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PRESS RELEASE

LABOUR FORCE SURVEY

May 2009

The General Secretariat of National Statistical Service of Greece announces the Labour Force Survey's results for May 2009. Unemployment rate was 8.5% in May 2009.

For the monthly estimates, a sub sample of the quarterly Labour Force survey's sample was used. In total, 23,157 persons, belonging to 9.634 different households, were interviewed.

Monthly employment's characteristics (number of employed, unemployed etc.) were estimated by an unbiased estimator, which was calculated based on: 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 age groups in every NUTS II level area, for May¹.

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¹ Detailed description of the methodology and definitions of Labour Force Survey can be found in <http://www.statistics.gr>

EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT MAY 2009

For May 2009, the number of employed persons is estimated to 4,553,998. The number of unemployed persons is estimated to 420,401, while economically non-actives were estimated to 4,287,961. Unemployment rate is 8.5%.

The corresponding figures for May 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009 are presented in **Table 1**.

Table 1. Employed, unemployed, economically non-active and unemployment rate (May, 2004 - 2009).

	May					
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Employed	4,344,593	4,423,020	4,459,885	4,518,652	4,612,670	4,553,998
Unemployed	486,210	472,397	450,520	378,299	324,777	420,401
Economically non active	4,226,045	4,207,457	4,239,721	4,309,757	4,292,662	4,287,961
Unemployment rate	10.1	9.6	9.2	7.7	6.6	8.5

In Table 1, we observe:

The number of employed persons increases from 2004 to 2008. The rate of increase in employment between May 2004 and May 2005 was 1.8%, between May 2005 and May 2006 was 0.8%, between May 2006 and May 2007 the rate of decrease was 1.3 %, while between May 2007 and May 2008 was 2.1%. The number of employed persons decreased by 1.3% between May 2008 and May 2009.

The number of unemployed persons decreased from 2004 to 2008. Between May 2004 and May 2005, the number of unemployed persons decreased by 2.8%. Between May 2005 and May 2006, decreased by 4.6%, between May 2006 and May 2007 decreased by 16.0%, while between May 2007 and May 2008 decreased 14.1%. The number of unemployed persons increased by 29.4% between May 2008 and May 2009.

These changes in the number of employed and unemployed persons led to the reduction of unemployment rate, from 10.1% in May 2004 to 6.6% in May 2008. The unemployment rate increased to 8.5% in May 2009.

Tables 2,3, and 4 present in detail the unemployment rate by region, sex and age groups in May 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009.

Table 2: Unemployment rate by region: May 2004 – 2009

Region	May					
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
ANATOLIKI MAKEDONIA, THRAKI	12.7	10.5	11.2	9.8	8.3	10.3
KENTRIKI MAKEDONIA	11.6	10.0	9.8	7.9	7.8	10.0
DYTIKI MAKEDONIA	14.0	16.9	14.7	12.1	13.4	9.7
IPEIROS	11.4	10.7	9.5	8.2	7.3	8.7
THESSALIA	10.7	10.4	7.8	8.0	6.9	6.2
IONIA NISIA	8.5	9.3	8.5	6.6	5.2	5.7
DYTIKI ELLADA	15.0	13.1	10.4	9.8	10.0	10.2
STEREA ELLADA	14.1	10.6	9.0	7.7	7.2	11.7
ATTICI	8.5	8.5	8.8	7.6	5.3	8.1
PELOPONNISOS	9.1	9.1	8.2	6.6	6.5	6.1
VOREIO AIGAIO	5.1	11.8	11.1	9.4	4.3	7.8
NOTIO AIGAIO	6.8	8.8	9.1	6.4	3.2	6.6
KRITI	5.1	6.1	6.3	3.4	4.4	6.0
<i>Total</i>	<i>10.1</i>	<i>9.6</i>	<i>9.2</i>	<i>7.7</i>	<i>6.6</i>	<i>8.5</i>

Table 3. Unemployment rate by sex: May 2004-2009

Sex	May					
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Men	6.2	5.8	5.8	4.9	4.2	6.3
Women	15.7	15.1	14.0	11.8	10.0	11.5
<i>Total</i>	<i>10.1</i>	<i>9.6</i>	<i>9.2</i>	<i>7.7</i>	<i>6.6</i>	<i>8.5</i>

Table 4: Unemployment rate by age groups: May 2004-2009

Group ages	May					
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
15-24 years old	24.3	24.7	24.8	23.2	18.6	25.0
25-34 »	13.3	12.6	12.5	10.8	9.9	11.2
35-44 »	8.2	8.4	7.5	5.9	5.1	6.8
45-54 »	5.5	5.5	5.0	4.3	3.4	5.3
55-64 »	3.7	3.8	3.8	2.8	2.7	4.0
65-74 »	0.8	1.6	0.9	1.0	0.8	1.6
<i>Total</i>	<i>10.1</i>	<i>9.6</i>	<i>9.2</i>	<i>7.7</i>	<i>6.6</i>	<i>8.5</i>