

Romania



Bordering the Black Sea between Bulgaria and Ukraine, Romania also shares its borders with Hungary, Moldova, and Serbia in a landmass about equal to the state of Oregon. The temperate climate offers frequent snow and fog during the winter months, with sunny summers and frequent rain showers.

Natural resources found in Romania include declining petroleum reserves, timber, natural gas, coal, iron ore, salt, and hydropower. About 40 percent of the land is considered arable.

Romania is a republic with a bicameral parliament located in its capital city, Bucharest. The country is divided into 41 counties. Romania achieved independence from the Ottoman Empire in 1877, and became a republic in 1947. Its current constitution was ratified in 1991 and revised in 2003. Its legal system is based on the constitution of France's Fifth Republic.

As with most of the Central European nations, Romania struggled in the demise of the Communist era, battling a three-year recession. Domestic construction, agriculture and consumption have remained stable in recent years, but the country struggles to deal with poverty and the emergence of a middle class in its labor force of 9 million.

Romanian farmers produce wheat, corn, barley, sugar beets, sunflower seed, potatoes, grapes, eggs and sheep. Industries produce textiles and footwear, light machinery and auto assembly, mining, timber, construction materials, food processing, and petroleum refining. It exports mainly to Italy, Germany, Turkey, France, the UK, Hungary and the US. Romania's current major import partners are Italy, Germany, Russia, France, Turkey, and China.

