

THE RELIGIOUS STRUCTURE OF THE ROMANIAN POPULATION IN 2011 BY COUNTIES AND GEOGRAPHICAL-HISTORICAL PROVINCES

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ABSTRACT. – **The Religious Structure of the Romanian Population in 2011 by Counties and Geographical-Historical Provinces.** Our study addresses the issue of religion, which is one of the essential geo-demographic structures in the study of the Romanian population. We were motivated by the fact that it was not possible to study this issue in the period of 1948-1989 since censuses did not include data on religion. The situation of religion has become more visible and individualized only since the last decade of the last century and afterwards once with the censuses of 1992 and 2002 up to present day. More broadly, this study examines the key aspects of denominational structure of the Romanian population, based on the census conducted on 20 October 2011 at national level, data being provided by the National Institute of Statistics. Our research work consisted in the collection and processing of statistical data, subsequently synthesised in tables and graphical material (three tables and three figures). Table 1 provides key comparative data on the general religious structure of the Romanian population registered at the censuses in 2002 and 2011. Table 2 is the main source of information of this study, revealing the religious structure and territorial distribution of the Romanian population in the geographical - historical provinces and counties in 2011. Table 3 is a synthesis in which we present the total population at county and provinces level as absolute data (digits) and rates in case of the five main religious denominations (i.e. Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Reformed, Pentecostal and Greek-Catholic, the remaining religious denominations being grouped into the category of Other religions and Atheists. The research results are also highlighted by three charts and maps, allowing for the easy tracking of the subject as a whole and territorially, at county level and in the geographical-historical provinces. In a brief presentation of the topic addressed it can be emphasized that the Romanian population recorded at the census in 2011 was of 20,121,641 inhabitants, of which 81.04 % Christian Orthodox, 4.33% Roman-Catholic, 2.99% Protestant, 1.80% Greek-Catholic, and 0.75% Pentecostal. The other 16 denominations (Baptist, Seventh-Day Adventists, Muslim, Unitarian, Jehovah's Witnesses, Christian Evangelical, Christian of Old Rite, Lutheran Evangelical, Serbian Orthodox, Evangelical, Evangelical of Augustan Confession, Mosaic, Armenian, another religion, free of religion and atheists) hold only 2.83% of the population of our country. Approximately 6.26% of the population did not provide information on their religion (see tables 1, 2 and 3). Regarding the degree of representativeness of religious denominations in Romania, we conclude that the share of Orthodox religion population (81.04% of the 20,121,641 inhabitants of the country) expresses normality, given that on the one hand 6.26% of the registered population (1,259,739 persons) was included in the category of Unavailable Information, and on the other hand the difference of 12.7%

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(2,554,898 people) belongs to other 20 recorded religions, emphasizing that only the Roman-Catholic, Reformed and Pentecostal denominations registered a little over 1% (see table 1).

Keywords: *religious denomination, Orthodox, Roman-Catholic, Reformed, Geographical-Historical Provinces.*

1. INTRODUCTION

Ever since 1971, the first author of this study has addressed the issue of Geography of Population, the first component of human geography when he elaborated and published the paper "*Probleme de structura populației în Câmpia Crișurilor*".

The following year, in 1972, two other significant works: "*România. Geografie Economică*" and the series of "*Județele Patriei. Bihor County*" were made available to readers. The first book is an approach to the problems of development and territorial distribution of population, population dynamics and population structure (age, gender, social and professional backgrounds) in rural and urban areas and at national level. The second book describes the stages of inhabitation, development and continuity of settlements, population dynamics, distribution and structure (age, population activities, urban and rural population). We mention that if in the first case confessional structure (religion) was not approached, in the second case the national structure (ethnicity) was not addressed, as well, the lack of inclusion being the effect of the vision of the political system in the period 1948-1989.

From then on, the research on the geography of population has continued, Gr. P. Pop publishing up to 30 studies on a wide range of subjects, at different scales, such as: *The structure of population on age groups in Bihor County* (1973), *Population mobility in a village in the Someș Plateau* (1974), *Population in Bistra-Strei Corridor* (1986), *Issues of population in Bistrița and Gherla municipalities* (1987, 1990), *Potential et la structures géodémographiques dans le pays de Lăpuș* (1990), *The Bobâlna Valley, A Model of Geodemographic Evolution* (1995), *Model de involuție rurală. Satul Calna, județul Cluj* (1998) etc². Another complex study, which included the analysis of demographic issues, is the volume elaborated and published by I. O. Berindei, Gr. P. Pop, Gh. Măhăra, Aurora Posea (1977) „*Câmpia Crișurilor Crișul Repede Țara Beiușului, Cercetări în Geografia României*”. In this study, population is analysed from several perspectives, including historically and geographically, such as: population dynamics and territorial distribution, structure, geodemographic typology. Population was also subject of analysis in monographs, i.e. *Mănăstireni și Mănăsturu Românesc. Satul sufletului meu* (2005), *Dej, Poarta Someșului* (2005), *Monografia comunei Țaga* (2008), and also in the series of *Județele Patriei* (1972) with *Județul Bihor*, and *Județele României* (2007) with *Județul Cluj*. One of the last studies worth mentioning is *Structurile (Calitatea) localităților comunei Țaga, județul Cluj, în perioada 1910-2002* (2008).

² Babeș-Bolyai University, Faculty of Geography, Cluj-Napoca, Prof. dr. GRIGOR P. POP – *la opt decenii de viață și activitate 1933-2013*, Cluj University Press, 2013, p. 35-52.

Starting with 1991, Gr. P. Pop has begun to elaborate and publish several studies on population at national level, once with the censuses in 1992, 2002 and 2011. In 1995, Pop Gr. in collaboration with Bodocan V. wrote a study on the religious structure of population entitled „*Ethnic and Religious Structure of the Rural Population of Cluj County, Rural Change in Romania*”, registered as Occasional Paper, 33, p. 22-26, at Leicester University, Geography Department, Great Britain. What is worth mentioning is the fact that immediately after 1990, Gr. P. Pop has initiated and coordinated a series of doctoral theses on the subject of “Ethnicity, religious denomination and voting behaviour” researches territorially covering *Transylvania* (Bodocan V. 2001), *Banat* (Crețan R. 1998, 1999), *Crișana* and *Maramureș* (Ilieș Al. 1997, 1998), the first study being awarded with the Prize of the Romanian Academy. We therefore believe that, having our preoccupations in the field, we needed to elaborate a study on population in Romania with regard to the religious structure.

2. RELIGIOUS STRUCTURE OF THE ROMANIAN POPULATION AT THE CENSUS IN 2011

Having the poor circumstances under which the census in 2011 was conducted, its quality was highly contested both from the perspective of accuracy of the total number of population registered at national level and also from the perspective of accuracy of the number of persons on categories of religious denominations.

Therefore, aiming to reveal an integrative display of the subject under analysis, we logically tracked down the issues that particularize this type of study. First we presented the general population religious structure in Romania, and secondly we analysed each of the 23 types of religious structures that were identified and represented by a certain number of people registered at the census (see Table 1 and Table 2).

2. 1. General religious structure of the Romanian population

According to the census held in 2011, the total population in Romania was of 20,121,641 permanent inhabitants, with 1,559,333 (7.19%) persons less than in 2002 (21,680,974 inhabitants). However, some changes appear in terms of the number of confessions recorded in 2011 as compared to those at the 2002 census. Thus, we find new types of religious denominations registered, such as: Jehovah’s Witnesses, Serbian Orthodox and Armenian. A certain percentage of population was included in the category of Unavailable information regarding religion. Also, the decrease in population number has led to relatively significant changes in the existing religious denominations in Romania: in the case of 13 of them there was a decrease in frequency in 2011 compared to 2002, the most significant of which were registered in the case of Orthodox (from 86.81% in 2002 to 81.02% in 2011) and in the category of other religions (from 0.41% to 0.15%). The decrease was also found in case of other religions as there was registered a lower number of Roman-Catholics (from 4.73% to 4.33%), Reformed (from 3.23% to 2.29%), Greek-Catholics (from 0.88% to 0.75%) etc.

Table 1

**General religious structure of the Romanian population registered
at the censuses in 2002 and 2011**

	Religion	2002	%	2011	%
1	Total resident population	21680974	100,00	20121641	100,00
2	Orthodox	18817975	86.79	16307004	81.04
3	Roman-Catholic	1026429	4.73	870774	4.33
4	Reformed	701077	3.23	600932	2.99
5	Pentecostal	324462	1.50	362314	1.80
6	Greek-Catholic	191556	0.88	150593	0.75
7	Baptist	126639	0.58	112850	0.56
8	Seventh-Day Adventists	93670	0.43	80944	0.40
9	Muslim	67257	0.31	64337	0.32
10	Unitarian	66944	0.31	57686	0.29
11	Jehovah's Witnesses	0.00	0.00	49820	0.25
12	Christian Evangelical	44476	0.21	42495	0.21
13	Christian of Old Rite	38147	0.18	32558	0.16
14	Lutheran Evangelical	27112	0.13	20168	0.10
15	Serbian Orthodox	0.00	0.00	14385	0.07
16	Evangelical	18178	0.08	15514	0.08
17	Evangelical of Augustan Confession	8716	0.04	5399	0.03
18	Mosaic	6057	0.03	3519	0.02
19	Armenian	0.00	0.00	393	0.00
20	Other religion	89196	0.41	30557	0.15
21	Free of religion	12825	0.06	18917	0.09
22	Atheists	8524	0.04	20743	0.10
23	Unavailable information ³	11734	0.05	1259739	6.26

When comparing data from the censuses taken in 2002 and 2011, we note an increase in the number of people declaring any of the following four religions: Pentecostals (from 1.50% to 1.80%), Muslims (from 0.31% to 0.32%), Free of religion (from 0.06% to 0.09%) and Atheists (from 0.04% to 0.10%) while the share remained unchanged in the cases of Christian Evangelical (0.21%) and Evangelical (0.08%).

2. 2. Structure and territorial distribution of religious denominations in Romania

The census conducted on October 20, 2011 recorded data on 22 categories of religions, starting with the *total resident population* and ending with *unavailable information* (see table 1). For the ease of analysis of the subject considered, the 22 positions were

³ Datele din anul 2002 sunt cuprinse sub denumirea de Religie nedeclarată.

grouped as follows: each of the first five religions (*Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Protestant, Pentecostal and Greek Catholic*) represents a separate entity; the other 16 religions were grouped in the category of *Other religion* that includes the following: *Baptist, Seventh Day Adventist, Muslim, Unitarian, Jehovah's Witnesses, Evangelicals, Old Rite Christian, Evangelical Lutheran Church, Serbian Orthodox, Evangelical, Evangelical of Augustan Confession, Mosaic, Armenian, Other religion, Free of religion and Atheists*). The last category of analyzed data is the *unavailable information*.

2. 2. 1. The Orthodox Christian denomination

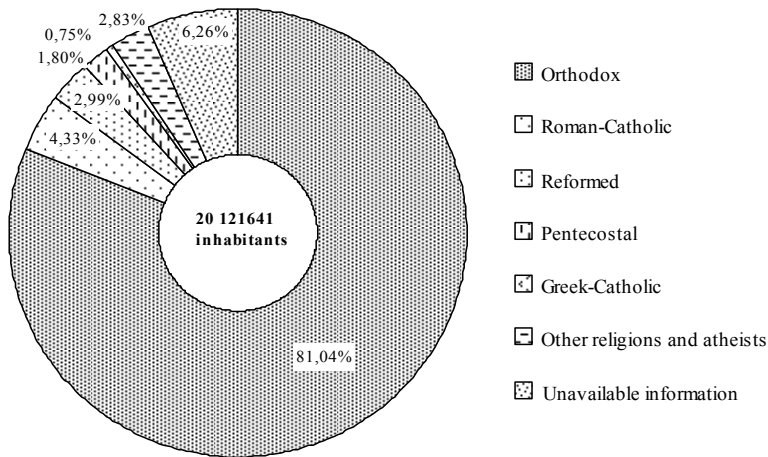


Fig. 1. Religious structure of the Romanian population, at the census in 2011.

It is by far the most representative religion at national level. In 2002 it registered 86.7% (18,817,975 adherents) out of the total population of 21,680,974 people, whereas in 2011 the rate decreased to 81.04% (16,307,004 adherents) out of a total population of 20,121,641 people). As compared to the national rate, the orthodox population registers different values when analysed from the territorial perspective. Thus, in case of historical-geographical provinces the largest share of orthodox population (93.96%) is registered in Oltenia and the smallest share (55.84%) in Crişana. The other provinces register the following shares: Muntenia (92.47%), Moldavia (85.76), Dobrogea (83.96%), Banat (73.20%), Transylvania (65.12%), Maramureş (62.99%) and Bucharest (84.31%) (see table 3).

At county level, considering the 41 counties and Bucharest municipality, there are significant discrepancies in accordance with the socio-historical evolution of our country. First we mention that the highest rate of orthodox population is registered in Călăraşi county (96.68% out of the total population of 306,691 people), whilst the smallest rate is registered in Harghita county (12.12% out of the total population of 310,867 people).

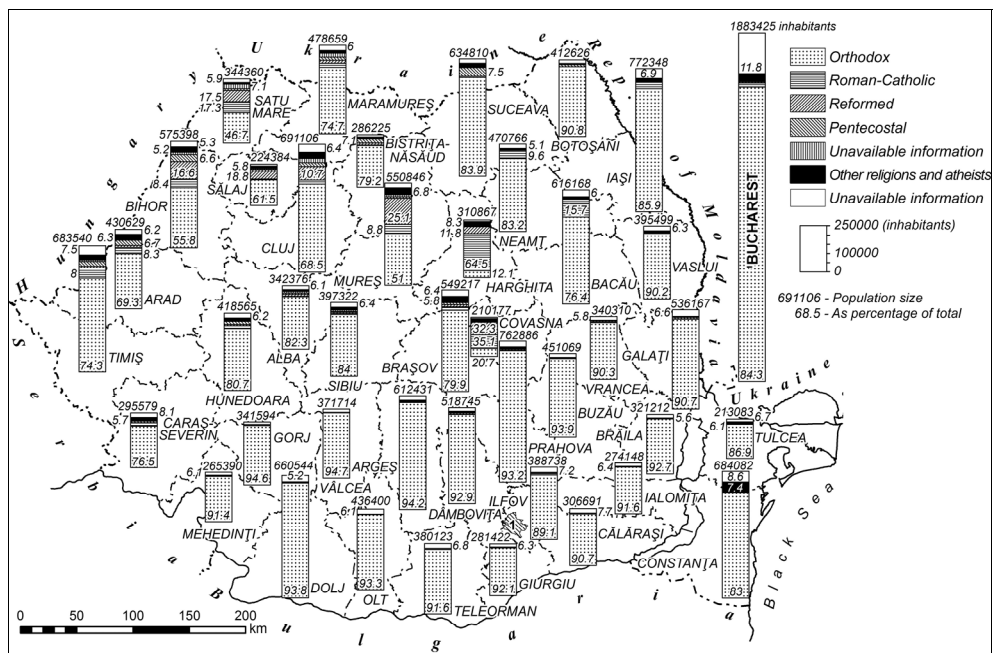


Fig. 2. Religious structure of the Romanian population, at the census in 2011, at county level (data regarding the seven categories displayed in table 3)

The high frequency rate of this religious denomination at national level emerges from the fact that 27 of the Romanian counties together with Bucharest municipality have shares **higher than 80%** and 18 of them have shares even **over 90%** (Botoșani, Galați, Vaslui and Vrancea in *Moldavia*; Argeș, Brăila, Buzău, Călărași, Dâmbovița, Giurgiu, Ialomița, Prahova and Teleorman in *Muntenia*; Dolj, Gorj, Mehedinți, Olt and Vâlcea in *Oltenia*), while 10 counties have about **80-90%** orthodox population (Alba, Hunedoara and Sibiu in *Transylvania*; Iași, Neamț and Suceava in *Moldavia*; Constanța and Tulcea in *Dobrogea* and Bucharest in *Muntenia*).

A share between **50 and 80%** of orthodox population is registered in the case of 11 counties (Bistrița-Năsăud, Brașov, Cluj, Mureș and Sălaj in *Transylvania*, Bacău in *Moldavia*, Arad, Caraș-Severin and Timiș in Banat, Bihor in Crișana and Maramureș in Maramureș. The smallest shares of **20-50%** are registered in two Romanian counties (Covasna in Transylvania and Satu Mare in Maramureș) and a share **below 20%** is registered in Harghita County in *Transylvania*.

2. 2. 2. Roman-Catholic religious denomination

In 2002, this religious denomination was declared by 4.73% of the Romanian citizens (1,026,429 people), whereas in 2011 the value decreased to 4.33% (870,774 inhabitants). The highest frequency (64.55%) is registered in Harghita county (200,663 adherents), and the lowest frequency (0.02%) in Teleorman county (84 people).

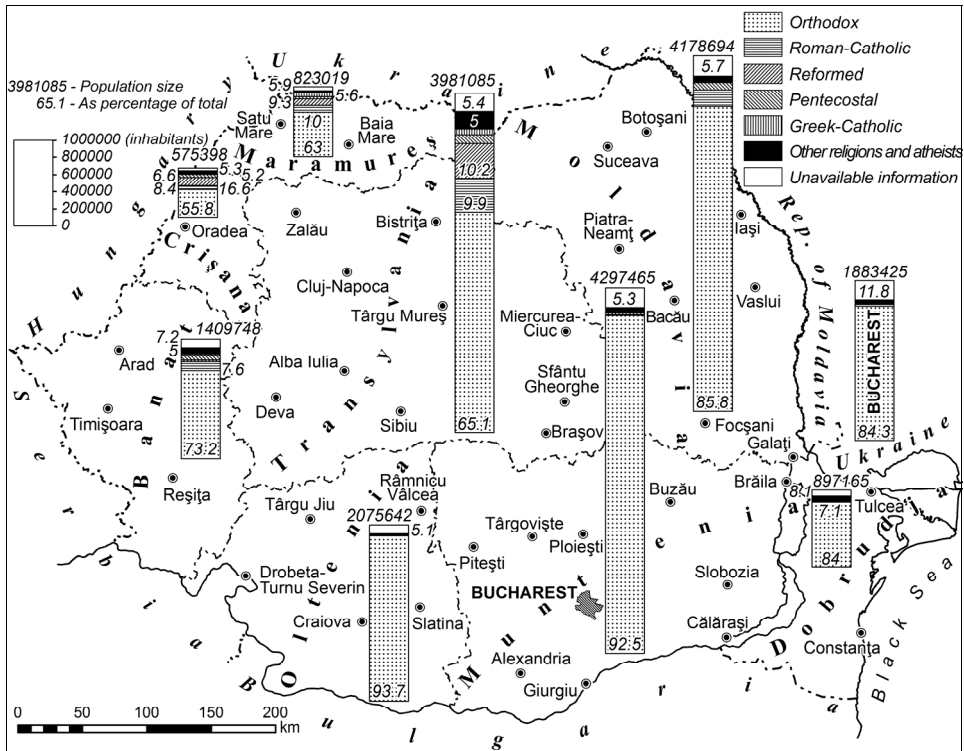


Fig. 3. Religious structure of the Romanian population, at the census in 2011, at regional level – geographical-historical provinces (data regarding the seven categories displayed in table 3)

At regional level the highest frequency, while conditioned by the presence of the Hungarian and partially of the German population, is registered in Maramureș, Transylvania, Crișana and Banat. In Maramureș there is a share of 10.00% Roman-Catholics (out of a total population of 518,403 people), while in Transylvania there is a share of 9.99% (out of 3,981,085 people). In Crișana we find 8.40% (out of 321,312 people), and in Banat 7.58% (out of 1,031,988 people). The share continuously decreases in case of the other provinces and Bucharest municipality, as follows: 4.68% in Moldavia, 0.48% in Dobrogea, 0.29% in Muntenia, 0.16% in Oltenia and 1.18% in Bucharest (see table 3).

We note the same situation of the Roman-Catholics at county level, being able to set four different classes of shares, as follows:

- **class 1 - below 1%**, in 16 of the Romanian counties (Alba, Botoșani, Galați, Constanța, Tulcea, Argeș, Brăila, Buzău, Călărași, Dâmbovița, Giurgiu, Prahova, Dolj, Gorj, Mehedinți and Vâlcea);

- **class 2 - 1-3%**, in which case we find 8 territorial administrative units (Bistrița-Năsăud, Sălaj, Sibiu, Suceava, Vaslui, Vrancea, Ilfov and Bucharest municipality);

- **class 3 - 3-5%**, registered in 5 counties (Braşov, Cluj, Hunedoara, Iaşi and Maramureş);

- **class 4 - over 5%**, registered in 10 of the Romanian counties, namely Covasna (35.08%), Harghita (64.55%), Mureş (8.21%), Bacău (15.66%), Neamţ (9.63%), Arad (8.27%), Caraş-Severin (5.66%), Timiş (7.98%), Bihor (8.40%) and Satu Mare (17.52%).

2.2.3. Reformed Denomination

With a number of 600,932 adherents in 2011, which represents 2.99% of the Romanian population, this religious denomination follows the same pattern of representation as the Roman-Catholic religion, yet with lower values. At regional level, from the centre towards the east of the country, we note the following situations of frequency: Transylvania (10.20%, 406,188 people), Moldavia (0.01%, 497 people), Dobrogea (0.02%, 171 people), Muntenia (0.01%, 557 people), Oltenia (0.01%, 249 people), Banat (1.43%, 20,140 people), Crişana (16.55%, 95,250 people) and Maramureş (9.31%, 76,589 people), to which we add Bucharest municipality (0.07%, 1,291 people).

After analysing the numbers registered at county level we were able to set four classes of values of frequency in case of reformed religion:

- **class 1 - below 1%**, in which category we find 26 of the counties and Bucharest municipality out of which only a few of them register values of more than 100 adherents, namely Bacău (116 people), Suceava (109 people), Constanţa (151 people), Prahova (132 people), Caraş-Severin (957 people) and Bucharest (1291 people);

- **class 2 - 1-3%** - registered in only 5 counties, namely Braşov (2.08%, 11,426 people), Hunedoara (1.85%, 7,730 people), Sibiu (1.46%, 5,800 people), Arad (2.28%, 9,372 people) and Timiş (1.37%, 9,372 people);

- **class 3 - 3-5%**, registered in only 3 counties, namely Alba (3.24%, 11,080 people), Bistriţa-Năsăud (4.08%, 11,675 people) and Maramureş (3.39%, 16,246 people).

- **class 4 - over 10%**, the highest values of this religious denomination, being registered in 7 counties, located in the central and north-western part of Romania, namely Cluj (10.66%, 73,669 people), Covasna (32.5%, 67,791 people), Harghita (11.82%, 36,760 people), Mureş (25.08%, 138,129 people), Sălaj (18.77%, 42,128 people), Bihor (16.55%, 95,250 people) and Satu Mare (17.52%, 60,343 people).

2.2.4. Pentecostal Christian Denomination

This is one of the religions whose number of adherents increased over the period, from 324,462 in 2002 (1.50% out of 20,121,641 people) to 362,314 in 2011 (1.80%). Territorially, the highest values registered are found in the western part of Romania. From the perspective of geographical-historical provinces the data reveal differences in shares, as follows: Crişana (6.60%, 37,960 Pentecostals), Banat (4.54%, 63,995 Pentecostals), Maramureş (3.22%, 26,534 Pentecostals), followed by Transylvania (2.60%, 10,369 Pentecostals), Moldavia (2.12%, 88,441 Pentecostals), after which we notice a significant decrease down to below 1% in the south-east and south provinces, namely in Dobrogea (0.32%, 2,854 Pentecostals), Muntenia (0.62%, 26,595 Pentecostals) and Oltenia (0.35%, 7,196 Pentecostals).

At county level, we notice the following values:

- below 1% Pentecostals we find in Bucharest Municipality and in 19 of the 41 Romanian counties, mostly located in the provinces of Dobrogea, Muntenia and Oltenia, except for the counties of Harghita, Bacău, Iași and Neamț, where we find a high number of Roman-Catholics. The lowest values are registered in Olt County (0.09%)
- values of **1-3% Pentecostals**, are registered in 12 counties, five of which are located in Transylvania (Alba, Brașov, Covasna, Mureș and Sibiu), four in Moldavia (Botoșani, Galați, Vaslui and Vrancea), two in Muntenia (Dâmbovița and Ialomița) and one in Maramureș (Satu Mare);
- the frequency of **3-5% Pentecostals** is found in six counties, all of them being located in the central and western part of Romania (Cluj, Hunedoara, Sălaj, Caraș-Severin, Timiș and Maramureș);
- the highest frequency of this religious group, of **over 5%**, is registered in four counties, namely Bistrița-Năsăud (7.08%, 20,257 Pentecostals), Suceava (7.53%, 47,773 Pentecostals), Arad (6.72%, 28,922 Pentecostals) and Bihor (6.60%, 37,960 Pentecostals).

2.2.5. Greek-Catholic religion

Without going into any details on the historical evolution of this religion, we just mention the fact that it was subject of pressure at the end of 17th century and the beginning of 18th century, when the provinces of Transylvania, Banat, Crișana and Maramureș were occupied by the Habsburg Empire. Then in 1948, it was brutally taken apart by the eastern imperial regime. This negative fact was solved once with the 1989 events, thus the United Romanian Church with Greek-Catholic Rome went back to the previous state as in 1948.

We note the fact that this religious group registered a decrease in number at national level, from 191,556 (0.88%) in 2002 to 150,593 (0.75%) in 2011. At the provinces level, we note that the highest shares are registered in the central and western part of Romania, namely in Maramureș (5.64%, 46,404 Greek-Catholics), Crișana (2.12%, 12,184 Greek-Catholics), Transylvania (1.76%, 69,925 Greek-Catholics) and Banat (1.02%, 14,347 Greek-Catholics), followed by the other provinces with very low values: Moldavia (0.05%, 1,969 Greek-Catholics), Dobrogea (0.03%, 294 Greek-Catholics), Muntenia (0.02%, 1,012 Greek-Catholics) and Oltenia (0.02%, 440 Greek-Catholics).

At a smaller territorial scale, we remark the lowest values registered in two counties of Muntenia province, namely Ialomița (0.00%, 11 people) and Teleorman (0.00%, 16 people), whilst the highest are registered in Satu Mare (7.13%, 24,568 Greek-Catholics) and Maramureș (4.56%, 21,836 Greek-Catholics). As a general overview of this religious group at county level we highlight three categories of shares, as follows:

- **below 1%**, in which category we find 31 counties and Bucharest municipality, the most representative being Brașov (0.62%, 3,401 Greek-Catholics), Covasna (0.11%, 241 Greek-Catholics), Harghita (0.17%, 516 Greek-Catholics), Hunedoara (0.86%, 3,260 Greek-Catholics), Suceava (0.18%, 1,155 Greek-Catholics), Arad (0.99%, 4,271 Greek-Catholics), Caraș-Severin (0.61%, 1,805 Greek-Catholics) and Bucharest Municipality (0.21%, 4,016 Greek-Catholics), followed by other 24 counties, all of them with small values and located mostly in the provinces of Moldavia, Dobrogea, Muntenia and Oltenia;

- shares of **1-2%** are registered in the case of only 3 counties, namely Bistrița-Năsăud (1.84%, 5,276 Greek-Catholics), Sibiu (1.92%, 7,612 Greek-Catholics) and Timiș (1.21%, 8,271 Greek-Catholics);

- the third class of values of territorial representation, of **over 2%** is found in 7 counties located in Transylvania, Crișana and Maramureș, namely Alba (2.71%, 9,294 Greek-Catholics), Cluj (3.35%, 23,164 Greek-Catholics), Mureș (2.01%, 11,077 Greek-Catholics), Sălaj (2.55%, 5,756 Greek-Catholics), Bihor (2.12%, 12,184 Greek-Catholics), Maramureș (4.56%, 21,836 Greek-Catholics) and Satu Mare (7.13%, 24,562 Greek-Catholics) (see table 3).

2.2.6. Other religions and Atheists

After the five main religious groups (Orthodox, Roman-Catholic, Reformed, Pentecostal, and Greek-Catholic) holding a share of 90.91% (18,291,617 people) out of the total Romanian population, we now present the other 16 religious groups (Baptist, Seventh-Day Adventists, Muslim, Unitarian, Jehovah's Witnesses, Christian Evangelical, Christian of Old Rite, Christian Evangelical synod - Presbyterian Denomination, Serbian Orthodox, Evangelical, Evangelical of Augustan Confession, Mosaic, Armenian, Another religion, Free religion, Atheists), whose frequencies barely reach 2.83% (570,285 adherents).

At the provinces level we find the following values registered for these religious groups: Dobrogea (7.08%, 63,491 persons), Crișana (5.18%, 29,815), Banat (5.03%, 70,930), Transylvania (5.02%, 199,848), Maramureș (2.91%, 23,932), Moldavia (1.70%, 71,098), Muntenia (1.32%, 56,873) and Oltenia (0.65%, 3,500 people).

At county level, the highest share was registered in Harghita county (8.35%, 25,960 people), while the lowest is found in Olt county (0.45%, 1,945 people). Between these limits we set several classes of shares (see table 3);

- **below 1%** (from 0.45% in Olt to 0.95% in Galați); this share is registered in nine of the Romanian counties (two in Moldavia, three in Muntenia and four in Oltenia);

- **1-2%** - 13 counties and Bucharest municipality recorded values between 1% and 2%. The lowest values we find in Brăila (1.09%) and the highest in Iași (1.97%), other five counties registering values in this class. They are located in Moldavia, eight in Muntenia⁴ and one in Oltenia;

- **2-4%** - characteristic to eight of the counties, from a minimum of 2.54% in Brăila, to a maximum of 3.92% in Timiș. Territorially, four of the counties are located in Transylvania, one in Moldavia, one in Banat and two in Maramureș;

- **over 4%** is registered in 11 counties, the lowest value of 4.87% (33,636 people) being recorded in Cluj and the highest, of 8.35% (25,960 people), in Harghita. In this case, six of these counties are located in Transylvania, two in Dobrogea, two in Banat and one in Crișana.

Furthermore, we present the 16 religious denominations by specifying the absolute values recorded due to low number of people included (see table 2).

⁴ Bucharest municipality is also included

a) Baptist religious group recorded a share of 0.56% (112,850 people) in 2011, at national level. The highest number of Baptists we find in Banat (34,188), Transylvania (34,164) and Crişana (21,934), followed by the other provinces with values below 10,000 namely in Moldavia (6,720), Muntenia (3,879), Maramureş (4,031), Oltenia (3,172) and Dobrogea (1,417). Thus, this religious group is visibly more present in the central and western parts of Romania.

At county level, the lowest values are registered in Ialomiţa (93 Baptists) and the highest in Bihor (21,934 Baptists). On the whole, we note that 23 counties recorded values **up to 1,000** Baptists, being located, in Moldavia, Dobrogea, Muntenia and Oltenia, except for the counties of Covasna and Harghita; the next nine counties registered values **between 1,000 and 3,000** Baptists (Bistriţa-Năsăud, Braşov, Mureş, Botoşani, Constanţa, Mehedinţi, Maramureş, Satu Mare and Bucharest municipality; the third category of counties registered values **between 3,000 and 6,000** Baptists (Alba, Hunedoara, Sibiu and Suceava) and **over 6,000** Baptists in the counties of Cluj (7,139), Sălaj (8,293), Arad (14,700), Caraş-Severin (10,808), Timiş (8,680) and Bihor (21,934).

b) Seventh-Day Adventist religious group is represented by 80,944 people (0.40% of the Romanian population), at national level that is territorially distributed relatively proportionally with the size of geographical-historical provinces and counties. Thus, in case of provinces we note the following: Transylvania (21,328 people), Muntenia (20,812 people), Moldavia (15,520 people), Banat (7,059 people), Maramureş (4,314 people), Oltenia (4,252 people), Crişana (1,859 people) and Dobrogea (1,769 people).

At county level, we note the lowest values registered in Tulcea county (330 persons), and the highest in Mureş county (5,979), this county being the only one with values of over 5,000 people). Generally, we observe that 18 counties registered values **below 1,000** people, other 15 counties have values **between 1,000 and 3,000** persons, and 7 counties have **between 3,000 and 5,000** representatives of this denomination, namely: Cluj (3,433), Suceava (3,855), Dâmboviţa (4,194), Prahova (4,536), Teleorman (4,050), Arad (4,531) and Maramureş (3,451), and Bucharest municipality (4,051 persons).

c) Muslim religious group, with a share of 0.32% (64,337 people) at national level, is the religious denomination mainly present in the province of Dobrogea, with 72.38% (46,569 people), out of which 67.27% (43,279 persons) are located in Constanţa county and 5.11% (3,290) in Tulcea county. The other 27.62% of the people declaring this religion (17,768) are spread in the rest of the Romanian territory. **Below 100** people are registered in each of 18 counties, **between 100 and 400** people are registered in other 16 counties, followed by 3 counties that registered **between 500 and 1,000** people, namely Cluj (973), Iaşi (677) and Călăraşi (614). **Over 1,000** people declaring this religion are found in those two counties in Dobrogea Province, followed by Ilfov county (1,470), Timiş (1,117) and Bucharest municipality (9,037 Muslims).

d) Unitarian religion was declared by 0.29% (57,686 persons) of the total population at national level. Most of the representatives of this religious group (98.45%, 56,797 persons) are mainly concentrated in the central part of Romania, in Transylvania, in 5 counties, that are: Braşov (5,059), Cluj (7,094), Covasna (8,682), Harghita (21,023) and Mureş (12,200). Unitarian people register quite small numbers in the other provinces, as follows: Moldavia (26), Dobrogea (3), Muntenia (39), Oltenia (20), Banat (223), Crişana (280) and Maramureş (185) (see table 2).

Accordingly, at county level, besides the 5 already mentioned counties that together cumulate over 5,000 people, and other 3 counties that register values of over 500 people each, such as: Alba (1,492 Unitarians), Hunedoara (513) and Sibiu (633), the other counties are spread as follows: **more than 100** people are found in the counties of Timiș (137), Bihor (280), Satu Mare (115) and Bucharest municipality. In the case of counties included in the provinces of Moldavia, Dobrogea, Muntenia and Oltenia the number of Unitarians decrease down to 1-2 people (Botoșani, Galați, Vaslui, Tulcea, Călărași) or are even missing at all (Vrancea, Ialomița, Teleorman).

e) Jehovah's Witnesses religion was declared by 49,820 people, representing 0.25% of the Romanian population at national level (20,121.641 inhabitants). Their territorial distribution is rather disproportionate at national level. We note that, at the level of provinces, more than half of the people (53.12%) are living in Transylvania (26,716 persons), with high shares in Maramureș (19.67%, 9,801 Jehovah's witnesses) and in Moldavia (8.70%, 4,135 persons), followed by all the other provinces with significantly low values, as follows: Dobrogea (372 people), Muntenia (1,903), Oltenia (1,207), Banat (2,609), Crișana (1,289) and Bucharest municipality (1,794).

As for the territorial distribution at county level, we note the following situation:

- the lowest number of Jehovah's witnesses we find in Tulcea county (74), whilst the highest in Maramureș county (11.96%, 5,960 persons);

- **less than 200** people are registered in each of the 9 following counties: Neamț, Brăila, Buzău, Călărași, Dâmbovița, Giurgiu, Ialomița, Mehedinți and Vâlcea);

- **between 200 and 500** people representing this religious denomination are registered in 14 counties;

- **between 500 and 800** people are registered in Iași county;

- **more than 800** people are registered in 17 counties, 10 of them included in Transylvania province, followed by Suceava, Arad, Timiș, Bihor, Maramureș, Satu Mare and Bucharest Municipality (see table 2).

f) Christian Evangelical religious group represents only 0.21% (42,495 people) of the total Romanian population. The representatives of this group are almost evenly distributed in the territory at the level of provinces, as follows: Moldavia (32.52% of their number, 13,833 people), Muntenia (29.62%, 12,589 people), Transylvania (22.64%, 9,621 people), Maramureș (1,354 people), Oltenia (1,257 people), Banat (1,166 people), Crișana (629 people) and Dobrogea (161 people).

The value ranking of this religious group at county level is rather difficult since the lowest value registered is of 21 persons in Ialomița County and it reaches 4,015 persons in Argeș County. Still, in order to reveal the territorial distribution we show the situation as follows:

- **less than 200 people** are registered in 9 counties, namely Covasna (80), Constanța (102), Tulcea (59), Brăila (42), Ialomița (21), Mehedinți (124), Olt (103), Vâlcea (85) and Caraș-Severin (176);

- **between 200-500**, are registered in 9 counties;

- **between 500-800** are registered in 10 counties;

- **more than 800 people**, are registered in 13 counties, namely: Alba (835), Braşov (2,360), Cluj (803), Mureş (1,060), Sibiu (2,440), Botoşani (1,875), Iaşi (3,784), Suceava (3,921), Vaslui (1,769), Argeş (4,015), Dâmboviţa (2,610), Prahova (3,689), Maramureş (815) and Bucharest Municipality (1,895).

g) Christian of Old Rite religious group has a share of 0.16% (32,558 people) out of the total Romanian population. At the provinces level, we note a concentration of 46.10% in Moldavia (15,010 people), a share of 35.63% in Dobrogea (11,601) and 6.97% in Muntenia (2,271). Their number decreases evidently in Transylvania (1,034), Oltenia (144), Banat (807), Crişana (117) and Maramureş (506).

At county level, the number of representatives starts from less than 3 persons in Olt county and goes up to 8,794 persons, in the case of Tulcea county. Attempting to deliver a general overview on this religious group, we set a few classes of values, as follows:

- **up to 100** persons, values registered in 19 counties, 5 in Transylvania, 7 in Muntenia, all counties in Oltenia and 2 in Banat;

- **between 100 and 400** persons, values registered in 10 counties, five of which in Transylvania, one in Moldavia, two in Muntenia, one in Crişana and another one in Maramureş;

- **between 400 and 700** persons, values registered in only 3 counties, namely Vrancea (608), Timiş (653) and Maramureş (477);

- **over 700** persons, values registered in 9 counties, 6 of which are located in Moldavia, namely Bacău (1,567 persons), Galaţi (735), Iaşi (3,561), Neamţ (4,012), Suceava (2,934) and Vaslui (1,205), followed by 2 in Dobrogea, namely Constanţa (2,807) and Tulcea (8,794) and one in Muntenia - Brăila county (1,546) and also Bucharest Municipality (1,067).

h) Evangelical Lutheran religion, with a share of 0.10% (only 20,168 of the Romanian population), is almost entirely concentrated in Transylvania, where we can find 75.33% of the representatives of this religious group (15,194 people) and in Banat, with a share of 18.50% (3,733 people). There are insignificant values registered in the other provinces, such as: Moldavia (99), Dobrogea (39), Muntenia (114), Crişana (310) and Maramureş (218).

Subsequently, at county level, there is a large gap between the lowest value registered in Călăraşi County (less than 3 people) and the highest value registered in Braşov (10,374). Overall, the registered values are low and they are distributed as follows:

- **up to 50** representatives - the case of 27 counties, one of which being located in Transylvania (Sălaj), all 8 counties in Moldavia, both counties in Dobrogea, all 10 counties in Muntenia, all 5 counties in Oltenia and one in Banat (Caraş-Severin);

- **between 100 and 300** representatives – the case of 6 counties, four of which in Transylvania and both counties in Maramureş;

- **between 300 and 600** representatives – the case of only 3 counties, namely Cluj (496), Timiş (339), Bihor (310) and Bucharest Municipality (415);

- **more than 600** representatives – the case of 5 counties, namely: Braşov (10,374), Covasna (851), Mureş (715), Sibiu (1,924), in Transylvania and Arad (3,351) in Banat.

i) Serbian Orthodox religion has a share of only 0.07% at national level (14,385 people out of the total population). The Serbian orthodox representatives are naturally located in the geographical-historical provinces in the south-west part of Romania, in Banat and Oltenia. In Banat we find a share of 79.27% (11,403 persons), while in Banat there is only 7.27% (1,046 persons) of their group, followed by Transylvania with 3.56% of the representatives (513 people). In the case of all other 5 provinces the values are decreasing, as follows: Moldavia (248), Dobrogea (279), Muntenia (331), Crișana (3) Maramureș (89).

At county level the situation of their territorial distribution is in accordance with that shown in the case of provinces. Thus, we reveal the situation on classes of values, as follows:

- **up to 50** representatives – the case of 28 counties, 7 of which being located in Transylvania (with less than 3 persons in Bistrița-Năsăud and Covasna), all 8 counties in Moldavia (with no representative in Suceava county), 8 counties in Muntenia (with no representatives in Buzău, and with less than 3 persons in Călărași), followed by 3 counties in Oltenia, one in Crișana (Bihor) and another one in Maramureș (Satu Mare);
- **between 50-100** representatives – the case of only 3 counties, namely Dâmbovița, Giurgiu, Maramureș;
- **between 100 and 150** – the case of 4 counties (Brașov, Mureș, Neamț and Dolj);
- **more than 150** Serbian Orthodox – values found in 6 counties, namely: Cluj (161), Constanța (249), Mehedinți (881), Arad (687), Caraș-Severin (3,948), Timiș (6,773) and Bucharest Municipality (415).

j) Evangelical religious group, consisting of 15,514 people, represents 0.08% of the population of Romania, being concentrated in two provinces, namely Transylvania (34.78%, 5,396 people) and Muntenia (36.09%, 5,600 people), followed by all other provinces with small values: Moldavia (878), Dobrogea (149), Oltenia (458), Banat (912), Crișana (142) and Maramureș (199).

At county level, the lowest values were registered in Tulcea county (less than 3 people), and the highest in Brașov (1,877 people), between these limits being able to identify the following situations:

- **up to 100** representatives were registered in 12 counties, located in five of the eight provinces, namely Transylvania (Harghita), Moldavia (Botoșani, Galați, Suceava), Dobrogea (Tulcea), Muntenia (Brăila, Călărași, Ialomița, Teleorman), Oltenia (Olt, Vâlcea) and Maramureș (Maramureș county);
- **between 100 and 300** representatives, from 20 counties located in all of the provinces (five in Transylvania, four in Moldavia, one in Dobrogea, three in Muntenia, three in Oltenia, two in Banat, one in Crișana and one in Maramureș);
- between **300 and 600** representatives were registered in only three counties – Alba (311), Neamț (433) and Timiș (514);
- **over 600** representatives were registered in 6 counties, namely Brașov (1,877), Mureș (865), Sibiu (1,402), Argeș (1,529), Dâmbovița (1,709) and Prahova (1,508), together with Bucharest municipality (1,779).

k) Evangelical of Augustan Confession is a religious denomination declared by only 5,399 people at national level, which represents a share of 0.03% of the Romanian population, distributed in all 41 counties, and subsequently in all 8 geographical-historical provinces.

In accordance with the low values registered by this religion, the territorial distribution seems simpler, at the provinces level, the highest share of 7.61% being registered in Transylvania (4,190 people), followed by Moldavia (108), Dobrogea (25), Muntenia (266), Oltenia (41), Banat (335), Crişana (53) and Maramureş (29).

At county level, the smallest number of Augustans – up to 3 people is registered in Botoşani, Tulcea, Gorj and Olt, and the highest in Braşov (1,794 people). If we analyse the classes of values, we note the following: **less than 100** representatives – found in 31 counties, three of which are located in Transylvania, all eight in Moldavia, both counties in Dobrogea, nine of the 10 in Muntenia, all five in Oltenia, one in Banat and Crişana (Bihor – the only county in which this religion is represented) and both counties in Maramureş (Maramureş and Satu Mare); **between 100 and 200** Augustans are registered in only 7 counties (Alba, Bistriţa-Năsăud, Covasna, Hunedoara, Prahova, Arad and Timiş), and **over 300** Augustans we find in Braşov (1,794 persons), Mureş (491), Sibiu (1.246) and Bucharest municipality (351).

l) Mosaic religion is registered by only 0.02% of the total population (3.519 people). There are cases of counties in which we find only **up to 3 persons** practicing this religion, such as: Călăraşi, Dâmboviţa, Giurgiu, Ialomiţa and Teleorman (Muntenia province) and Gorj (Oltenia province), while the highest values are registered in Bucharest Municipality (1,459 persons).

At the provinces level, the highest values are registered in Moldavia (609), followed by Transylvania (476), Banat (400), Muntenia (192), Maramureş (157), Crişana (157), Oltenia (46) and Dobrogea (35 Mosaics).

At county level, we reveal the following classes of values:

- **up to 50** Mosaics – in the case of 25 counties, six of which are located in Transylvania, two in Moldavia, both counties in Dobrogea, nine in Muntenia, all five in Oltenia and one in Banat;

- **between 50 and 100** Mosaics, situation recorded in 11 counties, three of which located in Transylvania, five in Moldavia, one in Muntenia and both counties in Maramureş;

- **between 100 and 150** Mosaics, values registered in only two counties, namely Arad (132) and Bihor (145);

- **more than 150** Mosaics, values found in three counties, namely Cluj (171), Iaşi (257) and Timiş (232), and also Bucharest Municipality (1,459).

m) Armenian religion is the last nominated religion at the census in 2011, at the national level being recorded a number of 393 people practicing this religion and territorially spread in all provinces, as follows: Transylvania (160), Moldavia (44), Dobrogea (29), Muntenia (29), Oltenia (2), Banat (9), Crişana (10) and Maramureş (2), and in Bucharest Municipality (108).

Accordingly, at the county level the values registered are very low, 38 counties recording **less than 20** people of Armenian religion, eight of which recording up to 3 persons (Alba, Iași, Vrancea, Călărași, Vâlcea, Arad, Maramureș and Satu Mare), whereas in the case of 15 counties there are no representatives of this religion (Bistrița-Năsăud, Hunedoara, Sălaj, Vaslui, Buzău, Dâmbovița, Giurgiu, Ialomița, Prahova, Teleorman, Dolj, Gorj, Mehedinți, Olt and Caraș-Severin).

n) Other religion, a separate category of data, representing about 0.15% of the total population of 20,121,641 of Romania (30,557 persons), people that do not belong to any of the 18 above mentioned religious groups, and being territorially distributed all over the country. Overall, in accordance with the social and historical evolution, the census in 2011 reveals the following distribution of this religious group at the provinces level: Transylvania 29.98% (9,162 persons), Moldavia 29.40% (8,984), Dobrogea 1.19% (363), Muntenia 5.76% (1,761), Oltenia 1.13% (344), Banat 11.22% (3,428), Crișana 4.60% (1,405) and Maramureș 4.25% (1,298). At county level, we can show the following particularities in the values registered:

- the lowest absolute value, of 24 people declaring another religion, was recorded in Teleorman county (Muntenia province), and the highest, of 5,580 people, in Suceava county (this counts for 18.26% out of the total group declaring Other religion);

- **up to 200** people - values registered in 20 counties (5 in Moldavia, 1 in Dobrogea, 9 in Muntenia and all 5 in Oltenia);

- between **200 and 600** people - values registered in 9 counties, namely Alba, Bistrița-Năsăud, Covasna, Harghita, Sălaj and Sibiu (Transylvania), Constanța (Dobrogea), Caraș-Severin (Banat) and Satu Mare (Maramureș);

- **between 600 and 1,000** people - are found in only 4 counties, namely Hunedoara (Transylvania), Ilfov (Muntenia), Arad (Banat) and Maramureș (Maramureș);

- **over 1,000 people**, values recorded in 8 counties, as follows: Brașov, Cluj, Mureș (Transylvania), Iași, Neamț, Suceava (Moldavia), Timiș (Banat), Bihor (Crișana), and Bucharest Municipality.

o) Free of religion, is a category of data representing about 0.09% of the national population in 2011 (18,917 persons). The territorial distribution at the level of provinces reveals the following shares: Transylvania (46.33%, 8,764 persons), Moldavia (7.59%, 1,436), Dobrogea (0.87%, 165), Muntenia (7.83%, 1,481), Oltenia (2.00%, 380), Banat (8.63%, 1,633), Crișana (4.81%, 909) and Maramureș (8.06%, 1,146 persons declaring Free of religion).

At county level, the number of people is distributed, as follows:

- the lowest number of people free of religion (24 people) is recorded in Giurgiu county, and the highest number (2,201) in Mureș county and Bucharest municipality (3,003);

- up to **100** persons are registered in the case of 13 counties (2 in Moldavia, 1 in Dobrogea, 5 in Muntenia and all 5 in Oltenia);

- **between 100 and 300** persons are registered in the case of other 13 counties (2 in Transylvania, 4 in Moldavia, 1 in Dobrogea, 4 in Muntenia and 1 in Banat);

- **between 300-500** persons are registered in only 4 counties, namely Sibiu (Transylvania), Iași, Suceava (Moldavia) and Prahova (Muntenia);

- **over 500** persons we find in 12 counties, six of which being located in Transylvania, namely Alba (646), Brașov (1,045), Cluj (2,011), Covasna (794), Harghita (655), Hunedoara (586) and Mureș (2,201), 2 in Banat, namely Arad (562) and Timiș (846), 1 in Crișana, namely Bihor (909) and both counties in Maramureș, namely Maramureș (641) and Satu Mare (505 persons), and also Bucharest Municipality (3,003).

p) Atheists represent 0.10%, of the total Romanian population in 2011 (20,743 persons). Their territorial distribution at provinces level reveals the following shares and values: Transylvania (21.96%, 4,555 persons out of the total number of Atheists), Moldavia (10.33%, 2,144), Dobrogea (2.48%, 515), Muntenia (10.53%, 2,184), Oltenia (2.53%, 525), Banat (8.31%, 1,723), Crișana (2.54%, 528) and Maramureș (2.42%, 502).

We decided on four classes of values to reveal their distribution at county level, mentioning the lowest value of 42 persons in Olt County, and the highest in Cluj County, of 1,854 persons, along with the value of 8,067 Atheists (38.90%) registered in Bucharest municipality. Having these, we present the following situation of atheists:

- **up to 100** Atheists are recorded in 11 counties (2 in Transylvania, 3 in Moldavia, 1 in Dobrogea, 3 in Moldavia and 1 in Oltenia);

- **between 100 and 300** persons are recorded in the case of 15 counties (3 in Transylvania, 3 in Moldavia, 4 in Muntenia, 3 in Oltenia, 1 in Banat and 1 in Maramureș);

- **between 300 and 500** persons are recorded in the case of 9 counties, namely Hunedoara, Mureș, Sibiu (in Transylvania), Galați (Moldavia), Constanța (Dobrogea), Argeș, Ilfov (Muntenia), Arad (Banat) and Maramureș (in Maramureș);

- **over 500 Atheists** are recorded in 6 counties, including the largest urban centres in Romania, namely Brașov (885 persons), Cluj (1,854), Iași (896), Prahova (556), Timiș (1,125) and Bihor (528), and Bucharest Municipality (8,067 Atheists).

r) Unavailable information. This category of data was for the first time introduced as a choice in carrying out the procedures of registration at the census in 2011. And the reason was the high number of Romanian emigrants from whom it was not possible to get this information. Thus, corresponding to a number of 1,259,739 persons, this category of data holds a share of 6.26% out of the 20,121,641 Romanian citizens.

People recorded under this category are distributed differently at the provinces level, as follows: Transylvania (213,680 persons, 16.96% out of the total registered), Moldavia (237,255, 18.83%), Dobrogea (72,808, 5.78%), Muntenia (226,212, 17.96%), Oltenia (106,750, 8.48%), Banat (101,455, 8.05%), Crișana (30,527, 3.42%) and Maramureș (48,843, 3.88%).

At county level, the lowest number of people included in this category of data was recorded in Covasna county (6,433 persons), while the highest value was registered in Constanța (58,494 persons). Also, we should note that 17.63% of the Unavailable Information was registered in Bucharest Municipality (222,212 persons).

Overall, at county level, we could group the unavailable data into four classes of values, as follows:

- **less than 15,000** people, values registered in 6 counties, namely Bistrița-Năsăud, Covasna, Harghita and Sălaj (Transylvania), Tulcea (Dobrogea) and Gorj (Oltenia);
- **between 15,000 and 30,000** persons, values registered in 25 counties, 4 of which in Transylvania (out of 10), 5 in Moldavia (out of 8), 9 in Muntenia (out of 10), 3 in Oltenia (out of 5), 2 in Banat (out of 3) and 2 in Maramureș (out of 2);
- between **30,000 and 45,000** persons, values registered in 6 counties, namely Brașov (34,989), Cluj (43,996), Bacău (36,783), Galați (35,246), Prahova (31,310), Dolj (34,455) and Bihor (30,527);
- **more than 45,000** persons are registered in the case of 3 counties, obviously more urbanized in Romania, namely Iași (53,412), Constanța (58,494) and Timiș (50,964), and also Bucharest municipality, with 222,212 persons.

3. CONCLUSION

Our study is focused on the religious structure of the Romanian population as recorded at the census in 2011 and we aimed to highlight the major aspects with a view to the territorial distribution at county and regional level.

We believe that our contribution is significant since there have been few studies on the religious structure the reason lying in the lack of information in the censuses held in the period between 1948 and 1990. Then, starting with 1992, the content of the census improved, including data on gender, age, ethnicity, mother tongue, religion, active population, households, etc. The same and improved data were subsequently registered at the 2002 and 2011 censuses.

We processed the statistical data provided by the National Institute of Statistics and we synthesized them in four tables, one chart and two maps. We conclude by presenting the data in table 4.

Table 4

General religious structure at the level of geographical-historical provinces in Romania, in 2011⁵

Geographical-Historical Provinces	Orthodox	Roman-Catholic	Reformed	Pentecostal	Greek-Catholic	Other religions and atheists	Unavailable information
Transylvania	65.12	9.93	10.20	2.60	1.76	5.02	5.37
Moldavia	85.76	4.68	0.01	2.12	0.05	1.70	5.68
Dobruđja	83.96	0.48	0.02	0.32	0.03	7.08	5.12
Muntenia	91.60	0.29	0.01	0.62	0.02	1.32	5.26
Oltenia	93.66	0.16	0.01	0.35	0.02	0.65	5.14
Banat	73.20	7.58	1.43	4.54	1.02	5.03	7.20
Crișana	55.84	8.40	16.53	6.60	2.12	5.18	5.31
Maramureș	62.99	10.00	9.31	3.22	5.64	2.91	5.93
București	84.31	1.18	0.07	0.27	0.21	2.16	11.80

⁵ Data extracted from Table 3.

By presenting the data in table 4 we conclude that there are numerous religions in Romania and they are differently distributed territorially, when comparing the provinces in the central and western part of Romania (Transylvania, Banat, Crișana and Maramureș) with the four provinces in the east, south and south-east (Moldova, Dobrogea, Muntenia and Oltenia), fact resulted from the historical rule of the first four regions by the western neighbours, yet without influencing the majority orthodox native population.

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