

NATALITY IN ROMANIA WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE DEMOGRAPHIC EVOLUTION AFTER 1989

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Abstract: *The demographic evolution in Romania after 1989 was characterized by a decrease of population, result of both an existence of a negative natural growth rate and intensifying the phenomenon of emigration. The negative natural growth rate was due to the aging of population, while the birth rate was reducing. The main effects of those demographic evolutions were the modifications produced in the age pyramid of the population. The pressure of the elderly population on the social security system has intensified lately, the rate between the number of employees, on one hand, and the retired and pupils on the other hand is decreasing continuously. The decrease of the birth rate was mainly determined by the economical and social aspects, among the most important there is the change of conception and life style, economic and financial crisis triggered by the restructuring of national economy. The effects were reflected in the increasing age of marriage and the decrease of fertility, in the increasing phenomenon of emigration etc. Solving this situation cannot be achieved by social and fiscal measures, among them the most important is the financial support, the lack of jobs and a safer future having as effect postponing of marriage and the birth of the first child. It is very likely that this imbalance be attenuated in time as a result of the phenomenon of immigration. However, Romanian people risks to decrease and the national identity may be lost on the background of globalization of markets and the free movement of the labor force.*

Key words: *natural growth rate, natality, fertility, age pyramid, aging of population*

Classification JEL: *J11, J13*

1. Introduction

In terms of demographics, the entire planet seems currently engaged in a profound movement of reduction in the fertility and the birth rate. (Barthelemy Ph. and others, 2009)

Decrease of birth rate in Romania after 1989 may be a consequence of the adoption of legislative acts which have abolished the previous regulations that had determined an unnatural growth of the population, without taking into account the financial possibilities and partners' ideas concerning the number of members in a family:

► By Decree Law no.1/1989 issued by the Council of National Salvation Front, the **Decree no.770/1966 to regulate the interruption of pregnancy** was repealed, which stipulated that the interruption of pregnancy was prohibited. There were some exceptions related to endangering the life of the mother, to the transmission of serious diseases to children, severe disablement of the pregnant woman, mother's age (those over 45 years were exempted), the number of children born and taken into care (those who had more than 4 children were allowed to interrupt the their pregnancy), the conditions that produced the pregnancy (rape or incest).

However, the procedure was difficult, an authorization given by a medical committee established for that purpose was necessary to interrupt the pregnancy. In extreme cases, when the interruption had to be done immediately, the doctor had the obligation that within 24 hours from the date of interruption to announce prosecutor, who had to determine, based on the medical examiner's opinion and any other data, if the operation was necessary. Interruption of pregnancy in other circumstances was considered a crime.

Accessibility of abortion and contraception diminished the risk of an unwanted child with high risk of mortality. Among the born children nowadays there are less and less underweight children and/or with congenital deficiencies and hence a declining infantile mortality. (Simion M., 2004)

► **The Decree no.1086/1966 concerning the increase of tax on the income of persons without children** decided the increase of tax in case of population without children, over 25 years old, regardless of marital status. As exception were the persons whose children had died, people of 1st and 2nd degree of invalidity, for the income besides pension, as well as the persons without children married to persons who had children from a previous marriage or outside the marriage. The legislative act was repealed by Law no.32/1991 concerning the payroll tax.

The effects felt, as a result of the decrease of population, shall consist in determined economic problems, on one hand, by the decrease in labor force and, on the other hand, of inadequate economic resources necessary to support the elder population. A small number of children in present means that in future there will be fewer tax payers and, by default, low income or higher taxes. (Aceleanu M. I., 2007)

► **By the Decree no.779/1966 concerning the amendment of some legal provisions related to the divorce** has changed the Family code, respectively "*The marriage can be dissolved, in special cases, by divorce ... The Court shall evaluate carefully, the reasons of the divorce petition and the impossibility to continue the marriage*".

Although legally there was the possibility to dissolve the marriage, in reality it was only apparent because of the existing conditionings in the law text which implicitly warned about the social-political consequences of admitting such solutions to approve the divorce.

After the Revolution of 1989 the term of "*exceptional circumstances*" disappeared, which determined a greater freedom in the life of the couple, the possibility to dissolve the marriage influenced the level of birth rate.

However, there is not a constant evolution of number of divorces comparing to year 1989 (e.g., in 2000 there were 30.725 divorces comparing to 36.008 recorded in 1989). Life in cohabitation, though before the year 1990 was not accused as it was adultery, was blamed by the society, professional career used to depend on this aspect. After 1989 this phenomenon has been accentuated and it has become a lifestyle with adverse effects on the natality.

The issue of family status in the twenty-first century society is not yet resolved; there are searches and multiple forms of substitution, but there is no clear solution even in the most "advanced" countries on the path of experiments in this domain. It might be asserted that, where the marriage looses ground, there are institutionalized forms of cohabitation, which, for good measure, may be assimilated in marriage and treated the same way in sociological and demographic point of view. (Rotariu T., 2003)

From a constrained society which was forced to meet certain "plans" could not have expected a constant evolution after the "chains" have been removed. Phenomena such as natality, divorcibility, migration, kept strictly for a long time by means of a restrictive legislation up to the absurd, it was expected to explode when the limit was removed. The combination of economic decline, continuous deterioration of the living standards for most people in Romania, the open borders, the disappearance of the restrictive provisions and punitive measures relating to abortion have given freedom of individuals to decide when to set up their family, decide the number of members, where to establish their residence and where to seek jobs. (Litră A.V., 2006)

2. Demographic evolutions recorded after the year 1989 with influence on natality

The population, together with the physical-economic characteristics, draw the main coordinates of a country. The number, the rate of increase, evolution of the components of natural increase and external emigration, demographic structure, the average length of life, level of education, give the demographic profile of a population. Among these, the evolution of the components of natural growth is a determining factor. (Simion M., 2004)

Demographic evolution registered in Romania after the year 1989 is presented in table no.1:

Vital statistics during the period 1989-2010

Table no.1

Year	Absolute data (number)					Rates per 1000 inhabitants				
	Live births	Deaths	Natural increase	Marriages	Divorces	Live births	Deaths	Natural increase	Marriages	Divorces
1989	369.544	247.306	122.238	177.943	36.008	16,0	10,7	5,3	7,7	1,6
1990	314.746	247.086	67.660	192.652	32.966	13,6	10,6	3,0	8,3	1,4
1991	275.275	251.760	23.515	183.388	37.031	11,9	10,9	1,0	7,9	1,6
1992	260.393	263.855	-3.462	174.593	29.290	11,4	11,6	-0,2	7,7	1,3
1993	249.994	263.323	-13.329	161.595	31.193	11,0	11,6	-0,6	7,1	1,4
1994	246.736	266.101	-19.365	154.221	39.663	10,9	11,7	-0,8	6,8	1,7
1995	236.640	271.672	-35.032	153.943	34.906	10,4	12,0	-1,6	6,8	1,5
1996	231.348	286.158	-54.810	150.388	35.586	10,2	12,7	-2,5	6,7	1,6
1997	236.891	279.315	-42.424	147.105	34.752	10,5	12,4	-1,9	6,5	1,5
1998	237.297	269.166	-31.869	145.303	39.985	10,5	12,0	-1,5	6,5	1,8
1999	234.600	265.194	-30.594	140.014	34.408	10,4	11,8	-1,4	6,2	1,5
2000	234.521	255.820	-21.299	135.808	30.725	10,5	11,4	-0,9	6,1	1,4
2001	220.368	259.603	-39.235	129.930	31.135	9,8	11,6	-1,8	5,8	1,4
2002	210.529	269.666	-59.137	129.018	31.790	9,7	12,4	-2,7	5,9	1,5
2003	212.459	266.575	-54.116	133.953	33.073	9,8	12,3	-2,5	6,2	1,5
2004	216.261	258.890	-42.629	143.304	35.225	10,0	11,9	-1,9	6,6	1,6
2005	221.020	262.101	-41.081	141.832	33.193	10,2	12,1	-1,9	6,6	1,5
2006	219.483	258.094	-38.611	146.637	32.672	10,2	12,0	-1,8	6,8	1,5
2007	214.728	251.965	-37.237	189.240	36.308	10,0	11,7	-1,7	8,8	1,7
2008	221.900	253.202	-31.302	149.439	35.685	10,3	11,8	-1,5	6,9	1,7
2009	222.388	257.213	-34.825	134.275	32.341	10,4	12,0	-1,6	6,3	1,5
2010	212.199	259.723	-47.524	115.778	32.632	9,9	12,1	-2,2	5,4	1,5

Source: www.insse.ro, The Romanian Statistical Yearbook 2011, pp.54-55

Graphically, vital statistics - rates per 1000 inhabitants is presented in the figure below (fig.1):



Figure no.1 Vital statistics - Rates per 1000 inhabitants during the period 1989-2010

From the imposed natality it moved to a conjectural natality, depending on the material possibilities of the partners, and even at a planned natality, the procreation passed on the second place concerning the life of the couple. The new society did not offer any more conditions for couple life which is characterized by the care of children, the partners must provide first of all their own life conditions, and only after that they consider to have a descendant.

The increased number of marriages in 2007 was due to the approval of the Law no.396/2006 concerning a financial support for the couple when married in the amount of 200 euros. But the legislative act was repealed by Law no.118/2010 concerning the necessary measures to restore budgetary balance. The measure of introducing the financial support has come in the context of previous marriage growing evolution, the top moment was in 2007, after that the marriage rate registered a decreasing evolution.

By area, the vital statistics is presented in table no.2:

Vital statistics, by area - Rates per 1000 inhabitants

Table no.2

Year	URBAN					RURAL				
	Live births	Deaths	Natural increase	Marriages	Divorces	Live births	Deaths	Natural increase	Marriages	Divorces
1990	12,9	8,2	4,7	9,1	2,1	14,3	13,4	0,9	7,5	0,7
1991	11,0	8,2	2,8	8,3	2,3	12,9	13,9	-1,0	7,5	0,8
1992	10,2	8,7	1,5	7,6	1,8	12,9	14,8	-1,9	7,7	0,7
1993	9,6	8,8	0,8	7,0	1,9	12,7	14,9	-2,2	7,3	0,7
1994	9,3	8,8	0,5	6,7	2,4	12,7	15,1	-2,4	6,9	1,0
1995	8,9	9,1	-0,2	6,8	2,1	12,3	15,4	-3,1	6,8	0,9
1996	8,8	9,5	-0,7	6,9	2,1	12,0	16,5	-4,5	6,4	0,9
1997	8,9	9,4	-0,5	6,7	2,0	12,4	15,9	-3,5	6,3	1,0
1998	9,0	9,2	-0,2	6,8	2,3	12,4	15,3	-2,9	6,1	1,1
1999	8,9	9,1	-0,2	6,6	2,1	12,3	15,1	-2,8	5,8	0,9
2000	8,9	8,9	-	6,5	1,8	12,3	14,4	-2,1	5,5	0,8
2001	8,4	9,0	-0,6	6,3	1,8	11,5	14,6	-3,1	5,2	0,9
2002	8,5	9,8	-1,3	6,6	2,0	11,0	15,3	-4,3	5,1	0,9
2003	8,7	9,7	-1,0	7,0	2,0	11,0	15,2	-4,2	5,2	0,9
2004	9,4	9,6	-0,2	7,6	2,1	10,7	14,7	-4,0	5,4	1,0
2005	9,9	9,9	-	7,8	2,0	10,6	14,9	-4,3	5,0	1,0
2006	10,1	9,8	0,3	8,1	2,0	10,3	14,6	-4,3	5,2	1,0
2007	9,8	9,7	0,1	8,8	2,2	10,2	14,2	-4,0	8,8	1,1
2008	10,3	9,7	0,6	8,2	2,1	10,4	14,3	-3,9	5,4	1,1
2009	10,3	9,9	0,4	7,3	1,9	10,4	14,6	-4,2	4,9	1,0
2010	10,0	10,0	-	6,4	1,9	9,8	14,7	-4,9	4,2	1,1

Source: www.insse.ro, The Romanian Statistical Yearbook 2011, p.57

From the data presented above resulted the following aspects:

- the declining tendency of birth rate, which is more significant in rural areas;
- the increased mortality in urban areas, while in rural areas recently has been recorded a certain decreasing process;
- the occurrence of a demographic imbalance in rural areas as a result of negative natural growth rate during each year of the analysed period, except the year 1990;
- the natural growth rate in urban areas after a significant decreasing in the first period, becoming more negative during 1995-2004, has been stabilised on positive process since 2005;
- as far as the divorciability, there is a higher rate per 1000 inhabitants in the cities than in rural areas, but in rural areas the process is increasing over time. It should also be mention the fact that in case of women the divorces occurred during their fertile period, with negative influence towards natality. Hence, from a total of 32.632 divorces in 2010, 29.154 divorces (89,34% from the total) were for women aged between 20 and 49 years.
- the decrease of marriage number, more significant in rural areas, with a sudden positive change in 2007 when a number of marriages similar to that recorded in 1989 was registered.

The decreased number of marriages is a result of the increased average age at first marriage. In table no.3 is presented the evolution of the average age at marriage and at first marriage during 1990-2010.

The evolution of the average age at marriage and the average age at first marriage in the period 1990-2010

Table no.3

Year	Average age at marriage		Average age at first marriage	
	Husband	Wife	Husband	Wife
1990	26,9	23,7	25,0	22,0
1991	26,9	23,7	25,0	22,0
1992	27,1	23,8	25,2	22,1
1993	27,2	23,8	25,4	22,2
1994	27,6	24,1	25,6	22,4
1995	28,0	24,5	26,0	22,8
1996	28,0	24,5	26,0	22,8
1997	28,1	24,6	26,2	22,9
1998	28,4	24,9	26,4	23,2
1999	28,5	25,0	26,5	23,3
2000	28,9	25,4	26,9	23,6
2001	29,3	25,7	27,2	23,9
2002	29,5	26,0	27,3	24,1
2003	29,7	26,2	27,7	24,4
2004	30,4	26,7	28,3	25,0
2005	30,7	27,1	28,5	25,2
2006	30,8	27,2	28,6	25,3
2007	31,3	27,7	29,8	26,3
2008	31,2	27,7	29,1	25,9
2009	30,9	27,5	29,1	25,8
2010	30,9	27,6	29,1	26,0

Source: www.insse.ro, The Romanian Statistical Yearbook 2011, p.72 and The Romanian Statistical Yearbook 2010, 2.22. Average age at marriage and average age at first marriage, by area

Graphically, evolution of the two indicators is presented in the figure below (fig.2):

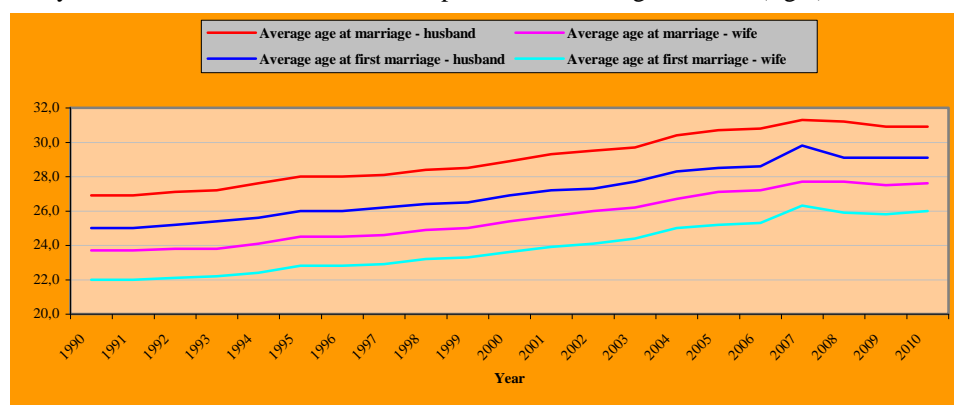


Figure no.2 The evolution of the average age at marriage and the average age at first marriage during 1990-2010

Restoring the average marriage age (31,3 for men and 27,7 for women) and the average age at first marriage in 2007 (29,8 for men and 26,3 for women), we distinguish in 1989 a generation that was preparing to graduate high school, after the most important years of education in a strict regime, a generation that during high school education had to reconsider the future options due to the changes occurred within society and family, changes caused mainly by the Revolution of December 1989. Based on that context, this generation revealed an extension of the period as unmarried, with consequences on the natality.

Increasing average age at marriage has evolved simultaneously with the prolongation of the life expectancy. Each previous procreation postponement has determined in its turn a new difference regarding the age of new generations that contribute effectively to population procreation.

If before 1989, the general case was represented by the situation in which the population aged 40 to 45 years had a multiple quality (parent, grandparent, employee), currently we can find situations in which the statute of grandfather appears after retirement, when the person is elder. The phenomenon has a more and more visible cause: the family, regarded from the point of view of the parents and children who are able to work, is facing occupational issues. On one hand, parents live under the threat of being discharged from the job as a result of reorganising the national economy and new demands on the labor market; on the other hand their descendants have difficulties with the employment, lack of experience, and general nature of their knowledge which causes multiple failures regarding the employment. Unsolved situations concerning the safe income both for parents and for the new generations, leads absolutely to an decreased of birth rate. The older models characterized by the fact that the new born were raised up to a certain age by grandparents have started to disappear day after day. The present day adults have a double responsibility: towards the parents and towards the children.

The economic reform is evolving and the economy does not offer many alternatives. Response strategies in the economic context that we are currently experiencing could be approached according to the progress development of individuals, that allowed them or not the immediate adaptation. Many have been surprised by the evolution of the events and they may be adapted only by the second or even a third generation. But adaptation will be successful or not, as they have acquired the necessary skills for competition. Lack of jobs for adults, current parents, represent a constraint to their descendants in competition of life, in which they lost the start. They will form the category of beneficiaries of social care. (Simion M., 2004)

As regards the structure of population by sex and age groups in 2010 compared with 1990, the situation is presented in table no.4.

Population by age group and sex in 2010 compared with 1990

Table no.4

Age group (years)	1990			2010		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
0 - 4	1.804.577	920.789	883.788	1.082.649	556.628	526.021
5 - 9	1.698.338	868.332	830.006	1.051.871	540.650	511.221
10-14	1.965.761	1.004.929	960.832	1.106.775	567.200	539.575
15-19	1.879.413	960.249	919.164	1.207.215	617.804	589.411
20-24	1.974.066	1.006.055	968.011	1.721.709	877.288	844.421
25-29	1.394.385	713.569	680.816	1.611.264	824.511	786.753
30-34	1.708.351	867.612	840.739	1.773.161	910.379	862.782
35-39	1.719.973	867.235	852.738	1.663.454	847.519	815.935
40-44	1.437.067	719.660	717.407	1.738.891	876.209	862.682
45-49	1.197.389	589.390	607.999	1.212.937	601.357	611.580
50-54	1.440.824	699.308	741.516	1.473.751	713.468	760.283
55-59	1.353.610	653.789	699.821	1.435.134	677.935	757.199
60-64	1.219.343	573.727	645.616	1.157.613	532.277	625.336
65-69	981.443	430.135	551.308	877.712	384.057	493.655
70-74	488.301	196.874	291.427	932.912	383.617	549.295
75-79	534.295	213.853	320.442	708.422	278.785	429.637
80-84	282.491	112.559	169.932	441.175	164.601	276.574
85 and over	127.093	51.082	76.011	234.653	79.858	154.795
Total	23.206.720	11.449.147	11.757.573	21.431.298	10.434.143	10.997.155

Source: www.insse.ro, The Romanian Statistical Yearbook 2011, p.46 and The Romanian Statistical Yearbook 2010, 2.2. Population by age group and sex, on July 1st

Against the background of the maintenance of low values in birth rate and fertility rate, as well as because of the aging generations, different in size, the structure on large groups of elder population will continue to change, meaning of reduction the number and proportion of young people and an increasing the number of adult and elderly population. (Şeitan M. and others, 2012)

Graphically, the age pyramid is presented as follows (fig.3):

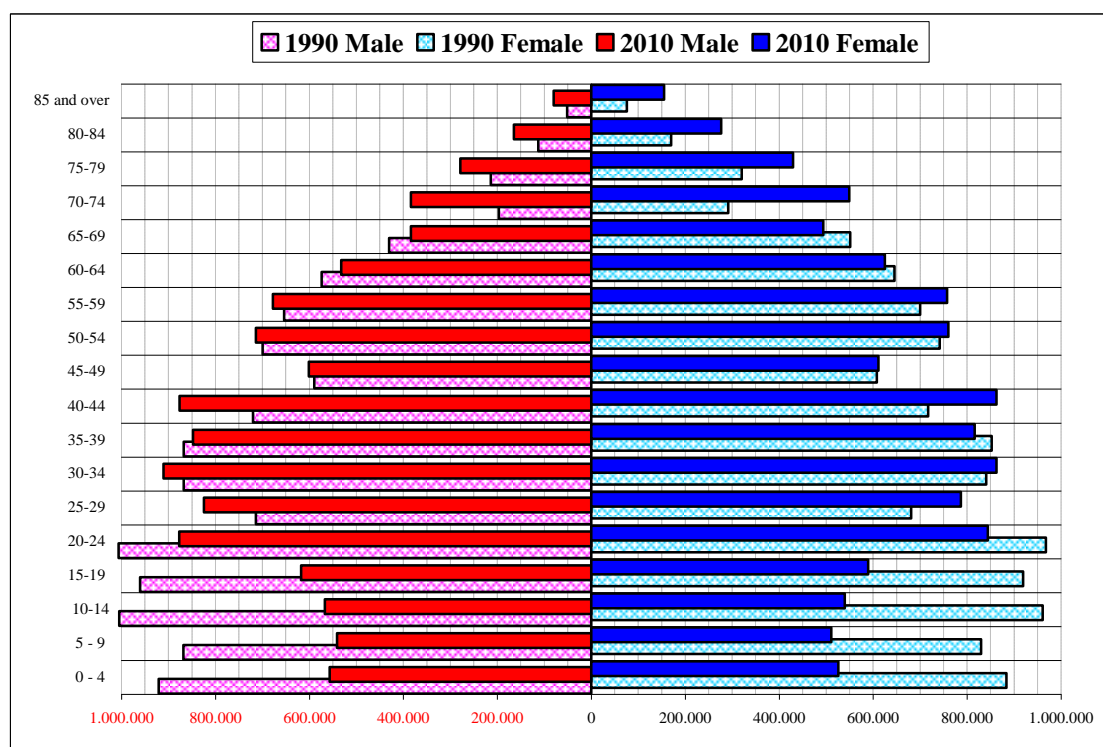


Figure no.3 The age pyramid in 2010 compared with 1990

The following have been noted: decrease of population; decrease of number of men; birth rate improvement after a period of decline; a certain pressure on the labor market; aging population; the predominance of elder female population age than the male population; the predominance of male population up to 44 compared to the female population, with negative consequences on future nuptiality and natality, but with positive effect for labor market.

During the analysed period the phenomenon of urbanization intensified, the percentage of total population is as follows: urban population increased from 53,2 % as it was in 1989, to 55,1 % as registered in 2010 when, in rural areas the majority population was between 5-14 years and over 65, while in urban areas, the majority of the population was up to 4 years and between 15-64 years old.

In this context, it is necessary to optimize the ratio between the active population and maintained population by ensuring a future birth rate that shall correspond to the consumption needs of the non-productive population. Each elder generation must have a correspondent in generation of active population.

Not the decrease in population is the most alarming fact, but the fact that such a decrease is associated to a continuous degradation of the structure age. (Gheţău V., 2004)

Modification of the minimum age of employment to provide additional financial resources would not be considered as the best solution for the protection and development of minors whereas the work which they can provide is based mostly on the physical work, and not intellectual. Given these conditions, until the restoration of the balance between those active and the dependants, reviewing the minimum age for retirement, for the purpose to prolong it, represents one of the solutions.

Without a recovery of the natality, structural imbalances will reach dramatic dimensions in the next few decades, in particular by moving toward the top of the pyramid, ages of economic inactivity, of the generations that appeared during the years with high birth rate, 1967-1989. (Gheţău V., 2004)

Population aging has a deep influence towards the labor market, for the purposes to decrease the number of young active population, to maintain at high levels the active adult population and to increase the number of elder persons who, either participate in the activity, or become beneficiaries of social assistance, i.e. pensioners. (Babucea A.G., 2010)

Future perspectives are not positive, the dependant population becomes the majority as a presented in table no.5:

Table no.5

Year	Average number of employees	Average number of pensioners	School population, excluding students
1990	8.156	3.679	4.873
1991	7.574	4.131	4.590
1992	6.888	4.292	4.429
1993	6.672	4.476	4.319
1994	6.438	4.995	4.339
1995	6.160	5.258	4.367
1996	5.939	5.417	4.333
1997	5.597	5.583	4.282
1998	5.369	5.755	4.223
1999	4.761	5.941	4.125
2000	4.623	6.154	4.032
2001	4.619	6.351	3.972
2002	4.568	6.378	3.900
2003	4.591	6.306	3.851
2004	4.469	6.233	3.753
2005	4.559	6.067	3.644
2006	4.667	5.806	3.560
2007	4.885	5.745	3.497
2008	5.046	5.701	3.433
2009	4.774	5.689	3.401
2010	4.376	5.675	3.356

Source: www.insse.ro, The Romanian Statistical Yearbook 2011, p.104, 200, 243 and The Romanian Statistical Yearbook 2010, 3.11. Average number of employees, by activity of national economy, 6.4. Average number of pensioners, 8.1. Education by level of education

Graphically, the evolution is as follows (fig.4):

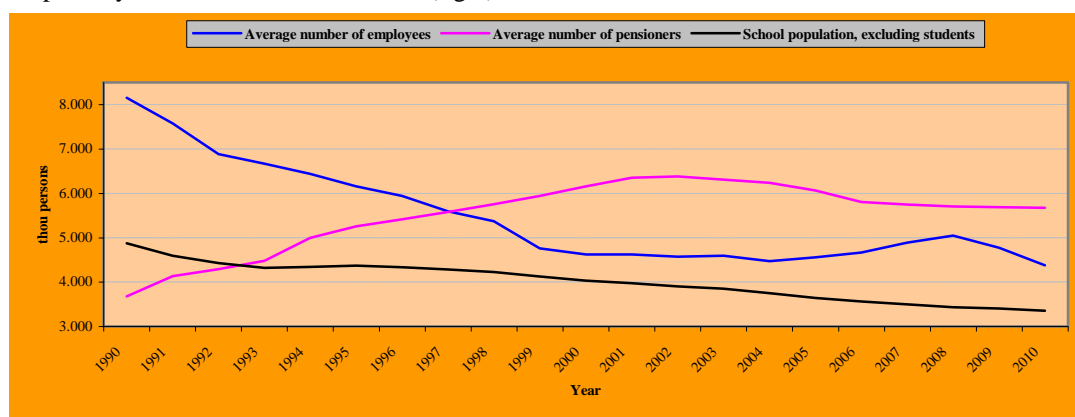


Figure no.4 Evolution of the population in terms of its occupation during 1990-2010

As in other countries, the rate of economic growth on long and medium term in Romania is negatively affected by the decrease of population, by default, reducing the labor force, but also of the need to find a solution of financial balance in the pension system. (Șeitan M. and others, 2012)

Under the conditions in which the pensions of the current pensioners are paid out of the contributions from current employees, it is difficult to maintain a financial balance in a situation so fragile when the number of beneficiaries is so large, and the number from taxpayers is so small. (Babucea A.G., 2010)

Current situation has relevant importance in maintaining the decreasing tendencies of the birth rate compared to the aging population. The effect of this inequality can be eliminated by using the private pension system. The present pension system, based on compulsory contributions, has become defective and it lacks in vision. The differences between generations concerning the proportion thereof should lead to a re-evaluation of the pension system. There might be situations when the ratio between employed population and the supported population is supraunitary, when the excess resources may cover the future periods characterized by insufficient financial resources necessary to support the pension system by the state.

Changing from a short term policy to one of long term in this domain can compensate the deficit of young population. However, this solution is difficult to achieve, the demographic evolution being under the influence of electoral cycles, periodically indicating certain demographic changes depending on the political changes. Based on these conditions, stimulation of the private pension system by granting fiscal facilities can help to ensure on long-term a social and economical balance, much more important than the demographic one.

In 2010, worldwide, the average length of life was 70 years: 68 years for men and 72 years for women. Romania registered above-average values, the average length of life was 73 years: 70 years for men and 77 years for women.

In the past, the natality was a way to ensure the needs for older populations. Changes after the '90s have introduced a new conception among the adult population. The establishment of some reserves from the savings and investments changed the view according to which the elder persons can count on a support from the descendants. This is another reason for the decreasing the birth rate after 1989.

Increasing of the lifetime should be considered as a positive thing. Every person wants achieve an elder age, but without having materials shortcomings, specific to the older generations. Aging population as an effect of increasing lifetime is not to be regarded strictly from the point of view of birth rate deficit. The essence of the demographic phenomenon is linked with the existence of the means of subsistence. Increasing the lifetime is able to prove only the fact that the elder population, pensioners, is still able to be employed. From this point of view, more important than revision of retirement age, is cumulation of pension and salary. The existence of additional income among the elder people would have a double effect: on one hand it would solve the problems of a financial nature, on the other hand it would provide public resources as a result of this income taxation. In the end it is all about ensuring the financial resources necessary for each generation. On the same grounds, there should be no age restriction regarding the employment as long as such persons are able both from physical and ability to exercise point of view. Thus, it is compulsory to review the age limits regarding the employment and keeping as employed person.

Concerning the mother's average age at birth on areas, the situation is presented as follows (table no.6):

The evolution of age of mother at birth between 1990-2010 (years)

Table no.6

Year	Average age of mother at first birth			Average age of mother at all births		
	Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural
1990	22,3	23,7	21,3	25,0	25,7	24,5
1991	22,2	23,9	21,0	24,5	25,1	23,9
1992	22,3	23,8	21,3	24,4	25,1	23,8
1993	22,4	23,7	21,4	24,3	25,1	23,6
1994	22,5	23,6	21,5	24,4	25,2	23,7
1995	22,7	23,8	21,6	24,6	25,4	23,9
1996	22,9	24,0	21,8	24,8	25,6	24,1
1997	23,1	24,2	21,9	24,9	25,7	24,2
1998	23,3	24,4	22,1	25,1	25,9	24,4
1999	23,5	24,6	22,2	25,3	26,0	24,6
2000	23,7	24,9	22,3	25,5	26,3	24,9
2001	23,9	25,2	22,4	25,8	26,6	25,1
2002	24,2	25,5	22,5	26,0	26,9	25,3
2003	24,3	25,7	22,5	26,2	27,1	25,4
2004	24,6	26,0	22,6	26,4	27,3	25,5
2005	24,9	26,3	22,7	26,7	27,6	25,7
2006	25,2	26,6	22,9	26,9	27,8	25,8
2007	25,3	26,7	22,9	27,0	28,0	25,9
2008	25,5	27,0	23,1	27,1	28,1	25,9
2009	25,6	27,1	23,1	27,3	28,3	26,0
2010	26,0	27,5	23,4	27,6	28,6	26,2

Source: www.insse.ro, The Romanian Statistical Yearbook 2011, p.62 and The Romanian Statistical Yearbook 2010, 2.10. Average age of mother at birth, by area

Globally there is an increase in average age of the mother at first birth, the phenomenon is more pronounced for women in urban areas. The same can be mentioned for average age of mother for all births.

Fewer children, preferably one, born to an older age becomes the rule governing the behavior of reproductive young couple in a society that adopts quickly the system of values and attitudes of the developed countries, with all the good and less good things of the post-industrial capitalist society. (Ghețu V., 2004)

Postponing the birth of the first child is consequence of change in behavior, the traditional way of life. The paternal conception is sometimes exaggerated towards the enhancement of the social and professional status of children may cause failures. Besides an extension of the child support also occurs a negative influence regarding their lifestyle, responsibility to themselves and society. The parents' behavior, sometimes extended to the grandparents, to exacerbate the children's qualities and invocation of different circumstances of children's professional failure contribute to strengthen latter's belief that only the state and society have obligations to the younger generation, and not vice versa. Besides this, the existence of a higher education characterized by qualitative gaps and graduation of some study programs due to the absence of something else or because of the requirements of some certain jobs (especially public jobs) contribute to the extension of youth inactivity period and therefore insurance with own sources of financial support necessary to start a family.

Scientific approach of the natality would assume firstly an analysis from the point of biological view, namely the fertility of population. But, under the present conditions of medical progress would be inappropriate to consider the natality issue strictly from this point of view. The phenomenon of natality has become continuously social issue and less of biological type. For example, the appearance of contraceptive methods after 1989 has led to a reduction in the termination of the pregnancy.

During the period 1989-2010 we have witnessed the next evolution of the fertility rate, namely the number of live births to 1000 women, and of the correspondent index of fertility, namely the number of children born by a woman during her fertile life (table no.7):

The evolution of general fertility rate and of total fertility rate during 1989-2010

Table no.7

Year	General fertility rate	Age group (years)							Total fertility rate
		15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	
1989	66,3	59,3	169,1	118,0	58,8	25,6	7,1	0,4	2,2
1990	56,2	51,5	145,2	97,8	46,4	19,4	5,5	0,4	1,8
1991	48,7	49,8	131,1	78,6	34,2	13,9	4,0	0,3	1,6
1992	46,6	47,4	127,1	77,1	31,1	12,9	3,7	0,2	1,5
1993	44,3	47,0	124,6	74,2	28,3	11,4	3,2	0,3	1,4
1994	43,3	45,0	119,3	75,8	28,7	11,3	3,2	0,2	1,4
1995	41,1	42,0	109,5	73,4	29,4	11,0	3,1	0,2	1,3
1996	39,9	40,0	102,2	72,4	30,1	10,9	2,9	0,2	1,3
1997	40,6	40,8	100,7	72,6	33,9	11,2	2,9	0,2	1,3
1998	40,6	40,3	96,9	77,6	36,3	11,7	2,8	0,2	1,3
1999	40,2	40,0	93,3	77,6	37,3	12,4	2,8	0,2	1,3
2000	40,3	39,0	90,2	78,5	38,7	13,4	3,1	0,2	1,3
2001	37,8	35,8	82,2	73,8	37,4	13,7	3,0	0,2	1,2
2002	37,5	32,7	81,5	77,6	38,3	15,0	3,0	0,2	1,3
2003	37,8	33,4	79,7	79,0	41,7	16,1	3,1	0,2	1,3
2004	38,4	33,8	77,2	80,7	46,2	17,6	3,4	0,2	1,3
2005	39,4	33,5	73,3	83,9	51,8	18,7	3,6	0,2	1,3
2006	39,5	35,0	69,8	82,7	54,0	19,0	3,5	0,2	1,3
2007	38,9	35,2	66,5	81,0	54,4	18,3	3,9	0,2	1,3
2008	40,6	38,5	67,9	83,1	57,4	20,5	4,4	0,2	1,3
2009	41,0	39,3	67,5	82,7	59,4	22,1	4,7	0,2	1,4
2010	39,4	36,9	62,3	79,9	59,2	23,3	4,6	0,2	1,3

Source: www.insse.ro, The Romanian Statistical Yearbook 2011, p.63

A continuous decreasing process of the general fertility rate and of the total fertility rate can be notes. By 2003 fertility of women aged between 20 and 24 years was the highest. Since 2004, the highest fertility has been recorded in the case of women aged between 25 and 29 years, considering the fact that the women's fertile period is between 15 and 39 years.

The dominant and alarming feature of the demographic evolution after the revolution of December 1989 constitutes a decrease in fertility, being accompanied also by the restructuring fertility model. Romanian fertility has always been an early one, associated with a model as the marriage, both are characteristic of Eastern European model. Fertility rates have already distanced itself from the early model, having features of the characteristics of the presented one with the highest values at the age group 25-29 years, being an intermediate stage in achieving the late model, which is specific to western populations. The delay of fertility, together with the increasing age at first marriage, eliminates the suspicion of contextual events, appearing as long term trends. (Litră A.V., 2006)

One of the causes to the decreased number of births refers to the situation of the mother after termination the maternity leave. Although the mother has the right to be reemployed in the company where the employment contract had been suspended, that return is of short duration, usually followed by restructuring the post.

Daily stress, doubled by a possible loss of the job, contributes to a decreased birth rate. Even if the law stipulates a normal duration of a day at work for 8 hours, in fact it is more. Added to this is the distance from the home to job which involves additional time and effort due to poor services of public transport. Under these conditions, conjugal relations and family life are mainly affected.

Human migration, including the internal one, has influenced the natality. In 1990 there were significant values concerning the internal migration, effect of the liberalization of residence in urban areas, respectively the abrogation by the Decree-Law no.1/1989 of the State Council Decree no.68/1976 concerning change of residence from other places to the official cities declared, according to the law, large cities.

The demographic explosion during the years 1967 and 1980 has as a present consequence of dwelling crisis, generated by generations reaching such demographic booms at the age when the couple is formed. (Alpopi C., 2007)

Up to the year 1997 the number of newcomers in the rural areas was smaller than those who were away which resulted in a deficit of population. Subsequently, starting from the year 1997, there has been a positive migratory balance in rural areas. In the internal migration in urban areas from the rural areas also contributed the refund of agricultural land to the former owners.

Another cause of the low natality is the phenomenon of international migration that takes various forms, the most common being seasonal in the agricultural sector and the construction sector. This type of migration has been intensified and as a consequence of the Decision of Council of Justice and Home Internal of the European Union from 7th December 2001 to eliminate the visas for the Romanian citizens to be able to enter in Schengen area since 01.01.2002.

The phenomenon of emigration requires approaches from several points of view, not only concerning the decreased level of birth rate in the country of origin. There are two dangers in this regard: on one hand, involving in the emigration process the relatives and friends of the persons who have already emigrated; on the other hand, massive returns in the event of certain rejection conditions in the country of destination.

The importance of the unexpected decrease of population and, in particular, the contribution that external migration had, shown an important demographic decline, boosting demographic deterioration of the situation in the country, especially from the perspective of population age structure point of view. (Şeitan M. and others, 2012)

Although data must be regarded with caution, the situation of international migration is presented as follows (table no. 8).

Evolution of international migration determined by change of permanent residence, by sex during 1991-2010

Table no.8

Year	Immigrants			Emigrants			Net international migration		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
1991	1.602	581	1.021	44.160	21.211	22.949	-42.558	-20.630	-21.928
1992	1.753	1.028	725	31.152	16.085	15.067	-29.399	-15.057	-14.342
1993	1.269	747	522	18.446	8.751	9.695	-17.177	-8.004	-9.173
1994	878	533	345	17.146	7.886	9.260	-16.268	-7.353	-8.915
1995	4.458	2.590	1.868	25.675	11.478	14.197	-21.217	-8.888	-12.329
1996	2.053	1.321	732	21.526	10.079	11.447	-19.473	-8.758	-10.715
1997	6.600	3.894	2.706	19.945	9.423	10.522	-13.345	-5.529	-7.816
1998	11.907	6.325	5.582	17.536	8.460	9.076	-5.629	-2.135	-3.494
1999	10.078	5.185	4.893	12.594	5.858	6.736	-2.516	-673	-1.843
2000	11.024	5.612	5.412	14.753	6.798	7.955	-3.729	-1.186	-2.543
2001	10.350	5.304	5.046	9.921	5.011	4.910	429	293	136
2002	6.582	3.414	3.168	8.154	3.700	4.454	-1.572	-286	-1.286
2003	3.267	1.746	1.521	10.673	4.413	6.260	-7.406	-2.667	-4.739
2004	2.987	1.690	1.297	13.082	4.934	8.148	-10.095	-3.244	-6.851
2005	3.704	2.117	1.587	10.938	4.110	6.828	-7.234	-1.993	-5.241
2006	7.714	4.762	2.952	14.197	5.341	8.856	-6.483	-579	-5.904
2007	9.575	5.871	3.704	8.830	3.088	5.742	745	2.783	-2.038
2008	10.030	6.041	3.989	8.739	3.069	5.670	1.291	2.972	-1.681
2009	8.606	5.177	3.429	10.211	3.768	6.443	-1.605	1.409	-3.014
2010	7.059	4.242	2.817	7.906	2.917	4.989	-847	1.325	-2.172

Source: www.insse.ro, The Romanian Statistical Yearbook 2011, p.78 and The Romanian Statistical Yearbook 2010, 2.32. International migration determined by change of permanent residence, by sex

Generally, the balance of international migration has been negative in the sense that the number of immigrants has been less than number of emigrants. The immigrants are mainly men while the emigrants are mainly women. As a result of the global migration phenomenon there has been a decrease in the number of women, with consequences on the natality in Romania. Correlated with emigration, immigration due to the low number of women could not help to improve natality.

Recovery of natality is a complex problem, to which no demographic policy replied correctly. Selective immigration policy has been the main support to balance demographic structure and the deficit of labor. Economic situation, and not only, did not permit Romania to have as a support such a pillar. (Simion M., 2004)

During the first 2 years after the revolution in December 1989, the balance of the emigration phenomenon was held by the persons under 18 years of age who most likely were the children of the illegal emigrants during the communist period. Also, in 1990 more persons aged over 50 years old left, they representing the parents of the emigrants mentioned above.

Over the time, the phenomenon took shape. Departures of persons capable of working until the age of 50 years accompanied by children predominated. Lately the number of emigrants is formed by persons aged between 18 and 40 years, which represent the potential fertile population that can help to increase the birth rate in Romania.

Also, during the first years after 1989, the balance of emigrants was formed by persons German citizens (in 1990, from the total of 96.929 emigrants, 62 % of them, namely 60.072 were of German citizens). At first sight it would seem that the reason for their departure was the ethnic one. But, most of the emigrants have chosen as destination country Italy (68 % of the total, or 66.121 persons in 1990). Thus, we state that the economic motivation was much more powerful. Since 1992 the emigration phenomenon has accentuated among the Romanian citizens, namely those citizens who should ensure the demographic stability of the country.

On the basis adverse economic conditions, more and more people are forced to find a job outside country borders. This phenomenon of migration has as main effect the emergence of a particular category of persons, respectively the one the children leave at home in the care of relatives or other persons. The situation of these minors is extremely difficult because, due to the lack of attention to their evolution from the parents, they frequently deal with social adapting problems, problems of learning and even with conscious breaches of legal rules. (Cruțeru A., 2010)

In the country, the idea that the level of education and material welfare has influence on natality was acknowledged. But can we determine whether the influence is beneficial or not? The evolution of the Romanian society indicates a non-standard situation. On one hand, without the statistical data, but taking into account real cases found in everyday life, we observe an increase in the birth rate among certain families only from financial considerations. Child allowance has become an additional financial resource for families characterized by a low level of income. The method of spending these amounts of money, in the case of those with a lower education, for other type of purposes than those of insurance the necessary needs for the physical and intellectual development of child, denotes irresponsibility. The effect can appear in the life style of new generations appeared from such couples. On the other hand, the same effect, but in this select case, is identified in the case couples with a proper financial situation, stable, currently characterized by a continuous efforts focusing in the direction of material and spiritual investment of a single child. Generalization of families with a single child can have an effect not only on baby's development of such families (selfishness, individualism), but also on his/her conception concerning the accepted descendants.

Thus, even if in quantitative terms there can be achieved a balance, from a structure point of view, the risk of such imbalance is obvious.

Maintaining high birth rate to families with problems, socially excluded, despite the downturn in the general number of new born, represents a part of explanation to serious problems, such as: high number of abandoned children and as well as degradation of the quality of reproduction, health degradation, education, the increase in social deviance phenomena among the population of children. (Popescu R., 2003)

The quality of natality involves the execution of social investigations aimed at send the financial sources to the institutions for the protection of child, so that the latter actually benefit from such sums of money. The funds being invested in child growth and development, education and professional training, this eliminates the risk that the child support given from the state for families with many children may not be used in child's interest.

In Romania there is a number of measures that are intended to support natality and child protection:

(a) *The child allowance given by the state*, decided by Law no.61/1993 concerning the child allowance given by the state, is determined according to the reference of social indicator - ISR (500 lei in 2012), as follows:

- 0,4 ISR for children aged up to 2 years (or up to 3 years, in the case of child with disabilities) - 200 lei;
- 0,084 ISR for children aged between 2 years and 18 years old, as well as for the young persons who have reached the age of 18 years, who attend the secondary or vocational education, until completion thereof - 42 lei;
- 0,168 ISR for children aged between 3 years and 18 years in the case child with disabilities - 84 lei.

(b) *Allowances for family placement*, decided by Law no.272/2004 regarding the protection and promotion of children's rights which provides that for each child in placement there is a monthly allowance of 97 lei. This allowance is also directed to child for which the guardianship was established.

(c) Allowance for family support, decided by the Law no.277/2010 concerning the allowance for family support, shall be established each month by reference to social indicator - ISR, as follows (table no. 9):

The sums of the allowance for family support according to the number of children

Table no.9

Family composition	Monthly average net income per family member	The monthly sums according to the number of children			
		1 child	2 children	3 children	4 or more children
Family with both parents	Up to 0,40 ISR including (200 lei)	0,06 ISR (30 lei)	0,12 ISR (60 lei)	0,18 ISR (90 lei)	0,24 ISR (120 lei)
	Over 0,40 ISR and up to 0,740 ISR including (between 201 and 370 lei)	0,05 ISR (25 lei)	0,1 ISR (50 lei)	0,15 ISR (75 lei)	0,2 ISR (100 lei)
Monoparental family	Up to 0,40 ISR including (200 lei)	0,1 ISR (50 lei)	0,2 ISR (100 lei)	0,3 ISR (150 lei)	0,4 ISR (200 lei)
	Over 0,40 ISR and up to 0,740 ISR including (between 201 and 370 lei)	0,09 ISR (45 lei)	0,18 ISR (90 lei)	0,27 ISR (135 lei)	0,36 ISR (180 lei)

Source: www.insse.ro, The Romanian Statistical Bulletin for labour and social security 3rd trimester 2012

(d) *The child support allowance and monthly stimulus* - are decided by Government Emergency Ordinance no.148/2005 regarding the family support in order to raise the child. For the born children, adopted, or entrusted for adoption, placement or guardianship until 31st December 2010, those persons who, in the last year prior to the date of child birth or the events referred to, had been carried out for 12 months professional revenues subject to tax on income, shall benefit from maternity/paternity leave up to 2 years or, in the case child with disabilities, up to 3 years, as well as a monthly allowance representing 85 % of the average income made in the last 12 months.

Since January 2012, the minimum and maximum amount of monthly benefit shall be reported to the reference social indicator - ISR and cannot be less than 1,2 ISR (600 lei) and not more than 6,8 ISR (3.400 lei). The amount of the allowance shall be increased by 1,2 ISR (600 lei) for each born child of a twin, triplets or multiplets pregnancy, starting with the second child coming from such a pregnancy.

Persons entitled to benefit from the allowance and who have professional revenues subject to tax on income, benefit from a stimulus amount of which shall be established at 0,2 ISR (100 lei). In the case of persons benefiting from the child support allowance and require the entitlement to stimulus, the payment the allowance shall be suspended.

The optional beneficiary of the allowance and stimulus are for either of child's parents, as well as one of the persons who has adopted the child, which has been entrusted with the child for adoption of or has the child in foster care, excepting the professional maternal assistant, as well as any person who has been appointed as a tutor.

The leave, the allowance and the stimulus are due for each of the first 3 births or for the first 3 children of the person who has adopted the child, which has been entrusted with the child for adoption of or who has the child in foster care, as well as any person who has been called as tutor, after 1 January 2006.

(e) *The monthly social assistance*, decided by Law no.416/2001 concerning minimum guaranteed income shall be calculated as the difference between the minimum guaranteed income level decided by the law and monthly net income of the family or the single person. The monthly level of minimum guaranteed income refers to the reference social indicator - ISR and it is:

- 0,25 ISR (125 lei) for a single person;
- 0,45 ISR (225 lei) for families consisting of 2 persons;
- 0,63 ISR (315 lei) for families consisting of 3 persons;
- 0,78 ISR (390 lei) for families consisting of 4 persons;
- 0,93 ISR (465 lei) for families consisting of 5 persons;
- 0,062 ISR (31 lei) for each member over the number of 5 persons, which is part of the family.

There were different measures to stimulate natality, the regulations they provided were repealed by Law no.118/2010 regarding some necessary measures to restore budget balance: the new born child allowance; the financial support to establish a family; the layette.

Listed legislative measures and, mainly, those concerning the increase in a certain period of child allowance, parental leave, the possibility of the couple to choose which of them shall benefit from such measures, rather have ensured a stable birth rate than to increase it.

Definitely, these measures were for the families with a child, but this phenomenon was reflected firstly in the within the families without children. Thus, the failure to find the necessary financial sources, there was the danger of losing the job or the decrease of the income, as a result of the economic and financial crisis, contributed the couple decision to have children.

In Romania, the average number of born children from woman was after 1990 under the level of 2 children. For a significant increase in the birth rate it is necessary that besides the measures described above others should be promoted that aims to the introduction additional advantages of economic, fiscal, social nature at the same time with the birth of the second child. But perhaps more important than this is to improve social system of child support having as central purpose the functionality and the charge free services offered by the appropriate agencies (nurseries, kindergartens, etc.).

An impediment for child birth is represented by any difficulties which may arise after the birth. One of the most important concerns refers to the child's care during the time when the parents are at work. The solution of baby sitters is specific only to those with high incomes. For the others, the solutions consist in the parent's help and nurseries, kindergartens with extended program. Free nature of these services can help increase birth rate in the case of families in which both spouses are employed.

3. Conclusions

The decreasing birth rate, along with the intensification of emigration phenomenon in our country can be compensated in the future by a powerful immigration phenomenon and by increasing the number of Gypsy population in the total population, whose families consist of several children. Global demographic balance can be re-established, but not in what concerns the Romanian population. Not only in our country, but also at the international level, there is a possible new shape of structure of the population according to the nationality of their citizens.

The globalization of the markets, on the free movement of labor, will produce a new conception of the demographic phenomenon, from micro to macro level. The national identity loss will be obvious. All these will determine changes in foreign policy of a state, for the purposes of granting a greater attention to the situation of emigrants.

Natality can be stimulated by the creation of jobs. The stability of the married couple as a result of the existence a safe workplace helps to ensure the conditions for a change of behavior in the life of a married couple for procreation.

Also, it is necessary to have a large-scale program of food support and social protection of children under care for their parents and still unregistered in a social institution (nursery school, school), similar program "Bread roll and milk" decided by Government Emergency Ordinance no.96/2002 which provides for the granting of milk-based and bakery products to the pupils and pre-school children.

Evolution of the birth rate is in close connection with establishment of families that are facing difficulties from several points of view. Marriage may be postponed due to lack necessary financial sources for living together. Effective establishment of the family either by single approval from legal point of view, or from the point of view religious rules involves certain expenses which requires the existence of some reserves, which represented a rare situation among the young generation. In these circumstances, the financial support granted by parents and friends becomes essential to make official the relationship between young people. Most of the times they need loans and make a calculation of material earnings resulting from an festive event, without taking into account the future financial obligations. The problems do not end at this level. A fertile couple requires a dwelling and financial resources necessary for its maintenance. Even under the conditions of "first home" financing program, there are not enough houses for all young married couples, obtaining loans is fairly restrictive (existence of an advance payment, a certain level of income, etc.). The solution of young people in this context is represented by the fact that they can live together in the same house with the parents and sometimes with other members of the family. The effect on natality is negative, the problems of the couple is extended to the settlement of conflicts between it and the members of the family they come from. All these determine a new postponement, but this time of a child birth, the need for financial and dwelling independence being dominant. In the end, they can get even to the realization of that need, but this may be too late, given the existence of a physiological limits female fertility. This last stage involves considerable expenses for medical examination and treatment aimed to solve the infertility problem. These are some real facts that influence the present natality in Romania, each of them having certain intensities in the phenomena of procreation. For these reasons, the revival solutions for the natality must be regarded both global, as well as sequentially, from the point of view of stages and factors that influence the life of the couple as a family.

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- [16] *The Decree of the State Council the Socialist Republic of Romania no.1086/31.12.1966 concerning the increase of tax on income for persons without children* (Official Gazette no.88/31.12.1966);
- [17] *The Decree of the State Council the Socialist Republic of Romania no.68/17.03.1976 concerning change of residence from other places to the official cities declared, according to the law, large cities* (Official Gazette no.24/20.03.1976);
- [18] *The Decree Law no.1/26.12.1989 concerning repeal of certain laws, decrees and other normative acts, issued by the National Salvation Front* (Official Gazette no.4/27.12.1989);
- [19] *Law no.32/29.03.1991 concerning the payroll tax* (Official Gazette no.70/03.04.1991);
- [20] *Law no.61/22.09.1993 concerning the child allowance given by the state, reissued* (Official Gazette no.767/14.11.2012);
- [21] *Law no.416/18.07.2001 concerning the granted minimum income* (Official Gazette no.401/20.07.2001);
- [22] *EC Regulation no.2414/2001 of the Council on 7th December 2001 to amend the EC Regulation no.539/2001 by establishing the list of third countries whose nationals must have visa for crossing external borders of the Member States and the list of third countries whose nationals are exonerated from this obligation* (Official Journal of the European Communities no. L 327/1 12.12.2001);
- [23] *The Emergency Ordinance of the Government no.96/16.08.2002 concerning the granting of dairy and bakery products for students of classes of 1st to 8th grade of public and private education and, as well as for the children in public and private kindergartens with a regular schedule of 4 hours* (Official Gazette no.631/26.08.2002);
- [24] *Law no.272/21.06.2004 regarding the protection and promotion of children's rights* (Official Gazette no.557/23.06.2004);
- [25] *The Emergency Ordinance of the Government no.148/03.11.2005 regarding the family support in order to raise the child* (Official Gazette no.1008/14.11.2005);
- [26] *Law no.396/30.10.2006 for granting financial support to establish a family* (Official Gazette no.892/02.11.2006);
- [27] *Law no.118/30.06.2010 concerning the necessary measures to restore budgetary balance* (Official Gazette no.441/30.06.2010);
- [28] *Law no.277/24.12.2010 concerning the allowance for family support, reissued* (Official Gazette no.785/22.11.2012).