

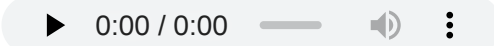






Romania

Romania^[a] is a country located at the crossroads of Central, Eastern and Southeast Europe. It borders Ukraine to the north and east, Hungary to the west, Serbia to the southwest, Bulgaria to the south, Moldova to the east, and the Black Sea to the southeast. It has a mainly continental climate, and an area of 238,397 km² (92,046 sq mi) with a population of 19 million people. Romania is the twelfth-largest country in Europe and the sixth-most populous member state of the European Union. Europe's second-longest river, the Danube, empties into the Danube Delta in the southeast of the country. The Carpathian Mountains cross Romania from the north to the southwest and include Moldoveanu Peak, at an altitude of 2,544 m (8,346 ft). Bucharest is the country's largest urban area and financial centre. Other major urban areas include Cluj-Napoca, Timișoara, Iași, Constanța and Brașov.

Settlement in the territory of modern Romania began in the Lower Paleolithic, later becoming the Dacian Kingdom before Roman conquest and Romanisation. The modern Romanian state formed in 1859 with the unification of Moldavia and Wallachia under Alexandru Ioan Cuza, becoming Kingdom of Romania in 1881 under Carol I. Romania gained independence from the Ottoman Empire in 1877, formalised by the Treaty of Berlin. After World War I, Transylvania, Banat, Bukovina, and Bessarabia joined the Old Kingdom, forming Greater Romania, which reached its largest territorial extent. In 1940, under Axis pressure, Romania lost territories to Hungary, Bulgaria, and the Soviet Union. Following the 1944 Romanian coup d'état, Romania switched sides to join the Allies. After World War II, it regained Northern Transylvania through the Paris Peace Treaties. Under Soviet occupation, King Michael I was forced to abdicate, and Romania became a socialist republic and Warsaw Pact member. After the uniquely violent Romanian revolution in December 1989, Romania began a transition to liberal democracy and a market economy.

Romania <i>România</i>	
 Flag	 Coat of arms
Anthem: "Deșteaptă-te, române! (Romanian)" <i>Awaken Thee, Romanian!</i>	
	
	
	
Location of Romania (dark green) – in Europe (green & dark grey) – in the <u>European Union</u> (green)	

Romania is a developing country with a high-income economy. It is a unitary republic with a multi-party system and a semi-presidential representative democracy. It is home to 11 UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Romania is a net exporter of automotive and vehicle parts worldwide and has established a growing reputation as a technology centre, with some of the fastest internet speeds globally. Romania is a member of several international organisations, including the European Union, NATO, and the BSEC.

Etymology

Romania derives from the local name for Romanian (Romanian: *român*), which in turn derives from Latin romanus, meaning "Roman" or "of Rome".^[9] This ethnonym for Romanians is first attested in the 16th century by Italian humanists travelling in Transylvania, Moldavia, and Wallachia.^{[10][11][12]} The oldest known surviving document written in Romanian that can be precisely dated, a 1521 letter known as the "Letter of Neacșu from Câmpulung",^[13] is notable for including the first documented occurrence of *Romanian* in a country name: Wallachia is mentioned as *Țara Rumânească*.

History

Dacia and the Roman Empire



Dacia under Burebista, c. 82 BC

It is believed that the tribes responsible for creating the Bronze Age culture on the territory of modern Romania belonged to the Indo-European group of

Capital and largest city	<u>Bucharest</u> 44°25'N 26°06'E
Official languages	<u>Romanian</u>
Ethnic groups (2021)^[1]	89.3% <u>Romanians</u> 6.0% <u>Hungarians</u> 3.4% <u>Roma</u> 1.2% <u>others</u>
Religion (2021)^[2]	84.7% <u>Christianity</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 73.6% <u>Romanian Orthodoxy</u> 6.4% <u>Protestantism</u> 4.4% <u>Catholicism</u> 0.2% <u>other Christian</u> 0.8% <u>no religion</u> 0.4% <u>other</u> 13.9% <u>unanswered</u>
Demonym(s)	<u>Romanian</u>
Government	<u>Unitary semi-presidential republic</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>President</u> <u>Nicușor Dan</u> • <u>Prime Minister</u> <u>Ilie Bolojan</u> • <u>President of the Senate</u> <u>Mircea Abrudean</u> • <u>President of the Chamber of Deputies</u> <u>Sorin Grindeanu</u>
Legislature	<u>Parliament</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Upper house</u> <u>Senate</u> • <u>Lower house</u> <u>Chamber of Deputies</u>
Formation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Principality of Wallachia</u> 1330 • <u>Principality of Moldavia</u> 1346 • <u>United Principalities</u> 24 January 1859 • <u>Independence from the Ottoman Empire</u> 10 May 1877 • <u>Constitutional monarchy</u> 13 March 1881 • <u>Great Union</u> 1 December 1918 • <u>Socialist republic</u> 30 December 1947 • <u>Current constitution</u> 8 December 1991
Area	

Thracians.^{[14][15][16]} Strabo, in *Geographica*, notes that the Getae spoke the same language as the Thracians, and the Dacians the same language as the Getae.^[17] However, the earliest account of the Getae is attributed to Herodotus.^{[18][19]} The conquest of Dacia by the Romans led to the fusion of two cultures—the Daco-Romans became the ancestors of the Romanian people.^{[20][21]} After Dacia became a province of the Roman Empire, elements of Roman culture and civilisation—most notably Vulgar Latin, which laid the foundation for the development of the Romanian language—were introduced.^{[22][23][24]}

Based on information from the inscription at Dionysupolis^{[25][26][27]} and the account of Iordanes, it is known that under the rule of Burebista, assisted by the great priest Deceneu, the first Geto-Dacian state was formed.^[28] In 44 BC, Burebista was assassinated by one of his servants.^[29] After his death, the Geto-Dacian state fragmented into four, and later five, kingdoms.^[30] The core of the state remained in the area of the Şureanu Mountains, where successive rulers such as Deceneu, Comosicus, and Coryllus held power.^[31] The centralised Dacian state reached the peak of its development under Decebalus.^[32] During this period, a series of conflicts with the Roman Empire continued, with part of the Dacian state being conquered in 106 AD by the Roman emperor Trajan.^[33] Between 271 and 275 AD, the Aurelian retreat took place.^[34]

Period of the Principalities and the Phanariot Era

In the first millennium, waves of nomads swept across the territory of Romania: the Goths during the 3rd–4th centuries,^[35] the Huns in the 4th century,^[36] the Gepids in the 5th century,^{[37][38]} the Avars in the 6th century,^[39] the Slavs in the 7th century, the Magyars in the 9th century, the Pechenegs,^[40] the Cumans,^[41] the Uzes and the Alans during the 10th–12th centuries, and the Tatars in the 13th century. In 1054, a series of ecclesiastical differences and theological disputes between the Greek East and Latin West caused the Great Schism, eventually resulting in Romania adopting Orthodoxy.

In the 13th century, the first bearers of the Slavic noble title *Knyaz* south of the Carpathian Mountains are attested.^[42] Later, in the context of the crystallisation of feudal relations, as a result of the creation of favourable internal and external conditions (the weakening of Hungarian pressure and the diminishing of Tatars domination), autonomous feudal states emerged south and east of the Carpathians – Wallachia in 1310, under Basarab I, and Moldova in 1359, under Bogdan I.^[32] Among the Romanian rulers who

• Total	238,397 km ² (92,046 sq mi) ^[3] (81st)
• Water (%)	3
Population	
• 2024 estimate	▼ 19,064,409 ^[4] (65th)
• 2021 census	▼ 19,053,815 ^[5]
• Density	79.9/km ² (206.9/sq mi) (136th)
GDP (PPP)	2025 estimate
• Total	▲ \$926.759 billion ^[6] (35th)
• Per capita	▲ \$49,212 ^[6] (44th)
GDP (nominal)	2025 estimate
• Total	▲ \$403.395 billion ^[6] (39th)
• Per capita	▲ \$21,421 ^[6] (54th)
Gini (2024)	▼ 28.0 ^[7] low inequality
HDI (2023)	▲ 0.845 ^[8] very high (55th)
Currency	Romanian leu (RON)
Time zone	UTC+2 (EET)
• Summer (DST)	UTC+3 (EEST)
Date format	dd.mm.yyyy (CE)
Calling code	+40
ISO 3166 code	RO
Internet TLD	.ro

played a more important role can be mentioned: Alexander the Good, Stephen the Great, Petru Rareș, and Dimitrie Cantemir in Moldova; Mircea the Elder, Vlad the Impaler, Michael the Brave, and Constantin Brâncoveanu in Wallachia; and John Hunyadi in Transylvania.

Beginning in the late 15th century, the two principalities gradually came under the influence of the Ottoman Empire. Transylvania, which throughout the Middle Ages was part of the Kingdom of Hungary,^[43] governed by voivodes, became part of the Eastern Hungarian Kingdom from 1526 and later a self-governing Principality of Transylvania and a vassal of the Ottoman Empire from 1570. At the turn of the 16th and 17th centuries, Michael the Brave for a very brief period ruled over a large part of the territory of present-day Romania.^[44]

Early modern times and national awakening



During the Long Turkish War, Wallachian Prince Michael the Brave (*portrayed*) briefly reigned over the three medieval principalities of Wallachia, Moldavia, and Transylvania, covering most of the present-day territory of Romania

The Kingdom of Hungary collapsed, and the Ottomans occupied parts of Banat and Crișana in 1541.^[45] Transylvania and Maramureș, along with the rest of Banat and Crișana developed into a new state under Ottoman suzerainty, the Principality of Transylvania.^[46] The Reformation, initiated in Germany by Martin Luther in 1517, encouraged the rise of Protestantism and four denominations—Calvinism, Lutheranism, Unitarianism, and Roman Catholicism—were officially acknowledged in 1568.^[47] The Romanians' Orthodox faith remained only tolerated,^[47] although they made up more than one-third of the population, according to 17th-century estimates.^{[48][49]}

The princes of Transylvania, Wallachia, and Moldavia joined the Holy League against the Ottoman Empire in 1594.^[50] The Wallachian prince, Michael the Brave, united the three principalities under his rule in May 1600.^{[51][52]} The neighbouring powers forced him to abdicate in September, but he became a symbol of the unification of the Romanian lands in the 19th century.^[51] Although the rulers of the three principalities continued to pay tribute to the Ottomans, the most talented princes—Gabriel Bethlen of Transylvania, Matei Basarab of Wallachia, and Vasile Lupu of Moldavia—strengthened their autonomy.^[53]

The united armies of the Holy League expelled the Ottoman troops from Central Europe between 1684 and 1699, and the Principality of Transylvania was integrated into the Habsburg monarchy.^[54] The Habsburgs supported the Catholic clergy and persuaded the Orthodox Romanian prelates to accept the union with the Roman Catholic Church in 1699.^[55] In the 18th century, Moldavia and Wallachia maintained their internal autonomy, but in 1711 and 1716, respectively, the period of the Phanariots began, with rulers appointed directly by the Porte from among the noble families of Greek origin in Constantinople. With the signing of the Ausgleich in 1867, Transylvania quickly lost its remaining political autonomy, being politically and administratively incorporated into the Kingdom of Hungary.^[56]

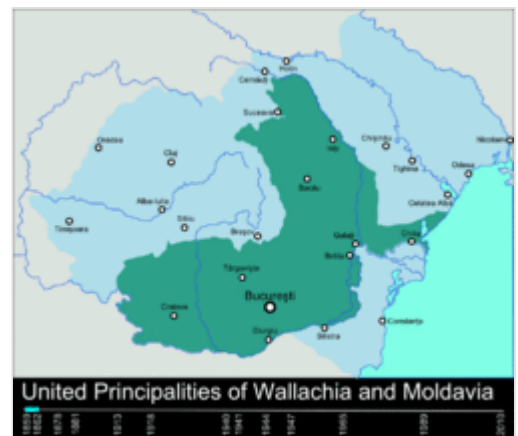
The Church Union strengthened the Romanian intellectuals' devotion to their Roman heritage.^[57] The Orthodox Church was restored in Transylvania only after Orthodox monks stirred up revolts in 1744 and 1759.^[58] The organisation of the Transylvanian Military Frontier caused further disturbances, especially among the Székelys in 1764.^[59]

Princes Dimitrie Cantemir of Moldavia and Constantin Brâncoveanu of Wallachia concluded alliances with the Habsburg Monarchy and Russia against the Ottomans, but they were dethroned in 1711 and 1714, respectively.^[60] The sultans lost confidence in the native princes and appointed Orthodox merchants from the Phanar district of Istanbul to rule Moldova and Wallachia.^{[61][62]} The Phanariot princes pursued oppressive fiscal policies and dissolved the army.^[63] The neighbouring powers took advantage of the situation: the Habsburg Monarchy annexed the northwestern part of Moldavia, or Bukovina, in 1775, and the Russian Empire seized the eastern half of Moldavia, or Bessarabia, in 1812.^{[64][65]}

A census revealed that the Romanians were more numerous than any other ethnic group in Transylvania in 1733, but legislation continued to use contemptuous adjectives (such as "tolerated" and "admitted") when referring to them.^{[66][67]} The Uniate bishop, Inocențiu Micu-Klein who demanded recognition of the Romanians as the fourth privileged nation was forced into exile.^{[68][67]} Uniate and Orthodox clerics and laymen jointly signed a plea for the Transylvanian Romanians' emancipation in 1791, but the monarch and the local authorities refused to grant their requests.^{[69][66]}

The Treaty of Küçük Kaynarca authorised the Russian ambassador in Istanbul to defend the autonomy of Moldavia and Wallachia (known as the Danubian Principalities) in 1774.^[70] Taking advantage of the Greek War of Independence, a Wallachian lesser nobleman, Tudor Vladimirescu, stirred up a revolt against the Ottomans in January 1821, but he was murdered in June by Phanariot Greeks.^[71] After a new Russo-Turkish War, the Treaty of Adrianople strengthened the autonomy of the Danubian Principalities in 1829, although it also acknowledged the sultan's right to confirm the election of the princes.^[72]

Mihail Kogălniceanu, Nicolae Bălcescu and other leaders of the 1848 revolutions in Moldavia and Wallachia demanded the emancipation of the peasants and the union of the two principalities, but Russian and Ottoman troops crushed their revolt.^{[73][74]} The Wallachian revolutionists were the first to adopt the blue, yellow and red tricolour as the national flag.^[75] In Transylvania, most Romanians supported the imperial government against the Hungarian revolutionaries after the Diet passed a law concerning the union of Transylvania and Hungary.^[75] Bishop Andrei Șaguna proposed the unification of the Romanians of the Habsburg Monarchy in a separate duchy, but the central government refused to change the internal borders.^[76]



Animated map depicting the territorial changes of Romania from 1859 to 2010

Unification and the Kingdom of Romania

From the Little Union to the Great War

The modern Romanian state was created through the unification of the principalities of Moldavia and Wallachia, accepted as a federative structure by the Great Powers following the Paris Convention of 1858, and later cemented by the simultaneous election as ruler of both states of the unionist Alexandru Ioan Cuza.^{[77][78][79]} After carrying out numerous reforms that laid the foundations for the modernisation of the state, he was forced in 1866 by a broad coalition of the political parties of the time, also known as the "Monstrous coalition", to abdicate and leave the country.^[80]



Alexandru Ioan Cuza, *Domnitor* of Romania from 1862 to 1866

The union was at one time in peril, but the political leaders of the era succeeded in placing on the princely throne Carol I of Romania, who accepted the Constitution and took the oath on 10 May 1866. Eleven years later, on 10 May 1877, Romania proclaimed its independence—achieved on the battlefield—and in 1881, on the same day of the year, Carol was crowned as King of Romania. In 1913, Romania entered the Second Balkan War against Bulgaria, at the end of which it obtained Southern Dobruja.^{[81][82][83]} In 1914, King Carol I died, and his nephew, Ferdinand I, succeeded him on the throne.^[80]

World War I and the Great Union

In 1916, Romania entered World War I on the side of the Entente Powers.^[84] Although the Romanian forces did not perform well militarily, by the end of the war the Austrian and Russian Empires had disintegrated; the National Assembly in Transylvania, and the Sfatul Țării in Bessarabia and Bukovina proclaimed their union with Romania, and King Ferdinand I and Queen Maria were crowned sovereign of all Romanians in Alba Iulia on 15 October 1922.^[85]

After World War I, the union of Bukovina with Romania was ratified in 1919 by the Treaty of Saint Germain. Most of the territories claimed by Romania from the Kingdom of Hungary—Crișana, Transylvania and parts of Banat and Maramureș—were annexed to the Kingdom of Romania. This act was ratified in 1920 by the Treaty of Trianon, which defined the new border between Hungary and Romania.

Interwar period

After having left the country and renounced his claim to the throne in 1925, Carol II returned in 1930 and usurped his son's throne; influenced by his inner circle—referred to by historians as the "Royal Camarilla"—he gradually undermined the democratic system, and in 1938 he assumed dictatorial powers. Although he was pro-Western (especially Anglophile), Carol attempted to appease extreme centrifugal forces by appointing nationalist governments that adopted anti-Semitic measures, such as the Goga cabinet and the one led by the Orthodox Patriarch Miron Cristea.

World War II: Positions and territorial losses

Following the Molotov–Ribbentrop Pact of 1939, in June 1940 Romania accepted the loss of Bessarabia, Northern Bukovina and the Hertsa region in favour of the USSR (as stipulated in the Soviet ultimatum of 28 June 1940). Unaware of the details of the Soviet–German pact, Carol attempted to secure an alliance with Nazi Germany, and appointed Ion Gigurtu as President of the Council of Ministers, who declared that he would pursue a Nazi pro-Axis (Berlin–Rome) policy that was anti-Semitic and fascist-totalitarian in nature.^{[86][87][88]} Between 4 July and 4 September 1940, by accepting Hitler's arbitration over Transylvania (after Gigurtu declared on radio that Romania must make territorial sacrifices to justify its Nazi orientation and full adherence to the Berlin–Rome Axis), Romania ceded Northern Transylvania—including the city of Cluj—to Hungary.^{[89][90][91]} The vast territories in Transylvania ceded by Ion Gigurtu to Hungary contained important natural resources, including gold mines.^[92] Ion Gigurtu also initiated negotiations to cede 8,000 km² of Southern Dobruja to Bulgaria,^[93] these negotiations were interrupted by Antonescu's unconditional acceptance of the territorial cession.^[94]



Romania's territorial losses in the summer of 1940. Of these territories, only Northern Transylvania was regained after the end of World War II

In response to the chaotic withdrawal from Bessarabia, the territorial cessions, public discontent, and protests from political leaders, King Carol II suspended the 1938 Constitution of Romania and appointed General Ion Antonescu as Prime Minister. This measure, supported by the Iron Guard, demanded that the king abdicate in favour of his son, Mihai. Subsequently, Antonescu assumed dictatorial powers and became President of the Council of Ministers, self-titling himself as the "Leader" of the state.^{[95][96]}

World War II

In 1941, as an ally of Nazi Germany, Romania entered World War II by declaring war on the Soviet Union.^{[95][96]} A shift in fortunes only became discernible after the defeat at Stalingrad and the subsequent change of the USSR from a defensive to an offensive posture. On 23 August 1944, with the Soviet army having been present in northern Moldova since March, King Mihai I forcibly removed Marshal Ion Antonescu from power, as he refused to sign an armistice with the Allies of World War II.^[97] Following Antonescu's outright refusal, King Mihai I ordered the dismissal and arrest of the marshal, and Romania switched sides to join the Allies.^[97]

Socialist Romania (1947–1989)

Less than three years after the Soviet occupation of Romania, in 1947, King Michael I was forced to abdicate^[101] and the People's Republic of Romania—a state of "popular democracy"—was proclaimed. The newly established communist regime, led by the Romanian Workers' Party, consolidated its power through a Stalinist-type policy aimed at suppressing any political opposition and transforming the economic and social structures of the old bourgeois regime.^{[102][103]}

In the early 1960s, the Romanian government began asserting a certain degree of independence from the Soviet Union in its foreign policy,^[104] although it did not abandon its repressive policies (which it labeled "revolutionary conquests") in domestic affairs.^[102] In 1965, communist leader Gheorghe Gheorghiu-Dej

died, ushering in a period of change in Romania.^[105] After a brief power struggle, Nicolae Ceaușescu emerged as the head of the communist party,^[105] becoming General Secretary of the Romanian Communist Party in 1965, President of the State Council in 1967, and President of the Socialist Republic of Romania in 1974. Ceaușescu's rule from 1965 to 1989 grew increasingly authoritarian during the 1980s.^[104]

Romania since 1989

In the context of the fall of communism throughout Eastern Europe during the revolutions of 1989, a protest in support of Reformed pastor László Tókés that began in December 1989 in Timișoara quickly escalated into a national uprising against the communist regime, ultimately resulting in the execution of Ceaușescu and his wife Elena on 25 December 1989.^[106]

An interim council composed of figures from civil society and former communist officials assumed control of the government, and Ion Iliescu became the provisional president of the country. The new government reversed many of the authoritarian communist policies^{[107][108][109]} and dismissed several leaders of the former regime, although still influenced by members of the former regime (the basis for the Golaniad, and Mineriads).

Return to democracy

In May 1990, the first free elections in Romania since 1937 elections were held, with Iliescu of the National Salvation Front winning the presidency with 85% of the vote. In 1992, he was reelected in the first election after the adoption of a permanent constitution via a referendum held the previous year. Iliescu lost the 1996 election to Emil Constantinescu, but returned to power in 2000. Traian Băsescu was elected president in 2004 and 2009, serving until 2014 at which point Klaus Iohannis succeeded him, being re-elected in 2019 and serving until 2025. During these years several events occurred. In 2009, the country was bailed out by the International Monetary Fund as result of the Great Recession in Europe following the 2008 financial crisis.^[110]

The post-1989 period has been characterised by the privatisation and closure of several former industrial and economic enterprises from the communist period were closed,^[111] while corruption has been a major issue in contemporary politics.^[112]

A National Anticorruption Directorate was formed in the country in 2002.^[113] During the 2000s, Romania had one of the highest economic growth rates in Europe and has been referred at times as "the Tiger of Eastern Europe".^[114] This has been accompanied by a significant improvement in living standards as the country successfully reduced domestic poverty and established a functional democratic state.^{[115][116]} However, Romania's development suffered a major setback during the late 2000s' recession



Nicolae Ceaușescu with Kim Il Sung of North Korea in 1978. In reforming the state, Ceaușescu sought to emulate Juche and Maoist ideas^{[98][99][100]}



Tanks and Miliția on the Magheru Boulevard in Bucharest during the revolution

leading to a large gross domestic product contraction and a budget deficit in 2009.^[117] This led to Romania borrowing from the International Monetary Fund.^[118] Worsening economic conditions led to unrest and triggered a political crisis in 2012.^[119]

Since 2014, Romania launched an anti-corruption effort that led to the prosecution of medium- and high-level political, judicial and administrative offenses by the National Anticorruption Directorate.^[120] In 2015, massive anti-corruption protests which developed in the wake of the Colectiv nightclub fire led to the resignation of prime minister Victor Ponta.^[121] During 2017–2019, in response to measures which were perceived to weaken the fight against corruption, some of the biggest post-1989 protests took place in Romania, with over 500,000 people protesting nationwide.^{[122][123][120]}

The 2021 Romanian political crisis led to the ousting of Florin Cîțu's incumbent government. The Ciucă Cabinet then took power, with Romania since having experienced a shift towards authoritarianism and illiberalism,^{[124][125][126][127]} as well as an increased corruption. Around this time, Romania was also hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. In the 2024 presidential election, Independent candidate Călin Georgescu achieved a surprise win in the first round. However, the Constitutional Court annulled the election results, citing Russian meddling. The cancellation led to far-right protests, criticism by the Trump administration, and Ilie Bolojan becoming acting president in February 2025 as Iohannis resigned to political pressure.^[128] In the subsequent 2025 Romanian presidential election, Bucharest Mayor Nicușor Dan was elected president.

Geography

Romania is the largest country in Southeastern Europe and the twelfth-largest in Europe, having an area of 238,397 square kilometres (92,046 sq mi).^{[129]:17} It lies between latitudes 43° and 49° N and longitudes 20° and 30° E. The terrain is distributed roughly equally between mountains, hills, and plains. The Carpathian Mountains dominate the centre of Romania, with 14 mountain ranges reaching above 2,000 m or 6,600 ft—the highest is Moldoveanu Peak at 2,544 m or 8,346 ft.^{[129]:11} They are surrounded by the Moldavian and Transylvanian plateaus, the Pannonian Plain and the Wallachian plains.



Topographic map of Romania

Romania is home to six terrestrial ecoregions: Balkan mixed forests, Central European mixed forests, East European forest steppe, Pannonian mixed forests, Carpathian montane conifer forests, and Pontic steppe.^[130] Natural and semi-natural ecosystems cover about 47% of the country's land area.^[131] There are almost 10,000 km² (3,900 sq mi) (about 5% of the total area) of protected areas in Romania covering 13 national parks and three biosphere reserves.^[132] The Danube river forms a large part of the border with Serbia and Bulgaria, and flows into the Black Sea, forming the Danube Delta, which is the second-

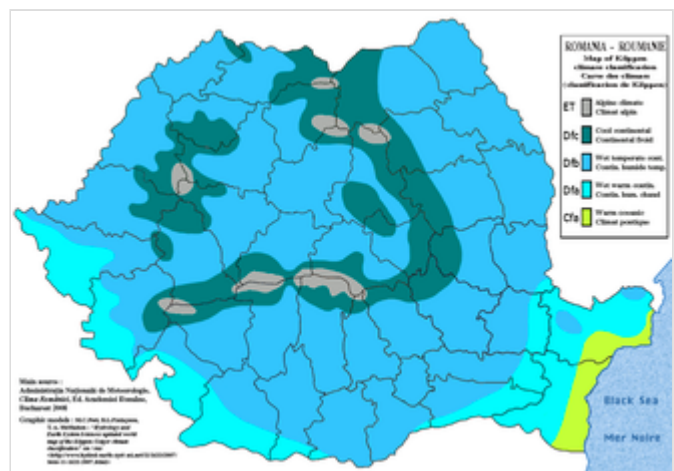
largest and best-preserved delta in Europe, and a biosphere reserve and a biodiversity World Heritage Site.^[133] At 5,800 km² (2,200 sq mi),^[134] the Danube Delta is the largest continuous marshland in Europe,^[135] and supports 1,688 different plant species alone.^[136]

Romania has one of the largest areas of undisturbed forest in Europe, covering almost 27% of its territory.^[137] The country had a 2019 Forest Landscape Integrity Index mean score of 5.95/10, ranking it 90th globally out of 172 countries.^[138] Some 3,700 plant species have been identified in the country, from which to date 23 have been declared natural monuments, 74 extinct, 39 endangered, 171 vulnerable, and 1,253 rare.^[139]

The fauna of Romania consists of 33,792 species of animals, 33,085 invertebrate and 707 vertebrate,^[139] with almost 400 unique species of mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians,^[140] including about 50% of Europe's (excluding Russia) brown bears^[141] and 20% of its wolves.^[142]

Climate

Owing to its distance from open sea and its position on the southeastern portion of the European continent, Romania has a climate that is continental, with four distinct seasons. The average annual temperature is 11 °C (52 °F) in the south and 8 °C (46 °F) in the north.^[143] In summer, average maximum temperatures in Bucharest rise to 28 °C (82 °F), and temperatures over 35 °C (95 °F) are fairly common in the lower-lying areas of the country.^[144] In winter, the average maximum temperature is below 2 °C (36 °F).^[144] Precipitation is average, with over 750 mm (30 in) per year only on the highest western mountains, while around Bucharest it drops to approximately 570 mm (22 in).^{[129]:29} There are some regional differences: in western sections, such as Banat, the climate is milder and has some Mediterranean influences; the eastern part of the country has a more pronounced continental climate. In Dobruja, the Black Sea also exerts an influence over the region's climate.^[145]



Romania map of Köppen climate classification, according with *Clima României* from the *Administrația Națională de Meteorologie*, Bucharest 2008

Politics

Romania is a unitary semi-presidential representative democratic republic with a structured system of governance and an active civil society. The President, elected by popular vote, serves as the head of state, representing the country in international affairs, safeguarding constitutional order, and acting as supreme commander of the Romanian Armed Forces. The Prime Minister, appointed by the President and confirmed by the Parliament, acts as the head of government, responsible for overseeing the executive branch, implementing domestic and foreign policies, and managing public administration. Legislative

authority is vested in a bicameral Parliament, consisting of the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate, whose members are elected through a proportional representation system. The judiciary operates independently, with the High Court of Cassation and Justice as the highest court of appeal.

Government

Romania has a democratic, multi-party system, with legislative power vested in the government and the two chambers of the Parliament, more specifically the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate. The judiciary is independent of the executive and the legislature. The latter is elected by popular vote for a maximum of two terms of five years and appoints the prime minister who in turn appoints the Council of Ministers. The legislative branch of the government, collectively known as the Parliament (residing at the Palace of the Parliament), consists of two chambers (Senate and Chamber of Deputies) whose members are elected every four years by simple plurality.^{[146][147]}



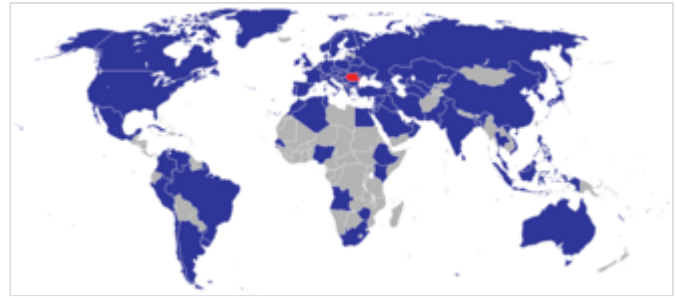
The justice system is independent of the other branches of government and is made up of a hierarchical system of courts with the High Court of Cassation and Justice being the supreme court of Romania.^[148] There are also courts of appeal, county courts and local courts. The Romanian judicial system is strongly influenced by the French model, is based on civil law and is inquisitorial in nature. The Constitutional Court (*Curtea Constituțională*) is responsible for judging the compliance of laws and other state regulations with the constitution, which is the fundamental law of the country and can be amended only through a public referendum.^{[146][149]} Romania's 2007 entry into the EU has been a significant influence on its domestic policy, and including judicial reforms, increased judicial cooperation with other member states, and measures to combat corruption.^[150] The Economist Intelligence Unit rated Romania as a "hybrid regime" in 2024.^[151]

Foreign relations

Since December 1989, Romania has pursued a policy of strengthening relations with the West in general, more specifically with the United States and the EU, albeit with limited relations involving the Russian Federation. It joined NATO on 29 March 2004, the EU on 1 January 2007, while it joined the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank in 1972, and is a founding member of the World Trade Organization.^[152] Romania is recognised as a middle power for its military capabilities, as well as its active diplomatic engagement on the global stage.^{[153][154]}

In the past, recent governments have stated that one of their goals is to strengthen ties with and helping other countries (in particular Moldova, Ukraine, and Georgia) and better integration with the rest of the West.^[155] Romania has also made clear since the late 1990s that it supports NATO and EU membership for the democratic former Soviet republics in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus.

Romania applied to join to the Schengen Area in 2007, acquiring full membership in 2025 along with Bulgaria.^{[156][157]} In December 2005, President Traian Băsescu and United States Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice signed an agreement that would allow a U.S. military presence at several Romanian facilities primarily in the eastern part of the country.^[158] In 2009, US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton referred to Romania as "one of the most trustworthy and respectable" US allies".^[159] However, by 2025, relations had worsen, with US vice president JD Vance in February scolding "flimsy suspicions" and "enormous pressure from its continental neighbours" for causing the annulment of the 2024 Romanian presidential election in which Călin Georgescu won the first round.



Diplomatic missions of Romania
■ Countries that host a Romanian Embassy
■ Countries that do not host Romanian diplomatic missions
■ Romania

Relations with Moldova are a special case given that the two countries share the same language and a common history.^[155] A movement for unification of Moldova and Romania appeared in the early 1990s after both countries achieved emancipation from communist rule^[160] but lost ground in the mid-1990s when a new Moldovan government pursued an agenda towards preserving a Moldovan republic independent of Romania.^[161] After the 2009 protests in Moldova and the subsequent removal of Communists from power, relations between the two countries have improved considerably.^[162]

Military

The Romanian Armed Forces consist of land, air, and naval forces led by a Commander-in-chief under the supervision of the Ministry of National Defence, and by the president as the Supreme Commander during wartime. The Armed Forces consist of approximately 55,000 reservists and 71,500 active military personnel—35,800 for land, 10,700 for air, 6,600 for naval forces, and 16,500 in other fields.^[163] Total defence spending in 2023 accounted for 2.44% of total national GDP, or approximately US\$8.48 billion,^[164] with a total of \$9 billion intended to be spent until 2026 for modernisation and acquisition of new equipment.^[165] Conscription stopped in 2007, when Romania switched to a volunteer army.



Romanian soldiers at the Saber Guardian 23 exercise opening ceremony in Smârdan, Galați

The Air Force operates F-16AM/BM MLU fighters,^[166] C-27J Spartan and C-130 Hercules transport aircraft, as well as IAR 330 and IAR 316 helicopters.^[167] A procurement programme for F-35 fifth-generation fighters is also currently being carried out.^[168] The Naval Forces operate three frigates, of which two are Type 22 frigates acquired from the British Royal Navy,^[169] as well as four corvettes. The River Flotilla operates Mihail Kogălniceanu and Smârdan-class river monitors.^[163]

Romania contributed troops to the international coalition in Afghanistan beginning in 2002,^[170] with a peak deployment of 1,600 troops in 2010 (which was the 4th largest contribution according to the US).^{[171][172]} Its combat mission in the country concluded in 2014.^[173] Romanian troops participated in the occupation of Iraq, reaching a peak of 730 soldiers before being slowly drawn down to 350 soldiers. Romania terminated its mission in Iraq and withdrew its last troops on 24 July 2009, among the last countries to do so. The frigate the *Regele Ferdinand* participated in the 2011 military intervention in Libya.^[174]



An TR-85 M1 tank at the 2007 Romanian military parade for national day, with the Arch of Triumph in the background

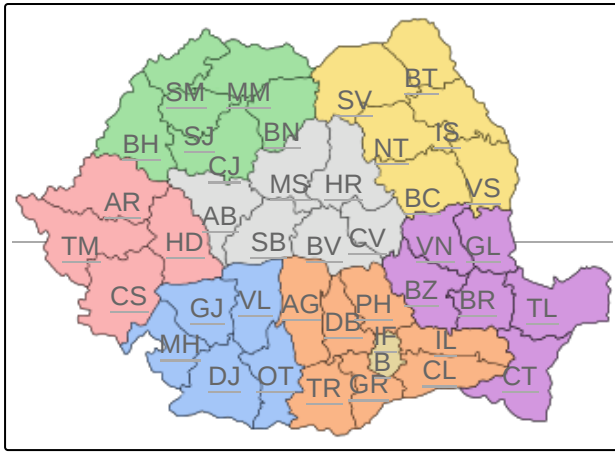
In December 2011, the Romanian Senate unanimously adopted the draft law ratifying the Romania-United States agreement signed in September of the same year that would allow the establishment and operation of a US land-based ballistic missile defence system in Romania as part of NATO's efforts to build a continental missile shield.^[175] The Aegis Ashore missile system based at Deveslu became operational in 2016.^[176]

In 2024, construction work started on expanding the Mihail Kogălniceanu Air Base (RoAF 57th Air Base). The air base is set to become the largest NATO base in Europe after the implementation of a project spanning 20 years.^{[177][178]}

Administrative divisions

Romania is divided into 41 counties (*județe*) and the municipality of Bucharest. Each county is administered by a county council, responsible for local affairs, as well as a prefect responsible for the administration of national affairs at the county level. The prefect is appointed by the central government but cannot be a member of any political party.^[179] Each county is subdivided further into cities and communes, which have their own mayor and local council. There are a total of 320 cities and 2,861 communes in Romania.^{[129]:17} A total of 103 of the larger cities have municipality status, which gives them greater administrative power over local affairs. The municipality of Bucharest is a special case, as it enjoys a status on par to that of a county. It is further divided into six sectors^{[129]:6} and has a prefect, a general mayor (*primar general*), and a general city council.

The NUTS-3 (Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics) level divisions of the EU reflect Romania's administrative-territorial structure and correspond to the 41 counties plus Bucharest.^[180] The cities and communes correspond to the NUTS-5 level divisions, but there are no current NUTS-4 level divisions. The NUTS-1 (four macroregions) and NUTS-2^[181] (eight development regions) divisions exist but have no administrative capacity and are used instead for coordinating regional development projects and statistical purposes.^[180]



<u>Development region</u>	<u>Area (km²)</u> ^[3]	<u>Population (2021)</u> ^[5]	<u>Most populous urban centre</u> ^{*[182]}
<u>Nord-Vest</u>	34,152	2,521,793	<u>Cluj-Napoca</u> (411,379)
<u>Centru</u>	34,097	2,271,067	<u>Braşov</u> (369,896)
<u>Nord-Est</u>	36,853	3,226,436	<u>Iaşi</u> (382,484)
<u>Sud-Est</u>	35,774	2,367,987	<u>Constanţa</u> (425,916)
<u>Sud – Muntenia</u>	34,469	2,864,339	<u>Ploieşti</u> (276,279)
<u>Bucureşti - Ilfov</u>	1,803	2,259,665	<u>Bucharest</u> (2,272,163)
<u>Sud-Vest Oltenia</u>	29,207	1,873,607	<u>Craiova</u> (356,544)
<u>Vest</u>	32,042	1,668,921	<u>Timişoara</u> (384,809)

Economy

In 2024, Romania has a GDP (PPP) of around \$894 billion and a GDP per capita (PPP) of \$47,203.^[6] According to the World Bank, Romania is a high-income economy.^[183] According to Eurostat, Romania's GDP per capita (PPS) was 77% of the EU average (100%) in 2022, an increase from 44% in 2007 (the year of Romania's accession to the EU), making Romania one of the fastest growing economies in the EU.^[184]

The Bucharest Stock Exchange (BVB) is the stock exchange of Romania, located in Bucharest. In 2024, the BVB boasted a \$74 billion market capitalisation and a trading volume of \$7.2 billion.^[185] As of 2024, 86 companies were listed on the exchange.^[185] In September 2020, FTSE Russell upgraded the BVB from a Frontier market to a Secondary Emerging Market.^[186]

After 1989 the country experienced a decade of economic instability and decline, led in part by an obsolete industrial base and a lack of structural reform. From 2000 onwards, however, the Romanian economy was transformed into one of relative macroeconomic stability, characterised by high growth, low unemployment and declining inflation. In 2006, according to the Romanian Statistics Office, GDP growth in real terms was recorded at 7.7%, one of the highest rates in Europe.^[187] However, the Great Recession forced the government to borrow externally, including an IMF €20 billion bailout programme.^[188] According to The World Bank, GDP per capita in purchasing power parity grew from \$13,703 in 2007 to \$47,903 in 2023.^[189]



Floreasca business district, as seen from Lake Herăstrău



The Bucharest Stock Exchange tower, a key institution in Romania's financial sector

Romania's main exports are vehicles, software, clothing and textiles, industrial machinery, electrical and electronic equipment, metallurgic products, raw materials, military equipment, pharmaceuticals, fine chemicals, and agricultural products (fruits, vegetables, and flowers). Trade is mostly centred on the member states of the EU, with Germany, Italy and France being the country's single largest trading partners.

In 2005, the government replaced Romania's progressive tax system with a flat tax of 16% for both personal income and corporate profit, among the lowest rates in the EU.^[190] The economy is based predominantly on services, which account for 56.2% of the country's total GDP as of 2017, with industry and agriculture accounting for 30% and 4.4% respectively.^[191] Approximately 25.8% of the

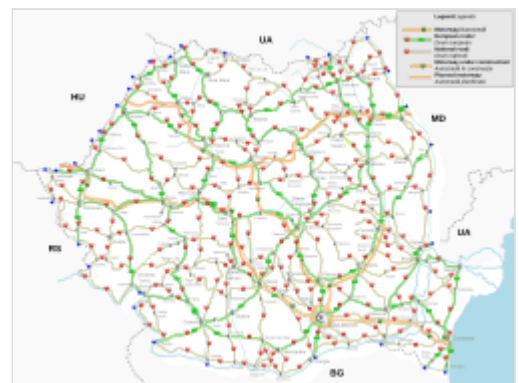
Romanian workforce is employed in agriculture, one of the highest rates in Europe.^[192]

Romania has attracted increasing amounts of foreign investment following the end of Communism, with the stock of foreign direct investment (FDI) in Romania rising to €83.8 billion in June 2019.^[193] Romania's FDI outward stock (an external or foreign business either investing in or purchasing the stock of a local economy) amounted to \$745 million in December 2018, the lowest value among the 28 EU member states.^[193]

Since 1867 the official currency has been the Romanian leu ("lion") and following a denomination in 2005.^[194] After joining the EU in 2007, Romania plans to adopt the euro in 2029.^[195]

Infrastructure

According to the Romania's National Institute of Statistics (INS), Romania's total road network was estimated in 2015 at 86,080 kilometres (53,488 mi).^[196] The World Bank estimates the railway network at 22,298 kilometres (13,855 mi) of track, the fourth-largest railway network in Europe.^[197] Romania's rail transport experienced a dramatic decline after 1989 and was estimated at 99 million passenger journeys in 2004, but has experienced a recent (2013) revival due to infrastructure improvements and partial privatisation of lines,^[146] accounting for 45% of all passenger and freight movements in the country.^[146] Bucharest Metro, the only underground railway system, was opened in 1979 and measures 80.01 km (49.72 mi) with an average ridership in 2021 of 720,000 passengers during the workweek in the country.^[198] There are sixteen international commercial airports in service today. Over 12.8 million passengers flew through Bucharest's Henri Coandă International Airport in 2017.^[199]

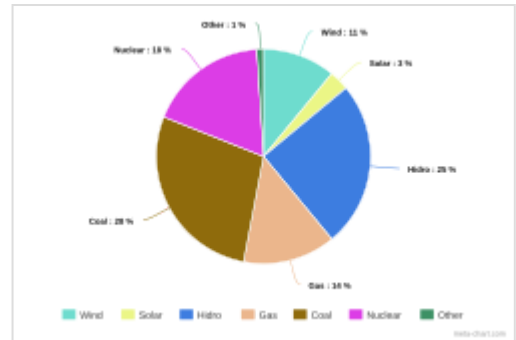


Romania's road network

Romania is a net exporter of electrical energy and is 52nd worldwide in terms of consumption of electric energy.^[200] Around a third of the produced energy comes from renewable sources, mostly as hydroelectric power.^[201] It has one of the largest refining capacities in Eastern Europe, even though oil

and natural gas production has been decreasing for more than a decade.^[202] With one of the largest reserves of crude oil and shale gas in Europe^[203] it is among the most energy-independent countries in the EU,^[204] and is looking to expand its nuclear power plant at Cernavodă further.^[205]

There were almost 18.3 million connections to the Internet in June 2014.^[206] According to Bloomberg, in 2013 Romania ranked fifth in the world, and according to The Independent, it ranks number one in Europe at Internet speeds,^{[207][208]} with Timișoara ranked among the highest in the world.^[209]



Graph depicting Romania's electricity supply mix as of 2015

Tourism

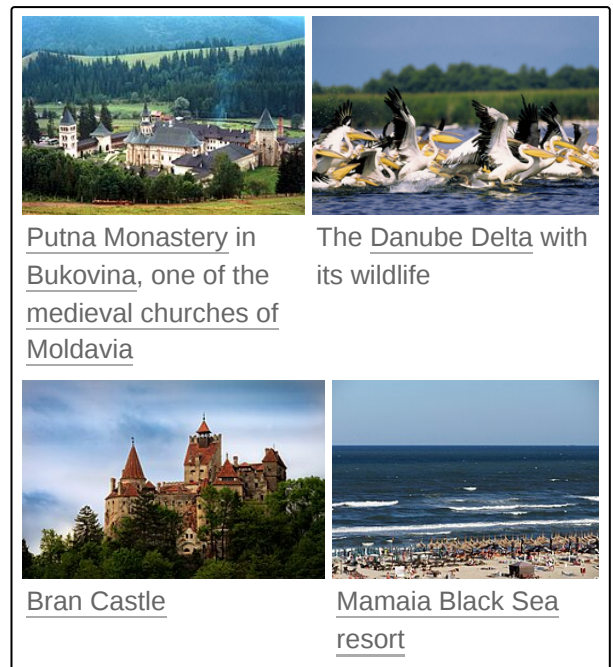
Tourism is a significant contributor to the Romanian economy, generating around 5% of GDP.^[210] The number of tourists has been rising steadily, reaching 9.33 million foreign tourists in 2016, according to the Worldbank.^[211] Tourism in Romania attracted €400 million in investments in 2005.^[212] More than 60% of the foreign visitors in 2007 were from other EU countries.^[213] The popular summer attractions of Mamaia and other Black Sea Resorts attracted 1.3 million tourists in 2009.^{[214][215]}

Most popular skiing resorts are along the Valea Prahovei and in Poiana Brașov. Castles, fortifications, or strongholds as well as preserved medieval Transylvanian cities or towns such as Cluj-Napoca, Sibiu, Brașov, Alba Iulia, Baia Mare, Bistrița, Mediaș, Cisnădie, Sebeș, or Sighișoara also attract a large

number of tourists. Bran Castle, near Brașov, is one of the most famous attractions in Romania, drawing hundreds of thousands of tourists every year as it is often (falsely) advertised as being Dracula's Castle.^[216] Other attractions include the Danube Delta or the Sculptural Ensemble of Constantin Brâncuși at Târgu Jiu.^{[217][218]}

Rural tourism, focusing on getting visitors acquainted with local folklore and customs, has become an important alternative,^[219] and is targeted to promote such sites as Bran and its Dracula's Castle, the Painted churches of northern Moldavia, and the wooden churches of Maramureș, or the villages with fortified churches in Transylvania.^[220] The Via Transilvanica long-distance hiking and cycling trail, which crosses 10 counties in the Transylvania, Banat and Bukovina regions of the country further promotes rural slow tourism.^[221]

In 2014, Romania had 32,500 companies active in the hotel and restaurant industry, with a total turnover of €2.6 billion.^[222] More than 1.9 million foreign tourists visited Romania in 2014, 12% more than in 2013.^[223] According to the country's National Statistics Institute, some 77% came from Europe



(particularly from Germany, Italy, and France), 12% from Asia, and less than 7% from North America.^[223]

Science and technology

Historically, Romanian researchers and inventors have made notable contributions to several fields. In the history of flight, Traian Vuia built the first aeroplane to take off under its own power^[224] and Aurel Vlaicu built and flew some of the earliest successful aircraft,^[225] while Henri Coandă discovered the Coandă effect of fluidics.^[226] Victor Babeş discovered more than 50 types of bacteria,^[227] biologist Nicolae Paulescu developed an extract of the pancreas and showed that it lowers blood sugar in diabetic dogs, thus being significant in the history of insulin;^[228] while Emil Palade received the Nobel Prize for his contributions to cell biology.^[229] Lazăr Edeleanu was the first chemist to synthesise amphetamine, and he also invented the procedure of separating valuable petroleum components with selective solvents.^[230]

During the 1990s and 2000s, the development of research was hampered by several factors, including: corruption, low funding, and a considerable brain drain.^[231] In recent years, Romania has ranked the lowest or second-lowest in the EU by research and development spending as a percentage of GDP, standing at roughly 0.5% in 2016 and 2017, substantially below the EU average of just over 2%.^{[232][233]} The country joined the European Space Agency (ESA) in 2011,^[234] and CERN in 2016.^[235] In 2018, however, Romania lost its voting rights in the ESA due to a failure to pay €56.8 million in membership contributions to the agency.^[236]

In the early 2010s, the situation for science in Romania was characterised as "rapidly improving" albeit from a low base.^[237] In January 2011, Parliament passed a law that enforces "strict quality control on universities and introduces tough rules for funding evaluation and peer review".^[238] Romania was ranked 48th in the Global Innovation Index in 2024.^[239]

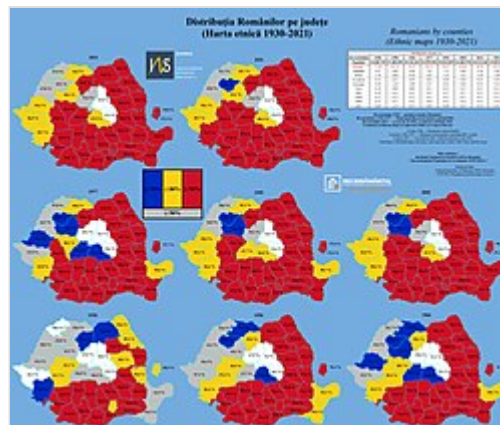
The nuclear physics facility of the EU's proposed Extreme Light Infrastructure (ELI) laser will be built in Romania.^[240] In early 2012, Romania launched its first satellite from the Centre Spatial Guyanais in French Guiana.^[241] Starting in December 2014, Romania became a co-owner of the International Space Station.^[242]

Demographics

According to the 2021 Romanian census, Romania's population was 19,053,815.^[5] Like other countries in the region, its population is expected to decline gradually as a result of sub-replacement fertility rates and negative net migration rate. According to the 2021 Romanian census, Romanians made up 89.33% of the population, Hungarians 6.05% and the Roma 3.44% of the population,^[5] but many ethnicities are not recorded, as they do not have ID cards.^[243] International sources give higher figures for Roma than the official census.^{[244][245][246]} According to the Council of Europe, the Roma make up 8.32% of the population;^[247] this figure is difficult to verify due to the mobility of Roma and the reluctance of some of them to disclose their ethnicity.^[248] Hungarians constitute a majority in the counties of Harghita and Covasna. Other minorities include Ukrainians, Germans, Turks, Lipovans, Aromanians, Tatars, and

Serbs.^[249] In 1930, there were 745,421 Germans living in Romania,^[250] but only about 36,000 remained in the country to this day.^[249] As of 2009, there were also approximately 133,000 immigrants living in Romania, primarily from Moldova and China.^[115]

The total fertility rate (TFR) in 2018 was estimated at 1.36 children born per woman, which is below the replacement rate of 2.1, and one of the lowest in the world,^[251] it remains considerably below the high of 5.82 children born per woman in 1912.^[252] In 2014, 31.2% of births were to unmarried women.^[253] The birth rate (9.49 ‰, 2012) is much lower than the mortality rate (11.84 ‰, 2012), resulting in a shrinking (−0.26% per year, 2012) and aging population (median age: 41.6 years, 2018), one of the oldest populations in the world,^[251] with approximately 16.8% of total population aged 65 years and over.^{[251][254][255]} The life expectancy in 2015 was estimated at 74.92 years (71.46 years male, 78.59 years female).^[256] The number of Romanians and individuals with ancestors born in Romania living abroad is estimated at 12 million.^[257] After the Romanian Revolution of 1989, a significant number of Romanians emigrated to other European countries, North America or Australia.^[258] For example, in 1990, 96,919 Romanians permanently settled abroad.^[259]



Romanians by counties (Ethnic maps 1930–2021)

Languages

The official language is Romanian, a Romance language (the most widely spoken of the Eastern Romance branch), which presents a consistent degree of similarity to Aromanian, Megleno-Romanian, and Istro-Romanian, but shares many features equally with the rest of the Western Romance languages, specifically Italian, French, Spanish, Portuguese, and Catalan.^[260] The Romanian alphabet contains the same 26 letters of the standard Latin alphabet, as well as five additional ones (namely *ă*, *â*, *î*, *ț*, and *ș*), totalling 31.^[260]



Map highlighting the use of the Romanian language worldwide, both as a native and as a foreign language

Romanian is spoken as a first language by 91.55% of the entire population, while Hungarian and Vlax Romani are spoken by 6.28% and 1.20% of the population, respectively. There are also 40,861 native speakers of Ukrainian (concentrated in some compact regions near the border, where they form local majorities),^[261] 17,101 native speakers of Turkish, 15,943 native speakers of German, and 14,414 native speakers of Russian living in Romania.^{[262][263]}

According to the Constitution, local councils ensure linguistic rights to all minorities. In localities with ethnic minorities of over 20%, that minority's language can be used in the public administration, justice system, and education. Foreign citizens and stateless persons who live in Romania have access to justice and education in their own language.^[264] English and French are the main foreign languages taught in schools.^[265] In 2010, the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie identified 4,756,100 French speakers in the country.^[266] According to the 2012 Eurobarometer, English is spoken by 31% of Romanians, French is spoken by 17%, and Italian and German, each by 7%.^[267]

Religion

Romania is a secular state and has no state religion. An overwhelming majority of the population identify themselves as Christians. At the country's 2021 census,^[2] 73.60% of respondents identified as Orthodox Christians, with 73.42% belonging to the Romanian Orthodox Church. Other denominations include Protestantism (6.22%), Roman Catholicism (3.89%), and Greek Catholicism (0.61%). From the remaining population 128,291 people belong to other Christian denominations or have another religion, which includes 58,347 Muslims (mostly of Turkish and Tatar ethnicity) and 2,708 Jewish (Jews once constituted 4% of the Romanian population—728,115 persons in the 1930 census). Additionally, 71,430 people are irreligious, 57,229 are atheist, 25,485 are agnostic, and 2,658,165 people chose to not declare their religion.^[2]



The People's Salvation Cathedral in Bucharest is the tallest and largest Eastern Orthodox church building^[b] in the world^[269]

The Romanian Orthodox Church is an autocephalous Eastern Orthodox Church in full communion with other Orthodox churches, with a Patriarch as its leader. It is the third-largest Eastern Orthodox Church in the world,^[270] and unlike other Orthodox churches, it functions within a Latin culture and uses a Romance liturgical language.^[271] Its canonical jurisdiction covers the territories of Romania and Moldova.^[272] Romania has the world's third-largest Eastern Orthodox population.^{[273][274]}

Urbanisation

Although 54.0% of the population lived in urban areas in 2011,^[275] this percentage has been declining since 1996.^[276] Counties with over $\frac{2}{3}$ urban population are Hunedoara, Braşov and Constanţa, while those with less than a third are Dâmboviţa (30.06%) and Giurgiu and Teleorman.^[275] Bucharest is the capital and the largest city in Romania, with a population of over 1.7 million in 2021.^[277] Its larger urban zone has a population of almost 2.2 million,^[278] which are planned to be included into a metropolitan area up to 20 times the area of the city proper.^{[279][280][281]}

Another 17 cities have a population of over 100,000, with Cluj-Napoca, Iaşi, Constanţa and Timişoara of more than 250,000 inhabitants, and Craiova, Braşov and Galaţi with over 200,000 inhabitants.^[277] Metropolitan areas have been constituted for most of these cities.

Largest cities in Romania

2021 Census^[282]

Rank	Name	County	Pop.	Rank	Name	County	Pop.
1	<u>Bucharest</u>	<u>Bucharest</u>	1,716,961	11	<u>Brăila</u>	<u>Brăila</u>	154,686
2	<u>Cluj-Napoca</u>	<u>Cluj</u>	286,598	12	<u>Arad</u>	<u>Arad</u>	145,078
3	<u>Iaşi</u>	<u>Iaşi</u>	271,692	13	<u>Piteşti</u>	<u>Argeş</u>	141,275
4	<u>Constanţa</u>	<u>Constanţa</u>	263,688	14	<u>Bacău</u>	<u>Bacău</u>	136,087
5	<u>Timişoara</u>	<u>Timiş</u>	250,849	15	<u>Sibiu</u>	<u>Sibiu</u>	134,309
6	<u>Braşov</u>	<u>Braşov</u>	237,589	16	<u>Târgu Mureş</u>	<u>Mureş</u>	116,033
7	<u>Craiova</u>	<u>Dolj</u>	234,140	17	<u>Baia Mare</u>	<u>Maramureş</u>	108,759
8	<u>Galaţi</u>	<u>Galaţi</u>	217,851	18	<u>Buzău</u>	<u>Buzău</u>	103,481

9	Oradea	Bihor	183,105	19	Râmnicu Vâlcea	Vâlcea	93,151
10	Ploiești	Prahova	180,540	20	Satu Mare	Satu Mare	91,520

Education



The University of Bucharest was opened in 1864.

Since the Romanian Revolution of 1989, the Romanian educational system has been in a continuous process of reform that has received mixed criticism.^[283] In 2004, some 4.4 million individuals were enrolled in school. Of these, 650,000 were in kindergarten (three-six years), 3.11 million in primary and secondary level, and 650,000 in tertiary level (universities).^[284] In 2018, the adult literacy rate was 98.8%.^[285] Kindergarten is optional between three and five years. Since 2020, compulsory schooling starts at age 5 with the last year of kindergarten (grupa mare) and is compulsory until twelfth grade.^{[286][287]} Primary and secondary education is divided into 12 or 13 grades. There is also a semi-legal, informal private tutoring system used mostly during secondary school, which prospered during the Communist regime.^[288]

Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași, Babeș-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca, University of Bucharest, and West University of Timișoara have been included in the QS World University Rankings' top 800.^[289]

Romania ranks fifth in the all-time medal count at the International Mathematical Olympiad with 316 total medals, dating back to 1959. Ciprian Manolescu managed to write a perfect paper (42 points) for a gold medal more times than anybody else in the history of the competition, in 1995, 1996 and 1997.^[290] Romania has achieved the highest team score in the competition, after China, Russia, the United States and Hungary. Romania also ranks sixth in the all-time medal count at the International Olympiad in Informatics with 107 total medals, dating back to 1989.^{[291][292][293]}

Healthcare

Healthcare in Romania is mainly provided by the public sector, which runs most hospitals and offers national health insurance to nearly all citizens. In 2021, healthcare costs were US\$16.7 billion, or US\$2,385 per person, making up 5.69% of GDP. Government spending is higher than in markets like Bulgaria but lower than Hungary. Spending is expected to rise by 7. US\$5 billion (+37.68%) from 2024 to 2028, reaching 27. US\$3 billion by 2028.^[295]

The Romanian National Institute of Statistics reports over 65,000 health units in Romania, with 53,000 in urban areas and 12,000 in rural areas. There are 543 hospitals, including 488 in urban and 55 in rural areas, along with 160 other hospital-like establishments. Nearly 50% of these are large



The Colțea Hospital in Bucharest completed a \$90 million renovation in 2011.^[294]

facilities with over 100 beds, while 39% are small with fewer than 50 beds. The total number of inpatient beds is 135,085, allocated mainly to psychiatry, surgery, and internal medicine among other specialties.^[296]

Culture

Arts and monuments

Architecture



Sibiu was the 2007 [European Capital of Culture](#) and the 2019 [European Region of Gastronomy](#).

The topic of the origin of Romanian culture began to be discussed by the end of the 18th century among the [Transylvanian School](#) scholars.^[297] Several writers rose to prominence in the 19th century, including: [George Coșbuc](#), [Ioan Slavici](#), [Mihail Kogălniceanu](#), [Vasile Alecsandri](#), [Nicolae Bălcescu](#), [Ion Luca Caragiale](#), [Ion Creangă](#), and [Mihai Eminescu](#), the later being considered the greatest and most influential Romanian poet, particularly for the poem [Luceafărul](#).^[298]

In the 20th century, a number of Romanian artists and writers achieved international acclaim, including: [Tristan Tzara](#), [Marcel Janco](#),^[299] [Mircea Eliade](#), [Nicolae Grigorescu](#), [Marin](#)

[Preda](#), [Liviu Rebreanu](#),^[300] [Eugène Ionesco](#), [Emil Cioran](#), and [Constantin Brâncuși](#). Brâncuși has a sculptural ensemble in Târgu Jiu, while his sculpture *Bird in Space*, was auctioned in 2005 for \$27.5 million.^{[301][302]} Romanian-born Holocaust survivor [Elie Wiesel](#) received the [Nobel Peace Prize](#) in 1986, while [Banat Swabian](#) writer [Herta Müller](#) received the 2009 [Nobel Prize in Literature](#).^[303]

Prominent Romanian painters include: [Nicolae Grigorescu](#), [Ștefan Luchian](#), [Ion Andreescu](#) [Nicolae Tonitza](#), and [Theodor Aman](#). Notable Romanian classical composers of the 19th and 20th centuries include: [Ciprian Porumbescu](#), [Anton Pann](#), [Eduard Caudella](#), [Mihail Jora](#), [Dinu Lipatti](#), and especially [George Enescu](#). The annual [George Enescu Festival](#) is held in Bucharest in honour of the 20th-century composer.^[304]

Contemporary musicians like [Angela Gheorghiu](#), [Gheorghe Zamfir](#),^{[305][306]} [Inna](#),^[307] [Alexandra Stan](#),^[308] and many others have achieved various levels of international acclaim. From the late 2000s through the early 2010s, the Romanian [popcorn music](#) style had established itself in the international mainstream.^{[309][310]} At the [Eurovision Song Contest](#) Romanian singers achieved third place in 2005 and 2010.^[311]



Timișoara was designated the [European Capital of Culture](#) in 2021 and held this title in 2023 due to [COVID-19](#) postponement.

In cinema, several movies of the Romanian New Wave have achieved international acclaim. At the Cannes Film Festival, The Death of Mr. Lazarescu by Cristi Puiu won the Prix Un Certain Regard in 2005,^[312] while 4 Months, 3 Weeks and 2 Days by Cristian Mungiu won the festival's top prize, the Palme d'Or, in 2007.^[313] At the Berlin International Film Festival, Child's Pose by Călin Peter Netzer won the Golden Bear in 2013.^[314]

The list of World Heritage Sites includes six cultural sites located within Romania, including eight painted churches of northern Moldavia, eight wooden churches of Maramureș, seven villages with fortified churches in Transylvania, the Horezu Monastery, and the Historic Centre of Sighișoara.^[315] The city of Sibiu, with its Brukenthal National Museum, was selected as the 2007 European Capital of Culture and the 2019 European Region of Gastronomy.^{[316][317]} Multiple castles exist in Romania, including the popular tourist attractions of Peleş Castle,^[318] Corvin Castle, and Bran Castle or "Dracula's Castle".^[319]

Holidays, traditions, and cuisine

There are 12 non-working public holidays, including the Great Union Day, celebrated on 1 December in commemoration of the 1918 union of Transylvania with Romania.^[320] Winter holidays include the Christmas and New Year festivities during which various unique folklore dances and games are common: plugușorul, sorcova, ursul, and capra.^{[321][322]} The traditional Romanian dress that otherwise has largely fallen out of use during the 20th century, is a popular ceremonial vestment worn on these festivities, especially in rural areas.^[323] There are sacrifices of live pigs during Christmas and lambs during Easter that has required a special exemption from EU law after 2007.^[324]

In the Easter, traditions such as painting the eggs are very common. On 1 March mărțișor gifting is featured, which is a tradition whereby females are gifted with a type of talisman that is given for good luck.^[325]

Romanian cuisine has been influenced by Austrian and German cuisine (especially in the historical regions that had been formerly administered by the Habsburg monarchy), but also shares some similarities with other cuisines in the Balkan region such as the Greek, Bulgarian, or Serbian cuisine.^[326] Ciorbă includes a wide range of sour soups, while mititei, mămăligă (similar to polenta), and sarmale are featured commonly in main courses.^[327]

Pork, chicken, and beef are the preferred types of meat, but lamb and fish are also quite popular.^{[328][329]} Certain traditional recipes are made in direct connection with the holidays: chiftele, tobă and tochitură at Christmas; drob, pască and cozonac at Easter and other Romanian holidays.^[330] Țuică is a strong plum brandy reaching a 70% alcohol content which is the country's traditional alcoholic beverage, taking as much as 75% of the national crop (Romania is one of the largest plum producers in the world).^{[331][332]} Traditional alcoholic beverages also include wine, rachiu, palincă and vișinată, but beer consumption has increased dramatically over recent years.^[333]



The Christmas market in Sibiu is one of the most famous in Europe.

Media

Sports

Football is the most popular sport in Romania with over 219,000 registered players as of 2018. The market for professional football in Romania is roughly €740 million according to UEFA.^[334]

The governing body is the Romanian Football Federation, which belongs to UEFA. The Romania national football team played its first match in 1922 and is one of only four national teams to have taken part in the first three FIFA World Cups, the other three being Brazil, France, and Belgium. Overall, it has played in seven World Cups and had its most successful period during the 1990s, when it finished 6th at the 1994 FIFA World Cup, eventually being ranked 3rd by FIFA in 1997.^[335]



Arena Națională, opened in 2011, the national stadium of Romania, as seen on a Romanian stamp (2011)

The most successful club is Steaua București, who were the first Eastern European team to win the UEFA Champions League in 1986, and were runners-up in 1989.^[336] Dinamo București reached the UEFA Champions League semi-final in 1984 and the UEFA Cup Winners' Cup semi-final in 1990.^[337] Other important Romanian football clubs are Rapid București,^[338] UTA Arad,^[339] Universitatea Craiova,^[340] Petrolul Ploiești,^[341] CFR Cluj,^[342] Astra Giurgiu,^[343] and Viitorul Constanța^[344] (the latter having recently merged with FCV Farul Constanța).^[345]

Tennis is the second most popular sport.^[346] Romania reached the Davis Cup finals three times in 1969, 1971 and 1972.^[347] The second most popular team sport is handball.^[346] The men's team won the handball world championship in 1961, 1964, 1970, 1974 making them the third most successful nation ever in the tournament. The women's team won the world championship in 1962 and have enjoyed more success than their male counterparts in recent years. In the club competition Romanian teams have won the EHF Champions League a total of three times, Steaua București won in 1968 as well as 1977 and Dinamo București won in 1965.^[348] In women's handball, powerhouse CSM București lifted the EHF Champions League trophy in 2016.^[349]

Popular individual sports include combat sports,^[346] martial arts,^[346] and swimming.^[346] In professional boxing, Romania has produced many world champions across the weight divisions internationally recognised by governing bodies.^[350] Another popular combat sport is professional kickboxing, which has produced prominent practitioners including.^{[351][352]}

Romania's 306 all-time Summer Olympics medals would rank 12th most among all countries, while its 89 gold medals would be 14th most. The 1984 Summer Olympics was their most successful run, where they won 53 medals in total, 20 of them gold, ultimately placing 2nd to the hosts United States in the medal rankings. Amongst countries who have never hosted the event themselves, they are second in the total number of medals earned.^[353] Gymnastics is the country's major medal-producing sport,^[354]

See also



- [Outline of Romania](#)

Notes

- [/roʊ'meɪniə/](#) ⁱ *roh-MAY-nee-ə*; Romanian: *România* [romɨ'ni.a] ⁱ
- [Saint Isaac's Cathedral in Saint Petersburg](#) although larger in gross area (7,000 m² the building including colonnades and 7,600 m² with stairway), has a smaller area excluding colonnades (5,000 m²). Since 1931 it has been converted into a [Russian state museum](#).^[268]

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