



HELLENIC REPUBLIC

HELLENIC STATISTICAL AUTHORITY

Piraeus, 9 July 2015

PRESS RELEASE

NON-RESIDENTS ARRIVALS FROM ABROAD: January - March 2015

According to the Frontier Statistical Survey conducted by the Bank of Greece, in the period January-March of 2015, arrivals of non-residents from abroad increased by 45,6%, as compared with the corresponding period of the year 2014.

More precisely, arrivals from Europe, which accounts for the majority of arrivals of non-residents to Greece (81,7%), registered an increase of 51,8% in January-March 2015 as compared with the corresponding period of 2014, while arrivals from the Member States of the European Union recorded an increase of 70,6%. There was a significant increase in arrivals, in absolute values, from Bulgaria (154,4%), Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) (32,6%), Romania (95,8%), Italy (105,1%), Germany (35,9%), United Kingdom (37,7%) and France (94,2%), while a decrease in arrivals, in absolute values, was observed in the cases of Russia (-66,9%) and Cyprus (-13,8%). The corresponding data for the rest of the continents show a significant increase in arrivals, in absolute values, from America (57,1%) with an increase in arrivals from USA (49,7%) and from Asia (16,8%) with an increase in arrivals from Turkey (28,3%) (Table 1).

As regards to the contribution of arrivals by country of origin, the largest number of arrivals, for the European countries, came from Bulgaria (24,9%), FYROM (11,3%), Albania (6,5%), Germany (6,4%) and United Kingdom (5,8%) (Table 1).

As regards the means of transport and the point of entry, during the aforementioned time period, it is observed that most arrivals are by road and by air. The main points of entry which account for the biggest percentage of traffic, by road, are Promahonas (16,5%) and Evzoni (7,2%). As far as the arrivals by air are concerned, the airport of Athens holds the first place with (30,8%) followed by the airports of Thessaloniki with (6,5%) (Table 3).

Detailed data for the period January-March of the years 2015 and 2014 respectively are provided in the attached tables and charts and these can also be found on the portal of ELSTAT (www.statistics.gr, under the link Statistical Themes/Tourism).

Information:

Trade and Services Statistics Division

Tourism Department

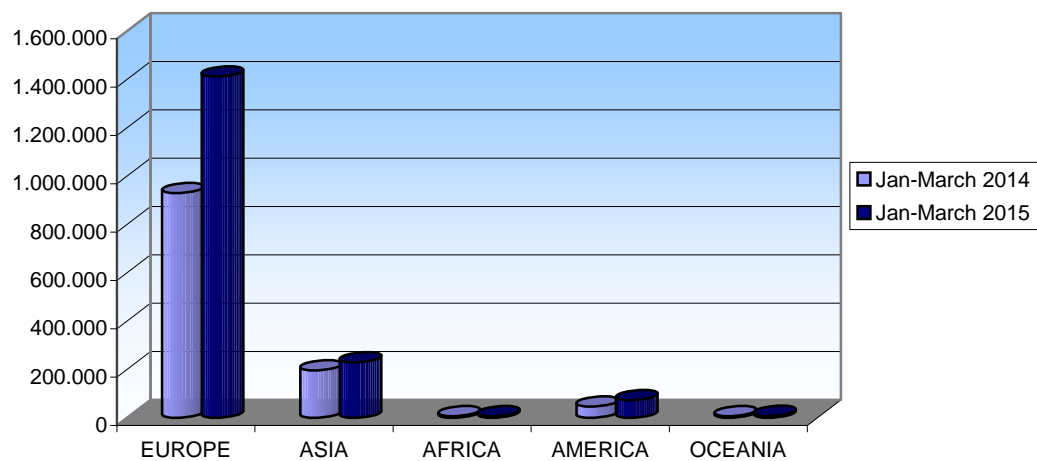
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Arrivals of non-residents to Greece: Jan-March 2015-2014



**Arrivals of non-residents to Greece by means of transport:
Jan-March 2015-2014**

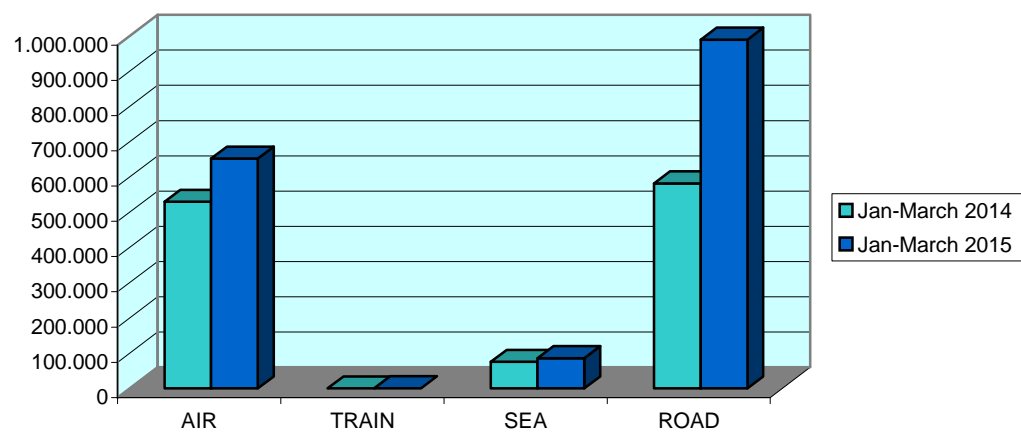


Table 1: Arrivals of non-residents from abroad by country of residence: January-March 2015

Analysis by country of residence	Jan-March		% change 2015/2014	% share	
	2014	2015		2014	2015
I. EUROPE	930.307	1.412.126	51,8	78,4%	81,7%
EUROPEAN UNION	598.439	1.020.707	70,6	50,4%	59,1%
Austria	5.334	9.301	74,4	0,4%	0,5%
Belgium	5.363	3.171	-40,9	0,5%	0,2%
Bulgaria	169.077	430.087	154,4	14,2%	24,9%
France	18.528	35.973	94,2	1,6%	2,1%
Germany	81.890	111.329	35,9	6,9%	6,4%
Denmark	5.930	2.286	-61,5	0,5%	0,1%
Estonia	1.550	0	-100,0	0,1%	0,0%
United Kingdom	73.245	100.868	37,7	6,2%	5,8%
Ireland	4.025	4.583	13,9	0,3%	0,3%
Spain	8.309	8.854	6,6	0,7%	0,5%
Italy	38.979	79.936	105,1	3,3%	4,6%
Croatia	2.116	2.156	1,9	0,2%	0,1%
Cyprus	81.730	70.431	-13,8	6,9%	4,1%
Latvia	0	1.680	-	0,0%	0,1%
Lithuania	758	3.831	405,2	0,1%	0,2%
Luxemburg	763	836	9,6	0,1%	0,0%
Malta	0	760	-	0,0%	0,0%
Netherlands	23.705	17.703	-25,3	2,0%	1,0%
Hungary	2.618	4.501	71,9	0,2%	0,3%
Poland	8.604	15.903	84,8	0,7%	0,9%
Portugal	774	5.109	560,2	0,1%	0,3%
Romania	49.118	96.156	95,8	4,1%	5,6%
Slovakia	722	888	22,9	0,1%	0,1%
Slovenia	1.387	1.581	14,0	0,1%	0,1%
Sweden	8.795	5.768	-34,4	0,7%	0,3%
Czech Republic	2.365	4.293	81,5	0,2%	0,2%
Finland	2.754	2.718	-1,3	0,2%	0,2%
Albania	103.765	111.984	7,9	8,7%	6,5%
Switzerland	16.453	28.364	72,4	1,4%	1,6%
Norway	2.847	3.289	15,5	0,2%	0,2%
Iceland	407	0	-100,0	0,0%	0,0%
FYROM	147.570	195.704	32,6	12,4%	11,3%
Russia	25.852	8.552	-66,9	2,2%	0,5%
Serbia	25.835	23.828	-7,8	2,2%	1,4%
Other European countries	9.138	19.697	115,5	0,8%	1,1%
II. ASIA	196.236	229.161	16,8	16,5%	13,3%
Japan	4.916	915	-81,4	0,4%	0,1%
Iran	235	833	254,7	0,0%	0,0%
Israel	9.947	10.673	7,3	0,8%	0,6%
China	6.685	10.921	63,4	0,6%	0,6%
Lebanon-Syria	5.049	3.935	-22,1	0,4%	0,2%
S.Korea	4.674	1.150	-75,4	0,4%	0,1%
Turkey	141.705	181.748	28,3	11,9%	10,5%
Other Middle East countries	9.177	9.754	6,3	0,8%	0,6%
Other Asian countries	13.849	9.233	-33,3	1,2%	0,5%
III. AFRICA	6.757	6.701	-0,8	0,6%	0,4%
Egypt-Sudan	1.254	5.426	332,8	0,1%	0,3%
South Africa	1.805	235	-87,0	0,2%	0,0%
Other African countries	3.699	1.041	-71,9	0,3%	0,1%
IV. AMERICA	46.321	72.751	57,1	3,9%	4,2%
Argentina	3.456	4.551	31,7	0,3%	0,3%
Brazil	1.462	6.677	356,7	0,1%	0,4%
Mexico	719	1.980	175,4	0,1%	0,1%
United States	31.872	47.698	49,7	2,7%	2,8%
Canada	4.728	6.586	39,3	0,4%	0,4%
Other American countries	4.083	5.259	28,8	0,3%	0,3%
V. OCEANIA	7.278	7.682	5,5	0,6%	0,4%
Australia	6.501	6.458	-0,7	0,5%	0,4%
Other Oceanian countries	777	1.224	57,5	0,1%	0,1%
VI. Arrivals of non-residents	1.186.900	1.728.421	45,6	100,0%	100,0%
ARRIVALS	1.186.900	1.728.421	45,6	100,0%	100,0%

Source: Frontier Survey of the Bank of Greece.

Note: Wherever necessary, the data have been rounded to the next final digit. Thus, a slight difference may be noted between the sum of the figures and their total.

Table 2: Arrivals of non-residents from abroad by country of residence and means of transport: January-March 2015

Analysis by country of residence	AIR	RAILWAY ⁽¹⁾	SEA	ROAD	TOTAL
I. EUROPE	491.212	804	76.614	843.496	1.412.126
EUROPEAN UNION	435.204	434	74.204	510.865	1.020.707
Austria	7.775	0	638	888	9.301
Belgium	3.122	0	49	0	3.171
Bulgaria	5.973	338	25.599	398.177	430.087
France	32.859	0	3.115	0	35.973
Germany	95.831	12	7.352	8.134	111.329
Denmark	2.286	0	0	0	2.286
Estonia	0	0	0	0	0
United Kingdom	99.418	0	1.450	0	100.868
Ireland	4.583	0	0	0	4.583
Spain	7.913	0	941	0	8.854
Italy	57.857	0	20.937	1.142	79.936
Croatia	1.612	0	545	0	2.156
Cyprus	70.248	0	183	0	70.431
Latvia	1.352	0	328	0	1.680
Lithuania	1.130	0	1.933	768	3.831
Luxemburg	787	0	49	0	836
Malta	607	0	153	0	760
Netherlands	14.891	0	2.812	0	17.703
Hungary	452	3	571	3.475	4.501
Poland	2.377	10	1.639	11.878	15.903
Portugal	1.466	3	88	3.552	5.109
Romania	12.308	66	4.625	79.158	96.156
Slovakia	0	0	0	888	888
Slovenia	847	0	734	0	1.581
Sweden	5.681	0	88	0	5.768
Czech Republic	1.113	1	374	2.806	4.293
Finland	2.718	0	0	0	2.718
Albania	1.545	0	196	110.243	111.984
Switzerland	27.661	0	704	0	28.364
Norway	3.289	0	0	0	3.289
Iceland	0	0	0	0	0
FYROM	262	329	469	194.643	195.704
Russia	8.170	0	383	0	8.552
Serbia	2.122	35	271	21.401	23.828
Other European countries	12.959	7	387	6.345	19.697
II. ASIA	75.365	0	7.785	146.012	229.161
Japan	729	0	185	0	915
Iran	554	0	279	0	833
Israel	10.673	0	0	0	10.673
China	10.921	0	0	0	10.921
Lebanon-Syria	3.935	0	0	0	3.935
S.Korea	996	0	153	0	1.150
Turkey	29.667	0	7.083	144.998	181.748
Other Middle East countries	9.754	0	0	0	9.754
Other Asian countries	8.135	0	84	1.014	9.233
III. AFRICA	6.505	0	196	0	6.701
Egypt-Sudan	5.230	0	196	0	5.426
South Africa	235	0	0	0	235
Other African countries	1.041	0	0	0	1.041
IV. AMERICA	71.367	0	1.384	0	72.751
Argentina	4.551	0	0	0	4.551
Brazil	6.677	0	0	0	6.677
Mexico	1.980	0	0	0	1.980
United States	46.624	0	1.074	0	47.698
Canada	6.276	0	310	0	6.586
Other American countries	5.259	0	0	0	5.259
V. OCEANIA	7.542	0	139	0	7.682
Australia	6.318	0	139	0	6.458
Other Oceanian countries	1.224	0	0	0	1.224
TOTAL ARRIVALS	651.991	804	86.117	989.508	1.728.421

Source: Frondier Survey of the Bank of Greece.

Note: Wherever necessary, the data have been rounded to the next final digit. Thus, a slight difference may be noted between the sum of the figures and their total.

⁽¹⁾ From May 2014 onwards, the railway connection of Greece with foreign countries was re-established, therefore the data are not comparable with the data of the corresponding semester of the year 2013.

Table 3: Arrivals of non-residents from abroad by means of transport and entry station: January- March 2015

Station of entrance		Jan - March		% change	% share	
		2014	2015	2015/2014	2014	2015
I. AIR		529.399	651.991	23,2%	44,6%	37,7%
	1 Athens	419.669	531.560	26,7%	35,4%	30,8%
	2 Zakynthos	0	0	-	-	-
	3 Iraklio	0	0	-	-	-
	4 Thessaloniki	91.032	111.636	22,6%	7,7%	6,5%
	5 Kerkyra	0	0	-	-	-
	6 Kos	0	0	-	-	-
	7 Rodos	0	0	-	-	-
	8 Santorini	0	0	-	-	-
	9 Chiania	0	0	-	-	-
	10 Other stations	18.698	8.795	-53,0%	1,6%	0,5%
II. RAILWAY ⁽¹⁾		0	804	-	-	0,0%
	1 Promachon (Serres) ⁽²⁾	0	0	-	-	-
	2 Railway stations (non-sampled)	0	804	-	-	0,0%
III. SEA		75.568	86.117	14,0%	6,4%	5,0%
	1 Igoumenitsa	45.462	45.614	0,3%	3,8%	2,6%
	2 Kerkyra	0	0	-	-	-
	3 Patra	22.009	31.276	42,1%	1,9%	1,8%
	4 Other stations	8.097	9.227	14,0%	0,7%	0,5%
IV. ROAD		581.934	989.508	70,0%	49,0%	57,2%
	1 Evzoni (Kilkis)	94.086	124.190	32,0%	7,9%	7,2%
	2 Kakavia (Ioannina)	52.599	61.247	16,4%	4,4%	3,5%
	3 Kipi (Evros)	65.071	80.583	23,8%	5,5%	4,7%
	4 Promachon (Serres)	101.371	284.978	181,1%	8,5%	16,5%
	5 Road stations non-sample	268.807	438.511	63,1%	22,6%	25,4%
TOTAL STATIONS		1.186.900	1.728.421	45,6%	100,0%	100,0%

Source: Frondier Survey of the Bank of Greece.

Note: Wherever necessary, the data have been rounded to the next final digit. Thus, a slight difference may be noted between the sum of the figures and their total.

⁽¹⁾ From May 2014 onwards, the railway connection of Greece with foreign countries was re-established, therefore the data are not comparable with the data of the corresponding semester of the year 2013.

⁽²⁾ For the particular period of time there was no sampling for this station.

Explanatory Notes

Arrivals in Greece of non-residents from abroad

The "Frontier Survey", which is carried out by the Bank of Greece, among others collects data on "non-residents 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:

ELSTAT is responsible for collecting, processing and publishing data on arrivals of foreigners in Greece. Until 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 ELSTAT and Eurostat).

The latter causes problems on:

- The timely publication of the data, because of the time lags in the availability of the primary data
- The methodological link of these data
- The correlation of the data announced by ELSTAT 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 ELSTAT, 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 ongoing "Frontier Survey" by 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 ELSTAT

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

Legal framework

Since 2003, the Bank of Greece, for the needs of the balance of payments, is being conducting a monthly sample "Frontier 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 2015

Availability Results

Data are available from the third quarter of 2009. The data are published four months after the reference quarter.

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

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

Wherever necessary, the data have been rounded to the next final digit. Thus, a slight difference may be noted between the sum of the figures and their total.

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.