



HELLENIC REPUBLIC
MINISTRY OF FINANCE



GENERAL SECRETARIAT
OF THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL SERVICE
OF GREECE

Pireas, January 22nd 2010

PRESS RELEASE

*Decrease of arrivals of non-residents from abroad by 6.7%,
in the period January-September 2009*

NON-RESIDENT ARRIVALS FROM ABROAD: Jan-Sep 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 period *Jan-Sep of 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 period *Jan-Sep 2009*, arrivals of non-residents from abroad decreased by 6.7%, as compared to the same period of the year *2008*.

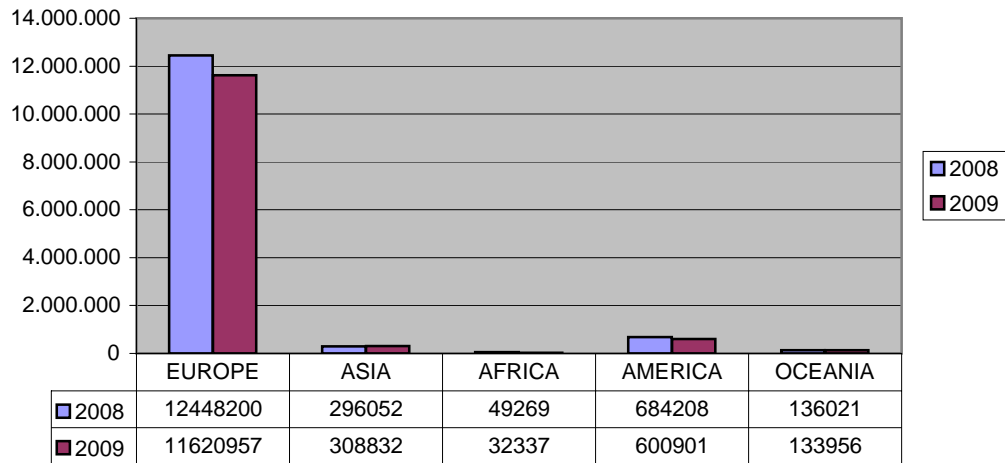
More specifically, the arrivals from Europe, from where comes the majority of the Greek tourist market (91.5%), showed the period *Jan-Sep 2009* a decrease by 6.6% as compared to the same period of 2008, while the Member States of the European Union recorded an even higher decrease of 9.2%. As regards the distribution of arrivals by country of origin of non-residents, in the period *Jan-Sep 2009* the majority comes from Germany (15.0%), the United Kingdom (14.6%), Other European countries (6.9%), Italia (6.8%) and France (6.7%). A relative decrease of arrivals observed the period *Jan-Sep 2009* as compared to the corresponding period of 2008, in Germany (-7.1%) and the UK (-4.2%) and significant from Italy (-17.1%). On the other hand, arrivals from Other European countries show a significant increase by 39.5%. (Table 1).

The breakdown of data by means of transportation and entry station noted that most arrivals are by air and in the period *Jan-Sep 2009* airports with the largest proportion of traffic is Athens (Eleftherios Venizelos) (19.9%), Iraklion (13.5%), Rodos (9.2%), Other stations (6.4%), Thessaloniki (5.6%) and Kerkyra (5.2%) (Table 3).

Data for the period *Jan-Sep* of the years *2009* and *2008* 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: 2008-2009 (Jan-Sep)



Arrivals of non-residents in Greece by means of transport: Jan-Sep 2008-2009

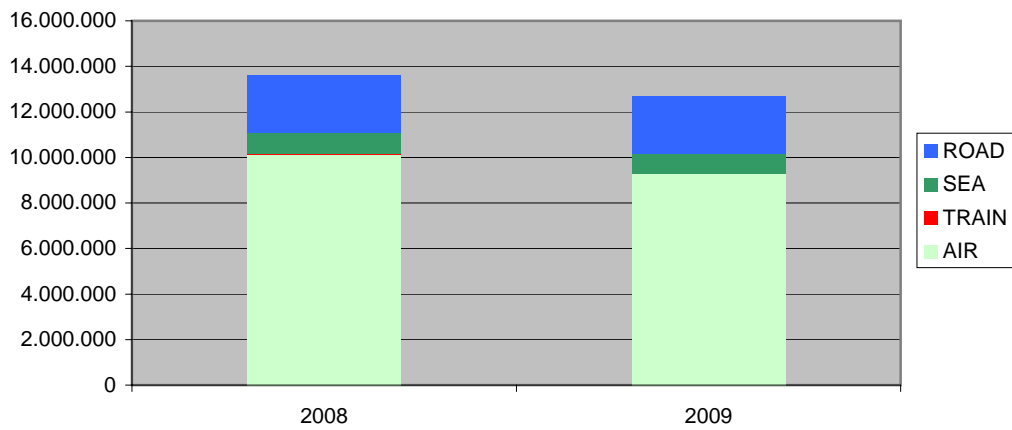


Table 1: Arrivals of non-residents from abroad by country of residence: January-September 2008 and 2009

Analysis by country of residence	Jan-Sep		% change 2009/2008	% share	
	2008	2009		2008	2009
I. EUROPE	12.448.200	11.620.957	-6,6	91,4	91,5
EUROPEAN UNION	10.259.151	9.319.881	-9,2	75,3	73,4
Austria	314.275	320.337	1,9	2,3	2,5
Belgium	389.315	294.728	-24,3	2,9	2,3
Bulgaria	509.812	522.448	2,5	3,7	4,1
France	827.936	851.190	2,8	6,1	6,7
Germany	2.052.185	1.907.371	-7,1	15,1	15,0
Denmark	219.390	244.298	11,4	1,6	1,9
Estonia	23.751	18.232	-23,2	0,2	0,1
United Kingdom	1.943.603	1.861.262	-4,2	14,3	14,6
Ireland	88.523	69.064	-22,0	0,6	0,5
Spain	187.630	142.509	-24,0	1,4	1,1
Italy	1.039.446	861.924	-17,1	7,6	6,8
Cyprus	364.685	327.582	-10,2	2,7	2,6
Latvia	27.082	8.202	-69,7	0,2	0,1
Lithuania	30.805	30.726	-0,3	0,2	0,2
Luxemburg	24.235	21.808	-10,0	0,2	0,2
Malta	10.653	4.367	-59,0	0,1	0
Netherlands	674.797	519.947	-22,9	5,0	4,1
Hungary	169.475	64.271	-62,1	1,2	0,5
Poland	226.526	189.324	-16,4	1,7	1,5
Portugal	21.728	11.082	-49,0	0,2	0,1
Romania	274.259	255.211	-6,9	2,0	2,0
Slovakia	61.802	44.297	-28,3	0,5	0,3
Slovenia	72.352	44.964	-37,9	0,5	0,4
Sweden	329.729	314.544	-4,6	2,4	2,5
Czech Republic	255.294	254.335	-0,4	1,9	2,0
Finland	119.865	135.858	13,3	0,9	1,1
Albania	175.531	158.189	-9,9	1,3	1,2
Switzerland	284.728	299.842	5,3	2,1	2,4
Norway	238.596	287.665	20,6	1,8	2,3
Iceland	3.991	2.960	-25,8	0,0	0,0
Russia	273.874	251.279	-8,3	2,0	2,0
Serbia-Montenegro	579.808	418.533	-27,8	4,3	3,3
Other European countries	632.520	882.608	39,5	4,6	6,9
II. ASIA	296.052	308.832	4,3	2,2	2,4
Japan	9.098	6.416	-29,5	0,1	0,1
Iran	846,9	1647	94,5	0,0	0,0
Israel	58.040	69.693	20,1	0,4	0,5
China	5.941	5.915	-0,4	0,0	0,0
Lebanon-Syria	8.792	10.757	22,4	0,1	0,1
S.Korea	3.402	4.181	22,9	0,0	0,0
Turkey	167.045	171.845	2,9	1,2	1,4
Other Middle East countries	16.434	20.693	25,9	0,1	0,2
Other Asian countries	26.454	17.685	-33,1	0,2	0,1
III. AFRICA	49.269	32.337	-34,4	0,4	0,3
Egypt-Sudan	13.102	9.502	-27,5	0,1	0,1
South Africa	29.595	19.828	-33,0	0,2	0,2
Other African countries	6.572	3.007	-54,2	0,0	0,0
IV. AMERICA	684.208	600.901	-12,2	5,0	4,7
Argentina	10.877	12.030	10,6	0,1	0,1
Brazil	21.118	23.551	11,5	0,2	0,2
Mexico	8.877	7.912	-10,9	0,1	0,1
United States	492.803	433.909	-12,0	3,6	3,4
Canada	126.492	110.379	-12,7	0,9	0,9
Other American countries	24.041	13.120	-45,4	0,2	0,1
V. OCEANIA	136.022	133.956	-1,5	1,0	1,1
Australia	115.832	110.487	-4,6	0,9	0,9
Other Oceanian countries	20.190	23.469	16,2	0,1	0,2
VI. Arrivals of non-residents	13.613.751	12.696.983	-6,7	99,9	99,9
Non identifiable countries Travelers ⁽¹⁾	8.277	8.009	-3,2	0,1	0,1
TOTAL ARRIVALS	13.622.028	12.704.992	-6,7	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 country of residence and means of transport: Jan-Sep 2009

Analysis by citizenship	AIR	RAILWAY	SEA	ROAD	TOTAL
I. EUROPE	8.392.701	30.388	814.884	2.382.975	11.620.948
EUROPEAN UNION	7.498.991	27.914	753.514	1.039.461	9.319.880
<i>Austria</i>	273.121	710	36.762	9.744	320.337
<i>Belgium</i>	283.488	690	10.548	0	294.726
<i>Bulgaria</i>	14.574	7.695	56.042	444.136	522.447
<i>France</i>	747.724	1.837	48.054	53.575	851.190
<i>Germany</i>	1.484.730	4.715	180.269	237.658	1.907.372
<i>Denmark</i>	240.178	398	3.719	0	244.295
<i>Estonia</i>	18.020	60	151	0	18.231
<i>United Kingdom</i>	1.793.861	4.681	23.175	39.546	1.861.263
<i>Ireland</i>	66.581	131	2.354	0	69.066
<i>Spain</i>	133.862	386	8.262	0	142.510
<i>Italy</i>	498.068	1.492	300.765	61.597	861.922
<i>Cyprus</i>	325.659	1.017	904	0	327.580
<i>Latvia</i>	7.091	17	1094	0	8.202
<i>Lithuania</i>	29.898	66	764	0	30.728
<i>Luxemburg</i>	21.727	80	0	0	21.807
<i>Malta</i>	4.367	0	0	0	4.367
<i>Netherlands</i>	465.744	942	31.037	22.221	519.944
<i>Hungary</i>	46.304	208	1695	16.062	64.269
<i>Poland</i>	171.632	492	10.382	6.819	189.325
<i>Portugal</i>	8.712	29	2.342	0	11.083
<i>Romania</i>	116.922	844	5.794	131.653	255.213
<i>Slovakia</i>	41.506	83	1076	1634	44.299
<i>Slovenia</i>	36.713	49	2.949	5.252	44.963
<i>Sweden</i>	300.935	569	6.130	6.912	314.546
<i>Czech Republic</i>	233.116	400	18.169	2.652	254.337
<i>Finland</i>	134.458	323	1.077	0	135.858
Albania	9.225	110	4.182	144.670	158.187
Switzerland	251.645	600	47.594	0	299.839
Norway	801	6	1976	175	2.958
Iceland	281.135	501	6.032	0	287.668
Russia	244.296	418	561	6006	251.281
Serbia-Montenegro	51.994	65	0	366.473	418.532
Other European countries	54.614	774	1.025	826.190	882.603
II. ASIA	155.625	504	22.232	130.476	308.837
Japan	5.342	21	1.053	0	6.416
Iran	1643	5	0	0	1648
Israel	69.499	195	0	0	69.694
China	5.903	12	0	0	5.915
Lebanon-Syria	10.731	27	0	0	10.758
S.Korea	4.172	9	0	0	4.181
Turkey	21.903	134	20.192	129.617	171.846
Other Middle East countries	20.654	37	0	0	20.691
Other Asian countries	15.778	64	987	859	17.688
III. AFRICA	31.444	94	801	0	32.339
Egypt-Sudan	8.667	36	801	0	9.504
South Africa	19.780	34	0	0	19.814
Other African countries	2.997	24	0	0	3.021
IV. AMERICA	556.560	2.007	34.902	7434	600.903
Argentina	11.537	32	459	0	12.028
Brazil	21.922	97	1.532	0	23.551
Mexico	6.103	32	1.776	0	7.911
United States	402.408	1.453	23.510	6542	433.913
Canada	103.876	354	5.257	892	110.379
Other American countries	10.714	39	2.368	0	13.121
V. OCEANIA	122.110	377	9.927	1.542	133.956
Australia	105.943	297	3.018	1.229	110.487
Other Oceanian countries	16.167	80	6.909	313	23.469
Non-identifiable countries travelers	0	8.009	0	0	8.009
TOTAL ARRIVALS	9.258.440	41.379	882.746	2.522.427	12.704.992

Source: Border Survey of the Bank of Greece.

Table 3: Arrivals of non-residents from abroad by means of transport and entry station: January-September 2008-2009

Station of entrance		Jan-Sep		% change	% share	
		2008	2009	2009/2008	2008	2009
I. AIR		10.103.041	9.258.443	-8,4	74,2	72,9
	1 Athens	2.768.973	2.532.443	-8,5	20,3	19,9
	2 Zakynthos	426.346	400.498	-6,1	3,1	3,2
	3 Iraklio	1.891.677	1.721.282	-9,0	13,9	13,5
	4 Thessaloniki	779.685	712.568	-8,6	5,7	5,6
	5 Kerkyra	734.741	662.664	-9,8	5,4	5,2
	6 Kos	601.113	563.052	-6,3	4,4	4,4
	7 Rodos	1.218.218	1.165.938	-4,3	8,9	9,2
	8 Santorini	162.941	151.367	-7,1	1,2	1,2
	9 Chiania	596.641	540.394	-9,4	4,4	4,3
	10 Other stations	922.707	808.237	-12,4	6,8	6,4
II. RAILWAY		51.633	41.375	-14,0	0,5	0,4
	1 Promachon (Serres) ⁽¹⁾	11.226	6.063	-46,0	0,1	0,0
	2 Railway stations (non-sampled)	40.407	35.312	-12,6	0,3	0,3
III. SEA		945.855	882.748	-6,7	6,9	6,9
	1 Igoumenitsa	279.530	313.113	12,0	2,1	2,5
	2 Kerkyra	92.266	74.961	-18,8	0,7	0,6
	3 Patra	327.780	290.923	-11,2	2,4	2,3
	4 Other stations	246.278	203.751	-17,3	1,8	1,6
IV. ROAD		2.521.501	2.522.426	0,0	18,5	19,9
	1 Evzoni (Kilkis)	719.355	739.360	2,8	5,3	5,8
	2 Kakavia (Ioannina)	112.079	102.681	-8,4	0,8	0,8
	3 Kipi (Evros)	142.423	182.163	27,9	1,0	1,4
	4 Promachon (Serres)	386.166	411.531	6,6	2,8	3,2
	5 Road stations non-sample	1.161.478	1.086.691	-6,4	8,5	8,6
TOTAL STATIONS		13.622.029	12.704.992	-6,7	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

January-September 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.