AGORA International Journal of Juridical Sciences, http://univagora.ro/jour/index.php/aijjs
ISSN 1843-570X, E-ISSN 2067-7677
Vol. 20, No. 1 (2026), pp. 414-422

ANALYSIS OF ROMANIA'S GDP DURING THE 2024–2026 PERIOD

G. GÁL

Gabriella Gál
Faculty of Economic Sciences, Agora University of Oradea, Romania
E-mail: gabriella.gulyas84@gmail.com

Abstract: *Gross Domestic Product (GDP) represents one of the most important indicators used in macroeconomic analysis to evaluate the economic performance of a country, reflecting the total value of final goods and services produced within an economy during a certain period of time. (Bodea, 2022). In the current economic context, characterized by global uncertainties, inflation, and structural transformations of the economy, the analysis of GDP evolution becomes even more relevant. Romania's economy has undergone significant transformations in recent decades, being influenced by the process of European integration, globalization, and technological development.*

Keywords: *GDP, convergence, process, macro-economic, development.*

1. Introduction

The importance of this indicator is determined by its essential role in analyzing economic evolution, supporting economic policies, and evaluating the level of development of an economy. GDP is used both by economists and governmental institutions to analyze economic dynamics, macroeconomic stability, and the standard of living of the population. (Urziceanu, 2022)

The period 2024–2026 is particularly relevant for Romania's economy because it marks the continuation of the economic convergence process with the developed states of the European Union. During this period, economic growth is influenced by factors such as public investments, the use of European funds, the development of the services sector, and international economic developments.

The purpose of this paper is to analyze the evolution of Romania's GDP during the period 2024–2026. In order to achieve this objective, the paper aims to:

- present the theoretical aspects regarding GDP;
- analyze the evolution of Romania's GDP during the analyzed period;
- identify the factors influencing economic growth.

The analysis is based on statistical data provided by the National Institute of Statistics, the National Bank of Romania, and the European Commission. (National Institute of Statistics, 2026; European Commission, 2026)

Theoretical Aspects Regarding GDP

1.1. The Concept and Definition of GDP

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) represents the total value of final goods and services produced within a national economy during a certain period of time, usually one year or one quarter, being the main indicator used to measure economic performance. (Bodea, 2022) GDP is considered a synthetic macroeconomic indicator because it concentrates the results of economic activity from all sectors of the economy into a single value. For this reason, it is widely used to evaluate economic performance and to analyze the evolution of the economy over time.

GDP can be analyzed from two main perspectives: nominal GDP and real GDP. Nominal GDP expresses the value of production at current market prices and is influenced by variations in the general price level. In contrast, real GDP eliminates the effect of inflation, providing a clearer image of actual economic growth. The difference between nominal GDP and real GDP is essential in macroeconomic analysis because it highlights real economic growth independently of price changes. Therefore, real GDP is frequently used to analyze economic evolution and to compare economic performance over time.

According to economic literature, GDP is a fundamental indicator for analyzing economic growth and business cycles, being used to identify periods of expansion, stagnation, or recession. Moreover, this indicator serves as the basis for the development of economic policies and strategic decisions at both national and international levels. (Urziceanu, 2022)

However, it is important to mention that although GDP provides a general overview of economic performance, it does not fully reflect the population's level of well-being. For this reason, the use of complementary indicators in economic analysis is necessary.

1.2. Methods of Calculating GDP

In macroeconomic analysis, three main methods are used to calculate Gross Domestic Product (GDP), each of them providing a different perspective on economic activity. Although the approaches are distinct, the final result obtained is the same, which confirms the coherent nature of this indicator. (Bodea, 2022)

1. The first method is the production method, which is based on calculating the gross value added generated by all sectors of the economy. Value added represents the difference between the total value of production and the cost of intermediate goods and services used in the production process. This method highlights the contribution of each economic sector to the formation of GDP.
2. The second method is the income method, which calculates GDP by summing the incomes generated during the production process. The main categories of income include employees' wages, company profits, interest, and rents. This method reflects the way in which the results of economic activity are distributed among the different participants in the economic process.
3. The third method is the expenditure method (and the most frequently used in economic analysis), which is based on analyzing the components of aggregate demand. This method expresses GDP as the sum of expenditures made within the economy, according to the following formula:

GDP = C + I + G + (X - M)

where:

C – final household consumption

I – gross investments

G – government expenditures

X – exports

M – imports

This method is particularly important because it allows the analysis of the structure of the economy and highlights the main sources of economic growth, such as consumption or investments. (Urziceanu, 2022)

The three methods of calculating GDP provide complementary perspectives on economic activity, contributing to a more complex understanding of how value is generated and distributed within the economy.

1.3. The Role of GDP in Macroeconomic Analysis

Gross Domestic Product plays an essential role in macroeconomic analysis, being one of the most widely used indicators for evaluating a country's economic performance. It allows the analysis of the evolution of the economy over time and provides relevant information regarding the dynamics of economic activity. GDP growth generally indicates an expansion of economic activity, reflecting increases in production, investments, and consumption. On the other hand, a decrease in GDP may signal the emergence of economic imbalances or even a recession, highlighting a reduction in economic activity.

Another important role of GDP is that it allows the comparison of the level of economic development between different countries or regions. In this regard, the GDP per capita indicator is frequently used to evaluate the standard of living and to analyze differences in economic development. (Bodea, 2022)

Within the European Union, GDP has particular importance, being used as the main indicator in analyzing the process of economic convergence among member states. Moreover, it serves as the basis for the allocation of European funds, contributing to the reduction of regional disparities and supporting economic development. (European Commission, 2026)

At the same time, GDP is used in the development of economic and fiscal policies, providing authorities with essential information for decision-making regarding macroeconomic stability and sustainable economic growth.

In conclusion, GDP represents a fundamental instrument in macroeconomic analysis, having a central role in evaluating economic performance, comparing levels of development, and supporting economic policies.

1.4. The Limitations of the GDP Indicator

Although Gross Domestic Product represents an essential indicator in economic analysis, it has a number of limitations that must be taken into consideration when interpreting it. First of all, GDP does not reflect income distribution within society. Therefore, an economy may record GDP growth without this necessarily leading to an improvement in the standard of living for all social categories. Economic inequalities are not highlighted by this indicator.

Secondly, GDP does not include informal economic activities or unpaid work, such as household activities or the underground economy. These activities may have a significant contribution to the population's well-being, but they are not reflected in the value of GDP. (Urziceanu, 2022)

Moreover, GDP does not take into account environmental impact. Economic growth may be associated with environmental degradation, yet this aspect is not reflected by the indicator, which can lead to an incomplete image of economic development.

Another important aspect is that GDP does not directly reflect the level of social well-being or quality of life. Indicators such as health, education, or social security are not included in GDP calculations, although they play an essential role in evaluating the development of a society.

For these reasons, the analysis of economic development requires the use of complementary indicators, such as the Human Development Index (HDI) or indicators of economic and social sustainability. (Bodea, 2022)

Although GDP remains a fundamental instrument in macroeconomic analysis, its interpretation must be carried out carefully and in correlation with other indicators that provide a more complete image of economic and social development. In addition, GDP does not fully reflect the underground economy, which may lead to an underestimation of the real size of economic activity.

1.5. Factors Influencing GDP and the Structure of GDP by Economic Sectors

The evolution of Gross Domestic Product is influenced by a series of fundamental economic factors that determine the dynamics of economic activity at the national level. Among the main factors influencing the evolution of Romania's GDP is household consumption, which represents one of the main engines of economic growth. Increasing incomes and improvements in the standard of living contribute to stimulating the demand for goods and services. (European Commission, 2026)

Another important factor is represented by public and private investments, which contribute to infrastructure development, economic modernization, and increased productivity. Investments are essential for ensuring sustainable economic growth in the long term. At the same time, exports play a significant role in Romania's economy, contributing to the development of the industrial sector and to the integration of the national economy into the international economic system.

Fiscal and monetary policies also play an essential role, influencing macroeconomic stability, the inflation rate, and the investment environment. In this context, economic stability represents a determining factor for attracting investments and maintaining economic growth. Furthermore, European funds are of particular importance for Romania's economy, contributing to the financing of infrastructure projects, regional development, and economic modernization. Regarding the structure of GDP, Romania's economy is formed through the contribution of several main economic sectors, namely the services sector, the industrial sector, agriculture, and construction.

The services sector represents the largest share in GDP formation, contributing more than 60% to the national economy. It includes activities such as trade, transport, financial services, telecommunications, and the IT sector. (National Institute of Statistics, 2026). The industrial sector occupies an important position, having a significant contribution to exports and economic development, especially through the manufacturing industry. Agriculture, although it has a smaller share in GDP compared to other sectors, remains important for certain regions and for food security.

The construction sector contributes to infrastructure development and plays an important role in supporting economic growth, especially in the context of public investments and European funds. The evolution of Romania's GDP is the result of the interaction between multiple economic factors and the contribution of different economic sectors, highlighting the complexity of the economic development process.

2 – Analysis of Romania's GDP Evolution During the Period 2024–2026

2.1 GDP Evolution and the Economic Growth Rate

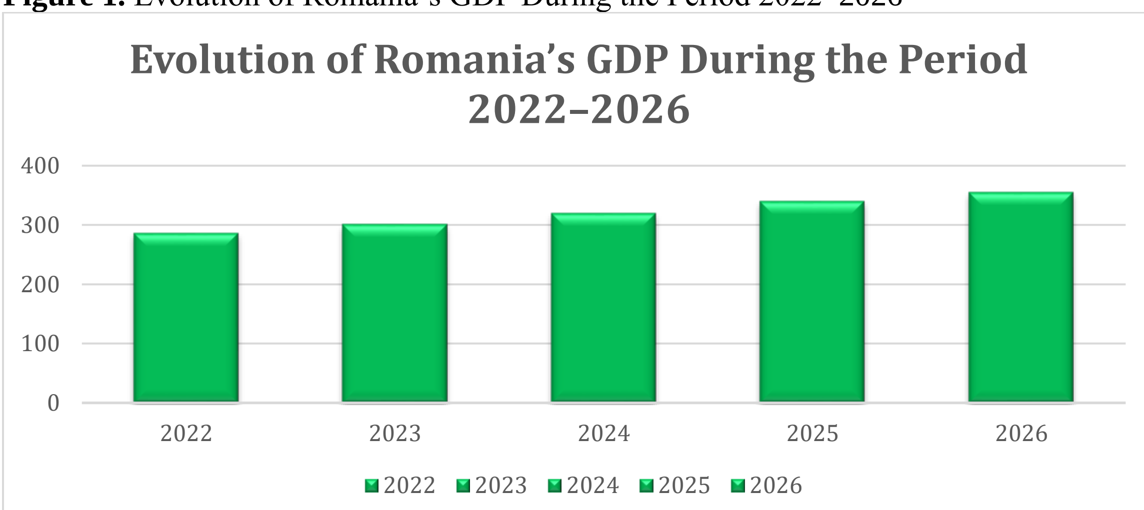
In order to better understand the dynamics of the Romanian economy, it is necessary to analyze the evolution of Gross Domestic Product in recent years, as well as the available data for the period 2022–2025 and the forecasts for 2026. This analysis makes it possible to highlight economic growth trends and the factors influencing the evolution of the economy.

Table 1. Evolution of GDP and Economic Growth Rate in Romania

Year	GDP (approximately)	Economic Growth Rate
2022	~286 billion euros	~4.1%
2023	~301 billion euros	~2.1%
2024	~320 billion euros	~2.5–2.8%
2025	~340 billion euros (provisional data)	~0.6–0.7%
2026*	~355 billion euros (forecast)	~3–3.5%

* Forecasts provided by European and national economic institutions were used.
(National Institute of Statistics, 2026; European Commission, 2026)

Figure 1. Evolution of Romania's GDP During the Period 2022–2026



Source: National Institute of Statistics (INS), own processing based on available data.

The graph highlights the upward trend of Romania's GDP, as well as the slowdown in the growth rate in 2025, followed by a possible recovery in 2026.

The analysis of the data shows that Romania's economy recorded a general growth trend during the analyzed period; however, the pace of economic growth experienced significant fluctuations. Thus, after a relatively high economic growth rate of approximately 4.1% in 2022, the growth rate slowed down in 2023 due to the unfavorable European economic context and inflationary pressures. In 2024, the economy continued to grow, but at a moderate pace, estimated at around 2.5–2.8%.

For the period 2025–2026, the data indicate a significant slowdown in the economic growth rate in 2025, followed by a possible recovery in 2026, supported by public investments and European funds.

The evolution of GDP also reflects the influence of important economic factors such as the level of domestic consumption, investments, the international economic context, and the economic policies implemented at the national level.

Romania's economy is characterized by positive but moderate economic growth, highlighting both the development potential of the economy and its vulnerabilities to external and internal factors.

2.2. GDP Evolution in 2024

In 2024, Romania's economy recorded moderate economic growth in the context of a European economic environment characterized by uncertainty, persistent inflation, and the slowdown of economic activity in several European Union member states.

According to data published by the National Institute of Statistics, Romania's Gross Domestic Product was estimated at approximately 1,766 billion lei at current prices, reflecting economic growth of approximately 2.5–2.8% in real terms compared to the previous year. This evolution indicates the continuation of the economic growth trend, although at a slower pace compared to previous years. (National Institute of Statistics, 2026)

GDP growth in 2024 was mainly supported by domestic consumption, which remains the main engine of the Romanian economy. The increase in population income, the rise in the minimum wage, and salary adjustments in the public sector contributed to maintaining a high level of consumption.

Another important factor supporting economic growth was represented by public investments, especially those financed through European funds, including the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (PNRR). These investments had a significant impact on infrastructure development and on activity within the construction sector.

From a structural perspective, the services sector continued to have the largest contribution to GDP formation, followed by industry and construction. Within the services sector, the field of information and communication technology recorded a positive evolution, contributing to the growth of service exports and to the modernization of the economy.

However, Romania's economy was also influenced by negative factors. Among these were the high inflation rate, which affected the purchasing power of the population, as well as the slowdown of the European economy, which reduced external demand for Romanian exports.

At the same time, macroeconomic imbalances such as the budget deficit and the current account deficit represented challenges for economic stability.

In conclusion, the year 2024 was characterized by positive but moderate economic growth, with Romania's economy demonstrating resilience in the face of a difficult economic context. This evolution confirms that the economy is on an upward trend; however, maintaining a sustainable growth rate depends on the continuation of investments and macroeconomic stability.

In the European context, Romania's economic evolution in 2024 can also be analyzed by comparison with the European Union average. According to estimates by the European Commission, the European Union economy recorded modest economic growth in 2024, estimated at approximately 1%. (European Commission, 2026)

Compared to this value, Romania recorded a higher economic growth rate of approximately 2.5–2.8%, indicating relatively good economic performance at the regional level. This difference reflects the growth potential of the Romanian economy, which is specific to economies undergoing a convergence process.

However, regarding the level of economic development measured by GDP per capita, Romania remains below the European Union average, highlighting the existence of significant economic disparities. Therefore, although the growth rate is higher, the absolute level of economic development is still lower compared to the developed states of the European Union.

2.3. GDP Evolution in 2025

In 2025, Romania's economy recorded a modest evolution within an economic context characterized by uncertainties at the European level and the persistence of macroeconomic imbalances. According to the available data, the economic growth rate was estimated at approximately 0.6–0.7% in real terms, indicating a significant slowdown in the growth rate compared to 2024. (European Commission, 2026)

This evolution reflects the impact of several internal and external factors on the national economy. Externally, the slowdown of the European Union economy affected the demand for Romanian exports, especially in the industrial sector, which contributed to the reduction of the economic growth rate. The relatively high dependence on external markets amplified these effects.

Domestically, household consumption continued to represent an important engine of the economy; however, its growth was limited by the effects of inflation from previous years and by the slower increase in incomes. At the same time, investments, although partially supported by European funds, did not have a sufficiently strong impact to compensate for the slowdown in economic activity.

Another relevant factor was represented by macroeconomic imbalances, such as the high budget deficit and the current account deficit, which negatively influenced economic stability and limited short-term growth potential.

In this context, the economic evolution in 2025 highlights the structural vulnerabilities of Romania's economy, such as dependence on consumption and external demand. At the same time, this period underlines the necessity of strengthening investments and implementing economic policies aimed at supporting sustainable economic growth.

In conclusion, the year 2025 was characterized by reduced economic growth, reflecting both the negative influences of the external economic environment and the internal limitations of the economy. This highlights the importance of adopting appropriate economic measures in order to relaunch economic growth. This evolution confirms that Romania's economy remains sensitive to external shocks and emphasizes the need to reduce dependence on consumption as the main engine of economic growth.

2.4. GDP Evolution and Economic Perspectives in 2026

For the year 2026, economic forecasts indicate the continuation of economic growth in Romania, although at a more moderate pace compared to previous years. According to the estimates of European institutions, GDP growth is expected to be around 0.6–0.7% in real terms, reflecting a trend toward economic stabilization. (European Commission, 2026)

However, the beginning of 2026 was marked by certain negative short-term developments. Economic data indicate that in the first quarter of 2026, GDP recorded a slight decrease compared to the previous quarter, which generated concerns regarding the evolution of the economy. This decrease does not necessarily indicate an annual economic contraction, but rather reflects conjunctural factors such as:

- the slowdown of economic activity at the European level;
- the reduction of external demand for Romanian exports;
- the delayed effects of inflation on consumption;
- adjustments in public and private investments.

At the same time, macroeconomic imbalances such as the budget deficit and the current account deficit continued to place pressure on the economy, influencing the pace of economic growth. Nevertheless, in the medium term, Romania's economy maintains its growth potential, supported by infrastructure investments, European funds, and the development of the services sector, especially the IT field.

In the European context, the European Union economy is estimated to record modest growth of approximately 1–1.5% in 2026, which keeps Romania in a favorable position in terms of economic growth rate. Therefore, even if short-term fluctuations occur, such as the decrease in GDP during the first quarter, the general trend of the Romanian economy remains positive. (European Commission, 2026)

In conclusion, the year 2026 is characterized by moderate economic growth influenced by both internal and external factors, as well as by the existence of short-term economic risks. The evolution of the Romanian economy highlights the necessity of maintaining macroeconomic stability and continuing investments in order to support sustainable economic growth. In the medium term, the recovery of economic growth depends on the economy's capacity to capitalize on investments and maintain macroeconomic stability.

4. Conclusions and Proposals

The analysis of the evolution of Romania's Gross Domestic Product during the period 2024–2026 highlights the fact that the national economy recorded positive growth, although characterized by significant fluctuations in the economic growth rate.

Thus, the year 2024 was marked by moderate economic growth, mainly supported by domestic consumption and public investments, while the year 2025 highlighted a significant slowdown in the growth rate due to the European economic context and macroeconomic imbalances. In 2026, forecasts indicate a possible recovery of economic growth supported by investments and the use of European funds. (National Institute of Statistics, 2026)

The analysis also highlighted the fact that Romania's economy is strongly influenced by factors such as household consumption, investments, exports, and economic policies, as well as by the international economic context. At the same time, the structure of GDP, dominated by the services sector, reflects the process of modernization and transformation of the Romanian economy.

Compared to the European Union average, Romania records a higher economic growth rate; however, the level of economic development, expressed through GDP per capita, remains below the European average, highlighting the existence of economic disparities.

In order to ensure sustainable economic growth and reduce the gaps compared to the European Union, the following measures may be proposed:

- stimulating private investments and attracting foreign direct investments;
- developing infrastructure, especially in the fields of transport and energy;
- efficiently using European funds for the modernization of the economy;
- supporting the productive sector and increasing the competitiveness of the economy;
- developing human capital through investments in education and professional training;
- maintaining macroeconomic stability through balanced fiscal and monetary policies;
- ensuring political stability and a predictable legislative environment that contributes to increasing investor confidence and supporting long-term economic development.

In conclusion, Romania's economy is undergoing a process of economic convergence characterized by significant growth potential, but also by the necessity of managing macroeconomic imbalances in order to ensure long-term stability and development.

REFERENCES

1. Bodea, Gabriela (2022). *Macroeconomics Step by Step* [Macroeconomie step by step]. Cluj-Napoca: Presa Universitară Clujeană Publishing House.
2. Urziceanu, Ramona-Mihaela (2022). *Macroeconomics* [Macroeconomie]. Oradea: Agora University Publishing House.
3. National Bank of Romania – www.bnr.ro
4. National Institute of Statistics – www.insse.ro
5. European Commission – www.ec.europa.eu