



HELLENIC REPUBLIC
MINISTRY OF FINANCE



GENERAL SECRETARIAT
OF THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL SERVICE
OF GREECE

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PRESS RELEASE

Decrease of arrivals of non-residents from abroad by 1.4%, in 2008

NON-RESIDENT ARRIVALS FROM ABROAD: year 2008

The National Statistical Service of Greece, in cooperation with the Bank of Greece, announces data of non-resident arrivals from abroad, for the year 2008. As determined in the Memorandum of Cooperation, that was signed in 2009 between the National Statistical Service of Greece and the Bank of Greece, from the year 2008 onwards the data of the arrivals of non-residents from abroad will come from the Border Survey of the Bank of Greece, that is carried out at the border stations (airports, ports, road and rail) of the country. This press release includes also data for the year 2007, from the same border survey, for comparability purposes.

The reasons underlying this cooperation are analysed in detail in the Explanatory Notes.

The data of the Border Survey show that in 2008, arrivals of non-residents from abroad decreased by 1.4%, as compared to the year 2007.

More specifically, the arrivals from Europe, from where comes the majority of the Greek tourist market (90.8%), showed a decrease by 1.7% and the Member States of the European Union recorded an even higher decrease of 5.2%. In particular, taking into account their share in the total arrivals, a significant decrease, in 2008 compared to 2007, is recorded from Germany (-8.9%) and the UK (-9.2%). On the other hand, arrivals from Russia show a significant increase by 54.9%. As regards the distribution of arrivals by country of origin of non-residents, in 2008 and in 2007, the majority comes from Germany (15.5%), the United Kingdom (14.3%), Italy (6.9%) and France (5.7%) (Table 1).

The breakdown of data by means of transportation and entry station noted that most arrivals are by air and in 2008 airports with the largest proportion of traffic is Athens (Eleftherios Venizelos) (21.8%), Iraklion (13.4%), Rodos (8.6%), Thessaloniki (5.8%) and Kerkyra (5.1%) (Table 3).

Data for the years 2008 and 2007 are provided in the attached tables and charts and also at the NSSG portal (www.statistics.gr).

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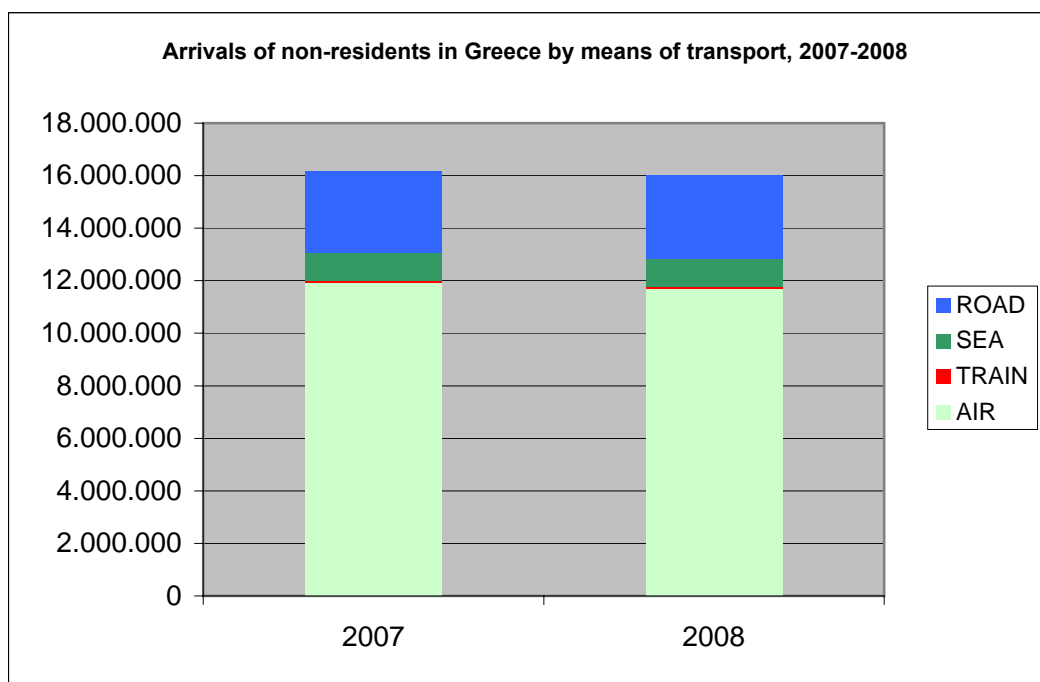
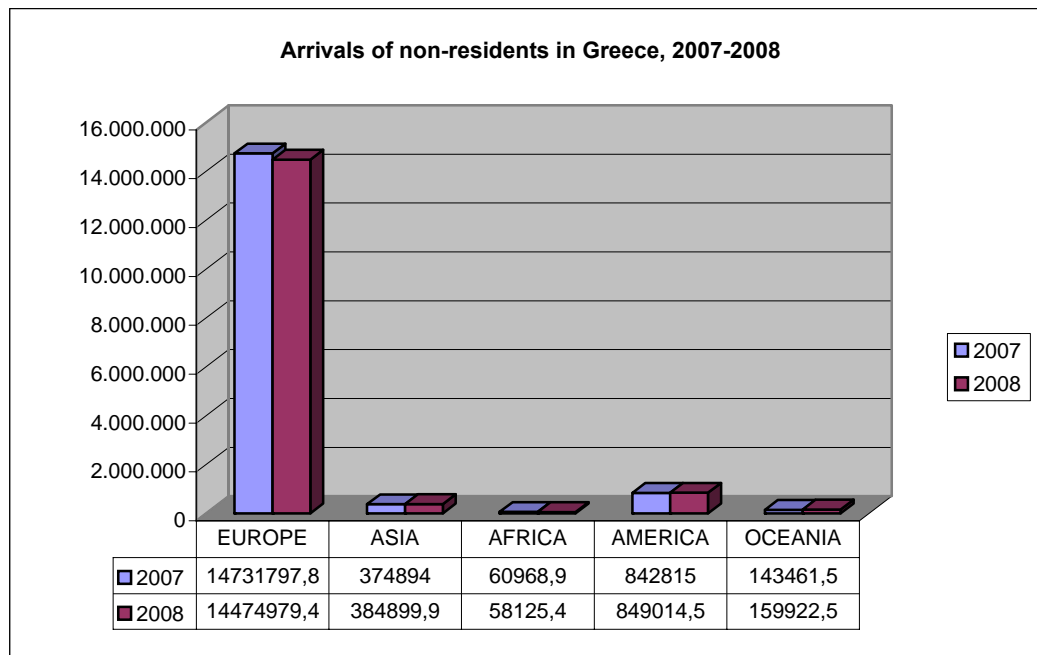


Table 1**ARRIVALS OF NON-RESIDENTS FROM ABROAD BY CITIZENSHIP FOR THE YEARS 2007 & 2008**

Analysis by citizenship		YEAR 2007	YEAR 2008	% change 2008/2007	% share	
					2007	2008
I. EUROPE		14.731.798	14.474.979	-1,7	91,1	90,8
<i>from which:</i>						
EUROPEAN UNION		12.462.489	11.815.256	-5,2	77,1	74,1
1.	Austria	377.341	354.748	-6	2,3	2,2
2.	Belgium	408.654	420.748	3	2,5	2,6
3.	Bulgaria	701.666	623.476	-11,1	4,3	3,9
4.	France	991.117	910.021	-8,2	6,1	5,7
5.	Germany	2.711.662	2.469.151	-8,9	16,8	15,5
6.	Denmark	267.648	245.946	-8,1	1,7	1,5
7.	Estonia	28.732	26.018	-9,4	0,2	0,2
8.	United Kingdom	2.508.651	2.278.014	-9,2	15,5	14,3
9.	Ireland	77.450	93.534	20,8	0,5	0,6
10.	Spain	182.644	219.917	20,4	1,1	1,4
11.	Italy	1.251.779	1.099.983	-12,1	7,7	6,9
12.	Cyprus	492.475	474.941	-3,6	3	3
13.	Latvia	11.861	31.010	161,4	0,1	0,2
14.	Lithuania	16.399	34.537	110,6	0,1	0,2
15.	Luxemburg	20.145	25.135	24,8	0,1	0,2
16.	Malta	21.744	11.702	-46,2	0,1	0,1
17.	Netherlands	737.771	756.940	2,6	4,6	4,7
18.	Hungary	201.703	180.914	-10,3	1,2	1,1
19.	Poland	227.363	270.039	18,8	1,4	1,7
20.	Portugal	17.948	24.678	37,5	0,1	0,2
21.	Romania	350.723	327.261	-6,7	2,2	2,1
22.	Slovakia	68.643	63.096	-8,1	0,4	0,4
23.	Slovenia	33.037	75.185	127,6	0,2	0,5
24.	Sweden	311.358	382.922	23	1,9	2,4
25.	Czech Republic	269.774	267.596	-0,8	1,7	1,7
26.	Finland	174.201	147.746	-15,2	1,1	0,9
27.	Albania	213.725	242.999	13,7	1,3	1,5
28.	Switzerland	310.293	339.808	9,5	1,9	2,1
29.	Norway	213.349	277.303	30	1,3	1,7
30.	Iceland	8.237	4.476	-45,7	0,1	0
31.	Russia	199.591	309.071	54,9	1,2	1,9
32.	Serbia-Montenegro	553.499	686.996	24,1	3,4	4,3
33.	Other European countries	770.615	799.070	3,7	4,8	5
II. ASIA		374.894	384.900	2,7	2,3	2,4
34.	Japan	28.779	10.926	-62	0,2	0,1
35.	Iran	641	847	32,1	0	0
36.	Israel	73.283	84.221	14,9	0,5	0,5
37.	China	5.331	5.941	11,4	0	0
38.	Lebanon-Syria	14.009	11.457	-18,2	0,1	0,1
39.	S.Korea	9.675	4.391	-54,6	0,1	0
40.	Turkey	182.490	207.609	13,8	1,1	1,3
41.	Other Middle East countries	17.623	22.689	28,7	0,1	0,1
42.	Other Asian countries	43.064	36.819	-14,5	0,3	0,2
III. AFRICA		60.969	58.125	-4,7	0,4	0,4
43.	Egypt-Sudan	14.644	13.556	-7,4	0,1	0,1
44.	South Africa	34.242	35.689	4,2	0,2	0,2
45.	Other African countries	12.083	8.880	-26,5	0,1	0,1
IV. AMERICA		842.815	849.015	0,7	5,2	5,3
46.	Argentina	9.389	14.298	52,3	0,1	0,1
47.	Brazil	23.532	27.485	16,8	0,1	0,2
48.	Mexico	12.008	8.877	-26,1	0,1	0,1
49.	United States	617.478	612.825	-0,8	3,8	3,8
50.	Canada	158.796	158.447	-0,2	1	1
51.	Other American countries	21.612	27.082	25,3	0,1	0,2
V. OCEANIA		143.462	159.923	11,5	0,9	1
52.	Australia	125.636	136.086	8,3	0,8	0,9
53.	Other Oceanian countries	17.825	23.836	33,7	0,1	0,1
VI. ARRIVALS OF NON-RESIDENTS		16.153.937	15.926.942	-1,4	99,9	99,9
Non identifiable countries Travelers ⁽¹⁾		11.345	11.864	4,6	0,1	0,1
TOTAL ARIVALS		16.165.265	15.938.806	-1,4	100	100

Source: Border Survey of the Bank of Greece.

(1) Through railway border stations

Table 2**ARRIVALS OF NON-RESIDENTS FROM ABROAD BY CITIZENSHIP AND MEANS OF TRANSPORT IN THE YEAR 2008**

Analysis by citizenship		AIR	RAILWAY	SEA	ROAD	TOTAL
I. EUROPE		10.509.028	47.959	987.204	2.930.794	14.474.984
<i>from which::</i>						
- EUROPEAN UNION		9.525.191	45.106	909.644	1.335.311	11.815.252
1.	Austria	285.434	951	47.851	20.511	354.747
2.	Belgium	397.994	1.120	10.116	11.515	420.746
3.	Bulgaria	20.983	10.035	65.465	526.994	623.477
4.	France	833.131	2.828	58.917	15.148	910.023
5.	Germany	1.974.416	7.607	220.495	266.635	2.469.152
6.	Denmark	241.877	625	3.445	0	245.946
7.	Estonia	25.248	62	708	0	26.018
8.	United Kingdom	2.202.397	7.231	44.938	23.443	2.278.010
9.	Ireland	91.857	250	1.427	0	93.534
10.	Spain	140.796	407	10.357	68.359	219.919
11.	Italy	731.522	2.127	349.782	16.551	1.099.981
12.	Cyprus	473.090	1.851	0	0	474.941
13.	Latvia	30.625	385	0	0	31.010
14.	Lithuania	34.447	90	0	0	34.537
15.	Luxemburg	24.612	99	425	0	25.135
16.	Malta	10.977	18	707	0	11.702
17.	Netherlands	702.360	2.343	30.671	21.565	756.939
18.	Hungary	98.652	143	451	81.669	180.914
19.	Poland	210.080	724	17.688	41.547	270.039
20.	Portugal	15.782	612	1.213	7.071	24.678
21.	Romania	118.591	2.998	10.016	195.655	327.260
22.	Slovakia	62.631	124	0	341	63.096
23.	Slovenia	53.094	420	15.869	5.800	75.184
24.	Sweden	351.218	894	4.932	25.879	382.923
25.	Czech Republic	250.540	553	11.874	4.628	267.596
26.	Finland	142.839	609	2.298	2.000	147.745
27.	Albania	11.615	57	1.071	230.256	242.998
28.	Switzerland	283.913	976	54.726	193	339.808
29.	Norway	4.448	28	0	0	4.476
29.	Iceland	270.850	662	5.284	510	277.306
31.	Russia	301.808	812	6.452	0	309.071
32.	Serbia-Montenegro	54.399	157	0	632.445	687.002
33.	Other European countries	56.804	161	10.027	732.079	799.071
II. ASIA		179.160	754	36.927	168.057	384.898
34.	Japan	9.357	41	1.527	0	10.926
35.	Iran	842	5	0	0	847
36.	Israel	83.603	312	305	0	84.221
37.	China	4.513	22	1.405	0	5.941
38.	Lebanon-Syria	9.647	50	1.760	0	11.457
39.	S.Korea	2.856	13	0	1.523	4.392
40.	Turkey	20.655	91	21.786	165.077	207.608
41.	Other Middle East countries	18.634	84	3.971	0	22.690
42.	Other Asian countries	29.052	136	6.172	1.458	36.818
III. AFRICA		57.958	169	0	0	58.126
43.	Egypt-Sudan	13.517	40	0	0	13.556
44.	South Africa	35.606	84	0	0	35.689
45.	Other African countries	8.836	45	0	0	8.881
IV. AMERICA		801.130	3.842	43.768	274	849.015
46.	Argentina	11.851	50	2.122	274	14.297
47.	Brazil	25.252	93	2.140	0	27.485
48.	Mexico	7.178	569	1.130	0	8.877
49.	United States	591.676	2.242	18.907	0	612.825
50.	Canada	140.512	624	17.313	0	158.448
51.	Other American countries	24.661	265	2.157	0	27.082
V. OCEANIA		144.376	1.287	12.124	2.133	159.921
52.	Australia	121.722	1.203	11.026	2.133	136.084
53.	Other Oceanian countries	22.654	84	1.098	0	23.837
54.	Non-identifiable countries travelers	0	11.862	0	0	11.862
TOTAL ARRIVALS		11.691.652	65.873	1.080.023	3.101.259	15.938.806

Source: Border Survey of the Bank of Greece.

Table 3**ARRIVALS OF NON-RESIDENTS FROM ABROAD BY MEANS OF TRANSPORT & ENTRY STATION IN THE YEARS 2007 & 2008**

Station of entrance		YEAR	YEAR	% change	% share	
		2007	2008	2008/2007	2007	2008
I. AIR		11.919.978	11.691.650	-1,9	73,7	73,4
	1 Athens	3.661.515	3.472.845	-5,2	22,7	21,8
	2 Zakynthos	481.677	464.874	-3,5	3	2,9
	3 Iraklio	2.149.020	2.135.198	-0,6	13,3	13,4
	4 Thessaloniki	946.408	919.677	-2,8	5,9	5,8
	5 Kerkyra	846.109	806.713	-4,7	5,2	5,1
	6 Kos	684.491	671.660	-1,9	4,2	4,2
	7 Rodos	1.390.837	1.369.406	-1,5	8,6	8,6
	8 Santorini	165.058	162.941	-1,3	1	1
	9 Chiania	682.029	669.122	-1,9	4,2	4,2
	10 Other stations	912.833	1.019.214	11,7	5,6	6,4
II. RAILWAY		66.492	65.873	-0,9	0,4	0,4
	1 Promachon (Serres) ⁽¹⁾	10.951	11.226	2,5	0,1	0,1
	2 Railway stations (non-sampled)	55.540	54.647	-1,6	0,3	0,3
III. SEA		1.081.332	1.080.025	-0,1	6,7	6,8
	1 Igoumenitsa	290.165	303.985	4,8	1,8	1,9
	2 Kerkyra	105.649	92.266	-12,7	0,7	0,6
	3 Patra	397.104	390.056	-1,8	2,5	2,4
	4 Other stations	288.413	293.718	1,8	1,8	1,8
IV. ROAD		3.097.469	3.101.257	0,1	19,2	19,5
	1 Evzoni (Kilkis)	784.985	787.128	0,3	4,9	4,9
	2 Kakavia (Ioannina)	136.224	150.444	10,4	0,8	0,9
	3 Kipi (Evros)	133.313	142.423	6,8	0,8	0,9
	4 Promachon (Serres)	567.781	459.339	-19,1	3,5	2,9
	5 Road stations non-sample	1.475.165	1.561.924	5,9	9,1	9,8
TOTAL STATIONS		16.165.265	15.938.806	-1,4	100	100

Source: Border Survey of the Bank of Greece.

(1) Non-resident arrivals for this station are calculated using data only from the months that a sample is taken. For the months that there is no sampling, arrivals of non-residents are estimated and included in the data of non-sampled railway stations.

Explanatory Notes

Arrivals in Greece of non-residents from abroad

The "Border Survey", which is carried out by the Bank of Greece, among others collects data on "non-resident arrivals in Greece". These data are used by the General Secretariat of National Statistical Service of Greece, under a "Memorandum of Cooperation", for the production of three tables for non-resident arrivals, by country of citizenship, means of transportation and entry station. The reasons for this cooperation are summarized below:

The NSSG is responsible for collecting, processing and publishing data on arrivals of foreigners in Greece. Until the year when the Schengen Treaty was entered into force, a key source of information on arrivals was the data from the passport control, which was conducted by the responsible authorities of the Ministry of Public Order, at the entry stations of the country. The Schengen Treaty and the expansion of the European Union, abolished the passport control for the majority of the passengers entering Greece. For these reasons, the estimation of the arrivals of foreigners in Greece became a complicated procedure, combining data from many different sources (Civil Aviation Authority, Ministry of Public Order, other surveys of the NSSG and Eurostat).

The collection of data for the arrivals of foreigners in Greece, from many different sources causes problems on:

- The timely publication of the data, because of the time lags in the availability of the primary data from the different sources
- The methodological link of the data that come from different sources
- The correlation of the data announced by the NSSG for the "arrivals of foreigners in Greece" and the data announced by the BoG for the "travel expenses of non-residents in Greece".

For these reasons, after examining methodological and practical issues, it was decided the cooperation between the **BoG** and the **NSSG**, so that the estimation and data availability for non-resident arrivals in Greece would:

- be made from one body, so as to provide single, accurate and timely information to users
- come from the already ongoing "Border Survey" of the BoG, which is, methodologically and practically, the best method for accurate estimations of non-resident arrivals. Hence it will be the only source for these data that will be published by the NSSG

In this way we avoid carrying out two different surveys, by two different bodies, on the same subject.

Therefore, the numerical discrepancies between the data announced by the NSSG and the BoG, for the year 2007 (Notice Press Release on 8-7-2008) are due to the methodological differences between the two surveys. In particular, in the survey of the NSSG the data were received by the passport control of the border crossings, while the Border Survey of the BoG is counting non-residents, i.e. people whose residence is not Greece. This phenomenon occurs mainly in people from Albania, because of the large number of immigrants who live in our country.

Legal framework

The Bank of Greece, since 2003, for the needs of the balance of payments, is conducting a monthly sample "Border Survey", to estimate the travel expenses of non-residents in Greece and the corresponding Greek expenditure abroad. This survey is the source of the data of non-resident arrivals in Greece.

Reporting period

Year 2008

Availability Results

From the 3rd quarter 2009, data will be published quarterly, four months after the end of the reference period.

Definitions

- Resident of Greece is:
 1. Every person, regardless of nationality, residing or intends to reside for at least one year in Greece
 2. Each entity that has its headquarters in Greece and foreign entities that are established and operating in Greece
 - Non-resident, is any individual or entity that is not residing in Greece.
- These concepts of residents and non-residents have merely a statistical content and adopt the definitions proposed by the United Nations (System of National Accounts - SNA 1993), Annex XIV, paragraph 14 B) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF - Handbook for the compilation of the balance of payments, 5th edition, 1993).

Methodology

Border Survey is a sample survey of incoming (non-residents) and outgoing (residents) travellers, with main objective to estimate the travel expenses of non-residents in Greece and that of residents abroad, on a monthly basis. The data are collected from interviews conducted at the end of the journey, that is during the departure of non-residents from Greece and the return of residents from abroad. In addition to the interviews, it is recorded the number and the residence of travellers entering and leaving the borders.

The survey covers the movement of travellers, outgoing and incoming, at every type of border station (airports, ports, road and rail border points).

The methodology of the "Border Survey" is presented in detail in the Economic Bulletin of the Bank of Greece: Issue 27, July 2006, p. 71-119. "

References

More information about the non-resident arrivals in Greece can be found on the portal of the National Statistical Service of Greece (www.statistics.gr), at the sections: Statistical Themes - Tourism.