



HELLENIC REPUBLIC



HELLENIC STATISTICAL AUTHORITY

Piraeus, 11 June 2015

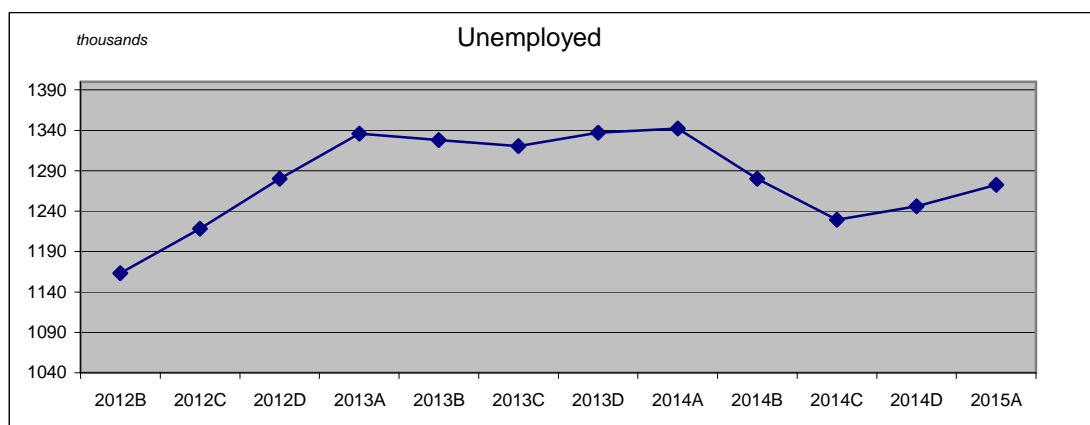
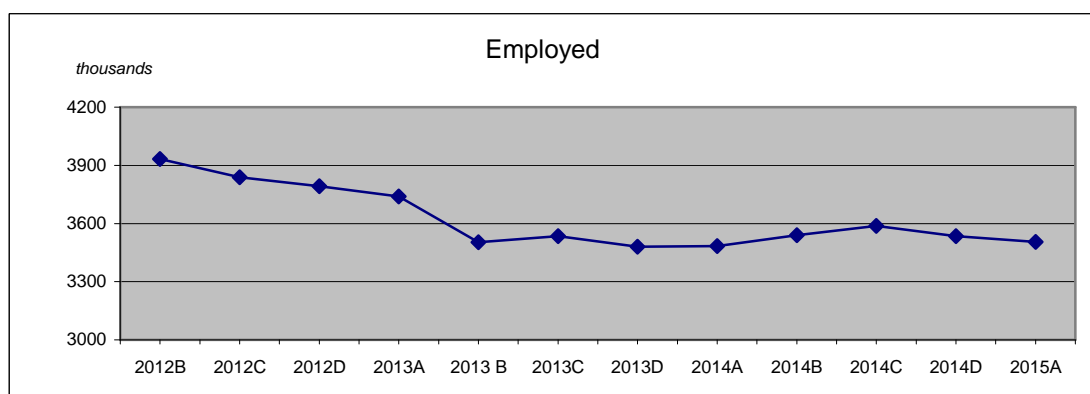
PRESS RELEASE

LABOUR FORCE SURVEY

1st Quarter 2015

In the 1st Quarter of 2015 the number of employed amounted to 3,504,446 persons while the number of unemployed amounted to 1,272,541. The unemployment rate was 26.6% compared with 26.1% in the previous quarter, and 27.8% in the corresponding quarter of 2014

The number of employed persons decreased by 0.9% compared with the previous quarter and increased by 0.6% compared with the 1st Quarter of 2014. The number of unemployed persons increased by 2.1% compared with the previous quarter and decreased by 5.2% compared with the 1st Quarter of 2014.



The estimates presented in this press release are based in quarterly Labour Force Survey. We note that, unlike monthly results, the quarterly results of Labour Force Survey are not seasonally adjusted.

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I. UNEMPLOYMENT CHARACTERISTICS

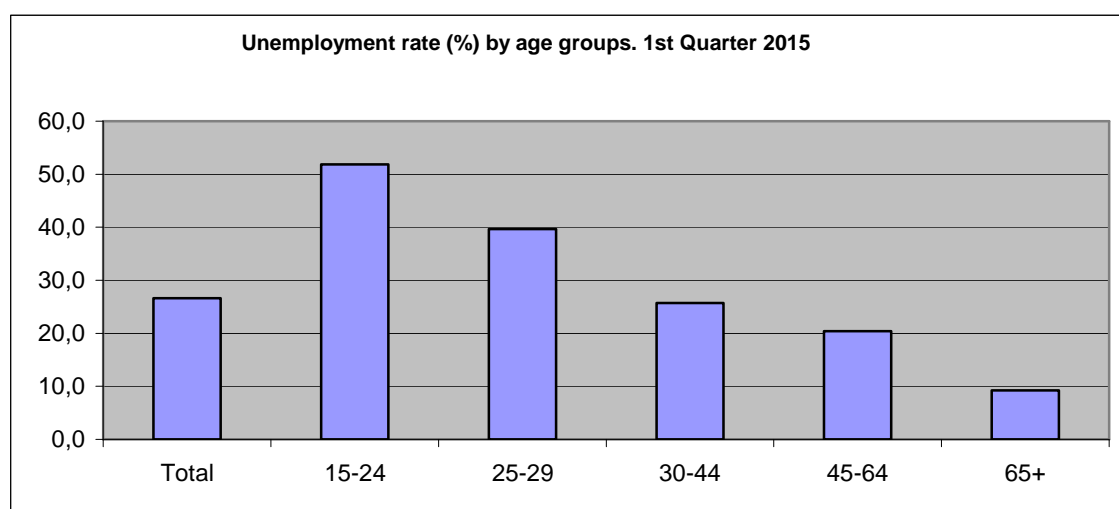
The unemployment rate for females (30.6%) is considerably higher than the unemployment rate for males (23.5%).

By observing the unemployment rate for different age groups, we notice that the highest unemployment rate is recorded among young people in the age group of 15-24 years (51.9%). For young females, the unemployment rate is 57.0% (Table 1, Chart 1).

Table 1. Unemployment rate (%) by gender and age groups

Age Groups	1st Quarter					
	2014			2015		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Total	25.0	31.4	27.8	23.5	30.6	26.6
15-24	52.6	61.5	56.7	47.5	57.0	51.9
25-29	40.7	44.2	42.4	36.7	43.0	39.7
30-44	23.4	30.8	26.7	21.9	30.1	25.7
45-64	18.5	22.7	20.3	18.4	23.2	20.4
65+	14.4	7.9	12.6	12.3	3.6	9.3

Chart 1



As regards the educational attainment level, the unemployment rate is higher among persons who did not complete primary education / not attended school (49.2%). The lowest unemployment rates are observed among persons who have completed post-graduate studies or have doctorate (12.9%), and among those who have completed university (19.8%) (Table 2).

Table 2. Unemployment rate (%) by gender and educational level

Level of education	1st Quarter					
	2014			2015		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Total	25.0	31.4	27.8	23.5	30.6	26.6
Post Graduate Studies, Phd	15.6	14.9	15.3	9.2	17.2	12.9
University	16.1	21.0	18.7	17.3	22.0	19.8
Tertiary Vocational Educational, Post – Secondary Vocational Education	23.8	35.0	29.2	22.6	31.9	27.2
Secondary Education	26.8	37.2	31.1	24.4	36.7	29.3
Lower Secondary Education	31.5	36.0	33.1	28.9	34.9	31.0
Primary Education	27.0	28.6	27.6	25.8	27.3	26.5
Did not complete Primary Education / Did not attend school	35.0	53.2	41.4	46.2	53.0	49.2

14.3% of those looking for job as employees are looking exclusively for a full time job, while 79.3% are looking for full time job, but if needed, would accept to work part time. 6.4% are looking for a part time job or they do not care if they find a full or a part time job.

5.9% of the unemployed persons did not accept a job offer, during the 1st Quarter of 2015, because of various reasons. The main reasons reported were:

- a) the location of the job was not suitable (26.6%),
- b)) the working hours were not convenient (18.6%),
- c) the wage was not satisfactory (23.8%).

The percentage of unemployed persons who have never worked in the past, is 23.2% (over the total unemployed). We should note that the percentage of the “long term” unemployed, that is the percentage of persons that have been looking for a job for 1 year or more, is 71.6%.

The unemployment rate is higher for persons of foreign nationality (34.8%) compared with those of Greek nationality (26.0%). We also note that the percentage of the economically active persons with foreign nationality is much higher than the corresponding percentage for persons with Greek nationality (70.0% compared to 50.5%).

The geographical areas (NUTS II regions) with the highest unemployment rate are Western Greece and Western Macedonia (29.0%) as well as Ionian Islands (28.9%) . The lowest unemployment rates are observed in Northern Aegean (20.2%) and in Peloponnese (23.9%, Table 3).

NUTS II Region	1st Quarter 2014	1st Quarter 2015
Greece, total	27.8	26.6
Anatoliki Makedonia Thraki (Eastern Macedonia and Thrace)	25.4	24.8
Kentriki Makedonia (Central Macedonia)	29.9	27.4
Dytiki Makedonia (Western Macedonia)	28.4	29.0
Ipeiros (Epirus)	28.5	25.5
Thessalia (Thessaly)	25.2	26.8
Ionioi Nisoi (Ionian Islands)	27.4	28.9
Dytiki Ellas (Western Greece)	29.7	29.0
Stereia Ellas	27.6	26.4
Attiki (Attica)	28.0	26.7
Peloponnissos (Peloponnese)	23.4	23.9
Voreio Aigaio (Northern Aegean)	24.4	20.2
Notio Aigaio (Southern Aegean)	30.3	25.4
Kriti (Crete)	26.9	27.2

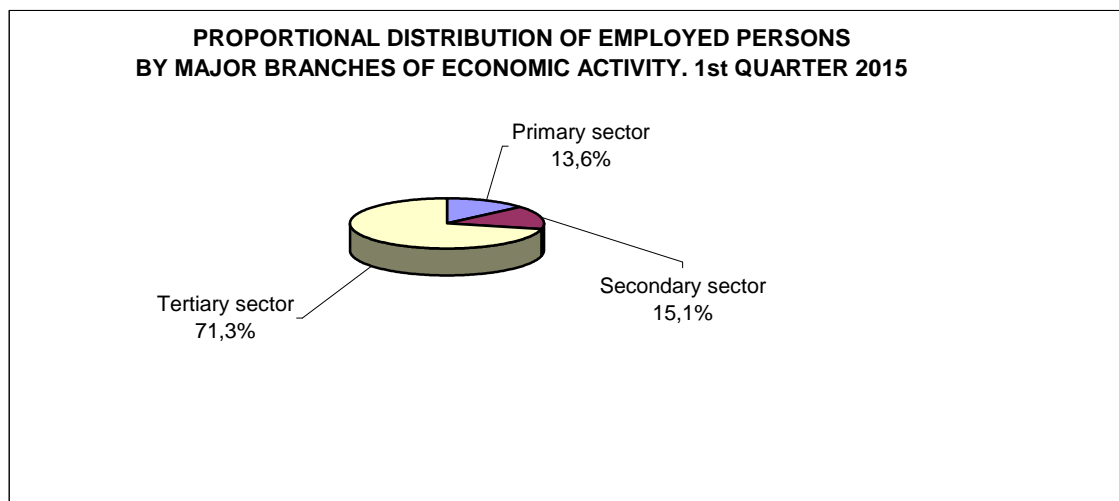
II. EMPLOYMENT CHARACTERISTICS

During the 1st Quarter of 2015, 146,709 persons who were unemployed one year ago found a job. During the same period, 41,874 persons who were inactive one year ago got into employment. On the contrary, 131,342 persons who were working one year ago are unemployed and 65,115 persons, who were working, are now inactive. In addition, 118,803 persons who were inactive one year ago, during the 1st Quarter of 2015 entered labour market and are looking for a job.

If we examine changes in employment by different sector of economic activity, we see that compared to the 1st Quarter of 2014 there is a 0.1% decrease in employment level in primary sector. In the secondary sector there is a increase of 1.1% and in the tertiary sector an decrease of 0.2%. Chart 2 presents the proportional distribution of employed persons by major branches of economic activity in the 1st Quarter of 2015.

¹ *NUTS II areas are the lowest geographical areas for which Labour Force Survey publishes estimates. LFS results are not published at lower level (NUTS III) because, due to small population and sample size, estimates in these areas have large sampling errors. We should note that in 4 NUTS II areas, and namely Western Macedonia, Ionian Islands, Northern Aegean and Southern Aegean, there is the same problem of small populations and sample sizes and as a result, estimates in these areas have large sampling errors.*

Chart 2



The percentage of part time employment amounts to 10.0% of the total of the employed. The percentage of part timers who choose to work part time because they cannot find a full time job is 68.6%, while 6.7% choose a part time job for other personal or family reasons, 3.4% because they are in education, 2.6% because they are looking after children or incapacitated adults and 18.8% for other reasons.

The percentage of employees is estimated at 64.0% of the total of the employed persons (Chart 3) and is the lower amongst all European Union countries, where the mean percentage of employees over all employed persons, is 83.5%.

Chart 3

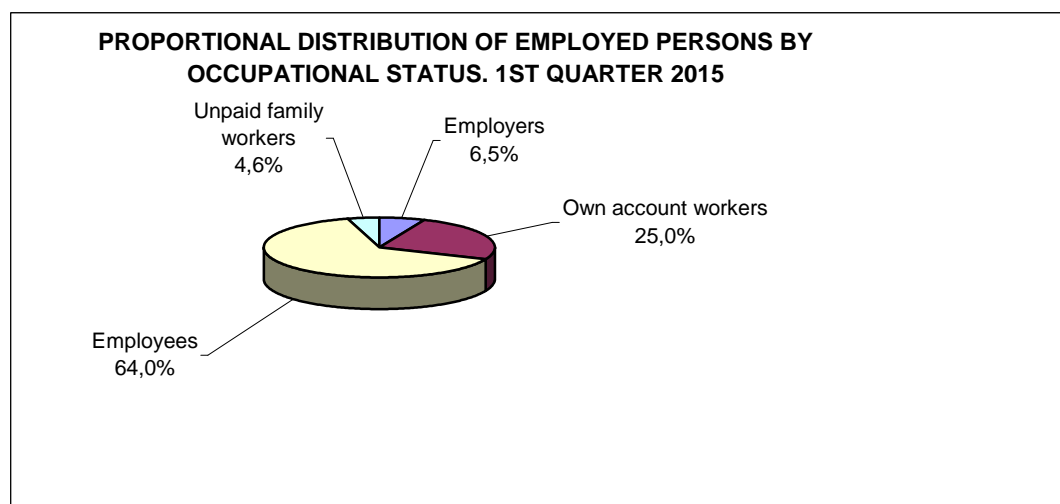


Table 4 illustrates the number of the employed by branch of economic activity for the 1st Quarter of 2015 compared to the 4th Quarter of 2014 and the 1st Quarter of 2014, while Table 5 gives the percentage allocation of the employed for the different branches of economic activity in the 13 regions of Greece (NUTS II).

Table 4. Persons employed aged 15 years and over by branch of economic activity²*Thousands*

I. Branch of economic activity (NACE Rev. 2)	1st Quarter 2014	4th Quarter 2014	1st Quarter 2015
Total	3,483.7	3,535.3	3,504.4
A. Agriculture, forestry and fishing	479.6	480.4	476.3
B. Mining and quarrying	10.3	11.8	10.5
C. Manufacturing	315.3	317.8	327.2
D. Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	28.7	26.0	26.4
E. Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	23.0	19.4	21.4
F. Construction	149.6	151.8	142.3
G. Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	621.1	626.5	641.7
H. Transportation and storage	175.6	168.1	167.6
I. Accommodation and food service activities	248.9	300.8	276.5
J. Information and communication	74.3	78.7	69.3
K. Financial and insurance activities	104.1	84.2	85.2
L. Real estate activities	3.0	5.1	5.3
M. Professional, scientific and technical activities	193.3	204.7	197.3
N. Administrative and support service activities	72.9	86.1	81.8
O. Public administration and defense; compulsory social security	323.8	296.8	296.4
P. Education	290.3	295.2	298.6
Q. Human health and social work activities	206.5	211.6	212.2
R. Arts, entertainment and recreation	44.2	48.2	45.3
S. Other service activities	69.3	72.9	73.6
T. Activities of households as employers	48.7	48.3	47.7
U. Activities of extraterritorial organisations and bodies	1.3	1.1	2.0

² Estimates of "rare" characteristics, that is estimates of characteristics that refer to 10.000 persons at the total country, are accompanied by large sampling errors.

Table 5. Proportional distribution of employed persons aged 15 years and over by branch of economic activity and region

Branch of economic activity	1st Quarter 2015						
	Greece, total	Anatoliki Makedonia Thraki (Eastern Macedonia and Thrace)	Kentriki Makedonia (Central Macedonia)	Dytiki Makedonia (Western Macedonia)	Ipeiros (Epirus)	Thessalia (Thessaly)	Ionia Nisia (Ionian Islands)
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
A. Agriculture, forestry and fishing	13.6%	29.8%	15.4%	19.7%	22.3%	24.2%	14.3%
B. Mining and quarrying	0.3%	0.2%	0.3%	5.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
C. Manufacturing	9.3%	9.4%	11.1%	6.0%	9.1%	10.8%	6.3%
D. Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	0.8%	0.1%	0.5%	2.4%	0.4%	0.0%	1.6%
E. Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	0.6%	0.5%	0.5%	0.3%	0.9%	0.8%	0.0%
F. Construction	4.1%	2.6%	3.8%	6.4%	5.4%	3.2%	5.8%
G. Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	18.3%	15.0%	18.1%	15.6%	15.8%	14.3%	20.4%
H. Transportation and storage	4.8%	2.1%	4.3%	2.9%	2.8%	3.9%	2.3%
I. Accommodation and food service activities	7.9%	7.9%	7.7%	7.2%	9.8%	7.2%	8.6%
J. Information and communication	2.0%	0.8%	1.4%	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%	0.0%
K. Financial and insurance activities	2.4%	1.3%	2.1%	0.2%	1.3%	1.0%	1.9%
I. Real estate activities	0.2%	0.1%	0.2%	0.0%	0.1%	0.7%	0.0%
M. Professional, scientific and technical activities	5.6%	4.4%	5.1%	4.0%	3.9%	4.3%	5.4%
N. Administrative and support service activities	2.3%	1.0%	2.0%	1.9%	0.8%	0.8%	4.2%
O. Public administration and defense; compulsory social security	8.5%	10.6%	6.7%	8.2%	7.9%	8.0%	8.5%
P. Education	8.5%	7.4%	9.7%	9.8%	8.2%	10.1%	9.0%
Q. Human health and social work activities	6.1%	4.5%	6.0%	5.9%	7.4%	5.6%	5.7%
R. Arts, entertainment and recreation	1.3%	0.5%	1.8%	2.0%	1.1%	1.0%	3.2%
S. Other service activities	2.1%	1.3%	2.4%	1.0%	1.6%	1.8%	2.9%
T. Activities of households as employers	1.4%	0.5%	1.1%	0.2%	0.5%	1.6%	0.0%
U. Activities of extraterritorial organizations and bodies	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%

Table 5. Proportional distribution of employed persons aged 15 years and over by branch of economic activity and region (continued)

Branch of economic activity	1st Quarter 2015						
	Dytiki Ellas (Western Greece)	Stereia Ellas	Attiki (Attica)	Peloponnisos (Peloponnese)	Voreio Aigaio (Northern Aegean)	Notio Aigaio (Southern Aegean)	Kriti (Crete)
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
A. Agriculture, forestry and fishing	25.4%	25.2%	1.0%	32.7%	19.1%	7.1%	17.4%
B. Mining and quarrying	0.0%	1.3%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%	0.1%
C. Manufacturing	5.6%	17.5%	9.7%	5.8%	5.7%	3.4%	6.7%
D. Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	0.7%	0.9%	1.0%	1.1%	1.1%	0.2%	0.6%
E. Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	0.2%	0.7%	0.7%	0.3%	0.3%	1.5%	0.5%
F. Construction	4.8%	3.0%	3.4%	6.1%	4.8%	7.6%	5.8%
G. Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	15.6%	16.7%	20.5%	14.0%	13.9%	25.7%	19.9%
H. Transportation and storage	3.3%	3.8%	6.9%	2.3%	3.3%	4.3%	4.0%
I. Accommodation and food service activities	9.1%	7.8%	6.4%	7.8%	7.3%	15.3%	13.4%
J. Information and communication	0.7%	0.1%	3.7%	0.8%	1.7%	0.8%	1.4%
K. Financial and insurance activities	1.6%	1.1%	4.1%	1.3%	2.6%	1.1%	1.8%
L. Real estate activities	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%	0.3%	0.0%	0.3%
M. Professional, scientific and technical activities	3.2%	3.4%	8.2%	3.3%	3.9%	3.7%	2.7%
N. Administrative and support service activities	1.2%	0.8%	3.3%	1.3%	2.4%	4.6%	2.8%
O. Public administration and defense; compulsory social security	8.3%	5.4%	9.2%	7.6%	18.2%	11.4%	6.8%
P. Education	9.8%	6.6%	8.4%	6.0%	7.3%	7.8%	8.2%
Q. Human health and social work activities	6.1%	3.0%	7.3%	5.3%	5.8%	3.0%	4.7%
R. Arts, entertainment and recreation	1.2%	0.6%	1.5%	0.9%	0.4%	0.5%	0.7%
S. Other service activities	2.7%	1.7%	2.3%	2.3%	1.4%	1.3%	2.0%
T. Activities of households as employers	0.4%	0.3%	2.2%	1.1%	0.3%	0.5%	1.2%
U. Activities of extraterritorial organizations and bodies	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Labour Force Survey Labour Force Survey produces estimates since 1981 (second quarter of the year). From 1998 onwards it is a continuous quarterly survey. The main statistical objective of the Labour Force Survey is to divide the population of working age (15 years and over) into three mutually exclusive and exhaustive groups - persons in employment, unemployed persons and inactive persons. In addition, the Labour Force Survey collects information on demographic characteristics, on main job characteristics, on the existence and characteristics of a second job, on educational attainment, on participation in education, on previous working experience and on search of job.

Legislation The current survey is completely 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. The survey framework was amended by successive Commission regulations, (Regulation (EC) No 1372/2007 , Regulation (EC) No 2257/2003 , Regulation (EC) No 1991/2002).

Reference Period The sample of Labour Force Survey is equally allocated to the 4 (or 5) weeks of the month. Every selected household is assigned to a specific week, the reference week, running from Monday to Sunday.

- For employment the reference period is the reference week.
- For employment seeking the reference period is the reference week and the previous 3 weeks.

Coverage The survey covers all members of the private households who are residing at least one year in Greece and excludes the members of the collective households (i.e. hospitals, hotels, barracks, asylums, old people's homes, orphanages etc).

Definitions **Employed** are persons aged 15 years or older, who during the reference week worked, even for just one hour, for pay or profit or they were working 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 are neither classified as employed nor as unemployed.

Economically active population (labour force) are persons either employed or unemployed.

Unemployment Rate is the ratio of unemployed divided by total labour force.

Methodology Labour Force Survey's estimates are produced by a suitable unbiased estimator which takes in to account a) the probability of selection of every sampled household, b) the response rate in every primary sampling unit, c) the estimated population, based on 2001 census results, for January 2011, allocated by NUTS II areas, gender and age group).

References Analytical description of the Labour Force Survey's methodology and definitions can be found at www.statistics.gr.