



HELLENIC REPUBLIC
HELLENIC STATISTICAL AUTHORITY

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PRESS RELEASE

LABOUR FORCE SURVEY: 1st quarter 2018

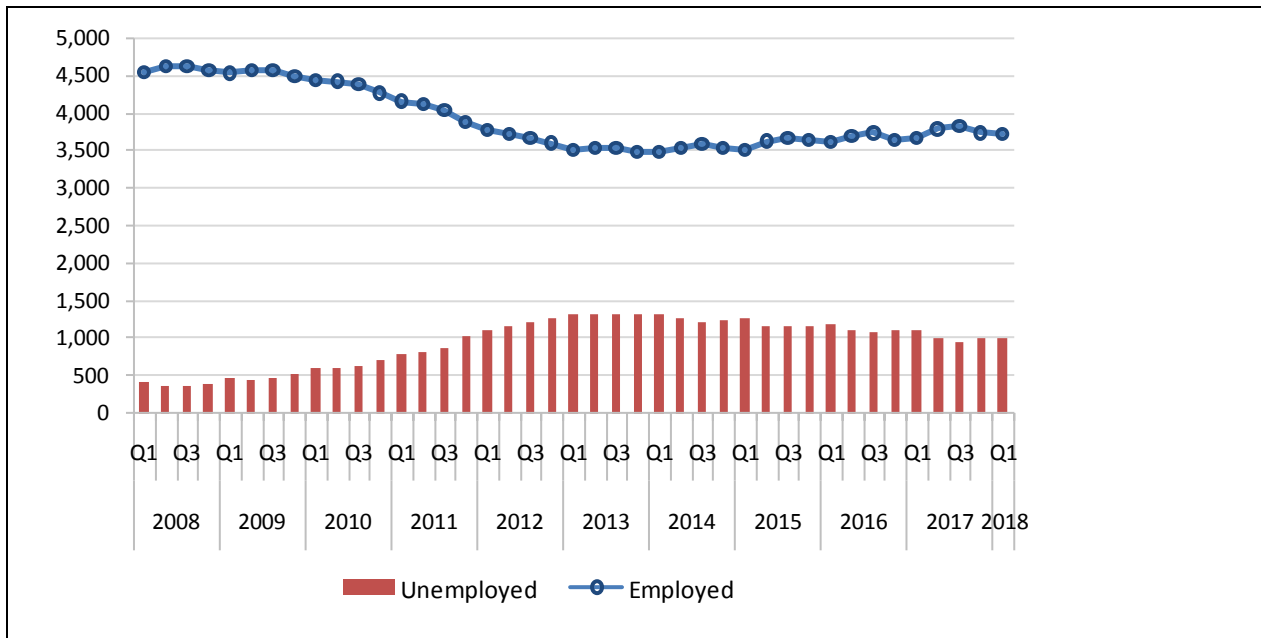
The Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT) announces the results of the Labour Force Survey for the 1st quarter of 2018.

More analytically, in 1st quarter 2018:

- The **number of employed** amounted to 3,723,760 persons while the **number of unemployed** amounted to 1,001,191 persons.
- The **unemployment rate** was 21.2%, without change from 21.2% in the previous quarter (4th Quarter 2017), and down from 23.3% in the same quarter one year ago (1st quarter 2017).
- The **number of employed** persons decreased by 0.3% compared with the previous quarter and increased by 1.8% compared with the same quarter one year ago.
- The **number of unemployed** persons decreased by 0.6% compared with the previous quarter and by 10.2% compared with the same quarter one year ago.

Graph 1. Number of employed and unemployed

(In thousands)



Information

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I. EMPLOYMENT STATUS

Table 1. Employment status by sex, age, region, educational level and citizenship ⁽¹⁾, 1st quarter 2018

(In thousands)

		Employed	Unemployed	Inactive	Unemployment rate (%)	Labour force rate (%)
	Total⁽²⁾	3,723.8	1,001.2	4,429.1	21.2	51.6
SEX	Males	2,183.7	454.9	1,774.4	17.2	59.8
	Females	1,540.1	546.3	2,654.7	26.2	44.0
AGE	15 - 19	12.6	15.5	517.6	55.2	5.1
	20 - 24	124.1	93.5	279.8	43.0	43.8
	25 - 29	325.8	147.3	106.3	31.1	81.7
	30 - 44	1,580.3	405.2	276.9	20.4	87.8
	45 - 64	1,607.0	331.2	1,029.9	17.1	65.3
	65+	74.0	8.4	2,218.7	10.2	3.6
REGION (NUTS 2)	Anatoliki Makedonia Thraki (Eastern Macedonia and Thrace)	209.6	41.2	258.9	16.4	49.2
	Kentriki Makedonia (Central Macedonia)	633.4	178.0	788.9	21.9	50.7
	Dytiki Makedonia (Western Macedonia)	84.3	32.9	116.1	28.1	50.2
	Ipeiros (Epirus)	106.7	31.5	152.3	22.8	47.6
	Thessalia (Thessaly)	255.7	56.5	307.1	18.1	50.4
	Ionioi Nisoi (Ionian Islands)	65.3	22.8	83.4	25.9	51.4
	Dytiki Ellas (Western Greece)	215.9	73.8	281.2	25.5	50.7
	Stereia Ellas	189.8	47.1	236.3	19.9	50.1
	Attiki (Attica)	1,347.1	363.3	1,541.1	21.2	52.6
	Peloponnissos (Peloponnese)	207.4	39.3	220.6	15.9	52.8
	Voreio Aigaio (Northern Aegean)	68.3	22.1	76.2	24.5	54.2
	Notio Aigaio (Southern Aegean)	116.2	36.9	122.7	24.1	55.5
	Kriti (Crete)	224.2	55.8	244.3	19.9	53.4
EDUCATIONAL LEVEL	Less than primary	13.0	10.1	317.2	43.8	6.8
	Primary education	377.4	114.1	1,517.2	23.2	24.5
	Secondary education	1,600.5	493.5	1,928.5	23.6	52.1
	Post - secondary	361.0	136.0	157.4	27.4	75.9
	Tertiary Education	1,372.0	247.5	508.7	15.3	76.1
CITIZENSHIP	Greek	3,541.1	915.9	4,293.4	20.5	50.9
	Foreign	182.6	85.3	135.7	31.8	66.4

The highest unemployment rates are observed among women, persons aged 15 - 19 years, in Western Macedonia, and persons that completed less than primary education. The highest percentage of the labour force is observed among men, persons aged 30 - 44 years, in Southern Aegean, persons that completed post-secondary education and persons of foreign citizenship.

(1) The definitions of the characteristics that are presented in Table 1 and the other tables of the press release can be found in the **Explanatory notes**, at the end of the press release, under "Definitions".

(2) Any difference between the grand total and the sum of the detailed categories is due to rounding

II. CHARACTERISTICS OF EMPLOYED PERSONS

Table 2 presents the number of employed by professional status, occupation, full-time and part-time employment, permanent and temporary job for the 1st quarter of 2018. Furthermore, the table includes the corresponding data for the previous quarter and the same quarter one year ago, as well as the corresponding quarterly and annual rates of change.

Table 2. Employed persons by professional status, occupation, full-time and part-time job, permanent - temporary job

(In thousands)

	1st quarter 2018	Percentage over total	4th quarter 2017	1st quarter 2017	Quarterly rate of change (%)	Annual rate of change (%)
Total	3,723.8		3,736.3	3,659.3	-0.3	1.8
Professional status						
Self-employed with employees	287.6	7.7	283.7	267.7	1.4	7.4
Self-employed without employees	846.3	22.7	849.3	851.9	-0.4	-0.7
Employees	2,443.2	65.6	2,460.2	2,394.7	-0.7	2.0
Family workers	146.8	3.9	143.2	145.0	2.5	1.2
Occupation						
Legislators, senior officials and managers	107.4	2.9	100.0	88.4	7.4	21.5
Professionals	731.1	19.6	735.8	725.9	-0.6	0.7
Technicians and associate professionals	305.7	8.2	290.9	300.1	5.1	1.9
Clerks	389.4	10.5	400.3	378.9	-2.7	2.8
Service workers and shop and market sale workers	852.8	22.9	868.4	854.5	-1.8	-0.2
Skilled agricultural and fishery workers	432.1	11.6	419.9	420.7	2.9	2.7
Craft and related trade workers	341.2	9.2	341.0	344.8	0.1	-1.0
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	253.7	6.8	256.0	230.5	-0.9	10.1
Elementary occupations	244.8	6.6	258.3	249.2	-5.2	-1.8
Other unclassified persons	65.8	1.8	65.7	66.3	0.2	-0.8
Full-time, part-time job						
Full time	3,366.3	90.4	3,380.0	3,274.1	-0.4	2.8
Part time	357.4	9.6	356.4	385.2	0.3	-7.2
Employees by permanent - temporary job						
Permanent	2,217.0	59.5	2,203.5	2,168.6	0.6	2.2
Temporary	226.2	6.1	256.7	226.1	-11.9	0.0

In the 1st quarter of 2018, the majority of the employed are working as employees (65.6%), while a significant share is working as self-employed without employees (22.7%). In comparison with the previous quarter there is an increase in the number of self-employed with employees and family workers and a decrease in all other categories, while compared to the same quarter one year ago there is an increase in the number of employed in all categories but self-employed without employees.

Part-time employment amounts to 9.6%, while the share of persons with temporary jobs is 6.1%. Part-time employment has increased in comparison with the previous quarter and decreased to the same quarter one year ago. Temporary jobs have decreased compared to the previous quarter and have negligible change compared to the same quarter one year ago.

The occupations gathering the biggest shares of the employed are service workers and shop and market sale workers (22.9%), and professionals (19.6%). In comparison with the previous quarter and the same quarter one year ago, the largest increase is observed in the number of senior officials and managers.

During the period 1st quarter 2008 – 1st quarter 2018, a significant increase in the share of low skilled non-manual occupations is observed⁽³⁾. During the same period, the share of highly skilled non manual and skilled manual occupations decreased, while the share of elementary occupations and of occupations in agriculture, forestry and fishing remained relatively stable (Graph 2).

Graph 2: Percentage of employed by broad categories of occupations

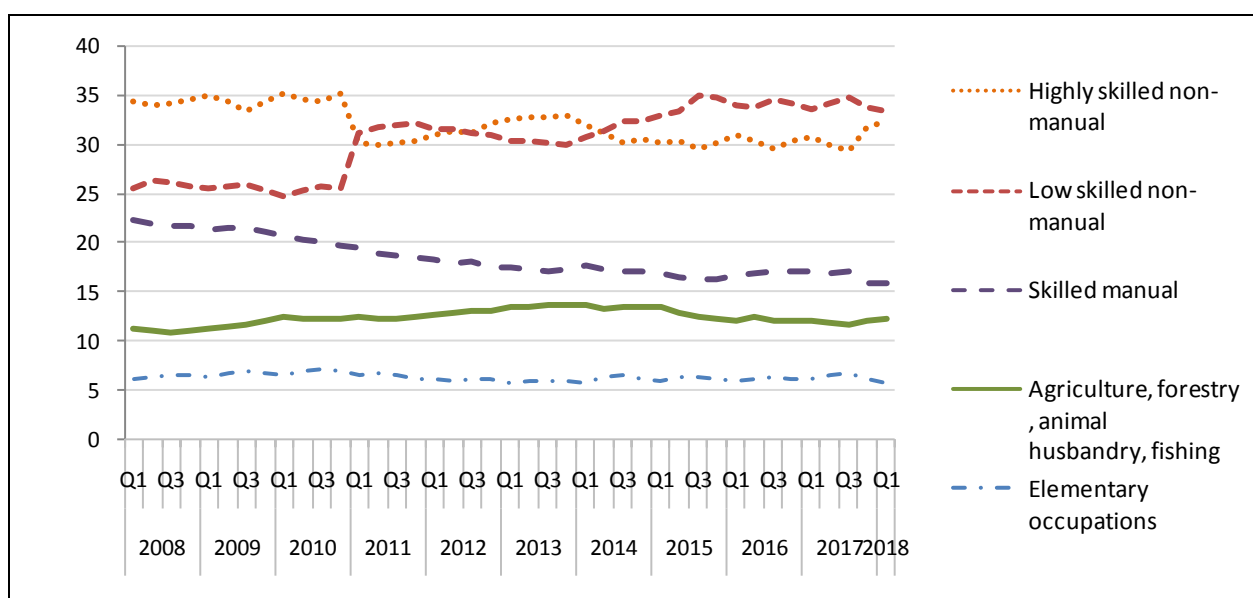


Table 3 presents the number of the employed by section of economic activity in the 1st quarter of 2018. Furthermore, the table includes the corresponding data for the previous quarter and the same quarter one year ago, as well as the corresponding quarterly and annual rates of change.

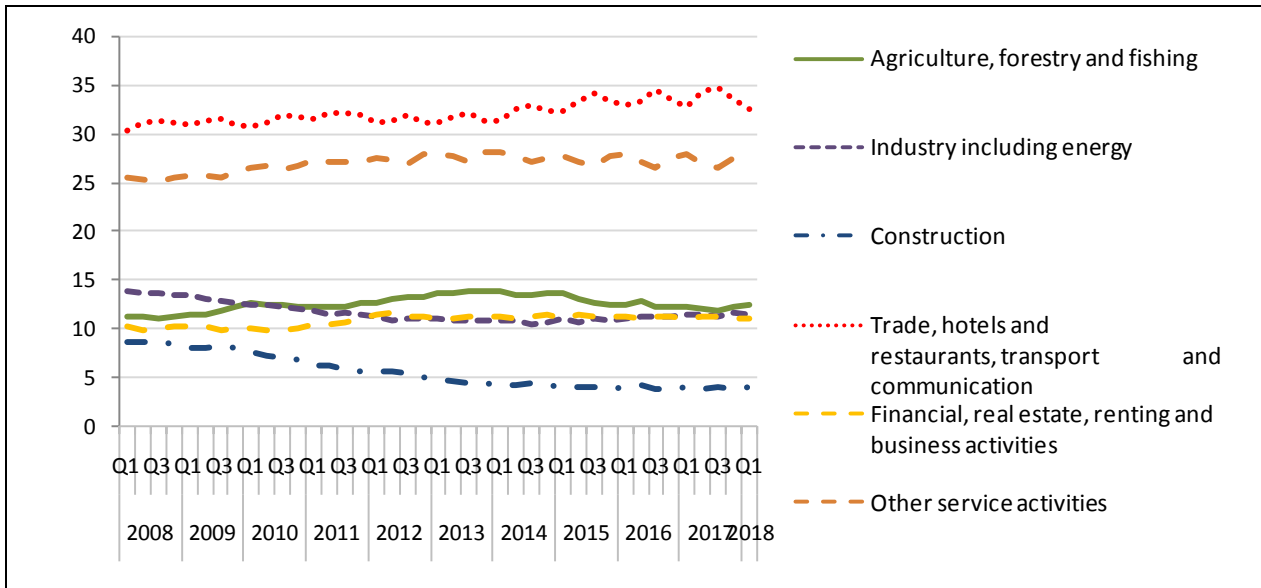
(3) It should be noted that in 2011 the new classification ISCO-08 was used for the classification of occupations, and as a result, there is a sudden decrease of the “Highly skilled non-manual” occupations and a corresponding increase of “Low skilled non-manual”. Nevertheless, the increase in the percentage of “Low skilled non manual” occupations continues after 2011.

Table 3. Employed persons by section of economic activity*(In thousands)*

	1st quarter 2018	Percentage over total	4th quarter 2017	1st quarter 2017	Quarterly rate of change (%)	Annual rate of change (%)
A. Agriculture, forestry and fishing	465.6	12.5	453.1	450.9	2.8	3.3
B. Mining and quarrying	10.8	0.3	11.8	12.1	-8.5	-10.7
C. Manufacturing	352.2	9.5	361.0	349.6	-2.4	0.7
D. Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	31.1	0.8	30.9	29.9	0.6	4.0
E. Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	30.7	0.8	28.8	25.6	6.6	19.9
F. Construction	151.0	4.1	144.0	148.4	4.9	1.8
G. Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	671.4	18.0	684.1	661.2	-1.9	1.5
H. Transportation and storage	184.7	5.0	190.0	184.0	-2.8	0.4
I. Accommodation and food service activities	301.9	8.1	325.4	303.5	-7.2	-0.5
J. Information and communication	90.8	2.4	90.1	82.6	0.8	9.9
K. Financial and insurance activities	89.4	2.4	89.1	94.3	0.3	-5.2
L. Real estate activities	4.1	0.1	4.2	4.3	-2.4	-4.7
M. Professional, scientific and technical activities	207.2	5.6	208.1	198.7	-0.4	4.3
N. Administrative and support service activities	84.8	2.3	86.3	85.3	-1.7	-0.6
O. Public administration and defense; compulsory social security	336.3	9.0	327.1	335.4	2.8	0.3
P. Education	299.4	8.0	294.5	310.5	1.7	-3.6
Q. Human health and social work activities	246.0	6.6	241.6	222.0	1.8	10.8
R. Arts, entertainment and recreation	51.0	1.4	49.8	50.7	2.4	0.6
S. Other service activities	80.7	2.2	82.2	71.7	-1.8	12.6
T. Activities of households as employers	32.6	0.9	32.5	36.4	0.3	-10.4
U. Activities of extraterritorial organizations and bodies	1.8	0.0	1.8	2.0	0.0	-10.0

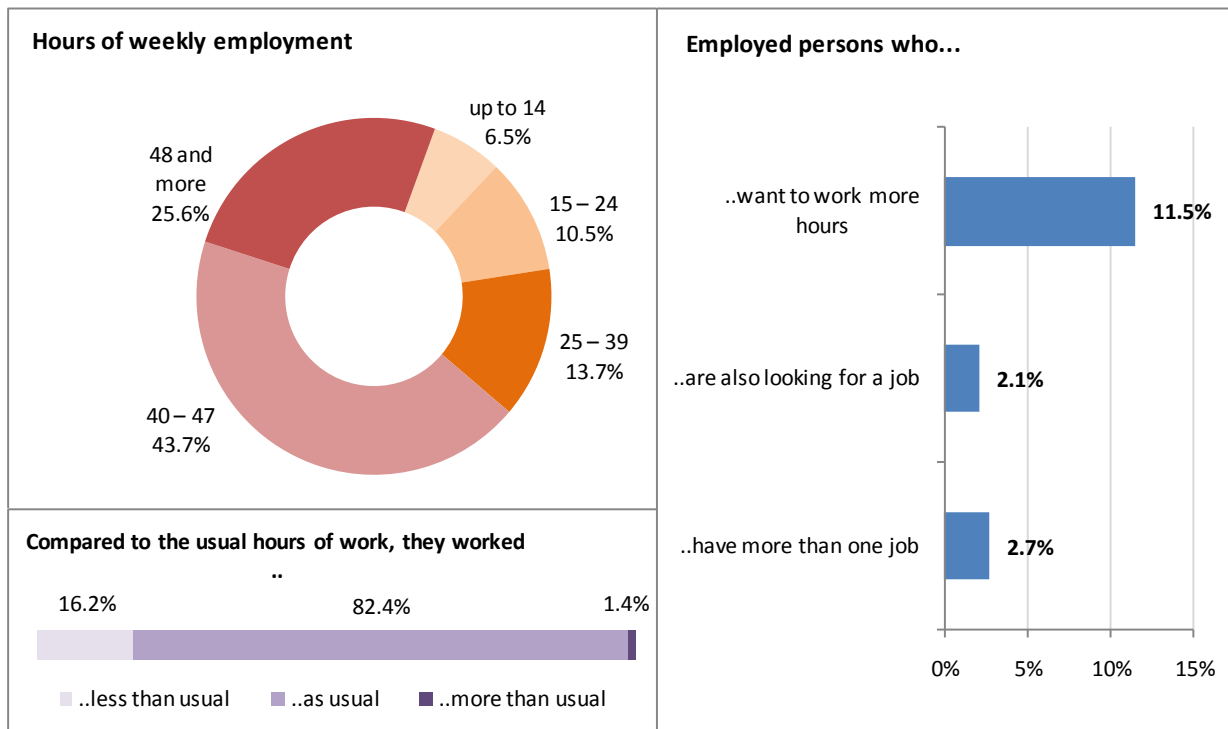
If we examine the changes in percentage distribution of the employed persons in broad groups of economic activity during the period 1st quarter 2008 – 1st quarter 2018, an increase is observed in the share of persons working in trade, hotels and restaurants, transport and communication, while a decrease is recorded in the share of persons working in construction and industry (Graph 3).

Graph 3: Percentage of employed persons by broad groups of economic activity



Most of the employed (43.7%) report having worked 40 - 47 hours in the reference week while a significant share (25.6%) reports having worked for 48 hours or over. The vast majority of the employed persons (82.4%) worked the usual hours during the reference week, while 11.5% of them state that they wish to work more hours. 2.7% reports having a second job and 2.1% of the employed are looking for a job, even though they have one (Graph 4).

Graph 4: Hours worked, existence of a second job, wish to work more hours and search for a job, 1st quarter 2018



III. CHARACTERISTICS OF UNEMPLOYED PERSONS

Table 4 presents the number of unemployed by reason for leaving the last job, duration of unemployment, type of employment they are looking for and by registration in a public employment office (OAED, for Greece) for the 1st quarter 2018. Furthermore, the table includes the corresponding data, for the previous quarter and the same quarter one year ago, as well as quarterly and annual rates of change.

Table 4. Unemployed by reason for leaving the last job, duration of unemployment, type of employment sought and registration in public employment office

(In thousands)

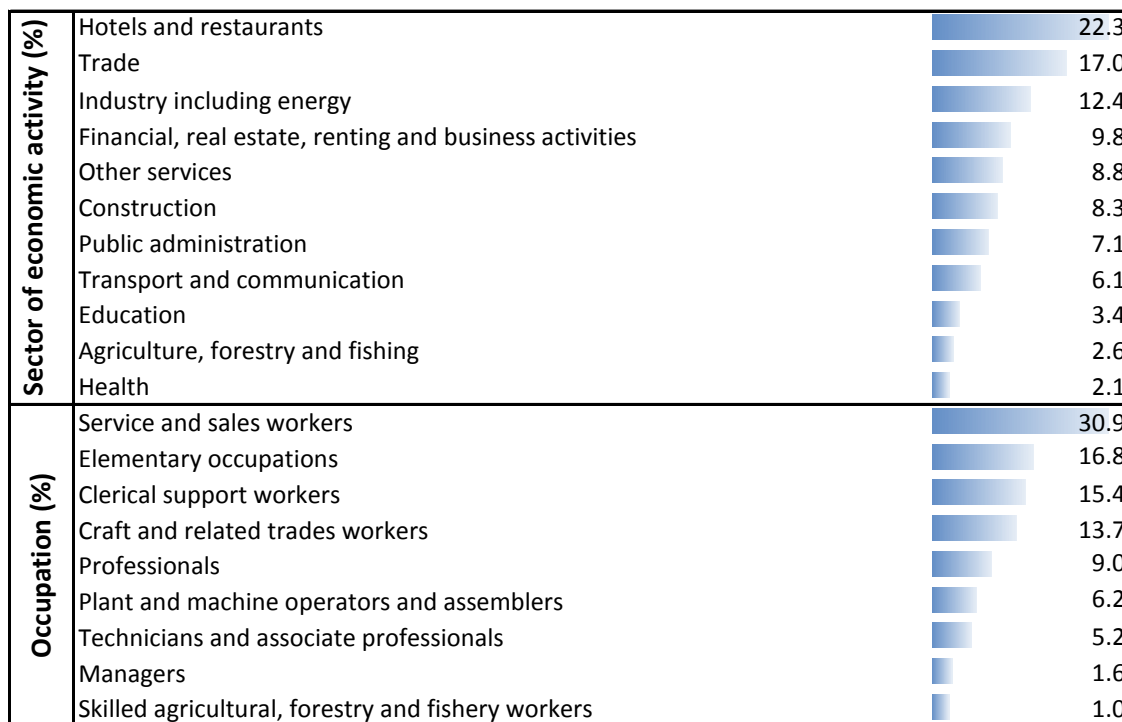
	1st quarter 2018	Percentage over total	4th quarter 2017	1st quarter 2017	Quarterly rate of change (%)	Annual rate of change (%)
Total	1,001.2		1,006.8	1,114.7	-0.6	-10.2
Reason for leaving the last job						
Never worked in the past	194.6	19.4	198.8	214.1	-2.1	-9.1
Dismissed or made redundant	250.1	25.0	277.4	302.2	-9.8	-17.2
A job of limited duration has ended	289.8	28.9	275.8	316.1	5.1	-8.3
Other reason	125.9	12.6	143.7	161.4	-12.4	-22.0
Did not report a reason ⁽⁴⁾	140.8	14.1	111.2	120.9	26.6	16.5
Duration of unemployment						
Will start now searching for employment	6.0	0.6	8.4	4.7	-28.6	27.7
Less than 1 month	24.3	2.4	41.5	21.6	-41.4	12.5
1 - 2 months	68.6	6.9	85.6	64.0	-19.9	7.2
3 - 5 months	117.7	11.8	60.8	132.5	93.6	-11.2
6 - 11 months	100.0	10.0	87.6	112.8	14.2	-11.3
<i>Long - term unemployed</i>						
12 - 17 months	109.2	10.9	119.5	119.8	-8.6	-8.8
18 - 23 months	84.1	8.4	84.2	95.6	-0.1	-12.0
24 - 47 months	164.5	16.4	184.6	194.4	-10.9	-15.4
4 years or more	326.8	32.6	334.7	369.4	-2.4	-11.5
Type of employment sought						
As self employed	18.5	1.9	20.4	30.4	-9.3	-39.1
As employee, only full-time job	145.6	14.5	124.1	131.4	17.3	10.8
As employee and full-time job is sought, but if not available, part - time job will be accepted	777.0	77.6	809.4	889.7	-4.0	-12.7
As employee and part - time job is sought, but if not available, full - time job will be accepted	18.2	1.8	16.0	12.5	13.8	45.6
As employee, only part-time job	5.8	0.6	6.0	6.6	-3.3	-12.1
As employee, and did not state whether full-time or part-time job is looked for	36.1	3.6	30.9	44.2	16.8	-18.3
Registration at a public employment office (OAED)						
Person is registered at a public employment office and receives benefit or assistance	132.3	13.2	120.6	140.4	9.7	-5.8
Person is registered at a public employment office but does not receive benefit or assistance	642.6	64.2	650.2	709.7	-1.2	-9.5
Person is not registered at a public employment office	225.3	22.5	235.4	263.2	-4.3	-14.4
Did not answer	1.0	0.1	0.7	1.4	42.9	-28.6

(4) Persons who worked for the last time more than 8 years ago are not asked why they stopped working.

Most unemployed persons report as main reason for stopping their last job that they were dismissed (25.0%) or that it was a job of limited duration (28.9%). The largest share of the unemployed was working in hotels and restaurants sector (22.3%). As regards the occupation of their previous employment, the largest part (30.9%) was working as service and sales workers (Graph 5). The share of the unemployed that have not worked in the past amounts to 19.4%.

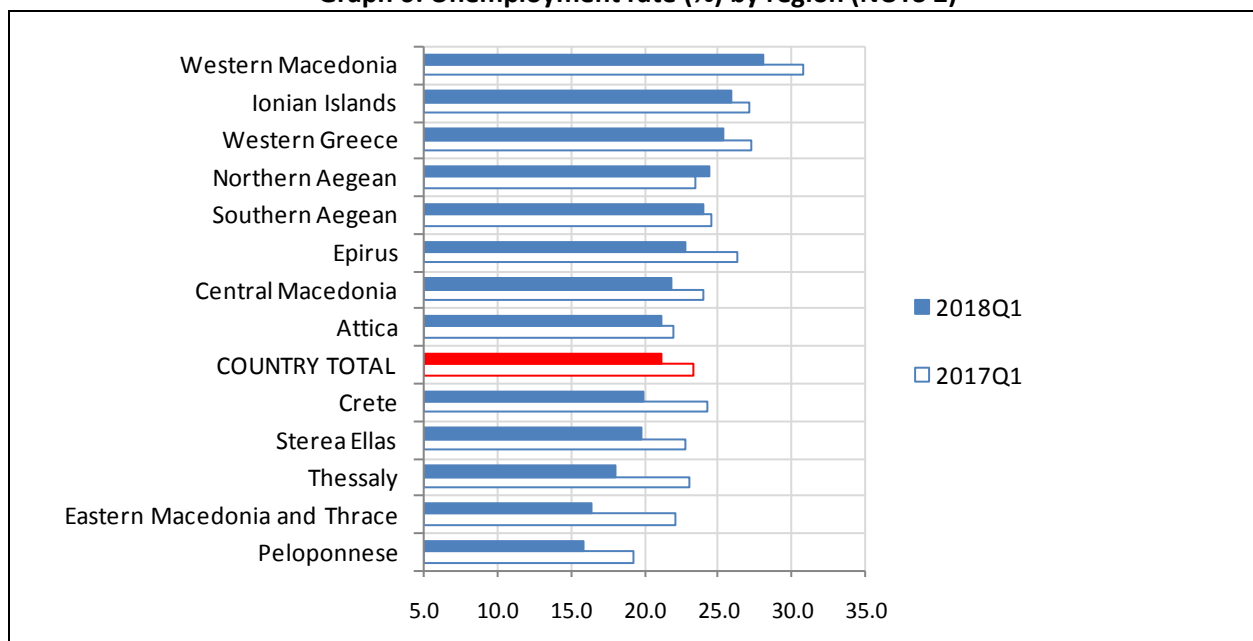
The majority of the unemployed (68.4%) are seeking for a job for one year or more (long-term unemployed), while 92.1% of the unemployed is looking for full time employment as employee. 22.5% of the unemployed report that they are not registered at public employment office (OAED), while 13.2% report that they receive a benefit or assistance from public employment office.

Graph 5: Sector of economy and occupation of the last job of unemployed, 1st quarter 2018.



Western Macedonia, Ionian Islands and Western Greece have the highest unemployment rates (Graph 6).

Graph 6: Unemployment rate (%) by region (NUTS 2)



IV. CHARACTERISTICS OF INACTIVE PERSONS

Table 5 presents the number of the inactive, aged less than 75, by existence of previous work experience, reason for leaving the last job and reason for not seeking employment for the 1st quarter 2018. Furthermore, the table includes the corresponding data for the previous quarter and the same quarter one year ago, as well as the corresponding quarterly and annual rates of change.

Table 5. Inactive, aged less than 75 years, by existence of previous work experience, reason for leaving the last job and reason for not seeking employment

(In thousands)

	1st quarter 2018	Percentage over total	4th quarter 2017	1st quarter 2017	Quarterly rate of change (%)	Annual rate of change (%)
Total	3,270.2		3,261.2	3,255.2	0.3	0.5
Existence of previous employment experience						
Never worked in the past	1,547.6	47.3	1,532.1	1,518.0	1.0	1.9
Worked in the last job more than 8 years ago ⁽⁵⁾	949.9	29.0	828.8	874.6	14.6	8.6
Worked in the last 8 years	772.7	23.6	900.3	862.6	-14.2	-10.4
Reason for leaving the last job						
Dismissed or made redundant	36.9	4.8	42.6	41.7	-13.4	-11.5
A job of limited duration has ended	89.2	11.5	94.2	82.3	-5.3	8.4
Had to look after children or incapacitated adults	10.5	1.4	12.3	13.6	-14.6	-22.8
Resigned for other personal or family reasons	30.5	3.9	29.5	25.8	3.4	18.2
Education of training	17.2	2.2	14.7	12.1	17.0	42.1
Own illness or disability	30.0	3.9	35.7	32.4	-16.0	-7.4
Early retirement	27.1	3.5	32.4	37.1	-16.4	-27.0
Retirement	479.2	62.0	583.3	560.1	-17.8	-14.4
Other reason	52.2	6.8	55.5	57.5	-5.9	-9.2
Reason for not seeking employment						
Person is looking for work but is not available to start within 2 weeks	52.7	1.6	54.1	48.1	-2.6	9.6
Had to look after children or incapacitated adults	99.8	3.1	102.7	106.0	-2.8	-5.8
For other personal or family reasons	265.8	8.1	249.1	246.5	6.7	7.8
Due to education of training	793.5	24.3	775.2	775.1	2.4	2.4
Is in retirement	1,242.2	38.0	1,251.0	1,265.0	-0.7	-1.8
Because of own illness or disability	169.5	5.2	168.0	167.7	0.9	1.1
Believes that no work is available	47.8	1.5	50.6	40.5	-5.5	18.0
Other reason	561.8	17.2	573.4	563.8	-2.0	-0.4
Did not report a reason	37.1	1.1	37.0	42.5	0.3	-12.7

The majority of inactive persons, 15 - 74 years old have not worked in the past (47.3%) or they worked for the last time more than 8 years ago (23.6%).

Among the persons that worked for the last time during the previous 8 years, the majority stopped working due to retirement (62.0%) or because it was a job of limited duration that ended (11.5%).

The main reason reported by inactive for not seeking employment is that they are in retirement (38.0%) or in education or training (24.3%). 1.6% of the inactive is seeking for a job but is not currently available to start working. 1.5% of the inactive is not seeking a job because they believe that no work is available.

(5) Persons who worked for the last time more than 8 years ago, are not asked why they stopped working.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Labour Force Survey The 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, main job characteristics, the existence and characteristics of a second job, educational attainment, participation in education, previous working experience and search of a job.

Legislation The current survey is completely harmonized with European legislation. The principal legal act is 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 the 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 collective households (i.e. hospitals, hotels, military camps, asylums, homes for the elderly, orphanages, etc).

Methodology The estimates of the Labour Force Survey are produced by a suitable unbiased estimator, which takes into account: a) the probability of selection of every sampled household, b) the response rate in every primary sampling unit, c) the allocation of population by NUTS 2 Regions, gender and age group.

Definitions **Employed:** 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: 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: persons who are neither classified as employed nor as unemployed.

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

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

Regions: the 13 NUTS 2 areas in which Greece is divided.

Educational level: the highest completed level of education provided in 4 categories. The category "Less than primary" includes persons that never went to school. The category "Primary education" includes persons that completed primary school", and the category "Secondary education" includes persons that completed at most "Lyceum"- Upper Secondary Education. The category "Tertiary education" includes also persons that completed master or PHD.

Self-employed with employees: persons that who work in their own business, professional practice or farm for the purpose of earning a profit, and who employ at least one other person.

Self-employed without employees: persons that who work in their own business, professional practice or farm for the purpose of earning a profit, and who do not employ any other person.

Employees: persons who work for a public or private employer and who receive compensation in the form of wages, salaries, fees, gratuities, payment by results or payment in kind.

Family workers: persons who help another member of the family to run an agricultural holding or other business, provided they are not considered as employees.

Part-time job: a workers job where the normal hours of work are less than those of comparable full-time workers. The distinction between full-time and part-time job is based on the spontaneous answer given by the respondent.

Temporary work: work of **employees**, which will terminate either after a period fixed in advance, or after a period not known in advance, but nevertheless defined by objective criteria, such as the completion of an assignment or the period of absence of an employee temporarily replaced.

Duration of unemployment: the time that the respondent is looking for work and, **simultaneously**, had no job.

Sector of economic activity: the classification of economic activities is based on the products that a business produces or the services that provides. Since 2008, a classification equivalent to NACE Rev. 2⁽⁶⁾ is used. Labour Force Survey collects information at 3-digit level for the main job and at 2-digit level for the second and the previous job.

- in Table 3, the NACE Rev.2 classification is used at 1-digit level,
- in Graphs 3 and 5, for the classification of economic activity, the following typologies are used:

Typology of economic sector categories – correspondence with 2-digit NACE Rev. 2 codes		
Typology used in Graph 3	Agriculture, forestry and fishing	01 - 03
	Industry including energy	05 - 39
	Construction	41 - 43
	Trade, hotels and restaurants, transport and communication	45 - 61
	Financial, real estate, renting and business activities	62 - 82
	Other service activities	84 - 99
Typology used in Graph 5	Agriculture, forestry and fishing	01 - 03
	Industry including energy	05 - 39
	Construction	41 - 43
	Trade	45 - 47
	Transport and communication	49 - 53, 58 - 61
	Hotels and restaurants	55 - 56
	Financial, real estate, renting and business activities	62 - 82
	Public administration	84
	Education	85
	Health	86
	Other service activities	87 - 99

(6) <http://www.statistics.gr/el/economic-activities>

Occupation: is a set of jobs consisting of similar tasks and duties. Since 2011 the International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO-08⁽⁷⁾) of ILO is used. The Labour Force Survey collects information at 3-digit level for the main, the second and the previous job.

- in Table 2 and in Graph 5, the ISCO-08 classification is used at 1-digit level,
- in Graph 2, for the classification of occupation, the following typology is used:

Typology of occupation categories – correspondence with ISCO–08 codes	
Highly skilled non-manual <i>(Legislators, senior officials and managers, Professionals, Technicians and associate professionals)</i>	0,1,2,3
Low skilled non-manual <i>(Clerks, Service workers and shop and market sale workers)</i>	4,5
Skilled manual <i>(Craft and related trade workers, Plant and machine operators and assemblers)</i>	0,7,8
Occupations in agriculture, forestry and fishing <i>(skilled and non-skilled)</i>	6 and 92
Elementary occupations <i>(non-skilled workers, except those working in primary sector)</i>	9 except 92

Analytical description of the methodology and definitions used in the Labour Force Survey can be found on the website of ELSTAT at the link:

<http://www.statistics.gr/en/statistics/-/publication/SJO01/->

(7) <http://www.statistics.gr/el/occupation>