



HELLENIC REPUBLIC



MINISTRY OF ECONOMY AND FINANCE

GENERAL SECRETARIAT



**NATIONAL STATISTICAL SERVICE
OF GREECE**

Piraeus March 19, 2009

PRESS RELEASE

LABOUR FORCE SURVEY 4th quarter 2008

The General Secretariat of National Statistical Service of Greece announces the Labour Force Survey's results for the 4th quarter 2008. 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. 2,640 primary sampling units were selected throughout whole Greece, and the total number of interviewed households was 30,460 (about 0.70% of the total number of households).

Survey characteristics (number of employed, unemployed etc.) were estimated by an unbiased estimator, which was calculated taking into consideration: a) selection probabilities of households, b) non response rate in each primary sampling unit and c) the estimated population distribution by sex and group ages. The estimation of population distribution was based on population trends and on the number of births, deaths and legal immigrants.

Contact person: Stelios Zachariou
Phone number : 210 4852173
Fax: 210 4852948
E-mail: zacharis@statistics.g

CHANGES IN UNEMPLOYMENT RATE AND LABOUR FORCE

During the 4th quarter of 2008 the unemployment rate (that is, the percentage of unemployed persons over the labour force, which is the sum of employed and unemployed persons) was 7.9%. During the corresponding quarter of 2007, unemployment rate was 8.1%. That percentage is the lowest unemployment rate, for the fourth quarter of the year, since 1998 when Labour Force Survey started to be conducted every three months (Table 1).

Table 1. Unemployment rate: 4th quarter, 1998-2008

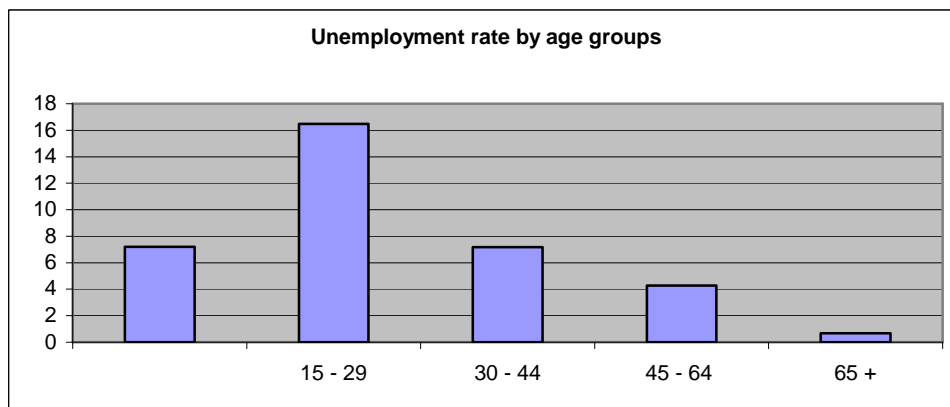
Year	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Unemployment rate in 4 th Quarter	11,4	12,7	11,0	11,2	10,2	9,9	10,4	9,7	8,8	8,1	7,9

During the 4th quarter of 2008, the percentage of labour force over population aged 15 years old and over was 53.5%

I. UNEMPLOYMENT CHARACTERISTICS

Females' unemployment rate (11.7%) is still more than double of males' unemployment rate (5.3%).

Chart 1



By observing the unemployment rate for different age groups, we see that the highest unemployment rate is found among young people aged 15-29 years old (16.5%). For young females, the unemployment rate is 21.1% (Table 2).

Table 2. Unemployment rate (%) by sex and age groups: 4th quarter 2007 and 2008

Age Groups	4th Quarter					
	2007			2008		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Total	5.2	12.3	8.1	5.3	11.7	7.9
15-29	12.9	22.7	17.2	12.9	21.1	16.5
30-44	4.1	11.3	7.2	4.1	11.3	7.2
45-64	2.4	6.6	4.0	3.0	6.4	4.3
65+	1.2	1.0	1.2	0.9	0.0	0.7

Considering educational level, unemployment rate is higher than the total rate for persons who have completed ISCED 5B level programs (10.0%), for those who have completed ISCED 2 (9.0%) and for persons who have not attended school (9.9%). The lowest unemployment rate (5.0%) is observed in the case of persons of ISCED5AS and ISCED6 level (Phd of Post-graduate studies) and in the case of persons with low educational level (6.2% for person completed ISCED 1 programs and 5.1% for those who have not completed ISCED 1 programs.) (Table 3).

Table 3. Unemployment rate (%) by sex and educational level: 4th quarter 2007 and 2008

Level of education	4th Quarter					
	2007			2008		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Total	5.2	12.3	8.1	5.3	11.7	7.9
ISCED 5AS, 6	4.5	7.9	5.9	3.8	6.6	5.0
ISCED 5A	4.2	8.3	6.2	4.0	7.2	5.6
ISCED 5 B	6.3	14.6	10.3	6.6	13.8	10.0
ISCED 3	5.9	13.7	8.9	5.9	13.6	8.9
ISCED 2	4.3	15.5	7.7	5.6	16.9	9.0
ISCED 1	4.6	10.2	6.6	4.4	9.4	6.2
Did not complete ISCED 1	5.6	12.1	8.1	6.4	3.1	5.1
Did not attend school	10.3	20.3	14.5	7.5	12.7	9.9

The number of unemployed persons is estimated at 392,668. The 86.7% of the unemployed persons are looking for a full time job. In particular, 40.5% of unemployed is looking only for a full time job, while 46.2% is looking for full time job, but, if needed, would accept to work part time.

A significant part of the unemployed persons (11.8%) did not accept an offer for job, for various reasons. Main reasons reported were:

- a) wage was not satisfactory (27.4%),
- b) the place of job was not suitable (23.2%),
- c) working hours were not convenient (12.9%).

The percentage of “new” unemployed, that is the percentage of persons that entered for the first time into labour market, is 34.0%. 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 47.0%.

Unemployment rate is lower for persons of foreign nationality (7.5% compared to 7.9%). In addition, the percentage of economically active persons with foreign nationality is much higher than the corresponding mean “national” percentage (72.4% compared to 53.5%).

Geographical (NUT II) areas with the highest unemployment rate are Dytiki Makedonia (12.6%), Dytiki Ellada (9.8%) and Ipeiros (10.5%). The lowest unemployment rates are observed in Voreio Aigaio (4.6%) and Attiki (6.8%). (Table 4).

Table 4. Unemployment rate by NUT II regions		
NUT II Region	4th quarter 2007	4th Quarter 2008
TOTAL COUNTRY	8,1	7,9
ANATOLIKI MAKEDONIA, THRAKI	9,3	8,8
KENTRIKI MAKEDONIA	8,9	8,1
DYTIKI MAKEDONIA	11,9	12,6
IPEIROS	9,8	10,5
THESSALIA	8,7	9,3
IONIA NISIA	9,3	9,3
DYTIKI ELLADA	10,1	9,8
STEREA ELLADA	9,5	8,7
ATTIKI	6,9	6,8
PELLOPONNISOS	7,7	7,0
VOREIO AIGAIO	6,2	4,6
NOTIO AIGAIO	8,8	7,2
KRITI	5,3	8,2

II. EMPLOYMENT CHARACTERISTICS

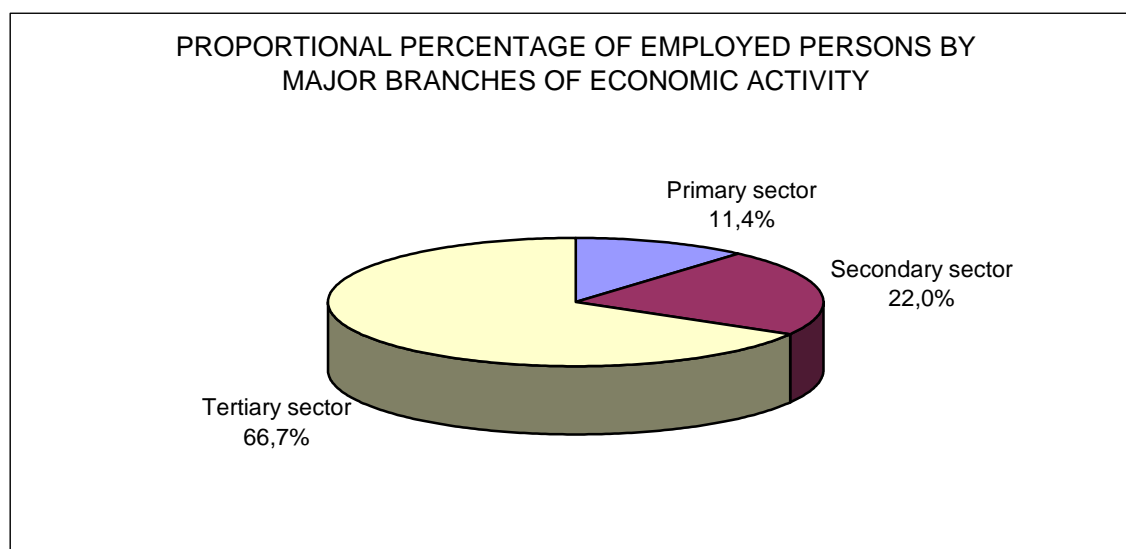
The number of employed in 4th quarter 2008 is estimated at 4,553,623 persons.

During 4th quarter 2008, 91,254 persons who were unemployed one year ago found a job. During the same period, 81,116 persons that were inactive one year ago, got in to employment. In contrary, 76,905 persons who were working one year ago, during the 4th quarter 2008 are unemployed and 78,193 persons that were working are now inactive. In addition, 75,523 persons who were inactive one year ago, during 4th quarter 2008 entered labour market, and are searching for a job.

Concerning the change in the level of employment between 4th Quarter 2007 and 4th Quarter 2008, we observe a slight increase by 0.8%. If we examine changes in employment by different sector of economic activity, we see a slight increase in primary sector by 0.1%. During the same period, there was a decrease in employment in secondary sector by 2.1%, and an increase in tertiary sector by 1.9%. In tertiary sector, the branch with the largest increase, compared to the same quarter last year, was the branch of Wholesale and Retail Trade (3.9%) In secondary sector, we found the largest decrease in the branch of Manufacturing (4.7%).¹

The percentage of part time employment is low and amounts to 5.7% of the total employed. 43.0% of part timers choose to work part time because they cannot find a full time job, while 11.4% choose part time job, because they are looking after children or incapacitated adults.

Chart 2



¹ From 1st Quarter 2008, NACE Rev.2 is used for the classification of economic activities. NACE is the European reference framework for the production and the dissemination of statistics related to economic activities and is the outcome of a five-year long consultation process, which involved EU national statistical institutes, European trade and business associations, the European Central Bank and the United Nations Statistical Division. The work has been coordinated by Eurostat. The revision of NACE was considered necessary because changes in economic structures and organizations, as well as technological developments, has given rise to new activities and products. Differences between NACE rev.1 and NACE rev.2 include the introduction of new sections (for example, Arts, Entertainment and Recreation) as well the classification of certain divisions in different sections (for example, Publishing Activities are now included in the new Information and Communication section. As a result, there is no complete correspondence between the two classifications.

The percentage of employees is estimated at 64.4% and is still lower than the mean percentage of employees in European Union (about 80%).

Chart 3

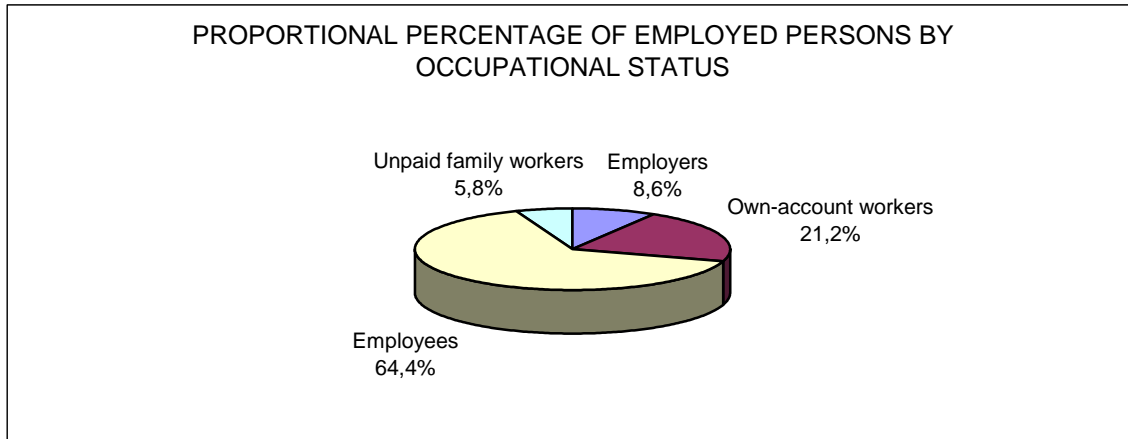


Table 5 shows the number of employed by branch of economy for the 4th quarter of 2008, the 3rd quarter of 2008 and 4th quarter of 2007, while Table 6 gives the percentage allocation of employed in different branches of economy for the 13 NUT II regions of Greece. Table 7 shows the total number of employed, and the percentage of women, employees, part time workers, and persons with contracts of limited duration, by occupation, for the 4th quarter of 2008. Finally, Table 9 shows the annual average unemployment rate by NUT III level for the years 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008.

**Table 5. Employed persons of 15 years and over by economic activity:
4th quarter 2008 – 3rd quarter 2008 – 4th quarter 2007**

In thousands

I. Branch of economic activity (NACE Rev. 1)	4th quarter 2007	I. Branch of economic activity (NACE Rev. 2)	3rd Quarter 2008	4th quarter 2008
Total	4.519,6		4.589,8	4.553,6
Agriculture, animal breeding, hunting and forestry	500,6	A. Agriculture, forestry and fishing		
Fishing	15,6		513,9	516,9
Mining and quarrying	18,8	B. Mining and quarrying	17,7	15,6
Manufacturing	560,1	C. Manufacturing	542,6	533,7
		D. Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	33,2	32,1
Electricity, gas, steam and water supply	43,0	E. Water supply; sewerage, waste management and	32,3	31,4
Construction	399,5	F. Construction	398,8	386,8
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles, motorcycles and personal and household goods.	802,3	G. Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles	830,1	834,0
Hotels and restaurants	306,2	I. Accommodation and food service activities	339,5	307,1
Transport, storage and communication	260,6	H. Transportation and storage	212,7	214,9
		J. Information and communication	76,9	78,0
Financial intermediation	115,4	K. Financial and insurance activities	116,9	113,4
		I. Real estate activities	8,8	8,6
Real estate, renting and business activities	303,1	M. Professional, scientific and technical activities	235,8	244,5
		N. Administrative and support service activities	77,7	72,7
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	382,7	O. Public administration and defence; compulsory social	374,8	377,4
Education	320,6	P. Education	316,2	322,3
Health and social work	244,0	Q. Human health and social work activities	230,3	231,0
		R. Arts, entertainment and recreation	60,0	58,1
Other community, social and personal service activities	168,1	S. Other service activities	94,3	92,0
Private households with employed persons	76,7	T. Activities of households as employers; undifferentiated	75,9	81,7
Extra-territorial organizations and bodies	1,9	U. Activities of extraterritorial organisations and bodies	1,4	1,6

Table 6. Proportional percentage of employed persons aged 15 years and over by branch of economic activity and region: 4th quarter 2008

Branch of economic activity	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
A. Agriculture, forestry and fishing	11,4	24,6	11,8	18,2	17,9	19,8	18,4
B. Mining and quarrying	0,3	0,9	0,1	5,5	0,3	0,0	0,2
C. Manufacturing	11,7	10,8	14,5	12,3	9,2	13,0	3,9
D. Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	0,7	0,5	0,5	3,5	0,5	0,3	0,4
E. Water supply; sewerage, waste management and	0,7	0,7	0,9	0,8	0,8	0,5	0,5
F. Construction	8,5	7,3	7,8	11,2	11,7	8,2	9,2
G. Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles	18,3	14,4	20,3	12,6	14,6	16,7	21,3
H. Transportation and storage	4,7	2,9	3,7	3,9	2,7	2,2	3,7
I. Accommodation and food service activities	6,7	5,8	6,0	5,7	7,4	7,0	17,8
J. Information and communication	1,7	0,7	1,3	0,2	0,5	0,2	0,0
K. Financial and insurance activities	2,5	1,4	1,8	0,5	1,9	1,2	0,5
L. Real estate activities	0,2	0,1	0,2	0,1	0,0	0,1	0,3
M. Professional, scientific and technical activities	5,4	2,9	5,7	1,4	3,6	3,8	3,4
N. Administrative and support service activities	1,6	1,5	1,4	0,6	0,7	1,0	2,7
O. Public administration and defense; compulsory social	8,3	11,6	6,5	8,6	8,3	8,4	4,7
P. Education	7,1	6,7	7,2	8,0	8,9	8,5	6,1
Q. Human health and social work activities	5,1	4,4	5,4	3,8	6,8	4,9	2,8
R. Arts, entertainment and recreation	1,3	0,8	1,4	1,2	1,5	1,2	1,2
S. Other service activities	2,0	1,4	2,1	1,2	2,3	2,1	2,2
T. Activities of households as employers; undifferentiated	1,8	0,8	1,4	0,5	0,5	0,9	0,7
U. Activities of extraterritorial organizations and bodies	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,1	0,0	0,0

Table 6. Proportional percentage of employed persons aged 15 years and over by branch of economic activity and region: 4th quarter 2008 (continued)

Branch of economic activity	Dytiki Ellada	Stereia Ellada	Attiki	Peloponnisos	Voreio Aigaio	Notio Aigaio	Kriti
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
A. Agriculture, forestry and fishing	19,6	18,7	0,9	31,0	13,4	6,1	16,5
B. Mining and quarrying	0,1	1,2	0,0	0,5	0,0	0,6	0,0
C. Manufacturing	8,2	15,1	12,9	6,7	7,9	6,3	8,5
D. Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	0,8	1,2	0,7	0,9	0,8	0,9	0,5
E. Water supply; sewerage, waste management and	0,2	0,9	0,7	0,4	0,1	1,3	0,4
F. Construction	10,2	10,9	7,4	9,3	7,6	10,8	10,7
G. Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles	17,8	14,5	19,8	14,3	20,8	19,8	17,9
H. Transportation and storage	5,3	3,7	6,2	3,4	5,2	7,1	4,1
I. Accommodation and food service activities	5,6	7,2	5,5	5,8	7,2	18,1	10,8
J. Information and communication	0,9	0,8	3,2	0,7	1,1	0,7	1,0
K. Financial and insurance activities	1,6	1,4	4,1	1,2	2,0	1,3	2,1
I. Real estate activities	0,1	0,0	0,3	0,0	0,0	0,2	0,2
M. Professional, scientific and technical activities	3,9	3,6	7,5	2,8	3,3	2,9	4,9
N. Administrative and support service activities	0,8	0,8	2,2	0,6	1,1	2,3	1,7
O. Public administration and defense; compulsory social	7,8	8,4	8,9	7,7	14,3	9,6	6,2
P. Education	8,5	4,9	6,8	7,4	8,1	5,8	6,9
Q. Human health and social work activities	5,0	3,1	5,9	3,6	4,4	3,1	4,5
R. Arts, entertainment and recreation	0,9	1,2	1,4	1,3	1,1	1,4	0,8
S. Other service activities	2,2	1,3	2,3	1,5	1,7	1,4	1,6
T. Activities of households as employers; undifferentiated	0,6	1,0	3,3	0,8	0,0	0,3	0,6
U. Activities of extraterritorial organizations and bodies	0,0	0,0	0,1	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0

Table 7. Employed, age 15 years old and over, and percentage of employed women, of employees, of part time workers and of persons with limited duration contracts, by occupation: 4th quarter 2008

In thousands

Occupation	Total employed	% of women	% of employees	% of employees with limited duration contract	% Part time workers
Total	4.553,6	39,3	64,4	11,8	5,7
Legislators, senior officials and managers	477,4	28,7	12,4	5,5	1,3
Professionals	683,3	49,2	74,0	10,6	5,1
Technicians and associate professionals	389,3	50,2	83,9	10,0	4,2
Clerks	516,5	59,6	94,3	9,7	4,2
Service workers and shop and market sale workers	649,7	55,8	77,7	13,3	7,8
Skilled agricultural and fishery workers	494,9	40,7	3,7	23,4	12,9
Craft and related trade workers	639,0	7,2	68,2	11,7	2,1
Plant and machine operators and assembler	335,7	8,3	75,3	6,7	1,0
Elementary occupations	313,4	54,2	91,5	23,6	15,9
Other unclassified persons	54,4	10,1	100,0	2,9	0,0

Table 8 shows the annual average unemployment rate by NUT III level. We must note that Labour Force Survey is designed to produce reliable estimates at NUT II level and, as a consequence, these estimates at NUT III level have a large sampling error. Estimations are not given for NUT III areas with estimated population less than 40,000 people.

Table 9. Yearly unemployment rate (%) by NUT III region

Region (NUTS II level)	DEPARTMENT	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Anatoliki Makedonia and Thraki	DRAMA	22,3	22,3	19,5	17,5	15,5
	KAVALA	15,9	12,8	12,2	10,7	9,2
	EVROS	11,6	12,4	11,2	8,2	8,0
	XANTHI	10,1	9,0	8,1	9,5	6,6
	RODOPI	7,8	5,3	5,9	5,7	6,2
Kentriki Makedonia	IMATHIA	22,9	20,6	15,1	12,9	9,2
	THESSALONIKI	11,5	10,6	8,9	8,8	8,5
	KILKIS	13,8	14,6	15,7	15,1	11,9
	PELLA	9,7	11,0	9,3	8,9	6,2
	PIERIA	14,0	8,2	8,1	9,2	10,0
	SERRES	10,9	9,2	6,5	5,0	5,8
	CHALKIDIKI	6,1	5,1	5,8	6,0	5,8
Dytiki Makedonia	GREVENA	*	*	*	*	*
	KASTORIA	24,0	28,5	24,9	15,5	18,6
	KOZANI	13,4	13,1	12,2	11,8	12,8
	FLORINA	20,9	22,3	15,2	15,5	8,5
Ipiros	ARTA	12,8	16,2	10,7	12,7	10,9
	THESPROTIA	*	*	*	*	*
	IOANNINA	11,3	10,6	9,3	8,6	9,8
	PREVEZA	8,6	9,4	11,7	13,7	11,6
Thessalia	KARDITSA	6,2	9,3	5,8	6,6	6,5
	LARISSA	11,5	10,4	9,0	9,5	9,7
	MAGNISSIA	9,3	8,5	7,8	5,9	8,1
	TRIKALA	10,2	8,7	8,8	7,3	7,1
Ionia Nisia	ZAKYNTHOS	12,6	7,3	15,2	9,2	8,7
	KERKYRA	13,3	10,0	11,5	11,2	10,5
	KEFALLINIA	*	*	*	*	*
	LEFKADA	*	*	*	*	*
Dytiki Ellada	ETOLIA & AKARNANIA	15,4	11,0	9,2	10,3	9,1
	ACHAIA	11,6	11,5	10,7	9,6	10,2
	ILIA	9,8	7,7	7,1	8,6	9,1
Sterea Ellada	VIOTIA	15,9	13,7	10,9	11,1	10,0
	EVIA	14,2	11,9	9,9	10,4	10,3
	EVRYTANIA	*	*	*	7,6	8,9
	FTHIOTIDA	6,9	5,8	6,0	4,4	2,9
	FOKIDA	15,5	13,1	9,3	15,5	14,6
Attiki	ATTIKI	9,1	8,8	8,3	7,6	6,5
Peloponissos	ARGOLIDA	11,6	9,8	7,7	7,1	7,1
	ARKADIA	9,9	10,2	12,2	11,3	10,6
	KORINTHIA	7,4	7,8	6,2	6,1	7,6
	LAKONIA	8,3	7,0	4,9	6,0	5,4
	MESSINIA	9,0	8,9	7,9	7,7	6,1
Voreio Aigaio	LESVOS	9,5	12,0	10,9	8,8	4,4
	SAMOS	*	*	*	*	*
	CHIOS	8,9	7,7	8,0	7,4	6,0
Notio Aigaio	DODEKANISSOS	9,9	10,8	9,3	11,0	10,1
	KYKLADES	7,3	7,0	8,1	5,3	3,9
Kriti	IRAKLIO	8,2	7,6	7,3	5,1	6,7
	LASSITHI	6,3	5,5	6,5	5,4	3,8
	RETHYMNO	11,6	7,4	6,8	7,6	10,3
	CHANIA	5,3	6,6	6,9	4,2	4,6
TOTAL COUNTRY		10,5	9,9	8,9	8,3	7,6