



HELLENIC REPUBLIC



HELLENIC STATISTICAL AUTHORITY

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PRESS RELEASE

LABOUR FORCE SURVEY: December 2011

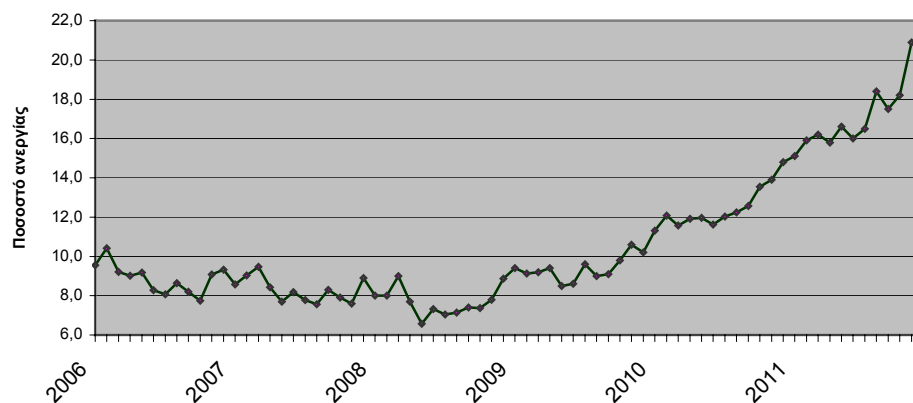
Unemployment rate in December 2011 was 21.0% compared to 14.8% in December 2010 and 20.9% in November 2011. The number of employed amounted to 3,899,319 persons. The number of unemployed amounted to 1,033,507 while the number of inactive to 4,424,562. The corresponding figures for December 2006 to 2011 are presented in Table 1.

The number of employed decreased by 334,445 persons compared with December 2010 (a 7.9% rate of decrease) and by 1,950 persons compared with November 2011 (a 0.05% rate of decrease).

Unemployed increased by 299,862 persons (a 40.9% rate of increase) compared with December 2010 and by 3,920 persons compared with November 2011 (a 0.38% rate of increase).

Inactive persons –that is, persons that neither worked neither looked for a job– increased by 71,414 persons (a 1.6% rate of increase) compared with December 2010 and by 905 persons compared with November 2011 (a 0.02% rate of increase).

Unemployment rate by month (January 2006 – December 2011)



Tables 2 and 3 illustrate unemployment rate by gender and age groups from December 2006 to 2011. Table 4 presents the evolution of unemployment rate during last 12 months by Decentralized Administrations. Finally, Table 5 presents 95% confidence intervals¹ for monthly estimations of unemployment rate for December 2011.

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¹ The confidence interval is a range of values, for which we have the (relative) certainty that it includes the real value of the surveyed variable. The 95% confidence intervals, presented in Table 5, are calculated using the estimated unemployment rate as the middle and a range of $(\pm 1,96 * \text{Standard error of the estimate})$.

Table 1. Employed, unemployed, economically non-active and unemployment rate (December 2006-2010)

	December					
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Employed	4,405,648	4,456,981	4,463,387	4,457,657	4,233,764	3,899,319
Unemployed	453,340	438,066	434,149	505,110	733,645	1,033,507
Inactive	4,325,105	4,322,573	4,350,927	4,323,071	4,353,148	4,424,562
Unemployment Rate	9.3	8.9	8.9	10.2	14.8	21.0

Table 2. Unemployment rate by gender: December 2006-2010

Gender	December					
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Males	6.0	6.1	6.5	6.9	11.9	17.7
Females	14.1	13.0	12.2	14.8	18.7	25.3
Total	9.3	8.9	8.9	10.2	14.8	21.0

Table 3: Unemployment rate by age groups: December 2006-2010

Age Group	December					
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
15-24 years old	28.4	24.5	26.3	28.9	39.0	51.1
25-34 »	12.8	12.7	11.6	13.7	21.0	28.7
35-44 »	7.3	6.8	6.8	8.9	12.2	17.9
45-54 »	4.9	5.6	5.7	5.9	9.2	14.8
55-64 »	3.5	3.0	4.5	4.6	7.1	10.1
65-74 »	2.1	0.5	0.0	0.5	2.9	4.2
Total	9.3	8.9	8.9	10.2	14.8	21.0

The monthly results of the Labour Force Survey--as it is already known--are calculated using estimates based on data collection from a relatively small sample of households which is one-third the size of the sample used for the quarterly survey. Consequently, the monthly estimates are accompanied by particularly large sampling errors that range from 0.58 at country-level to more than 1.6 in the smaller Decentralized Administrations and, further, to more than 2.3 in the smaller NUTS II areas. As a result, the monthly estimates of the unemployment rate are quite volatile from month to month, and the phenomenon intensifies when the results are presented at a greater geographical analysis. Users of the results of the Labour Force Survey should take this into account before using monthly estimates of the unemployment rate. In order to establish firmer conclusions concerning changes in the level of unemployment the results of the quarterly survey should be used.

In the context of the program undertaken by ELSTAT for the improvement of dissemination and presentation of statistics, and in order to increase the accuracy of the unemployment rate estimates at regional level, ELSTAT will be publishing the monthly results for the unemployment rate at the level of the seven Decentralized Administrations.

Furthermore, in the context of the same program for the improvement of data dissemination and presentation, and in order to harmonize the presentation of monthly unemployment rate estimates with the presentation of monthly estimates provided by Eurostat, ELSTAT, starting with the January 2012 results, will announce the monthly results of the LFS seasonally adjusted. Unadjusted data will continue to be available on ELSTAT's website.

Table 4. Unemployment rate during December 2011 and the last 12 months, by Decentralized Administration

Decentralized Administration	Period												
	2010	2011											
		12th	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th
Macedonia-Thrace	16.3	17.6	16.3	16.1	18.0	19.9	18.4	18.2	20.6	18.3	19.0	23.8	23.1
Epirus-West Macedonia	15.8	17.7	19.1	18.0	19.7	18.4	20.1	16.6	17.4	21.2	18.4	20.0	24.5
Thessaly – Sterea Ellas	14.8	14.2	13.7	15.6	16.4	13.7	17.3	19.3	17.1	18.2	20.7	19.9	21.0
Peloponnes, West Greece and Ionian Islands	14.5	12.0	15.9	15.8	12.0	16.7	13.9	13.9	17.5	15.6	15.4	20.1	17.2
Attica	14.0	14.6	14.8	15.8	15.7	15.6	15.8	17.4	18.5	18.1	19.2	21.1	21.5
Aegean	13.6	15.1	25.1	24.2	13.1	13.7	11.2	8.8	15.8	12.4	11.2	11.6	15.9
Crete	14.3	14.6	15.2	14.5	14.4	16.1	10.9	11.0	16.4	13.3	15.7	19.4	17.7
Greece, Total	14.8	15.1	15.9	16.2	15.8	16.6	16.0	16.5	18.4	17.5	18.2	20.9	21.0

Table 5. 95% confidence intervals for unemployment rate estimations: December 2011, Total country and Decentralized Administrations

Decentralized Administration	Unemployment rate	95% Confidence Interval
Macedonia-Thrace	23.1	[20.5 – 25.8]
Epirus-West Macedonia	24.5	[20.2 – 28.9]
Thessaly – Sterea Ellas	21.0	[18.3 – 23.7]
Peloponnes, West Greece and Ionian Islands	17.2	[15.1 – 19.3]
Attica	21.5	[19.4 – 23.7]
Aegean	15.9	[10.7 – 21.1]
Crete	17.7	[14.6 – 20.8]
Total	21.0	[19.8 – 22.1]

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 <u>Council Regulation (EC) No. 577/98</u> that stipulates the provisions on design, survey characteristics and decision-making processes.
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.
Coverage	For the monthly estimates, a sub-sample of the quarterly Labour Force survey's sample was used.
Definitions	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Inactive are those persons who are neither classified as employed nor as unemployed.</p> <p>Economically active population (labour force) are persons either employed or unemployed.</p>
Sampling errors	The monthly results of Labour Force Survey are estimations that are based in a relatively small sample size and have large sampling errors. As an indication of the magnitude of survey's sampling errors, we note that estimations of characteristics that refer to 25.000 persons at the total country, are accompanied by a coefficient of variation of at least 15% (an analysis of Labour Force Survey sampling errors can be found at the address http://www.statistics.gr/portal/page/portal/ESYE/PAGE-themes?p_param=A0101 at the link "Methodology"). More accurate estimates and detailed analysis of the changes in employment can be based on the quarterly results of the survey.
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 December 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 .