



HELLENIC REPUBLIC
MINISTRY OF FINANCE



GENERAL SECRETARIAT
OF THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL SERVICE
OF GREECE

Pireas, December 31st 2009

PRESS RELEASE

*Decrease of arrivals of non-residents from abroad by 10.3%,
in the 1st semester 2009*

NON-RESIDENT ARRIVALS FROM ABROAD: 1st semester 2009

The National Statistical Service of Greece, in the frame of the *Memorandum of Cooperation* with the Bank of Greece, announces data of non-resident arrivals from abroad, for the 1st semester of the year 2009. The data of the arrivals of non-residents from abroad will come from the sample Border Survey of the Bank of Greece, that is carried out at the border stations (airports, ports, road and rail) of the country.

The data of the Border Survey show that in the 1st semester 2009, arrivals of non-residents from abroad decreased by 10.3%, as compared to the same period of the year 2008.

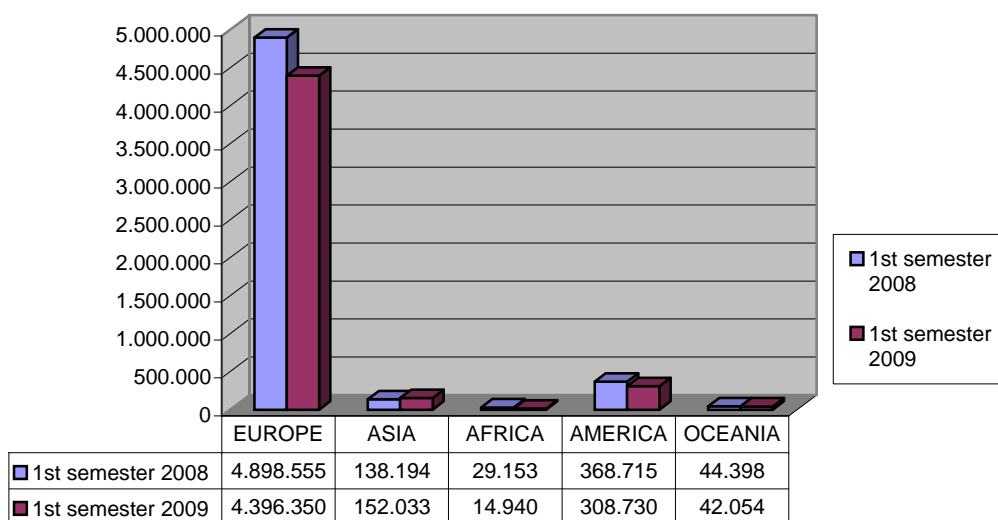
More specifically, the arrivals from Europe, from where comes the majority of the Greek tourist market (89.4%), showed the 1st semester 2009 a decrease by 10.3% as compared to the 1st one of 2008, while the Member States of the European Union recorded an even higher decrease of 13.4%. As regards the distribution of arrivals by country of origin of non-residents, in the 1st semester 2009 the majority comes from Germany (14.3%), the United Kingdom (11.7%), Other European countries (10.5%), Bulgaria (6.8%) and France (5.9%). A significant decrease of arrivals is recorded the 1st semester 2009 from Germany (-19.9%) and the UK (-19.7%) as compared to the corresponding period of 2008. On the other hand, arrivals from Other European countries show a significant increase by 57.1%. (Table 1).

The breakdown of data by means of transportation and entry station noted that most arrivals are by air and in the 1st semester 2009 airports with the largest proportion of traffic is Athens (Eleftherios Venizelos) (24.9%), Iraklion (11.34%), Rodos (7.2%), Thessaloniki (6.0%) and Kerkyra (3.9%) (Table 3).

Data for the 1st semester of the years 2008 and 2009 are provided in the attached tables and charts and also at the NSSG portal (www.statistics.gr).

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Arrivals of non-residents in Greece: 1st semester 2008 and 2009



**Arrivals of non-residents in Greece by means of transport,
1st semester 2008 and 2009**

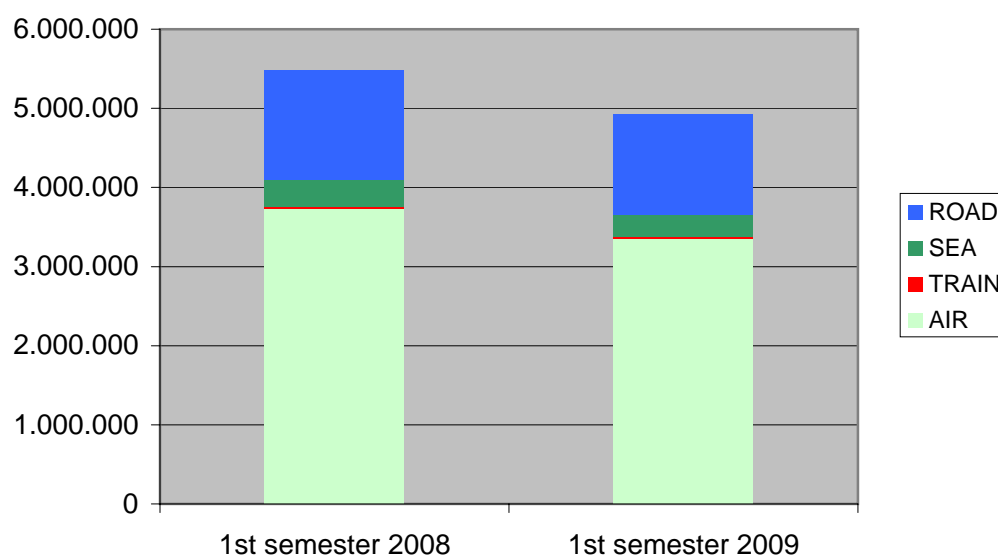


Table 1: Arrivals of non-residents from abroad by citizenship: 1st semester of the years 2008 and 2009

Analysis by citizenship	1st semester		% change 2009/2008	% share	
	2008	2009		2008	2009
I. EUROPE	4.898.555	4.396.350	-10,3	89,3	89,4
EUROPEAN UNION	3.876.559	3.355.370	-13,4	70,7	68,2
<i>Austria</i>	74.675	114.488	53,3	1,4	2,3
<i>Belgium</i>	134.512	95.278	-29,2	2,5	1,9
<i>Bulgaria</i>	339.466	333.564	-1,7	6,2	6,8
<i>France</i>	338.827	290.426	-14,3	6,2	5,9
<i>Germany</i>	874.818	700.349	-19,9	16,0	14,3
<i>Denmark</i>	80.081	78.675	-1,8	1,5	1,6
<i>Estonia</i>	9.877	9.446	-4,4	0,2	0,2
<i>United Kingdom</i>	713.925	573.462	-19,7	13,0	11,7
<i>Ireland</i>	26.793	23.506	-12,3	0,5	0,5
<i>Spain</i>	62.588	54.088	-13,6	1,1	1,1
<i>Italy</i>	255.964	235.666	-7,9	4,7	4,8
<i>Cyprus</i>	186.389	163.255	-12,4	3,4	3,3
<i>Latvia</i>	3.707	4.124	11,3	0,1	0,1
<i>Lithuania</i>	9.731	13.528	39,0	0,2	0,3
<i>Luxemburg</i>	3.172	6.163	94,3	0,1	0,1
<i>Malta</i>	1.156	0	-	0	0
<i>Netherlands</i>	225.791	175.352	-22,3	4,1	3,6
<i>Hungary</i>	44.881	25.639	-42,9	0,8	0,5
<i>Poland</i>	85.802	64.382	-25,0	1,6	1,3
<i>Portugal</i>	7.914	4.901	-38,1	0,1	0,1
<i>Romania</i>	123.688	118.886	-3,9	2,3	2,4
<i>Slovakia</i>	18.411	5.566	-69,8	0,3	0,1
<i>Slovenia</i>	14.247	14.302	0,4	0,3	0,3
<i>Sweden</i>	123.668	129.569	4,8	2,3	2,6
<i>Czech Republic</i>	59.067	58.439	-1,1	1,1	1,2
<i>Finland</i>	57.410	62.316	8,5	1,0	1,3
<i>Albania</i>	128.997	107.748	-16,5	2,4	2,2
<i>Switzerland</i>	90.539	89.493	-1,2	1,7	1,8
<i>Norway</i>	88.070	107.624	22,2	1,6	2,2
<i>Iceland</i>	1.147	1.283	11,9	0,0	0,0
<i>Russia</i>	96.364	71.571	-25,7	1,8	1,5
<i>Serbia-Montenegro</i>	288.460	147.267	-48,9	5,3	3,0
<i>Other European countries</i>	328.419	515.994	57,1	6,0	10,5
II. ASIA	138.194	152.033	10,0	2,5	3,1
<i>Japan</i>	4.049	2.362	-41,7	0,1	0,0
<i>Iran</i>	846,9	0	-	0,0	0,0
<i>Israel</i>	32.583	29.688	-8,9	0,6	0,6
<i>China</i>	3.446	1.442	-58,2	0,1	0,0
<i>Lebanon-Syria</i>	4.768	3.045	-36,1	0,1	0,1
<i>S.Korea</i>	1.872	1.422	-24,0	0,0	0,0
<i>Turkey</i>	74.631	99.618	33,5	1,4	2,0
<i>Other Middle East countries</i>	4.143	5.572	34,5	0,1	0,1
<i>Other Asian countries</i>	11.855	8.884	-25,1	0,2	0,2
III. AFRICA	29.153	14.940	-48,8	0,5	0,3
<i>Egypt-Sudan</i>	5.368	5.929	10,5	0,1	0,1
<i>South Africa</i>	19.259	6.481	-66,3	0,4	0,1
<i>Other African countries</i>	4.526	2.530	-44,1	0,1	0,1
IV. AMERICA	368.715	308.730	-16,3	6,7	6,3
<i>Argentina</i>	6.475	5.499	-15,1	0,1	0,1
<i>Brazil</i>	11.276	9.950	-11,8	0,2	0,2
<i>Mexico</i>	6.257	4.651	-25,7	0,1	0,1
<i>United States</i>	265.898	224.191	-15,7	4,9	4,6
<i>Canada</i>	66.228	57.501	-13,2	1,2	1,2
<i>Other American countries</i>	12.581	6.938	-44,9	0,2	0,1
V. OCEANIA	44.398	42.054	-5,3	0,8	0,9
<i>Australia</i>	36.863	31.198	-15,4	0,7	0,6
<i>Other Oceanian countries</i>	7.535	10.856	44,1	0,1	0,2
VI. Arrivals of non-residents	5.479.015	4.914.107	-10,3	99,9	99,9
Non identifiable countries Travelers⁽¹⁾	6.580	6.074	-7,7	0,1	0,1
TOTAL ARRIVALS	5.485.595	4.920.181	-10,3	100,0	100,0

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: 1st semester 2009

Analysis by citizenship	AIR	RAILWAY	SEA	ROAD	TOTAL
I. EUROPE	2.958.266	14.032	248.623	1.175.426	4.396.347
EUROPEAN UNION	2.657.736	13.239	235.984	448.412	3.355.371
<i>Austria</i>	94.702	294	15.220	4.273	114.489
<i>Belgium</i>	92.243	325	2.708	0	95.276
<i>Bulgaria</i>	7.158	3.409	33.337	289.659	333.563
<i>France</i>	280.100	1.034	9.293	0	290.427
<i>Germany</i>	600.064	2.343	57.114	40.832	700.353
<i>Denmark</i>	76.969	181	1.522	0	78.672
<i>Estonia</i>	9.406	39	0	0	9.445
<i>United Kingdom</i>	549.119	2.050	9.652	12.642	573.463
<i>Ireland</i>	21.830	68	1.609	0	23.507
<i>Spain</i>	52.378	262	1.449	0	54.089
<i>Italy</i>	149.432	792	68.850	16.592	235.666
<i>Cyprus</i>	161.587	762	904	0	163.253
<i>Latvia</i>	4.115	8	0	0	4.123
<i>Lithuania</i>	13.501	28	0	0	13.529
<i>Luxemburg</i>	6.140	21	0	0	6.161
<i>Malta</i>	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Netherlands</i>	145.085	425	14.599	15.241	175.350
<i>Hungary</i>	17.961	170	1397	6.110	25.638
<i>Poland</i>	56.128	158	7.952	145	64.383
<i>Portugal</i>	4.088	18	796	0	4.902
<i>Romania</i>	61.030	224	459	57.175	118.888
<i>Slovakia</i>	5.551	16	0	0	5.567
<i>Slovenia</i>	7.760	21	1.269	5.252	14.302
<i>Sweden</i>	126.781	293	2.496	0	129.570
<i>Czech Republic</i>	52.993	60	4.895	491	58.439
<i>Finland</i>	61.615	238	463	0	62.316
Albania	3.668	10	687	103.381	107.746
Switzerland	79.987	237	9.267	0	89.491
Norway	412	4	691	175	1.282
Iceland	106.429	283	913	0	107.625
Russia	69.225	121	56	2171	71.573
Serbia-Montenegro	15.919	43	0	131.305	147.267
Other European countries	24.890	95	1.025	489.982	515.992
II. ASIA	61.784	306	3.638	86.309	152.037
Japan	1.294	15	1.053	0	2.362
Iran	0	0	0	0	0
Israel	29.562	127	0	0	29.689
China	1.439	3	0	0	1.442
Lebanon-Syria	3.032	13	0	0	3.045
S.Korea	1.413	9	0	0	1.422
Turkey	11.365	80	1.865	86.309	99.619
Other Middle East countries	5.556	15	0	0	5.571
Other Asian countries	8.123	44	720	0	8.887
III. AFRICA	14.880	60	0	0	14.940
Egypt-Sudan	5.901	29	0	0	5.930
South Africa	6.459	7	0	0	6.466
Other African countries	2.520	24	0	0	2.544
IV. AMERICA	279.651	1.327	24.445	3307	308.730
Argentina	5.019	20	459	0	5.498
Brazil	8.528	39	1.383	0	9.950
Mexico	3.621	17	1.012	0	4.650
United States	204.878	974	15.034	3307	224.193
Canada	52.655	252	4.593	0	57.500
Other American countries	4.950	25	1.964	0	6.939
V. OCEANIA	35.779	182	6.092	0	42.053
Australia	29.585	137	1.475	0	31.197
Other Oceanian countries	6.194	45	4.617	0	10.856
Non-identifiable countries travelers	0	6.074	0	0	6.074
TOTAL ARRIVALS	3.350.363	21.975	282.804	1.265.039	4.920.181

Source: Border Survey of the Bank of Greece.

Table 3: Arrivals of non-residents from abroad by means of transport and entry station: 1st semester of the years 2008 and 2009

Station of entrance		1st semester		% change 2009/2008	% share	
		2008	2009		2008	2009
I. AIR		3.726.907	3.350.363	-10,1	67,9	68,1
	1 Athens	1.409.375	1.226.328	-13,0	25,7	24,9
	2 Zakynthos	121.757	114.408	-6,0	2,2	2,3
	3 Iraklio	621.961	554.784	-10,8	11,3	11,3
	4 Thessaloniki	324.668	294.150	-9,4	5,9	6,0
	5 Kerkyra	204.756	192.349	-6,1	3,7	3,9
	6 Kos	162.383	148.300	-8,7	3,0	3,0
	7 Rodos	369.984	355.123	-4,0	6,7	7,2
	8 Santorini	31.176	32.467	4,1	0,6	0,7
	9 Chiania	200.600	186.444	-7,1	3,7	3,8
	10 Other stations	280.246	246.010	-12,2	5,1	5,0
II. RAILWAY		25.550	21.975	-14,0	0,5	0,4
	1 Promachon (Serres) ⁽¹⁾	3.212	2.312	-28,0	0,1	0,0
	2 Railway stations (non-sampled)	22.338	19.663	-12,0	0,4	0,4
III. SEA		348.159	282.804	-18,8	6,3	5,7
	1 Igoumenitsa	69.164	74.115	7,2	1,3	1,5
	2 Kerkyra	17.659	7.192	-59,3	0,3	0,1
	3 Patra	134.598	117.735	-12,5	2,5	2,4
	4 Other stations	126.739	83.762	-33,9	2,3	1,7
IV. ROAD		1.384.981	1.265.039	-8,7	25,2	25,7
	1 Evzoni (Kilkis)	133.028	146.911	10,4	2,4	3,0
	2 Kakavia (Ioannina)	75.005	65.683	-12,4	1,4	1,3
	3 Kipi (Evros)	35.821	23.982	-33,0	0,7	0,5
	4 Promachon (Serres)	227.093	228.021	0,4	4,1	4,6
	5 Road stations non-sample	914.034	800.442	-12,4	16,7	16,3
TOTAL STATIONS		5.485.597	4.920.181	-10,3	100,0	100,0

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.

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

1st semester of the year 2009

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.