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PRESS RELEASE

Unemployment rate at 11.6% in March 2010

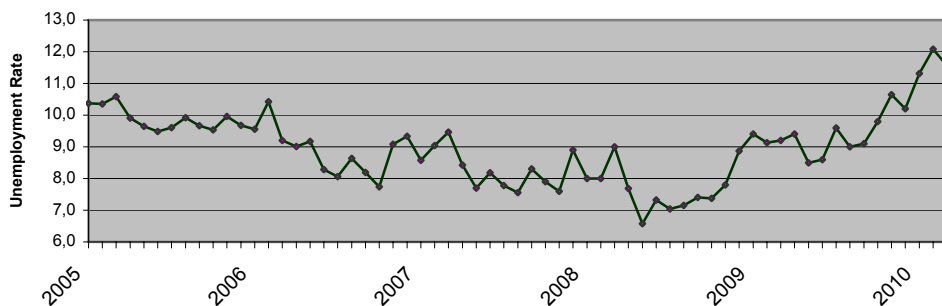
LABOUR FORCE SURVEY: March 2010

Unemployment rate in March 2010 was 11.6% compared to 9.2% in March 2009 and 12.1% in February 2010. The number of employed amounted to 4,423,899 persons while the number of unemployed amounted to 578,723 and the number of inactive to 4,292,663. The corresponding figures for March 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009 και 2010 are presented in Table 1.

The number of employed decreased by 65,773 persons compared to March 2009 (a 1.5% rate of decrease) and increased by 19,848 persons compared to February 2010 (a 0.5% rate of increase).

Unemployed increased by 121,699 persons (a 26.6% rate of increase) compared to March 2009 and decreased by 26,554 persons compared to February 2010 (a 4.4% rate of increase).

Unemployment rate by month (January 2005 – March 2010)



Tables 2, 3 and 4 present unemployment rate by NUTS II areas, gender and age groups for March 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009 και 2010.

Contact Person: Stelios Zachariou, Konstantinos Loizos

Tel: 213 1352173, 213 1352927

Fax: 213 1352948

E-mail: ifs@statistics.gr

Table 1. Employed, unemployed, economically non-active and unemployment rate (March 2005-2009).

	March					
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Employed	4,293,940	4,425,928	4,418,510	4,494,724	4,489,672	4,423,899
Unemployed	508,138	448,627	462,042	442,558	457,024	578,723
Inactive	4,294,597	4,266,141	4,292,428	4,287,843	4,309,170	4,292,663
Unemployment rate	10.6	9.2	9.5	9.0	9.2	11.6

Table 2: Unemployment rate by region: March 2005-2010

Περιφέρεια	March					
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Anatoliki Makedonia Thraki (East Macedonia and Thrace)	12.4	10.6	9.9	11.8	12.3	16.1
Kentriki Makedonia (Central Macedonia)	12.6	10.3	9.4	9.4	9.2	12.2
Dytiki Makedonia (West Macedonia)	19.9	19.2	14.1	8.0	11.3	11.6
Ipeiros (Epirus)	10.9	10.6	9.4	10.2	10.1	11.4
Thessalia (Thessaly)	8.7	9.6	6.2	9.1	9.1	13.2
Ionioi Nisoi (Ionian Islands)	15.6	19.6	19.1	8.6	18.7	23.0
Dytiki Ellas (West Greece)	10.6	7.8	8.2	9.8	9.2	7.9
Stereia Ellas	11.4	7.7	8.9	9.0	9.7	11.1
Attiki (Attica)	9.2	7.7	8.7	7.2	7.8	10.5
Peloponnissos (Peloponnese)	9.1	7.0	7.5	9.1	8.4	8.1
Voreio Aigaio (North Aegean)	8.2	9.1	10.1	5.4	4.9	10.4
Notio Aigaio (South Aegean)	15.0	11.5	21.8	20.8	15.2	16.7
Kriti (Crete)	7.3	9.2	10.0	10.7	10.3	12.0
Total Country	10.6	9.2	9.5	9.0	9.2	11.6

Table 3. Unemployment rate by gender: March 2005-2010

Gender	March					
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Male	6.6	5.9	6.2	6.3	6.6	8.5
Female	16.5	14.1	14.2	12.7	12.9	15.9
Total	10.6	9.2	9.5	9.0	9.2	11.6

Table 4: Unemployment rate by age groups: March 2005-2010

Age Group	March					
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
15-24 years old	26.3	25.3	25.6	27.1	24.5	29.8
25-34 years old	13.8	11.4	12.4	11.9	12.7	15.4
35-44 years old	8.7	7.9	7.7	7.1	7.5	10.0
45-54 years old	5.9	5.5	5.6	5.4	6.0	7.3
55-64 years old	4.8	3.9	4.6	3.4	3.9	6.5
65-74 years old	0.9	1.9	0.5	0.0	0.7	0.8
Total	10.6	9.2	9.5	9.0	9.2	11.6

EXPLANATORY NOTES

- Labour Force Survey** Labour Force Survey produces early estimates since 1981 (second quarter of the year). Since 1998 is a continuous quarterly survey. The main statistical objectives of Labour Force Survey is to divide the population of working age (15 years and above) into three mutually exclusive and exhaustive groups - persons in employment, unemployed persons and inactive persons. In addition, Labour Force Survey collects information on demographic characteristics, on main job characteristics, on the existence and characteristics of second job, on educational attainment, on participation in education, on previous working experience and on search of job.
- Legislation** 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. Survey framework was modified in successive Commission regulations, (Regulation (EC) No 1372/2007 . Regulation (EC) No 2257/2003 . Regulation (EC) No 1991/2002).
- Reference Period** March 2010
- Coverage** For the monthly estimates, a sub-sample of the quarterly Labour Force survey's sample was used.
- Definitions** **Employed** are persons aged 15 years or older, who during the reference week had worked, even for just one hour, for pay or profit or they have worked 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 neither classified as employed nor as unemployed.
- Economically active population (labour force)** are persons that 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) response rate in every primary sampling unit, c) the estimated population for January 2010, allocated by NUTS II areas, gender and age group).
- References** Analytical description of Labour Force Survey' s methodology and definitions can be found at www.statistics.gr.