

ROMANIA OVERVIEW

BASIC STATISTICS

- **Population:** 22,364,022 (Ranked 47th in the world by the US Census Bureau).
- **National GDP:** \$90.6 billion (1998).
- **GDP per capital:** \$4,050.
- **Median Age:** 34.6 years.
- **Infant Mortality:** 17.45 per 1000 live births.

GEOGRAPHY

- **Location:** South Eastern Europe.
- **Borders:** Moldova, Ukraine, Hungary, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, and the Black Sea.
- **Capital:** Bucharest.
- **Area:** 91,700 square miles.
- **Major cities and population:** Bucharest, 2,054,000.
- **Topography:** The north central plateau is encircled by the Carpathian Mountains. In the south and east there large plains through which the lower reaches of the Danube river system flow.
- **Political Divisions:** Divided into 41 judet (counties).

DEMOGRAPHY

- **Population:** 22,364,022 (Ranked 47th in the world by the US Census Bureau).
- **Population density:** 244 per square mile.
- **Children 0-14:** 17.9%—4,013,519.
- **Teenage 10-19:** 14.7%—3,280,360.
- **Youth between 15-24:** 15.9%—3,548,822.
- **Seniors Over 70:** 8.7%—1,936,366.
- **Male to female ratio:** 95.4 males per 100 females.
- **Birth rate:** 10.76 per 1000 people.
- **Life expectancy at birth:** 67.43 for males and 75.13 for females.
- **Infant mortality rate:** 17.45 per 1000 live births.
- **Official Language:** Romanian.
- **Other Languages:** Hungarian and German.
- **Ethnic Groups:** Romanian 89.1% and Hungarian 8.9%.
- **Ethnic Minorities over 100,000:** Hungarians, 1,624,959; Gipsies, 401,087; and Germans, 119,462.

- **Religious affiliations:** Romanian Orthodox, 70%; Roman Catholic, 6%; and Protestant, 6%.
- **Religious group representation:** 88% Christian (19,639,353), 7.4% Nonreligious (1,842,530), 3.3% Atheist (737,577), 1.3% Muslim (281,570). Less than 1% of the following: Jew, Baha'i, and other.
- **Education:** Compulsory from ages 6-16.
- **Literacy rate:** 97%.

ECONOMY

- **Currency:** Leu.
- **GDP per capita:** \$4,050.
- **National GDP:** \$90.6 billion (1998).
- **Major Industries:** Mining, timber, construction materials, metals, machinery, oil products, chemicals, food processing.
- **Chief crops:** Grains, grapes, sunflower seeds, sugar, beets, potatoes.
- **Electricity production:** 52.495 bil KWh (1998).
- **TV Sets:** 201 per 1000 people.
- **Radios:** 198 per 1000 people.
- **Telephones:** 3, 743,000 main lines.
- **Daily newspaper circulation:** 297 per 1000 people.

POLITICS

- **Government type:** Republic.
- **Head of state:** President Emil Constantinescu.
- **Head of government:** Prime Minister Mugur Isarescu.
- **International organization memberships:** United Nations (UN) and Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).
- **Historical Background:** Romania traces its origins to the feudal "Danubian Principalities" of Wallachia and Moldavia in the 13th and 14th centuries. Since that time, Romania has experienced a number of transitions and severe periods of economic crisis including but not limited to the following: the peasants revolt of 1907, WWI on the side of the Allies, WWII on the side of the Germans, Soviet control after WWII, and rule under Nicolae Ceausescu. In 1989, the attempted eviction of a Protestant pastor by authorities, spawned a mass demonstration in Timisoara, which eventually led to the fall of Ceausescu's leadership and the rise of the National Salvation Front. Since that time, the leadership of the National Salvation Front has been replaced by a four-party coalition led by Emil Constantinescu, in effort to heal Romania's economic wounds inflicted by its recent communist history.

TRENDS AND SOCIAL ISSUES

Understanding the trends and social issues of a particular country should always take into consideration the opinions of persons within the country. The Center for Youth Studies is looking for contributors from each country to add to our appreciation and understanding of Romania's culture, potential, trends, and critical issues.

We currently have contacts in Romania from whom we look forward to hearing their insights. The world press has reported extensively on the economic hardships of a nation rebuilding, the orphan crisis, and the effects of a burgeoning black market. What are the most important issues for Romanians today? This will be added as we receive this information.

SOURCES

TEXT

Barrett, D., Kurian, G., & Johnson, T. (2001). *World Christian Encyclopedia 2nd Edition: A Comparative Survey of Churches and Religions in the Modern World*. Oxford: University Press.

Turner, B. (2000). *The World Today: Essential Facts in an Ever Changing World 2000*. New York, NY: St. Marten's Press. pp. 856-867.

McGeveran, Jr., W. (Ed.). (2001). *The World Almanac and Book of Facts*. Mahwah, NJ: World Almanac Books.

WEB

Romanian Websites:

- [Embassy of Romania](#)
- [Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Romania and Bucharest](#)
- [Government of Romania](#)

[US Census Bureau, International Database.](#)

[United Nation Statistics Division.](#)

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION

1. How important do you see Romania's role in Europe and in the world?
2. What most impresses you about the above information?
3. Do you take issue with any of the above? If so, how would you express it differently?

4. What strikes you most about the population of Romania and the birthrate? Why?
5. What do you see as the historical and cultural contributions of Romania to the world?
6. How has Romania handled its part in the world wide fall of communism?
7. What can we learn from Romania and the Romanian people?

Tammy Smith cCYS
