

## STUDY ON EVOLUTION OF LABOUR ROMANIAN AGRICULTURE

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**Abstract:** *In agriculture as in other branches of material production, the normal production process involves the direct presence on the one hand, material resources, ie the means of production, as the means of labor and objects of labor, and the Moreover, human resources represented workforce needed for both agricultural works and for technical guidance, organization, leadership and management of all available resources in the agricultural units. Of course, the essential peculiarity of agriculture is that all kinds of productive resources participate in getting production amid existing natural resources, climatic, showing large differences or regional specificities and in their diversity in terms of volume and structure quality agricultural entities and subdivisions within their organization.*

**Key words:** *population, active population, occupied population, unemployment, agriculture*

### INTRODUCTION

Labor is an economic resource, while labor is a primary factor, a native of production.

Work is a specifically human activity, the physical ability and intellectual labor, due to the multitude of skills, knowledge and experience of people, goods made to obtain economic, cultural and social.

The population of a country is the reserve or resource of manpower for various sectors of economic and non-economic activity. Each country at some point has some "stock" of labor, which is actually a potential (potential labor force). The economic and non-economic activity is drawn a certain part, called active labor. The difference between the potential labor forces is active and the reserve workforce that mostly is the workforce unemployed and unemployed. The economy is more efficient, more dynamic and the unemployment rate is less than the employment rate of the labor force potential is higher.

Crucial factor in social and economic development of any country is the human resources (human potential) that it has resources that constitute the whole population of that country at a time. This potential should be viewed primarily as a consumer group, which is identified with labor resources.

Labor resources existing in society at a given time represents the number of people able to work, ie that part of the population that possesses all the physical and intellectual capabilities that allow it to perform useful work in one of the national economic activities.

Determination of labor resources is based on the following indicators:

- Population contained within the legal age to work;
- Population of legal age limits for work but unable to work;
- Population beyond the limits of the legal age to work, but working.

Volume of labor resources is obtained using the following relationship using the indicators presented above.

According Balance labor resources include the following categories of people: the working population and population below and above the legal age of employment but working.

Working population is the difference between total population and working age population legally covered legal age for work but unable to work.

Working age population includes all persons whose age is between the legal age of entry and exit of legal age activity.

The population of working age depends on the setting of age limits between which it is considered that a person can participate in social activities.

Working-age population, and therefore labor resources are under strong demographic phenomena affect: birth, general mortality and specific mortality by age, demographic previous period, etc.

The population within the limits of legal age to work decisively determines the level and structure of labor resources.

In Romania for measuring and identifying potential labor in the labor market processes simultaneously using two statistical tools: balance and investigation. They use indicators containing more or less different.

Balance workforce is developed annually based on demographic statistics, of the administrative sources and surveys.

Balance includes a package of statistical indicators interdependent:

- labor resources ;
- working age population ;
- employed population ;
- unemployed ;
- civilian labor force ;

The UN statistics, economically active population should be evaluated in two ways:

- Active normal population: according to participation in the production of goods and services within a year;

- Active Current population: according to participation in the production of goods and services within a week.

Active normal population includes persons above a certain age (15) and whose status in the previous 12 months or the previous calendar year was occupied or unoccupied.

Active current population (labor force) comprises all persons who fulfill the requirements for the “occupied” or “unoccupied”.

Category “occupied” includes people who have an age greater than a certain limit and over a period of a day or a week are included in the category of employee pay.

Category unoccupied includes persons over a certain age that is without work, available for work and seeking work.

## **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

Documenting the work consisted in using data from publications, statistics and some authors, in association with research that formed the basis of their analysis, ideas raised in the paper.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

In Romania, the share of active population in agriculture was relatively stable until 1990, about three million people employed in this field. Structural economic reforms and dismantling of Agricultural Production Cooperatives in the early 1990s led to a drastic increase in labor employed in agriculture.

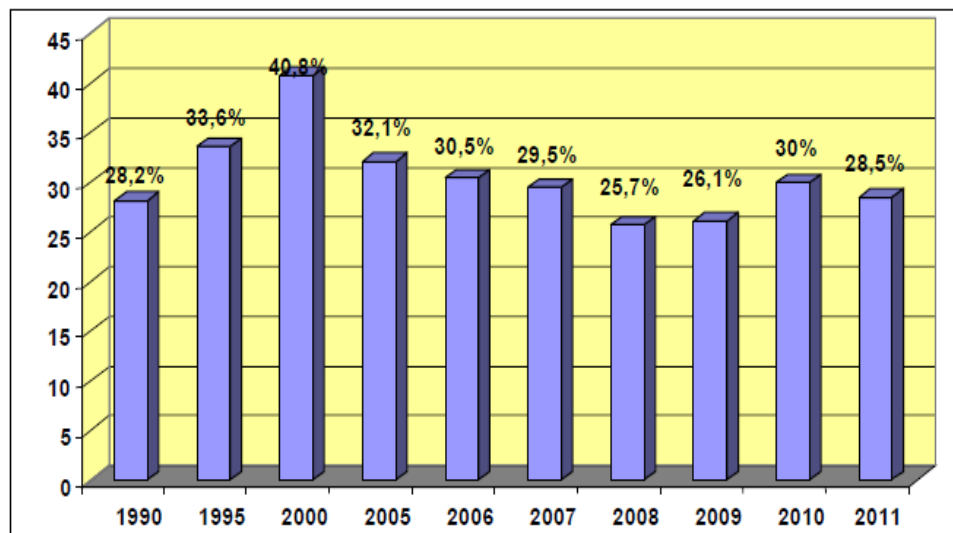
Rural labor force is engaged mainly in the agricultural sector, which is one of the major constraints of economic development of the country.

The share of employment in agriculture in total rural population has increased significantly since 1990 when it was 28.8% to 35% in 2000 and then declined slightly in 2002 to reach 29.7% and 28.8% in 2010.

**Table 1**  
**The evolution of the main indicators of human potential of agriculture**

| Romanian |                  |                      |                               |                           |  |  |   |
|----------|------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|--|--|---|
| Year     | Total population | The rural population | The total employed population | Employment in agriculture | % rural population in total population | % population employed in agriculture in the rural population | % Population employed in agriculture in the total employed population |
|          | thousand people  |                      |                               |                           | %                                      |  |   |
| 1990     | 23207            | 10598                | 10840                         | 3055                      | 45,7                                   | 28,8   | 28,2  |
| 1995     | 22681            | 10224                | 9439                          | 3187                      | 45,1                                   | 31,2   | 33,6  |
| 2000     | 22435            | 10190                | 8629                          | 3570                      | 45,4                                   | 35,0   | 40,8  |
| 2005     | 21624            | 9744                 | 8390                          | 2674                      | 45,1                                   | 27,4   | 32,1  |
| 2006     | 21584            | 9670                 | 8469                          | 2514                      | 44,8                                   | 26,0   | 30,5  |
| 2007     | 21538            | 9660                 | 8726                          | 2462                      | 44,9                                   | 25,5   | 29,5  |
| 2008     | 21504            | 9669                 | 8747                          | 2407                      | 45,0                                   | 24,9   | 25,7  |
| 2009     | 21469            | 9646                 | 8411                          | 2411                      | 44,9                                   | 25,0   | 26,1  |
| 2010     | 21431            | 9632                 | 9240                          | 2780                      | 44,9                                   | 28,8   | 30,0  |
| 2011     | 21354            | 9627                 | 9138                          | 2612                      | 45,0                                   | 27,1   | 28,5  |

Source: Statistical Yearbook of Romania, 1991 - 2012



**Figure 1 Proportion of people employed in agriculture in total employment**

Around the same evolution had and the share of employment in agriculture in the total employed population has increased from 28.2% (in 1990) to 40.8% in 2000 and decreased slightly agricultural population was determined not so the needs of agriculture, especially as labor layoffs in other sectors of the economy.

Working age population changes from year to year and is largely influenced by the evolution of mortality in the population of working age.

Analyzing the aging population through demographic vitality index shows that it is manifested especially in rural areas, driven by the migration of youth to urban areas, causing a decline in demographic potential. If you correlate the demographic vitality index

global index of development, it is found that most localities with very low demographic vitality index are located in East County and at the same time and to a very low global development. Another remark is that the localities which were developed industrial and entrepreneurial activities are less affected by aging and depopulation.

**Table 2**

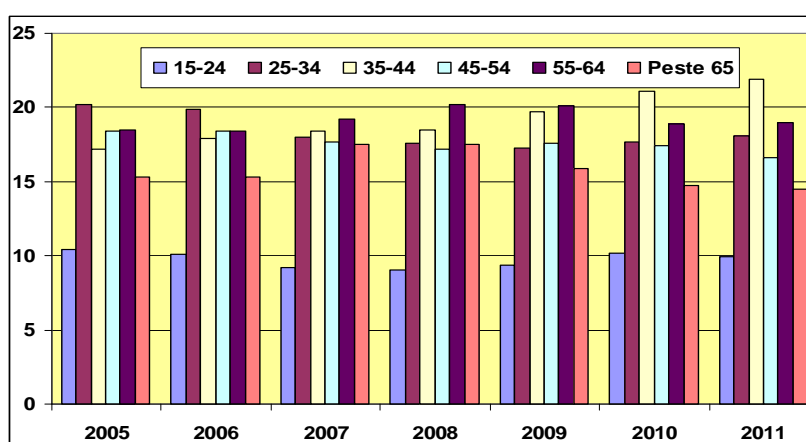
**Evolution of employment in agriculture by age**

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| Age groups<br>(years) | Years |      |      |      |      |      |      |
|-----------------------|-------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
|                       | 2005  | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 |
| 15-24                 | 10,4  | 10,1 | 9,2  | 9,0  | 9,4  | 10,2 | 9,9  |
| 25-34                 | 20,2  | 19,9 | 18,0 | 17,6 | 17,3 | 17,7 | 18,1 |
| 35-44                 | 17,2  | 17,9 | 18,4 | 18,5 | 19,7 | 21,1 | 21,9 |
| 45-54                 | 18,4  | 18,4 | 17,7 | 17,2 | 17,6 | 17,4 | 16,6 |
| 55-64                 | 18,5  | 18,4 | 19,2 | 20,2 | 20,1 | 18,9 | 19,0 |
| over 65               | 15,3  | 15,3 | 17,5 | 17,5 | 15,9 | 14,7 | 14,5 |

Source: Statistical Yearbook of Romania, 2006 – 2012

Over half of the population employed in agriculture aged between 55 and 64 years is increasing, highlighting the aging workforce in this industry.



**Figure 2 Proportion of people employed in agriculture by age**

**Table 3**

**The average number of employees in agriculture**

-thousands people-

| Years                       | Total employees | Employees agriculture |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| 1990                        | 8156            | 655                   |
| 1996                        | 5939            | 364                   |
| 2000                        | 4623            | 196                   |
| 2003                        | 4591            | 152                   |
| 2005                        | 4559            | 144                   |
| 2007                        | 4885            | 125                   |
| 2008                        | 5046            | 105                   |
| 2009                        | 4774            | 110                   |
| 2010                        | 4376            | 95                    |
| 2011                        | 4349            | 98                    |
| Differences (+/-) 1990/2011 | 3807            | 557                   |

Source: Statistical Yearbook of Romania, 1991- 2012

The average number of employees in agriculture is presented in Table 3.

A very important aspect is that the total labor force employed in agriculture, the share of employees is very small.

Number of employees in agriculture decreased from 1990 to 2011, with more than 557 thousand people (655 000 in 1990 and 98 000 in 2011 thousand). In 1990 the share of people employed in agriculture represented 8.3% of total employed persons in Romania. In 1996 their share dropped to 55.5% of all employees in agriculture existing in 1990 (respectively 6.12% of total employed persons in Romania in 1996), and in subsequent years continued decreasing trend (Table 3).

**Table 4**

**Registered unemployed and unemployment**

| Years                                    | Number of unemployed (people) |               | Unemployment rate (%) |            |
|--|-------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------|------------|
|  | Total                         | Women         | Total                 | Women      |
| 2005                                     | 522.976                       | 219.224       | 5,9                   | 5,2        |
| 2006                                     | 460.495                       | 191.449       | 5,2                   | 4,6        |
| 2007                                     | 367.838                       | 166.626       | 4,0                   | 3,9        |
| 2008                                     | 403.441                       | 187.228       | 4,4                   | 4,4        |
| 2009                                     | 709.383                       | 302.124       | 7,8                   | 7,1        |
| 2010                                     | 626.960                       | 264.401       | 7,0                   | 6,3        |
| 2011                                     | 461.013                       | 203.677       | 5,2                   | 4,9        |
| <b>Differences (+ / -)<br/>2005/2011</b> | <b>61.963</b>                 | <b>15.547</b> | <b>0,7</b>            | <b>0,3</b> |

Source: Statistical Yearbook of Romania, 2006 - 2012

Labor vulnerability against unemployment is uneven depending on certain demographic characteristics (sex, age), professional education, regional, behavioral, related to unemployment duration; female workforce and young people are the most disadvantaged in the labor market and certain socio-professional categories. Sex structure of the unemployed (Table 4) shows that in 2011, more than half of those unemployed were male. As the unemployment rate in 2009 was the highest rate (7.8 %), followed by that of 2010 (7.0 %), a decrease in 2011.

## CONCLUSIONS

For the Romanian agriculture to align with EU standards, it will have to undergo a process of modernization that would be made a number of structural components. These include technical material and modernization of agriculture, which must be correlated with the rational and qualification of the workforce in rural areas to increase agricultural productivity and farmers' incomes.

Rural poor did not benefit equally with the rest of the economic growth, which is why you have to be given special attention. First, increased employment opportunities in areas other than agriculture will play an important role in the fight against rural poverty. If term unemployment is a problem especially in urban, rural major problem seems to be under-employment, plus the current low productivity occupations.

Increasing the quality of education should be the center of human capital policies, since its quality is crucial for economic growth, as stated in all literature.

Share younger generation verses population structure determines not only the reproductive capacity of the population, but its continuity and its economic functions , competition in the labor market , the education system in rural and urban migration trend of emigration.

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