

THE SOCIOPROFESSIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE ACTIVE POPULATION OF THE RURAL SETTLEMENTS IN „ȚARA OAȘULUI”

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ABSTRACT. — In the 36 rural settlements of the “Țara Oașului” region, organised in 12 communes, the active population represents 53.3%, well above the average at national level. This is explained by the prevalence of the primary sector (82.6%). The second sector concentrates 9.2% of the active population and the tertiary 8.2%. It is a normal situation which characterizes all developed rural settlements in our country.

„Țara Oașului” — a specific historical and geographical territory — is situated in the NW extremity of Romania, in the N part of the Satu-Mare County.

The rural population in „Țara Oașului” was 60,496 inhabitants in 1987 and is concentrated in 36 medium and large settlements, with a high demographic potential of about 1,680 inhabitants per settlement (the double of the average in the rest of the country). These 36 rural settlements are organised in 12 communes, 3 settlements per commune.

The active population represents 53.3%, well above the average at national level. It can be explained by the dominance of the rural since we know that, generally, the active population in rural areas is significantly higher than in the urban areas. As a particular element, one should add the predominance of the private property of the land, which implies a higher demand of labour. Men represent 52.13% and women 46.86%.

However, there are important differences within the „zone” as far as the active population is concerned. Thus, in Certeze the active population reaches 72.6%; the other two villages belonging to the commune also give a high percentage — Moșieni (67.5%), and Huta Certeze (67.8%). A high percentage (above 60%) is also to be found in other settlements: Turulung-Vii (66.5%), Turț Băi (66.3%), Văgaș (64.3%), Racșa (63%), Șirlău, Tămășeni. In the case of Certeze and Racșa the high percentage is motivated by a demographical structure dominated by the adult population. In the other cases the active population is high against the background of a tendency of demographic ageing — the majority of those settlements are small, with a population under 500 inhabitants.

There are 11 settlements with an active population lower than 50%: Tarna Mare, Turț, Turulung, Orașu Nou. The other settlements fall around the average per whole area, among them: Cămărzana, Călinești Oaș, Tîrșolt, Batarci, Gherța Mică. Women account for a large inactive population: 52.24% as compared to the inactive population of men. The

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higher percentages are: Gherța Mare (66.8%), Vama (63.8%) and Turț Băi (63.3%), situation partly due to the predominance of mining in Gherța Mare and Turț Băi, and in the case of Vama the proximity of a town, Negrești Oaș, to which one should add certain domestic industries employing mostly the men of the settlements.

The analysis of the *structure of the active population* has been conducted by taking into consideration the place of residence of the individuals, while registering both the outgoing and the incoming characteristic to commuting; then, the analysis deals with the structure of the population employed in various economic sectors and within the framework of each sector the structure on sexes (Fig. 1). Thus, the sum total of the population working in one particular settlement is formed by the active resident population and the active population resident in other settlements. The percentage of the former, for the whole zone is 96.37%, while the latter accounts for 3.62%. The working population of the rural settlements in „Țara Oașului” amounts to 27,343 persons.

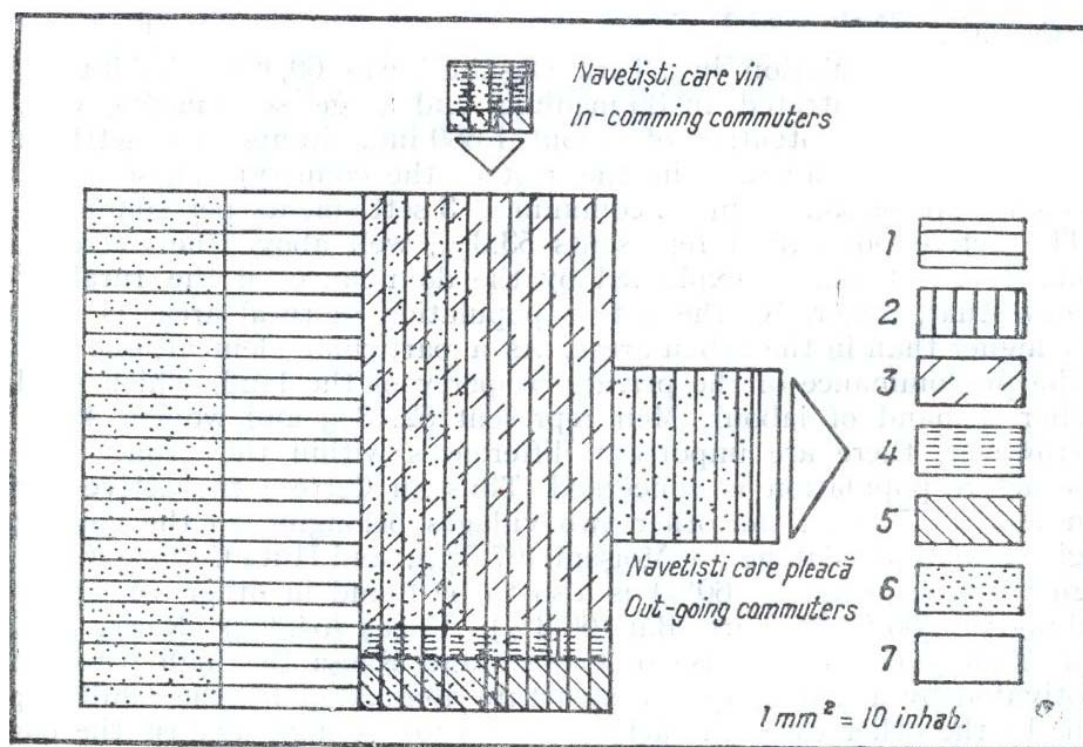


Fig. 1. The socioprofessional structure of the active population 1. Inactive population 2. Active population 3. Active in the primary sector 4. Active in the secondary sector 5. Active in the tertiary sector 6. Men 7. Women

In the *structure of the population working in various sectors* we have found the dominance of those employed in the primary sector (82.76%), of which the women represent $\frac{3}{5}$, i. e. 59.35%.

The great majority of the settlements employ 90% of the working population in the primary sector; a percentage between 100%—95% is characteristic of very small and small villages (Văgaș, Turț Băi, Pășunea Mare, Șirlău, Aliceni, Turulung Vii), but also large and middle villages in the non-cooperativized area (Racșa, Moșișeni, Certeze, Huta Certeze, Cămărzana).

A higher percentage of women employed in agriculture is to be registered in: Gherța Mare (73.4%), Tarna Mare 71.8(‰), and Turț (67.1‰), since most of the men are employed in the mining industry; as for Boinești (77.7‰), Trip (75.9‰), Comlăușa (70.8‰), Orașu Nou (76.6‰), Racșa Vii (71.7‰), Turț Băi (70‰) and Prilog Vii (69.7‰), most men commute intensely to other places in search of work.

In the secondary sector which concentrates 9.25% of the working population in the rural settlements of „Țara Oășului“ important percentages are to be found only in a few larger settlements due either to the mining industry — Tarna Mare (41.6‰), Turț (36.5‰), Gherța Mare (23.4‰) — or the stronger development of domestic industry — Bixad (22.7‰), Orașu Nou (19‰), Vama (10.7‰). In this sector men account for 85.45% of the working force, with the exception of Vama (90% women) and Orașu Nou (68.1% women).

The tertiary sector is less prominent since only 8.05% of the active population is employed — 52.2% men and 47.8% women. A higher percentage is to be found in more important settlements which are also seats of the communes: Orașu Nou (19.4‰), Bixad (15.1‰), Batarci (16.3‰), Turulung (14‰), Turț, Vama, Călinești Oaș. The lowest percentage is to be found in the very small and small villages of where private ownership of the land determines a reduced number of people employed in the tertiary sector: Văgaș (0‰), Turț Băi (0‰), Aliceni (1.3‰), Turulung Vii (1.7‰); Pășunea Mare (1.7‰), Șirlău (1.9‰), Racșa (1.4‰), Moșișeni (1.8‰), Certeze, Huta Certeze and Valea Seacă. The proportion between men and women employed in the tertiary sector varies significantly from one village to another.

In the structure of the resident working population the primary sector holds the first place — 85.76‰, while the other sectors have approximately equal shares — 7.04‰ in the secondary and 7.2‰ in the tertiary sector. In general, the proportion between men and women within each sector is similar to the one registered for the sum total of the resident working population.

For the non-resident working population — the incoming commuters the population employed in the secondary sector reaches 67.9‰, and is followed by that employed in the tertiary sector 31‰; the number of the commuters employed in agriculture is very low — 1.1‰. Almost all of the commuting working force employed in the secondary sector is concentrated in Turț (50.5‰), Bixad (37.4‰) and Tarna Mare (10.5‰). In the tertiary sector most of the commuters are employed in education, health-care and services. Almost half of them (46.7‰) are concentrated in four villages: Vama, Batarci, Bixad, Certeze, followed by Călinești Oaș, Turulung and Orașu Nou, all of them large villages and seats of the

communes. The number of men is slightly higher (54.4%), with relatively large variations from one village to another. On the whole, a larger commuting working force is characteristic of the settlements with a more developed secondary sector: Turț (13.3%), Bixad (11.2%), Tarna Mare (7%), followed by the other seats with a tertiary sector better represented: Vama (4%), Batarci (3.6%), Orașu Nou (3%), and the lowest proportion is characteristic of a small and very small villages: Turț Băi, Văgaș, Racșa Vii etc.

The resident working population employed in other places — outgoing commuters — represent 1/6 (18.3%) of the total active population (5,901 persons) and almost 1/10 of the total population. Of the out-going commuters men represent 87%. In 13 villages over 25% of the active population commute to other places in order to work: Vama (53.5%), Drăgușeni (46.2%), Racșa Vii (45.5%), Trip (41.4%), Boinești, Comlăușa, Șirlău, Turț Băi, Orașu Nou, Prilog Vii, Prilog, Remetea Oașului, Turulung. The smallest numbers of out-going commuters belong to the villages in the non-cooperativized area: Certeze (4%), Racșa, Valea Seacă, Cămarzana; and to the villages in which most of the population is employed in mining industry (Turț, Tarna Mare, Gherța Mare), or in the domestic industry (Bixad). The largest number of out-going commuters belong to Vama (1,121 persons), Turulung (380), Orașu Nou (301), Drăgușeni, Călinești Oaș, Gherța Mică, Batarci, Trip, Boinești. 3/4 of the commuting working force comes from 14 settlements.

An analysis of the demographic structures of the resident working population, the in-coming and out-going commuters, their structure on economic sectors and on sexes brings forth various phenomena and situations, related to the economic particularities of the region, to the particularities of the land ownership and related to the centers of polarization in the region (Negrești Oaș), or outside it (Satu Mare, Baia Mare).

One can see a dominance of the working population in the primary sector in the non-cooperativized areas; there is also a balance between the sexes in the structure of the working population due to the absence of the activities characteristic of the secondary sector and a poor representation of the tertiary sector. It is a stable demographic model within the context of a unilateral agrarian economy.

Besides Negrești-Oaș, there are four areas of convergence in the region: Turț, Bixad, Tarna Mare and Orașu Nou, made economically stronger by the existence of the mining industry (Turț and Tarna Mare) and of the domestic industry (Bixad, Orașu Nou and Vama). Related to the diversification of economic life and the development of the secondary sector, these rural settlements are also a representative of the working population in the tertiary sector.

There is a correlation between the specific features of the economy and demographic structures with a strong tendency of having more women employed in the primary sector. The mining areas are characterized by the stability of the working force of both sexes: men are employed in mining and women in agriculture, even if it is a cashcrop like growing strawberries.

Within the mining areas we witness the strongest commuting phenomenon to the two mining centres (Turț, Tarna Mare) and to Bixad.

It is a dynamic demographic model, characterized by a relative tendency of stabilization related to the growth of mining sites and of domestic industry.

On the whole, commuting to work is relevant (1/6 of the active population), caused by the proximity of the two urban centers of polarization (Satu Mare, Baia Mare) and of Negrești-Oaș, in the region, that through the development of the secondary sector the tendencies of stabilization of the working population in the region is controled.

REZUMAT. — Structura socio-profesională a populației active din localitățile rurale ale Țării Oașului. În cele 36 de așezări rurale, grupate în 12 comune, populația activă reprezintă 53%, depășind sensibil media la nivel național. Acest lucru se explică prin predominarea activităților primare (82,6%). Sectorul secundar cuprinde 9,2% din populația activă, iar cel terțiar 8,2%. Este o situație normală ce caracterizează ariile cu un ruralism accentuat la nivel național.