

Metadata in Euro-SDMX format (ESMS)

Country: Greece

Compiling agency: ELSTAT

Domain name: LABOUR FORCE SURVEY

ELSTAT metadata

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1. Contact		Top
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2. Metadata update

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2.1 Metadata last certified	January 2012
2.2 Metadata last posted	January 2012
2.3 Metadata last update	January 2012

3. Statistical presentation

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3.1 Data description

The main statistical objective of the Labour Force Survey is to divide the population of working age (15 years and above) into three mutually exclusive and exhaustive groups - persons in employment, unemployed persons and inactive persons. In addition, Labour Force Survey collects information on: demographic characteristics, main job characteristics, the existence and characteristics of a second job, educational attainment, participation in education, previous working experience and on search of job

3.2 Classification system

Economic activity, until 2007, was classified according to STAKOD 03 (ΣΤΑΚΟΔ 03) which is the Greek version of NACE Rev1.1. From 2008 onwards STAKOD 08 (ΣΤΑΚΟΔ 08) is used, which is identical (at 3 - digit level) to NACE Rev2. The classification is based on the 3-digit level for the main job, and on the 2-digit level for the second and previous job.

Occupation, until 2011, was classified according to STEP-92 (ΣΤΕΠ-92), which is the Greek version of the International Standard Classification of Occupations - ISCO-88 (Com). From 2011 onwards, ISCO-08 is used. Classification is based on the 3-digit level for the main, second and previous job.

Nationality and **Country of birth** are classified according to a specific classification used for the Labour Force Survey.

Level of education is classified according to a specific classification used for the Labour Force Survey, which allows for the classification of educational level according to International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED 97).

Field of education is classified according to ISCED 97 at 1 digit level (2 and 3 digits are used for special fields in science, and foreign languages) .

Geographical areas are classified according to NUTS classification.

3.3 Sector coverage

LFS is a household survey

3.4 Statistical concepts and definitions

Employed are persons aged 15 years or older, who during the reference week had worked, even for just one hour, for pay or profit or they have worked in the family business, or they were not at work but had a job or business from which they were temporarily absent.

Unemployed are persons aged 15-74 who were without work during the reference week (they were not classified as employed), were currently available for work and were either actively seeking work in the past four weeks or had already found a job to start within the next three months.

Inactive are those persons who neither classified as employed nor as unemployed.

Self-employed with employees are persons who work in their own business, professional practice or farm for the purpose of earning a profit, and who employ at least one other person.

Self-employed person without employees are persons who work in their own business, professional practice or farm for the purpose of earning a profit, and who employ no other persons.

Employees are defined as persons who work for a public or private employer and who receive compensation in the form of wages, salaries, fees, gratuities, payment by results or payment in kind.

Family workers are persons who help another member of the family to run a farm or other business, provided they are not classified as employees (they are not receiving a salary, and they have not a direct profit from the business).

Part-time job , Full-time job. The distinction between these two forms of job is based on the spontaneous response of the respondent to a relevant question.

Temporary job. A job may be considered temporary if the employer and the employee agree that the termination of the job is determined by objective conditions such as a specific date, the completion of a task or the return of another employee who has been temporarily replaced. This agreement is not necessarily based on a written work contract.

Duration of unemployment is defined as the duration of search for a job, or the length of the period since the last job was held (if this period is shorter than the duration of search for a job).

Persons in education. A person is considered in education if he/she is following any educational program, including initial education, additional education, vocational education, continuing or additional training, training in enterprises, apprenticeships, on-the-job training, seminars and workshops, distance education, evening classes, self-learning, etc. Also are included courses for personal interest only, which may cover all forms of learning, and training in subjects such as languages, computer studies, business studies, art and culture, health and medicine.

3.5 Statistical unit

Households, persons

3.6 Statistical population

Population residing in private households, and staying (or intend to stay) at least 1 year in Greece. Individuals who permanently reside in collective houses (i.e. hospitals, hotels, asylums, homes for the elderly, orphanages, etc) are not covered by the survey.

3.7 Reference area

All NUTS 3 areas of Greece, with the exception of Mount Athos area

3.8 Time coverage

Labour Force Survey has been producing results since 1981 on a yearly basis (spring quarter). From 1998 onwards it is a continuous survey, providing quarterly results.

3.9 Base period

There is no base period in Labour Force Survey

4. Unit of measure

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Number of persons, %, mean, years (age), hours (of work, education)

5. Reference period

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The Labour Force Survey's sample is spread uniformly in the 13 (or 14) weeks of the quarter. Every sampled household corresponds to a particular week, namely the reference week(from Monday to Sunday).

For employment, the reference period is the reference week.

For job search, working time arrangements, and participation in education, the reference period is the four-week period, ending with the reference week.

For availability to start, or resume, a job the reference period is the two-week period after the reference week.

For monthly estimates, the sample used is the sample that is allocated in the four (or five) reference weeks of the particular month,. When the days of a week belong to two different months, this week is considered to belong to the month that includes that Thursday of the particular week

6. Institutional mandate

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6.1 Legal acts and other agreements

Hellenic Statistical Authority is an independent authority responsible for the production and dissemination of official 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*" and by article 51 of the Law 4021/2011 (Government Gazette No 218, Issue A): "*Enhanced measures for the supervision and restructuring of Credit Institutions – Regulation of issues of financial nature – Ratification of the European Financial Stability Facility (EFSF) Framework-Agreement and its amendments and other provisions.*"
- 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 Hellenic Statistical Authority*".
- Articles 4, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16 of the Law 2392/1996 (Government Gazette No 60, Issue A): "*Access of the General Secretariat of the Hellenic Statistical Authority 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 Hellenic Statistical Authority*".

Labour Force Survey is harmonized with European legislation. The principal legal act is the [Council Regulation \(EC\) No. 577/98](#) that stipulates the provisions on design, survey characteristics and decision making processes. Survey framework was modified in successive Commission regulations. ([Regulation \(EC\) No 1372/2007](#), [Regulation \(EC\) No 2257/2003](#), [Regulation \(EC\) No 1991/2002](#)).

6.2 Data sharing

A bilateral agreement is signed on the provision of anonymised EU LFS data to the National Statistical Institutes of other participating EU countries.

7. Confidentiality

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7.1 Confidentiality policy

The issues concerning the observance of statistical confidentiality by the Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT) are arranged by articles 6, 7 and 8 of the Law 3832/2010, as amended by article 90 paragraph 8 of Law 3842/2010 and by article 10 of Law 3899/2010, as well as by article 8 of Law 2392/1996, which was brought back into force, in accordance with article 90 paragraph 8 of Law 3842/2010.

Furthermore, 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.

7.2 Confidentiality – data treatment

7.2 Confidentiality – data treatment

- 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.
- 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 recommend 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.

When data are disseminated in a form that would potentially allow direct or indirect identification of a person, (e.g micro data set), a certain set of rules is applied in order to prevent unauthorized disclosure:

- Age is aggregated in five year age groups
- Nationality and country of birth are aggregated in 3 groups: Nationals / Non-nationals but nationals of an EU country / Non-nationals and non-nationals of an EU country
- Widowed, divorced or separated are combined in a single category on variable “marital status”
- Self employed with and without employees are combined in a single category on variable “professional status”
- Categories 1-10 are combined into one category for the variable “Number of persons working in the local unit”
- ISCO at 2-digit level
- NACE at 1-digit level

- Duration of search for employment aggregated in 3 groups: less than or equal to six months / more than six months to less than one year / one year or more
- Variables concerning number of hours worked are aggregated in a single category for all hours above 80
- Information on income is suppressed for all countries and years
- Information on wave will be suppressed in order to prevent users from tracking persons between successive sets of microdata.

In specific cases, and after the approval of the confidentiality committee of ELSTAT, one or two of these rules can be relaxed.

8. Release policy [Top](#)

8.1 Release calendar

At the end of December of each year ELSTAT publishes a release calendar announcing the precise release dates for the next year. The calendar is distributed to the press and is available free of charge to all interested parties.

8.2 Release calendar access

The calendar is disseminated on ELSTAT's website (<http://www.statistics.gr>) at the link: "Calendar of Press Releases".

8.3 User access

The data are released simultaneously to all interested parties through the Press Release entitled "Labour Force" which is made available to the media at 12:00. At the same time, the press release is distributed electronically to the subscribers. The press release is subsequently posted on the website of ELSTAT (<http://www.statistics.gr>).

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

9. Frequency of dissemination [Top](#)

A subset of Labour Force data is disseminated on a monthly basis. The complete survey results are disseminated on a quarterly basis, 90 days (at the most) after the end of the last reference week. Data are disseminated at 12.00 on the predefined date of the press release.

10. Dissemination format [Top](#)

10.1 News release

Labour Force Survey Monthly results

Labour Force Survey Quarterly results

10.2 Publications

A) "Quarterly Labour Force Survey" available for a fee to subscribers and upon request to the Hellenic Statistical Authority, Statistical Information and Publications Division, 46, Pireos & Eponiton str, P.O. BOX 80847, 18510 Piraeus (tel. (30) 210-4852 173, Fax: (30) 210-4852 022, e-mail: (data.dissem@statistics.gr) and (papadopn@statistics.gr)).

B) "Statistical Yearbook of Greece" available for a fee to subscribers and users upon request to the Hellenic Statistical Authority. This publication includes quarterly final data on:

- 1) Economically active population by degree of urbanity and breakdown by gender
- 2) Employment by degree of urbanity and breakdown by gender, economic activities and age groups and
- 3) Unemployment by degree of urbanity and breakdown by gender and age groups

C) "*Concise Yearbook of Greece*" available for a fee to subscribers and users upon request to the aforementioned address. This publication includes data on:

- 1) Economically active population by gender,
- 2) Employment by gender, age groups and branches of economic activity and
- 3) Unemployment by gender and age groups

The reference period of the data is the 2nd quarter of the corresponding year

D) "*Monthly Statistical Bulletin*", available for a fee to subscribers and users upon request to the aforementioned address.

It includes quarterly final data on:

- 1) Activity rates and unemployment rates of the economically active population; and
- 2) Employment by branches of economic activity and status in employment

E) "*Statistics on Labour Force* ", a special edition for Thessaloniki International Trade Fair. The information bulletin publishes data on:

- 1) Economically active population and unemployment rates by regions (NUTS 2 level) of Greece
- 2) Employment by gender, major sectors of economic activities, status in employment, level of education
- 3) Unemployment by duration of unemployment and
- 4) Situation one year before the survey

The reference period of the data is the 2nd quarter of the corresponding year

All the above publications are available at:

Statistical Information and Publications Division, 46, Pireos & Eponiton str, P.O. BOX 80847, 18510 Piraeus (tel. (30) 210-4852 311, Fax: (30) 210-4852 022, e-mail: data.dissem@statistics.gr)

10.3 On-line database

An on-line data base is available at (<http://www.statistics.gr>).

10.4 Micro-data access

Micro-data are available for a fee to users upon request to the Hellenic Statistical Authority, Statistical Information and Publications Division, 46, Pireos & Eponiton str, P.O. BOX 80847, 18510 Piraeus (tel. (30) 210-4852 311, Fax: (30) 210-4852 022, e-mail: data.dissem@statistics.gr).

10.5 Other

a) A number of tabulated data are available to users on the website (<http://www.statistics.gr>). The selected data depict the structure of certain magnitudes of the labour force in addition with demographic and individual characteristics

b) Cross-tabulated data, sampling errors and confidences intervals are available to users upon request to the Hellenic Statistical Authority, Statistical Information and Publications Division, 46, Pireos & Eponiton str, P.O. BOX 80847, 18510 Piraeus (tel. (30) 210-4852 311, Fax: (30) 210-4852 022, e-mail: data.dissem@statistics.gr)

11. Accessibility of documentation

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11.1 Documentation on methodology

The following scientific publications available only in the Greek language:

- *Ανασχεδιασμός του δείγματος της Έρευνας Εργατικού Δυναμικού από το έτος 1998 και εξής* Ν. Πανταζίδης .
- *Αποτελεσματικότητα των εκτιμήσεων της Έρευνας Εργατικού Δυναμικού από το έτος 1998 και εξής* Ν. Πανταζίδης

Documents are available in pdf format (only in the Greek language), upon request

Short methodological notes available at

http://www.statistics.gr/table_menu_per_year.asp?Dnid=%20-%20Εργατικό%20Δυναμικό&SSnid=%20-%20Απασχόληση%20-%20Ανεργία&dt=1&sb=SJO_1×eries=1 (in Greek) and at

http://www.statistics.gr/table_menu_per_year_eng.asp?Dnid=%20-%20Labour%20Force&SSnid=%20-%20Employment%20-%20Unemployment&dt=1&sb=SJO_1×eries=1 (in English)

11.2 Quality documentation

Quality Reports of Labour Force Survey

Available to users upon request to the Hellenic Statistical Authority, Statistical Information and Publications Division, 46, Pireos & Eponiton str, P.O. BOX 80847, 18510 Pireas (tel. (30) 210-4852 311, Fax: (30) 210-4852 022, e-mail: data.dissem@statistics.gr) and LFS@statistics.gr

12. Quality management

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12.1 Quality assurance

Labour Force Survey complies with Eurostat standards concerning the selection and the size of the sample, the design of questionnaires, the survey's frequency and the information collected.

Collected questionnaires are checked for completeness and quality of information. The final data base is checked for data validity by ELSTAT and Eurostat.

A change in data collection method is envisaged for the near future. Paper questionnaires are going to be replaced by electronic questionnaires in portable computers. This change will improve considerably the timeliness of survey results.

Under consideration is also the use of a call center for repeated household interviews, a change in data collection, which will also improve the timely production of survey results and interview quality.

12.2 Quality assessment

Labour Force Survey is considered a reliable source of information with a methodology that meets high standards. Nevertheless, Labour Force Survey is a sample survey and as a result, the results are accompanied by sampling errors.

Basic quality indicators of Labour Force Survey, (sampling errors, response rates) are computed quarterly and annually and included in a standard quality report submitted to Eurostat.

13. Relevance

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13.1 User needs

The main users of the Labour Force Survey data are international organizations (European Commission, OECD, European Central Bank, Unesco, IMF, etc) and a large number of national authorities and institutions (Ministries, Banks, Universities, Institutes) but also the press, researchers and the general public.

The main indicators produced by the Labour Force Survey describe the evolution in main labour market (changes in the level of employment, unemployment), provide information on the allocation of working population in different sectors of economy and on the characteristics of labour force (age, educational level, participation in education, etc.)

13.2 User satisfaction

ELSTAT does not carry out a user satisfaction survey specifically for the users of the Labour Force Survey. However, there is continuous communication with the main users of survey results and their opinion and remarks are taken in to account in the development of Labour Force Survey and the production and dissemination of its results.

13.3 Completeness

Labour Force Survey collects information on all variables that are included in the relevant Council Regulations and additionally on a small set of characteristics that are surveyed only at national level.

14. Accuracy and reliability

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14.1 Overall accuracy

The size of the Labour Force Survey sample allows for the production of estimates with high accuracy at t country level and at the most of NUTS 2 areas of Greece

14.2 Sampling error

The variance of the estimation of a characteristic is calculated on the basis of the variance of the estimations of the particular characteristic from every final stratum, by using the following formula:

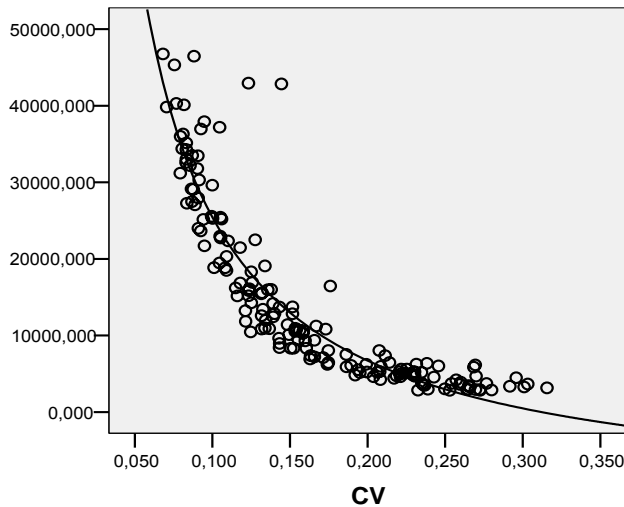
$$\hat{V}(\hat{Y}) = \lambda^2 \left(\frac{n_{hi}}{n_{hi} - 1} \right) \cdot \left[\sum_j y_{hij}^2 - \frac{1}{n_{hi}} \left(\sum_j y_{hij} \right)^2 \right]$$

where λ are the weights, n_{hi} is the number of primary sampling units in a final stratum, and $\sum_j y_{hij}$ the total of the characteristic in a primary sampling unit.

In general, there is a strong correlation between the magnitude of an estimate and the standard error of the estimate. The next graph presents the results of regressing the coefficient of variation of an estimate and the estimate. For the regression, a sample of 160 estimates was used. The fit of the model is satisfactory (R square = 0, 849).

From the fitted model we see that for estimations no less than **5.000** (for the total of country) we can expect a CV less than 15%.

Estimation



CV of national quarterly aggregates (in %)

Quarter	Number of employed	Number of part-time employed	Number of unemployed	Rate of Unemployment	Average number of hours actually worked per week
1	1,00	3,10	2,20	2,00	0,40
2	1,00	3,00	2,20	2,00	0,30
3	1,00	3,00	2,20	2,00	0,50
4	1,00	3,10	2,20	1,90	0,40
Annual (2010)	0,89	2,66	1,90	1,65	0,22
NUTS 2 area					
A. Makedonia, Thraki	4,26	9,56	7,49	6,57	1,05
Kentriki Makedonia	2,31	5,97	4,57	3,73	0,56
Dytiki Makedonia	4,78	11,90	10,23	8,84	1,22
Thessalia	3,2	28,59	7,85	6,68	1,02
Ipeiros	3,69	11,17	7,34	6,93	1,15
Ionia Nisia	5,05	16,09	11,8	8,80	1,12
Dytiki Ellada	3,88	11,79	9,07	7,85	0,95
Stereia Ellada	4,12	12,85	8,03	6,15	1,08
Peloponnisos	3,45	9,46	9,10	7,42	0,90
Attiki	1,47	5,35	3,25	2,97	0,32
Voreio Aigaio	6,38	19,98	16,46	13,99	1,48
Notio Aigaio	4,98	14,38	10,89	8,46	1,29
Kriti	3,55	9,34	6,48	5,62	0,96

14.3 Non-sampling error

Frame errors: The sampling frame is based on the 2001 census results. The primary sampling units consist of a number of building blocks.. The design and selection of the primary sampling units is based on the number of private households residing permanently in these areas at the 2001 census. The secondary sampling units (that is households and dwellings) are selected after the selection of the primary sampling unit and after the compilation of a complete list of the private household dwellings in the PSU. The list is updated every 6 quarters (when a new systematic sample of dwellings is selected in the primary sampling unit). The main issues pertaining to the frame quality are:

- The more the time interval elapsed since the census, the less accurately the probabilities of

selection reflect the “real size” of the selected primary sampling units.

- Sample size can be different, and even significantly different from the expected size, due to considerable changes in the “size” (that is, the number of household dwellings) of a PSU.
- It is difficult to control the way listings are updated. Over-coverage and under-coverage can be both present.

Undercoverage (the percentage of persons that are not covered by the sampling frame) is estimated at about 1%. These are mainly persons residing in collective households and persons residing in houses outside builded areas.

Overcoverage (the percentage of dwellings that are not used by households and are included in the sampling frame of Labour Force Survey) is estimated at about 8%.

Non response errors: Non response errors are due to non-contacts (failure to come into contact with the household) or to the refusal of the household to provide information.

Non-response rates.

Quarter	Non response rate (%)	Refusals (%)	Non-contacts (%)	Other reasons (%)
1	13,60	3,80	1,50	8,30
2	14,00	3,70	2,10	8,21
3	14,50	3,80	2,60	8,11
4	14,75	3,88	3,02	7,85
Annual (2010)	14,20	3,80	2,3	8,14

Non response rates by NUTS 2 areas

NUTS-2 region (code + name)	Non response rate (%)
Anatoliki Makedonia, Thraki	9,3
Kentriki Makedonia	14,48
Dytiki Makedonia	5,15
Thessalia	9,48
Ipeiros	10,59
Ionia Nisia	6,47
Dytiki Ellada	11,87
Sterea Ellada	8,31
Peloponnisos	6,53
Attiki	24,35
Voreio Aigaio	9,78
Notio Aigaio	9,72
Kriti	7,54

Non response is compensated by weighting (at PSU) level, but is not clear if this compensation really “removes” all bias induced by non – response.

Response errors: There are many factors that can lead to wrong (or false) answers provided by the respondents. The most important are:

- Sensitive questions (like the existence of a second job, income, receiving unemployment allowances, etc)
- Proxy answering, mostly for questions about the motives or wishes of a person
- Repeated interviewing of the same household for 6 consecutive waves imposes a serious burden on the interviewed households

15. Timeliness and punctuality

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15.1 Timeliness

Survey results are available 90 days after the end of the reference period

15.2 Punctuality

Reference Period	SCHEDULED DATE FOR DATA PUBLICATION	DELAY IN PUBLICATION
OCTOBER 2009	14/1/2010	NO
NOVEMBER 2009	11/2/2010	NO
DECEMBER 2009	2009 11/3/2010	NO
4TH QUARTER 2009	18/3/2010	NO
JANUARY 2010	15/4/2010	NO
FEBRUARY 2010	13/5/2010	NO
MARCH 2010	10/6/2010	NO
1ST QUARTER 2010	17/6/2010	NO
APRIL 2010	15/7/2010	NO
MAY 2010	12/8/2010	NO
JUNE 2010	10/9/2010	NO
2ND QUARTER 2010	16/9/2010	NO
JULY 2010	14/10/2010	NO
AUGUST 2010	11/11/2010	NO
SEPTEMBER 2010	9/12/2010	NO
3RD QUARTER 2010	16/12/2010	NO

16. Comparability

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16.1 Comparability - geographical

The definitions of the variables used in the Greek Labour Force Survey are fully in line with Eurostat Regulations

16.2 Comparability over time

Until 1997, the Labour Force Survey had been producing estimates on a yearly basis (spring quarter). From 1998 onwards the Labour Force Survey is a continuous quarterly survey.

In 2004, the Labour Force Survey was redesigned on the basis of 2001 census. In the same year, post-stratification of survey results was used for the first time, and the method of substitutions, for dealing with non-response was discontinued.

The Labour Force Survey's sample was updated during 2009 – 2010.

Major changes in the survey questionnaire during the last 10 years were:

1999: Introduction of variables that describe relationships between household members.

Introduction of separate questions on "search-job" activities

Introduction of questions on employees salary

2003: Introduction of questions on field of studies

2006: Codification of sector of economic activity at 3 -digit level

2008: Introduction of NACE Rev2

17. Coherence

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17.1 Coherence cross-domain

Coherence of LFS data with registered unemployment: There are differences between these estimates due to differences both in measurement and definitions. LFS is using the ILO concept of unemployment while Unemployment register includes a person if he has contacted the unemployment office and declared him of herself as unemployed. As a consequence, persons with "small" jobs or part-timers, can be included in registered unemployment. At the same time, it is not always the case that someone who is LFS unemployed is registered at the unemployment office. There are relatively small differences (register unemployment is higher) but both estimates show same trends at country level.

Coherence of LFS data with National Accounts: There are differences between the two estimates that

are due to different definitions, concepts and coverage. National Accounts cover all population while LFS covers only population living in private households. National Accounts use LFS as the main source of data on employment but in certain cases, Business Surveys are also used. The National Accounts estimation for the number of persons in employment is slightly higher than the LFS estimation.

In 2010 the main differences between LFS and National Accounts estimations were as follows:

	National accounts estimates for 2010 (provisional)		LFS estimates for 2010	
	Total	Employes	Total	Employes
Total employment by NACE	4.743.421	3.116.913	4.388.648	2.810.735
Nace rev2 01 - 03	554.316	84.259	549.797	53.584
Nace rev1 05 - 39	533.286	410.747	542.527	414.867
Nace rev1 41 - 43	329.814	221.558	322.084	210.216
Nace rev1 45 - 64	1.580.257	938.924	1.396.105	842.285
Nace rev1 65 - 82	445.902	298.771	411.298	251.778
Nace rev1 84 - 88	1.299.846	1.162.653	1.166.838	1.038.005
Number of hours worked	9.567.124.723	5.964.350.816	8.902.001.241	5.380.928.074

17.2 Coherence internal

The LFS estimates have full internal coherence, as they are all based on the same set of microdata and they are calculated using the same estimation methods

18. Cost and burden

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Persons working for Labour Force Survey (2010)

	(Full time equivalent)
Total staff in Central Office	20
Staff in Regional Offices (estimation)	15
Interviewers (not permanent staff of ELSTAT)	50

Number of completed questionnaires for 2010

TOTAL	130631
Households surveyed for the first time	20377
Households surveyed for the 2nd, 3rd, ..6 th time	110254

Total cost for data collection (2010): 740.000 euros

19. Data revision

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19.1 Revision policy

Survey estimates are based on the latest census data. When the latest census data are available, data weights are revised to reflect the new information on population totals.

19.2 Revision practice

Data weights are revised for the 4 years before the census and for the years between the census and the first year when the latest census results are available.

20. Statistical processing

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20.1 Source data

Labour force survey is a sample survey covering the population living in private households. The selection

of households to be surveyed follows a two stage stratified sampling scheme.

Total country is stratified in 182 strata. These strata are formed by allocating municipalities and communes of every NUTS 3 in three different groups (Agglomerations and Municipalities with 10.000 inhabitants or more, Municipalities and Communes with 2.000 to 9.999 inhabitants, and Communes up to 1.999 inhabitants). The exceptions are Athens and Thessaloniki agglomerations, which are divided into 31 and 9 strata, respectively.

At the first sampling stage, 2640 clusters (groups of dwellings) are selected with probability proportional to their "size" (that is, proportional to the number of households residing in these areas at 2001 census).

At the second sampling stage a systematic sample of dwellings is selected in every primary sampling unit. All households residing in selected dwellings are asked to participate in the survey. All the individuals who are members of the selected households are interviewed.

Total sample size is about 30,000 households per quarter.

20.2 Frequency of data collection

Data are collected throughout the year.

The year is divided in 4 quarters: 1st (January, February, March), 2nd (April, May, June), 3rd (July, August, September) and 4th (October, November, December).

The quarterly sample is distributed uniformly in the 13 (or 14) weeks of the quarter.

20.3 Data collection

The Labour force survey sample follows for a "rotational" pattern. Every quarter, the 5/6 of the sample remains the same, while the 1/6 is "rotated" - that is new households are interviewed. New households are interviewed by personal, face-to-face, interviews. Subsequent interviews of the same household (during the following quarters) can be carried out either by face-to-face interviews either by telephone. In both cases, a paper questionnaire is used.

20.4 Data validation

Data are validated through a series of checks which detect inconsistencies between dates reported by interviewed persons, between educational attainment and profession, profession and sector of economic activities, inconsistencies between answers given to different part of the questionnaire and inconsistencies in the reported structure of the households. When detected, these problems are resolved either by re-contacting households or, when possible, using previous data for the same household.

20.5 Data compilation

The Labour Force Survey results are produced by weighting sample data. Data weights are computed in a 3 – step procedure. In the first step, a design weight is assigned to each person in the data file. This weight is determined by the estimated probability of selection of the particular household where the person lives .

In the second step, a non response correction factor is computed, at primary unit level:

Non response correction = number of eligible households in primary sampling unit/number of households .that responded.

At the third step, data are post stratified: Totals are computed for 208 post – stratification cells, which are defined by 13 NUTS 2 areas x 8 age groups x sex. These totals are estimated by weighting sample data (individuals) by design weights and non response correction factor. Finally, post stratification correction factors are computed for each individual so that estimations from Labour Force Survey are consistent with estimated population totals for post - stratification cells. These estimations are based on the 2001 census results, births, deaths and known migration.

20.6 Adjustment

The LFS quarterly results are not adjusted

21. Comment

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