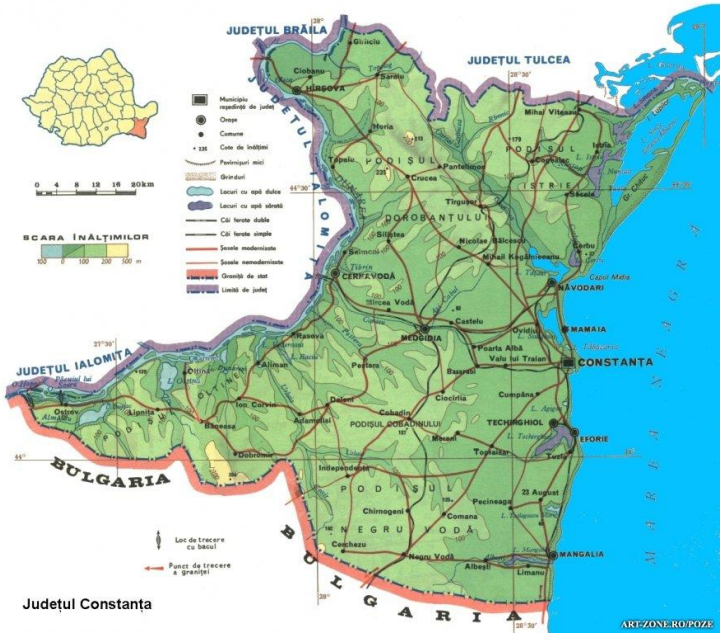
„Strategy for Entrepreneurship and Adaptation – Business and Innovations without Borders“
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ECONOMIC CONDITIONS AND TRENDS OF CONSTANTA COUNTY

The Map of Constanta County



August 2013

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I. CONSTANTA COUNTY - A GENERAL PRESENTATION

I.1. Geography

Constanta County is located in South-Eastern Romania and it is part of South-East Development Region, NUTS II level. It covers 7.071 km^2 area, representing 3% of Romania's territory, and ranks 8^{th} from all Romanian counties.

Besides Danube River (137 km) and Black Sea (82 km) marking the county and bordering it on East and West sides, two other important types of waters play a role in its economy: manmade channels – Danube –Black Sea and Poarta Alba – Midia, and numerous lakes along Black Sea and Danube, many of them natural reserves.

The coastal line is plain in North, with sand belts, and cliffy in South, and progressively develops into highlands, hills and steppe towards Danube. No height exceeds 200 m.

Mineral resources are explored and exploited, such as mineral waters, therapeutic mud and sulphur water, ferrous minerals, raw construction materials, common and phosphate rocks. Black Sea continental shelf holds significant reserves of minerals and hydrocarbons, operated by offshore drilling. Recent significant shale gas resources have been conformed, determining an important social debate.

I.2. Population

The last population census undertaken on 1 July 2011, which final results are under release in 2013, indicates a total population of 684,082 persons, placing Constanta County on 4^{th} rank nationally. Compared to the 18.03.2002 census, the population decreased with 4.34%. The population of Constanta County is concentrated in 3 main towns, 9 smaller towns, and 58 commune. In terms of urbanisation, 68.84% of population lives in towns, the rest of31.15% in rural communities, while 51.27% are women. However, the urban population decreased between the two censuses with 1.4%.

Contanta Town is the main town – capital town, and concentrates 41.49% of the total county population, thus 283,872 persons. Its population decreased as compared to 2002 census by 8,56%.

I.3. Employment

Employment is an important indicator of the county economy and growth. Its breakdown by economic sectors and the weight of tertiary sector in terms of employment (and GDP formation) also indicates if the our economy developed from a poorly developed one to a modern economy and society[1].

[1] Lucian-Liviu Albu, Petre Caraiani, Marioara Iordan, Perspectives for Romanian employment in view of Europa Strategy 2020, National Commission for Prognosis, 2012

Employment by sector shows a stationery situation in the last 5 years[2]:

Year / Sector	Services, including commerce	Agriculture, fisheries, forestry	Industry	Building
2008	49%	20%	19%	12%
2011[3]	49%	22%	18%	11%

These figures should be compared with the Romanian average of 40.8% and the European average of 69.8%[4], and indicate an economy lagging behind other EU Member States, not evolving, on the contrary, moving towards an agricultural economy in the context of the persisting economic crisis and lack of stimulating economic measures.

As labour force availability and its educational level are the main driving force of the economy, Constanta County labour resource consist of 497,000 persons in average for the 2009-2011 period, thus an average of 70% of the population. However, Romania lags far behind the European average in what concerns its higher educated population, with an average of 13.6% of the total population as compared to the European average of 24.5%[5].

I.4. Infrastructure

Constanta County infrastructure is marked by the Black Sea relation with the hinterland. Thus, the main transport routes are concentrated on an East-West corridor linking Constanta Town and Port of Constanta to Cernavoda Town towards Bucharest, and encompassing railway (Constanta – Bucharest normal speed railway) and roads (Constanta – Bucharest highway). Constanta – Bucharest is a 2-hour trip by highway. Going North and South of this corridor, the transport infrastructure becomes less dense, railways being rare or inexistent, yet roads link all localities. Pipeline connections link Constanta and Midia Ports to the major Romanian refineries and to the European network.

As regards water infrastructure, Black Sea is linked to Europe through Danube-Back Sea Channel and Danube River, and the port system include three commercial sea ports and six river ports on the Channel. Port of Constanta is the largest Black Sea and channel port, with an annual operating capacity of over 100 million tons. It is served by 156 berths, of which 140 are operational, and provides accommodation for tankers with capacity of 165,000 dwt and bulk-carriers of 220,000 dwt. Sea port operations and activities are provided by over 700 businesses[6]. Specialised terminals for bulk liquid and solid goods, containers, general goods, RO-RO and ferryboat, passengers, barges and tugs, liquefied petroleum gas, oil and ore are operated in Port of Constanta and its two satellite ports of Midia And

[2] Constanta County Statictical Book 2012, Constanta Directorate of Statistics.
[3] Statistics for 2012 areavailable starting with November 2013
[4] Eurostat
[5] Eurostat
[6] National Maritime Ports Administration SA URL available from www.portofconstantza.com

Mangalia. Also, Port of Constanta is a Free Zone. Port activity is steadily recovering after the 2009 important downgrade[7].

One medium-sized international airport service Constanta County and is located 26 km North of Constanta.

II. MACROECONOMIC INDICATORS

Constanta County ranks first in terms in regional GDP formation, in the last 10 years. As regards the trends of Constanta County macroeconomic indicators, they show a positive trend for the last 5 years[8]:

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Absolute GAV[9] millions RON	12901.1	14494.8	18497.4	17726,1	18856,3
GDP million RON[10]	14653.30	16296.6	20637.00	19553,1	21183,4
GDP / capita RON	20449	22687	28650.44	27068,4	29267,1

The sector with the highest share in GDP in 2010 is service sector, 46%. Industry accounts for 33%, building sector for 16% and agriculture for 5%. Service sector share is under decrease. As regards the share of various types of services out of the service sector, the largest share is taken by transport and storage sector – 31%, followed by commerce 19%, and real estate activities 17%. Tourism accounts for 7%, taking into consideration its seasonal activity, despite its rather large number of employed people and turnover.

III. BUSINESS OVERVIEW

The general overview of Constanta County business activity[11] indicates a mix trend for business demography, their turnover, gross investments and employed personnel in the last 4 years:

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Businesses[12] (number)	21593	23261	22748	20541	19654
Total turnover (million RON)	33924	46222	38916	43051	48909
Total net investments (million RON)	4787	5826	4079	6142	5875
Total employees (number)	180173	185570	169014	152698	161000

[7] Annual Report 2012, National Maritime Ports Administration SA
[8] Constanta County Statictical Book 2012, Constanta Directorate of Statistics
[9] Gross added value
[10] Romanian currency
[11] Including industry, building sector, services and commerce. Agriculture, fisheries and forestry are not integrated in this statistics due to their specific activity undertaken by different types of economic entities.
[12] Businesses registering their annual fiscal report (fiscally active)

Thus, the number of active businesses decreased with 18.71% in the last 5 years, partially due to the continuous economic difficulties that determined exits, volunteer radiations of companies with no activity or temporary suspension of activity, as well as to changing business legislation. Although their number decreased, the total turnover increased, indicating an increase in the volume of business activity partially due to an important pace of public investments which was one of the highest in region – rate of investment 24.6% of GDP, compared to the average of 20.9% in EU-10[13]. Also, the number of employees started in 2011 to recover and increase. However, net investments continue to decrease after an occasional recover in 2010; however, investments reported in 2010 refer to investment projects finalised in 2010 that may have been started long before. These figures confirm the national macroeconomic evolution: after two year of decline, economic growth resumed in 2011 with 2.5%, and, despite external constraints, the forecast indicates the continuation of this growth by a higher pace as compared to the EU-27, for 2012-2013 period[14].

As regards statistics by sector, the following analysis has been made for 2011[15]: grey - sector in decrease, light green – sector in increase, and white stationary during the period 2009-2011.

2011	**Businesses (No.)**	**Turnover (RON)**	**Employees (No.)**	**Gross investments (RON)**
Agriculture, fishery and forestry	747.00	1,249,309,727.00	4,888.00	399,949,036.00
Mining and quarrying	59.00	941,409,922.00	1,772.00	302,673,687.00[16]
Manufacturing industries	1,551.00	15,901,507,334.00	27,549.00	853,943,428.00[17]
Energy, waste mangement and water management	309.00	3,809,575,583.00	10,266.00	737,942,531.00
Construction sector	1,580.00	3,256,387,517.00	17,596.00	1,807,806,573.00
Commerce	7,069.00	17,164,466,328.00	34,619.00	654,274,389.00
Transport and storage	2,058.00	3,556,087,770.00	24,585.00	647,445,620.00
Tourism (hotels and restaurants)	1,556.00	785,899,217.00	11,092.00	172,956,392.00
Services	4,725.00	2,245,274,109.00	28,633.00	298,722,995.00[18]
TOTAL	**19,654.00**	**48,909,917,507.00**	**161,000.00**	**5,875,714,651.00**

This result confirms that Constanta County economy, like all Romanian economy, resumed growth in 2011.

The most dynamic sector proved „Energy, waste mangement and water management" which is a public sector by definition, yet importanta investment are undertaken by private comanies too in renewable energy, with vast wind parks.

[13] National Bank of Romania, Report on financial stability 2012
[14] Idem 11
[15] Constanta Directorate of Statistics, data by demand
[16] Partially clasified
[17] Idem 16
[18] Idem 16

IV. ECONOMY OF CONSTANTA COUNTY

In order to depict the most dynamic and important sectors in Constanta County, a combination of indicators should be analysed by sector and sub-sector, such as number of companies, their turnover, gross investments and employees, by time-series covering the last 3 available years in terms of statistics 2011, 2010, 2009[19]. Also, official forecasts[20] for each sector have been mentioned, so that a complete trend to be determined.

IV.1. Agriculture, fishery and forestry

Agriculture is a traditional branch in Constanta county, and the secondary sector in terms of contribution to County's GDP. Natural conditions allow for plant cultivation (corn, wheat, barley, sunflower, and industrial plants), grape and fruits, and animal breeding (mainly sheep, goats, poultry).

Fisheries sector include marine and in-land waters fisheries referring to Danube River solely. Marine fishery is underdeveloped[21], mainly undertaken by small-scale fishing boats using traditional gears (188 boats) and only two fishing vessels over 12 m long using efficient gears. In-land fishery also relies on small-scale traditional boats and gears. Productivity is low and insignificant for the county economy.

Constanta County forests cover only 5.5% of the total surface[22] by the end of 2011, and are stagnating in recent years. Very reduced forestry activities are undertaken in Constanta County, based on local forests.

Agriculture, fishery and forestry	Businesses (No.)	Turnover (RON)	Employees (No.)	Gross investments (RON)
2009	745	679,372,947	5669	181,400,904
2010	728	882,185,243	5124	206,871,671
2011	747	1,249,309,727	4888	399,949,036

The sector is under progress, all indicators show its strengthening, except for the number of employees that is linked to important investments increasing mechanisation and efficiency, thus reducing the human resource need. European funding played an important role for this sector investments.

In terms of forecast, the gross added value generated by agriculture, fishery and forestry will decrease by 21% in 2012 as compared to 2011, while in 2013 – 2016 will increase, with the highest rate of 6.4% in 2013 followed by moderate rates around 1%.

[19] Constanta Directorate of Statistics, statistics by demand
[20] Spring Forecast 2013, National Commission for Prognosis
[21] Community Fleet Register as per 15.08.2013
[22] Constanta County Statictical Book 2012, Constanta Directorate of Statistics.

IV.2. Manufacturing industry

Constanta County has a strong industrial sector, although contributing the third to the GDP formation, with several key industries that concentrate the turnover and gross investments: chemical and petrochemical industry concentrating both the highest turnover and gross investments in the last years, followed by shipbuilding, food industry, building materials industry. Territorial distribution highlights two areas of industrial concentrations, respectively Constanta-Navodari and Constanta - Medgidia - Cernavoda, also concentrating the urban localities of the county.

General indicators for the manufacturing industry:

Manfacturing industry	Businesses (No.)	Turnover (RON)	Employees (No.)	Gross investments (RON)
2009	1,914	12,192,777,804	32,864	1,009,595,118
2010	1,679	11,760,504,004	28,338	853,212,226
2011	1,551	15,901,507,334	27,549	853,943,428

In general terms, manufacturing industry is under a slow recovery process to be confirmed in 2013-2014, indicated by an increase of its cumulative turnover and investments in 2011, compared to 2010. However, the number of businesses and employees is under constant decrease, possibly indicating a more effective use of resources.

A statistical analysis by sub-sector and industry in terms of 2011 results and their evolution in period 2009-2011 is needed in order to identify the most dynamic ones.

Statistical results in 2011 – legend: grey decrease, light green increase and white stationary in 2009-2011 period.

Manfacturing industry	Businesses (No.)	Turnover (RON)	Employees (No.)	Gross investments (RON)
Food industry	302	970.378.927,00	5067	43.106.080,00
Beverage industry	17	299.366.837,00	455	12.127.423,00
Tabacco industry	1	49.532,00	2	Clasified
Textile industry	24	13.678.426,00	94	2.986.031,00
Wearing apparel industry	73	54.197.316,00	1162	2.498.155,00
Leather and related products industry	11	3.769.864,00	111	501.855,00
Manufacture of wood and of products of wood and cork, except furniture; manufacture of articles of straw and plaiting materials	49	28.235.754,00	319	1.637.441,00
Paper and paper products industry	15	6.118.113,00	67	34.963,00
Printing and reproduction of recorded	53	54.820.237,00	375	2.459.110,00

media				
Coke and refined petroleum products industry	4	9.481.422.671,00	900	558.024.746,00
Chemicals and chemical products industry	21	1.185.665.088,00	727	30.218.757,00
Manufacture of basic pharmaceutical products and pharmaceutical preparations	3	33.484.327,00	137	Clasified
Rubber and plastic products industry	126	215.828.168,00	1023	16.209.689,00
Manufacture of other non-metallic mineral products	86	667.539.111,00	1514	93.018.566,00
Metalurgy	9	73.207.064,00	174	8.660.592,00
Metal products, except machinery and equipment industry	180	302.228.291,00	2592	17.039.108,00
Computer, electronic and optical products industry	13	15.604.769,00	51	207.023,00
Electric equipment industry	7	1.570.981,00	13	220.027,00
Manufacture of machinery and equipment n.e.c.	20	33.341.547,00	321	2.729.214,00
Manufacture of motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers	5	1.333.544,00	12	35.045,00
Manufacture of other transport equipment	148	1.877.888.008,00	5505	33.035.392,00
Furniture industry	97	44.231.492,00	651	2.153.577,00
Other industrial activities	68	16.383.566,00	306	889.047,00
Repair and installation of machinery and equipment	219	521.163.701,00	5971	26.151.587,00
TOTAL	1551	15.901.507.334,00	27549	853.943.428,00

This analysis indicates the following more relevant sectors in terms of their turnover and net investment contribution:

Coke and refined petroleum products industry
Manufacture of other transport equipment (shipbuilding)
Manufacture of other non-metallic mineral products (building materials), and
Food Industry

Coke and refined petroleum products industry is based on both internal oil production through offshore platforms providing for up to 28% of the domestic demand, and imports. All processing units belong to Rompetrol Petrochemicals Refining, member of Rompetrol Group which sole shareholder is national oil and gas company of Kazakhstan, KazMunayGaz. Over 5 mil. tonnes of crude oil and derivatives[23] are processed annually in Constanta and Romania.

Despite its important contribution to the general economic results of Constanta County, shipbuilding industry has undergone a contraction process over the last years, mainly due to the severe economic and financial crisis, weak economic fundamentals, euro zone debt crisis, and reduced availability of

[23] Rompetrol Group, Communication and Public Relations Department, press-release 1.08.2013

shipping loans. Prognosis indicate the same bleak of continued volatility in the European capital markets, tighter ship financing, and continued fall in new building prices[24]. Despite reduction of businesses number, employees' number and investments, building materials industry started to recover in 2011, related to the whole construction sector evolution.

Food industry is a large and employees intensive industry, based both on local and internal agricultural production as well as imports. Milling and bakery sub-industry accounts for over 50% of all indicators of food industry, followed by milk and dairy products, meat and meat products, and vegetable oils and fats.

Other industries under positive trend are *metal products, except machinery and equipment industry*, *manufacture of machinery and equipment n.e.c. , metalurgy* – all providing for other economic activities and indicating a certain general recovery, and *wood and furniture industry* – providing for both economic activities and households, although the major production address other economic activities.

In terms of forecast, the gross added value generated by industry will decrease by 1.6% in 2012 as compared to 2011, while in 2013 – 2016 will increase progressively, with the highest rate of 2.84% in 2016.

Industrial production will increase yearly until 2016, with rates between 1.9% in 2014 up to 2.9% in 2016. Detailing this forecast by industry, excepting for repair and installation of machinery and equipment which will be the most dynamic sector (up to 22.5% increase in 2016 as compared to 2015), pharmaceutical industry is forecast with the highest rate of production development (14.5% in 2016), followed by shipbuilding industry, building materials, and moderate rates for beverages, food industry, manufacturing of computers, machinery and equipment, and chemicals. The only industry with a decrease forecast is „ Printing and reproduction of recorded media".

IV.3. Construction sector

Construction sector includes such activities as construction of residential and non-residential buildings (commercial and industrial buildings), civil engineering constructions (roads, railways and bridges, water resource constructions), and specialised constructions (demolition, electrical, plumbing and other construction installation activities, building completion and finishing, etc.)

This sector has been under a clear and motivated contraction, due to the persistence of the economic crisis that determined reduced investments in all types of building and infrastructure investments, both initiated by private or public entities. However, important major projects financed by European funds or projects keeping with private expansion strategies have continued in such areas as water resources, renewable energy, commerce, roads, thus allowing for this sector to maintain a decent activity and, also,

24 Global Shipbuilding Market Report: 2012 Edition, Research and Markets Inc., Dublin, Ireland. Available from URL http://www.researchandmarkets.com/reports/2236699/global_shipbuilding_market_report_2012_edition

for those dependent sectors placed in the vertical chain – building materials, metallic structures, building machines and equipment, etc.

Statistics for Constanta County show a recovery on 2011 as compared to 2010, and a detailed analysis indicated that civil engineering project and constructions are the main generator of this recovery, taking into consideration the highway Bucharest – Constanta finalisation, a large water supply and waste water project, as well as numerous smaller and externally financed roads, streets, and water projects in rural areas.

Construction sector	Businesses (No.)	Turnover (RON)	Employees (No.)	Gross investments (RON)
2009	2,303.00	3,066,868,451.00	21,661.00	1.004.309.261,00
2010	1,834.00	2,957,399,803.00	17,471.00	268,385,870.00
2011	1,580.00	3.256.387.517,00	17,596.00	1,807,806,573.00

Construction companies applied several solutions to overpass the harsh period of crisis, as follows:

- Combining the resources in order to target and share important public procurement opportunities for larger public project
- Accepting the role of subcontractors for large consortia acting as general contractor for major projects undertaken in Constanta county
- Jointly initiating projects for locally manufacturing resources of common interests, such as building materials or using on renting base building equipment.

In terms of forecast, the gross added value generated by construction sector will decrease by 1.3% in 2012 as compared to 2011, while in 2013 – 2016 will increase progressively, with the highest rate of 5.3% in 2015.

The volume of construction works will steadily increase, with a highest weight of the general repairs works, followed by new construction works, and current repair and maintenance works. By type of construction, the residential buildings will prevail until 2016, followed by civil engineering constructions and non-residential buildings, with a slower raise of the volume.

IV.4. Commerce

Commerce is an area of intense activity based on the high number of inhabitants, their purchasing power over the national average, and a summer concentration of tourist activity along Black Sea coast.

This sector includes three types of activities: automotive sale and repair activities, retail and wholesale. Recent opening of large commercial units – super and hyper-markets ensured the growth of this sector. Also, the dense network of small, medium and large shopping centres determines a strong competition and generates end-user oriented business strategies for market adaptation.

Commerce	Businesses (No.)	Turnover (RON)	Employees (No.)	Gross investments (RON)
2009	8,545.00	13,067,962,030.00	39,098.00	513,072,781.00
2010	7,747.00	15,885,066,479.00	34,362.00	302,015,216.00
2011	7,069.00	17,164,466,328.00	34,619.00	654,274,389.00

Out of the three types of activities, both retail and wholesale are under a positive trend in what regards the turnover and investments, in 2011 as compared to the previous years, despite the decrease of population´ s purchase power and effects of reducing public jobs especially in 2010. Price policy plays an important role in achieving this trend.

In terms of forecast, the gross added value generated by commerce and services, as a whole, will slowly increase annually in period 2012 – 2016, with the highest rate of 2.8% in 2016.

IV.5. Transport and storage

Transport and storage	Businesses (No.)	Turnover (RON)	Employees (No.)	Gross investments (RON)
2009	2.226,00	3,441,794,270.00	24,148.00	431,233,922.00
2010	2,124.00	3,631,956,470.00	22,611.00	477,070,632.00
2011	2,058.00	3,556,087,770.00	24,585.00	647,445,620.00

The major importance of transport and storage sector in Constanta County economy is due to the intense activity in the Black Sea ports, transfer and storage of goods and goods that arrive and depart to the destination through national networks of road, rail, inland waterways, and piping. Transport and storage are a valuable contribution to county economic indicators.

A more detailed insight of the sector reveals that water transport sub-sector remained the most affected industry, notably for in-land waters transport, during 2009-2011. Port of Constanta statistics confirms this evolution, and register a slight recovery in 2012, at both marine and river traffic[25]. However, excepting for river transport, the total and marine figure have not reached the 2008 level. Port investments concluded in 2012 or under implementation, also contributing to a more efficient port operation and businesses activities include the following:

Northern Breakwater of Constantza Port - extension by 1,050 m, improving the operating conditions by decreasing the wave disturbance in the port water domain

Road bridge on the Danube-Black Sea Canal, connecting the port with the Bucharest-Constanta highway

Construction of a systematized railway for the river-maritime sector of Constanta Port, improving the internal rail transport

[25] Annual Report 2012, National Maritime Ports Administration SA

Southward Extension of the Lighter Berth in the Port of Constantza

Also, a Master Plan of Port of Constanta allows for a more coherent development and marketing.

Road transport activity is also in a positive pace, despite the reduction of investments: its turnover and number of employees increased in the last years, relating to the positive trend of commerce, including exports and imports.

Nevertheless, the most dynamic sub-sector in this activity is „storage and support transport-related activities", which turnover increased by 8.59%, as well as investments by 98%, almost double, in 2011 as compared to 2009. Among the factors favouring the evolution of this sub-sector are the agricultural activity requiring new storage units that have been built in recent years, the construction of Bucharest – Constanta highway, increased activity in the petrochemical and metallurgy, and large retail chains expanding network (Cora, Selgros, Profi, Penny, Real, Baumax, etc).

IV.6. Tourism

Besides port – transport – storage activities, and petrochemical sector, tourism industry is one of the most visible and tangible economic activity, due to its local and temporary employment effect determined by a two-month job number increase by thousands both in tourism industry as well as in support and connected industries – commerce, transport, services - especially tourist services, etc.

Tourism	Businesses (No.)	Turnover (RON)	Employees (No.)	Gross investments (RON)
2009	1,794.00	894,066,441.00	11,755.00	208,564,776.00
2010	1.711,00	766,445,069.00	10,737.00	259,801,794.00
2011	1.556,00	785,899,217.00	11,092.00	172,956,392.00

Despite the decrease of tourist businesses and their investments in tourism infrastructure – accommodation and restoration – the sector is under a slight recovery in what concerns the turnover and employees.

Tourism activity is mainly concentrated along the coast line, and represents app. 43% of the total Romanian accommodation capacity, attracting over 60% of the tourist national circulation. Fifteen tourist resorts and localities are located in the Black Sea coast, of which 13 are classified as national resorts. New sun & sea sites develop in Northern coast, in search for more wild and untouched tourist places. Almost 700 accommodation units (679) in Constanta County offered 83751 accommodation places in July 2011[26].

[26] [26] Constanta County Statictical Book 2012, Constanta Directorate of Statistics

Besides sun & sea tourism, a historically important type of tourism develops in 4 localities, namely medical treatment and wellness tourism, taking advantage of the local lake mud and water of Lake Techirghiol, as well as of the sea resources. The current trend towards cultural tourism and eco-tourism valorise over 35 natural reserves – lakes, forests, etc. – and important and spectacular historical sites. Rural areas along Danube River are also under a tourism development trend.

Efforts are made by the industry and most of the local authorities to extend the tourist season that remains linked to summer period and school summer holiday. Events are the preferred method of extending the season, while individual accommodation units propose their own tourist offers, including one-day trips, visits to fairs and exhibitions, spa services, etc. All-inclusive offer is not a popular instrument so far.

However, Romania, as a whole, remains a mid-ranking tourist destination, as indicated by The Travel & Tourism Competitiveness Report 2013 issued by the World Economic Forum[27] that places Romania on rank 68 out of 140 analysed countries, and awarding it with 4 point our of 7 for competitiveness.
The infrastructure facilitates the tourism activity, by the proximity of International Airport "Mihail Kogalniceanu", Bucharest – Constanta highway, a network of national and county roads, with good access to major sights.

IV.7. Services

Services	Businesses (No.)	Turnover (RON)	Employees (No.)	Gross investments (RON)
2009	5,643.00	2,020,164,241.00	28,072.00	412,478,401.00
2010	5,086.00	2,201,849,355.00	27,486.00	284,857,955.00
2011	4,725.00	2,245,274,109.00	28,633.00	298,722,995.00

The general positive trend of the service sector is demonstrated. If detailing the analysis, several types of services are on a positive trend: telecommunication, film production, research and technical development, advertising, veterinary activities, head hunting, tour operating, health, and sport and leisure. On the contrary, real estate services, legal and accountancy, management and business consultancy and education are on a negative trend in period 2009-2011.

IV.8. Other activities

Undertaken mainly by public companies, electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply, and water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities are also under a positive trend, and marked by important investments in the last years, mainly financed by European structural funds or funds addressing rural development. Numerous employees work in this sector, and its indicators place the sector among the mid-contributors to the county economy.

[27] Available from URL http://www.weforum.org/reports/travel-tourism-competitiveness-report-2013

A rather discreet sector is mining and quarrying activity, with very few companies and indicators under decrease.

V. CONCLUSIONS ON CONSTANTA COUNTY MOST DYNAMIC AD COMPETITIVE ECONOMIC SECTORS

As presented in Chapter III. Business overview, the most of the economic sectors in Constanta County are under a positive trend for the last 1-2 years, while the forecast for the period 2013-2016 indicates a general slow increase in macroeconomic indicators by all sectors, as well as in industrial production or volume of construction works.

In terms of absolute figures, as presented in Chapter IV. Economy of Constanta County, several sectors have been increasing at a greater pace and with a higher rate, as follows:

Commerce	116.6%
Agriculture, fishery, forestry	93.3%
Transport and storage	35.7%

Under this context, in order to identify the most relevant and *specific* sector in Constanta County, additional analysis should be undertaken. Competitive and natural advantages should be taken into consideration, namely over 70 km of coast by the Black Sea and the largest Black Sea port in terms of operating capacity, direct connection between Black Sea and Danube via Danube - Black Sea Channel, important tourist natural and manmade resources (large sandy beaches, health and spa natural resources, cultural and historical heritage, protected areas), flat agricultural land, favourable conditions for viticulture, numerous labour force, broad and diversified educational framework, dynamic business environment.

As Port of Constanta and its multi-level connections with the hinterland determine a diverse and solid vertical chain of the economic activity, including industry, transport and storage, services, etc. the study recommends transport and storage sector to be approached and further developed in „Strategy for Entrepreneurship and Adaptation – Business and Innovations without Borders“ Project.

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