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# Oradea-Bratca Depression. Changes in the Active Populations Structure between 1992 and 2002 Censuses

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In Romania all the socio-economic changes registered after 1989 have profoundly affected the geodemographic structures. As far as we are concerned, the active population has registered both a numerical decrease and alterations in terms of its branch activity distribution.

All these changes are determined by the change of the economic profile of the region, the population decrease in number, the closing of some production units or in some cases the emergence of some new units.

The decrease in the primary sector had the greatest impact given that in 1992 the largest part of the inactive population was employed in this activity sector.

The changes in the economic structure of the population from a region, on a certain period, reflect the transformations that took place in the economic system, but also the degree of participation of the population in economy.

The changes in the Romanian economic system after the year 1989 have affected the structure active population, as well. These are different from one region to another depending on the already established economic profile of the region.

Not even Oradea-Bratca Depression, the region we are studying, was exempted from these changes that had a big impact both on economy and on the structure of the active population. In this paper we want to analyze the changes in a period of 10 years, between 1992 and 2002.

We based our research on the statistical data provided by the two Censuses, of 1992 and of 2002. If for the period from 1989 to 1992 the changes are not so important, for the period we analyze, there is another picture of the real situation. Until 1992 there was a slower process for the adaptation of an economy of the region at criteria of market economy, maintaining most of the features of the period before 1989 regarding the active population and its repartition on activity sectors. For 1992-2002 periods the changes are most important, they go at the deduction of active population proportion, its repartition on the activity sectors being changed very much. Thus, the active population decreased from 28.097 persons in 1992 to 20.558 persons in 2002, more exactly it registered a minus of 7.539 persons, the rate being of 10,4%. Given this average value, at a communal level the values know important changes (table 1). The lowest value is registered in Săcădat Commune, where the rate decreased with 1%, and at the opposite end there is Copăceni Commune with 2,5%. This extreme situation is established by the population active in agriculture that was also seriously affected by the changes that took place in this sector of activity. Under these circumstances, the general rate of activity registered a decrease from 41,4% in 1992 to 31% in 2002. Regarding the territorial repartition of the general rate values of activity we can see that (figures 1 and 2) in 1992, most of the localities had their values over the average, in the communes nearby Oradea with only one exception, Săcădat Commune. For 2002 the situation is conversely, because the values under average are exactly in these communes nearby Oradea, and now those that had values over the average are situated in the depressions in the Eastern part. This situation can be explained by the changes in the economic structures of Oradea City (some units of production were closed, while others were reshaped) affected these communes because a very important number of their active population worked there.

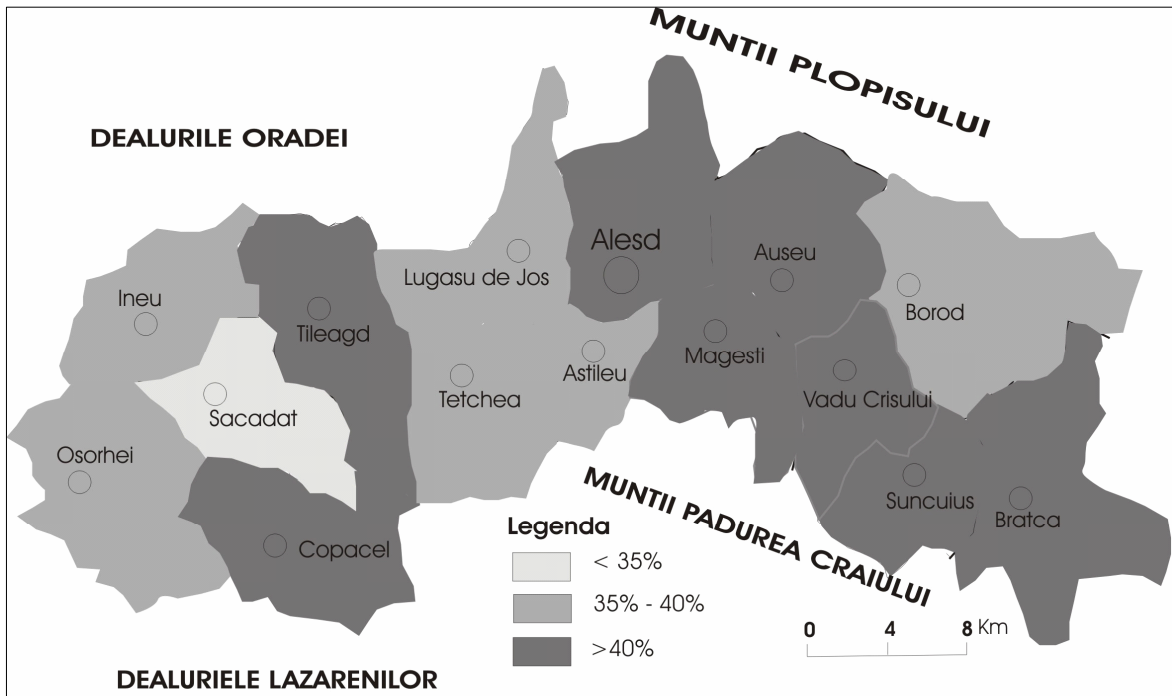


Figure 1. Bratca-Oradea Depression. The general activity's rate (1992).

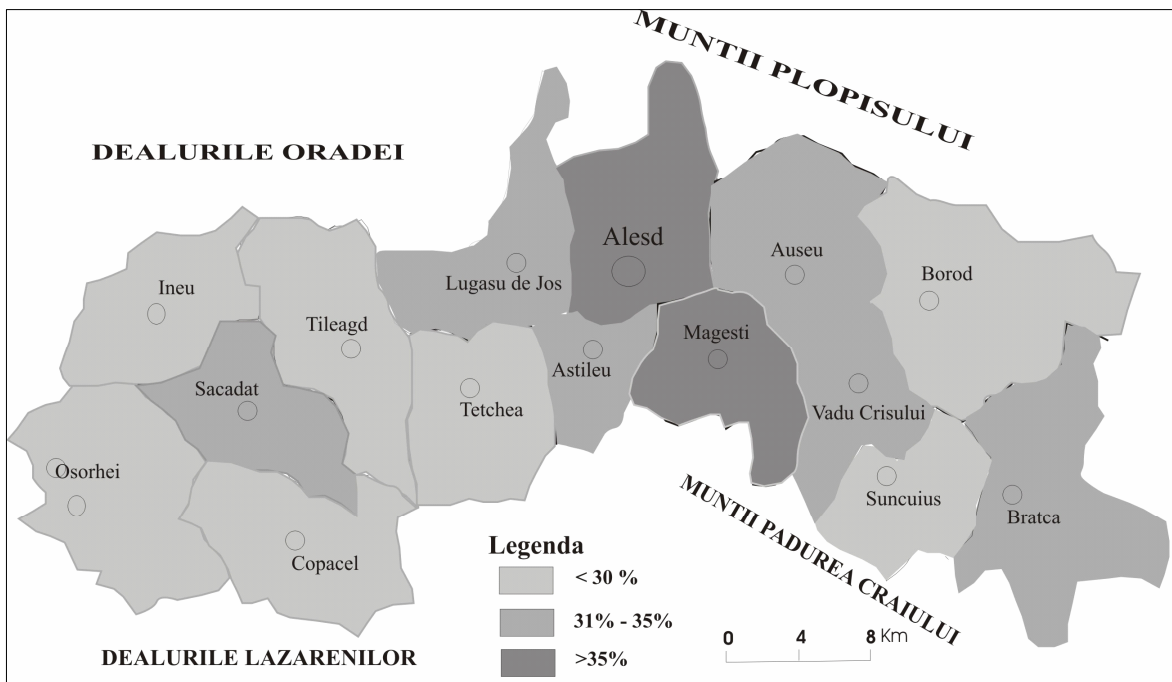


Figure 2. Bratca-Oradea Depression. The general rate of activity in 2002.

Săcădat Commune presents a special situation, where the appearance of a unit belonging to Coca-Cola Company turned this commune into one with a value of active population over the region's average.

The gender activity's rate presents important differences between 1992 when the average value of this was of 54,9%, and the present with an average of 60,9% (figures 3 and 4). For the year 1992, the rate of masculine activity does not present a very big difference from the feminine one because a very important part of the feminine active population worked in the primary sector and some units of the secondary system (the processing industry).

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**Table 1. The general activity's rate.**

Locality	Years	General rate of activity (%)	Agriculture (%)	Industry (%)	Service sector (%)
Aleşd	1992	44,5	5,4	57,4	32,8
	2002	35,8	0,3	57,8	29,0
Aştileu	1992	37,8	12,1	63,1	19,3
	2002	31,9	3,0	84,4	10,7
Auşeu	1992	46,1	37,2	37,3	18,9
	2002	32,3	-	22,9	63,5
Borod	1992	36,8	31,6	37,0	22,7
	2002	28,5	-	33,4	56,6
Bratca	1992	45,7	45,7	25,4	20,5
	2002	34,1	-	2,3	91,5
Copăcel	1992	52,5	51,2	26,5	19,0
	2002	30,0	-	-	72,0
Ineu	1992	38,8	26,1	42,1	24,4
	2002	26,4	12,5	15,0	72,3
Lugaşu de Jos	1992	35,9	23,6	43,6	25,3
	2002	33,7	1,1	27,7	36,5
Măgeşti	1992	48,0	36,1	42,4	17,9
	2002	38,5	-	17,0	78,0
Oşorhei	1992	39,9	17,8	51,0	26,6
	2002	28,9	-	47,1	45,3
Săcădat	1992	33,1	29,0	36,6	27,3
	2002	32,1	1,0	75,2	23,0
Şuncuiuş	1992	42,0	24,7	48,3	20,6
	2002	27,2	-	62,2	33,3
Tileagd	1992	41,2	26,4	46,2	21,9
	2002	28,1	2,9	53,2	42,5
Teţchea	1992	39,0	36,1	43,3	16,5
	2002	25,0	-	6,1	90,2
Vadu Crişului	1992	42,8	21,9	49,5	24,4
	2002	32,3	2,9	62,7	30,5

In 2002 the difference between masculine and feminine rate of activity is significant, because the category of working people affected by the changes from the activity sectors was especially the feminine one. Therefore, some differences from the average value of territorial profile appear: taking into consideration the average value of 60.7%, one town and six communes (Aleşd Town, Aştileu, Bratca, Măgeşti, Şuncuiuş, Tileagd, Vadu Crişului) have smaller values whereas other eight communes (Auşeu, Borod, Copăcel, Ineu, Lugaşu de Jos, Oşorhei, Teţchea) have bigger values. The smallest value is registered in Bratca Commune of 51,6%, and the biggest one in Ineu Commune of 61,6%. As we can also notice from the repartition of the active population on activity sectors in the period between the two Censuses important mutations took place, and the rate of active population from these activity sectors suffered because of all these changes (table 1). The biggest changes were in the primary sector, where the rate of the active population reduced a lot in 2002 as compared with 1992. As a result, from the 14 communes and one town at 2002 Census, a number of 8 communes had no person in this sector of activity. The most relevant situation appears in Copăcel Commune where in 1992, more than 50% of the active population worked in the primary sector whereas in 2002 the active population of this sector was absent. The secondary sector suffered as well because the industrial units from this territory were closed or reshaped. What is surprising is the fact that, on the whole, the rate of the active population belonging to this sector raised from 43,3% in 1992 to 47,8% in 2002, situation in which the number of persons who worked in this sector decreased. This growth is bound to the "liberation" of the working people from the primary sector that shifted to the secondary sector. We also have to mention that a very important part of these working persons was absorbed by some units of the processing industry that developed in this region in the last years. At a territorial level we have to take into account Aştileu Commune that presents the biggest rate of the active population in this sector, with 84%. More significant values of the active population from the secondary sector also have the communes Săcădat with 75,2%, Vadu Crişului with 62,7% and Aleşd Town with 57,8%.

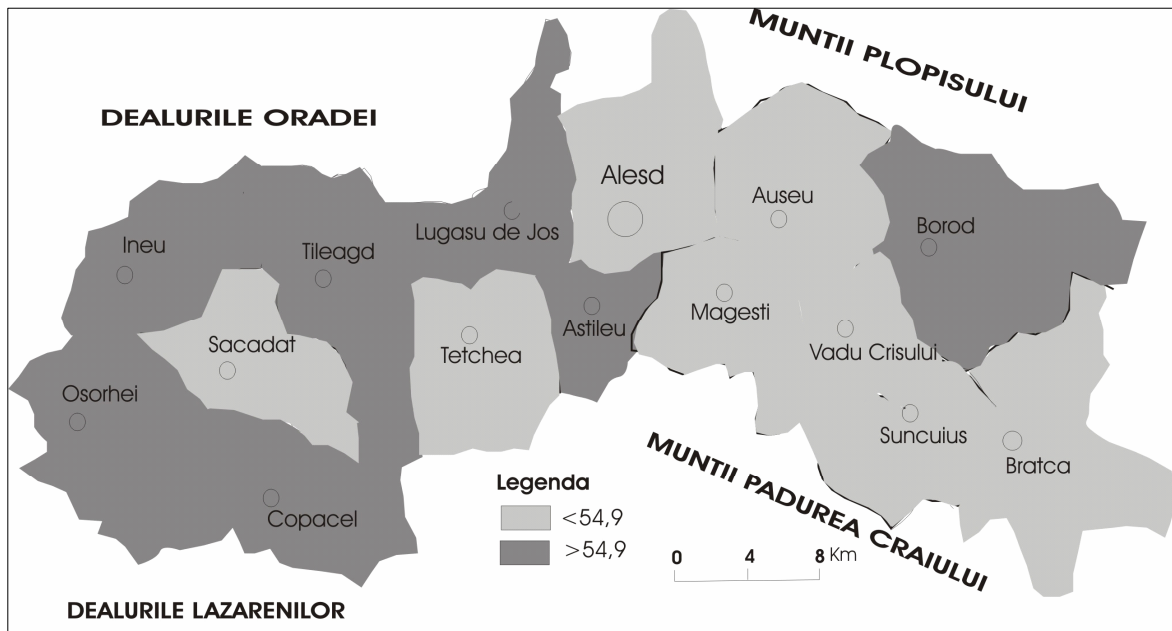


Figure 3. Bratca-Oradea Depression. The male rate of activity in 1992.

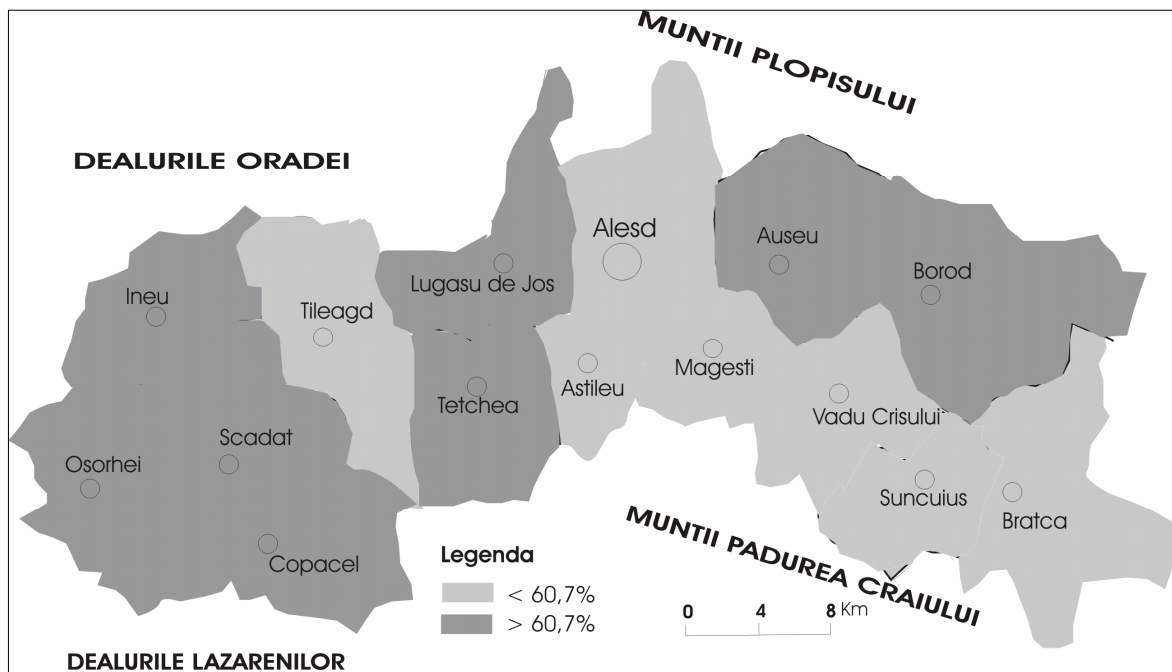


Figure 4. Bratca-Oradea Depression. The male rate of activity in 2002.

Copăcel Commune is at the opposite end because not even one percentage of its active population was employed in this sector.

The service sector registered the most important growth in this period between the two Censuses. The biggest values are registered in a few communes as: Bratca 91,5%, Țețchea 90,2%, Măgești 78%, Copăcel 72%, Aușeu 63,5%. Some decreases of the active population rate in the service sector were registered in Măgești and Aștileu Communes with less than 15%. These spectacular growth is not bounded to the development of this sector the same way, but by the fact that, at a communal level, for the moment the service sector represents the only filed of activity for the population.

As far as the active population is concerned in Oradea-Bratca Depression after the analyses carried out we can conclude the following:

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- the rate of the active population in the total number of population reduced due to the economic changes of the region;
- the high rate of masculine population persists in the active population (over 60%);
- the lower role of the feminine population in the production process;
- small importance of the primary sector in the economy of a region;
- the secondary sector although it is almost disappearing, still represents a main sector of the economy, especially because of the presence of some units of industrial processing;
- the active population of tertiary sector had a spectacular growth due to the declining of the other two sectors, especially of the primary one.

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