

Dolj County

Dolj originally meant "lower Jiu", as opposed to *Gorj* (*upper Jiu*) is a county of [Romania](#) on the border with [Bulgaria](#), in [Oltenia](#), with the capital city at [Craiova](#).

In 2011, it had a population of 660,544 and a population density of 89/km² (230/sq mi).

- [Romanians](#) – over 96%
- [Romani](#) – 3%
- Others almost 1%.

Geography

This county has a total area of 7,414 km² (2,863 sq mi).

The entire area is a plain with the [Danube](#) on the south forming a wide valley crossed by the [Jiu River](#) in the middle. Other small rivers flow through the county, each one forming a small valley. There are some lakes across the county and many ponds and channels in the Danube valley. 6% of the county's area is a [desert](#).

Neighbours

- [Olt County](#) to the east.
- [Mehedinți County](#) to the west.
- [Gorj County](#) and [Vâlcea County](#) to the north.
- [Bulgaria](#) – [Vidin Province](#) to the southwest, [Montana](#) and [Vratsa](#) provinces to the south.

Economy

Agriculture is the county's main industry. The county has a land that is ideal for growing [cereals](#), vegetables and wines. Other industries are mainly located in the city of [Craiova](#), the largest city in southwestern [Romania](#).

The county's main industries:

- Automotive industry – [Ford](#) has a factory.
- Heavy electrical and transport equipment – [Electroputere](#) Craiova is the largest factory plant in [Romania](#).
- Aeronautics ; ITC
- Chemicals processing ; Foods and beverages
- Textiles ; Mechanical parts and components

There are two small ports on the shore of the [Danube](#) river – [Bechet](#) and [Calafat](#).

Tourism

Major tourist attractions: The city of [Craiova](#); The city of [Calafat](#); Fishing on the [Danube](#); The city of [Băilești](#).

Craiova ([Romania](#)'s 6th [largest city](#) and capital of [Dolj County](#), is situated near the east bank of the river [Jiu](#) in central [Oltenia](#). It is a longstanding political center, and is located at approximately equal distances from the [Southern Carpathians](#) (north) and the [River Danube](#) (south). Craiova is the chief commercial city west of [Bucharest](#) and the most important city of [Oltenia](#). The city prospered as a regional trading centre despite an earthquake in 1790, a plague in 1795, and a [Turkish](#) assault in 1802 during which it was burned.

Eight villages are administered by the city: Făcăi, Mofleni, Popoveni, Șimnicu de Jos, Cernele, Cernelele de Sus, Izvoru Rece and Rovine. The last four were a separate commune called *Cernele* until 1996, when they were merged into the city.

Etymology

There are two possible etymologies for Craiova: [Old Slavic](#) *kral* ("king"), which has been borrowed in Romania as *crai* and Slavonic *krajina* ("border" or "edge").^[3] Since no source prior to 1475 mentions the city, it's impossible to tell which of the two words is the real etymology.^[3] The name is probably of Bulgarian or Serbian origin, due to historical autochthonous minorities in the area.

History

Craiova, which occupied the site of the [Dacian](#) and [Roman](#) city *Pelendava*, was formerly the capital of Oltenia. Its ancient *bans*, the highest ranking [boyars](#) of the [Wallachian](#) state, were initially those of the [Craiovești](#) family. The *bans* had the right of [minting coins](#) stamped with their own [effigies](#) – the origin of the [Romanian](#) word *ban* as used for coins.



[Michael the Brave](#)

The economic power of the Craiovești family at the end of the 16th century was about 100 villages (182 financial goods). This power gave them a statute of political autonomy so big, that the hospodars ruling at that time weren't able to keep in power without an alliance with this powerful dynasty. From the Craiovești family there were chosen a lot of hospodars to rule the country: [Neagoe Basarab](#), [Radu de la Afumați](#), Radu Șerban (1602–1611), [Matei Basarab](#), [Constantin Șerban](#), [Șerban Cantacuzino](#), [Constantin Brâncoveanu](#).

In 1395 Craiova was probably the scene of a victory won by the [Wallachian Prince Mircea I of Wallachia](#) over [Bayezid I, Sultan](#) of the [Ottomans](#) (see [Battle of Rovine](#)).^[*citation needed*] Frequently referred to as "a city" after the first half of the 16th century, the Craiova area was always regarded as an important economic region of Wallachia and Romania at large. During the 1718–1739 [Habsburg](#) occupation of Oltenia, Craiova's status declined due to economic pressures and increased [centralism](#), partly leading to an increase in [hajduk](#) actions, in parallel with protests of Craiovan boyars. In 1761, under Prince [Constantine Mavrocordatos](#), the *bans* relocated to Bucharest, leaving behind [kaymakams](#) to represent them in Craiova.

Under Prince [Emanuel Giani Ruset](#), Wallachia's seat was moved to Craiova (1770–1771), viewed as a place of refuge during the [Russo-Turkish War of 1768–1774](#). A large part of the city was burned down by the rebel [pasha Osman Pazvantoglu](#) in 1800.

During the [Wallachian uprising of 1821](#), inhabitants of the present-day [Dolj County](#) joined [Tudor Vladimirescu's Pandurs](#) in great numbers, contributing to the expedition on Bucharest. During the first two decades of the 19th century, Craiova witnessed economic prosperity, centered on [handicraft](#) trades and public services. During [Imperial Russian](#) occupation and the early stages of [Organic Statute](#) rules (1828–1834), the city increased its economic output; in 1832 there were 595 shops, 197 made of which were [barracks](#) and 398 were houses built of brick. At the time, Craiova exported wheat, furs, leather, live animals and other products into the [Austrian](#) and [Ottoman Empires](#).

Costache Romanescu, a citizen of Craiova, was among the leaders of the Provisional Government during the [1848 Wallachian revolution](#). Wallachia's last two rulers, [Gheorghe Bibescu](#) and [Barbu Dimitrie Știrbei](#), came from an important boyar family residing in Craiova – the Bibescu family.



[Unity Dance](#) at Craiova, 1857, by [Theodor Aman](#)

Around 1860, there were 4,633 buildings in Craiova, which were 3,220 houses, 26 churches, 11 schools and 60 factories and workshops. In all, the city also housed about 90 industrial establishments, of which 12 were mills, 3 breweries, 2 gas and oil factories, 4 [tanning](#) yards and 2 [printing presses](#); 57% of the total number of craftsmen of [Dolj County](#) lived in Craiova (1,088 [craftsmen](#), 687 [journeymen](#) and 485 [apprentices](#)).

The period following the [Independence War](#) was a time of economic and cultural progress. As a result, at the end of the 19th century, the city of Craiova, with its 40,000 inhabitants, had developed small factories (producing chemicals, farming utilities, and construction materials) and textile factories. On October 26, 1896, the Craiova [power station](#) entered service (with [AEG](#) equipment working at 310 CP, supplying 365 streetlights on 39 streets, forming a 30 km-long network); Craiova was the first city in the country to be supplied with electric power by [internal combustion engines](#).

In 1900, Craiova had 43.1% of the industrial units of [Oltenia](#); these numbered 924 industrial companies (including 20 large industrial establishments, employing 1,078 workers). The number of large industrial establishments rose to 40 by 1925. [Banking](#) also developed at the beginning of the 20th century (when 6 banks and 2 [bureaux de change](#) were already operating).

In the interwar period, Craiova, as the centre of an agricultural region, experienced little further [industrialization](#); the number of industrial workers remained comparatively small. In 1939, Craiova had 7 industrial units with over 100 workers: the clothing industry companies *Oltenia* and *Scrisul Românesc* were well-known all over the country and abroad.

In the early 1960s, under the [Communist regime](#), the city became a noted centre for the [automotive](#) and [engine building](#) industries, as well as for [aerospace manufacturing](#), [chemical industry](#), [food industry](#), [construction](#), [electrical engineering](#), [mining](#) and the [electrical power industry](#).

After the [1989 Revolution](#) brought the re-establishment of a [free market](#) and decentralisation in overall management, several industries became subject to [privatisation](#), while the market opened itself to private initiatives. Industry, although affected by economic changes, remains an important branch, representing ca. 70% of Craiova's output

Demographics

As of 2011, 269,506 inhabitants live within the city limits, a decrease from the figure recorded in 2002, making it the sixth most populous city in Romania. Ethnic composition:

- [Romanians](#): 241,176 (89.5%)
- [Roma](#): 5,291 (2.0%)
- Other: 808 (0.3%)
- Data unavailable: 22,231 (8.2%)

Climate

Craiova has a continental climate with Mediterranean influences, with a July high/low average of 30 °C (86 °F)/18 °C (65 °F) and a January high/low average of 4 °C (39 °F)/-3 °C (26 °F).

Economy

In the first two decades of the 19th century Craiova was characterized by economical growth, multiplication of its habitants' preoccupations in the areas of trade, commerce, and public services. In comparison with other great urban centers, Craiova is situated as a commercial, administrative and cultural knot of prime order.

During the [Tsarist](#) take-over (1828–1834), Craiova goes through important economic growths. In 1832, there were a number of 595 shops, of which "187 of wood and 398 of stone wall". The city is maintained as the commercial centre of [Oltenia](#); it was exporting to [Austria](#) and [Turkey](#) cereal, skins, wax, animals, tallow and cervices. As a follow-up of the permanent high demands of export, at Craiova was established, in 1846, the first Romanian society on share holds for cereal transport by ship on the [Danube](#), to [Brăila](#).

Around 1860 in Craiova there were 4633 buildings, of which 3220 were houses, 26 churches, 11 schools, 60 factories - workshops. There were also approximately 90 establishments with an industrial character, of which: 12 [wind mills](#), 3 beer factories, 2 gas and oil factories, 4 tanneries, 2 printings. Statistics show that there was, at Craiova, a percent of 57,7% of the total number of craftsmen from the [Dolj County](#) (1088 craftsmen, 687 journeymen and 485 apprentices). Towards the ending of the 19th century, Craiova was a city that had small factories and workshops with chemical products, agricultural machines, graphics art, tanneries, textiles, construction materials, etc. At 26 October 1896 Craiova's power plant starts working (with AEG equipment - Allgemeine Elekicitats Gesellschaft), having an installed power of 310 power horse, and supplying 365 lamps on 39 streets in a network of 30 km (18.64 mi). Craiova was the first city of the country powered up with electricity based on engines with internal combustion.

In 1900, Craiova was holding 43, 1% of the number of the industrial units of Oltenia, having 924 industrial firms (of which 20 establishments were belonging to the big industry, using 1078 workers). In 1925, the number of establishments of the "big industry" was up to 49, and in 1930 the number of workers was of 5530. The bank commerce was affirming as well, at the beginning of the 20th century already existing 6 banks and 2 exchange offices.

In the [Interbelic period](#), the city, situated in an area eminently agricultural, was moving forward with too small steps toward the industrial way, in comparison with other urban areas of the country. The number of those who got close to industry was extremely small.

In 1939, in Craiova were only 7 industrial units with over 100 workers: The cloth factory "Oltenia", "Scrisul Romanesc" ("The Romanian Writing"), the macaroni factory "Concordia", the bread and macaroni factory "Barbu Druga", "Semanatoarea", The electrical factory and the bread factory "Traiul". The only industrial branch that had industrial units comparable with similar units of other centers of the country was the industry of graphic art. The two printings "Ramuri" and "Scrisul romanesc" were well known all over the country and abroad.

Starting with the 1960s the city becomes a powerful industrial center; it develops the industry of machine and tools construction, planes, the chemical industry, food industry, easy industry, of construction materials, electro technical, extractive, energetic industry. The [Romanian Revolution of 1989](#) led to important changes in economy, by realizing a free market and by decentralizing the management of all national economic sectors. A value for the property sense was reinstated by liberating the particular initiative and privatization of goods that belonged exclusively to the state. In industry a drop of all capacity production was noticed, determined by the fact that they couldn't anticipate the direction of the impact of change and size of the shocks that followed the modification of the economical-social system. Still, the industry continues to represent the branch of activity with great influence over the city's economy (70%).

During the [post-Revolution period](#), telecommunication services, banking and insurance, [management consulting](#) (CDIMM, Romanian-American Center) began expanding. The number of joint ventures and the value of invested capital at county level have increased to large numbers — [Dolj County](#) being the first in respect to these aspects.^[*citation needed*] The [Automobile Craiova](#) factory, formerly owned by [Daewoo](#) and renationalised after Daewoo's bankruptcy, was sold in September 2007 to [Ford](#).

Ford will produce in Romania the B-Max model, a small class mono volume. The aspect of the new model will be somewhere between [Ford Fiesta](#) and C-Max, but smaller than the latter. The American manufacturer expects to become the second biggest seller in [Romania](#) after [Dacia](#). In 2009, Craiova works delivered 300 [Ford Transit Connect](#) units to the market.

Of the city's working population (about 110,000 persons), 38% are employed in industry, 15% in trade and repair services, 10% in transport and storage, 8% in education, 5.7% in the medical field.^[*citation needed*]

Transport

Public transportation in Craiova started in September 1948 with only 2 buses, received from [Bucharest](#). The buses connected the [Craiova railway station](#) with the [Nicolae Romanescu Park](#).

The [Tram](#) was first introduced in 1987, on an 18,4 km (2.49 mi) double-track line, as a result of the state's intention of keeping energy consumption low. The [public transport](#) in Craiova today consists of 3 [trolley tram](#) lines and 17 bus lines. It is operated by the [Regia Autonomă de Transport Craiova \(RAT Craiova\)](#), a corporation run by City Hall. One ticket is around €0.5. There are 342 buses and 49 trams serving the city today. Craiova is also a major railway [centre](#) and is connected to all other major Romanian cities, as well as

local destinations, through the national [Căile Ferate Române](#) network. Check the [national railway timetable](#) for an appropriate connection.

There are daily trains with service from Craiova to: [Bucharest](#) (3 hours), [Braşov](#) (6 – 8 hours - via connecting service), [Cluj-Napoca](#) (8 – 10 hours - connecting service), [Sibiu](#) (4 – 7 hours), [Sighişoara](#) (8 – 11 hours - connecting service), [Timişoara](#) (5 hours). The city's [taxicabs](#) are very cheap. Usually a taxi fare does not cost more than €1-€2 (around €0.3/km). The city is served by [Craiova Airport](#), which has recently been modernised.

Landmarks



The suspended bridge in Nicolae Romanescu Park



Constantin Mihail Palace, now Art Museum

- **Madona Dudu Church** – built between 1750 and 1756, renovated in 1844, after being destroyed by an 1831 earthquake. Murals were completed by [Gheorghe Tattarescu](#).
- **[St. Demetrius Cathedral](#)**
- **The Church of Coşuna Monastery** – the oldest building preserved in Craiova, dating from 1483.
- **Băniei House** – the oldest non-religious building that exists in Craiova, dating from 1699. Today it hosts the Museum of Ethnography and Folk Art.
- **Craiova Art Museum** – the building that houses the museum was built in 1896, following the plans of the French architect Paul Gotereau. Its main attraction is the art gallery dedicated to [Constantin Brâncuşi](#), exhibiting six of his early sculptures (including variants of his best-known works): *The Kiss* (1907), *Vitellius* (1898), *Woman Torso* (1909), *The Vainglory* (1905), *Boy's Head* (1906), *Miss Pogany* (1902). It also has a variety of paintings by leading Romanian masters such as; Theodor Aman, Nicolae Grigorescu, Vasile Popescu, Stefan Luchian, and Theodor Pallady plus some Romanian icons.
- **Museum of Oltenia** – founded in 1915 and divided into three sections: ethnography, history and natural science. The collection is based on donations made in 1908.
- **[Nicolae Romanescu Park](#)** (formerly Bibescu Park) – the largest and most well-known park in Craiova. Through the initiative of Nicolae P. Romanescu, the mayor of Craiova at that time, the park was designed by French architect Émile Rendont. Plans for the park were awarded the gold medal at the [1900 World Fair](#); work began in 1901 and was completed in 1903.
- **[Botanical Garden](#)** – The garden was laid out by the botanist Alexandru Buia and was opened in 1952. The main purpose of the garden was to facilitate the students' activities and research for the academic staff of the Agriculture and Horticulture Faculties of the [University of Craiova](#). The [Botanical Garden](#) is organized in six areas: plant systematics, floral provinces of the globe, cultivated plants, seed beds, phyto-geography of the [Oltenia](#) region, and a [greenhouse](#).
- **Jiu Meadow**

Education



Carol I National College

The first school in Craiova was founded in 1759 by Constantin Obedeau. In the spring of 1826 Obedeau's school took the name *Şcoala Naţională de Limba Română* which means *National School of Romanian Language*. This was the second Romanian high school after *Saint Sava* high school in Bucharest (founded in 1818).

Universities:

- [University of Craiova](#)
- [University of Medicine and Pharmacy](#)

Sport

The first football teams in Craiova appeared in 1921, Craiovan Craiova and Rovine Griviţa Craiova. They merged in 1940, forming [FC Universitatea Craiova](#). They became the first Romanian football team to reach the semi-finals of a European tournament, during the [UEFA Cup](#) in [1982-83](#).

- [FC Universitatea Craiova](#) – [football](#) team [relegated](#) to [Liga II](#) at the end of the 2010-2011 season
- [SCM CSU Craiova](#) - [Divizia A](#) is a [basketball](#) team play in [Polyvalent Hall](#)
- [SCM CSU Craiova](#) - [Liga Naţională](#) is a [handball](#) team play in [Polyvalent Hall](#)
- [SCM U Craiova](#) - [Divizia A1](#) is a [volleyball](#) team play in [Polyvalent Hall](#)