



HELLENIC REPUBLIC



HELLENIC STATISTICAL AUTHORITY

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PRESS RELEASE

*Decrease of arrivals of non-residents from abroad by 5,3%,
in the period January-March 2010*

NON-RESIDENT ARRIVALS FROM ABROAD: 1st Quarter 2010

The Hellenic Statistical Authority, 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-March of 2010*. 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-March 2010*, arrivals of non-residents from abroad decreased by 5,3%, as compared to the same period of the year *2009*.

More specifically, the arrivals from Europe, from where comes the majority of the Greek tourist market (85,0%), showed the period *Jan-March 2010* a decrease by 5,1% as compared to the same period of 2009, while the Member States of the European Union recorded an even increase of 2,2%. As regards the distribution of arrivals by country of origin of non-residents, in the period Jan-March 2010 the majority comes from Other European countries (13,7%), Cyprus (11,4%), Germany (11,0%) and United Kingdom (6,1%). A relative decrease of arrivals observed the period *Jan-March 2010* as compared to the corresponding period of 2009, in Germany (-8,2%) the UK (-16,3%), France (-15,1%) and significant from Others European countries (-23,8%). On the other hand, arrivals from Cyprus (98,1%), Albania (35,8%) and Scandinavian countries show a significant increase. (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-March 2010* airports with the largest proportion of traffic is Athens (Eleftherios Venizelos) (40,0%), Thessaloniki (7,4%) (Table 3).

Data for the period *Jan-March* of the years *2010* and *2009* are provided in the attached tables and charts and also at the EL.STAT portal (www.statistics.gr).

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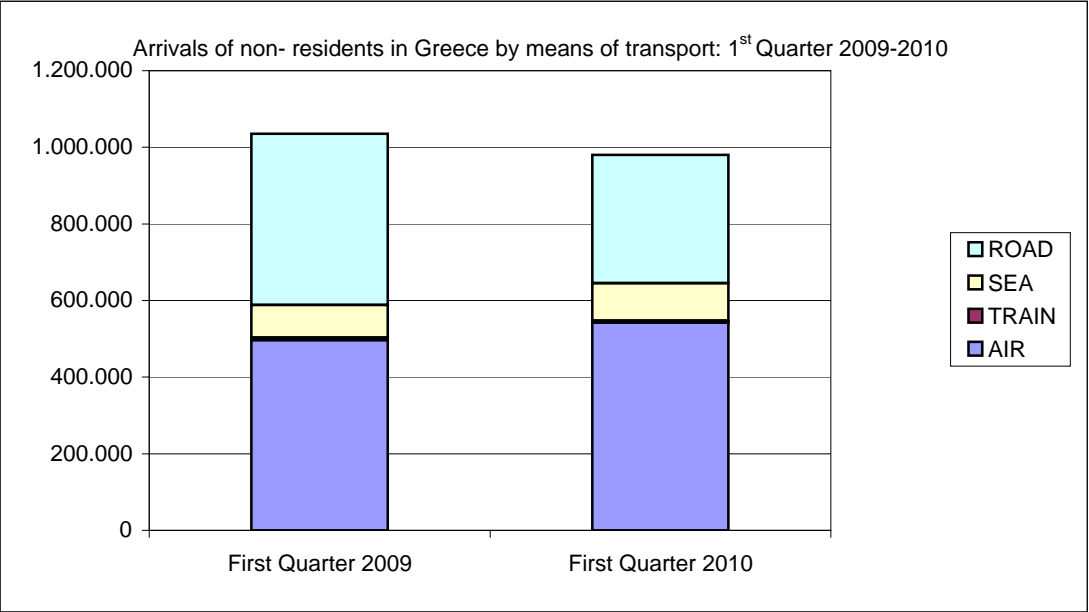
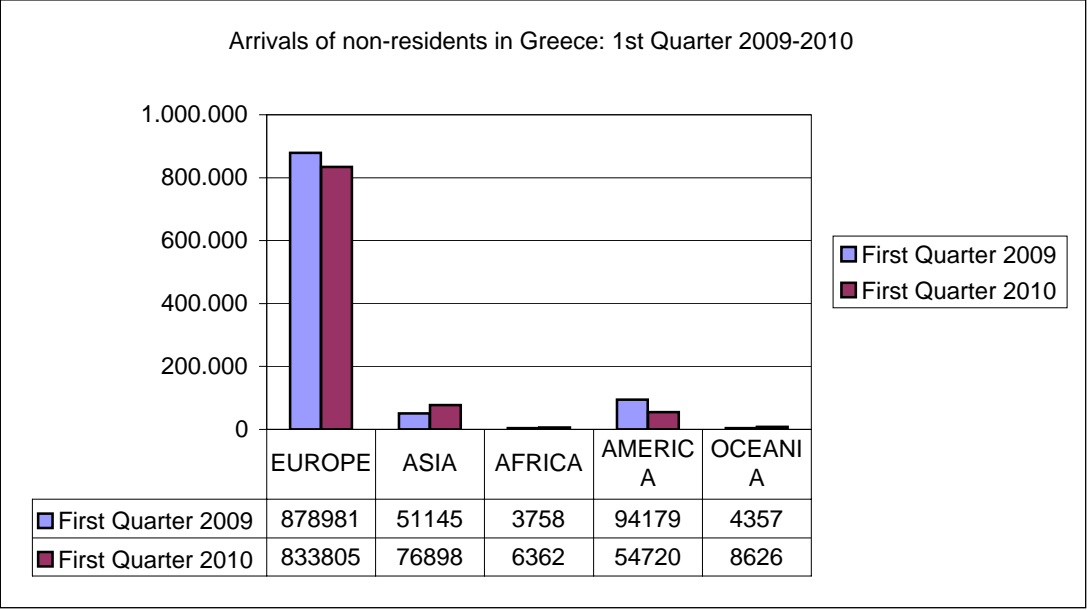


Table 1: Arrivals of non-residents from abroad by country of residence: January-March 2009 and 2010

Country of residence	Jan-Mar		% change	% share	
	2009	2010	2010/2009	2009	2010
I. EUROPE	878.981	833.805	-5,1	84,9%	85,0%
EUROPEAN UNION	581.235	594.137	2,2	56,1%	60,6%
Austria	12.216	10.023	-18,0	1,2%	1,0%
Belgium	6.673	19.047	185,4	0,6%	1,9%
Bulgaria	105.031	89.829	-14,5	10,1%	9,2%
France	33.553	28.479	-15,1	3,2%	2,9%
Germany	117.336	107.761	-8,2	11,3%	11,0%
Denmark	3.192	4.482	40,4	0,3%	0,5%
Estonia	1.151	0	-100,0	0,1%	0,0%
United Kingdom	70.924	59.339	-16,3	6,9%	6,1%
Ireland	4.477	3.816	-14,8	0,4%	0,4%
Spain	20.491	12.446	-39,3	2,0%	1,3%
Italy	61.513	60.438	-1,7	5,9%	6,2%
Cyprus	56.557	112.055	98,1	5,5%	11,4%
Latvia	1.462	1.696	16,0	0,1%	0,2%
Lithuania	1.467	144	-90,2	0,1%	0,0%
Luxembourg	2.256	541	-76,0	0,2%	0,1%
Malta	0	2.411	-	0,0%	0,2%
Netherlands	15.248	19.375	27,1	1,5%	2,0%
Hungary	5.965	6.179	3,6	0,6%	0,6%
Poland	11.364	9.090	-20,0	1,1%	0,9%
Portugal	1.366	1.635	19,7	0,1%	0,2%
Romania	31.924	30.250	-5,2	3,1%	3,1%
Slovakia	1.377	794	-42,3	0,1%	0,1%
Slovenia	3.790	2.241	-40,9	0,4%	0,2%
Sweden	6.670	7.589	13,8	0,6%	0,8%
Czech Republic	2.215	2.730	23,3	0,2%	0,3%
Finland	3.017	1.747	-42,1	0,3%	0,2%
Albania	48.882	66.404	35,8	4,7%	6,8%
Switzerland	12.910	6.476	-49,8	1,2%	0,7%
Norway	2.646	5.120	93,5	0,3%	0,5%
Iceland	696	0	-100,0	0,1%	0,0%
Russia	6.413	6.919	7,9	0,6%	0,7%
Serbia-Montenegro	49.955	20.423	-59,1	4,8%	2,1%
Other European countries	176.244	134.326	-23,8	17,0%	13,7%
II. ASIA	51.145	76.898	50,4	4,9%	7,8%
Japan	1.892	4.227	123,4	0,2%	0,4%
Iran	0	1018	-	0,0%	0,1%
Israel	5.584	8.350	49,5	0,5%	0,9%
China	0	3.326	-	0,0%	0,3%
Lebanon-Syria	460	1.715	272,8	0,0%	0,2%
S.Korea	270	3.422	1167,4	0,0%	0,3%
Turkey	36.964	42.752	15,7	3,6%	4,4%
Other Middle East countries	1.489	2.895	94,4	0,1%	0,3%
Other Asian countries	4.486	9.193	104,9	0,4%	0,9%
III. AFRICA	3.758	6.362	69,3	0,4%	0,6%
Egypt-Sudan	2.771	1.992	-28,1	0,3%	0,2%
South Africa	0	2.596	-	0,0%	0,3%
Other African countries	987	1.774	79,7	0,1%	0,2%
IV. AMERICA	94.179	54.720	-41,9	9,1%	5,6%
Argentina	1.480	1.242	-16,1	0,1%	0,1%
Brazil	3.566	1.089	-69,5	0,3%	0,1%
Mexico	891	694	-22,1	0,1%	0,1%
United States	72.154	42.857	-40,6	7,0%	4,4%
Canada	15.825	6.410	-59,5	1,5%	0,7%
Other American countries	263	2.428	823,2	0,0%	0,2%
V. OCEANIA	4.357	8.626	98,0	0,4%	0,9%
Australia	4.046	8.280	104,6	0,4%	0,8%
Other Oceanian countries	311	346	11,3	0,0%	0,0%
VI. Arrivals of non-residents	1.032.420	980.411	-5,0	99,7%	100,0%
Non identified	2.762		-100,0	0,3%	0,0%
TOTAL ARRIVALS	1.035.182	980.411	-5,3	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 country of residence and means of transport: Jan-Mar 2010

Analysis by country of residence	AIR	RAILWAY	SEA	ROAD	TOTAL
I. EUROPE	443.728	3.615	88.971	297.491	833.805
EUROPEAN UNION	416.241	3.502	86.075	88.321	594.139
<i>Austria</i>	7.449	11	2.061	503	10.024
<i>Belgium</i>	17.621	0	1.166	260	19.047
<i>Bulgaria</i>	7.340	2.962	7.820	71.708	89.830
<i>France</i>	23.137	0	5.341	0	28.478
<i>Germany</i>	85.760	22	19.694	2.285	107.761
<i>Denmark</i>	4.233	0	0	249	4.482
<i>Estonia</i>	0	0	0	0	0
<i>United Kingdom</i>	55.227	0	4.112	0	59.339
<i>Ireland</i>	3.816	0	0	0	3.816
<i>Spain</i>	8.753	0	3.695	0	12.448
<i>Italy</i>	33.010	28	26.693	708	60.439
<i>Cyprus</i>	110.800	0	1255	0	112.055
<i>Latvia</i>	1.696	0	0	0	1.696
<i>Lithuania</i>	144	0	0	0	144
<i>Luxemburg</i>	541	0	0	0	541
<i>Malta</i>	2.411	0	0	0	2.411
<i>Netherlands</i>	15.345	0	4.029	0	19.374
<i>Hungary</i>	1.462	10	4457	250	6.179
<i>Poland</i>	5.188	48	2.623	1.231	9.090
<i>Portugal</i>	1.635	0	0	0	1.635
<i>Romania</i>	18.334	362	2.361	9.192	30.249
<i>Slovakia</i>	794	0	0	0	794
<i>Slovenia</i>	1.817	0	0	424	2.241
<i>Sweden</i>	6.821	0	768	0	7.589
<i>Czech Republic</i>	1.160	59	0	1.511	2.730
<i>Finland</i>	1.747	0	0	0	1.747
Albania	1.756	14	0	64.633	66.403
Switzerland	4.408	10	1.772	286	6.476
Norway	0	0	0	0	0
Iceland	5.120	0	0	0	5.120
Russia	6.217	26	0	676	6.919
Serbia-Montenegro	5.502	21	0	14.901	20.424
Other European countries	4.484	42	1.124	128.674	134.324
II. ASIA	31.184	1.679	6.530	37.505	76.898
Japan	2.560	0	1.667	0	4.227
Iran	269	0	749	0	1018
Israel	8.350	0	0	0	8.350
China	1.671	0	1.655	0	3.326
Lebanon-Syria	1.715	0	0	0	1.715
S.Korea	2.369	0	1054	0	3.423
Turkey	6.599	1536	1.405	33.212	42.752
Other Middle East countries	2.895	0	0	0	2.895
Other Asian countries	4.756	143	0	4.293	9.192
III. AFRICA	6.362	0	0	0	6.362
Egypt-Sudan	1.992	0	0	0	1.992
South Africa	2.596	0	0	0	2.596
Other African countries	1.774	0	0	0	1.774
IV. AMERICA	53.691	0	1.029	0	54.720
Argentina	1.242	0	0	0	1.242
Brazil	1.089	0	0	0	1.089
Mexico	694	0	0	0	694
United States	42.671	0	186	0	42.857
Canada	5.567	0	843	0	6.410
Other American countries	2.428	0	0	0	2.428
V. OCEANIA	7.479	13	801	333	8.626
Australia	7.479	0	801	0	8.280
Other Oceanian countries	0	13	0	333	346
Non-identifiable countries travelers	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL ARRIVALS	542.444	5.307	97.331	335.329	980.411

Source: Border Survey of the Bank of Greece.

Table 3: Arrivals of non-residents from abroad by means of transport and entry station: January-March 2009-2010

Station of entrance		Jan-Mar		% change	% share	
		2009	2010	2010/2009	2009	2010
I. AIR		496.572	542.447	9,2%	48,0%	55,3%
1	Athens	414.559	454.848	9,7%	40,0%	46,4%
2	Zakynthos	0	0	-	0,0%	0,0%
3	Iraklio	1.546	3.688	138,6%	0,1%	0,4%
4	Thessaloniki	76.851	78.735	2,5%	7,4%	8,0%
5	Kerkyra	0	0	-	0,0%	0,0%
6	Kos	0	0	-	0,0%	0,0%
7	Rodos	0	0	-	0,0%	0,0%
8	Santorini	0	0	-	0,0%	0,0%
9	Chiania	0	0	-	0,0%	0,0%
10	Other stations	3.616	5.176	43,1%	0,3%	0,5%
II. RAILWAY		6.363	5.306	-16,6%	0,6%	0,5%
1	Promachon (Serres) ⁽¹⁾	0	0	-	0,0%	0,0%
2	Railway stations (non-sampled)	6.363	5.306	-16,6%	0,6%	0,5%
III. SEA		85.710	97.328	13,6%	8,3%	9,9%
1	Igoumenitsa	0	16.007	-	0,0%	1,6%
2	Kerkyra	0	0	-	0,0%	0,0%
3	Patra	38.573	36.215	-6,1%	3,7%	3,7%
4	Other stations	47.137	45.106	-4,3%	4,6%	4,6%
IV. ROAD		446.537	335.330	-24,9%	43,1%	34,2%
1	Evzoni (Kilkis)	0	95.058	-	0,0%	9,7%
2	Kakavia (Ioannina)	31.199	40.817	30,8%	3,0%	4,2%
3	Kipi (Evros)	0	23.891	-	0,0%	2,4%
4	Promachon (Serres)	82.492	54.558	-33,9%	8,0%	5,6%
5	Road stations non-sample	332.846	121.006	-63,6%	32,2%	12,3%
TOTAL STATIONS		1.035.182	980.411	-5,3%	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 Hellenic Statistical Authority 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 EL.STAT 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 EL.STAT 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 EL.STAT 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 EL.STAT, 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 EL.STAT

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-March 2010

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 Hellenic Statistical Authority (www.statistics.gr), at the sections: Statistical Themes - Tourism.