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Table of content:

Introduction

1.Stock of total population

2.Stock of migrants in the last 10 years

3.Immigrant stock by category (sex, age, country of birth and reason for migration)

4.Population growth

5.Flows of migrants in the last 10 years

6.Immigration flow (by sex, age, country of birth and reason for migration)

7.Total number of refugees (asylum seekers, sex, age)

8.Share of refugees on total migration

9.Migrants integration: (employment or unemployment indicators)

Conclusion

References

INTRODUCTION

Historically Romania is mainly a country of emigration, with the number of people leaving the country exceeding those entering. As a result, the literature and datasets tend to focus on the subject of emigration rather than on immigration. Thus little is known about the issue of immigrant integration in Romania; about the facilities provided by the Romanian State to encourage integration; and about the efforts that immigrants themselves make toward integrating in Romania.

However, Romania has recently experienced a growing wave of immigration, also becoming a country of destination mostly for the Republic of Moldova, Turkey, Italy, Spain, Southeast Asia and, to a lesser extent, other parts of the world. In 2019, there were 202.422 immigrants living in Romania, of which 2.32% were refugees. Indeed, within the European Union, in recent times, the country has the second highest rate of immigration from non-EU countries (88%), just behind Slovenia (90%).

Following a massive emigration in the '90, rates had dropped steeply in the 2000's and continued decreasing in the succeeding decades constantly. Top destination countries are Italy, Spain, Hungary, Israel, the United States, Germany, Canada, Austria, France and the United Kingdom. In 2019, Romanian citizens of working age (20-64) residing abroad within the EU accounted for about a fifth (19.4 %) of the population residing in Romania, making them by far the largest national group among EU mobile citizens together with Poles.¹ Large outflows of Romanian emigrants have quite logically led to large flows of return migration to Romania. Also the national government created different returning policies such as economic subsidies to romanian immigrants that envisage to open economic activities in Romania. It is, however, quite challenging to determine exactly how large these return migration flows are.² Despite this limitation, an OECD study from 2019 on the returning romanian nationals from Spain, Germany and Italy estimated, assuming that the registers from these three countries generate comparable enough figures, that, on average in the last years, approximately 135 000 Romanian emigrants have returned to Romania each year from these countries.³

Moreover, since the Covid Pandemic outbreak in February 2020, it is possible to estimate, as it has been declared by the romanian prime minister Ludovic Orban, that 1.279.000 romanian citizens have returned from abroad, mainly from: Italy, Germany, France and the United Kingdom.⁴

Finally it must be underlined that the Romanian population has decreased by 4% since 2011 and this trend is expected to continue as the population is expected to drop by another 20% by 2050.

¹ <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/pdfscache/68490.pdf>

² "Hinks, Tim; Davies, Simon. 2015. Intentions to Return : Evidence from Romanian Migrants. Policy Research Working Paper;No. 7166. World Bank Group, Washington, DC. © World Bank.
<https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/21386> License: CC BY 3.0 IGO."

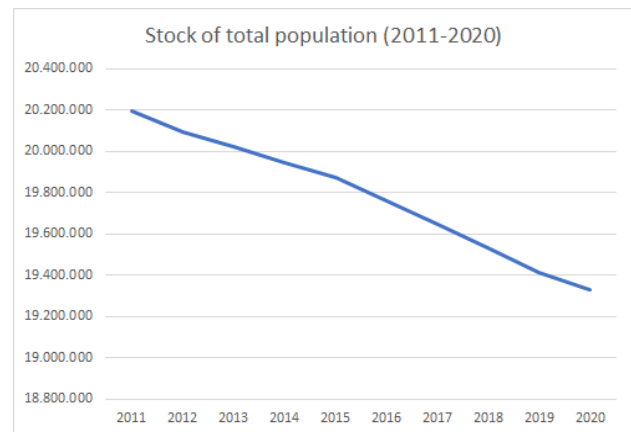
³ OECD (2019), Talent Abroad: A Review of Romanian Emigrants, OECD Publishing, Paris,
<https://doi.org/10.1787/bac53150-en>

⁴<https://www.agerpres.ro/politica/2020/05/04/video-orban-din-23-februarie-s-au-intors-in-tara-1-279-000-de-cetateni-romani--498675>

1. STOCK TOTAL POPULATION

TIME	GEO	Romania
2011		20,199,059
2012		20,095,996
2013		20,020,074
2014		19,947,311
2015		19,870,647
2016		19,760,585
2017		19,643,949
2018		19,533,481
2019		19,414,458
2020		19,328,838 ^(e)

Table 1. Source: EUROSTAT[demo_pjan]



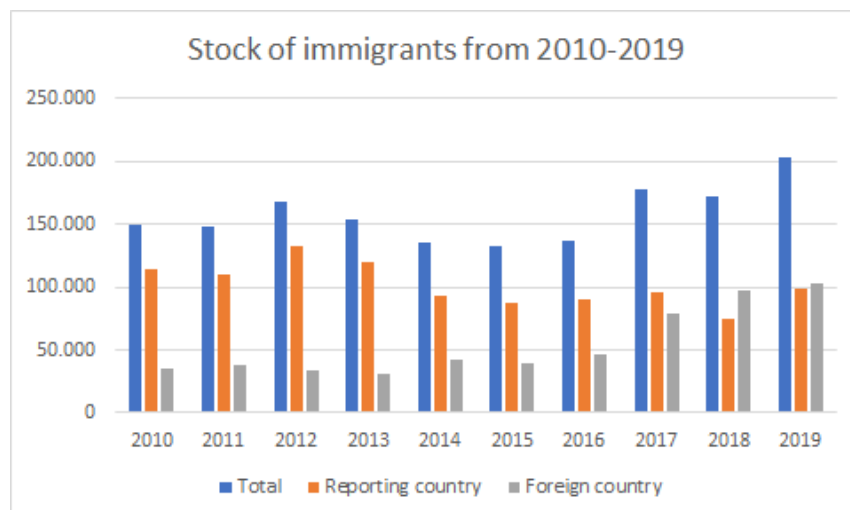
Source: EUROSTAT[demo_pjan]

As we can see from Table 1, the Romanian stock of population has steadily decreased over the last 10 years by 4,3% since 2011.

2. STOCK OF IMMIGRANTS IN THE LAST 10 YEARS

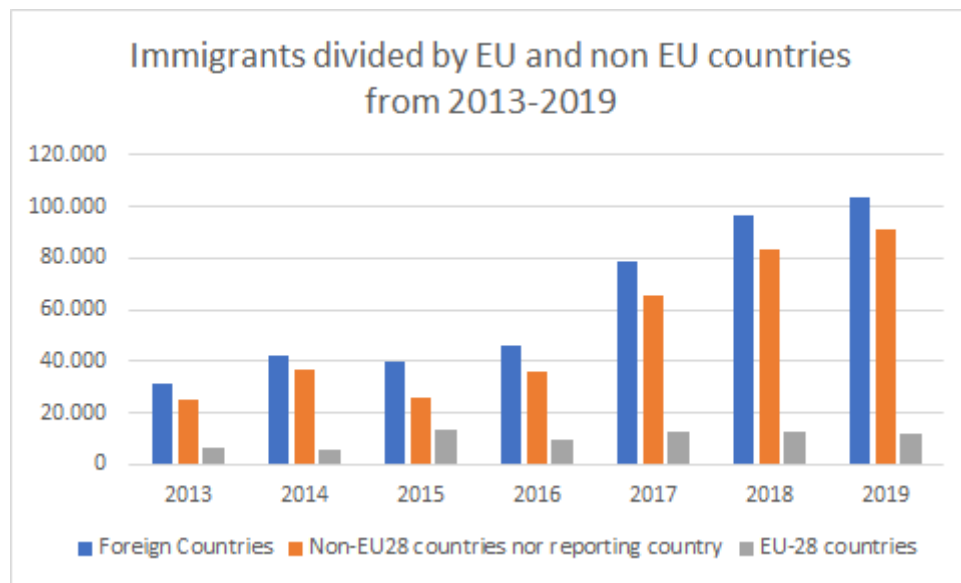
TIME	C_BIRTH	Total	Reporting country	Foreign country	Non-EU28 countries
2010		149,885	114,174	35,616	:
2011		147,685	110,198	37,376	:
2012		167,266	132,319	33,156	:
2013		153,646	120,149	31,514	25,054
2014		136,035	92,324	42,453	36,584
2015		132,795	87,120	39,757	26,169
2016		137,455	90,074	45,931	36,073
2017		177,435 ^(e)	95,231 ^(e)	78,444 ^(e)	65,508 ^(e)
2018		172,578 ^(e)	74,420 ^(e)	96,585 ^(e)	83,677 ^(e)
2019		202,422 ^(e)	98,505 ^(e)	103,514 ^(e)	91,320 ^(e)

Table 2. Source: EUROSTAT[migr_imm3ctb]



According to 2019 Eurostat's database (Table 2.), the total stock of immigrants in Romania was 202.422 million people. It is interesting to note that a big share of 98.505 (49% of total immigration) were immigrants with Romanian citizenship. Many of them are Moldovan citizens that have double citizenship.⁵ Also it should be noted that in the years 2018 and 2019 the trend of the previous years is inverted as the share of foreigners is slightly bigger than the one of romanians.

Also it is very evident from the above graphic how the numbers of the foreigners have increased in the last years, as in 2010 foreign people in Romania were 35.616 (24% of the total immigration) and by contrast in 2019 foreign people were 103.514 (51% of total immigration). This means that in the last years the stock of migrants has increased by 27%.



Source: EUROSTAT[migr_imm3ctb]

More specifically, the graph above, highlights the dominant share of third country nationals which are 88% of total foreigners while the European Union immigrants (excluding reporting country) represent only the 12% of the foreigners.

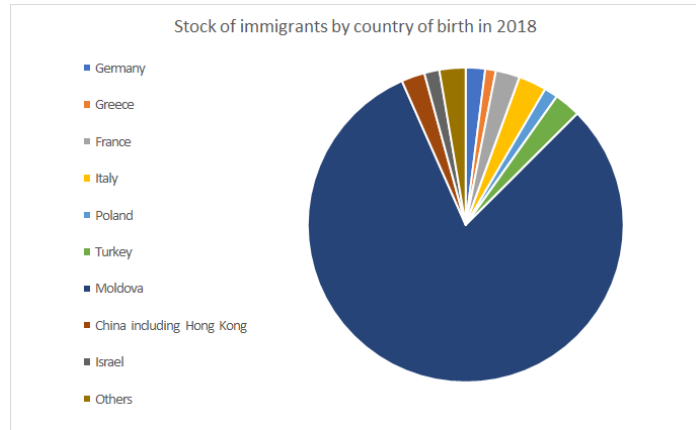
⁵ <https://www.kylinprime.com/news/142/One-in-three-Moldovans-hold-Romanian-citizenship.html>

3.MIGRANT STOCK BY CATEGORY

a) Stock by category: country of birth

	SEX	TIME	Total
C_BIRTH			2018
Germany (until 1990 former t			1,197 (e)
Greece			654 (e)
France			1,488 (e)
Italy			1,720 (e)
Poland			836 (e)
Turkey			1,630 (e)
Moldova			48,724 (e)
China including Hong Kong			1,440 (e)
Israel			932 (e)
Others			1,612 (e)

Table 3. Source: EUROSTAT[migr_imm3ctb]



Source: EUROSTAT[migr_imm3ctb]

Table 3 is a representation of selected countries of birth of the immigrants in Romania in 2018. It is quite striking that the dominant share of immigrants are from Moldova, owing to the former period of union between the two countries. In that year on national territory there was a stock of 48.724 moldovan immigrants, which represent 28% of the total immigrants stock.

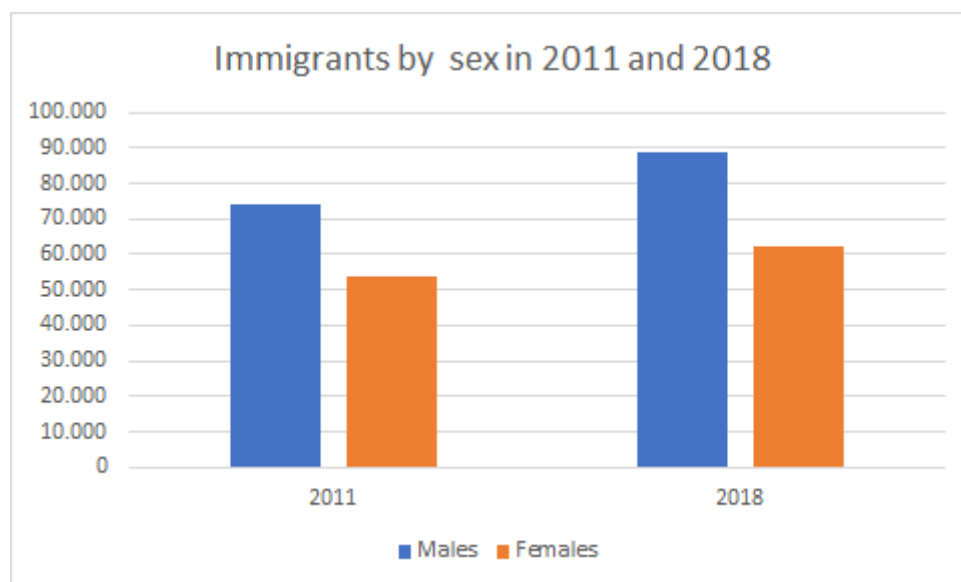
Indeed many Moldovans are eligible for Romanian citizenship on the basis of descent and in fact one in three Moldovans hold Romanian citizenship. The culture of Moldova is influenced primarily by the Romanians (origins of its majority population), and, as such, it is easy for people from neighbouring Moldova to integrate within the contemporary Romanian culture.

Other relevant countries of birth of immigrants are Turkey, Italy, Spain and China.

b) Stock by category: sex

	2011	2018
Males	74,018	88,781 (e)
Females	53,729	62,111 (e)

Table 4. Source:EUROSTAT[migr_imm3ctb]



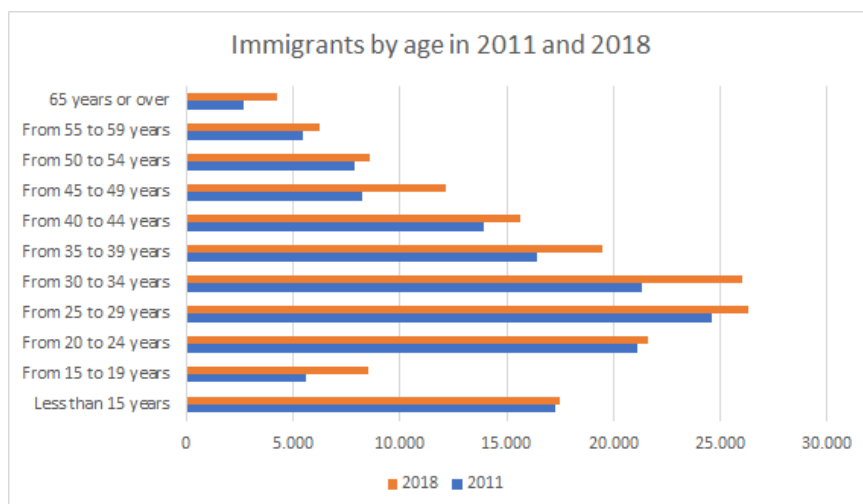
Source:EUROSTAT[migr_imm3ctb]

There is an underrepresentation of female immigrants. In all years the male immigrants are represented in a larger number. Moreover we can see that from 2011 to 2018 the stock of migrants has increased by 16%.

c. Stock by category: age

AGE	2011	2018
Less than 15 years	17,247	17,464 ^(e)
From 15 to 19 years	5,572	8,530 ^(e)
From 20 to 24 years	21,102	21,595 ^(e)
From 25 to 29 years	24,577	26,324 ^(e)
From 30 to 34 years	21,303	25,999 ^(e)
From 35 to 39 years	16,398	19,492 ^(e)
From 40 to 44 years	13,944	15,649 ^(e)
From 45 to 49 years	8,243	12,143 ^(e)
From 50 to 54 years	7,876	8,585 ^(e)
From 55 to 59 years	5,465	6,255 ^(e)
65 years or over	2,691	4,222 ^(e)

Table 5. Source:EUROSTAT[migr_imm3ctb]



Source:EUROSTAT[migr_imm3ctb]

As we see on the table, most relevant categories belong to cohorts from 20-24, 25-29,30-34 both in 2011 and 2018. This is probably because people in working-age are most likely to migrate.

d) stock by category: reason for migration

We used data collected from all residence permits on Eurostat. It is worthy to know that residence permits refer solely to third country nationals therefore excluding EU-countries. We started selecting data from 2011 when Romania had entered the European Union for quite some time. Also since we are referring to the stock of immigrants we produced the data by selecting all valid permits.

REASON	2011	2019
Total	60,730	79,465
Family reasons	28,369	24,127
Education reasons	12,368	16,218
Remunerated activities reasons	6,592	20,655
Refugee status	212	2,068
Subsidiary protection	34	1,415
Other	13,155	14,982

Table 6. Source:EUROSTAT[migr_resvalid]

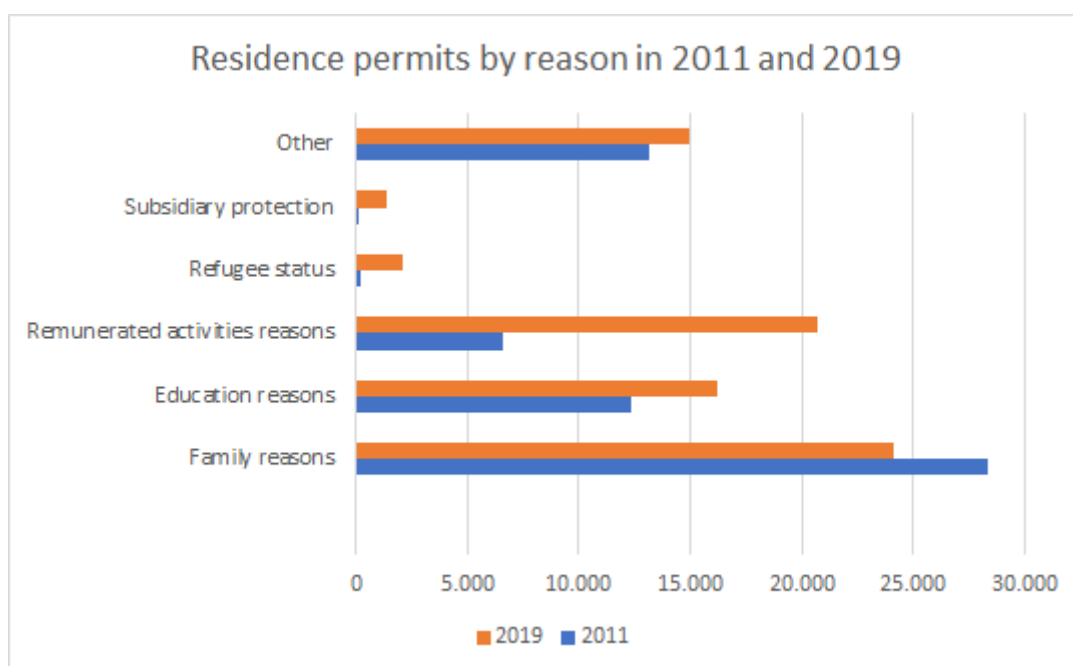


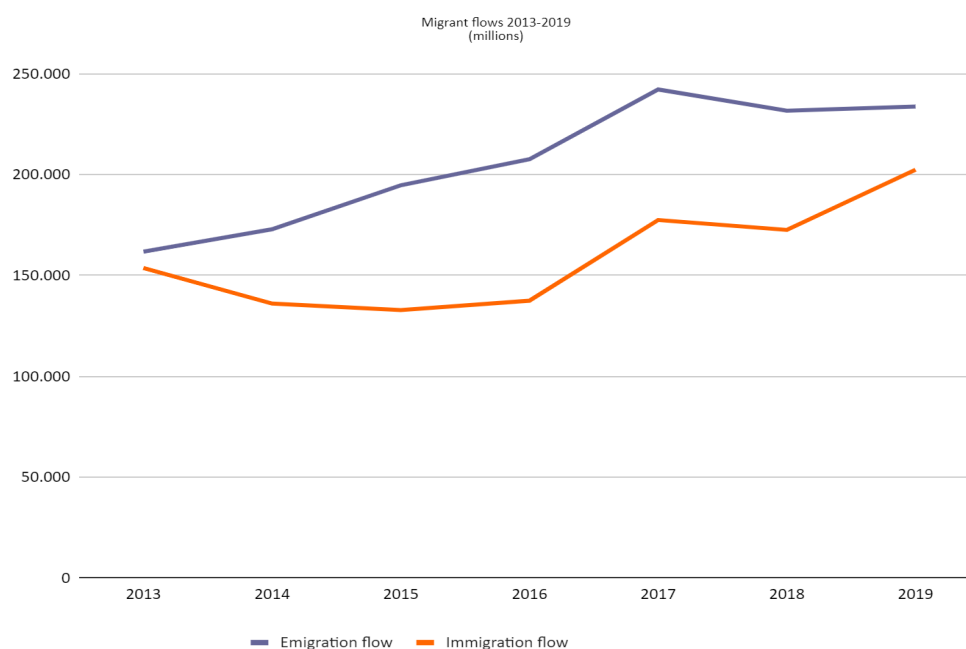
Table 6 represents, in comparison, the data from 2011 and 2019 of all residence permits issued by their reason. In both years the major residence permits issued by the romanian government were for family reunifications which represented the 47% and the 30% of the permits issued in 2011 and respectively 2019. Firstly, this implies that this is the main entrance channel for third country nationals in the country and, secondly, that in order for family reunification to occur there is already an ongoing process of immigration.

The permits issued for refugees were residual in both years and represented the 0,35% and the 2,3% in 2011 and respectively 2019.

4. FLOWS OF IMMIGRANTS IN THE LAST 10 YEARS

	Emigration	Immigration
2013	161.755	153.646
2014	172.871	136.035
2015	194.718	132.795
2016	207.578	137.455
2017	242.193	177.435
2018	231.661	172.578
2019	233.736	202.422

Table 7. Source: EUROSTAT [migr_emi5nxt] and EUROSTAT [migr_imm12prv]



Source: EUROSTAT [migr_emi5nxt] and EUROSTAT [migr_imm12prv]

In order to draw the data regarding the flow of migration in the past 10 years (see table 10) we extracted the data of immigration by broad group of country of origin and then emigration by broad group of country of usual next residence.

The graphic highlights how the emigration outflow is much larger than the immigration inflow. This data correlated with table 1, regarding the population decreased by 4,3% in the last 10 years, brings a clear image of a problem, that the country has issues regarding the lack of workforce⁶.

⁶ RAMBOLL. Bottleneck Vacancies in Romania. 2013.

5. IMMIGRATION FLOW BY CATEGORY (sex, age, country of birth reason for migration)

PARTNER	AGE	Total	From 15 to 64 years	From 20 to 24 years	From 25 to 29 years	From 30 to 34 years	65 years or over
Greece		;(e)	;	;	;	;	;
Spain		;(e)	;	;	;	;	;
France		;(e)	;	;	;	;	;
Italy		;(e)	;	;	;	;	;
Poland		;(e)	;	;	;	;	;
Turkey		;(e)	;	;	;	;	;
Moldova		;(e)	;	;	;	;	;
China including Hong Kong		;(e)	;	;	;	;	;
Israel		;(e)	;	;	;	;	;

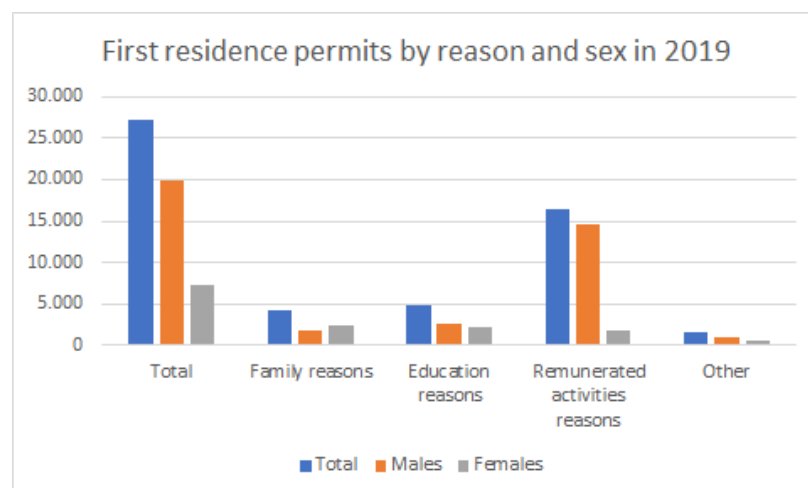
Table 8.Source: Eurostat [migr_imm5prv]

As it can be observed from the table 8, Romania lacks data regarding the flow of immigrants by category of sex, age and also reason of migration. It is possible only to access total data, which was presented previously in the paper.

However it was possible to access data (see below: table 9) regarding third country nationals flow by selecting the first residence permits issued by the romanian government in 2019. As previously noted, in the stock of third country nationals, also here in the flows, the data confirms the prevalence of males which represent 73% of residence permits while women represent only 27% of them. As to the reason for the first permits issued, the larger number regards remunerated activities which represent 60%, followed by education reasons (18%) and family reunifications (16%) while other reasons represent the residual 5%.

REASON	SEX	Total	Males	Females
Total		27,103	19,875	7,228
Family reasons		4,205	1,726	2,479
Education reasons		4,943	2,716	2,227
Remunerated activities reaso		16,394	14,504	1,890
Other		1,561	929	632

Table 9. Source: EUROSTAT [migr_resfas]

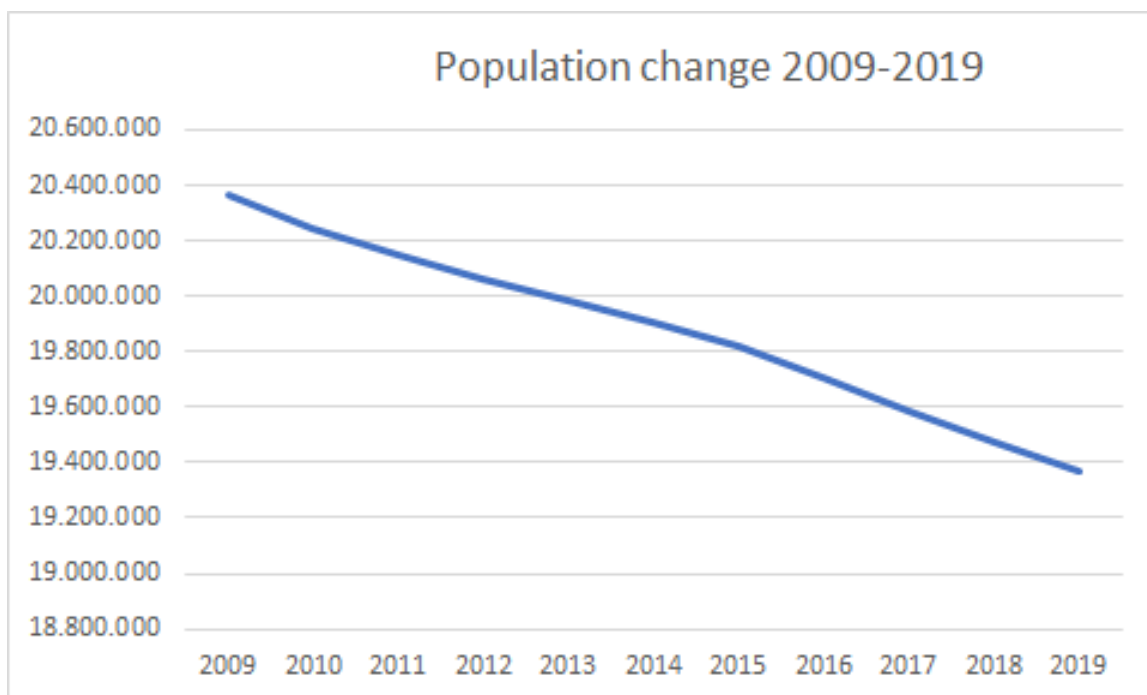


6. POPULATION GROWTH

a) past

TIME	GEO	Romania
2009		20,367,487
2010		20,246,871
2011		20,147,528
2012		20,058,035
2013		19,983,693
2014		19,908,979
2015		19,815,616
2016		19,702,267
2017		19,588,715
2018		19,473,970
2019		19,371,648 ^(e)

Table 10. SOURCE: EUROSTAT [demo_gind]



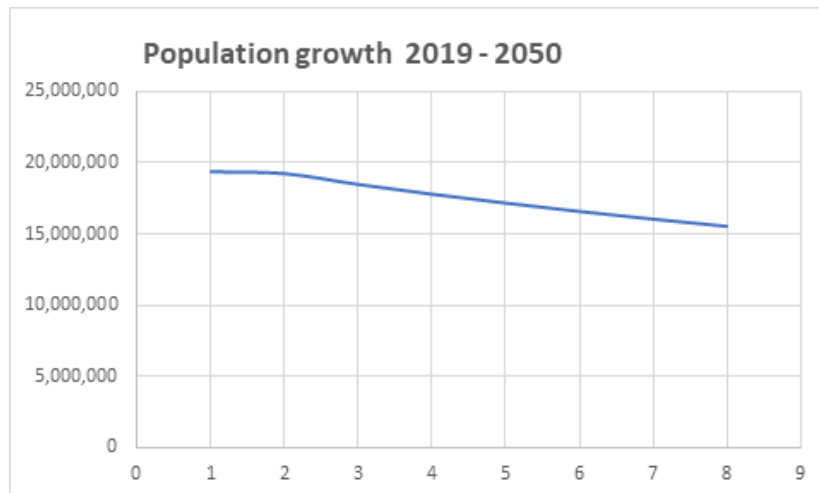
SOURCE: EUROSTAT [demo_gind]

Considering the EUROSTAT data from 2009 to 2019 there is a tendency of a steady decrease of population in Romania. There is no data yet for the year 2020.

b) Population change - the future

TIME	Romania
2019	19,414,458
2020	19,281,118
2025	18,507,547
2030	17,808,000
2035	17,169,288
2040	16,576,187
2045	16,018,918
2050	15,502,837

Table 11. SOURCE: EUROSTAT [proj_19np]



SOURCE: EUROSTAT [proj_19np]

Regarding the population, the same decreasing tendency remains also when considering the future of the population in Romania which expects a 20% decrease by 2050.

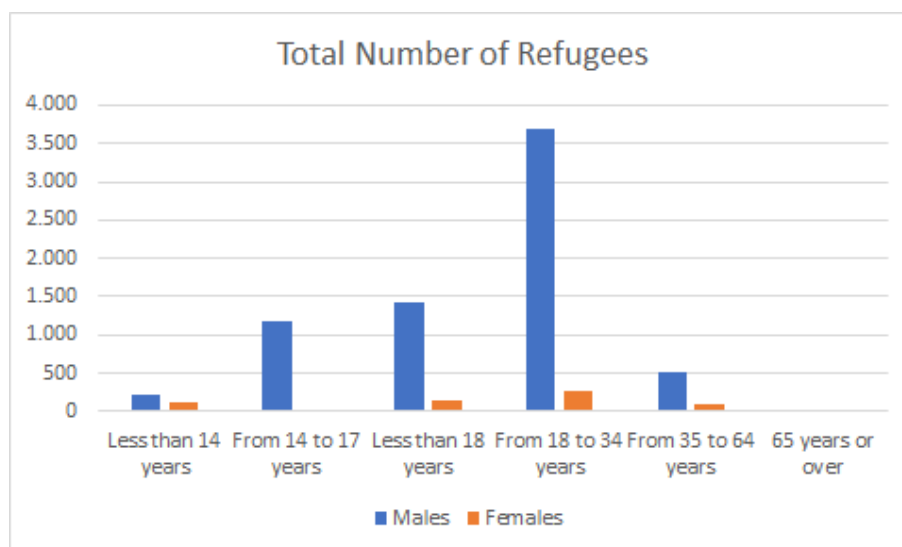
7. TOTAL NUMBER OF REFUGEES (asylum seekers, sex, age)

First of all, one may underline that a refugee is a third-country national or a stateless person who, owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for several reasons such as race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership of a particular social group is outside the country of nationality or the former habitual residence's country and is unable or unwilling to avail himself or herself of the protection of that country⁷.

In order to establish the total number of Refugees, we found data about Asylum and first time asylum applicants by citizenship, age and sex - annual aggregated data (rounded).

AGE	Total	Males	Females
Total	6,155	5,635	520
Less than 14 years	355	225	125
From 14 to 17 years	1,220	1,190	30
Less than 18 years	1,575	1,420	155
From 18 to 34 years	3,965	3,695	265
From 35 to 64 years	610	515	95
65 years or over	5	0	0

Table 12. SOURCE: EUROSTAT (migr_asyappctza)



SOURCE: EUROSTAT (migr_asyappctza)

We can observe that, considering the total number of refugees amounting to 6.155, the 92% are males applicants, and only the 8% are females. Thus we continue to assist more and more applications by males, than by females. Also by looking at female and male applicants taking into account the age group, we notice that in age groups from 14 to 34, there is a higher percentage of male applicants which goes from 19% to 60% on the total vs. barely 1% for female applicants. In particular, as we can see from the European Commission Statistical Data by referring to the overview of the Romanian General Inspectorate for Immigration (IGI) in 2019 Romania received 2,592 asylum applications and the main countries of origin for asylum seekers were Syria, Iraq,

⁷ <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Glossary:Refugee>

Afghanistan and Algeria.

It is interesting to note in table 13, the increase of asylum seekers in the last years, which passed from 1.720 in 2011, to 6.155, in 2020. This means that there has been an increase of 28% since 2011.

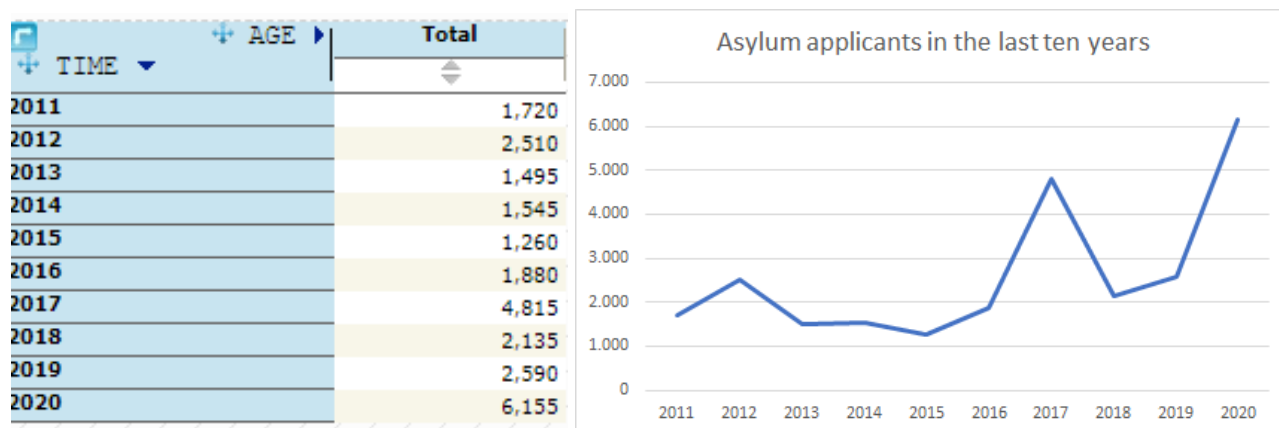


Table 13. Source: EUROSTAT migr_asyappctza

8. SHARE OF REFUGEES ON TOTAL MIGRATION

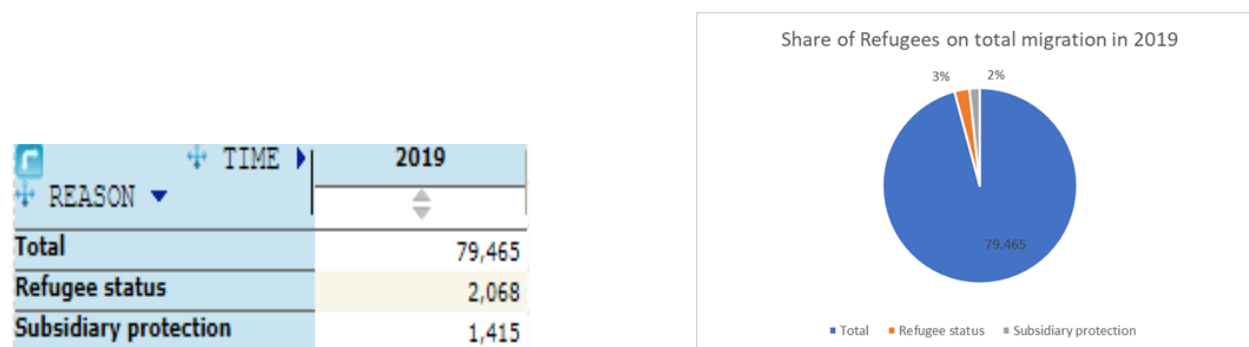


Table 14 Source: EUROSTAT [migr_resvalid]

Source: EUROSTAT [migr_resvalid]

The share of refugees is 2-3% on total migration. In fact, as analysed in Table n.7, most of the resident permits were granted for family reunification, in particular the 30% of them; while only 2,3 % were issued for refugees.

9. MIGRANTS INTEGRATION INDICATORS OF EMPLOYMENT OR UNEMPLOYMENT

Since Romania is still a country of emigration, little is known about the issue of immigrant integration in Romania; about the facilities provided by the Romanian state to encourage integration; and about the efforts that immigrants themselves make toward integrating in Romania. The integration phenomenon in the country thus is quite recent, and it is a subject which only manifested itself in 2004, following the first law on immigrant integration for persons receiving a form of protection in Romania (refugees and people with subsidiary protection).⁸

The topic under consideration demonstrates a peculiarity with regard to Romania in the European Statistical Recovery Dashboard (Eurostat) database. Searching in the “Cross cutting topics” on the Eurostat’s database it is possible to arrive at “Migrant Integration Employment and Unemployment” for Romania. However, applying a more in-depth look in the dimensions of the table (beyond only the total calculation), most of the data only shows the labour status for country nationals, lacking information about the third country nationals and EU migrants (foreign-born population in general). See below:

TIME	Active persons	Employed persons	Unemployed persons	Inactive persons
2009	10.1 (u)	9.8 (u)	:(u)	:
2010	:(bu)	:(bu)	:(bc)	:(l)
2011	:(u)	:(u)	:(c)	:
2012	:(u)	:(u)	:	:
2013	:(u)	:(u)	:	:
2014	:(u)	:(u)	:	:
2015	:(u)	:(u)	:(c)	:
2016	:(u)	:(u)	:(c)	:
2017	8.2 (u)	7.5 (u)	:(c)	:
2018	10.1 (u)	9.6 (u)	:(u)	:
2019	:(u)	:(u)	:(c)	:

Table 16 SOURCE: EUROSTAT [Ifsa_pgacws]

The above situation occurs because in Romania employment and unemployment rates, as well as other labour market indicators, are normally produced only for nationals.⁹ Nonetheless, it is known that labour market development is closely linked to the migratory dynamics. In this matter, Eurostat’s statistics on migrant integration are complemented by administrative data sources such as register of foreigners and registers of work permit.¹⁰ Thus, to bring broader information on the subject of employment and migrant integration in Romania, it is possible to look for work permits issued by the reporting country as explained before at point 3.d) of this paper.

⁸Ordinance 44 from January 29 2004 regarding the social integration of foreigners who have been granted a form of protection or a right to reside in Romania, but also citizens of the EU member states and SEE states (Serbia, Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Albania and Montenegro)

⁹ South East Europe. Migration profile of Romania. 2012.

¹⁰ European Commission. Data. Eurostat web page. Available in:

<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/migrant-integration/data>. Access: 06 April 2021.

According to the Romanian General Inspectorate for Immigration (IGI), there are 84,228 third country nationals with a right to stay in Romania in 2019 and the number of work permits issued during the same period was 29,800, for workers mainly from Vietnam, Nepal, India and Turkey.^{11 12}

CONCLUSION

Looking at the above data, we see that Romania is still an emigration country, although lately it has also become a country of destination. Its migration outflow is larger than the immigration inflow. And in the last decade the total population has decreased by the 4,3% and this tendency is confirmed also in the next years with a decrease expectation of 20% by 2050. This, however, is a clear image of a problem: the country has issues regarding the lack of workforce.

Nonetheless, according to Eurostat in 2019 the total foreigners were 103.514 (51% of total immigration) and the third country nationals were the 88 % of total foreigners, while european union immigrants represent only 12% of the foreigners on the territory. Moldavian immigrants are by far the most numerous, representing the 28% of the total immigrants stock due to their language and historical affinity with the country. Family reunification is still the main entrance channel for third country nationals which represented the 30% of all residence permits issued in 2019 while the refugees represented only 2,3%. Male immigrants are beneficiaries of 73% of residence permits issued in 2019 which are mainly in working-age.

Lastly, it is worth mentioning that Romania has also an inflow of nationals that is not always easy to registrate because of its recent and peculiar nature, however, according to the government sources, since the Covid Pandemic in February 2020, it estimated that 1.279.000 romanian citizens have returned from abroad, mainly from: Italy, Germany, France and United Kingdom.

¹¹ European Commission. 2019 statistical data on migrants and refugees in Romania. Available in: <https://ec.europa.eu/migrant-integration/news/2019-statistical-data-on-migrants-and-refugees-in-romania>. Access: 06 April 2021.

¹²<http://igi.mai.gov.ro/ro/comunicat/evaluarea-activitat%C4%83%C8%9Bii-poli%C8%9Bi%C8%99tilor-inspectoratului-general-pentru-imigr%C4%83ri-%C3%AEn-anul-2019>

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