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NATIONAL STATISTICAL SERVICE
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PRESS RELEASE

LABOUR FORCE SURVEY 1st quarter 2007

The General Secretariat of National Statistical Service of Greece announces the Labour Force Survey's results for the 1st Quarter 2007. Greek Labour Force Survey is harmonized with Commission's Regulation? 577/98.

Labour Force Survey is a sample survey. Sample design was based on the 2001 Census results. A two stage-sampling scheme is used for sample selection, with "areas" (that is, one or more groups of building blocks) serving as primary sampling units, and dwellings as secondary sampling units. 2640 primary sampling units are selected throughout whole Greece, and the total number of interviewed households was 30,755 (about 0.73% of the total number of households).

Survey characteristics (number of employed, unemployed etc.) were estimated by an unbiased estimator, which was calculated by taking into consideration: a) the probability of selection of a household, b) the non response rate in each primary sampling unit and c) and the estimated population distribution by sex and group ages in every NUT II level area, for the 1st Quarter of 2007. The estimation of population distribution was based on population trends by sex and group ages, migration, and on the number of births and deaths.

CHANGES IN UNEMPLOYMENT RATE AND IN LABOUR FORCE

During the 1st Quarter of 2007 the unemployment rate (that is, the percentage of unemployed persons over the labour force, which is the sum of employed and unemployed persons) was 9.1%. During the corresponding quarter of 2006, unemployment rate was 9.7%. That percentage of 9.1%, is the lowest unemployment rate for the first quarter of all the years since 1998 when Labour Force Survey started to be conducted every three months (Table 1).

Table 1. Unemployment rate during the first quarter of each year, 1998-2007

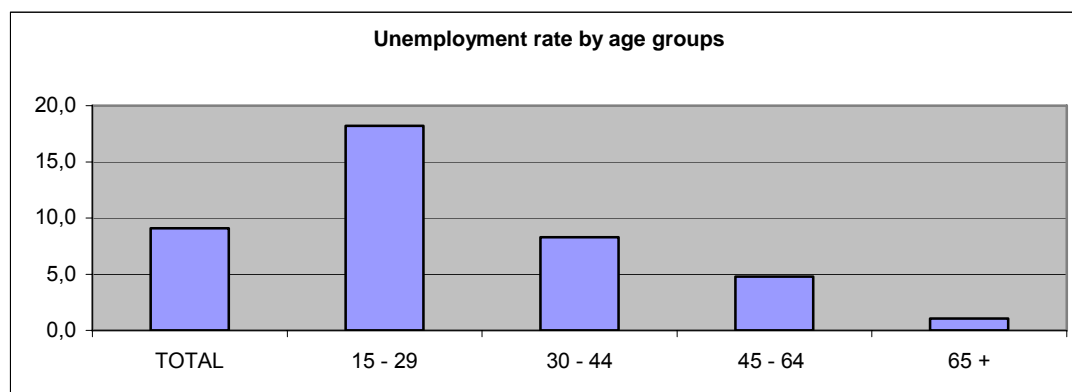
Year	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Unemployment rate	11.8	12.2	12.3	11.2	11.4	10.4	11.3	10.4	9.7	9.1

During the 1st quarter of 2007, the percentage of labour force over population aged 15 years old and over is 53.4%

I. UNEMPLOYMENT CHARACTERISTICS

Females' unemployment rate (13.9%) is still more than double of males' unemployment rate (5.7%).

Chart 1



By observing the unemployment rate for different age groups, we see that the highest unemployment rate is found among young people aged 15-19 years old (18.2%). Especially for young females, the unemployment rate is 24.8% (Table 2).

Table 2. Unemployment rate (%) by sex and age groups

Age Groups	1 st Quarter					
	2006			2007		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
15-29	13.2	25.5	18.7	13.2	24.8	18.2
30-44	5.5	13.1	8.7	4.8	13.0	8.3
45-64	3.5	8.5	5.3	2.9	7.9	4.8
65+	1.6	3.5	2.1	0.9	1.4	1.1
Total	6.3	14.6	9.7	5.7	13.9	9.1

Considering educational level, unemployment rate is higher than the total rate for persons who have not attended school (16.4%) and those who have completed programs of ISCED 5b level (11.5%) and ISCED 3 level (10.2%), while is lower for persons who have completed programs of ISCED 5A (5.9%) and ISCED 1 level (7.9%) and for those who have not completed ISCED 1 level (5.6%) (Table 3).

Table 3. Unemployment rate (%) by sex and educational level

Level of education	1 st Quarter					
	2006			2007		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
ISCED 6	5.1	5.3	5.2	5.0	8.5	6.5
ISCED 5A	4.3	8.7	6.5	3.9	8.0	5.9
ISCED 5 B	7.6	16.8	12.2	7.3	16.0	11.5
ISCED 3	7.0	17.7	11.1	5.9	17.0	10.2
ISCED 2	7.2	19.4	10.9	5.4	18.1	9.3
ISCED 1	5.3	12.7	8.0	5.8	11.6	7.9
Did not complete ISCED 1	2.2	5.1	3.4	3.8	7.9	5.6
Did not attend school	11.5	7.3	9.7	14.2	18.6	16.4
Total	6.3	14.6	9.7	5.7	13.9	9.1

The number of unemployed persons is estimated at 445,650. The 88.0% of the unemployed persons are looking for a full time job. In particular, 41.0% of unemployed is looking for a full time job only, while 47.0% is looking for full time job, but, if needed, would accept to work part time.

A significant part of the unemployed persons (12.7%) denied an offer for job for various reasons. Main reasons for denial were a) the place of job was not suitable (23.8%) b) wage was not satisfactory (20.0%) and c) working hours were not convenient (17.7%).

The percentage of “new” unemployed, who are persons that entered for the first time into labour market, is 33.2%. We must note that the percentage of “long term” unemployed, that is the percentage of persons that were looking for a job for more than 1 year (irrespective of being “new” or “old” unemployed), is 49.0%.

Unemployment rate for persons of foreign nationality is for the first time higher than the mean “national” rate (9.3% compared to 9.1%). On the other hand, the percentage of economically active persons with foreign nationality remains considerably higher than the corresponding mean “national” rate (71.0% compared to 53.4%).

Concerning differences in unemployment rates in different regions, we must note that the highest rate is observed in Notio Aigaio (16.5%) and in Ionia Nisia (13.9%). The lowest unemployment rates are observed in Thessalia (7.2%) and in Peloponnisos (7,4%) (Table 4).

Table 4. Unemployment rate by NUT II regions		
NUT II Region	1st Quarter 2006	1st Quarter 2007
TOTAL COUNTRY	9.7	9.1
ANATOLIKI MAKEDONIA, THRAKI	11.8	10.9
KENTRIKI MAKEDONIA	10.3	9.0
DYTIKI MAKEDONIA	15.9	13.0
IPEIROS	10.2	10.0
THESSALIA	8.7	7.2
IONIA NISIA	16.7	13.9
DYTIKI ELLADA	9.9	9.4
STEREA ELLADA	9.4	9.6
ATTIKI	8.2	8,3
PELLOPONNISOS	8.4	7.4
VOREIO AIGAIO	10.4	10.3
NOTIO AIGAIO	14.2	16.5
KRITI	10.5	8.4

II. EMPLOYMENT CHARACTERISTICS

The number of employed in 1st Quarter 2007 is estimated at 4,461,231 persons.

During 1st Quarter 2007, there were 90,704 persons who found a job, and who were unemployed one year ago. During the same period, 66,300 persons that were inactive the previous year, got in to employment. In contrary, 70,344 persons who were working one year ago, during the 1st Quarter 2007 are unemployed and other 75,604 persons that were working, are now inactive. In addition, 77,917 persons who were inactive one year ago, during 1st Quarter 2007 got in labour market, and are searching for a job.

If we examine changes in employment by different sector of economic activity, we see that there was a decrease in employment in primary sector by 1.7%, compared to the 1st Quarter 2006. In contrary, during the same period, there was an increase in employment in secondary and tertiary sector, by 3.4% and 1.3%, respectively. In tertiary sector, the branches with the largest increase were the branch of Health (8.2%), of Real Estate, Renting and Business Activities (3.0%) and the branch of Hotels and Restaurants (3.0%). In secondary sector, the branch with the largest increase is the branch of Contraction (7.2%), while in primary sector, there is an increase in employment in the branch of Fishery (18.1%).

The percentage of part time employment is still low. Persons that are working part time are 5.8% of the total employed. 43.6% of part timers choose to work part time because they cannot find a full time job, while 11.6% choose part time job, because they are looking after children or incapacitated adults.

Chart 2

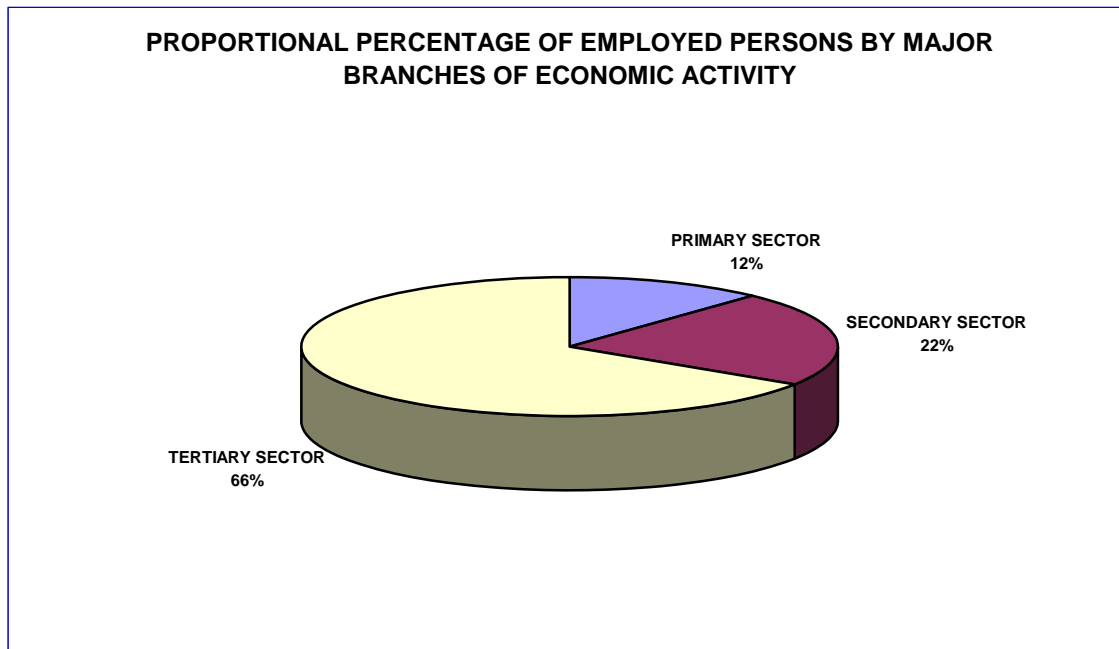
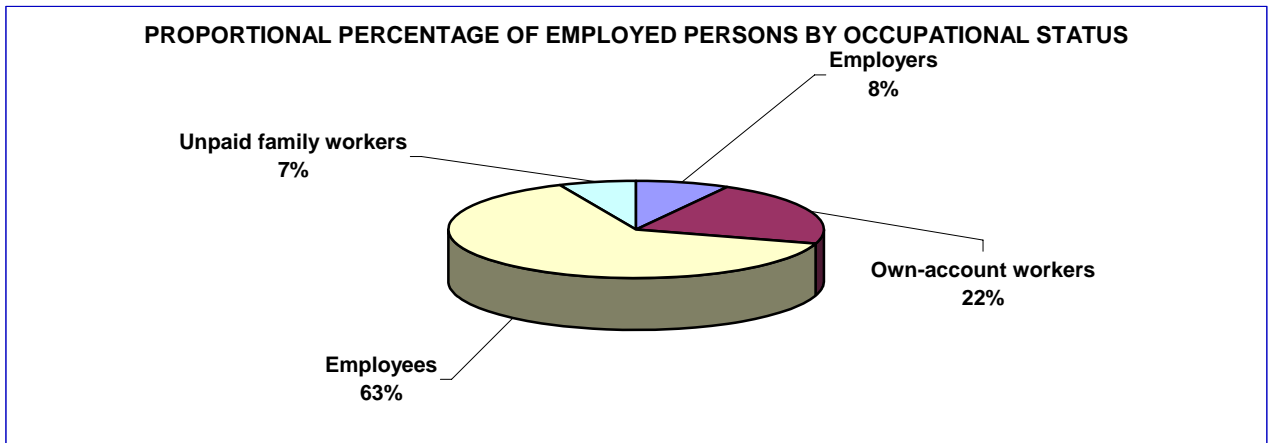


Chart 3



The percentage of employees is estimated at 63.6% and is still lower than the mean percentage of employees in European Union (about 80% of the total employed). Table 5 shows the number of employed by branch of economy from 1st Quarter 2006 to 1st Quarter 2007, while Table 6 shows, for the same period of time, the change in employment in different branches of economy, using as base (=100) the employment at 1st Quarter 2004. Table 7 presents employment by branch of economy and sex, for 1st Quarter 2006 and 1st Quarter 2007, and Table 8 gives the allocation of employed in different branches of economy (as percentage) for the 13 NUT II regions of Greece.

**Table 5. Employed persons of 15 years and over by economic activity
1st quarter 2006 – 1st quarter 2007**

(Source: NSSG, Labour Force Survey)

In thousands

I. Branch of economic activity	2006				2007
	1 st Quarter	2 nd Quarter	3 rd Quarter	4 th Quarter	1 st Quarter
Total	4,400.0	4,452.8	4,494.2	4,462.1	4,461.2
Agriculture, animal breeding, hunting and forestry	523.0	523.0	515.8	513.4	511.1
Fishing	14.4	13.1	14.8	15.8	17.0
Mining and quarrying	17.3	18.2	18.4	18.4	16.8
Manufacturing	554.8	563.2	563.8	564.6	560.8
Electricity, gas, steam and water supply	39.5	40.9	41.8	42.7	41.6
Construction	357.3	358.5	365.3	368.5	383.0
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles, motorcycles and personal and household goods.	790.5	789.3	790.8	780.3	794.4
Hotels and restaurants	273.0	300.9	324.4	297.4	281.1
Transport, storage and communication	285.0	281.7	284.7	276.5	270.5
Financial intermediation	116.2	115.8	116.1	116.8	116.9
Real estate, renting and business activities	282.2	284.1	289.4	296.8	290.7
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	373.0	380.9	386.7	381.5	383.6
Education	328.6	331.1	325.6	330.7	328.3
Health and social work	223.0	227.8	226.2	234.0	241.3
Other community, social and personal service activities	149.8	150.4	157.7	150.6	152.9
Private households with employed persons	71.8	73.4	72.3	73.0	69.5
Extra-territorial organizations and bodies	0.6	0.6	0.4	1.1	1.6

II. Sector of economic activity	2006				2007
	1 st Quarter	2 nd Quarter	3 rd Quarter	4 th Quarter	1 st Quarter
Primary sector	537.4	536.1	530.6	529.2	528.1
Secondary sector	968.8	980.8	989.3	994.1	1,002.2
Tertiary sector	2,893.9	2,935.9	2,974.3	2,938.8	2,930.9
<i>Total employed</i>	4,400.0	4,452.8	4,494.2	4,462.1	4,461.2

**Table 6. Evolution of the employment by braches of economic activity
(Base period 1st quarter 2004=100)**

I. Branch of economic activity	2006				2007
	1st Quarter	2 nd Quarter	3 rd Quarter	4 th Quarter	1 st Quarter
Total	103.6	104.8	105.8	105.0	105.0
Agriculture, animal breeding, hunting and forestry	99.1	99.1	97.7	97.3	96.9
Fishing	118.0	107.3	121.8	129.8	139.7
Mining and quarrying	129.8	137.1	138.0	138.4	126.3
Manufacturing	100.0	101.5	101.6	101.8	101.1
Electricity, gas, steam and water supply	93.2	96.4	98.7	100.8	98.2
Construction	104.8	105.1	107.1	108.1	112.3
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles, motorcycles and personal and household goods.	104.4	104.3	104.5	103.1	104.9
Hotels and restaurants	113.5	125.1	134.9	123.7	116.9
Transport, storage and communication	107.1	105.9	107.0	103.9	101.7
Financial intermediation	102.0	101.6	101.8	102.5	102.6
Real estate, renting and business activities	102.2	102.9	104.8	107.5	105.3
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	105.7	107.9	109.6	108.1	108.7
Education	105.6	106.4	104.7	106.3	105.5
Health and social work	101.7	103.8	103.1	106.7	110.0
Other community, social and personal service activities	100.3	100.7	105.6	100.8	102.3
Private households with employed persons	102.4	104.7	103.2	104.2	99.2
Extra-territorial organizations and bodies	49.5	46.9	34.4	84.2	122.5

II. Sector of economic activity	2006				2007
	1st Quarter	2 nd Quarter	3 rd Quarter	4 th Quarter	1 st Quarter
Primary sector	9.5	99.3	98.3	98.0	97.8
Secondary sector	101.8	103.1	104.0	104.5	105.3
Tertiary sector	104.9	106.5	107.9	106.6	106.3
<i>Total employed</i>	<i>103.6</i>	<i>104.8</i>	<i>105.8</i>	<i>105.0</i>	<i>105.0</i>

Table 7. Employed persons of 15 years and over by economic activity and gender for 1st quarter 2006 and 2007

(Source: NSSG, Labour Force Survey)

In thousand

I. Branch of economic activity	2006			2007		
	1st Quarter			1st Quarter		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Total	4,400.0	2,705.2	1,694.9	4,461.2	2,738.8	1,722.4
Agriculture, animal breeding, hunting and forestry	523.0	296.6	226.4	511.1	291.9	219.3
Fishing	14.4	12.7	1.6	17.0	14.3	2.7
Mining and quarrying	17.3	16.3	1.0	16.8	16.0	0.8
Manufacturing	554.8	403.2	151.6	560.8	405.9	154.9
Electricity, gas, steam and water supply	39.5	33.0	6.5	41.6	34.0	7.6
Construction	357.3	348.3	9.0	383.0	375.1	7.9
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles, motorcycles and personal and household goods.	790.5	468.3	322.2	794.4	461.0	333.4
Hotels and restaurants	273.0	156.1	116.9	281.1	159.4	121.7
Transport, storage and communication	285.0	229.0	56.0	270.5	222.0	48.5
Financial intermediation	116.2	58.8	57.4	116.9	59.7	57.2
Real estate, renting and business activities	282.2	147.3	135.0	290.7	157.6	133.1
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	373.0	247.9	125.2	383.6	248.8	134.8
Education	328.6	126.1	202.6	328.3	122.9	205.4
Health and social work	223.0	79.0	144.0	241.3	85.9	155.4
Other community, social and personal service activities	149.8	79.1	70.7	152.9	79.4	73.5
Private households with employed persons	71.8	3.5	68.3	69.5	3.8	65.6
Extra-territorial organizations and bodies	0.6	0.1	0.5	1.6	1.0	0.6

II. Sector of economic activity	2006			2007		
	1st Quarter			1st Quarter		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Primary sector	537.4	309.3	228.0	528.1	306.1	222.0
Secondary sector	968.8	800.7	168.1	1,002.2	831.0	171.2
Tertiary sector	2,893.9	1,595.1	1,298.8	2,930.9	1,601.7	1,329.2
<i>Total employed</i>	4,400.0	2,705.2	1,694.9	4,461.2	2,738.8	1,722.4

Table 8. Proportional percentage of employed persons aged 15 years and over by branches of economic activity and regions 1st quarter 2007

(Source: NSSG, Labour Force Survey)

	Total Country	Anatoliki Makedonia, Thraki	Kentriki Makedonia	Dytiki Makedonia	Ipeiros	Thessalia	Ionia Nisia
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Agriculture, animal breeding, hunting and forestry	11.5	24.8	11.2	17.3	18.6	21.3	14.2
Fishing	0.4	0.8	0.4	0.0	0.4	0.1	1.4
Mining and quarrying	0.4	0.6	0.2	6.5	0.4	0.2	0.0
Manufacturing	12.6	10.7	15.8	12.4	8.6	12.4	5.6
Electricity, gas, steam and water supply	0.9	0.4	0.6	4.0	1.1	0.6	0.6
Construction	8.6	6.7	8.7	8.8	11.6	7.9	13.6
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles, motorcycles and personal and household goods.	17.8	14.2	19.4	12.5	14.3	15.0	17.8
Hotels and restaurants	6.3	5.6	6.6	5.7	8.1	5.3	10.2
Transport, storage and communication	6.1	3.2	4.4	2.1	3.7	4.0	8.5
Financial intermediation	2.6	1.5	1.7	1.6	1.3	1.1	0.8
Real estate, renting and business activities	6.5	3.8	6.5	3.2	3.6	4.9	5.8
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	8.6	11.5	7.0	8.3	9.0	9.3	7.0
Education	7.4	7.8	7.8	11.1	10.6	8.9	5.5
Health and social work	5.4	4.7	5.1	3.8	5.7	5.1	3.5
Other community, social and personal service activities	3.4	3.1	3.2	2.4	2.3	2.9	4.7
Private households with employed persons	1.6	0.6	1.3	0.1	0.7	0.9	0.9
Extra-territorial organizations and bodies	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Table 8 Table 8. Proportional percentage of employed persons aged 15 years and over by branches of economic activity and regions 1st quarter 2007 (continued)

(Source: NSSG, Labour Force Survey)

	Dytiki Ellada	Sterea Ellada	Attiki	Peloponnisos	Voreio Aigaio	Notio Aigaio	Kriti
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Agriculture, animal breeding, hunting and forestry	20.3	17.9	0.6	30.9	15.3	5.6	19.9
Fishing	0.5	1.0	0.1	0.4	1.9	2.0	0.1
Mining and quarrying	0.1	1.0	0.0	0.7	0.0	1.0	0.2
Manufacturing	8.4	16.6	14.0	9.9	7.6	5.9	7.6
Electricity, gas, steam and water supply	0.9	1.3	0.9	1.4	0.7	1.2	0.9
Construction	8.5	9.7	7.9	8.1	8.4	11.8	10.2
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles, motorcycles and personal and household goods.	17.1	14.5	19.7	13.5	17.7	22.5	16.8
Hotels and restaurants	6.0	8.0	4.9	6.2	9.0	15.1	8.9
Transport, storage and communication	6.0	4.2	8.8	3.7	5.9	5.6	4.8
Financial intermediation	2.0	1.7	4.3	2.1	1.1	1.8	1.8
Real estate, renting and business activities	5.1	3.3	9.3	3.1	2.9	3.8	5.3
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	7.6	8.3	9.3	6.8	15.4	8.0	7.2
Education	7.9	6.0	7.0	5.8	6.8	4.7	7.0
Health and social work	5.2	3.6	6.4	3.8	4.8	6.4	5.2
Other community, social and personal service activities	3.4	2.2	4.1	2.9	2.6	4.2	2.8
Private households with employed persons	0.8	0.9	2.7	0.5	0.0	0.1	1.1
Extra-territorial organizations and bodies	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2

Detailed tables on web site www.statistics.gr

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