

SOCIAL TRENDS: ROMANIA IN THE '90s

Country Paper

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SOCIAL TRENDS: ROMANIA IN THE '90S

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INTRODUCTION

The transition to the market economy had a big impact on the main characteristics of living conditions in Romania. Obviously, the transition's costs had repercussions on population's living conditions.

The crisis marked the Romanian economy of the '90s, inflation and unemployment determined the decrease of living standard and the reduction of the capacity of social protection system to help the population's categories which were situated in situations of high social risk. The social security system confronted two contradictory tendencies: on the one hand, the limitation of financial resources allocated to social protection in conditions of a restrictive budgetary policy and some major difficulties in collecting its, and on the other hand, the increase of needs for social protection, like a result of the increase of the number of social benefits beneficiaries. In these conditions, a big number of the persons included in the sphere of social security (pensioners, unemployed etc.) are in a poverty situation.

Structural changes in economy, the various activities and the increase of the income' sources hadn't like effect the real increase of the population incomes, but the effect was the increase of the disparities and the amplification of poverty. The decrease of living standard had negative effects on demographic behaviour, affecting also the conditions of formation and development of family, of rising and education of children. The children represent an important segment of population who need a special attention from the social protection system because their bigger risk to fall in difficult situations.

After 1990, important steps have been made in establishing and developing institutions that could ensure the normal physical, mental, social and cultural development of children. Several pieces of legislation were adopted or amended in order to adapt Romanian legislation to international standards (judicial declaration of abandonment, amendments to the state allowance for children law, modifications in the adoption procedure etc.).

Emergency Ordinance 26/1997 issued by the Government of Romania regulates protection of children in difficulty. It stipulates that a child, i.e. the person below the age of 18 who is not fully competent is entitled to protection and support from the local community to which he/she belongs, in case his/her physical or moral development or integrity is at risk.

New millennium seems to bring other improvements both at the legislative level and in the economic situation of Romania. The elaboration of a law package meant to assure the promotion of an active a deficient social protection policy. The law of minimum guaranteed income, law to fight against social exclusion and law regarding labour force employment are parts of this package. The Anti-poverty and Promotion of Social Inclusion Commission, made up in May 2001 under the leadership of Prime Minister, focused its activity on essential directions for monitoring and improvement of the situation of persons being in high social risks.

Sustained policies for economic development would assure the background needed to promote some efficient programmes for protection of families with children, children in difficult situations and other disadvantaged categories.

1. POPULATION

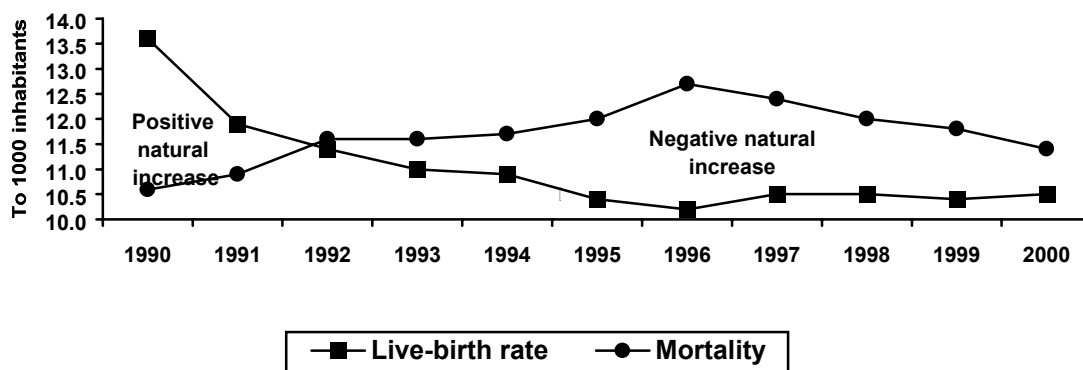
At the beginning of 2001, the Romanian population was 22430.5 thousand inhabitants, of which 11.0 million men (48.9%) and 11.5 million women (51.1%).

Romanian population decreased continuously in the last decade. Between 1990 and 1991 this diminution was determined exclusively by the level of external migration, its negative balance (over 110 thousand persons) being higher than natural increase, still positive (91 thousand persons). Since

1992, beside the fall determined by emigration, has been registered a natural decreasing of population. The negative natural increase from the 1992-2000 period (over 252 thousand persons) was about two times higher than the negative migratory one (over 128 thousand persons).

In the last years it can be noticed an inversion of the contribution of the two components to the descent of population: a continuously increase of the natural decrease weight (from 11% in 1992 to 85% in 2000), as against the decrease of the contribution of external migration (from 89% in 1992 to 15% in 2000).

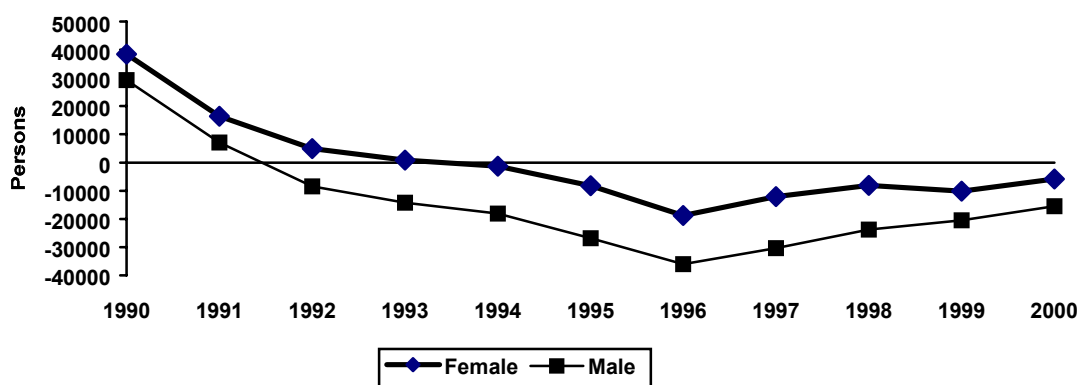
Figure 1.1 Natural increase



The most important decrease in the population number has been registered in 1996 (-74.3 thousand persons), natural diminution being however 2.8 times bigger than the migration one.

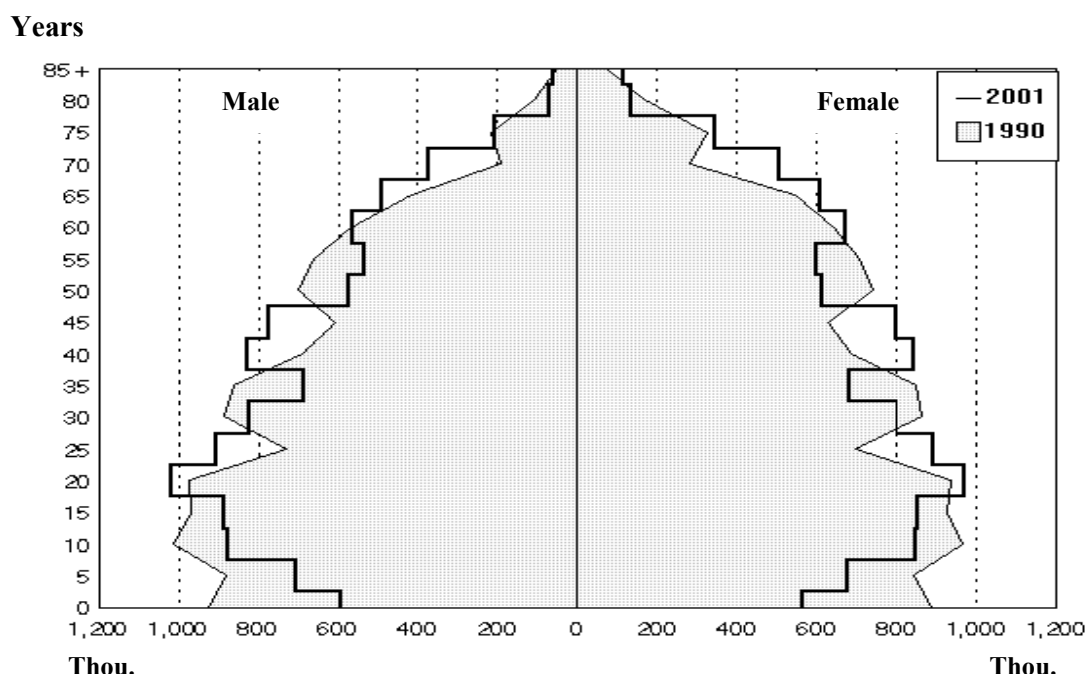
The negative natural increase has differently evolved by sex: for men it appeared even in 1992, and for women two years later, but with lower values. In 2000 the negative natural increase was over 2.6 time higher for male population than for the women population, especially due to the male overmortality.

Figure 1.2 Natural increase by sex



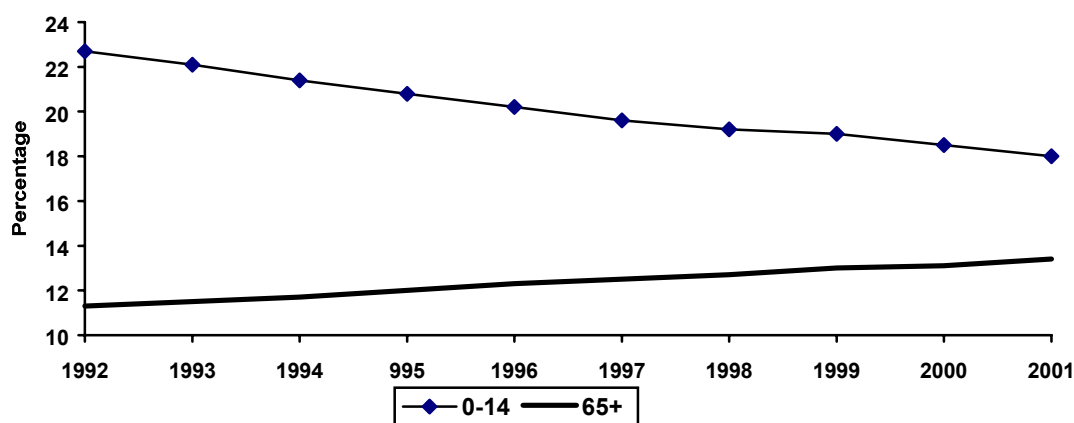
The changes in population dynamics are the direct result of the changes registered in demographic phenomena (fertility, mortality and migration).

Figure 1.3 Population pyramid by ages and sex, 1990 and 2001, 1-st January



Population structure by ages has the specific mark of an ageing process, owing mainly to the decrease in the live-birth number, which has determined the absolute and relative reducing of the young population (0-14 years) and increasing of the elderly population (65 years and over). The decline of the young population number has narrowed even more the ages pyramid base. The demographic and economic effects of this evolution will be seen in time and will determine changes in the level of different sub-populations (school population, fertility age population, work age population).

Figure 1.4 The structure of the young and old population, in 1992-2001 period



It can be noticed the reducing of the young population (from 23.7% in 1990 to 18.0% in 2001) and the increasing of the older population weight (from 10.3% in 1990 to 13.4% in 2000).

The adult population increased from 15119.5 thousand persons (65.1%) in 1990 to 15365.9 thousand persons (68.6%) in 2001. Only in the last year the adult population increased with 55.7 thousand

persons. In this category it can be noticed the increase of the weights of 25-34 years and 45-54 years groups and, at the same time, the decrease of those from 35-39 and 55-59 years groups.

At 1-st January 2001 the male ratio was 96 male persons to 100 female persons.

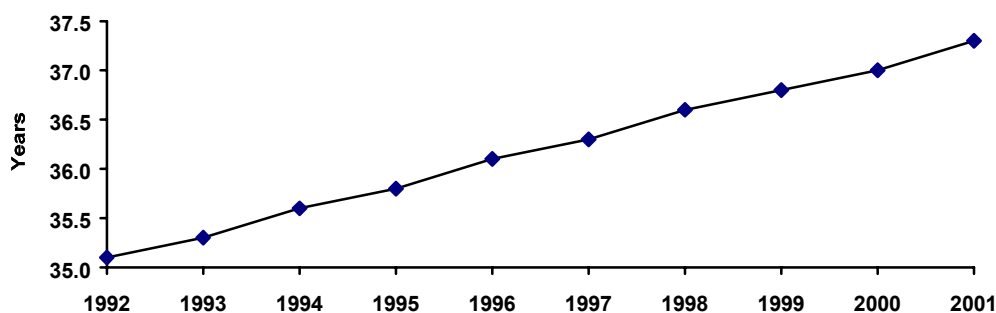
The demographic ageing¹ and the demographic dependence indices were directly influenced by the decreasing of the number of children. The live-birth rate, very low in the last years, made the young population to reduce continuously, in 2001 being registered with 1461.0 thousand persons less than in 1990.

Whether in 1990 for 100 persons in working age groups (15-64 years) there were about 19 young and old persons, in 2001 the ratio increased to 22 persons, mainly by increasing the old population.

The demographic ageing rate increased from 19 (in 1990) to 22 elder people for 100 young people (in 2001).

The mean age of the population has risen in the last years from 35.1 years (1992) to 37.3 years (2001), mean age that characterises the countries with an “adult” population. At 1-st January 2001 the mean age of the female population was 38.5 years, with 2.5 years more than for the male population (36.0 years).

Figure 1.5 The mean age of population



The structural changes that happened in the last years are included in the long term tendency for emphasising the demographic degree of ageing, a typical process for European countries.

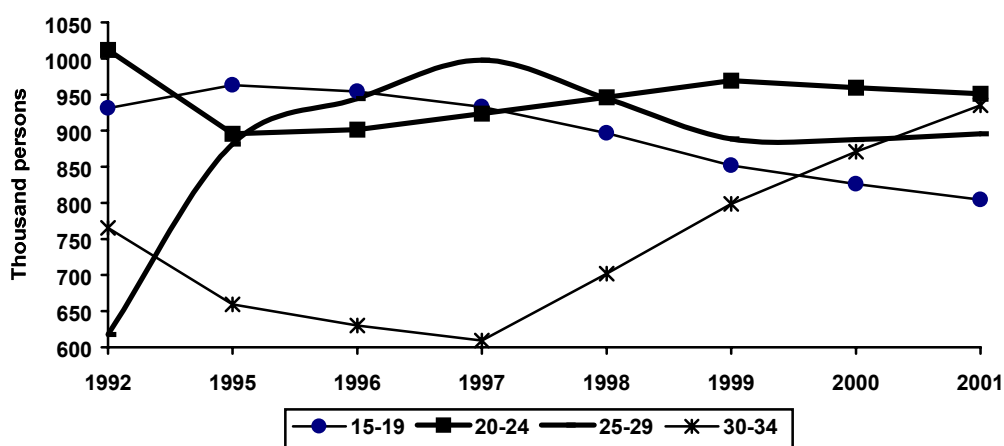
At 1-st January 2001 the female population in fertile age (15-49 years) was 5811.2 thousand persons, meaning 50.7% from total female population. The weight of the female population in fertile age (15-49 years) in total population has risen from 24.1% in 1990 to 25.9% in 2001. The numerous generations, born immediately after the decree about abortion interdiction, in 1966, determined in the last years the increasing the weight of the population aged 25-34 years.

Especially population aged 30-34 years had an important increase. On the other side, the population aged 35-39 years, meaning the persons born in the early 60s period, with a very low level of live-birth rate, has registered a significant decrease.

Analysing the fertile contingent by number of live-births, it can be noticed that only 62.8% of female population of 15-49 years has given birth to children, with 31.6 thousand less as against 1-st of January 2000.

¹ the number of the elderly persons to 100 young persons

Figure 1.6 Evolution of the young age groups from female population in fertile age



Although the most fertile age groups are 20-24 and 25-29 years, only 32.1% and respectively 63.6% from the female population of these groups gave birth at least a child alive. Growing up, the number of the women that had never given birth is decreasing, so at the end of the fertile period (45-49 years) only one of ten women had never given birth to a child alive.

The changes in demographic behaviour and the differences between sexes by age groups has been reflected also in population structure by marital status.

The weight of the married population increases together with age, reaching the highest value for the men between 60-64 years. For women the highest value was noticed between 35-39 years (it starts to fall afterwards). For the population over 60 years, the weight of the married men (88.0%) was significant higher than of the married women (50.5%).

Inside the female population, the weight of the married persons hasn't substantial changes in the last years (50.3% in 1992 and 50.9% in 2001).

The unmarried persons are majority until 24 years. After this age the weights are decreasing significantly, but more intensive for the female population. For the men over 60 years and for women over 50 years the "unmarried" weight represented less than 3% (from the respective group age). After 65 years the weight of the female single persons has exceeded that of the male single persons.

In perspective, the number of the Romanian population² is expected to fall down, in the 2000-2020 interval about with 1.8 million persons. The population decrease will be temperate until 2010 (with an annual negative average rate of 1.8‰) and more emphasised at the end of projecting horizon, the main factor of these evolutions being the natural negative increase.

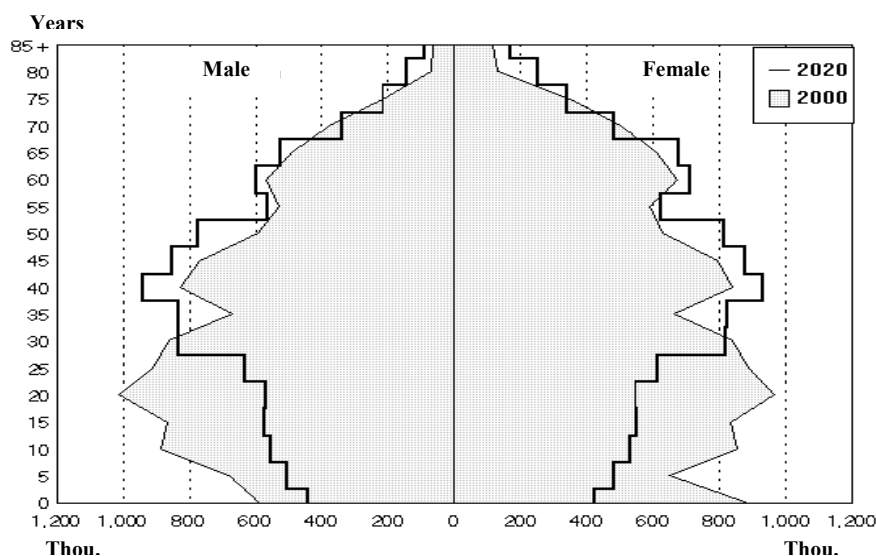
The difference between sexes will remain and will grow. Although their number will be falling down, in 2020 the women will represent 51.4% from the country population, as against 51.1% in 2000.

For the both sexes in 2020, the most significant decrease will be expected for the 10-24 age groups (but with higher values for male). The adult population between 35-60 years will be slightly increasing. The men, though will be numerical still less than the women from this age group, will have a higher rise, as against 2000.

The demographic ageing of the population will continue, being more deep in time.

² The last project made by The National Institute for Statistics "Population projecting by areas and the main tendencies of the demographic evolution in 1999-2020 period", June 2000 (the constant variant)

Figure 1.7 Population by ages and sex, in 2000 and 2020



At country level the weight of the elder population (65 years and over) in total population will increase in 2000-2020 period from 13.4 to 15.7%, and the weight of the youth will decrease from 18.3 to 14.2%, which will lead to stressing the demographic ageing of the Romanian population.

The changes expected to occur in the population structure by age groups will determine a slightly decrease of the number of persons under 15 years and of those over 64 years (being considered “dependent”) to 100 adults.

The continuously decrease in the live-births number in Romania, a phenomenon that characterises the general trend of the “demographic transition” period has some features. For many couples the low incomes, the competition on the labour market, the house problem may be really obstacles in founding a family. Some families have children, but the most young couples have not. This decision is cultural, psychological determined and also determined by the family economic situation. The facts that made this decrease have different essence, of course, but it seems that in Romania the main factors are economic and social ones. That is on the first hand a considerable change in professional structure of the population, which asked, especially the young contingents, a special territorial and professional mobility and, at the same time, an extended training period.

A numerous family is not suitable for the professional demanding. In addition, the women have a more and more participation in the work outside the family. This participation is more emphasised in urban area, the lower urban fertility having more influence over the level of general fertility.

In 2000 has been born 234.5 thousand children, with 79 less than in 1999. Under the conditions of the continuous decrease of population and live-births, the live-birth rate has registered a corresponding decrease (from 13.6 live-births to 1000 inhabitants in 1990 to 10.5 in 2000).

The contribution of the young women under 20 years about the level of live-birth fell down, especially after 1997 (13.8 in 2000, as against 16.5% in 1996 from total live-births). However, about one third of children born outside marriage had been registered at the mothers from this age group.

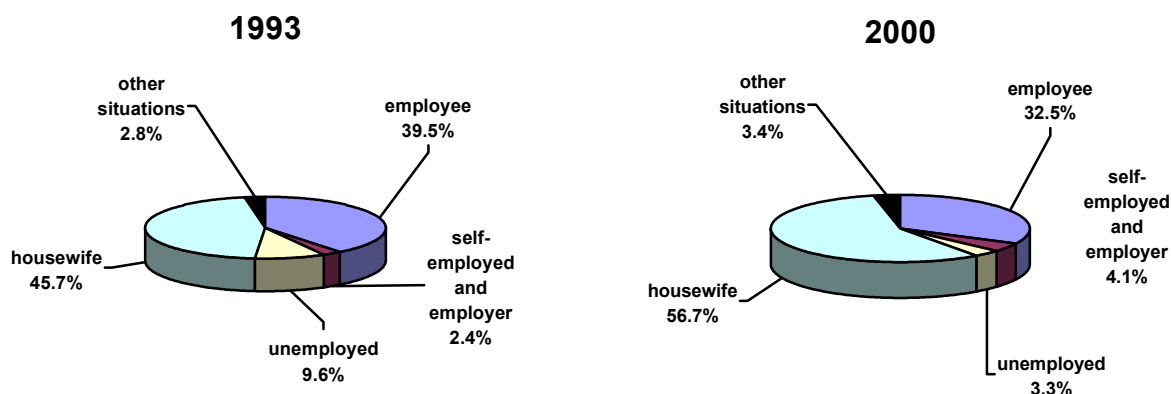
Most of live-births have continued to have young parents: 36.8% of total live-births had mothers aged 20-24 years and 35.1% had fathers aged 25-29 years. Moreover, over 2/3 from the live-births had

mothers aged 20-29 years and 4/5 from them fathers aged under 35 years. In rural area the women aged 20-29 years born 1.2 times more children than those from urban area.

Although the most children have been born by mothers aged 20-24 years, having a slightly lower weight as against previous years, the weight of the women who have born no child, have however increased.

The live-births repartition by the mother's occupational status reflects the high weight of the children born by housewives mothers (56.7%) and employees mothers (32.5%).

Figure 1.8 The live-births by mother's occupational status , in 1993 and 2000

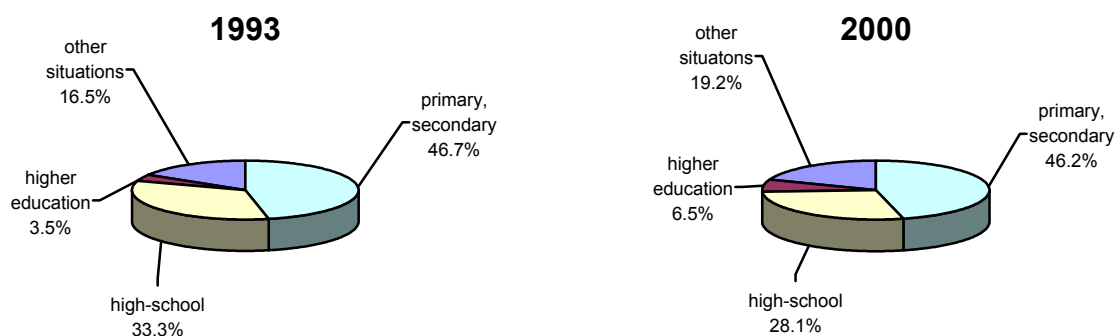


The live-births born by women having the status of “self-employed”, “in association” or “employer” represented only 4.5%, with 4 times higher values than in rural area. The weight of the live-births of unemployed mothers had the same level as in the previous year (3.3%).

Most of children born in urban area had employees mothers (50.4%).

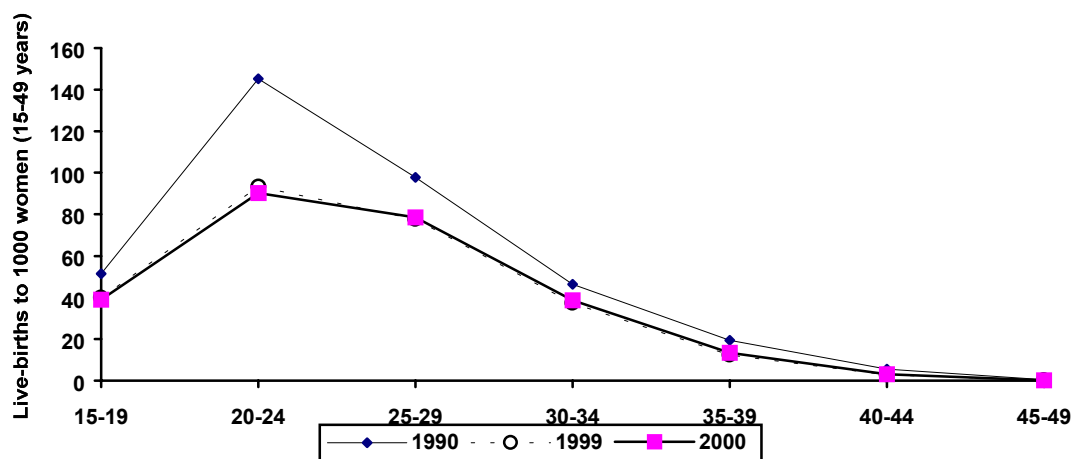
In 2000 it has been noticed a significant increase, as against previous years, of the weight of the live-births by women with high education (6.5% in 2000, 5.7% in 1999 and 3.5% in 1993). Over 3/4 had mothers graduating secondary, vocational and high school education.

Figure 1.9 The live-births by the educational level of mother, in 1993 and 2000



The Reproductive health survey of the young people in Romania (1999) shows the couples desire to limit their number of children to one or two and the tendency to achieve the final fertility of women before 30 years old. Establishing a family model with one child or at most two children has determined the evolution of the fertility especially for female generations born after 1970.

Figure 1.10 The female fertility by age groups, in 1990, 1999 and 2000



In 2000, specific fertility by age groups has pointed out a fall of fertility rates for young women under 25 years, the couples desire to limit the number of children being an important factor, near by the tendency of postponing the marriage.

The total fertility rate was in 2000 1.31 children to a woman, in slightly increase as against the previous year (1.30 in 1999), but in evidently decrease as against 1990 (1.83).

At the whole society still there is a need for information about family planning, eliminating the restrictive laws about the pregnancy control at the end of 1989 being not yet sustained by a proper infrastructure and logistics, especially in rural area. Though the knowledge of the family planning of the population has grown, using of the modern contraception methods has still a low weight among the young fertile women. Unfortunately, the abortion is still the main mean for controlling and reducing the family dimension, increasing in time the risk of women getting sick and becoming sterile.

The abortion rate has pursued the downward trend of the last years, 110 abortions reverting to 100 live-births (111 in 1999). The total abortion rate has the same level as in 1999, a woman making in average 1.5 abortions during the fertile life-time (as against 6.0 in 1990).

Though the number of abortions has fallen down in the last few years (in 2000 registering with 74.0% less than in 1990), it's maintaining a high level comparative with the other European countries.

In 2000, 58.6% from total abortions were made by the young women under 30 years. The highest abortion intensity has been registered, as in previous year, for the age-group 25-29 years.

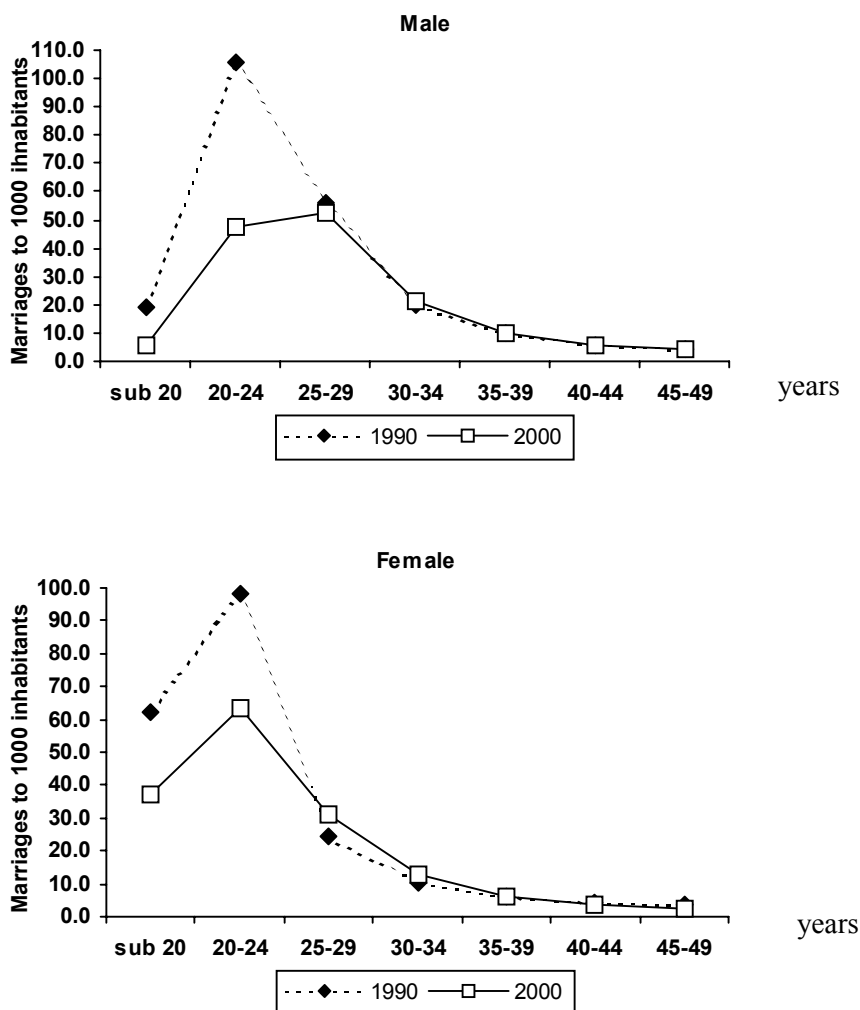
The marriages evolution in the last eleven years has the mark of the impact of the changes in the Romanian society. The increase of the marriage rate in 1990 can be explained only by the action of some psychological factors, while for the decrease that followed, especially after 1992, is a reaction to a social-economical context unfavourable for marriages.

Whether in 1989 there were registered 7.7 marriages to 1000 inhabitants and in 1990 8.3%, starting with 1991, under the economical and social changes in society, the nuptiality continually fell down, reaching 6.1 marriages to 1000 inhabitants in 2000.

The unemployment increase, especially in economic non-agricultural branches, and emphasising the dwelling crisis can explain the important descent of the nuptiality after 1990, especially in urban area. At the same time the social and economic changes from the rural area (especially the land law) seems to have rather positive effects to the rural population marriages, materialised in the rate of the phenomenon to a quite high value (especially until 1996).

In 2000 has been registered 135.8 thousand marriages, the nuptiality rate being 6.1‰ - the lowest level reached in post-war period.

Figure 1.11 The nuptiality rate by sex and age groups (up to 49 years), in 1990 and 2000



Missing the social-economic or law encouraging factors, the young generations are postponing the marriage more and more, the consensual unions seeming to be preferred.

The majority of the young people are marrying for the first time before 30 years, though the probability to contract a first marriage has systematically decreased in the last years. As comparative with 1990 the highest decreases of the nuptiality were for the young under 25 years.

Reducing the weight of the marriages at young ages shows that the decreasing of the phenomenon intensity was accompanied by a concentration of marriages at adult ages.

In 2000, mean age at first marriage has followed the same increasing tendency from the last years, reaching 28.9 years for men and 25.4 years for women (with 0.4 years more than in 1999 and with about 1.7-2.0 years more than in 1990).

Divorciality, a demographic phenomenon which affects the family balance and the evolution of the legitimate fertility, has registered in Romania low values. The level of the divorce rate, as against the marriage rate, had bigger oscillations.

After 1990 the divorce rate ranged between 1.29 and 1.78 divorces to 1000 inhabitants. The relative stability of the divorce rate level after 1990 shows that the social and economic changes that happened in the last years did not influence significantly the evolution of this phenomenon. The ratio between the divorces number and the marriages number does not show, also, for the moment, a clear tendency to change the phenomenon intensity in time.

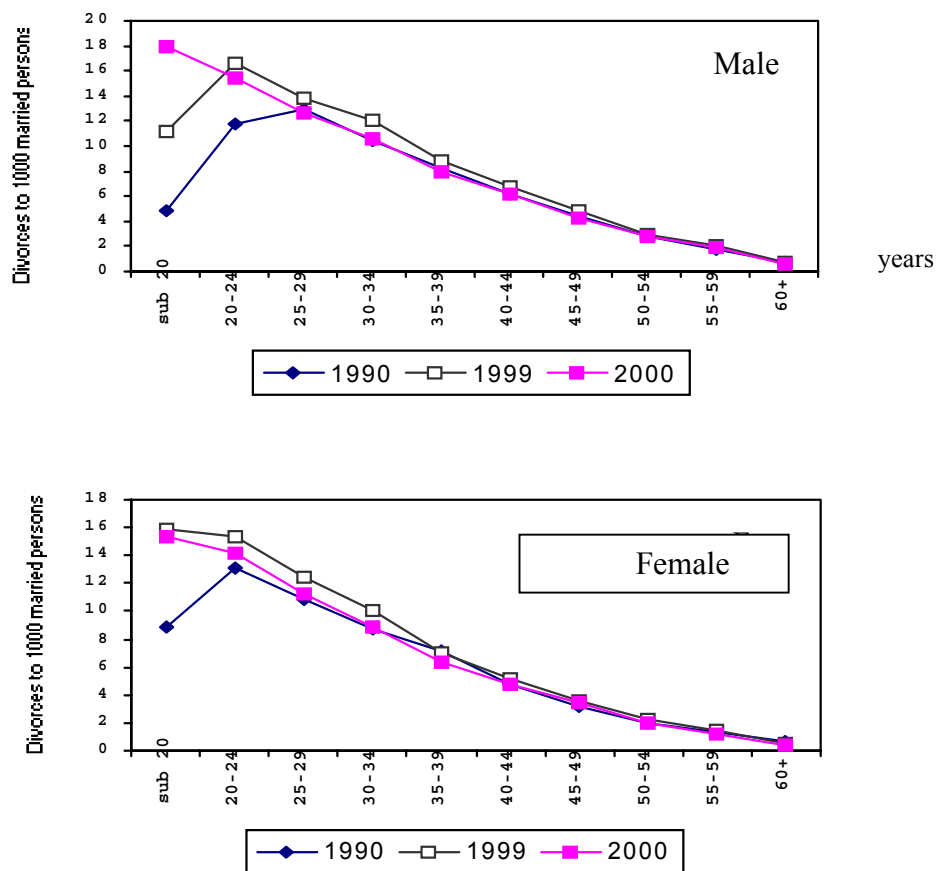
In appreciating the level of the total divorce rate in Romania it cannot be omitted the restrictive character of the marriage dissolution law, still in force until the end of 1993. The abrupt crescent of the number of divorces in the first half of 1994, together with the simplifying the marriage dissolution formalities, shows that the rather low level of the divorce rate was determined – in some degree – by the law. The high level of divorces from 1994 appears as a conjuncture phenomenon, determined mainly by the law changing in the field. It must however be taking into account the big number of the older divorce requests, solved only as result of simplifying the marriage dissolution formalities.

In 2000 has been registered 30.7 thousand divorces, being 1.37 divorces to 1000 inhabitants, a lower value than in the last six years.

The number of divorces reported to 1000 marriages was lower in 2000 than in the previous year, but higher as against 1990-1993 period.

The analysis of the divorces repartition by ages shows the present tendency of the young generations to divorce faster. As against 1990, in 2000 has been registered increases of the divorces rates at the younger age groups, with a higher intensity for the persons aged under 20 years. The greatest frequency of the divorces continued to be registered between 25-29 years for women and 30-34 years for men.

Figure 1.12 The divorces rate by age groups and sex, in 1990, 1999 and 2000



In 2000, as in previous years, also remained the differences by genders: up to 30 years the number of women who has divorced was about 1.6 times higher than those of men, after this age the number of divorced men exceeding those of women.

The young couples conceive the ideal family as a nucleus family, but reality makes them live in a multi-generation family. This fact together with the low incomes and the unemployment rising generated, beside a general non-satisfaction for the life, an intolerance and family non-satisfaction.

The profound changes from social and political system in Romania after 1989, which determined the appearance of new settlements encouraging the free circulation of persons between countries, were the premises for increasing the level of international migration in 1990, but with an evident tendency of reducing in the next years.

As compared with 1990 (96.9 thousand persons), the level of the legal emigrants has registered a descent between 1992-2000 (with some fluctuations), as a result of restrictive politics of the destination countries, reaching in 2000 14.8 thousand persons (respectively 0.66 emigrations to 1000 inhabitants).
Fe

Taking into account the number of immigrants that received the residence right in Romania (from which some were repatriated or received Romanian citizenship) it can be noticed a decrease of the migration balance (from 1.29‰ in 1992 to 0.17‰ in 2000).

Concerning the emigrants ethnic structure, starting with 1992 the number of the Romanian origin emigrants exceeded those of other nationality emigrants, reaching in 2000 over 91.0% of total emigrants (comparative with 5.3% for those with Hungarian nationality and 2.5% for German nationality).

In the gender structure of the emigrants it can be noticed a slightly increase of the women weight (68.2%) in 2000 as against 1999 (53%). Also, the weight of the emigrants aged 20-34 years increased, in the detriment of those aged over 50 years.

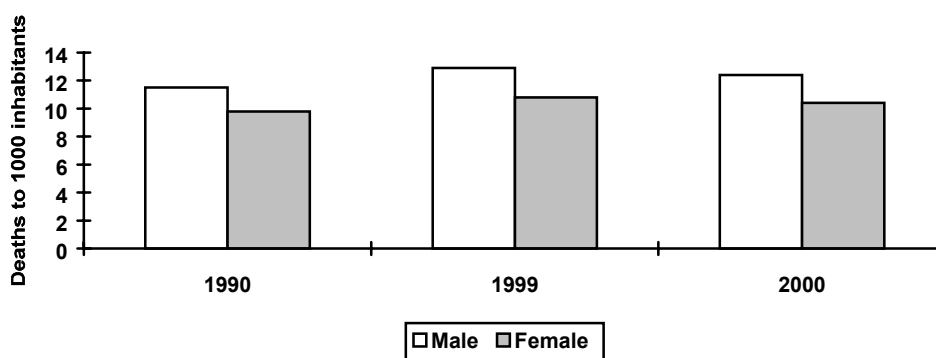
The majority of the legal emigrants had a high educational and training level, showing the selective character of the immigration policy of the destination countries.

2. HEALTH

The structural changes that took place in the economic Romanian society, the continuously increase in living standard and the insufficient budget resources allocated to the health sector have had a negative impact over the population's health.

In 2000 has been registered with 9374 less deaths than in 1999, the crude death rate reaching 11.4‰ (higher than that registered at the early '90s). Though general mortality rate is slightly decreasing, as against the level of the 1995-1999 period, it is still at a high level in European context.

Figure 2.1 Crude death rate by sex in 1990, 1999 and 2000

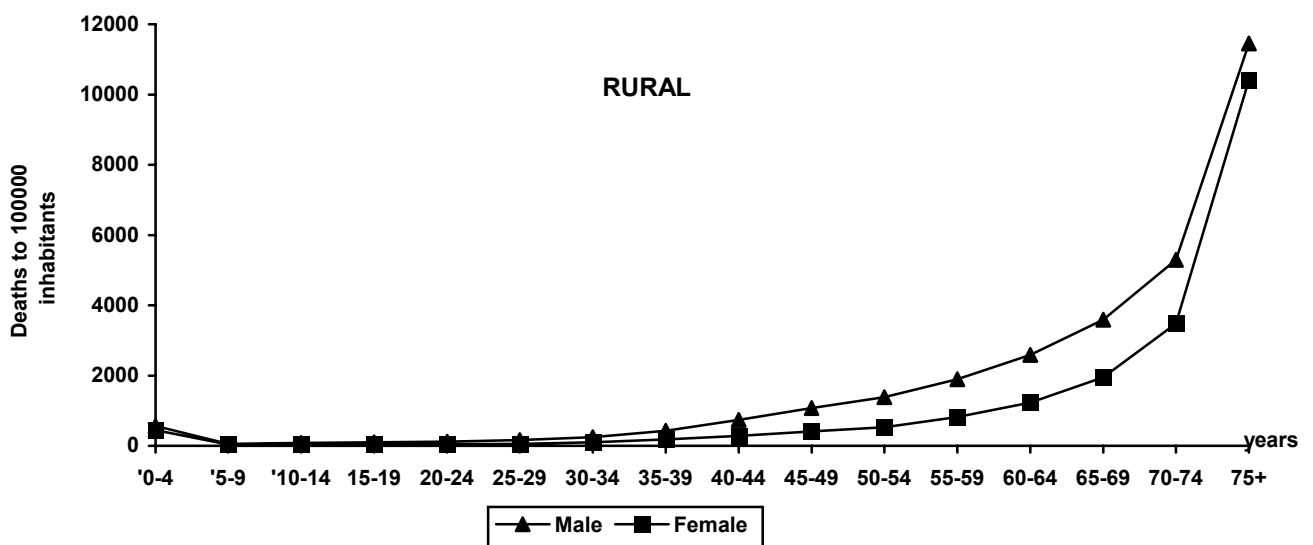
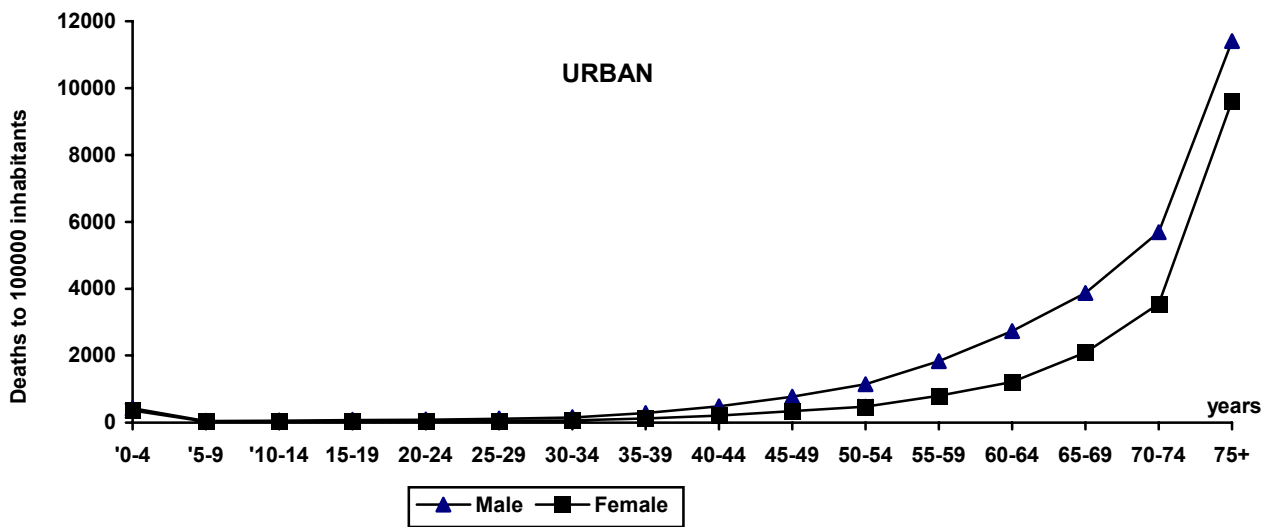


The male mortality continued to be higher than female one from all age groups, but with higher intensities between 15-64 years, where the male mortality was twice higher than the female one (both in 1999 and in 2000).

Comparative with 1990 it was noticed an over twice descend of the deaths weight for 0-4 years age group, but more intensely for girls.

The high level of the general mortality was due especially to high number of deaths registered to elder population (77.4% in 2000 as against 72.1% in 1990). For elder female population there was registered in 2000 over 5/6 from the total female deaths, an increasing percentage as against 1990 (80%).

Figure 2.2 Mortality by age groups, sex and area in 2000



The most deaths registered in the '90 decade had the main cause diseases of the circulatory system (ischaemic disease and cerebrovascular diseases) and neoplasms. In 2000 the weight of the deaths due to this causes was 77.7% from total deaths, increasing as against the previous year (77.3%).

The specific mortality rates by the main death causes continued to differ by sex. The female mortality had higher values than the male one for cerebrovascular diseases, endocrine nutrition and metabolic diseases. For the other death causes there is a “male over-mortality”, more emphasised for the injury, poisoning and infectious and parasitic diseases.

In 2000, for children under 5 years the highest weight was held by the deaths due to respiratory system diseases (30% from total deaths), followed by deaths due to diseases originating in the peri-natal period (28%).

The most deaths registered for 10-14 age group had as cause infectious and parasitic diseases (37% from total deaths in this age group). The persons from the 15-39 age groups were the most affected by injury, poisoning and other consequences of external causes. For the persons aged over 40 years old, diseases of the circulatory system were the main cause for death (men over 40 years and women over 50 years, the male values being much higher).

The death due to injury, poisoning and other consequences of external causes were more numerous in the male population (76.1% from the deaths due to this cause), especially between 40-49 years.

As a direct response to restricted policy (interdiction for smoking in public places, keeping an environment without smoke, restriction for selling cigarettes to children and teenagers, carrying out campaign for health promotion, providing counselling services for stopping smoking) and the decline of the market in the developed countries, international companies producing tobacco had focused the activity to the less developed countries, in which the diseases caused by smoking are increasing. Smoking prevailing is strongly increasing for the young women in many countries, including Romania³. Beside the fact that smoking leads to lung cancer and cardiovascular diseases, it has specific risks for women. Smoking leads to increased risk for uterus cancer, changes to a great extent the risks associated to contraceptive pills and affects the women's reproduction health by increasing the risk for precocious menopause, spontaneous abortion and low weight of baby born.

Alcoholic consumption, in steadily increase for the young people, has proved to be associated with sexual risky behaviour, violence (injuries and car accidents) and school problems.

In 1990-2000 period the number of the infant deaths has steadily decreased, in 2000 being about two times less than at the beginning of the period. Though the infant deaths number is not so high (being 1.7% from total general deaths), as intensity presents high values, placing Romania between the countries with a high infant mortality rate.

The unhealthy diet, inadequate food and sometimes insufficient, the stress, life conditions, lack of prenatal control for the majority of the pregnant women has affected the health of the future mothers and, implicit, of the baby born.

In Romania, the women access to peri-natal care was free of charge for a long time. Now, under the circumstances of the health services reform, it's included in the service package covered by insurance. The peri-natal care has three components: before conception care, prenatal care and postnatal care. The conception precursory counselling is very important. It should include information about the pregnancy risks, the risk factors that can affect foetus development, maternal infections, risks of the diseases that can affect the mother, including the identification of the diseases that would need careful attention during the pregnancy.

Prenatal care should be not only early initiated, but also, should be continuously during the pregnancy, according to the standard recommended periods. Using the prenatal care at the right time can reduce prenatal morbidity and mortality.

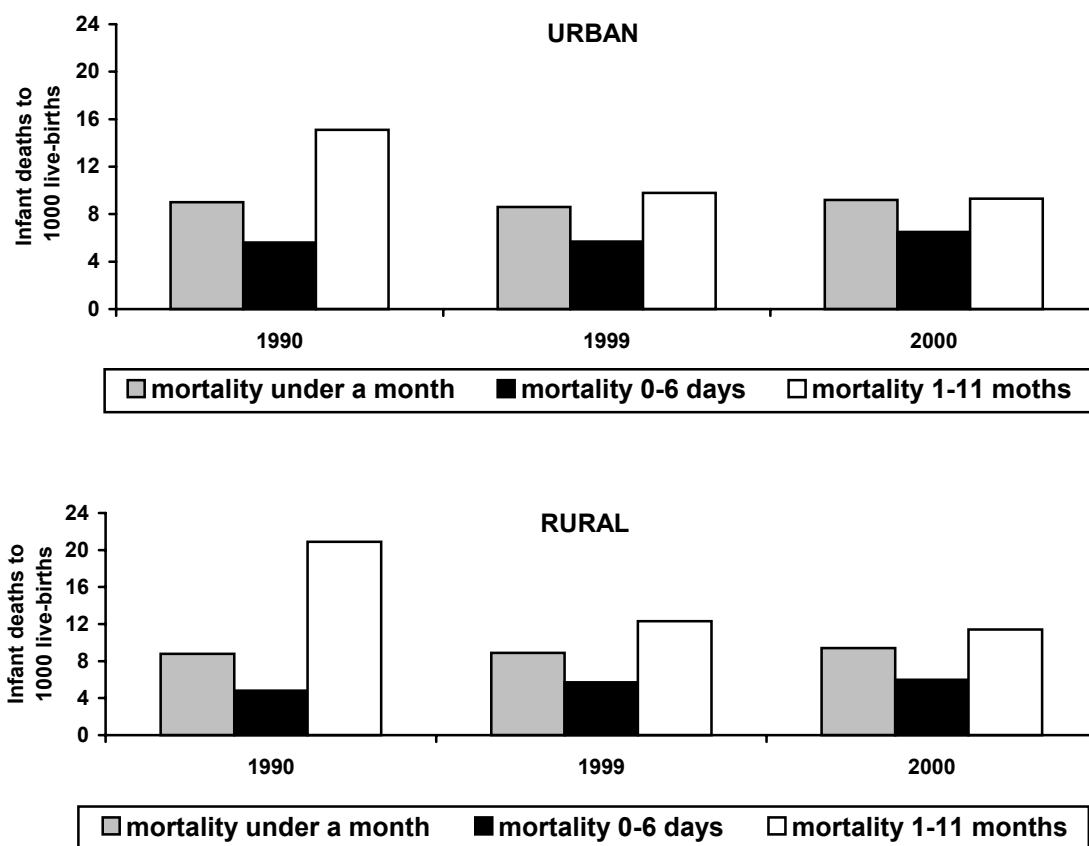
Unfortunately, the counselling before conception is not offered during the routine consultations, but neither the population is used to ask for it before establishing the pregnancy diagnosis.

These facts has directly affected the high level of the infant death in the first month of life and especially in the first 6 days (which represents about 2/3 from total). These deaths had the main causes the birth affections and congenital anomalies.

³ The source: The reproduction health survey in Romania, 1999

The majority of the deaths from the 1-11 months period are caused by exogenous factors as: mother and baby alimentation, the quality of the medical care accorded to mother during the prenatal period and the quality of paediatric assistance. These are determined also by the low level of the sanitary education of the parents, the number of children and the life condition and environment factors.

Figure 2.3 Infant mortality by age groups and by area, in 1990, 1999 and 2000



The main deaths causes registered for children under an year remained the respiratory system diseases and peri-natal affections. The infant death due to congenital malformations and that due to injury, poisoning and other external causes, as well as infectious and parasitic diseases slightly increased as against previous year.

On the other side, the infant mortality due to respiratory system diseases decreased. In this kind of diseases pneumonia continues to have the principal weight (96.2%).

The specific weight at birth is a risk factor that directly influences the number of infant deaths. In the respect of the health state, the under-weighted live-births (with a weight under 2500 grams) and those born premature are included in the risk category. In 2000 the weight of the children under 2500 grams was 8.9%, increasing comparative with previous year (8.7%). In 2000, 4.1% from the children were born premature (after a pregnancy less than 36 weeks), and 3/4 from them were under-weighted.

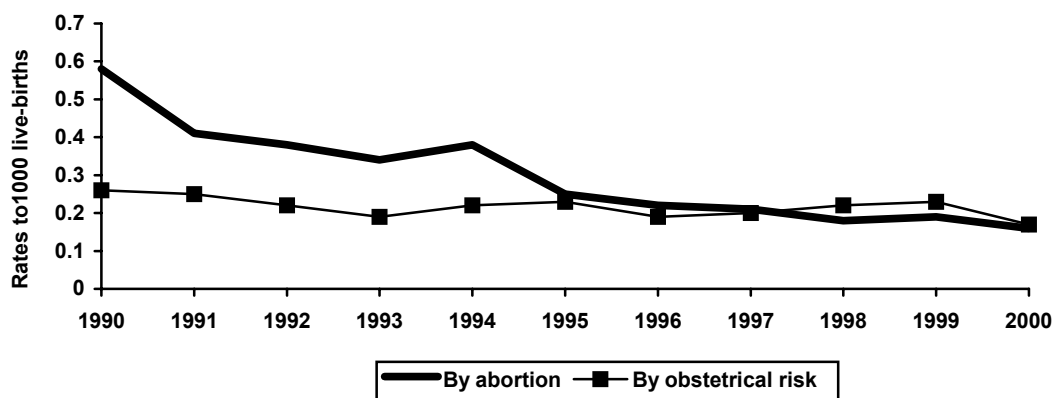
The children born under-weighted (with a weight less than 2500 grams) has registered in 2000 an infant mortality intensity 7 times higher than those of the children with a born weight over 2500 grams.

After 1989, though in our country has been made progresses in reducing maternal mortality, Romania still has the highest values in Europe.

The decrease of the maternal mortality was due mainly to abortion legalising and family planning programs. In the last ten years the maternal mortality has registered a significant decrease, the rate diminishing from 0.83 maternal deaths to 1000 live-births to 0.33%. Though comparative with 1990 the both components (death by abortion and those by obstetrical risk) has descended, over 90% from the reducing of the maternal deaths were due to decreasing the number of deaths by abortion.

Whether in 1990 the deaths by abortion were over 2.2 times more than those by obstetrical risk, starting with 1999 the relation has inverted, the deaths by obstetrical risk overcoming by 1.2 times those by abortion.

Figure 2.4 Maternal mortality, in 1990-2000 period



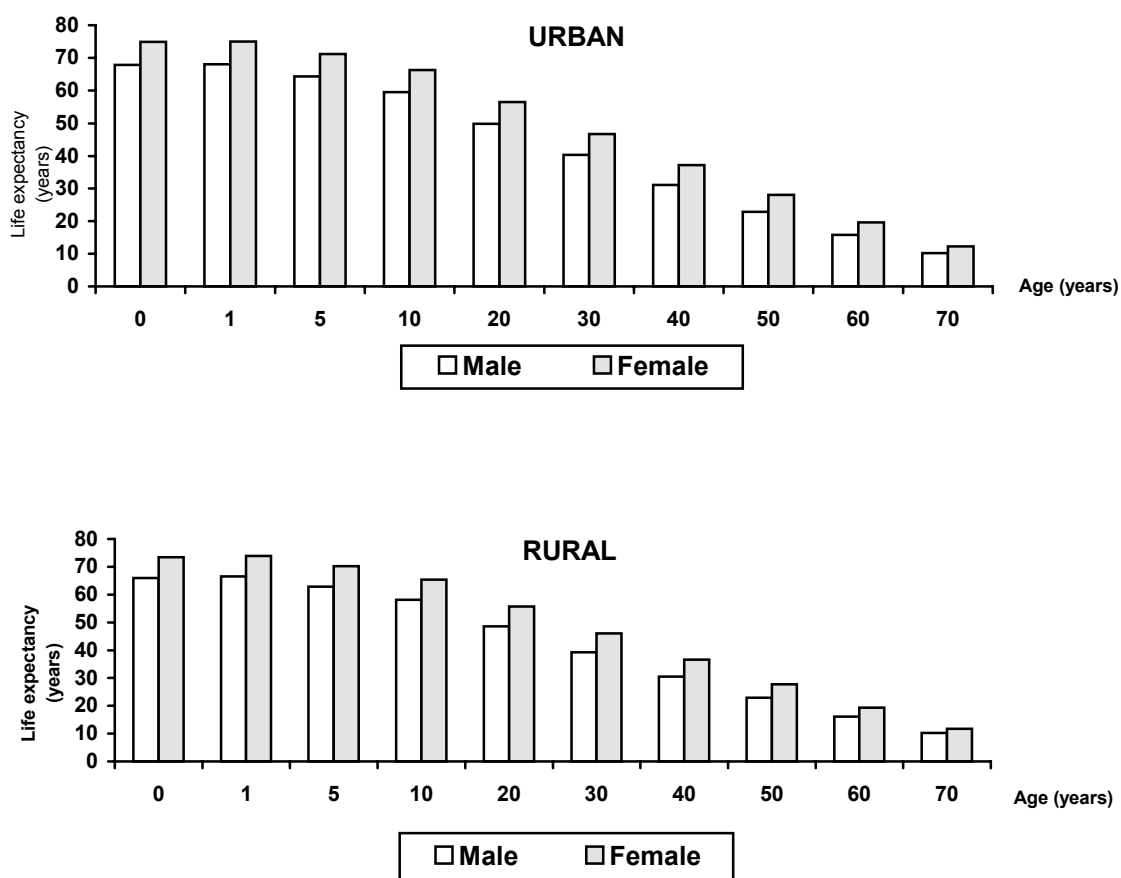
The high level of maternal mortality was due to the low efficiency of the family planning and social assistance for reproducing health programs.

In 1990-2000 period there were recorded about 1.4 million new cases of pregnancy, childbirth and puerperium complications, meaning a temporary disability that, transformed in paid sick leave days meant about 8 million days.

Life expectancy continued to increase, the present values being superior those registered in the whole period of the 90's, both per total and by gender. For the female population the average life expectancy was with 1.15 years higher than in 1990, and for the male population with 0.44 years.

As against the previous period life expectancy at birth increased from 69.74 years to 70.53 years. In 1998-2000 period the women's life expectancy was with 7.17 years more than for men's, the difference between sexes decreasing as against the previous period (7.62 years).

Figure 2.5 Life expectancy for some ages, by sex and by area, in 1998-2000 period



Comparative with the previous period the death probabilities grew up only for the age intervals 10-20 years (for men) and 10-15 years (for women). For all other age groups the death probability registered a decrease.

3. EDUCATION

Major changes in Romanian society after 1990 included also educational system reform. Among first concrete actions, adoption of new educational Law from 1995 (modified and completed in 1999) and of Teaching Staff Status in 1997 are recorded. The reform of educational system mainly implies the following measures:

- reducing the burden of educational programmes and European curriculum compatibility;
- converting the education from a main reproductive one in a creative education and replacing the scientific research as a base of university studies;
- improving infrastructure and generalisation of electronic communication;
- creating a partnership and a new interaction both between schools and universities and between schools and economic, administrative and cultural environment;
- creating a management oriented to competitiveness and performance, distant from centralism and populism;
- integration into international educational institutes network.

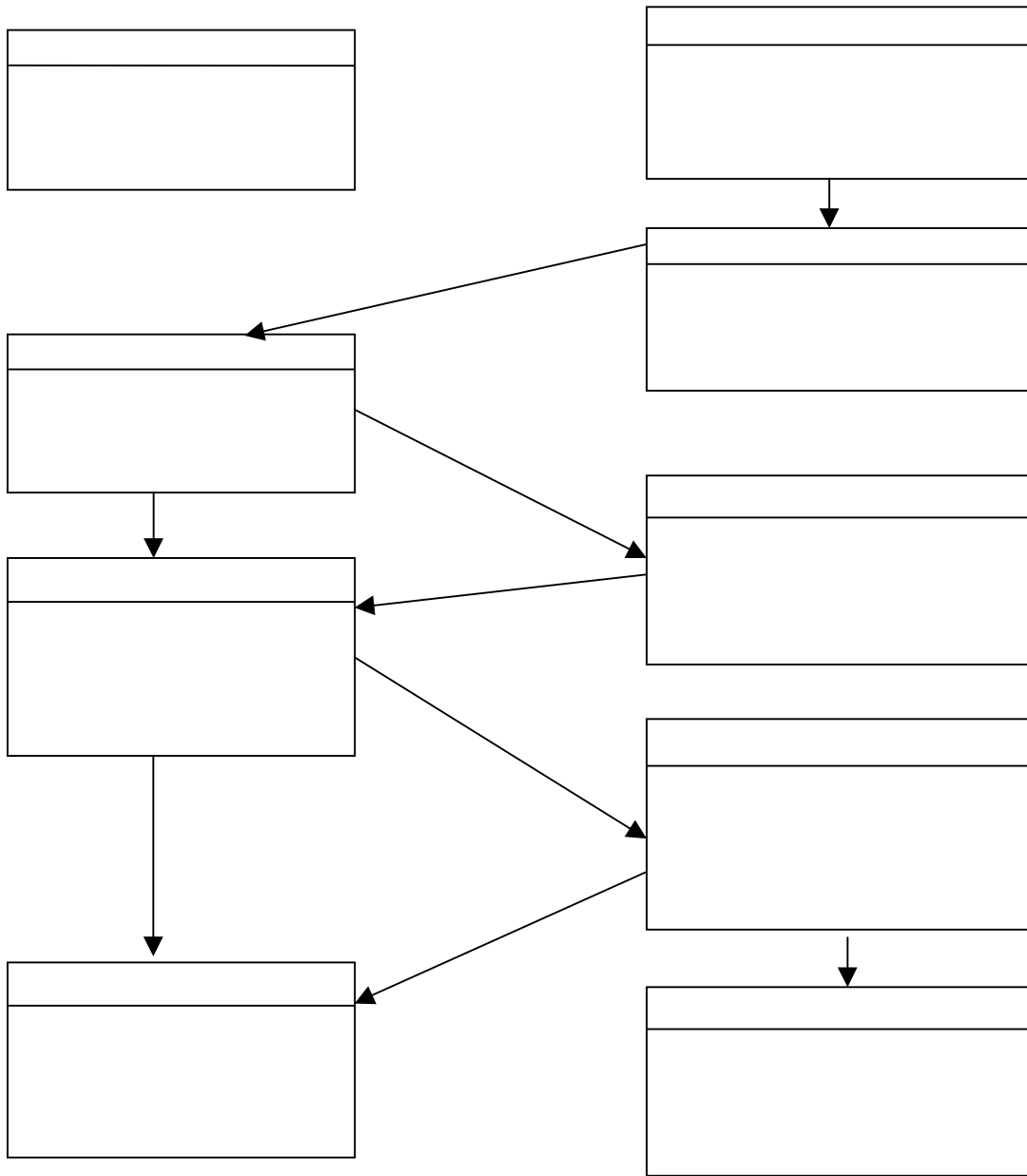
National Educational System (NES), organised by levels, provides training coherency and continuity according to age characteristic features. According to International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED 97), NES has the following structure:

- pre-school education - ISCED 0 (toddler, junior and senior classes, as well as a school preparation class);
- primary education - ISCED 1 (grades 1-4);
- lower secondary education – ISCED 2 (lower secondary education with grades 5-8);
- superior secondary education – ISCED 3 (high school education with grades 9-12 (13), vocational and apprenticeship education);
- post-secondary education – ISCED 4 (post-high school and foremen education);
- high education ISCED 5 (higher education of long duration and short duration-college).

Education levels distinguish educational institutes. Most of them are meant for pre-school education and for primary and secondary education.

In 2000, number of school units was 24.5 thousand; 41.2% of total belong to pre-school education and 51.9% to primary and lower secondary education.

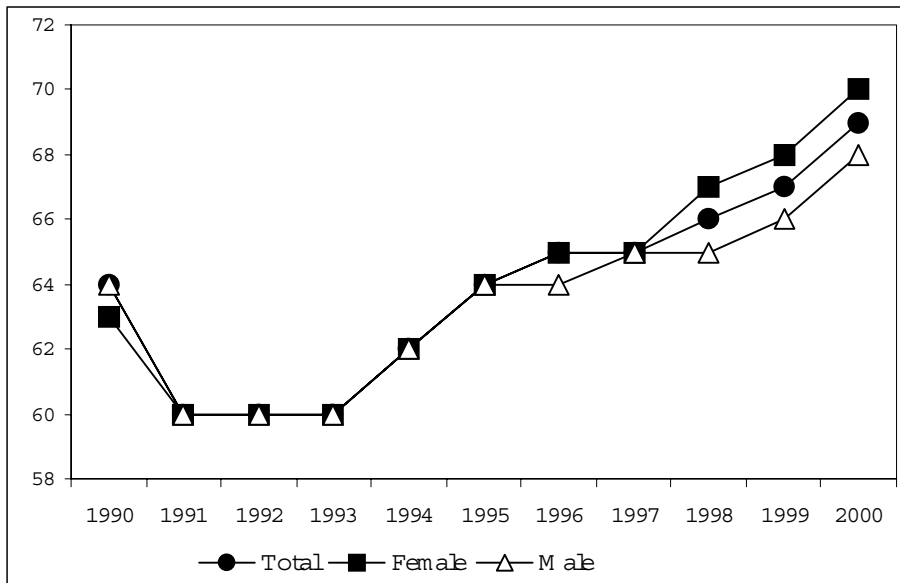
Figure 3.1. Enrolled population by educational levels



As against 1990, number of school units registered a decrease of 13.5%; some units were left out due to reducing school population. Educational system infrastructure is the result of an obvious low financing. Some buildings are very deteriorated, especially in rural areas.

In 2000, the school population represented 20.3% from total population, decreasing as against 1990 with 500.8 thousand persons (9.9%). Reducing of school population can be explained by decreasing of school-aged population and by increasing of non-participation rate of the youth to educational process.

Figure 3.2 Evolution of gross enrolment rate¹ for school and university aged population



The degree of enrolment differs according to educational levels and age group.

Although pre-school population is continuously decreasing, the weight of children registered in nursery schools in total pre-school-aged children has risen in 2000 (66.1%) comparing with 1990 (54.3%) due to gradual generalisation of school-preparing year according to new education law.

After 1990, the highest degree of enrolment by age group has been registered in 1994 (99.4%), due to compulsory primary school; it decreased by 5.2 percentage points in 2000.

Removing compulsory education of 10 classes and returning to 8 classes, according to law, has determined a systematic decrease of the degree of enrolment for the population aged 15 to 18 from 90.7% in 1990 to 74.6% in 2000.

Financial difficulties of families, as well as high unemployment rate for persons with vocational and high school education determined a decrease of the interest for secondary education.

Higher education became, yet, more attractive after 1990, for the population aged 19 to 23, the degree of enrolment in 2000 reaching 32.9%, higher by 22.3 percentage points than in 1990.

Number of students raised from 193 thousand persons in 1990 to 533 thousand in 2000; 28.3% from total are training in private educational system.

At same time, the degree of enrolment in higher education was lower comparing to other age group, corresponding to pre-university education, because a part of this population already performs an activity and the costs of continuing studies are very high.

Over last years, the weight of children aged 7 to 14 (age category that must receive compulsory education) not covered in education has gradually decreased, from 9.5% in 1991 to 2.8% in 2000.

In rural areas proportion of children not covered in educational system in 2000 had by 1.9 percentage points more than in urban areas (3.8% as against 1.9%).

¹ Gross enrolment rate means the number of pupils enrolled within a given educational level, irrespective of whether they belonging to the age group corresponding to that level, as share of the total population of the respective age group.

School abandonment, phenomenon with serious consequences in social life and with high social costs is present, with different intensities, at all education levels. In 1990, school abandonment rate was 4.9%, with different values on different education levels: 7.3% in superior secondary education, 8.2% in vocational education, 10.9% in apprenticeship education and 3.2% in foremen education.

In 2000, school abandonment rate fall to 2.0% for total country. Values over country average are maintained within some levels: 3.8% in high-school education, 5.4% in vocational education, 8.3% in apprenticeship education, 5.2% in foremen education and 8.9% in post-high-school education.

In 2000 abandonment in primary and lower secondary education has registered high values in urban areas: 1.3% as against 0.3% in rural areas.

Generally, education services access is provided by:

- gratuitous handbooks for pre-school education, primary and lower secondary education and for the pupils from vocational and high-school education whose parents have incomes lower than minimum wage;
- scholarships for studies, praiseworthy and social scholarships;
- gratuitous public education at all levels.

Promoting rate were differentiated by education levels and gender. Thus, in the 1999/2000 school year, proportion of female population in total graduates was 49.9% in lower secondary education, 55.1% in superior secondary education, 34.2% in vocational education and 67.1% in post-high-school education. Weight of female students who graduated high education in total graduates was 52.5% in 1999.

At the end of the 1999/2000 school year, the promotion rate for primary and lower secondary education was 95.8%. The promotion rate for girls was 97.1%, higher than of boys, both for total country and by residence areas.

Table 3.1 Share of promoted pupils in primary and lower secondary education, by area and gender at the end of the 1999/2000 school year

-%-

	Girls	Boys
Urban	98.0	96.0
Primary	98.0	96.8
Secondary	98.0	95.3
Rural	95.9	92.9
Primary	95.7	93.4
Secondary	96.1	92.4
Total	97.1	94.6
Primary	96.9	95.1
Secondary	97.2	94.1

In superior secondary education, by the end of the 1999/2000 school year the share of promoted girls in total promoted pupils was 55.6%.

In higher education, the weight of female students in the total number of enrolled students increased from 47.2% in 1990 to 53.5% in 2000.

In public higher education, the promotion degree in the 1999/2000 academic year was 83.4%, with no significant differences by gender.

Number of students has registered a significant increase, due to private education that was set up; in 2000 it was about 2.8 times higher comparing with 1990. Over last 3 university years, the weight of

female students was over 50.0% of total number of students (as against 46.0% in 1991), confirming equal access to higher education for young people of both sexes.

Evolution of structure of students by specialisation was influenced by the labour market demand. Thus, over last university years, the weight of students in technical high education decreased from 62.5% in 1990 to only 26.0% in 2000.

Table 3.2 Structure of enrolled students by specialisation

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Technical	62.5	57.5	50.1	44.4	39.5	28.1	27.0	27.0	27.6	27.7	26.0
Medical- Pharmaceutics	10.4	10.1	10.0	10.3	10.3	9.6	9.2	8.8	7.9	7.1	6.2
Economics	10.4	11.5	15.0	15.9	18.7	25.0	24.7	24.1	25.0	23.4	24.8
Juridical	2.1	3.5	4.6	6.0	6.1	12.8	13.6	14.8	14.0	13.9	12.9
University-pedagogy	13.6	16.0	18.8	21.7	23.5	22.8	23.6	22.9	23.6	26.2	28.5
Artistic	1.0	1.4	1.5	1.7	1.9	1.7	1.9	2.0	1.9	1.7	1.6

Other specialities (economics, university) registered a constant increasing trend. The weight of female students is majority, particularly in university-pedagogic education (64.5%), medical-pharmaceutics (64.6%) and economics (60.6%) higher education.

The same trends are noticed on structure of higher education graduates; at the end of 1999/2000 academic year, of total graduates, 52.5% were women and 47.5% men.

Table 3.3 Structure of graduates by sex in the higher education

	2000/2001	
	Women	Men
University	67	33
Medical-Pharmaceutics	60	40
Economics	60	40
Juridical	52	48
Artistic	55	45
Agricultural	42	58
Technical	24	76
Total	52	48

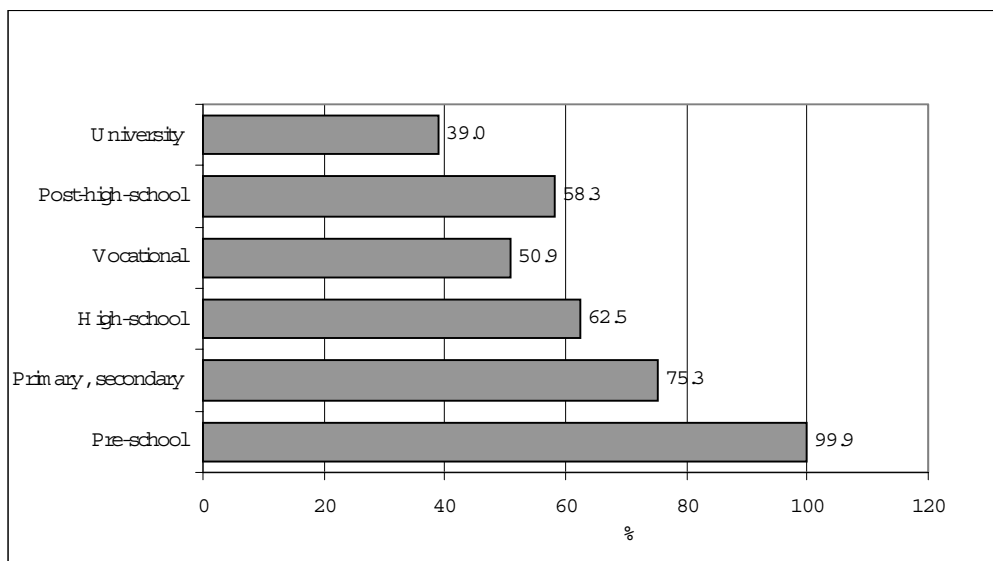
In the 2000/2001 academic year, 67 higher education units were functioning, with 258 faculties, where 150.7 thousand students were enrolled.

Of total graduates of 1999/2000 academic year, 27.7% are graduated of private higher education.

The number of teaching staff number has recorded, since 1990 and until 1996, a constant increase. In 2000 were by 23.0 thousand teachers more than in 1990.

Women teachers predominate at all education levels, except higher education.

Figure 3.3 Weight of female teaching staff by education levels in 2000/2001



Public expenditures for education in 1990-1998 period represented 3.0-3.6% from GDP (gross domestic product), diminishing at same time with GDP. Reducing of financial resources affected wages system of teaching staff, leading to a lower interest for the didactic profession. However, overall, as result of decreasing of pupils number, providing education with teaching staff has improved. Thus, pupils number reverted to a teacher has fallen in 2000 comparing with 1999 from 21 to 18 in primary education and from 14 to 13 in lower secondary education.

4. EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT

Transition to market economy had an impact on labour market characteristics, inducing significant changes in volume and structure of the main labour force indicators. After 1990, civilian employment decreased continuously, in 2000 recording (against 1990) a decrease by 1.3 million persons.

Table 4.1 Evolution of civilian labour force

	- thou. persons -										
	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Civilian labour force, of	10839.	11123	11387	11226.	11235	10491.	10036	9904.	9837.	9549.	9636.
which:	5	.2	.0	7	.5	4	.5	1	7	9	4
-civilian employment	10839.	10785	10458	10062.	10011		9379.	9022.	8812.	8419.	8629.
-registered unemployment	5	.8	.0	0	.6	9493.0	0	7	6	6	3
					1223.				1025.	1130.	1007.
	-	337.4	929.0	1164.7	9	998.4	657.5	881.4	1	3	1

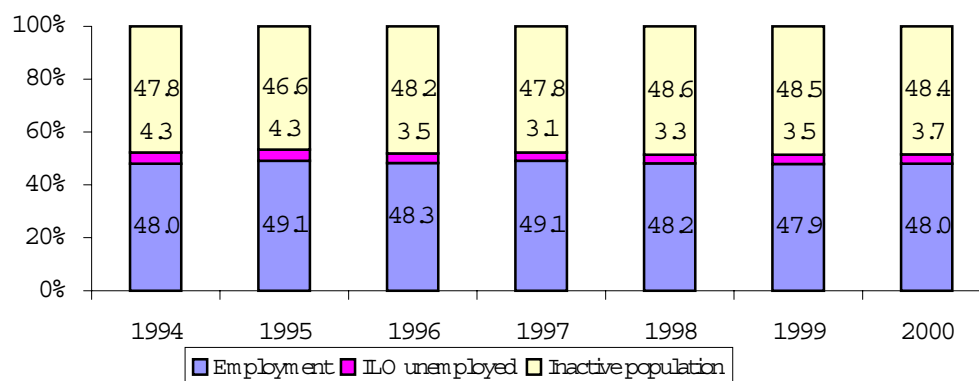
Activity rate, expressed as proportion of civilian labour force in total population, during 1990-1992 registered a growth of 3.3 percentage points, in 1993 and 1994 remaining at a constant level of about 49.5%. Activity rate fall in the following years, reaching the lowest level (43.0%) in 2000.

Employment changes expressed in report to labour resources, also present a descendent tendency for same period. If in 1990 from 100 persons able to carry out an useful labour within one of economic activities 82 were employed, in 1998 only 66% of labour resources had this quality and in 2000 the proportion fall to 64.6%.

*Labour Force Survey*⁴ results emphasise that during period 1994 - 2000, population distribution by main categories according to participation on economic activity suffered changes.

If, during the first four years, employment recorded close levels with a peak of over 11 million persons in 1995 and 1997, starting from 1998, the number of persons employed decreased slowly but continuously.

Figure 4.1 Population structure by main categories according to participation on economic activity

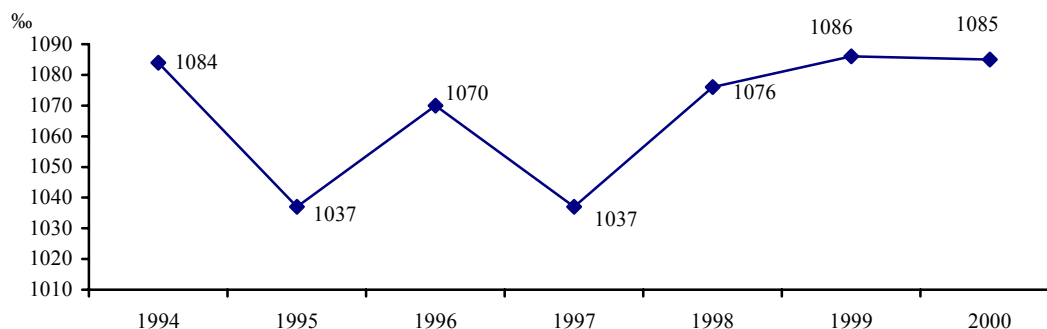


⁴ In 1994 and 1995, Labour Force Survey was an annual survey with the reference period during March of every year; starting from 1996, the survey became quarterly, continuously.

After a level of about 970 thou persons during first 2 years, among the following years, the ILO number of unemployed persons fall below 800 thou persons, increasing again in 2000 at over 821 thou unemployed persons.

Ratio of economic dependence (expressed as the number of non-occupied persons - unemployed and inactive - per 100 employed persons) of 1084 ‰ in 1994 registered fluctuations over the following 3 years, with slight improvements in 1995 and 1997 (1037 ‰). During last years, the ratio followed an ascendant curve, with a peak of 1086 ‰ in 1999.

Figure 4.2 Evolution of ratio of economic dependence



Persons working in urban areas are much more disadvantaged according to the ratio of economic dependence. Thus, in 2000, in urban area, 1424 non-occupied persons were living on the basis of goods and services provided by 1000 occupied persons. In rural, the burden of occupied persons is much lower, the ratio of economic dependence being 787 ‰.

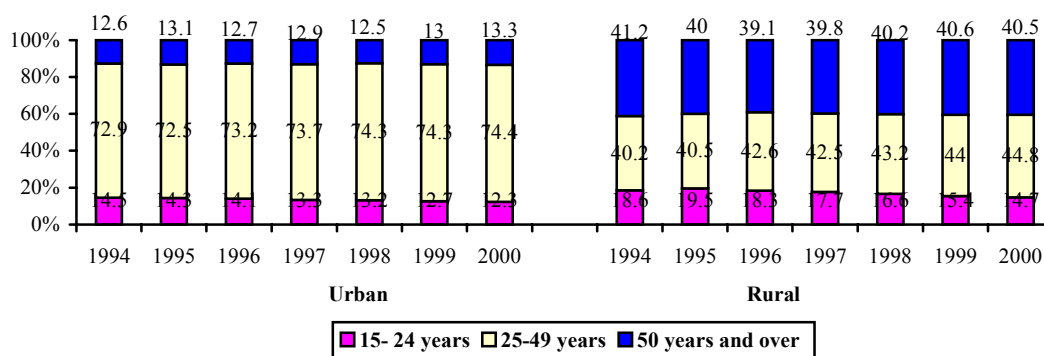
Men are representing the majority of labour force (54% in average for the period 1994 – 2000).

Persons with pre-university level of education (high school and vocational) are representing a significant proportion of total active population (more than 52% over last 3 years). Labour force distribution by age groups differs essentially between the two residence areas.

In urban area, persons aged 25 – 49 years old represent the majority of active persons (over 70%), their proportion increasing continuously till almost three-quarters (74.4% in 2000). Increasing of the population from this category take place in same time with the constant decreasing of the proportion of young persons (age group 15 – 24 years old), from 14.5% in 1994 to 12.3% in 2000. Same time, the proportion of persons aged 50 years and over remains at a constant level, with only small fluctuations between 12.5% in 1998 and 13.3% in 2000.

In rural area, persons aged 25 – 49 years and 50 years and over carry out the social and economic activities in almost equal proportions. Weights of active persons from the two large age groups are recording close values, around 40%. However, it can be noticed a slight tendency of increasing of population of 25 – 49 years old, from 40.2% in 1994 to 44.8% in 2000, while the proportion of young persons suffered a decrease from 18.6% in 1994 to 14.7% in 2000.

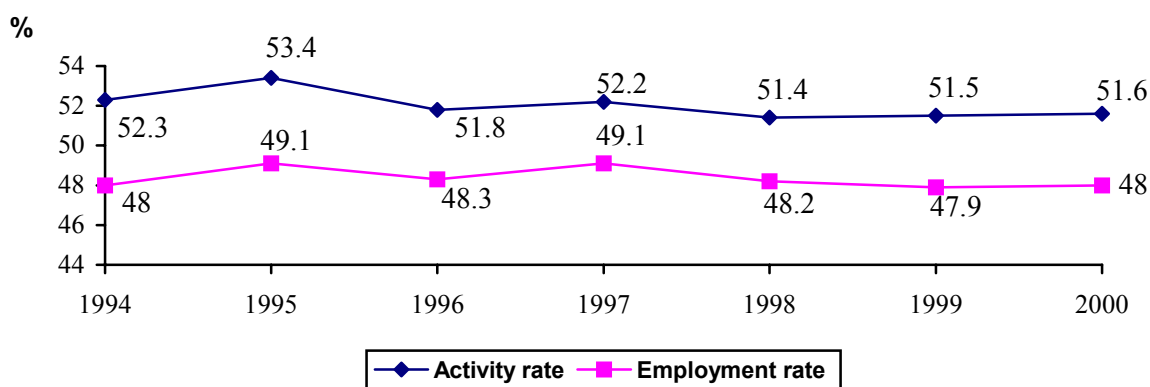
Fig 4.3 Labour force distribution by age groups and residence areas



Global activity rate (proportion of active persons in total population of the country) reached a peak of 53.4% in 1995, higher for men (58.5%) comparing the one for women (48.5%), with a maximum 90.1% for the persons aged 35 - 39 years. Last 3 years were characterised by a slight tendency of increasing, global activity rate reaching 51.6% in 2000, higher for male (57.0%) comparing to female one (46.5%) and for rural area (57.8%) comparing to urban one (46.5%).

Global employment rate (proportion of employed persons in total population of the country) followed general trend of global activity rate. After a peak of 49.1% in 1995 and 1997, level of employment rate fall to 47.9% in 1999, registering a slight recovering in the following year. In 2000, the difference between the global employment rates by gender was 9.1 percentage points (52.6% for male against 43.5% for female).

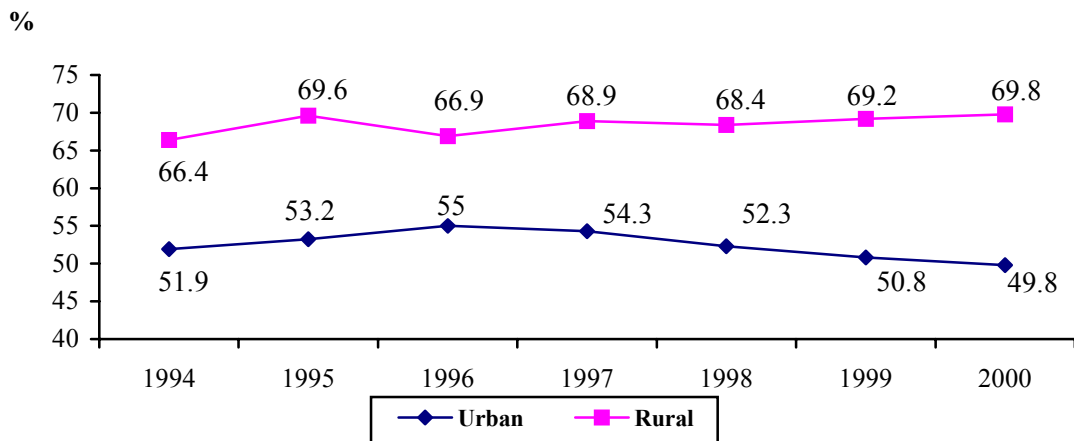
Figure 4.4 Evolution of global activity rate and of global employment rate



Employment rate of population aged 15 years and over, after a minimum of 58.7% in 1994, kept a relatively constant level over the following years (around 60%), afterwards following a descending curve, reaching in 2000 almost same level recorded with 7 years ago, i.e. 58.8%. Highest level of employment rate was registered in 1998 for the persons aged 35 – 49 years old (81.6%).

Remarkable is the evolution of employment rate by the two residence areas. In urban, after a maximum of 55.0% in 1996, proportion of employed persons in total population aged 15 years and over followed a continuous decline, falling to 49.8% in 2000. In exchange, in rural, after an oscillatory trajectory (between 66% and 69%) over first 4 years, employment rate followed an ascendant curve, reaching 69.8% in last year.

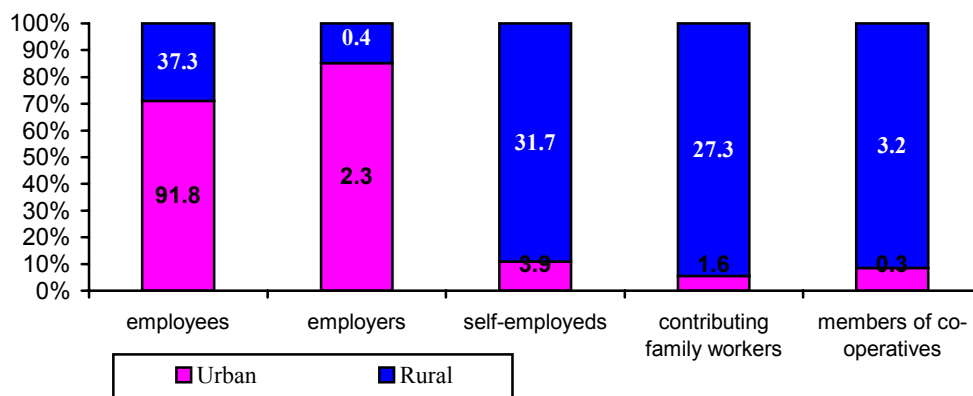
Figure 4.5 Evolution of employment rate for population aged 15 years and over



For persons aged 35 – 49 years, employment proportion is the highest for both residence areas: urban and rural. Extreme levels (minimum and maximum) over entire period were recorded in 2000, i.e. 77.2% in urban area and 84.4% in rural area.

Notable differences between the two residence areas are occurring for young persons (15 – 24 years) and persons aged 50 years and more. If in urban employment rate varied between 23.3% in 2000 and 29.0% in 1996, in rural, the rate is much higher, even double, between 50.9% in 1999 and 54.7% in 1997. For persons aged 50 – 64 years, the difference recorded for employment rate between urban and rural is placed on a scale from simple to double (36.2% in urban against 77.0% in rural in 2000). For elderly (aged 65 years and over), the difference of employment rate between the two residence areas is even more remarkable (4.4% in urban against 56.4% in rural in 2000).

Figure 4.6 Employment distribution by professional status



Over period 1994 - 2000, *employees* represented majority of employment. Highest proportion of employees within total employment (63.0%) was registered in 1994, followed by the one from 1996 (62.4%), afterwards continuing to fall constantly till 56.1% in 2000. In 2000, the largest part of employees was concentrated in services (50.4%), but also in industry and constructions (44.7%).

Employers represent a small proportion of total employment, between 1.0% in 1999 and 1.4% in 1995. Whole sale and retail is the preponderant activity carried out by employers, concentrating about two-thirds of them. It can be observed an increase of interest of this category for manufacturing industry (14.8% in 2000 against 10.0% in 1998) and a decrease for hotels and restaurants activities (from 6.4% in 1998 to 3.5% in 2000). In 2000, 5.4% of employers carried out their activity also in constructions.

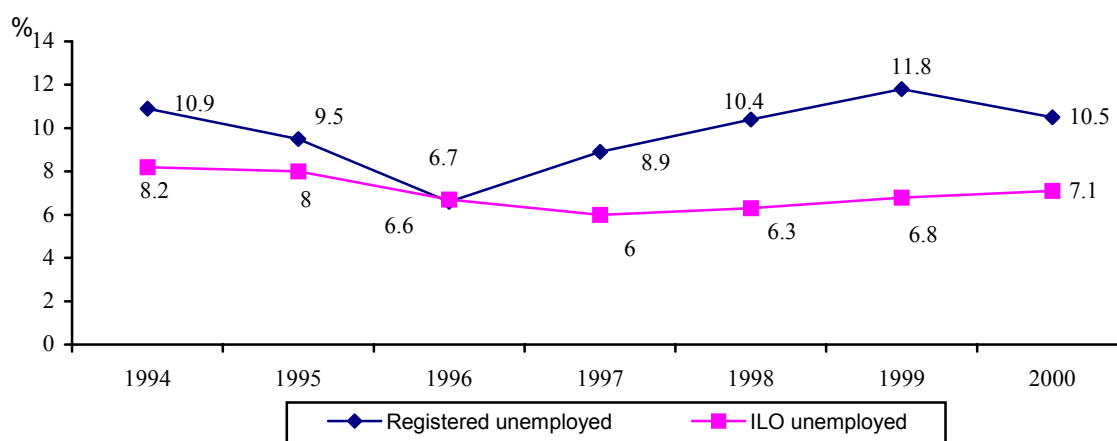
Proportion of *self-employed* (without employees), after a peak of 22.4% in 1995, fall to 19.8% in the next year, afterwards registering a constant ascending trend, in 2000 representing 23.1% from the total employment. Highest proportion of persons from this category belongs to rural area (over 90%), mostly carrying out agricultural activities. Only a small number of persons can be found among the other activities (in 1998, 3.4% in whole sale and retail and 2.3% in manufacturing).

Majority of *contributing family workers* and of *members of agricultural associations and co-operatives* is also working in agriculture.

Over half of total employment has at least pre-university education level and about one-third is represented by those with gymnasium and primary education level and by persons without school graduated. Comparing to 1994, it can be observed an increase of proportion of population who graduated high school and a decrease of the proportion of those with gymnasium and primary school and of those without school graduated. Phenomenon may be understood by the entrance on labour market of “baby-boom” generation and by the reduction of school population after 1990. Weight corresponding to persons with university education remains during most of these years about 8.0%, reaching 9.1% in 2000.

Number of **unemployed persons registered** at National Agency for Employment according to national legislation had a spectacular evolution in 1991 – 1993 reaching a peak of 1.2 million persons in 1994. During the following years unemployment rate decreased, number of unemployed persons falling to 658 thou persons in 1996. Following period was characterised by an ascending trend, with a maximum of 11.8% in 1999. Next year, in 2000, unemployment rate decreased to 10.5%. Analysis of distribution of registered unemployment by gender shows that women are more affected by this phenomenon, their number exceeding men one till 1997. In 1998, over one-third of unemployed were young people, aged under 25 years.

Figure 4.7 Registered and ILO unemployment rate



ILO unemployment rate⁵ recorded less spectacular variations, between 6.0% in 1997 and 8.2% in 1994. Minimum level reached in 1997 ended the period of descending trend of ILO unemployment rate followed starting from 1994. Over last 3 years phenomenon has an increasing tendency, reaching 7.1% in 2000. Distribution by gender and residence areas shows that men and persons residing in urban area are preponderant, representing 58.6% and respectively 77.4% from total ILO unemployment in 2000.

⁵ Labour Force Survey

Figure 4.8 Unemployment rate by residence areas

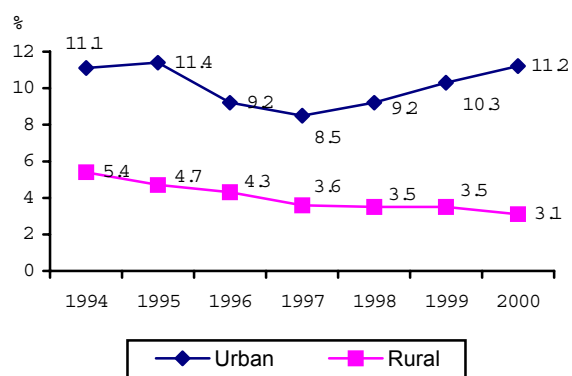
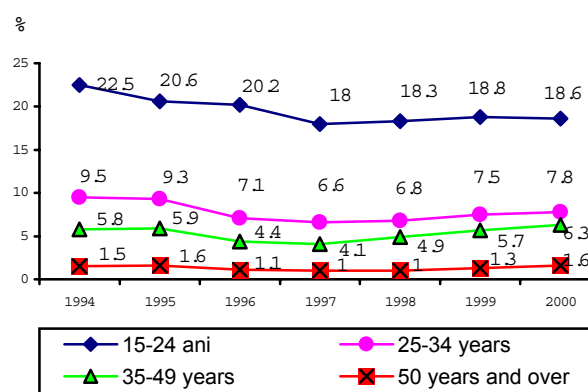


Figure 4.9 Unemployment rate by age groups



Present constantly over entire period, the gap between the two residence areas grew continuously after 1997. Unemployment rate in rural area decreased slightly from 3.6% in 1997 to 3.1% in 2000, while unemployment rate in urban area increased in same time from 8.5% to 11.2%.

Even if women proportion is lower than men one, during period 1994 – 1997, unemployment rate for female population exceeded the one for male population by about 1 percentage point (between 0.7 percentage points in 1997 and 1.1 percentage points in 1995). Starting from 1998, the report was inverse, in 2000 male unemployment rate exceeding the female one by 1.3 percentage points.

Table 4.2 Distribution of ILO unemployed persons by age groups

- % -

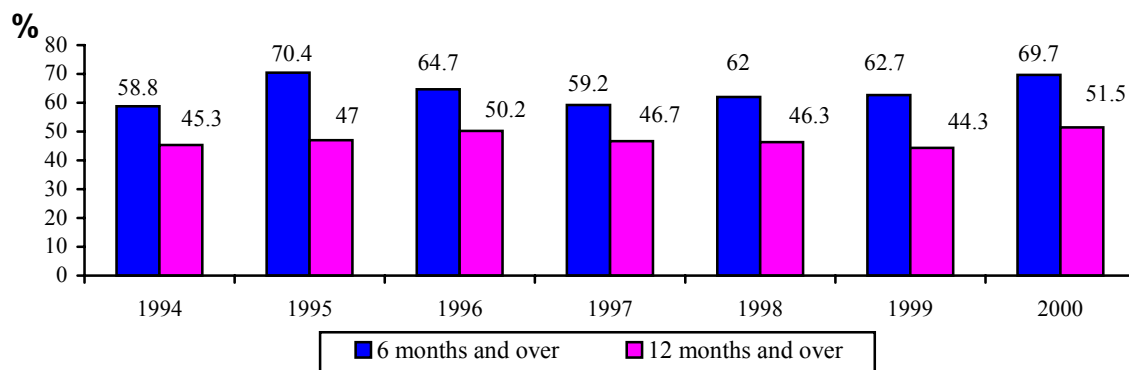
Age groups	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
15-24 years	45.8	43.8	48.4	46.4	43.1	38.9	35.5
25-34 years	23.7	25.8	24.8	25.6	26.2	27.5	28.8
35-49 years	25.4	25.0	22.5	23.5	26.5	28.5	29.4
50 years and over	5.1	5.4	4.3	4.5	4.3	5.2	6.2

Analysis of unemployed persons by age groups shows that young people are strongly affected by the phenomenon. 1996 was the worst year for youth in terms of their access on labour market, their proportion (48.4%) exceeding even the one corresponding to large group of persons aged 25-49 years (47.3%). Same time youth unemployment rate followed a descending trend (20.2% in 1996), after a maximum of 22.5% reached at the beginning in 1994. Starting from 1997, the gap between generations decreased constantly, in 2000 young people representing little over one-third (35.5%) while persons aged 25-49 years covered 58.2% of total ILO unemployment. In 2000, 44.8% of the rural unemployed persons were young people while same proportion for urban area was 32.8%, although in urban were reported 251 young unemployed per 100 young unemployed in rural area.

Unemployment affects mainly persons with lower education level and less those with university education (3.3% in 1998 and 4.4% in 2000 from total ILO unemployment). High school graduated unemployed represented 44.9% in 1998 and 39.9% in 2000 from total unemployment, those with vocational education level 27.2% and respectively 31.0%, while persons without school graduated or only with primary school represented for same years 5.1% and 4.5%.

A special attention has to be shown to long term unemployed persons, i.e. unemployed for *12 months and over*.

Figure 4.10 Incidence of long term ILO unemployment (as percentage of total number of unemployed)



During two years – 1996 and 2000 – proportion of long term unemployment represented majority of total unemployment (50.5% and respectively 51.5%). In 1999, same proportion recorded the lowest level (44.3%), men representing 53.2% and the proportion of the persons in unemployment for *2 years and over* reaching 58.5%.

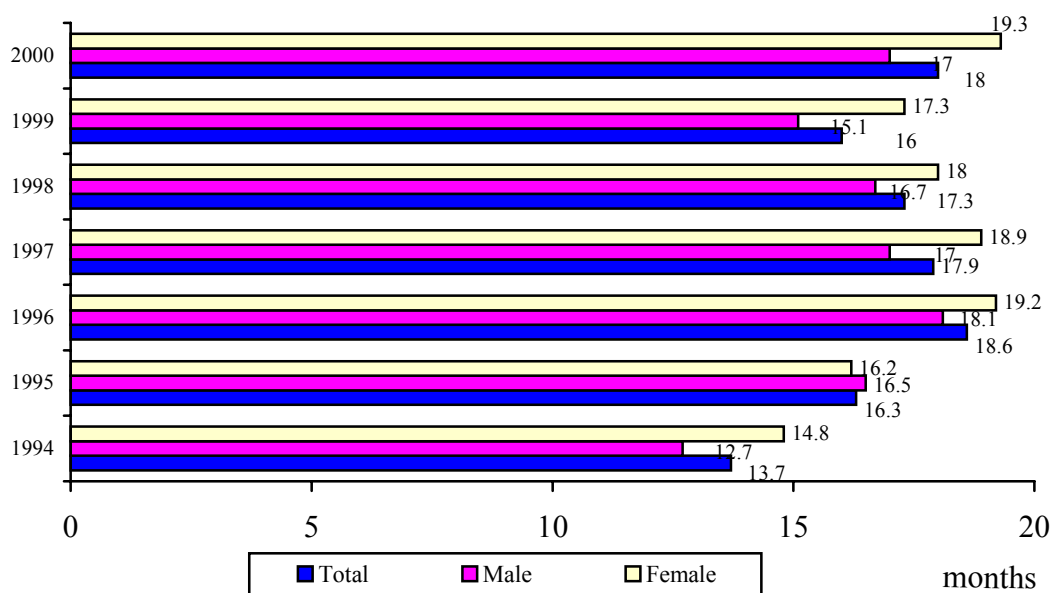
In 1995, proportion of those in unemployment for *6 months and over* represented 70.4%. During the other years, same proportion was lower (58.8% in 1994, 64.7% in 1996), in 2000 reaching again 69.7%.

Most of the long-term unemployed persons are high school graduated: over one-third of male long term unemployed and over one-third of female long term unemployed. Women with university education in unemployment for 12 months and over represented in 1998 only 4.0% of total female long-term unemployment.

In 1994, the shortest unemployment duration was recorded (13.7 months), longer for female by 2.1 months comparing to male one (14.8 months against 12.7 months).

Unemployment registered the longest duration in 1996 (18.6 months for both sexes and 18.1 months for male). For women, the longest period of seeking a job was registered in 2000, i.e. 19.3 months, by 2.3 months longer than for men.

Figure 4.11 Average ILO unemployment duration by sex



Generally, men succeed to end unemployment period faster than women. Young people also are founding a job quicker due to a higher education level but also due to their capacity of adapting rapidly to labour market demands. Thus, in 2000, youth unemployment duration was 13.1 months comparing to 19.6 months for unemployed persons aged 25-34 years and 21.3 months for those aged 35-49 years.

5. WAGES AND SOCIAL BENEFITS

◆ Wages

Average net earning was 2139 thou lei in 2000, higher with 65% comparing to previous year. Against 1990, average net earning of 2000 was by almost 633 times higher.

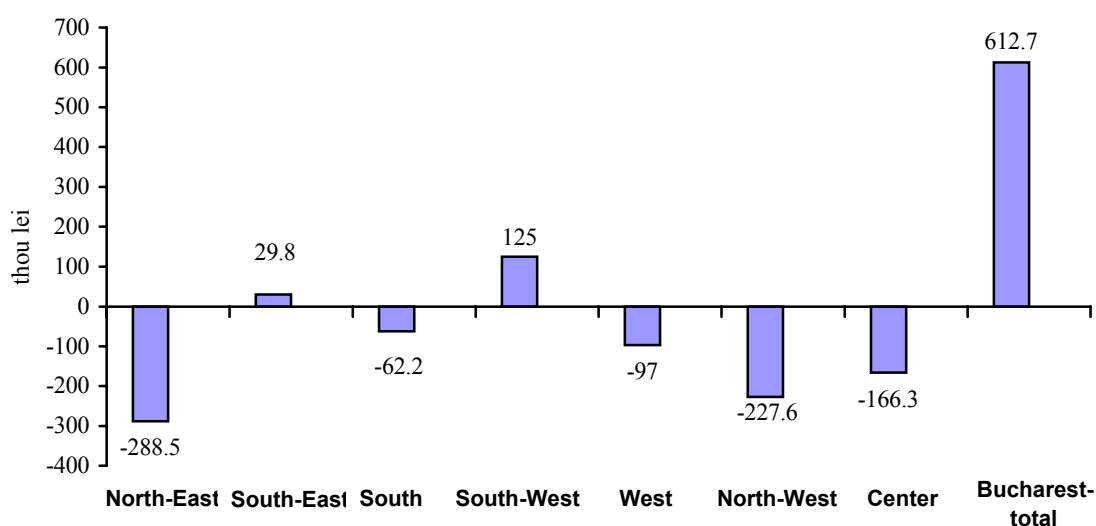
Starting from 1994, the increase of net earning was accelerated. If in 1995 the increase of net earning was 48% against the previous year and in 1996 was 52% (against 1995), in 1997 the net earning was by 96% higher than in 1996. During the following years the rhythm of increasing slow down, 1999 recording an increase by 46% against the previous year and in 1998 and 2000 comparing to each previous year, the increase was by 65%.

In 2000, biggest increasings of average net earning comparing to 1999, were registered in activities of: hotels and restaurants (72%), education and post and telecommunication (70%), transport and storage and industry (69%) and real estate (68%).

Comparing to national average, 2000 net earning was higher by 2.5 times in financial, banking and insurance activities, by 68% in post and telecommunication, by 42% in public administration and by 21% in transport and storage. Below the national average were recorded net earnings in following activities: hotels and restaurants (-35%), whole sale and retail (-30%), agriculture (-28%), constructions (-13%).

By statistical regions only three out of eight regions recorded a level of average net earning superior to the national average, region Bucharest being in top position by 29% over. From the remaining five regions which recorded net earnings below the national average, on the lowest position was situated region North-East which registered only 87% from national average of net earning.

Figure 5.1 Deviations from national average of net earnings by regions in 2000



By ownership type, in 2000, as well as during the previous years, the highest average net earning belong to state sector (2936 thou lei). Units of private sector are situated below national average (2110.5 thou lei and respectively 1696.4 thou lei). Lowest earning was recorded by the units from co-operation sector (1333.8 thou lei).

Comparing the evolution of the report between average net earning from each activity and national average, two tendencies may be observed:

➤ Usually, in branches for which in 1994 the average net earning exceeded national average, later on the gap continued to grow. This is the case for industry (+4.2 percentage points against national average in 2000, in mining and quarrying the gap growing to +71.9 percentage points), public administration (+42.3 percentage points), post and telecommunication (+ 67.5 percentage points), financial, banking and insurance activities (+ 145.8 percentage points). Constructions remain an exception, recording a decrease, being situated below the national average in 1998 and continuing to decrease constantly during the following years, in 2000 representing only 87% of national average.

➤ Branches, which were situated below the national average in 1994, continued to remain on this position, deepening the gap more and more. Phenomenon is characteristic for agriculture, wholesale and retail, hotels and restaurants, health activities, for which, in 2000, net earning represented 71.7%, 70.2%, 64.6% and, respectively 82.7% of national average. An exception is education, which, only in 1998, exceeded a little the national average.

Deep differences may be noticed between industrial branches, the report against the national average being much above in mining and quarrying, electric and thermal energy, gas and water, while the average net earning in manufacturing exceeded slightly the national average only for two years, in 1996 and 1997.

Table 5.1 Average net earning comparing to national average by activities
- % -

	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Agriculture	85.2	82.1	79.5	81.0	79.1	75.4	73.4	76.5	71.7
Sylviculture, forestry and hunting	92.1	84.0	82.0	84.8	86.3	92.0	92.5	97.2	91.5
Total industry	101.8	104.5	103.6	107.6	109.0	111.3	105.0	102.1	104.2
- mining and quarrying	157.4	165.6	164.5	158.9	151.7	156.6	161.2	155.3	171.9
- manufacturing	93.6	94.6	93.0	98.4	100.7	100.9	92.8	91.2	92.0
- electric and thermal energy, gas and water	153.7	162.6	161.2	150.2	146.9	169.4	176.1	157.4	159.3
Construction	106.4	107.5	116.2	106.4	103.4	99.0	94.6	91.9	87.0
Whole sale and retail	89.7	88.3	87.4	79.8	77.9	73.7	68.9	70.1	70.2
Hotels and restaurants	73.3	70.4	69.1	68.8	67.4	66.2	63.6	61.8	64.6
Transport and storage	125.3	119.8	117.3	119.9	123.8	124.0	117.3	118.6	121.1
Post and telecommunication	97.3	109.6	114.6	125.8	120.1	145.3	159.7	166.4	167.5
Financial, banking and insurance activities	147.9	143.3	165.0	184.3	205.2	238.0	265.1	262.3	245.8
Real estate	104.5	99.1	97.7	107.0	106.0	111.1	101.9	99.8	100.9
Public administration	104.1	104.9	105.6	106.9	94.9	97.7	131.7	140.7	142.3
Education	93.0	91.0	93.2	92.1	85.8	86.7	100.9	93.0	95.7
Health and social assistance	98.1	92.2	88.9	76.3	71.5	74.4	81.6	98.9	82.7

Ratio between female and male wages earned registered contradictory evolutions, mainly determined by personnel lay-off and by redistribution of employees among national economy branches to new occupations and working places.

Employees distribution by gross wages earned in October 2000 shows that almost two-thirds of total employees earned gross wages up to average national level (approximately 3 million lei), 30% earned

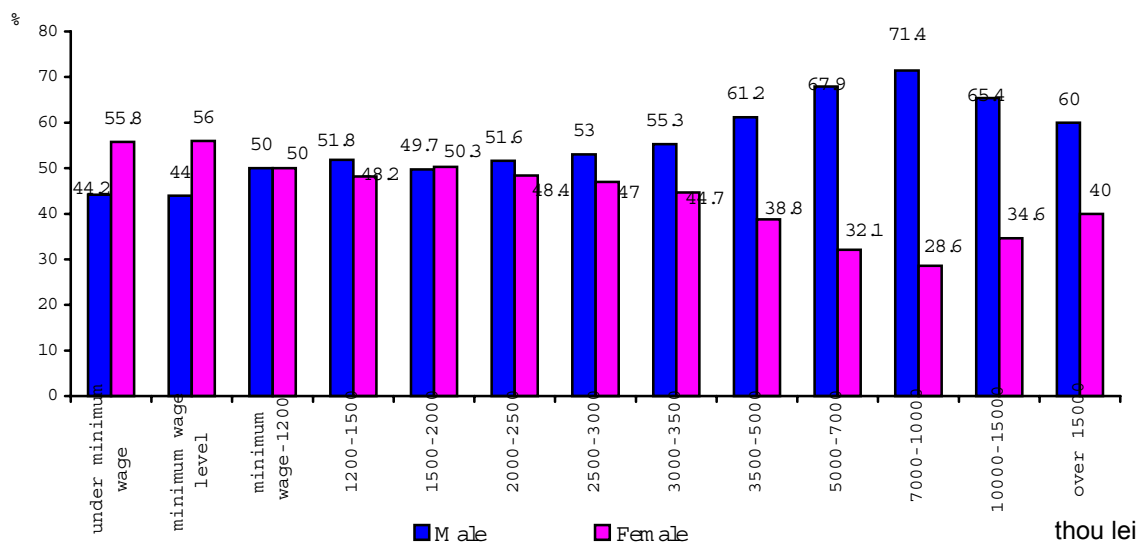
gross wages between 3 and 7 million lei and only 5% exceeded the limit of 7 million lei. At the level of minimum wage were remunerated 6.5% of total employees and below 0.4%.

Table 5.2 Women per men gross earning ratio in October, by activities

	- % -						
	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
TOTAL	79	79	76	76	80	83	84
Agriculture	95	95	92	98	102	96	99
Sylviculture, forestry and hunting	97	94	86	87	89	92	80
Total industry	74	76	75	71	71	73	69
Construction	87	89	90	89	95	101	96
Whole sale and retail	87	85	85	75	80	81	81
Hotels and restaurants	79	77	79	74	74	88	67
Transport and storage	87	85	88	84	91	97	94
Post and telecommunication	91	98	88	86	89	90	102
Financial, banking and insurance activities	72	93	98	90	91	90	85
Real estate	91	89	89	88	93	107	110
Public administration	85	82	83	89	78	82	77
Education	86	87	85	91	87	89	87
Health and social assistance	90	91	85	86	87	92	88

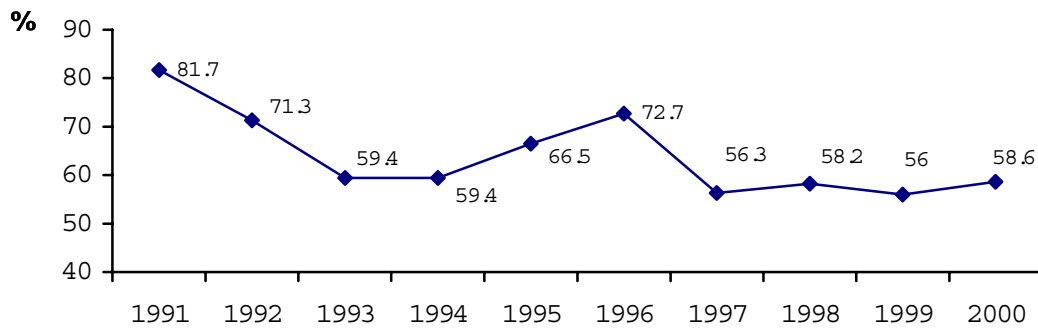
In 2000, as well as over previous years, women concentration on low wages area (up to 2.5 million lei) may be noticed comparing to men situation who are predominant on wage groups that exceed this limit. Among high wage groups of over 5 million lei, their number is twice comparing to women one.

Figure 5.2 Employee's distribution by earned wage groups in October 2000



Wages have been permanently eroded by inflation, so that purchasing power of average monthly net earning over last decade did not reach 1990 level.

**Figure 5.3 Evolution of real earning indices
(1990=100%)**



After 1990, real earning evolution has been sinuous. In 2000 real earning represented only 58.6% of 1990 one. Earning purchasing power followed a descending trend after 1990, in 1993 and 1994 reaching the lowest level (59%). Over the next two years a period of increasing followed (73% in 1996), afterwards continuing to depreciate again.

◆ **Social benefits**

Social protection are a includes protection of unemployed, social security for pensions, sick leaves and maternity leaves, protection of families with children and social assistance.

Social protection of unemployed

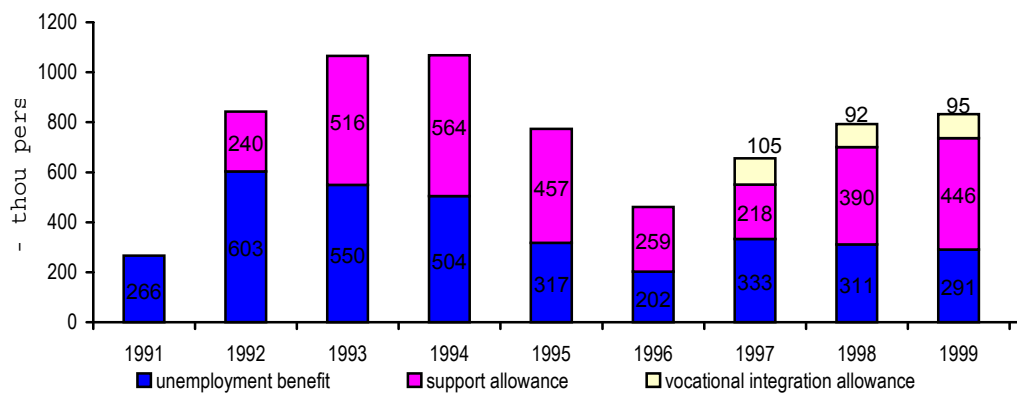
Unemployment maintaining within relatively moderate limits, even under conditions of personnel lay-off, was a result of employment measure, some of which are described below:

- providing incentives for physical and legal persons who hire graduates of education institutions;
- granting loans for setting up of small and medium size enterprises;
- qualification, re-qualification and vocational training of unemployed;
- organisation of Job Exchange;
- special program for employment of lay off personnel.

Passive protection of unemployed is accomplished by granting social indemnities such as: unemployment benefit, support allowance, vocational integration allowance and compensatory payments for personnel laid off in case of closing down or restructuring enterprises activity.

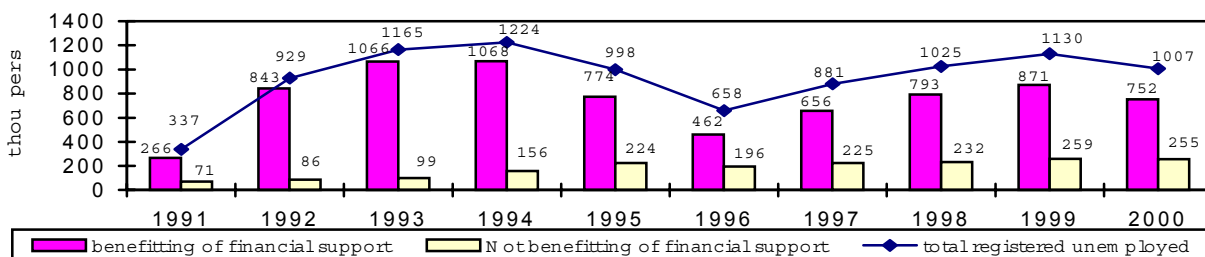
As unemployment becomes chronic, number of persons receiving support allowance increased significantly during 1993-1994.

Figure 5.4 Number of beneficiaries of financial support for unemployment, by categories of support



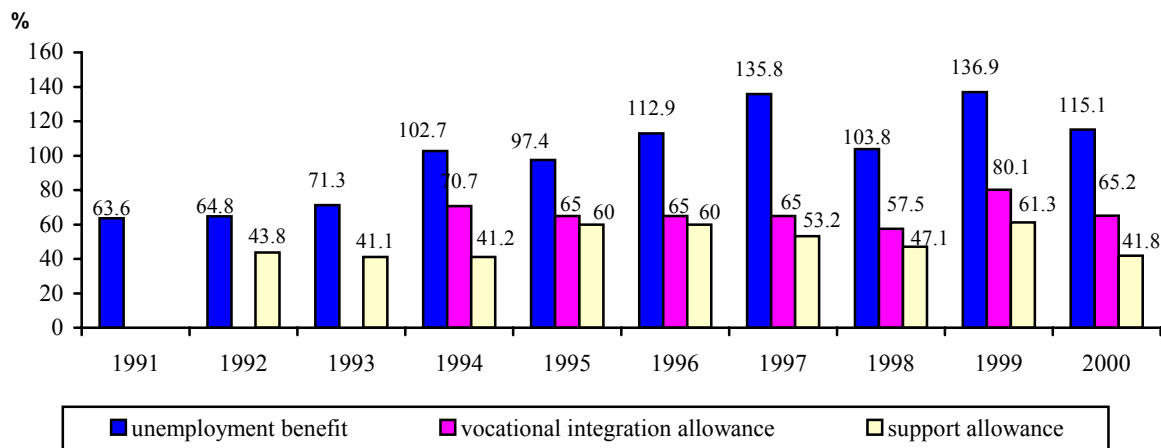
Most of registered unemployed is beneficiary of financial support (unemployment benefit, support allowance, vocational integration allowance). Increasing number of unemployed not receiving financial support is the result of expiring of period for which they were entitle to receive support and also of increasing of job seekers who never worked and who, according to national legislation, are not entitle to receive these type of financial support.

Figure 5.5 Evolution of number of registered unemployed



Ratio between average level of unemployment financial support and minimum wage increased after 1994 (excepting 1995 when it dropped little under 100%) in favour of unemployment benefit, in 1999 representing 136.9% and in 2000 descending to 115.1%. After expiring the period of 270 days during which, according to legislation, unemployed persons are entitled to unemployment benefit, for another period of 18 months support allowance is granted.

Figure 5.6 Ratio between average level of unemployment financial support and minimum wage



Vocational integration allowance is granted starting from 1994 to the following categories of persons:

- graduates of education institutions aged at least 18 years old who do not have own income resources at the level of at least half of minimum wage and who, during 60 days did not succeed to employ anywhere;
- graduates of education institutions aged at least 16 years old without legal supporters or whose legal supporters can not afford to support them;
- young people who before the military compulsory service could not find a job and who, could not employ within 30 days after ending of service;
- graduates of special schools for disable who did not find a job.

Most favourable ratio between vocational integration allowance and minimum wage was registered in 1999, i.e. 80.1%. In 2000, the ratio was 65.2%.

Protection of families with children

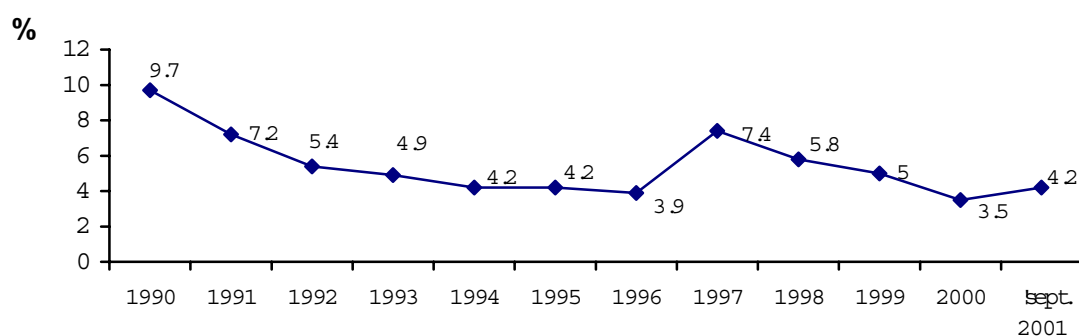
- **State allowance for children**

Until 1993, beneficiaries of state allowance for children were only children of employees or of persons assimilated to employees.

In 1993 the right to this financial support became universal and new categories of beneficiaries were introduced by implementing 1998 legislation. Enlargement of beneficiary number under the conditions of decreasing trend of population aged 0-18 years determined a sinuous evolution of beneficiaries of state children allowance. Level of state allowance for children was adjusted upon prices evolution, at long periods of time, a decision in significantly increasing it (over 4 times) being taken only in January 1997; in November 2000 it level was doubled.

Comparing to average net earning, state allowance for children decreased continuously during 1991-1996, a relative straightening taking place in 1997, afterwards continuing to fall again, followed by a slight recovery in 2000.

Figure 5.7 Ratio between state allowance for children and average net earning



- **Additional allowance for families with children**

As families with many children represent one of the most vulnerable groups, starting from 1 July 1997, additional allowance for families with children was introduced. In short term, it is meant to improve the economic situation of the families with many children, while on long term, it is meant to encourage those with 2-4 children.

Monthly additional allowance for families with children was in 2000:

- 50000 lei for family with two dependent children;
- 100000 lei for family with three dependent children;
- 125000 lei for family with four or more dependent children.

Average number of families receiving additional allowance was about 900 thou in 1997 and around 1.1 million over last three years 1998-2000. Most of beneficiary families (little less than three-quarters) are those with two children.

- **Childbirth allowance**

Starting with second childbirth, mothers are entitled to a childbirth allowance for every child born. Number of persons who benefited from childbirth allowance during 1990 – 2000 varied according to demographic evolution over past decade.

Table 5.3 Number of beneficiaries of childbirth allowance

	- thou persons -										
	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Number of beneficiaries of childbirth allowance	189	118	91	58	26	36	87	115	82	79	75

Paid leave for childcare up to age of 2 years was introduced by Law no 120/1997. Any of child's parents may benefit, optionally, from provisions of this law. Throughout leave duration, benefiting parent receives an allowance representing 85% of her/his wage and all other wage incomes based on which contribution provided according to existing legislation is calculated.

Social security for pensions

In Romania, several social security systems are operating:

- State social security (representing the largest share and covering all employees, irrespective of type of employer)

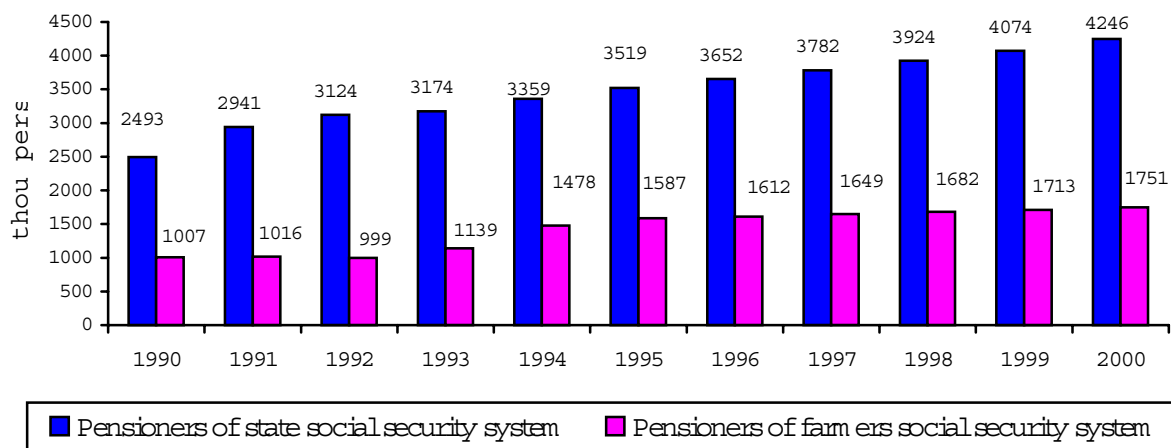
- Social security for farmers;
- Several smaller, independent systems, covering other categories, such as: lawyers, military personnel, personnel of religious denominations.

State social security covers following risks: old age, sickness, accident, maternity, disability, death. Main categories of pensions are: for old age and full length of service and partial length of service, for disability in case of work accidents and diseases (occupational or ordinary), successors pensions, additional pensions.

In 2000, average number of pensioners in Romania was 6153 thou persons, out of which 6110 thou were covered by social security. From social security pensioners, 69.5% belonged to state social security system and 28.7% to farmers social security.

Evolution of number of pensioners from state social security system and farmers pensioners during 1990 – 2000 was continuously ascending. In 2000 comparing to 1990, pensioners number recorded an increase by 70.3% in case of first category and by 73.9% in case of second one.

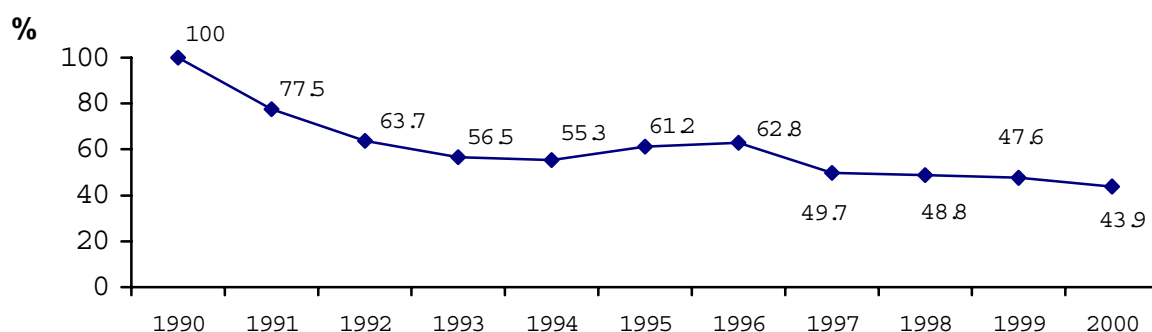
Figure 5.8 Evolution of number of pensioners from state social security system and of farmers pensioners



Main category of pensioners, for old age and full length of service, increased by 1228 thou persons over past decade, encountering 3087 thou persons in 2000. At same time, average number of employees decreased from 8.2 million in 1990 to 4.6 million in 2000.

In 2000, **average nominal pension** provided by state social security system (including arm forces, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Romanian Service for Information) was 936907 lei, its purchasing power strongly eroding during same period, real pension indices representing only 43.9% against October 1990.

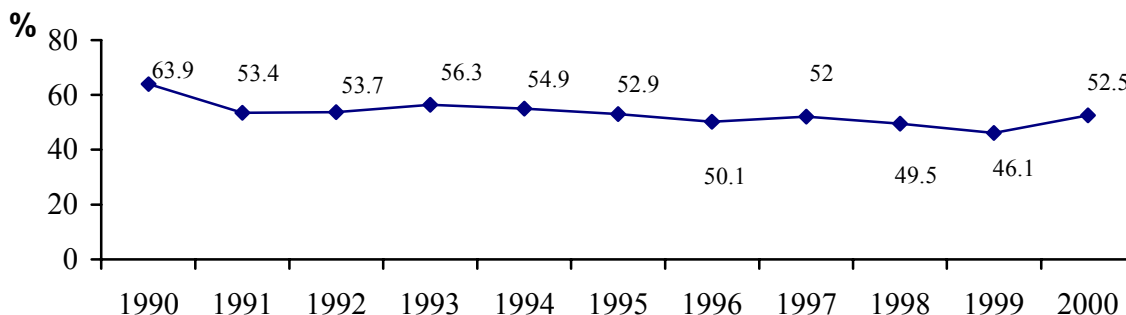
Figure 5.9 Evolution of real pension indices of pensioners from state social security system



Also in 2000, average pension of social security for old age and full length of service was 1097562 lei, by 35.6% higher than previous year. Average pension for old age and partial length of service was 376417 lei, by 36.8% higher than the one recorded in 1999.

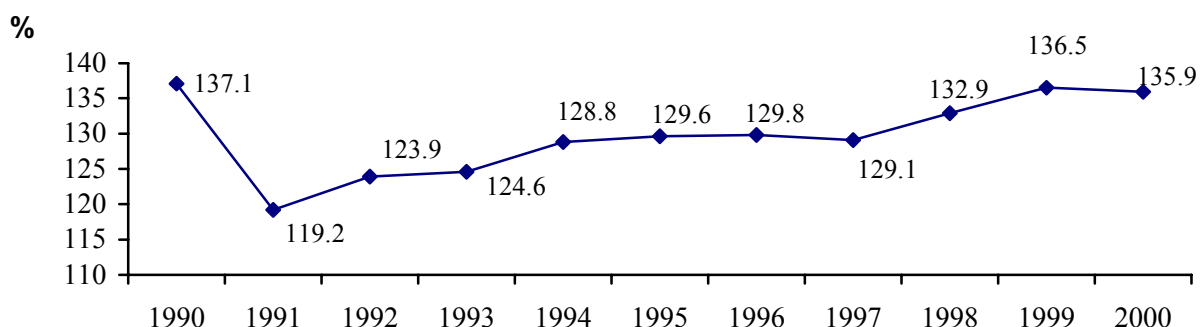
During first years of transition, pension for old age and full length of service, generally, followed same rhythm of growing as average earning. In 1998 and 1999, ratio between pension and earning was the lowest (49.5% and, respectively, 46.1%), slightly improving in 2000 (52.5%).

Figure 5.10 Evolution of ratio between monthly average pension for old age and full length of service (excluding farmers) and average net earning



For re-establishing basic principles of social security system, starting from 1996, measures have been taken in order to re-correlate pensions for old age and full length of service, a category of pension paid to half of all pensioners. Re-correlation process, implemented in three steps in October 1996, December 1998 and March 1999, had as direct effect the diminishment of de-correlation or equalisation phenomena, improvement of ratio between pension for old age and full length of service and average pension provided by state social security system.

Figure 5.11 Evolution of ratio between pension for old age and full length of service and average pension provided by state social security system



Adoption and entering into force in 1992 of legislation regarding pensions and other social security rights for farmers, index applied in a greater scale (by +12%) in February 1997 on farmers' pension comparing to the one applied on state social security pensions determined an increase of **farmers pension** by over 290 times in 2000 against 1990.

Average pension of farmers is lower than state social security pension. Ration between average farmers' pension and average state social security pension was 33.6% in October 1990 and 20.7% in 2000.

Social security policy was oriented on deep reforming of the system. In April 2001 entered into force new Law of public system of pensions and other social security rights, mainly focussed on setting up an unique system of public pensions, guaranteed by state, by compulsory inclusion of all natural

persons who earn incomes from different activities. Contribution is paid by both, ensured persons and employers. In computing the pensions, contribution paid by ensured person during entire activity period will be taken into account. Retirement age limits will increase gradually over next 13 years, up to 65 years old for men and up to 60 years old for women.

Persons having full (complete) contribution period according to legislation may choose for early retirement up to 5 years anticipation against standard age limits.

◆ **Social assistance**

Protection of persons and families whose daily living cannot be supported through their own means, skills and rights is provided through a range of social assistance support and service targeting:

- **families and persons without any income or with low incomes** (social support, emergency support, meals at social assistance canteens);
- **children in difficulty** (support allowance for children placed in foster homes or in care of guardians; institutionalisation of children in special situation);
- **elderly persons** (individual social services, institutionalisation);
- **disabled persons** (special support, social pensions, financial facilities etc.).

- **Protection of families and persons without any income or with low incomes**

(i) Social support

Social solidarity, basic principle of social assistance, has been the basis for promotion and enactment, starting from 1 August 1995, of the Law on social support according to which all families with a monthly income lower than the ceiling established by law are entitled to financial support, on demand. More thorough enforcement of that law in 1996, compared to 1995, has resulted in an increase in number of beneficiaries of social support. Later, due to limited financial resources, their number decreased, in 1998 their number falling to one-quarter and in 2000 to little over one-fifth of 1996 number.

(ii) Emergency support

Families and single persons in emergency situation because of thoroughly justified causes (natural calamities, fire, accidents etc.) are entitled to emergency support. In 1998, 9857 emergency supports were granted amounting to about 4 billion lei. In 2000, total number of emergency supports was 52091, out of which 3974 paid from state budget, amounted to 7.6 million lei, 1284 from national fund for solidarity amounted to 2062 million lei and, from local budgets, 46833 emergency supports of about 18196 million lei were paid

(iii) Meals at social assistance canteens

119 canteens were functioning at the end of 2000, with a capacity of 39 thou places. Average daily number of persons assisted was about 31 thou persons. Besides these, other 58 canteens were working, organised and financially supported by non-governmental organisations and other representants of civilian society, with a capacity of almost 4 thou places and an average daily number of persons assisted of 3.6 thou persons.

- **Social assistance of elderly persons and of chronically ill persons**

Persons without means of existence who have no legal supporters, those whose families cannot afford to care for them, chronically ill persons who cannot manage on their own and need permanent care, are benefiting on assistance in specialised institutions (hostels or retired persons, for elderly, hospitals-hostels for chronically ill persons, workshop-hostels).

For these persons are provided accommodation, full board, medical care, balneal therapy, prothesis and devices for elderly and chronically ill persons.

Table 5.4 Units of social assistance for elderly persons and chronically ill persons, at the end of December 2000

	Number of units	Number of beneficiaries
Hostels for retired persons	19	1836
Care and assistance centres	88	10909
Integration centres by occupational therapy	9	1709
Neuropsychiatric recovery and rehabilitation centres	30	5725
Total	146	20179

- **Protection of disabled persons**

Disabled persons (people with physical, sensorial or mental disabilities that prevent them from, or limit their access to normal social life) are entitled to special care for purpose of prevention, therapy, rehabilitation, education and training as well as social integration.

Disabled persons are provided:

(i) cash support: special monthly support for adults who are unable to work because of their disability, salary for persons who care for disabled person, social pension for blind persons, additional support allowance for disabled children who are in care in a foster or guardian home;

(ii) in kind support: free medication, therapy in medical facilities or spas, orthopaedic devices, free or charge medical care at home for disabled people who cannot leave home, free of charge urban transport, minimum rent for living in state-owned houses, price discount for museum, theatre and sport events tickets;

(iii) fiscal facilities: tax exemption for salary of disabled persons, customs duty exemption for prothesis, orthopaedic devices and, once every eight years, for motor vehicles and cars specially adapted for disabled persons, exemption from television and radio subscription payment and from telephone bill payment.

Number of disabled persons granted cash support has been growing constantly, in 1997 number of beneficiary of this type of support being over three times more than in 1993.

6. INCOMES, EXPENDITURES AND FOOD CONSUMPTION OF POPULATION

◆ Incomes

Transition to the market economy was marked by important changes in all the domains of the social life, having big repercussions on the living standards of population. The evolution of national economy, unemployment, inflation caused important changes in the level and structure of incomes and expenditures of population.

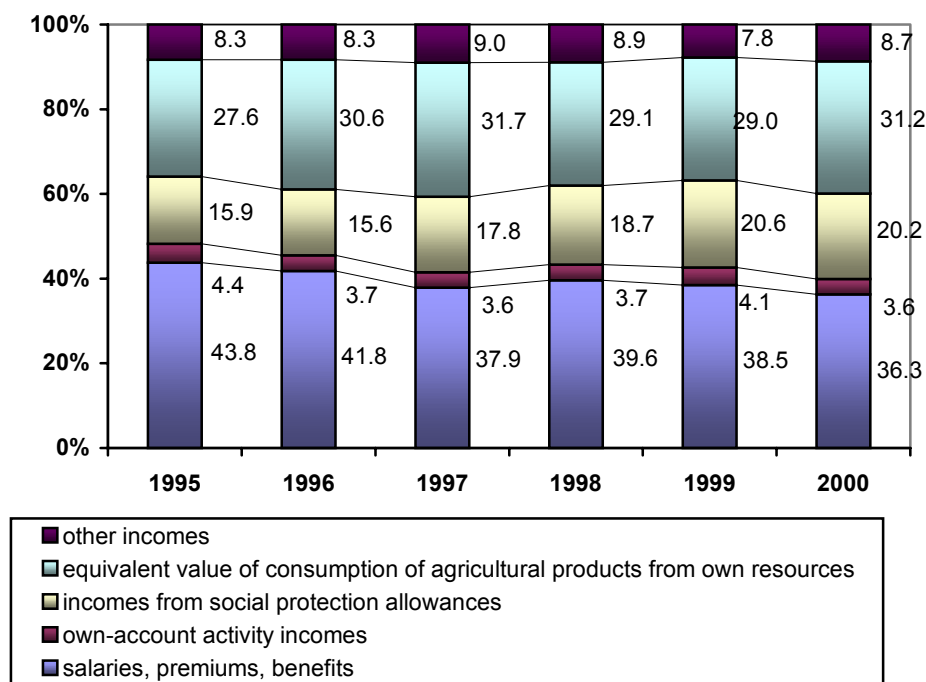
In 2000, like in previous years, **total incomes** of households were made up mainly from money incomes (68.0%). It can be observed a big share of consumption of agricultural products from own resources (31.2%), especially in rural areas where its share tends to be equal with the share of money incomes. The equivalent value of free provisions or with lower price from economic units has a share in total incomes of only 0.8%.

The main income sources of households are the wages and social benefits; these have a share of 36.3% and, respectively 20.2% in total incomes. The incomes from own account activities have a small share between the income sources of households, of 3.6%.

Children allowances have a share of 1.3% in the households' budget, varying between 1.6% for households with one child and 10.2% for households with 4 and more children.

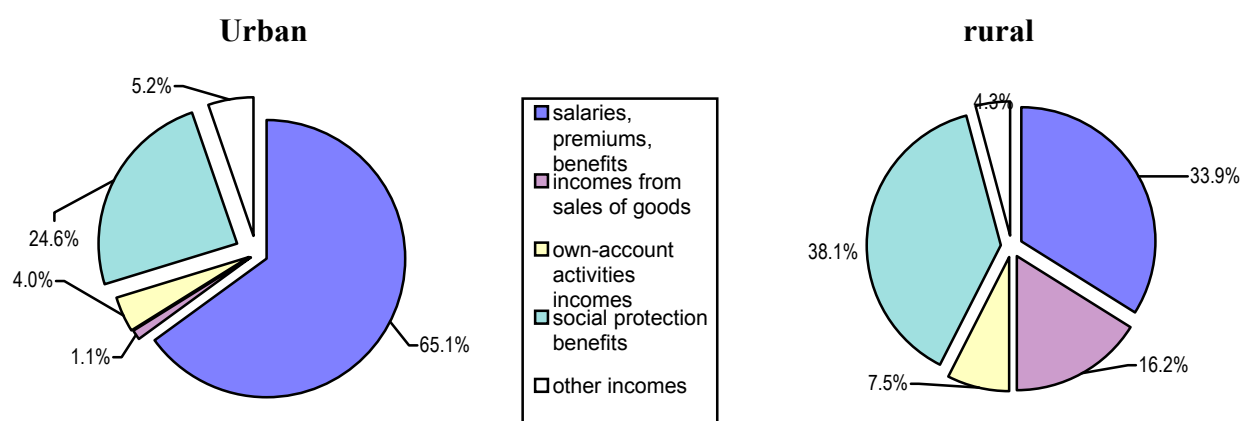
In 1995-2000 period it can be noticed the tendency of decrease of wages' share (caused by the continuing decreasing of the employees' number), in the same time with the increase of the share of social protection benefits (due, on the one hand, to the increase of the persons who retired, and, on the other hand, to the creation of the more varied forms of social protection).

Figure 6.1 Structure of households' incomes, between 1995- 2000



In 2000, a household had an average monthly **money income** of 2267.7 thousand lei. The rural households realised a level much more lower than the urban households did (53.3% from average money incomes of households from urban areas).

Figure 6.2 The structure of money incomes of households in 2000, by areas



There are significant differences between residence areas regarding money income sources: if in the urban area wages represent almost two thirds from total money incomes, in rural only one third of these incomes comes from salaries. In rural, the social benefits represent almost 40% from money incomes, due, mainly to social insurance pensions (which represent 32.1% from total money incomes of the rural households, compared with 20.7% in urban areas).

The level of incomes achieved by different households categories is strongly related to the residence area. Thus, the households more frequently met in urban areas, like, for example, those having an employee or an employer head of household, achieved in average higher levels of money incomes compared with the total households (with 70% and respectively, 126% higher). The smallest levels were recorded for farmers and pensioners households (with 45% and respectively, 27% smaller than the average).

The occupational status of the head of the households determines differences regarding structure of money incomes of households. Thus, if for the employees' households, 90% from their money incomes comes from salaries, there are categories of households for which the structure of money incomes is more eterogenous. It is the case of farmers' and pensioners' households. For farmers' households, incomes from sales of agricultural products, animals and poultry have a share of 44.8% in money incomes of this category, because a big part of the agricultural production obtained by farmers has like destination the own-consumption. For the retired' households, the incomes from social insurance pensions represent 60.5% from the total money incomes.

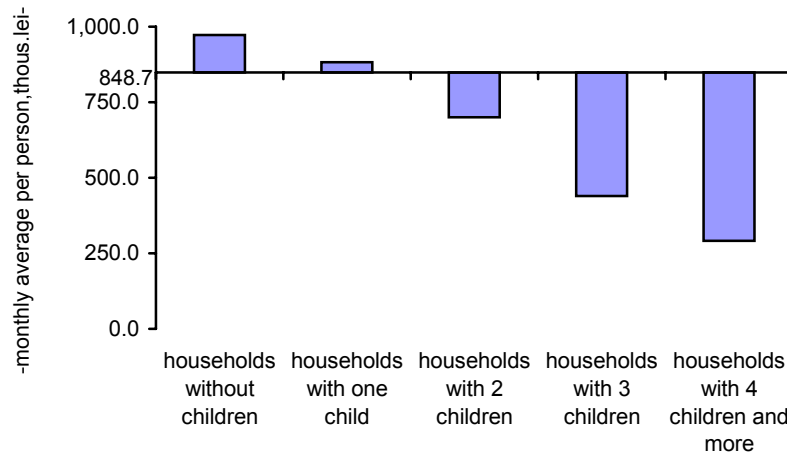
Table 6.1 The structure of money incomes, by households categories, in 2000

	Total households	From which, households with head of household:				
		employee	employer	farmer	unemployed	retired person
Salaries and other salary rights	53.4	89.8	27.6	14.8	39.5	19.4
Sales of goods	6.7	1.2	4.1	46.3	5.7	9.1
Own-account activities	5.3	1.0	60.3	17.6	6.8	2.7
Social protection benefits	29.7	5.3	4.0	12.4	28.3	64.1
Other incomes	4.9	2.7	4.0	8.9	19.7	4.7

The size of household and the number of children influence the money incomes per person. Thus, if in general, one person had monthly in the year 2000 the sum of 848.7 thousand lei, a person from a

household without children had in average with 123.7 thousand lei more, and one person from households with children with 115.5 thousand lei less.

Figure 6.3 The average monthly money incomes per person, by number of children
(absolute differences compared with average)



The households' distribution by incomes deciles shows the placement mainly of the employees' and employers' households in the big incomes area (8-th, 9-th and 10-th deciles) and farmers' and unemployed' households in first and second deciles; almost one quarter of farmers' households and around one third from unemployed's are situated in first income decile.

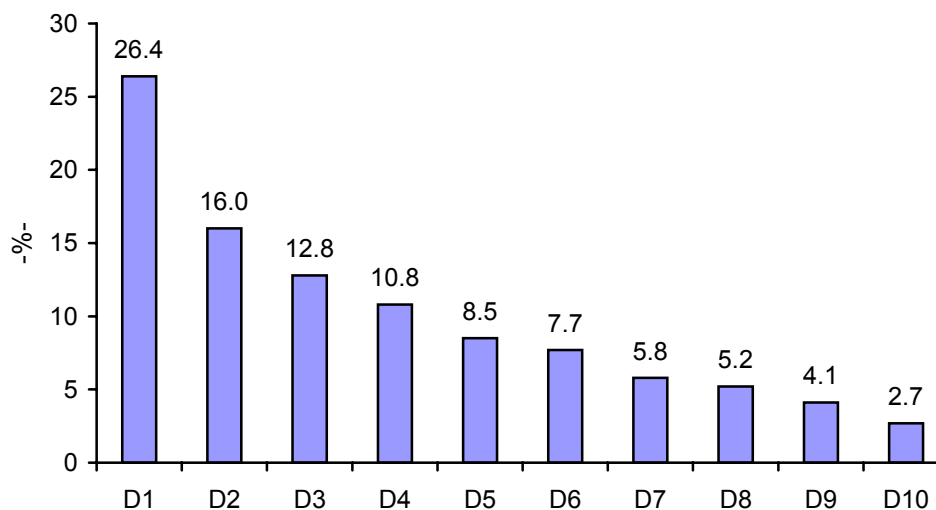
Table 6.2 The households' distribution by income deciles and categories, in 2000

		- % -									
	Total	Deciles of total income per person									
		First decile	2-th decile	3-th decile	4-th decile	5-th decile	6-th decile	7-th decile	8-th decile	9-th decile	10-th decile
Total households, from which, with the head of household:	100.	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
employee	100.	5.3	7.2	8.5	8.8	8.9	9.7	10.4	11.8	13.3	16.1
employer	100.	7.7	6.8	4.3	5.1	4.3	6.0	10.3	14.5	16.2	24.8
farmer	100.	24.0	15.0	9.4	8.5	7.6	7.4	6.6	6.6	7.0	7.9
unemployed	100.	35.1	15.9	12.4	9.6	7.0	5.3	5.3	3.5	3.4	2.5
pensioners	100.	5.9	9.6	10.7	11.2	11.5	11.3	11.3	10.6	9.8	8.1

Comparing total incomes of households from the lowest and highest deciles, it can be seen that incomes of households in the 10-th decile are over 4 times bigger than incomes of households from first decile. It can be noticed big differences in the case of employers' households, with a ratio of 8 to 1 in favour of the 10-th decile. The ratio between the incomes of unemployed households in 10-th decile and those from first decile is also high (5 to 1).

The distribution of children up to 16 years old by income deciles shows the concentration of them in low incomes area, 26.4% of them being in first decile.

Figure 6.4 The repartition of depending children up to 16 years old, by income deciles, in 2000



◆ Expenditures

The population's expenditures present almost the same tendencies from one year to another like incomes, the absolute level recorded depending very much on the incomes' level.

In 2000 total average nominal monthly expenditures were 3292.3 thousand lei, structured in 68.4% money expenditures and 31.6% equivalent value of agricultural products consumption from own resources. Compared with 1995, the share of money expenditures decreased with around 4 percentage points. By households' categories, the money expenditures in 2000 represent 90.3% from total expenditures of employers' households and 83.3% for employees' households. The equivalent value of agricultural products consumption from own resources has important shares in total expenditures of farmers and pensioners households (60.3% and, respectively 39.5%).

Figure 6.5 The structure of total expenditures, by households categories, in 2000



In 1995-2000 period, over half of the **total consumption expenditures** of households were made for food products and beverages. Starting with 1997, a decreasing trend of the share of food and non food expenditures can be observed, in favour of expenditures for services (its share rose from 12.2% to 17.7% in the mentioned period), due to the continuing increase of the tariffs for some important services, like, electric and thermal energy, natural gas, transport and telecommunications etc..

Table 6.3 The structure of total consumption expenditures, in 1995 – 2000 period

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Total consumption expenditures	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
- expenditures for food	57.4	57.6	58.8	57.2	53.5	53.4
- expenditures for non-food products	31.2	31.2	29.0	28.2	29.3	28.9
- expenditures for services	11.4	11.2	12.2	14.6	17.2	17.7

Disparities by residential areas are constant in time, in 2000 a household from urban areas having total monthly expenditures with 11% higher than a rural household.

If for food products and beverages households from urban and rural areas spent almost the same amount of money in average, for clothes and footwear a rural household spent in average only three quarters of the sum spent by an urban household. In the rural area, the expenditures of rural households for medicines and medical care and also the expenditures for culture, education and training represent only 57.5% and respectively, 37.5% from the sum spent by urban households for these expenditures categories. Rural households spent with 32.6% more than urban households did for dwelling and endowment with durable goods.

In structure of total consumption expenditures, food and beverages have a share of 53.4%, rising to 60.1% in the case of unemployed households. Having higher incomes, employers' households cover the food needs, in average, with 36.2% from the total sum allocated for consumption.

Expenditures for dwelling and durable goods endowment (around 25%) have the second place like share in total consumption expenditures. For this expenditure category, the employers' households allocate in average 34.9% from total consumption expenditures, farmers 28.4% and unemployed households only 19.0%.

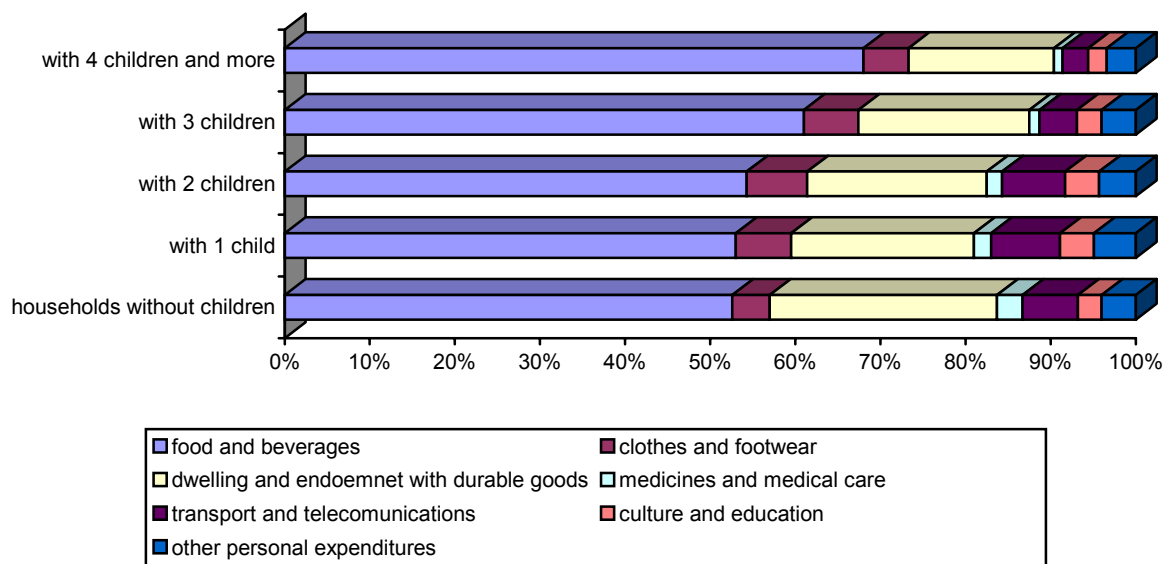
Table 6.4 The structure of total consumption expenditures, by households categories, in 2000

-%-

	Total households	from which, households with head of the household:				
		employee	employer	farmer	unemployed	pensioner
Total consumption expenditures	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
food and beverages	53.4	50.6	36.2	57.4	60.1	54.3
clothes and footwear	5.4	7.7	5.0	4.4	5.1	3.7
dwelling and durable goods endowment	24.3	19.7	34.9	28.4	19.0	27.8
medicines and medical care	2.5	1.9	1.5	1.0	1.5	3.5
transport and telecommunications	6.9	9.7	11.7	4.2	5.9	5.1
culture, education	3.2	4.8	5.4	1.5	3.3	2.3
other personal expenditures	4.3	5.6	5.3	3.1	5.1	3.3

The children's existence in household changes significantly the structure of total consumption expenditures. Thus, the share of food and beverages expenditures and share of cloths and footwear are bigger with 2 percentage points for households with children, compared with households without children. In households with children, the share of expenditures for transport and telecommunications and for culture and education (7.4% and respectively, 3.8% from total consumption expenditures) is bigger, to the prejudice of expenditures for dwelling, for which around one fifth of consumption expenditures is allocated. The situation becomes worst when the number of children from household grows, the share of expenditures for food and dwelling rises 85% from total consumption expenditures in the case of households with 4 children and more; this fact leads to the significant reducing of other expenditures. If for culture and education, a household with one child allocates 4.0% from her budget, a household with 4 children and more allocates only 2.2%.

Figure 6.6 The structure of total consumption expenditures, by number of depending children up to 18 years old, in 2000



◆ Food consumption

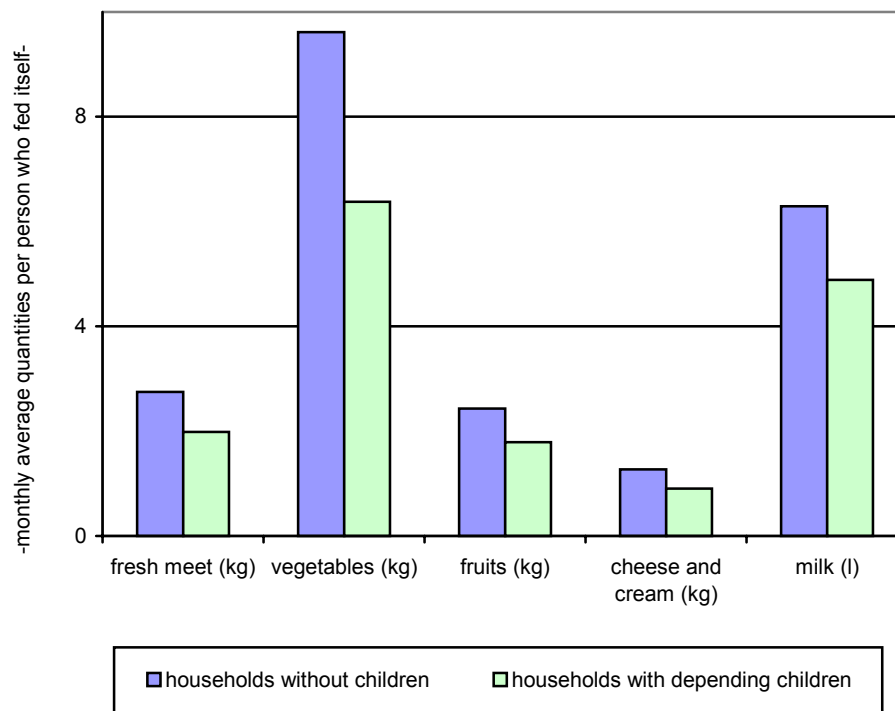
Despite the fact that for alimentation it is allocated the major part of disposable sums, in 1995-2000 period the food consumption had the mark of a crisis situation, the changes of its level and structure being a direct result of unfavourable evolution of population's real incomes and expenditures.

Firstly, even if a modest increase was recorded in the mentioned period, the average of daily calories consumption per person didn't reached 2700 calories, for some households categories much lower levels were recorded. In 2000, a person from an unemployed household consumed in average 2342 calories per day compared with persons from pensioners' households, which consumed 2816 calories.

Food consumption expressed in calories decreases depending on the household's size: if a lone person consumed in average 3507 calories daily, persons from households with 6 persons and more had a food consumption representing only 60% from this level. A similar tendency can be observed also for the households with depending children, for those having 4 children and more was recorded the lowest level: 1917 calories.

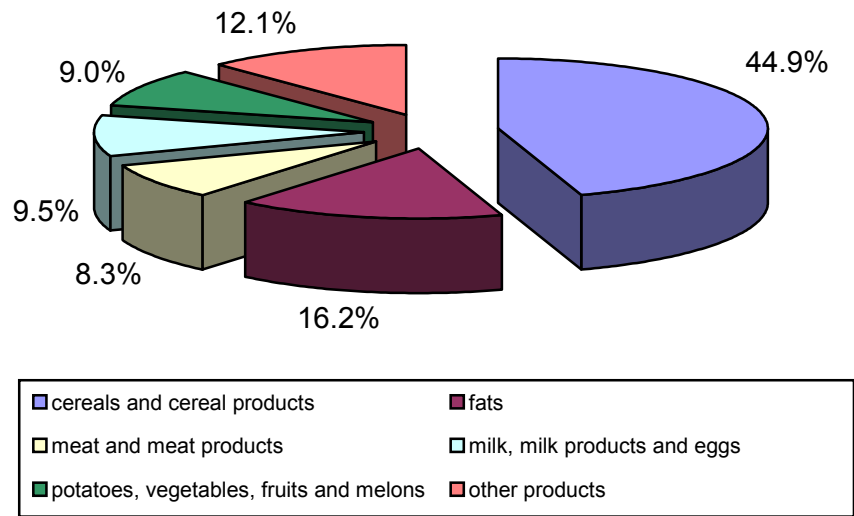
Relative big differences are found regarding the average monthly quantities of food products consumed in average by a person from households who have or haven't depending children, differences which can be only partly explained by the children's more reduced need for food. In 2000, a person from households with depending children consumed monthly in average less with 0.761 kg of fresh meet, 1.409 litre milk, 3.238 kg vegetables, 0.369 kg cheese and cream, 5 eggs, and 0.640 kg fruits, compared with a person from households without depending children.

Figure 6.7 Food consumption of main food products, by number of depending children up to 18 years old, in 2000



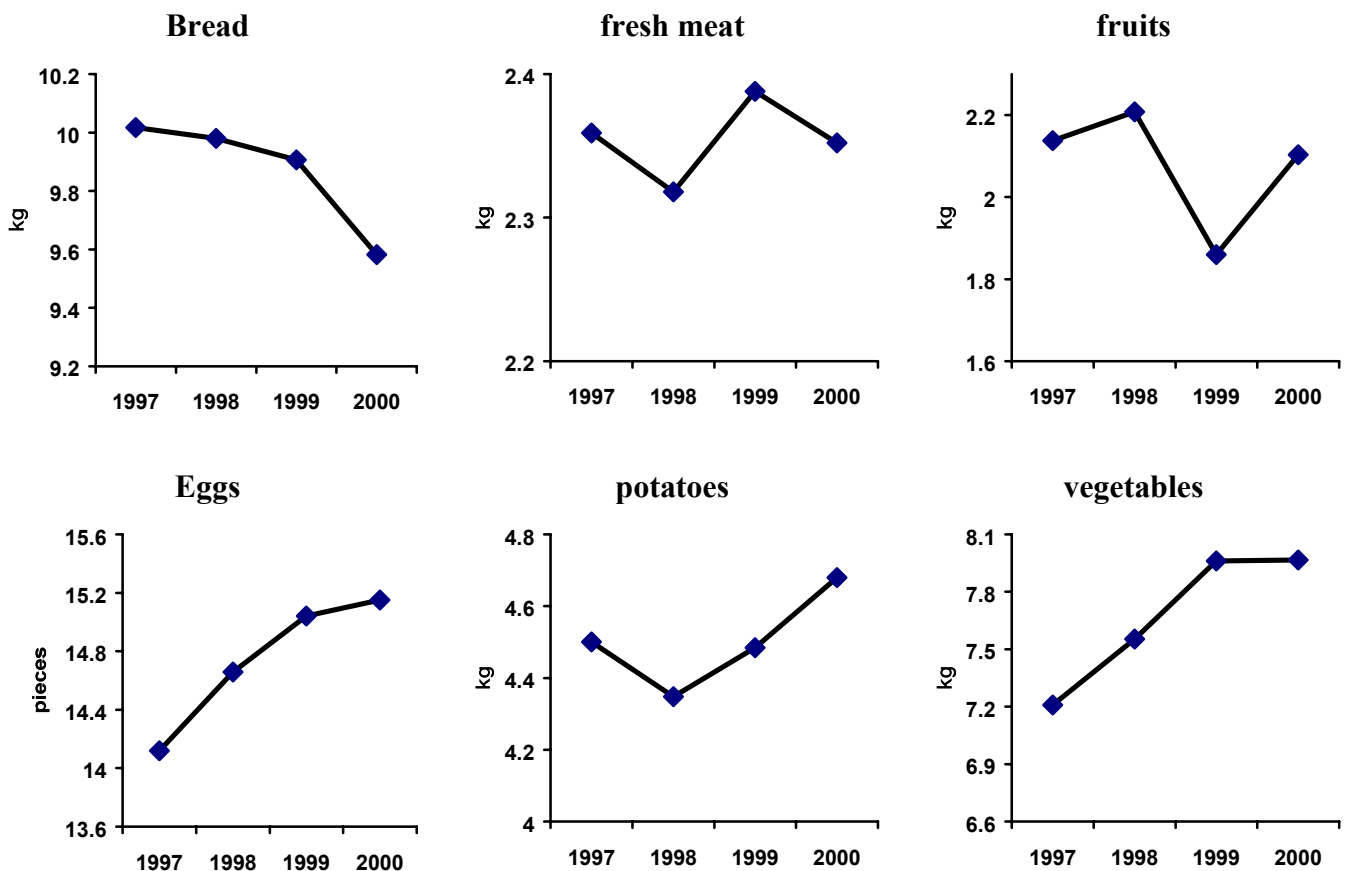
Secondly, the basis for alimentation is represented by vegetal products, these having in 2000 a share of 78.5% in food consumption expressed in calories. The caloric contribution is made in proportion of 45% by cereal and cereal products, mainly bread and bread products. In case of farmers' households, the corn flour has a significant contribution. The fats have an important caloric contribution 16.2%, and milk, milk products and eggs have a share of 9.5%. Meat and meat products have a more modest share in the structure of food consumption, of 8.3%, the most important percentage contribution of this group of food products being recorded for employers' households (10.3%).

Figure 6.8 The structure of food consumption, expressed in calories, in 2000



Like evolution, in the mentioned period, the food consumption recorded modest increases for several products: cereal products, potatoes, milk, vegetables, cheese and cream, eggs. The consumption of fresh meat, butter and fruits decreased.

Figure 6.9 Evolution of consumption of some food products in 1997-2000 period (quantities, monthly average per person who fed itself)



Thirdly, in mentioned period, households resorted more often to consumption of food products from own resources, reducing in this way to by these products from the market.

Table 6.5 The share of food consumption from households' own resources in total consumption

- percentages from total consumption-

	1995	1997	2000
Bread and bread products	18.5	19.8	22.1
Fresh meat	43.4	53.5	56.3
Meat products	45.7	50.4	47.4
Milk	51.0	58.8	58.0
Cheese and cream	47.8	56.2	56.0
Eggs	54.9	63.6	66.9
Vegetables	60.5	68.1	66.2

Being often in the situation to lose some incomes sources and obliged to find new resources, forced to face a continuing erosion of purchasing power, the households adapted their consumption behaviour to satisfy firstly the essential needs (food and dwelling), reducing often or even renouncing to other expenditures categories, not less important, like health care or education. Food consumption, despite the fact it was covered firstly, suffered in mentioned period important changes of quantities and structure, which had negative effects on the physical development of persons. Unfortunately, the households with children are situated very often within the households in disadvantaged situations.

7. CHILDREN AT RISK

The health status and familial milieu represent very important aspects for normal development of children. The absence of one or both parents, also the precarious conditions in which they live in represent major risks for growth and education of children. Children with familial, school, medical, educational, social situations which affect in a serious manner their development and quality of life are children in difficulty.

According to Emergency Ordinance 26/1997 issued by the Government of Romania regarding protection of children in difficulty, the child is in difficulty if his/her physical or moral development or integrity are endangered /1/. Who are these children? How do they get in this situation and how are they protected?

The job's insecurity, the unemployment's growth, financial difficulties reduce the motivation of the young people to get married and create conditions in which some children are born outside marriages.

Although the birth rate continued to decrease in last decade, the share of children born outside marriage increased. If in 1992, these children represented 15% from total live-births, in 2000 one of 4 children (25.5%) was born outside marriage. One third of these children were recorded from mothers up to 20 years old. The children with very young or lonely mothers are the most exposed to the risk of placing in public institutions, with negative consequences on their physical and emotional development. Children coming from separated families or families without material means add to previous ones. The poverty's extension and deepness and a demographic behaviour marked by lack of education and responsibility are the main factors which amplified the phenomenon of children's abandon and their institutionalisation.

During several decades, in Romania, the only measure of abandoned children's protection was the hospitalisation in a social assistance institution. Thus, the state substituted itself to the family and newborn children or children with different ages, healthy, coming from families with socio-economic difficulties got in public institutions, isolated from the society. The relatively big number of institutionalised children, like other children in difficulty was the consequence of forced pro-born policy, promoted before 1989, which encouraged live-births and determined the increase of children who were born in families without material resources needed for their care. After more than ten years from the abolition of this law, specialised institutions and policy makers from social assistance system look for solutions for elimination of the effects of an insufficient protection system oriented on the needs of child in difficult situation.

Till 1997, the protection system of child in difficulty, created in 1970, remained unchanged. The system was favourable to child's protection in institutions artificially separated on the age's criterion (*nurseries* for children 0-3 years old, *orphanages* for those of 4-18 years old, *specialised units* for disabled under-aged persons). The functioning law of these institutions /4/ didn't stipulated any form of help for natural family to foresee the children's institutionalisation. In these conditions, the decision to hospitalise the child was, most often, the only solution which the administrative authorised instance could take. To give the child in custody or to place him/her in a family were methods very seldom adopted.

The institutionalised children's census, carried-out in May 1997, within the Child Protection Programmes – DPC – EU/Phare, emphasised that socio-economic problems (familial difficulties, parent's inappropriate behaviour, insufficiency of material resources needed for children's growth and education) represent the main reason of placing the children in a public institution /2/. Together with this, the presence of a deficiency, very often a mental one, justified the child's orientation towards special education. According to the census's results, the network of residential institutions from

national system of child protection included 653 units. Out of these, 88.8% were public institutions, which had 97.6% from total authorised number of places. Almost two thirds of number of units (62.3%) were big residential institutions, with over 100 places, with great difficulties in assuring the quality of children's protection and education services.

Annually, in 1990-1997 period, the protection institutions (nurseries, orphanages, hospital-type hostel) hosted around 50000 children; the biggest number was recorded in 1994 (52986 children). A number almost equal of children could be found in special education network (special kindergarten, special schools, special vocational schools, special high-schools, and re-educational centres).

Table 7.1 Number of children in residential institutions

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Total	47405	47002	42975	44875	52986	49529	51953	51763
from which, in:								
• Nurseries	8558	8028	7878	8245	10950	8715	8950	8810
• Orphanages	25870	25500	22582	23859	30559	28955	30891	30478
• Specialised units for under age disabled persons	6919	8022	8125	8116	7627	7809	7349	7188
from which:								
- hospital-type hostels for under age persons with a severe handicap	3354	3617	4204	4349	3940	4586	4180	4331
- workshop-type hostels for under age persons	594	1073	1020	960	678	360	449	-
- school-type hostels for disabled persons	2971	3332	2901	2807	3009	2863	2720	2857

Source: National Authority for Child Protection and Adoption

Starting with 1997, the residential institutions for child protection began a fully re-organisation process. At the end of 1997, in these institutions 51763 children were found. In parallel with efforts made for improving the situation of institutionalised children, an ample process of transforming residential institutions in placement centres and centres of children's reception inside the specialised public services began. The reform of child in difficulty protection system began in 1998 with the adoption of "Governmental strategy regarding the protection of child in difficulty" by the Romanian Government. The new created legislative frame settled the basis for promotion of alternative forms of protection in familial system and for adoption of specific measures for institutionalisation and abandon prevention. In fact, the reform's central goal of child in difficulty protection system consists in reducing the share of residential type care and developing an alternative system of protection focused on creation and increase of community services for prevention of abandon and institutionalisation.

The application of reform had like consequence the decrease of institutionalised children's number to 44725 in 1998 and 38829 in 1999. Out of children in specialised care institutions at the end of 1999, 33356 were in placement centres (from which: 30069 in centres of specialised public services and 3287 in centres belonging to some private authorised organisations) and 5473 in specialised units for disabled under age persons.

According to National Authority for Child Protection and Adoption (NACPA) statistics, at the end of 2000, the number of children protected in public institutions organised within the specialised public

services was 53335⁶; 416 children were in centres for emergency reception and assistance and 3846 were in private placement centres.

The protection measures adopted like an alternative to the protection of children in placement centres were oriented towards the prevention of institutionalisation and abandon and towards promotion of protection in family type system.

In 1998, 28235 children benefited by the prevention activities and 16346 in 1999. According to the NACPA statistics, at the end of 2000, the number of children included in prevention activities was 15734. The number of children for which a family-type protection measure was established – through re-integration in natural family, adoption, placement, custody or at a maternal assistant – was 24196 in 1998, 34332 in 1999 and 38966 in 2000.

The number of children whom taking care in other families is assured through placement to relatives or other families and through custody for adoption increased from 7549 in 1992 to 20673 in 1999 and to 25415 in 2000. In the recent years, the method of taking care by a maternal assistant was established, within the specialised public services under the subordination of County Councils or Bucharest's sectors or within some private authorised organisations in the field of child protection. The number of children for whom a maternal assistant takes care of them was 3058 in 1999 and 5157 in 2000.

Table 7. 2 Number of children for whom a family-type measure of protection was established

	1998	1999	2000
Total	24196	34332	38966
• Definitive protection	7152	10601	8394
from which:			
- through re-integration in natural family	4295	6316	4068
- through adoption	2857	4285	4326
- national	840	1710	1291
- international	2017	2575	3035
• Temporary protection	17044	23731	30572
-placement at relatives or other families/persons, custody for adoption	16565	20673	25415
- at maternal assistant	479	3058	5157
- public services	-	2150	4029
- private organisations	479	908	1128

Source: National Authority for Child Protection and Adoption

⁶ Including children in institutions for special protection of persons with handicap, in units or hospital sections for underweight children's recovery, neuropsychiatric recovery and rehabilitation or for children with HIV/AIDS, and in units that take care of children in residential system from the special education units, which in 2000 were re-organised within the specialised public services for child protection.

CHILDREN IN THE EVIDENCE OF THE SPECIALISED PUBLIC SERVICES FOR CHILD PROTECTION

– June 2001 –

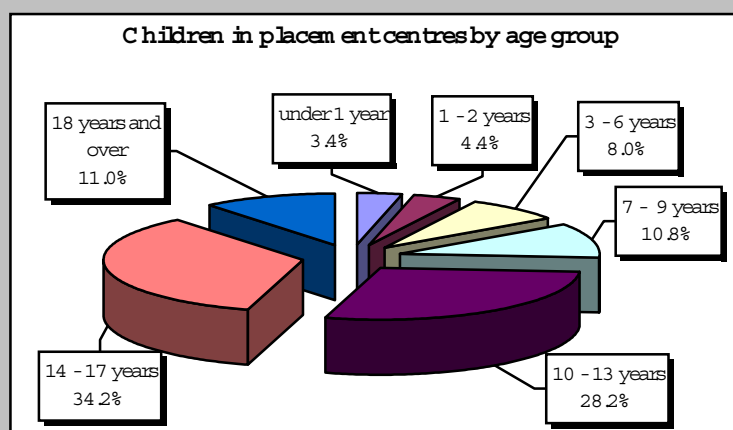
↪ **Beneficiaries of prevention activities (active cases at June 30, 2001): 17253**
 ↪ **Children reintegrated in their natural families (January – June 2001): 5900**
 ↪ **National definitive adoptions (1999 – June 2001): 3585**

Children protected in substitute families (June 30, 2001): 33127

↪ *Professional foster care*
 - public: **4902**
 - private: **953**
 ↪ *extended families: 20834*
 ↪ *other persons / families: 5206*
 ↪ *entrusted for adoption: 1232*

Children protected in institutions (June 30, 2001): 52516

↪ *public placement centres: 48262*
 ↪ *private placement centres: 4254*



Definitive adoptions

<i>National adoptions</i> (children entrusted for adoption)	<i>International adoptions</i> (children from public and private placement centres and children protected in families)
2000: 1291 January – June 2001: 584	2000: 3035 January – June 2001: 1095

Source: NACPA

SPECIALISED PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SERVICES FOR CHILD PROTECTION

– June 2001 –

Number of functional placement centres (June 30, 2001): 773

- ↵ public: 542
 - of which: 121 family-type centres
- ↵ private: 231

Number of professional maternal assistants (June 30, 2001): 4941

- ↵ employed by specialised public services: 4147
 - paid from budgetary sources: 3268
 - paid from extra-budgetary sources: 879
- ↵ employed by authorised private organisations: 794

Number of functional alternative services (June 30, 2001): 145

- ↵ mother and baby centres: 29
- ↵ day care centres for children from families in difficulty: 20
- ↵ continuing support services for young people over 18 in further education: 7
- ↵ family counselling centres: 13
- ↵ counselling and family planning mobile services: 4
- ↵ pre-natal care services to prevent child abandonment: 8
- ↵ family placement / rehabilitation (reintegration) preparation centres: 7
- ↵ day care centres for handicapped children: 16
- ↵ emergency services for children with behaviour disorders: 5
- ↵ supervision services of children who have committed offences : 5
- ↵ support service for children in exercising their right for free opinion: 3
- ↵ support services for children in exercising their rights: 8
- ↵ counselling centre for abused / neglected children: 1
- ↵ analysis centres for child protection system data: 4
- ↵ supervision service for street children: 1
- ↵ co-ordination centre for street children: 1
- ↵ prevention and treatment centre for abused / neglected children: 1
- ↵ other services: 10

Cost of protection (second quarter 2001) in:

- ↵ public placement centres: 3,475 thou. lei / month / child
- ↵ emergency reception centres: 4,825 thou. Lei / month / child
- ↵ maternal assistance: 2,435 thou. lei / month / child
- ↵ mother and baby centres: 4,271 thou. lei / month / child
- ↵ day care centres: 1,278 thou. lei / month / child

Source: NACPA

Source: NACPA

The children with HIV/AIDS represent a special category of children in difficulty. According to a report regarding the monitoring of HIV/AIDS infections /7/, out of the total number of cases with this diagnosis till the end of 1999 (6117 AIDS cases), 87% were recorded for persons up to 15 years old at the moment when diagnosis's was established. The biggest number of cases was found in 1990 (1040 children). In 1991-1998, 476 cases were found annually, in average; in 1999 the number of cases with this diagnosis reduced to 236.

Most of children with AIDS (94%) were born in 1987-1990 period. Out of the total number of sick children, those nosocomially infected or through administration of blood and blood products represent 69%, those infected from their mothers 5% and those without a known way of illness transmission 26%. Till June 2000, 2119 children with AIDS died. Like in the case of HIV infection, the biggest number of cases was recorded for children (3553 cases out of 4298 total number of cases with this diagnosis till the end of 1998) and between these, those nosocomially infected or because transfusions represent 88.6%.

An analysis carried-out by State Secretariat for Persons with Handicap at the end of 1998 emphasises that number of disabled children was 59386, representing around 0.3% from total number of Romanian children. Out of this total, 55867 children were institutionalised in medical-type residential units (hospital-type hostels).

The education of children with deficiencies is carried-out within special education, in units with special timetable or with special classes from schools with normal timetable.

The network of special education had a great development in the 90's. The number of school units increased from 204 in school year 1990/1991, to 305 in 1998/1999, after that it decreased to 230 units in 2000/2001. The number of enrolled pupils increased in the same period from 44705 to 55237; in school year 2000/2001 number of enrolled pupils decreased with 8% compared with the maximum level recorded in 1998/1999. The number of pupils enrolled in special education per teacher decreased from 6 to 5.

Special units exist in pre-school, primary and secondary, high-school, vocational and apprenticeship education. The primary and secondary education has the biggest share; the pupils enrolled in this level represented 68% from total in the school year 2000/2001.

Projects for school and social integration of children with deficiencies, started by Romanian authorities in 1993, had like goal the maintaining of these children in open schools milieu, closely to the normal ones. The normal scholarship, but in some situations the special one too – the schools and special classes with day timetable – allow to maintain the children in family and in local community.

In the school year 1996/1997 around 12000 children with talking problems attended the education forms with normal timetable and around 2000 children attended special classes in ordinary school units /8/.

The "street" children represent a special group of children in difficulty. The problem of "street" children is one of the most difficult problems, due to negative consequences of live on streets. A study regarding the situation of homeless children carried-out by UNICEF, "Save the Children!" Organisation and other non-governmental organisations in 1998 in 12 Romanian cities estimates the number of "street" children to around 2.000 /8/. Out of total number, 52% were 7-15 years old and 25% were teenagers of 16-18 years old. Most of them are boys (71%); 78% from them are 13-15 years old. According to this study, 20% of the "street" children attend school; even if many children left school, they graduated 2-3 classes that allowed them to learn to write and to read (66%). Poverty, fighting and violence in the family, to which divorce and family abandonment are added, represent the main reasons for which children take to the streets.

Like a response to the increase of “street” children’s number, the “Save the Children!” Organisation has developed since 1993 a social assistance programme. During the time, the programme had like goal the decrease of the number of “street” children through their reintegration in families or in protection institutions, limitation of deviant behaviours that they face on, improvement of the quality of their life (material emergency benefits, medical assistance), establishment of the identity of those children without identity papers. In addition, efforts were constantly made to make public opinion sensible (through permanent contacts with mass-media and public authorities) to the real problems which children have to face and for involvement of community in solving their problems.

*
* *

Many children live and grow in economic, social, psychological conditions that put in danger and delay their development. Parents’ difficulties, lack of capacity to fight against troubles contribute to the increase of risks that children must face out.

The improvement of economic situation, supporting programmes focused on disadvantaged categories of population, coherent policies for protection of children in difficult situations are priority action directions, with a major impact on the family and child situation in Romania.

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