HELLENIC REPUBLIC

HELLENIC STATISTICAL AUTHORITY

ENTRY OF YOUNG PEOPLE INTO THE LABOUR MARKET

Labour Force Survey – Ad hoc module 2009

<u>Final Technical Report</u>

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Contents

1. Introduction

In 2008, Grant Agreement N°. 32100.2008.001-2008.718 was signed between the European Community, represented by the Commission of the European Communities and the Hellenic Statistical Authority. Under the rules and conditions of this agreement, Hellenic Statistical Authority will receive a grant from the European Commission in order to implement the 2009 Ad-hoc Module on "The entry of young people in to the labour market".

The variables to be collected in the ad hoc module were laid down in Commission Regulation No 207/2008 of 5 March 2008.

The aim of 2009 ad hoc module is to provide comparable and comprehensive data on the entry of the young people into the labour market in order to monitor progress towards the common objectives of the European Employment Strategy and of the Social Inclusion Process. In order to accomplish this target, the ad hoc module was planned to collect information on:

- Highest educational level , and Country of birth of parents
- Orientation of highest education attained
- Time of leaving formal education for the last time
- Work experience during formal studies
- Time of starting first job (of more than 3 months duration)
- Duration of and way of finding first job
- Occupation and Type of contract of first job
- Main activity after leaving formal education for last time

2. Target population of Ad hoc module on the entry of young people in to the labour market.

Target population of the Quarterly LFS comprises of all persons that are living in private households. Therefore, the survey does not cover persons that live in collective households (hospitals, hotels, prisons, etc., or persons doing compulsory military service).

Ad hoc module on the entry of young people in to the labour market addressed to a subset of that population, and in particular, persons 15 – 34 years old:

- Persons age 15 – 34 years old were asked about the country of birth of their parents, and their parents educational level. Additionally there were asked questions concerning work experience during their studies, and the exact day (that is, year and month) that were in formal education for the last time.

- Persons age 15 – 34 that were not in formal education during the reference week of the survey were asked questions on the date of their first job, on the method they used to find their first job and on their main status during the last time they were in formal education and the beginning of their first job.

- Persons age 15 – 74 years old who had a first job (different from their current job) were asked a series of questions on the characteristics of their first job, as occupation, duration of the job, and type of contract of first job.

3. Sampling design and sample selection

Ad – hoc module's sample was based on LFS sample.

LFS sample is a sample of households that are selected with a two stage procedure. In the first stage, clusters of households are selected from 182 strata. These strata are formed in every NUT III area by allocating municipalities and communes in three different groups (Agglomerations and Municipalities with 10.000 inhabitants or more, Municipalities and Communes with 2.000 to 9.999 inhabitants, and Communes up to 1.999 inhabitants). The exceptions are Athens and Thessaloniki agglomerations, which were divided into 31 and 9 strata, respectively.

During this first stage, 2640 primary sampling units are selected (with probability proportional to their "size" (that is, proportional to the number of households residing in these areas at 2001 census).

During the second sampling stage, in every primary sampling untit of final stratum, a systematic sample of household is selected. All persons, living in these households and satisfying the above described criteria, were interviewed for the ad hoc survey.

The sample size for the ad hoc module was 16,411 persons, belonging to 11,758 different households. Interviews were contacted together with interviews for main Labour Force Survey, during the second quarter of 2009.

4. Implementation of survey

The main tasks (and problems) which the National Statistical Service faced when creating the ad hoc questionnaire was:

- To transform variables in to questions that could be understood by the respondents, and "translate" the corresponding questions to the Greek situation (that is particular the case for variables PARHAT and HATVOC)

- To implement complex filtering in a paper questionnaire (that is particular the case for variable TRANSACT)

- To transform (some quite complicated) variables in to a series of questions in order to be possible to get answers by respondents (that is particular the case for variables WORKEDUC and JOBCONTR)

During the creation of the questionnaire, several discussions with interviewers belonging to the permanent stuff of NSSG took place in order to identify problems and find solutions. A "proper" pilot test did not took place, due to excessive burden at this period. Only a very limited number of questionnaires (about 10) was tested with persons outside the service.

The survey was contacted during the 2nd quarter of 2009, together with the LFS survey. A separate questionnaire was addressed to the target population (or to a member of their household, after the completion of the core LFS questionnaire. Two seminars for the interviewers took place in the beginning of March. The first one was addressed to interviewers working in Athens, while the second one was addressed to the persons responsible for the survey in the Regional Statistical offices.

5. Non response and proxies

Unit non response rates for 2009 module follow the non-response rates for the main Labour Force Survey, since the two surveys were contacted on the same sample, at the same time. Unit non response rates for NUT II areas are presented in the following table. Non response is higher in Athens agglomeration and in Thessaloniki agglomeration.

Table 1. Non response rates by NUT II region

NUT II REGION		LFS NON RESPONSE RATE (household level)
GR11	Anatoliki Makedonia, Thraki	9,92
GR12	Kentriki Makedonia (without Thessaloniki agglomeration)	5,20
GR13	Dytiki Makedonia	2,79
GR14	Thessalia	9,18
GR21	Ipeiros	9,19
GR22	Ionia Nisia	5,43
GR23	Dytiki Ellada	9,35
GR24	Sterea Ellada	8,43
GR25	Peloponnisos	5,27
GR30	Attiki (without Athens agglomeration)	18,32
GR41	Voreio Aigaio	7,88
GR42	Notio Aigaio	7,18
GR43	Kriti	9,60
GR12	Thessaloniki agglomeration	17,69
GR30	Athens agglomeration	24,00

We should add that a significant number of persons (741, that is 4.5% of the total persons age 15 – 34 years old in LFS sample) that have answered to core questionnaire did not provide answers in the ad hoc module. These cases are included in the item non-response presented in Table 2, but not in all variables since in many cases information was imputed from the core.

Table 2. Non response rates by variable

Variable	Item non-response (%)
Col. 203. PARHAT	0,0
Col. 204-207. PARFOR	0,1
Col. 208. HATVOC	0,1
Col. 209-214. STOPDATE	6,2
Col. 215. WORKEDUC	0,1
Col. 216-221. JOBSTART	2,5
Col. 222-224. JOBDUR	15,8
Col. 225. FINDMETH	8,7
Col. 226-229. JOBOCC	16,5
Col. 230. JOBCONTR	18,8
Col. 231. TRASACT	12,2

Proxies were allowed in ad hoc module. Total percentage of proxies, for persons interviewed for the ad hoc module, was 58.8%. Proxies percentage is higher for men than women (63.1% compared to 54.5%), for inactive persons (61.9%) and for persons 15-19 years old (80,0%).

Table 3. % of proxies be sex, age group and employment status

		Direct Interviews	Proxies	% of proxies
Employment status	Employed	3551	4557	56,2
	Unemployed	571	885	60,8
	Inactives	2327	3779	61,9
Gender	Male	2944	5027	63,1
	Female	3505	4194	54,5
Age Group	15-19	684	2744	80,0
	20-24	1579	2070	56,7
	25-29	1815	2411	57,1
	30-34	2371	1996	45,7

6. Weighting and Estimation

For the estimation of the ad hoc survey results, the same weights as in Quarterly LFS were used. These weights are computed in 3 steps.

In the first step, a design weight is assigned to each person in the data file. This weight is determined by the estimated probability of selection of the particular household where the person lives in.

At the second step, a correction factor is applied at primary sampling unit level to compensate for non-response.

Finally, at the third step, post stratification weights are applied to individual level. Post-stratification variables are sex, age (5-years groups) and NUT II area.

7. Remarks and recommendations

1. Many variables seem to be strongly correlated with the age of the respondent. This is, for example, the case with PARHAT where persons in the age group of 30 - 34 years old tend to have parents of lower educational level. And while in this case, this deference reflects a "real situation" in the Greek population (that is, the fact that older people have lower educational level), there are other variables where the situation is more complicated.   An example is "average duration between leaving formal education for the last time and starting the first job" which is strongly correlated with age (this duration is much longer for persons in the age group of 30 - 34 years old, independently of educational level). It can be the case that, after many years, people tend to under-report "small" jobs and report more "important"jobs that started later in their life. Consequently, and if the main purpose of the ad hoc module is to describe the present situation (and not to compare what happens today with what was happening 10 years ago), the upper limit of the target population should be lower in a repetition of the ad hoc module

2. The idea of using as reference point the "date when in formal education for the last time" has as advantage that it is a rather well defined point in time (a similar distinction is used in the core). The disadvantage is that it may produce non-comparable results in different countries, since similar programs may (or may not) be considered as "formal education" in different countries. It is even possible, that the same program, in the same country, can be considered non-formal at a certain period and formal after some years. A solution could be to consider the last time that a person was a "full-time student" –that is, not to take in to account if the program is formal or non-formal (but probably take in to account other characteristics of the program-for example, duration or hours in the class).