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**NATIONAL STATISTICAL SERVICE
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PRESS RELEASE

LABOUR FORCE SURVEY 1st quarter 2009

The General Secretariat of National Statistical Service of Greece announces the Labour Force Survey's results for the 1st quarter 2009. 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 30,887 (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.

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CHANGES IN UNEMPLOYMENT RATE AND LABOUR FORCE

During the 1st quarter of 2009 the unemployment rate (that is, the percentage of unemployed persons over the labour force, which is the sum of employed and unemployed persons) was 9.3%. During the corresponding quarter of 2008, unemployment rate was 8.3%. (Table 1).

Table 1. Unemployment rate: 1st quarter, 1998-2009

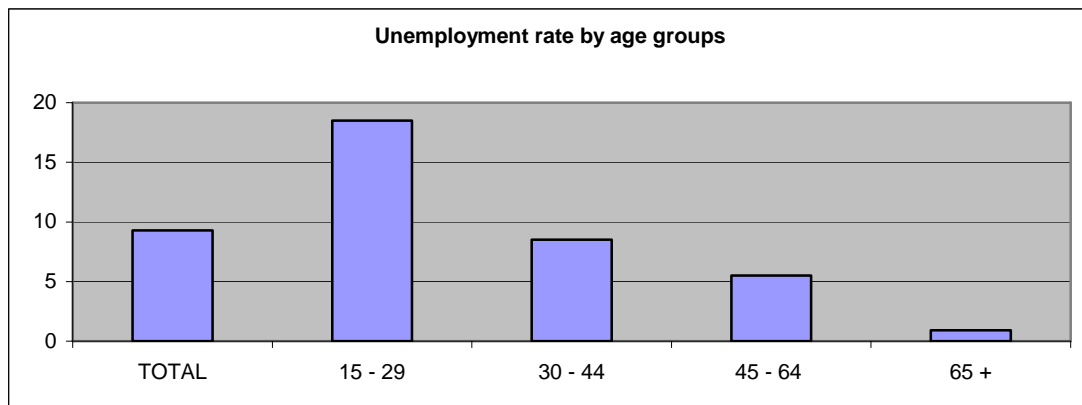
Year	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Unemployment rate	11.8	12.2	12.3	11.2	11.4	10.4	11.3	10.4	9.7	9.1	8.3	9.3

During the 1st quarter of 2009, the percentage of labour force over population aged 15 years old and over was 53.5%

I. UNEMPLOYMENT CHARACTERISTICS

Females' unemployment rate (13.0%) is almost double than males' unemployment rate (6.8%).

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 (18.5%). For young females, the unemployment rate is 23.1% (Table 2).

Table 2. Unemployment rate (%) by sex and age groups: 1st quarter 2008 and 2009

Age Groups	1st Quarter					
	2008			2009		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Total	5.5	12.3	8.3	6.8	13.0	9.3
15-29	13.5	22.2	17.3	15.0	23.1	18.5
30-44	4.5	11.4	7.4	5.6	12.4	8.5
45-64	2.8	7.1	4.4	4.2	7.6	5.5
65+	1.1	0.0	0.8	0.9	0.7	0.9

Considering educational level, unemployment rate is higher than the total rate for persons who have not attended school (14.5%) , for those who have completed ISCED 5b level programs (11.0%) and for those who have completed ISCED 2 programs (10.9%). Lower unemployment rates are observed in the case of persons that completed ISCED 5AS and 6 programs (5.7%) and ISCED 5 programs (5.9%) (Table 3).

Table 3. Unemployment rate (%) by sex and educational level: 1st quarter 2008 and 2009

Level of education	1st quarter					
	2008			2009		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Total	5.5	12.3	8.3	6.8	13.0	9.3
ISCED 5AS, 6	4.6	6.6	5.4	4.3	7.5	5.7
ISCED 5A	3.8	7.1	5.4	4.5	7.3	5.9
ISCED 5 B	6.7	14.5	10.5	7.3	14.8	11.0
ISCED 3	6.1	13.9	9.1	7.4	15.3	10.5
ISCED 2	5.4	17.6	9.2	7.8	17.7	10.9
ISCED 1	5.0	10.6	7.1	6.3	11.9	8.3
Did not complete ISCED 1	5.4	9.5	7.0	8.8	4.0	7.0
Did not attend school	6.7	19.4	12.2	14.2	14.9	14.5

The number of unemployed persons is estimated at 462,343. The 86.7% of the unemployed persons are looking for a full time job. In particular, 40.8% of unemployed is looking only for a full time job, while 45.8% is looking for full time job, but, if needed, would accept to work part time.

A significant part of the unemployed persons (11.1%) did not accept an offer for job, for various reasons. Main reported reasons were:

- a) wage was not satisfactory (24.2%),
- b) the place of job was not suitable (23.1%),
- c) working hours were not convenient (17.5%).

The percentage of “new” unemployed, that is the percentage of persons that entered for the first time into labour market, is 29.2%. 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 (irrespectively of being “new” or “old” unemployed), is 41.3%.

Unemployment rate is higher for persons of foreign nationality (10.7% compared to 9.2%). In contrast, the percentage of economically active persons with foreign nationality is much higher than the corresponding mean “national” percentage (72.1% compared to 52.1%).

Geographical (NUTS II) areas with the highest unemployment rate are Notio Aigaio (16.9%), Dytiki Makedonia (14.4%) and Ionia Nisia (14.1%). The lowest unemployment rates are observed in Voreio Aigaio (7,0%) and in Attiki (7.6%) (Table 4).

Table 4. Unemployment rate by NUTS II regions		
NUTS II Region	1st quarter 2008	1st Quarter 2009
TOTAL COUNTRY	8.3	9.3
ANATOLIKI MAKEDONIA, THRAKI	9.5	10.6
KENTRIKI MAKEDONIA	8.7	9.5
DYTIKI MAKEDONIA	12.6	14.4
IPEIROS	9.9	11.4
THESSALIA	8.2	8.8
IONIA NISIA	11.7	14.1
DYTIKI ELLADA	9.9	10.1
STEREA ELLADA	8.9	10.7
ATTIKI	6.6	7.6
PELLOPONNISOS	8.0	8.3
VOREIO AIGAIO	5.4	7.0
NOTIO AIGAIO	15.5	16.9
KRITI	7.9	10.9

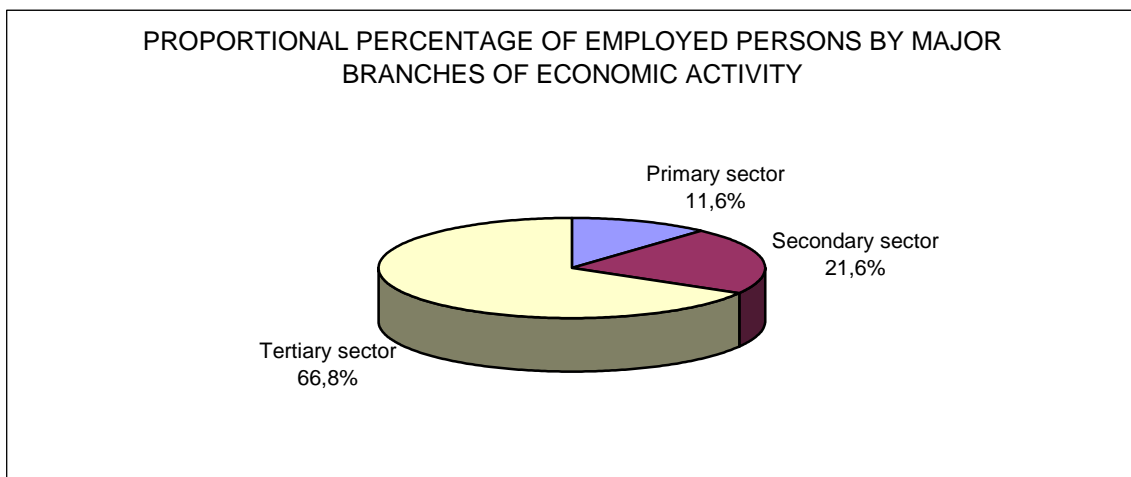
II. EMPLOYMENT CHARACTERISTICS

The number of employed in 1st quarter 2009 is estimated at 4,485,758 persons.

During 1st quarter 2009, 90,206 persons who were unemployed one year ago found a job. During the same period, 80,273 persons that were inactive one year ago, got in to employment. In contrary, 104,937 persons who were working one year ago, during the 1st quarter 2008 are unemployed and 76,832 persons that were working, are now inactive. In addition, 84,758 persons who were inactive one year ago, during 1st quarter 2009 entered labour market, and are searching for a job.

If we examine changes in employment by different sector of economic activity, we see that compared to the 1st Quarter 2008 there was an increase in employment in primary and in tertiary sector by 0.4%, and 0.7%, respectively. In contrary, during the same period, there was a decrease in employment in secondary sector by 4.9%. In tertiary sector, the branches with the largest increase were the branch of Information and communication (18.0%), and the branch of households as employers (17.3%). In secondary sector, branches with the largest decrease are the branch of Mining and quarrying (23.8%), and the branch of Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply (17.1%).

Chart 2



The percentage of part time employment is low and amounts to 6.1% of the total employed. 45.9% of part timers choose to work part time because they cannot find a full time job, while 9.3% choose part time job, because they are looking after children or incapacitated adults.

The percentage of employees is estimated at 64.0% and is still lower than the mean percentage of employees in European Union.

Chart 3

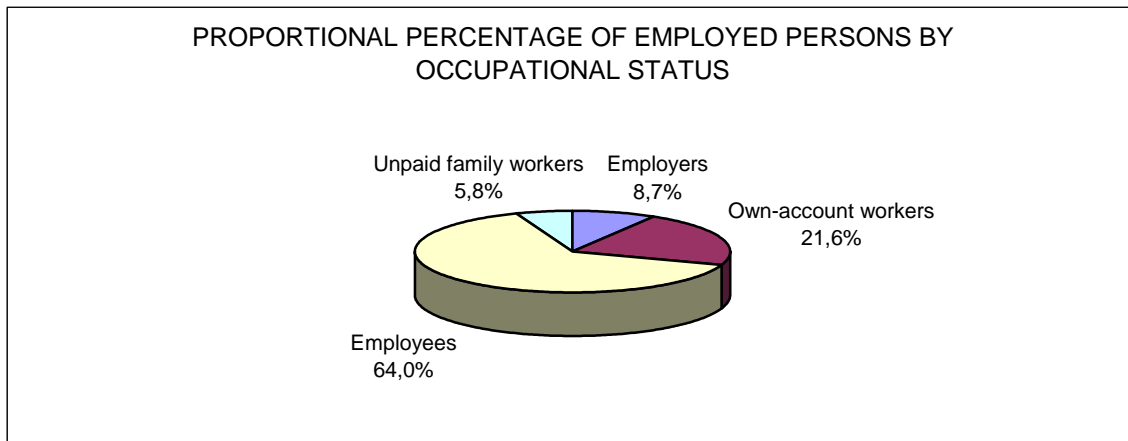


Table 5 shows the number of employed by branch of economy for the 1st quarter of 2009, the 4th quarter of 2008 and 1st quarter of 2008, while Table 6 gives the percentage allocation of employed in different branches of economy for the 13 NUTS II regions of Greece. Finally, Table 7 shows the total number of employed, and the percentage of women, employees, part time workers, and persons with contracts of limited duration, by occupation, for the 1st Quarter 2009.

**Table 5. Employed persons of 15 years and over by economic activity:
1st quarter 2008 – 4th quarter 2008 – 1st quarter 2009**

In thousands

I. Branch of economic activity (NACE Rev. 2)	1 st Quarter 2008	4 th Quarter 2008	1 st Quarter 2009
Total	4,511.6	4,553.6	4,485.8
A. Agriculture, forestry and fishing	517.9	516.9	520.0
B. Mining and quarrying	17.8	15.6	13.5
C. Manufacturing	540.6	533.7	529.0
D. Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	37.3	32.1	30.9
E. Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	28.3	31.4	28.4
F. Construction	395.4	386.8	367.7
G. Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles	815.5	834.0	837.2
H. Transportation and storage	210.4	214.9	208.9
I. Accommodation and food service activities	288.2	307.1	279.7
J. Information and communication	71.3	78.0	84.1
K. Financial and insurance activities	121.8	113.4	111.7
L. Real estate activities	8.6	8.6	9.2
M. Professional, scientific and technical activities	227.3	244.5	237.6
N. Administrative and support service activities	76.3	72.7	70.6
O. Public administration and defence; compulsory social	375.9	377.4	372.8
P. Education	322.5	322.3	326.5
Q. Human health and social work activities	239.1	231.0	229.4
R. Arts, entertainment and recreation	55.6	58.1	55.9
S. Other service activities	89.7	92.0	88.5
T. Activities of households as employers; undifferentiated	70.4	81.7	82.5
U. Activities of extraterritorial organisations and bodies	1.9	1.6	1.5

Table 6. Proportional percentage of employed persons aged 15 years and over by branches of economic activity and regions: 1st quarter 2009

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	11.6	25.8	12.0	19.4	17.7	19.3	19.6
B. Mining and quarrying	0.3	0.7	0.1	4.9	0.2	0.0	0.3
C. Manufacturing	11.8	10.1	13.9	12.4	9.8	13.4	4.3
D. Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	0.7	0.3	0.4	3.5	0.7	0.5	0.0
E. Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.9	0.8	0.5	0.5
F. Construction	8.2	7.1	7.8	8.2	10.8	7.3	11.2
G. Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles	18.7	15.7	20.8	14.7	15.0	16.7	21.0
H. Transportation and storage	4.7	3.0	3.6	3.5	2.9	2.5	4.4
I. Accommodation and food service activities	6.2	5.3	5.4	5.4	6.4	6.1	12.7
J. Information and communication	1.9	0.7	1.4	0.1	0.4	0.4	0.0
K. Financial and insurance activities	2.5	1.6	1.8	0.5	1.9	1.1	1.1
L. Real estate activities	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.2
M. Professional, scientific and technical activities	5.3	2.7	5.7	1.8	3.8	4.1	3.3
N. Administrative and support service activities	1.6	1.1	1.2	0.8	0.9	0.9	2.9
O. Public administration and defense; compulsory social	8.3	11.3	6.2	8.5	8.1	8.6	5.7
P. Education	7.3	6.4	8.1	8.4	9.0	10.1	6.1
Q. Human health and social work activities	5.1	4.5	5.5	3.7	6.9	4.6	2.5
R. Arts, entertainment and recreation	1.2	1.0	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.1
S. Other service activities	2.0	1.2	2.0	1.2	2.5	1.7	2.4
T. Activities of households as employers; undifferentiated	1.8	0.7	1.7	0.6	0.6	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 branches of economic activity and regions: 1st quarter 2009 (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	20.9	18.5	0.9	30.2	13.5	7.3	18.5
B. Mining and quarrying	0.2	0.9	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.6	0.1
C. Manufacturing	8.6	16.0	13.1	6.8	6.7	6.7	8.4
D. Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	0.7	1.1	0.7	0.9	1.5	1.0	0.6
E. Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	0.2	0.9	0.7	0.5	0.1	1.1	0.4
F. Construction	9.4	9.9	7.1	9.2	7.3	12.1	11.3
G. Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles	18.5	15.0	19.9	15.1	20.5	20.2	17.4
H. Transportation and storage	4.5	3.5	6.3	3.4	5.1	6.6	3.8
I. Accommodation and food service activities	5.6	7.1	5.4	7.0	5.9	14.5	9.1
J. Information and communication	0.9	0.7	3.5	0.7	1.3	0.7	1.0
K. Financial and insurance activities	1.7	1.7	4.0	1.2	2.5	1.1	1.7
I. Real estate activities	0.1	0.0	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.3	0.3
M. Professional, scientific and technical activities	3.6	2.8	7.4	2.6	2.8	2.9	4.9
N. Administrative and support service activities	0.8	0.9	2.3	0.7	1.0	1.7	1.5
O. Public administration and defense; compulsory social	7.3	8.3	9.1	7.4	15.0	10.0	6.4
P. Education	7.8	5.4	6.7	6.8	8.1	5.6	7.4
Q. Human health and social work activities	5.0	3.4	5.9	3.3	5.4	3.3	4.4
R. Arts, entertainment and recreation	0.9	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.4	1.4	0.7
S. Other service activities	2.5	1.8	2.1	1.6	1.9	2.6	1.4
T. Activities of households as employers; undifferentiated	0.6	0.8	3.2	1.0	0.0	0.4	0.7
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: 1st Quarter 2009

In thousands

Occupation	Total employed	% of women	% of employees	% with limited duration contract	% Part time workers
Total	4,485.8	39.6	64.0	11.3	6.1
Legislators, senior officials and managers	479.2	29.5	12.6	5.2	1.3
Professionals	678.3	49.9	74.3	10.7	5.7
Technicians and associate professionals	391.9	50.0	84.1	9.7	4.3
Clerks	500.4	59.3	94.9	9.7	4.9
Service workers and shop and market sale workers	638.9	55.8	77.2	12.4	8.7
Skilled agricultural and fishery workers	494.3	41.1	4.0	27.7	12.6
Craft and related trade workers	624.2	7.5	67.0	11.7	2.6
Plant and machine operators and assembler	320.8	8.0	73.7	5.7	1.2
Elementary occupations	304.8	53.7	91.9	21.3	17.0
Other unclassified persons	53.0	12.0	100.0	2.3	0.0

Percentage of women, employees, and part time workers are computed over the total of persons in employment. Percentage of persons with limited duration contract is computed over the total of employees.