[Template:Other uses](/wiki/Template:Other_uses" \o "Template:Other uses) [Template:Redirect](/wiki/Template:Redirect) [Template:Pp-move-indef](/wiki/Template:Pp-move-indef) [Template:Use dmy dates](/wiki/Template:Use_dmy_dates) [Template:Coord](/wiki/Template:Coord) [Template:Infobox country](/wiki/Template:Infobox_country)

**Romania**[[lower-alpha 1]](#cite_note-1) ([Template:IPAc-en](/wiki/Template:IPAc-en) [Template:Respell](/wiki/Template:Respell); [Template:Lang-ro](/wiki/Template:Lang-ro) [Template:IPA-ro](/wiki/Template:IPA-ro)) is a [republic](/wiki/Republic) in [Southeast Europe](/wiki/Southeast_Europe) which borders the [Black Sea](/wiki/Black_Sea), [Bulgaria](/wiki/Bulgaria), [Ukraine](/wiki/Ukraine), [Hungary](/wiki/Hungary), [Serbia](/wiki/Serbia), and [Moldova](/wiki/Moldova). It has an area of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) and a [temperate](/wiki/Temperate_climate)-[continental climate](/wiki/Continental_climate). With 19.94 million inhabitants, the country is the [seventh most populous](/wiki/List_of_European_Union_member_states_by_population) member state of the [European Union](/wiki/European_Union). Its capital and largest city, [Bucharest](/wiki/Bucharest), is the [sixth largest city](/wiki/List_of_largest_cities_in_the_European_Union_by_population_within_city_limits) in the EU.[[1]](#cite_note-2) until sociolinguistic developments in the late 17th century led to semantic differentiation of the two forms: *rumân* came to mean "[bondsman](/wiki/Indentured_servant)", while *român* retained the original ethnolinguistic meaning.[[9]](#cite_note-10) After the abolition of [serfdom](/wiki/Serfdom) in 1746, the word *rumân* gradually fell out of use and the spelling stabilised to the form *român*.<ref group=lower-alpha>In his well known literary testament [Ienăchiță Văcărescu](/wiki/Ienăchiță_Văcărescu) writes: "Urmașilor mei Văcărești!/Las vouă moștenire:/Creșterea limbei românești/Ș-a patriei cinstire."   
In the *"Istoria faptelor lui Mavroghene-Vodă și a răzmeriței din timpul lui pe la 1790"* a Pitar Hristache writes: "Încep după-a mea ideie/Cu vreo câteva condeie/Povestea mavroghenească/Dela Țara Românească.</ref> [Tudor Vladimirescu](/wiki/Tudor_Vladimirescu), a revolutionary leader of the early 19th century, used the term *Rumânia* to refer exclusively to the principality of Wallachia."[[10]](#cite_note-11) The use of the name *Romania* to refer to the common homeland of all Romanians—its modern-day meaning—was first documented in the early 19th century.<ref group=lower-alpha>In 1816, the Greek scholar [Dimitrie Daniel Philippide](/wiki/Dimitrie_Daniel_Philippide) published in [Leipzig](/wiki/Leipzig) his work *The History of Romania*, followed by *The Geography of Romania*.   
On the [tombstone](/wiki/Headstone) of [Gheorghe Lazăr](/wiki/Gheorghe_Lazăr) in [Avrig](/wiki/Avrig) (built in 1823) there is the inscription: "Precum Hristos pe Lazăr din morți a înviat/Așa tu România din somn ai deșteptat."</ref> The name has been officially in use since 11 December 1861.[[11]](#cite_note-12) In English, the name of the country was formerly spelt *Rumania* or *Roumania*, corresponding to the now obsolete Romanian spelling *Rumânia*.[[12]](#cite_note-13) *Romania* became the predominant spelling around 1975.[[13]](#cite_note-14) *Romania* is also the official English-language spelling used by the Romanian government.[[14]](#cite_note-15) Other languages, however, continue to prefer forms with *u*, e.g. French *Roumanie*, German *Rumänien*, Polish *Rumunia*, and Russian Румыния (*Rumyniya*).

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## History[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]

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### Early history[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [175px|thumb|left|alt=Map of Roman Dacia|The newly established](/wiki/File:Roman_province_of_Dacia_(106_-_271_AD).svg) [Roman province](/wiki/Roman_province) of [Dacia Trajana](/wiki/Dacia_Trajana) and the lands temporarily incorporated into [Moesia](/wiki/Moesia) province in the 110s AD [thumb|left|175px|](/wiki/File:Decebal's_portrait.png)[Decebalus](/wiki/Decebalus), king of [Dacia](/wiki/Dacia), as depicted in *Cartea omului matur* (1919) The human remains found in [Peștera cu Oase](/wiki/Peștera_cu_Oase) ("The Cave with Bones"), radiocarbon dated as being from circa 40,000 years ago, represent the oldest known [*Homo sapiens*](/wiki/Homo_sapiens) in Europe.[[15]](#cite_note-16)[[16]](#cite_note-17) The Neolithic-Age [Cucuteni](/wiki/Cucuteni) area in northeastern Romania was the western region of the earliest European civilization, known as the [Cucuteni-Trypillian culture](/wiki/Cucuteni-Trypillian_culture).[[17]](#cite_note-18) Also the earliest known salt works in the world is at Poiana Slatinei, near the village of [Lunca](/wiki/Vânători-Neamț) in Romania; it was first used in the early Neolithic, around 6050 BC, by the [Starčevo culture](/wiki/Starčevo_culture), and later by the Cucuteni-Trypillian culture in the Pre-Cucuteni period.[[18]](#cite_note-19) Evidence from this and other sites indicates that the Cucuteni-Trypillian culture extracted salt from salt-laden spring water through the process of [briquetage](/wiki/Briquetage).

Prior to the Roman conquest of Dacia, the territories between Danube and Dniester rivers were inhabited by various [Thracian peoples](/wiki/Thracians), including the [Dacians](/wiki/Dacians) and the [Getae](/wiki/Getae).[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn) [Herodotus](/wiki/Herodotus), in his work "*Histories*", notes the religious difference between the Getae and other Thracians,[[19]](#cite_note-20) however, according to [Strabo](/wiki/Strabo), the Dacians and the Getae spoke the same language.[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn) [Dio Cassius](/wiki/Cassius_Dio) draws attention to the cultural similarities between the two people.[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn) There is a scholarly dispute whether the Dacians and the Getae were the same people.[[20]](#cite_note-21)[[21]](#cite_note-22) Roman incursions under Emperor [Trajan](/wiki/Trajan) between 101–102 AD and 105–106 AD resulted in half of the [Dacian kingdom](/wiki/Dacia) becoming a province of the [Roman Empire](/wiki/Roman_Empire) called "[Dacia Felix](/wiki/Roman_Dacia)". The Roman rule lasted for 165 years. During this period the province was fully integrated into the Roman Empire, and a sizeable part of the population were newcomers from other provinces.[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn) The Roman colonists introduced the [Latin](/wiki/Latin) language. According to followers of the [continuity theory](/wiki/Origin_of_the_Romanians#Theory_of_Daco-Roman_continuity), the intense [Romanization](/wiki/Romanization_(cultural)) gave birth to the [Proto-Romanian language](/wiki/Proto-Romanian_language).[[22]](#cite_note-23)[[23]](#cite_note-24) The province was rich in [ore deposits](/wiki/Ore#Ore_deposits) (especially gold and silver in places like [Alburnus Maior](/wiki/Alburnus_Maior)). Roman troops pulled out of Dacia around 271 AD.[[24]](#cite_note-25)[[25]](#cite_note-26) The territory was later invaded by various migrating peoples.[[26]](#cite_note-27)[[27]](#cite_note-28)<ref name=gepids>[Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)</ref>[[28]](#cite_note-29) [Burebista](/wiki/Burebista), [Decebalus](/wiki/Decebalus) and [Trajan](/wiki/Trajan) are considered the Romanians' forefathers in Romanian historiography.[[29]](#cite_note-30)[[30]](#cite_note-31)[[31]](#cite_note-32)

### Middle Ages[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|left|The three principalities of](/wiki/File:Mihai_1600.png) [Wallachia](/wiki/Wallachia), [Moldavia](/wiki/Moldavia) and [Transylvania](/wiki/Transylvania) in under [Michael the Brave](/wiki/Michael_the_Brave).

In the [Middle Ages](/wiki/Middle_Ages), Romanians lived in three Romanian [principalities](/wiki/Principality): [Wallachia](/wiki/Wallachia) ([Template:Lang-ro](/wiki/Template:Lang-ro) – "The Romanian Land"), [Moldavia](/wiki/Moldavia) ([Template:Lang-ro](/wiki/Template:Lang-ro)) and in Transylvania.[[32]](#cite_note-33) The existence of independent Romanian [voivodeships](/wiki/Voivodeship) in [Transylvania](/wiki/Transylvania) as early as the 9th century is mentioned in [*Gesta Hungarorum*](/wiki/Gesta_Hungarorum),[[33]](#cite_note-34) but by the 11th century, Transylvania had become a largely autonomous part of the [Kingdom of Hungary](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Hungary).[[34]](#cite_note-35) In the other parts, many small local states with varying degrees of independence developed, but only under [Basarab I](/wiki/Basarab_I_of_Wallachia) and [Bogdan I](/wiki/Bogdan_I_of_Moldavia) the larger principalities of [Wallachia](/wiki/Foundation_of_Wallachia) and [Moldavia](/wiki/Foundation_of_Moldavia) would emerge in the 14th century to fight the threat of the [Ottoman Empire](/wiki/Ottoman_Empire).[[35]](#cite_note-36)[[36]](#cite_note-37) [thumb|upright|](/wiki/File:Writ_of_the_Wallachian_voivode_Radu_cel_Frumos_from_14_October_1465.jpg)[Writ](/wiki/Writ) issued on 14 October 1465 by [Radu cel Frumos](/wiki/Radu_cel_Frumos), from his residence in [Bucharest](/wiki/Bucharest), indicating [Ottoman](/wiki/Ottoman_Empire) victory.

By 1541, as with the entire [Balkan peninsula](/wiki/Balkan_peninsula) and most of [Hungary](/wiki/Hungary), Moldavia, Wallachia, and Transylvania were under Ottoman [suzerainty](/wiki/Suzerainty), preserving partial or full internal autonomy until the mid-19th century (Transylvania until 1711[[37]](#cite_note-38)). This period featured several prominent rulers such as: [Stephen the Great](/wiki/Stephen_III_of_Moldavia), [Vasile Lupu](/wiki/Vasile_Lupu), [Alexander the Good](/wiki/Alexander_I_of_Moldavia) and [Dimitrie Cantemir](/wiki/Dimitrie_Cantemir) in Moldavia; [Vlad the Impaler](/wiki/Vlad_the_Impaler), [Mircea the Elder](/wiki/Mircea_I_of_Wallachia), [Matei Basarab](/wiki/Matei_Basarab), [Neagoe Basarab](/wiki/Neagoe_Basarab) and [Constantin Brâncoveanu](/wiki/Constantin_Brâncoveanu) in Wallachia; and [Gabriel Bethlen](/wiki/Gabriel_Bethlen) in the [Principality of Transylvania](/wiki/Principality_of_Transylvania_(1570–1711)), as well as [John Hunyadi](/wiki/John_Hunyadi) and [Matthias Corvinus](/wiki/Matthias_Corvinus) in Transylvania, while it was still a part of the Kingdom of Hungary.[[38]](#cite_note-39)[[39]](#cite_note-40) In 1600, all three principalities were ruled simultaneously by the [Wallachian prince](/wiki/List_of_rulers_of_Wallachia) [Michael the Brave](/wiki/Michael_the_Brave) (*Mihai Viteazul*), who was considered, later on, the precursor of modern Romania and became a point of reference for [nationalists](/wiki/Romantic_nationalism), as well as a catalyst for achieving a single Romanian state.[[40]](#cite_note-41)[Template:Clear](/wiki/Template:Clear)

### Independence and monarchy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|250px|Changes in Romania's territory since 1859.](/wiki/File:RomaniaBorderHistoryAnnimation_1859-2010.gif) [thumb|left|King](/wiki/File:Carol_I_King_of_Romania.jpg) [Carol I of Romania](/wiki/Carol_I_of_Romania) During the period of the [Austro-Hungarian](/wiki/Austro-Hungarian_Empire) rule in Transylvania and of Ottoman suzerainty over Wallachia and Moldavia, most [Romanians](/wiki/Romanians) were given few rights[[41]](#cite_note-42) in a territory where they formed the majority of the population.[[42]](#cite_note-43)[[43]](#cite_note-44) Nationalistic themes became principal during the [Wallachian uprising of 1821](/wiki/Wallachian_uprising_of_1821), and the 1848 revolutions in [Wallachia](/wiki/Wallachian_Revolution_of_1848) and [Moldavia](/wiki/Moldavian_Revolution_of_1848). The flag adopted for Wallachia by the revolutionaries was a blue-yellow-red horizontal [tricolour](/wiki/Tricolour_(flag)) (with blue above, in line with the meaning "Liberty, Justice, Fraternity"),[[44]](#cite_note-45) while Romanian students in Paris hailed the new government with the same flag "as a symbol of union between Moldavians and Wallachians".[[45]](#cite_note-46)[[46]](#cite_note-47) The same flag, with the tricolour being mounted vertically, would later be officially adopted as the national [flag of Romania](/wiki/Flag_of_Romania).[[47]](#cite_note-48) After the failed 1848 revolutions not all the [Great Powers](/wiki/Great_Powers) supported the Romanians' expressed desire to officially unite in a single state.[[48]](#cite_note-49) But in the aftermath of the [Crimean War](/wiki/Crimean_War), the electors in both Moldavia and Wallachia voted in 1859 for the same leader, [Alexandru Ioan Cuza](/wiki/Alexandru_Ioan_Cuza), as [*Domnitor*](/wiki/Domnitor) ("ruling prince" in Romanian), and the two principalities became a [personal union](/wiki/United_Principalities) formally under the suzerainty of the [Ottoman Empire](/wiki/Ottoman_Empire).[[49]](#cite_note-50) Following a *coup d'état* in 1866, Cuza was exiled and replaced with Prince [Carol I of Romania](/wiki/Carol_I_of_Romania) of the House of [Hohenzollern-Sigmaringen](/wiki/Hohenzollern-Sigmaringen). During the 1877–1878 [Russo-Turkish War](/wiki/Russo-Turkish_War_(1877–1878)) Romania fought on the Russian side,[[50]](#cite_note-51) and in the aftermath, it was recognized as an [independent](/wiki/Romanian_War_of_Independence) state both by the Ottoman Empire and the Great Powers by the [Treaty of San Stefano](/wiki/Treaty_of_San_Stefano) and the [Treaty of Berlin](/wiki/Treaty_of_Berlin_(1878)).[[51]](#cite_note-52)[[52]](#cite_note-53) The new [Kingdom of Romania](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Romania) underwent a period of stability and progress until 1914, and also acquired [Southern Dobruja](/wiki/Southern_Dobruja) from [Bulgaria](/wiki/Bulgaria) after the [Second Balkan War](/wiki/Second_Balkan_War).[[53]](#cite_note-54)[Template:Clear](/wiki/Template:Clear)

### World Wars and Greater Romania[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|left|175px|A 1917 British map showing territories with majority Romanian populations.](/wiki/File:Romanians_before_WW1.jpg) [thumb|175px|Romania's territorial losses in the summer of 1940. Of these territories, only](/wiki/File:PérdidasTerritorialesRumanas1940-ro.svg) [Northern Transylvania](/wiki/Northern_Transylvania) was regained. [thumb|upright|175px|Romanian dictator](/wiki/File:Bundesarchiv_Bild_183-B03212,_München,_Staatsbesuch_Jon_Antonescu_bei_Hitler.jpg) [Ion Antonescu](/wiki/Ion_Antonescu) meeting with [Adolf Hitler](/wiki/Adolf_Hitler) in June 1941. Romania was the main source of oil for the [Axis powers](/wiki/Axis_powers) in World War II and also a military ally for Nazi Germany. Romania remained neutral for the first two years of [World War I](/wiki/World_War_I). Following the secret [Treaty of Bucharest](/wiki/Treaty_of_Bucharest_(1916)), according to which Romania would acquire territories with a majority of Romanian population from [Austria-Hungary](/wiki/Austria-Hungary), it joined the [Entente Powers](/wiki/Entente_Powers) and declared war on 27 August 1916.[[54]](#cite_note-55) After initial advances the [Romanian military campaign](/wiki/Romanian_Campaign_(World_War_I)) quickly turned disastrous for Romania as the [Central Powers](/wiki/Central_Powers) occupied two-thirds of the country within months, before reaching a stalemate in 1917. The [October Revolution](/wiki/October_Revolution) and Russian withdrawal from the War left Romania alone and surrounded, and a ceasefire was negotiated at [Focșani](/wiki/Armistice_of_Focșani) that December. Romania was occupied and a harsh [peace treaty](/wiki/Treaty_of_Bucharest_(1918)) was signed in May 1918. In November, Romania reentered the conflict. Total military and civilian losses from 1916 to 1918, within contemporary borders, were estimated at 748,000.[[55]](#cite_note-56) After the war, the transfer of [Bukovina](/wiki/Bukovina) from Austria was acknowledged by the 1919 [Treaty of Saint Germain](/wiki/Treaty_of_Saint_Germain),[[56]](#cite_note-57) of [Banat](/wiki/Banat) and [Transylvania](/wiki/Transylvania) from [Hungary](/wiki/Hungary) by the 1920 [Treaty of Trianon](/wiki/Treaty_of_Trianon),[[57]](#cite_note-58) and of [Bessarabia](/wiki/Bessarabia) from Russian rule by the 1920 [Treaty of Paris](/wiki/Treaty_of_Paris_(1920)).[[58]](#cite_note-59) All cessations made to the Central Powers in the ceasefire and treaty were nullified and renounced.

The following [interwar period](/wiki/Interwar_period) is referred as [Greater Romania](/wiki/Greater_Romania), as the country achieved its greatest territorial extent at that time (almost [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert)).[[59]](#cite_note-60) The application of radical agricultural reforms and the passing of a new constitution created a democratic framework and allowed for quick economic growth. With oil production of 7.2 million tons in 1937, Romania ranked second in Europe and seventh in the world.[[60]](#cite_note-61)[[61]](#cite_note-62) and was Europe's second-largest food producer.[[62]](#cite_note-63) However, the early 1930s were marked by social unrest, high unemployment, and strikes, as there were over 25 separate governments throughout the decade.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed) On several occasions in the last few years before World War II, the democratic parties were squeezed between conflicts with the fascist and chauvinistic [Iron Guard](/wiki/Iron_Guard) and the authoritarian tendencies of [King Carol II](/wiki/Carol_II_of_Romania).[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

The [Antonescu](/wiki/Ion_Antonescu) fascist regime played a major role in [The Holocaust in Romania](/wiki/The_Holocaust_in_Romania),[[63]](#cite_note-64) and copied the [Nazi](/wiki/Nazi) policies of oppression and genocide of [Jews](/wiki/Jew) and [Roma](/wiki/Romani_people), mainly in the Eastern territories reoccupied by the Romanians from the Soviet Union. In total between 280,000 and 380,000 Jews in Romania (including Bessarabia, Bukovina and the [Transnistria Governorate](/wiki/Transnistria_Governorate)) were murdered during the war[[64]](#cite_note-65)[[65]](#cite_note-66)and at least 11,000 [Romanian Gypsies ("Roma")](/wiki/Romani_people) were also killed.[[66]](#cite_note-67) In August 1944, a [coup d'état](/wiki/Coup_d'état) led by [King Michael](/wiki/Michael_I_of_Romania) toppled [Ion Antonescu](/wiki/Ion_Antonescu) and his regime. He was convicted of war crimes and executed on 1 June 1946.[[67]](#cite_note-68) 9 October is now the [National Day of Commemorating the Holocaust](/wiki/Holocaust_Memorial_Days) in Romania.[[68]](#cite_note-69) During World War II, Romania tried again to remain neutral, but on 28 June 1940, it received a [Soviet ultimatum](/wiki/June_1940_Soviet_Ultimatum) with an implied threat of [invasion](/wiki/Invasion) in the event of non-compliance.[[69]](#cite_note-70) Again foreign powers created heavy pressure on Romania, by means of the [Molotov–Ribbentrop Pact](/wiki/Molotov–Ribbentrop_Pact) of non-aggression from 23 August 1939. As a result of it the Romanian government and the army were forced to retreat from Bessarabia as well as from northern Bukovina in order to avoid war with the Soviet Union.[[70]](#cite_note-71) The king was compelled to abdicate and appointed general [Ion Antonescu](/wiki/Ion_Antonescu) as the new Prime-Minister with full powers in ruling the state by royal decree.[[71]](#cite_note-72) Romania was prompted to join [the Axis](/wiki/Axis_powers) military campaign. Thereafter, southern [Dobruja](/wiki/Dobruja) was ceded to Bulgaria, while Hungary received [Northern Transylvania](/wiki/Northern_Transylvania) as result of an Axis powers' arbitration.[[72]](#cite_note-73) Romanian contribution to [Operation Barbarossa](/wiki/Operation_Barbarossa) was enormous, with the Romanian Army of over 1.2 million men in the summer of 1944, fighting in numbers second only to Nazi Germany.[[73]](#cite_note-74)Romania was the main source of oil for the [Third Reich](/wiki/Nazi_Germany),[[74]](#cite_note-75) and thus became the target of [intense bombing](/wiki/Bombing_of_Romania_in_World_War_II) by the Allies. Growing discontent among the population eventually peaked in August 1944 with [King Michael's Coup](/wiki/King_Michael's_Coup), and the country switched sides to join the [Allies](/wiki/Allies_of_World_War_II). It is estimated that the coup shortened the war by as much as six months.[[75]](#cite_note-76) Even though the Romanian Army had suffered 170,000 casualties after switching sides,[[76]](#cite_note-77) Romania's role in the defeat of Nazi Germany was not recognized by the [Paris Peace Conference](/wiki/Paris_Peace_Treaties,_1947) of 1947,[[77]](#cite_note-78) as the [Soviet Union](/wiki/Soviet_Union) annexed [Bessarabia](/wiki/Bessarabia) and other territories corresponding roughly to present-day [Republic of Moldova](/wiki/Republic_of_Moldova), and Bulgaria retained Southern Dobruja, but Romania did regain [Northern Transylvania](/wiki/Northern_Transylvania) from Hungary.

### Communism[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|150px|](/wiki/File:Gheorghe_Gheorghiu-Dej1.jpg)[Gheorghe Gheorghiu-Dej](/wiki/Gheorghe_Gheorghiu-Dej) was the communist leader of Romania from 1947 until his death in 1965 During the [Soviet occupation of Romania](/wiki/Soviet_occupation_of_Romania), the [Communist](/wiki/Romanian_Communist_Party)-dominated government called for new elections in [1946](/wiki/Romanian_general_election,_1946), which were [fraudulently won](/wiki/Electoral_fraud), with a fabricated 70% majority of the vote.[[78]](#cite_note-79) Thus they rapidly established themselves as the dominant political force.[[79]](#cite_note-80) [Gheorghe Gheorghiu-Dej](/wiki/Gheorghe_Gheorghiu-Dej), a Communist party leader imprisoned in 1933, escaped in 1944 to become Romania's first Communist leader. In 1947 he and others forced [King Michael I](/wiki/King_Michael_I) to [abdicate](/wiki/Abdicate) and leave the country, and proclaimed Romania a [people's republic](/wiki/People's_republic).[[80]](#cite_note-81)[[81]](#cite_note-82) Romania remained under the direct military occupation and economic control of the [USSR](/wiki/Soviet_Union) until the late 1950s. During this period, Romania's vast natural resources were continuously drained by mixed Soviet-Romanian companies ([SovRoms](/wiki/SovRom)) set up for unilateral exploitative purposes.[[82]](#cite_note-83)[[83]](#cite_note-84)[[84]](#cite_note-85) In 1948, the state began to [nationalize](/wiki/Nationalization_in_Romania) private firms and to [collectivize](/wiki/Collectivization_in_Romania) agriculture.[[85]](#cite_note-86) Until the early 1960s, the government severely curtailed political liberties and vigorously suppressed any dissent with the help of the [Securitate](/wiki/Securitate) (the Romanian secret police). During this period the regime launched several campaigns of purges in which numerous "[enemies of the state](/wiki/Enemies_of_the_state)" and "parasite elements" were targeted for different forms of punishment, such as deportation, internal exile and internment in forced labour camps and prisons, sometimes for life, as well as extrajudicial killing.[[86]](#cite_note-87) Nevertheless, [anti-Communist resistance](/wiki/Romanian_anti-communist_resistance_movement) was one of the most long-lasting in the Eastern Bloc.[[87]](#cite_note-88) A [2006 Commission](/wiki/Presidential_Commission_for_the_Study_of_the_Communist_Dictatorship_in_Romania) estimated the number of direct victims[Template:Vague](/wiki/Template:Vague) of the Communist repression at two million people.<ref name=autogenerated3>[Template:Cite report](/wiki/Template:Cite_report)</ref>

[thumb|left|150px|](/wiki/File:Ceausescu_Anul_Nou.jpg)[Nicolae Ceaușescu](/wiki/Nicolae_Ceaușescu) ruled Romania as its Communist leader from 1965 until 1989. [thumb|right|150px|The](/wiki/File:Romanian_Revolution_1989_1.jpg) [Romanian Revolution](/wiki/Romanian_Revolution) in 1989 was one of the few violent revolutions in Europe that brought an end to Communist rule (around 4,500 casualties). In 1965, [Nicolae Ceaușescu](/wiki/Nicolae_Ceaușescu) came to power and started to conduct the foreign policy more independently from the Soviet Union. Thus, Communist Romania was the only [Warsaw Pact](/wiki/Warsaw_Pact) country who refused to participate at the Soviet-led [1968 invasion](/wiki/Warsaw_Pact_invasion_of_Czechoslovakia) of [Czechoslovakia](/wiki/Czechoslovakia) (Ceaușescu even publicly condemned the action as "a big mistake, [and] a serious danger to peace in Europe and to the fate of Communism in the world"[[88]](#cite_note-89)); it was also the only Communist state to maintain diplomatic relations with [Israel](/wiki/Israel) after 1967's [Six-Day War](/wiki/Six-Day_War); and established diplomatic relations with [West Germany](/wiki/Federal_Republic_of_Germany) the same year.[[89]](#cite_note-90) At the same time, close ties with the [Arab](/wiki/Arab) countries (and the [PLO](/wiki/PLO)) allowed Romania to play a key role in the Israel–[Egypt](/wiki/Egypt) and Israel–PLO peace talks.[[90]](#cite_note-91) As Romania's foreign debt sharply increased between 1977 and 1981 (from US$3 billion to $10 billion),[[91]](#cite_note-92) the influence of international financial organizations (such as the [IMF](/wiki/IMF) and the [World Bank](/wiki/World_Bank)) grew, gradually conflicting with Ceaușescu's [autocratic](/wiki/Autocracy) rule. The latter eventually initiated a policy of total reimbursement of the foreign debt by imposing [austerity steps](/wiki/1980s_austerity_policy_in_Romania) that impoverished the population and exhausted the economy. The process succeeded in repaying all foreign government debt of Romania in 1989. At the same time, Ceaușescu greatly extended the authority of the Securitate secret police and imposed a severe [cult of personality](/wiki/Nicolae_Ceaușescu's_cult_of_personality), which led to a dramatic decrease in the dictator's popularity and culminated in his overthrow and eventual execution, together with his wife, in the violent [Romanian Revolution](/wiki/Romanian_Revolution) of December 1989. The charges for which they were executed were, among others, genocide by starvation.

### Democracy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=8)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) After the revolution, the [National Salvation Front](/wiki/National_Salvation_Front_(Romania)) (NSF), led by [Ion Iliescu](/wiki/Ion_Iliescu), took partial multi-party democratic and free market measures.[[92]](#cite_note-93)[[93]](#cite_note-94) In April 1990, a sit-in protest contesting the results of the elections and accusing the NSF, including Iliescu, of being made up of former Communists and members of the Securitate — rapidly grew to become what was called the [Golaniad](/wiki/Golaniad). The peaceful demonstrations degenerated into violence, prompting the intervention of coal miners summoned by Iliescu. This episode has been documented widely by both local[[94]](#cite_note-95) and foreign media,[[95]](#cite_note-96) and is remembered as the [June 1990 Mineriad](/wiki/June_1990_Mineriad).[[96]](#cite_note-97)[[97]](#cite_note-98) The subsequent disintegration of the Front produced several political parties, including the [Social Democratic Party](/wiki/Social_Democratic_Party_(Romania)) and the [Democratic Party](/wiki/Democratic_Party_(Romania)). The former governed Romania from 1990 until 1996 through several coalitions and governments with Ion Iliescu as head of state. Since then, there have been several democratic changes of government: in 1996 [Emil Constantinescu](/wiki/Emil_Constantinescu) was elected president, in 2000 Iliescu returned to power, while [Traian Băsescu](/wiki/Traian_Băsescu) was elected in 2004 and was narrowly re-elected in 2009.[[98]](#cite_note-99) In November 2014, [Klaus Iohannis](/wiki/Klaus_Iohannis), former mayor of [Sibiu](/wiki/Sibiu), was elected president, unexpectedly defeating Prime Minister [Victor Ponta](/wiki/Victor_Ponta), who had been in the lead in the opinion polls. This surprise victory is attributed by many to the Romanian [diaspora](/wiki/Diaspora), of which almost 50 percent voted for Iohannis.[[99]](#cite_note-100)

### NATO and EU integration[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=9)]

[thumb|right|Romania joined](/wiki/File:2008_Bucharest_summit_(5).JPG) [NATO](/wiki/NATO) in 2003 and hosted [its 2008 summit](/wiki/2008_Bucharest_summit) in [Bucharest](/wiki/Bucharest). After the [Cold War](/wiki/Cold_War), Romania developed closer ties with Western Europe and the United States, eventually joining [NATO](/wiki/NATO) in 2004, and hosting the [2008 summit](/wiki/2008_Bucharest_summit) in Bucharest.[[100]](#cite_note-101) [thumb|left|Romania joined the](/wiki/File:Tratado_de_Lisboa_13_12_2007_(081).jpg) [European Union](/wiki/European_Union) in 2007 and signed the [Treaty of Lisbon](/wiki/Treaty_of_Lisbon). The country applied in June 1993 for membership in the [European Union](/wiki/European_Union) and became an Associated State of the EU in 1995, an Acceding Country in 2004, and a full member on 1 January 2007.[[101]](#cite_note-102) During the 2000s, Romania enjoyed one of the highest economic growth rates in Europe and has been referred at times as "the Tiger of Eastern Europe".[[102]](#cite_note-103) This has been accompanied by a significant improvement in living standards as the country successfully reduced internal poverty and established a functional democratic state.[[103]](#cite_note-104)[[104]](#cite_note-105) However, Romania's development suffered a major setback during the [late-2000s recession](/wiki/Late-2000s_recession) leading to a large gross domestic product contraction and budget deficit in 2009.<ref name=wsj4dec09>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)</ref> This led to Romania borrowing from the [International Monetary Fund](/wiki/International_Monetary_Fund).[[105]](#cite_note-106) The worsening economic conditions led to [unrest](/wiki/2012_Romanian_constitutional_crisis) and triggered a political crisis in 2012.[[106]](#cite_note-107) Romania still faces issues related to infrastructure,[[107]](#cite_note-108) medical services,[[108]](#cite_note-109) education,[[109]](#cite_note-110) and corruption.[[110]](#cite_note-111) Near the end of 2013, [The Economist](/wiki/The_Economist) reported Romania again enjoying 'booming' [economic growth](/wiki/Economic_growth) at 4.1% that year, with wages rising fast and a lower unemployment than in Britain. Economic growth accelerated in the midst of government liberalisations in opening up new sectors to competition and investment—most notably, energy and telecoms.[[111]](#cite_note-112) Following the experience of economic instability throughout the 1990s, and the implementation of a free travel agreement with the EU, a great number of Romanians emigrated to North America and Western Europe, with particularly large communities in Italy and Spain. Currently, the [Romanian diaspora](/wiki/Romanian_diaspora) is estimated to be at over two million people.<ref name=diaspora>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> The cyclical nature of the world economy and economic disparities between Romania and advanced European economies has fueled further emigration from the country. The emigration has caused social changes in Romania, whereby the parents would leave for Western Europe to escape poverty and provide a better standard of living for their children, who have been left behind. Some children are left to be taken care of by grandparents and relatives; and some live alone, if the parents deem their kids reasonably self-sufficient.[[112]](#cite_note-113) Subsequently, the youth began to be called [Euro-orphans](/wiki/Euro-orphan).[[113]](#cite_note-114)

## Geography and climate[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=10)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|left|300px|Topographic map of Romania](/wiki/File:Romania_general_map.png) [thumb|right|](/wiki/File:Moldoveanu-from-vistea.jpg)[Moldoveanu Peak](/wiki/Moldoveanu_Peak), the highest mountain of Romania With an area of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), Romania is the largest country in Southeastern Europe and the [twelfth-largest](/wiki/List_of_European_countries_in_order_of_geographical_area) in Europe.[[114]](#cite_note-115) It lies between latitudes [43°](/wiki/43rd_parallel_north) and [49° N](/wiki/49th_parallel_north), and longitudes [20°](/wiki/20th_meridian_east) and [30° E](/wiki/30th_meridian_east).

The terrain is distributed roughly equally between mountains, hills and plains.

The [Carpathian Mountains](/wiki/Carpathian_Mountains) dominate the centre of Romania, with [14 mountain ranges](/wiki/List_of_mountain_peaks_in_Romania) reaching above [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), and the highest point at [Moldoveanu Peak](/wiki/Moldoveanu_Peak) ([Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), *pictured right*).[[114]](#cite_note-115) They are surrounded by the [Moldavian](/wiki/Moldavian_Plateau) and [Transylvanian](/wiki/Transylvanian_Plateau) plateaus and [Carpathian Basin](/wiki/Carpathian_Basin) and [Wallachian](/wiki/Wallachian_Plain) plains.

47% of the country's land area is covered with natural and semi-natural ecosystems.<ref name=biodiversity>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> There are almost [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) (about 5% of the total area) of protected areas in Romania covering 13 national parks and three biosphere reserves.[[115]](#cite_note-116)[Template:Clear](/wiki/Template:Clear)

[thumb|right|The](/wiki/File:Delta_Dunarii_500.jpg) [Danube Delta](/wiki/Danube_Delta) The [Danube](/wiki/Danube) river forms a large part of the border with [Serbia](/wiki/Serbia) and [Bulgaria](/wiki/Bulgaria), and flows into the [Black Sea](/wiki/Black_Sea), forming the [Danube Delta](/wiki/Danube_Delta), which is the second-largest and best-preserved delta in Europe, and also a [biosphere reserve](/wiki/Biosphere_reserve) and a biodiversity [World Heritage Site](/wiki/World_Heritage_Site).[[116]](#cite_note-117) At [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert),[[117]](#cite_note-118) the [Danube Delta](/wiki/Danube_Delta) is the largest continuous marshland in Europe,<ref name=UNESCO>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> and supports 1,688 different plant species alone.[[118]](#cite_note-119)[Template:Clear](/wiki/Template:Clear)

[thumb|left|](/wiki/File:Judeţul_Călăraşi,_România.jpg)[Bărăgan Plain](/wiki/Bărăgan_Plain) in [Călărași County](/wiki/Călărași_County) Romania has one of the largest areas of undisturbed forest in Europe, covering almost 27% of the territory.[[119]](#cite_note-120) Some 3,700 [plant species](/wiki/Plant_species) have been identified in the country, from which to date 23 have been declared [natural monuments](/wiki/Natural_monument), 74 missing, 39 endangered, 171 vulnerable and 1,253 rare.[[120]](#cite_note-121) [thumb|right|Romania's population of](/wiki/File:Ursus_arctosTransilvania2.JPG) [brown bears](/wiki/Brown_bear) has around 6,600 individuals.[[121]](#cite_note-122) The fauna consists of 33,792 species of animals, 33,085 [invertebrate](/wiki/Invertebrate) and 707 [vertebrate](/wiki/Vertebrate),[[120]](#cite_note-121) with almost 400 unique species of mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians,[[122]](#cite_note-123) including about 50% of Europe's (excluding Russia) [brown bears](/wiki/Brown_bear) [[121]](#cite_note-122) and 20% of its [wolves](/wiki/Wolf).[[123]](#cite_note-124)[Template:Clear](/wiki/Template:Clear)

### Climate[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=11)]

[thumb|right|Romania map of Köppen climate classification.](/wiki/File:Romania_map_of_Köppen_climate_classification.svg) Owing to its distance from open [sea](/wiki/Sea) and position on the southeastern portion of the European continent, Romania has a climate that is [temperate](/wiki/Temperate_climate) and [continental](/wiki/Continental_climate), with four distinct seasons. The average annual temperature is [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) in the south and [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) in the north.<ref name=climate>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> In summer, average maximum temperatures in Bucharest rise to [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), and temperatures over [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) are fairly common in the lower-lying areas of the country.[[124]](#cite_note-125) In winter, the average maximum temperature is below [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert).[[124]](#cite_note-125) Precipitation is average, with over [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) per year only on the highest western mountains, while around Bucharest it drops to around [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert).[[125]](#cite_note-126)There are some regional differences: in the western parts (such as [Banat](/wiki/Banat)), the climate is milder, and has some Mediterranean influences; while the eastern part of the country has a more pronounced continental climate. In [Dobruja](/wiki/Dobruja), the Black Sea also exerts an influence over the region's climate.[[126]](#cite_note-127) Romania has also made clear since the late 1990s that it supports NATO and EU membership for the democratic former Soviet republics in Eastern Europe and the [Caucasus](/wiki/Caucasus).<ref name=mae/> Romania also declared its public support for [Turkey](/wiki/Turkey), and [Croatia](/wiki/Croatia) joining the European Union.<ref name=mae/> Because it has a large Hungarian minority, Romania has also developed [strong relations](/wiki/Hungary–Romania_relations) with [Hungary](/wiki/Hungary). Romania opted on 1 January 2007, to adhere the [Schengen Area](/wiki/Schengen_Area), and its bid to join was approved by the [European Parliament](/wiki/European_Parliament) in June 2011, but was rejected by the [EU Council](/wiki/Council_of_the_European_Union) in September 2011.

In December 2005, President [Traian Băsescu](/wiki/Traian_Băsescu) and [United States Secretary of State](/wiki/United_States_Secretary_of_State) [Condoleezza Rice](/wiki/Condoleezza_Rice) signed an agreement that would allow a U.S. military presence at several Romanian facilities primarily in the eastern part of the country.[[134]](#cite_note-135) In May 2009, [Hillary Clinton](/wiki/Hillary_Clinton), US [Secretary of State](/wiki/Secretary_of_State), declared that "Romania is one of the most trustworthy and respectable partners of the USA."[[135]](#cite_note-136) [Relations with Moldova](/wiki/Romanian-Moldovan_relations) are a special case, considering that the two countries share the same language and a [common history](/wiki/History_of_Moldavia).<ref name=mae/> A [movement for unification of Romania and Moldova](/wiki/Movement_for_unification_of_Romania_and_Moldova) appeared in the early 1990s after both countries achieved emancipation from communist rule,<ref name=cfis>[Template:Cite journal](/wiki/Template:Cite_journal)</ref> but lost ground in the mid-1990s when a new Moldovan government pursued an agenda towards preserving a Moldovan republic independent of Romania.<ref name=Ihrig>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> Romania remains interested in Moldovan affairs and has officially rejected the [Molotov–Ribbentrop Pact](/wiki/Molotov–Ribbentrop_Pact).<ref name=cfis/> After the [2009 protests in Moldova](/wiki/2009_Moldovan_protests) and subsequent removal of Communists from power, relations between the two countries have improved considerably.[[136]](#cite_note-137)

### Military[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=14)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) The Romanian Armed Forces consist of [Land](/wiki/Romanian_Land_Forces), [Air](/wiki/Romanian_Air_Force), and [Naval Forces](/wiki/Romanian_Naval_Forces), and are led by a [Commander-in-chief](/wiki/Commander-in-chief) under the supervision of the [Ministry of Defense](/wiki/Ministry_of_Defense_(Romania)), and by the president as the Supreme Commander during wartime. The Armed Forces consist of approximately 15,000 civilians and 75,000 are military personnel—45,800 for land, 13,250 for air, 6,800 for naval forces, and 8,800 in other fields.[[137]](#cite_note-138) The total defence spending in 2007 accounted for 2.05% of total national GDP, or approximately US$2.9 billion, with a total of $11 billion spent between 2006 and 2011 for modernization and acquisition of new equipment.[[138]](#cite_note-139) [thumb|right|](/wiki/File:Romanian_troops.jpg)[Romanian soldiers](/wiki/Romanian_Armed_Forces) in [Afghanistan](/wiki/War_in_Afghanistan_(2001–present)) during a joint operation in 2003. The Land Forces have overhauled their equipment in the past few years, and are actively participating in the [War in Afghanistan](/wiki/War_in_Afghanistan_(2001–present)).[[139]](#cite_note-140) The Air Force currently operates modernized Soviet [MiG-21](/wiki/MiG-21) Lancer fighters which are due to be replaced by twelve [F-16s](/wiki/F-16), recently purchased.[[140]](#cite_note-141) The Air Force purchased seven new [C-27J Spartan](/wiki/C-27J_Spartan) [tactical airlifters](/wiki/Tactical_airlift),[[141]](#cite_note-142) while the Naval Forces acquired two modernized [Type 22 frigates](/wiki/Type_22_frigate) from the [Royal Navy](/wiki/Royal_Navy).[[142]](#cite_note-143) Romanian troops participated in the [occupation of Iraq](/wiki/Post-invasion_Iraq_(2003_to_present)), reaching a peak of 730 soldiers before being slowly drawn down to 350 soldiers. Romania terminated its mission in Iraq and withdrew its last troops on 24 July 2009, among the last countries to do so. Romania currently has some 1,900 troops deployed in [Afghanistan](/wiki/War_in_Afghanistan_(2001–present)).[[143]](#cite_note-144) The [Regele Ferdinand frigate](/wiki/Regele_Ferdinand_frigate) participated in the [2011 military intervention in Libya](/wiki/2011_military_intervention_in_Libya).[[144]](#cite_note-145) In December 2011, the [Romanian Senate](/wiki/Romanian_Senate) unanimously adopted the draft law ratifying the [Romania-United States agreement](/wiki/Romania–United_States_relations) signed in September of the same year that would allow the establishment and operation of a US land-based [ballistic missile defence system](/wiki/Aegis_Ballistic_Missile_Defense_System) in Romania as part of [NATO's](/wiki/NATO) efforts to build a continental [missile shield](/wiki/NATO_missile_defence_system).[[145]](#cite_note-146)

### Administrative divisions[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=15)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) Romania is divided into 41 [counties](/wiki/Counties_of_Romania) (județe, pronounced judets) and the municipality of [Bucharest](/wiki/Bucharest). Each county is administered by a county council, responsible for local affairs, as well as a [prefect](/wiki/Prefect_(Romania)) responsible for the administration of national affairs at the county level. The prefect is appointed by the central government but cannot be a member of any political party.[[146]](#cite_note-147) Each county is further subdivided into [cities](/wiki/Cities_of_Romania) and [communes](/wiki/Communes_of_Romania), which have their own mayor and local council. There are a total of 319 cities and 2,686 communes in Romania.[[147]](#cite_note-148) A total of 103 of the larger cities have [municipality](/wiki/Municipalities_of_Romania) statuses, which gives them greater administrative power over local affairs. The municipality of Bucharest is a special case as it enjoys a status on par to that of a county. It is further divided into six [sectors](/wiki/Sectors_of_Bucharest) and has a prefect, a general mayor (primar), and a general city council.[[147]](#cite_note-148) The NUTS-3 ([Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics](/wiki/Nomenclature_of_Territorial_Units_for_Statistics)) level divisions of European Union reflect Romania's administrative-territorial structure, and correspond to the 41 counties plus Bucharest.<ref name=nuts/> The cities and communes correspond to the NUTS-5 level divisions, but there are no current NUTS-4 level divisions. The NUTS-1 (four [macroregions](/wiki/Macroregions_of_Romania)) and NUTS-2[[148]](#cite_note-149) (eight [development regions](/wiki/Development_regions_of_Romania)) divisions exist but have no administrative capacity, and are instead used for coordinating regional development projects and statistical purposes.<ref name=nuts>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)[Template:Dead link](/wiki/Template:Dead_link)</ref> [Template:Romanian counties map](/wiki/Template:Romanian_counties_map) {|

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| [**Development region**](/wiki/Development_regions_of_Romania) | **Area (km2)** | **Population (2011)**[**[149]**](#cite_note-150) | [**Most populous urban center**](/wiki/List_of_cities_and_towns_in_Romania)**\***[**[150]**](#cite_note-151) |
| [Nord-Vest](/wiki/Nord-Vest_(development_region)) | 34,159 | 2,600,132 | [Cluj-Napoca](/wiki/Cluj-Napoca_metropolitan_area) (411,379) |
| [Centru](/wiki/Centru_(development_region)) | 34,082 | 2,360,805 | [Brașov](/wiki/Brașov_metropolitan_area) (369,896) |
| [Nord-Est](/wiki/Nord-Est_(development_region)) | 36,850 | 3,302,217 | [Iași](/wiki/Iași_metropolitan_area) (382,484) |
| [Sud-Est](/wiki/Sud-Est_(development_region)) | 35,762 | 2,545,923 | [Constanța](/wiki/Constanța_metropolitan_area) (425,916) |
| [Sud - Muntenia](/wiki/Sud_-_Muntenia_(development_region)) | 34,489 | 3,136,446 | [Ploiești](/wiki/Ploiești_metropolitan_area) (276,279) |
| [București - Ilfov](/wiki/București_-_Ilfov_(development_region)) | 1,811 | 2,272,163 | [Bucharest](/wiki/Bucharest_metropolitan_area) (2,272,163) |
| [Sud-Vest Oltenia](/wiki/Sud-Vest_(development_region)) | 29,212 | 2,075,642 | [Craiova](/wiki/Craiova_metropolitan_area) (356,544) |
| [Vest](/wiki/Vest_(development_region)) | 32,028 | 1,828,313 | [Timișoara](/wiki/Timișoara_metropolitan_area) (384,809) |

[Template:Clear](/wiki/Template:Clear)

## Economy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=16)]

[thumb|right|](/wiki/File:Dacia_Duster_Salon_de_l'Auto.jpg)[Dacia Duster](/wiki/Dacia_Duster) concept at the [Geneva Motor Show](/wiki/Geneva_Motor_Show) (2009). [Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further) In 2015, Romania had a GDP (PPP) of around $414 billion and a [GDP per capita](/wiki/List_of_countries_by_GDP_per_capita_(PPP)) ([PPP](/wiki/Purchasing_power_parity)) of $20,787.[[151]](#cite_note-152) According to CIA's [The World Factbook](/wiki/The_World_Factbook), Romania is an upper-middle income country economy.[[152]](#cite_note-153) According to [Eurostat](/wiki/Eurostat), Romania's GDP per capita (PPS) was at 57% of the EU average in 2015, an increase from 41% in 2007 (the year of Romania's accession to the EU), making Romania one of the fastest growing economies in the EU.[[153]](#cite_note-154) After 1989 the country experienced a decade of economic instability and decline, led in part by an obsolete industrial base and a lack of structural reform. From 2000 onward, however, the Romanian economy was transformed into one of relative [macroeconomic](/wiki/Macroeconomic) stability, characterized by high growth, low unemployment and declining inflation. In 2006, according to the [Romanian Statistics Office](/wiki/National_Institute_of_Statistics_(Romania)), GDP growth in real terms was recorded at 7.7%, one of the highest rates in Europe.[[154]](#cite_note-155) However, a recession following the [global financial crisis of 2008–2009](/wiki/Global_financial_crisis_of_2008–2009) forced the government to borrow externally, including an [IMF](/wiki/IMF) €20bn bailout program.[[155]](#cite_note-156) GDP has been growing by over 2% each year since.[[156]](#cite_note-157) According to IMF, the GDP per capita [purchasing power parity](/wiki/Purchasing_power_parity) grew from $14,875 in 2007 to an estimated $19,397 in 2014.[[151]](#cite_note-152) Romania still has one of the lowest net average monthly wage in the EU of €540 in 2012,[[157]](#cite_note-158) and an inflation of 3.7% in 2013.[[158]](#cite_note-159) Unemployment in Romania was at 7% in 2012, which is very low compared to other EU countries.[[159]](#cite_note-160) [thumb|Romania is part of the](/wiki/File:BlueEurozone.svg) [EU single market](/wiki/Internal_Market_(European_Union)).

Industrial output growth reached 6.5% year-on-year in February 2013, the highest in the EU-27.[[160]](#cite_note-161) The largest local companies include car maker [Automobile Dacia](/wiki/Automobile_Dacia), [Petrom](/wiki/Petrom), [Rompetrol](/wiki/Rompetrol), [Ford Romania](/wiki/Ford_Romania), [Electrica](/wiki/Electrica), [Romgaz](/wiki/Romgaz), [RCS & RDS](/wiki/RCS_&_RDS) and [Banca Transilvania](/wiki/Banca_Transilvania).[[161]](#cite_note-162) Exports have increased substantially in the past few years, with a 13% annual rise in exports in 2010. Romania's main exports are cars, software, clothing and textiles, industrial machinery, electrical and electronic equipment, metallurgic products, raw materials, military equipment, pharmaceuticals, fine chemicals, and agricultural products (fruits, vegetables, and flowers). Trade is mostly centered on the member states of the European Union, with Germany and Italy being the country's single largest trading partners. The account balance in 2012 was estimated to be −4.52% of the GDP.[[162]](#cite_note-163) After a series of privatizations and reforms in the late 1990s and 2000s, government intervention in the Romanian economy is somewhat lower than in other European economies.[[163]](#cite_note-164) In 2005, the government replaced Romania's [progressive tax](/wiki/Progressive_tax) system with a [flat tax](/wiki/Flat_tax) of 16% for both personal income and corporate profit, among the lowest rates in the European Union.[[164]](#cite_note-165) The economy is predominantly based on services, which account for 51% of GDP, even though industry and agriculture also have significant contributions, making up 36% and 13% of GDP, respectively. Additionally, 30% of the Romanian population was employed in 2006 in agriculture and primary production, one of the highest rates in Europe.[[165]](#cite_note-166) Since 2000, Romania has attracted increasing amounts of foreign investment, becoming the single largest investment destination in Southeastern and Central Europe. [Foreign direct investment](/wiki/Foreign_direct_investment) was valued at €8.3 billion in 2006.[[166]](#cite_note-167) According to a 2011 [World Bank](/wiki/World_Bank) report, Romania currently ranks 72nd out of 175 economies in the ease of doing business, scoring lower than other countries in the region such as the [Czech Republic](/wiki/Czech_Republic).[[167]](#cite_note-168) Additionally, a study in 2006 judged it to be the world's second-fastest economic reformer (after [Georgia](/wiki/Georgia_(country))).[[168]](#cite_note-169) Since 1867 the official currency has been the [Romanian *leu*](/wiki/Romanian_leu) ("lion") and following a denomination in 2005, it has been valued at €0.2–0.3. After joining the EU in 2007, Romania is expected to adopt the euro sometime around 2020.<ref name=EUROENTRY>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

At 1 July 2015, Romanian's external debt was €90.59 billion.[[169]](#cite_note-170) Concerns about stability were raised after the resignation of the [Victor Ponta](/wiki/Victor_Ponta) government[[170]](#cite_note-171) The popular summer attractions of [Mamaia](/wiki/Mamaia) and other [Black Sea Resorts](/wiki/Romanian_Black_Sea_resorts) attracted 1.3 million tourists in 2009.[[187]](#cite_note-188)[[188]](#cite_note-189) Most popular skiing resorts are along the [Valea Prahovei](/wiki/Valea_Prahovei) and in [Poiana Brașov](/wiki/Poiana_Brașov). [Castles](/wiki/Castles_of_Transylvania) in [Transylvanian](/wiki/Transylvania) cities such as [Sibiu](/wiki/Sibiu), [Brașov](/wiki/Brașov), and [Sighișoara](/wiki/Sighișoara) also attract a large number of tourists. [Bran Castle](/wiki/Bran_Castle), near [Brașov](/wiki/Brașov), is one of the most famous attractions in Romania, drawing hundreds of thousands of tourists every year as it is often advertised as being [Dracula's](/wiki/Dracula_in_popular_culture) Castle.[[189]](#cite_note-190) Rural tourism, focusing on folklore and traditions, has become an important alternative,[[190]](#cite_note-191) and is targeted to promote such sites as [Bran](/wiki/Bran,_Brașov) and its [Dracula's Castle](/wiki/Bran_Castle), the [Painted churches of Northern Moldavia](/wiki/Painted_churches_of_Northern_Moldavia), and the [Wooden churches of Maramureș](/wiki/Wooden_churches_of_Maramureș).[[191]](#cite_note-192) Other attractions include the [Danube Delta](/wiki/Danube_Delta), and the [Sculptural Ensemble of Constantin Brâncuși at Târgu Jiu](/wiki/Sculptural_Ensemble_of_Constantin_Brâncuși_at_Târgu_Jiu).[[192]](#cite_note-193)[[193]](#cite_note-194)[Template:Clear](/wiki/Template:Clear)

In 2014, Romania had 32,500 companies which were active in the hotel and restaurant industry, with a total turnover of EUR 2.6 billion.[[194]](#cite_note-195)