



HELLENIC REPUBLIC



HELLENIC STATISTICAL AUTHORITY

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PRESS RELEASE

NON-RESIDENT ARRIVALS FROM ABROAD: January - December 2012

According to the Border Statistical Survey conducted by the Bank of Greece, in the period January-December of 2012, arrivals of non-residents from abroad decreased by 5,5%, as compared with the same period of the year 2011.

More specifically, in January-December 2012 arrivals from Europe, which account for the majority of arrivals of non-residents to Greece (89,3%), registered a 5,5% decrease reflecting the same decrease observed for total arrivals, while arrivals from the Member States of the European Union recorded a decrease of 8,5%. Arrivals from Poland, France, Germany, Belgium, Italy, Bulgaria and Netherlands showed a significant decrease in absolute values. On the other hand, a significant increase in the total of arrivals was observed in the cases of United Kingdom and Russia. As regards the participation of non-resident arrivals by country of origin, the largest number of arrivals came from Germany (13,6%), United Kingdom (12,4%) and France (6,3%). Moreover, the corresponding data for the rest of the continents show a significant decrease in arrivals, in absolute values, from America, while an increase in absolute values is recorded for arrivals from Asia (Table 1).

As regards the means of transportation and the point of entry, the data show that most arrivals are by air. During the aforementioned time period the airport with the largest share of traffic is Athens (17,1%) and then follow the airport of Irakleio (13,3%) and Rodos (10,3%) (Table 3).

More analytical data for the period *January-December 2012 and 2011 respectively*, are provided in the attached tables and charts and these can also be found on the portal of ELSTAT (www.statistics.gr, under the link Statistical Themes\Tousism).

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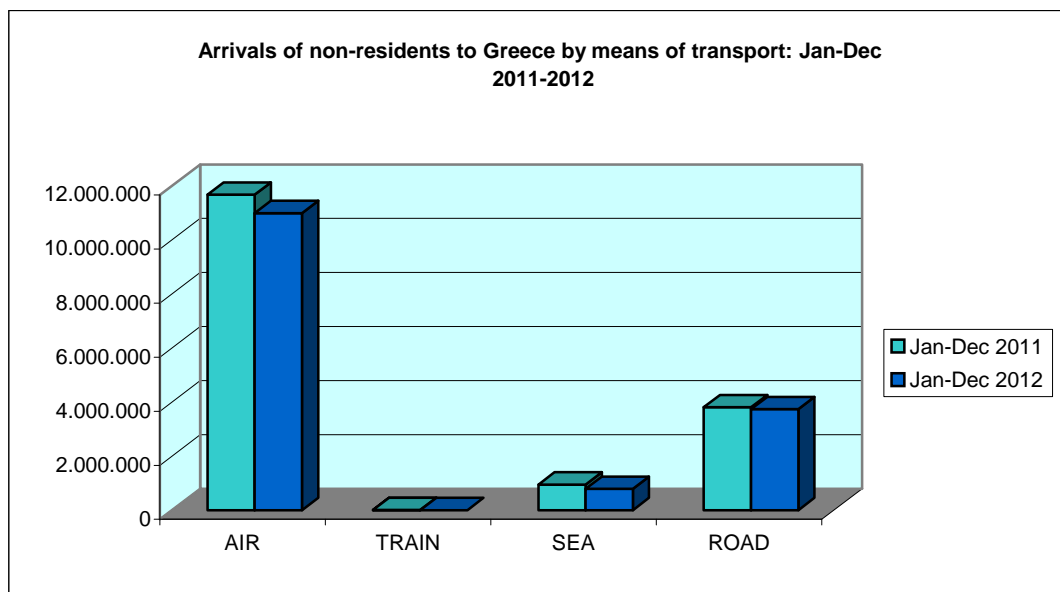
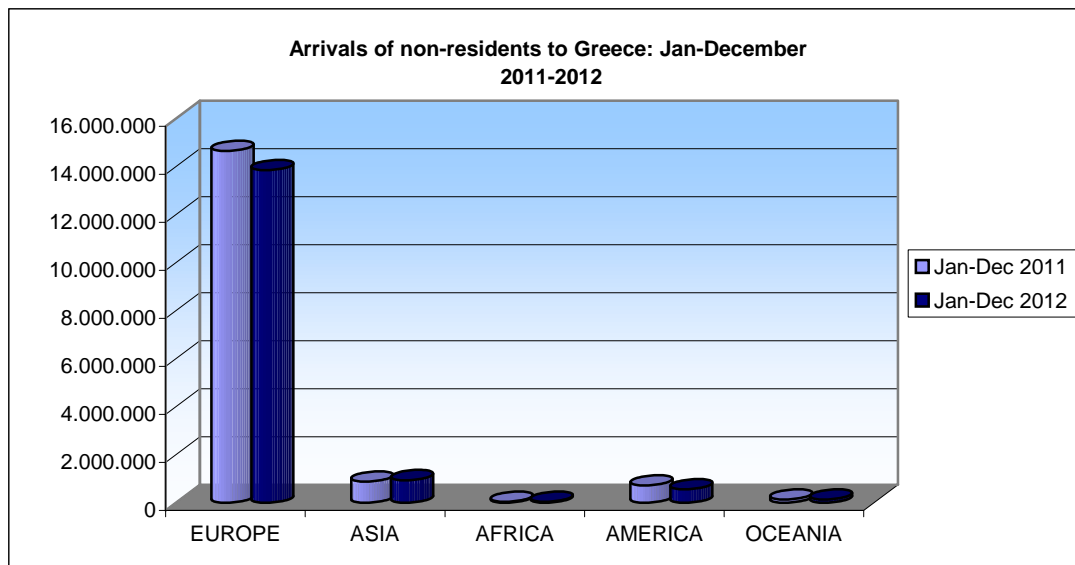


Table 1: Arrivals of non-residents from abroad by country of residence: January - December 2012

Analysis by country of residence	Jan-Dec.		% change	% share	
	2011	2012	2012/2011	2011	2012
EUROPE	14.651.513	13.851.064	-5,5	89,2%	89,3%
EUROPEAN UNION	10.698.013	9.791.909	-8,5	65,1%	63,1%
Austria	310.358	236.416	-23,8	1,9%	1,5%
Belgium	432.625	326.937	-24,4	2,6%	2,1%
Bulgaria	686.209	599.110	-12,7	4,2%	3,9%
France	1.149.388	977.376	-15,0	7,0%	6,3%
Germany	2.240.481	2.108.787	-5,9	13,6%	13,6%
Denmark	244.986	205.194	-16,2	1,5%	1,3%
Estonia	9.862	4.757	-51,8	0,1%	0,0%
United Kingdom	1.758.093	1.920.794	9,3	10,7%	12,4%
Ireland	58.939	32.357	-45,1	0,4%	0,2%
Spain	154.774	155.722	0,6	0,9%	1,0%
Italy	938.232	848.073	-9,6	5,7%	5,5%
Cyprus	439.757	424.827	-3,4	2,7%	2,7%
Latvia	7.846	15.300	95,0	0,0%	0,1%
Lithuania	13.666	21.601	58,1	0,1%	0,1%
Luxemburg	28.475	15.192	-46,6	0,2%	
Malta	1.368	2.206	61,3	0,0%	0,0%
Netherlands	560.723	478.483	-14,7	3,4%	3,1%
Hungary	69.756	69.789	0,0	0,4%	0,4%
Poland	450.618	254.682	-43,5	2,7%	1,6%
Portugal	34.642	20.483	-40,9	0,2%	0,1%
Romania	223.699	230.396	3,0	1,4%	1,5%
Slovakia	41.788	44.782	7,2	0,3%	0,3%
Slovenia	31.130	35.721	14,7	0,2%	0,2%
Sweden	333.906	319.756	-4,2	2,0%	2,1%
Czech Republic	309.062	289.034	-6,5	1,9%	1,9%
Finland	167.632	154.134	-8,1	1,0%	1,0%
Albania	411.245	469.213	14,1	2,5%	3,0%
Switzerland	361.405	299.619	-17,1	2,2%	1,9%
Norway	226.627	294.114	29,8	1,4%	1,9%
Iceland	0	2.059	-	0,0%	0,0%
Russia	738.927	874.787	18,4	4,5%	5,6%
Serbia-Montenegro	692.059	620.450	-10,3	4,2%	4,0%
Other European countries	1.523.236	1.498.913	-1,6	9,3%	9,7%
ASIA	882.643	937.050	6,2	5,4%	6,0%
Japan	10.125	8.841	-12,7	0,1%	0,1%
Iran	8748	13.631	55,8	0,1%	0,1%
Israel	226.110	207.711	-8,1	1,4%	1,3%
China	15.838	12.203	-23,0	0,1%	0,1%
Lebanon-Syria	4.916	12.846	161,3	0,0%	0,1%
S.Korea	1.846	6.101	230,5	0,0%	0,0%
Turkey	552.090	602.306	9,1	3,4%	3,9%
Other Middle East countries	18.399	18.062	-1,8	0,1%	0,1%
Other Asian countries	44.572	55.351	24,2	0,3%	0,4%
AFRICA	38.450	37.411	-2,7	0,2%	0,2%
Egypt-Sudan	4.675	4.724	1,0	0,0%	0,0%
South Africa	21.981	19.686	-10,4	0,1%	0,1%
Other African countries	11.794	13.002	10,2	0,1%	0,1%
AMERICA	719.661	558.728	-22,4	4,4%	3,6%
Argentina	13.834	20.207	46,1	0,1%	0,1%
Brazil	52.118	31.125	-40,3	0,3%	0,2%
Mexico	5.532	8.067	45,8	0,0%	0,1%
United States	484.708	373.831	-22,9	3,0%	2,4%
Canada	142.287	102.694	-27,8	0,9%	0,7%
Other American countries	21.182	22.805	7,7	0,1%	0,1%
OCEANIA	134.979	133.368	-1,2	0,8%	0,9%
Australia	115.902	117.852	1,7	0,7%	0,8%
Other Oceanian countries	19.077	15.516	-18,7	0,1%	0,1%
Arrivals of non-residents	16.427.247	15.517.622	-5,5	100,0%	100,0%
Non identifiable countries ⁽¹⁾	0	0	-	-	-
TOTAL ARRIVALS	16.427.247	15.517.622	-5,5	100,0%	100,0%

Source: Border Survey of the Bank of Greece.

(1) Data refer to arrivals through railway border stations. During January - December 2012 no data collected on arrivals by train.

Table 2: Arrivals of non-residents from abroad by country of residence and means of transport: Jan.-December 2012

Analysis by country of residence	AIR	RAILWAY ⁽¹⁾	SEA	ROAD	TOTAL
EUROPE	9.936.708	0	701.761	3.212.595	13.851.064
EUROPEAN UNION	8.312.120	0	651.128	828.661	9.791.909
Austria	208598	0	20453	7366	236.416
Belgium	317705	0	6567	2665	326.937
Bulgaria	39867	0	107732	451511	599.110
France	926367	0	49894	1115	977.376
Germany	1801250	0	108003	199535	2.108.787
Denmark	201596	0	2186	1412	205.194
Estonia	4757	0	0	0	4.757
United Kingdom	1895316	0	23194	2284	1.920.794
Ireland	31387	0	971	0	32.357
Spain	151028	0	4693	0	155.722
Italy	612960	0	233303	1810	848.073
Cyprus	423015	0	1812	0	424.827
Latvia	15300	0	0	0	15.300
Lithuania	19771	0	1573	258	21.601
Luxemburg	14851	0	341	0	15.192
Malta	1875	0	331	0	
Netherlands	459966	0	16888	1629	478.483
Hungary	44914	0	10174	14700	69.789
Poland	219784	0	14878	20020	254.682
Portugal	20116	0	367	0	20.483
Romania	97859	0	33080	99457	230.396
Slovakia	41244	0	984	2555	44.782
Slovenia	24502	0	6495	4725	35.721
Sweden	306617	0	2793	10345	319.756
Czech Republic	277639	0	4122	7274	289.034
Finland	153838	0	296	0	154.134
Albania	23929	0	2481	442802	469.213
Switzerland	268320	0	31300	0	299.619
Norway	292729	0	466	919	294.114
Iceland	2059	0	0	0	2.059
Russia	859942	0	3244	11601	874.787
Serbia-Montenegro	47705	0	1606	571139	620.450
Other European countries	129904	0	11536	1357473	1.498.913
ASIA	345942	0	72357	518751	937.050
Japan	6460	0	2380	0	8.841
Iran	3301	0	9136	1194	13631,11036
Israel	207558	0	0	153	207.711
China	11745	0	458	0	12.203
Lebanon-Syria	12846	0	0	0	12.846
S.Korea	4957	0	1144	0	6.101
Turkey	34989	0	57741	509576	602.306
Other Middle East countries	17869	0	193	0	18.062
Other Asian countries	46217	0	1305	7828	55.351
AFRICA	37018	0	207	186	37.411
Egypt-Sudan	4538	0	0	186	4.724
South Africa	19686	0	0	0	19.686
Other African countries	12795	0	207	0	13.002
AMERICA	550182	0	8547	0	558.728
Argentina	19804	0	402	0	20.207
Brazil	30871	0	254	0	31.125
Mexico	8067	0	0	0	8.067
United States	369239	0	4592	0	373.831
Canada	100048	0	2646	0	102.694
Other American countries	22153	0	652	0	22.805
OCEANIA	123053	0	7598	2717	133.368
Australia	108997	0	6766	2089	117.852
Other Oceanian countries	14056	0	832	628	15.516
Non-identifiable countries travelers	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL ARRIVALS	10.992.903	0	790.469	3.734.249	15.517.622

Source: Border Survey of the Bank of Greece.

Table 3: Arrivals of non-residents from abroad by means of transport and entry station: January - December 2012

Station of entrance	Jan - December		% change	% share	
	2011	2012	2012/2011	2011	2012
AIR	11.671.155	10.992.903	-5,8%	71,0%	70,8%
Athens	3.123.631	2.651.062	-15,1%	19,0%	17,1%
Zakynthos	446.824	370.729	-17,0%	2,7%	2,4%
Irakleio	2.137.230	2.067.475	-3,3%	13,0%	13,3%
Thessaloniki	869.929	901.573	3,6%	5,3%	5,8%
Kerkyra	772.607	824.000	6,7%	4,7%	5,3%
Kos	843.171	788.971	-6,4%	5,1%	5,1%
Rodos	1.717.477	1.593.298	-7,2%	10,5%	10,3%
Santorini	178.681	178.922	0,1%	1,1%	1,2%
Chania	652.058	681.497	4,5%	4,0%	4,4%
Other stations	929.548	935.375	0,6%	5,7%	6,0%
RAILWAY ⁽¹⁾	3.765	0	-	-	-
Promachon (Serres)	0	0	-	-	-
Railway stations (non-sampled)	3.765	0	-	-	-
SEA	947.848	790.469	-16,6%	5,8%	5,1%
Igoumenitsa	363.223	360.186	-0,8%	2,2%	2,3%
Kerkyra	93.223	64.944	-30,3%	0,6%	0,4%
Patra	269.080	189.219	-29,7%	1,6%	1,2%
Other stations	222.322	176.120	-20,8%	1,4%	1,1%
ROAD	3.804.479	3.734.249	-1,8%	23,2%	24,1%
Evzoni (Kilkis)	1.483.199	1.494.351	0,8%	9,0%	9,6%
Kakavia (Ioannina)	237.874	276.181	16,1%	1,4%	1,8%
Kipi (Evros)	328.323	347.905	6,0%	2,0%	2,2%
Promachon (Serres)	475.435	377.894	-20,5%	2,9%	2,4%
Road stations non-sample	1.279.648	1.237.919	-3,3%	7,8%	8,0%
TOTAL ARRIVALS	16.427.247	15.517.622	-5,5%	100,0%	100,0%

Source: Border Survey of the Bank of Greece.

(1) During January-December 2012, there was no sampling for arrivals by railway.

Explanatory Notes

Arrivals in Greece of non-residents from abroad

The "Border Survey", which is carried out by the Bank of Greece, among others collects data on "non-resident arrivals in Greece". These data are used by the Hellenic Statistical Authority under a "Memorandum of Cooperation", for the production of three tables for non-resident arrivals, by country of citizenship, means of transportation and entry station. The reasons for this cooperation are summarized below:

ELSTAT is responsible for collecting, processing and publishing data on arrivals of foreigners in Greece. Until Schengen Treaty was entered into force, a key source of information on arrivals was the data from the passport control, which was conducted by the responsible authorities of the Ministry of Public Order, at the entry stations of the country. The Schengen Treaty and the expansion of the European Union, abolished the passport control for the majority of the passengers entering Greece. For these reasons, the estimation of the arrivals of foreigners in Greece became a complicated procedure, combining data from many different sources (Civil Aviation Authority, Ministry of Public Order, other surveys of ELSTAT and Eurostat).

The latter causes problems on:

- The timely publication of the data, because of the time lags in the availability of the primary data
- The methodological link of these data
- The correlation of the data announced by ELSTAT for the "arrivals of foreigners in Greece" and the data announced by the BoG for the "travel expenses of non-residents in Greece".

For these reasons, after examining methodological and practical issues, it was decided the cooperation between the **BoG** and the ELSTAT, so that the estimation and data availability for non-resident arrivals in Greece would:

- be made from one body, so as to provide single, accurate and timely information to users
- come from the ongoing "Border Survey" by BoG, which is, methodologically and practically, the best method for accurate estimations of non-resident arrivals. Hence it will be the only source for these data that will be published by ELSTAT

In this way we avoid carrying out two different surveys, by two different bodies, on the same subject.

Legal framework

Since 2003, the Bank of Greece, for the needs of the balance of payments, is being conducting a monthly sample "Border Survey" to estimate the travel expenses of non-residents in Greece and the corresponding Greek expenditure abroad. This survey is the source of the data of non-resident arrivals in Greece.

Reporting period

January - December 2012

Availability Results

Data are available from the third quarter of 2009. The data are published four months after the reference quarter.

Definitions

- Resident of Greece is:

1. Every person, regardless of nationality, residing or intends to reside for at least one year in Greece
 2. Each entity that has its headquarters in Greece and foreign entities that are established and operating in Greece
- Non-resident, is any individual or entity that is not residing in Greece.

These concepts of residents and non-residents have merely a statistical content and adopt the definitions proposed by the United Nations (System of National Accounts - SNA 1993), Annex XIV, paragraph 14 B) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF - Handbook for the compilation of the balance of payments, 5th edition, 1993).

Methodology

Border Survey is a sample survey of incoming (non-residents) and outgoing (residents) travellers, with main objective to estimate the travel expenses of non-residents in Greece and that of residents abroad, on a monthly basis. The data are collected from interviews conducted at the end of the journey, that is during the departure of non-residents from Greece and the return of residents from abroad. In addition to the interviews, it is recorded the number and the residence of travellers entering and leaving the borders.

The survey covers the movement of travellers, outgoing and incoming, at every type of border station (airports, ports, road and rail border points).

The methodology of the "Border Survey" is presented in detail in the Economic Bulletin of the Bank of Greece: Issue 27, July 2006, p. 71-119. "

Wherever necessary, the data have been rounded to the next final digit. Thus, a slight difference may be noted between the sum of the figures and their total.

References

More information about the non-resident arrivals in Greece can be found on the portal of the Hellenic Statistical Authority (www.statistics.gr), at the sections: Statistical Themes - Tourism.