

ASPECTS REGARDING THE EVOLUTION OF THE EMPLOYED POPULATION IN ROMANIA'S AGRICULTURE

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Abstract: Agriculture is a branch of tradition in Romania, representing today a field of major interest, in which the imperative of perpetuating agricultural works, of good agricultural practices must be promoted, which, in the end, will lead to a progressive increase of agricultural productivity. Agriculture is the segment that underlies the national economy, being the one that gave birth to civilizations and shaped the first great stage of humanity, precisely for this reason in order to strong market integration requires the collaboration of all actors involved: producers, processors, traders, buyers and legislative bodies. The human resource involved in agriculture is an important part of the labor force in the national economy,

Key words: agriculture employment, rural development, communication, agriculture, crop production

INTRODUCTION

Following the industrial revolution that took place at the end of the 18th century, mankind witnessed the continuous development of all fields. Against the background of this diversity, people's living standards have increased, the birth rate has increased, so the global population has increased a lot [12]. According to estimates, the world's population which was 7.7 billion in 2019 will increase and will be 9.55 billion in 2050 and 10.85 billion in 2100. In Romania, on January 1, 2019, statistics show that the country's population was 19.4 million [14,15,16,17]. Due to this context, in which food is indispensable the need to consume local products requires knowledge of the population employed in Romanian agriculture [4,11]. The tendencies of the demographic phenomenon of the labor market in the different activities of the national economy have known over time a convergent evolution, and the knowledge of these data has a major importance, influencing socio-economic processes and demographic behavior in economic, social, communication, cultural and political areas [7]. Certainly, the major impact on the evolution of the population in agriculture is shown by the accumulation of demographic phenomena (birth rate, mortality, migration and population aging). Birth rate is the characteristic that has a direct influence on the size of the natural increase, whose evolution on the Romanian territory in the last 5 years has been an oscillating one, being around 200 thousand live births annually. The mortality rate between 2015-2019 was invariable, with a ratio of 11, 6 and 11.9 deaths per 1000 inhabitants [15]. Migration is an upward phenomenon, since the following period of 1989 [1], having a major impact on the Romanian labor market: the number of active population decreases, thus increasing the remaining obligations to maintain and contribute to the well-being of the elderly population. Coupled with the implications of migration on economic, social and medical systems, another visible effect of migration is the aging population, due to the fact that this phenomenon is practiced in large proportion by the young, economically active population [3,5]. Considering the fact that the phenomenon of migration is directly proportional to the economic changes and the political and social context, Romania is characterized by significant variations from one year to another,

Romania is a country located in the southeastern part of Central Europe, being a Carpathian-Danubian-Pontic state. Due to the harmonious geographic arrangement, outlined after the arch of the Carpathian Mountains, bordered to the south by the Danube river, and to the east by the Black Sea, the huge potential of Romanian tourism is accentuated and capitalized [10] (Figure 1).



Figure 1. Map of Romania

Source: <https://playtech.ro/> [18]

The territory of Romania amounts to 23.8 hectares, of which 13.3 million hectares are represented by the agricultural area used in agricultural holdings, of which approximately 8.3 million hectares are arable land (which is the main resource for agriculture) [6]. The agricultural potential of the country is given by the structuring of land use. Over time, land positioning, soil quality and fertility, climatic conditions, the different profiles of agriculture have been systematized and developed [13].

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The importance of researching data on employment in agriculture is the result of the connections that take place at the evolutionary level of the Romanian labor market and of the fluctuations of demographic phenomena. In order to approach the scientific topic of the research proposed in this paper, we used:

- the method of theoretical documentation based on bibliographic resources in the fields of agriculture, economics, sociology, tourism and communication.

- the method of processing and interpreting the analyzed statistical data which aimed at providing information and presenting it in the form of graphs. This paper used several sources of statistical information: Eurostat, the Statistical Yearbook-National Institute of Statistics and the Tempo database, which provides a complex and constantly updated demographic database on demographic phenomena.

RESEARCH RESULTS

In order to shape the economic and social life of Romania, research on population analysis must take into account the tools that describe demographic fluctuations, the labor market, employment by sectors of activity and unemployment.

Table 1.

The evolution of the main indicators of the human potential of Romanian agriculture (2015 - 2019)

Year	U.M	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total population	mii	19,822	19,706	19,591	19,472	19,370
Rural population	mii	9,150	9,124	9,112	9,027	8,916
Total employed population	mii	8,535	8,449	8,671	8,689	8,680
Population employed in agriculture	mii	2,184	1,952	1,947	1,938	1,844
The share of the rural population in the total population	%	46.2	46.3	46.5	46.3	46.0
The share of the population employed in agriculture in the rural population	%	25.6	23.1	22.4	22.3	20.7
The share of the population employed in agriculture in the total employed population	%	23.9	23.9	21.4	21.5	21.2

Source: Statistical Yearbook of Romania [15]

The evolution of the population employed in agriculture is in correlation with the size of the total population in Romania. The size of the population, registered in the last five years, offers a descending image, based on the fluctuations of the economic-social changes [7,12]. Methodologically speaking, quantifying the size of the population is the process by which the events of the distribution of the population in a certain territory are ensured, at a given moment.

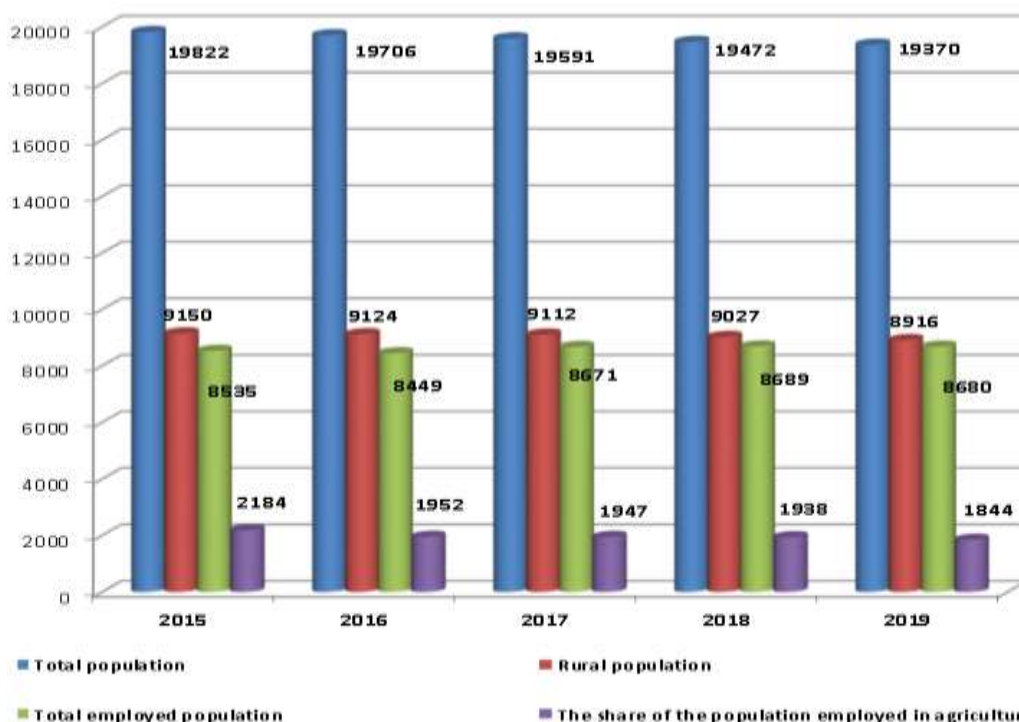


Figure 2. Evolution of Romania's population by categories (thousands of people), 2015-2019

In order to understand the phenomenon of population decline in Romania, the elements related to the natural movement of the population and migration will be taken into account [2, 8]. Currently, Romania is facing a decrease in the number of inhabitants, registering in 2019 a decrease of 2.28% compared to 2015 (Figure 2). At the level of 2019, out of 19,370 thousand inhabitants, only 12,879 thousand fall under the legal working conditions. Unemployment is a national imbalance in the labor market, a surplus of supply over labor demand, and in the agricultural sector unemployment is also caused by the use of new production technologies in economic units. Over time in Romania the unemployment rate has had an upward trend, due to the period of economic recession and the non-use of total production capacities,

The Romanian labor market has developed over time a series of deficient elements in terms of labor, which have been amplified in the context of political, economic and financial changes. The population employed in the Romanian economy is divided into 3 sectors of activities: the primary sector comprising agriculture, forestry and fishing, the secondary sector consisting of industry and construction and the tertiary sector or services sector [1, 7].

In Romania, in 2019 most of the population is employed in services with a percentage of 49%, followed by industry, agriculture and construction (Figure 3).

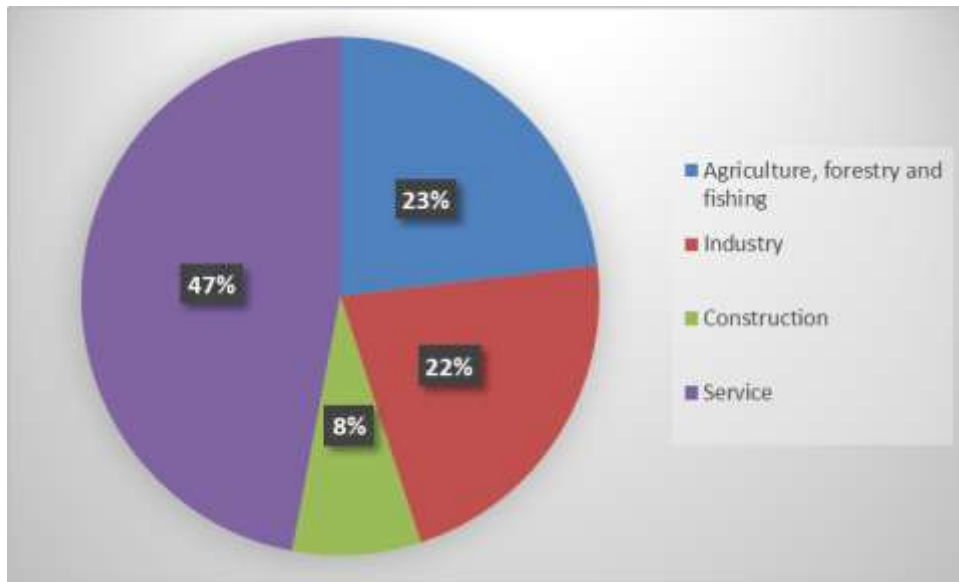


Figure 3. Population employed in the main activities of the national economy, in 2019

In the last 5 years, the rural population has kept relatively constant the share it holds in the total population, around 46%. The occupation in agriculture, on the other hand, is a relevant indicator for monitoring labor market developments [9,11]. We find that, during the analyzed period, there was a decrease in the share of the population employed in agriculture in the rural population, a decrease of almost 5%. This shows that part of the rural population in recent years has turned to other non-agricultural economic activities that have developed in rural areas. This decrease was also influenced by the significant reduction of the active population, relative to the working age population. The situation of economic dependence of the population is given by the decrease of the employment rate, against the background of the decrease of the activity rate in close connection with the increase from the last year of the retirement rate [7].

Although Romania's agricultural potential is extremely high, the population values in this sector are fluctuating from year to year, the labor force in the agriculture sector registering, in 2019, approximately 128 thousand employees. In the current scenario, with the implications and effects of pandemics, strong migration and against the background of automation of agricultural production processes, it is estimated that in the near future this percentage will strengthen [14,15,16].

In 2019, Romania held the first place in the production of corn (16.9 million tons) and sunflower (3.5 million tons) in the European Union, registering a decline from 4th place in 2018, to 5th place in 2019 to wheat production (10 million tons), maintaining its 6th position in the ranking of vegetable production, with a value of about 6.2% of the total [14,15,16]. Agriculture, forestry and fisheries made a smaller contribution to GDP growth [3] in 2019.

The future is marked by the priority of reducing the gaps between the main sectors and economic branches, in order to reduce labor market dysfunctions, this objective being vital for a balanced evolution of the employed population.

CONCLUSIONS

In this context defined by the downward trend of the employment rate of the population, in Romania's agriculture it is necessary to develop intense but sustainable agricultural systems, in order to protect the services offered by biodiversity and natural ecosystems. By initiating strategies aimed at modernizing and at the same time conserving natural areas, it is possible to increase productivity in agricultural production processes and establish a positive relationship between the main sectors of activity of the national economy.

The development of non-agricultural activities in rural areas (micro-industry, tourism, financial-banking services, medical services, etc.) has allowed the rural population to move to new jobs outside agriculture and also the possibility of obtaining alternative incomes with a direct influence on quality of life. its.

Creating new jobs, increasing the employment rate, applying social protection measures to people who have lost a job and are looking for another, must be a priority of all socio-economic policies of our country.

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