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MINISTRY OF ECONOMY AND FINANCE



**GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF
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PRESS RELEASE

SURVEY ON ACCIDENTS AT WORK AND WORK RELATED HEALTH PROBLEMS

The General Secretariat of National Statistical Service of Greece announces the results of the ad-hoc survey on accidents at work and work related health problems.

The survey was conducted during the 2nd quarter of 2007 simultaneously with the labour force survey. The survey is harmonized with Commission's Regulation (EC) 341/06 which specifies the target population and the surveyed characteristics.

METHODOLOGY AND TARGETS OF THE SURVEY

The aim of the survey was the collection of data on accidents at work and work related health problems. Additionally, data were collected on the occurrence, at work environment, of factors that can adversely affect physical or psychic health.

The questions were addressed to all members of private households aged 15 years and over who were working during the survey period or they have worked in the past. In total 49,299 persons, that are living in 29.915 different households, were interviewed.

A two stage-sampling scheme is used for sample selection with “areas” (that is, one or more groups of building blocks) serving as primary sampling units, and dwellings as secondary sampling units.

Survey characteristics were estimated by an unbiased estimator, which was calculated taking into consideration: a) selection probabilities of households, b) non response rate in each primary sampling unit and c) the estimated population distribution in every NUT II area by sex and age group.

The main questions of the survey were:

- Number of accidents at workplace
- Number of days off work
- Job done when the accident occurred
- Work related health problem
- Type of complaint
- Number of days off work because of health problem
- Type of job related with health problem
- Factors at work that adversely affect psychic health
- Factors at work that adversely affect physical health

With these questions, and using the data coming from the main Labour Force Survey, the survey has the target to analyze the differences in the number of accidents and the work related health problems in relation with the employment characteristics of the job such as occupation, full-time/part-time distinction, permanency of the job professional status, atypical work, and business characteristics such as economic activity and size of the local unit.

A. Accidents at work

According to the results of the survey 85,000 persons had at least one accident at workplace during the past 12 months (1.8% of the total). The frequency of accidents is almost quadruple for males (Table 1). The highest percentage of accidents is found among Craft and related trade workers (4.7%) and Plant and machine operators and assemblers (3.8%), while lowest one is found in Professionals (0.2%) and Clerks (0.4%) (Table 2)

Table 1: Persons who had an accident at workplace, by gender

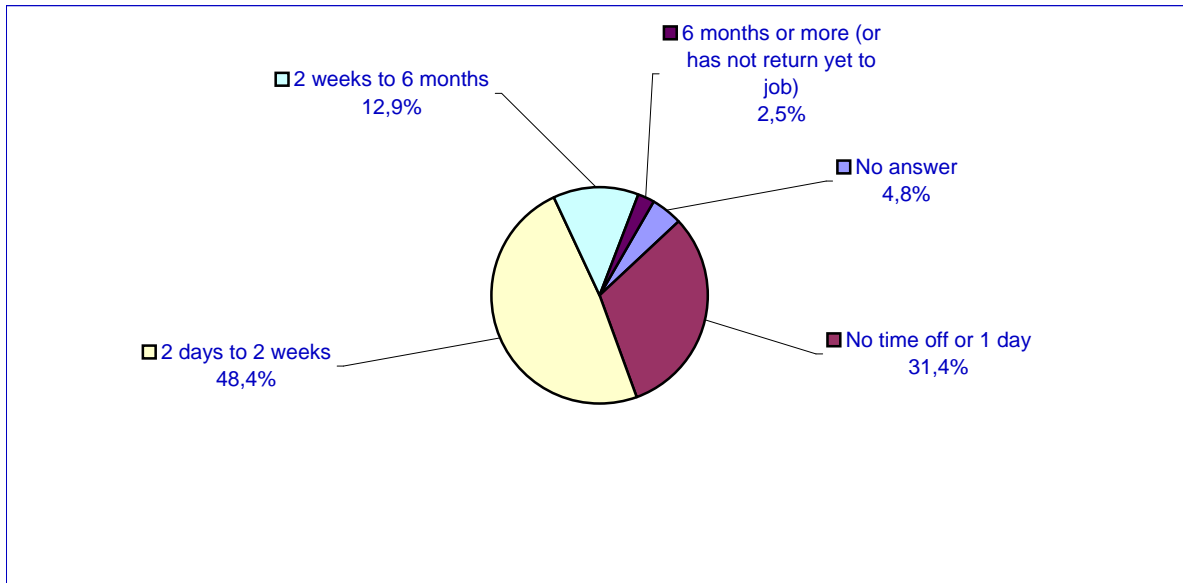
	Have at least one accident	Have no accident	Did not answer	Total
Males	73.211	2.732.570	64.155	2.869.936
	2,60%	95,20%	2,20%	100,0%
Females	11.799	1.803.680	44.935	1.860.414
	0,60%	97,00%	2,40%	100,0%
Total	85.010	4.536.250	109.090	4.730.350
	1,80%	95,90%	2,30%	100,0%

Table 2: Percentage (%) of persons who had at least one accident at workplace by occupation

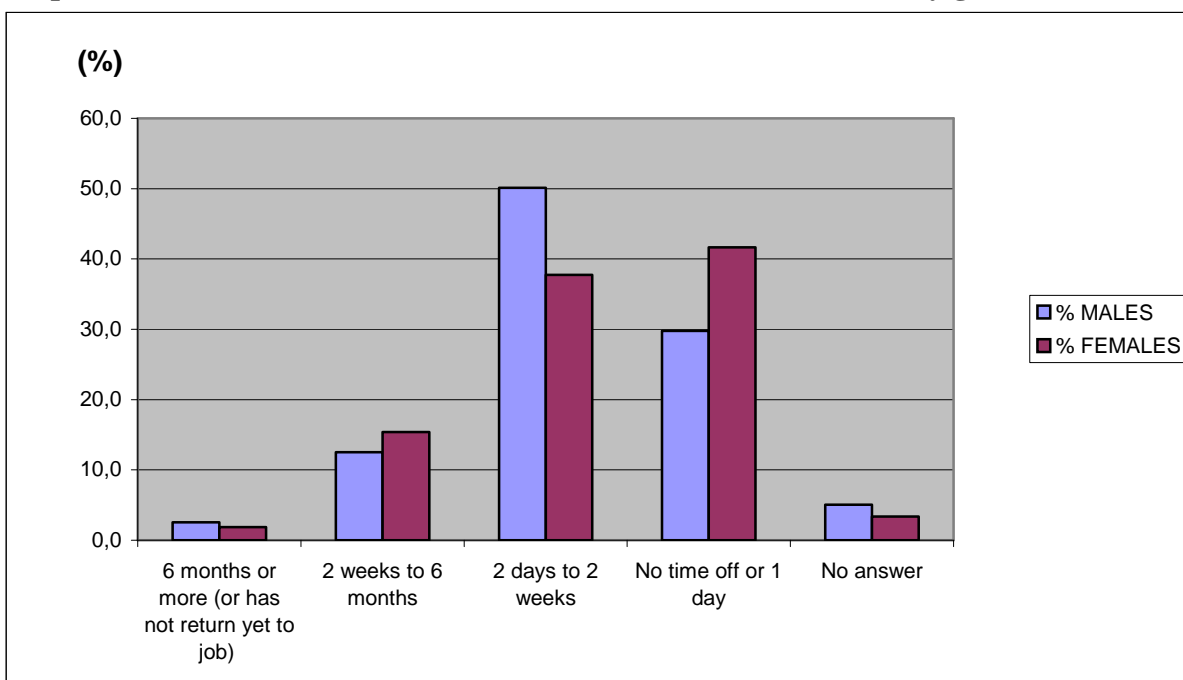
Occupation	%
Legislators, senior officials and managers	1,2
Professionals	0,2
Technicians and associate professionals	0,9
Clerks	0,4
Service workers and shop and market sale workers	0,9
Skilled agricultural and fishery workers	1,7
Craft and related trade workers	4,7
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	3,8
Elementary occupations	2,3
Other unclassified persons	3,7

Almost half of the accidents (48,4%) caused 2 days to 2 weeks off work, while 31,4% of these accidents caused absence of one day at most day (Graph 1). The percentage of serious accidents (accidents that resulted in more than 6 months absence) is 2.5%. Males have higher percentage of serious accidents; and in general men tend to be absent more days, after an accident, than women (Graph 2).

Graph 2. Duration of absence from work due to accidents at work



Graph 2. Duration of absence from work due to accidents at work, by gender



B. Health problems related to work

According to the survey, 613.145 persons that are working or have worked in the past, report that they suffered during past 12 months from health problems that were caused or made worse by work (Table 3). The relative percentage is slightly higher for men

Πίνακας 3: Persons who had at least one health problem related to work, by gender

	Persons had at least one health problem	Persons had not health problems	No answer	Total
Males	359.604	3.521.690	131.783	4.013.077
	9,0%	87,8%	3,3%	100,0%
Females	253.541	2.661.642	133.346	3.048.529
	8,3%	87,3%	4,4%	100,0%
Total	613.145	6.183.332	265.129	7.061.606
	8,7%	87,6%	3,8%	100%

The percentage of persons who had health problems that were caused or made worse by work is higher for Skilled agricultural and fishery workers and for Craft and related trade workers, while the Professionals and the Clerks show the lowest one (Table 4).

Table 4: Percentage of persons who had at least one health problem related to work by occupation

Occupation	%
Legislators, senior officials and managers	5,7
Professionals	3,2
Technicians and associate professionals	4,9
Clerks	3,3
Service workers and shop and market sale workers	4,7
Skilled agricultural and fishery workers	12,9
Craft and related trade workers	9,8
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	9,4
Elementary occupations	8,0
Other unclassified persons	15,2

Most frequent complaint is Bone, joint or muscle problem which mainly affects back. There are no significant differences in the type of reported complains between men and women, with the exception of Bone, joint or muscle problems which mainly affect hips, legs and feet that are reported almost twice more often by women, and the heart diseases or problems of circulatory system which are reported more often by men. (Table 5)

Table 5: Type of the most serious complaint by gender

	Males	Females	Total
Bone, joint or muscle problem which mainly affects neck , shoulders, arms or hands	41747	37780	79527
	11,6%	14,9%	13,0%
Bone, joint or muscle problem which mainly affects hips, legs, feet	43801	53939	97740
	12,2%	21,3%	15,9%
Bone, joint or muscle problem which mainly affects back	104743	68521	173264
	29,1%	27,0%	28,3%
Breathing or lung problem	33968	13040	47008
	9,4%	5,1%	7,7%
Skin problem	4251	4020	8271
	1,2%	1,6%	1,3%
Hearing problem	3650	435	4085
	1,0%	0,2%	0,7%
Stress, depression or anxiety	14837	10211	25048
	4,1%	4,0%	4,1%
Headache and/or eyestrain	14444	9742	24186
	4,0%	3,8%	3,9%
Heart disease or attack, or other problems in the circulatory system	60298	23961	84259
	16,8%	9,5%	13,7%
Infectious disease (virus, bacteria or other type of infection)	18659	16564	35223
	5,2%	6,5%	5,7%
Other complaint	17087	13146	30233
	4,8%	5,2%	4,9%
No answer	2116	2182	4298
	0,6%	0,9%	0,7%

C. Main factors that can adversely affect psychic or physical health

The percentage of employed persons who believe that are exposed to harassment and bullying, or that they face violence or threat of violence in the workplace is particularly low (less than 1%). Contrarily, more than 1 in 10 (13%) believe that they are exposed in time pressure or work overload in the workplace. The problem is slightly worse for men (Table 6).

Table 6: Factors that can adversely affect psychic health by gender

	Harassment or bullying	Violence or threat of violence	Time pressure or overload of work	Persons had not complaint	No answer
Males	17.828	22.225	377.517	2.263.880	80.196
	0,6%	0,8%	13,7%	82,0%	2,9%
Females	16.028	6.935	209.349	1.474.651	51.246
	0,9%	0,4%	11,9%	83,9%	2,9%
Total	33.856	29.160	586.866	3.738.531	131.442
	0,7%	0,6%	13,0%	82,7%	2,9%

Almost half of the surveyed persons (40,1%), believe that there is some factor in their workplace that adversely affects their physical health. The problem is more intense for men (48.9%) than for women (26.6%). Most frequent problem (15.5%) is Difficult work postures, movements or handling of heavy loads (Table 7).

Table 7: Factors that can adversely affect physical health by gender

	Chemicals, dusts, fumes, smoke or gases	Noise or vibration	Difficult work postures, work movements or handling of heavy loads	Noise or vibration	Persons had not complaint	No answer
Males	346.384	95.252	498.928	409.799	1.317.964	93.319
	12,5%	3,4%	18,1%	14,8%	47,7%	3,4%
Females	176.351	35.302	199.566	48.957	1.237.457	60.575
	10,0%	2,0%	11,4%	2,8%	70,4%	3,4%
Total	522.735	130.554	698.494	458.756	2.555.421	153.894
	11,6%	2,9%	15,5%	10,1%	56,5%	3,4%