

## CURRENT TRENDS OF ROMANIAN RURAL FAMILY

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### Abstract

The profound changes experienced by the Romanian society had a profound social impact on the structure and functions of the rural family. The paper aims to highlight the main trends recorded using a number of indicators: ruralization rate, birth rate, infant mortality rate, percentage of children born outside marriage, fertility rate, percentage of population aged 65 and over. Statistics from censuses and statistical yearbooks were processed to identify the trends of the Romanian rural family: changes in reproductive behavior, increased aging, declining birth rates.

**Key words:** fertility rate, reproductive behavior, rural family,

### INTRODUCTION

Character of relations within the family (dominated by tradition or open to new) influences decisively, by the primary social values, how to make decisions and reporting to the other individual. [1] So the family is the social group with utmost importance in ensuring the harmonious development of its members in relation to biological, emotional, psychological, financial protection, proper socialization and education of children. In this paper I will analyze demographic factors involved in the development of rural space and the evolution family (household) areas.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

Family is an independently dynamic system that integrates social mechanism, with a pronounced historical character. Thus rural social dynamics as a whole, was passed on dimensioning household, the functionality and role of the family.

To characterize the demographic changes of the rural population in the period 2002-2012 we used the following indicators: ruralization rate, birth rate, infant mortality rate, percentage of children born outside marriage, fertility rate, percentage of population aged 65

and over, nuptiality rate, divorce rate, general mortality rate. [2]

Statistical data from censuses and statistical yearbooks were processed to identify the main coordinates of the family's demographic and social areas, during the analyzed period.

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Romanian population decreased continuously in recent years, as it was at 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2010 of 21.4 million inhabitants, less with over 1.8 million than in 1990 and less with 250,000 people compared to 2002. Under these conditions, the population structure by residence shows that Romania remains a country with a deep rural character (Table 1).

Table 1. Population of Romania by regions and areas of residence), Source: INS

	Census 18 March 2002		1 st of July 2010	
	Urban (%)	Rural (%)	Urban(%)	Rural(%)
Romania	52,7	47,3	55,1	44,9
North-East	<b>40,6</b>	<b>59,4</b>	<b>43,1</b>	<b>56,9</b>
South-East	54,6	45,4	55,1	44,9
South Muntenia	<b>39,7</b>	<b>60,3</b>	<b>41,4</b>	<b>58,6</b>
South-West Oltenia	<b>43,8</b>	<b>56,2</b>	<b>47,9</b>	<b>52,1</b>
West	60,9	39,1	62,9	37,1
North-West	51,1	48,9	53,3	46,7
Centre	58,4	41,6	59,3	40,7
București-Ilfov	87,9	12,1	91,9	8,1

Predominantly agrarian regions are South Muntenia (58,6%), North-East Region (56,9%) and South-West Oltenia Region (52,1%).

Table 2. Population of Romania by areas of residence and gender

Year	Total		Male		Female	
	Urban (%)	Rural (%)	Urban (%)	Rural (%)	Urban (%)	Rural (%)
1990	53,22	46,78	52,96	47,04	53,47	46,53
1997	55,01	44,99	54,40	45,60	55,59	44,41
2004	53,63	46,37	52,71	47,29	54,50	45,50
2010	55,07	44,93	54,01	45,99	56,07	43,93
2011	55,00	45,00	53,89	46,11	56,05	43,95
2012	54,96	45,04	53,82	46,18	56,05	43,95

Source: INS

In terms of population distribution by residential environments, a growing percentage of urban population is seen to 54,96% in 2012 and decrease in rural population both male (46,18%) and female (43,95%). It is indicated that in the the whole of Romania, the share urban population of females is greater than that of males, while the rural share of females is lower than that of males.

A reference for the population profile is age structure. Distribution by age of population shows that between 2002 and 2010, the aging of the population has increased.

During this period the share of young population up to 15 years of age decreased from 18,5% to 16,0% for males and for females, from 16,8% to 14,3%, At the same time, the share of persons aged 65 and over increased by 0,4 percentage points for men (from 12,0% to 12,4%) and 1,2 percentage points for women (from 16,1% to 17,3%), The process is more pronounced in rural areas.

In the period 2002-2010, the share of population aged 65 and over in the total rural population has decreased (from 15,3% to 15,1%) for males and in urban areas increased (from 8,8% to 10,0%). In contrast, share of females rose in both rural (from 20,7% to 21,7%) as in urban areas (from 12,0% to 13,8%).

Table 3. Population of Romania, by gender, age groups and residence environments, in the 2002 and 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2010 Censuses

	Romania		Urban		Rural	
	2002	2010	2002	2010	2002	2010
<b>Male</b>						
Total (Thousand persons) of which in %:	10568,7	10434,1	5493,4	5632,7	5075,3	4801,4
Under 15 years of age	18,5	16,0	17,0	14,7	20,2	17,4
15-24 years of age	16,3	14,3	18,2	14,4	14,3	14,3
25-34 years of age	17,3	16,6	17,8	18	16,8	15,0
35-44 years of age	12,4	16,5	13,6	16,7	11,0	16,3
45-54 years of age	13,9	12,6	16,0	13,7	11,6	11,3
55-64 years of age	9,6	11,6	8,6	12,5	10,8	10,6
65-74 years of age	8,2	7,4	6,1	6,3	10,3	8,6
Over 75 years of age	3,8	5,0	2,7	3,7	5,0	6,5
<b>Female</b>						
Romania Urban Rural						
2002 2010 2002 2010 2002 2010						
Total (Thousand persons) of which in %:	11112,2	10997,2	5941,6	6166,1	5170,6	4831,1
Under 15 years of age	16,8	14,3	1,05	12,7	18,8	16,4
15-24 years of age	14,9	13,0	16,5	13	12,9	13,1
25-34 years of age	16,1	15,0	17,5	16,4	14,4	13,2
35-44 years of age	11,8	15,3	14,3	16,4	8,9	13,8
45-54 years of age	13,8	12,5	15,6	14,5	11,9	9,8
55-64 years of age	10,6	12,6	9,0	13,0	12,4	12,0
65-74 years of age	10,1	9,5	7,6	7,8	13,0	11,6
Over 75 years of age	6,0	7,8	4,4	6,0	7,7	10,1

Source: INS

### Birth rate

Demographic decline of the population does not come from increased mortality, but from the declining of birth rates well below replacement level of generations.

Table 4. Live births and birth rates, by residence, in 1990-2011\*

Year	Total		Urban		Rural	
	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)
1990	314746	13,6	156950	12,9	157796	14,3
1995	236640	10,4	109722	8,9	126918	12,3
2000	234521	10,5	108254	8,9	126267	12,3
2005	221020	10,2	117780	9,9	103240	10,6
2010	212199	9,9	117851	10,0	94348	9,8
2011	196242	9,2	106667	9,1	89575	9,3

Source: INS\* in 1000 inhabitants,

In 2011, the number of live births was of 196,200, lower with 118,500 compared to 1990, seen as a pronounced decrease trend. It is noted that in the period 1990-2011, the birth rate was higher in rural areas than in urban areas, with the exception in 2010, when the birth rate in urban areas was 0.2% higher than in the countryside.

The birth rate is trending downward since 1990, in both areas of residence, in recent years one can see an approximation of the size of the birth rates by residence due to higher birth rates in urban areas.

Table 5. Distribution of live births by mother's education level in the period 1994-2010

	1994	1998	2004	2006	2008	2010
TOTAL	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
PRIMARY	7,8	9,1	9,2	8,9	8,9	9,1
SECONDARY	38,5	37,0	33,2	29,4	27,5	24,7
VOCATIONAL	13,0	11,6	11,1	11,7	11,5	10,2
HIGH SCHOOL	33,7	30,9	26,1	25,4	23,1	21,8
POST HIGH SCHOOL	0,6	1,9	4,2	4,5	3,8	3,3
UPPER	3,7	5,2	10,5	13,6	17,4	24,9
OTHER SITUATIONS	2,7	4,3	5,7	6,5	7,8	6,0

Source: INS

Further development of children depends on the level of education of mothers. In recent years, the share of newborn children whose mothers have a low education level (primary and secondary) showed a downward trend from 46,3% in 1994 to 33,8% in 2010. Similarly, the percentage of children whose mothers have an intermediate level training (vocational and high school) decreased from 40,7% in 1994 to 32,0% in 2010. A growing trend, significant even after 2004, is in the percentage of children registered as newborns whose mothers have a relatively high level of education (post high school and upper). It was of 14,7% in 2004 and 28,2% in 2010. [3]

### Percentage of children born outside marriage

In Romania, the number and, respectively, the percentage of children born outside marriage has increased.

Table 6. The share of live births by the legal situation during 1995-2010(%)

	1995	1999	2003	2007	2009	2010
<b>WITHIN MARRIAGE (%)</b>	80,3	75,9	71,8	73,3	72,0	72,3
<b>OUTSIDE MARRIAGE (%)</b>	19,7	24,1	28,5	26,7	28,0	27,7

Source: INS

In 2010, this ratio was 27,7% compared to 19,7% in 1995 and 26,7% in 2001.

Table 7. The share of live births by the legal situation and residence environment during 1995-2010(%)

	1995	1999	2003	2007	2008	2010
<b>URBAN</b>						
WITHIN MARRIAGE	82,9	78,1	75,8	76,5	75,9	76,7
OUTSIDE MARRIAGE	17,1	21,9	24,2	23,5	24,1	23,3
<b>RURAL</b>						
WITHIN MARRIAGE	77,9	74,1	68,3	69,6	68,7	66,2
OUTSIDE MARRIAGE	22,1	25,8	31,7	30,4	31,3	33,8

Source: INS

Increase in the proportion of children born outside marriage was registered in both areas of residence, but was more pronounced in rural areas. During 1995-2010, the percentage of children born outside marriage had increased in urban areas from 17,1% to 23,3% and in rural areas from 22,1% to 33,8%.

### Rank of alive new-born

Most couples, respectively, women opt to have one or two children.

Table 8. Distribution of live births born by rank, in the period 1992-2010(%)

RANK OF ALIVE NEW-BORN	1992	1998	2004	2006	2008	2009	2010
TOTAL	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
I	53,9	53,0	52,4	53,3	53,4	53,0	52,4
II	26,3	29,2	29,4	29,9	29,7	30,3	30,6
III	8,5	8,6	9,0	8,6	8,6	8,5	8,7
IV	4,2	3,9	4,1	3,6	3,6	3,7	3,7
V	2,5	2,0	2,1	1,9	2	1,9	1,9
VI+	4,6	3,3	3,0	2,7	2,7	2,6	2,7

Source: INS

The structure of live births by rank shows that in Romania, in the last 18 years, around 50% of babies were ranked I and between 25-30,% of rank II. This means that only about 20% of total newborn children, belong to families with more than two children, a determinant factor in ensuring the balance between generations.

**Nuptiality rate**

Number of marriages per 1000 inhabitants (Nuptiality rate) declined steadily during 1990-2011, both in rural and in urban areas from 7,5 ‰ or 9,1 ‰ in 1990 to 3,9 ‰ respectively 5,8 ‰ in 2011.

Table 9. Nuptiality rate, by area of residence (‰), in the period 1990-2011

	1990	1996	2002	2006	2008	2010	2011
<b>Total</b>	8,3	6,7	5,9	6,8	6,9	5,4	4,9
<b>Urban</b>	9,1	6,9	6,6	8,1	8,2	6,4	5,8
<b>Rural</b>	7,5	6,4	5,1	5,2	5,4	4,2	3,9

Source: INS

Table 10. The average age of spouses by environments, gender, in the period 1991-2011(years)

	1991	1995	2000	2005	2010	2011
Urban						
<b>Male</b>	27,5	28,6	29,4	31,3	31,5	31,2
<b>Female</b>	24,7	25,6	26,3	28	28,4	28,2
Rural						
<b>Male</b>	26,1	27,2	28,2	29,7	30,1	30,6
<b>Female</b>	22,4	23,2	24,0	25,3	26,1	26,6

Source: INS

Average age at marriage has increased in both rural and urban area.

The largest increase during the period studied in rural areas is 4.5 years for men and 4.2 years for female.

**Divorce rate**

At the same time it is highlighted that divorces increase constantly in rural areas, while in urban areas the number of divorces is variable with a maximum of 28,702 in 1998.

**Fertility**

The total fertility rate indicates the balance between generations, very important in terms of the relationship between changes in population and socio-economic development in the long term. In the European countries,

including Romania, there was for some time signaled the downward trend in fertility rates.

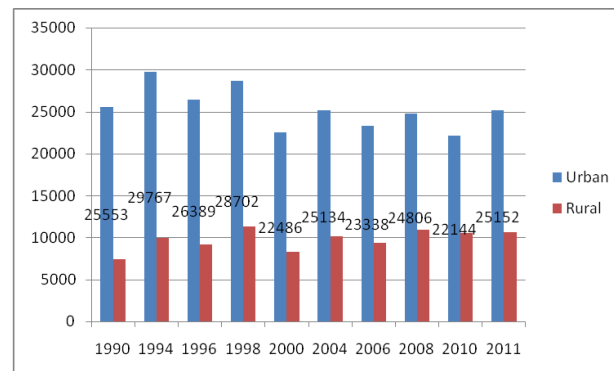


Fig.1. The number of divorces, by residential environments, in the period 1990-2011

Table 11. The number of divorces, by residential environments, in the period 1990-2011

	1990	1996	1998	2004	2008	2010	2011
<b>Urban</b>	25553	26389	28702	25134	24806	22144	25152
<b>Rural</b>	7413	9197	11283	10091	10879	10488	10628

Source: INS

Romania has seen a significant fall in total fertility rates after 1990, it practically stabilized since 1995 at an average of 1,3 children born by a woman during her fertile life, well below that estimated by experts as the need for simple replacement of generations in time (2,1 children in average for a woman).

Table 12. The fertility rates, in the period 1990-2010(%)

Year	General fertility rate	Total fertility rate
1990	56,2	1,8
1991	48,7	1,6
1993	44,3	1,4
1995	41,1	1,3
2000	40,3	1,3
2001	37,8	1,2
2005	39,4	1,3
2009	41,0	1,4
2010	39,4	1,3

Source: INS

The fertility rates specific for different age groups with the highest intake at birth (20-24 years and 25-29 years) decreased over time. For example, during 1990-2005, the fertility rate of women in the age group 20-24 years halved, and for the group 25-29 years, the

fertility rate decreased slightly until the late '90s, which then saw a slight increase.

Table 13, Fertility rates by age\*, in the period 1990-2010(%)

Year	15-19 years of age	20-24 years of age	25-29 years of age	30-34 years of age	35-39 years of age	40-44 years of age	45-49 years of age
1990	51,5	145,2	97,8	46,4	19,4	5,5	0,4
1991	49,8	131,1	78,6	34,2	13,9	4,0	0,3
1993	47,0	124,6	74,2	28,3	11,4	3,2	0,3
1994	45,0	119,3	75,8	28,7	11,3	3,2	0,2
1995	42,0	109,5	73,4	29,4	11,0	3,1	0,2
2000	39,0	90,2	78,5	38,7	13,4	3,1	0,2
2001	35,8	82,2	73,8	37,4	13,7	3,0	0,2
2005	33,5	73,3	83,9	51,8	18,7	3,6	0,2
2007	35,2	66,5	81,0	54,4	18,3	3,9	0,2
2009	39,3	67,5	82,7	59,4	22,1	4,7	0,2
2010	36,9	62,3	79,9	59,2	23,3	4,6	0,2

Source: INS \*number of live births per 1000 women in that age group

Table 14, Mortality rates, by residence and gener, in 1990-2011\*

Year	Total		Male		Female	
	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural
1990	40,20%	59,80%	40,88%	59,12%	39,42%	60,58%
1991	40,30%	59,70%	41,25%	58,75%	39,21%	60,79%
1992	40,47%	59,53%	41,42%	58,58%	39,36%	60,64%
1993	40,82%	59,18%	41,68%	58,32%	39,80%	60,20%
1994	40,88%	59,12%	41,73%	58,27%	39,85%	60,15%
1995	41,30%	58,70%	42,04%	57,96%	40,41%	59,59%
1996	40,69%	59,31%	41,57%	58,43%	39,66%	60,34%
1997	41,53%	58,47%	42,26%	57,74%	40,64%	59,36%
1998	41,88%	58,12%	42,62%	57,38%	41,02%	58,98%
1999	41,92%	58,08%	42,74%	57,26%	40,98%	59,02%
2000	42,39%	57,61%	43,01%	56,99%	41,68%	58,32%
2001	42,40%	57,60%	42,86%	57,14%	41,85%	58,15%
2002	41,99%	58,01%	42,63%	57,37%	41,24%	58,76%
2003	42,12%	57,88%	42,72%	57,28%	41,43%	58,57%
2004	44,16%	55,84%	44,55%	55,45%	43,70%	56,30%
2005	44,57%	55,43%	44,96%	55,04%	44,12%	55,88%
2006	45,09%	54,91%	45,50%	54,50%	44,64%	55,36%
2007	45,47%	54,53%	45,81%	54,19%	45,08%	54,92%
2008	45,16%	54,84%	45,51%	54,49%	44,77%	55,23%
2009	45,16%	54,84%	45,22%	54,78%	45,10%	54,90%
2010	45,29%	54,71%	45,65%	54,35%	44,88%	55,12%
2011	45,60%	54,40%	45,65%	54,35%	45,53%	54,47%

Source: INS\* in 1000 inhabitants

### General mortality

For understanding of some basic features of developments in the Romanian population in

recent years and its health indicators, mortality is a good starting point. As the main statistical indicators show, mortality among males was and remained higher than the mortality of females. Another feature is the fact that mortality is higher in rural areas than in urban areas, both in male and in female persons. The phenomenon of "male supramortality" continued to be recorded both in urban and rural areas, though with higher values in urban areas.

### CONCLUSIONS

Change reproductive behavior of rural population, a drastic reduction in the birth rate.

- 1.The birth rate was higher in rural areas than in urban areas, with the exception in 2010, when the birth rate in urban areas was 0.2% higher than in the countryside.
- 2.Distribution by age of population shows that between 2002 and 2010, the aging of the population has increased.
- 3.The share of persons aged 65 and over increased by 0,4 percentage points for men (from 12,0% to 12,4%) and 1,2 percentage points for women (from 16,1% to 17,3%), The process is more pronounced in rural areas.
- 4.Further development of children depends on the level of education of mothers. The share of newborn children whose mothers have a low education level (primary and secondary) showed a downward trend. A growing trend, significant even after 2004, is in the percentage of children registered as newborns whose mothers have a relatively high level of education.
- 5.Increase in the proportion of children born outside marriage was registered in both areas of residence, but was more pronounced in rural areas.
- 6.Only about 20% of total newborn children, belong to families with more than two children, a determinant factor in ensuring the balance between generations.
- 7.Average age at marriage has increased in both rural and urban area.

8. Divorces increase constantly in rural areas, while in urban areas the number of divorces is variable with a maximum of 28,702 in 1998.

9. Romania has seen a significant fall in total fertility rates after 1990, it practically stabilized since 1995 at an average of 1,3 children born by a woman during her fertile life, well below that estimated by experts as the need for simple replacement of generations in time (2,1 children in average for a woman).

10. Mortality is higher in rural areas than in urban areas, both in male and in female persons

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