

FWF GENDER FACT SHEET - ROMANIA

FACTS & FIGURES

- Human Development Index: 52 of 189 (UNDP 2018)
- Gender Inequality Index Rank: 68 of 160 (UNDP 2018)
- Global Gender Gap Index: 63 of 149 (WEF 2018)
- Literacy Rate: Female: 98.21%, Male: 99.03%
- Has experienced sexual and/or physical intimate partner violence: 24% of women
- Physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence in the last 12 months: 6% of women
- Lifetime non-partner sexual violence: 2% of women
- Gross national income per capita: USD 17,433

COUNTRY CONTEXT

Romania is located in Eastern Europe, bordering the Black Sea. It was previously a communist country and now ranks 59 of 167 countries on the Democracy Index.

Employment:

- At 7%, its **unemployment rate is among the lowest in the EU.**
- In Romania there is a relatively large gap (est. 20%) between the legal minimum wage and the estimated living wage.

Textile industry:

- The textile industry holds a **significant share in the export economy** of Romania, contributing to a positive balance of foreign trade. It is concentrated in four main regions: the northwest, northeast, centre, and Bucharest.
- The clothing sub-sector is the largest manufacturing employer in the country, and **employs mostly women.**
- According to the Romanian National Institute for Statistics, there were 47,702 men and **207,887 women working in the sub-sectors of the garment industry** at the end of 2013.
- Most people employed in the garment sector are between **25-54 years of age** and it is a sector where **many migrants** find opportunities for work.

Gender inequality:

- In 2013, Romanian **women earned an average RON 176 (Romanian Leu) less than men**, making women's average gross monthly earnings a total of RON 2,070, against men's RON 2,246, and a net average monthly earning of RON 1,509, compared to 1,640 RON for men.
- **Men had higher net monthly earnings than women in most economic activities**, the biggest differences being found in financial intermediation and insurance where the difference almost reached 40%, and **manufacturing, where the difference was close to 30%.**

Gender-based violence:

- Gender-based violence issues in Romania are primarily related to **domestic violence and human trafficking.**
- In 2017, the European Court of Human Rights expressed concerns regarding the response of Romania to **domestic violence cases.**
 - Official statistics suggest most Romanians think domestic violence is normal, with **60% of Romanians seeing it as justified**, in certain circumstances.
 - Such attitudes, which were even more deeply entrenched during the period of communist rule, are **slowly beginning to shift and the government has adopted new laws to combat such abuse.**
- **Only 50% of the Romania population say they trust the police.** The European Institute for Gender Equality say that when people trust the justice institutions, disclosure of domestic violence incidences are higher.
 - They estimate that **30% of Romanians have experienced domestic violence**, which is in line with Europe overall.
 - Additionally, **32% of women are estimated to have experienced sexual harassment.**

Health:

- Romania has the **highest maternal mortality rate in Europe**, and many women in Romania become mothers before the age of 19, including over 600 girls under the age of 15 becoming pregnant in 2016.

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Human rights and Roma population:

- Human rights issues in Romania include **discrimination and concerns about the independence of the judicial system.**
- The **most discriminated social groups** include: Roma people, people with physical or mental disabilities, those with HIV/AIDS, the LGBTQ community, the homeless, orphans and drug addicts.
- In 2011, **33.6% of the Roma population was classified as poor.** This is an absolute poverty rate 6.7 times higher than the national average. Roma people represent only 3.3% of the population of Romania, but **21.9% of the poor.** Poverty rates are significantly higher among **Roma children.**
- Only 17% of the Roma attend a vocational school, a high school or higher levels of education.
- The 2013 report of the National Council for Combating Discrimination (NCCD) disclosed that **the number of claims of discrimination has grown since 2010**, from 478 claims to 858 in 2013.

LEGAL CONTEXT

National Legislation:

- The Constitution provides for **protections for violence against women and girls.**
- Additionally Law No.211/2004 **protects victims from sexual violence**, Law No.217/2003 covers **domestic violence and intimate partner violence.** The Romanian law on the prevention and fight against domestic violence was revised in 2012, expanding the definition of violence as well as the rights of victims.
- According to Government Ordinance 137/2000 republished in 2014 concerning **preventing and sanctioning all discrimination forms**, without any discrimination, each person who performs work must benefit from good working conditions, social protection, health and safety at work, with respect for their dignity and personal beliefs.
- **Sexual harassment at work** is a form of discrimination (Law 324/2006 Anti-discrimination Law, Article 2(5)) and is also defined in the Criminal Code, punishable by prison from 3 months to 2 years or fine.
- Romania's **maternity leave** is established in the Labour Code.
- Law no. 272/ 2004 provides for the **protection and promotion of children's rights**, amended in 2014, including the right to education.
- **The working age is set at 16 according to the Labour Code.** An individual as young as 15 may enter into a labour contract, provided there is explicit parental or legal guardian consent, and only for activities suited to the physical ability, skills, and knowledge of that person.

International Legislation:

- Romania has signed and ratified the **Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).**
- Romania signed the **Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women domestic violence.** The Convention was ratified in Romania in May 2016.
- Because Romania has been a member of the European Union (EU) since 2007, the country's **labour legislation meets all EU laws and labour standards.** The country has also **ratified all International Labour Organisation (ILO) conventions** referred to in Fair Wear Foundation's Code of Labour Practices except for Conventions 26 and 155.

SOURCES:

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European Institute for Gender Equality: <https://eige.europa.eu/gender-based-violence/regulatory-and-legal-framework/legal-definitions-in-the-eu/romania-sexual-harassment>

Fair Wear Foundation 2016 Country Study: <https://www.fairwear.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/CSRomania2016.pdf>

UNDP Human Development Report 2018: <http://hdr.undp.org/en/composite/GII>,

WEF Global Gender Gap Index 2018: <http://reports.weforum.org/global-gender-gap-report-2018/>