



HELLENIC REPUBLIC



HELLENIC STATISTICAL AUTHORITY

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PRESS RELEASE

*Decrease of arrivals of non-residents from abroad by 6.4%,
in the period January-December 2009*

NON-RESIDENT ARRIVALS FROM ABROAD: Jan-Dec 2009

The Hellenic Statistical Authority (HSA), 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-Dec 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-Dec 2009*, arrivals of non-residents from abroad decreased by 6.4%, 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 (91.2%), showed the period *Jan-Dec 2009* a decrease by 6.0% as compared to the same period of 2008, while the Member States of the European Union recorded an even higher decrease of 7.9%. As regards the distribution of arrivals by country of origin of non-residents, in the period *Jan-Dec 2009* the majority comes from Germany (15.9%), the United Kingdom (14.2%), Other European countries (6.9%), France (6.5%) and Italia (6.3%). A relative decrease of arrivals observed the period *Jan-Dec 2009* as compared to the corresponding period of 2008, in Germany (-4.2%) and the UK (-7.3%) and significant from Italy (-15.0%). On the other hand, arrivals from France and Other European countries show a significant increase by (5.8%) and (29.4%) respectively. (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-Dec 2009* airports with the largest proportion of traffic is Athens (Eleftherios Venizelos) (21.3%), Iraklion (13.1%), Rodos (8.9%), Other stations (6.0%), Thessaloniki (5.8%) and Kerkyra (4.9%) (Table 3).

Data for the period *Jan-Dec* of the years *2009* and *2008* are provided in the attached tables and charts and also at the HSA portal (www.statistics.gr).

Information:

Trade and Services Statistics Division

Tourism Department

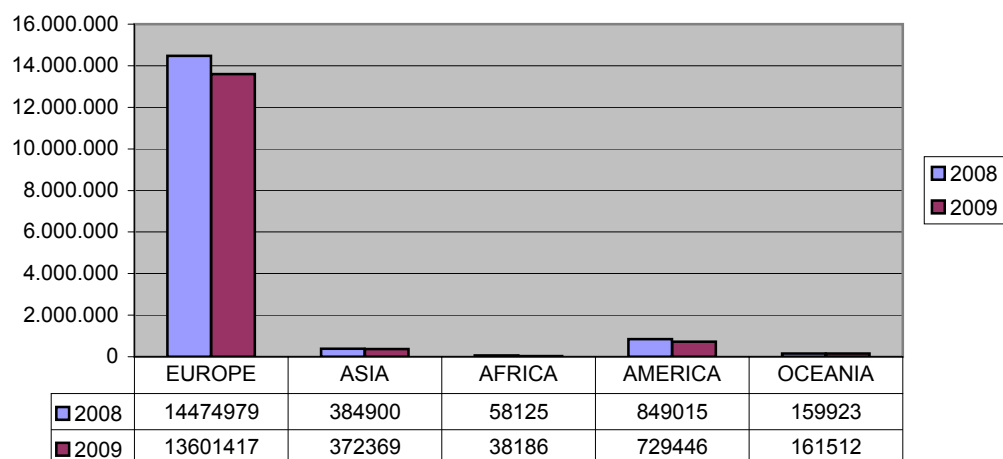
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Arrivals of non-residents in Greece: 2008-2009 (Jan-Dec)



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

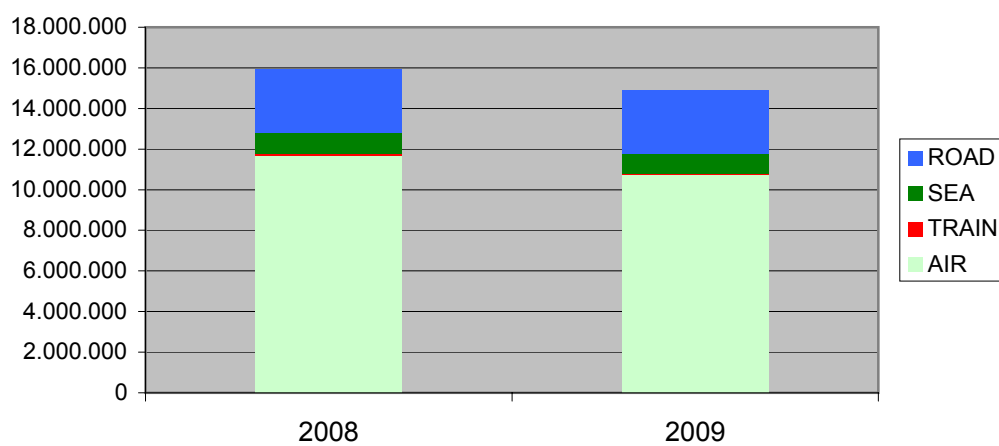


Table 1: Arrivals of non-residents from abroad by country of residence: January-December 2008 and 2009

Analysis by country of residence	Jan-Dec		% change	% share	
	2008	2009	2009/2008	2008	2009
I. EUROPE	14.474.979	13.601.417	-6,0	90,8	91,2
EUROPEAN UNION	11.815.256	10.887.535	-7,9	74,1	73,0
<i>Austria</i>	354.748	352.223	-0,7	2,2	2,4
<i>Belgium</i>	420.748	334.240	-20,6	2,6	2,2
<i>Bulgaria</i>	623.476	657.130	5,4	3,9	4,4
<i>France</i>	910.021	962.435	5,8	5,7	6,5
<i>Germany</i>	2.469.151	2.364.486	-4,2	15,5	15,9
<i>Denmark</i>	245.946	264.040	7,4	1,5	1,8
<i>Estonia</i>	26.018	21.242	-18,4	0,2	0,1
<i>United Kingdom</i>	2.278.014	2.112.149	-7,3	14,3	14,2
<i>Ireland</i>	93.534	73.167	-21,8	0,6	0,5
<i>Spain</i>	219.917	164.461	-25,2	1,4	1,1
<i>Italy</i>	1.099.983	935.011	-15,0	6,9	6,3
<i>Cyprus</i>	474.941	434.746	-8,5	3,0	2,9
<i>Latvia</i>	31.010	12.027	-61,2	0,2	0,1
<i>Lithuania</i>	34.537	37.501	8,6	0,2	0,3
<i>Luxemburg</i>	25.135	22.792	-9,3	0,2	0,2
<i>Malta</i>	11.702	4.367	-62,7	0,1	0,0
<i>Netherlands</i>	756.940	651.440	-13,9	4,7	4,4
<i>Hungary</i>	180.914	70.894	-60,8	1,1	0,5
<i>Poland</i>	270.039	203.487	-24,6	1,7	1,4
<i>Portugal</i>	24.678	13.300	-46,1	0,2	0,1
<i>Romania</i>	327.261	307.596	-6,0	2,1	2,1
<i>Slovakia</i>	63.096	48.549	-23,1	0,4	0,3
<i>Slovenia</i>	75.185	45.924	-38,9	0,5	0,3
<i>Sweden</i>	382.922	356.154	-7,0	2,4	2,4
<i>Czech Republic</i>	267.596	267.833	0,1	1,7	1,8
<i>Finland</i>	147.746	170.341	15,3	0,9	1,1
<i>Albania</i>	242.999	234.276	-3,6	1,5	1,6
<i>Switzerland</i>	339.808	352.514	3,7	2,1	2,4
<i>Norway</i>	277.303	315.595	13,8	1,7	2,1
<i>Iceland</i>	4.476	3.340	-25,4	0,0	0,0
<i>Russia</i>	309.071	276.021	-10,7	1,9	1,9
<i>Serbia-Montenegro</i>	686.996	498.356	-27,5	4,3	3,3
<i>Other European countries</i>	799.070	1.033.780	29,4	5,0	6,9
II. ASIA	384.900	372.369	-3,3	2,4	2,5
<i>Japan</i>	10.926	6.765	-38,1	0,1	0,0
<i>Iran</i>	846,9	1647	94,5	0,0	0,0
<i>Israel</i>	84.221	82.443	-2,1	0,5	0,6
<i>China</i>	5.941	7.793	31,2	0,0	0,1
<i>Lebanon-Syria</i>	11.457	14.753	28,8	0,1	0,1
<i>S.Korea</i>	4.391	5.123	16,7	0,0	0,0
<i>Turkey</i>	207.609	200.348	-3,5	1,3	1,3
<i>Other Middle East countries</i>	22.689	28.481	25,5	0,1	0,2
<i>Other Asian countries</i>	36.819	25.016	-32,1	0,2	0,2
III. AFRICA	58.125	38.186	-34,3	0,4	0,3
<i>Egypt-Sudan</i>	13.556	12.610	-7,0	0,1	0,1
<i>South Africa</i>	35.689	20.539	-42,5	0,2	0,1
<i>Other African countries</i>	8.880	5.037	-43,3	0,1	0,0
IV. AMERICA	849.015	729.446	-14,1	5,3	4,9
<i>Argentina</i>	14.298	13.878	-2,9	0,1	0,1
<i>Brazil</i>	27.485	24.540	-10,7	0,2	0,2
<i>Mexico</i>	8.877	8.909	0,4	0,1	0,1
<i>United States</i>	612.825	531.276	-13,3	3,8	3,6
<i>Canada</i>	158.447	134.983	-14,8	1,0	0,9
<i>Other American countries</i>	27.082	15.860	-41,4	0,2	0,1
V. OCEANIA	159.923	161.512	1,0	1,0	1,1
<i>Australia</i>	136.086	133.869	-1,6	0,9	0,9
<i>Other Oceanian countries</i>	23.836	27.643	16,0	0,1	0,2
VI. Arrivals of non-residents	15.926.942	14.902.930	-6,4	99,9	99,9
Non identifiable countries Travelers⁽¹⁾	11.864	11.604	-2,2	0,1	0,1
TOTAL ARRIVALS	15.938.806	14.914.534	-6,4	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-Dec 2009

Analysis by country of residence	AIR	RAILWAY	SEA	ROAD	TOTAL
I. EUROPE	9.696.438	39.152	928.003	2.937.812	13.601.405
EUROPEAN UNION	8.687.290	35.878	852.398	1.311.963	10.887.529
<i>Austria</i>	297.515	886	40.830	12.991	352.222
<i>Belgium</i>	319.370	933	13.934	0	334.237
<i>Bulgaria</i>	19.313	7.819	71.397	558.600	657.129
<i>France</i>	833.476	2.392	52.091	74.474	962.433
<i>Germany</i>	1.845.254	7.142	211.871	300.221	2.364.488
<i>Denmark</i>	259.050	520	4.468	0	264.038
<i>Estonia</i>	21.012	78	151	0	21.241
<i>United Kingdom</i>	2.026.550	6.150	27.960	51.491	2.112.151
<i>Ireland</i>	70.275	155	2.738	0	73.168
<i>Spain</i>	153.777	520	10.163	0	164.460
<i>Italy</i>	529.549	1.824	322.953	80.683	935.009
<i>Cyprus</i>	432.164	1.676	904	0	434.744
<i>Latvia</i>	10.892	41	1094	0	12.027
<i>Lithuania</i>	36.632	108	764	0	37.504
<i>Luxemburg</i>	22.370	86	334	0	22.790
<i>Malta</i>	4.367	0	0	0	4.367
<i>Netherlands</i>	586.881	1.727	36.694	26.135	651.437
<i>Hungary</i>	50.254	233	1695	18.711	70.893
<i>Poland</i>	182.119	564	11.620	9.183	203.486
<i>Portugal</i>	10.917	43	2.342	0	13.302
<i>Romania</i>	140.760	991	5.794	160.051	307.596
<i>Slovakia</i>	45.391	107	1076	1975	48.549
<i>Slovenia</i>	37.077	51	2.949	5.846	45.923
<i>Sweden</i>	339.898	816	7.088	8.355	356.157
<i>Czech Republic</i>	243.698	480	20.411	3.247	267.836
<i>Finland</i>	168.729	536	1.077	0	170.342
Albania	15.760	154	4.678	213.683	234.275
Switzerland	291.937	923	59.649	0	352.509
Norway	1.179	8	1976	175	3.338
Iceland	308.894	672	6.032	0	315.598
Russia	268.168	565	561	6729	276.023
Serbia-Montenegro	59.683	112	0	438.560	498.355
Other European countries	63.527	840	2.709	966.702	1.033.778
II. ASIA	193.837	744	22.745	155.051	372.377
Japan	5.689	23	1.053	0	6.765
Iran	1643	5	0	0	1648
Israel	82.171	274	0	0	82.445
China	7.770	24	0	0	7.794
Lebanon-Syria	14.703	52	0	0	14.755
S.Korea	5.108	14	0	0	5.122
Turkey	26.145	160	20.192	153.851	200.348
Other Middle East countries	27.882	85	513	0	28.480
Other Asian countries	22.726	107	987	1.200	25.020
III. AFRICA	37.258	129	801	0	38.188
Egypt-Sudan	11.756	55	801	0	12.612
South Africa	20.487	38	0	0	20.525
Other African countries	5.015	36	0	0	5.051
IV. AMERICA	675.581	2.790	42.478	8597	729.446
Argentina	13.374	43	459	0	13.876
Brazil	22.905	103	1.532	0	24.540
Mexico	6.103	38	2.767	0	8.908
United States	492.337	2.046	29.379	7519	531.281
Canada	127.425	504	5.973	1078	134.980
Other American countries	13.437	56	2.368	0	15.861
V. OCEANIA	144.991	542	13.815	2.166	161.514
Australia	124.799	437	6.906	1.728	133.870
Other Oceanian countries	20.192	105	6.909	438	27.644
Non-identifiable countries travelers	0	11.604	0	0	11.604
TOTAL ARRIVALS	10.748.105	54.961	1.007.842	3.103.626	14.914.534

Source: Border Survey of the Bank of Greece.

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

Station of entrance		Jan-Dec		% change	% share	
		2008	2009	2009/2008	2008	2009
I. AIR		11.691.651	10.748.109	-8,1	73,4	72,1
	1 Athens	3.472.845	3.170.478	-8,7	21,8	21,3
	2 Zakynthos	464.874	435.169	-6,4	2,9	2,9
	3 Iraklio	2.135.198	1.946.544	-8,8	13,4	13,1
	4 Thessaloniki	919.677	862.054	-6,3	5,8	5,8
	5 Kerkyra	806.713	733.137	-9,1	5,1	4,9
	6 Kos	671.660	627.533	-6,6	4,2	4,2
	7 Rodos	1.369.406	1.321.806	-3,5	8,6	8,9
	8 Santorini	162.941	151.367	-7,1	1,0	1,0
	9 Chiania	669.122	608.361	-9,1	4,2	4,1
	10 Other stations	1.019.215	891.660	-12,5	6,4	6,0
II. RAILWAY		65.873	54.957	-16,6	0,4	0,4
	1 Promachon (Serres) ⁽¹⁾	11.226	6.063	-46,0	0,1	0,0
	2 Railway stations (non-sampled)	54.467	48.894	-10,5	0,3	0,3
III. SEA		1.080.025	1.007.843	-6,7	6,8	6,8
	1 Igoumenitsa	303.985	341.458	12,3	1,9	2,3
	2 Kerkyra	92.266	74.961	-18,8	0,6	0,5
	3 Patra	390.056	337.874	-13,4	2,4	2,3
	4 Other stations	293.718	253.550	-13,7	1,8	1,7
IV. ROAD		3.101.257	3.103.625	0,1	19,5	20,8
	1 Evzoni (Kilkis)	787.128	773.944	-1,7	4,9	5,2
	2 Kakavia (Ioannina)	150.444	142.514	-5,3	0,9	1,0
	3 Kipi (Evros)	142.423	182.163	27,9	0,9	1,2
	4 Promachon (Serres)	459.339	493.984	7,5	2,9	3,3
	5 Road stations non-sample	1.561.924	1.511.020	-3,3	9,8	10,1
TOTAL STATIONS		15.938.806	14.914.534	-6,4	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 Hellenic Statistical Authority (HSA), 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 HSA 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 HSA 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 HSA, 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-December 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 HSA (www.statistics.gr), at the sections: Statistical Themes - Tourism.