.1%. In 1995, the labour force was divided fairly equally between agriculture and forestry (37.1%), industry and construction (31.8%) and services (31.1%). There were 151 000 employees (to the nearest thousand) and the activity rate was 62.2%.

Which regions are similar to Harghita?

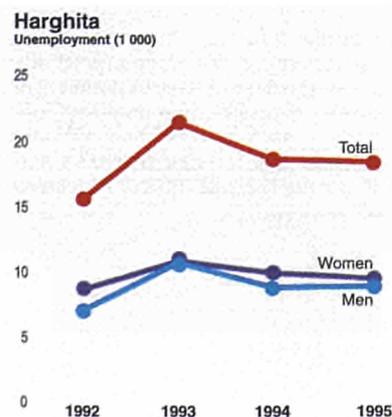
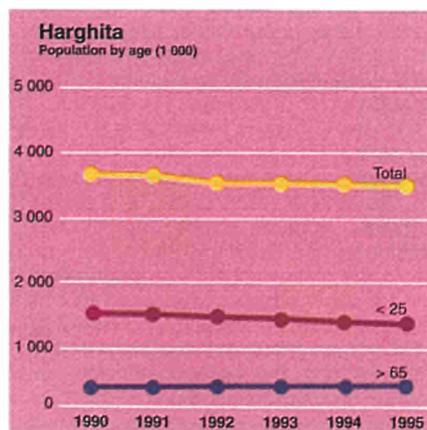
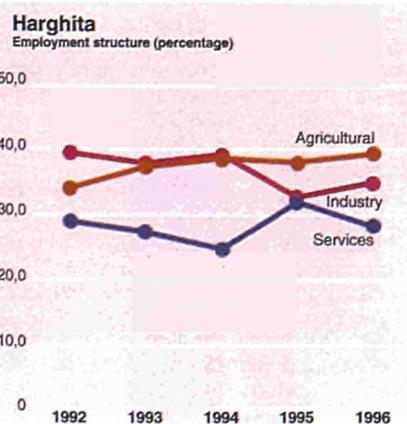
Population density:
52 inhabitants per km²
Voiotia (EL)
Blekinge län (S)
Rioja (E)

Age structure:
12% over 65
Madeira (P)
Pohjois-Suomi (FIN)
Noord-Brabant (NL)

Land use:
61% agriculture
Champagne-Ardenne (F)
Legniskie (PL)

toes and sugar beet were the main crops. Since the upturn in the economy the county has experienced growth in trade and transport. However, due to the mountainous relief, there were only 21.8 km of public roads per 100 km², the third lowest road density among the counties and the rail network density was just 3.2 km per 100 km², the seventh lowest density in Romania in 1995.

Improvements to housing over the past two decades and the expansion of the public water and sewerage systems have brought living conditions in Harghita close to the country average.



MARAMUREŞ COUNTY

Many nature reserves

Maramureş county is situated in the extreme north of Romania on the border with the Ukraine. Satu Mare county is to the west and Bistriţa-Năsăud to the east. It covers 6 304 km², which is 2.6% of the national territory. Baia Mare Municipality is the principal town, Sighetu Marmaţiei is the second municipality on the border with the Ukraine and there are six other towns and 226 villages.

The usually temperate continental climate varies between the eastern and western parts of the county due to the changes in the relief. The Rodna Range in the east includes the highest point in the county, Pietrosul Peak (2 305 m). Other features are the Oaş-Gutâi-Țibleş volcanic mountain and the Maramureş Mountains with heights between 600 and 1 900 m.

There are over 3 000 km of rivers and streams and the potential exists to generate a great deal of hydroelectricity from the Lăpuş, Iza and Vişeu rivers. There are two glacial lakes, Iezerul and Buhţescu, other lakes near Baia Sprie and over 100 mineral springs.

In 1970, the Pietrosu Reservation was established, covering more than 3 300 ha and home to chamois and mountain rats, one of 19 nature reserves in Maramureş.

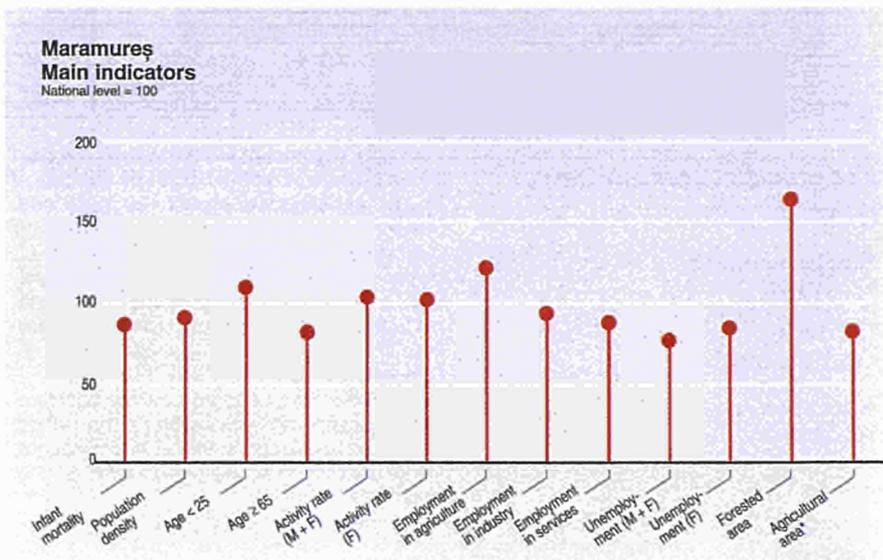
There are 67 historical monuments, 363 architectural monuments and 13 main areas of historical importance. Archaeological digs have unearthed household goods and weapons in this area dating from the Stone Age and Bronze Age.

Archaeological finds have also traced the steady influx and settlement of free Dacians in this area. Maramureş was an integral part of the independent, centralised Dacian State, established by its leader Burebista, which coexisted alongside the Roman province of Dacia from the fourth to the 10th centuries.

The first documents on Maramureş were written in the 12th and 13th centuries by the Chancellery of the Hungarian State. During the short lived National Union of 1600, strong support came from the people of the area with the local Chioaru fortress becoming a major defensive settlement during the rule of the Romanian King, Mihai Viteazul.



The Maramureş Mountains seen from Borşa.



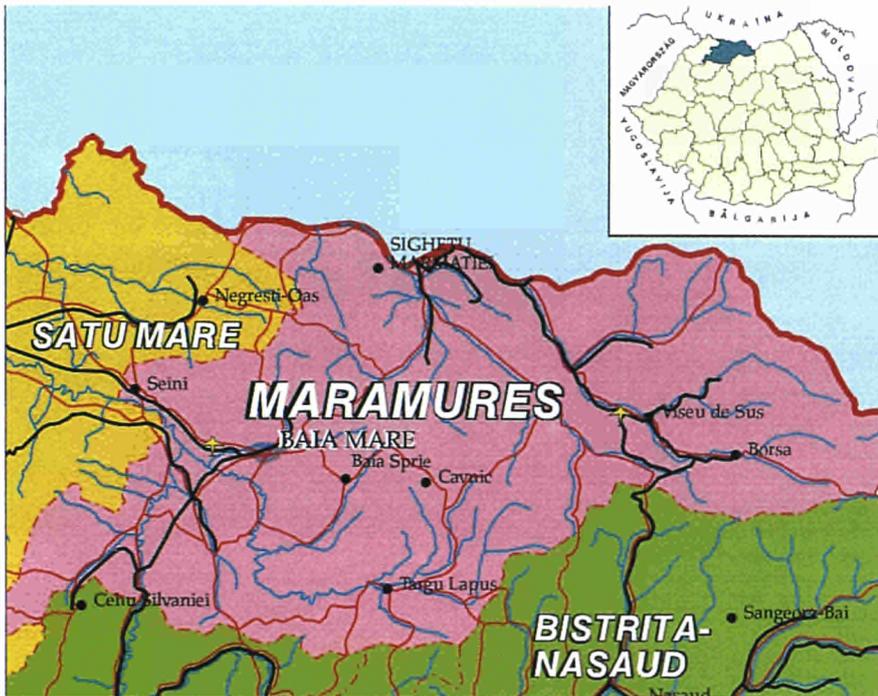
Considerable private dairy farming

In 1995, the agricultural sector employed 41.2% of the labour force, while industry and construction engaged 31.1%, and 27.8% were in the service sector.

Agricultural land covered 311 231 ha or 49.4% of the county, which was 2.1% of the national total in 1995. Most (45.9%) of the remaining area was covered by forest, the fifth largest proportion of forest in Romania. Orchards (mostly apple trees) account for only 1.0% of the county area. Due to the climate and the topographical relief the county is not well-suited to crop cultivation. Only 13.3% of the county (or 26.9% of the agricultural area) was used for arable farming, the second smallest percentage among the Romanian counties. However, the sugar beet average yield was

the second highest in Romania. The majority (71.1%) of the agricultural land was given over to pastures and hay fields for cattle and sheep. Maramureş had the seventh greatest number of cattle, 3.1% of the national herd, and produced the third greatest quantity of cow and buffalo milk, 4.1% of the national amount. In 1995 the private sector held 83.6% of all county agricultural land and over 98% of sheep and cattle livestock.

In the same year, industrial activity was carried out within 1 443 enterprises (including 1 384 private companies and 17 public sector services) dominated by the 1 413 manufacturing companies. Most manufacturing enterprises employed fewer than 20 people. The most developed sectors of manufacturing industry were timber processing, furniture, food and beverages, textiles, ready-made clothes, machinery



A relatively young population

On 1 January 1980, calculations revealed that there were 514 339 inhabitants. By 1 July 1990, this had risen 8.8% to 559 393 but on 1 July 1995, this fell to 537 477 inhabitants, 2.4% of the national total. The birth rate fell from 15.8 live births per 1 000 inhabitants in 1990 to 12.1 in 1995, the seventh highest rate in Romania. The infant mortality rate fell from 28.2 deaths within the first year per 1 000 live births in 1990 to 17.7 in 1995, below the Romanian average of 21.2. The overall mortality rate has fluctuated and increased slightly, from 9.7 in 1990 to 10.8 deaths per 1 000 inhabitants in 1995. Maramureş was consistently among the top seven counties in terms of natural increase over this period. However, the net outward migration was consistently greater than the natural increase and so the population declined. Maramureş had the highest continual rate of emigration among Romania's counties. According to the 1992 census, 80.0% of the population was ethnic Romanian, 10.2% was Hungarian, 6.8% was Ukrainian, Gypsies accounted for 1.3% and Germans 0.6%. Some 77.4% of people were Orthodox, while Roman Catholics and Greek Catholics made up 6.8% and 5.7% respectively of the population. The county has the fifth largest young population. In 1995, those under 25 accounted for 40.3% of the population, spread fairly equally between rural and urban areas, as against 37.2% nationally. People over 65 years of age represented 9.4% of the community compared to a country average of 12.0%, the third smallest percentage among the counties. They constituted 6.6% of the population in urban areas and 12.7% in rural areas, indicating the trend towards demographic ageing within villages. There was a downward trend in the unemployment rate from 1993 to 1994 and in 1995 it was lower than in 1992. The unemployment rate was 7.2% (9.5% for women), the 11th lowest rate in Romania (15th lowest female rate).

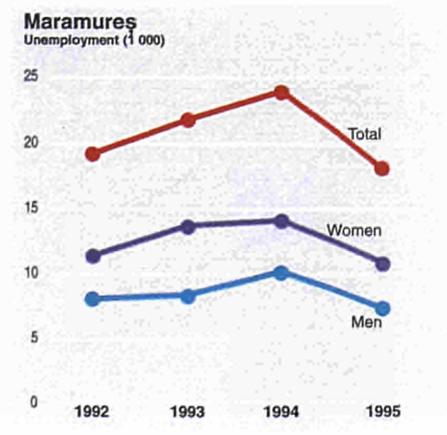
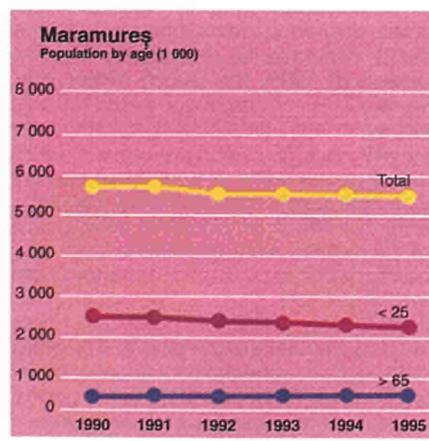
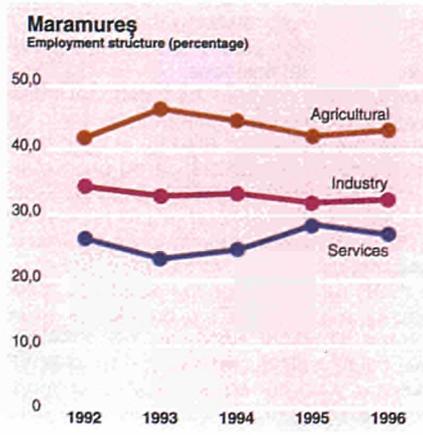
Which regions are similar to Maramureş?

Population:
0.5 million habitants
Eure (F)
Övre Norrland (S)
Cantabria (E)

Population density:
85 inhabitants per km²
Imathia (EL)
Zuidwest-Friesland (NL)
Rhön-Grabfeld (D)

Employment structure:
41-42% agriculture
Dytiki Ellada (EL)
Koninskie (PL)

and equipment, medicines, fine glassware and pottery. The second largest section of industry was mining and quarrying. There are valuable deposits in the county, most notably deposits of gold and silver ores. Mining and metal processing accounted for 38% of Maramureş' industrial output. The railway network density was 3.7 km per 100 km², below the national average of 4.8 km per 100 km². There were 1 501 km of public road, a density of 23.8 km per 100 km², also below the national average of 30.6 km and the sixth lowest road density in Romania. One-third of roads were classified as modern. There is also a local airport in Baia Mare.



MUREŞ COUNTY

Towns situated on rivers

Mureş county can be found in the middle of the historical region of Transylvania. It has a total area of 6 714 km², making it the 11th largest county in Romania and representing 2.8% of the national area. The neighbouring counties are Harghita to the east, Suceava to the north, Bistriţa-Năsăud to the north-west, Cluj and Alba to the west, Sibiu to the south and Braşov to the south-east.

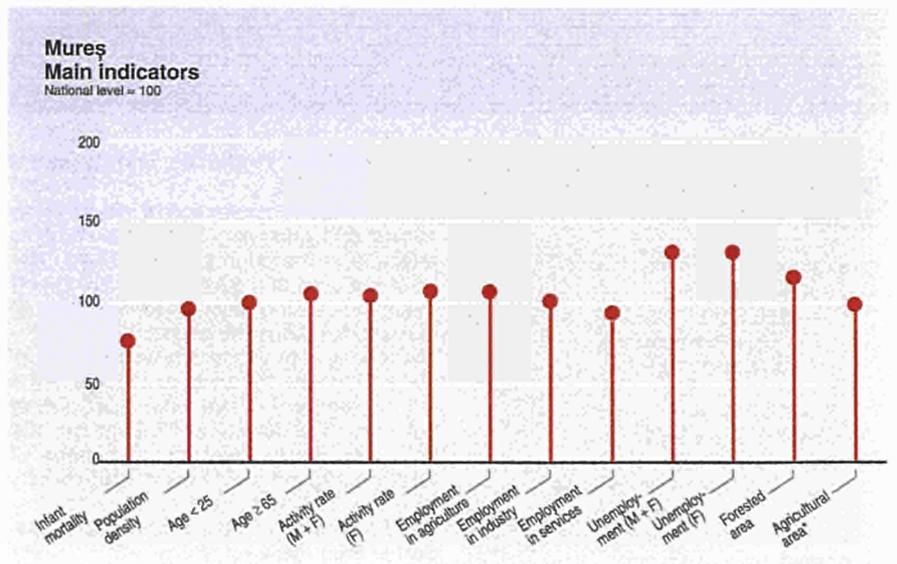
It is located between the Apuseni mountain range and the western side of the Carpathians, specifically, the Harghita Mountains and the Gurghiuului Mountains. The county's relief ranges from 280 m to 2 100 m.

Mureş has a network of rivers, lakes and ponds which covers 63.3 km² or 0.9% of the county. Although this is the sixth smallest percentage in Romania, the county is well-known for the solar-heated lake complex at Sovata, which is used for therapeutic treatments. The county also shares its name with one of the longest rivers in Romania, the Mureş River, which actually begins in the Harghita Mountains and then enters Mureş County. It runs the length of this county, flanked by the main railway line and one of the county's major roads. The county town, Târgu-Mureş Municipality, is situated on the banks of the Mureş, as are the towns of Deda, Luduş and Reghin Municipality. The towns of Târnăveni and Sovata are by the Târnava Mică River and in the south, the Târnava Mare River runs through Sighişoara Municipality. Additionally, there are 486 villages arranged in 90 communes.

Mureş County is favoured with various natural resources. Methane gas is the most abundant of these, contributing about 60% of Romania's natural gas production.



Opera square in Târgu Mureş.



High agricultural productivity

The considerable natural resources and recent economic development in Mureş County determine its enterprise profile. At the end of 1995, the public sector employed 47.8% of the labour force, the private sector employed 46.3%, mixed public and private capital companies employed 3.3% and only 2.3% of employees worked in co-operatives. Manufacturing accounted for two-thirds of industrial activity and the main areas were chemistry, food processing, wood exploitation, glass and pottery.

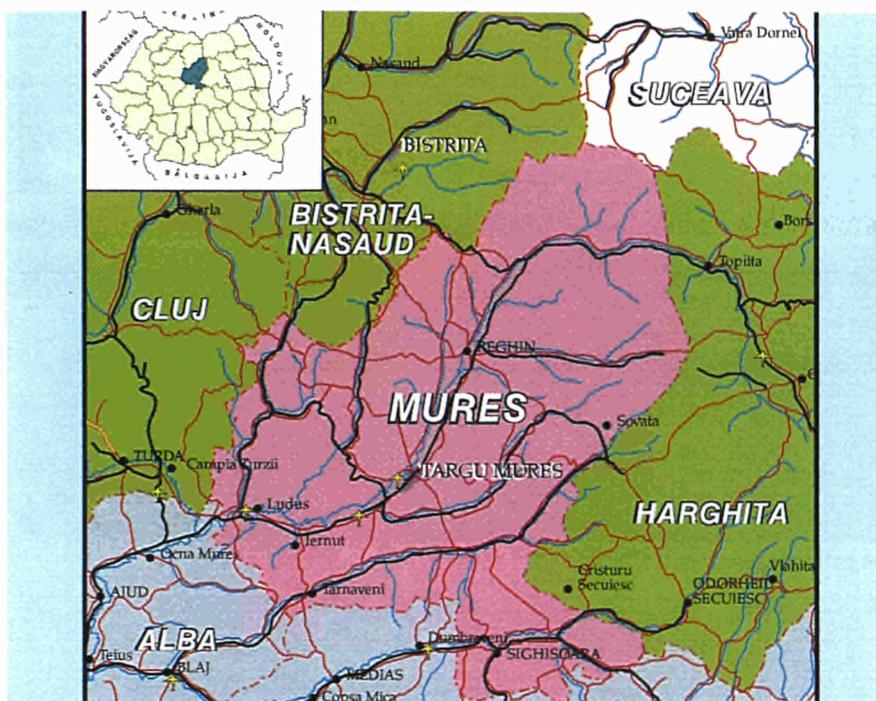
Mureş County is the sole producer of car-bide and musical instruments in Romania. It also produces a significant share of other commodities and manufactured goods such as methane gas, sugar, chemical fer-

tilisers, furniture, bricks and ceramic blocks. In 1995, 34.2% of the county's production was exported.

There are nine research and development units, mostly specialising in medicine but also technology and engineering, agriculture and social sciences.

Agriculture is not only the traditional industry but also the second largest sector in the economy. Reflecting the rise in crop cultivation from 1990 to 1995, crop production accounted for 57% of total agricultural output in the county. Arable crops covered 54% of the agricultural land and pastures and meadows were spread over 43%.

In 1995, agriculture occupied 61.0% of the county area, below the 62.1% coverage for the whole of Romania. Nevertheless, the county produced the fourth greatest average yield (in terms of kg/ha) of wheat and rye, the sixth highest sugar beet yield,



Large fluctuations in population size

On 1 January 1980, there was a calculated population of 607 315, which rose dramatically to 621 445 by 1 July 1990, an increase of 2.3%. Between 1991 and 1992, this increase was mostly reversed; the population decreased by 1.8%. This trend continued and on 1 July 1995, it was calculated that there were 605 773 residents. However, this was the 14th largest population in Romania. The population density was 90.2 inhabitants per km and 51.8% of the population lived in urban areas.

Between 1990 and 1995, the birth rate fell from 13.7 births per 1 000 inhabitants to 10.2 and the mortality rate increased from 10.9 deaths per 1 000 inhabitants to 12.4. The average life expectancy was only 69.3 years. Yet the infant mortality rate fell from 21.9 deaths per 1 000 live births to 15.8, the ninth lowest rate in Romania. Over the same period, the outward migration rate slowed and by 1992 the net migration rate was positive, i.e. there was an influx of residents and this influx has since increased. In 1995, the net rate was +1.1 per 1 000 inhabitants.

In 1992, 52.1% of the population was ethnic Romanian, 41.4% was Hungarian and Gypsies constituted the third largest minority with 5.7% of the population.

In 1995, those under 25 accounted for 36.9% of the population, which is lower than the national average of 37.2%. The age group between 25 and 54 constituted 39.1% of all inhabitants and those older than 55 made up 24.0% of the community, which was higher than the Romanian average of 23.4%.

In total 260 400 people were employed in 1995, 2.7% of the national total. The activity rate was 49.1%. At 12.5% for men and 14.9% for women, unemployment was lower than the national averages of 9.5% and 11.4% respectively. Agriculture occupied 36.5% of the labour force, industry and construction accounted for 33.6% of workers and the service sector employed 29.9%.

Which regions are similar to Mureș?

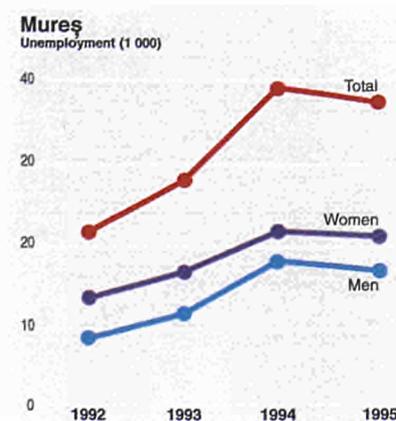
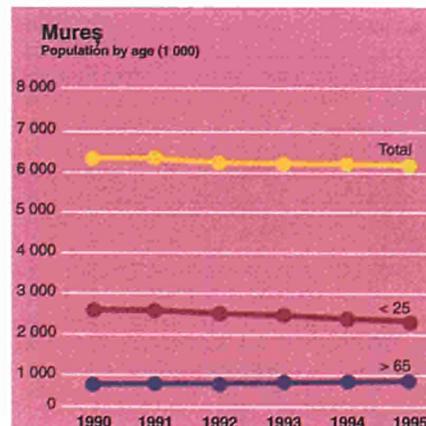
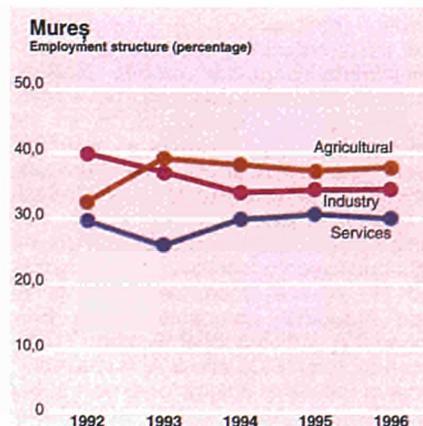
Population:
0.6 million inhabitants
K(benhavens amt (DK)
Durham (UK)
Loiret (F)

Population density:
90 inhabitants per km²
Cochem-Zell (D)
Sydsverige (S)

Employment structure:
33% industry
Småland med Öarna (S)
Hannover (D)

the seventh greatest average yield of sunflowers and the ninth greatest maize yield. The county also produces a large potato crop. Mureș has the seventh largest flock of sheep and the ninth largest number of pigs in Romania, 3.3% and 3.1% of the national herds respectively. It was ranked 11th for both the number of cattle (2.8% of the national herd) and of poultry (3.2% of the national total).

Over the past two decades, living standards, the environment and services have improved. By the end of 1995, there were 348 houses per 1 000 inhabitants compared to 297 in 1977. Mureș had the greatest length (2 179.2 km) of gas pipeline and was second for gas distribution due to the abundance of natural gas in the county. It had the fourth greatest railway network density at 7.1 km per 100 km² but the road network density was only 27.5 km per 100 km².



SĂLAJ COUNTY

A small, hilly county

Sălaj county is situated in the area of land between the Eastern and Western Carpathians. Cluj county surrounds the southern and eastern county borders, the counties of Satu Mare and Maramureş lie to the north and Bihor county lies to the west. It is the fourth smallest county in Romania, covering 3 864 km², which is 1.6% of Romanian territory. The principal town is Zalău Municipality, situated in the centre of the county. There are three other towns in Sălaj (Simleu Silvaniei, Cehu Silvaniei and Jibou) and 281 villages, which are organised into 55 communes.

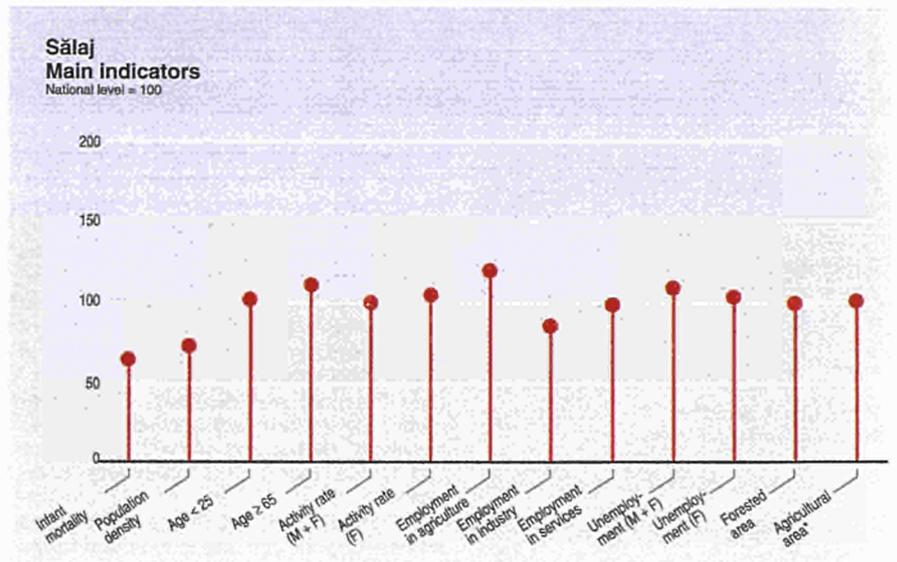
Hills and mountains dominate the county landscape and so the topographical relief is rugged. The Someşan Plateau and the Silvania foot hills form the main hilly areas. The mountainous region is concentrated in the south-west where the Meseş and Plopiş peaks on northern edge of the Apuseni Mountains are situated.

Water drains from the uplands and runs into the rivers, which include the Someş, Crasna, Almăj and Barcău rivers. There are some artificial lakes and a few small natural lakes. Water covers 57.2 km² or 1.5% of the county, less than the national average of 3.7%. However, this is a greater percentage than in any of the other counties in the Northern Region. In 1995, forests covered 106 460 ha or 27.5% of Sălaj, close to the 28.0% figure for Romania as a whole. There are various natural resources including lignite (also known as brown coal), large reserves of quartz sands, alabaster and a variety of volcanic tuff. Limestone is also common in this region and there are some as yet unexploited limestone-rich areas. The local mineral waters are used in the treatment of rheumatism, gastric complaints and diabetes. Sălaj also possesses thermal springs similar to those in the Băile Felix health resort in the neighbouring county of Bihor.

The county maintains 167 buildings of architectural note, including 94 churches.



The Dragon gardens in Gradina.



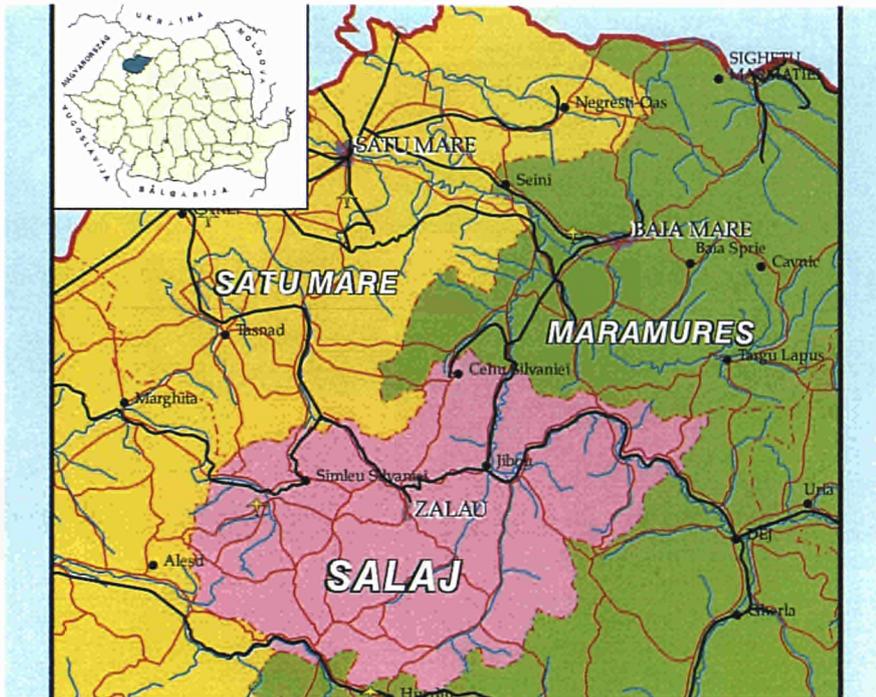
Increasing agricultural yields

In 1995, agricultural land covered 239 445 ha or 62.0% of the county area. Although this was the fourth smallest amount of land among the counties to be devoted to agriculture, it ranked 20th in percentage terms and comprised 1.6% of the nation's agricultural area. Arable land occupied 50.8%, pastures and hayfields 45.5%, and vineyards, orchards and nurseries 3.7%. The private sector owned 75.5% of the agricultural land.

In 1995, the average yield per hectare for wheat and rye was 122.8% of the 1990 yield; maize was 141.9%, the potato crop was 136.0% and the sunflower crop was 133.1% of the 1990 yield. From 1990 to 1995, the number of all livestock decreased.

During the transition to a market economy, industry in Sălaj also suffered. Some enterprises have invested more in new equipment to combat lower performance due to obsolete facilities.

The main industries produce steel and other metal products, rubber, plastics, electrical apparatus, food and beverages. In 1994, Sălaj produced 16.1% of the nation's steel tubes, 2.8% of all hot-rolled steel goods, 1.7% of Romania's furniture, 1.4% of tyres and 1.3% of Romania's coal. In the same year, industrial activity was carried out by 332 enterprises comprising eight public sector services, 27 companies and 297 private enterprises. Among the main industrial companies were S.C. Elcond S.A. (rolled copper wire and enamel conductors), S.C. Iafo S.A. (a main producer of industrial fittings for export to the USA, Canada, Australia and Europe) and



Dramatic improvements in infant mortality rates

On 1 January 1980, calculations indicated that there were 265 220 residents in Sălaj which rose to 269 566 by 1 July 1991. However, the birth rate fell from 14.8 births per 1 000 inhabitants in 1990 to 11.4 in 1995. Infant mortality fell from 33.8 deaths per 1 000 births (the highest rate in Romania) in 1993 to just 13.2 in 1995, the second lowest rate among the counties. Over the same period, the mortality rate fluctuated between 12.3 deaths per 1 000 inhabitants in 1990 to 14.3 in 1993 and was 13.9 in 1995. Hence there was a 2.5% population decrease between 1991 and 1995. The 1995 population of 262 873 represented 1.2% of the national total, the second smallest population in Romania. The population density was 68 inhabitants per km². In 1995, urban residents accounted for 41.7% of the population, an increase of 3.7% on 1990. The urban population in Sălaj had the tenth highest rate of natural increase among the Romanian counties. Those under 25 and the 25 to 54 age groups were evenly divided between urban and rural areas but only 18.5% of those over 55 lived in the towns.

Overall, 37.2% of the population was under 25, the same as the national average and 25.1% was over 55, which was higher than in the country as a whole.

In 1992, 72.2% of the population was ethnic Romanian, 23.7% was Hungarian and Gypsies accounted for 3.5%. Some 67.0% belonged to the Orthodox Church, 20.3% to the Reformed Church, 3.4% was Greek Catholic, 2.7% was Baptist and 2.9% was Roman Catholic.

Agriculture and silviculture employed 40.8% of the 107,300 workers in 1995, industry engaged 24.4% (of whom only 35.5% were women) and 23.4% had jobs in the services sector. The number of unemployed fell from 16 335 in 1993 to 12 350 in 1995 but the 1995 unemployment rate was 10.3% (11.6% for women), both above the national averages.

Which regions are similar to Sălaj?

Population density:
68 inhabitants per km²
Castellon De La Plana (E)
Sardegna (I)
Daun (D)

Age structure:
13% over 65
Limburg (NL)
Madrid (E)

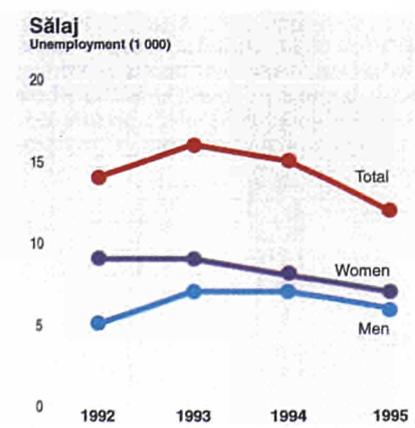
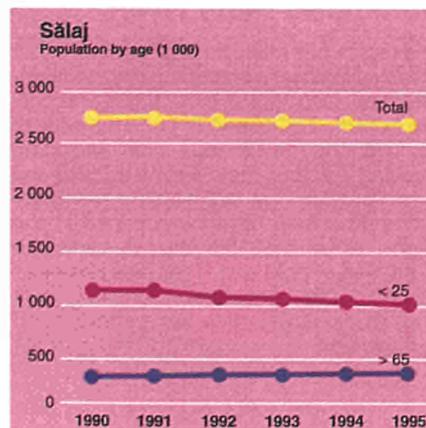
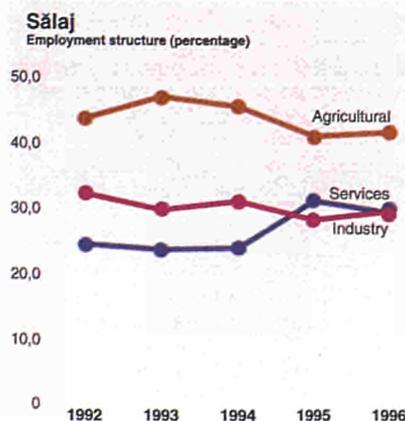
Land use:
62% agriculture
Baranya (HU)
Overijssel (NL)
Centre (F)
Heves (HU)

S.C. Silcotub S.A. (non-welded steel pipes, steels goods and rolled wire), all based in Zalău.

The private sector mostly produces textiles, fur and leather clothing, furniture and owns publishing houses but these account for an overall lower production volume than the larger state enterprises.

Carbon dioxide accounts for 99% of air pollutants, mining and building material industries are the main sources of soil pollution and 10% of waters flowing through Sălaj are polluted.

The rail and road networks did not expand between 1990 and 1995 when there were 36.4 km of public road and 4.6 km of railway track per 100 km². The former is the 12th greatest density among the counties but the latter is below the national average.



CENTRAL REGION

A natural fortress

The Central Region is situated in the southern part of the Transylvanian Plateau, in the middle of Romania. It is bordered to the south and east by the arc of the Carpathian Mountains which separate it from the Southern and South-Western Regions. The mountains here include some of the highest in the geological formation, with peaks at more than 2 500 m. The Western Carpathians form the border with the Western Region and the Târnavă Plateau lies on the border with the Northern Region.

Small tributaries from the slopes of the Carpathians and the hills of the Transylvanian Plateau run into four major rivers, the Mureş, Olt, Jiu and Buzău. These water-courses cross the large, fertile plains used for arable farming in the centre of the region.

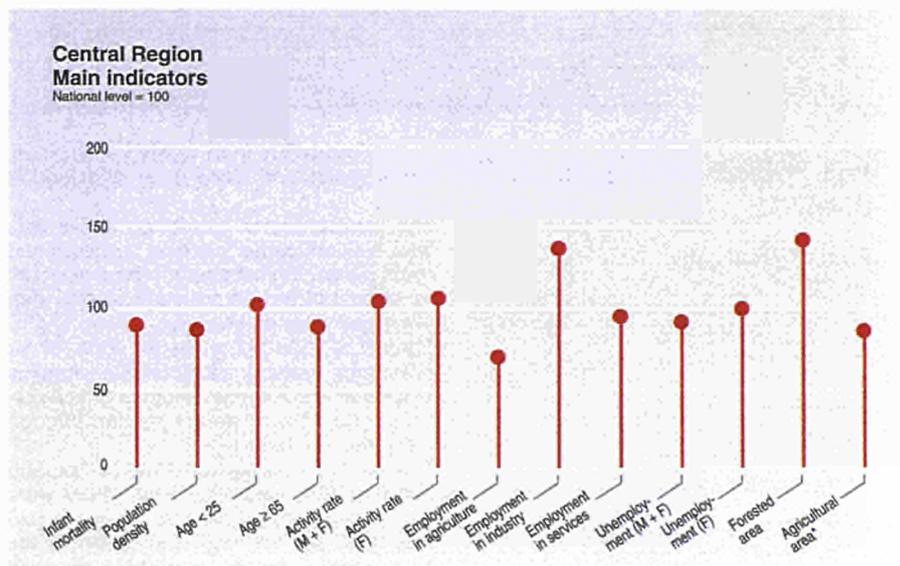
The climate is continental, with much variation in temperature between the seasons. The summers are short and hot while the winters are typically long and frosty. Rain-fall varies within the region with little rain in the west, but much more in the east, particularly in Braşov and Covasna counties which lie in the arc of the mountains.

There is evidence within the region of human habitation since the Palaeolithic period, and many discoveries of ceramics, adornments and household tools indicate the existence of human settlements dating back to the Neolithic period from 6000 to 1900 B.C. The capital of pre-Roman Dacia, Sarmisegetuza, was located in the western part of the region. After the Roman conquest in 106 A.D., a major part of Dacia became a Roman province with Ulpia Traiana (also situated in what is now the Central Region) as its capital.

After the Roman army retreated in 271 A.D., the region was colonised many times, notably by Hungarians and Germans, and then became part of the Austro-Hungarian empire in 1699. However, despite these more recent influences, traces of Roman culture can still be found over the whole region and some 80% of its present day inhabitants are descendants of the Romans.



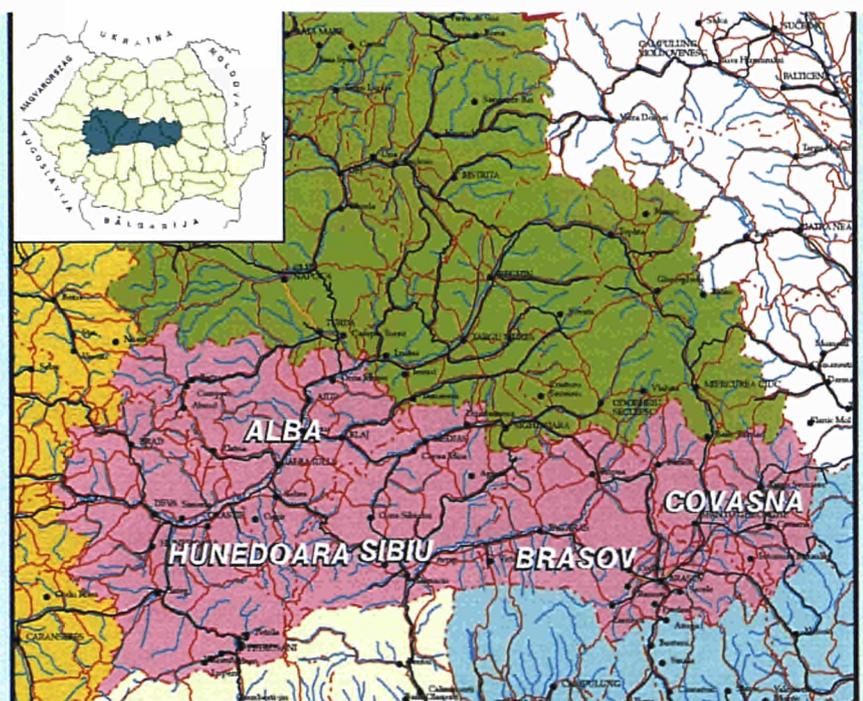
Haystacks frame a mountain village in Alba.



Dams, lakes and hydro-electric power from Romania's main rivers

The region has many natural resources that are used in energy, manufacturing and construction. Deposits of natural gas and coal are extracted and used to generate energy. Ferrous and non-ferrous ores (including rare and precious metals such as gold and silver) provide raw materials for manufacturing. Iron ores have been mined in the region since the 15th century, and the extraction of gold and silver ores has been carried out for considerably longer. Marble and other building materials are also found in the region.

The waterway network is abundant; most of Romania's main rivers have their sources in the Carpathian Mountains and so flow through this region. Dams have been built on these rivers, creating artificial lakes to provide water supplies, both for domestic and industrial uses, and in some cases to generate hydroelectric power. There are many natural attractions within the region that boost the local tourism industry, which caters to both Romanian and international tourists.



Which regions are similar to Central Region?

Area:
27 000-28 000 km²
South West (UK)
Bretagne (F)
Alentejo (P)

Population density:
82 inhabitants per km²
Rügen (D)
Pieria (EL)

Land use:
53% agriculture
Açores (P)
Aragon (E)
Umbria (I)

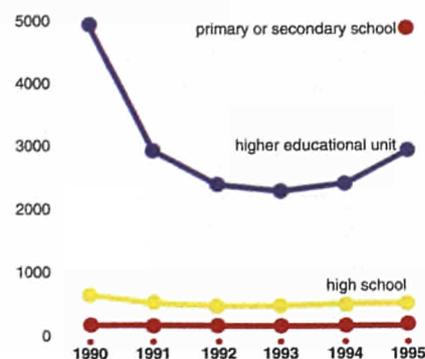
More people in higher education

Despite the lack of well-established, traditional universities in the region, the number of higher education students increased by 22%, from 21 949 to 26 779, between 1994 and 1995. The number of higher educational establishments grew from 3 in 1990 to 9 in 1994 and 1995.

Enrolment of primary school pupils and high school pupils fell between 1990 and 1995. For primary school pupils the numbers decreased every year. For high school pupils the numbers decreased until 1992 then increased in subsequent years, but the number of pupils in 1995 was 15% less than in 1990. Although the numbers of pupils decreased, the numbers of schools

increased slightly over the same period. In contrast to the decrease in school pupils, the numbers of higher education students increased every year from 1990 to 1995, and the number of students in 1995 was just under 80% higher than in 1990. The biggest year-on-year increase was 41%, for the years 1990 to 1991.

Central region
Pupils per educational establishment



District Region Country	Area km ²	Population		Activity (%)	Unemploy- ment (%)	Employment			
		1 000	Inhabitants/km ²			Change (%)	(%) Agriculture	(%) Industry	(%) Services
	1995	1995	1995	1990-95	1995	1995	1995	1995	1995
1.CENTRAL	27 810	2 273	82	-6.4	60.5	8.7	23.8	46.0	30.2
Alba	6 242	406	65	-4.2	62.7	6.8	35.7	38.7	25.6
Braşov	5 363	641	120	-8.0	58.4	6.7	16.0	51.1	32.9
Covasna	3 710	233	63	-2.2	55.3	7.0	34.7	38.3	27.0
Hunedoara	7 063	546	77	-3.8	65.8	12.0	20.8	50.	29.2
Sibiu	5 432	447	82	-10.9	57.4	9.6	21.9	44.2	33.9

Young women in services, older women in agriculture

In 1995, the overall unemployment rate in the region was 8.7%, less than the national average of 9.5%. The rates for both males and females were less than the Romanian averages (6.5% for males and 11.2% for females compared with the national figures of 7.9% and 11.4% respectively).

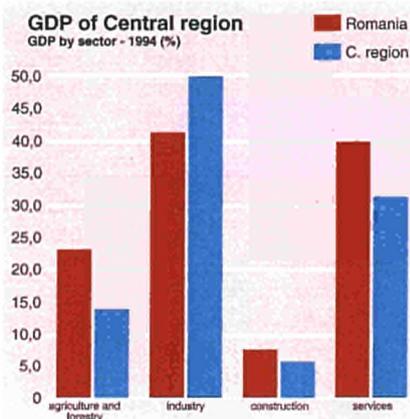
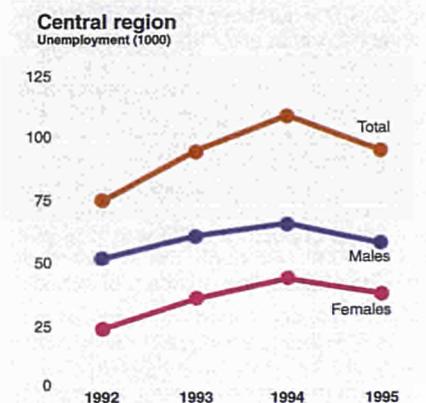
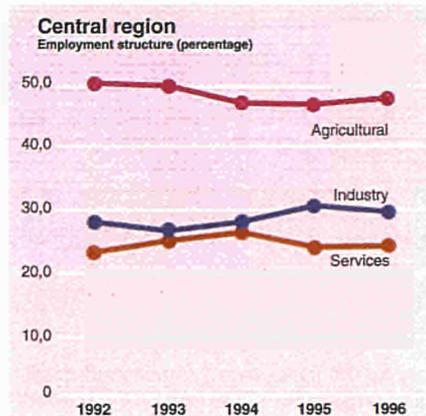
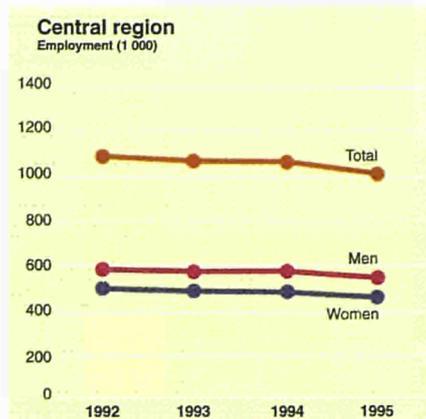
The activity rate for males was 66% and for females it was 55%, which gave an overall activity rate of 60.5% for the region.

In 1995, industry was the biggest employer with 46% of the workforce. A further 30% were employed in services with just 24% of the workforce employed in agriculture.

There were differences in the structure of employment between age groups and gender. More of the younger people worked in services and more of the older people worked in agriculture. Services employed 37% of working males under 25 and 53% of working females in the same age group. Nearly half of the male workforce over 50 and almost 70% of working females of the same age group worked in agriculture. More men than women of all ages worked in industry, the difference being particularly marked in the older age group: only 10% of working females over 50 worked in industry, compared with 24% of working males of the same age.

Employment by sector, gender and age group in the first quarter 1996

	Total number of employed people	Of which in:			
		Agriculture and forestry	Industry	Construction	Services
Total employment	1 069 494	258 232	429 290	38 400	343 572
a. Males, total	583 246	130 157	250 811	31 915	170 363
- 15 - 24 years	75 713	14 623	29 574	3 530	27 986
- 25 - 34 years	148 308	16 834	75 874	10 465	45 135
- 35 - 49 years	214 594	27 687	111 243	10 451	65 213
- 50 - 64 years	110 377	36 759	34 120	7 469	32 029
- 65 years and over	34 254	34 254			
b. Females, total	486 248	128 075	178 479	6 485	173 209
- 15 - 24 years	57 820	8 867	17 412	893	30 648
- 25 - 34 years	136 625	17 245	63 068	888	55 424
- 35 - 49 years	188 783	29 970	87 976	3 604	67 233
- 50 - 64 years	70 379	39 799	10 023	1 100	19 457
- 65 years and over	32 641	32 194			



Highest proportion of GDP from industry

In 1994, the GDP per capita in the Central Region was ROL 2 441 thousand. Industry contributed most (49.8%) of the region's GDP in that year. A further 31.1% came from services, 13.6% from agriculture and 5.5% from construction. This distribution of contributions to GDP by economic sector was different from the national average, with no other region having as high a contribution from industry, and only Bucharest Municipality having a lower contribution from agriculture.

In August 1996, there were 3 956 industrial enterprises in the region, of which 3 837 (97%) were in manufacturing. These manufacturing enterprises were mostly small with

3 343 (87%) of them employing fewer than 20 people. In contrast, 37 of the 52 enterprises in mining and quarrying and 34 of the 67 energy enterprises had more than 200 employees. Most of the industrial enterprises (92%) were private companies, which were mainly small enterprises (92% of the private companies had fewer than 20 employees). Ninety-six industrial companies were autonomous bodies, and 211 were companies with majority state capital. Seventy-three of the autonomous bodies and 150 of the companies with majority state capital employed more than 200 people.

Urban population boosted by migration until recently

On the 1 July 1995, the region's population was 2 272 683. The population density of the region as a whole was 14% lower than the national average, but within the region the population density varies greatly, being very low in the mountainous areas and higher in the valleys and along the rivers. In 1995, there were 9.6 births and 11.0 deaths per 1 000 inhabitants. The birth rate decreased between 1990 and 1995, while the mortality rate increased over the same

period. For the years 1990 to 1992 the birth rate was higher than the mortality rate but in 1993 the mortality rate overtook the birth rate and remained higher in 1994 and 1995. From 1990 to 1994 there was migration into the urban areas in this region. Over this period, however, the rate of inward migration fell from 10.9 persons per 1 000 inhabitants in 1990 to 0.7 persons per 1 000 inhabitants in 1994. By 1995 there was migration away from the urban areas, resulting in a net migration away from the region. In this year, 69% of the region's population lived in urban areas, the highest

urbanisation rate of all Romania's regions, except for Bucharest Municipality.

Population by age — 1995

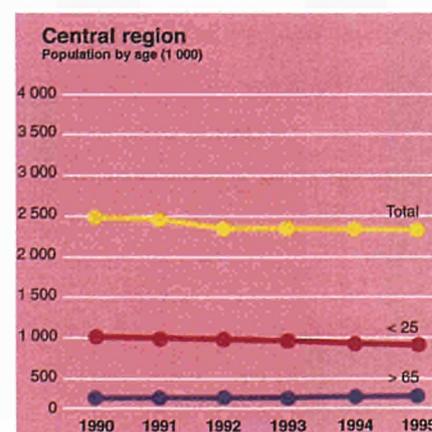
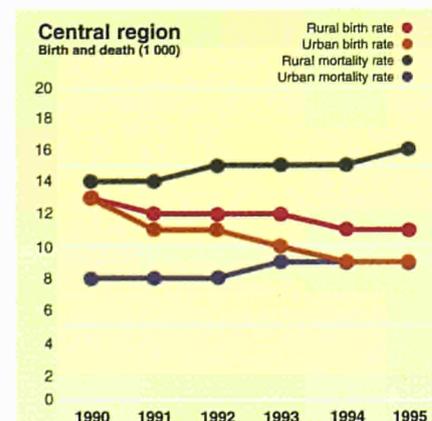
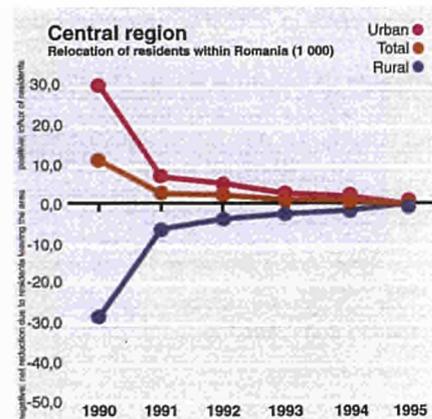
	M+F 1 000	M+F %	M %	F %
<15 years	477	21.0	21.7	20.3
15-24	385	16.9	17.5	16.4
25-39	511	22.5	22.8	22.1
40-54	425	18.7	19.0	18.4
55-64	236	10.4	10.1	10.7
≥65	239	10.5	8.9	12.1
Total	2 273	100.0	100.0	100.0

Industrial demand for gas and transport

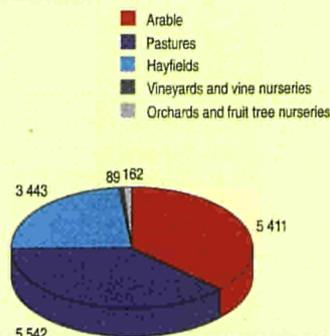
The presence of many industrial enterprises that rely on transport to distribute their goods and materials to the market (for example, those in mining and quarrying, metallurgy and chemistry) has given rise to a high density of railway track in the region. In 1995, there were 1 413 km of track, and this corresponds to a density of 5.1 km per 100 km², which was 6.5% higher than the national average. The density of public roads, on the other hand, was 27.2 km per 100 km², which was 11% lower than the national average. The presence of natural gas and the industrial demand for it has resulted in a gas pipeline density of 11.0 km per 100 km², which was 72% higher than the national average.

In 1995, all 46 towns in the region were connected to the water supply network and the sewerage network. A further 145 rural localities were connected to the water supply, and 28 rural localities were connected to the sewerage network.

There were 53 museums, 77 cinemas and 16 theatres. The 285 public libraries held an average of 2.5 volumes per inhabitant of the region. There were 49 hospitals with a total of 19 383 beds. This is equivalent to 8.5 beds per 1 000 inhabitants, which is 11.6% higher than the national average.



Central region
Agricultural area (km²)



Diverse agriculture reflects varied terrain

As in the rest of the country, this region is experiencing the difficulties associated with legal reattribution of agricultural land to private owners.

The type of agricultural activity carried out in the region tends to vary with the terrain. The riverbeds and the gentle slopes of the Transylvanian Plateau are used as arable land and the main crops grown are cereals, potatoes, sugar beet, vegetables and fodder crops. The sunny slopes of the western part of the region are used for the cultivation of vines and fruit trees. The vineyards

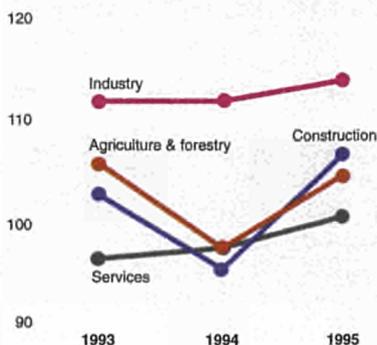
are typically small, but they are able to produce wines that are competitive on external markets. On the more abrupt slopes of the high plateaux and mountains, natural pastures and hayfields are used for animal breeding. Also, some harvesting and processing of fruit and plants is carried out in these areas.

As the region has many natural resources, mining, quarrying and energy production contribute significantly to the local economy. However, most (in 1995, 84.5%) of the industrial workers are employed in manufacturing. The region produces machinery that is used in other branches of industry and in agriculture, such as mining and quarrying equipment, heavy motor vehicles, tractors and ball bearings. Other products manufactured in the region, and which contribute significantly to exports, include glassware, porcelain, footwear and other leather goods, textiles, furs and food products.

Number of industrial enterprises by branches on August 31st, 1996

	Total number of enterprises	of which:		
		0 - 19 employees	20 - 199 employees	200 employees and over
Total industry	3 956	3 356	322	278
- mining and quarrying	52	7	8	37
- manufacturing	3 837	3 343	287	207
- energy	67	6	27	34

Central region
Wages by sector (national level = 100)



High wages and more money spent on consumer goods

Salaries in all sectors in the region were above the national average in 1995. The highest salaries were in industry, closely followed by construction. Salaries in industry were 14% higher than the national average. Within the region, they were 14% more than those in services and almost 50% higher than those in agriculture.

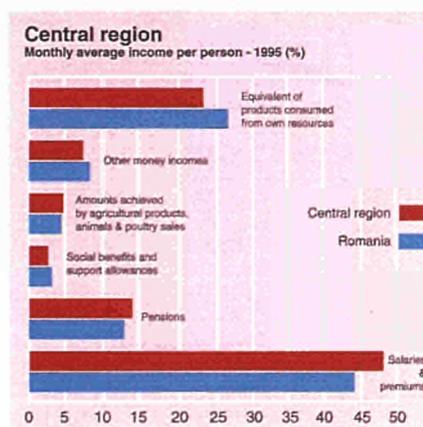
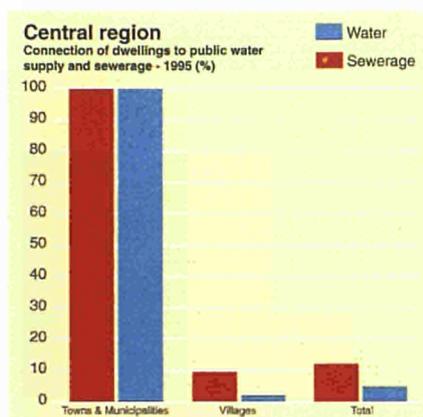
The main source of income of the region's inhabitants was from salaries, which accounted for 48% of the total average income. The other major contributor to income was the equivalent of products consumed from own resources which accounted for 23.6% of total income (the national average was 27%). The percentages of total income from other sources of income (social benefits, other money sources and amounts from agricultural

sales) were very similar to the national averages. Most (58%) of this expenditure went directly on food, a lower percentage than the other regions. However, the inhabitants of the region spent, on average, almost 30% more on non-food goods than the national average.

Pollution of forests and the air

Industrial activities in the region, such as mining, quarrying, steel production and production of chemicals have contributed significantly to pollution. Agents such as sulphur compounds, ammonia and dusts in suspension have caused air pollution, mainly in the urban areas. However, tests carried out on samples of drinking water between 1990 and 1994 revealed pollution levels within acceptable limits.

In 1995, 9.8% of the region's forest land was affected by pollution, which compares unfavourably to the national figure of 5.9%. Gaseous and particulate sulphur compounds from thermal power stations polluted 5.5% of the forests, 4.5 times the national average and nitrogen compounds affected 1.1% of forests, 2.9 times the national average. The percentage of forest polluted by dusts from cement and lime works was 1.0%, 3.3 times the national average. However, of the 108 782 ha of polluted forest, 82% were only slightly affected. A further 12% were moderately affected and only 5.5% were severely affected.



Mountain passes provide key routes to the rest of Europe

Links to other regions are provided by roads and railways which run along the river valleys through the mountains. The main valleys used are those of the Mureş, Olt, Jiu and Buzău rivers. At times, the roads climb to over 1 000 m to go through some of the mountain passes, for example, in the Predeal, Oituz and Bratocea canyons and the Rucăr-Bran corridor.

Due to its position within the country, the Central Region is crossed by the national and European roads and railways, which link Romania to the other parts of Europe. In 1995, there were 1 413 km of rail track and 7 553 km of roads in the region, though none of the roads were motorways, and not all of the roads match usual European levels of security and comfort.

In 1995 there were 296 547 telephone subscribers in the region. This was equivalent to 7.7 inhabitants per telephone subscription, the same as the national average.



Landscape in Sibiu.

ALBA COUNTY

Geographically diverse, historically important

Alba county is located in the northwest corner of the Central Region, in the historical region of Transylvania. The county covers an area of 6 242 km², about 2.6% of Romanian national territory, making it one of the larger counties in the country. The county is the shape of an inverted triangle, with the county of Sibiu to the east, the counties of Hunedoara, Arad and Bihor to the west and Cluj and Mureş to the north. The Mureş River is the main river in this county. It flows through the centre of Alba but it has many tributaries that extend throughout the territory. The Arieş River flows across the north of the county.

The historic main town of Alba Iulia is situated on the Mureş River. Once the regional administrative centre under the Roman Empire, it was later the focus of the social movements that resulted in the unification of Transylvania with the rest of Romania in 1918. Indeed, powerful economic and political groups have been formed in Alba since the ninth century.

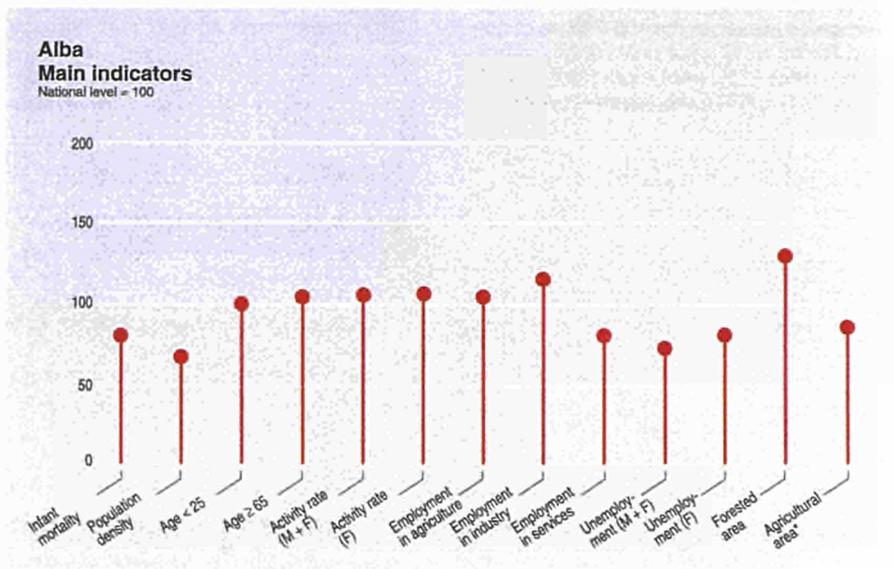
It is an important site for historians and archaeologists: evidence of human settlements dating from the Neolithic age can be found throughout the county. One of the reasons for the existence of this ancient centre of activity is that the river gap provided easy access to the rest of Transylvania.

Rich in geographical variety, Alba's sweeping valley is sandwiched between the Carpathian mountain range (2 244 m) and the plateau of the Apuseni Mountains (1 826 m), providing favourable conditions for various species of fauna and an array of wild flora. Approximately one third of Alba is covered in forests containing many different species of trees.

The clean water, fertile soil and favourable location make the county particularly suited to agriculture. It yields a wide range of produce such as cereals, wines and fruit. As well as forestry and manufacturing industries, Alba also boasts mineral deposits that include zinc, copper, lead and iron, and is also rich in methane gas.



City gateway in Alba Iulia.



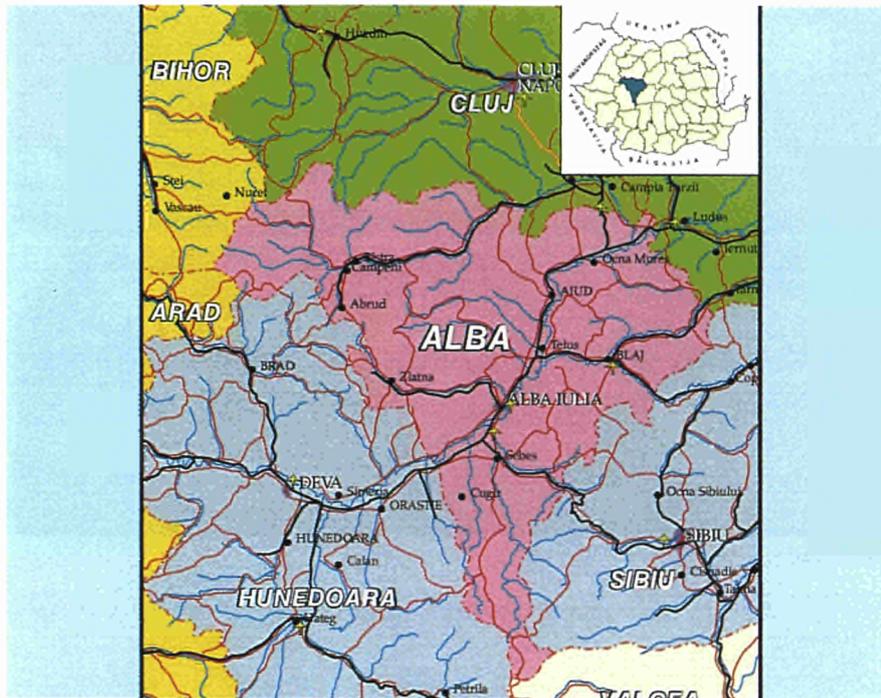
Agriculture in private hands

Alba's economy has strengthened over recent years due to its natural resources and its central position. The improvements have mainly taken place in the private sector, where investors focus on manufacturing industry and the services sector. Alba's principal industries are engineering, wood processing and food production with a further emphasis on textiles, leather goods, tools, furniture, household appliances, hotels and catering. The county's privatisation plan was initially slow to take off but is now underway with the production of goods such as metalworking-machine tools, sewing machines, washing machines, furniture, sodium products and footwear, these products being exported to over 50 countries.

More than half of Alba's total surface area is given over to agriculture because of its favourable geographical position, good climatic conditions, fertile soil and strong agricultural tradition. In 1995, 57.3% of this agricultural land was taken up with pasture and hayfields, 40.4% was arable and the remainder was occupied by orchards and vineyards.

Livestock farming provides around 36% of the total income achieved in the agricultural sector. The rest of the agricultural revenue is derived from crop cultivation, notably cereals, fodder crops, potatoes, other vegetables, vines and fruit trees. The private sector is responsible for about 90-92% of all crop production.

After industry, agriculture is the second largest source of employment in Alba. In 1995, 35.7% of employees worked in agri-



Population falls but towns grow

In 1990, the population was calculated to be 424 258 but by 1995, this had fallen to 406 234 as a result of a falling birth rate and outward migration. In 1990, there were 13.5 births per 1 000 inhabitants which had fallen to 10.0 by 1995. It should be noted that there are important differences in the age structure of urban and rural populations; the cities have seen a growth in population due to an influx of young people attracted by better paid jobs. Moreover, this trend results in higher birth rates for the cities. In 1995, urban residents accounted for 57.5% of the county population but 60.5% of those under 25, 63.5% of those aged 25 to 54 and only 43.2% of those aged 55 or older.

Overall, those under 25 accounted for 37.0% of the county population and those over 55 constituted 23.6%.

In 1992, ethnic Romanians made up 90% of the population, Hungarians accounted for 6%, Gypsies 3% and Germans 0.8%. The prevailing religion was the Orthodox Church; 85.6% of the population stated their religion as Orthodox. The other main churches were Protestant (4.3% of the population) and Greek Catholic (3.8%).

Falling employment, from 205.600 employees in 1990 to 188.700 in 1995, is partly explained by the fact that the total population also decreased during this time. The activity rate was 62.7% in 1995. At the end of 1995, the number of registered unemployed people in Alba totalled 13 867, giving an unemployment rate of 6.8%. The female unemployment rate was 9.2%. The continued decline in unemployment, from 17 244 in 1993 and 17 082 in 1994, reflects the creation of new jobs boosted by foreign investment, especially in the private sector.

Which regions are similar to Alba?

Population:
about 406 000 inhabitants
Siracusa (I)
Border (IE)

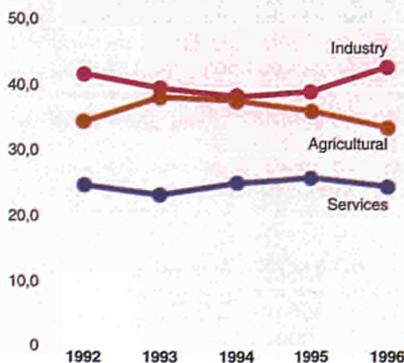
Population density:
65 inhabitants per km²
Anhalt-Zerbst (D)
Drôme (F)
Siena (I)

Age structure:
about 37% under 25
Campania (I)
Norte (P)
Krakowiskie (PL)

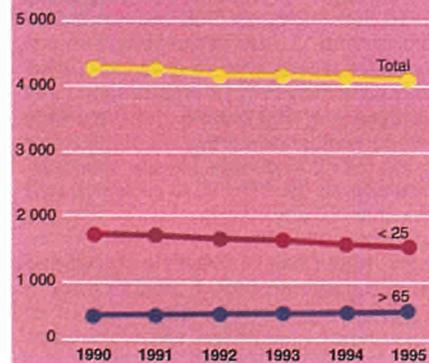
culture (including forestry). Industry accounted for 38.7% of the workforce in 1995.

The other main sources of employment in Alba in 1995 were commerce (5.7% of all employees), education (4.3%) and transport (4.0%). Overall, the service sector employed 25.6% of workers. Trade and services are being rapidly reoriented towards a market-style economy; the private sector owns 70% of hotels and restaurants, 65% of hairdressing and cosmetics enterprises and 60% of repair services for household items. Employment looks set to increase along with the expansion of the services sector, especially tourism and catering.

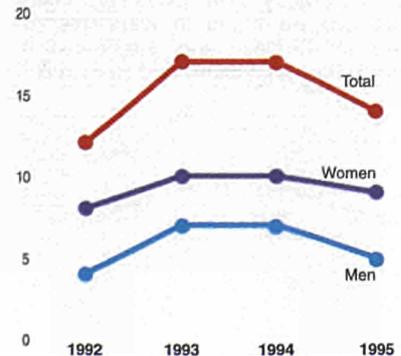
Alba
Employment structure (percentage)



Alba
Population by age (1 000)



Alba
Unemployment (1 000)



BRAȘOV COUNTY

Birth of written Romanian

Brașov is located in central Romania, occupying 5 363 km² or 2.2% of the country. The southern borders of the county follow the curve of the highest massifs of the Carpathians: Bucegi, Ciucaș and the Făgăraș, where the glacial lakes of Urlea and Podragul are situated. The relief gradually descends northwards through an area of alpine hills to the plain of Bârsa and finally, beyond the Olt River, rises again to the southern edge of the Transylvanian Plateau. An extensive waterway system flows through Brașov, the Olt being the largest river.

There are two municipalities (Brașov, the principal town, and Făgăraș), seven towns (Codlea, Predeal, Râșnov, Rupea, Săcele, Victoria and Zărnești) and 150 villages arranged into 43 communes.

The history of Brașov can be traced back to the Roman period. In the town of Râșnov and its Vulcan fortress there was a Roman camp for the Gemina XIII Legion, while the Făgăraș region was known to the Romans as 'Terra Blachorum'. Documents indicate that Brașov town was called 'Korona' in 1234, 'Barasu' in 1252 and 'Braso' in 1288. From the beginning of the 14th century, Brașov became an important handicraft and commercial centre due to its position, developing important economic ties with the regions of Walachia and Moldavia.

In 1495, the first Romanian school was founded at Scheii Brașovului. It was here around the 16th century that Deaconu Coresi printed the first books in the Romanian language.

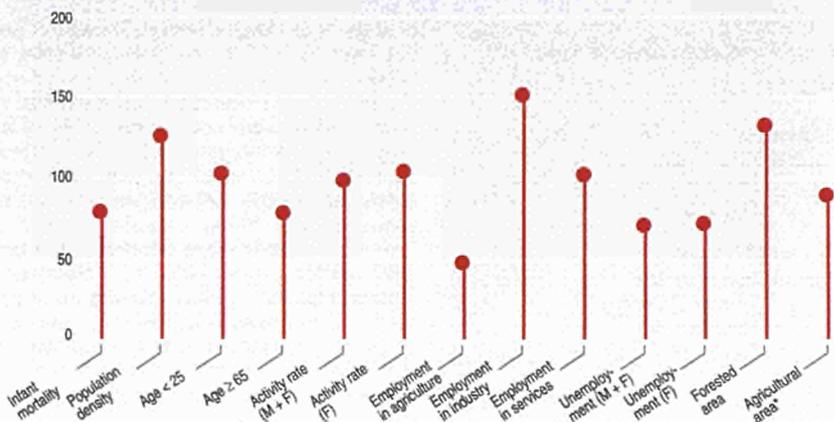
The town developed under the name of Bârsa Country during the period of German colonisation. In 1810, there were 15 000 inhabitants in Brașov spread over four major districts, Schei (where most of the Romanians lived), Brașovul Vechi (Old Brașov), Blumana and Cetate (Fortress).

Mineral deposits include coal and lignite in Vulcan, marble in Șinca Veche and limestone in Brașov, Codlea, Zărnești and Racoș. Basalt and andesites are located in Racoș and Pădurea Bogății, and there are clays in Brașov and Cristian. Mineral waters can be found in Zizin, thermal waters in Codlea, and iodine-sodium waters in Perșani, Rotbav and Homorod.



Bran Castle.

Brașov
Main indicators
National level = 100



Economy ranges from tractors to tourism

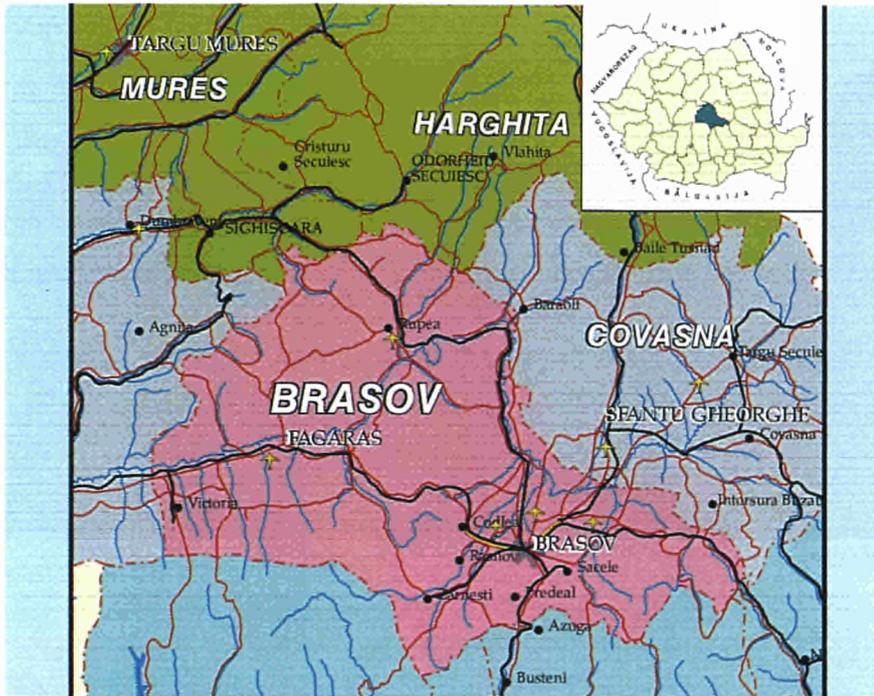
The county's economy is complex and diverse. In 1995 there were 1 013 industrial enterprises, of which three were involved in mining and quarrying, 998 were in manufacturing and 12 were in the field of energy production. There were 15 autonomous organisations including 12 organisations that employed over 200 people and there were 49 state-sector companies, 42 of them employing over 200 people. Private enterprises numbered 12 698, 96% of which had fewer than 20 employees.

Engineering was the main activity, representing about half of Brașov's output and 12% of the national total in 1995. The county produced Romania's entire output of trucks and bicycles as well as various types

of machinery and equipment, particularly tractors. In 1995, Brașov county produced 96.2% of the total national output of tractors, 35.7% of all of Romania's internal combustion engines and 27.1% of the country's bearings.

The chemical industry produces dyes, organic pigments, plastics and synthetic resins. Other industries produce pulp and paper, wood, fabrics, knitwear, cement and some food products such as sugar, beer and meat.

Agriculture plays a smaller part in this county than in the other areas of Romania but nevertheless it has an important role in the economy of Brașov. Most (40.3% in 1995) of the agricultural area is used for pasture and is home to sheep, cattle and poultry. Brașov reared 3.5% of all poultry, 2.7% of all sheep and 2.4% of all cattle in



Highly urbanised, diverse population

The period 1990-95 saw a reduction in the population of Braşov County, mainly due to a fall in the birth rate and an increase in deaths. In 1990, it was calculated that there were 696 441 residents in Braşov but only 640 943 in 1995. In 1995, 76.3% of the population lived in urban areas, the second largest proportion of urban dwellers in Romania.

The 1992 census showed that 86.0% of the people were ethnic Romanians, 9.9% were Hungarian, 2.4% were Gypsies, 1.6% were German and other nationalities accounted for the remaining 0.1%. The Orthodox creed was the stated religion of 83.6% of the population, 4.6% of people were Roman Catholic, 2.9% belonged to the Reformed Church, 1.8% were Evangelic Presbyterian, 1.8% belonged to the Evangelic Augusta Church, Unitarians accounted for 1.2% of the population and 1.1% were Greek Catholics.

The number of people employed fell from 324.400 in 1990 to 262.900 in 1996. However, it has to be borne in mind that the population was also decreasing over this period. There were 19 840 registered unemployed in the county of Braşov in 1995, which equates to an unemployment rate of 6.7%, considerably less than the national unemployment rate of 9.5%. The activity rate was 58.4%, very close to the national rate of 58.8% for 1995.

In 1996, 54.2% of all employees in this county worked in the industrial sector, the highest percentage in Romania (as it has been since 1992). In parallel with heavy industry, the service sector employed a significant share of the workforce, 28.4% in 1996. Conversely, after Bucharest, Braşov County has the lowest proportion of employees working in agriculture. Again, this has been the case since 1992 but gradually the proportion of agricultural workers in Braşov has been increasing, from 14.9% in 1992 to 17.5% in 1996.

Which regions are similar to Braşov?

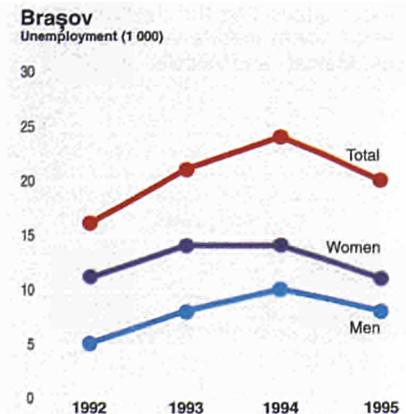
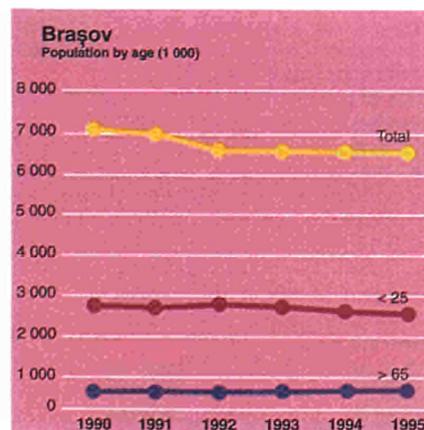
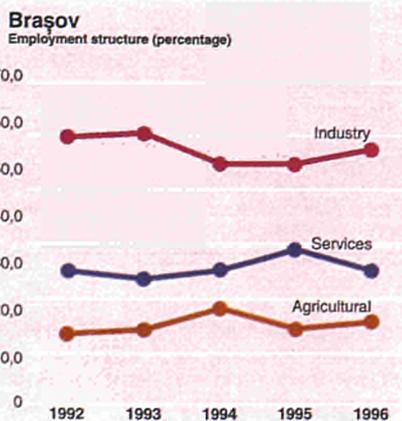
Population density:
120 inhabitants per km²
Holzminden (D)
Shropshire (UK)

Age structure:
38% under 25
9% over 65
Opolskie (PL)

Land use:
36-37% forest
Alsace (F)
Oberösterreich (A)
Bielskie (PL)

Romania. Arable farming occupied 39.7% of the county's agricultural land in 1995 and included the cultivation of wheat, rye, barley, two-row barley and maize. In 1991 and 1992, there was also a sunflower crop. The horticultural sector produces crops of potatoes, sugar beet and fodder. There is also a potato research institute in the county.

Tourism is another significant industry in Braşov. In 1995, the county provided 8.6% of the national total of accommodation units, the second highest percentage in Romania. Also, 6.3% of all tourists to Romania were accommodated here.



COVASNA COUNTY

Small but diverse

Covasna county is located to the southeast of the Transylvanian Plateau against the horseshoe bend of the Carpathians Mountains. The counties of Braşov and Buzău are found to the south, Vrancea to the east and Harghita and Bacău to the north. The central area of Covasna, the 'Bârsei Country', is at an altitude of about 500m and it is located in a region of tectonic or volcanic origin. The waters of the Olt, Baraolt and Black (or Râul Negru in Romanian) rivers flow through the county but only 0.9% of its area is covered by water.

Covasna covers 3 710 km², approximately 1.6% of the entire country, making it the fourth smallest county in Romania. With a 1.0% share of the population, Covasna county has the smallest number of inhabitants in Romania.

Half the total county area is under agriculture, accounting for 1.3% of Romanian agricultural land. Forests cover 44.8% of Covasna county. Within agriculture, the land given over to arable farming had risen by 1995 to almost 46.5%, while pastures and hayfields comprised of 52.8%.

Covasna is famous for the diversity of its landscape, flora and fauna and it possesses nature reserves and areas of great natural beauty. However, human activities have taken their toll on the environment, especially the pollution of the Olt, Baraolt and Râul Negru rivers. Air pollution and damage to the forests are yet to be monitored.

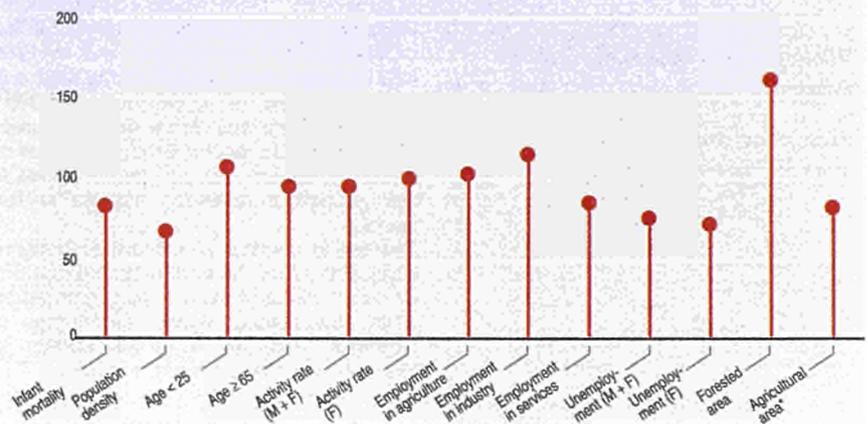
Underground mineral reserves provide important raw materials for industry and construction. There is also an abundance of lignite or 'brown coal'. The extensive forests support a flourishing lumber trade, especially the furniture and timber sectors. There is a complex of natural springs and mud flats, well known for their therapeutic qualities and an abundance of pure drinking water, supporting the development of important health resorts in Covasna, Balványos, Malnaş, and Vâlcele.



Olt valley.

Covasna Main indicators

National level = 100



Traditional industries

Covasna's economy is dominated by industrial activity, involving almost 4 000 small private enterprises in 1995. Several state-capital companies also contributed to industrial expansion.

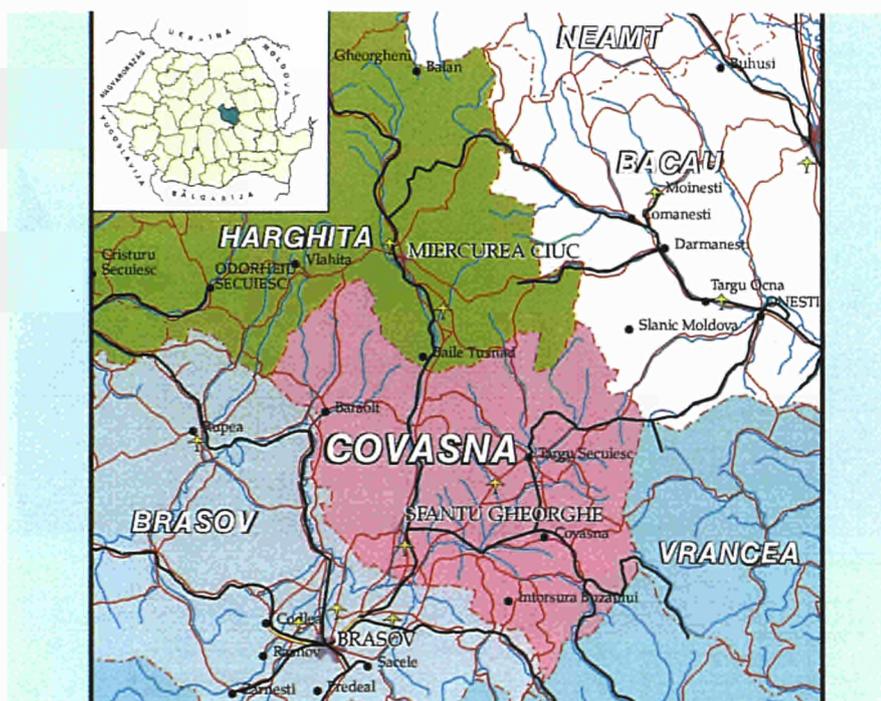
Some of the changes in industrial production reflect a newly oriented activity in traditional areas such as in the mining of lignite, the lumber trade, wood processing and craft trades (especially furniture making) and in the textile and clothing industry, which traditionally enjoyed an international reputation. The food industry includes the production of milk, meat, vegetables, fruits and mineral waters, and the county also grows tobacco.

In the period 1990-95, there was a decrease in the number of cattle, sheep, pigs and poultry and a consequent reduction in

its share of the national livestock (to 0.9% in 1995). Livestock was mainly owned by the private sector and animal production represented one third of total agricultural production. The same period saw increases in yields per hectare of maize, potatoes and wheat and rye and an increase in the average production of milk from cows and buffaloes.

The considerable potential for tourism, especially in the 10 health resorts situated in the county's mountainous zones, has led to intensive development of tourism since 1990. Although the hotel network is relatively developed, it falls short of the needs of the population.

In 1995, there were 115 km of railway track and 812 km of road in the county. Hence the density of railway track was 3.1 km per 100 km², the sixth lowest density in Romania, whereas there were 21.9 km of public



Hungarian majority

In 1995, 52.9% of Covasna's 232 520 inhabitants were living in the county's five towns, with over half of this number residing in the main town of Sfântu Gheorghe. According to the last census taken in 1992, ethnic Romanians comprised less than one third of the county population; around three quarters were ethnic Hungarians, giving Covasna the second largest Hungarian majority in Romania after Harghita County. The same census recorded that 36.7% of the people declared they were Roman Catholic, 34.2% were Calvinist Protestant Church members and 21.6% were Romanian Orthodox.

The period 1990-95 showed decreases in the birth rate and rising outward migration, leading to an overall reduction in the population. In 1995, the death rate was higher than the birth rate. The death rate of 10.9% was due to increases in adult mortality while infant mortality was below the national average. Average life expectancy within the county was 70.1 years, higher than for the rest of Romania.

In 1995, 93 400 persons were registered as employed and the overall employment rate stood at 51.5%. This was a decrease on previous years, resulting in a surplus of qualified labour. 7 029 persons were registered as unemployed; over half (3 916) of them women. The overall unemployment rate was 7.0%, slightly less than the national average. It was 8.0% for women, which was also considerably less than the Romanian average.

In the same year, 34.7% of the workforce were occupied in agriculture and forestry, 38.3% in industry and construction and 27.0% in the services sector. The great majority of industrial jobs were in manufacturing.

Which regions are similar to Covasna?

Population:

about 230 000 inhabitants
 Aitolokarnania (EL)
 Viborg amt (DK)
 Het Gooi en Vechtstreek (NL)

Population density:

63-64 inhabitants per km²
 Dharm-Spreewald (D)
 Haute-Vienne (F)
 Sønderjyllands amt (Dk)

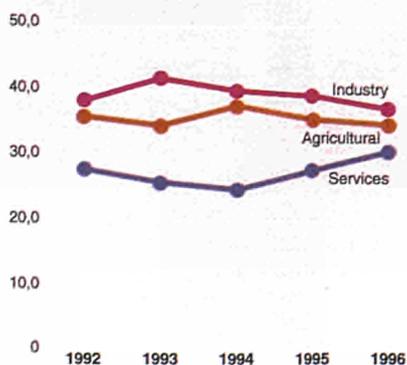
Employment structure:

38% industry
 Gießen (D)
 Cataluña (E)

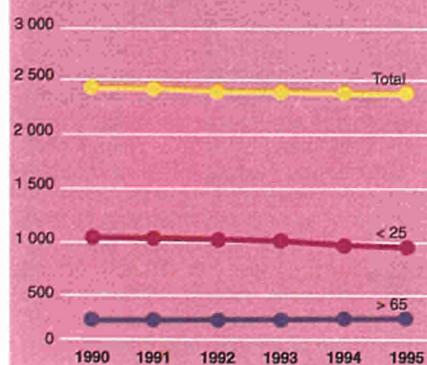
roads per 100 km², the fourth lowest road density. Roads and railways represent only 1% of the national network.

The number of houses increased in urban areas, as did connections to the water and sewerage services, to a much greater extent than in rural districts. According to the 1992 census, 94% of dwellings had a kitchen and half had bathrooms. 98% were connected to mains electricity, but only 50% had drinking water from the mains network. About a third of dwellings had central heating.

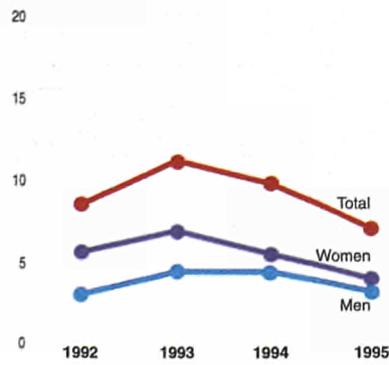
Covasna
 Employment structure (percentage)



Covasna
 Population by age (1 000)



Covasna
 Unemployment (1 000)



HUNEDOARA COUNTY

The heart of pre-Roman Dacia

Hunedoara is situated in the west of the Central Region, in south-western Transylvania. The ninth largest county, at 7 063 km², it comprises 3% of Romania's territory. The Transylvanian Alps border on the south of the county, the highest part of Hunedoara. The massifs of Retezat, Parâng and Şurianu are located in the south, as are the Parângu Mare (2 518 m) and Peleaga (2 509 m) peaks. The Poiana Ruscă Massif is situated in the centre of Hunedoara and the 'Metaliferous Mountains' are in the north but between all of these massifs lie plateaux of plains and terraces. The Mureş Valley is the lowest plateau at 200 m above sea level.

The Mureş, the main river, flows from east to west across more than 100 km of the county through Deva Municipality, the principal town. The Streiul, Râul Mare and Cerna rivers, tributaries of the Mureş River, also run through the county. The Jiu River is in the south and the Crişul Alb River flows through the north. The county also possesses thermal springs and there are over 80 alpine glacial lakes in the Retezat Mountains.

There are large quantities of coal in the Jiu Valley, iron ore in the Poiana Ruscă Mountains and nonferrous and rare metals can be found in the 'Metaliferous Mountains'. The county also possesses mineral talc, limestone, dolomite, marble, bentonite, clays and sands.

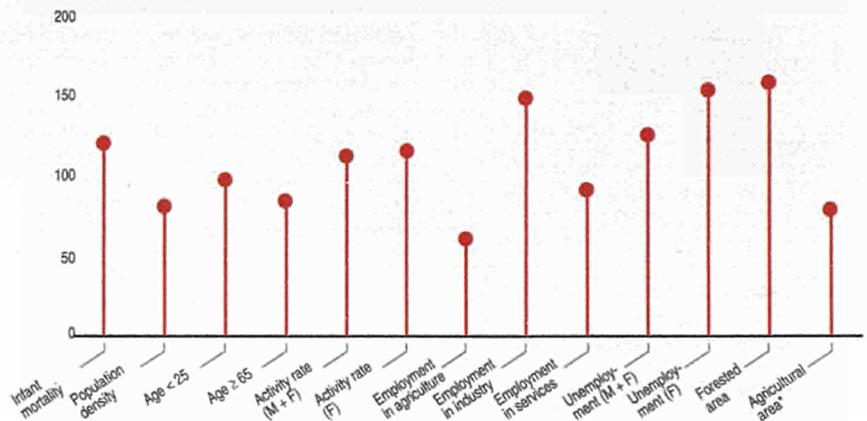
Forests cover 44% of the county and there are several nature reserves, including the Simeria Tree Park, the Bejan Oak Forest, the Deva Fortress Forest, the Slivuş-Haşeg Forest with its bison reservation and the largest nature reserve in Romania, the Retezat National Park which covers more than 15 000 ha.

The remains of pre-Roman Dacian fortresses in the Orăştie Mountains, those of Grădiştea de Munte and the citadels and settlements around them testify to an advanced Dacian civilisation prior to Roman occupation. Traces of Roman culture are also scattered across the county, including the remains of the capital of Roman Dacia, Ulpia Traiana Sarmisegetusa, as well as other settlements, roads, camps and mines.



Huniads castle.

Hunedoara
Main indicators
National level = 100



Key mining area

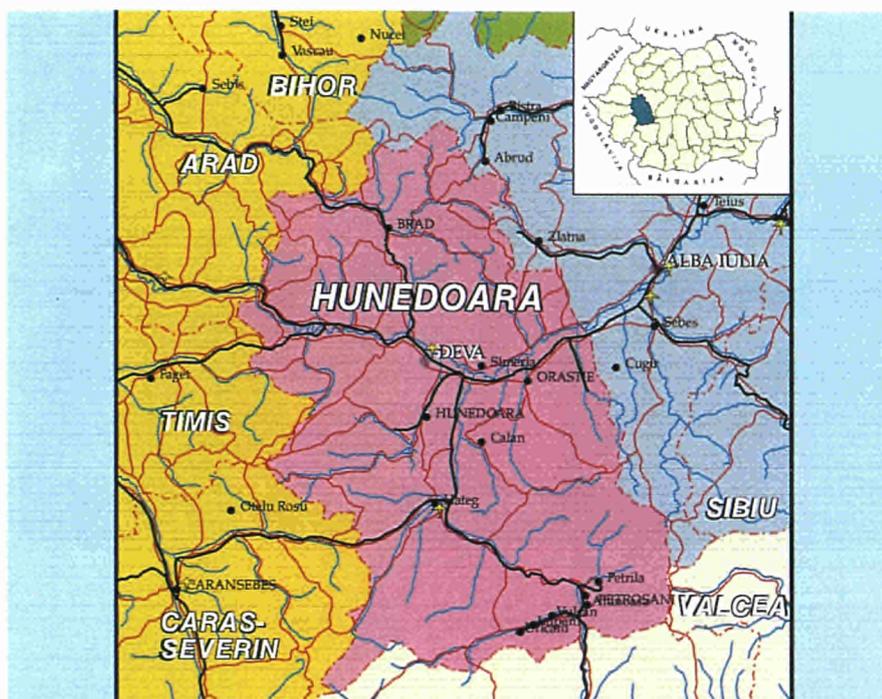
Industry (including mining, manufacturing, construction and the production of energy, gas and water) is the largest employer, accounting for 56.3% of workers in 1995. Natural resources, especially the abundance of mineral ores, have influenced the economic structure of the county. The Jiu Valley is one of the most important areas of coal mining in Romania and iron ores in the Poiana Ruscă Mountains (specifically from Ghelari and Teliuc) have been mined since the 15th century. Hence, 47.0% of industrial employees were working in the traditional sectors of mining and quarrying in 1995 and 14.7% in steel production: these key industries accounted for 50.9% of the county's industrial output. Furthermore, in recent years there has been a slight growth in the volume of electric and thermal ener-

gy production, reaching 25.6% of the county's industrial output in 1995.

Hunedoara is a major producer and supplier of energy products such as coal, electricity and coke for metallurgical processes, as well as iron ores, copper ores and other ores, rolled-steel goods, mining equipment, plastics, wood products, cement and marble.

The county's other main products include food and beverages (6.0% of the county's output), machinery and equipment (2.8%), textiles, leather and fur (2.1%) and also other minerals (4.4%).

There are three research and development units specialising in topics relevant to this county, especially mining and silviculture. Agriculture and forestry was the smallest sector in terms of the labour force, occupying 20.8% of workers. Farming mainly includes the breeding of livestock, cattle and



An urban population with high female unemployment

There were 531 634 inhabitants on 1 January 1980 which had risen to 567 754 by 1 July 1990 according to calculations. However, the population has dropped since due to the falling birth rate and rising mortality rate. On 1 July 1995, it was calculated that there were 546 163 residents, which represented 2.4% of Romania's population. The population density was 77.3 inhabitants per km², lower than the national average. On 1st January 1996, calculations indicated that there were 544 492 people in Hunedoara.

Furthermore, the number of people aged less than 25 fell from 209 696 in 1980 to 197 848 in 1995, i.e. from 39.4% of the population to 36.2%. Conversely, the over 65 age group has increased disproportionately, from 42 699 or 8.0% of the population in 1980 to 54 837 or 10.0% in 1995. However, this is a common phenomenon in Romania and in fact this was the fifth smallest group of over-65s among the Romanian counties in 1995.

In 1995, urban residents accounted for 76.1% of the population, making Hunedoara the third most urbanised county after Bucharest Municipality and Prahova county. In the same year, 14.2% of those over 55 and 38.4% of those younger than 25 lived in urban areas, i.e. the urban population is skewed towards the younger age group.

In 1992, 91.9% of the community was ethnic Romanian and 6.1% Hungarian, with Gypsies and other nationalities accounting for 1.0% each. The census showed that 86.4% of people were Orthodox, 4.7% were Roman Catholic, 2.8% belonged to the Reformed Church and 2.4% were Pentecostal.

From 1990 to 1995, employment decreased, except in 1994 when there was a slight upturn. By end of 1995, the employment rate was 46.2%. The unemployment rate rose to 12.0% and 17.5% for women in 1995, making Hunedoara the fourth worst county for female unemployment. Three-quarters of the unemployed lived in urban areas.

Which regions are similar to Hunedoara?

Area:

about 7 000 km²
 Nuoro (I)
 Vienne (F)
 Uppsala län (S)

Age structure:

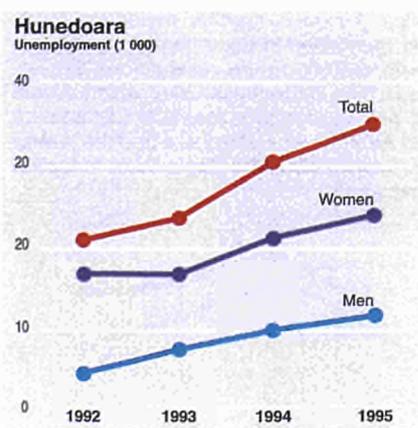
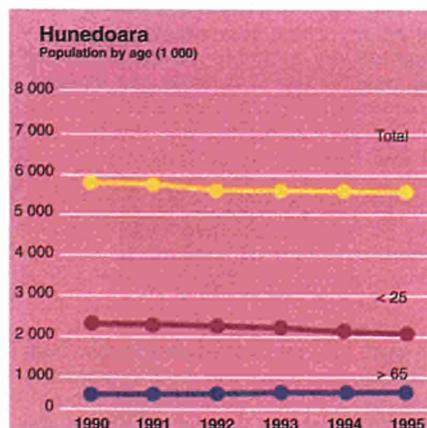
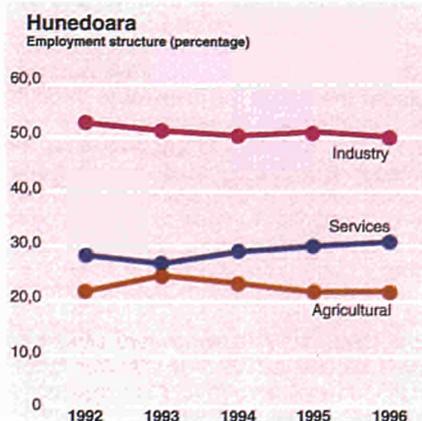
36% under 25
 Picardie (F)
 Walbrzyskie (PL)

Employment structure:

21% agriculture
 Açores (P)
 Kentriki Makedonia (EL)
 Krakowskie (PL)

sheep, supported by the large area devoted to pastures and hayfields. Crop production does not meet the county's requirements and consequently a significant share has to be imported from other counties.

The services sector employed 29.2% of the labour force in 1995. Trade and transport held the most significant shares of the workforce in this sector; respectively, 8.6% and 4.4% of the Hunedoara's total workforce. In 1995, there were 27.4 km of public road per 100 km², 35.4% of which were classified as modern and 55.2% were paved. The density of the railway network was 4.8 km of track per 100 km².



SIBIU COUNTY

At the centre of Romania

Sibiu is within the large curvature of the Meridional Carpathians in south Transylvania. The county covers 5 432 km² or 2.3% of Romanian land.

Altitudes range between 2 535 m (Negoiu Peak) and 28 m (the Târnava Mare River Valley). Mountains cover 30% of the county area, sometimes rising above 2 000 m, especially in the Făgăraş, Lotru and Cindrel mountains. The hills of the Târnave, Hârtibaciu and Secaş plateaux (490 m to 749 m) cover 50% of Sibiu and are divided by large valleys that account for the rest of the land.

The mountains supply rocks for building and the plains are rich in salt deposits. Sibiu is also endowed with significant deposits of clay, sand and ballast used in construction and glass making, reserves of natural gas that are 99% methane, and hot mineral springs.

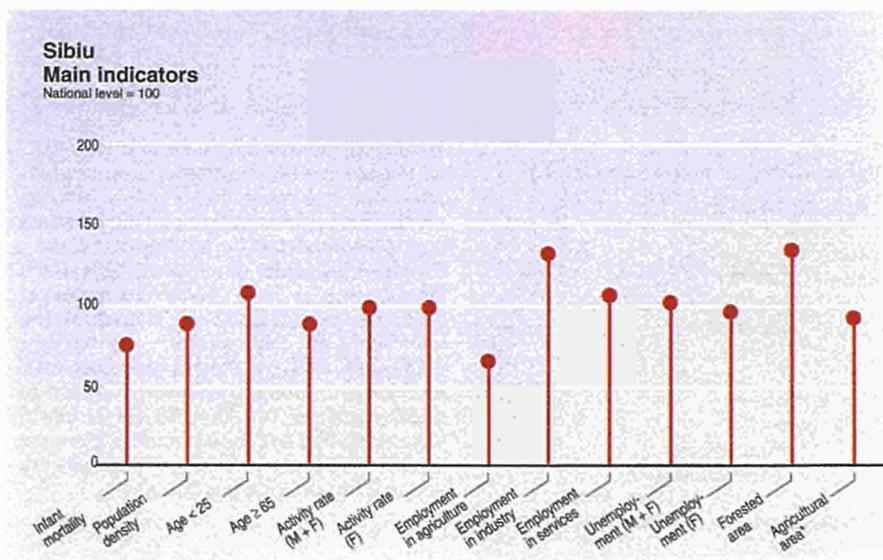
The Olt and Mureş river basins dominate the water system. The Olt and its tributaries flow through the south, while the Târnava Mare River (which joins the Mureş River) flows across the north of Sibiu and one of its tributaries extends to the west. Lakes and ponds cover 1.2% of the county, the 10th smallest percentage in Romania.

Sibiu is at the heart of Romania, at the northern end of major pass through the Carpathians and thus a meeting point and cultural melting pot throughout the ages. Archaeological discoveries provide evidence of successive settlements. Neolithic wooden tools were unearthed in Şelimbăr, Turnişor and Ocna Sibiului where the Criş culture established wealthy settlements. There are many remains from the Dacian period, such as the Tilişca fortress and the Roman camp 'Caput Stenarum.' Indeed, this area linked Transylvania and Walachia. The first German colonists settled in this area during the 12th century and refounded the Roman city which today is the county's principal town, Sibiu. Sibiu Fortress was built from the 12th to the 16th centuries. Agnita is another mediaeval town, first mentioned in documents in 1280.

There are six nature reservations that include 'The Bottomless Lake' which covers 0.2 ha, the limestone fossils at Cisnădioara and Turnu Roşu, Bălea Lake and the Iezerul Mare and Iezerul Mic glacial lakes at Iezerul Cindrelului.



Sibiu city centre.



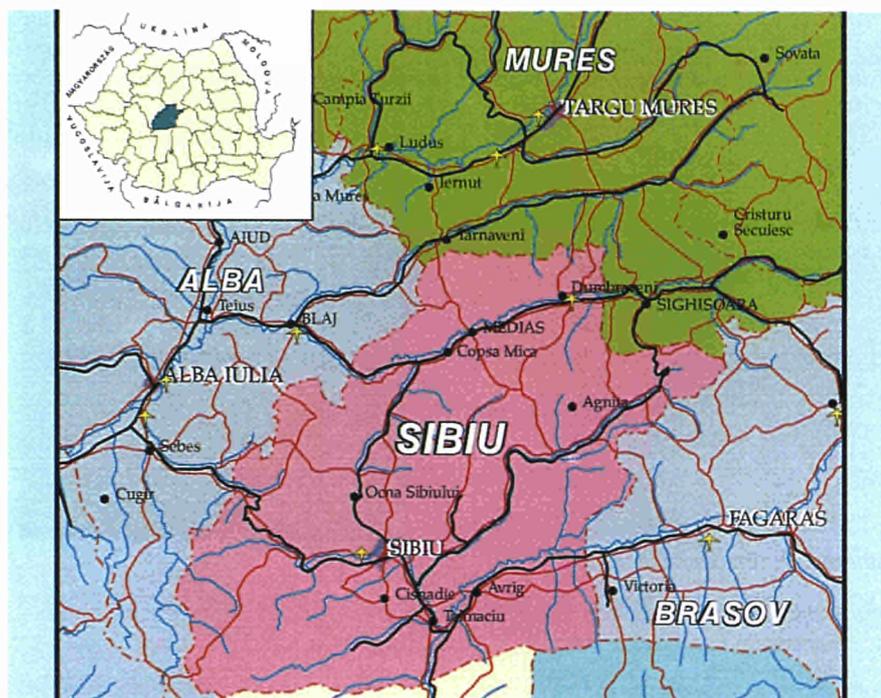
Industrial development and modernisation

By 1850, Sibiu already possessed a number of important enterprises including a sugar refinery, a factory for the processing and manufacture of candles and stearine, paper mills in Sibiu and Avrig, weaving mills in Gura Râului, Orlat and Cisnădie and glassware factories in Cârţa and Porumbacu.

Sibiu has experienced one of the greatest rates of industrial development and modernisation among Romanian counties in recent decades. In 1995, industrial output accounted for 49.1% of the county production and 1.9% of the national production level, the 20th largest contribution from a county. The main area of productivity within industry was methane gas production, which accounted for 28.2% of the

industrial output value. Romgaz in the town of Mediaş was the leading enterprise in this field. Road transportation accounted for 14.5% of the industrial income and involved companies such as Compa in Sibiu and Mecanica in Mărşa. There are only 27.3 km of road per 100 km² but this includes the link to the main route through the Carpathians. The railway density was 5.7 km per 100 km². Textile goods represented 11.0% of the industrial output and involved several enterprises such as Comtex in Cisnădie, Târnava in Mediaş and Sitex in Dumbrava and Sibiu. The food industry contributed 8.7%, the main producers being Simpa and Sibiana, both in Sibiu.

From 1992 to 1996, agriculture only employed around a fifth of the labour force, the third lowest proportion after Bucharest and Braşov, until 1994 when Sibiu ranked



Emigration of some minorities

On 1 January 1980, the population was 494 067, which had risen to 501 546 by 1 July 1990, based on calculations. On 1 July 1995, calculations showed that there were 446 823 inhabitants, of which 48.7% were male. Hence the population density was 82.3 inhabitants per km².

Urban residents accounted for 68.6% of the population, the fourth highest degree of urbanisation in Romania. People in urban areas accounted for 67.7% of those under 25, 73.5% of those aged 25 to 54 and 58.5% of those over 65.

Overall, those under 25 accounted for 39.3% of the population and those over 65 represented 10.5% in 1995 compared to 43.8% and 8.6% respectively in 1980, indicating the ageing of the community.

The birth rate dropped from 12.6 births per 1 000 inhabitants in 1990 to 10.2 in 1995 but the infant mortality rate fell from 17.5 deaths per 1 000 births in 1990 to 15.5 in 1995, the sixth lowest rate among the Romanian counties in 1995. The mortality rate fluctuated over the same period but overall it increased from 9.1 deaths per 1 000 inhabitants in 1990 to 10.4 in 1995, the seventh lowest rate in 1995.

The population also changed due to migration, particularly the emigration of residents of German origin, especially from 1990 to 1993. In 1977, Germans accounted for 20% of the population but only 3.8% in 1992. The 1992 Census also recorded that 87.7% of the people were ethnic Romanian, 4.3% were Hungarian and 4.1% were Gypsies. However, the rate of migration has slowed from an influx of 16.5 people per 1 000 inhabitants in 1990 to 1.2 in 1995.

At the end of 1995, industry employed 44.2% of the 181.5 thousand workers, the service sector engaged 33.9% of the labour force and 21.9% were in agriculture. The overall unemployment rate was 9.6% and the female unemployment rate was 10.8%.

Which regions are similar to Sibiu?

Population:

about 440 000 inhabitants

- Huelva (E)
- Leuven (B)
- Avellino (I)

Age structure:

11% over 65

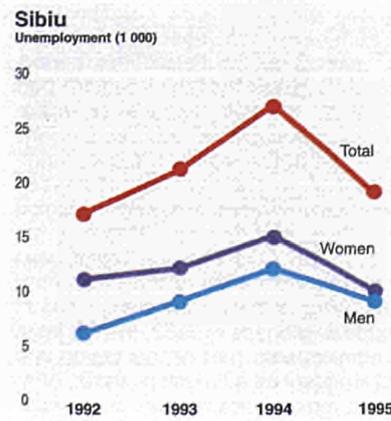
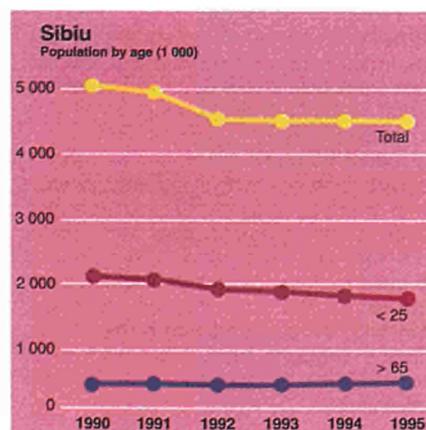
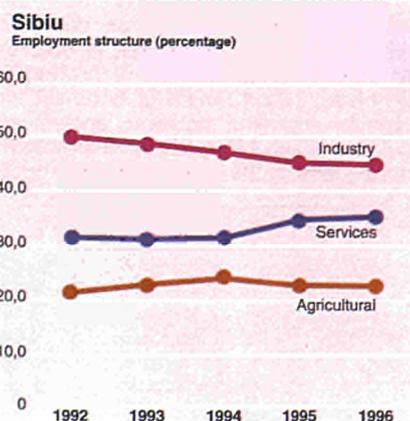
- Ceuta y Melilla (E)
- Strédne Slovensko (SK)

Land use:

56-57% agriculture

- Veneto (I)
- Andalucia (E)

fourth. At the end of 1995, agriculture occupied 56.7% of the county territory, which was below the national average of 62.1%. Arable farming and livestock breeding are traditional activities. Yet in 1995, only 37.8% of the agricultural land was used for arable farming, the seventh smallest percentage in Romania. Consequently, arable yields were low relative to the other counties. Conversely, pastures covered 34.8% of the agricultural land, the ninth greatest proportion among the counties, and hayfields covered 24.6%, the fourth largest percentage. This land was mainly used for sheep grazing: Sibiu had the fifth greatest number of sheep, 3.6% of the Romanian flock, and produced the sixth greatest quantity of wool in 1995.



WESTERN REGION

The 'open gate to Europe'

The Western Region covers an area of 36 933 km², or 15.5% of the area of Romania. Much of its boundary coincides with international borders; with Ukraine to the north, and with Hungary and Yugoslavia to the west. These international borders do not for the most part follow obvious geographical features except for part of the border with Yugoslavia to the south of the region, which is formed by the Danube River.

The relief and structure of the territory has given the region the name of 'the open gate to Europe'. The Western Carpathians in the east of the region do not contain particularly high peaks and there are several passes where the region's roads, and its seven railways, can connect the Western Region to the rest of Romania. The Sub-Carpathians continue to the west to the Tisa Plain which stretches over the four northern counties of Satu Mare, Bihor, Arad and Timiș. These counties have major road and rail connections to Western Europe. The region's fifth county, Caraș-Severin, is in the mountainous eastern part of the region.

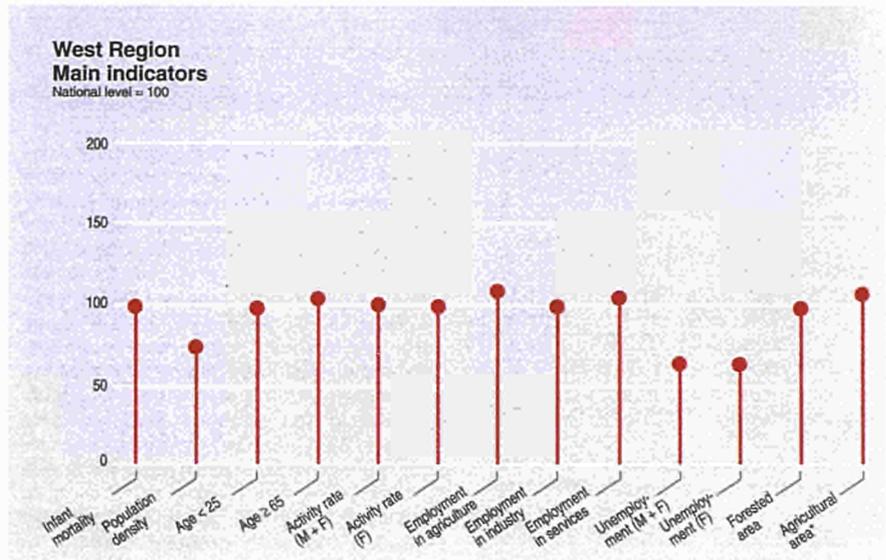
As with most of Romania, the climate is basically temperate-continental, but it is mitigated to some extent by Mediterranean influences, due to its position in the west of the country, and also because of the mountains in the east of the region. Temperatures are typically higher in the plains in the west of the region and decrease towards the mountain areas in the east. Rainfall follows a similar pattern with more rain falling more regularly in the east than in the west.

Many rivers cross the region, some of which are tributaries of the Danube or the Tisa. The most important of these are the Mureș, Someș, Crișul Alb, Crișul Repede, Crișul Negru and Timiș rivers. This region also benefits from artificial irrigation.

The topography and good conditions for agriculture have encouraged human settlements here since the Palaeolithic period. When the Romans held the southern part of this area with their capital at Ulpia Traiana in occupied Dacia, the free Dacians held the rest of the region. The geographical 'opening' to the Pannonic Plain also allowed many migrant invasions, including Serbs, Slavs and Bulgars. Between the 12th and 18th centuries the region was colonised by Hungarian and German conquerors. After defeating the Hungarians at the Battle of Mohacs in 1552, the Ottoman army administered part of this region and part of Hungary as a Turkish pashalik. After 1716, the region became part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.



Cathedral in Timișoara.

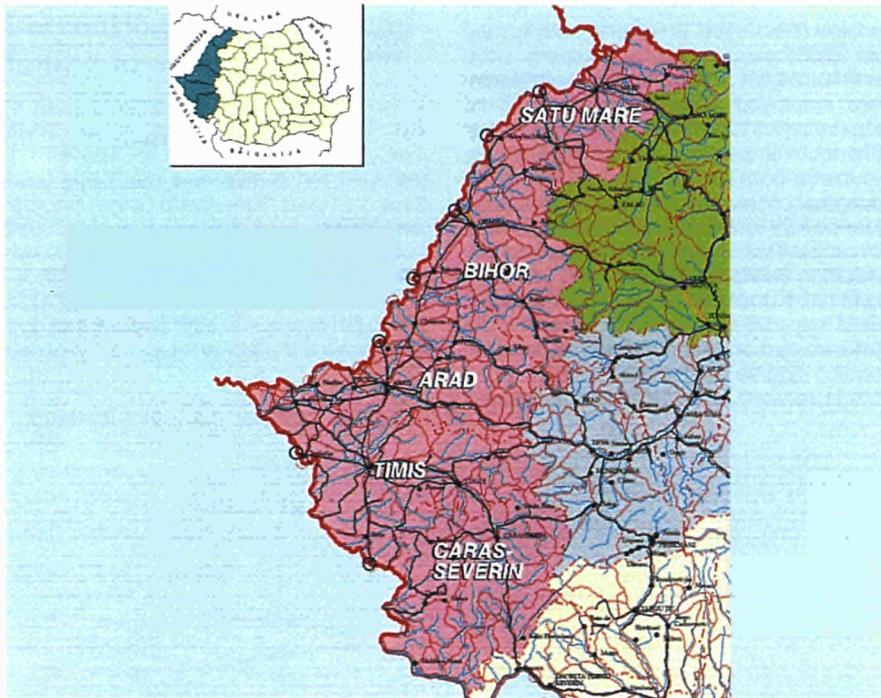


Rich mining past: rich resource future

In the south of the region, foreign colonists specialised in mining and metallurgy. It was here, in 1771, that Romania's first two furnaces were constructed. At the same time, the first coal mines were opened to provide the necessary fuel.

The region contains many natural resources used for energy and in industry. In addition to crude oil and natural gas, the region has deposits of coking coal and lignite. Other raw materials which are extracted and used in industry include marble, limestone and other construction materials, along with ferrous and non-ferrous ores, including uranium ores. Gold and silver ores can also be found in the Western Carpathians.

Further resources occurring within the region are the geothermal waters and springs. Some of these have already been commercially exploited. For example, the thermal waters of the Cerna Valley in Caraș-Severin county are rich in sulphur and led to the establishment of the Herculane health resort. There is potential for more development, however, and these resources could be used to make greater contributions to the tourist industry.



Which regions are similar to Western Region?

Population:
 about 2.6 millions inhabitants
 Great Manchester (UK)
 Kentriki Ellada (EL)

Age structure:
 10% over 65
 Canarias (E)
 Leszno (PL)

Employment structure:
 32% industry
 Lorraine (F)
 Friuli-Venezia Giulia (I)
 Darmstadt (D)

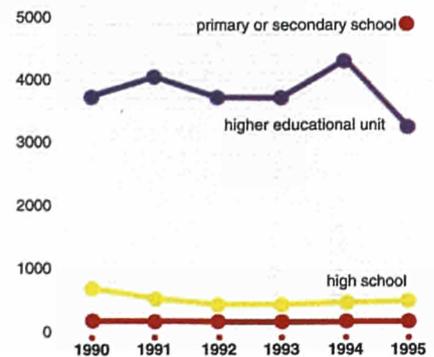
Many students

The Western Region boasts an old, well-established university in Timișoara, and in recent years new universities have been established in Arad and Oradea. The number of all higher educational establishments in the region almost doubled from 7 in 1994 to 13 in 1995. The number of higher education students increased by 39% in the same period, and the number of students per 1 000 inhabitants in the region in 1995 was greater than the national average. In 1995, of all Romania's regions, the Western Region had the third-largest number of higher education students. Only the capital Bucharest and the North-Eastern Region (which had 63% more people in the 15-24 age-group than the Western Region) had more students.

The number of high school pupils also increased between 1994 and 1995. This increase, however, at 5% was less than for the students. The number of primary school pupils increased very slightly (by less than 1%) over the same period.

West region

Pupils per educational establishment



District	Area km ²	Population			Activity (%)	Unemploy- ment (%)	Employment		
		1 000 Inhabitants/km ²	Change (%)	1995			(%) Agriculture	(%) Industry	(%) Services
Region	1995	1995	1995	1990-95	1995	1995	1995	1995	1995
Country	1995	1995	1995	1990-95	1995	1995	1995	1995	1995
1.WEST	36 933	2 566	69	-5.3	58.3	5.9	37.1	29.7	33.1
Arad	7 754	480	62	-5.7	59.1	5.1	34.7	26.8	38.5
Bihor	7 544	631	84	-4.4	56.1	6.0	41.7	30.6	27.7
Caras-Severin	8 520	366	43	-9.2	56.2	9.9	36.3	31.8	31.9
Satu-Mare	4 418	396	90	-5.	59.9	6.5	44.5	29.2	26.3
Timiș	8 697	694	80	-4.0	59.8	4.0	31.4	30.4	38.2

Relatively low unemployment

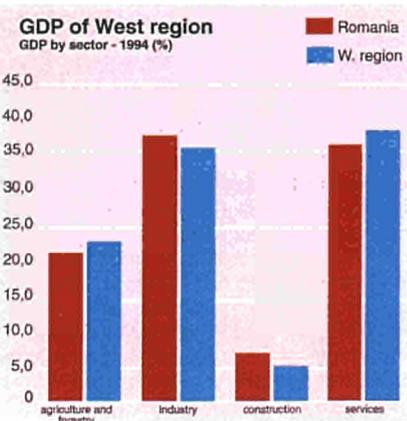
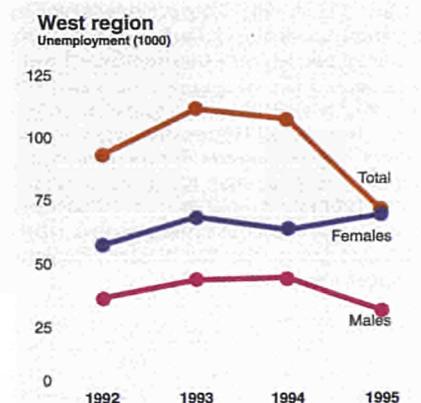
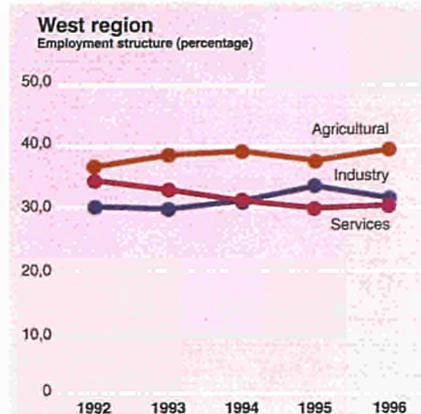
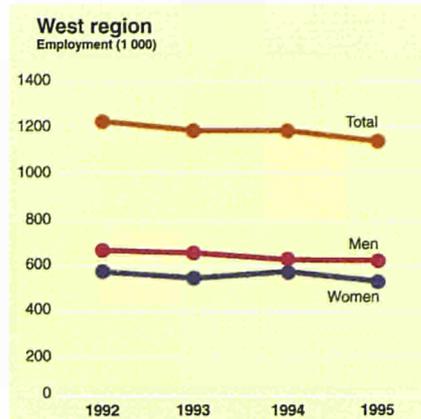
In 1995, the overall unemployment rate in the region was 5.9%, lower than the national average of 9.5%. The male unemployment rate was 4.9% and for females it was 7.1% (compared with national averages of 7.9% and 11.4% respectively). The unemployment rates in the region increased in the first quarter of 1996, but remained below the national averages: the overall unemployment rate in the region was 8.7% compared to 9.3% nationally. The female unemployment rate was 9.1%, lower than the national figure of 10.0%. In 1995 the activity rate for males was 64.9% and for

females was 52.1%. The overall activity rate was 58.3%.

In 1996, 38.8% of the region's workforce were employed in agriculture, 30.1% in industry and 31.2% in services. There were differences in employment among the age groups for both sexes, however, with more young people working in services and more older people working in agriculture. Overall 44 percent of working males under 25 worked in services, as did 53.5% of working females under 25. Only 19% of working males over 50 worked in services, while 63% worked in agriculture. The corresponding figures for females over 50 were 21% in services and 71.6% in agriculture.

Employment by sector, gender and age group in the first quarter 1996

	Total number of employed people	Of which in:			
		Agriculture and forestry	Industry	Construction	Services
Total employment	1 039 080	315 320	291 760	45 034	386 966
a. Males, total	587 906	177 468	181 744	39 565	189 129
- 15 - 24 years	83 985	20 152	19 548	7 139	37 146
- 25 - 34 years	150 630	30 565	51 077	11 913	57 075
- 35 - 49 years	229 019	48 471	93 726	15 749	71 073
- 50 - 64 years	91 218	46 357	17 393	4 416	23 052
- 65 years and over	33 054	31 923		348	783
b. Females, total	451 174	137 852	110 016	5 469	197 837
- 15 - 24 years	59 754	12 755	15 040		31 959
- 25 - 34 years	106 867	21 296	29 623	902	55 046
- 35 - 49 years	182 837	30 933	58 805	3 748	89 351
- 50 - 64 years	77 791	49 885	6 156	819	20 931
- 65 years and over	23 925	22 983	392		550



Large mining and energy enterprises, many small, private manufacturers

In 1994, the region's GDP per capita was ROL 2 222 thousand, 1.3% higher than the national average. The contributions to the region's GDP by sector were close to the national averages, with 22.2% from agriculture, 35.3% from industry, 4.8% from construction and 37.7% from services.

Of the 4 671 industrial enterprises in the region in August 1996, 4 587 (98%) were in manufacturing, 44 were in mining and quarrying and the remaining 40 were in energy production. A higher proportion of the mining, quarrying and energy companies were large enterprises than was the case with manufacturing businesses: only 4.8% of

the manufacturing enterprises employed more than 200 people, compared with 39% of enterprises in mining and quarrying and 50% in energy production. Most (85.5%) of the manufacturing enterprises were small, with fewer than 20 employees. More than half (33 out of 45 or 73%) of the public sector services employed more than 200 people, as did 56% of the companies with majority state capital. Of all the industrial enterprises in the region 94% were private companies, and of these only 2.1% employed more than 200 people, while the majority (89%) were small enterprises, with fewer than 20 employees.

Decreasing population and falling inward migration

In 1990, a slight increase in the population of the region was recorded. The birth rate in that year was higher than the mortality rate, and there was also a net migration into the region (there was movement away from the rural areas, but the movement into the urban areas in the region was greater). From 1991 to 1995, however, the region's birth rate was lower than its mortality rate but, at the same time, there was net migration into the region. In 1991, the picture was

one of people leaving the rural areas but even greater numbers moved into the urban areas. Since 1992, migration has been into both urban and rural areas.

In 1991 and 1992, the inward migration was greater than the natural decrease, but from 1993 to 1995 the natural decrease was greater than the inward migration, resulting in a decreasing population for these years. Furthermore, the difference between the mortality rate and birth rate increased between 1991 and 1995. In 1991, there were 11.5 births and 12.7 deaths per 1 000 inhabitants. By 1995, the birth rate had fall-

en to 10.0 births per 1 000 inhabitants while the mortality rate had increased to 13.7 deaths per 1 000 inhabitants.

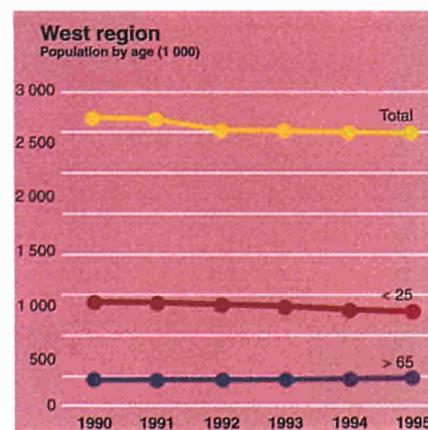
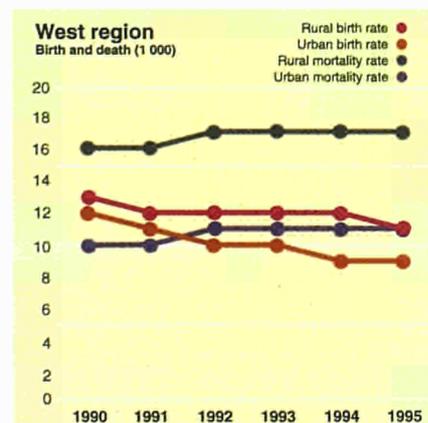
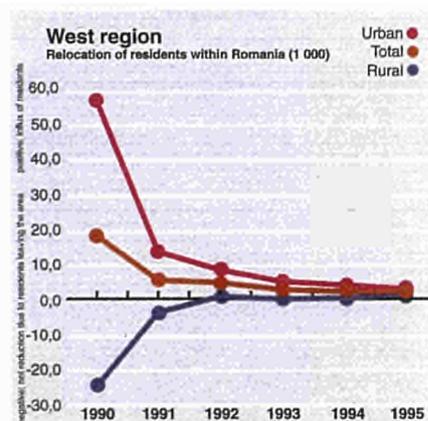
Population by age — 1995

	M+F 1 000	M+F %	M %	F %
<15 years	512	20.0	21.0	19.0
15-24	416	16.2	16.9	15.5
25-39	511	21.5	22.0	21.0
40-54	485	18.9	19.1	18.7
55-64	286	11.1	10.6	11.7
≥65	317	12.3	10.4	14.1
Total	2 566	100.0	100.0	100.0

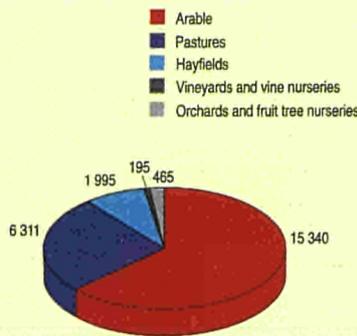
Relatively good utilities and services

At the end of 1995, there were 56 hospitals in the region with a total of 22 704 beds. This represents 8.8 hospital beds per 1 000 inhabitants, which is 16% higher than the national average. The number of libraries per inhabitant at the end of 1995 was less than the national average, but the number of volumes per inhabitant at 6.2 was very close to the national average of 6.9. The region also had a greater number of cinemas and theatres per 1 000 inhabitants than the national average.

In 1995, the total number of towns and villages in the region was 389, of which 326 were connected to the mains water system. All 36 towns and 73 of the rural localities were connected to the public sewerage network. There are 2.8 km of gas pipeline in the region per 100 km², which is lower than the national average. The low density of gas pipeline is mainly due to natural gas deposits having been discovered only recently in this part of Romania.



West region
Agricultural area (km²)



Pigs, cattle, orchards and manufacturing exports

The prevalence of plains means that agriculture is an important sector in the region, and the area of agricultural land per inhabitant is 46% higher than the national average. Arable land accounts for 63% of the agricultural land, around the same as the national average, while the proportion of agricultural land used for pasture is 13% higher than the national average. In 1995, the Western Region possessed over 1.6 million cattle (more than twice as many as in the next largest regional herd) and close to 1.4 million pigs (the second largest num-

ber). The region has benefited from its geographical position by importing superior breeds of cattle and pigs from central and western European countries.

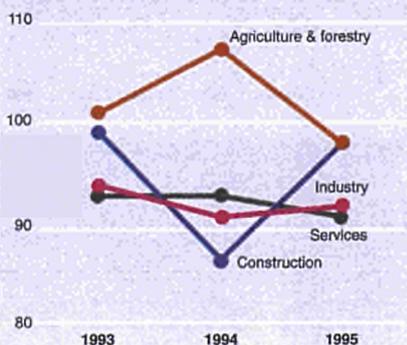
The proportion of agricultural land used for orchards and fruit trees is higher than the national average. The reverse is true for land used for vineyards, since in the south the land is unsuitable and in the north the climate is too harsh.

Although mining, quarrying and energy production are important branches of industry within the region, in 1995 some 81% of people employed in industry worked in manufacturing, producing such goods as fine household glassware, knitwear, textiles, clothing, leather footwear, furniture and electrical appliances. Many of these products are intended for the export market.

Number of industrial enterprises by branches on August 31st, 1996

	Total number of enterprises	of which:		
		0 - 19 employees	20 - 199 employees	200 employees and over
Total industry	4 671	3 942	472	257
- mining and quarrying	44	15	12	17
- manufacturing	4 587	3 921	446	220
- energy	40	6	14	20

West region
Wages by sector (national level = 100)



Wages lowest in agriculture, highest in construction

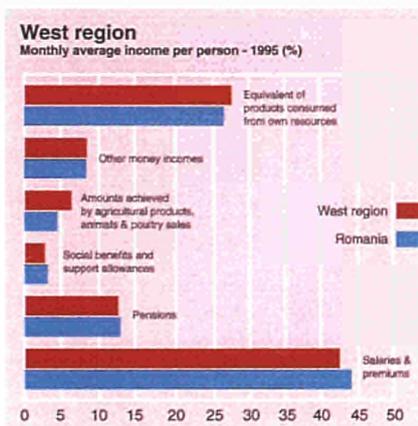
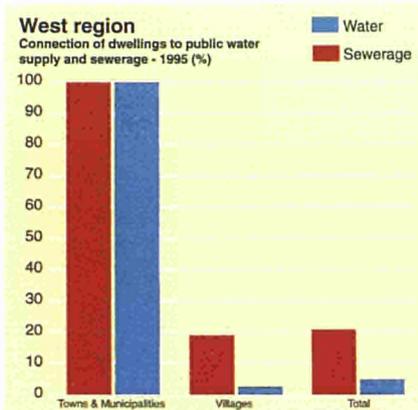
In 1995, the average monthly salaries in the region were lower than the national averages for all sectors. Both in agriculture and construction, average salaries were 98% of the national averages, while in industry and services average salaries were 92% and 91% of the national averages respectively. Salaries were lowest in agriculture (ROL 212 905) and highest in construction (ROL 236 371). Thus average salaries in construction were 35% higher than in agriculture. Salaries in industry were 28% higher than in agriculture, while those for services were lower than in industry but 11% higher than in agriculture.

In the same year, salaries contributed 42.5% of the total average income in the region. This figure is close to the national average of 44.2%. Products consumed from own resources provided the equivalent of 27.9% of the average income, the second largest contribution. Again this figure is very similar to the national average of 27.0%.

Less industrialised and less pollution

Most (66%) of the Western Region is agricultural land, and a further 27% of its area is covered by forests. Water and lakes cover nearly 2% of the region. The region is less densely populated than the other regions and it is one of the least industrialised parts of Romania. These factors contribute towards the region being less polluted, on average, than the country as a whole.

In 1995, 36 507 ha or 3.6% of the region's forests were affected by pollution (compared to 5.9% nationally). The majority (97%) of the damaged area was affected only slightly, but 872 ha were moderately affected and a further 227 ha were severely affected. 46 ha were polluted by liquid and solid industrial waste, and gaseous nitrogen compounds affected 896 ha. Other forest damage was attributed to a variety of causes.



Terrain favours a well developed transport network

This region was the first in Romania to build railways and to use urban trams and electricity. The road and rail networks are well developed in the region. In 1995, it had the greatest density of railway track among the regions, 6.6 km of track per 100 km², which was 38% more than the national average. Despite the low population density in the region, the density of public roads was 29.3 km per 100 km², just 4% less than the national average.

The Western Carpathian Mountains, which form the border between this region and other Romanian regions, are lower than many other ranges in the country. Seven railway lines and many public roads have been built through passes between these mountains to connect the region to the rest of Romania.

In 1995, there were 326 303 telephone subscribers in the region, yielding a figure of 7.9 inhabitants per telephone subscription, which was very close to the national average of 7.7 inhabitants per subscription. However, by 1994 the number of subscriptions had risen by just 76% since 1980, whereas in some other regions the number of subscriptions had doubled during the same period.



Timiș Valley.

ARAD COUNTY

Architecture reflects historical importance

The county of Arad is situated in the western part of Romania, on the border with Hungary. It stretches from the summits of the Eastern Carpathians to the Western Hungarian Plain and is a major access route to Hungary and Western Europe. Bihor county lies to the north, Hunedoara and Alba counties to the east and Timiș county to the south. Covering an area of 7 754 km², Arad comprises 3.2% of Romania's territory, and is its sixth biggest county.

Straddling the Mureș River in the middle of the county is Arad town itself. The first recorded reference to Arad dates from the 11th century, and from this time to the 18th century the surrounding lands were mostly under foreign rule as empires struggled for domination of central Europe. From the late 18th century, Arad became a centre for Romanian culture and of national awareness, taking an active part in forging the Transylvanian movement leading to Romanian nationhood. Architecture is an important feature of Arad county; it possesses fine examples from the Austro-Hungarian period, especially in Arad town itself.

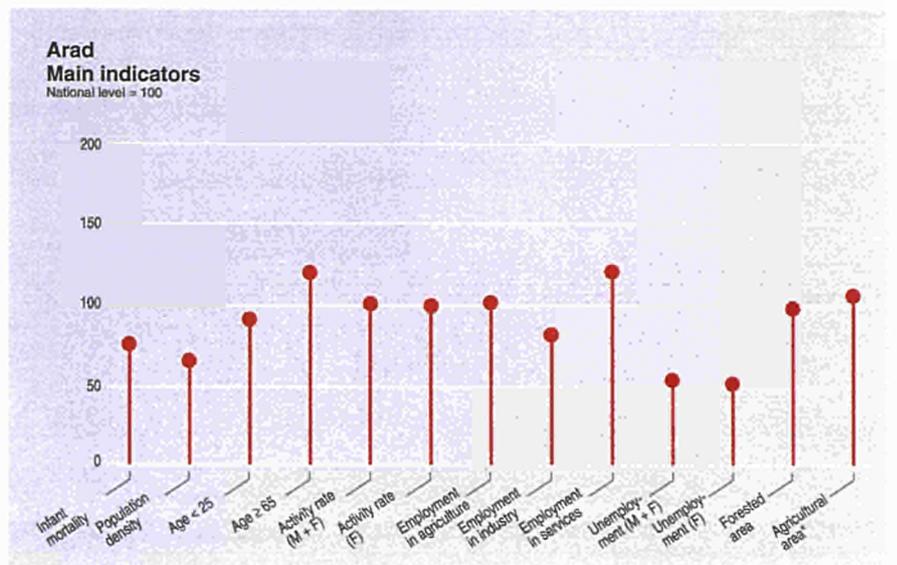
Arad's relief is varied, consisting of hills, plains and mountains. Among the highest of these in the Bihor range is the Găina Peak (1 484 m); other noteworthy heights include Zarand and Mureș plateaux.

In addition to the large Mureș River, Arad has several other rivers, including the Crișul Alb and Crișul Negru that wind their way through the plains of Cernei, Chișinău-Criș, Vinga and Arad. The landscape also contains many lakes and canals.

Extensive mineral deposits include crude oil, natural gas and various ores in the lowlands, and iron ore, manganese, molybdenum, uranium, copper sulphides, pyrites and diatomite in the hills and mountains. Building materials, such as marble, limestone, diorite, granite, sand and gravel are also exploited. The rich mineral deposits also contribute to the good soil fertility; Arad is well known for its agriculture. The area is also famous for its therapeutic waters.



Mureș river near Lipova.



Growing private ownership

After 1990, state sectors were revamped; privatisation was implemented and extended, resulting in significant changes in all sectors of the local economy.

The total number of registered companies was 14 355, of which 249 were foreign capital companies and 758 mixed capital companies.

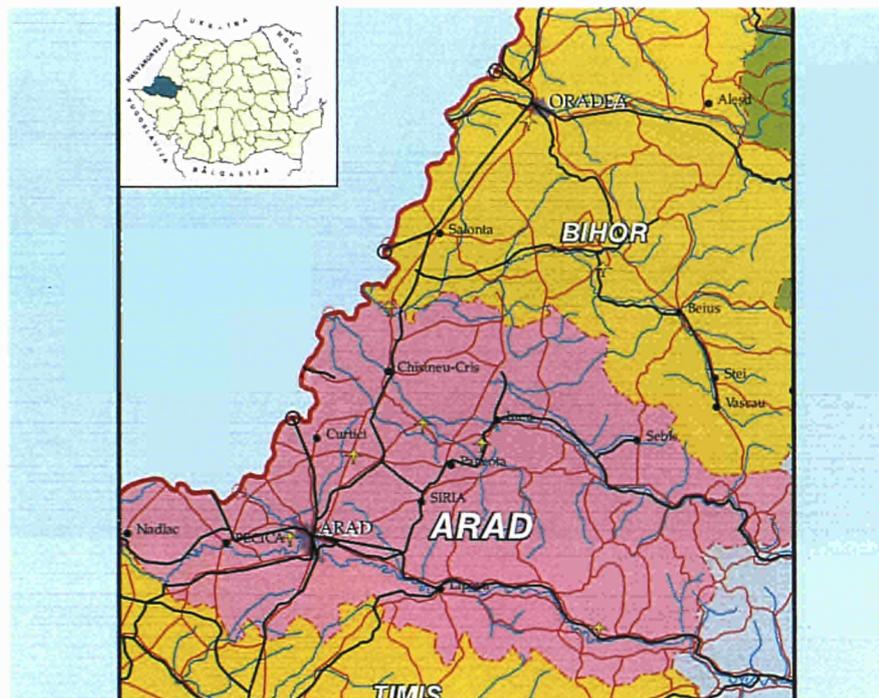
The industrial sector comprises a wide range of industries, the most significant being crude oil extraction, mining, engineering, lumber, textiles, building materials, clothing and knitwear.

The importance of Arad as the major customs exit point is apparent from the fact that all Romania's exports of passenger carriages and metro frames for underground transport systems pass through Arad, as do 45% of exported trucks and

over 60% of lathes and special machine and industrial tools. The county has three border posts handling customs formalities (Nădlag, Vârșad, and Turnu) plus one such railway border post and a fully equipped airport. In 1995, there were 6.3 km of railway track per 100 km², the ninth greatest network density in a comparison of the counties. However, its road network density of 26.8 km per 100 km² ranked as the 12th lowest in Romania.

Out of a total of 1 057 industrial enterprises in Arad, 4% employ more than 200 employees and of these 30% are now in the private sector as are 97.2% of all small and medium-sized enterprises.

Private investment is significantly higher in the agricultural sector where there are 165 private companies and 200 family associations. Local produce includes cereals, vegetables, sunflower oil and sugar beet. In



Mixed population copes with economic change

During recent years the demographic graph has shown a falling trend in the birth rate, resulting in a slight but continuous decline in population. In 1990, it was calculated that there were 508 302 residents and 11.4 births and 14.5 deaths per 1 000 inhabitants. In 1995, there were 9.5 births and 15.1 deaths per 1 000 inhabitants and the population was calculated at 479 575, representing 2.1% of the total population of the country. The urban communities, accounted for 52.4% of the population. In 1995, 26.5% of the Arad's total population were aged 55 or above. The majority of people over 55 live in rural areas, accounting for 31.0% of the entire rural community. In comparison, only 22.3% of the urban population is aged 55 or above. The 1992 census recorded that 80.5% of Arad's population was of Romanian origin, with the remainder comprising ethnic Hungarians, Gypsies, Germans and others. The same census found that most (73.5%) people belonged to the Orthodox Church while 15.3% of the population belonged to the Roman Catholic Church or to the Reformed Church.

Which regions are similar to Arad?

Population density:
62 inhabitants per km²
Virton (B)
Border (IE)
Gwynedo (UK)

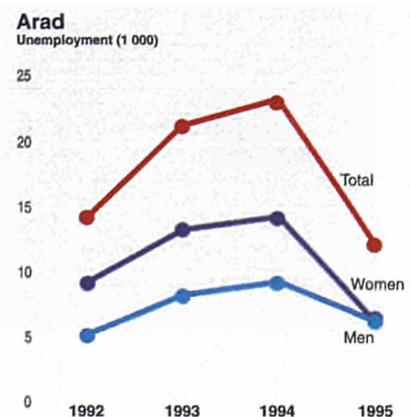
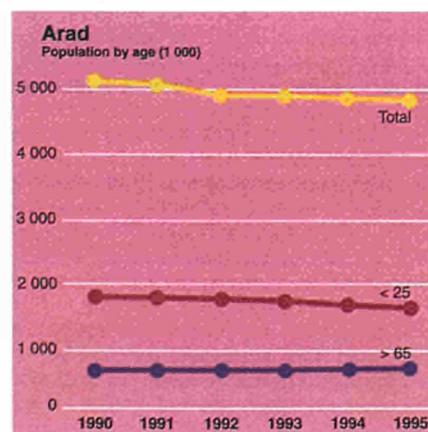
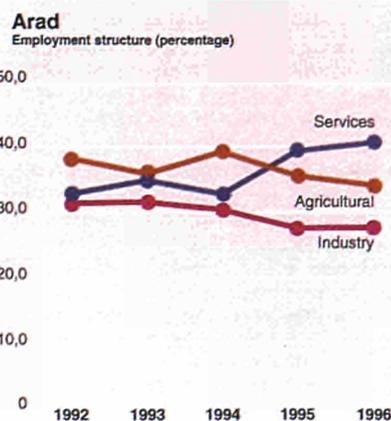
Age structure:
14% over 65
Groningen (NL)
Attiki (EL)

Calabria (I)
Employment structure:
34-35% agriculture
Kriti (EL)
Kaliskie (PL)

1995, Arad owned the seventh largest number of pigs among the Romanian counties, 3.4% of the national herd. It also produced the 11th greatest average yield of sunflower produce. There are also six research stations and two experimental colleges.

The ongoing success of the reshaping of the economy is reflected in the ever-growing number of private dwellings. At present, over 80% are private, and green field sites are being developed continuously. In all 40% of the population have access to piped gas and this is currently being extended into rural areas. The presence of major financial institutions and services is also evident with seven state banks and five private banks.

The 1990-94 period saw employment fall and unemployment rise sharply due to the painful transition from the former economic system to a modern market economy. This trend was reversed by a slight recovery in 1995 when a 6.6% growth in employment was recorded, bringing the employment rate (i.e. of the population aged over 15) to 56.1%. Unemployment continued to fall during this period and by the end of 1995 the rate was down to 5.1% from 10.1% in 1994. The female unemployment rate was 5.8% at the end of 1995. Of the total number of employees (218 900 at the end of 1995), 33.9% were employed in the agricultural sector. Industry was the next largest source of jobs, employing 22.6% of the working population.



BIHOR COUNTY

Water-rich region

Bihor is situated in the north-western part of the country. It borders upon Hungary to the west, the county of Satu Mare to the north, and the counties of Sălaj, Alba and Arad to the east and south. It covers an area of 7 544 km², 3.2% of the national territory, making it the sixth largest county in the country. Oradea is the principal town, containing excellent examples of Art Nouveau architecture.

Archaeological finds in Bihor testify to a continuous human presence in the area over several thousand years. Surveys have uncovered the remains of many settlements and artefacts of the Dacian and Daco-Roman period and of the following Romanian civilisation.

Early settlement was primarily based on crop-growing, livestock-rearing and fishing. Between the 12th and 14th centuries, the mining and processing of metals such as copper and iron was widely practised in this area and the craftsmen from Oradea contributed greatly to the development of trade in Transylvania.

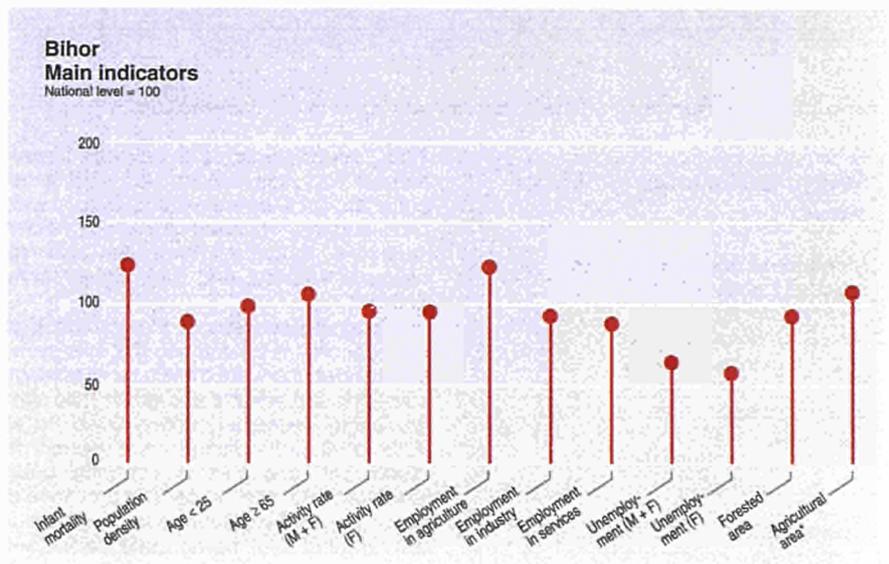
The local topography can be grouped into three main geographical areas: the Western Plain, the Western Hills and the Apuseni Mountains.

The Barcău, Crişul Repede and Crişul Negru rivers flow through Bihor County. The waterway system links lakes such as the Tăul Mare (the Great Tăul), Lacul Şerpilor (the Lake of Serpents) and Lacul cu stuf (the Lake with Reeds), as well as artificial lakes and storage dams.

Over time, rock formations have been carved out of the karst (limestone-rich) topography, the more interesting ones at Vadu Crişului, Meziad, Scărişoara and Ponoare. The complex geological structure contains a variety of minerals and ores: bauxite, galena, blende, pyrites, molybdenite and bismuthine are present in the mountains. There are also deposits of iron and manganese and seams of clay, marble, granodiorites and quartz. The area is also renowned for its thermal waters.



Padiş plateau in the Bihor Mountains.



Farming dominates land use and employment

The economy of Bihor is very diverse. Agriculture plays an important role in employing the largest proportion (37.7% in 1995) of the workforce. The industrial sector was the next biggest employer with 26.9% of the workforce in 1995, followed by trade with 10.9%.

In 1995, production from arable farming exceeded animal rearing in providing 57.1% of the total agricultural revenue. In fact, 60.6% of agricultural land is given over to arable farming, 27.7% to pasture and 8.5% to hayfields.

The privatisation process was started in 1990 and has increased the number of entrepreneurs. Most focused on trade and the services, which needed smaller invest-

ment but offered quicker returns. However, a significant number (1 135) of enterprises developed some industrial activity. Of these, 93.4% were small to medium-sized enterprises (i.e. with fewer than 200 employees) and most (1 037) were backed with private capital. Almost half of the big industrial enterprises were privatised. Industry in Bihor manufactures a wide range of products. In 1995 it provided 15.0% of the Romania's production of varnishes and paints, 8.9% of all petroleum, 12.7% of footwear, 10.6% of metalworking machine tools, 7.7% of the country's meat products, and 7.8% of cement. Other important industries include electric and thermal energy production, food and beverages, petrochemicals, plastics and mining.

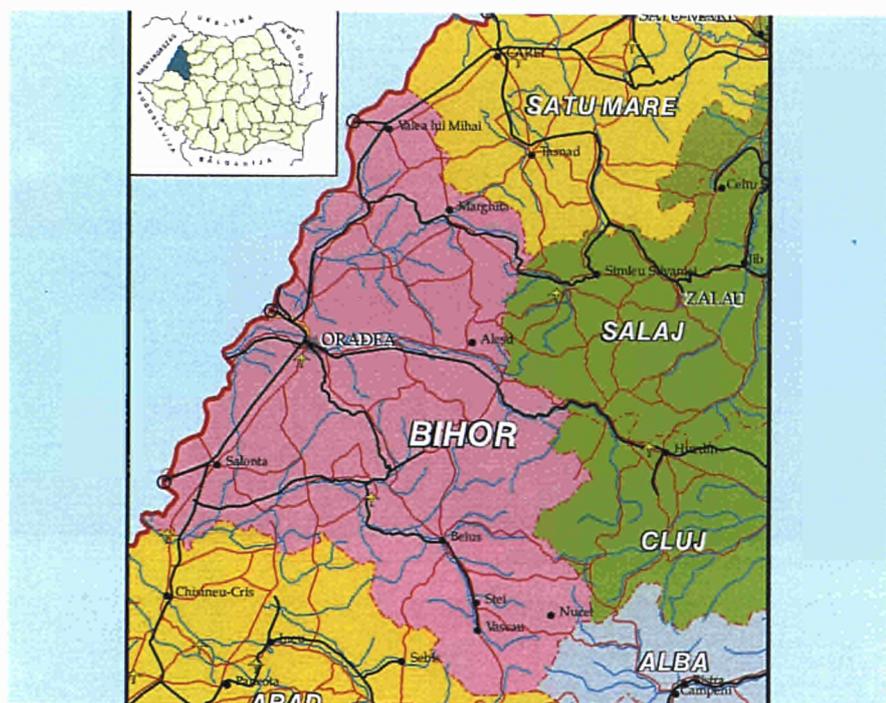
Falling unemployment, diverse population

The population in Bihor has been decreasing since 1991 when it was calculated that there were 660 131 people in the county. In 1995 there were 631 095 inhabitants, 2.8% of the country's population, making Bihor the 13th largest county in terms of population.

Women represented 51.1% of the total population. The rural population was recorded as 319 429 (50.6%), almost equal to the urban population. Naturally, the urban population density was much higher: 475.7 inhabitants per km² as against 46.5 inhabitants per km² in rural areas. In 1995, Oradea Municipality declared a population density of 1 917 inhabitants per km². Overall, the population density in the county was 83.7 inhabitants per km². In the same year, 24.3% of Bihor's inhabitants were aged 55 or older. Of this quarter of the total population, 30.4% were living in rural areas.

The 1992 census revealed that ethnic Romanians constituted the largest ethnic group, making up 67.6% of the county population, but this is still a smaller proportion than in many other counties. Other nationalities included Hungarians (29.1%), Gypsies (1.9%) and Slovaks (1.2%). Among the population, 60.3% practised the Orthodox religion, 19.5% were Protestant, 10.1% were Roman Catholic, 3.8% belonged to the Pentecostal Church and 3% were Baptists.

At the end of 1995, 52.7% of the population over 15 years of age was employed. The number of registered unemployed (which had been increasing until 1994) decreased during 1995, falling from 23 961 in 1994 to 17 049 (a 5.5% unemployment rate) at the end of 1995. For women the unemployment rate was 5.6%.



Which regions are similar to Bihor?

Population:

about 0.6 million inhabitants
Gard (F)
Aarhus amt (DK)
Veluwe (NL)

Population density:

84 inhabitants per km²
Regen (D)
Sarthe (F)
Sur (E)

Age structure:

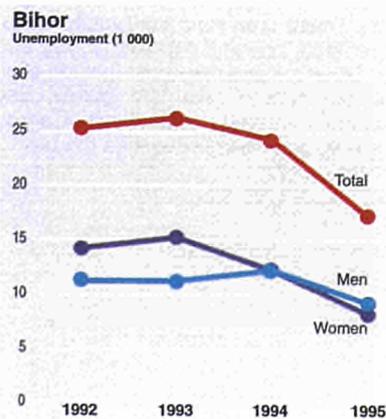
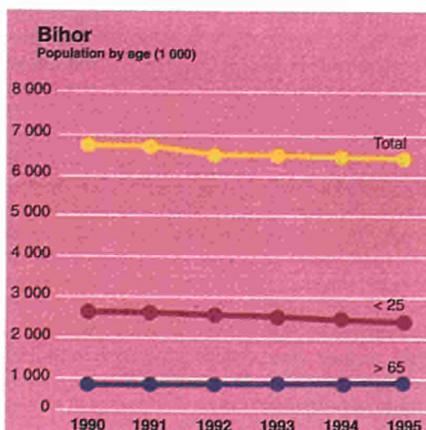
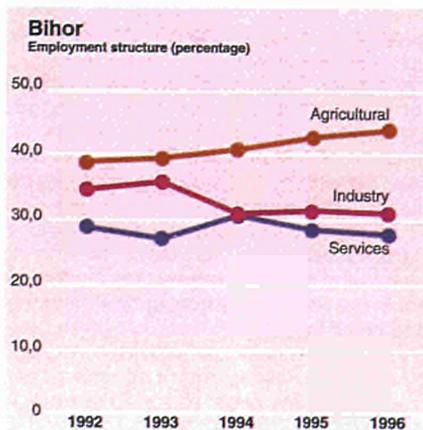
12.7% over 65
Andalucia (E)
Oost-Nederland (NL)

Research activity is directed towards economically pertinent fields, especially the production of cereals and technical crops, fruit growing, viticulture, industrial technology and construction.

The network of roads includes some national roads, as well as county and communal roads. Across the county, 78% of the national roads are considered modernised with the rest being covered with light asphalt. Only 13% of the county and communal roads had been modernised.

The water distribution network covers 108 localities. Of these, 22 localities (including nine towns) have their own sewerage network.

In 1995, there were 374 outlets for post office services and communications. There were 73 locations where telephone services for the public could be found and 97 126 telephones were in use in Bihor.



CARAŞ-SEVERIN COUNTY

Waterways attracted many cultures

Situated in the southwest of the country, where the Danube enters Romanian territory, Caraş-Severin county borders upon Yugoslavia. It covers 8 520 km² or 3.6% of the national territory, which makes it the third largest county in Romania after Suceava and Timiş. The main town is Reşiţa Municipality.

Throughout Caraş-Severin, archaeologists have discovered traces of human settlements from successive Geto-Dacian, Dacian-Roman and Romanian civilisations. Barbarian migrations and domination by the Ottoman and Austro-Hungarian Empires have also influenced this area. During the 18th century, the Banat Plain (which extends through the west of Romania, as well as Hungary and Yugoslavia) was colonised by Austrians and Germans.

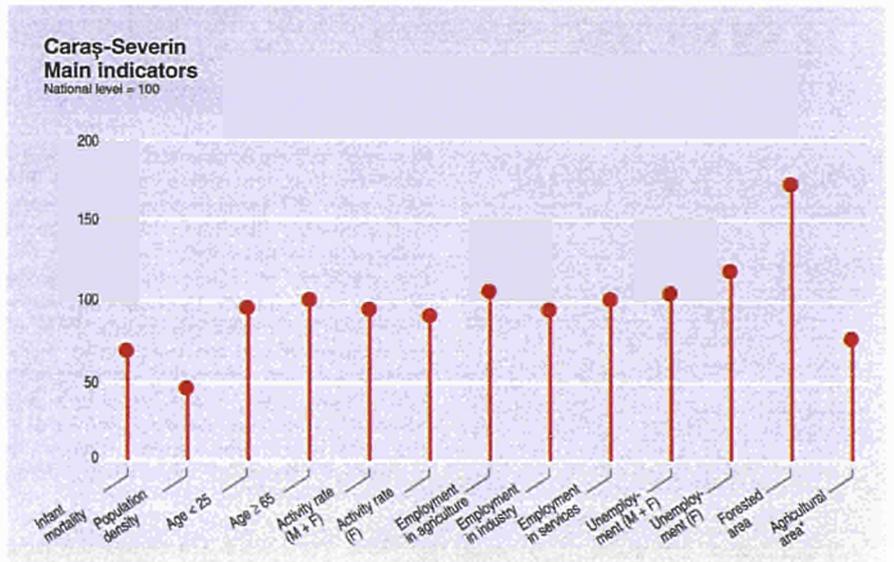
Mountains cover 65.4% of the county, mainly the western side of the Southern Carpathians, Banatalui and the Poiana Ruscă Massif. The Caransebeş-Mehadia and Almăj Plateaux and the Ezeriş Vale account for 16.5% of the total area. There are few hills or plains in Caraş-Severin. Vast tracts of this county have been designated as national reservations and forests spread over 48.1% of the land.

The Cerna, Timiş, Bârzava and Caraş rivers flow through Caraş-Severin. Marking the southern boundary of this county, the River Danube is a waterway much used by barges and other forms of shipping for the transportation of goods to other parts of Europe. The thermal waters of the Cerna Valley are rich in sulphur and led to the establishment of the Herculane health resort.

Deposits of metallic ores have been exploited in this area since ancient times and metallurgical centres were established in Bocşa, Oraviţa, Sasca Montană and Reşiţa. These ores yield iron, manganese, copper, lead, zinc and deposits of gold and silver. Other mineral resources include coal, asbestos, mica, mineral talc, quartz, clay (including bentonite), metallurgical sand, limestone, granite and Ruşchiţa marble.



Typical landscape in the Cerna valley.



Tower symbolises industrial focus

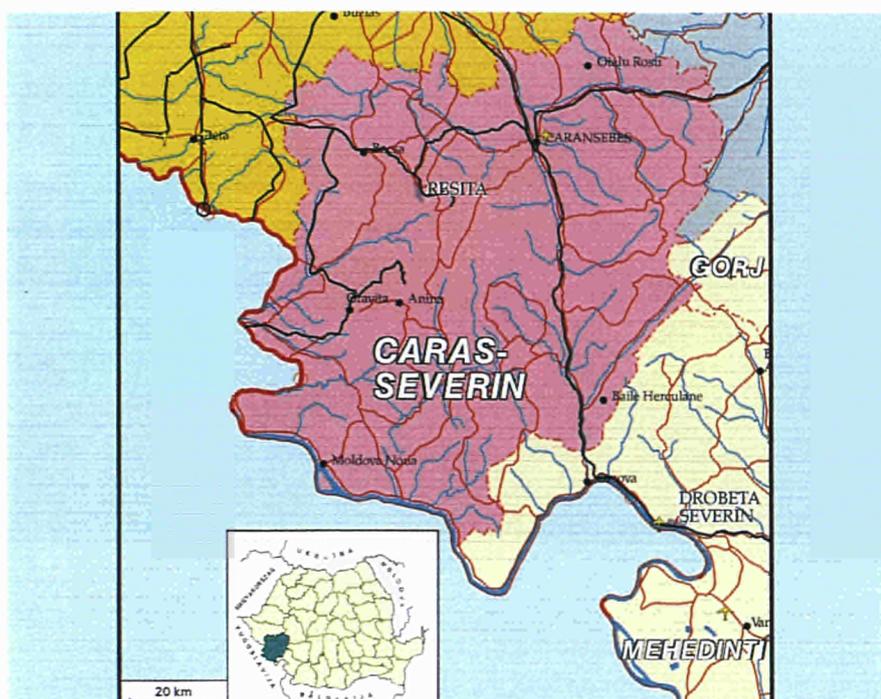
Industry in Caraş-Severin is the main contributor to the county's economy. In the field of engineering, the Reşiţa industrial zone accounts for over 50% of industrial output in Caraş-Severin, producing ship engines, hydraulic turbines and electric diesel engines for locomotives and for many years it was the sole producer of railway track. The Caransebeş industrial zone produces bogies for electric and diesel locomotives. Mining for coal and ores of copper, lead, zinc, iron and other substances employed 20.0% of the industrial workforce in 1995, which was a considerably higher proportion than the national average of 9.2%. The Caraş-Severin steel industry produced some of the metal struc-

tures used to build the Eiffel Tower and the Cernavodă Railway Bridge in eastern Romania. Other industrial activity includes clothing manufacture, food processing, generating electricity and wood exploitation and processing.

Agriculture engages a large share of the rural population and most farms belong to the private sector. Pastures cover the majority of the agricultural land and offer ideal conditions for sheep breeding, especially in the mountains.

There are four research and design units in Caraş-Severin, two of them relating to orcharding and sheep breeding. The others are in the fields of hydroelectric equipment and building design.

Banking services are provided through offices in Reşiţa, with agencies and bank branches in the other towns. There are 17



Ethnic diversity

Alongside the majority ethnic Romanian population, over 28 different ethnic groups were recorded in the 1992 census. It revealed that the largest ethnic minority groups were Germans (3.2% of the population), Hungarians (2.1%), Serbs (2.1%), Gypsies (2.1%), Ukrainians (1.1%) and Czechs (1.0%). There were at least 16 different religious denominations in Caras-Severin. According to the same census, 84.0% of the county's population stated that they belonged to the Orthodox Church, 8.5% described themselves as Roman Catholic and a further 3.5% of people stated that they were Baptist.

On 1 July 1995, the population of Caras-Severin county was calculated at 366 296. This represents a decrease in the population since 1990 due to both migration and the decline in the birth rate. Until 1991, men outnumbered women due to the demand for labour by the local heavy industries but since 1992 the number of females has increased in both urban and rural areas. In 1995, 51.0% of the population was female. People living in urban areas accounted for 56.7% of the population and only 17.8% of urban inhabitants were over 55 years of age. In rural areas the ageing of the population was more apparent. In 1995, 31.3% of the rural community were older than 55. In 1995, the activity rate was 56.2%, slightly lower than the national average. 36.3% of employees worked in agriculture, 31.8% in industry and 31.9% in services. Despite a decline in the number of registered unemployed since 1993, in 1995 the rate of unemployment remained slightly higher than the national average at 9.9%. The female unemployment rate was 13.4%, significantly higher than the Romanian average.

Which regions are similar to Caras-Severin?

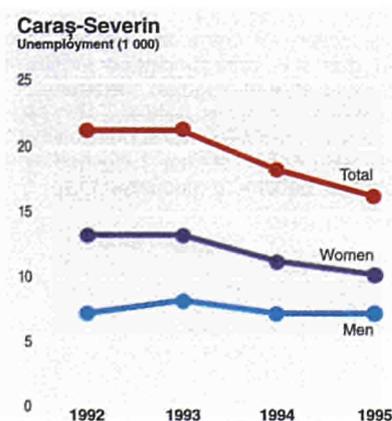
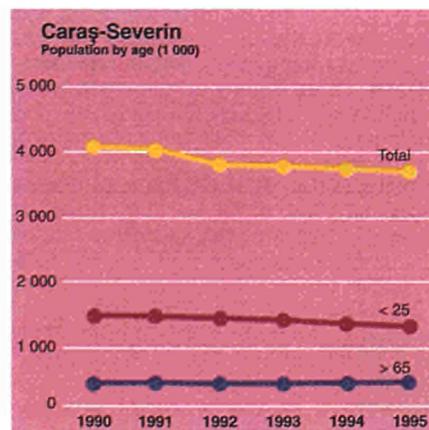
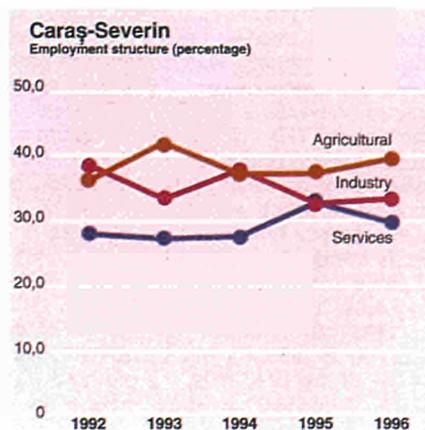
Population density:
106 inhabitants per km²
Friesland (NL)
Bord.-Centr.-Fife-Loth.T (UK)
Udine (I)

Area:
7 000-7 100 km²
Nuoro (I)
Salzburg (A)

Employment structure:
42-43% services
Dytiki Makedonia (EL)
Opolskie (PL)

urban post offices, 45 rural post offices and 152 mail sub-units in the localities where there are no post offices. There are 75 telephone exchanges, of which 64 are in rural areas and in 1995, there were 45 864 telephones or 8 people for every phone.

There are 4.7 km of railway track per 100 km² and 22.2 km of public road per 100 km² in the county – a relatively low network density attributable to the mountainous terrain. Nonetheless, Caras-Severin is a border county and since 1990 many new private companies have been established to transport goods and passengers locally and internationally, especially to and from Germany and Turkey. However, the embargo on Yugoslavia caused a decline in commercial road and rail traffic.



SATU MARE COUNTY

Ancient inhabitants

Satu Mare is in the north of the Western Region of Romania. Hungary lies beyond its western border and the Ukraine lies beyond its northern border. It covers 4 418 km², which is 1.9% of national territory, making it the sixth smallest county in Romania. The principal town is also called Satu Mare, a municipality situated on the River Someş which flows across the centre of the county. There are three other towns (Carei Municipality, Tășnad and Negrești-Oaș) and 226 villages arranged into 56 communes.

The county is on the edge of the Pannonic Plateau, which has a maximum altitude of 126 m. Plains cover 63% of the county and volcanic mountains lie to the north-east.

The county possesses significant reservoirs of underground water, including water at over 70°C, and mineral springs are found in the village of Ady Endre. The climate is temperate continental, with hot summers, frosty winters and a high rainfall in both the plains and hilly areas. The main water-courses include the Someş, Tur and Crasna rivers. Water covers 3.3% of the territory, the 10th largest proportion among the counties.

The territory can be described as forested steppe land. The forests include species of acacia, hornbeam, elm, ash and maple trees in the plains and oak and beech trees on the higher ground.

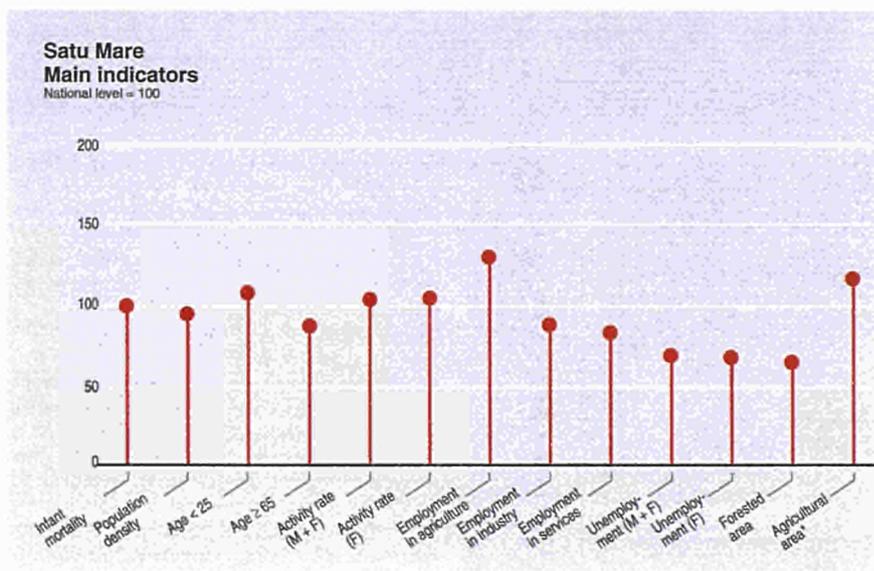
There are valuable minerals in this area such as gold, silver, lignite and iron ores, including limonite, a generic name for iron oxides, once an industrial source of iron but now more commonly used as a yellow pigment.

The geographic position and wealth of natural resources have provided favourable conditions for human inhabitation throughout the ages. This is confirmed by Stone Age artefacts from the Apa and Homorod communes dating back to 6000-1700 BC. The discovery of coins and vessels also prove that this area belonged to Dacia before and after the Roman conquest.

Anonymous chronicles from the 12th century mention the Menumorut principality to which Satu Mare fortress belonged and which later became a mediaeval town.



Satu Mare old town centre.



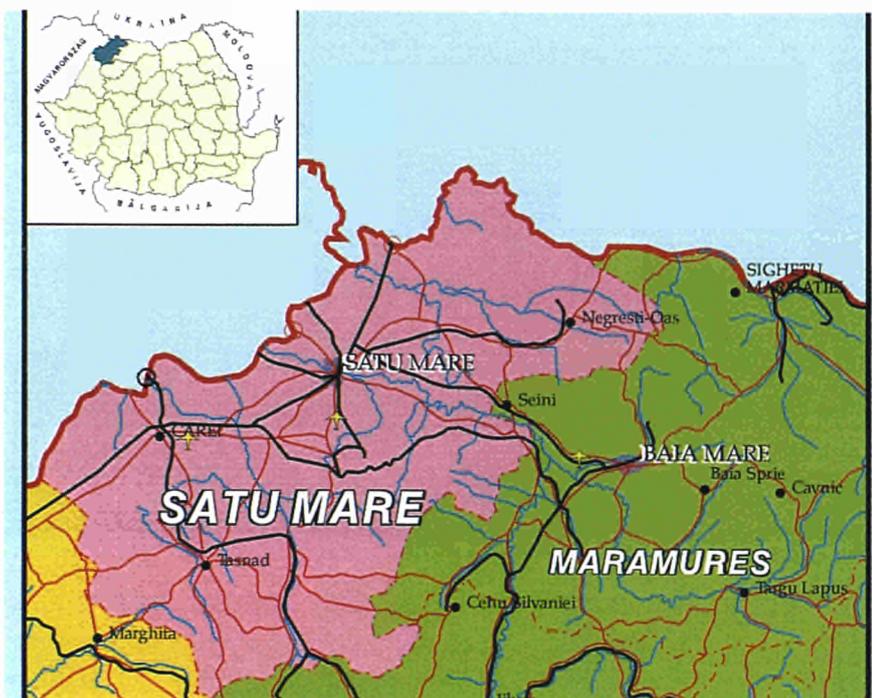
Strong in manufacturing

In 1995, 94% of all industry was located in the urban centres. Manufacturing accounted for 94% of the industrial workforce and 95.2% of the total county output. The production of food and beverages represented 25% of the county output, 24% came from the manufacture of machinery and equipment, 15.3% from furniture and 10% from textiles.

In terms of the national output, Satu Mare produced 90% of all cooking stoves in Romania, 30.9% of flax and hemp fabrics (the largest percentage in Romania), 7.0% of edible oils, 6.1% of woollen knitwear, 5.8% of furniture (the fourth largest percentage in Romania), 5.2% of cotton fabric, 4.7% of oak timber and 2.7% of machinery for the textile industry. The volume of private sector business

increased from 1.7% in 1992 to over 49% in 1995.

In 1995, agriculture occupied 71.9% of the county area, of which 69.9% was arable land (an increase of 8 600 ha since 1992 as land formerly used as pasture came under the plough), 26.4% was covered by pastures and hayfields and 3.7% was given over to vineyards and orchards. The private sector held 72% of the agricultural land, including 88% of arable land, 90% of pastures, 94% of vineyards and 66% of orchards. Forests were spread over 17.7% of the county and 7% of these were privately owned. The private sector held 86% of cattle and 70% of all other livestock. Vegetable production increased from 1990 to 1995 but livestock numbers steadily declined. In 1995, the number of cattle was 54.3% of the 1990 total, the pig herd was 67.9% of the 1990 size, the number of poul-



Fewer employees but more employers

On 1 January 1980, there were 401 872 inhabitants which rose to 416 889 by 1 July 1991, according to calculations. On 1 July 1995, the 395 696 residents accounted for 1.7% of the national population. The population density fell from 94.3 inhabitants per km² in 1990 (when the country average was 95.1) to 89.6 persons per km² in 1995.

In 1995, 46.5% of the population lived in urban areas, with over 70% concentrated within the Satu Mare Municipality. The age groups were divided fairly evenly between towns and rural areas: 45.4% of those under 25, 52.5% of those aged 25 to 54 and 36.7% of those over 55 lived in urban areas.

In 1992, 58.5% of the population was ethnic Romanian, 35.0% was Hungarian, 3.6% was German and 2.5% of the community were Gypsies. 49.8% of the people belonged to the Orthodox Church, 19.1% to the Reformed Church, 18.7% were Roman Catholic and 8.8% were Greek Catholic.

In 1990, there were 15.1 births and 11.4 deaths per 1 000 inhabitants. In 1995, there were 10.6 births and 13.5 deaths per 1 000 inhabitants. The birth rate was 50% higher in rural areas than in urban zones in 1995. The infant mortality rate fluctuated over the same period, peaking at 24.5 deaths per 1 000 births in 1993 but in 1995 the rate was 20.8.

In 1991, there were 191.1 thousand employees which fell to 172.500 in 1995 but the number of self-employed people and employers increased. Also, the number of registered unemployed fell from 17 568 in 1993 to 11 992 at the end of 1995. Hence, in 1995 the unemployment rate was 6.5% (7.5% for women). The activity rate was 59.9%. Agriculture employed 44.5% of the workers, 29.2% were in industry and 26.3% were in the services sector.

Which regions are similar to Satu Mare

Area:
about 4 400 km²
Pinzgau-Pongau (A)
Arkadia (EL)
Włocławskie (PL)

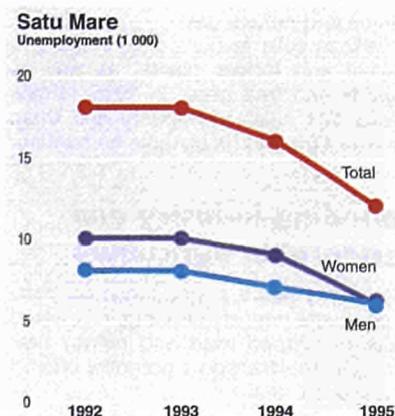
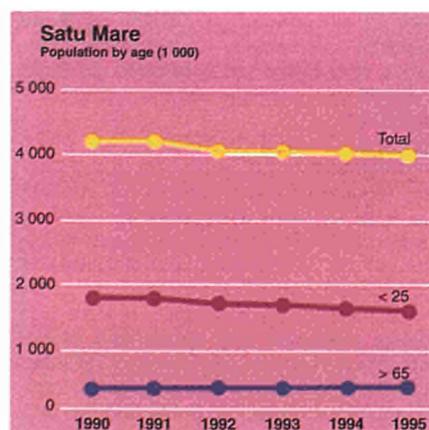
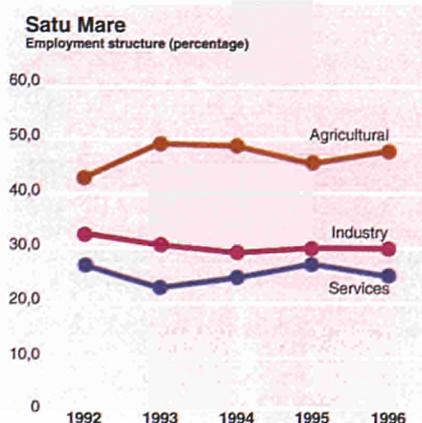
Land use:
18% forest
Sud (I)
Haute-Normandie (F)
Tolna (HU)

Employment structure:
29-30% industry
Somogy (HU)
Overijssel (NL)
Väli-Suomi (FI)

try fell to 44.2% and the sheep flock was only 29.1% of its size in 1990.

In 1995, maize occupied 28% of the agricultural land and wheat and rye covered 27%. However, while the wheat and rye average yield (3 809 kg/ha) was ranked second largest in Romania, the average maize yield was ranked 20th. It was ranked 11th for sugar beet and 14th for the sunflower crop. Satu Mare also accounts for more than half of Romania's strawberry production.

In 1995, 88.4% of the housing stock was constructed using private funds. There were 6.7 km of railway track per 100 km², the sixth highest network density in Romania. The road network density was 34.5 km of road per 100 km², ranked 15th among the counties.



TIMIȘ COUNTY

A major economic and military centre

Timiș is in the far west of Romania, on the border with Yugoslavia and Hungary. It is the largest county in Romania, covering 8 697 km², which is 3.6% of national territory.

The Banat Plain extends into the western and central parts of the county and the Pogăniș and Lipova Plateaux are to the east. The highest point is Padeșul Peak (1 380 m) in the Poiana Ruscă Massif.

The Mureș River forms a small part of the extensive northern border and one of its old tributaries, the Aranca River, flows through the north of Timiș. The Bârzava River is in the south and the Bega and Timiș rivers flow across the centre of the county. The Bega Canal is part of a canal network that runs mostly through the neighbouring area of Yugoslavia.

The Bega Canal and the Bega River both flow through Timișoara Municipality, the principal town and formerly the capital of the Banat region. It was first mentioned in documents dating from 1212. In the 14th century, it became a major economic and military centre for the region.

Due to its geographic position, with the region squeezed between advancing empires, the territory was fought over by the Tartar, Turkish and Austro-Hungarian armies. Timișoara was annexed by the Turks and later by the Hapsburgs before it was passed to Romania in 1920.

A bank was functioning by 1790 and documents certify the existence of several schools and theatres from the first half of the 18th century.

In 1857, a railway line was built between Timișoara and Szeged in Hungary, which opened up communications to central Europe. Telegraph and telephone connections to Vienna were achieved a few years later.

The county's natural resources include lignite, manganese, iron ores, clay, sand for glassware, geothermal and mineral waters, crude oil and natural gas.

The various soils favour cereal crops and technical and fodder plants, as well as vineyards and fruit trees. In 1995, forests covered 12.6% of the county and there were over 500 000 ha suitable for hunting.

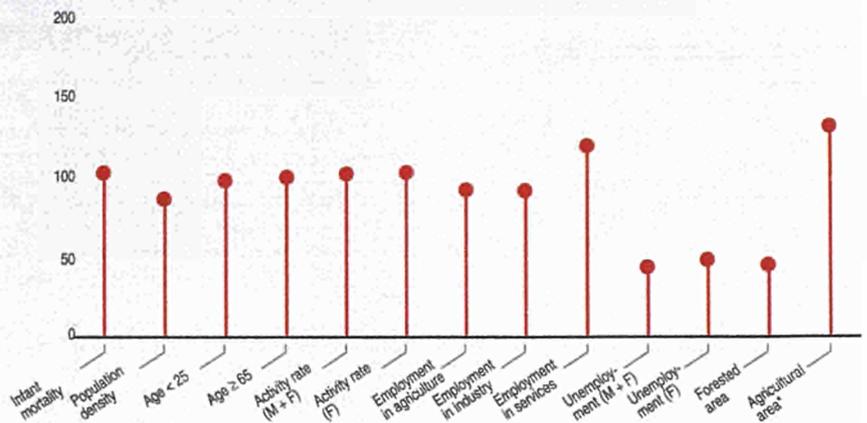
Expanding industry and considerable agriculture

Timiș county has a strong industrial base and conducts intensive trading, supported by well-developed road and railway networks and the transport potential offered by the Bega Canal.



Timișoara old city centre.

Timis
Main indicators
National level = 100



In 1995, there were 20 781 companies in the county, including 3 116 that were run with foreign capital investment. There were 1 176 industrial enterprises, most (1 161) of them in manufacturing. 92.4% of these industrial businesses were private companies and 6.9% were classed as large enterprises, i.e. they engaged over 200 employees.

Light industry and the food sector, which were established at beginning of the century, regained their shares of the market. The food industry accounted for 49% of the county's industrial output, textiles accounted for 5.9%, footwear and leather goods 2.8%.

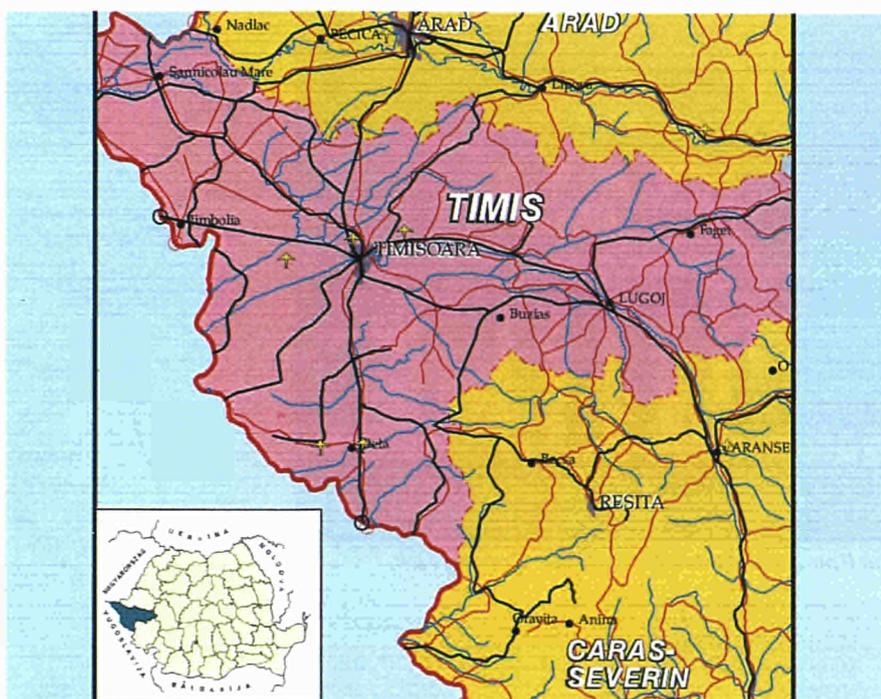
The production of machinery, equipment, electric machines and appliances, television sets and communications contributed 13.0% of the county's output. The chemical industry contributed 8.5% and the pro-

cessing of rubber and plastics a further 2.9%

Exports included knitwear, textiles, lighting appliances, faience (tin-glazed earthenware) and sanitary goods.

Agriculture also plays a very important role in the county's economy. At the end of 1995, Timiș possessed the largest area of land given over to agriculture in Romania: 702 369 ha or 80.8% of the county's territory, which was 4.7% of the national agricultural area. The county achieved the highest vegetable yield among the Romanian counties, although the average yields (kg/ha) were ranked 11th for wheat and rye, 17th for barley and maize respectively and 26th for sugar beet among the counties.

Despite the decrease in livestock numbers since 1990, Timiș still owned the largest number of pigs and sheep (11.4% and 4.5% of the national herd respectively) and



A turnaround in unemployment

The population was calculated at 710 412 on 1 January 1980, which grew to 722 426 by 1 July 1990. The population fell between 1990 and 1993 but a slight increase was recorded for the following two years. On 1 July 1995, based on calculations, there were 693 506 inhabitants in Timiș (3.1% of the national population), hence the population density was 79.7 people per km².

Timiș County attracts people migrating from other countries and regions due to its economic potential and social and cultural history. In 1990, 58.9 people per 1 000 inhabitants settled in Timiș but this fell to 5.2 people per 1 000 inhabitants in 1995. The 1992 census declared that 80.1% of the population was ethnic Romanian, 9.0% was Hungarian, 3.8% was German, 2.4% was Serbian and Gypsies accounted for 2.1%. It also revealed that over three-quarters of the community belonged to the Orthodox Church.

In 1995, 62.1% of the people were living in urban areas. 36.0% of the county's population were under 25, of which 61.6% resided in towns. Those aged between 25 and 64 accounted for 51.2% of the total population and 64.9% of them lived in towns, while 11.9% of all inhabitants were aged 65 or more and 51.6% of them resided in urban areas.

In the same year, there were 9.3 births and 12.5 deaths per 1 000 inhabitants.

During the period of economic development from 1990 to 1995, initially (from 1991 to 1993), there was an increase in unemployment but finally, the creation of jobs caused unemployment to halve. In 1995, the unemployment rate was 4.0%, the second lowest rate in Romania. The female unemployment rate of 5.3% was the lowest among the counties.

At the end of 1995, the service sector employed 38.2% of the 320.5 thousand workers, 31.4% were in agriculture and 30.4% were in industry. The activity rate was 59.8%.

Which regions are similar to Timiș?

Population density:
80 inhabitants per km²

- Cuneo (I)
- Hildburghausen (D)
- Zala (HU)

Age structure:

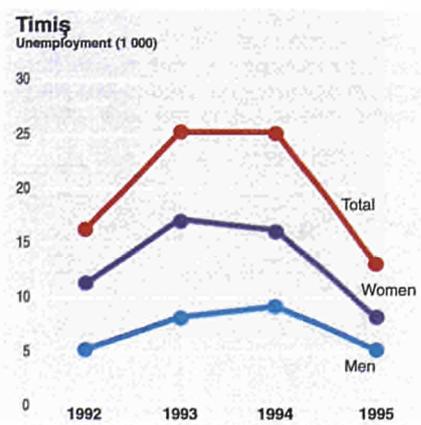
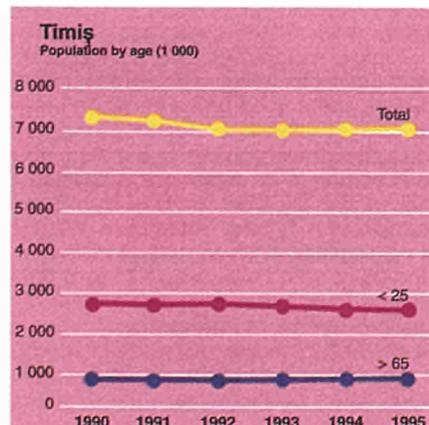
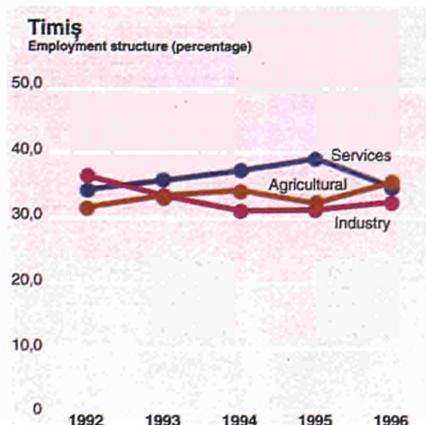
- 12% over 65
- Limburg (B)
- Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (D)

Land use:

- 12-13% forest
- Wales (UK)
- Ouest (F)

the 10th greatest number of cattle in 1995. Timiș continued to produce the greatest quantity (8.0%) of meat and the second greatest amount (5.0%) of wool in Romania.

Industry and agriculture were served by 32.9 km of public road and 9.0 km of railway track per 100 km², the latter being the second greatest network density in Romania. Telecommunications and the water supply network were also relatively good. Banking and financial services expanded from the three sectors of the central banks in 1989 to 15 sectors in Timișoara in 1995. There are also several sub-branches and credit cooperatives.



BUCHAREST REGION

Former residence of princes

Tradition has it that Bucharest derived its name from a person called Bucur who, depending on the source of the story, was a Romanian prince, an outlaw, a fisherman or a shepherd. This name was common in the region and is of Thracian or Geto-Dacian origin.

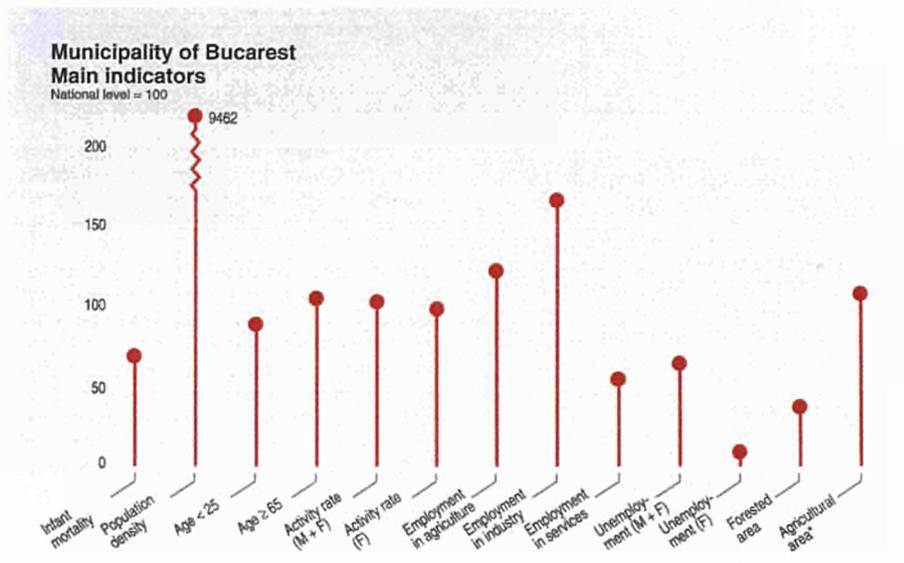
Around 1458 A.D., the urban population was estimated at 2 000 people. Vlad Țepeș (also known as Vlad Dracula), who reigned intermittently between 1456 and 1476, established his royal residence in Bucharest to defend himself against the Ottoman threat. Documents dating from the period 1459 to 1625 mention the existence of 41 settlements in the area around present day Bucharest, mainly on the banks of the Colentina and Dâmbovița rivers. Bucharest was also the royal residence of Mircea Ciobanu (1558 to 1559).

From the 15th century up until the end of the feudal period, Bucharest enjoyed continuous economic development, despite various natural disasters and plundering by foreign raiders. On 24 January 1859, the first Parliament of Romania was convened in the Public Assembly building on Church Hill and Bucharest was proclaimed the capital of modern Romania. The period between the two World Wars saw much migration to Bucharest from every region in the country. Moreover, in 1926, several neighbouring villages were incorporated into the capital. By 1941, as a result of these trends, some 26% of Romania's urban population was concentrated in Bucharest.

Bucharest lies in the Vlăsia Plain to the south of the country. Part of the historical region of Walachia, this is crossed by the Dâmbovița and Colentina rivers. The area is influenced by two weather systems, one from the east and the other from the west. The eastern system usually prevails and brings excessive climatic variation, resulting in hot summers and severe winters. When the region experiences weather from the south or west, it can lead to long warm autumns, mild winter days or early springs.



The Romanian Athenaeum - the main Concert Hall.



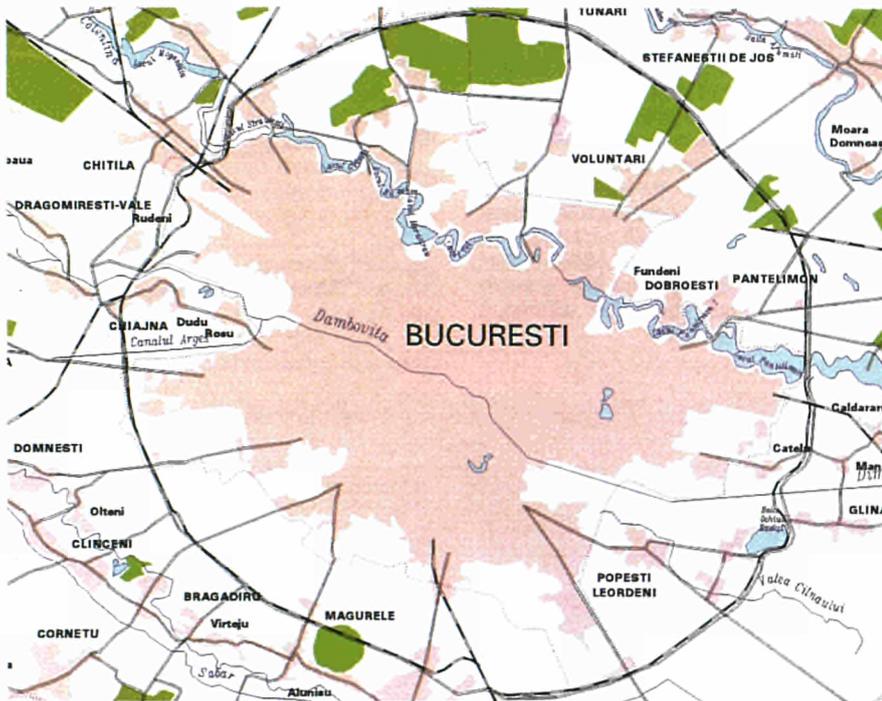
Main cultural centre of Romania

Bucharest does not possess natural resources in quantities comparable to the much larger regions but it can import all it needs thanks to a highly developed infrastructure and a good urban transport system.

The capital's development as a metropolis has been due to its geographical position, which offers excellent trading links and conditions for human settlement. Within the municipality, artesian wells and 25 km of the Dâmbovița River and 34.7 km of the Colentina River (which connects a series of lakes) provide the city with water.

The city has 36 museums, some of which are well known internationally, as well as several listed buildings from the 17th to

19th centuries featuring architecture in the genuine 'Brâncovenesc' style which influenced neoclassicism and the French Renaissance. There are also 28 theatres and music institutions in the city. Bucharest is noted within Romania for its position as an emerging market and its highly educated and professionally-trained labour force.



Which regions are similar to Municipality of Bucharest?

Population density:

2 million inhabitants
 Detmold (D)
 Calabria (I)

Land use:

23-24% agriculture
 Réunion (F)
 Västsverige (S)

Employment structure:

58% services
 Extremadura (P)
 Arnsherg (D)
 Nord Ovest (I)

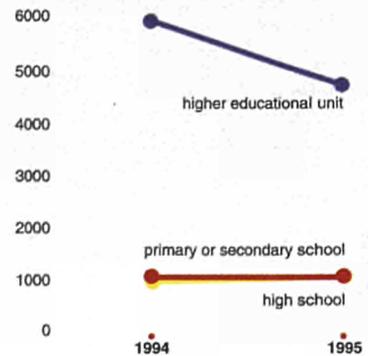
The largest university centre in Romania

The number of higher education establishments in Bucharest rose from 15 to 29 between 1994 and 1995. Students from all over Romania go to Bucharest, which in 1995 resulted in a student body 52.6% larger than in 1994. In 1995, there were 136 344 students, 12 state institutions for higher education and 8 colleges, including the Science University (16 departments and a college), the 'Carol Davila' Medical and Pharmacy University, the University for Agriculture and the Bucharest Polytechnics Institute (two colleges and 11 departments, one for foreign languages). In social sciences there is the Academy of Economic Studies and the National School for Political and Administrative Studies.

The Building Institute has six departments (one of which teaches in English and French) and the 'Ion Mincu' Architecture Institute incorporates a post-graduate school and a college. The arts are taught at the Academy of Music; the Academy of Art and the Academy of Theatre and Film. The Academy of Sports and Physical Education is also situated in the capital.

The nine new private universities include the Romanian American University, the Romanian Management Academy, Atheonum University and the University for Ecological Studies.

Bucharest Municipality Pupils per educational establishment



District Region	Area km ²	Population		Activity (%)	Unemploy- ment (%)	Employment			
		1 000 Inhabitants/km ²	Change (%)			(%) Agriculture	(%) Industry	(%) Services	
Country	1995	1995	1995	1990-95	1995	1995	1995	1995	1995
1.BUCHAREST	36 933	2 566	69	-5.3	58.3	5.9	37.1	29.7	3.1

ROMANIA

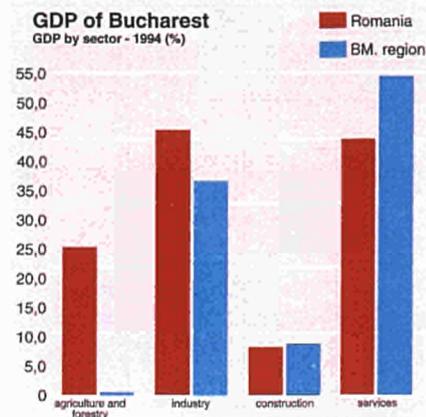
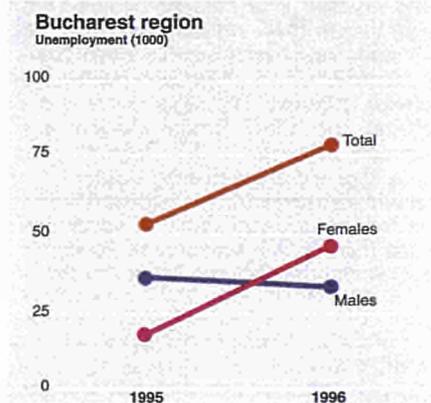
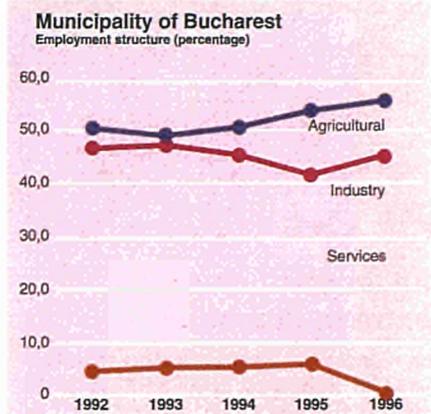
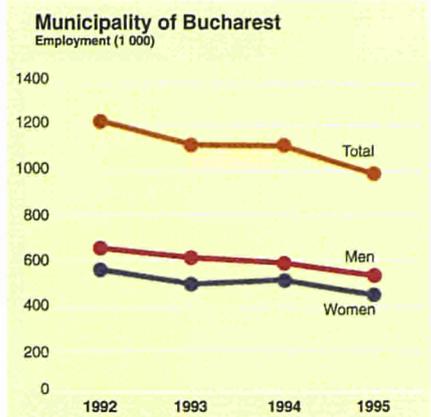
Few agricultural employees, many young people in services

Bucharest is one of the most important regions in terms of employment, providing 9.2% of Romania's jobs. It has an important concentration of industry and services especially those trading and trade-related activities necessary for the transition to a market economy. The unemployment rate in Bucharest was 1.5% lower than the national average in the first quarter of 1996 with unemployment higher among males than females at 8.5% for men and 7% for women. The activity rate in 1995 was 69% for males and 52% for females.

In the first quarter of 1996, most employed persons (55%) worked in the services sector, and almost 45% worked in industry. Only 0.3% of those employed worked in agriculture, compared with more than 5% in 1995. There were some age-related differences in the male employment structure: 69% of those between the ages of 15 and 24 worked in services and 20.5% worked in industry. For working males over 50, the corresponding figures were 56% in services and 31% in industry. For working females there was very little difference between the age groups.

Employment by sector, gender and age group in the first quarter 1996

	Total number of employed people	Of which in:			
		Agriculture and forestry	Industry	Construction	Services
Total employment	909 289	7 160	316 427	58 941	526 761
a. Males, total	486 775	4 413	165 427	45 839	271 096
- 15 - 24 years	62 664	544	12 817	6 017	43 286
- 25 - 34 years	137 560	1 186	44 957	15 060	76 357
- 35 - 49 years	210 037	2 017	83 790	15 289	108 941
- 50 - 64 years	72 682	666	23 398	9 473	39 145
- 65 years and over	3 832		465		3 367
b. Females, total	422 514	2 747	151 000	13 102	255 665
- 15 - 24 years	39 793		12 149	2 872	24 772
- 25 - 34 years	130 817		44 976	4 796	81 045
- 35 - 49 years	207 020	2 155	79 594	5 434	119 837
- 50 - 64 years	43 911		14 281		29 630
- 65 years and over	973	592			381



Foreign investment and many private companies

By the end of 1995, there were 129 public sector services in Bucharest, including sub-units which accounted for 36% of the total. There were 65 257 companies, of which 64 320 were private enterprises, some 18% of all private companies in Romania, and 10 815 self-employed people and family associations, representing 5% of the national figure.

The private sector is dominated by trading companies. In 1995, the private sector provided about 75% of retail goods, 35% of services rendered to the public and about 13% of industrial production. There were approximately 31 private companies in Bucharest per 1 000 inhabitants, compared with the national average of 16 per 1 000

inhabitants. Of the 675 private companies in the country employing over 200 persons, 21% were in Bucharest.

The capital had the largest concentration of foreign investment with 61% of the total number of joint venture companies and 53% of companies with foreign capital for investment. Within the services sector in Romania, Bucharest accounted for over 50% of domestic production, playing an important role in finance, banking, insurance and telecommunications. In 1994, Bucharest had 16 banks with private and state capital, seven foreign banking companies and 10 insurance companies.

High population density

During the past 150 years, the population of Bucharest has increased 20 fold: with 2.4 million inhabitants, it is one of Europe's great capitals. In July 1995, Bucharest had 9% of Romania's population and its population density was 100 times the national average.

Over the past century, the population of Bucharest has been constantly growing except during the Second World War and during the transitional period which started in 1990. In 1995, the birth rate in the city, 7.2 births per 1 000 inhabitants, was lower

than the national average of 10.4 and also lower than the mortality rate for the city of 11.5 per 1 000 inhabitants. In 1995, infant mortality at 14.5 per 1 000 live births was below the national average.

Although in 1990 there was so much movement from rural areas to Bucharest that the inward migration rate for that year was 78.5 per 1 000 inhabitants, there has since been a steady decline. In 1995, the migration rate was 1.0 per 1 000 inhabitants.

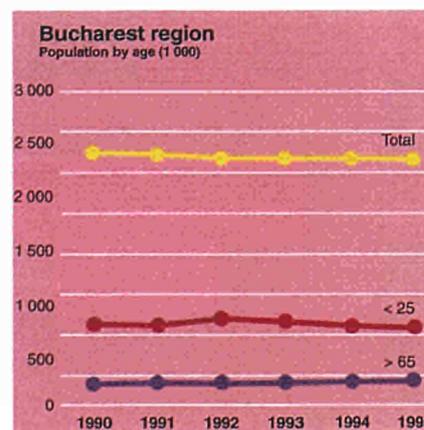
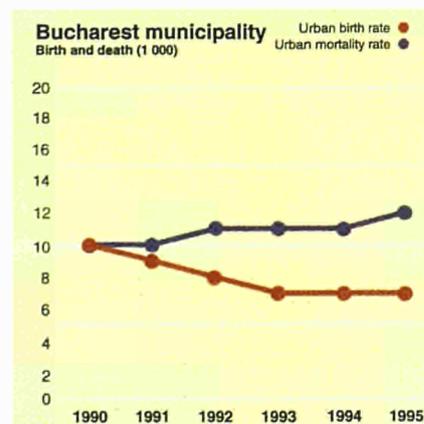
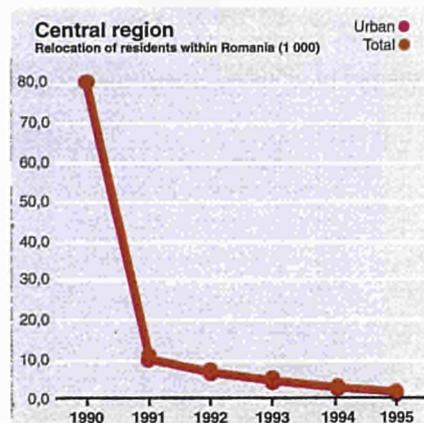
Population by age — 1995

	M+F 1 000	M+F %	M %	F %
<15 years	354	17.2	18.7	15.9
15-24	326	15.9	16.8	15.0
25-39	482	23.5	23.3	23.6
40-54	420	20.5	20.8	20.1
55-64	217	10.6	10.0	11.1
≥65	256	12.5	10.4	14.3
Total	2 054	100.0	100.0	100.0

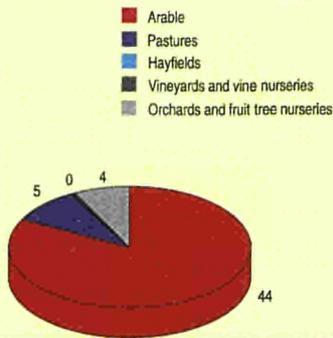
Public utilities and services

The collection, preparation, transport and distribution of drinking and industrial water, in Bucharest is carried out by the General Water Administration, which is also responsible for the sewerage system and the filtering of waste water. The length of the water distribution and sewerage networks was 2 029 km and 1 664 km respectively in 1995. Bucharest's water treatment, pumping, and distribution system cannot always meet the demand. While this has led to cuts in the supply, these have become less frequent in recent years. The volume of drinking water distributed in 1995 was 279 026 million litres, of which over two-thirds was for domestic use.

The Autonomous Administration for the Distribution of Thermal Energy had a main network of 572 km, a secondary network of 850 km of piping and 706 hot-water distribution points for central heating and domestic hot water. It has also 51 district thermal stations, with 38 km of secondary piping. Natural gas is distributed by the Romgas public sector service, which operates a network 1 988.3 km in length and distributed 2 405.3 million m³ of gas in 1995, of which 1 332.6 million m³ was for domestic use.



Bucharest region
Agricultural area (km²)



Romania's main industrial centre

In 1995, 36.5% of the GDP of Bucharest came from industrial enterprises. Of the 5 545 industrial enterprises in Bucharest, 35 were public sector services active in energy and mining. 5 510 were manufacturing enterprises: 217 of these had a state capital majority and 73% employed over 200 people. Of the private capital companies, 92% had fewer than 20 employees. Production of food, beverages, tobacco and other light industry amounts to almost 30% of all industrial production in Bucharest. Machines, equipment, electrical

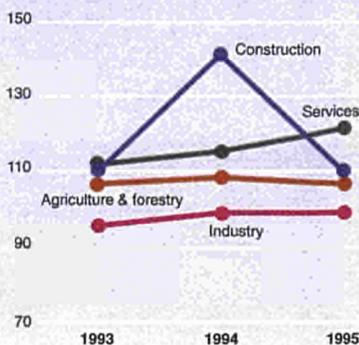
goods, electronics, optical appliances, transport represented a further 20%, with production, transport and distribution of electricity accounting for 21% of all industrial production. Exports by Bucharest enterprises consisted mainly of traditional products such as metals, chemicals and mineral products. Consumer goods and equipment represented one-third of exports.

Romanian products manufactured in Bucharest include computers, televisions, 330 MW turbo-generating sets, buses, electric buses, over 500 KW steam turbines, medicines, enamelled iron baths, integrated circuits, silicon conductors, lead-plate accumulators, industrial steam boilers, electric generators, cast-iron heating elements, pumps, varnishes and paints. 85% of television sets manufactured in Romania are made in Bucharest, along with 41% of radios, 40% of medicines and 28% of footwear. As well as manufacturing 6% of the country's furniture, 8% of the knitwear, 9% of the edible oils and 1% of meat products, it accounted for 10% and 7% respectively of milk and wine consumption.

Number of industrial enterprises by branches on August 31st, 1996

	Total number of enterprises	of which:		
		0 - 19 employees	20 - 199 employees	200 employees and over
Total industry	5 531	4 873	393	265
- mining and quarrying	17	11	2	4
- manufacturing	5 496	4 857	389	250
- energy	18	5	2	11

Bucharest region
Wages by sector (national level = 100)



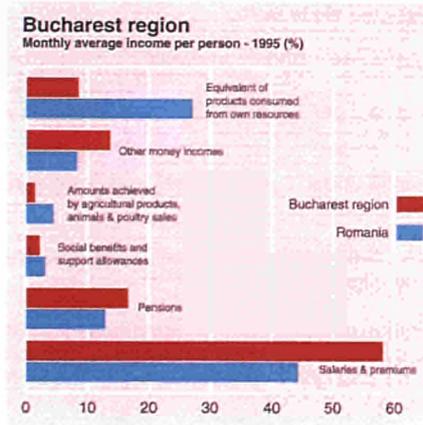
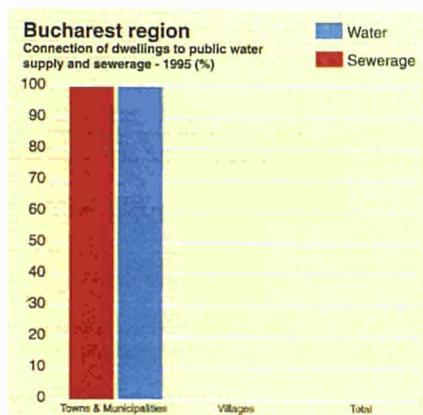
High wages, especially in mining and service sectors

Overall, the average monthly salary in Bucharest was around 10% higher than the national average in 1995. This was mainly due to the concentration of a highly skilled labour force and the demand for services. There were some differences between sectors, however. In the energy and mining divisions of public-sector services, wages were 49% higher than the national average, but in manufacturing wages in Bucharest were 9% lower. The city showed strong earnings in the services sectors especially in the financial fields.

As about 80% of the active population in Bucharest were paid employees, the main, or in some cases, only source of income for some households comes from salaries. For the city as a whole, in 1995, 58.1% of

Good air circulation

In 1994, ROL 58 billion was spent on environmental protection in the Bucharest area, about 11% of the national total. Some 32.5% of this amount was spent on pollution control and prevention. Thanks to its location on an open plain, Bucharest is exposed to freely circulating air currents which help to keep air pollution (dusts in suspension and nitrogen dioxide) below the recommended maximum limits. Bucharest has 601 ha of mainly deciduous forest of which about 450 ha have been affected by drought since 1990: 77% have been only slightly affected, 20% moderately affected and 3% seriously affected. The area of forests polluted with sulphur compounds and gases from thermal power stations amounts to about 370 ha, with a further 80 ha suffering deterioration due to other causes.



Improving transport

Demand for transport services increased during the period 1990-1995, as did the number of cars. To meet the corresponding demand for parking, a number of car parks have been developed by private sector companies. Also, a programme of upgrading and modernising Bucharest's 1 821 km of streets and 36 km of public roads has been carried out.

In 1995, public transport in Bucharest, included 1 268 buses (which carried almost 252 million passengers during the year), 270 electric trolley buses (with 80.3 million passengers carried) and 796 tramways (carrying 249.1 million passengers). The subway network, comprising a ring route and a north-south line crossed by an east west line, has a total length of 120 km and carried 164 million passengers during 1995.

Bucharest has two airports, serving both domestic and international destinations.



Area surrounding Romană Square.

Explanatory notes

Source: Romanian National Commission for Statistics

Population: The population figures are calculated twice a year (on 1st January and 1st July), using the 'components' method. Until 1st July 1991, population data was calculated based on the 1977 Census, and starting from 1st July 1992, population data was calculated based on the 7th January 1992 Census.

The population figures used in graphs and tables are observations on 1st July of each year and they include the temporary (under a year) internal migration.

Urban population refers to the population in municipalities and towns, rural population to the inhabitants in villages and communes.

The definition of **vital events** are in compliance with the United Nations recommendations. Births and deaths are registered according to the mother's residence (for live births and infant mortalities) or the residence of the deceased.

Live births: Product of conception, totally expelled or extracted from mother's body, irrespective of length of pregnancy, which after this separation gives signs of life (breathing, cardiac activity, throbbings of umbilical cord or voluntary muscular contractions).

Death: final ceasing of vital functions after certain time since birth.

Gross birth rate: represents the number of live births per 1 000 inhabitants.

Infant mortality rate: number of deaths under 1 year old per 1 000 live births of the same year. The infant mortality is also included within the mortality rates.

Age is expressed in completed years (except deaths under 1 year of age), e.g. a person aged 24 years and 11 months is considered to be 24.

All rates (birth, mortality, migration) are computed over the calendar year, using the 'legal population' (those with a permanent residence), which does not include temporary internal migration.

The **migration rate** refers only to the internal migration due to permanent changes of residence (temporary migration excepted) between localities; it does not include external migration. It is determined by a change of domicile on identity cards and in the population figures recorded by police bodies. It does not include changes of residence within the same locality, from one street to another, or from one village to another within the same commune.

Locality= an administrative-territorial unit corresponding to NUTS 5 level (either a municipality, town or commune). Villages are *rural localities*. Towns are *urban localities*. Therefore, in 1998 Romania had 13 357 localities (13 095 villages and 262 towns).

Municipality= an administrative territorial unit generally with urban character, made up of one or more localities but in some cases, even villages. Municipalities possess a large number of inhabitants, a certain importance in economic, social, political, cultural and scientific areas and a significant number of buildings, services and utilities (including housing, educational institutions, hospitals, cultural institutions, etc.). In 1998, there were 80 municipalities in Romania.

Town= an administrative territorial unit with urban character, made up of one or more localities (sometimes even villages), having variable sizes. A town may have political, administrative, industrial, commercial or cultural functions, and buildings grouped in architectural units that are organized into areas with well-defined uses.

Commune= an administrative territorial unit, made up of one or more villages organized according to the economic, social, cultural and geographical conditions. A commune administration is located in one of the villages. In 1998, the 13 095 Romanian villages were organized into 2 686 communes.

Bucharest, however, is divided into six *administrative sectors*, not communes.

Employment and unemployment: These figures were recorded at the end of 1995, unless otherwise stated. They are taken from the Romanian 1996 Yearbook.

For the structure of employment, agriculture includes forestry, hunting and fishing. Industry includes mining, manufacturing, energy and construction. Services include all other branches of activity.

Unemployment data relates only to those registered as unemployed.

Sources of data on **agriculture, public services, culture, tourism, transport and communications** are statistical reports compiled by units from public, mixed, private cooperative and community capital functioning in each field of activity so that they are exhaustive surveys.

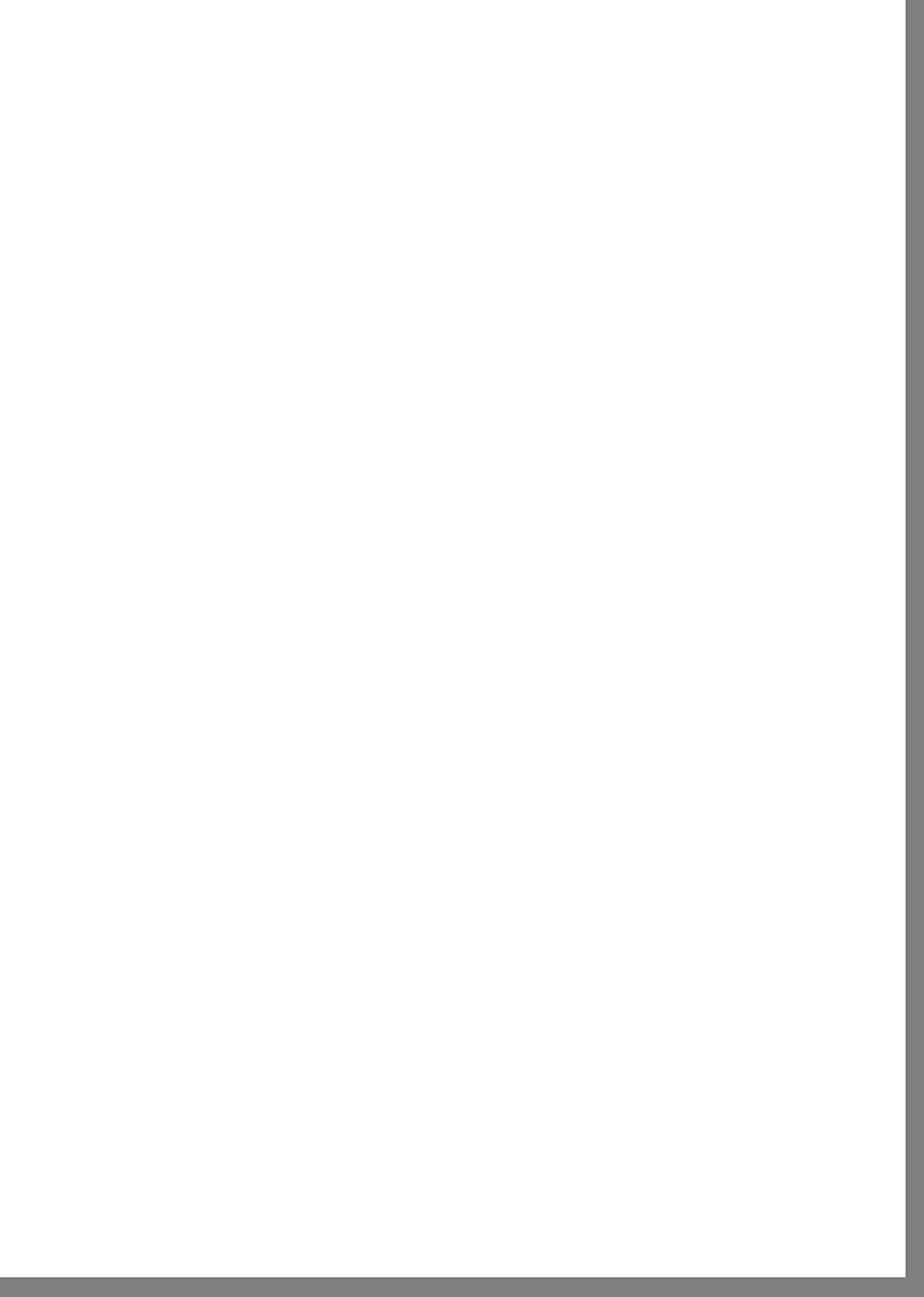
Notes on specific graphs and tables

Graph: Main indicators (national level = 100)

The national average for each category is set at 100. Data on population density and breakdown by age were calculated on 1st July 1995. All other data were recorded at the end of 1995 (except for Ilfov : these data were recorded in the first quarter of 1996).

Graph : Wages (national level = 100)

The national average wage in each sector is set at 100. Industry excludes construction.



Explanatory notes



National capital



International border



Regions



County boundary



County Administrative Centre



Town



Road



Railway



River



Highway



Air route



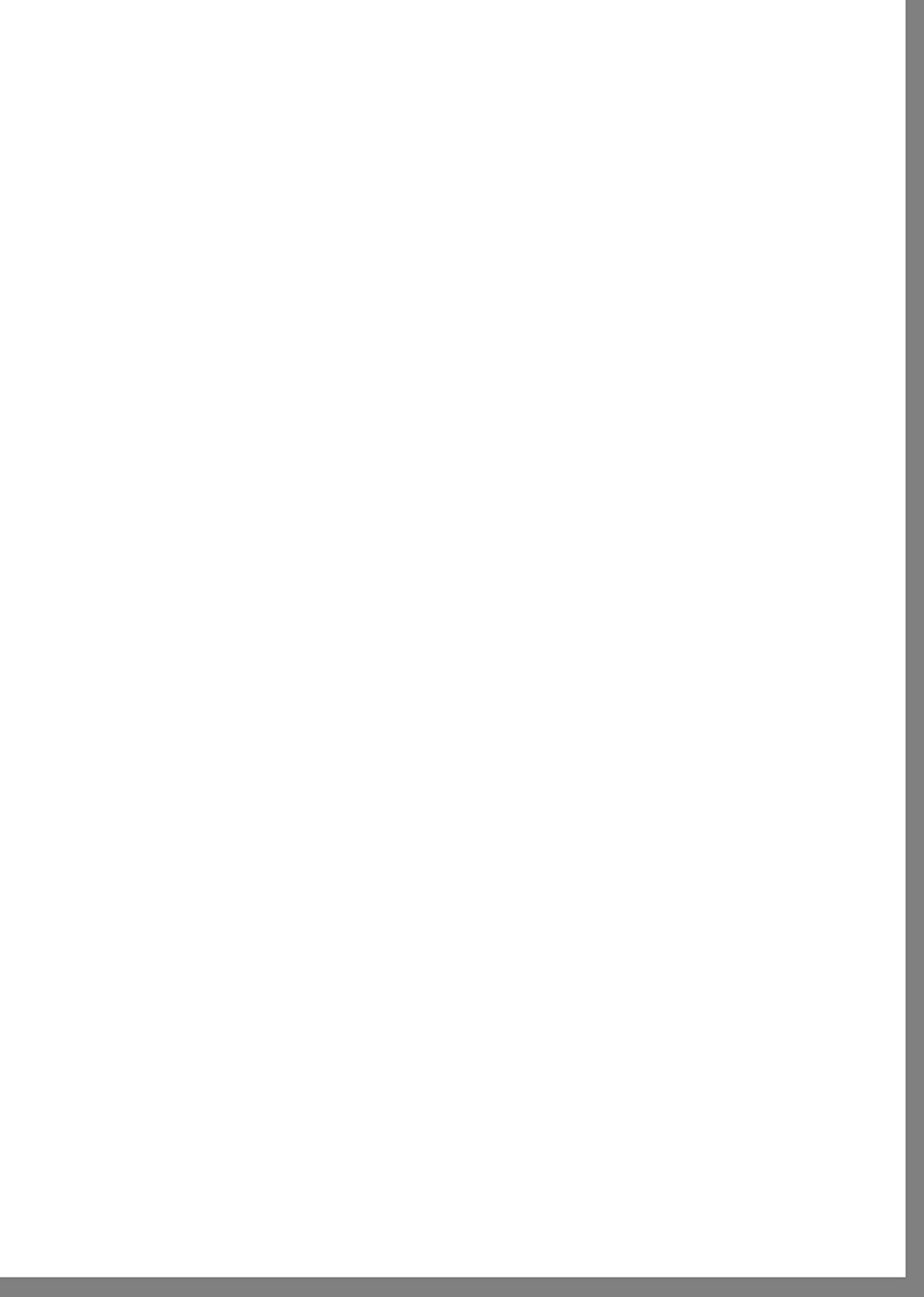
Airport



Frontier crossing



Railway frontier crossing



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Based on the most comparable official statistics available, the analyses were compiled by observers with a detailed knowledge of the regions concerned.

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