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PRESS RELEASE

Unemployment rate at 15.9% in February 2011

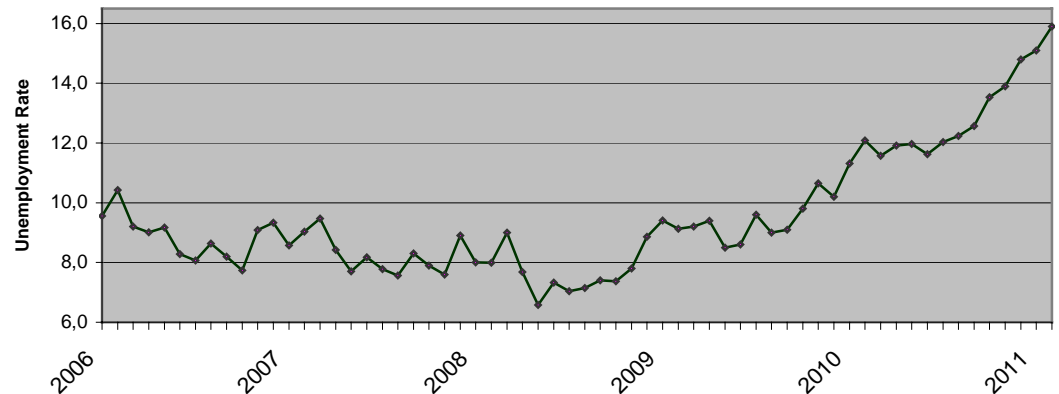
LABOUR FORCE SURVEY: February 2011

Unemployment rate in February 2011 was 15.9% compared to 12.1% in February 2010 and 15.1% in January 2011. The number of employed amounted to 4,178,312 persons while the number of unemployed amounted to 787,229 and the number of inactive to 4,363,858. The corresponding figures for February 2006 to 2011 are presented in Table 1.

The number of employed decreased by 225,739 persons compared with February 2010 (a 5.1% rate of decrease) and 89,272 persons compared with January 2011 (a 2.1% rate of decrease).

Unemployed increased by 181,952 persons (a 30.1% rate of increase) compared with February 2010 and by 30,435 persons compared with January 2011 (a 4.0% rate of increase).

Unemployment rate by month (February 2006 – February 2011)



Tables 2, 3 and 4 illustrate unemployment rate by NUTS II regions, gender and age groups from February 2006 to 2011.

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Table 1. Employed, unemployed, economically non-active and unemployment rate (February 2006-2011)

	February					
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Employed	4,393,989	4,438,614	4,535,309	4,487,490	4,404,051	4,178,312
Unemployed	511,298	440,982	394,169	450,997	605,277	787,229
Inactive	4,230,740	4,290,483	4,293,199	4,314,167	4,282,874	4,363,858
Unemployment rate	10,4	9,0	8,0	9,1	12,1	15,9

Table 2: Unemployment rate by region (NUTSII): February 2006-2011

Region	February					
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Anatoliki Makedonia Thraki (East Macedonia and Thrace)	12.5	13.0	9.5	10.9	15.2	16.2
Kentriki Makedonia (Central Macedonia)	10.5	8.3	8.0	8.8	12.6	16.3
Dytiki Makedonia (West Macedonia)	16.6	9.6	16.4	11.8	16.6	23.9
Ipeiros (Epirus)	10.4	9.0	9.4	10.4	12.2	15.1
Thessalia (Thessaly)	9.0	9.3	7.5	7.2	10.3	14.1
Ionioi Nisoi (Ionian Islands)	11.5	13.6	11.9	11.6	16.8	22.4
Dytiki Ellas (West Greece)	12.3	10.6	11.3	12.3	10.6	17.1
Stereia Ellas	10.3	7.8	7.9	9.9	12.8	13.2
Attiki (Attica)	9.0	8.4	5.9	8.0	10.9	14.8
Peloponnissos (Peloponnese)	9.1	8.0	7.7	6.9	9.1	11.7
Voreio Aigaio (North Aegean)	14.1	16.0	6.6	7.5	7.9	11.9
Notio Aigaio (South Aegean)	16.4	10.7	15.5	17.3	21.3	32.7
Kriti (Crete)	11.9	7.5	8.9	9.8	14.3	15.2
Total Country	10.4	9.0	8.0	9.1	12.1	15.9

Table 3. Unemployment rate by gender: February 2006-2011

Gender	February					
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Male	6.8	5.7	5.2	7.0	9.8	13.5
Female	15.6	13.9	12.1	12.3	15.3	19.0
Total	10.4	9.0	8.0	9.1	12.1	15.9

Table 4: Unemployment rate by age groups: February 2006-2011

Age Group	February					
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
15-24 years old	26.7	26.1	22.1	25.7	32.0	40.4
25-34 years old	13.4	11.8	11.7	12.5	15.2	19.9
35-44 years old	8.6	6.9	6.0	6.8	10.4	14.4
45-54 years old	6.0	5.6	4.9	6.2	8.2	11.0
55-64 years old	5.2	4.1	2.9	4.3	6.6	8.4
65-74 years old	3.4	1.0	1.2	1.0	1.1	2.6
Total	10.4	9.0	8.0	9.1	12.1	15.9

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 objectives 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 modified in 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** 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 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 for February 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.