

Single Integrated Metadata Structure (SIMS)

Country: Greece

Compiling agency: ELSTAT

Domain name: SURVEY ON BUILDING ACTIVITY

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2. Introduction [Top](#)

The purpose of the Survey on Building Activity is to collect data on building permits issued by the competent authorities of Greece. The data are broken down by type of construction works (i.e. new building, building addition, repair or maintenance works) or by type or ownership (public or private works). The relevant data are presented by Region (NUTS 2) and at the level of Greece total. The survey produces results on a monthly basis.

3. Metadata update [Top](#)

3.1 Metadata last certified	OCTOBER 2014
3.2 Metadata last posted	OCTOBER 2014
3.3 Metadata last update	OCTOBER 2014

4. Statistical presentation [Top](#)

4.1 Data description

The survey data are collected through the Monthly Statistical Questionnaires on Building Activity which are to be filled in by the competent Urban Planning Authorities of Greece (coverage 100%). The collected data include information on all the building permits issued by every Urban Planning Office for the construction of a new building, a building addition, repair or renovation, etc. The purpose of the survey is to depict the future development of building activity. The data are presented by Region (NUTS 2) and at the level of Greece total. The survey produces results on a monthly basis.

4.2 Classification system

1. Geographical classification of data is in accordance with NUTS.
2. The types of construction works are classified in accordance with the Classification of Types of Constructions 1998 (CC).

4.3 Sector coverage

All types of building constructions under the codes 11 and 12, at 3-digit level of the Classification of Types of Constructions are covered. All size classes are covered. The recorded data refer to the total number of building permits, of any type and value, issued during the time period stipulated in the questionnaire.

4.4 Statistical concepts and definitions

The basic variables of the survey are: number of new buildings and buildings additions, building volume, surface and value. Data are also collected on dwellings and stores by type of use and by volume, surface and value.

Building Permit: it refers to all types of building permits. These are permits for new buildings or permits for additions, repair, renovation, demolition, legitimization, amendment and modification of a building.

The concept of "**built-property**" is equal to "**building**".

Building: is every permanent and independent structure, which has walls and a roof and consists of one or more rooms and other complementary spaces. Normally, buildings feature four walls. However, a construction open from one or even two sides will be considered a building, as long as it has a roof.

New building: shall mean any built-property raised on an uncovered site or in the place of an old building that has been demolished.

Building volume shall mean the gross building volume and refers to the area that is included between the external surface of the external walls, the lowest level (the basement or the sub-basement, if it exists) and the roof of the building. If there is an open ground floor not enclosed within walls between the lower floor and the roof, its volume is taken into account. The relevant authorities calculate the volume of the building during the issuing of the building permit.

Surface of new-built property is considered to be the sum of each floor space along with the outer space of the outer walls, as well as other auxiliary spaces.

4.5 Statistical unit

The building permits issued by the Urban Planning Offices of Greece, on the basis of the Statistical Questionnaires on Building Activity.

4.6 Statistical population

Total of building permits, building volume, surface and value of the permit.

4.7 Reference area

Region (NUTS 2) and Greece total.

4.8 Time coverage

Since 1961.

4.9 Base period

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5. Unit of measure

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Number of permits (absolute number), total surface (m²), volume (m³), value (euro) and percentage change.

6. Reference period

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Month.

7. Institutional mandate

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7.1 Legal acts and other agreements

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 National Statistical Service of Greece”.
- 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 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”.

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At European level:

Regulation (EC) 1165/98 of the Council of the European Union on short-term statistics, as amended by Regulation (EC) 1158/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council.

The definitions of variables of short-term statistics are laid down in Regulation (EC) 1503/2006 of the European Commission.

7.2 Data sharing

The results of the survey on building activity are also disseminated to the UN.

8. Confidentiality

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8.1 Confidentiality policy

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.

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.

8.2 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.

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

9. Release policy

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9.1 Release calendar

In September of each year, ELSTAT publishes a Press Releases Calendar which lists the exact dates for the release of all the statistics planned for next year.

9.2 Release calendar access

The press releases calendar is disseminated to the press and it is available for free to every interested party. The release calendar is also posted on the website of ELSTAT (www.statistics.gr) at the link:

“Announcements Calendar”.

9.3 User access

In compliance with EU Regulations, the National Legal Framework and the European Statistics Code of Practice, ELSTAT disseminates the national statistics through its website, by respecting scientific independence and in an objective, professional and transparent manner in which all users are treated equitably.

10. Frequency of dissemination

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Monthly and yearly (aggregate tables).

11. Dissemination format

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11.1 News release

The press release which is published every month includes information on the number of issued building permits, building volume and surface. The press release is published in Greek and in English approximately three months after the end of the reference month. The Press Release is disseminated to the press, free of charge, and to other interested users by mail. In addition it is posted on the website of ELSTAT.

More detailed monthly data on dwellings and stores by type of use and volume, surface and value are available on the website of ELSTAT (at Statistical Themes).

11.2 Publications

“Statistical Yearbook of Greece”.

11.3 On-line database

1) Detailed monthly data on dwellings and stores by type of use and volume, surface and value are available on the website of ELSTAT (at Statistical Themes) at the link:

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

2) UNITED NATIONS / Monthly Bulletin of Statistics Online

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/mbs/app/DataSearchTable.aspx>

11.3.1 Data tables - consultations

Users' consultation as regards survey data in 2013 amounted to 33.040 webpages hits.

11.4 Micro-data access

Primary data are made available to users after their submitting a request to the Division of Statistical Information and Publications/ Section of Dissemination of Statistical Information : 46 Peireos & Eponiton str. 18510 Piraeus (tel.(30) 213-135 2173, FAX : (30) 213- 135 2022, e-mail:

data.dissem@statistics.gr

11.5 Other

1. Portal of ELSTAT

[http://dlib.statistics.gr/portal/page/portal/ESYE/.](http://dlib.statistics.gr/portal/page/portal/ESYE/)

2) EUROSTAT : Statistical Explained collection.

http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/short_term_business_statistics/publications/sts_publications

11.5.1 Metadata – consultations

Not measured.

12. Accessibility of documentation

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12.1 Documentation on methodology

The methodology on the compilation of the index is laid down by ELSTAT, taking into consideration international practices and more specifically the guidelines and standards of Eurostat. The manual

Methodology on Short-Term Business Statistics, Interpretation and guidelines, 2006 includes a comprehensive set of instructions on the compilation of short-term statistics. It is available at the link:

OTO:

http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/short_term_business_statistics/documents/KS-BG-06-001-EN.pdf

12.1.1 Metadata completeness - rate

100% as regards the fields that are applicable for this survey.

12.2 Quality documentation

No quality report is compiled.

13. Quality management

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13.1 Quality assurance

Quality checks and data validation take place during all the stages of data collection and quality is also ensured through the Quality Policy implemented by ELSTAT, which is available at the following link: http://www.statistics.gr/portal/page/portal/ESYE/BUCKET/General/ELSTAT_Quality_Policy_EN.pdf

Well trained and experienced ELSTAT staff is involved in data collection and primary checks, data entry and final checks, in order to identify and duly correct any errors.

Data are checked in terms of completeness, accuracy and consistency.

In case an unreasonable big value is identified, the data are further investigated, in cooperation with the Urban Planning Authorities and civil engineers in order to confirm that it is a mistake or an unusual value. Data processing and data validation are conducted either before or after data entry.

The monthly data are compared with the data of the corresponding month of the previous year and if any inconsistencies are identified, further checks are conducted.

13.2 Quality assessment

Quality is considered satisfactory due to the continuous checks and due to the 100% coverage of the survey ensured by the Urban Planning Offices.

14. Relevance

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14.1 User needs

The main users of the survey on building activity are international organisations, Eurostat, the United Nations, the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC), National Statistical Authorities states services and institutes (Ministries, Banks, universities, research institutes, etc.), the press, enterprises and the general public.

14.2 User satisfaction

Available at ELSTAT's Library:

<http://dlib.statistics.gr/portal/page/portal/ESYE/>

14.3 Completeness

The survey on Building Activity covers all the variables that are set out in EU Regulation, with a 100% coverage of data by the Urban Planning Offices, through the monthly statistical questionnaires on building activity which are filled in by the competent civil engineers.

15. Accuracy and reliability

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15.1 Overall accuracy

Satisfactory, because the survey is a census survey.

15.2 Sampling error

No.

15.3 Non-sampling error

100% coverage (census survey). Logical checks are conducted ensuring correct completion of questionnaires by the civil engineers.

15.3.1 Coverage error

No.

15.3.1.1 Over-coverage – rate

The survey covers all the Urban Planning Offices of Greece therefore over-coverage rates is 0%.

15.3.1.2 Common units – proportion

Data are collected only by administrative sources and therefore, the percentage of common units in 0%.

15.3.2 Measurement error

The data are validated through logical checks. During the processing of data any errors that had been identified are duly corrected. Special emphasis is put on the errors that can have a major impact on the results. Once identified, the errors are further investigated in cooperation with the Urban Planning Offices and the competent civil engineers, so as to confirm that in order to confirm that it is a mistake or an unusual value. Data are checked for consistency, accuracy and completeness. Data processing and data validation are conducted either before or after data entry.

15.3.3 Non response error

The survey covers 100% of the building permits that are issued by the Urban Planning Offices of Greece, therefore, response errors in 0%.

15.3.4 Processing error

Data are checked for consistency, accuracy and completeness. Data processing and data validation are conducted either before or after data entry.

15.3.5 Model assumption error

No.

16. Timeliness and punctuality

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16.1 Timeliness

Final results are available approximately three months after the end of the reference month.

16.2 Punctuality

Data are published on time and the statistical product ins updated.

17. Comparability

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17.1 Comparability - geographical

There is geographical comparability since a common methodology and data collection method is implemented by ELSTAT for all the Urban Planning Offices.

17.1.1 Assymetry for mirror flows statistics – coefficient

Not applicable.

17.2 Comparability over time

The survey data are fully comparable over time.

18. Coherence

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18.1 Coherence cross-domain

The survey data refer to the intention to build a building (building permits issued by the Urban Planning Offices). There are no other comparable data sources for the corresponding variables of the survey.

18.1.1 Coherence – sub annual and annual statistics

The monthly data are comparable with the annual data of the survey. The annual statistical results are the aggregated results of the corresponding monthly results.

18.1.2 Coherence – National Accounts

Not applicable.

18.2 Coherence - internal

The estimates of the survey are characterised by high internal coherence because they are based on a common methodology for data collection and data processing, ensuring data quality after the checks.

19. Cost and burden

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Not estimated.

20. Data revision

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20.1 Revision policy

Circular on the Revision Policy of ELSTAT for 2013.

20.2 Revision practice

In case of revisions, the Revision Policy of ELSTAT for 2013 is implemented.

21. Statistical processing

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21.1 Source data

Statistical survey in cooperation with the local administrative sources (Urban Planning offices.)

21.2 Frequency of data collection

Data are collected on a monthly basis.

21.3 Data collection

The data are collected by sending the questionnaires, by post, to the local administrative sources (Urban Planning offices.)

21.4 Data validation

The data are validated through logical checks. During the processing of data any errors that had been identified are duly corrected. Special emphasis is put on the errors that can have a major impact on the results. Once identified, the errors are further investigated in cooperation with the Urban Planning Offices and the competent civil engineers, so as to confirm that it is a mistake or an unusual value. Data are checked for consistency, accuracy and completeness. Data processing and data validation are conducted either before or after data entry.

The monthly data are compared with the data of the corresponding months of the previous years and if any major discrepancies are identified, further checks are conducted.

21.5 Data compilation

The data, after having been validated, undergo the necessary logical checks they are imported in the electronic database; they are tabulated and finally published.

21.5.1 Imputation – rate

The survey covers 100% of the building permits issued by the Urban Planning Offices of Greece. No values are imputed; therefore imputation rate is 0%.

21.6 Adjustment

No.

21.6.1 Seasonal adjustment

Not applicable

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