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Investor Guide



IAȘI COUNTY COUNCIL

IAȘI CITY HALL

CITY HALL OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF IAȘI

Investor Guide — Iași County — 2026 Edition



This edition of the Investor Guide was produced with the contribution of the organisations below.

Invest in Iași

investiniasi.ro

Invest in Iași is an initiative launched in 2006 and subsequently turned into an association, whose purpose is to promote the economic potential of the region and to attract strategic investment. Through its projects, the organisation supports the development of the local business community and contributes to positioning Iași as a benchmark technological, industrial and educational hub in Central and Eastern Europe.

Iași Chamber of Commerce and Industry

cciasi.ro

The main organisation representing and supporting the local business community. Economic promotion and investment attraction. Business consultancy, sectoral economic data, company incorporation, commercial arbitration, foreign trade documents. Organisation of business events and vocational training programmes.

Bloom Communication S.R.L. Iași

bloomcom.ro

Bloom Communication is a branding, strategy, marketing and integrated 360 communication company. With over 20 years of experience, Bloom has delivered more than 500 projects across 40 industries for national and international brands, supporting the structural transformation of businesses.

Foreword





Marius Alexa

President, Invest in Iași Association

Dear investors and international partners,

I invite you to discover Iași, the most important economic, technological and educational pole in eastern Romania and a strategic gateway of the European Union. Iași is a young, dynamic city, deeply anchored in innovation, a place where entrepreneurial energy blends naturally with a prestigious academic tradition.

Our main asset, which we place at the disposal of global companies, is its human resources. Iași benefits from a strong educational ecosystem, in which the academic world works closely with the private sector. This knowledge hub continuously supplies the local market with well-trained specialists in engineering, software development, applied research and management, ready to support high value-added projects.

The guide you have before you offers a transparent and practical picture of the advantages our county offers to international capital. From modern industrial parks and class A logistics platforms to the air connectivity provided by the country's second regional airport and attractive financial incentives for investment, Iași has all the ingredients needed to sustain a successful business.

I extend an open invitation to all investors and international companies to discover the potential of our community. We are fully prepared to welcome foreign capital, advanced know-how and the brilliant minds with whom we can develop large-scale projects, generating greater prosperity for the entire region.

Welcome to Iași: the most dynamic economic hub in the east of the European Union

We look forward to welcoming you to Iași, to build lasting partnerships together!

Marius Alexa



Iași is one of the European counties with the greatest growth potential, and our message to investors is simple: you are welcome in Iași.

We have a young, well-trained community, over 50,000 students every year and a developing ecosystem in fields such as IT, technology, engineering, health and research. At the same time, major investment in infrastructure, the expansion of Iași International Airport and the development of road connections open new opportunities for the economy and for the business environment.

From residential and hotel projects to industrial, logistics and mixed-use developments, Iași offers room for long-term investment and for projects capable of transforming the city.

We want investors who will grow together with Iași. We are open to dialogue, to partnerships and to ideas that bring value to our community.

Iași is not merely a developing market. It is a city with talent, energy, connectivity and European ambition.

Costel Alexe

President of the Iași County Council

Iași — an investment destination with prospects

We invite you to discover Iași, to invest here and to become part of the story of the county's next stage of development. Iași awaits you!

Costel Alexe



Mihai Chirica

Mayor of the Municipality of Iași

Dear partners,

As you know, Iași is a city with a strong identity, with a rich history and culture and with development potential commensurate with its role as the main economic, academic, medical and cultural centre of the Moldavia region. We want this potential to translate into concrete opportunities for the community, and the business environment is an essential engine of the city's development.

What does the city offer you? What does the City Hall offer you? It offers you one of the most qualified workforces in Romania! It offers you full support from the local administration, a durable and predictable partnership, at the lowest possible cost! In addition, you have access to one of the largest markets in the east of the European Union, with the best connections!

It is not only we who say so; the World Bank mentions it too, having declared us a "magnet city". Oxford Economics says it too, having placed Iași in the top of the cities with the highest economic growth in the European Union in recent years.

I invite you to see Iași not merely as a city of tradition and an important regional centre, but as a city of opportunity, which looks to the future with confidence and is ready to receive new investment and new partners.

In Iași, you will always be winners!

With friendship,

Mihai Chirica



Paul Butnariu

President of the Iași Chamber of Commerce and Industry

With a GDP of EUR 13.03 billion, a population of 760,774 inhabitants, a metropolitan area of 423,154 inhabitants and over 50,000 students, Iași offers valuable and continuously renewed human capital. But beyond the figures, what sets Iași apart is its energy, that blend of tradition and innovation, of academia and entrepreneurship, the universities being genuine economic engines of the community.

Urban investment, the 380,000 sqm of class A offices, the industrial platforms and parks and the modernisation of the Airport provide the conditions for the development of creative industries, for the production of high value-added goods and services, turning Iași into a development centre of European standing, with top dynamics over the last 10 years.

The disadvantageous position on the eastern border of the European Union is now turning into a historic, geostrategic, logistical and economic opportunity, with the enlargement of the European Union and the reconstruction of Ukraine.

Iași offers all the ingredients, strengths and opportunities for smart investment in the context of these major geo-economic changes: qualified human capital, competitive costs, the openness of the business community and of the administrative environment, the consolidation of its role as a strategic regional hub. Moreover, with the development of transport and energy infrastructure, new investment opportunities are opening up.

The Investor Guide presents all these elements in a clear, useful and concise form to those considering the possibility of an investment in Iași.

The Iași Chamber of Commerce and Industry, as representative of the business community, takes on the role of partner to interested investors, providing information and business contacts and facilitating dialogue with the relevant institutions. Together for your business!

Invest wisely in Iași!

Paul Butnariu

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The economic data presented in this guide come from official sources. Each indicator is accompanied by a numerical reference to the bibliography at the end of the work, indicating the source, the publication and the exact place from which the information was taken. For cyclical indicators — wages, employment, unemployment, foreign trade — the data reflect the most recent values published at the date of writing, August 2026. For the regional accounts, the last year with official data published at county level is 2024, with provisional values; the value for 2025 is an estimate and those for 2026–2029 are forecasts of the National Commission for Strategy and Prognosis.

Iași County in figures

01

This overview brings together, by theme, the benchmark figures of Iași County. Each figure is explained in the chapters that follow, and the source is indicated by a reference to the bibliography at the end of the guide. The data reflect the most recent values published at the time of drafting, August 2026.

Location and territory

5,477 km²
the area of the county, i.e. 2.3% of Romania's territory[1]

98 localities
two municipalities, three towns and 93 communes with 418 villages[1]

423,154 inhabitants
in Iași Metropolitan Area, at the 2021 census[2]

2,490 km
of public roads, of which 356 km of national roads[15]

26 destinations
direct air destinations, operated by seven airlines, from the country's third airport[19]

2.56 million
crossings by persons through the Sculeni border point, in 2025[20]

The easternmost large city of the European Union, 20 kilometres from the border with the Republic of Moldova, on the TEN-T Core trans-European corridor of the future A8 motorway.

Population and labour force

760,774 inhabitants
resident population at the 2021 census — 2nd among the country's counties[2]

271.4 thousand
civilian employed population estimated for 2025 — first in the region, fifth in the country[4]

199,259 employees
the figure at the end of April 2026 — fifth in the country, after Bucharest, Cluj, Timiș and Ilfov[11]

5,230 lei
average monthly net wage, April 2026 — the highest in the North-East Region[11]

3.39 %
registered unemployment rate, June 2026 — less than half the regional average[12]

60,000 associates
and shareholders in active firms at the end of 2025, over a third under 40[7]

The deepest pool of qualified labour in eastern Romania: 30% of the employees of the North-East Region and the highest wages of the six counties.

The county economy

65.7 bn lei
gross domestic product estimated for 2025, that is EUR 13.03 billion[4]

5th economy
county economy of Romania and the first in the North-East Region, with 32.0% of the regional product[4]

16,656 euro
gross domestic product per capita in 2025 — almost one third above the regional average[4]

25,349 firms
active commercial companies in 2025, up by 47% against 2019[7]

11.38 bn euro
combined turnover of active firms in 2025, from EUR 6.55 billion in 2019[7]

118,514 employees
in the active commercial companies of the county, 2025[7]

1.08 bn euro
exports in 2025, up by 3.6% against the previous year[10]

67.2 %
of exports are destined for the European Union; 88.6% remain in Europe[10]

50.4 %
of exports are machinery, appliances and equipment; 13.3% chemical products[10]

An economy that has doubled its turnover in six years, with services, trade, construction, IT&C and industry as its pillars, and with exports of over one billion euro for the second consecutive year.

Foreign investment and major companies

795 million euro

the stock of foreign direct investment at the end of 2024[6]

20 companies

with foreign capital each exceeded RON 100 million in turnover in 2024[45]

10 countries

of origin of the capital in the top 20 foreign companies — from the United States to Belgium and Türkiye[45]

1.78 bn lei

the turnover of Phinia Delphi România in 2025, the county's largest company[45]

3,166 employees

at Amazon Development Center, the largest private employer, present since 2005[45]

2,800 engineers

at the Aumovio automotive electronics centre, spun off from the Continental group[26]

Phinia, Amazon, Aumovio, Lear, Grenzebach, IG Watteeuw, BMT Aerospace, Mennekes, Omco, Rompak, Brikston, SCC, Signant Health, Centric: capital from three continents, in industry, technology and services.

Tax and investment incentives

50 %

regional State aid intensity for large enterprises; 60% for medium-sized, 70% for small ones[25]

+10 pp

increase in intensity for investments in strategic technologies, the STEP platform[25]

300,000 euro

the de minimis aid ceiling per single undertaking, over three years[25]

16 %

land tax and building tax for residents of titled industrial parks[24] corporate income tax; 1% on income for micro-enterprises; 10% tax on wages[25]

0 lei

8 schemes

of State aid established by Emergency Ordinance No 8/2026, with budgets of billions of euro[36]

Three public industrial parks, with 186,155 sqm of buildable land at Lețcani, with a land use fee of EUR 1.70 and an administration fee from EUR 1.00 per square metre per year, plus private platforms with class A premises immediately available.

Connectivity and infrastructure

2026 A7

the Adjud – Bacău stretch opens on 31 August; the motorway reaches Pașcani in 2027[21]

93 km

of A8 motorway on the county's territory, on the TEN-T Core trans-European corridor[21]

2031 A7 + A8

the horizon for full completion of the two motorways[21]

2 million passengers

a year at Iași International Airport, with a new terminal of 31,250 sqm[19]

316 km

of railway in operation, of which 144 electrified; electrification to the border, approved[15]

850 beds

the Regional Emergency Hospital, under construction, with a completion deadline of 2030[31]

The Bucharest – Bacău motorway has been continuous since 31 August 2026, the Iași East Bypass and the metropolitan train are in preparation, and the airport serves 26 direct destinations.

Education and research

1860

Alexandru Ioan Cuza University — Romania's first modern university[17]

7 universities

five state and two accredited private, with over 50,000 students[17]

24,049 students

at Alexandru Ioan Cuza University — the country's fourth university[17]

600 universities

partner universities abroad of Alexandru Ioan Cuza University[17]

82.6 %

the 2026 baccalaureate pass rate — 4th nationally, with 1,364 average marks above 9[18]

6+4 institutes and centres

of the Romanian Academy in Iași, alongside the Petru Poni Institute, dating from 1949[44]

The largest engineering centre in eastern Romania: computer science, automation, electronics, mechanics, chemistry, medicine and life sciences, with research centres of international groups.

Lifestyle

130,000 sqm

8 class A office buildings in the Palas and Palas Campus perimeter, with over 70 companies[26]

60,000 sqm

Palas Campus — the largest office building in Romania at its inauguration in 2023[26]

2,074 euro/sqm

the price of new housing, June 2026 — the most affordable of the major university centres[31]

350–400 euro

the monthly rent for a two-room flat, against over 580 in Bucharest[31]

100 ha

the Anastasie Fătu Botanical Garden — the oldest and largest in Romania[16]

1.68 days

the average length of stay of tourists — room for growth in services and hospitality[33]

A young university city, with an urban centre concentrated around the Palas complex, with the most affordable cost of living of the major centres and with hills, vineyards and lakes a quarter of an hour from the office.

Strategic position

4

exports to the United States in 2025 — the first non-European market[10]

62.2 million euro

exports to the Republic of Moldova in 2025 — the county's fifth destination[10]

44.5 million euro

Iași's place among the European cities with the fastest economic development, 2021–2025[7]

18 firms

with foreign capital registered in the county in a single month, January 2026[10]

TEN-T Core

Iași, a node of the trans-European transport network through the A8 Târgu Mureș – Ungheni motorway[21]

2 corridors

A7 and A8, linking the county to Bucharest, to Transylvania and to the border with the Republic of Moldova[21]

The largest university city on the eastern frontier of the European Union and NATO: a gateway to the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, with high-speed infrastructure under construction and a labour force trained in seven universities.

Culture and heritage

1840

Romania's first national theatre — the Vasile Alecsandri National Theatre[16]

1,630 monuments

of built heritage — 2nd in the country, after the municipality of Bucharest[16]

5 institutions

of national rank: theatre, opera, philharmonic, athenaeum and museum complex[16]

1942

the Moldova State Philharmonic, one of the country's benchmark orchestras[16]

4 museums

national museums brought together in the Palace of Culture: history, art, ethnography, science and technology[16]

2026

the Golden Apple trophy, an international distinction awarded to tourist destinations[33]

Culture and heritage





Capital of Moldavia for almost three centuries and capital of Romania between 1916 and 1918, with the Mihai Eminescu Central University Library cited among the most beautiful in Europe.

Why Iași County

02

Iași County is the largest economy in the North-East Region and the fifth largest county economy in Romania.

The offer it addresses to investors is not based on the lowest labour cost, but on the availability of skills that few counties in the east of the country can provide: engineering, software product development, applied research and high-precision mechanical machining. The eight arguments presented below describe this offer.



Palas Campus office space

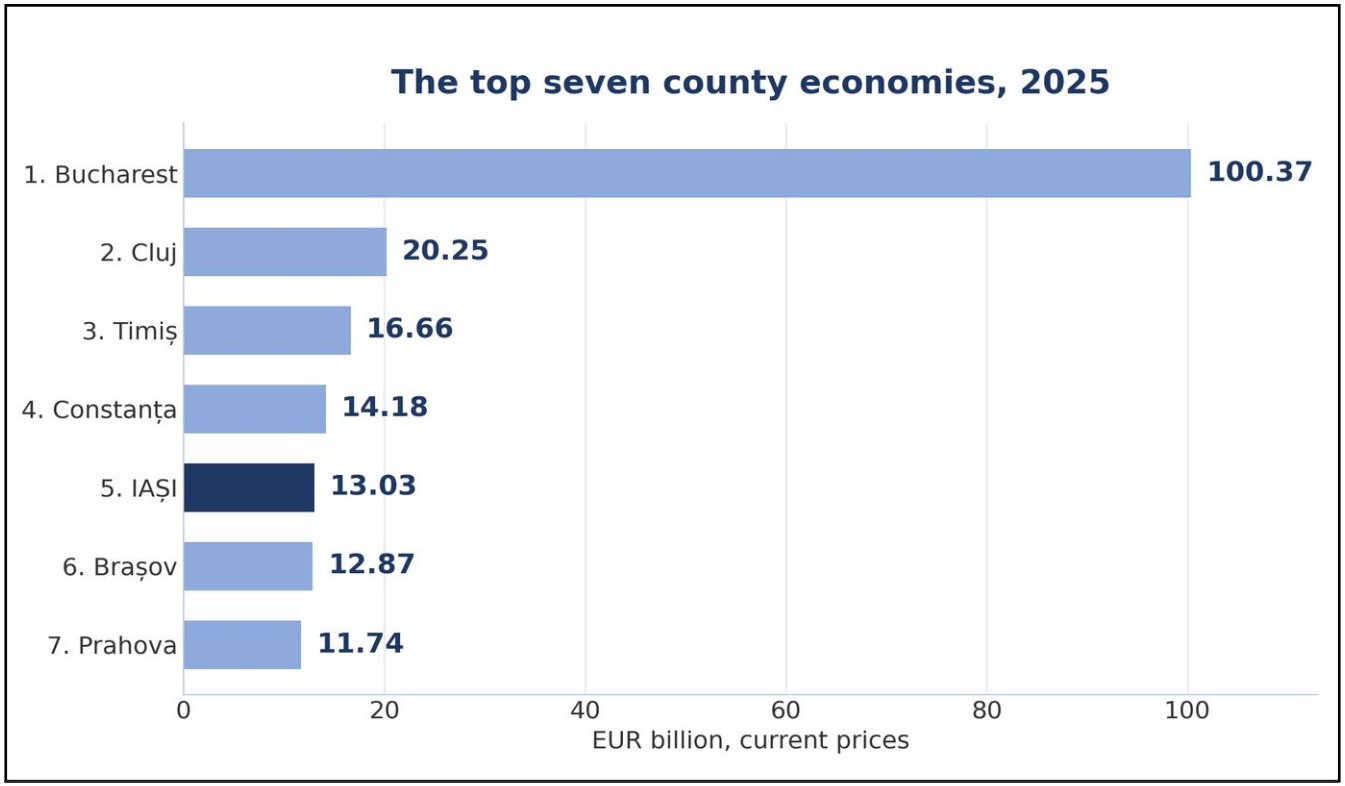
An economy of national scale

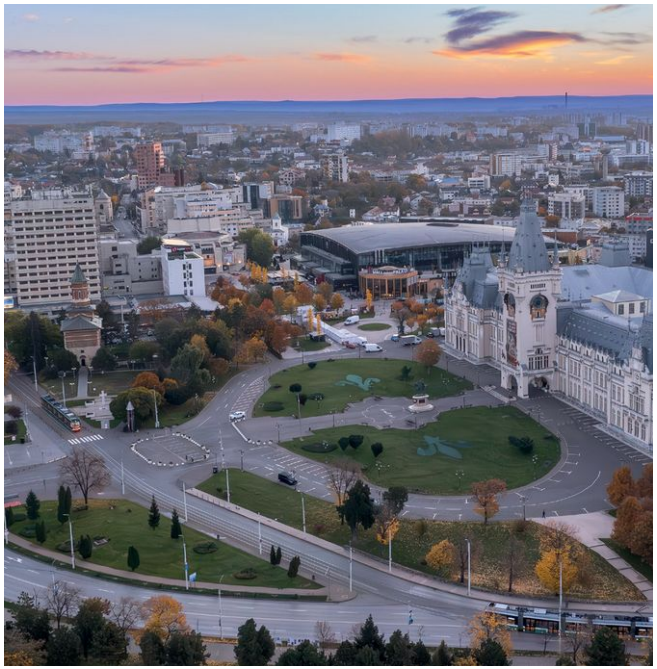
In 2025, the gross domestic product of Iași County was estimated at EUR 13.03 billion, which places the county fifth among the counties of Romania, ahead of Brașov and Prahova counties.

The county contributes 32.02% to the gross domestic product of the North-East Region and 3.43% to the gross domestic product of Romania[4].

Against the background of this growth rate, the municipality of Iași ranked fourth among major European cities with the fastest economic development over the period 2021–2025, according to the data aggregated by the Iași Chamber of Commerce and Industry[7].

The most recent year with official data at county level is 2024, with provisional values: according to the regional accounts of the National Institute of Statistics and Eurostat, the gross domestic product of the county stood at RON 59.9 billion, up from RON 35.8 billion in 2019[3]. The values for 2025–2026 represent estimates and forecasts of the National Commission for Strategy and Prognosis[4].

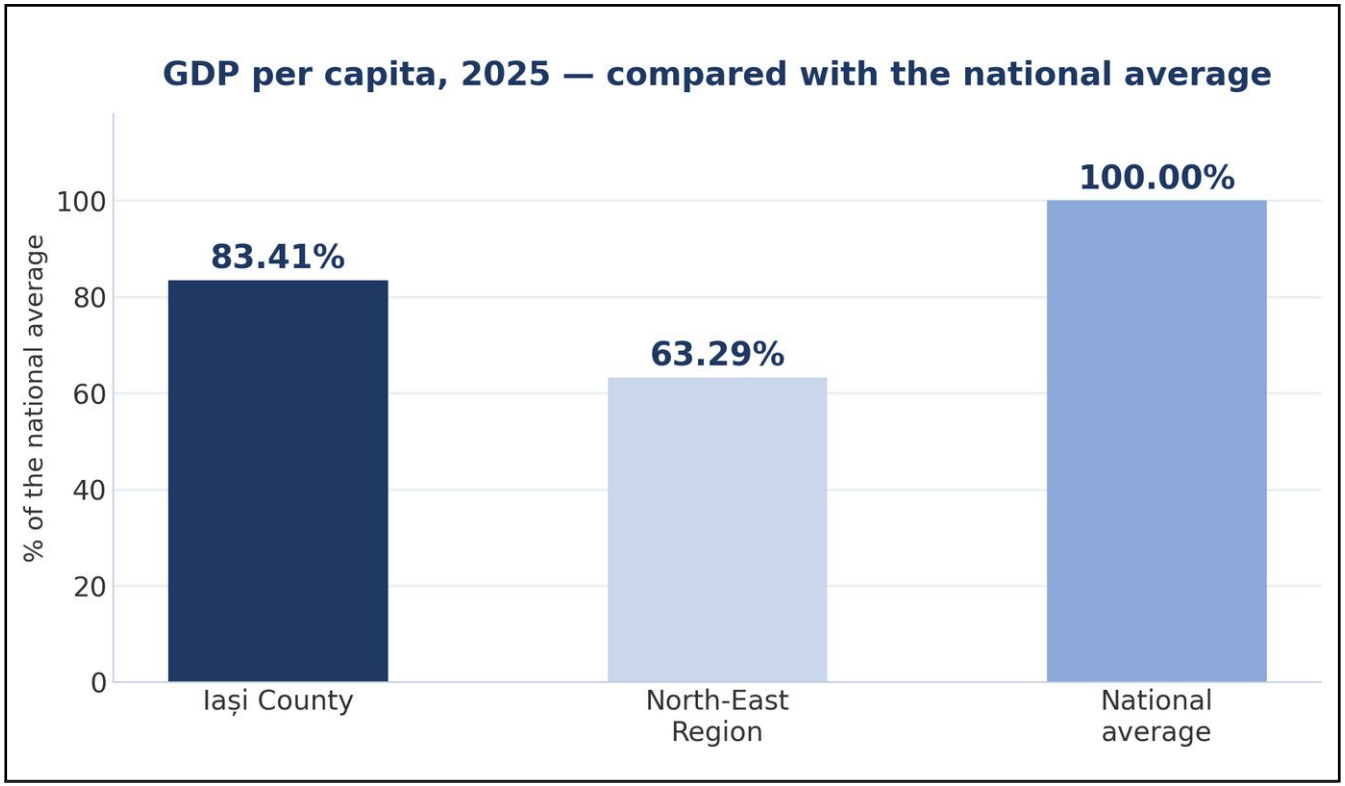




The top seven county economies of Romania, estimates for 2025, National Commission for Strategy and Prognosis[4].

Iași County ranks second among Romania's administrative units by resident population, after the municipality of Bucharest[2].

Gross domestic product per capita was estimated in 2025 at EUR 16,656, that is 83.41% of the national average and 131.79% of the North-East Region average[4]. The relative position against the national average improved slightly compared with the previous year, when the ratio was 83.32%[4].





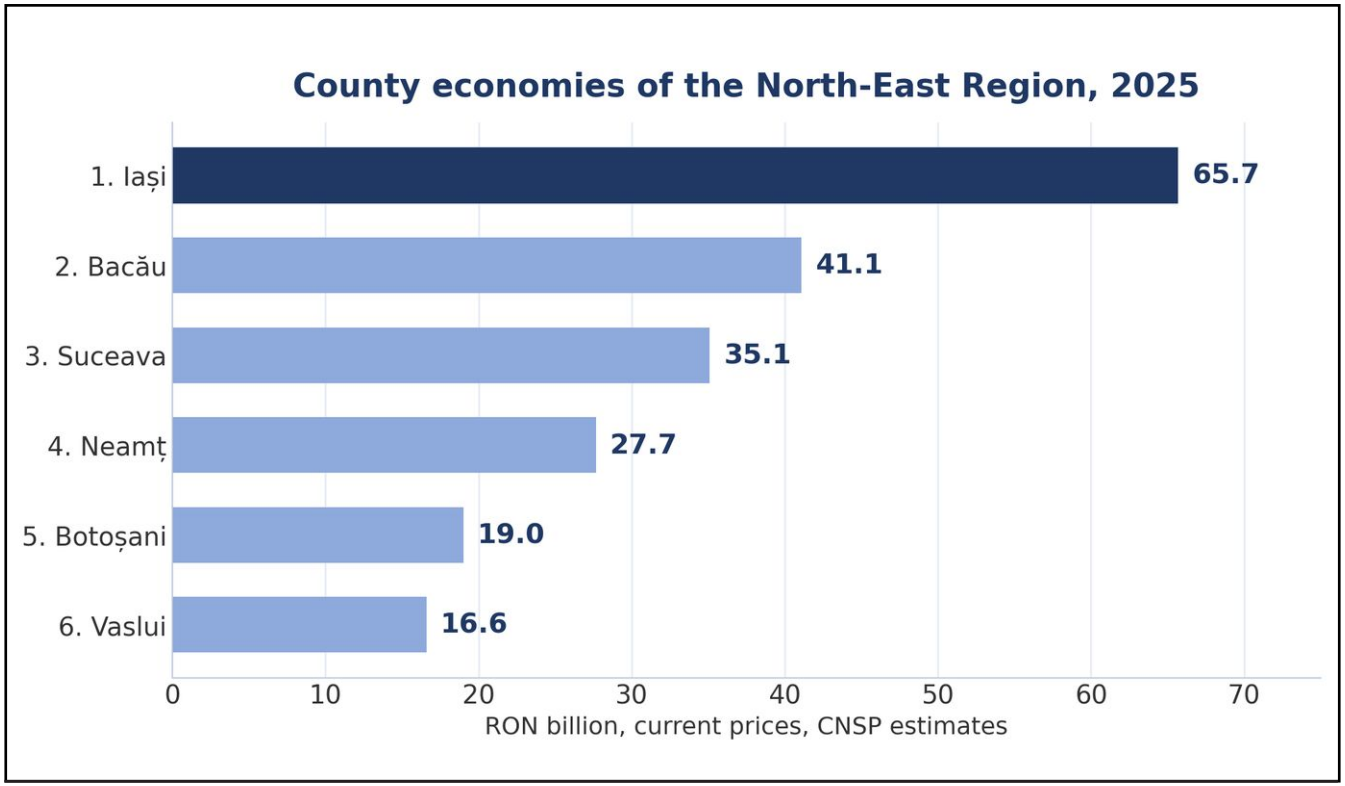
Gross domestic product per capita, estimates for 2025, benchmarked against the national average of EUR 19,968[4].

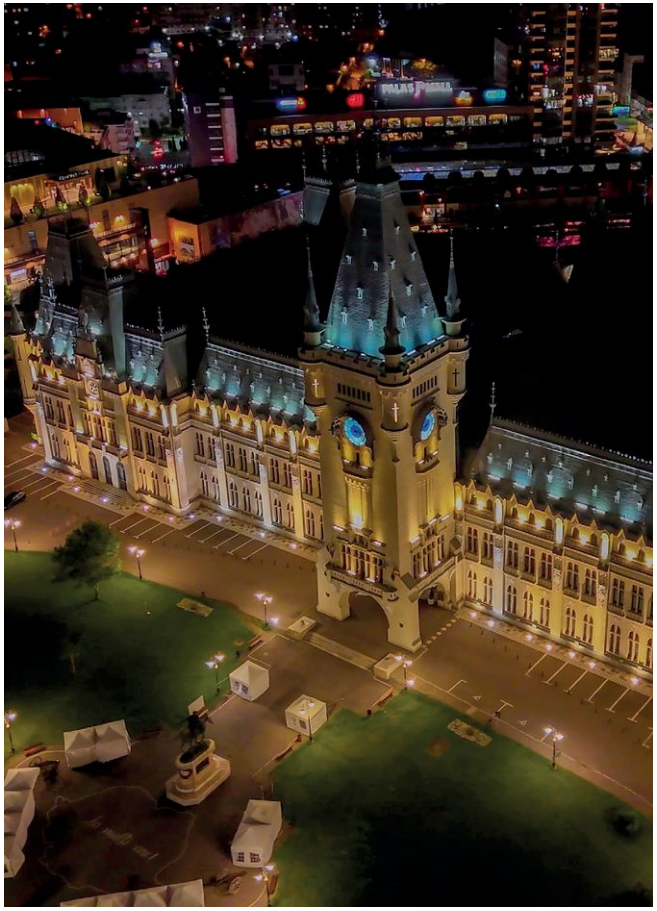
Position in the North-East Region

Within the North-East Region, Iași County is the dominant economy.

The estimates of the National Commission for Strategy and Prognosis for 2025 place the county's gross domestic product at RON 65.7 billion, against RON 41.1 billion in Bacău, RON 35.1 billion in Suceava, RON 27.7 billion in Neamț, RON 19.0 billion in Botoșani and RON 16.6 billion in Vaslui.

Iași therefore produces almost a third of the regional economy and 1.6 times more than the next county[4].

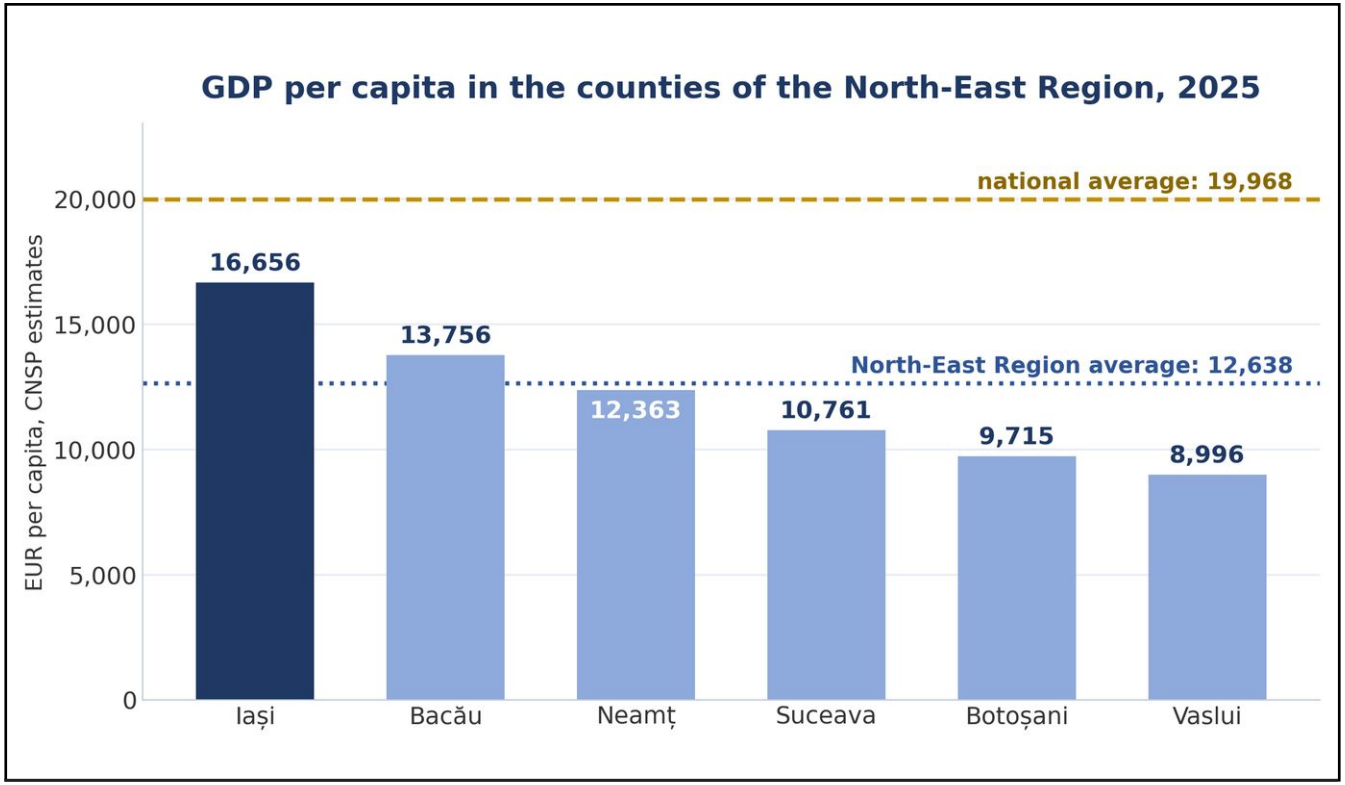




Gross domestic product of the counties of the North-East Region, estimates for 2025, National Commission for Strategy and Prognosis, spring 2026 version[4].

The difference is even clearer for gross domestic product per capita: EUR 16,656 in Iași, against 13,756 in Bacău, 12,363 in Neamț, 10,761 in Suceava, 9,715 in Botoșani and 8,996 in Vaslui. Iași is the only county in the region to exceed the regional average, of EUR 12,638, and it does so by almost a third; against the national average, of EUR 19,968, it remains at 83%[4].

The same leading position is found on the labour market. The county concentrates 187.0 thousand employees on average, that is 30% of the region's 627.8 thousand, with an average net wage estimated at RON 5,396 for 2025, against RON 4,749 in Bacău and under RON 4,400 in the other four counties.



The registered unemployment rate, of 3.4%, is the second lowest in the region, after Bacău, at a wide distance from Suceava, at 6.7%, and Vaslui, at 8.9%.

For an investor, these differences mean that Iași offers the deepest pool of qualified labour in the east of the country, but also the highest wage costs in the region — a ratio that recommends the county for high value-added activities, while the neighbouring counties remain competitive for labour-intensive production[4].



Gross domestic product of the counties of the North-East Region, estimates for 2025, National Commission for Strategy and Prognosis, spring 2026 version[4].

The largest engineering centre in eastern Romania

Five state universities and two accredited private universities operate in the municipality of Iași, with over 50,000 students in total. Alexandru Ioan Cuza University is the fourth in Romania by number of students, with 24,049 students in the 2024–2025 academic year, and the Gheorghe Asachi Technical University, with 12,939 students, the thirteenth[17].

On this basis, research centres of international groups have developed. The Aumovio automotive electronics division, spun off from the Continental group, has around 2,800 employees in Iași developing electronic control units for braking and lighting systems, autonomous driving solutions, telematics and on-board servers. Amazon Development Center Romania has operated in Iași since 2005, the company's first research centre in Eastern Europe, and had an average of 3,166 employees in 2025. Around 14,000 specialists work in the office complex in the centre of the municipality, 9,000 at Palas and 5,000 at Palas Campus, specialists in information technology and the automotive industry[26].

The quality of training can be verified as early as pre-university level. At the 2026 baccalaureate session, the pass rate in Iași County was 82.6%, against a national average of 76.9%, the fourth result in the country. In the computer science examination of the 2025 session, the pass rate was 99.75%[18].

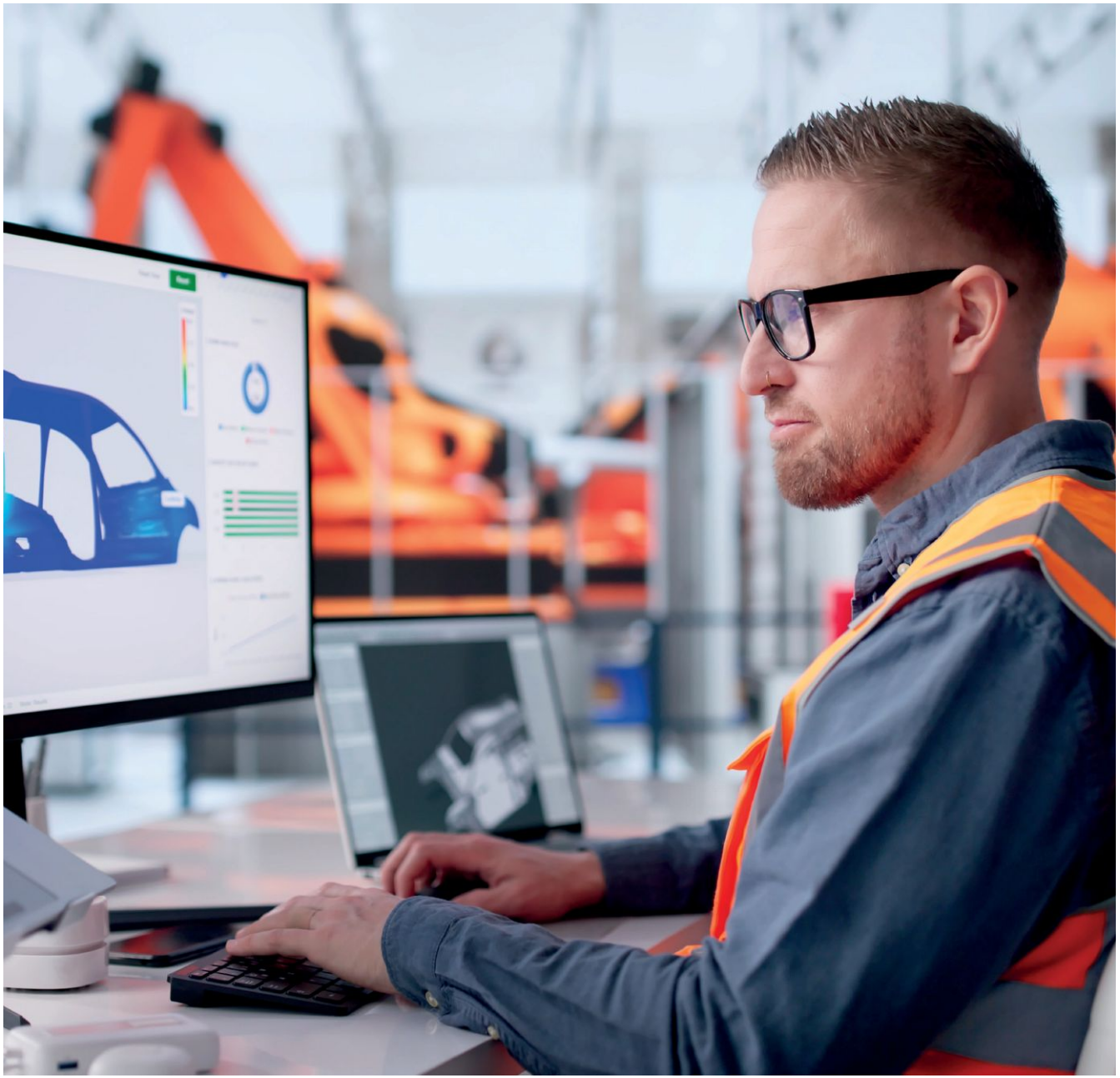


Engineering is here, manufacturing is not

The approximately 2,800 automotive electronics engineers in Iași County design components that are manufactured elsewhere in the country.

For a manufacturer of electronic components or sub-assemblies, this means a pool of qualified personnel that is already formed, located a few kilometres from the available industrial sites.

Iași County concentrates the largest automotive electronics design team in eastern Romania, yet has no production unit in this field. The group operating the research centre in Iași manufactures its products in Sibiu and Timișoara. An investor bringing production to the county does not have to build an engineering team from scratch: it can be recruited locally[26].



Western investors that chose the county without incentives

Along the road connecting the municipality of Iași to the commune of Tomești, the most dynamic private industrial cluster of the metropolitan area has taken shape, in the absence of an industrial park title and without dedicated tax incentives. BMT Aerospace and IG Watteeuw operate there, both part of the Belgian BMT group, as does Grenzebach Romania, with German capital. In June 2026, several companies in the area, including an American investor, obtained the opportunity opinion for a joint urban plan governing more than 8.2 hectares adjacent to the existing factories[27].

The BMT group, founded in 1882, has over 1,700 employees in Romania, concentrated almost entirely in Iași.

Its BMT Aerospace unit here is the group's only plant in the world producing components for aircraft wing mechanisms, one of the group's four production units, alongside the one in Belgium and two in the United States[27].

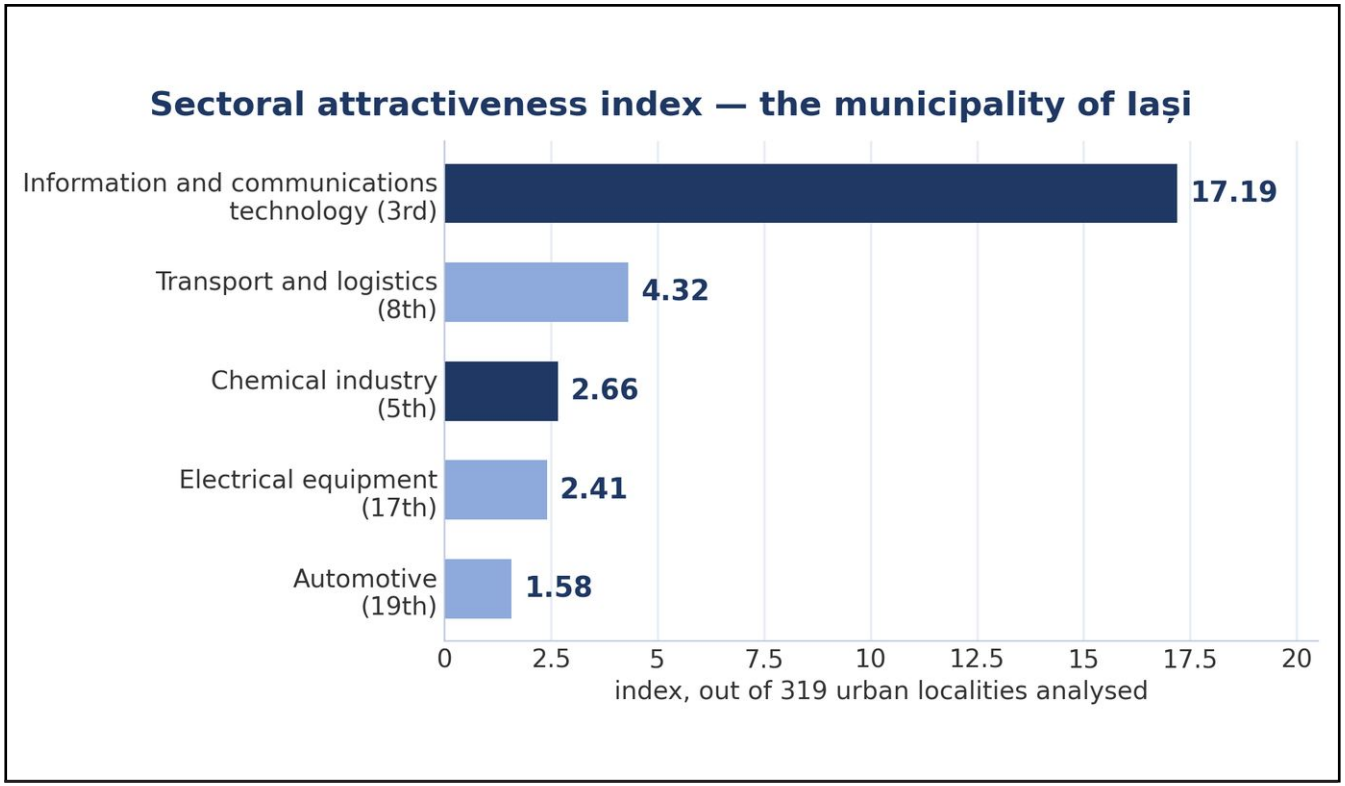


Top national rankings in information technology and the chemical industry

The sectoral attractiveness index, calculated by the World Bank for 319 urban localities in Romania, places the municipality of Iași third in the country for information and communications technology and fifth for the chemical industry.

The city also ranks eighth for transport and logistics, seventeenth for electrical equipment and nineteenth for the automotive industry[14].

The municipality of Pașcani, the county's second industrial centre, ranks 34th in the country for the automotive industry and 36th for electrical equipment[14].





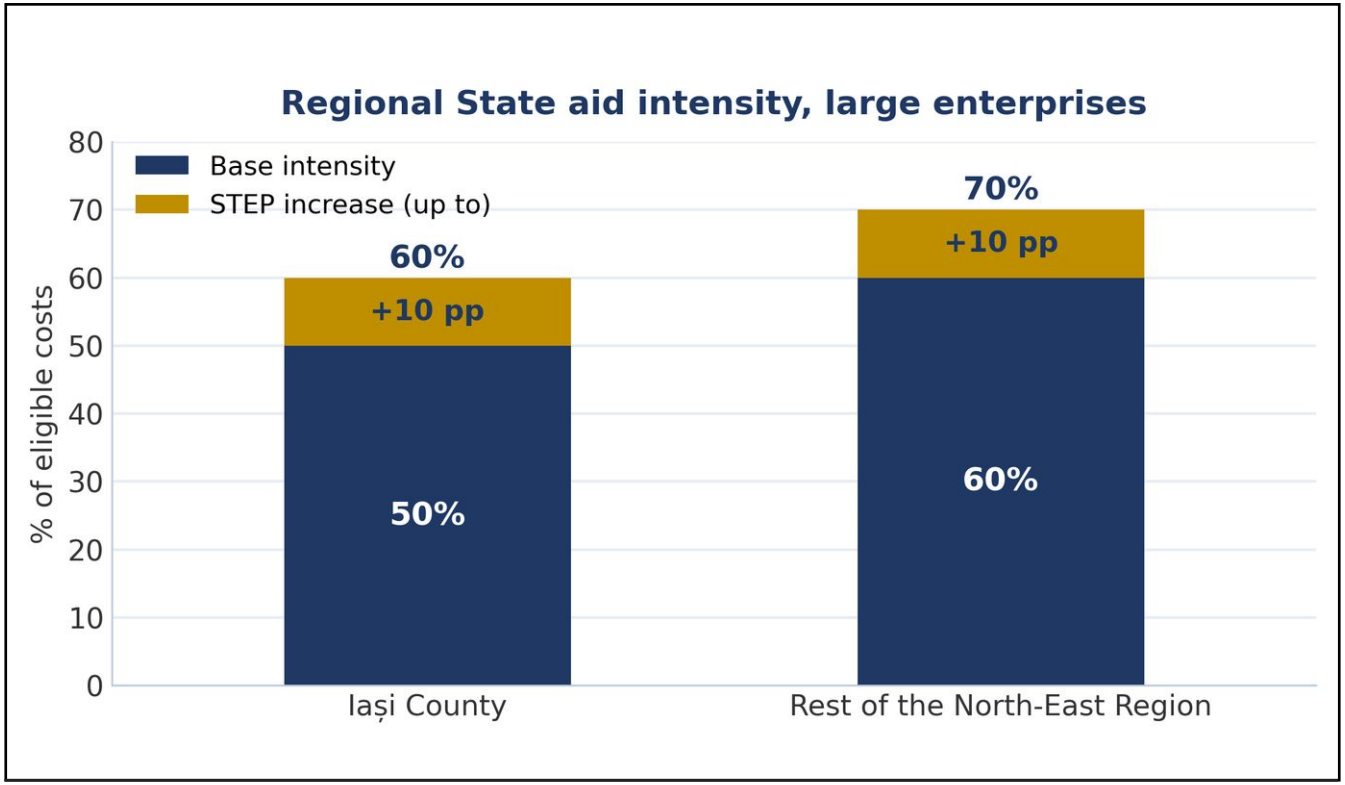
Sectoral attractiveness index for the municipality of Iași, calculated for 319 urban localities in Romania[14].

State aid at the base level of the rest of the region

The basic regional State aid intensity for Iași County is 50% of eligible costs for large enterprises, against 60% in the other counties of the North-East Region.

As of March 2024, this intensity may be increased by up to 10 percentage points for investments falling under the European platform for strategic technologies, known as STEP. For such investments, the intensity applicable in Iași County reaches 60%, the base intensity level of the rest of the region[25].

To this are added the tax incentives for research and development, which do not depend on the geographical location of the investment: the additional 50% deduction of eligible expenditure, the 10% tax credit applicable from 2026, the ten-year corporate income tax exemption for innovation centres and the income tax exemption for employees carrying out research activities[25].



The European mechanism is already in use in the county. At the end of 2025, the pharmaceutical manufacturer Antibiotice signed a EUR 75 million financing contract for a research and development centre and for the production of critical medicines, financed through the STEP platform under the Health Programme[28].

Romania’s third airport



Iași International Airport serves over 2 million passengers a year and offers 26 direct destinations, operated by seven airlines.

Terminal T4 has an area of 31,250 square metres and an annual capacity of 3,350,000 passengers.

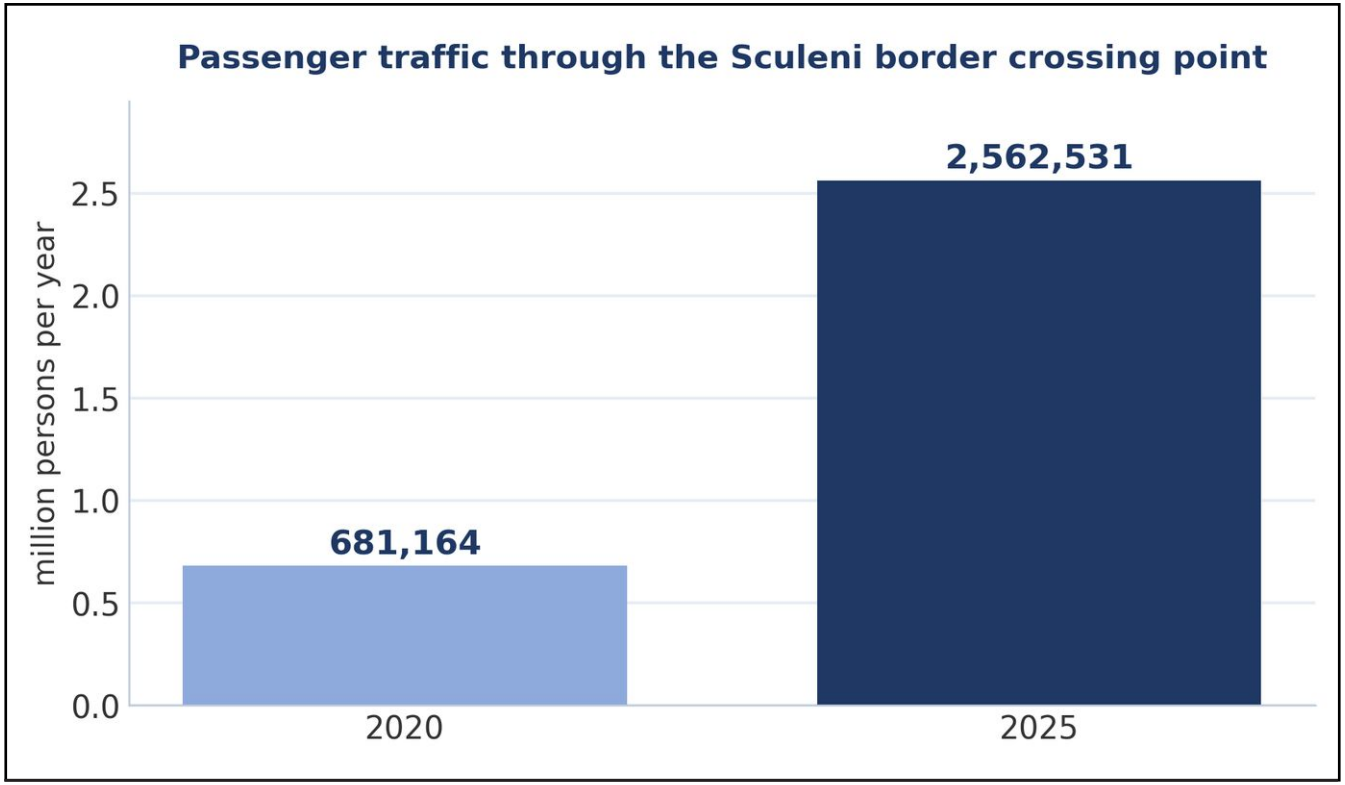
Iași International Airport is Romania’s third airport by annual passenger numbers and the second among the regional airports, in a ranking that excludes the capital. It is under the authority of Iași County Council. The modernisation of Terminal T3, which will serve departures exclusively, is currently under way, and the conversion of Terminal T2 into a cargo terminal is being prepared. The feasibility study for the cargo area has been launched, and the works are scheduled to be carried out within no more than two years[19].

The eastern gateway of the European Union

Iași County is bordered to the east by the river Prut, which forms Romania's border with the Republic of Moldova, and lies on the route of the TEN-T Core trans-European transport corridor, on the Timișoara – Târgu Mureș – Iași – Ungheni axis.

Traffic through the Sculeni border crossing point, located in the commune of Victoria in Iași County, rose from 681,164 persons in 2020 to 2,562,531 persons in 2025.

Over the same period, the number of cars rose from 181,770 to over 742,000.



The crossing point was modernised and reopened in March 2024, under a project financed through the Romania – Republic of Moldova Joint Operational Programme[20].

The relationship with the Republic of Moldova is not merely one of transit. In 2024, the Republic of Moldova was the second destination for the county's exports outside the European Union, with EUR 49.4 million, and the fourth source of imports, with EUR 96.0 million. Ukraine generated imports of EUR 88.5 million in the same year[9].

Traffic of persons through the Sculeni border crossing point. Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs[20].

Sites made ready, administered as one

Iași County Council is developing a portfolio of four sites intended for investment: the industrial park and the Transagropolis agri-industrial park at Lețcani, both operational, and the industrial parks at Holboca and Pașcani, in preparation.

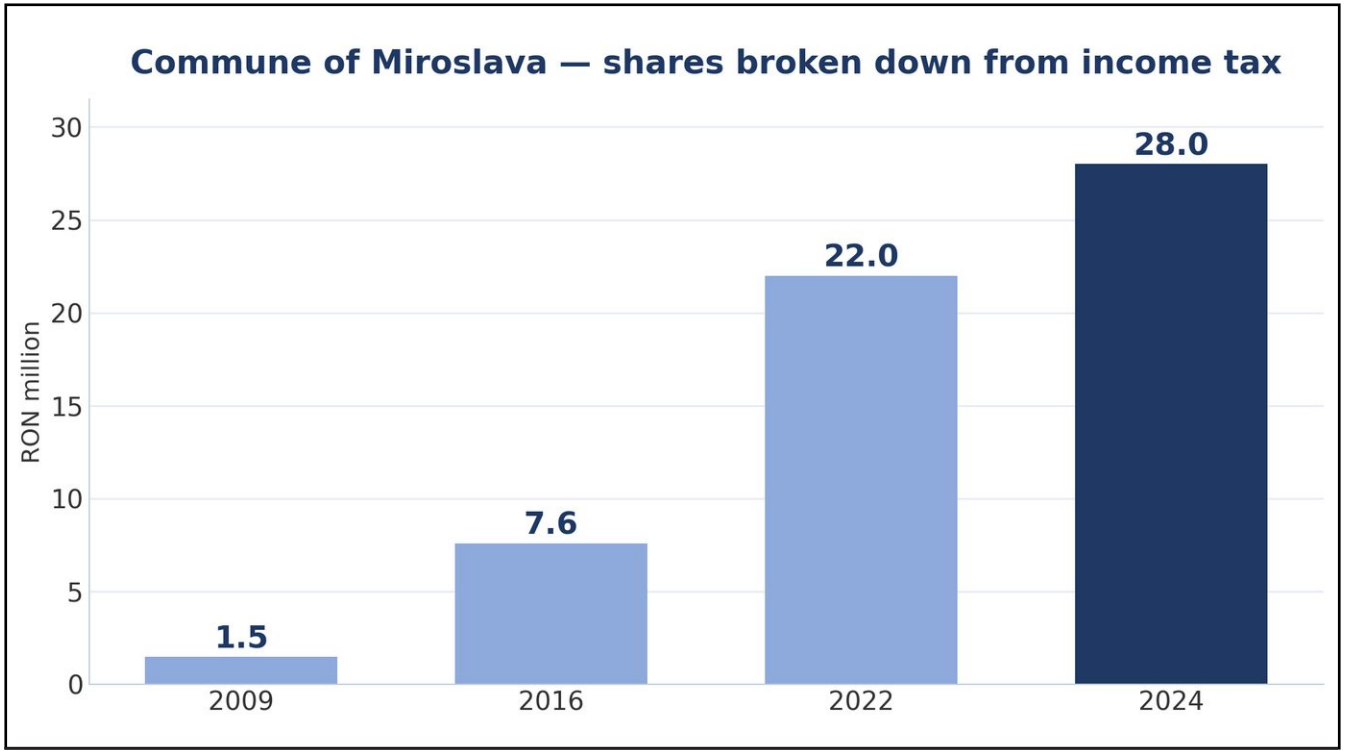
All are administered by the same company, which means for the investor a single contractual counterpart and a single set of conditions.

A company may locate production in Pașcani and its engineering centre in Holboca within the same contractual relationship[24].

The land corresponding to these sites is already part of the county's domain. No expropriation is required and there is no land assembly stage, which in Romania is the most frequent cause of delay for new industrial projects[24].

Demand for such sites is proven. The first industrial park of the metropolitan area, the one in Miroslava, operates at 100% occupancy, with over 60 residents.

The revenue of the host commune from the shares broken down from income tax rose from RON 1.5 million in 2009 to RON 28 million in 2024, and in 2024 the commune no longer received amounts for balancing its local budget[24].

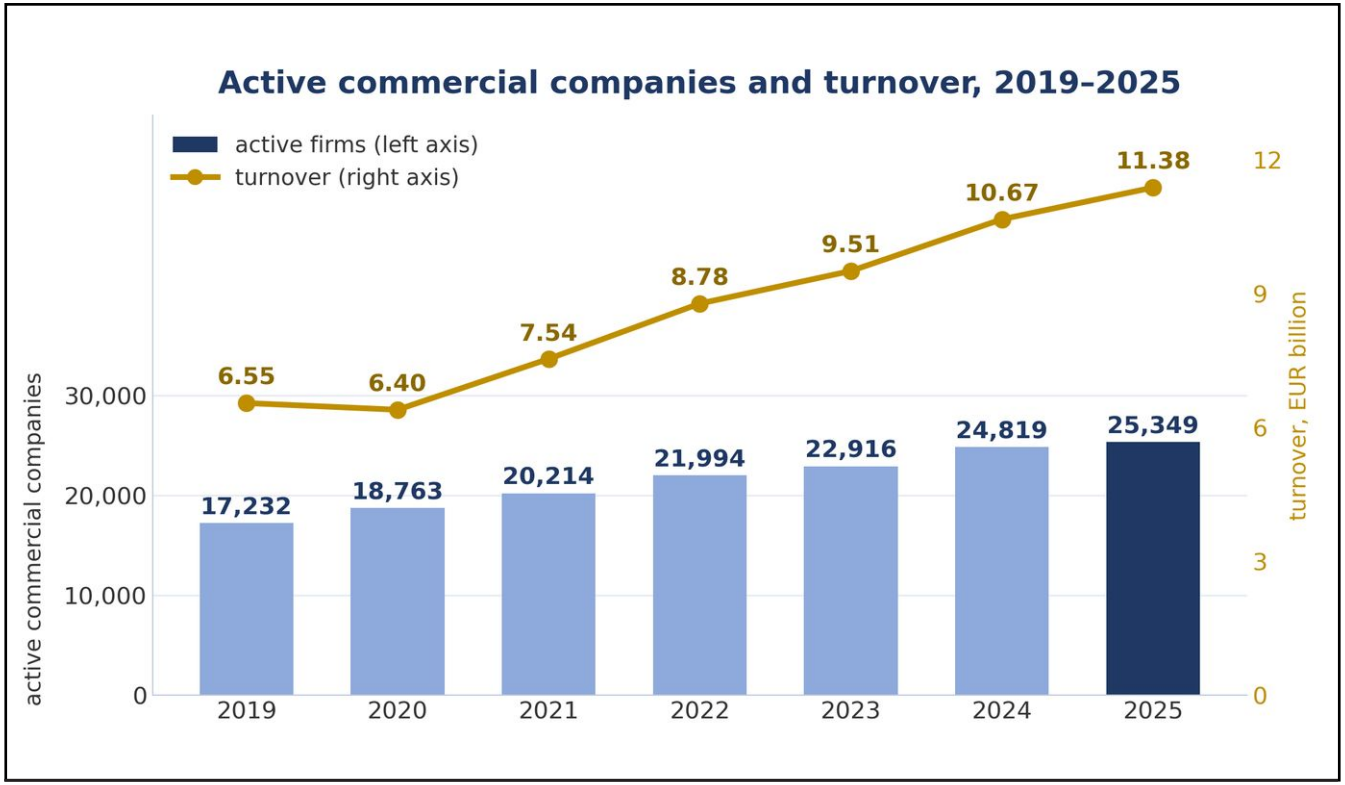


Shares broken down from income tax collected by the commune of Miroslava, where two industrial parks operate[24].

A continuously growing entrepreneurial base

The number of active commercial companies in the county rose from 17,232 in 2019 to 25,349 in 2025, and their combined turnover from EUR 6.55 billion to EUR 11.38 billion. The number of employees of these companies has reached 118,514.

To the companies with their registered office in the county are added the working points of approximately 2,800 further companies registered in other counties[7][8].





Active commercial companies and combined turnover in Iași County, 2019–2025. Source: Economic Bulletin of Iași County[8].

What Iași County does not offer

An investor also needs information about the limits of a location. Iași County is not a minimum-cost destination: the average wage exceeds the North-East Region average and is more than 30% higher than in the neighbouring counties of Botoșani and Vaslui, less than a hundred kilometres away[11].

The municipality of Iași will have a direct link to the motorway network. The A7 motorway reaches Pașcani, with 2027 as the reference deadline, while the connection of the municipality depends on the A8 motorway, whose completion is estimated for 2031. The airport currently has no freight transport activity, although the cargo area is already under development[21].

The county's public road network has a modernisation rate of 35.7%, against a national average of 51.5%. This is the most significant difference between the county and the rest of the country in terms of infrastructure, which is why the offer of sites currently focuses on land situated on European and national roads, on the future metropolitan ring or in the areas near the A7 and A8 motorways[15][5].

The registered unemployment rate rose from 2.9% at the end of 2023 to 3.39% in June 2026[12]. For an investor entering the local market now, this means a greater availability of personnel than in the 2015–2022 period.

The number of graduates in information technology stands, according to market estimates, between 1,000 and 1,200 persons a year from the relevant faculties, to which a few hundred graduates of informal training schools are added, which requires a large-scale project to be sized and scheduled accordingly[17].

Iași County

03

Geographical position and administrative organisation

Iași County is situated in north-eastern Romania, in the Moldavian Plateau, bordered to the west by the rivers Moldova and Siret, and to the east by the river Prut, which forms the country's border with the Republic of Moldova. It borders Botoșani County to the north, Suceava and Neamț counties to the west and Vaslui County to the south.

The area of the county is 5,477 square kilometres, i.e. 2.3% of Romania's territory, which places it 23rd among the country's counties. In administrative terms, the county comprises two municipalities, Iași and Pașcani, three towns, Târgu Frumos, Hârlău and Podu Iloaiei, as well as 93 communes with 418 villages[1].

The county's land fund totals 547,558 hectares, of which 381,256 hectares are agricultural area. Arable land occupies 67.2% of the agricultural area, and the forest fund covers 98,000 hectares[16].



Population

Iași County ranks second among Romania's administrative units by resident population, after the municipality of Bucharest. At the 2021 census, the resident population of the county was 760,774 persons[2].

The population by domicile, an indicator that also includes persons who have left the county without changing their domicile, places Iași County first among Romania's counties. National Institute of Statistics published the values as at 1 January 2026 in April 2026[2]. For assessing the available labour force, however, the resident population is used.

At the end of 2023, the share of the rural population was 56.3%. The demographic ageing index, which measures the number of persons over 65 per 100 persons under 15, stood at 86 in Iași County, below the national average. The largest age group is that of 45–49 years, with 56,030 persons, followed by the 35–39 group, with 53,870 persons[16].

Iași Metropolitan Area

The Iași Metropolitan Area was established in 2004, with 13 founding communes, and currently brings together

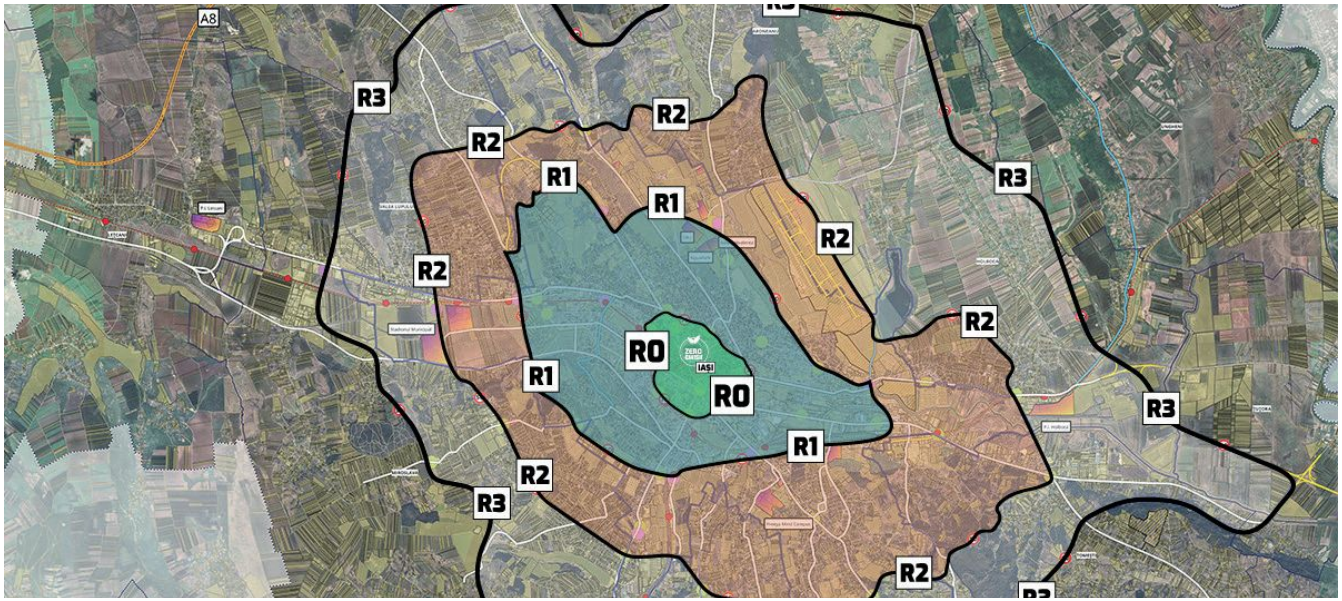
29 administrative-territorial units: the municipality of Iași, Iași County, through the County Council, and 27 communes — Aroneanu, Bârnova, Ciurea, Comarna, Costuleni, Dobrovăț, Golăiești, Grajduri, Holboca, Horlești, Lețcani, Miroslava, Mogoșești, Movileni, Popricani, Prisăcani, Rediu, Românești, Scânteia, Schitu Duca, Tomești, Țigănași, Țuțora, Ungheni, Valea Lupului, Victoria and Voinești. The perimeter corresponds to the Iași growth pole, one of the seven growth poles identified at national level[23].



At the 2021 census, calculated on the composition of the 13 founding communes, the Iași Metropolitan Area numbered 423,154 inhabitants, that is 55.6% of the county's resident population[2].

The functional urban area defined by Eurostat was, as at 2018, the second largest in Romania, after that of the municipality of Bucharest.

The Iași Metropolitan Master Plan distinguishes two rings of localities around the municipality. The first ring, formed of the communes of Miroslava, Valea Lupului, Rediu, Popricani, Aroneanu, Holboca, Tomești, Bârnova and Ciurea, is undergoing accelerated urbanisation and concentrates the major infrastructure projects and the investment in industrial and logistics platforms. The second ring, which includes the communes of Ungheni, Golăiești, Victoria, Movileni, Românești, Lețcani and Mogoșești, retains a predominantly rural character, with opportunities for agricultural development and agritourism[23].



The county economy

The estimates of the National Commission for Strategy and Prognosis for 2025 place the gross domestic product of Iași County at RON 65.7 billion, that is EUR 13.03 billion, which represents 32.02% of the gross domestic product of the North-East Region and 3.43% of that of Romania.

The county ranks first in the region and fifth at national level, ahead of Brașov and Prahova counties[4].



The value of RON 59.9 billion for 2024 comes from the regional accounts (provisional data)[3], and that of RON 65.7 billion for 2025 is an estimate of the National Commission for Strategy and Prognosis[4].

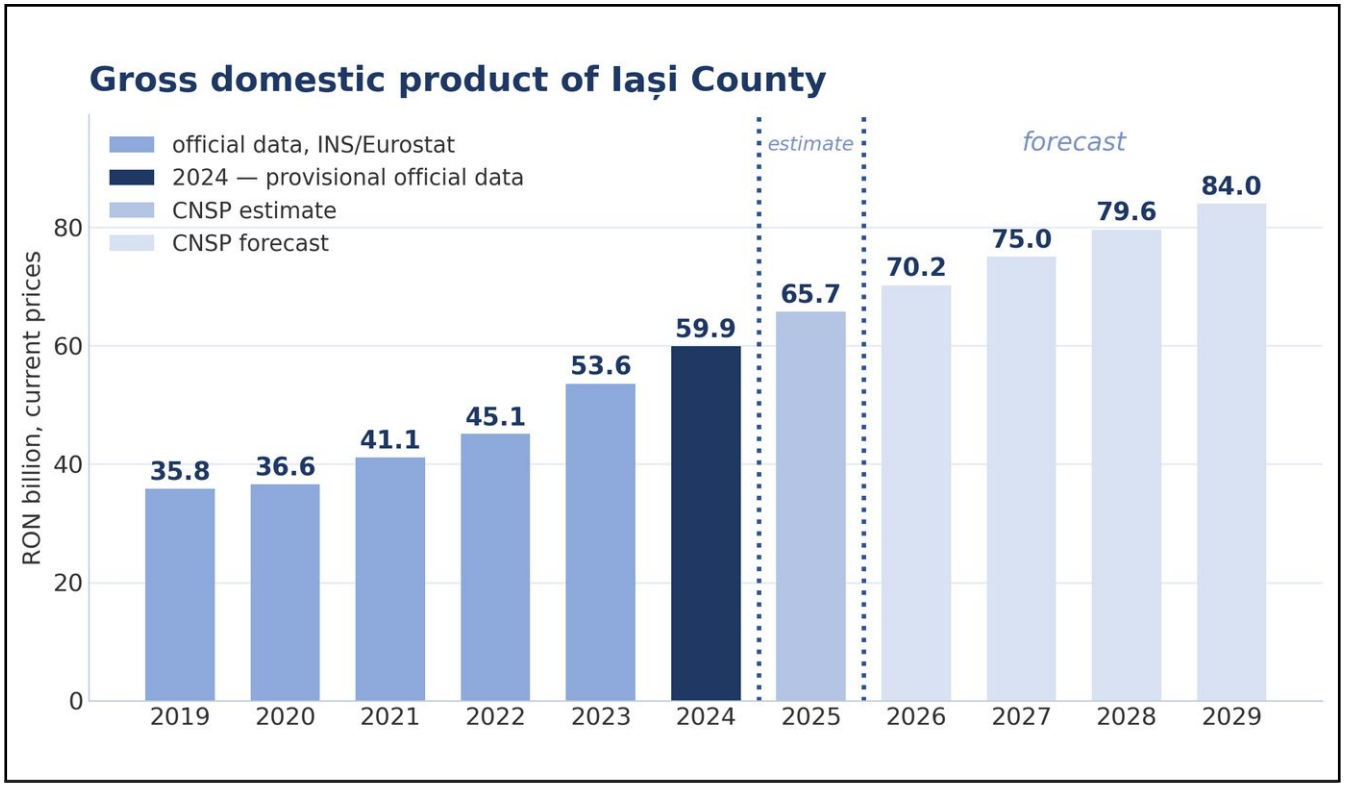
The official series shows county gross domestic product growing from RON 35.8 billion in 2019 to RON 53.6 billion in 2023 and RON 59.9 billion in 2024 (provisional data), passing through RON 45.1 billion in 2022[3]. In 2020, the county economy contracted by 1.8%, less than the national economy, which fell by 3.7%. According to estimates of the National Commission for Strategy and Prognosis, real growth of 6.6% in 2021, 5.7% in 2022 and 1.7% in 2023 followed[5].

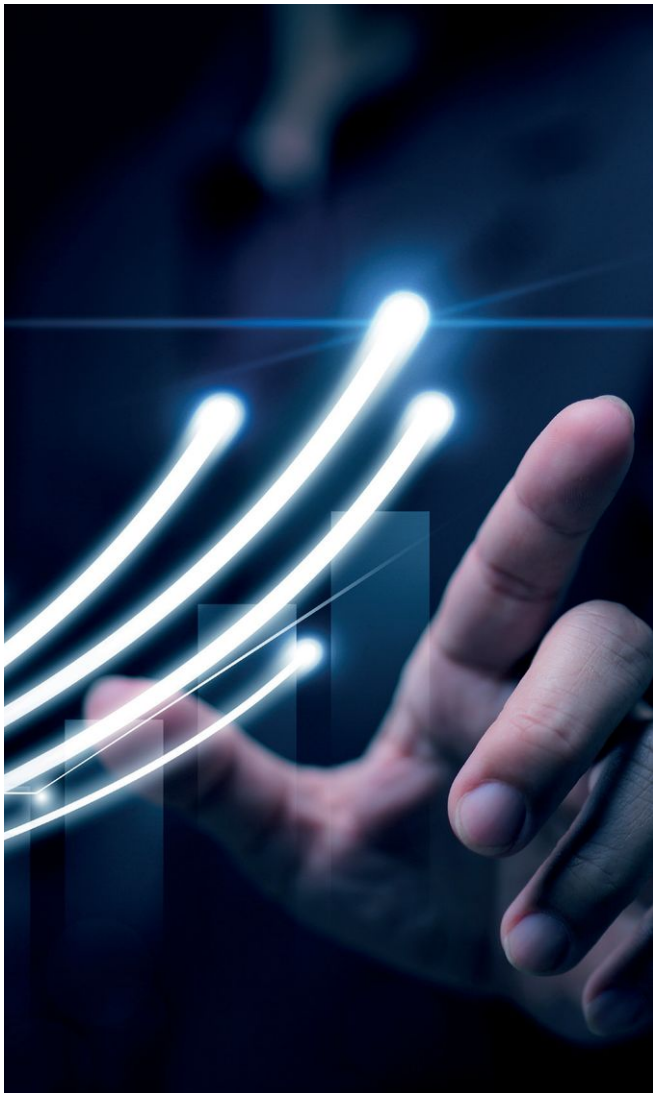
For the following years, the same source projects RON 70.2 billion in 2026, RON 75.0 billion in 2027, RON 79.6 billion in 2028 and RON 84.0 billion in 2029 — a pace that would keep the county among the top five economies in the country[4].

The regional accounts are published with a lag: for 2024 there are provisional official data at county level, while for 2025 there are as yet no official data.

Gross domestic product per capita was estimated in 2025 at EUR 16,656, which represents 131.79% of the North-East Region average and 83.41% of the national average, the latter standing at EUR 19,968.

The county ranks 13th in the national hierarchy for this indicator[4].



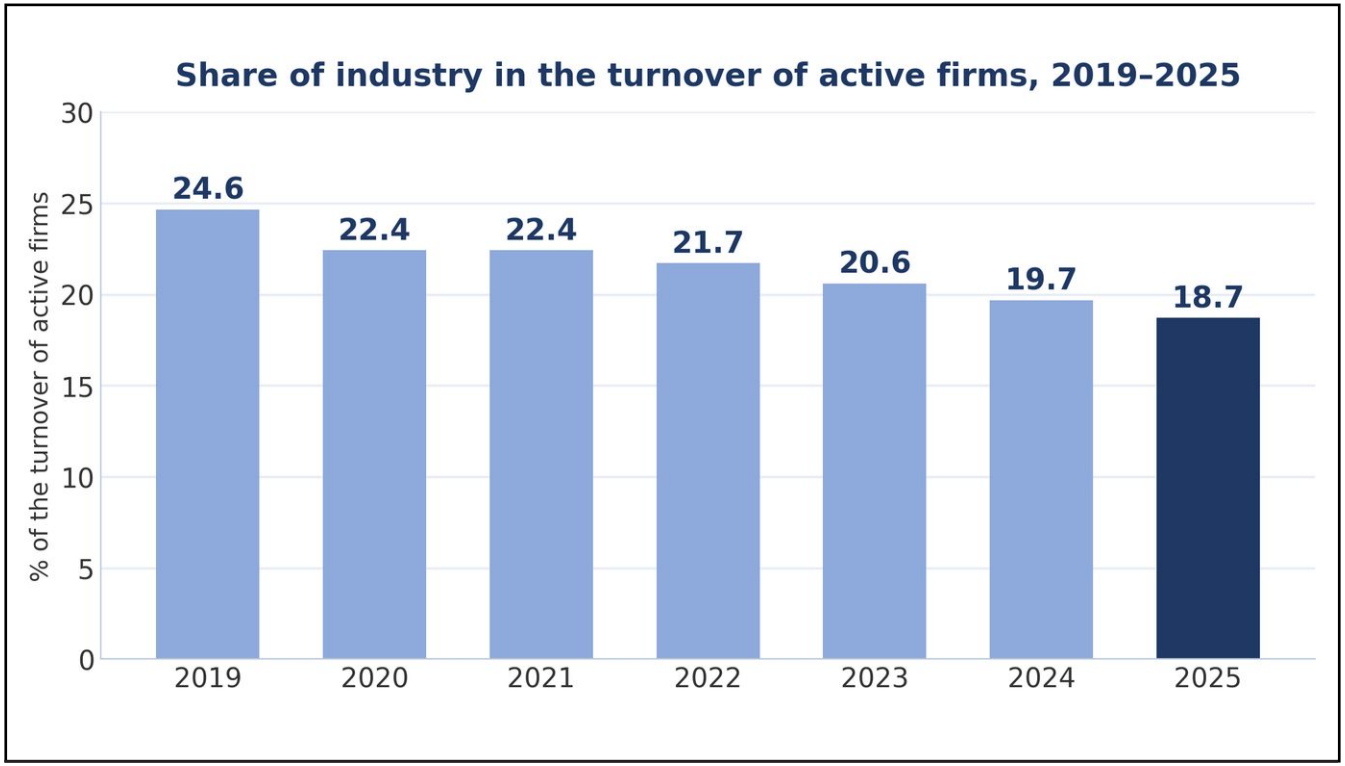


Gross domestic product of Iași County, RON billion, current prices. The years 2019–2024: regional accounts of the National Institute of Statistics/Eurostat (2024 — provisional data)[3]; 2025: estimate, and 2026–2029: forecast of the National Commission for Strategy and Prognosis, spring 2026 version[4].

The structure of the economy

Services are the main contributor to the county economy, with a share exceeding 67% of gross domestic product. Construction contributes approximately 6.5%, while industry has a declining share[5].

The share of gross value added from industry in county gross domestic product fell from 13.4% in 2019 to 9.4% in 2023, a value estimated by the National Commission for Strategy and Prognosis[5]. The same trend can be read, up to date, in company balance sheets: the share of industry in the combined turnover of active companies fell from 24.6% in 2019 to 18.7% in 2025, although industrial turnover grew in absolute value[7].



Share of industry in the combined turnover of the county's active firms, 2019–2025. Source: Economic Bulletin of Iași County[7].

Industrial output recorded a decline of 13.2% in 2023. The forecast of the National Commission for Strategy and Prognosis for the period 2024–2027 indicates an average annual change in the gross value added of industry of minus 0.6%.

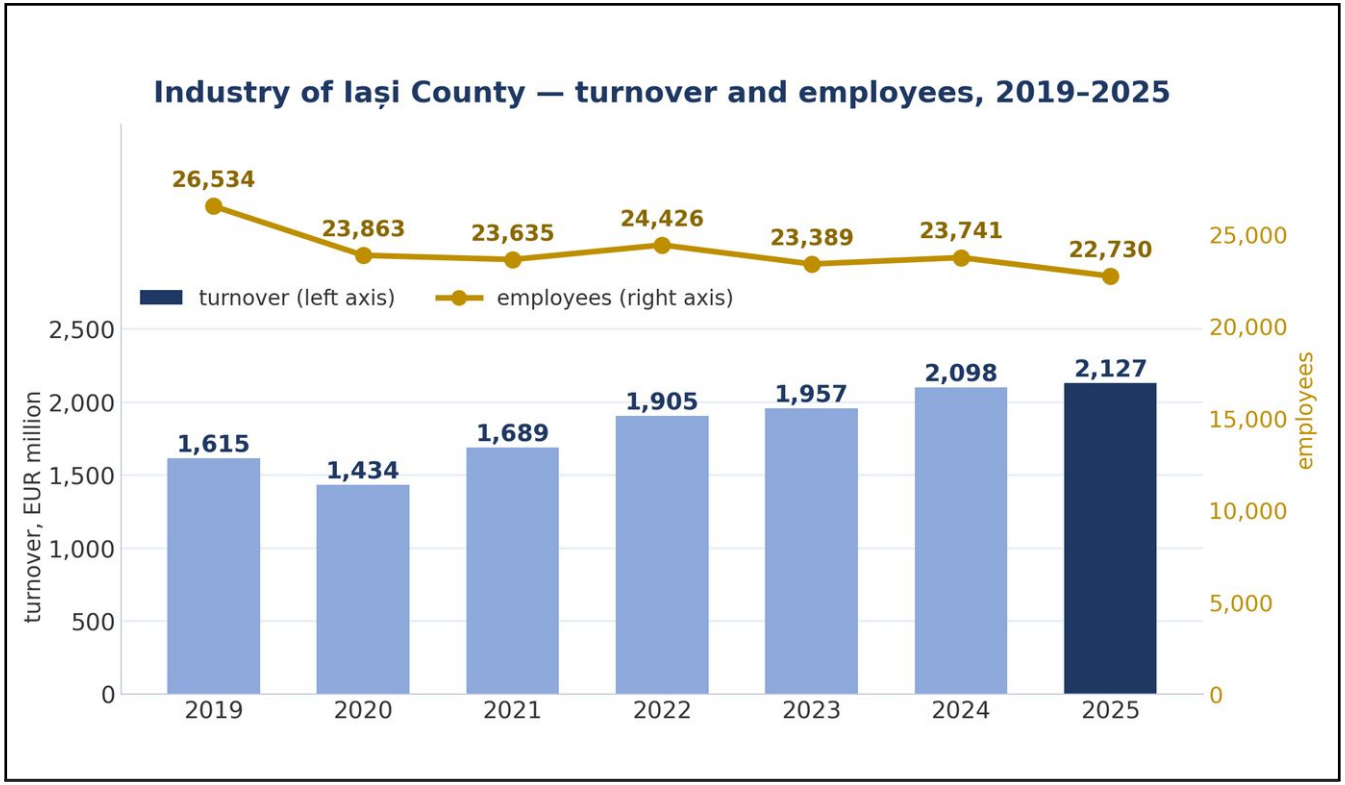
Over the same interval, construction is estimated to grow at an average annual rate of 7.2%, services by 4.2% and agriculture by 2.9%[5].

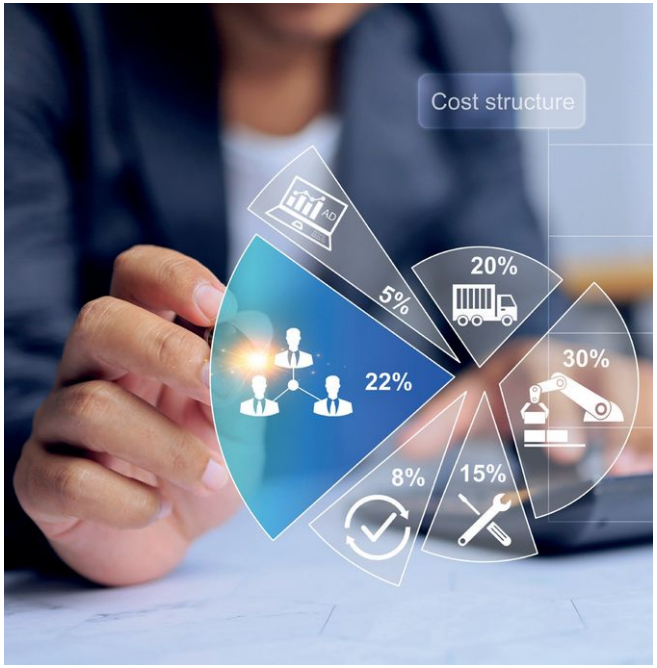
This indicator comes from the analysis of the National Commission for Strategy and Prognosis and stops at 2023[5]. An up-to-date picture of industry is provided by the balance sheets of active firms: in 2025, the county's 1,739 industrial companies achieved a turnover of EUR 2,127 million, i.e. 18.7% of the total county economy, with 22,730 employees, that is 19.2% of the total number of employees of active firms[7].

The comparison with 2019 shows an industry growing in value without growing in headcount: turnover rose by approximately 32% and the number of firms by 21%, while the number of employees fell by around 14%.

Turnover per employee rose from approximately EUR 60,900 in 2019 to approximately EUR 93,600 in 2025, a development reflecting both the increase in prices and the shift towards products with higher added value[7].

County industry is, however, more profitable than the national average. The profitability rate in Iași industry rose from 3.4% in 2019 to 9.7% in 2023, against a national average of 7.9%[5].





The industry of Iași County: turnover and number of employees of active firms, 2019–2025. Source: Economic Bulletin of Iași County[7].

The business environment

In 2025, 25,349 commercial companies were active in Iași County, i.e. companies with a turnover other than zero, registered with their headquarters in the county.

They accumulated a turnover of EUR 11.38 billion and 118,514 employees. To this number are added the working points of approximately 2,800 further companies registered in other counties[7].

The county's entrepreneurial base has expanded continuously: from 17,232 active companies in 2019 to 25,349 in 2025, and the combined turnover from EUR 6.55 billion to EUR 11.38 billion[8].

Field	Active companies	Turnover (EUR million)	Employees
Services	11,997	2,549	37,747
Trade	5,211	3,582	18,396
Construction	2,573	1,575	16,670
IT&C	2,336	891	13,793
Industry	1,739	2,127	22,730
Tourism and restaurants	958	323	6,356
Agriculture, forestry, fishing	535	331	2,822
TOTAL	25,349	11,378	118,514

Distribution by field, 2025. Source: Economic Bulletin of Iași County[7].

The breakdown by size class shows an economy dominated by very small enterprises: in 2025, out of the 25,349 active companies, 23,368 had up to 9 employees, 1,684 between 10 and 49 employees, 248 between 50 and 249 employees, and 49 had 250 employees or more.

The distribution by turnover is equally asymmetric — a single company exceeds the threshold of EUR 340 million, another 15 pass EUR 50 million, while 17,473 firms remain below EUR 0.1 million.

Two thirds of the companies, 16,469, have their registered office in urban areas, and 8,880 in rural areas[7].

As at 31 December 2025, the active legal persons of the county numbered almost 60,000 associates and shareholders, of whom 37% women, and over a third were under 40 years of age[7].

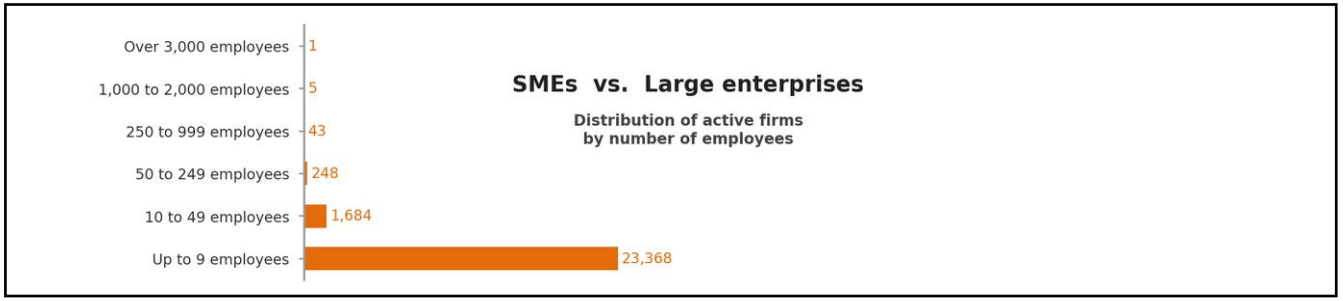
The county's top ten companies together generated, in 2023, approximately 11.6% of the total turnover of active companies — a low degree of concentration, showing that the county economy does not depend on a single employer[5].

In 2023, 5,714 registrations of economic operators were recorded in the county, of which 3,921 limited liability companies and 1,428 authorised natural persons.

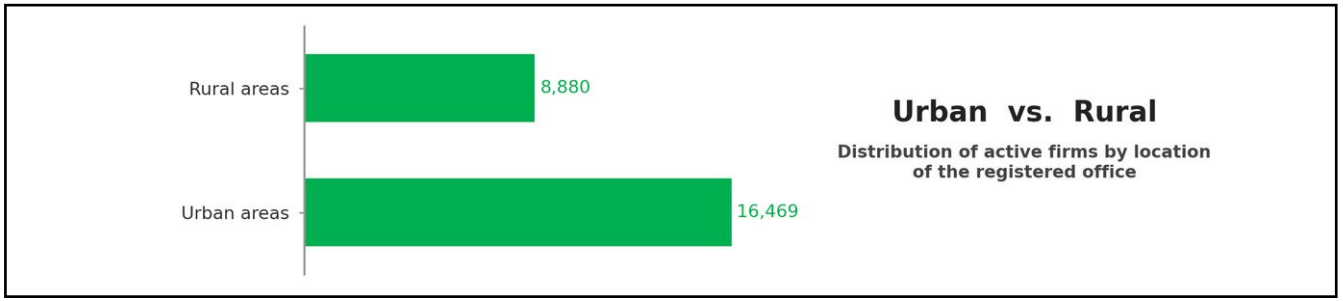
In the same year, 270 insolvencies, 1,345 dissolutions and 2,769 deregistrations were recorded[13].



Distribution of active firms by turnover, 2025. Source: Economic Bulletin of Iași County[7].



Distribution of active firms by number of employees, 2025[7].



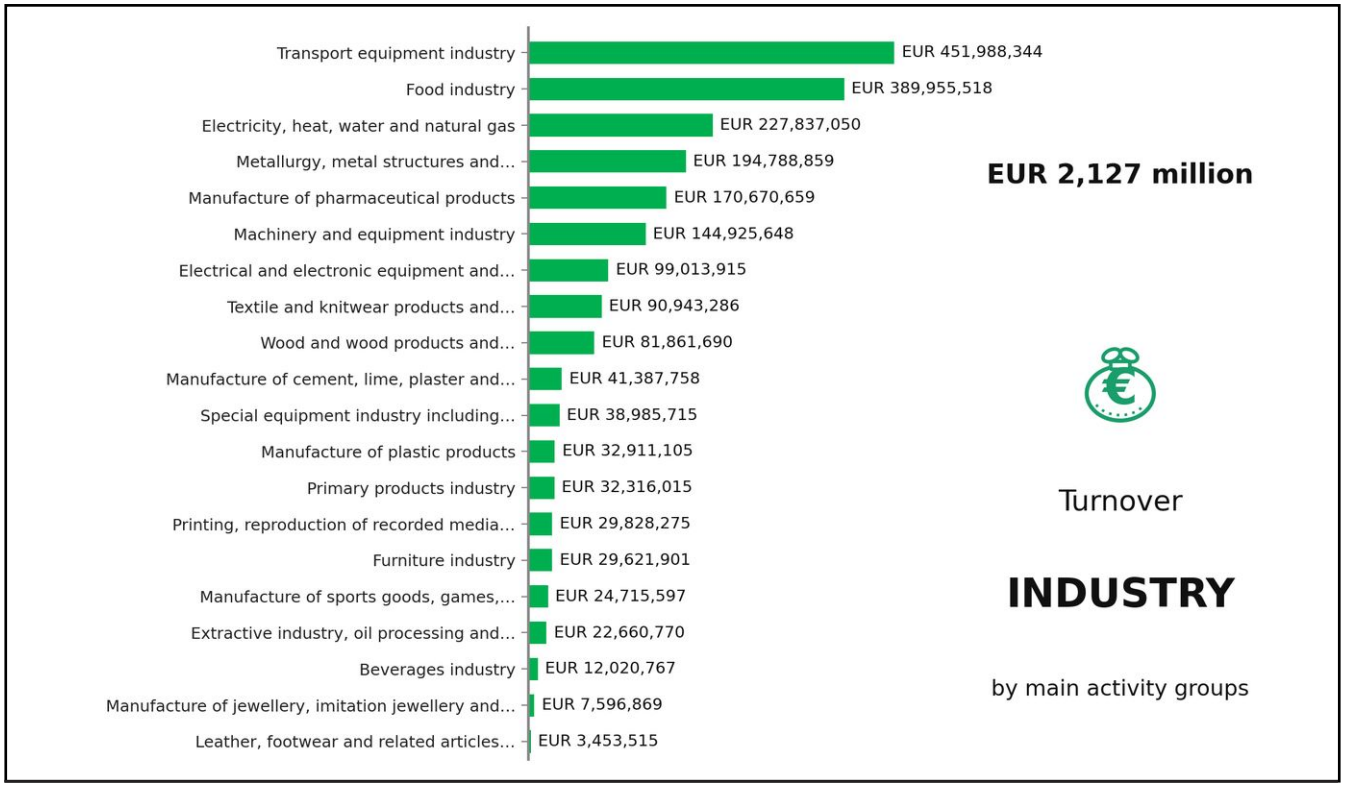
Breakdown of active firms by area of residence of the registered office, 2025[7].

The sectoral structure of 2025

The balance sheets of the 2025 financial year allow a detailed picture of each field by activity group. The charts that follow show where turnover is concentrated within each sector[7].

In industry, the top two groups — the transport equipment industry, with EUR 452.0 million, and the food industry, with EUR 390.0 million — together generate almost 40% of the field's turnover.

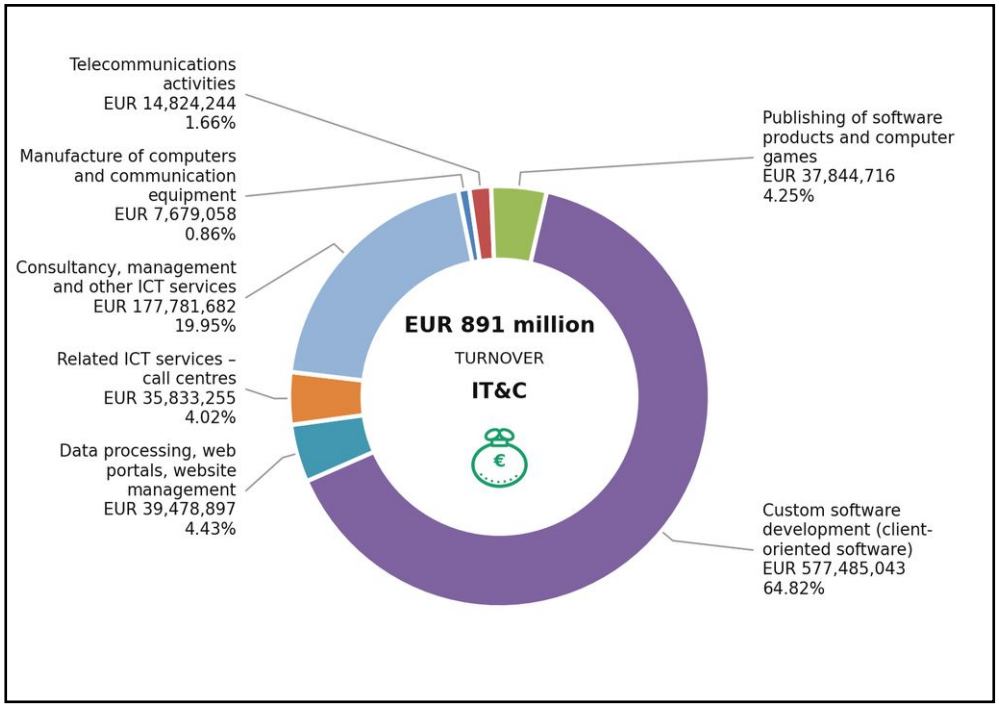
They are followed by energy, with EUR 227.8 million, the metallurgical and metal construction industry, with EUR 194.8 million, the pharmaceutical industry, with EUR 170.7 million, and the machinery and equipment industry, with EUR 144.9 million[7].





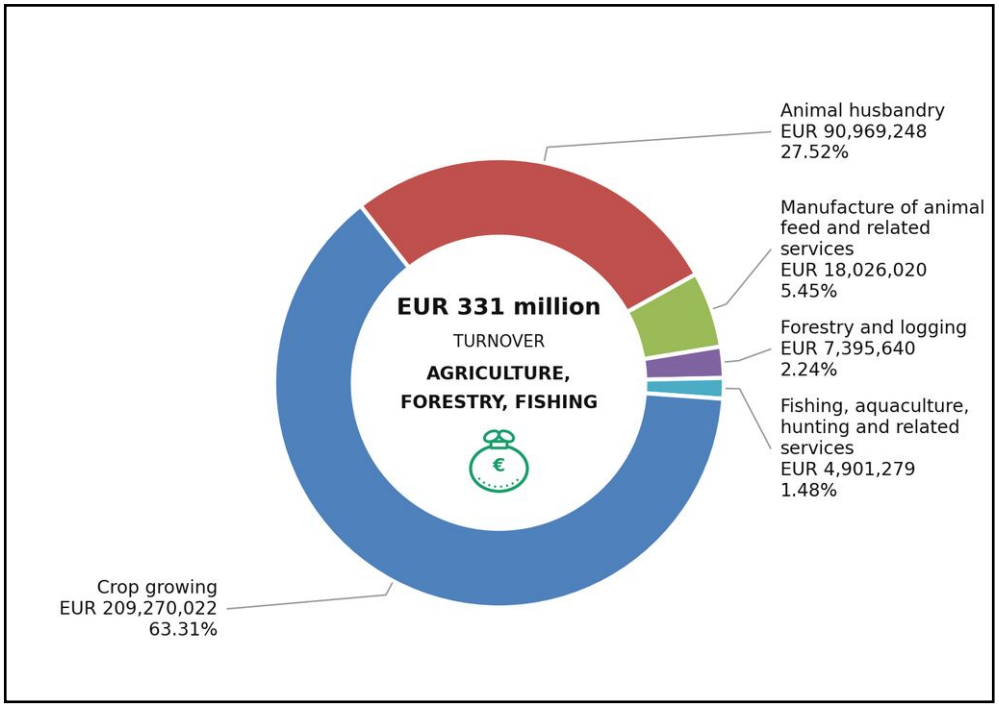
Structure of industrial turnover by activity group, 2025. Source: Economic Bulletin of Iași County[7].

In IT&C, custom software development clearly dominates, with EUR 577.5 million, i.e. 64.8% of the field's turnover, followed by consultancy and other IT&C services, with EUR 177.8 million. Software and games publishing, data processing and call centre services complete the structure[7].



Structure of IT&C turnover by activity group, 2025[7].

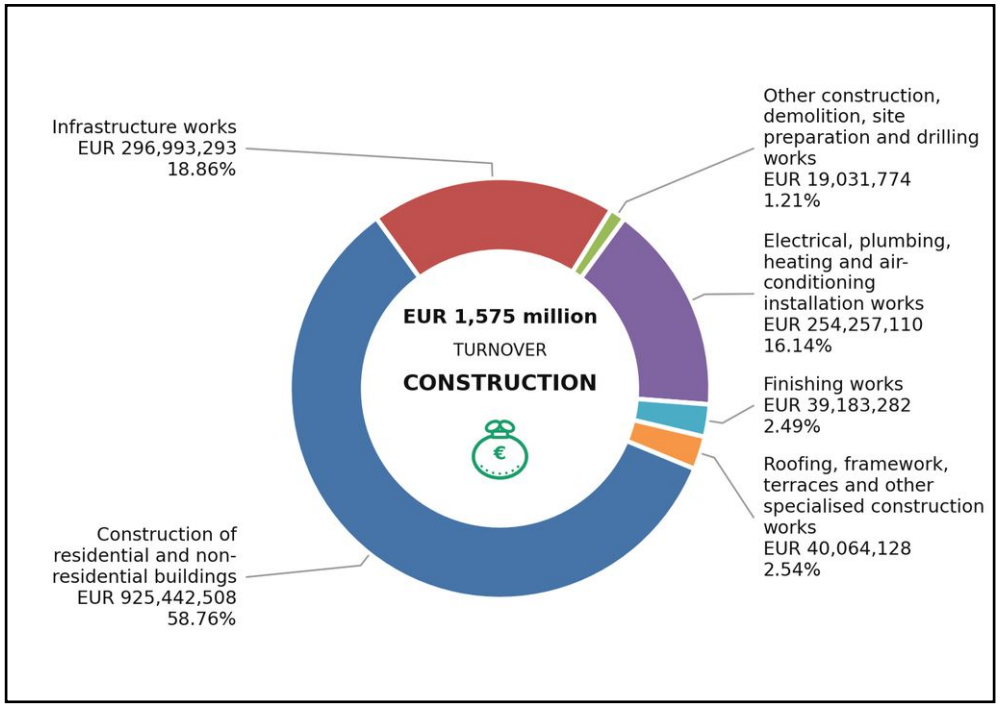
In agriculture, forestry and fishing, crop growing generates EUR 209.3 million, i.e. 63.3% of turnover, and animal husbandry EUR 91.0 million, i.e. 27.5%, the remainder going to animal feed manufacturing, forestry and fish farming[7].



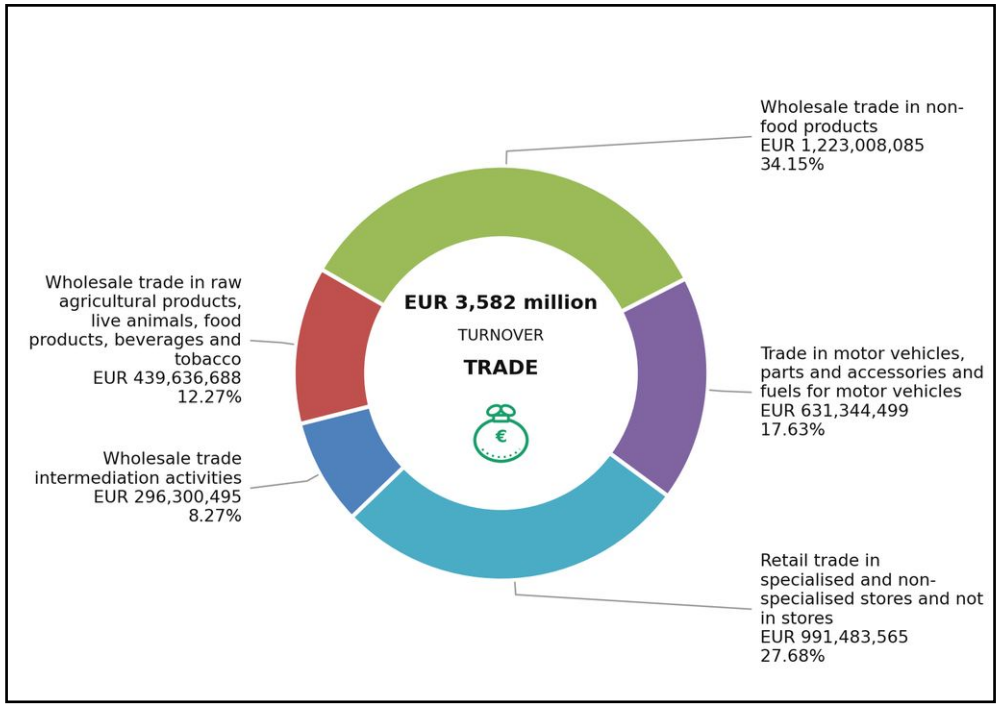
Structure of turnover in agriculture, forestry and fishing, 2025[7].

In construction, residential and non-residential building works total EUR 925.4 million, i.e. 58.8% of the field, followed by infrastructure works, with EUR 297.0 million, and installation works, with EUR 254.3 million — a structure reflecting at once the residential expansion of the metropolitan area and the region's infrastructure construction sites[7].

Trade, the largest field by turnover, is led by wholesale trade in non-food products, with EUR 1,223.0 million, followed by retail trade, with EUR 991.5 million, and trade in motor vehicles, parts and fuels, with EUR 631.3 million[7].



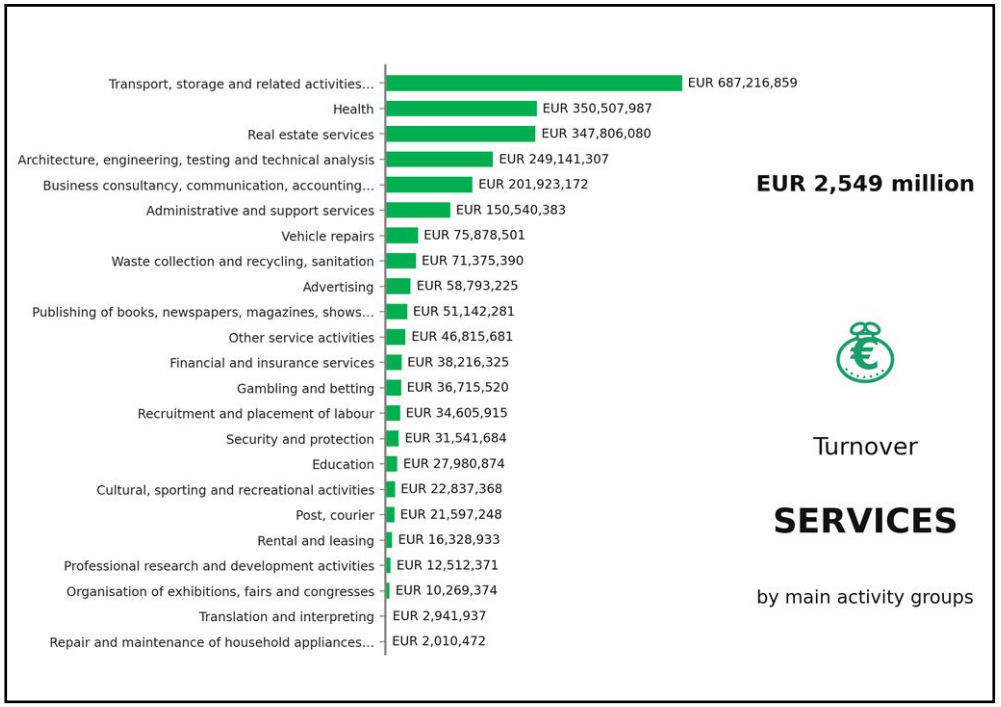
Structure of construction turnover by activity group, 2025[7].



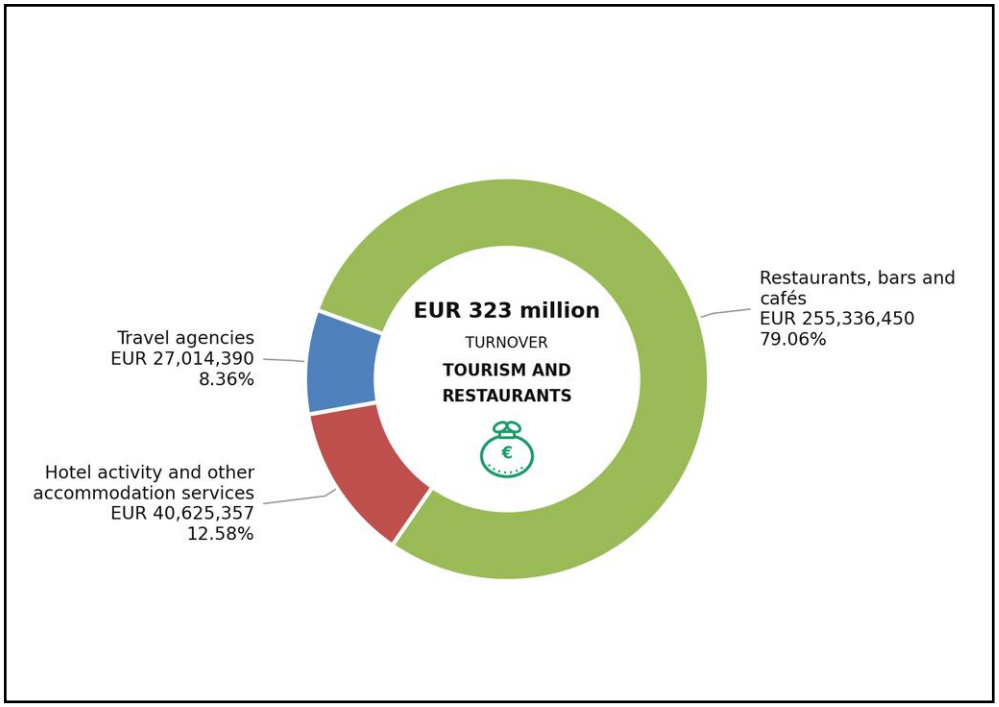
Structure of trade turnover by activity group, 2025[7].

In services, transport and storage lead with EUR 687.2 million, followed by health, with EUR 350.5 million, real estate services, with EUR 347.8 million, and architecture, engineering and technical testing, with EUR 249.1 million — the last group being a direct expression of the county's engineering centre profile[7].

In tourism and restaurants, the restaurants, bars and cafés segment generates EUR 255.3 million, i.e. 79.1% of the field, hotel activity EUR 40.6 million, and travel agencies EUR 27.0 million[7].



Structure of services turnover by activity group, 2025[7].



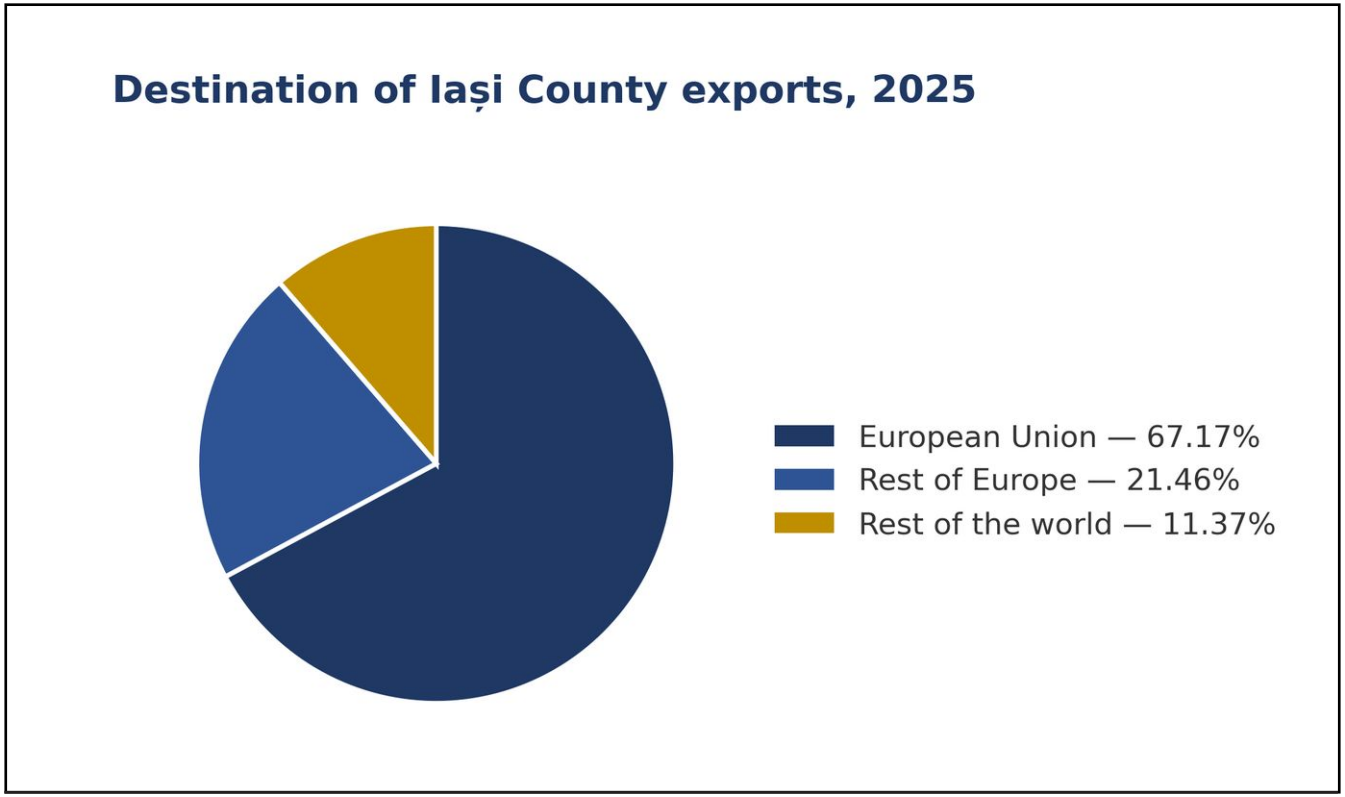
Structure of turnover in tourism and restaurants, 2025[7].

Foreign trade

The exports of Iași County have passed the one-billion-euro threshold.

In 2024 they totalled EUR 1,042.2 million, and imports EUR 1,324.6 million, resulting in a trade deficit of EUR 282.4 million[9].

In 2025, exports reached EUR 1,077.2 million, imports EUR 1,367.2 million, and the trade deficit EUR 290.0 million[10].



In 2025, the European Union absorbed 67.2% of the county's exports, the rest of Europe 21.5%, and other countries 11.4%.

The main destinations are Germany, with EUR 155.6 million, Great Britain, with EUR 126.8 million, the Netherlands, with EUR 98.4 million, Belgium, with EUR 84.8 million, and the Republic of Moldova, with EUR 62.2 million, and among non-European markets, the United States, with EUR 44.5 million.

On the import side, the main origins are Germany, with EUR 230.2 million, Italy, with EUR 152.4 million, China, with EUR 128.8 million, Ukraine, with EUR 118.2 million, and the Republic of Moldova, with EUR 93.8 million[10].



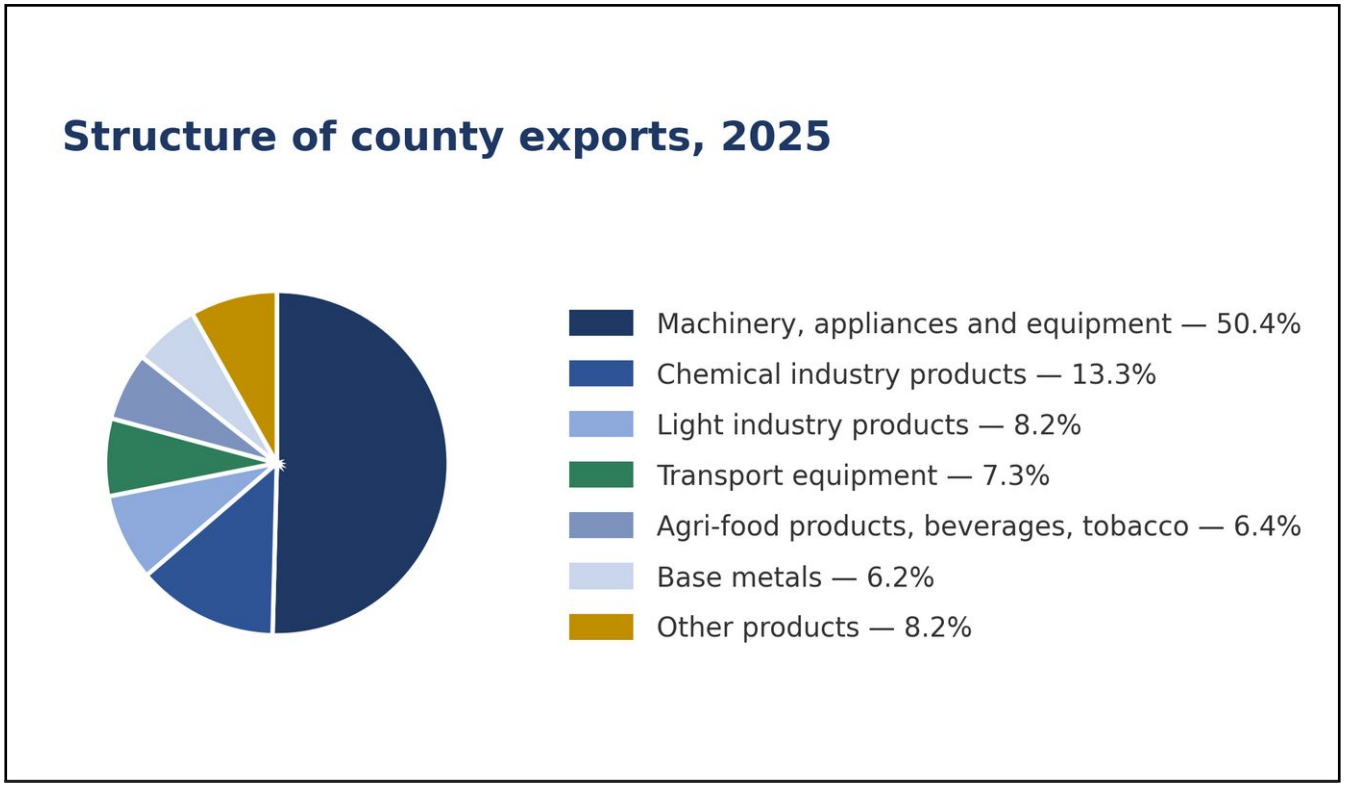
Destination of Iași County exports in 2025[10].

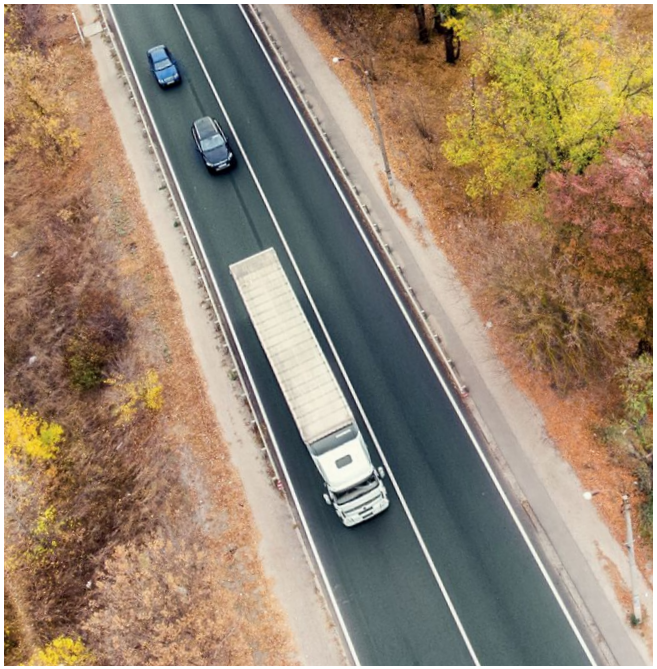
The structure of exports by product group is concentrated.

In 2025, machinery, appliances and equipment accounted for 50.4% of the county's exports, chemical industry products 13.3%, light industry products 8.2%, transport equipment 7.3%, agri-food products 6.4%, and base metals 6.2%.

On the import side, the same machinery and equipment held 30.2%, transport equipment 14.0%, chemical industry products 12.2%, agri-food products 11.8%, and base metals 11.4%[10].

For 2025, the data of the County Statistics Directorate show, by tariff chapter, that the group of reactors, boilers and mechanical appliances passed EUR 440.8 million, i.e. approximately 41% of the county's exports, pharmaceutical products approached EUR 92 million, and electrical machinery, appliances and materials generated around EUR 79 million[10].





Structure of county exports by product group, 2025. Source: Iași County Statistics Directorate[10].

Foreign direct investment

The stock of foreign direct investment in Iași County stood at EUR 795 million at the end of 2024, according to the report of the National Bank of Romania published on 19 September 2025. The county ranks 19th in the national hierarchy, with a share of 0.65% of the total stock of EUR 122,360 million[6].

Foreign investors with a turnover of over RON 5 million come from Luxembourg, the United States, the Netherlands, Türkiye, Cyprus, Belgium and Germany, and the main fields of activity are the automotive industry, custom software development, trade, the food industry and the manufacture of machinery and equipment[5].

The values come from the balance sheets filed for the 2024 financial year. In the case of Omco România, the net profit reported is close to turnover, which indicates income from outside the core business. ArcelorMittal Tubular Products Iași, present in previous years, did not file its 2024 balance sheet and does not appear in the ranking[45].

Company	Country of control	Turnover (RON million)	Net profit (RON million)	Employees
Phinia Delphi România	Luxembourg	1,720.0	46.2	1,550
Amazon Development Center	United States	802.0	−29.6	3,424
Brikston Construction Solutions	Austria	285.1	51.1	378
Rompak	Türkiye	227.1	53.7	233
Ness România	Netherlands	223.8	25.3	—
HTR Spedition	Lithuania	203.6	1.2	242
Consys International	Luxembourg	193.2	19.2	27
Motexco	Belgium	165.5	17.6	352
Mennekes Electric	Germany	165.2	10.0	115
Omco România	Belgium	162.4	146.4	361
SCC Services România	United Kingdom	154.5	1.3	1,088
IG Watteeuw România	Belgium	148.8	5.7	339
Ecolab, Iași branch	Austria	136.0	5.2	85
BMT Aerospace România	Belgium	132.6	12.4	371
Rostoc Deal	Luxembourg	131.7	2.8	43
Centric IT Solutions România	Netherlands	130.9	−12.0	368
Snack-Trade	Republic of Moldova	126.4	8.5	223
Signant Health	United Kingdom	124.5	5.6	573
Grenzebach România	Germany	121.5	4.7	235
Conduent Business Services România	Netherlands	106.5	3.1	725

The county's main foreign investors, by turnover for 2024[45].

The balance sheets for the 2025 financial year, available for the largest of these companies, show an uneven trend. Phinia Delphi România reached RON 1.78 billion, 3.4% above the previous year, and a profit of RON 111.5 million, more than double and the best result of the last eight years, after the Miroslava plant took over production volumes transferred from Poland.

Amazon Development Center fell to RON 712.9 million, 11% below the previous year, but returned to profit after the 2024 loss.

SCC Services România rose to RON 173.4 million, 12.2% more, and Rostoc Deal to RON 310.8 million, after growth of 136%[45].

For the companies whose 2025 balance sheets had been made public by August 2026, the table below presents the up-to-date results. For the other companies in the ranking above — among them Brikston, Rompak, Ness, Mennekes and Omco — the 2025 balance sheets were not yet available in the public databases at the time of drafting[45].





Company	Country of control	Turnover 2025 (RON million)	Change against 2024	Employees 2025
Phinia Delphi România	Luxembourg	1,780.0	+3.4%	1,487
Amazon Development Center	United States	712.9	−11.1%	3,166
Rostoc Deal	Luxembourg	310.8	+136.0%	—
SCC Services România	United Kingdom	173.4	+12.2%	1,137
BMT Aerospace România	Belgium	158.5	+19.5%	356
Signant Health	United Kingdom	133.1	+6.9%	536
Centric IT Solutions România	Netherlands	126.3	−3.5%	314
Basware	Finland	62.7	+13.1%	215
Modular Services	United Kingdom	57.2	+19.7%	198
Levi9 Global Sourcing Balkan	Netherlands	54.8	+3.3%	171
Nuvei Services Romania	Canada	49.5	+33.8%	106

Results of the 2025 financial year for the foreign investors with published balance sheets; the country of control is that of the previous table[45].

Labour force and education

04

Iași County has the largest labour market in the North-East Region and the most important university centre in Moldavia. This chapter presents the size and structure of the available labour force, the vocational training system and the level of wage costs.



The size of the labour market

The number of employees in Iași County reached the threshold of 200,000 persons during 2025: as at 30 June 2025, 201,836 persons were registered, 2,924 more than in the same month of the previous year. At the end of April 2026, the figure was 199,259 persons, the fifth in the country, after Bucharest, Cluj, Timiș and Ilfov[11].

Three different indicators measure employment in the county and are not comparable with one another. The number of employees at month end, published by the County Statistics Directorate, was 199,259 persons in April 2026[11].

The average number of employees in the county economy, an annual indicator that also includes the public sector, was 182,643 persons in 2023[13].

The number of employees of active commercial companies, calculated on the basis of the balance sheets, was 118,514 persons in 2025[7].

The differences arise from the scope of coverage, not from the actual development of employment.

The registered unemployment rate was 3.39% in June 2026, with 9,487 unemployed persons on the records of the County Employment Agency. The level remains low, although it has risen from the 2.9% recorded at the end of 2023[12].

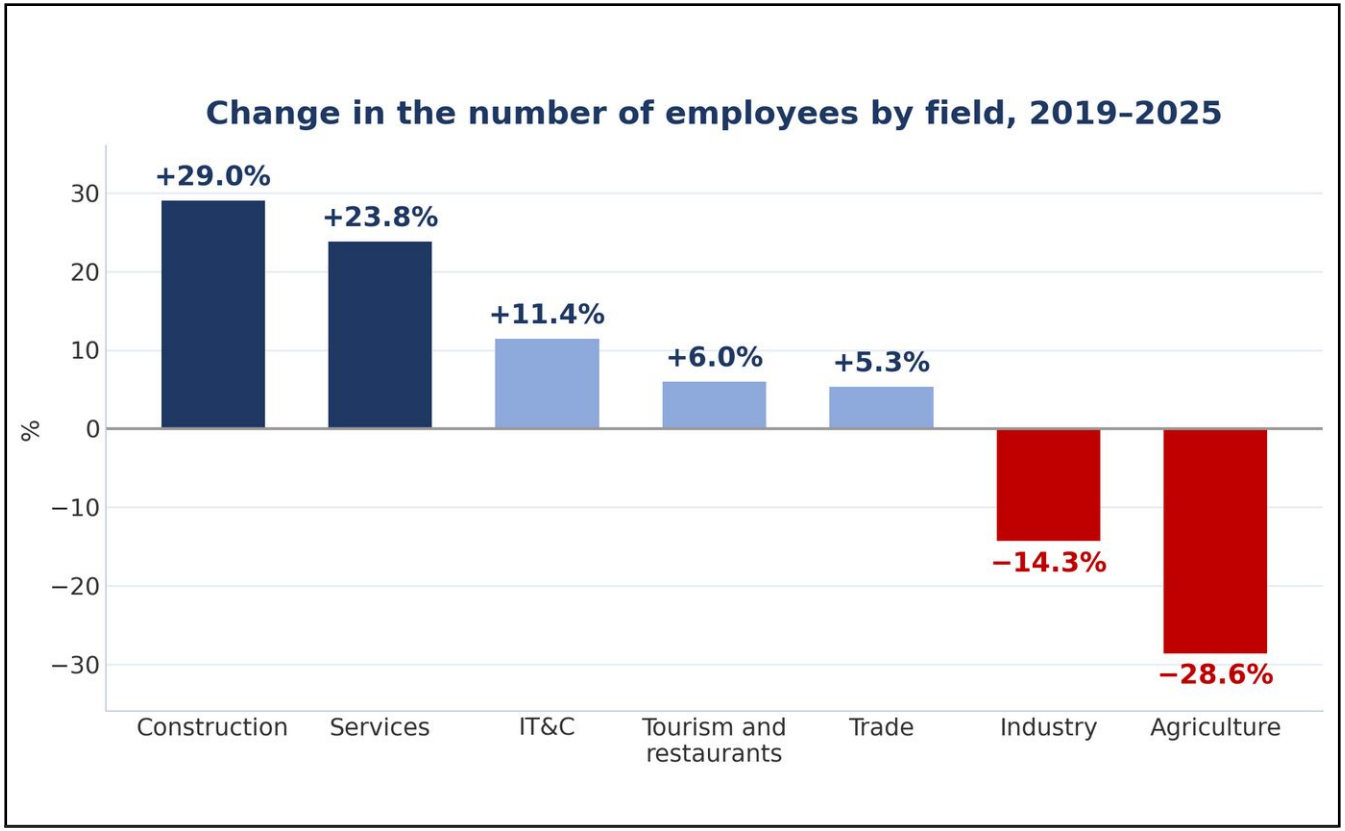
In 2023, the county's labour resources totalled 489.2 thousand persons, i.e. 24.7% of the North-East Region total and 4.0% of the national total. The civilian active population was 276.6 thousand persons, and the civilian employed population 268.5 thousand persons. On both counts, the county ranks first in the region, and by employed population it ranks fifth in Romania[13].

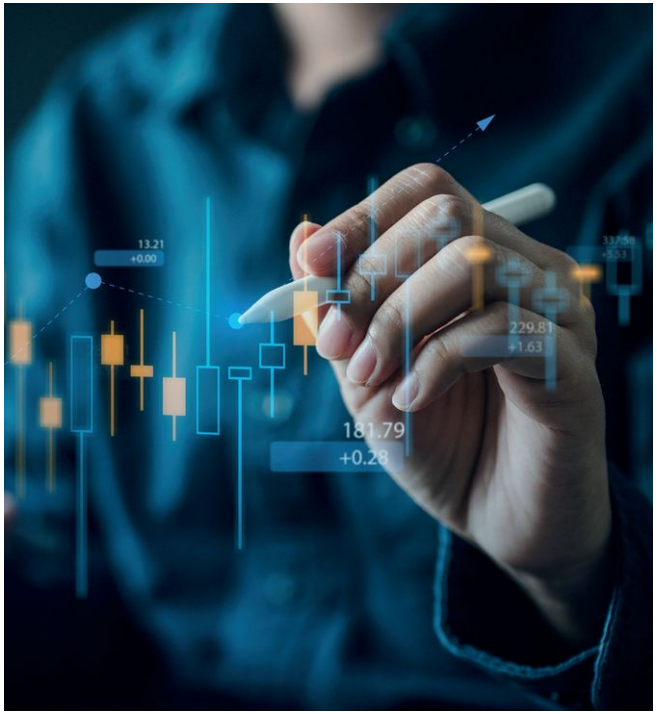
Development of employment by field of activity

Between 2019 and 2025, according to the balance sheets of active firms, the strongest increase in the number of employees was recorded in construction, with 29.0%, from 12,924 to 16,670 persons, and in services, with 23.8%, from 30,492 to 37,747.

The ICT sector added 11.4%, reaching 13,793 employees, while tourism and trade grew by 6.0% and 5.3% respectively.

In the opposite direction, industry lost 14.3% of its workforce, from 26,534 to 22,730 employees, and agriculture 28.6%. Overall, active firms in the county had 8% more employees than in 2019[7].



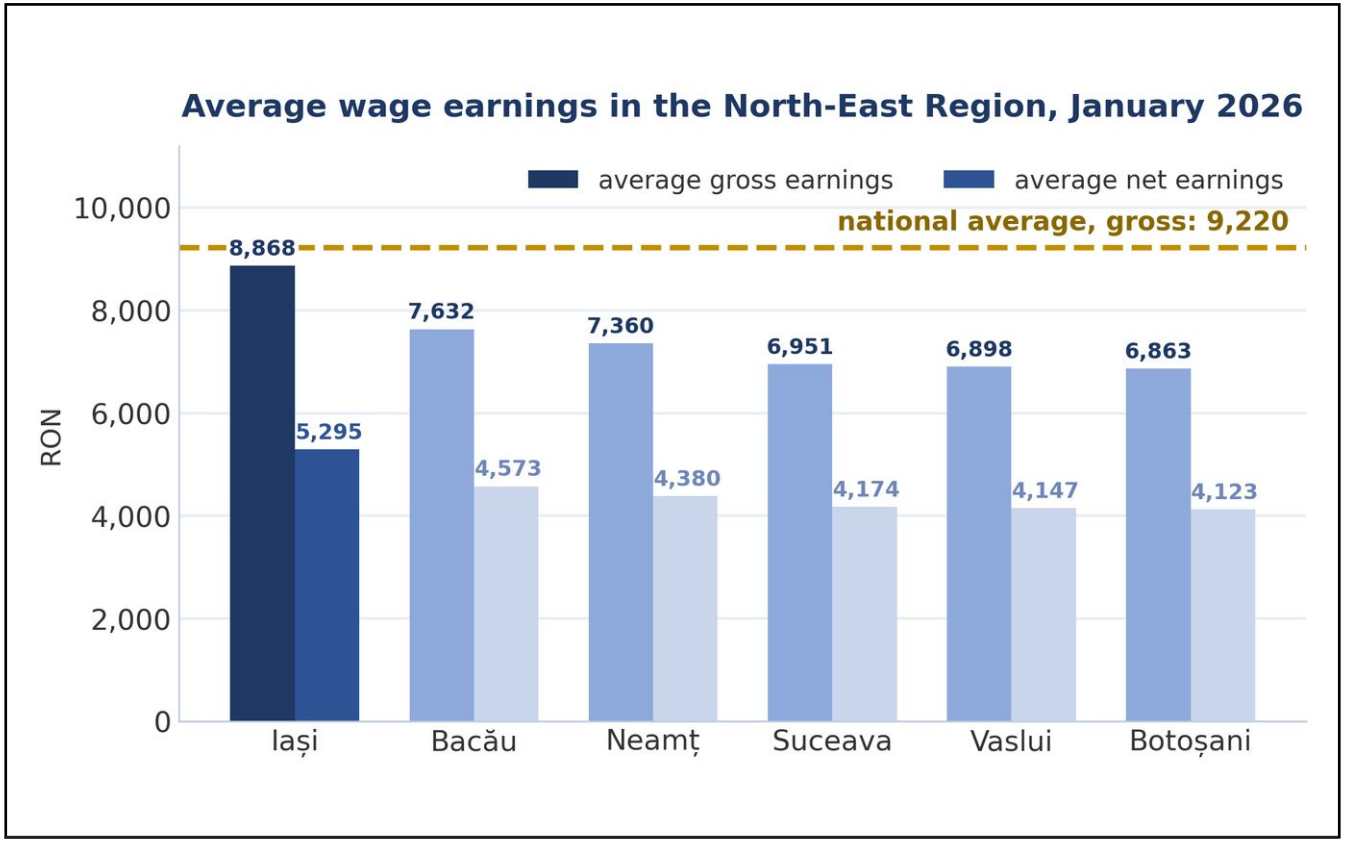


Change in the number of employees of active firms, by field, between 2019 and 2025. Source: Economic Bulletin of Iași County[7].

The cost of labour

The average net wage in Iași County was RON 5,230 in April 2026, the eighth highest in the country, below the national average of RON 5,843.

In June 2025, the average gross wage was RON 8,923 and the net wage RON 5,335, up by 8.8% and 6.4% respectively against the previous year[11].



In January 2026, the average gross wage in Iași County was RON 8,868 and the net wage RON 5,295 — the highest in the North-East Region, with a substantial margin over Bacău, at RON 7,632 gross, Neamț, at RON 7,360, Suceava, at RON 6,951, Vaslui, at RON 6,898, and Botoșani, at RON 6,863.

Against the national average of RON 9,220 gross, earnings in Iași remain 4% lower. By activity group, services in the county pay RON 9,320 gross, industry and construction RON 7,679, and agriculture RON 7,753[10].

Iași County is not a minimum labour cost destination. The average wage is more than 30% higher than in the neighbouring counties of Botoșani and Vaslui. The difference corresponds to the structure of employment, in which the share of high value added activities is significantly greater[13].

Average gross and net wages in the counties of the North-East Region, January 2026. Source: Iași County Statistics Directorate[10].

Higher education

Five state universities operate in the municipality of Iași. Alexandru Ioan Cuza University, founded in 1860 as Romania's first modern university, had in the 2024–2025 academic year a number of 24,049 students, which placed it fourth among the country's higher education institutions.

Gheorghe Asachi Technical University had 12,939 students and ranked thirteenth[17].



Together with the University of Medicine and Pharmacy, with 10,399 students, with the University of Life Sciences and with the National University of Arts, the seven universities of the municipality total over 50,000 students[17].



The university system is completed by two accredited private universities. Petre Andrei University of Iași, founded in 1990 and accredited by Law No 408/2002, trains specialists in law, psychology and educational sciences, economics and political and administrative sciences.

Apollonia University of Iași, founded in 1991 and accredited by Law No 481/2002, has faculties of dental medicine and of communication sciences.

University	Fields of study relevant to investors
Alexandru Ioan Cuza University	Computer science, mathematics, physics, chemistry, economics, law, social sciences
Gheorghe Asachi Technical University	Automation and computer science, electronics and telecommunications, electrical engineering, mechanical engineering, civil engineering and building services, chemical engineering, textiles and leather, architecture
Grigore T. Popa University of Medicine and Pharmacy	Medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, medical bioengineering
Ion Ionescu de la Brad University of Life Sciences	Agronomy, horticulture, animal husbandry, veterinary medicine, food product engineering
George Enescu National University of Arts	Industrial design, visual arts, composition, creative industries
Petre Andrei University of Iași (private)	Law, psychology and educational sciences, economics, political and administrative sciences
Apollonia University of Iași (private)	Dental medicine, dental technology, nursing, balneophysiotherapy; communication sciences

Cooperation between universities and industry has a long tradition in the county. Gheorghe Asachi Technical University has for over two decades run specialised training and internship programmes together with the industrial groups present in Iași.

The number of graduates entering the labour market each year in information technology stands, according to market estimates, between 1,000 and 1,200 persons from the relevant faculties of the two large universities, to which are added a few hundred graduates of informal training schools. An investment project requiring a team of several hundred specialists in the field is therefore built over several years or by attracting personnel from existing companies[17].



Pre-university education and vocational training

The school network of Iași County comprised, in the 2024–2025 school year, 217 education units with legal personality, among them 22 technological high schools and technical colleges and 16 vocational schools. In mainstream full-time education, 114,293 pupils and pre-school children were enrolled, of whom 64,200 in urban areas. Vocational education numbered 5,044 pupils, organised in 858 classes[17].

In the 2024–2025 school year, the Gheorghe Asachi Technical College in Iași obtained authorisation for the qualification of numerically controlled machining technician and accreditation for that of numerically controlled machine operator.

The Mihail Sturdza Technical College obtained authorisation and accreditation for the qualification of aircraft on-board systems technician.

The qualifications newly introduced into the county's educational offer respond to the demand of the precision mechanical processing cluster and of the aeronautical industry present in Iași. Other qualifications authorised in the same school year are those of draughtsman technician for construction and building services and construction technician, at the Technological High School in Hârlău, and that of fashion designer technician, at the Ionel Teodoreanu Vocational School in the commune of Victoria[17].



Results in national examinations

At the June–July 2026 baccalaureate session, the pass rate in Iași County was, after appeals had been settled, 82.6%, against a national average of 76.9%. The county ranked fourth in the country. For graduates of the current cohort, the pass rate was 86.24%, three candidates obtained an average mark of 10, and 1,364 completed the examination with average marks above 9[18].

At the 2026 National Evaluation, 79.3% of the county's graduates who sat the examination obtained average marks of at least 5, slightly above the national average of 79%, in a year with lower results nationally; one of the only seven pupils in the whole country with an average mark of 10 comes from Iași County[18].

The results by subject confirm the county's technical orientation. In the computer science examination taken as part of the 2025 baccalaureate, the pass rate was 99.75% for the 403 candidates of the mathematics and computer science stream. For the mathematics examination, 758 candidates of the same stream were enrolled, of whom 88% obtained marks above 9[18].

Differences between urban and rural areas

School results differ significantly between the two areas of residence.

At the 2025 National Evaluation, the share of pupils with marks of at least 5 in mathematics was 89.45% in urban areas and 60.76% in rural areas. In Romanian language and literature, the values were 95.29% and 82.26% respectively[18].

This difference has direct consequences for the choice of an investment site.

A site located in the first metropolitan ring — the communes of Miroslava, Holboca, Tomești or Valea Lupului — recruits simultaneously from the urban catchment and from the nearby rural one, through daily commuting.

A more distant site recruits predominantly from rural areas, which affects the duration and cost of initial staff training.



Infrastructure and connectivity

05

The existing transport network

Iași County had 2,490 kilometres of public roads, i.e. 2.9% of the national network. The modernisation rate of this network was 35.7%, against a national average of 51.5% at the end of 2024.

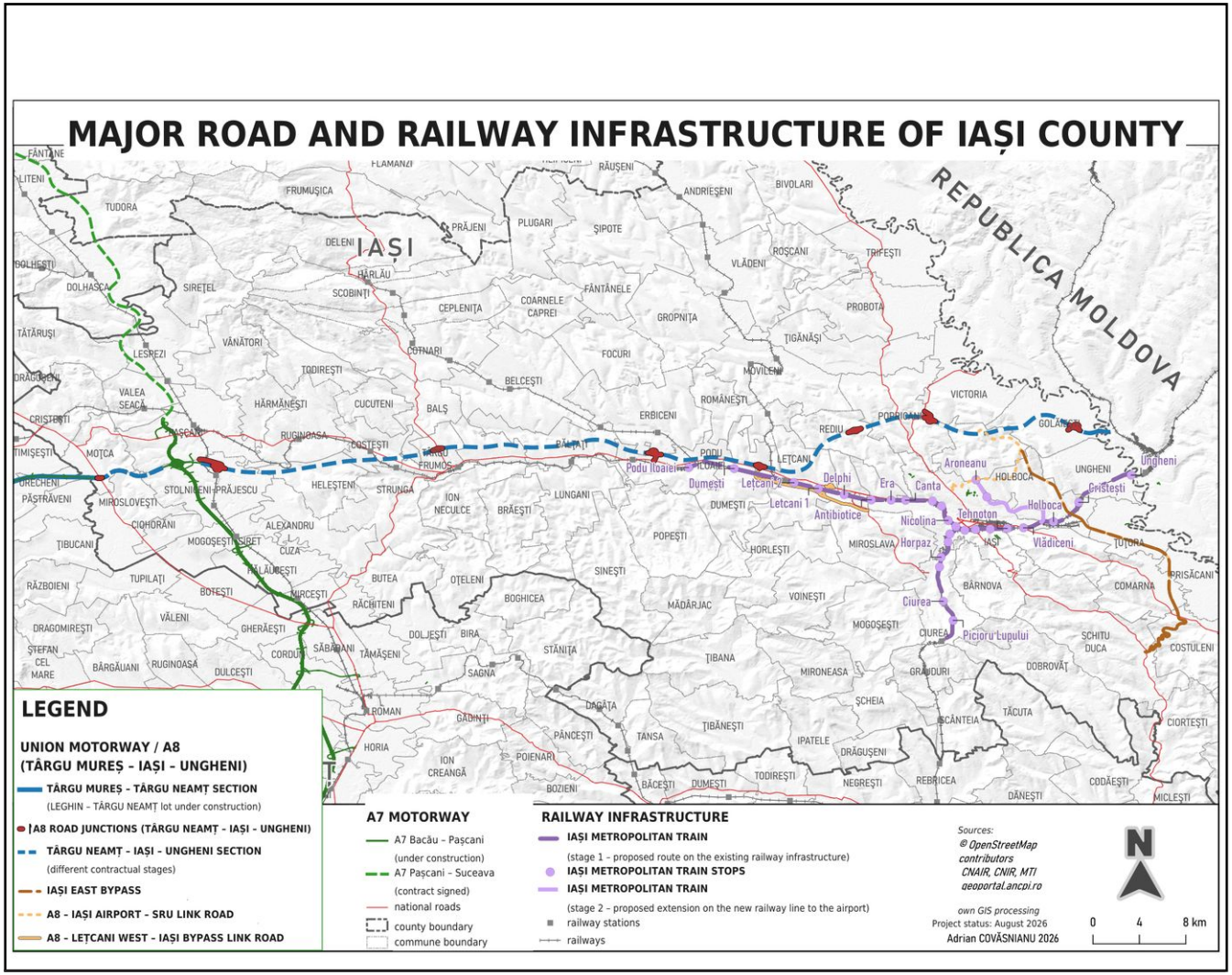
Of the 356 kilometres of national roads on the county's territory, 342 are modernised[5][15].

The county is crossed in its north-western part by the European road E85. Four further national roads provide the main connections: Roman – Târgu Frumos – Botoșani, Vaslui – Iași – Bălțați, Iași – Ungheni – Chișinău and Iași – Târgu Frumos – Pașcani[5].

The county's railway network totalled 316 kilometres in operation at the end of 2023, 26 kilometres more than in 2020, of which 144 kilometres electrified, i.e. 45.6%.

Railway main lines 600, on the Făurei – Tecuci – Bârlad – Vaslui – Iași – Ungheni route, and 606, on the Iași – Târgu Frumos – Pașcani route, pass through the county. The municipalities of Iași and Pașcani are important railway junctions for the entire North-East Region[5][16].





The offer of investment sites presented in this guide focuses on land situated on European or national roads or on the future metropolitan ring: Lețcani industrial park has frontage onto European road E583 and county road DJ 248B, the Tomești industrial cluster is situated on national road DN 28, the Pașcani site lies at the junction of the A7 and A8 motorways, and the Holboca site will be served by the future Iași East Bypass[24].

The county's major road and rail infrastructure: the A7 and A8 motorways, the Iași East Bypass, the link roads to the airport and to Lețcani and the proposed route of the metropolitan train. Status of the projects as at August 2026[46].

The reference deadlines

Infrastructure objective	Reference deadline
A7 motorway, Adjud – Bacău section	31 August 2026
A7 motorway, completed as far as Pașcani	2027
Freight terminal of Iași International Airport	works executed within two years at most
Iași Regional Emergency Hospital	2030
A7 and A8 motorways, fully completed	2031
Electrification Iași – border	technical and economic indicators approved
Iași East Bypass	at feasibility study stage
Metropolitan train	technical and economic documentation undergoing approval

Iași International Airport

Terminal T4, the most recent major investment, has a surface area of 31,250 square metres and an annual capacity of 3,350,000 passengers.

It is equipped with 20 conventional check-in desks, 12 self check-in systems and 14 boarding gates, three of them with jet bridges[19].

Iași International Airport is under the authority of Iași County Council and is the country's third airport by passenger numbers and the second regional airport.

The airport serves over 2 million passengers a year and offers 26 direct destinations, operated by seven airlines, to Israel, France, the United Kingdom, Italy, Spain, Belgium, Germany, Cyprus, the Netherlands, Denmark, Austria, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Ireland, Czechia, Tunisia and Türkiye[19].

The years 2027–2028 will also bring Iași Airport the completion of its first terminal with cargo facilities.



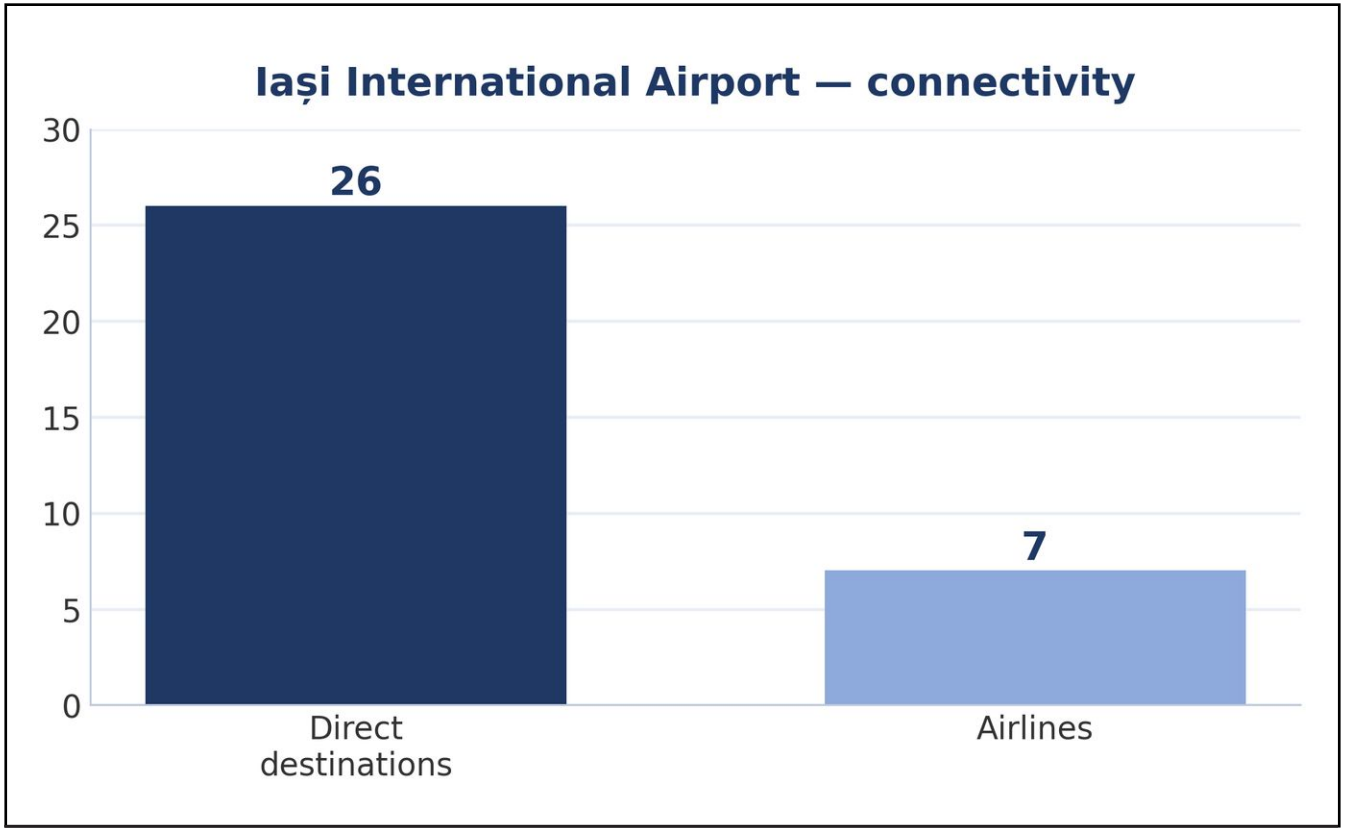
The modernisation and re-partitioning of Terminal T3 is currently under way; it will have a usable area of approximately 3,300 square metres and will serve departures exclusively. Terminal T2 is to be reconfigured into a cross-docking, parcel and light freight terminal.

The airport is preparing a new control tower, with eight levels and 360-degree perimeter visibility, whose construction is estimated to begin in 2027, and the contract for the second photovoltaic park, of 4.42 MWp, has been signed with STRABAG.

Passenger flows are being adapted for the European Entry/Exit System, through the installation of automated control gates[19].

The airport currently has no freight transport activity. The feasibility study for the cargo area has been launched, and the modernisation works are to be carried out within no more than two years.

In 2027, Iași will host the ACI Regional Airports Conference & Exhibition, the leading European event dedicated to regional airports[19].





The A7 Moldova Motorway

The Săucești–Trifești section, of 30.3 kilometres, and the Mircești–Pașcani section, of 28.09 kilometres, lie on the territory of Iași County.

In May 2026, the three sections between Bacău and Pașcani stood at approximately 50% physical completion.

The A7 motorway links Ploiești to Siret and crosses the whole of Moldavia. The declared objective of the National Company for Road Infrastructure Administration is to open to traffic the 397 kilometres between Bucharest and Pașcani, with phased commissioning.

The reference deadline used in this guide for completion of the motorway as far as Pașcani is 2027[21].

The opening to traffic of the Adjud – Bacău stretch, which establishes a continuous motorway link between Bucharest and Bacău, is scheduled for 31 August 2026. For the three sections between Bacău and Pașcani, the same date represents the 80–90% financial progress milestone undertaken through the National Recovery and Resilience Plan, the first two sections having as their target the opening to traffic during 2026[21].



The A7 motorway reaches Pașcani, not the municipality of Iași.

A site located in Pașcani will have direct access to the motorway network from 2027, while the sites in the metropolitan area will be connected to that network upon completion of the A8 motorway[21].

The A8 Unirii Motorway

The A8 motorway forms part of the TEN-T Core trans-European transport corridor, on the Timișoara – Sebeș – Turda – Târgu Mureș – Iași – Ungheni route.

The section on the territory of Iași County totals 93 kilometres and is divided into four stretches[21].

Stretch	Length	Contractual status at the time of drafting
Moțca – Târgu Frumos	27 km	Contractor declared winner; value of approximately RON 4.76 billion
Târgu Frumos – Lețcani	28.6 km	Contract awarded; value of approximately RON 4.57 billion. Includes the northern bypass of the town of Podu Iloaiei
Lețcani – Iași North (DN 24)	17.7 km	Contract awarded; value of approximately RON 3.93 billion
Iași North – Golăiești – Ungheni	15.5 km	Tender launched; estimated value of approximately RON 4.7 billion

The funding envisaged for these stretches comes from the European SAFE mechanism and from the Transport Operational Programme.

The reference deadline used in this guide for full completion of the A7 and A8 motorways is 2031[21].

Two of the sites intended for investment are situated directly on this network. Lețcani industrial park lies at the junction between the Târgu Frumos – Lețcani and Lețcani – Iași North stretches, and the Iași County Development Strategy records that the route of the motorway passes along the northern boundary of the park.

The Pașcani site lies at the interchange between the A7 and A8 motorways[24].



Status of the A8 motorway stretches on the territory of Iași County[21].

The metropolitan road network



The Iași Metropolitan Master Plan, approved by the General Assembly of the Iași Metropolitan Area association and drawn up in partnership with the World Bank under the Iași Livable City programme, structures the metropolitan road network on four levels.

Ring R0 is the inner urban ring. Rings R1 and R2 are intermediate rings, R2 being the peri-urban ring serving the first metropolitan ring of communes.

Ring R3 is the outer metropolitan ring, with a profile adapted to heavy traffic, grade-separated junctions and controlled access, connected directly to the A8 motorway and to national roads DN 28 and DN 24[23].

Iași East Bypass

The Iași East Bypass constitutes the eastern segment of ring R3 and ensures the continuity of heavy traffic flows between national road DN 24 and the access nodes towards the A8 motorway and towards Iași International Airport.

The project is at the feasibility study stage[23].

Item	Data set out in the Iași Metropolitan Master Plan
Technical profile	Four-lane national road, with central barriers and grade-separated junctions or large-radius roundabouts
Total estimated cost	EUR 495 million
Cost structure	EUR 220 million road construction; EUR 180 million engineering structures; EUR 60 million grade-separated junctions; EUR 21 million studies, design and expropriations; EUR 14 million traffic management, safety and environmental systems
Envisaged funding	Transport Programme 2021–2027 and the State budget, through partnerships with the National Company for Road Infrastructure Administration

Parameters of the Iași East Bypass[23].

Among the anticipated effects of this investment, the Iași Metropolitan Master Plan mentions the increased attractiveness of the eastern areas of the municipality for logistics and production activities, outside the dense urban fabric, as well as rapid access to the airport and to the future regional emergency hospital[23].

The Master Plan further provides for a link road between the A8 motorway, the future Regional Emergency Hospital and the C.A.

Rosetti area, at the preliminary study stage, the widening to four lanes of the segment between the CUG platform and the West Bypass, the widening to four lanes as far as the Popricani roundabout, the construction of the South Bypass as far as Nicolina Bridge and the dualling of national road DN 28 on the Iași – Tomești link[23].



Rail transport and intermodality

The Iași Metropolitan Master Plan provides for a metropolitan train, conceived as the structural axis of mobility in the metropolitan area. Implementation is planned in two stages: the first involves making use of the existing rail infrastructure and bringing the service into operation, and the second its extension towards Iași International Airport[23].

The intermodal nodes of the system are the existing stations, and Holboca station is proposed for redesign as an intermodal centre, which is of direct relevance for the industrial site in the same commune.

The Regional Intermodal Freight Transport Centre operates in the vicinity of the Lețcani industrial park[23].



The border with the Republic of Moldova

The Sculeni border crossing point, located in the commune of Victoria in Iași County, is the second busiest road crossing on Romania's border with the Republic of Moldova, after Albița – Leușeni. Passenger traffic through this point rose from 681,164 in 2020 to 2,562,531 in 2025, and the number of cars rose from 181,770 to over 742,000 over the same interval[20].

By rail, the Iași (Socola) – Ungheni link operates as the main freight and passenger node with the Republic of Moldova.

At present, only the Iași – Socola segment is electrified, over 6.3 kilometres, while the approximately 17 kilometres between Socola and Ungheni operate on non-electrified infrastructure.

The Stânca and Albița crossing points also fall within the area of competence of the Iași Territorial Inspectorate of the Border Police[20].

The Government of Romania has approved the technical and economic indicators for the full electrification of the line between Iași station and the Ungheni-Prut border crossing point, over a 23.4-kilometre stretch. The investment is worth approximately RON 495 million and is financed 50% from EU funds through the Connecting Europe Facility, the remainder from the State budget. The project forms part of the rehabilitation of the Roman – Iași – Border line and is included in the trans-European transport network[22].

The Government of the Republic of Moldova has, in turn, approved the opening of a new border crossing point at Ungheni, an investment of over EUR 30 million, which is to connect to the A8 motorway and to the trans-European transport network[21].

Utilities

The distribution of electricity and natural gas in Iași County is provided by Delgaz Grid, the transmission of electricity by Transelectrica, and water supply and sewerage by Apavital. The available connection capacities differ from one site to another and are communicated to the investor on request, together with the lead times for making the connections[24].

Energy infrastructure: generation, storage and grid

In 2026 the county is going through the most intense phase of investment in energy generation and storage in its recent history. Three projects — a large-scale energy storage system, the largest photovoltaic park managed by a local authority in Romania and the solar expansion of the airport — are changing the energy profile of the area within a few months.

For an investor they matter in two ways: they reduce the risk of energy price and availability over the medium term and they provide a verifiable argument for the sustainability requirements that increasingly enter the location decisions of international companies[51].

Large-scale energy storage

Premier Energy, a group listed on the Bucharest Stock Exchange, is building near the municipality of Iași and the border with the Republic of Moldova a battery energy storage system with a power of 200 MW and a capacity of 400 MWh, one of the largest projects of this type in the east of the country.

The site was purchased in November 2025, works began at the end of April 2026, the total cost is estimated at around EUR 75 million, and the financing is secured through a green credit line of up to EUR 100 million from the Czech bank ČSOB.

Commissioning and connection to the transmission grid are scheduled for the end of 2026 or the beginning of 2027.

The installation will act as a buffer for the regional grid, storing energy during periods of high renewable output and delivering it at consumption peaks — precisely the type of infrastructure the grid needs as wind and solar capacity grows[51].





Solar energy: from public administration to the airport

The municipality of Iași is developing the largest photovoltaic park managed by a local authority in Romania, on the site of the former coal store of the CET 2 Holboca thermal power plant. The investment, of RON 49.7 million, financed entirely on a non-repayable basis through the European Union Modernisation Fund, will have an installed capacity of 9.8 MWp, over 13,000 panels and an estimated annual output of around 9,850 MWh.

Execution, launched on 29 July 2026, was awarded to the Electro-Alfa International – CRC Energy consortium, for RON 34.6 million excluding VAT, with completion in about nine months. The project is part of a broader municipal strategy which includes rebuilding two natural gas cogeneration plants, of 25 MW each, and, subsequently, its own storage system of 20 MW[51].

Iași International Airport is following a parallel path: the airport's second photovoltaic park, contracted with STRABAG for around RON 19.5 million excluding VAT, will have 4.42 MWp and its own storage system of 4.73 MWh, on 58,500 square metres.

Together with the first park, the two installations will cover up to 95% of the energy needs of the airport infrastructure — a direct reduction in operating costs for one of the largest energy consumers in the county's public infrastructure[51].



The financing framework

The Modernisation Fund, administered by the Ministry of Energy, remains the main instrument for photovoltaic self-consumption, storage and industrial energy efficiency projects, with periodic calls until 2030.

Regulation (EU) No 651/2014, which underpins the regional State aid framework applicable also to energy investments, expires on 31 December 2026; at the date of writing no extension had been published — an element that investors with multiannual energy projects check at the time of submitting the funding application[51].

For an investment decision, three signals matter. The cost and the supply risk of energy fall as local generation and storage capacity grows, which directly concerns any energy-intensive activity.

Romanian companies such as Electro-Alfa International, listed on the Bucharest Stock Exchange in March 2026, take part as suppliers and integrators, a sign of a local supply chain taking shape for engineering and execution in the renewables field.

And the projects above, documented from public sources, provide a verifiable argument for the sustainability reporting of international investors[51].



Sites for investment

06

Three types of industrial site operate in the Iași metropolitan area, with different legal regimes and advantages.

Industrial parks holding a title granted under Law No 186/2013 offer tax exemptions, shared infrastructure and a standardised framework contract, and are administered by publicly owned companies.

Private industrial clusters, formed through joint urban plans of the owners, offer consolidated industrial neighbourhood and urban planning regulation already obtained, but do not benefit from the exemptions specific to parks.

Sites in preparation make available public land that is free of encumbrances, park incentives becoming applicable once the title is granted[25].



Lețcani industrial park



Lețcani industrial park is administered by the company Iași Industrial Park, whose initiator and majority shareholder is Iași County, through the Iași County Council, with Lețcani Commune, through the Local Council, as the other shareholder. The industrial park title was granted by Order No 3,825 of 31 July 2017 of the Ministry of Regional Development, Public Administration and European Funds[24].

The park covers a total area of 18.6 hectares, i.e. 186,155 square metres of buildable land in the private domain of Iași County, under Decision No 564 of 16 December 2025 of Iași County Council.

The administrating company is 99% owned by Iași County, through the County Council, and 1% by Lețcani Commune, through the Local Council, the industrial park title being held for the entire area[24].

The park is located at kilometre 5 on the Iași – Lețcani axis, with access to the E583 European road, about 15 minutes from Iași International Airport and close to the Regional Intermodal Freight Transport Centre.

The internal road network connects to the E583 European road and to the DJ 248B county road through a collector road, each plot having direct access to the internal network.



The internal access roads are roads of private utility, owned by Iași County and managed by the company.

Access for residents, staff, suppliers and visitors is permanently ensured; the costs of maintaining, repairing and operating the common roads are borne by the residents within the common maintenance charges, included in the administration fee, and the right of use derives from the contracts concluded, without the need to establish easements[24].

Upon completion of the A8 motorway, Lețcani industrial park will be the first titled park in the county located directly on the motorway corridor, at the junction between the Târgu Frumos – Lețcani and Lețcani – Iași North stretches[24].



Existing facilities

The park has a water network, foul sewerage, storm-water drainage, street and perimeter lighting, an internal network of access roads and distribution to each plot, as well as a building with offices and a conference room available for rent[24].

The electricity network was, at the time of drafting, undergoing a capacity extension. The capacity available at the time of contract signature is communicated to the investor on request.

Natural gas is available at the entrance to the park; extension of the network to each plot is a matter of connection, on the basis of a technical design approved by the distribution operator and an approval in principle from the administrator, with a minimal investment for the connection to the network, the preparation of the design and the execution of the connection being the resident's responsibility[24].

Cost structure

Residents of the Lețcani industrial park have two distinct fees to pay. The land use fee is EUR 1.70 per square metre per year and is calculated on the entire area given for use. The administration fee, corresponding to the services and common infrastructure provided by the park management, is set by area bands, according to the degressive scale below. Value added tax is added to both[24].

For a plot of 80,000 square metres, the land use fee is EUR 136,000 per year. The administration fee is calculated by bands: 50,000 square metres at EUR 1.00, plus 30,000 square metres at EUR 0.85, giving EUR 75,500 per year, that is an average cost of EUR 0.94 per square metre. The two fees together amount to EUR 211,500 per year, that is EUR 2.64 per square metre per year, to which value added tax is added[24].

Both fees are calculated on the entire area given for use, including the areas occupied by buildings, hardstandings, car parks and external works, and are payable half-yearly, within 30 calendar days of receipt of the invoice, with penalties of 0.1% per day of delay.

The administration fee may be indexed at most once a year, by a percentage that may not exceed the annual inflation rate, and the tariff scale remains unchanged for the duration of the award procedure in which the investor participates.

Maintenance costs may be paid in advance, in a fixed share estimated on the basis of an annual cost estimate, with a reconciliation at the end of the year according to the expenditure actually incurred. Utilities are paid separately, according to actual consumption[24].

The administration fee covers public lighting in the common areas, their cleaning and snow clearance, the maintenance and repair of internal access roads and pavements, the maintenance of the shared infrastructure, as well as video surveillance and perimeter security of the common areas[24].

Area band	Rate
up to and including 50,000 sqm	EUR 1.00/sqm/year
between 50,001 and 150,000 sqm inclusive	EUR 0.85/sqm/year
over 150,000 sqm	EUR 0.50/sqm/year

The administration fee is set by area bands, to which value added tax is added:

Priority projects

Investments generating at least 200 new jobs and worth at least EUR 3 million are defined by the regulation as investments with local impact and benefit from the treatment applicable to priority projects[24].

Three categories of investment also qualify as priority projects, with access to direct negotiation and preferential treatment in the allocation of plots. In industrial production: over EUR 5 million, at least 150 jobs and a density of at least EUR 300 per square metre. In logistics and warehousing: over EUR 8 million, at least 50 jobs and EUR 400 per square metre.

In activities with a high degree of automation or advanced technology: over EUR 10 million and EUR 600 per square metre, regardless of the number of jobs[24].

For major investments carried out in two stages, the land corresponding to the second stage may be reserved, at the resident's request, for no more than three years from the signature of the contracts, with full payment of the administration fee corresponding to the reserved area; the reserved area may not exceed half of the total area of the unit, and if the works of the second stage do not begin within the deadline, the reservation lapses by operation of law[24].

The tax incentives available to residents — the exemptions from land tax, building tax and urban planning charges — derive from Law No 186/2013 and are granted under the conditions of the law and of the State aid rules, the administrator providing support in following the procedure[24][25].

Services included

The administrator provides residents, at no additional cost, with assistance in dealings with the authorities for obtaining approvals and permits, support in the procedure for granting tax incentives, including for obtaining the de minimis aid agreement from the local authority, facilitation of contacts with utility providers and periodic information on available sources of funding[24].



Access conditions

Investment means the value of completed buildings with a roof, to which is added the value of the fixed assets used in the authorised activity, with the exception of concrete hardstandings.

Below the threshold of EUR 2 million, the award is made by open tender, where the offer is scored, not conditioned by fixed thresholds: the value of the investment, the jobs, the economic density, the impact and financial standing all receive scores, and projects with fewer than 10 jobs or under EUR 70 per square metre receive no points for those criteria.

For priority projects admitted to direct negotiation, the regulation also requires a minimum investment density, differentiated by profile: EUR 300 per square metre for production, 400 for logistics and 600 for technology and automation[24].

Criterion	Threshold
Open tender — evaluation criteria	the value of the investment, the number of jobs, the economic density, the economic impact and financial standing, scored according to the grid in the award documentation
Thresholds below which the score is zero	under 10 jobs; under EUR 70 per square metre
Threshold for access to the direct negotiation procedure	investment of at least EUR 2,000,000
Investment with local impact	minimum EUR 3,000,000 and minimum 200 jobs
Large-scale investment	minimum EUR 5,000,000 or minimum 10,000 sqm built

Investment implementation schedule

Stage	Standard investment	Large-scale investment
Obtaining the building permit	4 months	6 months
Start of works	12 months	12 months
Completion of 50% of the investment value	—	24 months
Completion of construction and acceptance	24 months	36 months
Commissioning	2 months after acceptance	—
Achievement of 75% of the jobs undertaken	—	48 months

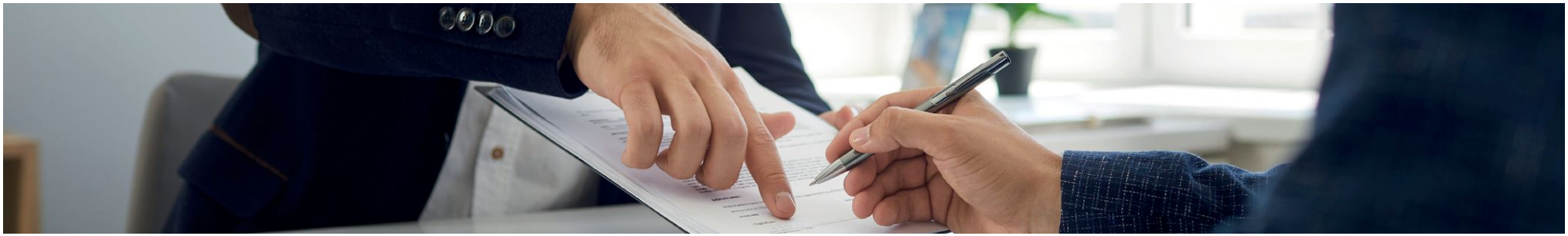
Investment implementation schedule

The deadlines may be extended by addendum, upon reasoned request, in objectively justified situations, but by no more than twelve months in aggregate. The participation guarantee for the award procedures is RON 8,000.

After the signature of the contracts, the resident lodges a contractual good-payment guarantee, in cash, equivalent to three monthly instalments of the price for the use of the land, lodged within five days; for the rental of premises and offices, the guarantee is one monthly instalment.

Compliance with the investment commitment is not guaranteed through banking instruments, but through the regime of penalties and through the proportional recovery of the incentives granted[24].

The regulation applies a uniform regime of penalties: 0.1% per day for late payment of any sum due, 0.05% per day applied to the value of the investment not carried out in the event of failure to observe the mandatory implementation stages, and, in the event of failure to meet the commitments on the investment or the jobs, enforcement of the guarantee and proportional recovery of the incentives granted. The indicators undertaken in the winning bid are recorded in an annex of indicators, forming an integral part of both contracts[24].

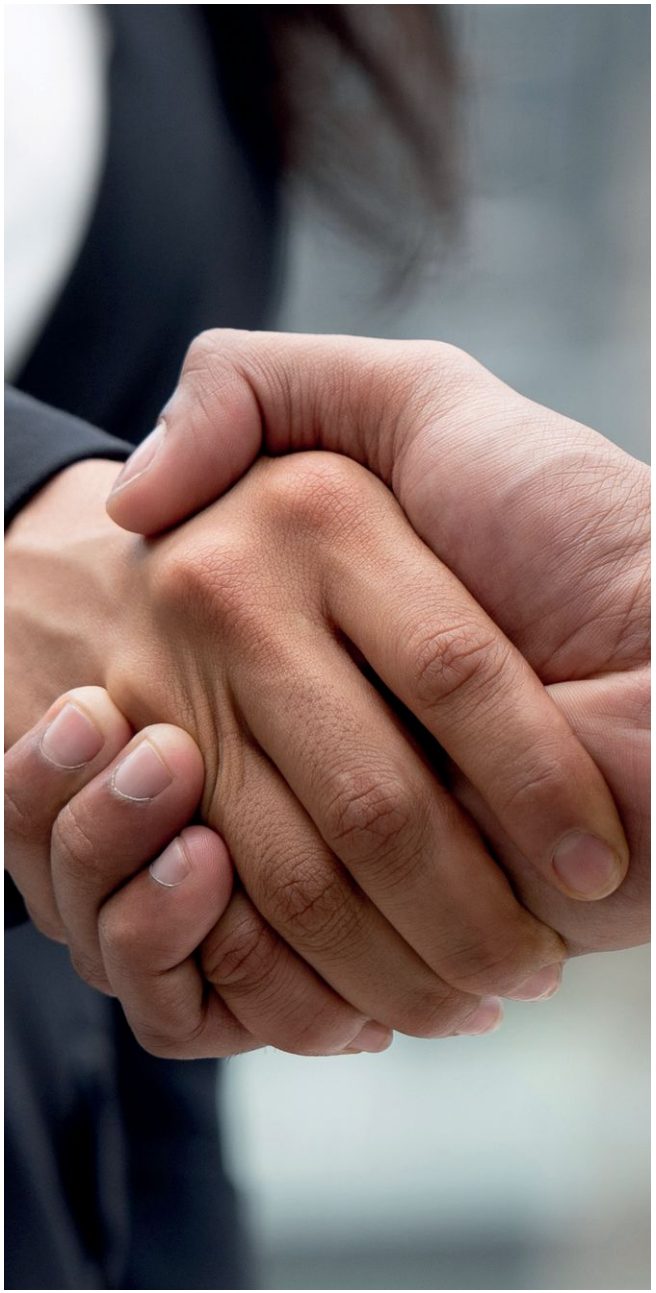


Acquiring ownership of the land

In the industrial parks of Miroslava and Lețcani, residents are afforded the possibility of purchasing the land on which they have erected their industrial buildings, provided that the requirements imposed by the park's access regulation are met — among them the full completion of the investment and of the number of jobs undertaken, the acceptance and registration of the buildings in the land register and the absence of outstanding obligations[24].

The resident's request is examined by the park administrator and forwarded to the owner of the land, with whom the subsequent acquisition steps are taken.

The obligations under the administration contract, relating to the presence in the industrial park area, remain in force even after the purchase of the land — the land use fee ceases, while the administration fee remains payable — together with the obligation to maintain the economic activity on the basis of which the initial grant of use was approved, for at least five years from the transfer of ownership[24].



Transagropolis Lețcani Agri-industrial Park

The Transagropolis Lețcani Agri-industrial Park is a structure distinct from the industrial park in the same commune, with its own object and regime. The structure exists and operates, the extension of its area remaining to be completed, after which full operationalisation will follow. The profile targeted is agri-food, processing and agricultural innovation[24].

The European reference models for such structures show that an agrihub is not a collection of halls, but a campus linking processing, applied research through the life sciences university, and organised access to the market.



The industrial parks at Holboca and Pașcani

Iași County Council is preparing two further new industrial parks, which will be administered by the company Iași Industrial Park, the same one that administers the park at Lețcani[24].

The land corresponding to the two sites already belongs to the county domain, which means that no expropriations are required and there is no land assembly stage. The tax incentives provided for by Law No 186/2013 become applicable from the date on which the industrial park title is granted.

Until then, the county's land may be made available to an investor by grant of use, on the basis of the right of superficies, the investor continuing to benefit from regional State aid and from the national tax incentives[24][25].

	Holboca	Pașcani
Land regime	Public and private domain of Iași County	Public and private domain of Iași County
Administrative status	Documentation for the issuing of the ministerial order is in preparation	Documentation for the issuing of the ministerial order is in preparation
Road access	Via the future Iași East Bypass, with connection to the airport and to the A8 motorway in the Golăiești area	At the interchange between the A7 and A8 motorways
Intended profile	Production with an engineering component	Logistics and volume production

The industrial parks at Miroslava



Two industrial parks operate in the commune of Miroslava, administered by the company Miroslava Industrial Parc, with majority public capital, its principal shareholder being the commune of Miroslava through the Local Council. The industrial park title for the first park was granted by Order No 350 of 2015[29].

The infrastructure of the two parks comprises a network of internal roads, a high-capacity natural gas pipeline, a high-capacity electricity network, water supply, sewerage and a fibre optic network at the boundary of the land. Their location near the railway allows rail access to be provided at investors' request[29].

The first park at Miroslava operates at 100% occupancy, with over 60 residents. The economic effect on the commune is measurable: revenue from the shares of income tax allocated to the commune's budget rose from RON 1.5 million in 2009 to RON 7.6 million in 2016, RON 22 million in 2022 and RON 28 million in 2024[24].

Park	Area administered	Access regulation
Miroslava Industrial Parc I	464,400 sqm (46.4 ha)	Decision No 44/2016 of Miroslava Local Council
Miroslava Industrial Parc II	252,000 sqm (25.2 ha)	Decision No 276/2021 of Miroslava Local Council

The Iași – Tomești industrial cluster

BMT Aerospace and IG Watteeuw operate on the Iași – Tomești road, both part of the Belgian BMT group, as does Grenzebach Romania, with German capital.

The planning regulation of the area permits halls occupying up to 60% of the land area, with a height regime of ground floor or ground floor plus one storey and a maximum height of 18 metres.

Along the road connecting the municipality of Iași to the commune of Tomești, the most dynamic private industrial cluster of the metropolitan area has taken shape, without an industrial park title and without dedicated public infrastructure.

The investors present here chose the area for the availability of labour and for the industrial neighbourhood[27].

BMT Aerospace Romania produces components for aircraft wing mechanisms and is a supplier to the major aircraft manufacturers.

In 2025, the company recorded a turnover of RON 158.5 million, up by 19.5% against the previous year, a net profit of RON 15.6 million and 356 employees. IG Watteeuw Romania produces gears and components for gearboxes, transmissions for trains, metros, compressors and ships, has approximately 339 employees and is relocating its activity to a 34,624-square-metre site in the Tomești industrial area.

Grenzebach Romania produces equipment for the glass industry and has approximately 200 employees[27].

In June 2026, several companies in the area, including an American investor, obtained the opportunity opinion for a joint urban plan governing more than 8.2 hectares adjacent to the existing factories, designated as a zone for industrial activities, services, offices, production and storage[27].



Other industrial sites in the county

In addition to the titled parks managed by the authorities, a layer of private industrial and logistics platforms operates in the metropolitan area.

These do not hold an industrial park title, which means that they do not pass on to residents the exemptions provided for by Law No 186/2013, but they offer an alternative to buying or taking land into use: already built premises, available for rent, with utilities connected and with far shorter installation timeframes.

The most important are at Lețcani and at Miroslava[43].

Industra Park Iași, at Lețcani

The platform was developed from 2011 by the Tester group, under the name Solo, and was the first of its kind in north-eastern Romania. In 2021 it was purchased by the Swedish group Oresa, which operates it today under the name Industra Park Iași.

The area grew from around 24,000 square metres at the time of purchase, to 35,000 after the hall brought into use in autumn 2023 and to over 50,000 square metres in 2026, following an extension authorised in September 2025.

The company has announced plans for a further 25,000 square metres or so[43].

The new halls are class A, designed for environmental certification and with the possibility of fitting out temperature-controlled spaces. The occupancy rate is maintained at 100%, and tenants include Lear Corporation, Mobexpert, Tester, Ropharma, Antalis and Side Grup. The site is immediately adjacent to the county's industrial park, with frontage onto European road E583 and close to the future A8 motorway interchange[43].



Proinvest Park Miroslava

The park was developed in the village of Brătuleni, commune of Miroslava, by the real estate division of the Proinvest group of Pașcani, on a site of 92,030 square metres.

The premises are class A, with a clear height of 12 metres and a floor load capacity of five tonnes per square metre, with access to European road E583 and close to the future A8 motorway.

Letting began in 2023, and a second construction stage adds approximately 16,000 square metres[43].

In April 2026, the purchase of the park by the Belgian group WDP — Warehouses De Pauw was announced, in a transaction estimated by the economic press at over EUR 20 million.

WDP administers approximately eight million square metres of premises in six European countries, and the operation brings a logistics property owner of European scale to Iași County for the first time[43].



The Kaufland regional logistics centre

Next to the first industrial park at Miroslava, the third logistics centre of the Kaufland network in Romania is being built, after those at Ploiești and Turda. The land, bought at the end of 2020, covers 40 hectares. The building permit was issued in June 2025, for a built area of approximately 63,000 square metres and a usable area of around 70,000 square metres, with an execution period of 24 months.

The project provides for 700 parking spaces, of which 120 for heavy goods vehicles, and at least a fifth of the car spaces will have electric charging points. Access is via the internal roads of the industrial park, towards European road E583 and towards the DN 28D ring road[43].



Projects in preparation

Also in the commune of Miroslava, the company Synergy Logistic has completed the urban planning approval stages for a park of approximately 27 hectares, with storage, production and light production halls.

The buildings are provided for in two phases, over around 13 hectares, with over 61,000 square metres built and with a land reserve for later extensions. The investors own logistics parks in Romania, Germany, Poland, Türkiye and Georgia[43].

For an investor, the existence of this private layer changes the calculation of market entry. A project that needs built space immediately, without tying up capital in land and construction, finds in Iași class A premises available for rent, right next to the titled parks.

A project that needs the exemptions provided for by Law No 186/2013, or its own land adapted to a particular technological flow, turns to the parks presented above.

Platform	Location	Area	Status
Industra Park Iași (Oresa)	Lețcani	over 50,000 sqm	operational, 100% occupancy
Proinvest Park Miroslava	Brătuleni, Miroslava	being extended	purchase announced by WDP
Kaufland logistics centre	Miroslava	around 63,000 sqm authorised	under construction
Synergy Logistic	Miroslava	over 61,000 sqm designed	urban planning approval

The private industrial and logistics platforms of the Iași metropolitan area[43].

The county economy and key sectors

07

The economy of Iași County is structured around three industrial and services concentrations, each with established investors and with links missing from the local value chains.

The first is technology and business services, located in the office complex in the city centre.

The second is precision industrial manufacturing, concentrated in the Iași – Tomești cluster and in the eastern industrial area.

The third brings together the pharmaceutical, agri-food and construction materials industries, with units in the city, in the metropolitan area and in Pașcani.



Palas Campus office space

The county's sectoral positioning

The sectoral attractiveness index was calculated by the World Bank for 319 urban localities in Romania and provides a comparative measure of a locality's attractiveness for the main industrial branches. The municipality of Iași ranks in the top five nationally for two of them[14].

Sectoral attractiveness index, World Bank[14]. The index calculated for information and communications technology in the municipality of Iași is more than four times higher than the next value in the county.

The municipality of Pașcani presents a different profile from the county's other towns, with markedly higher positions in the automotive industry and in electrical equipment.

Locality	IT&C	Chemical industry	Transport and logistics	Electrical equipment	Automotive
Municipality of Iași	17.19 – 3rd	2.66 – 5th	4.32 – 8th	2.41 – 17th	1.58 – 19th
Municipality of Pașcani	0.49 – 58th	0.62 – 85th	0.87 – 82nd	1.25 – 36th	1.03 – 34th
Town of Podu Iloaiei	0.26 – 240th	0.46 – 147th	0.90 – 62nd	0.89 – 62nd	0.45 – 146th
Town of Târgu Frumos	0.33 – 107th	0.44 – 161st	0.75 – 124th	0.60 – 144th	0.44 – 155th
Town of Hârlău	0.31 – 129th	0.45 – 151st	0.65 – 177th	0.52 – 199th	0.45 – 148th

Information technology and business services



Iași County is Romania's third technology hub, after Bucharest and Cluj.

The county's IT&C sector comprised in 2025 a total of 2,336 active companies, with a turnover of EUR 891 million and 13,793 employees[7].

An analysis of the number of employees in software and consultancy published in 2026 indicates approximately 8,900 employees in the county, against 60,800 in Bucharest and 28,100 in Cluj.

The difference from the balance-sheet figure arises from the scope of the sector's definition[26].

The office complex in the city centre

Unlike other Romanian cities, where the technology industry has dispersed across several areas, in Iași it has concentrated in a single central perimeter.

The Palas Campus building, the largest office building in Romania at the date of its inauguration in 2023, has 54,000 square metres of office space and 6,000 square metres of retail space, required an investment of over EUR 120 million and was fully let before commissioning. It hosts 13 companies from the United States, Germany, France, Norway, Switzerland and Romania, with approximately 5,000 specialists in information technology and the automotive industry[26].

The network of class A offices in this perimeter totals around 130,000 square metres in eight buildings, with over 70 companies. Among the reference tenants are Amazon Development Center Romania, present in Iași since 2005 as the company's first research and development centre in Eastern Europe, with 3,166 employees at the end of 2025 and an investment of its own of around EUR 70 million in fitting out its headquarters; Microsoft, with around 3,300 square metres; and AMD, with a design centre of around 2,900 square metres.

In July 2025, Amazon announced the redundancy of 504 employees in the Retail Business Services division, non-technical data processing roles, without impact on software engineering positions.

The ecosystem also includes Conduent, E.ON Business Services, Ness, SCC Services, Centric IT Solutions, Signant Health, Visma and Cognizant Softvision[26].



The structure of the sector: results of the 2025 financial year

The financial statements filed for the 2025 financial year allow a precise picture of the top of the sector.

The county's ten largest IT and telecommunications companies recorded a combined turnover of RON 1.56 billion in 2025, close to the previous year's level, and returned to profit, with a combined net result of RON 63.5 million, after a year closed at a loss.

The average number of employees of the ten companies fell by almost 300 persons, to 5,948[38].

The overall picture is strongly influenced by the leader of the ranking. Amazon Development Center Romania generated almost half of the combined turnover of the top ten companies and concentrated more than half of their employees, so that the reduction in its activity largely offset the increases of the other firms: eight of the ten companies increased their turnover in 2025, and nine reported higher profits than in the previous year.

The American company returned to profit in 2025, with a net result of almost RON 4 million, after the RON 29.6 million loss of 2024, covered in full from the retained earnings of previous years[38].

Foreign capital dominates the upper segment of the market: eight of the top ten companies are wholly owned by groups from the United States, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and Finland.

The two exceptions with wholly Romanian capital, Focality and Red Point Software Solutions, nonetheless occupy the first two positions by productivity per employee[38].

Main foreign-owned operators

Company	Activity profile	Turnover in 2025	Average number of employees
SCC Services România	Management of IT infrastructure, cloud services and cybersecurity for clients in over 20 countries	RON 173.4 million (+12.2%)	1,137
Signant Health	Technology for clinical trials: collection and management of data on patients taking part in the testing of new treatments	RON 133.1 million (+6.9%)	536
Centric IT Solutions	Software solutions for public administration and financial services, mainly for the Netherlands market	RON 126.3 million (−3.5%)	314
Basware	Automation of companies' financial processes, in particular invoice processing	RON 62.7 million (+13.1%)	215
Modular Services	IT, financial and outsourcing services for international organisations in the legal and consultancy field	RON 57.2 million (+19.7%)	198
Levi9 Global Sourcing Balkan	Development of software products and digital platforms; cloud, artificial intelligence and data analysis	RON 54.8 million (+3.3%)	171
Nuvei Services Romania	Payment technologies: transaction processing, card issuing and fraud prevention	RON 49.5 million (+33.8%)	106

The main foreign-owned operators in the Iași IT&C sector, apart from the leader Amazon Development Center Romania, by turnover reported for the 2025 financial year(38). The figures in brackets indicate the change against the previous year.

The longevity of the operators confirms the stability of the market. SCC Services completed twenty years of activity in Iași in 2026 and operates, alongside the local centre, offices in Bacău and Brașov, with an expansion prepared in Bucharest. Basware has operated locally for a quarter of a century, starting from the Iași company Viper Systems, integrated into the Finnish group in 2012, and Nuvei has been present in Iași since 2006.

Expansion continues today: Modular Services, part of the international legal group CMS, doubled its office space in the Palas complex at the beginning of 2026, to 1,300 square metres, with the declared objective of exceeding 300 employees, and Levi9 opened in 2024, in partnership with ABN AMRO Clearing Bank, a centre dedicated to information security and cloud technologies, with announced recruitment of 70–100 specialists(38).

Domestic capital: accelerated growth with small teams

The segment of wholly Romanian-owned firms had the sector's best performance in 2025.

The top ten companies of this type recorded a combined turnover of RON 440.2 million, up by 29.2% against the previous year, and a net profit of RON 59.9 million, 57.7% higher.

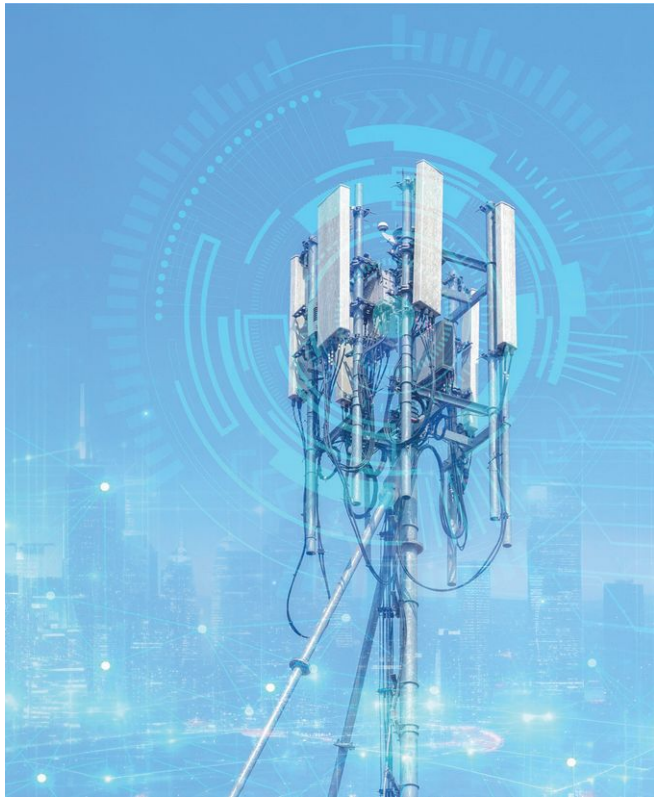
The average number of employees grew by only 4.6%, to 342 persons: revenue and profits advanced far faster than headcount, a sign that this growth comes from the value of the projects delivered, not from the expansion of teams.

Nine of the ten companies increased their turnover, and seven reported higher profits than in the previous year[38].

Company	Turnover in 2025	Annual change	Net profit	Average number of employees
Focality	RON 147.8 million	+28.6%	RON 11.4 million	46
Red Point Software Solutions	RON 43.2 million	+18.1%	RON 3.6 million	59
Smart & Successful	RON 40.9 million	almost tripled	RON 2.0 million	18
Smart Byte Soft	RON 38.8 million	almost doubled	RON 12.5 million	11
Thinslices Development	RON 38.8 million	+14.2%	RON 1.7 million	49
RomSoft	RON 33.2 million	+1.4%	RON 1.9 million	114
OceanoBe Technology	RON 27.4 million	+45.8%	RON 7.0 million	31
Midnight Works	RON 26.2 million	–13.9%	RON 1.0 million	3
Thinktech	RON 22.9 million	+3.2%	RON 6.5 million	5
Paytel	RON 21.1 million	+20.7%	RON 12.4 million	6

The county's ten largest wholly Romanian-owned IT and telecommunications companies, by turnover reported for the 2025 financial year[38].

Focality and Red Point Software Solutions are the only two also present in the sector's general ranking.



The ranking reveals two distinct business models. On one side are the small teams, specialised in high-value niches, with remarkable profit margins and productivity per employee: Smart Byte Soft achieved a profit margin of 32% and the highest net profit in the ranking with a team of 11 persons, Paytel reached a margin of 59% with six employees, and Midnight Works achieved a turnover of RON 8.7 million per employee, the highest productivity in the entire segment.

On the other side are the companies with larger headcounts, oriented towards outsourced development projects, with narrower margins.

Focality, the segment leader, combines the two: on a turnover of RON 147.8 million, the company worked with 46 employees, at a productivity of over RON 3.2 million per employee, the highest in the entire Iași sector[38].

The segment also includes established companies: RomSoft, founded in 2001, develops custom software, including solutions for the medical field, and remains the largest employer in the ranking, with 114 employees.

The city's capacity to attract economic activity from neighbouring counties has also been confirmed within this segment: Smart & Successful, a digital marketing company founded in 2014 in Neamț County, moved its headquarters to Iași at the end of 2024, citing access to qualified young staff, and in the first year after relocation its turnover almost tripled[38].



Research and development in the automotive industry

Aumovio, the automotive electronics division spun off from the Continental group and listed on the Frankfurt stock exchange in September 2025, operates a research and development centre in Iași with approximately 2,800 employees.

Electronic control units for braking and lighting systems, autonomous driving solutions, telematics, multimedia and on-board servers for software-defined vehicles are developed here. The group has four research centres in Romania — in Brașov, Iași, Sibiu and Timișoara — and two production units, in Sibiu and Timișoara[26].

The period is, however, one of adjustment: in December 2025 the company notified the reduction of 641 positions nationwide by the end of 2026, of which 288 in Iași, in the areas of user experience, safety and motion, network architecture and autonomous mobility — a consequence of the global restructuring of research in the automotive industry, not of the position of the Iași centre within the group[53].

Iași County thus concentrates the largest automotive electronics design team in eastern Romania, without having a production unit in this field. For a manufacturer of electronic components or sub-assemblies, this represents a pool of qualified personnel that is already formed, close to the available industrial sites.



Market maturation and the availability of personnel

The technology sector is, nationally, in a phase of contraction. The number of employees in information and communications technology in Romania reached a peak of approximately 241,000 in 2023 and fell to 237,000 in 2025, and in Iași restructuring has been announced by both Amazon and Aumovio[26].

The results of the 2025 financial year show, however, that the local market has not contracted but transformed: revenue has held up, profitability has returned, and growth has shifted from headcount towards value delivered. Representatives of local companies describe a market in which suppliers are assessed by the results delivered, not by the size of the teams involved, and in which artificial intelligence tools have become part of the current way of working, not a product in themselves[38].

For an investor entering the local market now, this stage means a greater availability of qualified personnel than in the 2015–2022 period, moderated wage pressure and a dense network of mature local suppliers, capable of supporting outsourcing projects or development partnerships[26][38].

Precision industrial production

The Belgian BMT group, founded in 1882, has over 1,700 employees in Romania, concentrated almost entirely in Iași.

Its BMT Aerospace unit here is the group's only plant in the world producing components for aircraft wing mechanisms.

A group of high-precision mechanical processing companies operates on the Iași – Tomești road, with Belgian and German capital, oriented entirely towards export.



Company	Activity profile	Recent data
BMT Aerospace Romania	Components for aircraft wing mechanisms; supplier to the major aircraft manufacturers	Turnover of RON 158.5 million in 2025, up by 19.5%; net profit of RON 15.6 million; 356 employees
IG Watteeuw Romania	Gears and components for gearboxes; transmissions for trains, metros, compressors and ships	Approximately 339 employees; relocation under way to a 34,624 sqm site in the Tomești industrial area
OMCO Romania	Moulds and equipment for the glass industry	Approximately 450 employees
Grenzebach Romania	Equipment for the glass industry	Approximately 200 employees

The companies of the precision mechanical processing cluster[27]. The BMT Aerospace unit in Iași is one of the group's four production units worldwide, alongside the one in Belgium and two in the United States.

An industrial group with over 140 years of activity chose to concentrate in Iași a competence that is unique on a global scale, in an area that benefits neither from an industrial park title nor from dedicated tax incentives.



The pharmaceutical industry

Antibiotice S.A. has approximately 1,300 employees and exports to 50 countries.

The company is a global leader in Nystatin-based antifungal active substances, with a share estimated at approximately half of the world market.

The pharmaceutical production of Iași County has expanded over the past decade from two established manufacturers to a network of seven production units, covering medicines for human use, active substances, food supplements and veterinary medicines.

The core remains Antibiotice, the sector's largest manufacturer, around which established private manufacturers and two new platforms, built from scratch, have developed at Tomești and Pașcani[39].

Antibiotice S.A., the core of the sector

Antibiotice S.A. is the only Romanian pharmaceutical manufacturer listed on the stock exchange with integrated production in Iași. In 2025, the company's turnover was RON 645.3 million, down from RON 675 million in 2024, against a background of contracting sales in the United States and pressures on the domestic market. Exports grew by 10% and account for approximately 41% of turnover[28].

In the first half of 2026, the company's net turnover was RON 299.1 million, approximately 10% below the corresponding period of the previous year, against a background of contraction in the domestic generic medicines market.

Sales of finished products on European Union markets nevertheless grew by 31%, driven by Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland and the Nordic and Baltic states, and approximately 60% of international sales of finished products are made on 24 European markets[28].

On the Romanian market, Antibiotice holds leading positions in ointments, with a share of 19.8%, in suppositories and pessaries, with 32.6%, and in injectable powders, with 59.9%[28].

At the end of 2025, the company signed a EUR 75 million financing contract with the Ministry of European Investments and Projects for the construction of the INOVA a+ research and development centre and for the production of critical medicines, financed through the European platform for strategic technologies STEP, under the Health Programme. The company's portfolio includes 13 critical medicines aligned with the platform's strategic technologies[28].



Private manufacturers and the new production platforms

Private capital entered the Iași pharmaceutical sector by two routes: through the organic development of local manufacturers, begun in the 1990s, and through new investment, carried out on greenfield land in recent years.

The result is a diversified structure, in which each company occupies a distinct niche[39].

Company	Activity profile	Recent data
Fiterman Pharma	Non-prescription medicines and supplements: over 100 products, in approximately 15 therapeutic areas	Turnover of almost RON 180 million in 2025; approximately 235 employees
Balkan Pharmaceuticals	Generic medicines and food supplements; new production unit in Pașcani, inaugurated in 2024	Investment of over EUR 10 million, co-financed from EU funds
Pharma Tech – Newtone Laboratories	Products based on active substances of entomological origin, food supplements and dermatocosmetics	Production platform of around 11,000 sqm at Tomești, in the production start-up phase
Ircon	Medicines and products for women's health, led by the product Cervugid pessaries	Approximately 30 employees; exports to markets in the former Soviet area
Hyperion	Pharmaceutical preparations; part of the Rompharm Company group since 2018	Around 30 employees
Vetro Solutions	Generic veterinary medicines, under the adVET brand	EUR 4.5 million plant, GMP-authorised in 2021

The privately owned pharmaceutical manufacturers of Iași County[39]. Each of the six companies operates or is building production capacity on the county's territory.

Private manufacturers and the new production platforms

Fiterman Pharma, founded in Iași in 1995, is the first medicines manufacturer with wholly Romanian private capital in the Moldavia region.

The company manufactures over 100 non-prescription products, in approximately 15 therapeutic areas, including the Uractiv and Imunotus brands and the Doctor Fiterman line.

In 2025, turnover from production approached RON 180 million, up by 1%, with a net profit of over RON 19 million, up by 12%, with a headcount of approximately 235 employees.

The company plans to develop a production and storage platform of over 25,000 square metres, and the founding family also controls the Arcadia private medical network in Iași[39].

The sector's two new platforms come from entrepreneurial groups active on both banks of the Prut, for which Iași County functions as a gateway to the European Union market.

Balkan Pharmaceuticals, a company with Romanian private capital founded in 2006, with production units in Romania and the Republic of Moldova and a portfolio of over 250 products, inaugurated in December 2024 a production unit in Pașcani, with two manufacturing lines, for solid and liquid forms.

The investment, of over EUR 10 million, was co-financed from EU funds through the Regional Operational Programme and represents the second largest private project financed through the programme in the North-East Region; production started with the ProHealth range of food supplements, with planned expansion to other product categories[39].

At Tomești, the group of biotechnologist Ceslav Ciuhrii has built from scratch a production platform of approximately 11,000 square metres, on a site of around four hectares, under the name Pharma Tech – Newtone Laboratories.

The designed capacities include lines for injectable ampoules, suppositories and creams, and the portfolio's speciality is active substances of entomological origin, developed on the basis of the research of Academician Mircea Ciuhrii: the medicine Adenoprosin and the supplements Imuheptin and Imupurin, currently marketed from the group's production in the Republic of Moldova[39].

The sector also comprises established niche manufacturers. Ircon, founded in 1993 by Associate Professor Cristache Zanoschi, a graduate of both the faculty of medicine and that of pharmacy, has produced in Iași since 2001 a portfolio of approximately 30 medicines, supplements and cosmetics, protected by the founder's patents. Its flagship product, Cervugid pessaries, intended for the treatment of cervicovaginal infections, is exported to markets in the former Soviet area.

Hyperion, a production unit founded in 1993, was taken over at the end of 2018 by the Rompharm Company group, one of Romania's ten largest medicine exporters, which is integrating it into its own manufacturing chain[39].

The veterinary component of the sector is covered by Vetro Solutions, a company founded in Iași in 2012 by veterinarian Dumitru Fodor.

Starting from distribution activity, the company invested EUR 4.5 million, with co-financing from EU funds, in its own production unit, GMP-authorised in November 2021, with manufacturing flows for powders, liquids and the packaging of tablets and capsules. Generic veterinary medicines are produced under the adVET brand, in a market in which approximately 90% of national consumption comes from imports[39].

The research and clinical trials ecosystem

The healthcare ecosystem is completed by the Grigore T. Popa University of Medicine and Pharmacy and by the Regional Oncology Institute, which holds an authorisation issued by the National Agency for Medicines and Medical Devices for conducting clinical trials in the field of medicines.

For an investor in the pharmaceutical industry or in related fields, the county thus offers a complete chain: production of active substances and finished forms, new capacity available for contract manufacturing, veterinary production, a research and development centre under construction, authorisation for clinical trials and a pool of personnel trained by the university of medicine and pharmacy.

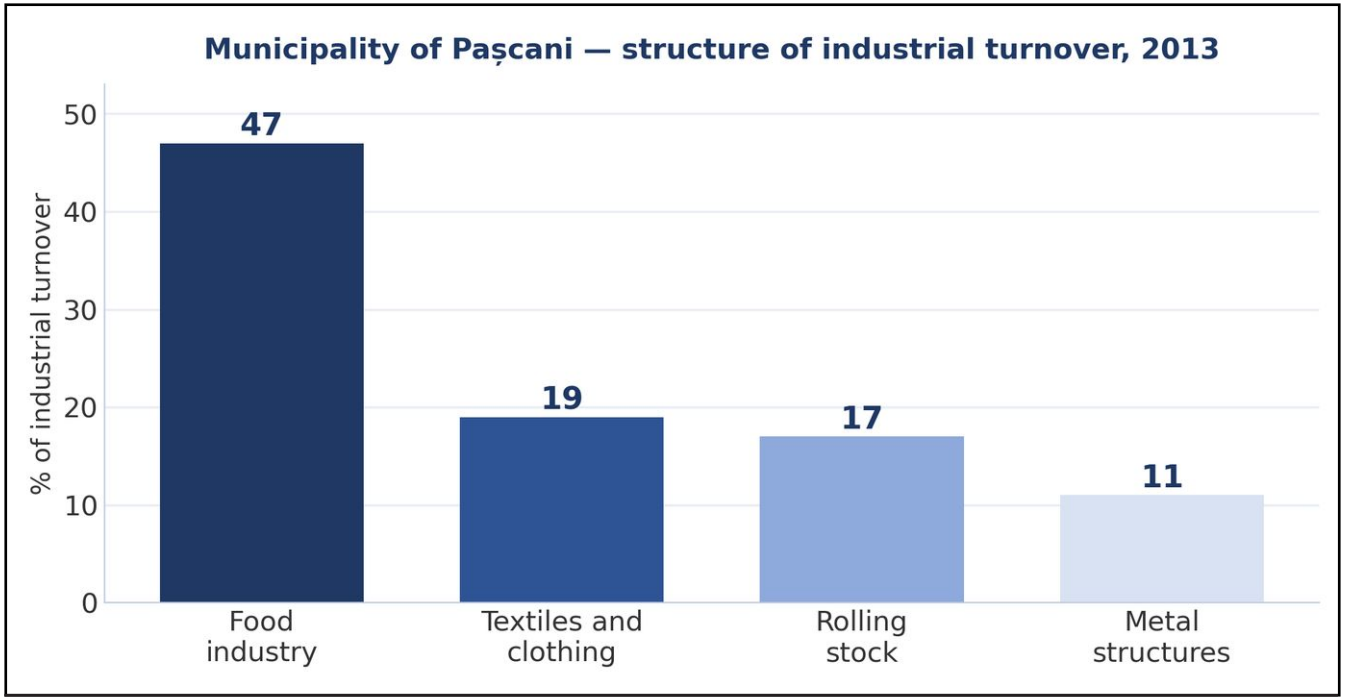
The links not yet covered locally, among them pharmaceutical packaging and specialised clinical trial services, represent direct investment opportunities[28][39].

The municipality of Pașcani, the county's second industrial centre

The municipality of Pașcani has an economic profile distinct from the rest of the county. In 2013, manufacturing generated 72% of the municipality's turnover, and manufacturing employees accounted for 59% of all employees in the municipality[55].

The industrial structure of the municipality changed, however, in 2025. Te-Rox Prod, the producer of covers and safety belts for children's car seats, which had become European leader of its segment, with almost 800 employees at its peak and exports to 52 countries, entered bankruptcy in June 2025, a year after the insolvency requested by the Swedish group Holmbergs, which had bought it in 2020.

The Pașcani platform, with land and equipment, was put up for sale at the end of 2025, at a price of EUR 2.49 million — an equipped industrial site available for an investor in technical garments or automotive components[53].



Electroputere VFU builds and modernises rolling stock, passenger and freight wagons, has a tradition of almost 150 years and closed 2025 with a turnover of RON 185.6 million, up 43.3%, and around 470 employees. ROMPAK, with Turkish capital, produces yeast, improvers and premixes for bakery and has invested more than USD 35 million in Pașcani. Industrializarea Cărnii KOSAROM is an integrated producer of meat and meat preparations, with domestic capital, and has invested over EUR 40 million in the extension and modernisation of its farms and distribution network. Eurotex Impex produces textile garments and has over 300 employees, and Proinvest Group carries out metal structures and fastening components[27].

The municipality of Pașcani is one of the most important railway junctions in Moldavia, and the industrial site in preparation is located at the interchange between the A7 and A8 motorways[24].



Structure of the industrial turnover of the municipality of Pașcani, 2013[55].

Agri-food

Iași County has an agricultural area of 381,256 hectares, of which 67% arable land, and a cultivated area of approximately 255,000 hectares[16].

The agricultural sector comprised in 2025 a total of 535 active companies, with a turnover of EUR 331 million and 2,822 employees[7].

The structure of holdings and the large growers

The county's agriculture is undergoing a visible process of consolidation.

According to the latest General Agricultural Census, 96,115 holdings were active in the county, 30.5% fewer than at the previous census, using 338,391 hectares of agricultural land.

The average area of holdings with legal personality has grown by approximately one quarter against 2010, to around 236 hectares[40].



The peak of this consolidation is visible in the structure of the large growers.

The holdings coordinated by the farmer Mihai Haraga, among them Agricola 96 Țigănași, administered together with Aurel Placinschi, have reached a total area of approximately 7,500 hectares, the largest agricultural holding in the North-East Region.

Other companies each working over 2,000 hectares of field crops are Panifcom, a group combining cereal growing with its own bakery production, Agrocom Strunga, Agromec Movileni and Adige.

The large farms are served by distribution and service networks for agricultural machinery with bases in the county, among them the Agritehnica centre at Dumești, on DN28, representing the brands of the AGCO group[40].

The meat industry, the flagship sector of processing

The meat industry is one of the most solid segments of the county's economy. The top five companies in the field totalled in 2025 a combined turnover of over one billion lei, with a net profit of RON 90.1 million and an average of 1,718 employees.

The degree of concentration is high: Ava Star, Fermador and Industrializarea Cărnii KOSAROM, three family companies, together generate almost 80% of the sales of the top five companies, and all three were included in the analysis of the National Bank of Romania on the most competitive companies with domestic capital, alongside Antibiotice and Fiterman Pharma[40].

Company	Activity profile	Turnover in 2025	Average number of employees
Ava Star (Pașcani)	Integrated meat producer: slaughtering, cutting, packaging and distribution; exports to European and Asian markets	RON 302.3 million (+8%)	273
Fermador (Podu Iloaiei)	Integrated poultry meat producer: hatchery, farms, feed mill, abattoir and its own logistics network	RON 264.0 million (+6%)	566
Industrializarea Cărnii KOSAROM (Pașcani)	Integrated agri-food group: cereals, feed, pig and poultry farms, abattoirs and processing	RON 247.3 million (unchanged)	573
Marcel (Răchiteni)	Over one hundred varieties of meat and meat products; capacity of over 10,000 tonnes a year	RON 173.6 million (−3%)	249
Interfood Processing (Brătuleni)	Meat processing for the Mado restaurant chain and for commercial partners	RON 27.2 million (+11%)	57

The five largest companies in the meat industry of Iași County, by turnover reported for the 2025 financial year[40]. The figures in brackets indicate the change against the previous year.

The meat industry, the flagship sector of processing

All five companies are businesses developed by Romanian or naturalised Romanian entrepreneurs, expanded gradually through successive investments in farms, abattoirs, processing units and their own distribution.

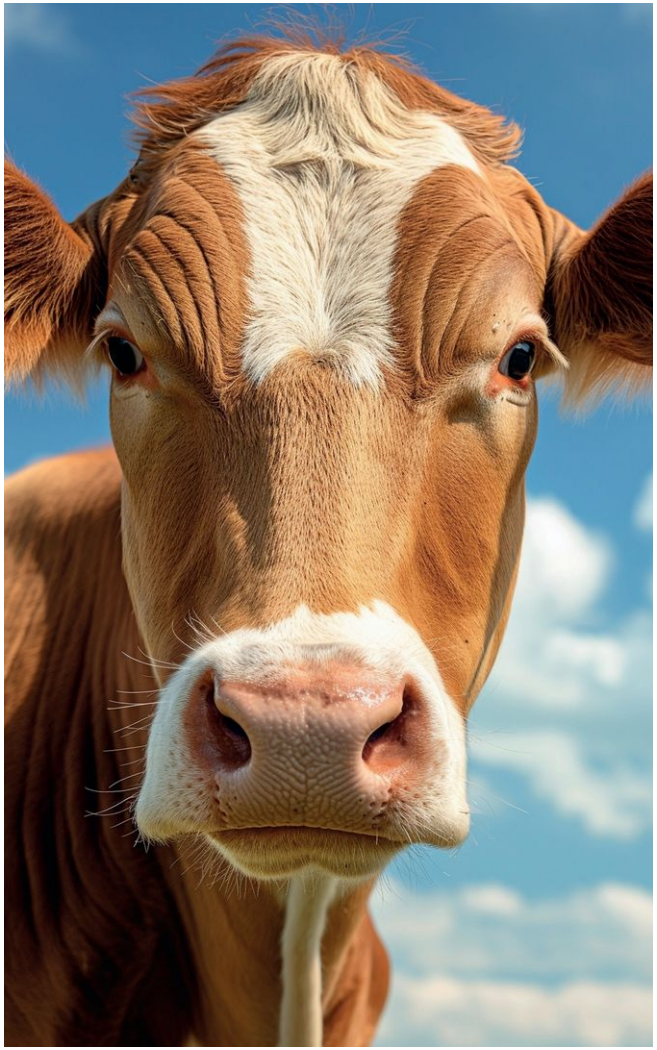
Ava Star, a family company started over three decades ago, built a large modern abattoir in 2008 and has exported since 2013, its list of foreign markets comprising Hungary, Serbia, Poland, Greece, the Netherlands, Germany, Spain and Hong Kong. Fermador, developed since 1994 around the principle of full control of the production flow, owns the hatchery at Războieni, its own farms, a compound feed mill and the abattoir at Podu Iloaiei, inaugurated in 2008, and remains the sector's most profitable company, with a net profit of RON 37.6 million in 2025[40].

Industrializarea Cărnii KOSAROM occupies a special place in the history of the Romanian economy: the Pașcani company was the first firm in the food industry to be privatised, in 1992, under the Government's pilot programme.

The group built around it by the Apostol family covers the entire cycle, from cereal production to feed mills, pig and poultry farms, abattoirs and processing, with investments in technology exceeding EUR 40 million; the Pașcani unit has a slaughtering capacity of approximately 800 pigs per shift. Marcel, founded in 1991 at Răchiteni with three products and 15 employees, today produces over one hundred varieties and exports to Italy, the United Kingdom, Spain, Germany, Portugal and Cyprus, while Interfood Processing provides the processing component of the group built around the Mado restaurant chain[40].

The year 2025 brought the sector visible pressure on margins: four of the five companies reported lower profits than in the previous year, against a background of high costs for energy, labour and raw materials, the only exception being the leader Ava Star, with profit up by 68%.

Sales nevertheless continued to grow, a sign of stable demand and consolidated market positions[40].



The other producers and the development instruments

Beyond the meat industry, food processing comprises producers of national scale such as ROMPAK in Pașcani, with Turkish capital, a producer of yeast, improvers and premixes for baking, as well as Garom Food and Zeelandia, with Czech and Dutch capital respectively[27].

The main instrument for developing this sector is the Transagropolis Lețcani Agri-industrial Park, presented in the chapter on sites for investment.





The construction materials industry

The construction materials industry of Iași County covers an almost complete chain: structural ceramics, precast concrete, metal structures, roofing systems and decorative and industrial paints.

The sector serves one of the most dynamic construction markets in the country, fed by the residential development of the metropolitan area and by the A7 and A8 motorway construction sites[41].

Company	Activity profile	Key facts
Brikston Construction Solutions	Ceramic bricks and roof tiles; part of the Austrian Leier group	Approximately 383 employees
Build Corp Prefabricate	Precast concrete for road infrastructure, civil, industrial and agricultural construction, electricity poles and sewerage pipes	Its own testing laboratory; spans of up to 32 metres
Conedil	Steel and concrete structures, cladding and contracting for industrial construction	Capacity of up to 350 tonnes of steel structures per month
Proinvest Group (Pașcani)	Steel structures, building systems and fastening components	Deliveries of complete systems nationwide
TehnoSteel	Processing and trade of steel for construction	Supplier to the regional market
Caretta	Complete roofing systems and metal fencing; national producer with three plants, the first of them in Iași County	Over 18 years of activity; national distribution

The main construction materials producers of Iași County[41].

The construction materials industry

Company	Activity profile	Key facts
Tonmir	Tile-effect sheet, corrugated sheet and rainwater systems	Local producer, with its own production warehouse
National Paints Factories Company	Decorative and industrial paints, renders, primers, varnishes and resins; the Miroslava plant of the Jordanian group National Paints	Group with 16 production units worldwide
Casa Lebăda	Varnishes and paints	The first producer in the Moldavia region, founded in 1993
Miccarom	Water-dispersion paints, primers, acrylic varnishes and water-repellent solutions	Joint venture with MICCA Paint Inc. of Canada
Colorex Paints (Lețcani)	Washable paints, decorative renders, roof and floor paints	Family business founded in 1994

The main construction materials producers of Iași County[41].

Structural ceramics and the Leier group



The sector's largest employer is Brikston Construction Solutions, a producer of ceramic bricks and roof tiles with approximately 383 employees, owned by the Austrian Leier group[27].

Leier is a family company with production units in several countries of Central and Eastern Europe, active in construction materials and related industrial fields, and the Iași plant provides its presence on the growing market of the Moldavia region[41].

Precast, structures and building systems

A concentration of producers for building structures has taken shape on the Iași – Tomești axis.

Build Corp Prefabricate produces precast concrete for road infrastructure, civil, industrial and agricultural construction, electricity poles and sewerage pipes, with its own testing laboratory for steel and concrete and with structures produced at spans of up to 32 metres.

Conedil designs, manufactures and installs steel and concrete structures for industrial halls, with a production capacity of up to 350 tonnes of steel structures per month, and the local general contractors operate their own industrial production bases for concrete, asphalt mixes and metalwork.

In Pașcani, Proinvest Group supplies complete steel building systems and fastening components for projects throughout the country[27][41].

Roofing systems

The county also hosts a production cluster for metal roofing.

Caretta, a national producer of complete roofing systems and metal fencing, with over 18 years of activity, operates three plants in the country, the first of them in Iași County, in the Tomești area, and distributes nationwide.

Tonmir, an Iași producer, manufactures tile-effect sheet, corrugated sheet and rainwater systems for the regional market[41].

Decorative and industrial paints

Paint production has developed in the county at three levels. The international level is represented by National Paints Factories Company S.A. România, the Miroslava plant of the Jordanian group National Paints, considered the largest paint producer in the Middle East, with a production capacity of approximately 320,000 tonnes a year and 16 production units worldwide.

The group entered the Romanian market at the end of 2004, by taking over the Iași producer Conex, and the local unit produces washable and alkyd paints, renders, primers, varnishes, adhesives, industrial paints, including powder coatings and alkyd resins, and decorative paints with special effects[41].

The established local level is occupied by Casa Lebăda, founded in 1993 as the first producer of varnishes and paints in the Moldavia region, which was among the leading producers in the field nationally.

The niche level comprises Miccarom, a joint venture created in association with MICCA Paint Inc. of Canada, producing water-dispersion paints, primers, acrylic varnishes for paving and water-repellent solutions, and Colorex Paints of Lețcani, a family business founded in 1994, one of the few Romanian producers of roof and floor paints[41].

For an investor in construction, this structure means local suppliers for all the major components of a building — from structure and envelope to roofing and finishes — with short delivery times and without high transport costs.

Demand in the sector is supported over the long term by the region's road infrastructure programme and by the pace of construction in the metropolitan area[41].

Vineyards and wineries

Iași County is one of Romania's best-positioned wine-growing territories: four controlled designations of origin are found on its territory — Cotnari, Iași, Bohotin and Strunga — all in the wine-growing region of the Moldavian Plateau.

The structure of the sector combines a producer of national scale, with a history of centuries, with a new generation of medium-sized wineries oriented towards premium wines and wine tourism[42].

Cotnari, the emblematic vineyard

The Cotnari vineyard, with a documented history of approximately two thousand years and an area of around 1,750 hectares, is one of Europe's best-known vineyards and grows exclusively Romanian varieties: Grasă de Cotnari, Tămâioasă Românească, Fetească Albă, Frâncușă, Busuioacă and Fetească Neagră[42].

Cotnari S.A. is the county's largest wine producer and ranks among the country's top five producers by turnover. In 2025, the company recorded a turnover of RON 175.6 million, up by 23% against the previous year, with an average of 269 permanent employees, to which are added over a thousand seasonal workers for work in the plantations.

Annual sales exceed ten million bottles, and a significant part of production goes to export, on markets in Europe but also in the United States, Canada, Japan and China[42].

Casa de Vinuri Cotnari, founded in 2007 by the second generation of Cotnari's shareholders, works 350 hectares planted exclusively with Romanian varieties and is based at Vlădoianu Castle in Cîrjoaia, built in 1901.

The company has positioned itself in the premium segment, with yields deliberately limited to five or six tonnes of grapes per hectare, and has accumulated over one hundred medals at national and international competitions[42].

The new generation of wineries

Cramele Hermeziu, developed since 2006 within the Domeniile Lungu family group, grows white and red varieties at Bivolari, from Traminer Rosé and Sauvignon Blanc to Fetească Neagră and Busuioacă de Bohotin, with winemaking equipment imported from Italy.

Strunga Winery has relaunched the controlled designation of origin area at Strunga, with an annual production of approximately half a million litres, while Gramma, situated on the hills surrounding the city, has built a boutique winery model with tastings and visits constantly included in the tourist circuits of Iași[42].

Winery	Location and area	Key facts
Cramele Hermeziu — the Domeniile Lungu group	Bivolari, the Probota vineyard, on the site of the former estate of the Negruzzi family	132 hectares; bottling capacity of 1.3 million litres a year and storage capacity of 2 million litres
Strunga Winery	Strunga, on DN28, in the Strunga PDO area	90 hectares; approximately 500,000 litres bottled annually; founded in 2013
Gramma	Vișan, commune of Bârnova, eight kilometres from the city centre, in the Iași PDO area	A young winery, with an urban vineyard profile and a constant wine tourism programme
Domeniile Bohotin — Agroindustriala Bucium	Bucium and the Bohotin — Cozmești — Moșna area	250 hectares of vineyard in production; a planting programme with EU funds and a new winemaking centre under construction at Bohotin

The county's medium-sized wineries[42]. Each of them combines wine production with a wine tourism component.

Agroindustriala Bucium continues the tradition of the combine opened in 1949, which in the 1970s and 1980s worked over a thousand hectares of vines on the Bucium hills.

Privatised in 2003, the company today works 250 hectares of vineyard in production and has been running since 2017, with EU funds, a planting programme in the Bohotin — Cozmești — Moșna area, under the Domeniile Bohotin brand, together with the construction of a new winemaking centre located next to the plantations[42].

The Bohotin area, in the south-east of the county, is the place of origin of the Busuioacă de Bohotin variety, one of the most distinctive Romanian aromatic varieties, grown nationally over an area of the order of hundreds of hectares.

Both Cramele Hermeziu and Domeniile Bohotin are running programmes to extend the plantations of this variety, which consolidates the county's position as its national centre[42].

For an investor, the wine sector offers a twofold potential: on the production side, where the controlled designation of origin areas and the indigenous varieties support premium positioning and export, and on the wine tourism side, where the existing wineries have already demonstrated the demand for tastings, events and wine circuits a short distance from a city with an international airport[42].

The region's smart specialisation domains

The Regional Research and Innovation Strategy through Smart Specialisation of the North-East Region, drawn up by the North-East Regional Development Agency, establishes six smart specialisation domains for the 2021–2027 period.

Whether a project falls within these domains conditions access to part of the European funding available in the region[30].

Smart specialisation domain	Corresponding strengths in Iași County
Information and communications technology	3rd nationally for sectoral attractiveness; 13,793 employees in active firms; research centres of international groups
Biotechnology	Integrated pharmaceutical manufacturer with a research centre under construction; oncology institute authorised for clinical trials; university of medicine and pharmacy
Agri-food	The Transagropolis Lețcani Agri-industrial Park; producers of national scale in Pașcani; university of life sciences
Textiles and new advanced materials	Consolidated garment industry; research in polymers and advanced materials at the Petru Poni Institute
Environment and energy	Photovoltaic parks under development, including at the airport and in the metropolitan communes
Tourism for a healthy lifestyle	Cultural heritage and leisure infrastructure under development

Investment opportunities identified

The economic structure of the county indicates the fields in which a new investment finds suppliers, customers and qualified personnel already trained.

Field	The local argument
Production of electronics and automotive sub-assemblies	3rd nationally for sectoral attractiveness; 13,793 employees in active firms; research centres of international groups
Suppliers for precision processing: heat treatment, surface coating, tools and fixtures	Consolidated high-precision mechanical processing cluster, with over 1,700 employees in a single industrial group
Pharmaceutical packaging, active substances, clinical trial services	Integrated pharmaceutical manufacturer with a EUR 75 million investment under way; oncology institute authorised for clinical trials
High value added agri-food processing	Agricultural base of over 380,000 hectares; agri-industrial park being extended; European funding framework available
Components and sub-assemblies for rolling stock	Rolling stock unit with a long tradition in Pașcani, located at the interchange between the A7 and A8 motorways; major railway junction
Higher-level technical services: product engineering, validation, testing	Concentration of research and development centres of international groups, with personnel available on the local market

Legal and fiscal framework

08



The rules for setting up a company, the tax rates and the authorisation procedures are identical throughout Romania.

This chapter presents the general structure of the legal and fiscal framework applicable to an investment, together with the institutions the investor addresses at each stage.

Since tax legislation changes frequently, the values presented should be verified at the time of the investment decision with the National Agency for Fiscal Administration[25].

Forms of organisation and registration

A foreign investor may carry out economic activity in Romania through a limited liability company, a joint-stock company, a branch or a representative office. The predominant form for productive investment is the limited liability company, owing to its reduced administrative requirements and organisational flexibility.

From 1 January 2026, the minimum share capital of a limited liability company is RON 500, and registration is carried out entirely online, through the portal of the National Trade Register Office, with an electronic signature, or at the territorial office attached to the Iași Tribunal. The table below compares the four forms according to the criteria that matter in an investment decision[47].

Form	Minimum capital	Liability and management	Registration and timeframe	Initial cost and tax regime
Limited liability company (SRL)	RON 500; RON 5,000 if turnover exceeds RON 400,000	Liability limited to the contribution; no more than 50 shareholders; one or more administrators	Trade Register Office attached to the Iași Tribunal, online or over the counter; 3–5 working days from the complete file	RON 152, the fee for publication in the Official Gazette; 1% on revenue below EUR 100,000 with at least one employee, otherwise 16% on profit
Joint-stock company (SA)	Ron 90,000	Limited liability; minimum two shareholders; board of directors or two-tier system; financial auditor	Same procedure; 3–5 working days	RON 152; 16% on profit; the form suited to large projects and to listing
Branch of a foreign company	No capital of its own	No legal personality; the parent company is liable; a manager with a specimen signature filed with the register	Trade Register, with the parent company's documents translated and legalised; 3–5 working days	RON 152; 16% on the profit attributable to the branch
Representative office	No capital	No legal personality and no commercial activity: promotion, contact, monitoring of contracts	Operating authorisation from the ministry of the economy, through an electronic platform; annual validity, renewable	Annual authorisation fee of USD 1,200; owes no profit tax, but a tax on the representative office's revenue

The forms of organisation available to a foreign investor, compared by capital, liability, registration procedure and tax regime, in 2026[47].

The fiscal framework

Item	Level applicable in 2026
Corporate income tax	16% on taxable profit
Micro-enterprise income tax	Flat rate of 1%, for a turnover below EUR 100,000 and with at least one full-time employee
Dividend tax	16%
Minimum turnover tax	0.5% in 2026, applicable to companies with revenue over EUR 50 million; abolished from 1 January 2027
The threshold for VAT registration	RON 395,000 annual turnover
Social contributions	Social insurance contribution 25% and health insurance contribution 10%, payable by the employee; work insurance contribution 2.25%, payable by the employer
Tax on wage income	10%
National gross minimum wage	RON 4,050; RON 4,325 from July 2026
Value added tax	Standard rate 21%; reduced rate 11% for food, medicines, books and accommodation, as from 1 August 2025

The main elements of the fiscal framework applicable in 2026[25]. The tax incentives for research and development, the exemption of reinvested profit and the State aid schemes are presented in the chapter on financial support.

The calendar of tax obligations

A newly established investor has, from the first month, a fixed calendar of returns and payments.

The main deadlines, applicable for 2026, are set out below; the full calendar, updated monthly, is published by the National Agency for Fiscal Administration[50].

Obligation	Deadline	Legal basis and remarks
Return on social contributions and payroll tax (D112)	The 25th of the following month	Fiscal Code; monthly, or quarterly for micro-enterprises with up to three employees
VAT return (D300) and recapitulative statement (D390)	The 25th of the month following the tax period	Monthly or quarterly, according to turnover; informative return D394 by the 30th
Corporate income tax — quarterly payments (D100)	The 25th of the month following the quarter	Fiscal Code, art. 41; quarters I–III
Corporate income tax — annual return (D101)	25 March of the following year	Fiscal Code, art. 42; reconciliation of the fourth quarter
Micro-enterprise income tax (D100)	The 25th of the month following the quarter	Fiscal Code, art. 56
Building tax and land tax — local instalments	31 March and 30 September	Fiscal Code, art. 462 and 467; discount of up to 10% for payment in full by 31 March; new buildings are declared within 30 days

The reporting and payment deadlines faced by a company in its first year of activity[50].

The calendar of tax obligations

Obligation	Deadline	Legal basis and remarks
Annual financial statements	150 days from the close of the financial year	Accounting Law No 82/1991, art. 36
Electronic invoice (e-Factura)	5 working days from issue	Mandatory for all business-to-business and business-to-consumer transactions
Standard audit file for tax (SAF-T, D406)	The last day of the month following the period	Monthly for monthly VAT payers, quarterly for the others
Register of employees (Revisal)	At the latest on the day before the start of activity	Government Decision No 905/2017

The reporting and payment deadlines faced by a company in its first year of activity[50].

Employment relations and the employment of foreign nationals

Employment relations are governed by the Labour Code. Normal working time is 8 hours a day, and the maximum legal duration, including overtime, may not exceed 48 hours a week. Employees are entitled to annual paid leave of at least 20 working days[25].

The employment of citizens from outside the European Union follows, from 27 April 2026, the single online application procedure of Government Emergency Ordinance No 32/2026: the D/AM1 long-stay visa for highly qualified workers, outside the quota, and the D/AM2 visa for permanent, seasonal and cross-border workers, within the annual quota set by Government decision — 90,000 workers for 2026.

Citizens of the Member States of the European Union and of the European Economic Area do not need an employment approval. The procedure, the deadlines and the costs are presented step by step in Chapter 9[48].

Environment, planning and construction authorisation

Depending on the activity carried out, an investment may require an environmental impact assessment, under Law No 292/2018, an environmental permit or an integrated environmental permit and sectoral approvals, issued by the Iași Environmental Protection Agency.

The authorisation of construction follows the path urban planning certificate — approvals — building permit, with no more than 30 days for each of the two documents, the documents being issued by the local public administration authority in whose area the site is located.

Agricultural land outside built-up areas is removed from agricultural use before any construction, in exchange for a tariff set annually by the Ministry of Agriculture. The stages, deadlines and costs are set out in detail in Chapter 9[49].

Prior authorisation of foreign direct investment

Certain foreign direct investments are subject to prior examination, in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2019/452 and with Government Emergency Ordinance No 46/2022, substantially amended by Emergency Ordinance No 17/2026.

The procedure is conducted through the Commission for the Examination of Foreign Direct Investment, whose secretariat is provided by the Competition Council, and covers investments in fields sensitive to security and public order — critical infrastructure, strategic technologies, resources, data — which exceed the threshold of EUR 5 million, raised from EUR 2 million in 2026; interdependent operations carried out within one year are cumulated.

The examination contribution is EUR 5,000, reduced from EUR 10,000, and the opinion is issued within no more than 45 days of the completion of the file, compared with 60 previously; applications are submitted through an IT application managed by the Prime Minister's Chancellery. An investor intending to carry out an investment in a field liable to fall under this mechanism checks the applicability of the procedure in good time, since prior authorisation is a precondition for carrying out the operation[25][52].

National reference documents

Caietul Investitorului (Investor's Handbook), published by the Romanian Agency for Investment and Foreign Trade, is the national reference document for incorporation procedures, taxation and authorisation.

The Guidebook for Investors, published by InvestRomania, presents the general framework and sectoral opportunities at national level.

The Register of State aid in Romania, administered by the Competition Council, comprises all aid granted to economic operators.

The Register of industrial parks, administered by the Ministry of Development, Public Works and Administration, comprises the parks holding a title under Law No 186/2013.

The investor's steps

09

This chapter sets out in chronological order everything an investor has to do from the moment of the decision to the commissioning of a unit in Iași County. The ten steps are the same throughout Romania; what differs in Iași are the contact institutions, the deadlines in the park regulations and the single desk of the administrators, which takes over part of the administrative legwork. Each step indicates the institution, the legal act, the statutory deadline and the cost, and at the end the cumulated durations are estimated for two location scenarios[47][48][49].



Step	What it involves	Institution and legal basis	Statutory deadline	Indicative cost
1 Setting up the company	Choice of legal form, name reservation, articles of association, declaration of the beneficial owner, online filing of the file	Iași Trade Register Office; Law No 31/1990, Law No 265/2022	3–5 working days	RON 152; share capital of at least RON 500
2 Tax registration	Tax identification code upon registration; VAT option; Virtual Private Space; e-Factura	Iași County Public Finance Agency; Fiscal Code	Upon registration; VAT mandatory above RON 395,000	No cost
3 Choosing the site	Titled industrial park, private platform with premises for rent or own land	Park administrators; Law No 186/2013	2–8 weeks for visits and offer	No cost

The ten steps of an investment in Iași County, with the responsible institution, the legal basis, the deadline and the indicative cost, in 2026[47][48][49].

Step	What it involves	Institution and legal basis	Statutory deadline	Indicative cost
4 The land: in a park or on own land	In a park: admission of the investor by direct negotiation or public tender, in accordance with the access regulation, and signature of the administration contract, with the grant of use of the area. On own land: purchase with pre-emption right, land registration	County Council and park administrator; Law No 17/2014; Iași Cadastre Office	Park procedure: 2–4 months; pre-emption: 45 days of public display	Participation guarantee RON 8,000; in a park, the land use fee of EUR 1.70/sqm/year and the administration fee; on own land, the price, the notary's fee and the land registration fee
5 Removal from agricultural use	Only for agricultural land outside built-up areas, outside the parks; soil study, approval decision	Iași Agriculture Directorate; Law No 18/1991, MADR Order No 10/2026	4–8 weeks; permanent grassland: 6–12 months	Tariff by quality class; does not apply in the Lețcani and Miroslava parks, where the land has buildable status
6 Urban planning and authorisation	Urban planning certificate, approvals, where appropriate a zonal urban plan, building permit	Commune or municipal city hall; Law No 50/1991, Law No 350/2001	30 days each for the certificate and the permit; ZUP: 6–12 months	Authorisation fee: 1% of the value of the works; waived in parks, with the agreement of the local council

The ten steps of an investment in Iași County, with the responsible institution, the legal basis, the deadline and the indicative cost, in 2026[47][48][49].

Step	What it involves	Institution and legal basis	Statutory deadline	Indicative cost
7 Environment	Notification, screening stage, where necessary an impact report and public debate, environmental agreement; environmental permit before operation	Iași Environmental Protection Agency; Law No 292/2018, Order No 1798/2007	Screening: around 30 days; full assessment: 6–12 months	Reduced procedural tariffs; the cost of the impact study
8 Connection to utilities	Technical connection approval, connection contract, execution	Delgaz Grid, Apavital; regulations of the National Energy Regulatory Authority	Approval within no more than 30 days of the complete application	Connection tariff; in a park, utilities at supply cost
9 Recruitment and employment	Recruitment through the employment agency and universities; employment contracts; for citizens from outside the Union, single online application	County Employment Agency; General Inspectorate for Immigration; Labour Code, Emergency Ordinance No 32/2026	Employment approval: 30 days; visa: 30 days	EUR 100 for the approval; the visa and the residence permit
10 State aid and commissioning	Aid application before any expenditure; de minimis agreement; acceptance of works, fire safety permit, place of business	Ministry of Finance; city hall; Inspectorate for Emergency Situations; Trade Register	Aid application: before the start of works; declaration of the building: 30 days	No cost; local taxes after acceptance

The ten steps of an investment in Iași County, with the responsible institution, the legal basis, the deadline and the indicative cost, in 2026[47][48][49].

Setting up the company and tax registration

The procedure is entirely electronic: name reservation, the articles of association under private signature, the declaration of the beneficial owner and the filing of the file are all done through the portal of the National Trade Register Office, with an electronic signature, and the registration certificate and the trade register extract arrive within 3–5 working days.

The only cost payable to the State is the fee for publication in the Official Gazette, of RON 152; the minimum share capital of RON 500 remains the company's own. The tax identification code is assigned upon registration. VAT registration is mandatory once the threshold of RON 395,000 is exceeded and optional below it — a company that will invest and deduct VAT on construction generally has an interest in registering from the outset.

The account in the Virtual Private Space and access to the e-Factura system are opened immediately after registration[47].

The land: in a park or outside it

In titled industrial parks, the admission of the investor and the signature of the administration contract follow the procedures laid down in the access regulation of each park, approved by decision of the County Council or of the owning local council: direct negotiation, for investments of at least EUR 2 million, or public tender, with a participation guarantee of RON 8,000. The resident receives the right of use over the area within the park, and the administration contract is concluded with the administrating company, mandated by the County Council to assist investors; the procedure normally takes two to four months, and the investment calendar runs from signature: the building permit within four months at most, the start of works within one year, completion within two years[24].

Outside the parks, the purchase of agricultural land outside built-up areas goes through the pre-emption right regulated by Law No 17/2014: the sale offer is displayed at the city hall for 45 days, and the pre-emptors — co-owners, lessees, neighbours, young farmers, the State — may buy with priority. There follows the contract authenticated before a notary and registration with the Iași Cadastre and Land Registration Office. Agricultural land outside built-up areas cannot receive buildings before it is removed from agricultural use, approved by the Iași Agriculture Directorate on the basis of a soil study and of the urban planning certificate; the tariff, updated annually with inflation, is set by Order of the Ministry of Agriculture No 10/2026 according to the soil quality class — from around RON 4.29 per square metre for class I; for a plot of 1,000 square metres of class III, the cost is around RON 3,220.

In the county's industrial parks this step does not apply: the land at Lețcani and at Miroslava has buildable status, with approved urban plans.

Law No 186/2013 does not make the granting of the title conditional on removal from agricultural use, but merely exempts the land corresponding to the park from the tariff, should such an operation ever be necessary.

Permanent grassland is removed from agricultural use only by Government decision, a procedure that takes six to twelve months[49].

Urban planning and authorisation of construction

The urban planning certificate is issued within no more than 30 days of the registration of the application and establishes the list of approvals required. If the site is not covered by an approved zonal urban plan, the preparation and approval of a ZUP adds six to twelve months, including the strategic environmental assessment.

The building permit is issued within no more than 30 days of the submission of the complete documentation, under Law No 50/1991, and the authorisation fee is 1% of the value of the works, under the Fiscal Code; in titled parks, the local council may waive it.

Works must begin within the period entered in the permit, normally twelve months, and on completion the acceptance of the works takes place, with the participation of the issuing authority[49].

Environment

The procedure under Law No 292/2018 begins with the notification of the Iași Environmental Protection Agency and with the screening stage, in which the authority decides, in around 30 days, whether the project needs an impact assessment.

Large projects — industrial installations, large warehouses, activities with emissions — go through the full assessment, with an impact report, public debate and environmental agreement, which takes six to twelve months and is planned in parallel with urban planning.

Before the start of the activity the environmental permit is obtained, and for the activities in the annex to Law No 278/2013 the integrated environmental permit. Sites near Natura 2000 areas require an additional appropriate assessment[49].

Connection to utilities

For electricity and natural gas, Delgaz Grid issues the technical connection approval within no more than 30 days of the complete application, under the regulations of the National Energy Regulatory Authority, after which the connection contract is concluded and the works are executed — for high capacities, with timeframes that depend on grid reinforcement.

Apavital issues the final approval for water and sewerage.

In titled industrial parks, utilities are re-invoiced at supply cost, without mark-up, and the administrator mediates the relationship with the operators[24].

Recruitment and employment of foreign citizens

Local recruitment goes through the County Employment Agency, which also provides the subsidies for the employment of unemployed persons and graduates laid down in Law No 76/2002, and through the universities' career offices.

Individual employment contracts are registered in the Revisal electronic register at the latest on the day before the start of the activity. Citizens of the Member States of the European Union and of the European Economic Area are employed without an approval, upon simple registration of residence[48].

For citizens from outside the Union, Government Emergency Ordinance No 32/2026, in force since 27 April 2026, replaced the classic employment approval with a single application, submitted exclusively online on the WorkinRomania.gov.ro platform, where the employer registers beforehand.

Highly qualified workers, teaching staff and researchers receive the D/AM1 long-stay visa, outside the quota; permanent, seasonal and cross-border workers receive the D/AM2 visa, within the annual quota — 90,000 workers for 2026, under Government Decision No 1169/2025.

The General Inspectorate for Immigration decides on the application within 30 days, against a fee of EUR 100; the visa is issued by the diplomatic mission within 30 days; after entry into the country, the employment contract is concluded within 15 days and the single residence permit is applied for.

Workers posted from Union States may work in Romania for up to twelve months, extendable to eighteen[48].

State aid and commissioning

The rule that decides access to State aid is a single one: the application is submitted before incurring any expenditure.

The local exemptions in the industrial parks are obtained through the de minimis agreement issued by the commune city hall, and the national schemes — Government Decision No 300/2024, the schemes of Emergency Ordinance No 8/2026 — and the North-East Regional Programme have submission sessions which the investor checks before signing the first execution contract.

Commissioning entails the acceptance of the works on completion, the fire safety permit from the Inspectorate for Emergency Situations, the sanitary approval or permit where the law requires it, the environmental permit, the registration of the place of business with the Trade Register and the declaration of the building to the city hall within 30 days of acceptance, for local tax purposes[49].

Indicative durations

The durations below add up the statutory deadlines and the administrative practice of the county for two typical scenarios. They are indicative: projects that do not require the full environmental impact assessment and that locate in a park with an approved urban plan come close to the lower limit[24][49].

Throughout, the single desk of the park administrator, the Iași Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Invest in Iași platform take over the task of guiding the investor between institutions, and the contacts of each are brought together in Chapter 15.

Stage	In a titled industrial park	On own land, with a zonal urban plan
Setting up the company and tax registration	one week	one week
Obtaining the land	2–4 months (award procedure)	2–6 months (pre-emption, notary, land registration, removal from agricultural use)
Urban planning and authorisation	2–4 months (certificate and permit, without ZUP)	8–14 months (ZUP, certificate, approvals, permit)
Environment	1–3 months, in parallel; 6–12 months if the full assessment is required	3–12 months, including the strategic assessment of the plan
Construction and acceptance	12–24 months, according to the calendar in the park regulation	12–24 months
Commissioning	1–2 months	1–2 months
Indicative total duration	18–30 months	24–40 months

Indicative durations from the setting up of the company to commissioning, for two location scenarios[24][49].



Incentives and financial support for investment

10

The public support available for an investment in Iași County comes from three sources with different rules. Regional State aid is granted in the form of a grant for the initial investment and is capped as a percentage of the eligible costs. The national tax incentives, in the form of deductions, tax credits and exemptions, apply identically throughout the country. EU funds and the incentives granted by local authorities in industrial parks complete this framework[25].



Regional State aid

Regional State aid is granted under Article 107(3)(a) and (c) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, the Guidelines on regional State aid for 2022–2027 and Regulation (EU) No 651/2014. In domestic law, the intensities are established by Government Decision No 311/2022, as subsequently amended. Romania's regional map was authorised by the European Commission Decision of 20 December 2021 and applies until 31 December 2027[25].

For Iași County, the basic intensity is 50% of eligible costs for large enterprises. It is increased by 10 percentage points for medium-sized enterprises and by 20 percentage points for small enterprises.

The increase for strategic technologies

The increases for small and medium-sized enterprises do not apply to large investment projects[25].

From 1 March 2024, the maximum intensities may be increased by up to 10 percentage points for investments carried out in compliance with Regulation (EU) 2024/795 establishing the Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform, known as STEP.

The legal basis consists of the European Commission Communication of 3 June 2024, the European Commission Decision of 28 October 2024 and Government Decision No 248/2025.

For Iași County, the intensity applicable to a STEP investment thus reaches 60%, the base intensity level of the other counties of the North-East Region[25].

The European regulation targets three categories of strategic technologies: digital technologies and deep tech innovation, clean and resource-efficient technologies, and biotechnologies[25].

Large investment projects and eligibility conditions

For projects with eligible costs above EUR 50 million, the maximum aid amount is calculated using the formula R × (A + 0.50 × B + 0 × C), where R represents the maximum applicable intensity, A the first EUR 50 million of eligible costs, B the part between EUR 50 million and EUR 100 million, and C the part exceeding EUR 100 million[25].

The investment must concern the setting-up of a new establishment, the extension of the capacity of an existing establishment, the diversification of output into products not previously manufactured in the establishment, or a fundamental change in the production process. Tangible and intangible assets must be new.

The aid application is submitted before work begins; starting a project before the application is submitted results in loss of eligibility, this being the most frequent cause of rejection of applications[25].

The national State aid schemes

Regional aid is granted in practice through schemes administered by the Ministry of Finance and financed from the State budget. The scheme for investments with a major impact on the economy, established by Government Decision No 300/2024, grants non-repayable amounts in relation to eligible expenditure, within the maximum admissible intensity.

The scheme for job creation, established by Government Decision No 332/2014, has as its main condition the creation of at least 100 jobs[25].



The economic relaunch package — Emergency Ordinance No 8/2026

Government Emergency Ordinance No 8/2026, adopted in February 2026, rebuilds the national framework of support for investment. The Ministry of Finance may grant support in the form of grants, tax credit, State guarantees, interest subsidies or capital contributions, through eight sectoral State aid schemes.

The implementing acts — the government decisions actually establishing each scheme — are adopted successively, so that budgets and submission sessions should be checked at the date of the investment decision[36].

The schemes relevant to a productive investor in Iași County are the following[36]:

The TECH-UP România scheme combines the grant with an additional deduction of expenditure on tangible and intangible assets, within the maximum intensity permitted by European rules. The same ordinance introduces the 10% tax credit for research and development, presented in the following section, and an additional deduction for companies that list on the stock exchange[36].

The economic relaunch package — Emergency Ordinance No 8/2026

Scheme	Eligible investment	Estimated budget
Competitiveness clusters and products with a trade deficit in manufacturing	minimum RON 50 million	approximately EUR 1.05 billion
Strategic and critical mineral resources; finished products based on net-zero technologies	minimum RON 75 million	approximately EUR 1.05 billion
Research, development and high technologies — the TECH-UP România scheme	between RON 5 million and RON 50 million	approximately EUR 1.05 billion
Regional competitiveness and convergence	between RON 7 million and RON 50 million	approximately EUR 500 million
Defence industry	minimum RON 10 million	approximately EUR 200 million
Newly established companies with majority capital held by Romanians in the diaspora, through the Investment and Development Bank	established by the scheme	approximately EUR 100 million
Tourism; innovation and digital transition	established by government decision	to be established by government decision
Investments with a significant impact on the economy, through ad hoc aid	minimum RON 1 billion	individually, by decision

The State aid schemes established by Government Emergency Ordinance No 8/2026. The thresholds refer to eligible expenditure.

Tax incentives independent of location

Taxpayers benefit from an additional 50% deduction of eligible research and development expenditure when calculating the tax result. From the 2026 tax year, under Government Emergency Ordinance No 8/2026, corporate income tax payers may opt for a tax credit of 10% of eligible research and development expenditure, instead of the additional deduction.

If the value of the credit exceeds the tax due in a year, the difference may become a tax claim, recoverable over four consecutive tax years[25].

Accelerated depreciation also applies for equipment used in research and development activities, as does the income tax exemption for employees involved in such activities, and the ten-year corporate income tax exemption for companies carrying out exclusively research, development and innovation activities.

Profit reinvested in technological equipment, computers and software is exempt from tax[25].

Classifying projects as eligible for the research and development tax incentives requires the activity to be certified by a specialist entered in the dedicated register.

This administrative step should be planned from the design stage of the investment[25].

The incentives in industrial parks

The industrial park title, granted under Law No 186/2013, confers on the administrator and the residents of the park the following rights:

exemption from the charges levied for changing the use of the land corresponding to the industrial park or for removing it from agricultural use;

exemption from land tax, corresponding to the land of the park;

exemption from building tax, corresponding to the buildings forming part of the park's infrastructure;

exemptions, with the agreement of the local public authorities, from the charges owed to local budgets for the issuing of urban planning certificates and of building and demolition permits;

other incentives that may be granted by the local public administration authorities.

The title is granted for a minimum period of ten years, with the possibility of extension. The land must cumulatively meet the following conditions: it must be owned, held under concession, administered or used by the founder, the administrator or the residents; it must have access to a European, national or county road or to a bypass; it must have a compact area of at least 5 hectares; and it must not be encumbered by registered charges, mortgages or enforcement procedures[25].

The exemptions run from the date on which the title is granted. For Lețcani industrial park, the title was granted in 2017, the incentives being available to residents[24].

The regime of a resident of an industrial park

The sections that follow are addressed to the investor setting up in an industrial park in the county. The rules are the same for all parks holding a title under Law No 186/2013, and the examples refer to the Lețcani industrial park, managed by Iași Industrial Park.

Access to each park is established through an access regulation approved by decision of the County Council or, where the owner of the park is a commune or a town, by decision of the local council.

The park administrators are mandated by the County Council to assist investors throughout the procedure and to conclude the administration contracts with future residents[24].

The legislative pyramid — what governs a resident's activity

The special law. Law No 186/2013 on the establishment and operation of industrial parks, as amended by Law No 168/2022, defines resident status, the associated rights and incentives, and the operating principles: equal treatment among residents and binding internal regulations.

The fiscal framework. Law No 227/2015 on the Fiscal Code is the effective source of the exemptions from building tax (Article 456) and land tax (Article 464). Both are granted "in compliance with State aid legislation", under the regime in which local councils may decide to grant them.

The European framework.
Regulation (EU) 2023/2831 on de minimis aid sets the ceiling of EUR 300,000 per single undertaking over three years, applies until 31 December 2030 and provides for a mandatory central register from 1 January 2026. Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 governs regional aid, and the regional aid map for 2022–2027 sets the maximum intensities.

The national procedure.
Government Emergency Ordinance No 77/2014 governs the granting, monitoring and recovery of aid. The Competition Council is the monitoring authority, through the State Aid Register platform.

The park regulation and the administration contract.
This is the rule directly applicable in daily activity: construction obligations, deadlines, the administration fee, access, utilities and the services included.

The resident's incentives

Points to note

The local exemptions do not operate automatically. They take effect through the decision of the local council in whose area the park is located and through the individual de minimis aid agreement obtained by each resident from the city hall.

In the absence of this agreement, the exemption cannot be applied lawfully, and the exemption runs from the date of the agreement, not retroactively.

exemption from tax or charge on the buildings located in the park, under Article 456 of the Fiscal Code;

exemption from tax or charge on the corresponding land, under Article 464 of the Fiscal Code;

exemption from the charges for issuing the urban planning certificate and the building or demolition permits, with the agreement of the local public authority;

exemption from the charges for removing the land from agricultural use, at park level;

utilities at supply cost, re-invoiced without mark-up, under Law No 186/2013;

a one-stop shop at the park administrator: support for approvals and permits, for dealings with the authorities and for the de minimis procedure;

a land use fee of EUR 1.70 per square metre per year and an administration fee with a degressive scale of EUR 1.00, 0.85 and 0.50 per square metre per year, according to the area occupied, under the park's access regulation[24].

De minimis aid — the procedure step by step

1. Checking the available ceiling.

All de minimis aid received by the single undertaking — the company together with its linked firms — over the past three years is added up. The difference up to EUR 300,000 represents the available headroom. From 2026, the check is also made in the central register provided for by Regulation (EU) 2023/2831.

2. Submitting the application.

The standard application for the agreement in principle on the exemption, as de minimis aid, is submitted to the taxes and charges department of the town hall of the commune on whose territory the park is located.

3. The documents attached.

Proof of resident status, namely the contract concluded with the administrator; the land book extract or the building permit; the declaration on own responsibility concerning de minimis aid received over the past three years, at single undertaking level; the trade register extract; the power of attorney.

4. Issuing the agreement.

The town hall issues the agreement and the exemption decision and registers the aid in the State Aid Register. The value of the aid is equal to the tax exempted annually and is calculated in euro, at the exchange rate on the date of granting.

5. Records.

Decisions are kept for ten years. The aid is declared with any subsequent funding application, since cumulation is checked under each scheme.

6. Renewal.

This is carried out in accordance with the local council decision; some decisions provide for annual confirmation that the conditions are met[25].

Sectors excluded from de minimis aid

Primary agricultural production, fisheries and aquaculture, as well as the purchase of vehicles for road freight transport. If the activity is mixed, separation of accounts is mandatory.

Regional State aid for investments exceeding the de minimis ceiling

Above the de minimis ceiling, support is granted as regional aid, under Article 14 of Regulation (EU) No 651/2014, and finances an initial investment: a new establishment, an extension of capacity, a diversification of output or a fundamental change in the production process, in tangible and intangible assets.

Four rules decide eligibility in practice[25]:

The maximum intensity.

In Iași County, 50% of eligible costs for large enterprises, 60% for medium-sized ones and 70% for small ones. In the other counties of the North-East Region, the basic intensity is 10 percentage points higher. For investments falling under the STEP platform, the intensity in Iași County is increased by up to 10 percentage points.

The incentive effect.

The aid application is submitted before work begins. Any expenditure committed beforehand disqualifies the project. This is the most frequent cause of rejection.

Maintaining the investment.

A minimum of five years in the region after completion, or three years for small and medium-sized enterprises.

The own contribution.

A minimum of 25% of eligible costs, from own resources or from external financing not subject to any other public support.

EU funds

The North-East Regional Programme 2021–2027, administered by the North-East Regional Development Agency, finances productive investment, digitalisation, energy efficiency and innovation in small and medium-sized enterprises in the region.

Whether the project falls within one of the region's six smart specialisation domains conditions access to part of this funding[30].

European instruments for the agri-food sector

The Horizon Europe programme, Cluster 6 — "Food, bioeconomy, natural resources, agriculture and environment", with a budget of EUR 9 billion for 2021–2027

The European Union mission "A Soil Deal for Europe", with a budget of approximately EUR 825 million

The European network of digital innovation hubs, one-stop-shop structures offering enterprises access to expertise in robotics, big data and artificial intelligence

The European Union CAP Network, through thematic networks and advisory networks intended to disseminate ready-to-apply solutions

Financial instruments

The InvestEU programme, the European Investment Bank and the European Investment Fund make available guarantees, loans and risk capital, as well as assistance for project preparation through the InvestEU Advisory Hub.

The European Commission's Kohesio platform allows consultation of projects financed from EU funds in Iași County.

The submission sessions, allocated budgets and evaluation deadlines for the national schemes may be consulted with the Ministry of Finance, in the section dedicated to State aid[25].

Cumulation rules

For the same eligible costs, aid may not exceed the maximum applicable intensity. The beneficiary's own contribution must represent at least 25% of eligible costs and be provided from own resources or from external financing not subject to any other public aid.

De minimis aid is capped at EUR 300,000 per single undertaking over a three-year period, under Regulation (EU) 2023/2831. All aid granted is recorded in the State Aid Register of Romania[25].



Funding directions 2026–2030

The table below summarises the funding instruments accessible to a productive investor in the county over the 2026–2030 period, with the responsible authority and the time horizon.

Budgets and call timetables change; they should be verified before each submission[25].

Instrument	For what	Horizon and authority
Emergency Ordinance No 8/2026 — the relaunch schemes	Grants, tax credit and guarantees for manufacturing, high technologies, critical raw materials, net-zero technologies and defence	2026–2032 · Ministry of Finance, through successive implementing acts
North-East Regional Programme 2021–2027	Calls for micro-enterprises and productive small and medium-sized enterprises: equipment, digitalisation, energy efficiency	calls until 2027, implementation until 2029 · North-East Regional Development Agency
The scheme for the development of industrial parks	The direct beneficiary is the park administrator; residents benefit indirectly, through modernised infrastructure and utilities	2021–2027 · Ministry of European Investments and Projects
National Recovery and Resilience Plan — the final calls	Digitalisation, renewable energy for self-consumption	milestones falling due in 2026 · the line ministries
The Modernisation Fund	Photovoltaic self-consumption, storage, industrial energy efficiency, for energy-intensive consumers	periodic calls until 2030 · Ministry of Energy

Funding instruments available over the 2026–2030 period. The information is indicative and should be verified at source before submission.

Funding directions 2026–2030 (continued)

Instrument	For what	Horizon and authority
Employment subsidies, Law No 76/2002	Support for employing unemployed persons and graduates and for apprenticeships; correlates with the job commitments in the resident contract	permanent · Iași County Employment Agency
Investment and Development Bank	Credit guarantees and financial instruments for productive investment	operational · Investment and Development Bank
European Union multiannual financial framework 2028–2034	The announced directions concern industrial competitiveness, clean technologies and defence; the operational programmes are being finalised in 2027–2028	horizon 2028 · indicative information

Funding instruments available over the 2026–2030 period. The information is indicative and should be verified at source before submission.

Cross-cutting rules checked by every funder

Cumulation of aid.

The same eligible cost may not be financed above the maximum intensity resulting from the cumulation of several schemes. Local exemptions granted as de minimis aid are declared with each funding application.

The do no significant harm principle.

Compliance with the do no significant harm principle and climate-proofing are mandatory for EU funds in the 2021–2027 period.

The incentive effect.

For regional aid, works may not begin before the application is submitted.

Separate records and archiving.

Aid is recorded separately, and documents are kept for ten years, under Government Emergency Ordinance No 77/2014. Irregularities entail recovery of the aid, with interest.

Practical steps for the investor becoming a resident

1.

Upon signing the resident contract, immediately submit the application for the de minimis agreement to the town hall of the commune in whose area the park is located. The exemptions run from the date of the agreement, not retroactively.

2.

Before any new investment, check the active calls with the North-East Regional Development Agency, with the Ministry of European Investments and Projects and with the Ministry of Finance and submit the application before committing expenditure.

3.

Keep an internal register of the aid received, with the date, the administrative act and the value expressed in euro. This is the first document requested by any funder.

4.

Use the park administrator's one-stop shop for guidance between schemes and for dealings with the authorities[24].

Note

The information in this chapter is indicative and reflects the legislation in force at the time of drafting, August 2026.

Ceilings, calls and implementing acts evolve. Consolidated versions may be consulted on the national legislative portal, and funding announcements with the North-East Regional Development Agency, the Ministry of European Investments and Projects and the Ministry of Finance.

For specific situations, consulting a State aid specialist is recommended.



Research, health and quality of life

11

Innovation infrastructure

Tehnopolis Science and Technology Park is located on Poitiers Boulevard in the municipality of Iași and is one of the largest science and technology parks in Romania.

The fields targeted are information technology, the audiovisual industry, biotechnology and the food industry. The park hosts a business incubator offering space from EUR 2 per square metre, together with free consultancy services for drawing up a business plan and initial accounting assistance.

Access to the incubator is conditional on the existence of an innovation or technology transfer component.

Tehnopolis is the only centre of the Enterprise Europe Network in the Moldavia area and forms part of the consortium covering twelve counties in the east of the country. The European network brings together almost 600 organisations and approximately 4,000 specialists from over 40 countries.

The main service offered to investors is the search for business partners, suppliers or partners for research projects, in over 50 countries. The service is free of charge.

Active clusters operate in the county, among them BioNEst, with a biotechnology and life sciences profile, of which Tehnopolis is a member.

The research institutes

Alongside the five state universities and the two private ones, a network of research institutes with a profile relevant to investors operates in the municipality. The Petru Poni Institute of Macromolecular Chemistry, an institute of excellence of the Romanian Academy founded in 1949, works in polymer chemistry and physics, in advanced materials and nanomaterials, on a platform of approximately 10,000 square metres in the Copou area. The National Institute of Research and Development for Technical Physics, organised in its current form in 1996 and coordinated by the line ministry, specialises in magnetic materials, micro- and nanomaterials, sensors and non-destructive testing, with applications in engineering, medicine and biotechnology(44).

The Iași Branch of the Romanian Academy brings together six institutes — of theoretical computer science, the Octav Mayer institute of mathematics, the Gheorghe Zane institute of economic and social research, the institute of archaeology, the A. D. Xenopol institute of history and the Alexandru Philippide institute of Romanian philology — together with four research centres, among them the Olga Necrasov Centre for Anthropological and Biomedical Research and the Centre for Oenological Research.

For an investor, these structures represent possible partners in applied research projects and sources of expertise for materials characterisation, for laboratory analyses and for the research and development component of a funding application(44).

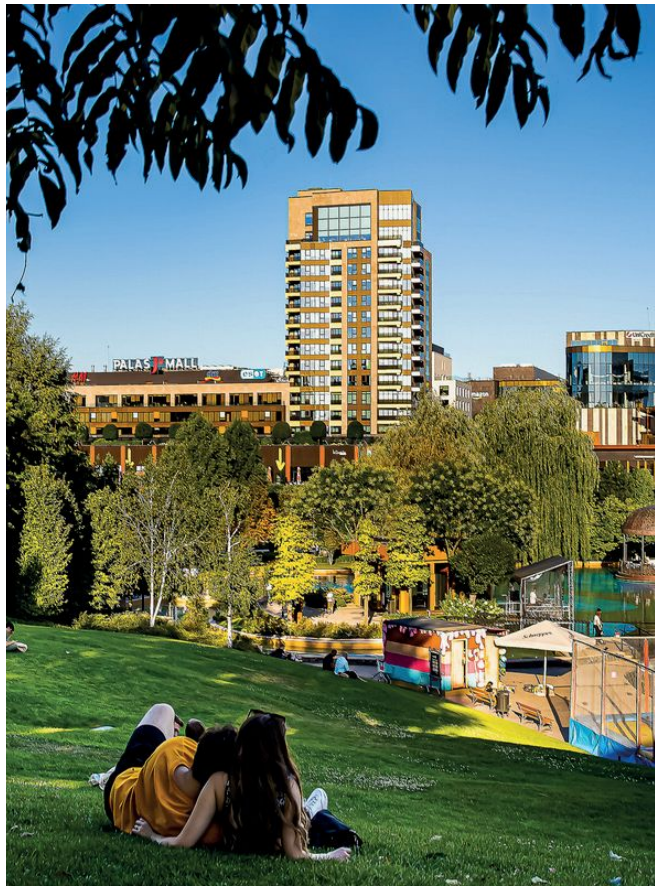
The healthcare system

The municipality of Iași is the main medical centre of Moldavia. The Regional Oncology Institute has operated since March 2012 and is the only public hospital in Romania brought into use after 1989. It has 330 beds for continuous hospitalisation and 56 places for day hospitalisation. The institute holds an authorisation issued by the National Agency for Medicines and Medical Devices for conducting clinical trials in the field of medicines, as well as authorisation for haematopoietic stem cell transplantation. For an investor in the pharmaceutical or medical devices field, the local capacity to run authorised clinical trials constitutes a direct operational advantage.

The Iași Regional Emergency Hospital is being built in the Moara de Vânt area, on an area of approximately 5.5 hectares, under the coordination of the National Agency for the Development of Health Infrastructure. It will have 850 beds, 20 operating theatres, a helipad and approximately 3,000 employees. In mid-July 2026, approximately 13,000 of the over 22,000 rigid inclusions had been carried out — more than half — with their completion scheduled by the end of August, followed by the transfer layer and the pouring of the general raft in the latter part of the year. The completion deadline is 2030[31].

The existing hospital network comprises the Sfântul Spiridon County Emergency Clinical Hospital, which receives approximately 95,000 patients a year in its emergency department and admits over 40,000, the Sfânta Maria Emergency Clinical Hospital for Children, the Prof. Dr. George I. M. Georgescu Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases, the Dr. C. I. Parhon Clinical Hospital and the Prof. Dr. Nicolae Oblu Emergency Clinical Hospital. The Regional Oncology Institute manages the oncological screening programme for six counties.

Living conditions for relocated personnel





Office activity in the municipality of Iași has concentrated in a single central perimeter, developed as an integrated complex.

In addition to the approximately 130,000 square metres of class A offices, the perimeter comprises a retail and services area of approximately 64,000 square metres, with over 270 brands, restaurants and cafés, as well as a five-hectare urban garden hosting events throughout the year.

The employees of the engineering centres work, eat and spend their free time in the same central perimeter, without commuting[26].

International education

Seven Hills International School of Iași, founded in 2014, is the first international school in north-eastern Romania, teaching exclusively in English.

The city also has high schools and classes with intensive foreign language teaching, within the public education network[17].



The cost of housing

The comparison with the other major university and economic centres, as at the first quarter of 2026 and across the market as a whole, shows the following ranking[31]:

The municipality of Iași is among the most affordable of Romania's major university and economic centres in terms of housing prices.

In June 2026, the average asking price was approximately EUR 2,074 per square metre of usable area for new flats, up by 13% against the previous year, and EUR 1,978 for older ones[31].

In July 2026, prices held at these levels, with an annual increase of 10% in the new-build segment. The rent for a two-room flat stood in the EUR 350–400 per month range, against an average of over EUR 580 in Bucharest.

Prices on the local property market are rising steadily, and the gap with the other university centres is narrowing from year to year[31].

City	Average price of flats in Q1 2026 (EUR/sqm usable)
Cluj-Napoca	approximately 3,272
Brașov	approximately 2,265
Bucharest	approximately 2,236
Craiova	approximately 2,150
Constanța	approximately 1,975
Iași	approximately 1,946
Timișoara	approximately 1,909

The cultural offer



The municipality of Iași is the main cultural centre of Moldavia, with a national theatre, an opera, a philharmonic, an athenaeum and museums of national rank.

The cultural offer and the built heritage of the county are presented at length in the following chapter, and tourism activity in Chapter 14.

Culture and heritage

12

The municipality of Iași is the main cultural centre of Moldavia and one of the few cities in Romania to bring together, in the same city, a national theatre, a national opera house, a state philharmonic, an athenaeum and a museum complex of national rank. The county has 1,630 registered monuments of built heritage, ranking second in the country after the municipality of Bucharest[16].

For an investor, the cultural offer matters in three ways. It is an argument for retaining relocated personnel and the specialists who choose where to work. It is, in itself, an industry: performing arts institutions, museums, publishing houses, design and audiovisual production studios employ, purchase services and attract paying audiences. And it is the basis on which tourism, addressed in Chapter 14, is built.



Cultural institutions

Vasile Alecsandri National Theatre

This is the oldest national theatre in Romania. The institution was founded in 1840, under the direction of Costache Negruzzi, Vasile Alecsandri and Mihail Kogălniceanu.

The current building was erected between 1894 and 1896, on the site of the old town hall, to the plans of the Viennese architects Fellner and Helmer, authors of theatres in Vienna, Prague, Odesa and Zurich, and was inaugurated in December 1896. The power plant built together with the theatre marked the beginning of electric lighting in Iași.

The main auditorium has approximately 750 seats, to which are added the studio auditorium and two smaller auxiliary spaces[34].



The Romanian National Opera of Iași

It operates in the same building as the National Theatre. The institution was founded in 1956, the first performance of its inaugural season being Tosca by Giacomo Puccini, and since 2003 it has held the title of national opera.

It programmes opera, operetta and ballet performances and is one of Romania's four national opera houses[34].

Moldova State Philharmonic

Founded in 1942, the Moldova Philharmonic is based on Cuza Vodă Street, immediately adjacent to the National Theatre, and holds symphonic and choral seasons throughout the year.

The orchestra and the academic choir frequently work with guest soloists and conductors from abroad[34].

The National Athenaeum of Iași

A cultural institution of the city, based in the Tătărași district, the National Athenaeum programmes theatre, music, exhibitions and projects for the community and for young audiences, in an area of the city outside the classic cultural core in the centre.

By its location, it is the cultural institution closest to the dense residential districts in the north-east of the city[34].

Cultural institutions

Luceafărul Theatre for Children and Young People

Founded in 1949 as a puppet theatre, Luceafărul has become a theatre for children and young people with international reach.

It organises the Iași International Theatre Festival for Young Audiences, an event that brings companies from Europe and beyond to the city each year[34].

Moldova National Museum Complex

The complex is based in the Palace of Culture and brings together four museums of national rank: the Museum of the History of Moldavia, the Ștefan Procopiu Museum of Science and Technology, the Ethnographic Museum of Moldavia and the Museum of Art. The Centre for Research and Conservation-Restoration of Cultural Heritage also operates here[34].

Six museum sites in the city and the county come under the complex: the Museum of the Union, the Mihail Kogălniceanu Memorial Museum, the Poni-Cernătescu Museum, the Alexandru Ioan Cuza Palace at Ruginoasa, the Cucuteni Site Archaeological Museum and the Museum of Vine and Wine at Hârlău. It is the only museum network in the region covering history, art, ethnography, science and archaeology at the same time[34].

The Alexandru Ioan Cuza Palace at Ruginoasa

Located approximately 40 kilometres north-west of the municipality of Iași, the palace was built at the beginning of the 19th century by the Sturdza family and later transformed in neo-Gothic style. It was bought by Prince Alexandru Ioan Cuza in 1862 and became his family residence.

Today it operates as a memorial museum, within the Moldova National Museum Complex, and is the main attraction of the route dedicated to the Union of the Principalities. The prince's remains were kept here until 1944, when they were moved to the Trei Ierarhi church in Iași[34].

Palace of Culture

The symbol of the city. It was erected between 1906 and 1925 to the design of the architect Ion D. Berindei, in flamboyant neo-Gothic style, on the site of the former Princely Court of Moldavia, documented in 1434. It has a 55-metre tower, almost 300 rooms and a total floor area of around 35,000 square metres. It served as a Palace of Justice and Administration until 1955, when it was given a cultural use. After an extensive restoration process, it was reopened to the public in April 2016[34].



Photo: Andrei Enea – The Palace of Culture

Cultural institutions

The Sturdza Castle at Miclăușeni



Situated in the village of Miclăușeni, commune of Butea, approximately 65 kilometres from the municipality of Iași, the castle was built between 1880 and 1904 by George Sturdza and his wife, Maria Ghica, to the plans of the architects Iulius Reinecke and I. Grigsberg, in late neo-Gothic style.

It is owned by the Metropolitanate of Moldavia and Bukovina, as part of the complex of Miclăușeni Monastery, and is a historical monument.

Restored over the past decade, it operates today as a visitor attraction, with visiting hours and guided tours, and hosts events[34].

Other cultural institutions and landmarks

The House of Museums,
administered by the National Museum of Romanian Literature in Iași, brings together under one roof five thematic museums, among them the Museum of Childhood under Communism, the Museum of the Iași Pogrom and the Museum of Jewish Theatre in Romania.

The Anastasie Fătu Botanical Garden,
founded in 1856, is the oldest and largest botanical garden in Romania, with approximately 100 hectares in the Copou area.

The Mihai Eminescu Central University Library,
housed in the former building of the University Foundation, is frequently cited among the most beautiful libraries in Europe.



The "Mihai Eminescu" Central University Library. Photo: Mihai Bulai

The George Enescu National University of Arts
trains graduates each year in visual arts, design, music and theatre and feeds directly into the local market of the creative industries.

The network of galleries, independent spaces and studios
in the historic centre and in former industrial spaces complements the offer of the public institutions and generates an active creative scene.

The festivals

The city's cultural calendar is dense and concentrated in the April–October period. The most important recurring events are the Iași International Festival of Literature and Translation, one of the largest literary festivals in Europe, the International Theatre Festival for Young Audiences, the Romanian Film Evenings, the Afterhills and Rocanotherworld music festivals, the International Education Festival and the Iași Celebrations, in October.

To these are added the technology events, which bring professional audiences from across the country to the city[32].

What this means for the investor

A city with a cultural programme throughout the year reduces the hidden cost of relocation. For companies bringing specialists from other cities or from abroad, the cultural and educational offers are, in practice, the arguments that decide whether the employee stays after the first contract.

For investors in the creative industries, the city additionally offers a university of arts, a local audience market and industrial spaces available for conversion.





Iași and its faiths

13

This chapter is written differently from the others. It contains no performance indicators and proposes no investment opportunities.

It is here because an investor who arrives in Iași on 14 October and finds the city full of people who have walked in from across the north-east of the country deserves to know in advance what is happening — and because the religious life of this city explains part of the way it looks, functions and organises its calendar.



The figures, in brief

At the 2021 census, religious affiliation was declared by 620,200 persons of the county's resident population. Of these, 91.6% declared themselves Orthodox, 4.7% Roman Catholic, 0.8% Pentecostal, and 2.9% declared other religions[35]. Iași is therefore a majority Orthodox city, with a significant Roman Catholic community and with a multi-denominational history far richer than today's percentages suggest.

Orthodoxy: the spiritual capital of Moldavia

The Metropolitanate of Moldavia and Bukovina has its seat in Iași. The Metropolitan Cathedral, erected in the 19th century, houses the relics of Saint Parascheva, brought to Iași in 1641 by Prince Vasile Lupu. Saint Parascheva is the patron saint of Moldavia, and her feast day, celebrated on 14 October, draws hundreds of thousands of pilgrims each year.

It is the largest Orthodox Christian pilgrimage in Romania. The flow of the faithful begins a few days beforehand, and the queue formed around the metropolitan complex becomes, for almost a week, the city's main urban reality[35].

The city hall organises the Iași Celebrations over the same period, with concerts, fairs and public events.

In practice, the city operates in October under a special regime: accommodation in the city and in the neighbouring localities is booked up weeks in advance, traffic in the central area is restricted, and institutions adapt their opening hours.



The Trei Ierarhi Church in Iași, founded by Vasile Lupu (1637–1639).

Beyond the cathedral, the city and the county preserve one of the densest networks of religious architecture in Romania. The Trei Ierarhi church, founded by Vasile Lupu between 1637 and 1639, is entirely covered in stone lacework that has no equivalent in the Eastern European Orthodox world. Golia Monastery, Cetățuia Monastery, Galata Monastery and Frumoasa Monastery mark the city's hills. The Sfântul Nicolae Domnesc church was founded by Stephen the Great, and at Dobrovăț stands the last church erected by the same prince. In the county, the Hadâmbu, Bârnova and Vlădiceni monasteries complete a route that can be covered in a single day.

The Roman Catholic community

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Iași was established in 1884 and has jurisdiction over the whole of Moldavia, across the territory of eight counties. It is one of the largest Catholic dioceses in the country.

Iași is home to the episcopal cathedral, the Roman Catholic Theological Institute and a network of parishes, schools and social assistance institutions.

The Catholic presence in Moldavia is long-standing and explains, among other things, the region's constant academic and business links with Italy and Poland(35).

The Jewish heritage

Until the middle of the 20th century, Iași had one of the largest Jewish communities in Eastern Europe. The Great Synagogue, erected in 1670–1671, is the oldest surviving synagogue in Romania. It was in Iași that the world's first professional Yiddish-language theatre was founded, in 1876, by Avram Goldfaden. It was also here that the Iași pogrom took place, in June 1941, one of the gravest episodes of the Holocaust in Romania. The memory of this community is preserved today by the Jewish cemetery, by the remaining synagogues, by the Museum of the Iași Pogrom and by the Museum of Jewish Theatre in Romania, both housed in the House of Museums(35).

The other denominations

The city has an Armenian church documented from the 14th century, Greek Catholic, Lutheran and Reformed communities, as well as Baptist, Pentecostal, Adventist and Evangelical Christian congregations, active mainly in the outlying districts and in rural areas.

The presence of over fifty thousand students, several thousand of them international, has also brought Muslim and other faith communities to the city, with their own prayer spaces. Coexistence is peaceful, and denominational diversity is not a subject of public tension.

Three useful things to know

First: between 10 and 15 October, accommodation in the city and in the metropolitan area is practically unavailable without a booking made months in advance, and moving through the centre is difficult. Second: Romania's statutory religious holidays are established by the Labour Code and include days of several denominations; for production planning, the calendar of public holidays for the year concerned should be consulted. Third: in rural Iași, the patron saint's day of the village church remains a real organisational reference point for the community.

Tourism

14

Tourism is, in Iași County, a sector with large resources and modest performance. This discrepancy is relevant to an investor for two reasons: it describes correctly where the market stands today and indicates, through the gap between potential and result, where the opportunities lie.



The current size of the market

In 2024, the county's accommodation establishments recorded approximately 368,000 arrivals, below the level of 2023, which remains the all-time record.

In the first half of 2025, 161,324 arrivals and 270,290 overnight stays were recorded, with an average length of stay of 1.68 days.

The decline continued in 2026: in the first two months there were 39,321 arrivals, almost 6% fewer than in the same period of the previous year, and in March overnight stays fell by 10.7%. Across the first half of 2026, arrivals of Romanian tourists totalled 127,431, down by 7.2%.

The trend follows the national one, where the first half ended with 4.1% fewer arrivals and 6.7% fewer overnight stays[33].

The flow remains concentrated almost entirely in the municipality: of the 39,321 arrivals in the first two months of 2026, 35,529 were recorded in the municipality of Iași, followed at a considerable distance by the municipality of Pașcani, with 930 arrivals, and the commune of Rediu, with 907[33].

Indicator	Value	Note
Arrivals, 2024	approximately 368,000	below the all-time record of 2023
Arrivals, first half of 2025	161,324	with 270,290 overnight stays over the same period
Arrivals, January–February 2026	39,321	almost 6% fewer than in the previous year
Overnight stays, March 2026	37,761	10.7% fewer than in March 2025
Average length of stay, first half of 2025	1.68 days	below the national average of around two days
Share of the municipality of Iași	90% of arrivals	January–February 2026
Share of foreign tourists	approximately 15%	over 80% come from European states
Share of hotels in total arrivals	over 75%	a business, academic and weekend tourism profile

The main indicators of tourism activity in Iași County. Source: National Institute of Statistics and Iași County Statistics Directorate.

The structure of these figures says everything about the destination's current profile. Iași receives visitors who stay less than two days, are accommodated predominantly in hotels and come, for the most part, for business, for academic events, for day visits or as a stopover on the way to Neamț and Bukovina.

The share of foreign tourists, at approximately 15%, is low for a city with this heritage and with an international airport operating 26 direct destinations[33].

The Golden Apple trophy, received in June 2026, confirms the value of the heritage but has not, so far, translated into the number of tourist bookings[33].

Accommodation capacity

Reception capacity is heavily concentrated. According to the Tourism Strategy of the municipality of Iași and of the Metropolitan Area, approximately 79% of the county's accommodation places are in the municipality of Iași, around 8% in the rest of the metropolitan area and approximately 13% in the rest of the county. The metropolitan area, excluding the municipality, concentrates over 90% of the county's accommodation units, but these are small in size and lack functional continuity[32].

The practical consequence: outside the municipality, the supply of quality accommodation is thin, and the county's important attractions — Ruginoasa, Miclăușeni, the Cotnari vineyard, the monasteries in the south of the county — have no nearby establishments capable of retaining the visitor overnight. This is the sector's clearest market gap.



The destination's resources

Heritage and culture

The Palace of Culture and the four national museums, the historic centre, the "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University complex, the Botanical Garden, the Museum of the Union, the House of Museums and the network of memorial houses — Ion Creangă's cottage was the first memorial museum in Romania. To these are added the county's two castles, Ruginoasa and Miclăușeni, dealt with in Chapter 12.
In June 2026, the municipality of Iași received the "Golden Apple" trophy, a distinction awarded by the International Federation of Travel Journalists and Writers (FIJET) for the conservation and promotion of cultural, historical and natural heritage.

The Cotnari winery — the ageing galleries in the cellars of the vineyard. Photo: Ziarul de Iași.

Religious tourism and pilgrimage

The Saint Parascheva pilgrimage, in October, is the largest religious event in Romania and generates the destination's only real peak in demand. The city's one hundred churches and the county's monasteries support a niche product which is currently consumed almost exclusively in the form of day trips.



Wine and gastronomy

The county has vineyards with a long tradition at Cotnari, Bucium, Uricani and Copou. The Cotnari vineyard is one of the best known in Romania. The proximity between the city and the wineries around it — a few minutes by car — is an advantage that few European destinations have and which remains largely uncommercialised. In recent years several renowned boutique wineries have also appeared in the rest of the county: Crama Hermeziu (Domeniile Lungu), Crama Strunga, Domeniile Bohotin — the only producer with a Controlled Designation of Origin for Bușuioacă de Bohotin in Romania — and Casa Gramma, only a few kilometres from the municipality, in the commune of Bârnova.

Nature and active tourism

The Repedea reserve, the forests at Bârnova and Dobrovăț, the Ciric leisure area, the string of lakes to the north of the city and the hills surrounding it support cycle tourism, hiking and outdoor sports. The seven hills of Iași are, in themselves, an element of tourist identity.

Events and business tourism

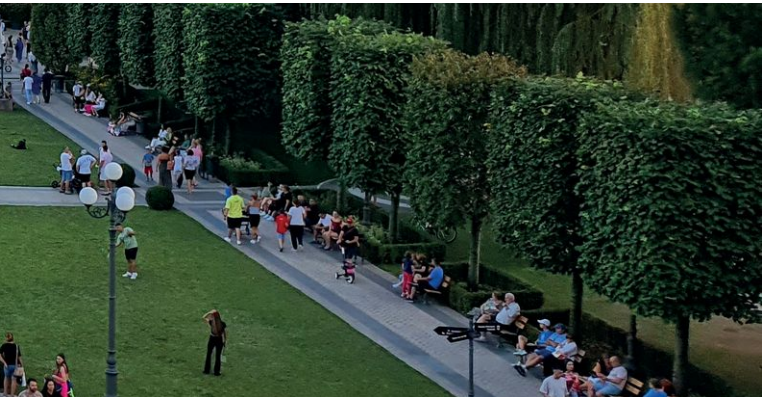
The festivals listed in Chapter 12, the academic events of the seven universities and the activity of the technology centres generate a constant flow of professional visitors.

This is the segment with the highest added value per visitor and, at the same time, the one most constrained by the lack of large-scale conference infrastructure.



The sector's diagnosis

The Tourism Strategy of the municipality and the metropolitan area identifies a set of structural problems that explain the modest results: the absence of a professional destination management structure, an insufficiently defined brand image, fragmented promotion, few and poorly marketed tourism products, deficient tourist signage, limited cooperation between actors in the sector and undersized leisure infrastructure[32].



The document assesses three development scenarios. In the intermediate scenario, the occupancy rate reaches 42–55%, the average length of stay 2.0–2.2 days, the average daily spend EUR 80–90, and airport traffic around 1.5 million passengers — a threshold the airport has already passed, with over 2 million passengers in 2025.

In the ambitious scenario, occupancy exceeds 55%, the average stay exceeds 2.5 days, daily spending exceeds EUR 100, and the sector generates over 300 new jobs a year[32].

Reading the figures correctly
The difference between the current situation — an average stay of 1.68 days — and the strategy's intermediate scenario does not depend on increasing the number of visitors, but on the destination's capacity to retain them for one more night. Every tenth of a day gained in the average length of stay translates directly into additional demand for accommodation, restaurants and services.

Investment opportunities identified

Conference and congress infrastructure. The municipality does not have a large congress centre. The tourism strategy provides for a congress palace with a capacity of at least 3,000 people, estimated at around EUR 20 million, and a multipurpose hall of over 10,000 seats.

For a city with seven universities and the country's third airport, the absence of this infrastructure directly limits the most profitable segment of the market.

Upper-category accommodation outside the municipality. The concentration of four fifths of accommodation places in the city leaves uncovered the areas with heritage attractions and the vineyards. Medium-sized establishments, of the manor house, winery-with-accommodation or rural resort type, can be developed with support from rural development programmes.

Large-scale leisure facilities.
The strategy provides for an aquapark in the Nicolina area, estimated at approximately EUR 20 million, and an all-season leisure park, estimated at around EUR 10 million. The Ciric area and the former Nicolina baths are the sites identified.

Wine tourism.
The wineries of the metropolitan area and the Cotnari vineyard support combined tasting, accommodation and gastronomy products. The initial investment is moderate, and demand is generated by the flow of business visitors already present.

Conversion of built heritage.
The historic buildings of the old centre and the former industrial spaces lend themselves to conversion into boutique accommodation, gastronomic venues and cultural centres. The historical monument regime does, however, impose approvals and higher construction costs, which should be budgeted for from the outset.

Services for pilgrims.
The October peak in demand systematically exceeds the available capacity. Temporary accommodation solutions, organised transport and related services remain insufficiently developed.



Financing tourism investment

Government Emergency Ordinance No 8/2026 includes a scheme dedicated to tourism investment, whose budget and conditions are to be established by government decision[36]. The North-East Regional Programme finances investment in small and medium-sized enterprises, including in the tourism services sector, and the rural development instruments support agritourism and wine tourism establishments. Regional State aid also applies to tourism investment, at the same intensities as in the other sectors.

The local institutional framework comprises the municipality's Tourist Information Centre, the destination promotion platform and the Iași Metropolitan Area Association, which coordinates projects with the member communes[37].

The chapter's conclusion

Iași has the resources of a European-level destination and the performance of a transit destination. The distance between the two is occupied, for the most part, by infrastructure that does not yet exist: a congress centre, quality accommodation outside the city, large-scale leisure facilities and marketable tourism products.

For an investor, this is the profile of a market in which supply, not demand, is the limiting factor.



Services for investors and contacts

15

The support available

At county level, Iași County Council provides the single point of contact, coordination with the local authorities and information on the assets administered by the county, including Iași International Airport.

At the level of each industrial park, the administrating company provides residents, at no additional cost, with assistance in dealings with the authorities for obtaining approvals and permits, support in the procedure for granting tax incentives, facilitation of contacts with utility providers and periodic information on available sources of funding[24].

At regional and European level, the North-East Regional Development Agency administers the North-East Regional Programme and the smart specialisation strategy, while the Enterprise Europe Network, through the Tehnopolis Science and Technology Park, provides partner search services free of charge in over 50 countries. This support remains available after the investment has been commissioned.

Authorities and public institutions

Institution	Field of competence relevant to the investor
Iași County Council	Single point of contact for investors; county assets; county roads; Iași International Airport
Iași City Hall	Urban planning and construction authorisation in the municipality; local taxes and charges
Iași Metropolitan Area Association	The metropolitan master plan; coordination of projects with the member communes
Prefect's Office — Iași County	Representation of the Government in the territory; coordination of the deconcentrated services
Iași Environmental Protection Agency	Environmental agreement, environmental permit, environmental impact assessment
Iași Public Health Directorate	Sanitary approval and permit
Iași Inspectorate for Emergency Situations	Fire safety approval and permit
Iași Sanitary-Veterinary and Food Safety Directorate	Authorisation of units in the food and agri-food industry
Iași County Employment Agency	Data on the local labour market; labour market mediation
Iași Territorial Labour Inspectorate	Employment relations; the general register of employees
Trade Register Office attached to the Iași Tribunal	Registration of companies; entries; information on economic operators
Iași County Public Finance Administration	Tax registration; filing obligations
Iași Cadastre and Land Registration Office	Legal and cadastral regime of land
Iași County Statistics Directorate	The county statistical yearbook; the monthly statistical bulletin; local data series
Iași County School Inspectorate	Vocational and dual education; partnerships with economic operators

Industrial park administrators and innovation structures

Structure	Sites administered
Iași Industrial Park	Lețcani industrial park; the industrial parks in preparation at Holboca and Pașcani
Miroslava Industrial Parc	Miroslava Industrial Parc I and Miroslava Industrial Parc II
Tehnopolis Science and Technology Park	Business incubator; centre of the Enterprise Europe Network

Utility providers

Operator	Service provided
Delgaz Grid	Distribution of electricity and natural gas; connection approvals
Transelectrica	Transmission of electricity; high-capacity connections
Apavital	Water supply and sewerage; treatment capacity

Universities and research institutes

Institution	Fields relevant to investors
Alexandru Ioan Cuza University	Computer science, mathematics, physics, chemistry, economics, law
Gheorghe Asachi Technical University	Automation and computer science, electronics, electrical and mechanical engineering, civil engineering, industrial chemistry, textiles
Grigore T. Popa University of Medicine and Pharmacy	Medicine, pharmacy, medical bioengineering; clinical research
Ion Ionescu de la Brad University of Life Sciences	Agronomy, horticulture, animal husbandry, food product engineering
George Enescu National University of Arts	Industrial design, visual arts, creative industries
Regional Oncology Institute	Clinical trials in the field of medicines
Petru Poni Institute of Macromolecular Chemistry (Romanian Academy)	Polymer chemistry and physics, advanced materials, nanomaterials; institute of excellence of the Romanian Academy
National Institute of Research and Development for Technical Physics	Magnetic materials, micro- and nanomaterials, sensors, non-destructive testing; applications in engineering and medicine
Romanian Academy — Iași Branch	Six institutes and four research centres: theoretical computer science, mathematics, economic and social research, archaeology, history, philology, anthropology, geography, oenology
Petre Andrei University of Iași (private)	Law, psychology, economics, political and administrative sciences
Apollonia University of Iași (private)	Dental medicine, nursing, communication sciences

Business support organisations

Organisation	Services offered
Iași Chamber of Commerce and Industry	Business community, economic promotion, investment attraction, business consultancy, sectoral economic data, company formation, commercial arbitration, foreign trade documents, business events, professional training, the annual Top Companies ranking and the annual Economic Bulletin statistics
North-East Regional Development Agency	North-East Regional Programme; the smart specialisation strategy; investment promotion in the region
Enterprise Europe Network, through Tehnopolis	Search for business and research partners in over 50 countries, free of charge
ARHIPELAGO	AFACERI.RO
AMCHAM ROMANIA	AMCHAM, a business association dedicated to promoting the interests and development of the business environment in Romania, which contributes to stronger trade and investment relations between Romania and the United States.
Afaceri.ro Iași Club	Business club; organiser of events and of international economic missions for entrepreneurs from Iași
Invest in Iași Association	Promotion of the county as an investment destination; the investiniasi.ro platform; connecting investors with local partners; Israeli Business Contact Point and Ukraine Business Contact Point
Romanian-American Chamber of Commerce, Iași chapter	Economic relations with the United States; network of member companies; racc.ro/chapters/iasi

Iași in the world: economic diplomacy

A county that wants investors does not just wait for them at home. From 2024 to the present, delegations of the Iași business community have taken part in over 15 international economic missions, from Casablanca to Osaka and from Stockholm to Washington.

For an investor assessing a new site, this pattern counts as indirect evidence: it shows an internationally connected business community, with relationships already established in precisely the relevant fields — renewable energy, technological innovation, cross-border cooperation.

The six missions on the right are among the most relevant by their results: cooperation agreements signed, cooperation in public administration, twinning arrangements and other forms of institutional cooperation[54].



The Afaceri.ro Conference in the Romanian Pavilion, Expo Osaka, Japan, 2025.

Destination	Period	Theme of the mission
Stockholm, Sweden	August 2024	Business environment and social economy — seminar at the Stockholm Chamber of Commerce, study visit to the Star of Hope Foundation
Chișinău, Republic of Moldova	October 2024	Cross-border cooperation — the Clusters Meet Regions conference, meetings at the Government and Parliament of the Republic of Moldova and with the Foreign Investors Association
Washington, United States	May 2025	SelectUSA Investment Summit — the largest United States government event dedicated to attracting foreign investment
Expo Osaka, Japan	June–August 2025	Presence at the World Exposition — conference in the Romanian Pavilion, meetings with JETRO, visits to the Station Ai Nagoya and ACT Kyoto innovation ecosystems
Casablanca, Morocco	February 2026	Renewable energy — cooperation agreement with EnR Cluster, visit to the Moroccan Agency for Sustainable Energy
Denver and Washington, United States	April–May 2026	Entrepreneurial ecosystem — Fitzsimons Innovation Community, Denver Economic Development & Opportunity, University of Colorado Denver

International economic missions with the participation of the Iași business community, 2024–2026, organised by the Afaceri.ro Iași Club[54].

Iași in the world: economic diplomacy

The missions are organised by the Afaceri.ro Iași Club, a business club which operates as an organiser of events and of international economic missions for entrepreneurs from Iași, often in partnership with local public institutions.

Alongside the club, the Invest in Iași Association promotes the county as an investment destination through the investiniasi.ro platform, through services connecting investors with local partners and through dedicated bilateral contact points, the Israeli Business Contact Point and the Ukraine Business Contact Point[54].

The geographical pattern of these missions is not accidental: renewable energy with Morocco, in the year in which the county is developing its own solar and storage projects; technological innovation with Japan and the United States, in line with its profile as an electronic engineering centre; institutional cooperation with the Republic of Moldova, the immediate neighbour across the border.

For an investor considering partnerships, supply chains or regional expansion, these already established relationships can shorten the time to the first useful contacts.



Afaceri.ro / Iași Club delegation at Denver Economic Development & Opportunity, during the Denver & Washington economic mission, April–May 2026.

National institutions for investors

Institution	Field of competence
Investment and Foreign Trade	National contact point for investors; the Caietul Investitorului (Investor's Handbook) Romanian Agency for
InvestRomania	The national guide for investors; sectoral presentations
Ministry of Finance	State aid schemes for investment
Competition Council	The State Aid Register; the regional aid map; screening of foreign direct investment
Ministry of Development, Public Works and Administration	The register of industrial parks; granting of the industrial park title
Ministry of European Investments and Projects	European programmes 2021–2027; the STEP platform

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Ukraine
CUSTOMS DOUANE
Vicșani, 198 km
CUSTOMS DOUANE
Siret, 192 km
CUSTOMS DOUANE
Stânca Costești, 91 km
Botoșani County
Suceava County
Rep. of Moldova
CUSTOMS DOUANE
Sculeni, 23 km
CUSTOMS DOUANE
Ungheni, 15 km
Neamț County
Vaslui County
CUSTOMS DOUANE
Albița, 68 km
IAȘI
PAȘCANI
HÎRLĂU
TÎRGU FRUMOS

The team behind this edition

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