

# STATISTICAL STUDY ON UNEMPLOYMENT IN SOUTH-WEST OLTENIA REGION

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**Abstract:** Unemployment is a state of imbalance in the labor market in which there is an excess of demand over the supply of jobs. To ensure sustainable growth, any economic policy must aim low unemployment. In this paper, the authors have proposed to carry out a statistical study on the evolution and structure of unemployment in the South West Oltenia Region.

**JEL classification:** J64, E24, C82

**Keywords:** unemployed person, long-term unemployment, youth unemployment, gender unemployment, area unemployment.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

One of the most important issues facing the world today is unemployment. By its great extent, by its complex structures and especially by its different variations, unemployment has become a macro-social subject of heated theoretical, methodological and political- ideological debate. In the literature we find various tools to analyze unemployment, also official statistics - both national and international - appeal to different methods of recording and measuring it, fact which generates conceptual confusion. As a principle, unemployment reflects the number of people who have an official unemployed status. It is considered to be unemployed the person who is seeking a paid job and currently does not have one. International Labour Office (ILO) defines an unemployed person as the person seeking for a paid job because is lacking it and he/she is available to start work immediately (15 days).

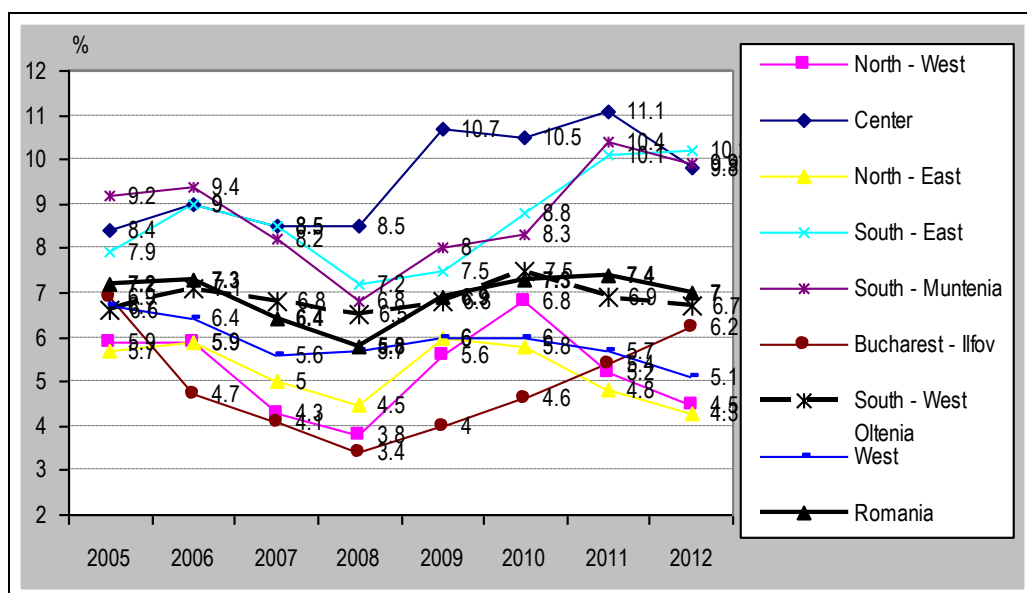
Unemployment is approached and analyzed as an imbalance in the labor market as the place of encounter and confrontation between aggregate demand and supply of labor at a national level. The knowledge of the direct causes of unemployment and the forms generated by these causes has a great importance for the assessment of its perspectives and for conceiving ways to improve employment and the socio-economic status of the unemployed persons.<sup>30</sup>

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<sup>30</sup> For additional items on the unemployment, see also *ECONOMIC FORECAST. Theory. Tests. Applications*, Ciurlău C. (coordinator), Universitaria Publishing House, Craiova, 2008, pp.84-93.

## 2. STATISTICAL INDICATORS OF UNEMPLOYMENT DYNAMICS AND STRUCTURE IN SOUTH-WEST OLTENIA REGION

Unemployment rate at national level in the 2005-2012 period had a rather small variation on an interval of less than two percentage points (from 5.8 to 7.4%): after an increase in 2006, followed by a reduction until 2008 (when it reached the minimum of the period, 5.8%), years 2009-2011 brought a new growth (up to 7.4%), completed with a reduction in 2012 to 7% - figure no. 1. In territorial unemployment rate was very different from one region to another. Forefront at unemployment has proven to be the Centre Region (with a maximum of 11.1%, but a decreasing trend), while low levels have been recorded for the Bucharest-Ilfov Region (but an increasing trend). Oltenia Region has had an evolution that blends with the national average, keeping overall, its tendency.

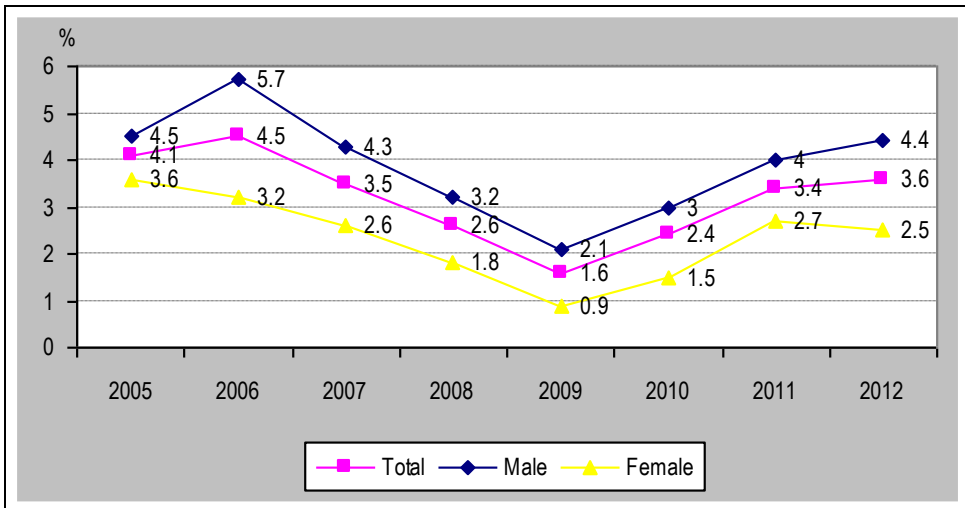


Source: National Institute of Statistics, Romanian Statistical Yearbook, 2011-2013

**Figure no. 1. Dynamics of the unemployment rate in the development regions of Romania between 2005-2012**

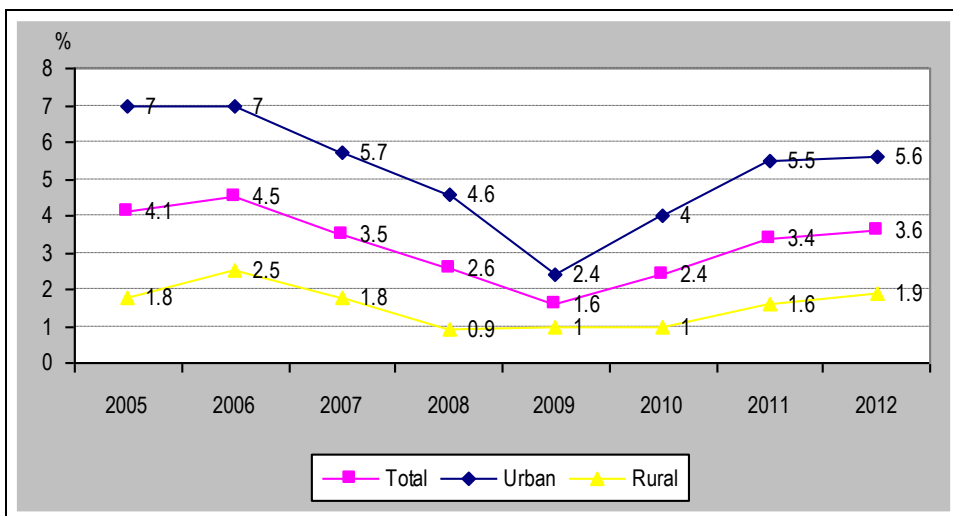
In the 2005-2012 period, ILO long term unemployment rate (12 months and over) in Oltenia was swing: after an increase in 2006, it encountered a reduction by 2009, but years 2010-2012 brought new growth (up 3.6%) - Figure no. 2. The evolution of unemployment rate by gender shows that male unemployment was placed above total unemployment over entire period, while female unemployment was under total unemployment during the eight years. The difference between the two categories of rates range from 0.9 to 2.5% (in 2012 it was 1.9%).

Figure no. 3 depicts ILO long term unemployment rate in Oltenia Region, by area. Compared to the total unemployment rate, the urban rate was superior, while the rural rate was lower than the total one.



Source: National Institute of Statistics, Romanian Statistical Yearbook, 2011-2013

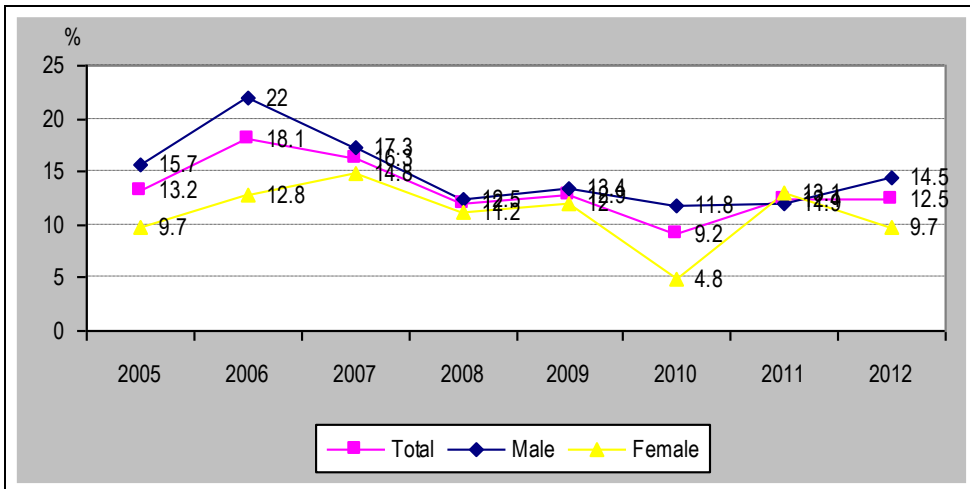
**Figure no. 2. Dynamics of the ILO long term unemployment rate (12 months and over) in Oltenia Region, by gender, between 2005-2012**



Source: National Institute of Statistics, Romanian Statistical Yearbook, 2011-2013

**Figure no. 3. Dynamics of the ILO long-term unemployment rate in Oltenia Region, by area, between 2005-2012**

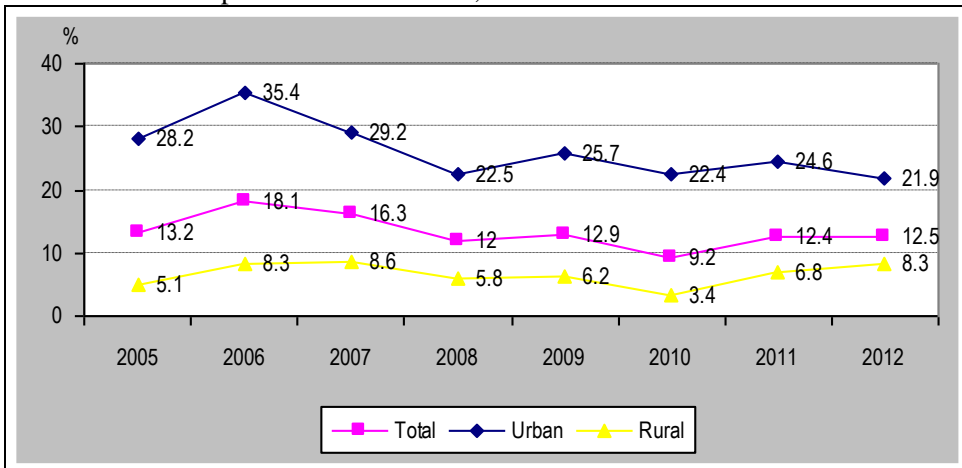
Dynamics of the ILO long-term youth unemployment rate (6 months and over) in Oltenia, by gender, between 2005-2012 is plotted in Figure no. 4. Although youth unemployment is much higher than the general, a downward trend is noted in the studied period (although the last two years brought a slight increase). Also for this indicator the male unemployment is higher than the feminine one, except for 2011, when there was reverse relationship between the two indicators.



Source: National Institute of Statistics, Romanian Statistical Yearbook, 2011-2013

**Figure no. 4. Dynamics of the ILO long-term youth unemployment rate in Oltenia Region, by gender, between 2005-2012**

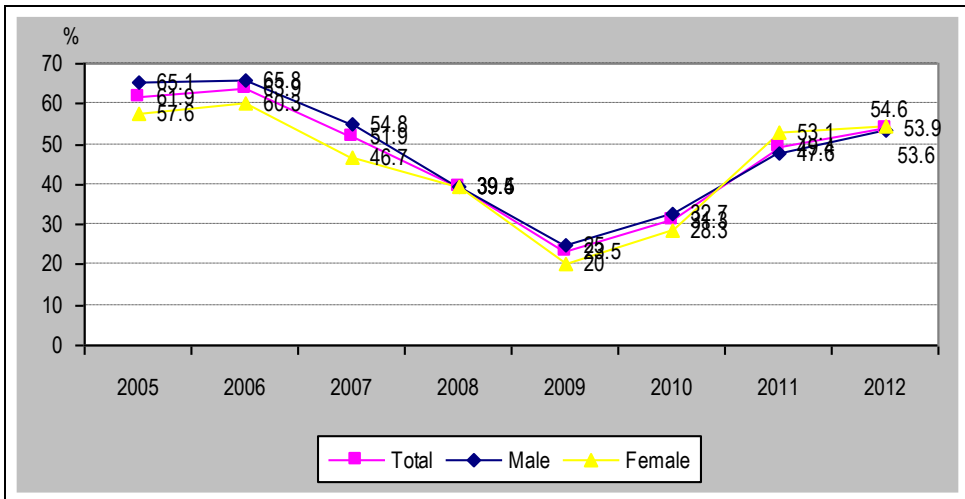
In Figure no. 5 is plotted the evolution of the ILO long-term youth unemployment rate in Oltenia, by area. Compared to the overall unemployment rate, the urban rate was superior to the total one, while the rural rate was inferior.



Source: National Institute of Statistics, Romanian Statistical Yearbook, 2011-2013

**Figure no. 5. Dynamics of the ILO long-term youth unemployment rate in Oltenia Region, by area, between 2005-2012**

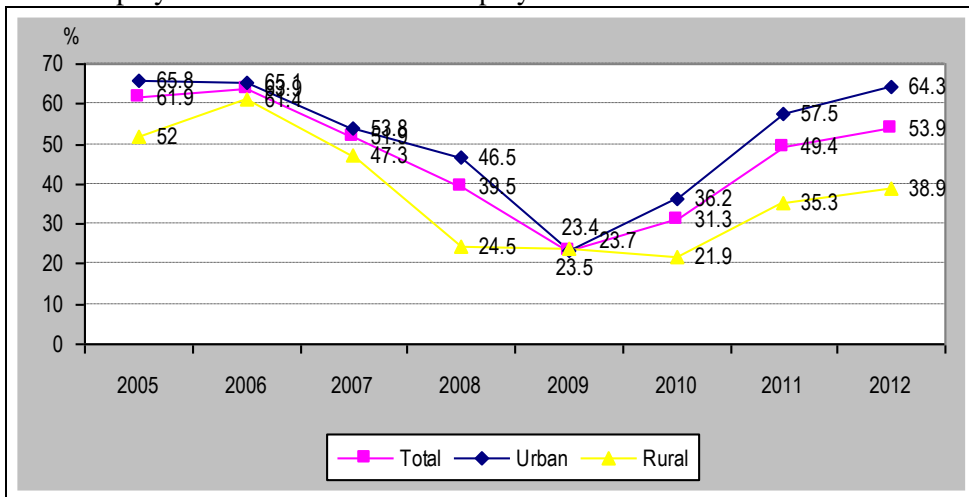
Incidence of ILO long-term unemployment in Oltenia, by gender, between 2005-2012, is shown graphically in Figure no. 6. From 2006 to 2009 the trend was decreasing, but in 2010 the indicator returns to growth (which extended up to 2012). Of course, the incidence of male unemployment exceeds the feminine one, except for the last two years, when the values of the two indicators were reversed.



Source: National Institute of Statistics, Romanian Statistical Yearbook, 2011-2013

**Figure no. 6. Dynamics of the incidence of ILO long-term unemployment in Oltenia Region, by gender, between 2005-2012**

Incidence of ILO long-term unemployment in Oltenia Region, by area, is shown in Figure no. 7. As in the previous case, the trend was decreasing until 2009, and since 2010 we have had a new growth (continued until 2012). The incidence of urban unemployment exceeded rural unemployment.

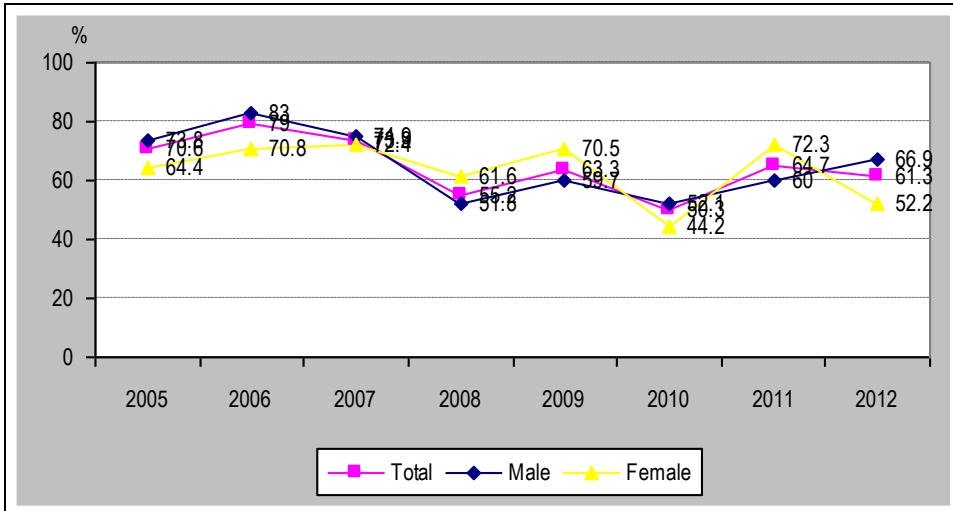


Source: National Institute of Statistics, Romanian Statistical Yearbook, 2011-2013

**Figure no. 7. Dynamics of the incidence of long-term ILO unemployment in Oltenia Region, by area, between 2005-2012**

Figure no. 8 presents the incidence of ILO long term youth unemployment in Oltenia Region, by gender. The trend is slightly decreasing, but by gender the evolution is somewhat strange encountering a great intertwining between levels: in the first three years, the incidence of male unemployment exceeded the levels encountered among the female population, but followed two years with a reverse report between the

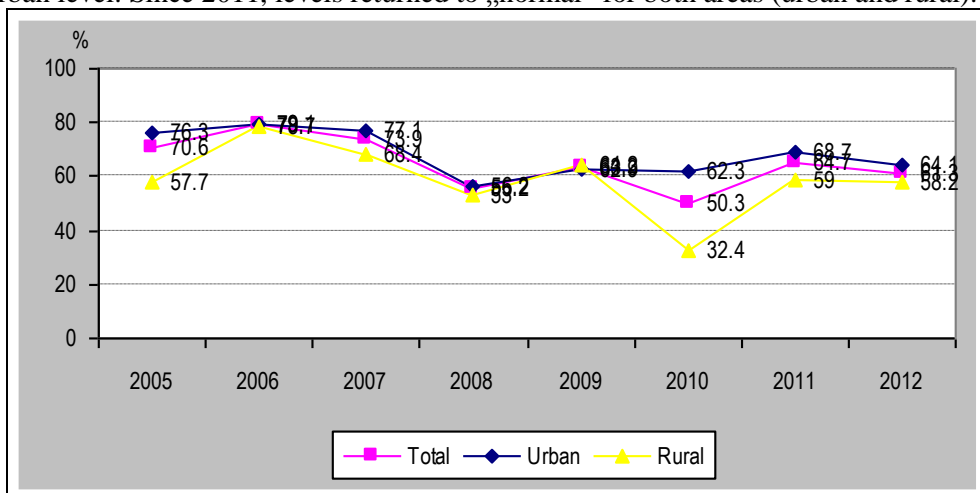
two indicators. The last three years show a permanent reversal of these levels, so that 2012 brought the incidence of the male unemployment over the female unemployment rate.



Source: National Institute of Statistics, Romanian Statistical Yearbook, 2011-2013

**Figure no. 8. Dynamics of the incidence of ILO long term youth unemployment in Oltenia Region, by gender, between 2005-2012**

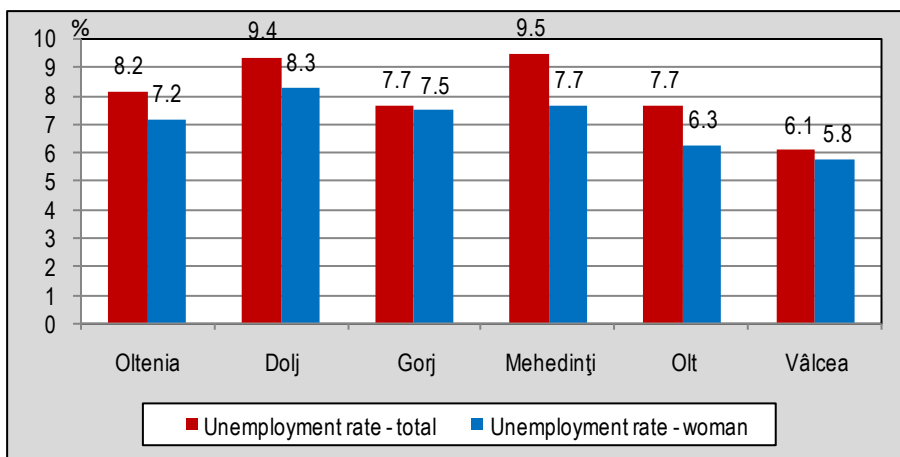
The incidence of ILO long term youth unemployment in Oltenia, by area, between 2005-2012, is shown graphically in Figure no. 9. Levels of unemployment in urban areas exceed the ones in rural areas. Unlike the early years of the studied period, the year 2010 brought a surprising value of the rural youth unemployment: is half the urban level. Since 2011, levels returned to „normal” for both areas (urban and rural).



Source: National Institute of Statistics, Romanian Statistical Yearbook, 2011-2013

**Figure no. 9. Dynamics of the incidence of ILO long term youth unemployment in Oltenia Region, by area, between 2005-2012**

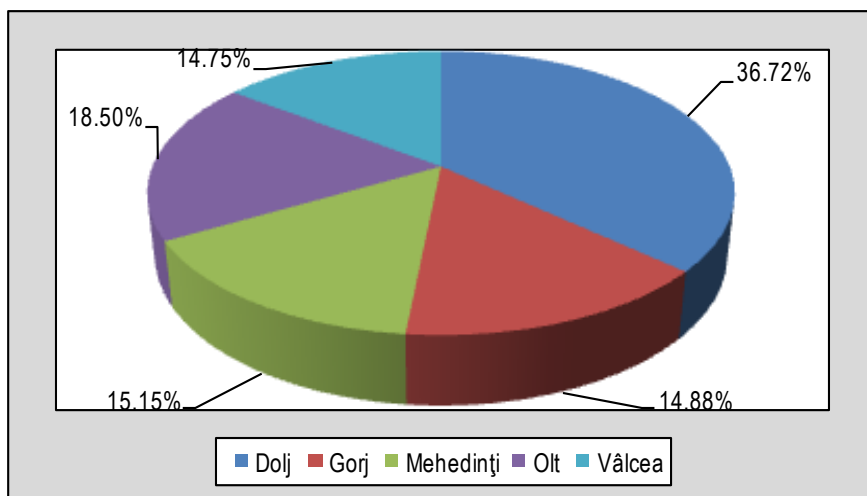
Unemployment rate in the counties of Oltenia in 2012, is shown in Figure no. 10. The maximum level of total unemployment rate is encountered in Mehedinți County (9.5%) and the lowest value is in Valcea (6.1%). The female unemployment rate recorded the maximum value in Dolj County (8.3%) and the minimum value in Valcea (5.8%).



Source: National Institute of Statistics, Romanian Statistical Yearbook, 2011-2013

**Figure no. 10. Unemployment rate in Oltenia Region, by county, in 2012**

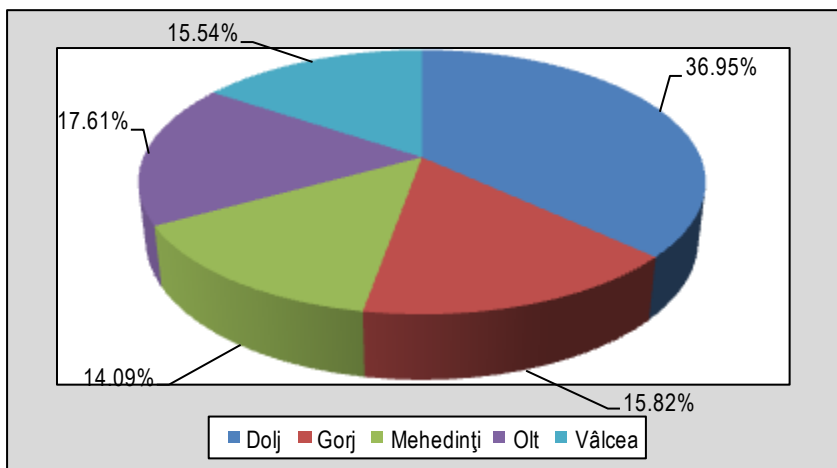
In 2012, from the total of unemployed persons in Oltenia (75.565), the largest share was held by Dolj County (36.72%) and the lowest share by Valcea County (14.75%) - Figure no. 11.



Source: National Institute of Statistics, Romanian Statistical Yearbook, 2011-2013

**Figure no. 11. Structure of registered unemployed in Oltenia Region, by county, in 2012**

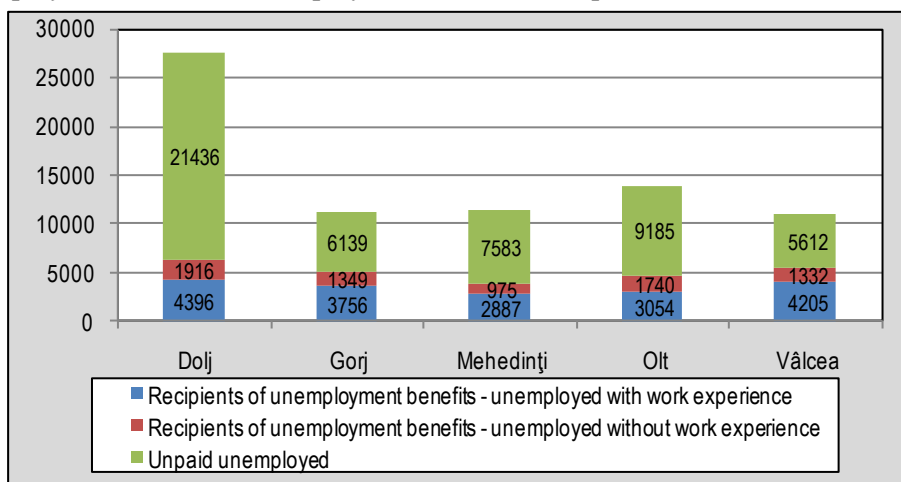
Regarding unemployed women, out of 31.391 in 2012, Dolj County has the largest share of the unemployed women in Oltenia (36.95%) and Mehedinți County has the lowest percentage (14.09%) - Figure no. 12.



Source: National Institute of Statistics, Romanian Statistical Yearbook, 2011-2013

**Figure no. 12. Structure of unemployed women in Oltenia Region, by county, in 2012**

The structure of unemployed persons by types of protection (Recipients of unemployment benefits - unemployed with work experience; Recipients of unemployment benefits - unemployed without work experience; Unpaid unemployed) in Oltenia, by counties, in 2012, is shown in Figure no. 13. Within each county, the largest share was held by unpaid unemployed and the smallest share by Recipients of unemployment benefits - unemployed with no work experience.

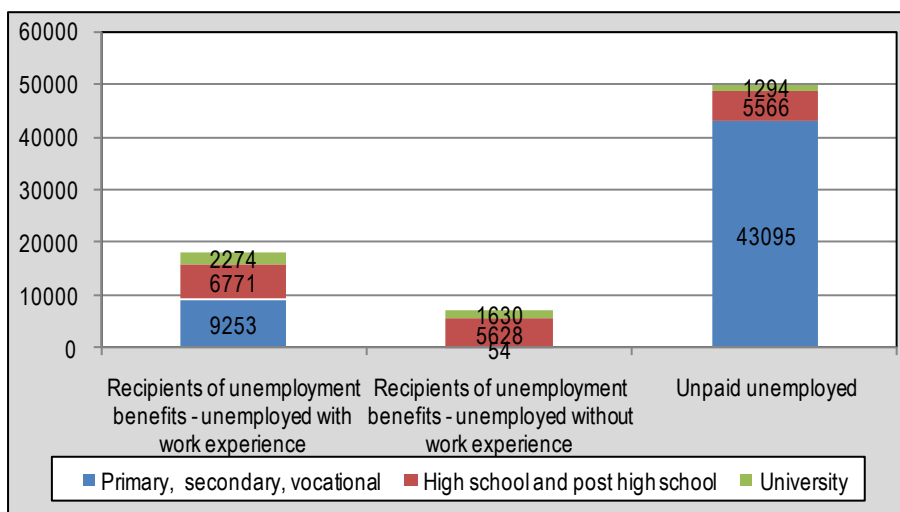


Source: National Institute of Statistics, Romanian Statistical Yearbook, 2011-2013

**Figure no. 13. The structure of unemployed persons by types of protection and by county in Oltenia Region, in 2012**

The structure of unemployed persons by types of protection and levels of education, in Oltenia, in 2012, is shown in Figure no. 14. From the graph is resulting very clearly the influence that studies have on finding a job.





Source: National Institute of Statistics, Romanian Statistical Yearbook, 2011-2013

**Figure no. 14. The structure of unemployed persons by types of protection and levels of education, in Oltenia Region, in 2012**

### 3. CONCLUSIONS

ILO unemployment rate at national level between 2005-2012 had a relatively low variation: after an increase in 2006, followed a reduction until 2008, but years 2009-2011 brought a new growth, finished with a decrease in 2012. A territorial analysis show that unemployment rate was very different from one region to another. The leading position in unemployment is was held by the Central region, while low levels were recorded for the Bucharest-Ilfov region. Oltenia Region have had a development that blends with the national average, keeping overall, its tendency.

ILO long term unemployment rate (12 months and over) in Oltenia was oscillating: after an increase in 2006, there was a reduction by 2009, followed by a new growth between 2010-2012. The evolution of unemployment rate by gender shows that male unemployment was placed the entire period, over total unemployment, while female unemployment was, in the eight years, under total unemployment. Compared to the total unemployment rate, the urban unemployment was above the total level, while the rural rate was below.

ILO long-term youth unemployment rate in Oltenia, by gender, show a decreasing trend. For this indicator than male unemployment is also higher than the feminine one, except for 2011, when there was reverse relationship between the two indicators. Compared to the overall unemployment, the urban rate exceeded the total level, while the rural rate was lower than the total level.

Incidence of ILO long-term unemployment in Oltenia, by gender, had a decreasing trend up to 2009, and since 2010 the indicator returned to growth (until 2012). The incidence of male unemployment outrun the feminine unemployment, except for the last two years, when the values of the two indicators were reversed. The

incidence of urban unemployment outrun the rural unemployment. For the incidence of ILO long term youth unemployment the trend was slightly decreasing, but by gender the evolution was unpredictable (in 2012 the incidence of male unemployment was bigger than the female unemployment). Unemployment levels in urban areas exceed the ones in rural areas.

The maximum level of total unemployment was encountered in Mehedinti County (9.5 %), while the minimum value was in Valcea (6.1%). The female unemployment rate recorded a maximum in Dolj County (8.3 %) and a minimum value in Valcea (5.8 %). In 2012, from the total number of unemployed persons in Oltenia (75.565), Dolj County held the largest share (36.72 %) and Valcea County held the lowest one (14.75 %). Regarding the total number of female unemployed, out of 31.391, Dolj County had the largest share (36.95 %) and Mehedinti County had the lowest percentage (14.09 %).

Structuring unemployed persons by types of protection shows that within each county, the largest share is held by unpaid unemployed and the smallest by Recipients of unemployment benefits - unemployed with no work experience. Structuring unemployed persons by types of protection and levels of education, demonstrates the influence that studies have on finding a job.

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