



Intercountry Adoption in Ireland: Romania Summary

January 2025

Overview

- Between 1989 and 2003, 806 children were adopted into Ireland from Romania.
- This is about 16% of Ireland's total current intercountry adoption population.
- The numbers peaked in 1991 with 276 adoptions from Romania into Ireland that year, and rapidly declined over the following years.



Context

- The fall of the communist Romanian government in 1989 exposed the large number of children living in harsh conditions in institutions.
- As a result, many children were adopted from Romania into other countries, including Ireland, in the years that followed.
- Since then, Romania has reformed its child protection system. It has also invested in creating alternative family based care options. This has led to the closure of most of the country's traditional institutions.

What do we know about the people adopted from Romania into Ireland?



- The majority were adopted shortly after the fall of the communist government in 1989.
- Their average age at adoption was 1 year old.
- 49% of those adopted were listed as "male", while 51% were listed as "female".
- Right now, this group range in age from 23 to 40 years of age, with an average age of 32.

Since 2011, Romania has strictly limited intercountry adoption.

Compiled by the AAI Research Team

If you are an intercountry adopted person, and would like to take part in research with the AAI, please let us know, we'd be really happy to hear from you!

You can email us on aai_research@aai.gov.ie