



HELLENIC REPUBLIC



MINISTRY OF ECONOMY AND FINANCE



**GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF  
THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL SERVICE  
OF GREECE**

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **VITAL STATISTICS**

#### **ANALYSIS OF DEMOGRAPHIC EVENTS (MARRIAGES – BIRTHS – DEATHS)**

The Population and Labor Market Division of the General Secretariat of the National Statistical Service of Greece publishes the following statistical data that show the evolution of demographic events.

Source of the data are the registry offices of municipalities and communities.

### **1. Population**

At the beginning of 2004, the estimated total population of Greece amounted to 11,040,650 persons. The annual growth rate in 2004 was 3.8 per thousand population, equal to the rate of natural increase of 0.1 (resulting from a birth rate of 9.6 and a death rate 9.5 in 2004), plus a rate of 3.7 of net migration. On 31/12/2004, the estimated population was 11,082,751 persons.

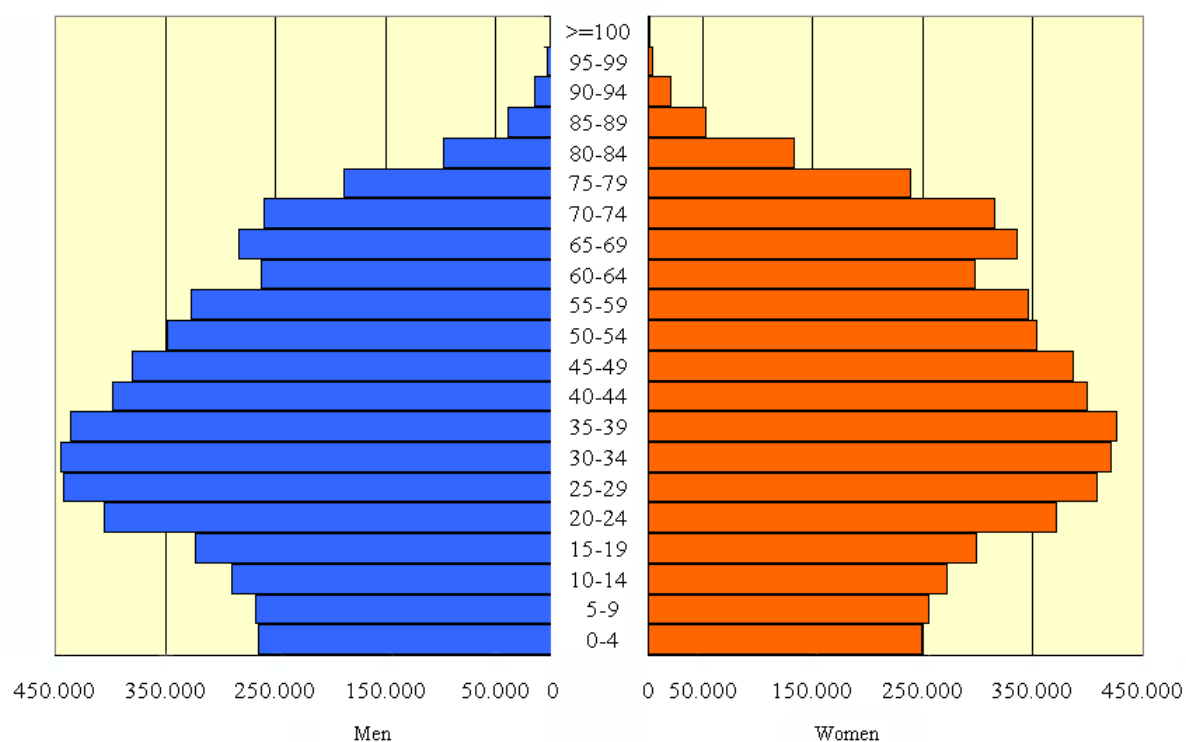
During the last decade (1993 – 2002) and until 2004 there have been substantial changes in the age composition, based on the total of the estimated population. The proportion of children (0 – 14 year of age) dropped from 18.2% in 1993 to 14.4% in 2004, while the group of persons at pension age (65 years and over) increased to 18.0% in 2004, from 14.6% in 1993. The active population (15 – 64 years of age) share has risen from 67.3% in 1993, to 67.6% in 2004. In absolute figures, the age group of children (0 – 14 years) shows a decrease of 16.0% in 2004, as compared with 1993, while the active population of 15 – 64 years of age shows a corresponding increase of 6.1% and the population aged over 65 years increased by 30.5%, respectively.

It is obvious, therefore, that the age composition presented a shift towards older ages and the ratio of ageing has showed a sharp upward trend since 1993, reaching in 2004 at the level of 124 persons aged 65 years and over, for every 100 persons aged 0 – 14 years, compared with 80 persons in 1993.

**Table 1. Estimated population in the mid of 1991 – 2004**

Year	Males	Females	Total
1991	5.053.216	5.203.066	10.256.282
1992	5.117.889	5.251.939	10.369.828
1993	5.171.956	5.293.578	10.465.534
1994	5.220.271	5.332.761	10.553.032
1995	5.264.063	5.370.328	10.634.391
1996	5.303.330	5.405.820	10.709.150
1997	5.337.781	5.438.750	10.776.531
1998	5.366.820	5.468.090	10.834.910
1999	5.389.881	5.492.726	10.882.607
2000	5.406.043	5.511.414	10.917.457
2001	5.421.043	5.528.910	10.949.953
2002	5.439.332	5.548.227	10.987.559
2003	5.456.496	5.567.036	11.023.532
2004	5.475.529	5.586.206	11.061.735

**Population pyramid in the mid of the year 2004**



## 2. Marriage and divorce

The crude marriage rate in 2004, decreased and reached the level of 4.6 marriages per 1000 head of population, while in 2003 and 2002 was 5.5 and 5.3 respectively, compared with 7.3 at the beginning of the eighties.

The cumulated first marriage frequency for women aged under 50 showed a downward trend during the eighties, from 0,87 in 1980 reaching 0.68 in 2003 and 0.57 in 2004. This trend has adversely affected the number of births.

The mean age of women at first marriage gradually increased during the decade, from 24.1 years in 1991, to 27.6 years in 2003 and 27.8 years in 2004 (Table 3).

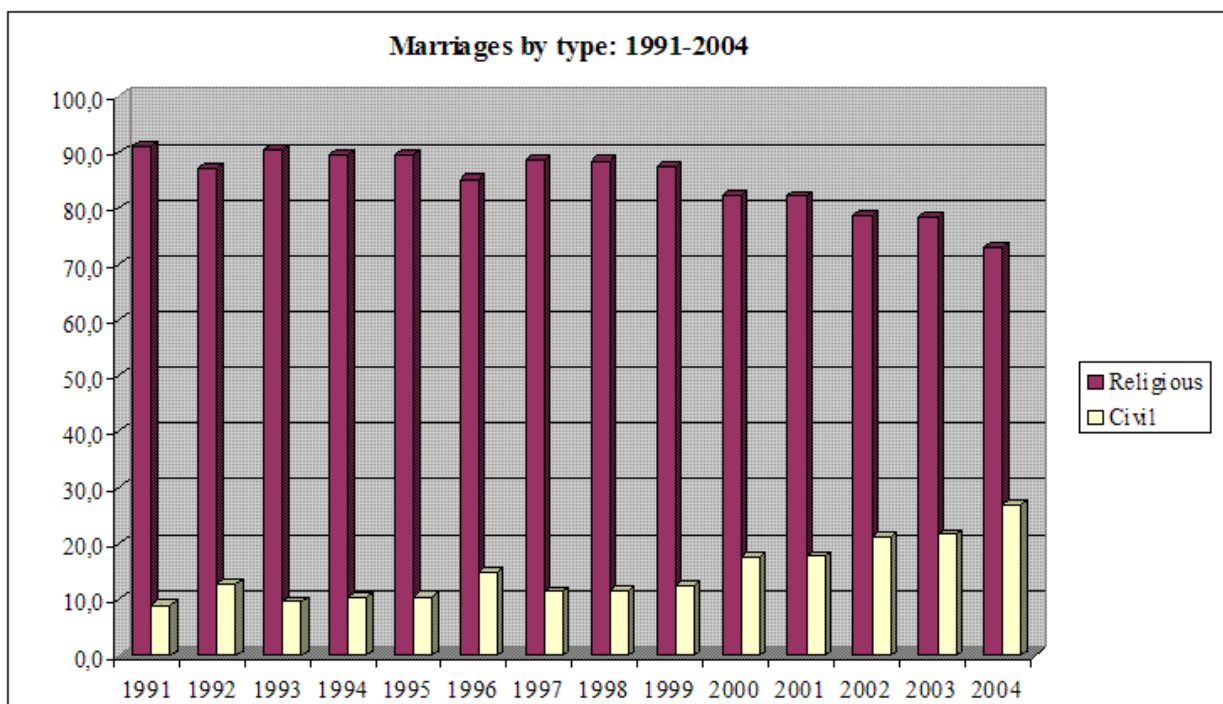
The divorce rate has shown an upward trend, from 124.2 divorces per 1000 marriages in 1993, to 197.0 in 2003 and 239.5 divorces in 2004.

The overall divorce rate fluctuated during the eighties. This could be partly attributed to the establishment of divorce by mutual consent and the principle of “irretrievable breakdown of marriage”, which simplify divorce proceedings. While until 1984 the overall divorce rate remained stable at the level of 8 divorces per 100 marriages, it showed an increase between 8 and 10 divorces over the period 1984 – 1992. Between the years 1993 and 1994 it showed a light increase of 10 divorces per 100 marriages, from the year 1995 showed a greater increase reaching the 15 divorces per 100 marriages until the year 1997, while from the year 2003 it jumped at 20 divorces and 21 for the year 2004.

The crude divorce rate showed the same trend during the eighties, fluctuating between 0.6 and 0.9 divorces per 1000 head of population, stabilizing at 0.6 for the period (1990 – 1992) but it increased at 1.1 in 2003 and 2004.

**Table 2. Marriages by type : 1991 – 2004**

Year	Absolute numbers			Marriages			
	Total	Religious	Civil	Percentage %		Percentage ‰	
				Religious	Civil	Religious	Civil
1991	65.568	59.710	5.858	91	9	911	89
1992	48.631	42.406	6.225	87	13	872	128
1993	62.195	56.204	5.991	90	10	904	96
1994	56.813	50.889	5.924	90	10	896	104
1995	63.987	57.258	6.729	89	11	895	105
1996	45.408	38.670	6.738	85	15	852	148
1997	60.535	53.652	6.883	89	11	886	114
1998	55.489	49.081	6.408	88	12	885	115
1999	61.165	53.495	7.670	87	13	875	125
2000	48.880	40.269	8.611	82	18	824	176
2001	58.491	48.087	10.404	82	18	822	178
2002	57.872	45.578	12.294	79	21	788	212
2003	61.081	47.871	13.210	78	22	784	216
2004	51.377	37.496	13.881	73	27	730	270



### 3. Fertility

In 2004, fertility in Greece showed a slight decrease compared with the previous years. Generally the crude birth rate showed a downward trend between 1993 – 2002, falling from 9.7 births per 1000 head of population in 1993 to 9.5 births in 2003 and 9.6 births in 2004 (Table 4).

The total fertility rate declined steadily over the past decade and until the end of 2003. From 2.09 births per mother in 1981 - just below the replacement level (2.1) - it decreased to 1.34 in 1993 and after following a downward trend reached at 1.29 in 2003 and at 1.31 in the year 2004, remaining well below the replacement level. The net production rate, which corresponds to the overall fertility rate, was 639 daughters in 1993, 609 in 2003 and 618 in 2004, continuing the downward trend in this index.

The evolution of the fertility trend had an adverse effect on the country's natural population increase, the birth surplus having fallen steadily from 4,380 in 1993, to -1,109 in 2003 and increased again at 713 individuals in 2004.

The age specific fertility index for the last ten years (1995 – 2004) shows a shift away from the 20 – 24 age group (which has been the most fertile group from the beginning of the decade until 1988) to the older age groups and particularly the 25 – 29s.

This is related to the increase by some three years in the average age of women at first marriage. The mean age of mother at the birth of first child having stabilized at 23 years at the beginning of the eighties, started to rise from 1985 and on, reaching 28.2 years in 2003 and 28.5 years in 2004.

**Table 3. Mean age of wife and mean age of mother : 1991 – 2004**

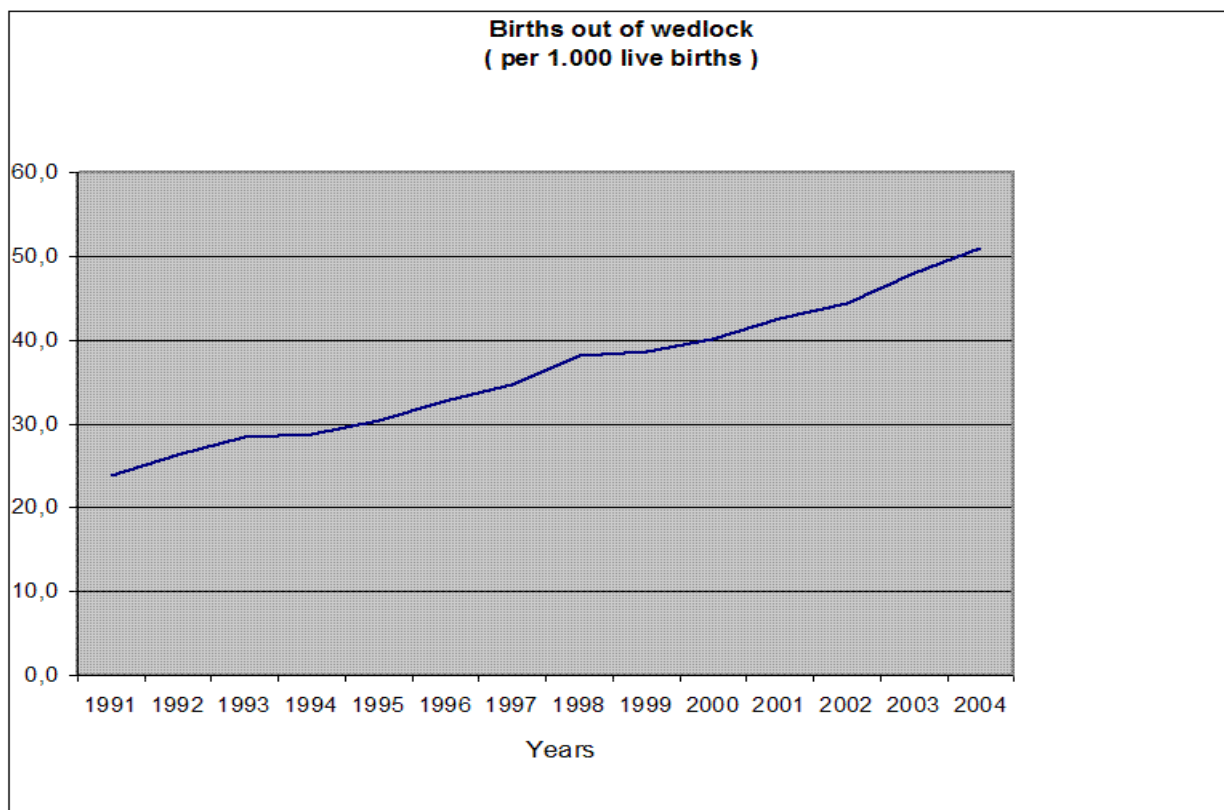
Year	M e a n   a g e			
	Of wife	Of wife at first marriage	Of mother	Of mother at birth of first child
1991	24,5	24,1	26,9	25,0
1992	24,9	24,4	27,1	25,4
1993	25,2	24,7	27,4	25,9
1994	25,6	25,1	27,6	26,0
1995	25,9	25,3	27,8	26,4
1996	26,3	25,7	28,1	26,6
1997	26,6	26,1	28,4	26,8
1998	26,9	26,3	28,6	27,1
1999	27,1	26,5	28,8	27,3
2000	27,4	26,8	29,5	27,9
2001	27,6	27,0	29,3	27,7
2002	27,9	27,3	29,5	28,0
2003	28,1	27,6	29,7	28,2
2004	28,4	27,8	30,0	28,5

The number of births by birth order has decreased proportionately over the years 1993 – 2004, meaning that the ration of birth by order has remained about the same.

Births outside marriage showed a considerable increase in 2004 at 5,382, the ratio of births outside marriage rising to 50.9 per 1000 live births, as compared with 5,019 (48.1) in 2003 and 2,887 (28.4) in 1993 (Table 4).

**Table 4. Live births : 1991 – 2004**

Year	Live births		Births in wedlock		Births out of wedlock	
	Absolute numbers	Per 1.000 persons	Absolute numbers	Per 1.000 live births	Absolute numbers	Per 1.000 live births
1991	102.620	10,0	100.173	976,2	2.447	23,8
1992	104.081	10,0	101.336	973,6	2.745	26,4
1993	101.799	9,7	98.912	971,6	2.887	28,4
1994	103.763	9,8	100.781	971,3	2.982	28,7
1995	101.495	9,5	98.412	969,6	3.083	30,4
1996	100.718	9,4	97.428	967,3	3.290	32,7
1997	102.038	9,5	98.506	965,4	3.532	34,6
1998	100.894	9,3	97.052	961,9	3.842	38,1
1999	100.643	9,2	96.753	961,3	3.890	38,7
2000	103.274	9,5	99.119	959,8	4.148	40,2
2001	102.282	9,3	97.930	957,5	4.352	42,5
2002	103.569	9,4	98.969	955,6	4.600	44,4
2003	104.420	9,5	99.401	951,9	5.019	48,1
2004	105.655	9,6	100.273	949,1	5.382	50,9



#### 4. Mortality

The crude mortality rate rose moderately yet steadily during the eighties and nineties from 8.9 deaths per 1000 head of population in 1981 and 9.3 in 1993 to 9.5 in 2004 (table 5). This slight increase was due mainly to the rise in the number of deaths amongst the over 75s, caused by the ageing of the population. The specific by age and sex mortality rates showed a stable downward trend except the women aged 80 years and more.

The average age of death, which in 1993 was 71.6 for men and 77.2 for women, increased steadily by almost two years over the last decade, to 73.1 years for men and 79.1 years for women in 2004, as compared with 73.1 and 79.3 respectively in 2003.

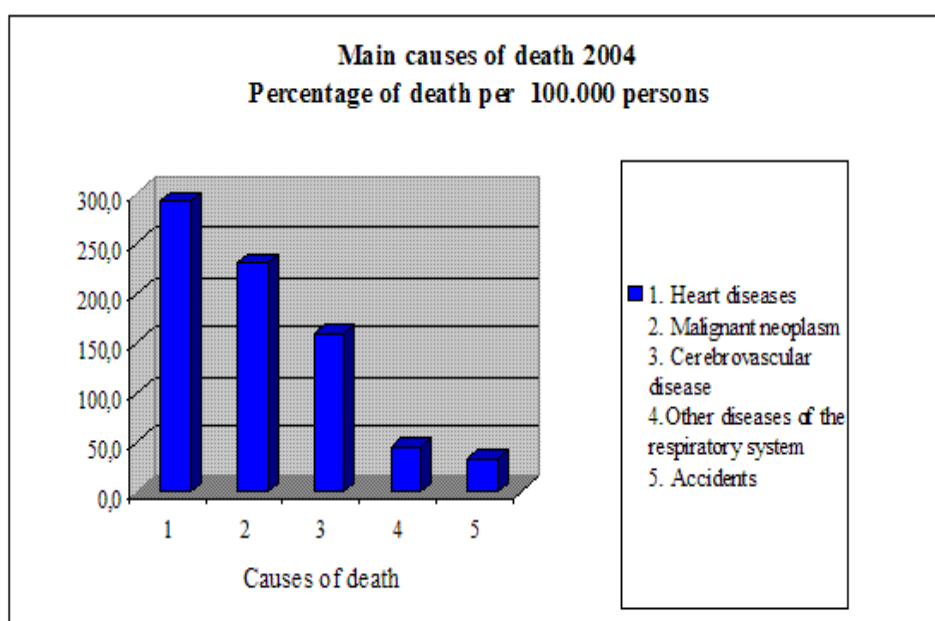
The infant mortality rate gradually declined, the steady annual decrease bringing the figure down from 8.5 deaths per 1000 live births in 1993, to 4.0 deaths in 2003 and 4.1 deaths in 2004 (table 5).

**Table 5. Deaths : 1991 – 2004**

Year	Deaths		Infant deaths	
	Absolute numbers	Per 1.000 persons	Absolute numbers	Per 1.000 live births
1991	95.498	9,3	927	9,0
1992	98.231	9,5	871	8,4
1993	97.419	9,3	864	8,5
1994	97.807	9,3	823	7,9
1995	100.158	9,4	827	8,1
1996	100.740	9,4	730	7,2
1997	99.738	9,3	657	6,4
1998	102.668	9,5	674	6,7
1999	103.304	9,5	619	6,2
2000	105.170	9,6	561	5,4
2001	102.559	9,4	522	5,1
2002	103.915	9,5	530	5,1
2003	105.529	9,6	420	4,0
2004	104.942	9,5	429	4,1

Expectation of life at birth, showed an increase for men, from 75.0 years in 1993, to 76.6 in 2004 and for women from 79.9 years to 81.5 years in 2004, thus reduced the gap between men and women to 4.9 years.

As regards to the causes of death over the 1993 – 2004 period, first position was held by heart diseases, followed (in decreasing order) by neoplasm's, cerebrovascular diseases and diseases of the respiratory system, the fifth position being held by accidents.



## 5. Demographic projections

According to the last available population projections (which based on the last population census ) the total population of Greece will be 10,778,997 people in the year 2050 ( main variant ) . The age structure will be different than 2000 : The proportion of children (0 – 14 year of age) will drop from 15.3% in 2000 to 12.1% in 2050, while the group of persons at pension age (65 years and over) will increase to 31.5% in 2050, from 16.6 in 2000. The active population (15 – 64 years of age) will decrease 11.7 percentage points from 68.1% in 2000, to 56.4 in 2050. To product these projections used three variants (high, main, low) and period approach. In the low variant considered low fertility ( TFR=1.19 in 2050), slow increase in life expectancy (Life expectancy at birth 78.2 for males and 83.2 for females in 2050) and reduction of migration. In the high variant considered high fertility ( TFR=1.89 in 2050), fast increase in life expectancy (Life expectancy at birth 82.9 for males and 87.6 for females in 2050) and further migration increase. The main variant is the average of the other two variants.

For further information on data:

Andritsopoulou Lemonia

Tel : 0030 210 4852878

Fax : 0030 210 4852948

E-mail : [andritsl@statistics.gr](mailto:andritsl@statistics.gr)



