

## Single Integrated Metadata Structure (SIMS)

**Country:** Greece

**Compiling agency:** ELSTAT

**Domain name:** Self-employed (Labour Force Survey – ad hoc survey 2017)

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1. Contact <a href="#">Top</a>	
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## 2. Introduction

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The Labour Force Survey ad hoc module on "Self-employed" was conducted during the 2nd quarter of 2017 together with the Labour Force Survey and is defined by the European Commission's Implementing Regulation (EU) 2016/8, 5/1/201.

The objectives of the survey were to assess dependency of self-employed workers from their customers, to collect information on their working conditions and to compare them with all employees.

## 3. Metadata update

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<b>3.1 Metadata last certified</b>	November 2018
<b>3.2 Metadata last posted</b>	November 2018
<b>3.3 Metadata last update</b>	November 2018

## 4. Statistical presentation

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### 4.1 Data description

The data refer to the following:

- The existence of main client and the ability to decide on working hours
- The main reasons why people work or do not work as self-employed
- The difficulties that self-employed have faced during the last 12 months, as well as the main reasons for not having employees.
- The existence of partners, associates, and the intention to hire employees or subcontractors in the next 12 months
- The level of job satisfaction and autonomy at work.
- The preferred professional status of employees.

### 4.2 Classification system

LFS classifications are used (see LFS metadata)

<http://www.statistics.gr/en/statistics/-/publication/SJO01/2017-Q4>

### 4.3 Sector coverage

Like LFS, ad hoc module is a household survey

### 4.4 Statistical concepts and definitions

**Main client:** the client from whom at least 75% of a freelance income is derived.

### 4.5 Statistical unit

Households, persons

### 4.6 Statistical population

The reference population for the quarterly LFS consists of all persons living in private households. The ad hoc module "Self-employed", refers to employed persons.

### 4.7 Reference area

All NUTS 3 areas of Greece, with the exception of Mount Athos area

### 4.8 Time coverage

2017, 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter

#### 4.9 Base period

There is no base period

### 5. Unit of measure

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Number of persons, %, mean, years (age)

### 6. Reference period

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The Labour Force Survey's sample is spread uniformly in the 13 (or 14) weeks of the quarter. Every sampled household corresponds to a particular week, namely the reference week (from Monday to Sunday). When the days of a week belong to two different months, this week is considered to belong to the month that includes that Thursday of the particular week

For employment, the reference period is the reference week.

### 7. Institutional mandate

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#### 7.1 Legal acts and other agreements

Hellenic Statistical Authority is an independent authority responsible for the production and dissemination of official statistics.

The legal framework concerning the organization and operation of ELSTAT is as follows:

- Law 3832/2010 (Government Gazette No 38, Issue A): "*Hellenic Statistical System Establishment of the Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT) as an Independent Authority*", as amended by article 90 paragraphs 8 and 9 of the Law 3842/2010 (Government Gazette No 58, Issue A): "*Restoration of fiscal justice, confrontation of tax evasion and other provisions*", by article 10 of the Law 3899/2010 (Government Gazette No 212, Issue A): "*Urgent measures for the implementation of the assistance program of the Greek Economy*", by article 45 of the Law 3943/2011 (Government Gazette No 66, Issue A): "*Combating tax evasion, staffing of auditing services and other provisions falling within the competence of the Ministry of Finance*", by article 22 paragraph 1 of the Law 3965/2011 (Government Gazette No 113, Issue A): "*Operations Reform of the Consignment and Loan Fund, Public Debt Management Agency, Public Enterprises and Government bodies, the establishment of the General Secretary of Public Property and other provisions*" and by article 51 of the Law 4021/2011 (Government Gazette No 218, Issue A): "*Enhanced measures for the supervision and restructuring of Credit Institutions – Regulation of issues of financial nature – Ratification of the European Financial Stability Facility (EFSF) Framework-Agreement and its amendments and other provisions.*"
- Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council, on the European statistics (Official Journal of the European Union L 87/164).
- Article 14 of the Law 3470/2006 (Government Gazette No 132, Issue A): "*National Export Council, tax regulations and other provisions*".
- Article 3, paragraph 1c, of the Law 3448/2006 (Government Gazette No 57, Issue A): "*For the further use of information coming from the public sector and the settlement of matters falling within the responsibility of the Ministry of Interior, Public Administration and Decentralization*".
- European Statistics Code of Practice, adopted by the Statistical Programme Committee on 24 February 2005 and promulgated in the Commission Recommendation of 25 May 2005 on the independence, integrity and accountability of the national and Community statistical Authorities, after its revision, which was adopted on 28 September 2011 by the European Statistical System Committee.
- Presidential Decree 226/2000 (Government Gazette No 195, Issue A): "*Organization of the General Secretariat of the Hellenic Statistical Authority*".

- Articles 4, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16 of the Law 2392/1996 (Government Gazette No 60, Issue A): “Access of the General Secretariat of the Hellenic Statistical Authority to administrative sources and administrative files, Statistical Confidentiality Committee, settlement of matters concerning the conduct of censuses and statistical works, as well as of matters of the General Secretariat of the Hellenic Statistical Authority”.

The Ad hoc Survey 2017 follows the Implementing Regulation (EU) 2016/8, of 5<sup>th</sup> January 2016.

## 7.2 Data sharing

A bilateral agreement is signed on the provision of anonymised EU LFS data to the National Statistical Institutes of other participating EU countries.

## 8. Confidentiality

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### 8.1 Confidentiality policy

The issues concerning the observance of statistical confidentiality by the Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT) are arranged by articles 6, 7 and 8 of the Law 3832/2010, as amended by article 90 paragraph 8 of Law 3842/2010 and by article 10 of Law 3899/2010, as well as by article 8 of Law 2392/1996, which was brought back into force, in accordance with article 90 paragraph 8 of Law 3842/2010.

Furthermore, ELSTAT disseminates the statistics in compliance with the statistical principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice and in particular with the principle of statistical confidentiality.

### 8.2 Confidentiality – data treatment

- ELSTAT protects and does not disseminate data it has obtained or it has access to, which enable the direct or indirect identification of the statistical units that have provided them by the disclosure of individual information directly received for statistical purposes or indirectly supplied from administrative or other sources. ELSTAT takes all appropriate preventive measures so as to render impossible the identification of individual statistical units by technical or other means that might reasonably be used by a third party. Statistical data that could potentially enable the identification of the statistical unit are disseminated by ELSTAT if and only if:
  - a) these data have been treated, as it is specifically set out in the Regulation on Statistical Obligations of the agencies of the Hellenic Statistical System (ELSS), in such a way that their dissemination does not prejudice statistical confidentiality or
  - b) the statistical unit has given its consent, without any reservations, for the disclosure of data.
- The confidential data that are transmitted by ELSS agencies to ELSTAT are used exclusively for statistical purposes and the only persons who have the right to have access to these data are the personnel engaged in this task and appointed by an act of the President of ELSTAT.
- Issues referring to the observance of statistical confidentiality are examined by the Statistical Confidentiality Committee (SCC) operating in ELSTAT. The responsibilities of this Committee are to recommend on:
  - the level of detail at which statistical data can be disseminated, so as the identification, either directly or indirectly, of the surveyed statistical unit is not possible;
  - the anonymization criteria for the microdata provided to users ([http://www.statistics.gr/anonymized\\_criteria](http://www.statistics.gr/anonymized_criteria));
  - the granting to researchers access to confidential data for scientific purposes.

Dissemination of the Ad-hoc surveys microdata follows the same restrictions as LFS data, as defined by the Anonymization criteria. In specific cases, and after the approval of the confidentiality committee of ELSTAT, one or two of these rules can be relaxed.

9. Release policy <a href="#">Top</a>
<b>9.1 Release calendar</b>
At the end of December of each year ELSTAT publishes a release calendar announcing the precise release dates for the next year. The date of announcement of the results of the ad hoc 2017 survey was set at 22/11/2018.
<b>9.2 Release calendar access</b>
The calendar is disseminated on ELSTAT's website ( <a href="http://www.statistics.gr">http://www.statistics.gr</a> ) at the link: "Press Releases Calendar".
<b>9.3 User access</b>
<p>The data are released simultaneously to all interested parties through the Press Release entitled "Labour Force" which is made available to the media at 12:00. At the same time, the press release is distributed electronically to the subscribers. The press release is subsequently posted on the website of ELSTAT (<a href="http://www.statistics.gr">http://www.statistics.gr</a>).</p> <p>There is no internal government access to the data before their release to the public.</p>

10. Frequency of dissemination <a href="#">Top</a>
Results are released once.

11. Dissemination format <a href="#">Top</a>
<b>11.1 News release</b>
Published in ELSTAT website, path: Population and Social Conditions > Labour Market > Employment – Unemployment > LFS - ad hoc modules> Self-employed (Ad hoc module 2017) , <a href="http://www.statistics.gr/en/statistics/-/publication/SJO30/-">http://www.statistics.gr/en/statistics/-/publication/SJO30/-</a>
<b>11.2 Publications</b>
No exist
<b>11.3 On-line database</b>
No exists
<b>11.3.1 Data tables - consultations</b>
No data for data table views is collected.
<b>11.4 Micro-data access</b>
<p>Micro-data are available to users for free upon request to the Hellenic Statistical Authority, Statistical Information and Publications Division. Path: Products and Services&gt;Statistical data request</p> <p><a href="http://www.statistics.gr/en/statistical-data-request">http://www.statistics.gr/en/statistical-data-request</a></p> <p>Confidentiality of the data is assured by the implementation of anonymization criteria (see 8.2).</p>
<b>11.5 Other</b>
A number of tabulated data are available to users on the website <a href="http://www.statistics.gr/en/statistics/-">http://www.statistics.gr/en/statistics/-</a>

[/publication/SJO30/-](#).

Also, statistical data are provided to users by on-line application in ELSTAT, Statistical Information and Publications Division (see 11.4).

#### **11.5.1 Metadata – consultations**

There is no distinct measurement for the use of ad hoc surveys data. This is included in the use of LFS data (for details, see Annual “User satisfaction survey” , path: Products and Services> User satisfaction survey, <http://www.statistics.gr/en/user-satisfaction-survey>)

## **12. Accessibility of documentation**

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### **12.1 Documentation on methodology**

The following scientific publications refer to LFS sample selection and estimations and they are available only in the Greek language:

- *Ανασχεδιασμός του δείγματος της Έρευνας Εργατικού Δυναμικού από το έτος 1998 και εξής Ν. Πανταζίδης .*
- *Αποτελεσματικότητα των εκτιμήσεων της Έρευνας Εργατικού Δυναμικού από το έτος 1998 και εξής Ν. Πανταζίδης*

Documents are available in pdf format (only in the Greek language), upon request

Short methodological notes and survey questionnaires are available at ELSTAT website, path Population and Social Conditions > Labour Market > Employment – Unemployment, <http://www.statistics.gr/en/statistics/pop> .

#### **12.1.1 Metadata completeness - rate**

Do not exist.

### **12.2 Quality documentation**

Information on the accuracy and reliability of the data is contained in section 15, "Accuracy and reliability."

## **13. Quality management**

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### **13.1 Quality assurance**

Ad hoc surveys follow the same methodology as LFS, thus complying with Eurostat standards concerning the selection and the size of the sample, the design of questionnaires, and the information collected. Collected questionnaires are checked for completeness and quality of information. The final data base is checked for data validity by ELSTAT and Eurostat.

### **13.2 Quality assessment**

Labour Force Survey is considered a reliable source of information with a methodology that meets high standards. Nevertheless, Labour Force Survey is a sample survey and as a result, the results are accompanied by sampling errors.

Basic quality indicators of Labour Force Survey, (sampling errors, response rates) are computed quarterly and annually and included in a standard quality report submitted to Eurostat.

## **14. Relevance**

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### **14.1 User needs**

The ad hoc survey program is agreed on a 3-year basis in consultation with Eurostat, national statistical offices and key users (mainly European Commission services). The ad-hoc survey of 2017 was decided in the context of monitoring the objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy and the need for a comprehensive set of data for young people and their transition towards the labour market, allowing comparisons to be made between Member States.

#### 14.2 User satisfaction

ELSTAT does not carry out a user satisfaction survey specifically for the users of the Labour Force Survey. However, there is continuous communication with the main users of survey results and their opinion and remarks are taken in to account in the development of Labour Force Survey and the production and dissemination of its results.

#### 14.3 Completeness

Ad hoc 2017 survey in Greece included all variables defined in the relevant EC regulation.

### 15. Accuracy and reliability

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#### 15.1 Overall accuracy

The size of the Labour Force Survey sample allows for the production of estimates with high accuracy at country level and at the most of NUTS 2 areas of Greece. This reflects also to ad hoc 2017 survey which collected data from 20,303 persons.

#### 15.2 Sampling error

The variance of the estimation of a characteristic is calculated on the basis of the variance of the estimations of the particular characteristic from every final stratum, by using the following formula:

$$\hat{V}(\hat{Y}) = \lambda^2 \left( \frac{n_{hi}}{n_{hi} - 1} \right) \cdot \left[ \sum_j y_{hij}^2 - \frac{1}{n_{hi}} \left( \sum_j y_{hij} \right)^2 \right]$$

where  $\lambda$  are the weights,  $n_{hi}$  is the number of primary sampling units in a final stratum, and  $\sum y_{hij}$  the total of the characteristic in a primary sampling unit.

#### Coefficient of variation for certain characteristics of ad hoc 2017 survey

		Estimate	95% Confidence		Coefficient of Variation
			Lower	Upper	
Job satisfaction	Satisfied to a large extent	1,598,593	1,550,429	1,646,758	1.5%
	Satisfied to some extent	1,590,200	1,544,000	1,636,400	1.5%
	Satisfied to a small extent	490,956	465,774	516,137	2.6%
	Not satisfied at all	57,694	49,568	65,820	7.2%
Job autonomy	Able to influence the contents of tasks	1,381,642	1,337,630	1,425,654	1.6%
	Able to influence the order of tasks	1,972,864	1,919,226	2,026,501	1.4%
Preferred professional status	Do not want to change professional status	3,079,063	3,016,128	3,141,998	1.0%
	Self-employed who wish to work as employees	339,001	320,060	357,943	2.8%
	Employee or family workers who wish to be self-employed	257,758	237,982	277,533	3.9%
Existence of main client in the last 12 months	Had no clients	6,661	4,074	9,247	19.8%
	Did not have main client	911,217	883,730	938,703	1.5%
	Had main client	165,422	152,921	177,922	3.9%
Who decides the start and end of the working day	The respondents	858,743	831,426	886,059	1.6%
	The clients	89,201	80,433	97,969	5.0%
	Any other party	141,673	129,352	153,993	4.4%
Main reason for becoming self-employed	Could not find a job as an employee	147,471	135,722	159,220	4.1%
	Former employer requested the respondent to become self-employed	32,433	26,496	38,371	9.3%
	It is the usual practice in the respondent's field	186,310	174,201	198,419	3.3%
	Flexible working hours	277,723	260,206	295,239	3.2%
	A suitable opportunity presented itself	15,476	11,824	19,128	12.0%
	Continued the family business	160,271	146,235	174,307	4.5%
Main difficulty as self-employed	Lack of influence on setting the price of own work	129,176	116,835	141,517	4.9%
	Lack of access to financing for the business	49,942	42,383	57,501	7.7%
	Delayed payments or non-payments	163,999	150,703	177,295	4.1%
	Inappropriate levels of administrative burden	90,070	79,952	100,187	5.7%
	Lack of income in case of sickness	96,718	87,258	106,178	5.0%
	Periods of financial hardship	259,090	243,429	274,752	3.1%
	Periods of having no customer	164,518	152,052	176,983	3.9%
Work together with a co-owner		92,029	80,600	103,458	6.3%
Work together with other self-employed in a network		113,816	100,633	126,999	5.9%
Plan to hire subcontractors		8,134	5,422	10,847	17.0%
Plan to hire employees in the following 12 months		55,350	46,953	63,746	7.7%

### 15.3 Non-sampling error

#### 15.3.1 Coverage error

Refers to deviations between sampling frame and target population (see 4.6). The sampling frame is based on the current census results. The primary sampling units consist of a number of building blocks.. The design and selection of the primary sampling units is based on the number of private households residing permanently in these areas at current census. The secondary sampling units (that is households and dwellings) are selected after the selection of the primary sampling unit and after the compilation of a complete list of the private household dwellings in the PSU. The list is updated every 6 quarters (when a new systematic sample of dwellings is selected in the primary sampling unit). The main issues pertaining to the frame quality are:

- The more the time interval elapsed since the census, the less accurately the probabilities of selection reflect the “real size” of the selected primary sampling units.
- Sample size can be different, and even significantly different from the expected size, due to considerable changes in the “size” (that is, the number of household dwellings) of a PSU.
- It is difficult to control the way listings are updated. Over-coverage and under-coverage can be both present.

**Undercoverage** (the percentage of persons that are not covered by the sampling frame) is estimated at about 1%. These are mainly persons residing in collective households and persons residing in houses outside builded areas.



#### **15.3.1.1 Over-coverage – rate**

Refers to the percentage of dwellings that are not used by households and are included in the sampling frame of Labour Force Survey. It is estimated at about 8.4%.

#### **15.3.1.2 Common units – proportion**

Refers to the proportion of units covered by both the survey and the administrative sources in relation to the total number of units in the survey. LFS survey does not use any administrative sources, and therefore estimations are entirely derived from LFS sample.

### **15.3.2 Measurement error**

Measurement errors are distinguished into:

a) response errors, i.e. when respondents provide untrue or incorrect information, caused, among others, by the following :

- Proxy answering, i.e. responses by other member of household than the respondent. Total percentage of proxies was 45.3%;
- Additional interview for the ad hoc module (with LFS) imposes a serious burden on the interviewed households which may cause refusals or response errors;

Cases involving false data registration due to responses. For example, it may be the case of incorrect or incomplete description of the occupation, incorrect number of hours worked during the reference week, false salary etc;

,and

b) interview errors, i.e. all cases of false data registration caused by mistakes made by the interviewer, can be occurred in cases where the interviewer formulates a question incorrectly or asks questions in the wrong order.

### **15.3.3 Non response error**

Non response errors are due to non-contacts (failure to come into contact with the household) or to the refusal of the household to provide information.

By examining the item non response by type of interview (direct or proxy) and sex it appears that there are no important differences. It seems though that non-response tends to be bigger in both younger and older ages.

Non-response error rates by variable were as follows:

<b>Variable</b>	<b>Non-response %</b>
Economic dependency	4.5
Organisational dependency	3.4
Main reason for becoming self-employed	3.2
Main difficulty as self-employed during the last 12 months	1.2
Main reason for not having employees	3.5
Working with business partners	2.3
Planned hiring of employees or subcontractors in the next 12 months	2.1
Job satisfaction	1.4
Job autonomy	1.5
Preferred professional status for the main job	3.1
Main reason for not becoming self-employed in the main job	0.7

#### **15.3.4 Processing error**

Due to the fact that paper questionnaires are used, there is a large number of different kind of errors detected after the data entry. Such errors refer to variable non-response as well as contradictions between the answers provided in different parts of the questionnaire, also including LFS questionnaire. In some cases, ELSTAT come into contact with households by phone in order to deal with the above mentioned problematic cases.

#### **15.3.5 Model assumption error**

No models for estimation of non-sampling errors are applied.

### **16. Timeliness and punctuality**

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#### **16.1 Timeliness**

Survey results are sent to EUROSTAT on March of next year (2018 for 2017 ad hoc module).

#### **16.2 Punctuality**

Results were produced and sent to Eurostat on time

### **17. Comparability**

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#### **17.1 Comparability - geographical**

The definitions of the variables used in the Greek Labour Force Survey are fully in line with Eurostat Regulations. The results between Member States may have problems of comparability due to different reference period in the Member States (some Member States carry out the survey throughout the year) and different implementation research (Member States use for ad hoc surveys questionnaires having significant differences).

##### **17.1.1 Assymetry for mirror flows statistics – coefficient**

Not relevant

#### **17.2 Comparability over time**

Not relevant

### **18. Coherence**

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#### **18.1 Coherence cross-domain**

##### **18.1.1 Coherence – sub annual and annual statistics**

Not relevant

##### **18.1.2 Coherence – National Accounts**

Not relevant

#### **18.2 Coherence – internal**

The ad hoc estimates have full internal coherence, as they are all based on the same set of microdata and they are calculated using the same estimation methods

## 19. Cost and burden

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Total cost for data collection (by not permanent staff of ELSTAT): 16,046.30 euros

## 20. Data revision

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### 20.1 Revision policy

Ad hoc results are not revised after publication.

### 20.2 Revision practice

Not applicable

## 21. Statistical processing

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### 21.1 Source data

The sample for Ad hoc survey 2017 is based on LFS sample.

LFS is a sample survey covering the population living in private households. The selection of households to be surveyed follows a two stage stratified sampling scheme.

Total country is stratified in 206 strata. These strata are formed by allocating municipalities and communes of every NUTS 3 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 are divided into 31 and 9 strata, respectively.

Thus, in the second quarter of 2017, the PSU's (housing units) are selected with a probability that is proportional to the number of households residing in them at the 2011 census, and based on the renewed sampling frames (between 2nd quarter 2015 and 3rd quarter 2016).

At the second sampling stage a systematic sample of dwellings is selected in every primary sampling unit. All households residing in selected dwellings are asked to participate in the survey.

In the adhoc 2017 survey, individuals who were employed during the reference week are interviewed.

### 21.2 Frequency of data collection

Data was collected during the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2017.

### 21.3 Data collection

Personal interview at the household. Approximately 10% of the first interviews are conducted using a portable computer (CAPI). In other cases, a paper questionnaire (PAPI) is used.

### 21.4 Data validation

Data are validated through a series of checks which detect inconsistencies between dates reported by interviewed persons, between educational attainment and profession, profession and sector of economic activities, inconsistencies between answers given to different part of the questionnaire and inconsistencies in the reported structure of the households. When detected, these problems are resolved either by re-contacting households or, when possible, using previous data for the same household.

### 21.5 Data compilation

The estimates of ad hoc research are produced by reducing research results to the total population of private households as calculated in the Labor Force Survey for the second quarter of 2017.

#### **21.5.1 Imputation – rate**

No imputation is performed in the LFS data.

#### **21.6 Adjustment**

The LFS quarterly results are not adjusted

##### **21.6.1 Seasonal adjustment**

Not relevant

#### **22. Comment**

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There were no important issues with the implementation of 2017 ad hoc module.