

CHANGES IN THE ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES STRUCTURE OF THE RURAL SETTLEMENTS FROM THE SPACE ADJACENT TO THE BUCHAREST-PLOIEȘTI CORRIDOR AND THE IMPACT OF THESE CHANGES ON THE WORKFORCE STRUCTURE

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Abstract. In administrative terms the analysed region is formed of 11 rural settlements located at the crossroads between the areas of influence of the capital city and Ploiești. The “explosive” evolution of urbanization caused a new type of migration – from urban to rural areas. Due to a change in the mind-set, an urban population segment has come to regard the rural environment as an attractive place to live in and permanently settle in the rural area which is currently undergoing a modernisation process by improvement of the living standards and public utility infrastructure. Development of the transport infrastructure facilitated the access of commuters to suburban or periurban areas. The impact of this demographic phenomenon on all socio-economic levels is obvious in its consequences, such as the rise in the real estate prices and attraction of investors in various areas of activity. Thus, rural settlements experienced a massive economic boom and consequently the economy of many settlements began to rely on new activities, especially residential. Undertaking this study, the author noted that agriculture is no longer an activity of interest for the inhabitants and in some cases it was abandoned for good, fact which caused changes in the occupational structure. Jobs rarely encountered so far are in demand, such as in the field of domestic household services (baby-sitters, gardeners, housekeepers). The number of undertakings as well as the range of activities increased. Thus companies were set up, specializing in soft landscaping, pool maintenance, security service companies or real estate and travel agencies which seemed out of place 15 or 20 years ago. The workforce had to undergo occupational retraining in order to meet the new requirements.

Keywords: *economic activities, workforce, Bucharest-Ploiești Corridor, rural area, unemployment rate*

1. Introduction

The influence exerted by the capital city and secondarily by the city of Ploiești is felt on limited areas and in different ways. Thus, the rates of urbanization, development and modernization are really high only in certain areas neighbouring the Capital City and the seat of Prahova County. Such areas are located along the major arterial roads (in this case, National Road No.1/”DN1”) and the areas where certain urban functions of the capital may „migrate” due to the lack of space or environment in the capital (trade activities, storage,

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processing, dwelling, the last one especially secondary dwelling, possibly with a high level of comfort).

In order to identify the changes in the structure of economic activities and the related impact on the workforce in the analysed rural area, a few statistical data has been analysed. First of all, this study has analysed the evolution of the number of companies between 1991 and 2010, classified the companies by main sectors of activity and by N.A.C.E. code, identified the factors influencing the workforce structure in the concerned region, the degree of workforce employment and activity, unemployment as well as the dependency ratio.

2. Factors influencing the workforce structure

The workforce structure in the concerned area is mainly influenced by the economic development level, the demographic factors (birth rate, death rate, migrations), plus the political and social factors. The evolution in number of the active population and of the occupied population is influenced by the evolution in number of the population in the concerned rural area, namely by the natural and migratory movement of population.

The level of economic development of the concerned area is determinant for certain types of migrations which differ in intensity throughout the contemplated period (1990-2010). The three types of internal final migrations occurring with respect to the population inhabiting this area trigger changes in the occupational structure.

The region may be divided into two groups of rural settlements which, considering their development level, exhibit a different demographic behaviour. The first of these groups is made up of the communes located in the proximity of the capital (Balotești, Corbeanca, Ciolpani, Snagov) and the city of Ploiești (Bărcănești), where the urbanisation trends are stronger and the transportation and technical and urban infrastructure evolved faster than in the case of the communes located on the outskirts of the zone of influence of these polarizing cities. This urbanization is felt or it begins to be felt on all levels, including in the population's demographic behaviour as this comes closer to the behaviour of the urban population.

A new migration phenomenon occurred here, the urban-to-rural migration, residing in the "outflow" of the population from large cities towards periurban areas, such phenomenon engendering social and economic changes in the concerned rural area: urban demographic behaviour (low birth rates, reduced size of family, marriage age which is older as a consequence of the changes impacting women's status in society, lower nuptial gross rates and higher divorce rates determined by a different mentality than that in the rural area, etc.) and changes in the job market (decrease in the number of persons employed in agriculture against an increasing number of persons engaged in the tertiary sector, imbalances in the masculine work versus feminine work rates and on age categories).

The occupational structure of the population in the Ilfov County, namely in the communes of this group, differs from the other counties of the country. Given its geographical location, the Ilfov County is influenced by the development of industrial, business and services activities carried out in the capital, but the workforce migration of the past few years has worked both ways. The workforce who was not assimilated by the capital has lately migrated to the workplaces available in the localities of the Ilfov County which have seen a major economic boost and a significant uptick in the technical and urban facilities and amenities, as it is the case of the localities mentioned above.

Two categories of population have been involved in the urban-to-rural migration phenomenon: one of them includes the residents of the rural area who migrated to the neighbouring towns during the Communist period and who return now to their native places

(the “*return migration*” or the “*reversed migration*”), and the other category comprises residents of the urban area who choose to settle permanently suburban communes, for various reasons. One of such reasons may be the fact that, in rural areas, home maintenance costs are lower than in urban areas. Another category of migrants is driven by the will to live in a place as far away as possible from their crowded native cities full of pollution, the will to enjoy more privacy, quietness or larger space in their dwelling area, this being a category of persons having a financial situation above average which allows them to purchase or build highly comfortable houses, independent residential villas with generous courtyards or villas located in residential compounds offering their owners various amenities (playgrounds for children, pools, sports grounds, parking lots, barbeque destined places, security and protection services in the residential locations).

The phenomenon of the “reversed migration” broke out after 1990 either as a consequence of the decreasing number of jobs in the urban space and the massive layoffs, or as the result of agricultural land restitution under Law no. 18/1991 (the Landed Property Law), or because of the rising costs in the urban home maintenance and the general decline in the standard of living.

This type of migration has changed the professional structure of the population in the rural areas as the “*final migration from rural to urban most often occurs as a social structural shift from the category of peasant to worker, clerk and intellectual*” (Vasile Miftode, 1978). Therefore, those returning to their native rural areas are ready, from a professional standpoint, to take up occupations in the industrial, business and, mainly, tertiary sectors.

The phenomenon of the urban-rural exodus had other consequences as well, such as attracting investors in the real estate business and not only, which led to the increasing prices in the real estate market, the residents’ losing interest in agricultural activities and, in some situations, even to the complete relinquishment of this activity which triggered mutations in the occupational structure. Agriculture lost ground because the job market witnessed supplies rarely encountered so far, such as in the field of domestic households services (baby-sitters, gardeners, domestic help) and in the field of construction which, in most cases, encourage undeclared work, but also because of the fact that the real estate “boom” made a large number of rural residents sell their agricultural lands representing their income source. Therefore, part of the land was excluded from the agricultural category of use, being destined for dwelling, namely for construction building.

The urban-to-rural migration was intensive by the end of 2008 when the crisis started to bite the real estate market in the concerned area.

The second group includes the villages located on the outskirts of the zone of influence of the two cities, and those located over 15 km away from this road transport corridor of national interest: Nuci, Periș, Gorgota, Gruiu, Puchenii Mari, Moara Vlăsiei. This is where the rural exodus took place as a social phenomenon which burst out shortly after the fall of the Communist regime. The rural-to-rural migrations started from less developed areas, as it is the case of these communes, towards areas experiencing increased growth in agricultural or industrial production, or towards rural areas where the urbanization process started to appear, as it happened in the villages of Snagov, Corbeanca, Balotești. Since the population involved in this type of internal final migration was young and adult, the birth rate dropped and the population of these communes is aged. As compared to the rural settlements of the first group, the death rate is higher owing to the poorer standard of living of the population and, implicitly, to the lower life expectancy at birth.

New business undertakings were established in the communes included in the first group. The number of such undertakings is on the rise, with ever more diverse scopes of

business. New companies were set up, specializing in soft landscaping, pool maintenance, bank branches, public notary offices and law firms, beauty parlours, security service companies or real estate agencies, insurance companies and travel agencies which seemed out of place 15 or 20 years ago. Such recently available workplaces refer to both skilled and unskilled workforce which is given now the opportunity to acquire professional skills by practicing the respective occupation.

To sum up, the three main types of migration led to changes in the population structuring by age and by gender, and this aspect has had an impact on the total number of active population and of the employed population and the workforce occupational structure.

A better comprehension of the “mutations” occurring on the workforce market in the concerned area can be achieved by analysing the following demographic indicators: evolution of the migration balance during 1991-2009, population’s average age, population’s structure by age groups and age dependency ratio.

The migration balance in the area under analysis was positive after 2000. Maximum values were recorded in 2008 (20‰) and minimum values, in 1991 (-7‰). In the Snagov village, the migration balance was positive for the entire analysed period.

The average age of the population in the concerned area in 2002 was of 40 years, while nationwide was of 38 years. Maximum values were identified in the Nuci village, 47 years, against an aging of the population due to massive migration of the young and the adult. Minimum values, of 35 years, were recorded in the Balotești village.

The weighting rate of the population fit for work (15-59 years) in the total number of population looks as follows: 58% in the concerned area, 63% in Romania, 44% in the Nuci village (minimum value), 63% in the Balotești village (maximum value).

The age dependency ratio is an expression of the ratio between the number of young people (0-14 years) plus elder people (aged 60 and above) and adult population fit for work.

The analysis of the demographic dependency ratio illustrates that the highest values are still to be found in the Nuci commune and the lowest, in Balotești. In 2002, in the Nuci commune, there were 124 dependent young and adult persons (who relied for their existential support) on a number of 100 adult persons, a situation adversely impacting the social and the economic levels. The value of this rate in 2002 with respect to the rural space in question amounted to 70%.

3. Evolution of the number of companies operating in the rural space adjacent to Bucharest-Ploiești Corridor between 2001- 2010

The number of companies operating in the analysed rural area was obtained from National Trade Register Office. All companies were inventoried and classified according to N.C.E.A. code valid in 2011 (National Classification of Economic Activities).

The number of companies operating in the concerned rural area increased significantly between 2001- 2009, from 779 in 2001 to 2891 in 2009, dropped in 2010 to 2748, a lower value than in 2008, namely 2799 companies (Figure 1). The average number of companies per locality rose from 71, in 2001, to 262, in 2009.

Per locality, in 2001, the number of companies operating in the administrative territory of the 3 rural settlements in Prahova County is much higher than the average determined for 2001 (227 companies in Bărcănești, 119 in Gorgota and 186 in Puchenii Mari), and only two villages in Ilfov County have a total number of companies close to this average value (59 in Balotești and 51 in Snagov). After 2001, the situation is different, the number of

companies in Ilfov County villages increasing significantly, with a few exceptions, but the number of companies in Prahova County villages increases at a much slower pace (Figure 2).

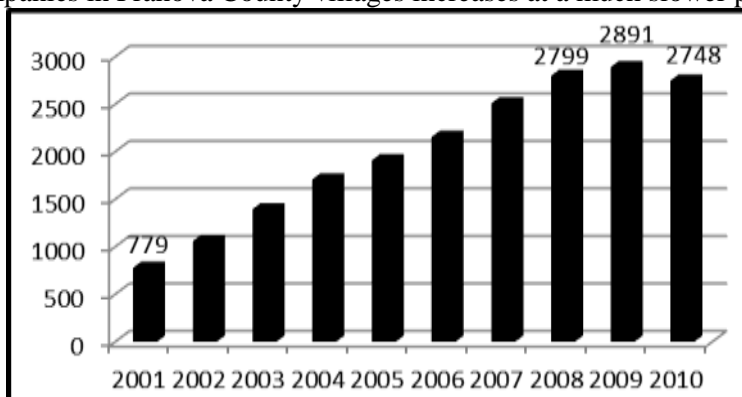


Figure 1: Evolution of the number of companies operating in the rural space adjacent to Bucharest-Ploiești Corridor between 2001- 2010

Source: www.onrc.ro (National Trade Register Office); Calculated data;

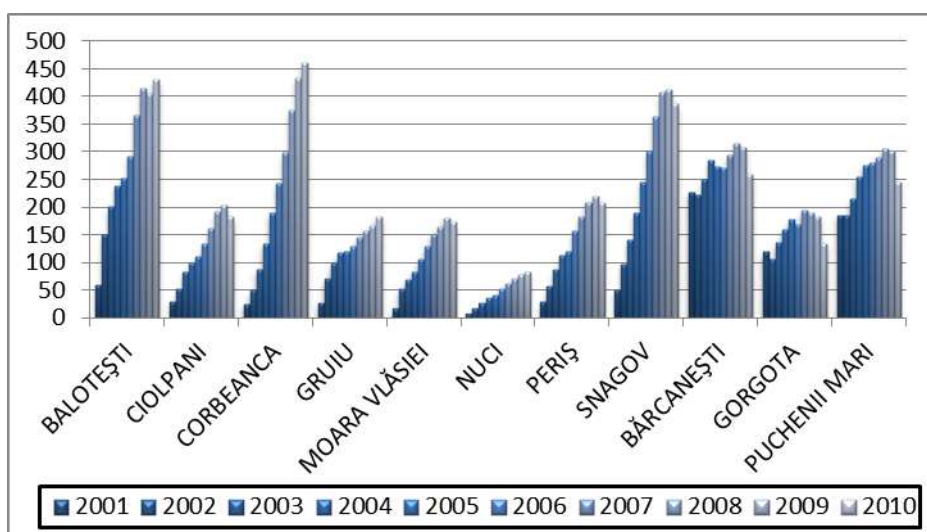


Figure 2: Evolution of the number of companies operating in the rural settlements in the space adjacent to Bucharest-Ploiești Corridor

Source: www.onrc.ro (National Trade Register Office); Calculated data;

4. Classification of companies by main sector of activity

In 2010, 88.50% of the companies in the analysed rural area operate in the tertiary sector and 8.38% in the secondary sector (industrial activities). The dynamics of services involved a change in the professions characteristic of the active rural population. Per commune the dynamics of the tertiary sector is significant in the first group villages (over 90% in Ciolpani and Corbeanca), and in Nuci the number of companies operating in the tertiary sector slightly exceeds 75% (Figure 3).

Classification of companies by areas of activity is important if their number is also related to the number of employees. For example, in 2010, 35% of the companies operating in the concerned region were engaged in trading and only 3% of these companies in agriculture,

forestry and fishing (Figure 4). This chapter will be completed by the analysis of the population occupational structure and employed population distribution by main area of activity.

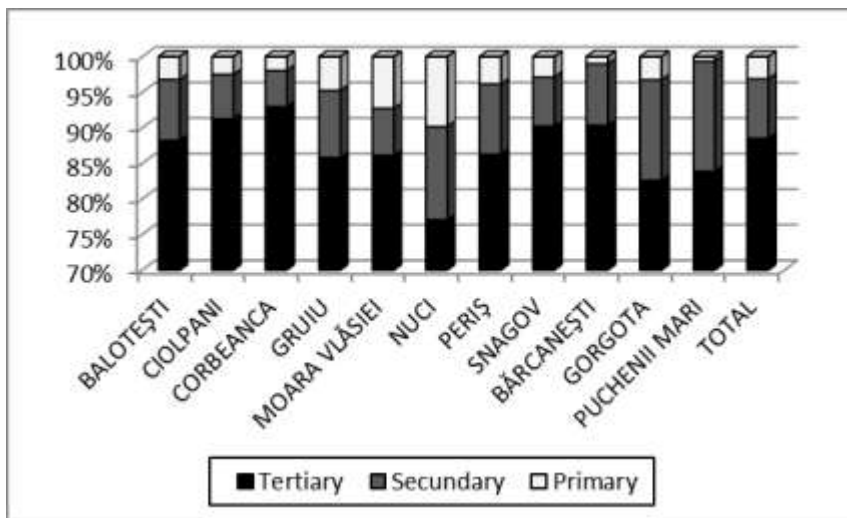


Figure 3: Classification of companies by main sectors of activity, in 2010

Calculated data;

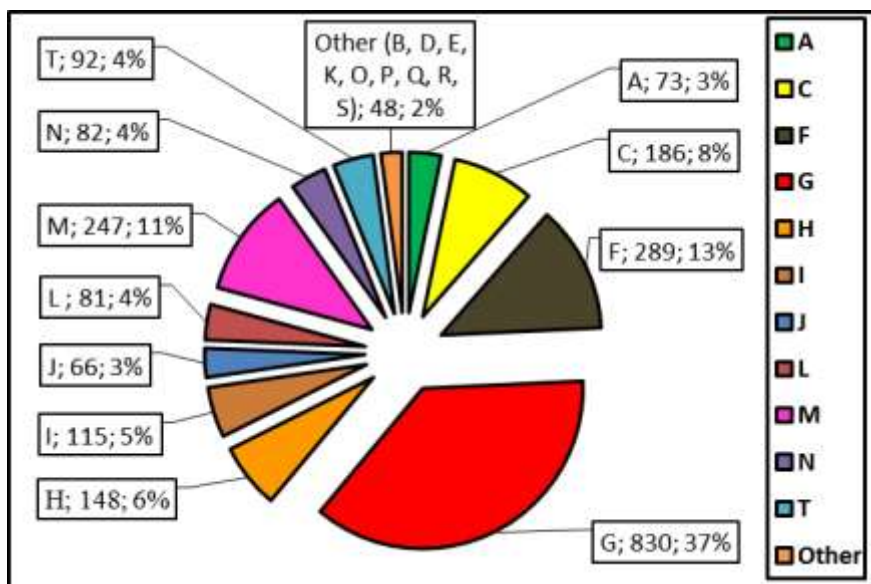


Figure 4: Classification of the companies existing in the concerned rural area according to N.C.E.A. code², in 2010

Source: www.onrc.ro (National Trade Register Office); Calculated data;

² A. Agriculture, forestry and fishing; C. Manufacturing; F. Construction activities; G. Wholesale and retail trade. Repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles; H. Transportation and storage; I. Hotels and restaurants; J. Information and communication; L. Real estate activities; M. Professional, scientific and technical activities; N. Administrative and support service activities; T. Activities of households as employers;

5. Active population and employed population

The population's participation in the economic activity is assessed based on the activity rate, which is calculated as the active persons' share (active persons meaning persons actually employed or in search for jobs) of the total population, expressed in % (according to Erdeli G., Dumitrache L., 2004).

The actual occupation rate is the percentage of the total population who, at a given time, performs an economic and social activity that generates income (and who are employed at that reference date).

In 2002, the maximum activity rate and the maximum actual occupation rate were reported in the Balotești commune, and they were at 40.62 and 36.19%, respectively. The minimum activity rate was reported in the Gruiu commune (i.e. 24.79%). The minimum actual occupation rate was that of the Nuci commune, i.e. 19.5% - only a few tens of percentage points below that of the Gruiu commune (20.24%) (Figure 5).

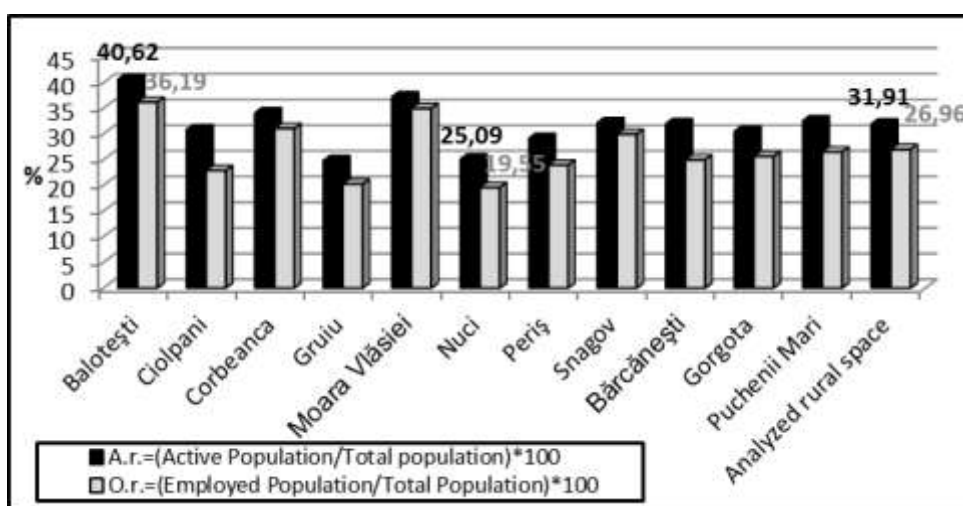


Figure 5: The population's activity rate and the actual occupation rate in 2002

Data source: I.C.G.S.D. (Ilfov County General Statistics Department- Bucharest), P.C.G.S.D. (Prahova County General Statistics Department- Ploiești); Calculated data;

The activity rate in the concerned area is below those of Romania (63.6% in 2002) and Romania's rural environment (67.8% in 2002). The significant differences between the activity and occupation rates of Romania, Romania's rural areas and the concerned rural area are worrying. Nevertheless, the difference between the activity rate and the occupation rate in the concerned rural area (i.e. c. 5%) comes close to the differences between the same rates valid at the level of Romania or Romania's rural areas.

The high activity rate of Balotești is due to a high positive migratory balance (with mostly middle-aged immigrants). The low activity rate of Nuci is due to a low positive migratory balance and ageing population.

The number of companies – especially those which provide services - grew constantly in the concerned area, which led to significant changes in the residents' occupational structure, with many localities losing their strictly agricultural function and the active population losing more and more their interest in agricultural activities. The values for the

villages included in the concerned rural area range between 7% (in Bărcănești village) and 66% (in Nuci village) (Figure 6).

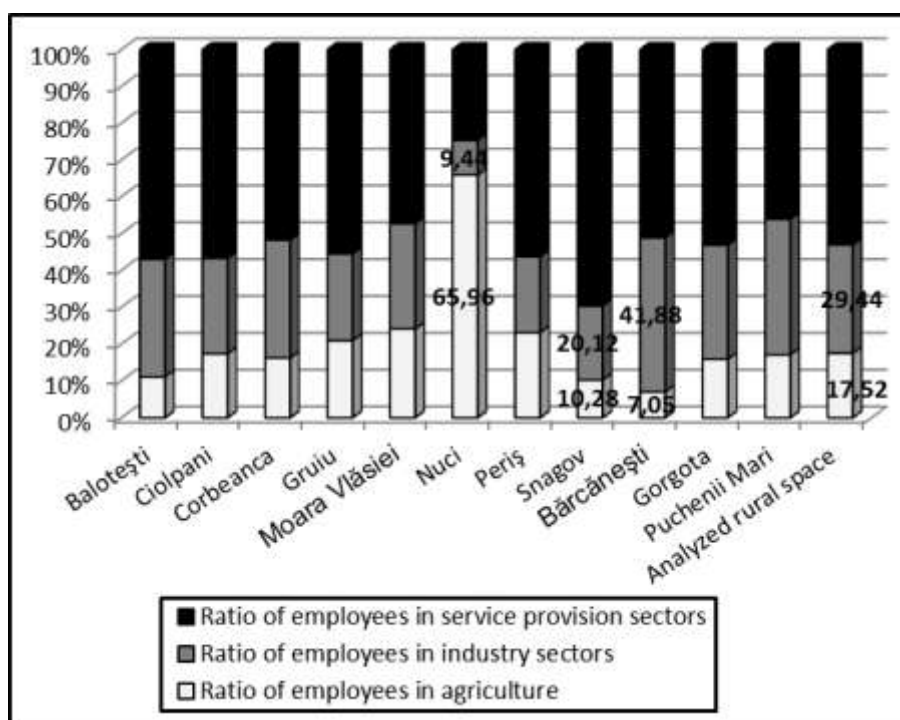


Figure 6: The structure of employed population in 2002

Data source: I.C.G.S.D., P.C.G.S.D.; Calculated data;

The situation is alarming only in Balotești, where a 14% drop in the agricultural areas was reported between 1992 and 2009. The agricultural areas of the 3 villages in the Prahova County remained almost unchanged. The agricultural areas in the concerned area dropped by as little as 2.13% in 1992- 2008.

After 2008, the real estate crisis put an end to this phenomenon, and many real estate projects have been put on hold.

The residents' lack of interest in - or sometimes the relinquishment of - agricultural activities has been prompted by the return migration referred to in the previous chapter. This phenomenon implied some other consequences, such as price surges in the real estate market and the attraction of investors from various sectors, such as the real estate one. The lack of interest resulted from an increase in the prices of agricultural lands in the real estate market, during the real estate boom of 2000-2002, when a large part of such lands were included in the category of building ones, for which building permits were obtained. Attracted by the high prices, many of the residents of the concerned villages sold their lands, thus giving up the opportunity to practice agriculture.

Given that the services sector gained momentum, the share of persons employed in this industry increased. However, we should not forget about the new types of jobs, which used to be underrepresented before the urbanization of rural areas, such as the supply of services to private households (baby-sitters, gardeners, house cleaners, cooks, pool caretakers). Unfortunately, private households most often encourage undeclared work.

The intense economic development of these villages and the very active and “greedy” labour market reduced the importance of agriculture all across the concerned area. The year of 2008 saw a decline in the number of persons employed in agriculture and a strong increase in the tertiary sector, with agriculture practiced in the villages with a stronger rural and agricultural character, which are located farther away from D.N.1 (National Road 1) and the two main towns.

Moreover, the migration has modified the gender-based structure of active and employed population, bringing about imbalances with significant adverse impact on the labour. In order to analyse these changes and imbalances, we calculated the ratio index of the male active population, which accounts for the number of active males corresponding to 100 active females. The available data only allowed for this index ratio to be calculated in respect of 8 villages located in the Ilfov County. The situation is worrying in Nuci village and Gruiu village, as it was noted that such ratio index is at 328% and 244% respectively at most, whereas Balotești village and Snagov village have such index ratios at 125% and 140%, respectively.

6. Employed labour

The concerned rural area showed the lowest employment rates of the total population number in 2001-2002 (10.7-10.8%). The lowest rates were reported in 1991 (22.5%) and 1992 (21%) (Figure 7).

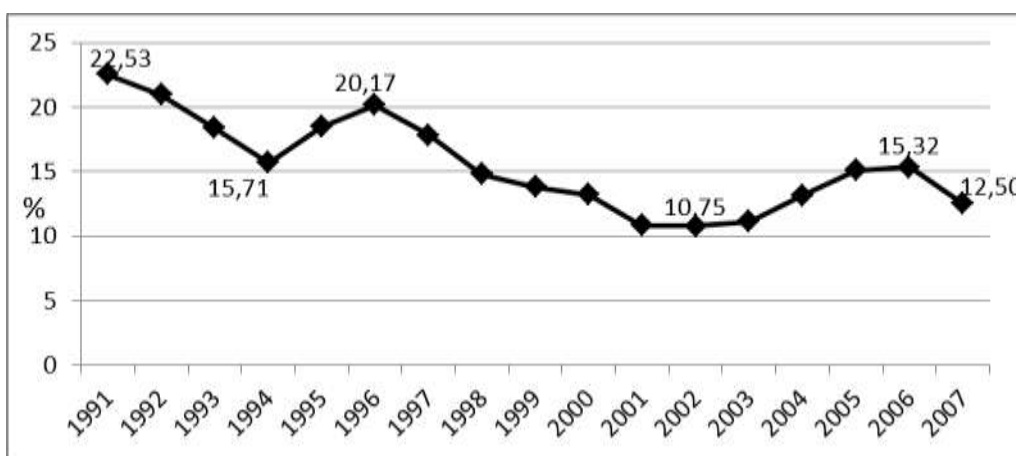


Figure 7: The evolution of employment rates by reference to the total population number in the rural areas neighbouring the Bucharest – Ploiești Corridor

Data source: I.C.G.S.D., P.C.G.S.D.; Calculated data;

The analysis of the evolution of the employment rates in relation to the total population of the 11 communes reveals that: the only commune whose maximum rate was reported in 1991 is Balotești; 5 communes (Ciolpani, Corbeanca, Gruiu, Moara-Vlăsiei and Nuci) reported maximum rates in 1996, whereas the employment rate for the rest of the communes reached its maximum value in 1995, 1997 or 1998; most of the communes reported minimum values in 2000-2003. The calculation and analysis of this index average in 1991-2007 led to the conclusion that 15.6% is the average for the concerned area. Only 4 communes had values above 15.6%. The maximum value of the average for that period was reported in Balotești, i.e. 40%, followed by Snagov (24.6%). The minimum values were those

of Gorgota (3.5%) and Puchenii Mari (4.8%), two communes that were put at disadvantage by their geographical location and the lower levels of economic, technical and building development that deprive investors of the resources of other communes.

Due to its ageing population and some sort of isolation, the Nuci commune, which is located in the north-eastern Ilfov County, had the lowest rate in 2002.

In 1991 the concerned communes had major discrepancies in terms of employment rates. Thus, the share of employed persons of the total population of Balotești was 88.11% in 1991, whereas the shares of the Corbeanca and Nuci communes were around 3% (calculated data).

These indices reported high values in Balotești, as the Institute for Biology and Animal Nutrition (I.B.N.A.) operates there and it is the workplace of almost all active persons in the locality and in the neighbouring localities.

Ten years later, the employment rate in the total population decreased – but not in Corbeanca and Gruiu village, where the employment rate grew from 3.82% in 1991 to 16.71% in 2001, and from 4.59% in 1991 to 9.08% in 2001, respectively. Except for these two, in the remaining 9 communes in the concerned area the employment rate declined significantly in some situations – like in Bărcănești village, for instance, where the rate fell from 35% in 1991 to 8.34% in 2001. The fact was triggered by the privatization of many State-owned companies followed by massive layoffs, or by the closing down of such State-owned companies. The situation of 8 of those 11 communes later improved, and in 2007 the employment rate increased slightly – as was the case with Balotești, where the rate was 36.33% in 2007, up from 24.7% in 2001.

The analysis of the chart shows similarities between Corbeanca and Periș in 2001, but in 2007 the situation improved in Periș, while the employment rate fell in Corbeanca. The fact is quite surprising, as Corbeanca had remarkably developed due to investments in real estates and in the development of road infrastructure and constructions. However, the fact leads to an erroneous image, as it can be noted from this chart and that because the development should have triggered an upsurge in the number of workplaces.

The distribution of the employed population by the main areas of economic activity proves that the concerned area was subject to major changes in the labour market and economic structure, generally. Thus, closing or incorporating certain industrial units significantly changed the ratios of the employees in industry sectors during the concerned period (Figure 8). This happened in Ciolpani, Corbeanca, Gruiu, Periș, Snagov and Puchenii Mari. A major change occurred in Gruiu commune, the ratio of the employees in industry sectors rising from 8.6% in 1991 up to 67% in 2007 due to the incorporation of several industrial units in the commune, such as the alcohol factory or the electronic component factory. This is not the case with Ciolpani where, due to the closing of industrial units, the ratio of employees in industry sectors decreased from 48.2% in 1991 to 0% in 2007.

The high percentage of agricultural employees in Periș commune is due to Romsuintest Periș S.A, a company specialising in swine breeding, which in 2008 employed 584 persons according to the National Trade Register (Figure 9). It was incorporated in 1970 as “Stațiunea Centrală de Cercetare pentru Creșterea Porcinelor” - SCCCCP- Periș („Resort to Farming of Swine Research Center”) and the current name was undertaken in 1991.

7. Unemployment rate

The unemployment rate is the percentage of the active population seeking employment at a specific time, namely the ratio between the unemployed (active persons seeking employment) and the active population (employed or seeking employment).

The analysis of the unemployment rate map in the Ilfov County in 2002 indicates low values in the localities neighbouring the capital, below 20%, except Jilava and Clinceni where the values are between 20% and 30%. Low values, below 10%, are also characteristic of the communes located farther from Bucharest, the North of the county benefiting of national thoroughfare, namely D.N.1, that facilitates the links between these communes and the capital city.

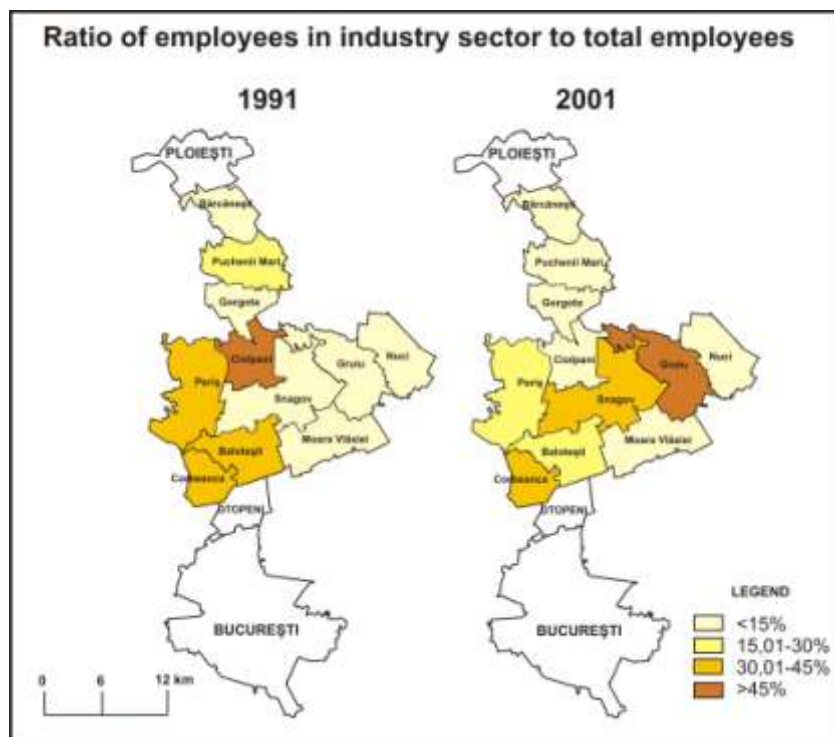


Figure 8: Map of ratio of employees in industry sectors to total employees

Data source: I.C.G.S.D., P.C.G.S.D.; Calculated data;

Thus, the unemployment rate in Corbeanca, Snagov, Moara Vlăsiei, Dascălu, Tunari and Afumați is below 10% and this small value is also due to the fact that the fraction of the active population which is not employed in the domicile locality may commute and enter the capital labour market. The unemployment rate in the communes located in the North of the Ilfov County, namely Ciolpani and Nuci, is between 20% and 30%. As Nuci commune is concerned this value is explained by the relative isolation from the capital.

The comparative analysis of the unemployment rate in the concerned area and in Romania has revealed that in 2002 the unemployment rate in the concerned area (15.5%) was almost twice higher than nationwide (8.4%). Subsequently the figures indicate a reversed situation, namely in 2007 the unemployment rate in the concerned area (3.37%) is lower than the national value (5.2%).

In 2007 the unemployment rates in all the 11 communes analysed are lower than 6% (the maximum value is reached in Barcănești, namely 6% and the minimum value in Balotesti, namely 1.72%), a positive change since the lowest value in 2002 was 6.08% (in Moara-Vlăsiei).

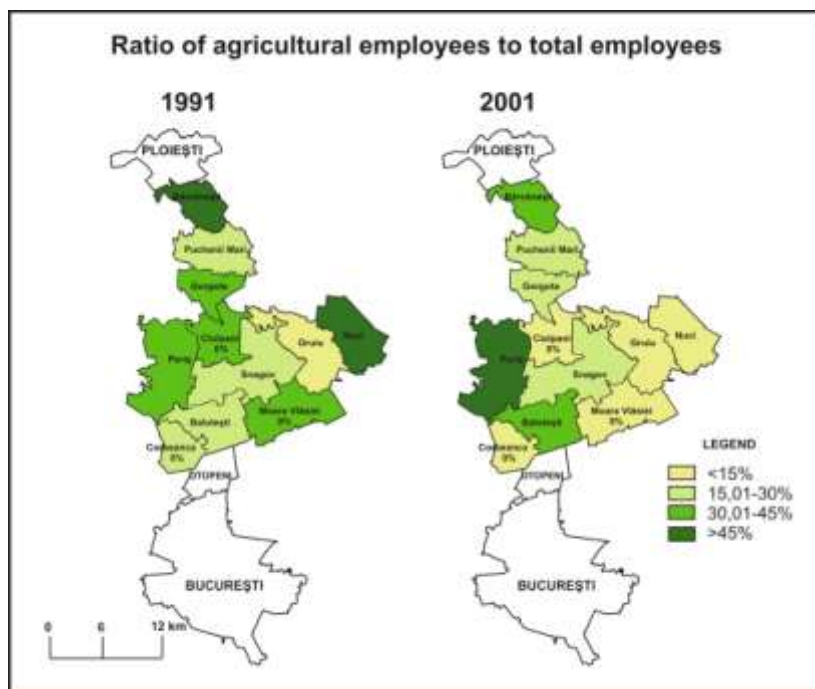


Figure 9: Map of ratio of agricultural employees to total employees

Data source: I.C.G.S.D., P.C.G.S.D.; Calculated data;

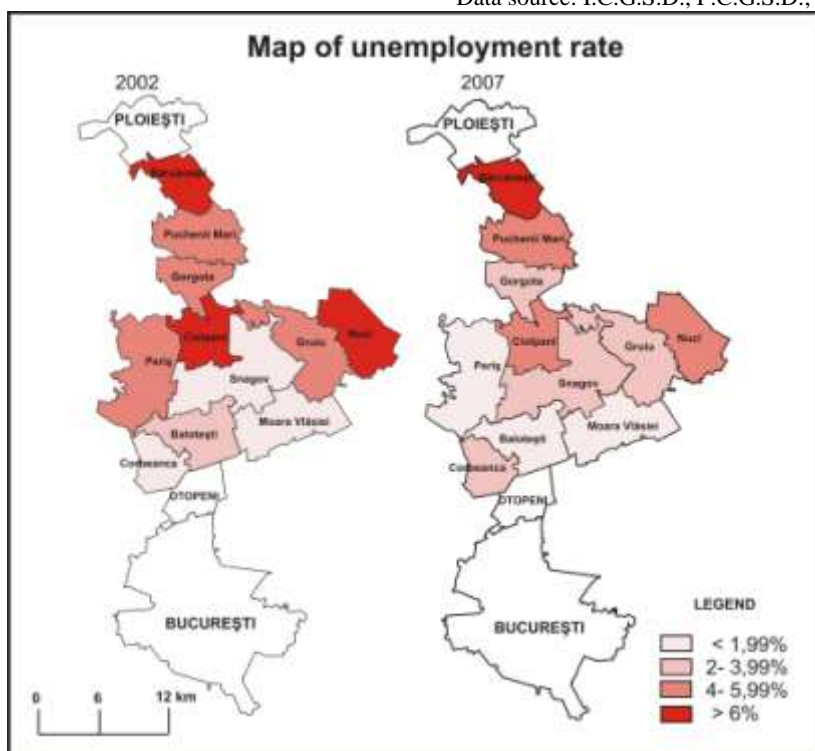


Figure 10: Map of unemployment rate in 2002 and 2007

Data source: A.E.W.I. (The Agency for the Employment Workforce Ilfov- București) A.E.W.P. (The Agency for the Employment Workforce Prahova- Ploiești); calculated data;

8. Economic dependency ratio

This socio-economic index is the ratio between the dependant population and the economically active population and is calculated as a percentage. This index reflects the workforce employment from a larger perspective and emphasises certain correlations between the employed active population, unemployed active population and inactive population.

The aging of the population caused by the birth rate decrease and the rural exodus is the reason for the high values of this ratio in these communes: 303% in Gruiu, 298% in Nuci commune. The lowest value of the dependency ratio is reached in Balotești commune in 2002, namely 146%, due to several factors (higher birth rates, higher migration balance than in the other communes and in certain years the rate was even positive, the population average age being lower than the other communes).

The value of this index for the rural area neighbouring the Bucharest-Ploiești corridor is 221% (Figure 11).

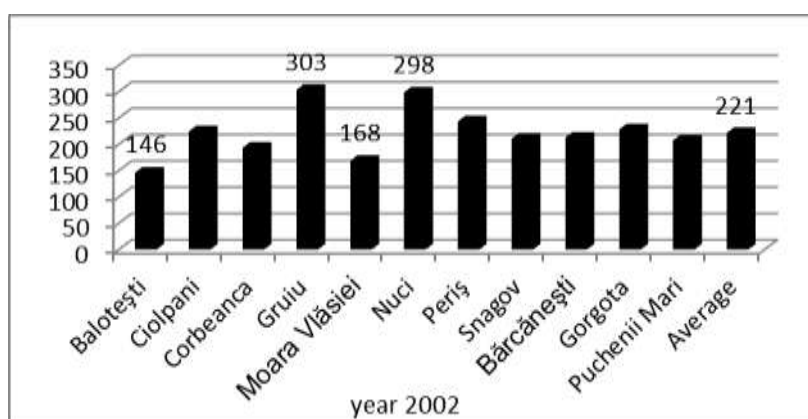


Figure 11: Economic dependency ratio in 2002

Data source: I.C.G.S.D., P.C.G.S.D.; Calculated data

Conclusions

The national corridor, National Road 1 București- Ploiești, facilitates the links between the localities of the Ilfov County and Bucharest and Ploiești, an important commercial, industrial and cultural centre of Câmpia Română (Romanian Plain). Thus the raw materials, finished products, services and workforce are easily exchanged.

The chart of the population occupational structure for 2008 indicates that more than 50% of the employed active population works in the tertiary sector and that the percentage of the population employed in agriculture is very low, except for a few localities. The maximum absolute value of 80% in the Ilfov County is reached in Periş village.

The low values of the population employed in agriculture in certain communes are explained by the fact that a large part of the rural population works their own agricultural land or within their own household. The specific functions of rural localities have begun to be replaced in the last decade with urban functions, a phenomenon accompanied by an impressive dynamics in the tertiary sector, these localities thus becoming real suburbs and the urbanisation of rural areas is growing every year. The dynamics of services also change the professions once typical of the rural active population.

The 3.37% unemployment rate proves that in 2007 the concerned area was revitalised as a whole and the lower values of the unemployment rate in certain communes prove that the urbanisation had positive consequences as employment is concerned. The lower unemployment rates in some communes prove that the urbanisation positively influenced the workforce employment. However, the economic crisis adversely impacted all socio-economic plans. Thus, many real estate projects were stopped, a large number of companies went bankrupt or temporarily suspended their activity and consequently a large segment of active population remained unemployed. The number of people seeking employment increased due to the return of the people who worked abroad and were dismissed, the immigrants being the first to have been dismissed. A large number of companies went bankrupt or temporarily suspended activity (700 in 2010) and consequently the proportion of the unemployed active population has increased.

Nevertheless, the communes in the rural area neighbouring the Bucureşti-Ploieşti corridor will always benefit from their geographical position which allows for close relationships with Bucharest and Ploieşti, and the active population in this rural area may choose, if necessary, to commute and to work in one of the closest cities.

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Invest in human resources!

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