

Greece (GRC)

SDDS - DQAF View

Category: Price index: Consumer prices

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H.Header data

H.0.7 Data category notes

[Data category notes]

0. Prerequisites

0.1 Legal environment

0.1.1 Responsibility for collecting, processing, and disseminating statistics

[Laws and administrative arrangements specifying the responsibility for collecting, processing, and disseminating statistics]

The legal framework concerning the organization and operation of ELSTAT is as follows:

- Law 3832/2010 (Government Gazette No 38, Issue A): "Hellenic Statistical System Establishment of the Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT) as an Independent Authority", as amended by article 90 paragraphs 8 and 9 of the Law 3842/2010 (Government Gazette No 58, Issue A): "Restoration of fiscal justice, confrontation of tax evasion and other provisions", by article 10 of the Law 3899/2010 (Government Gazette No 212, Issue A): "Urgent measures for the implementation of the assistance program of the Greek Economy", by article 45 of the Law 3943/2011 (Government Gazette No 66, Issue A): "Combating tax evasion, staffing of auditing services and other provisions falling within the competence of the Ministry of Finance", by article 22 paragraph 1 of the Law 3965/2011 (Government Gazette No 113, Issue A): "Operations Reform of the Consignment and Loan Fund, Public Debt Management Agency, Public Enterprises and Government bodies, the establishment of the General Secretary of Public Property and other provisions", by article first of the Law 4047/2012 (Government Gazette No 31, Issue A): "Ratification of the Act of Legislative Content "Very urgent measures for the implementation of the Medium-term Fiscal Strategy 2012-2015 and of the State Budget for 2011" and of the Act of Legislative Content "Regulation of very urgent issues for the implementation of law 4024/2011 "Pension provisions, uniform pay scale - grading system, labour reserve and other provisions for the implementation of the Medium-term Fiscal Strategy Framework 2012-2015" and of issues falling within the competence of the Ministries of Administrative Reform and E-Governance, Interior, Finance, Environment, Energy and Climate Change, and of Education, Lifelong Learning and Religious Affairs and related to the implementation of the Medium-term Fiscal Strategy Framework 2012-2015" and other provisions", by article 323 of the Law 4072/2012 (Government Gazette No 86, Issue A): "Improvement of the business environment New corporate form - Trade Marks - Realtors - Regulating maritime, port and fishing matters and other provisions" by article 7 paragraph 1 of the Act of Legislative Content dated 18/11/2012 (Government Gazette No 228, Issue A): "Financial rules and

other provisions", by Article 93 of the Law 4182/2013 (Government Gazette No 185, Issue A): "*Code of charitable estate, inheritances in abeyance and other provisions*", by Article 6 paragraph 8 of the Law 4244/2014 (Government Gazette 60, Issue A): "*Integration in Greek law of the Council Directive 2013/1/EU of 20 December 2012 amending Directive 93/109/EC as regards certain detailed arrangements for the exercise of the right to vote and stand as a candidate in elections to the European Parliament for citizens of the Union residing in a Member State of which they are not nationals and amendment of law 2196/1994 (A' 41) and other provisions*", by Article first subparagraph C.3 of the Law 4254/2014 (Government Gazette No 85, Issue A): "*Measures for the support and development of the Greek economy, in the context of the implementation of Law 4046/2012, and other provisions of law*" and by Article 33, paragraphs 5a and 5b of the Law 4258/2014 (Government Gazette No 94, Issue A): "*Demarcation process and arrangements of matters for streams - arrangements of Urban Planning legislation and other provisions*"..

Regulation on the Operation and Administration of the Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT), 2012, (Government Gazette No 2390, Issue B, 28-8-2012)

Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council, on the European statistics (Official Journal of the European Union L 87/164).

Article 14 of the Law 3470/2006 (Government Gazette No 132, Issue A): "*National Export Council, tax regulations and other provisions*".

Article 3, paragraph 1c, of the Law 3448/2006 (Government Gazette No 57, Issue A): "*For the further use of information coming from the public sector and the settlement of matters falling within the responsibility of the Ministry of Interior, Public Administration and Decentralization*".

European Statistics Code of Practice, adopted by the Statistical Programme Committee on 24 February 2005 and promulgated in the Commission Recommendation of 25 May 2005 on the independence, integrity and accountability of the national and Community statistical Authorities, after its revision, which was adopted on 28 September 2011 by the European Statistical System Committee.

Presidential Decree 226/2000 (Government Gazette No 195, Issue A): "*Organization of the General Secretariat of the National Statistical Service of Greece*".

Articles 4, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16 of the Law 2392/1996 (Government Gazette No 60, Issue A): "*Access of the General Secretariat of the National Statistical Service of Greece to administrative sources and administrative files, Statistical Confidentiality Committee, settlement of matters concerning the conduct of censuses and statistical works, as well as of matters of the General Secretariat of the National Statistical Service of Greece*".

In addition to the above legal framework the framework of Council Regulation (EC) No 2494/95 "for the establishment of Harmonized Indices of Consumer Prices" and other nineteen (19) related Council and Commission EC Regulations have been adopted so far and lay down particular implementing measures governing the compilation of HICPs, which are obligatory to be followed by the Member States.

0.1.2 Data sharing and coordination among data producing agencies

[Data sharing and coordination among data producing agencies are adequate.]

ELSTAT is the sole producer of this index.

0.1.3 Confidentiality of individual reporters' data

[Measures ensuring individual reporters' data are kept confidential and used for statistical purposes only.]

The issues concerning the observance of statistical confidentiality by the Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT) are arranged by articles 7, 8 and 9 of the Law 3832/2010 as in force, by Articles 8, 10 and 11(2) of the Regulation on Statistical Obligations of the agencies of the Hellenic Statistical System and by Articles 10 and 15 of the Regulation on the Operation and Administration of ELSTAT.

More precisely:

ELSTAT disseminates the statistics in compliance with the statistical principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice and in particular with the principle of statistical confidentiality.

ELSTAT protects and does not disseminate data it has obtained or it has access to, which enable the direct or indirect identification of the statistical units that have provided them by the disclosure of individual information directly received for statistical purposes or indirectly supplied from administrative or other sources. ELSTAT takes all appropriate preventive measures so as to render impossible the identification of individual statistical units by technical or other means that might reasonably be used by a third party. Statistical data that could potentially enable the identification of the statistical unit are disseminated by ELSTAT if and only if:

- a) these data have been treated, as it is specifically set out in the Regulation on Statistical Obligations of the agencies of the Hellenic Statistical System (ELSS), in such a way that their dissemination does not prejudice statistical confidentiality or
- b) the statistical unit has given its consent, without any reservations, for the disclosure of data.

The confidential data that are transmitted by ELSS agencies to ELSTAT are used exclusively for statistical purposes and the only persons who have the right to have access to these data are the personnel engaged in this task and appointed by an act of the President of ELSTAT.

ELSTAT may grant researchers conducting statistical analyses for scientific purposes access to data that enable the indirect identification of the statistical units concerned. The access is granted provided the following conditions are satisfied:

- a) an appropriate request together with a detailed research proposal in conformity with current scientific standards have been submitted;
- b) the research proposal indicates in sufficient detail the set of data to be accessed, the methods of analyzing them, and the time needed for the research;
- c) a contract specifying the conditions for access, the obligations of the researchers, the measures for respecting the confidentiality of statistical data and the sanctions in case of breach of these obligations has been signed by the individual researcher, by his/her institution, or by the organization commissioning the research, as the case may be, and by ELSTAT.

Issues referring to the observance of statistical confidentiality are examined by the Statistical Confidentiality Committee (SCC) operating in ELSTAT. The responsibilities of this Committee are to make recommendations to the President of ELSTAT on:

- the level of detail at which statistical data can be disseminated, so as the identification, either directly or indirectly, of the surveyed statistical unit is not possible;
- the anonymization criteria for the microdata provided to users;
- the granting to researchers access to confidential data for scientific purposes.

The staff of ELSTAT, under any employment status, as well as the temporary survey workers who are employed for the collection of statistical data in statistical surveys conducted by ELSTAT, who acquire access by any means to confidential data, are bound by the principle of confidentiality and must use these data exclusively for the statistical purposes of ELSTAT. After the termination of their term of office, they are not allowed to use these data for any purpose.

Violation of data confidentiality and/or statistical confidentiality by any civil servant or employee of ELSTAT constitutes the disciplinary offence of violation of duty and may be punished with the penalty of final dismissal.

ELSTAT, by its decision, may impose a penalty amounting from ten thousand (10,000) up to two hundred thousand (200,000) euros to anyone who violates the confidentiality of data and/or statistical confidentiality. The penalty is always imposed after the hearing of the defense of the person liable for the breach, depending on the gravity and the repercussions of the violation. Any relapse constitutes an aggravating factor for the assessment of the administrative sanction.

0.1.4 Ensuring statistical reporting

[Legal mandates and/or measures to require or encourage statistical reporting.]

According to the Statistical Law 3832/10 as in force, individuals, associations of private persons and legal entities of private law are obliged to provide statistical information required by ELSTAT

0.2 Resources

0.2.1 Staff, facilities, computing resources, and financing

[Staff, facilities, computing resources, and financing for statistical programs currently available as well as what would be required for programmed statistical outputs.]

The persons employed are:

3 Senior statisticians (methodology, compilation, reporting, etc)

70 price collectors (5 ELSTAT employees, 65 independent partners)

2 persons informatics support (programming, data entry)

Computer and other material resources are considered adequate to perform the tasks.

Financing is covered by the ELSTAT budget.

0.2.2 Ensuring efficient use of resources

[Measures implemented to ensure efficient use of resources.]

Several measures are taken for the effective use of resources:

- Programming by target.
- Detail programming by period and by work phase.
- Monitoring of the timeliness by CPI responsible staff.

0.3 Relevance

0.3.1 Monitoring user requirements

[How the relevance and practical utility of existing statistics in meeting users' needs are monitored.]

User needs are monitored on a daily basis.

Additionally ELSTAT conducts a user satisfaction survey, as well as an annual users Congress in which all potential users are invited to express their opinion and their needs regarding Statistical data.

The results of the user satisfaction survey for the year 2013 are in the following link:

<http://www.statistics.gr/portal/page/portal/ESYE/BUCKET/General/ELSTATUserSatisfactionSurvey13.pdf>

Most important users are: European Union and other International Organizations (OECD, IMF, ECB, etc), as well as National Central Bank, government and other administrative authorities, several financial institutions, economic analysts, media and public.

0.4 Quality management

0.4.1 Quality policy

[Processes in place to focus on quality.]

Processes are in place to focus on quality.

Articles 1(4), 1(5), 1(6), 1(7), 2(2) and 6 of the Statistical Law 3832/2010 as in force, as well as Articles 2(1), 2(2) and 7 of the Regulation on Statistical Obligations of the ELSS agencies refer to the quality of ELSS statistics.

1. Publication of the Mission Statement of ELSTAT in ELSTAT's website.
2. Creation in the website of ELSTAT of a special webpage for the ELSS. This website contains, inter alia, the Greek Statistical Law, the Greek Commitment on Confidence in Statistics, the Regulation (EC) 223/2009 on European Statistics, the European Statistics Code of Practice, the Quality Assurance Framework of the European Statistical System (ESS QAF), the Regulation on Statistical Obligations of the ELSS agencies, the Regulation on the Operation and Administration of ELSTAT, the Quality Policy of ELSTAT

http://www.statistics.gr/portal/page/portal/ESYE/BUCKET/General/ELSTAT_Quality_Policy.pdf

and the Revision Policy of ELSTAT

http://www.statistics.gr/portal/page/portal/ESYE/BUCKET/General/ELSTAT_Revisions_Policy_22_5_2013_EN.pdf .

The Methodology, Analysis and Research Section of ELSTAT deals with issues related to quality management.

Creation in ELSTAT of a Committee for Monitoring and Managing the Quality of the Statistical

Works, with the participation of the President of ELSTAT, the two General Directors and the Directors of the competent Divisions of ELSTAT. The task of this Committee is to review the progress achieved concerning the conduct of the scheduled statistical works, to address any delays in their completion, as well as to identify and address any potential problems that may pose a risk to the quality and timeliness of the statistical product.

A new Quality, Code of Practice and Certification Section is envisaged in the draft Organization of ELSTAT. This would further improve the current organizational arrangements in managing quality.

Put in place of the Joint Overall Statistical Greek Action Plan (JOSGAP).

Adoption by ELSTAT of the Regulation on Statistical Obligations of the ELSS agencies and of the Regulation on the Operation and Administration of ELSTAT.

Selection of temporary survey workers (Heads of Census Sectors and Enumerators) for the conduct of the 2011 Buildings and Population – Housing Censuses through transparent, standardized procedures and according to meritocratic criteria.

Creation of an electronic Register of External Survey Workers who are utilized by ELSTAT for the collection of statistical data in the numerous statistical surveys conducted every year, as well as of a centralized and uniformly applied system for their ranking and for the assignment of surveys to them based on rules, transparent procedures, impartiality and meritocratic criteria.

Rationalization of the remuneration of External Survey Workers of ELSTAT, by implementing a standardized, rules-based remuneration policy. Creation of a special web page on ELSTAT's website providing information to External Survey Workers.

Development of a new system for programming and monitoring the progress of the statistical surveys/ works of ELSTAT (by developing a relevant computerized application), in order for ELSTAT to fully meet its European and national obligations, both in terms of timeliness and high quality.

Preparation for the certification as "official" of the statistics produced by the other ELSS Agencies with the support of Eurostat and the UK Statistics Authority: organization of a workshop for ELSTAT officials, with the support of the two aforementioned Agencies; development of a general methodological framework for the certification; setting out the requirements and the outline of the certification procedure of official statistics in the Regulation on the Operation and Administration of ELSTAT; elaboration of guidelines, models of reports and other forms and documents to be used during the evaluation and certification of statistics, such as the main document "Statement of Principles and Procedures for the Certification of ELSS Statistics".

Conduct of two pilot certification exercises for statistics produced by two ELSS agencies.

ELSTAT has uploaded on its website the Regulation on Statistical Obligations of the ELSS agencies and the Regulation on the Operation and Administration of ELSTAT. The link for the Regulation on the Operation and Administration of ELSTAT is:

http://www.statistics.gr/portal/page/portal/ESYE/BUCKET/General/ELSTAT_REGULATION_EN.pdf

The Methodology, Analysis and Research Section of ELSTAT ensures updated documentation on quality.

A workshop for ELSTAT officials on the assessment and certification of official statistics was organized by ELSTAT with the support of Eurostat and the UK Statistics Authority and held in ELSTAT's premises.

Employees of ELSTAT dealing with quality issues participate in ESTP training courses on

quality organized by Eurostat.

The training programme of ELSTAT for the period 2014-2015 contains courses on quality issues. Compilation and posting on the intranet of a Circular on ELSTAT Quality Guidelines.

International methodological manuals/editions are used like CPI ILO Manual and Compendium of HICP Eurostat for ensuring the quality. There is also a close and continuous cooperation with the Methodology, Analysis and Research Section on methodological issues and internal guidelines have been written for data collection and the appropriate check controls.

0.4.2 Quality monitoring

[Processes in place to monitor quality during the planning and implementation of the statistical program]

Processes are in place to monitor the quality of the statistical program as following

Methodological support is provided by the Methodology, Analysis and Research Section of ELSTAT to other Sections of ELSTAT.

A new Quality, Code of Practice and Certification Section is envisaged in the draft Organization of ELSTAT. ELSTAT Quality Guidelines for all the stages of statistical production have been compiled and posted on the intranet as a Circular.

There are procedures in place within Divisions of ELSTAT involved in statistical production that monitor the quality of the statistical product.

The Methodology, Analysis and Research Section of ELSTAT interacts within the context of standard procedures with Sections of ELSTAT involved in statistical production, with a view to check and assure the quality of published statistics.

A system for programming and monitoring the progress of the statistical surveys/ works of ELSTAT (using a relevant computerized application) has been in operation since 2011, in order for ELSTAT to fully meet its European and national obligations, both in terms of timeliness and high quality. This system is implemented by the Group for the coordination and supervision of the progress of statistical works at ELSTAT, and includes the top management of ELSTAT.

Creation in ELSTAT of a Committee for Monitoring and Managing the Quality of the Statistical Works, with the participation of the President of ELSTAT, the two General Directors and the Directors of the competent Divisions of ELSTAT. The task of this Committee is to review the progress achieved concerning the conduct of the scheduled statistical works, to address any delays in their completion, as well as to identify and address any potential problems that may pose a risk to the quality and timeliness of the statistical product. In 2013 the role of the Group widened, by the assessment of the compliance of ELSTAT's Divisions with the principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice (CoP).

Creation of a special section in ELSTAT's website concerning the ELSS. This section contains, inter alia, the Greek Statistical Law, the Regulation 223/2009, the European Statistics Code of Practice, the Commitment on Confidence in Statistics, the Regulation on the Statistical Obligations of the ELSS agencies, the Regulation on the Operation and Administration of ELSTAT and the emoranda of Cooperation signed by ELSTAT.

There are processes in place to deal with quality considerations in planning the statistical program.

There are procedures in place within Divisions of ELSTAT involved in statistical production that deal with quality considerations in planning the statistical program.

The Methodology, Analysis and Research Section of ELSTAT interacts within the context of standard procedures with Sections of ELSTAT involved in statistical production, with a view to check and assure the quality of produced statistics.

A system for programming and monitoring the progress of the statistical surveys/ works of ELSTAT (using a relevant computerized application) has been in operation since 2011, in order for ELSTAT to fully meet its European and national obligations, both in terms of timeliness and high quality. This system is implemented by the Group for the coordination and supervision of the progress of statistical works at ELSTAT, and includes the top management of ELSTAT.

ELSTAT assesses the degree of satisfaction of users regarding its statistical products and services through the conduct of a user satisfaction surveys on a continuous basis and the Users Conferences held on an annual basis.

Starting from 2013, the results of User Satisfaction Surveys for the years 2011, 2012 and 2013 are made public. Moreover, the minutes of the Users Conferences are available on ELSTAT's website.

1. Integrity

1.1 Professionalism

1.1.1 Impartiality of statistics

[Measures to promote impartiality in production of statistics.]

The Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT) is an independent authority, not subjected to the control of governmental bodies or other administrative authorities. Its function comes under the control of the Greek Parliament. ELSTAT is responsible for the conduct and dissemination of official statistics. According to Statistical Law 3832/2010 as in force the following are forecasted among other in article 1:

Principles and scope of EL.S.S.

1. The Hellenic Statistical System is the set of rules, activities and agencies responsible for the conduct of statistical operations aiming at the development, production and dissemination of the country's official statistics, which are used for the decision and policy making at local, national, European and international level.

2. The agencies of EL.S.S. are the Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT), an independent authority which is established by Article 9 and constitutes the national statistical authority according to Article 5 of Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2009 (L 87/164), as well as the services and agencies of the public and private sectors which have the responsibility or obligation to collect data and are included in the list of EL.S.S agencies, in accordance with paragraph 5 of Article 10.

3. The terms "statistics", "development", "production", "dissemination", "data collection", "statistical unit", "confidential data", "use for statistical purposes", "direct identification" and "indirect identification", have the meaning defined in Article 3 of the Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2009.

4. The activities of the EL.S.S. agencies concerning the development, production and dissemination of statistics are governed by the statistical principles of "professional independence", "impartiality", "objectivity", "reliability", "statistical confidentiality" and "cost-effectiveness" as these principles are defined in the provisions of Article 2 of Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2009 and are developed in the European Statistics Code of Practice, as stipulated in Article 11 of the same Regulation, as in force from time to time.

5. When developing, producing and disseminating statistics, EL.S.S agencies shall implement the European Statistics Code of Practice, as in force from time to time.

6. In order to guarantee the quality in the development, production and dissemination of the statistical results, the EL.S.S. agencies shall follow uniform standards and harmonized methods and apply the evaluation criteria of quality, such as “relevance”, “accuracy”, “timeliness”, “punctuality”, “accessibility”, “clarity”, “comparability” and “coherence” as these are defined in Article 12 of the Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2009, as in force from time to time.

1.1.2 Selection of data sources, methodology, and modes of dissemination

[Selection of data sources, methodology, and modes of dissemination.]

Implementation of the methods of data collection of statistical surveys/works which are stipulated in EU Regulations or manuals.

Selection of the method for data collection of statistical surveys/works, when this is not laid down in EU Regulation or manual, by taking into consideration various factors, so that the statistics produced have the required accuracy for the desired level of their analysis (breakdown), on the basis of the available resources. Exploration, in this context, of best methods and practices of other countries and cooperation with experts of the European Statistical System.

Provision of simultaneous and equal access of all users, without exception, to statistics. No provision of statistical data of surveys to users before the publication of the results of surveys/statistical works.

Seeing to the protection of the statistical confidentiality of data during the dissemination of statistics, by fully implementing the relevant provisions of the European and national statistical legislative framework.

Implementation of the Revision Policy of ELSTAT for the revision of statistics, which is based on the ESS Revision Policy.

Pricing of the statistical product in accordance with pricing and dissemination systems and procedures defined in the Regulation on the Operation and Administration of ELSTAT and further specified in the Pricing Policy of Statistical Products (relevant link):

http://www.statistics.gr/portal/page/portal/ESYE/BUCKET/General/web_pricelist_en.pdf

1.1.3 Commenting on erroneous interpretation and misuse of statistics

[Entitlement to, opportunity for, and historical frequency of, comment on erroneous interpretation and misuse of statistics by the appropriate statistical entity.]

ELSTAT is entitled to and engages in commenting on erroneous interpretation or misuse of statistics.

1.2 Transparency

1.2.1 Disclosure of terms and conditions for statistical collection, processing, and dissemination

[Disclosure of terms and conditions for statistical collection, processing, and dissemination.]

Issues concerning the data collection, processing and dissemination are arranged by the Greek Statistical Law 3832/2010 as in force, the Regulation on the Statistical Obligations of the agencies of the Hellenic Statistical System and the Regulation on the Operation and Administration of ELSTAT.

Relevant links:

http://www.statistics.gr/portal/page/portal/ESYE/BUCKET/General/StatLaw3832_EN_06082014.pdf

http://www.statistics.gr/portal/page/portal/ESYE/BUCKET/General/Regulation_on_Statistical_Obligations_EN.pdf

http://www.statistics.gr/portal/page/portal/ESYE/BUCKET/General/ELSTAT_REGULATION_EN.pdf

Methodological notes are uploaded on ELSTAT's website

http://www.statistics.gr/portal/page/portal/ESYE/PAGE-themes?p_param=A0704&r_param=SEL84&y_param=MT&mytabs=0

Compilation and afterwards release on the internet of procedures, fully compatible with European standards, concerning the access of researchers to microdata of statistical surveys of ELSTAT, while fully securing the confidentiality of data of households and enterprises.

1.2.2 Internal governmental access to statistics prior to release

[Disclosure of Internal governmental access to statistics prior to their release.]

There is no internal government access to the data prior to their release to the public.

1.2.3 Attribution of statistical products

[Identification of statistical agencies/units producing disseminated statistics.]

Attribution is made to ELSTAT which is the producer.

1.2.4 Advance notice of major changes in methodology, source data, and statistical techniques.

[Advance notice of major changes in methodology, source data, and statistical techniques.]

Information on major revisions of statistics or changes in methodologies of statistical surveys/works are included in a separate chapter in the annual statistical work programs of ELSTAT.

1.3 Ethical standards

1.3.1 Guidelines for staff behavior

[Measures implementing and enforcing guidelines for staff behavior.]

Guidelines contained in the European Statistics Code of Practice are applied and have been incorporated in the Statistical Law 3832/2010 of ELSTAT as in force.

Please see the following link:

<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-manuals-and-guidelines/-/KS-32-11-955>

2. Methodology

2.1 Concepts and definitions

2.1.1 Concepts and definitions

[Degree to which the overall structure of concepts and definitions follows internationally accepted standards, guidelines, or good practices.]

Definition: Measure of change in the general level of prices for a given quantitative and qualitative composition of goods and services purchased by the contemporary average household.

Until 2013, the CPI weights were revised periodically (usually every five years) on the basis of the results of the latest available Household Budget Survey (HBS) which was conducted every 5 years. The CPI was a fixed basis index with reference year the year 2009=100.0. The CPI weights were based on the results of the HBS 2008 after their adjustment to 2009 prices.

Since January 2014 onwards, the CPI index follows the chain linking method where new weights are introduced annually and every year has as a base the December of the previous year. The weights are estimated according to the most recent available data of Household Budget Survey, which is now conducted on an annual base. The revised CPI index, which is published, is recalculated by linking new and old CPI series together in December 2013, with reference year 2009=100.0 in order to maintain the continuity of the CPI time series.

In addition to Eurostat methodology standards and methods defined for HICP, see: <http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/hicp/methodology/compendium>

ILO manuals standards and methods are taken into account (see: CPI Manual 2004) - Consumer Price Index Manual: Theory and Practice 2004 (ILO, IMF, OECD, Eurostat, United Nations, and the World Bank), available on the following webpage:

<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/bureau/stat/guides/cpi/index.htm> or (CPI Manual 1989) - Consumer Price Indices (Geneva, ILO: Ralph Turvey et. al, 1989)}.

2.2 Scope

2.2.1 Scope

2.2.1.1 Scope of the data

[Scope of the data.]

Population coverage: The Greek Consumer Price Index covers, as regards the weights, private households only, leaving out collective households and non residents (tourists) in Greece.

Geographical coverage: The index covers the entire country. Prices are collected from outlets located in 24 cities of Greece, whose markets are considered as representative centers of wider geographic areas.

The basket covered by the CPI comprises 800 items (goods and services) from 12 main groups of items. The number of prices observed monthly amount to 56,100 collected prices from approximately 5,000 outlets.

2.2.1.2 Exceptions to coverage

[Exceptions to coverage.]

Population coverage: collective households and non residents (tourists) in Greece are not covered.

Owner-occupied housing: The owner occupied housing is not included.

2.2.1.3 Unrecorded activity

[Unrecorded activity.]

2.3 Classification/sectorization

2.3.1 Classification/sectorization

[Broad consistency of classification/sectorization systems used with internationally accepted standards, guidelines, or good practices.]

Classification: The grouping of the items (goods and services), which are included in the Index, has been done in accordance with the international [COICOP](#) classification (Classification of Individual Consumption by Purpose) and, in particular, as this was adjusted to the requirements of the Harmonised Indices of Consumer Prices - HICP of EU Member States, thus creating the [COICOP/HICP](#) (COICOP/HICP rev. Dec.99) classification. After the establishment of COICOP/HICP rev. Dec.99 classification, a system is used in the index, both in the level of main groups (2-digit breakdown), groups (3-digit breakdown) and sub-groups (4-digit breakdown) and in the level of species (5-digit breakdown) and variations of species (8-digit breakdown).

2.4 Basis for recording

2.4.1 Valuation

[Types of prices (market, historical, administrative, basic, purchasers', producer, etc.) used to value flows and stocks.]

Types of prices: The collected prices correspond with the prices actually faced by the consumer including all the taxes (VAT and other excise taxes). Reduced prices, due to special offers or special discounts, which are applied only for some categories of consumers (e.g. members of co-operatives) are not taken into account in the compilation of CPI. Instead, the reduced prices of general offers and general discounts are collected.

2.4.2 Recording basis

[Degree to which recording meets requirements for accrual accounting.]

Timing of the price observations: The frequency of price collection varies depending on the nature of the products. Prices of fresh products (fruit and vegetables and fish) and energy products (heating oil, petrol) are collected once a week. For the other products, prices are collected once a month. Weekly prices refer to Tuesday. Monthly prices are collected in a cyclical manner so as to refer to the whole month.

2.4.3 Grossing/netting procedures

[Broad consistency of grossing/netting procedures with internationally accepted standards, guidelines, or good practices.]

3. Accuracy and reliability

3.1 Source data

3.1.1 Source data collection programs

[Comprehensiveness of source data from administrative and survey data collection programs, and appropriateness of the collection modality for country-specific conditions.]

Prices are collected from outlets located in 24 cities of Greece, whose markets are considered as representative centers of wider geographic areas. Depending on the items, the outlets are distinguished as department stores, specialized stores, supermarkets, open-air markets and enterprises rendering services. Monthly price quotations number approximately 56,100 and are collected from 5,000 outlets and 3,000 households.

Item selection: The goods and services included in the CPI are selected on the basis of both the HBS data and the results of a specific market survey.

Outlet selection: The outlets are selected so as to be representative of the branches of shops, from which the households make their purchases in the 24 selected price collection cities. The representativeness criteria of outlets, on the basis of which these are selected, are the volume of sales realised, their geographic location and the availability of items, for which prices are collected, on a continuous base.

Sample sizes: Prices are collected from 24 cities selected from 13 Regions of Greece, which correspond to the NUTS 2 level. The total number of outlets for all items included in the Index amounts to 5,000. The number of species of goods and services amounts to 800, which are broken down to a greater number of variations.

Price collection methods: Prices are collected by specialised ELSTAT staff who visits the outlets within a defined period of the month or on the fixed day of the week and register the prices into special price collection prints. The rent prices are collected directly from households.

Item/product specification: All the items are defined by the "*item specification*" that is the particular characteristics which determine the quality, the get up, and the identity of goods in general.

Sources of weights of items: The weights of items, which are used for the compilation of the Consumer Price Index, are calculated on the basis of the Household Budget Survey. These weights refer to the average structure of consumer expenditure of the private households in the whole country. The weights of the items (good and services), which are used for the compilation of the revised CPI (base year 2009=100), have been calculated on the basis of the 2012 Household Budget Survey results.

3.1.2 Source data definitions, scope, sectorization, classifications, valuation, and time of recording

[Degree to which source data approximate definitions, scope, sectorization, classifications, valuation, and time of recording required (as described in 2.1.1-2.4.3).]

3.1.3 Source data timeliness

[Source data timeliness relative to what is required for producing statistical outputs whose timeliness meets applicable data standard (SDDS requirements or GDDS recommendations).]

Prices from outlets are collected timely within the month following the predefined price collection dates.

3.2 Assessment of source data

3.2.1 Source data assessment

[Routine assessment of source data—including censuses, sample surveys, and administrative records (e.g., for coverage, sample error, response error, and nonsampling error); whether assessment results are monitored; how results are used to guide statistical processes.]

The collected prices are checked as regards their correctness, in both the time of their collection and the time of their processing.

3.3 Statistical techniques

3.3.1 Source data statistical techniques

[Statistical techniques in data compilation to deal with data sources (e.g., to align them with target concepts from 2.1.1).]

Treatment of missing prices: The treatment of missing prices depends on the category of items, for which prices are collected. For seasonal items (fresh vegetables, fresh fruit, clothing and footwear items, etc.) the anticipated method, as described below in "Seasonal items", for dealing with the seasonality of these items is followed. The treatment of missing prices for the other items depends on the duration of absence of the item in the outlet. If the time interval of its absence exceeds 2 months, then the item is replaced, following the procedure described below in "Substitution of items."

Selection of replacements items: The process for selection of replacement items is based on a market research.

Substitution of items: When a specified item (variety of species) is no longer available in the market or has ceased to be important, as regards the consumption, because of the appearance of new varieties, then it is substituted by the item which has taken its place in the market.

If the substitute item, y, is comparable to the item, x, it replaces, then it is tried to estimate whether the deviation of prices is due to differences in quality, weight, package, etc. and adjust the price accordingly, so that the adjusted price corresponds to the price of the new item, with quality level equivalent to that of the old item. However, if the substitute item is not comparable to the one it replaces, then the prices of the two items are linked, and a theoretical base price is calculated for the substitute item.

In particular, the prices of the current month, t, and the previous month, t-1, are collected for the substitute item y, and its theoretical base price, P_y^0 , is calculated by the following formula:

$$P_y^0 = \frac{P_y^{t-1}}{R_x^{t-1}} \cdot 100$$

where

P_y^{t-1} = the price of the substitute item y, during the previous month and

R_x^{t-1} = the sub-index of the item x, during the previous month.

Seasonal items: As seasonal items are considered: a) fresh fruit and fresh vegetables and b) clothing and footwear. For dealing with the seasonality of fresh fruits and fresh vegetables the method of monthly changing weights of the various species of these goods, by keeping the weights of sub-groups "Fresh fruit" and "Fresh vegetables" constant through the year, is applied. For dealing with the seasonality of clothing and footwear, a new method is applied, starting from January 2011 that is consistent with the Regulation (EC) No 330/2009 (class confined seasonal weights method).

According to this method, when some of these products are out of season they are excluded from the basket and their weights are zero.

The total basket of clothing and footwear items, used for the calculation of the Greek CPI/HICP, is divided into three separate sub-groups, as follows:

1. Clothing and footwear items only available in winter.
2. Clothing and footwear items only available in summer.
3. Clothing and footwear items available all through the year (all- season items)

The items for sub-groups 1 and 2 are considered as seasonal clothing and footwear items. Prices for seasonal items are collected as following :

- winter items: from October to April.
- summer items: from May to September.

3.3.2 Other statistical procedures

[Statistical techniques employed in other statistical procedures (e.g., data adjustments and transformations, and statistical analysis).]

Computation of CPI: The Consumer Price Index is a Laspeyres-type index and it is calculated based on December of the previous year following the method of chain linking.

Implementation of formula in four-digit level of COICOP

Specifically, if the four-digit item h includes q price collected items, then its index in month t of year T, $R_h^{t,T}$, is given by the formula below:

$$R_h^{t,T} = R_h^{12,T-1} \left[\frac{\sum_{i=1}^q w_i^T R_i^{t,T} / R_i^{12,T-1}}{\sum_{i=1}^q w_i^T} \right],$$

where:

$R_h^{12,T-1}$ = the index of the four-digit item h, in December of year T-1,

w_i^T = the weight of the price collected item i, in year T,

$R_i^{t,T}$ = the index of the price collected item i, in month t of year T,

$R_i^{12,T-1}$ = the index of the price collected item i, in December of year T-1.

A similar methodology is followed for the calculation of indices in the upper levels (two-digit and three-digit) of COICOP and the calculation of the overall CPI as well.

Population weights: These are calculated as percentages of the population of each price collection city in the total population of Greece. In addition to the population of each city the population of the wider geographic area that the city represents is also taken into account in the calculation of population weights. In general, the population weights are used for the weighting of the individual indices (sub-indices) of the items of each price collection city, in order to calculate these sub-indices for the whole

country.

Frequency of weight updates: From December 2013, the weights of items will be renewed every year, on the basis of the most recent available data from the Household Budget Survey. The weights are calculated the share (%) of the expenditures for each group, subgroup and item (good or service) to the total household expenditure of the average

Reference period: 2009 (2009=100.0).

Seasonally adjusted indices: The data are not seasonally adjusted.

3.4 Data validation

3.4.1 Validation of intermediate results

[Assessment and investigation of statistical discrepancies in intermediate data.]

Verification of prices: Comparison between the current price quoted and the previous month respectively. Communication with respondents follows in case of outliers.

3.4.2 Assessment of intermediate data

[Assessment and investigation of statistical discrepancies in intermediate data.]

Both prices and indices control is carried out by using the CPI software providing the tools required for this control.

3.4.3 Assessment of discrepancies and other problems in statistical outputs

[Investigation of statistical discrepancies and other potential indicators of problems in statistical outputs.]

There are checks (automatic and manual) for the assessment of discrepancies in order to eliminate sources of errors.

3.5 Revision studies

3.5.1 Revision studies and analyses

[Periodicity with which studies and analyses of revisions and/or updates are carried out; whether and how they are used internally to inform statistical processes (see also 4.3.3).]

4. Serviceability

4.1 Periodicity and timeliness

4.1.1 Periodicity

[Periodicity of statistical outputs relative to applicable dissemination standard (SDDS requirement or GDDS recommendation).]

Monthly.

4.1.2 Timeliness

[Timeliness of statistical outputs relative to applicable dissemination standard (SDDS requirement or GDDS recommendation).]

In the first 10 days after the end of the reference month.

4.2 Consistency

4.2.1 Internal consistency

[Consistency of statistics within the dataset.]

The index has internal consistency. Indicators at higher levels resulting from indicators of lower levels in accordance with clearly defined procedures.

4.2.2 Temporal consistency

[Consistency or reconcilability of statistics over a reasonable period of time.]

When the base year changes, data series is rebased to the new base year (data series start from 1959).

4.2.3 Intersectoral and cross-domain consistency

[Consistency or reconcilability of statistics with those obtained through other data sources and/or statistical frameworks.]

Between the national Consumer Price Index of Greece (base year 2009=100.0) and the relevant Harmonized Consumer Price Index (base year 2005=100.0) similarities as well as differences can be found. Therefore, the above indices cannot be fully compared to each other.

4.3 Revision

4.3.1 Revision and/or update schedule

[Transparency and regularity of revision/update schedule.]

The data are final when first released and are not revised.

4.3.2 Identification of preliminary and/or revised/updated data

[Identification of preliminary and/or revised/updated data.]

4.3.3 Dissemination of revision studies and analyses

[Dissemination of revision studies and analyses (see also 3.5.1).]

5. Accessibility

5.1 Data

5.1.1 Statistical presentation

[Statistics are presented in a way that facilitates proper interpretation and meaningful comparisons (layout and clarity of text, tables, and charts).]

Data are disseminated on the CPI covers the entire country of Greece.

Prices are not seasonally adjusted.

In addition to the national Consumer Price Index the Harmonized Index of Consumer Prices (HICP) is compiled. The revised CPI, in conformity with the HICPs practice, is rounded up to 2 decimal figures when published.

HICPs are compiled by the member states of the European Union, in conformity with Council and Commission Regulations, in order to provide comparable data for international inflation comparisons and, in particular, for the assessment of the price stability convergence criterion, as required by EU Convention.

5.1.2 Dissemination media and format

5.1.2.1 Hard copy - New release

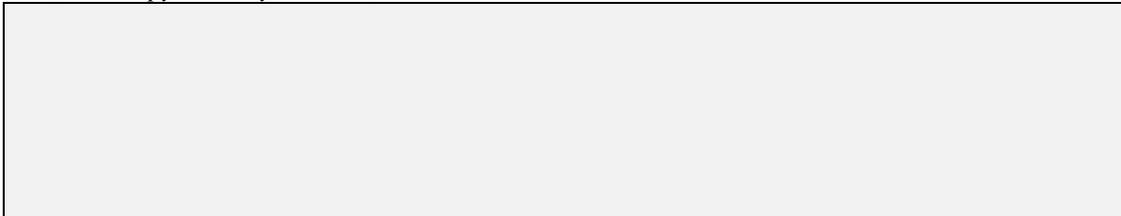
[Hard copy - New release.]

The CPI data are published on a monthly basis through a scheduled press release, during the first 10 days after the end of each reference month. On the scheduled day of each month, according to the announcement program, at 12:00 o'clock a press release is announced which includes presentation of the current compiled indices in the Greek and English language. This press release is disseminated to the media and to other users, free of charge, through e-mail. The press release is also available on the website of ELSTAT (www.statistics.gr).

A Press Release for the HICP is also available on the website of ELSTAT (www.statistics.gr)

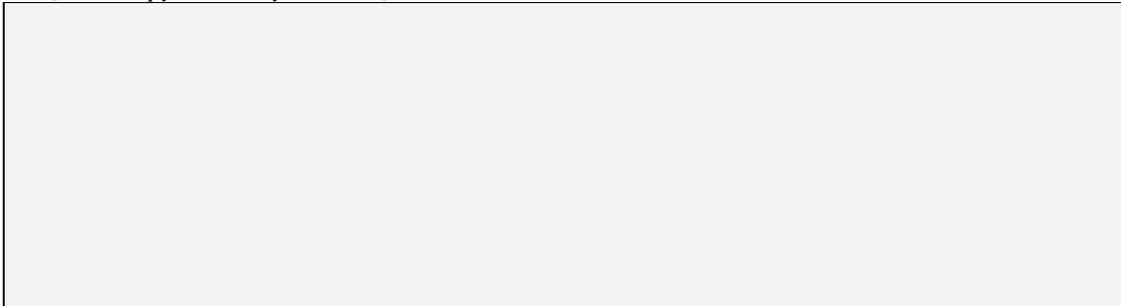
5.1.2.2 Hard copy - Weekly bulletin

[Hard copy - Weekly bulletin.]



5.1.2.3 Hard copy - Monthly Bulletin

[Hard copy - Monthly Bulletin.]



5.1.2.4 Hard copy - Quarterly bulletin

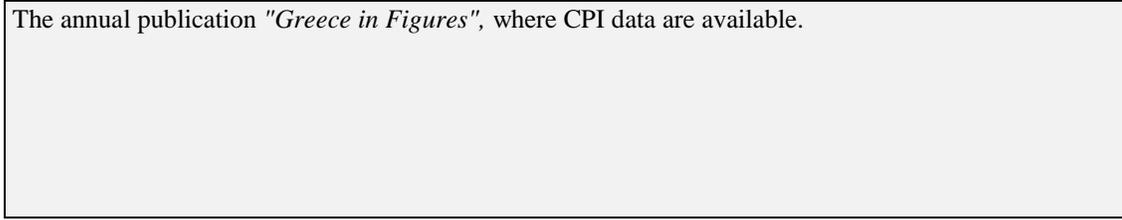
[Hard copy - Quarterly bulletin.]



5.1.2.5 Hard copy - Other

[Hard copy - Other.]

The annual publication "*Greece in Figures*", where CPI data are available.



5.1.2.6 Electronic - On-line bulletin or data

[Electronic - On-line bulletin or data.]

The "*Press Release for the CPI*," is subsequently posted on the ELSTAT's Internet website:

http://www.statistics.gr/portal/page/portal/ESYE/PAGE-themes?p_param=A1701



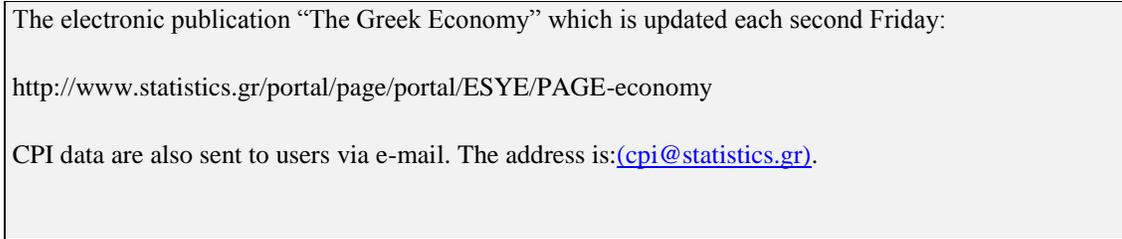
5.1.2.7 Electronic - Other

[Electronic - Other.]

The electronic publication "The Greek Economy" which is updated each second Friday:

<http://www.statistics.gr/portal/page/portal/ESYE/PAGE-economy>

CPI data are also sent to users via e-mail. The address is: cpi@statistics.gr.



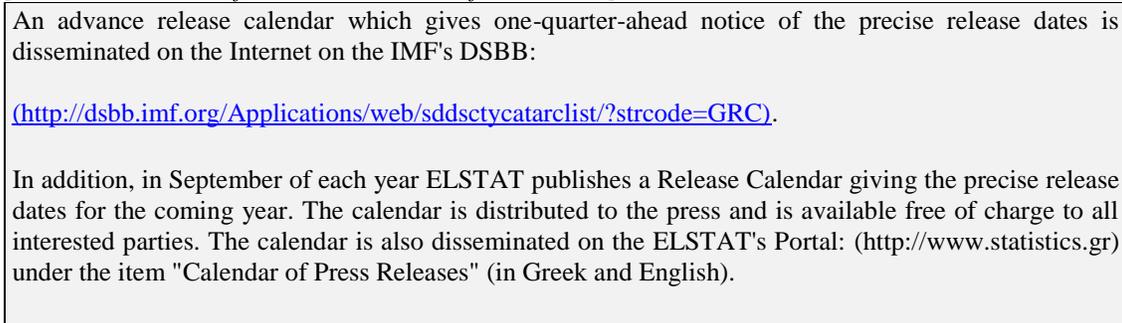
5.1.3 Advance release calendar

[Pre-announcement of the release schedule for statistics.]

An advance release calendar which gives one-quarter-ahead notice of the precise release dates is disseminated on the Internet on the IMF's DSBB:

<http://dsbb.imf.org/Applications/web/sddsctycatarclist/?strcode=GRC>.

In addition, in September of each year ELSTAT publishes a Release Calendar giving the precise release dates for the coming year. The calendar is distributed to the press and is available free of charge to all interested parties. The calendar is also disseminated on the ELSTAT's Portal: (<http://www.statistics.gr>) under the item "Calendar of Press Releases" (in Greek and English).



For more information, please see the following link:

<http://www.statistics.gr/portal/page/portal/ESYE/PAGE-prcrawler>

The pdf file of the Release Calendar is available on ELSTAT homepage, under the section “Press Releases” at the link: <http://www.statistics.gr/portal/page/portal/ESYE>

It can also be found in the item “Statistical Themes”, under each thematic category of statistical data.

5.1.3.1 ARC Note

[ARC Note.]



5.1.4 Simultaneous release

[Degree to which statistics are made available to all users at the same time, and modalities used to achieve this.]

Data are released simultaneously to all interested parties by issuing the specific Press Release to the media at 12:00. At the same time, the release is distributed by electronic means to subscribers. The press release is subsequently posted on the ELSTAT's Portal: (<http://www.statistics.gr>)

In addition, there is a telephone line (30-213-135 2 142), providing information (in Greek) on rate of the CPI of the last month as well as the rate (%) to be used for readjustments of rents, which is derived on the basis of the twelve month rate of overall CPI.

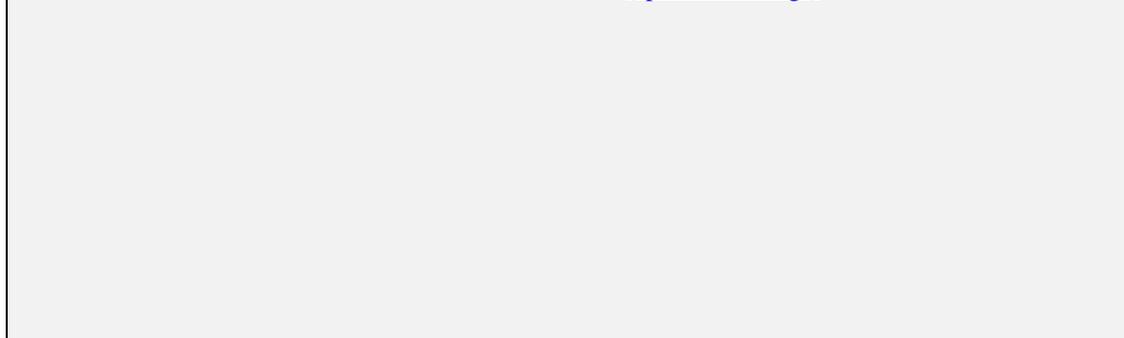
5.1.5 Dissemination on request

[Dissemination on request of unpublished but non-confidential statistics.]

Data are released simultaneously to all interested parties by issuing the specific Press Release to the media at 12:00. At the same time, the release is distributed by electronic means to subscribers. The press release is subsequently posted on the ELSTAT's Portal: (<http://www.statistics.gr>)

Requested data are faxed to interested users, upon request. The user is obliged to send a fax to the Economic and Short-Term Indicators Division requesting the data of interest.

CPI data are also sent to users via e-mail. The address is: (cpi@statistics.gr).



5.2 Metadata

5.2.1 Dissemination of documentation on concepts, scope, classifications, basis of recording, data sources, and statistical techniques

[Dissemination of documentation on concepts, scope, classifications, basis of recording, data sources, and statistical techniques, including annotation of differences from internationally accepted standards, guidelines.]

Detailed methodology and sources used are available in the ELSTAT website:

http://www.statistics.gr/portal/page/portal/ESYE/PAGE-themes?p_param=A1701&r_param=DKT87&y_param=MT&mytabs=0

5.2.2 Disseminated level of detail

[Customization of detail and format of tables for the target groups of users.]

Detailed information on methodology and sources used is available in English and Greek upon request. Mail orders can be placed upon request to the Hellenic Statistical Authority, Statistical Information and Publications Division, 46 Pireos & Eponiton str, GR 18510 PIREAS, tel. (+ 30 213) 1352 022, Fax: (+ 30 213) 1352312, E-mail: data.dissem@statistics.gr or through the on-line request form at the ELSTAT's portal www.statistics.gr (Statistical Data Request).

5.3 Assistance to users

5.3.1 Dissemination of information on contact points

[Dissemination of information on contact points for each subject field.]

Information on contact points is available in every Press Release in the ELSTAT's Portal: www.statistics.gr.

http://www.statistics.gr/portal/page/portal/ESYE/PAGE-themes?p_param=A0515

5.3.2 Availability of documents and services catalogs

[Dissemination of catalogs of publications, documents, and other services, including information on any charges.]

A price list of the ELSTAT's publications is available, in Greek and in English, in the ELSTAT's Portal: www.statistics.gr

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