

# GREECE

## Introduction

The first population census in newer Greece was held in 1828, immediately afterwards the constitution of Greek State (1821). During this first census, efforts have been deployed in order to evaluate ex-post, population data for the year 1821. Starting with this experience 26 full censuses have been held, normally every 10 years from 1940 on<sup>(</sup>

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<sup>1)</sup> At international level, Greece is one of the first countries having realised population census.

The 2001 Population and Housing Census has been undertaken under the responsibility of the National Statistical Service of Greece (NSSG) as all the further ones in one day, on 18 March 2001, and covered all the country. During the immediately previous period December 2000 – January 2001 a Building Census was carried out. Through the two surveys, the following units have been enumerated:

1. individuals
2. private households
3. family nuclei
4. dwellings and housing facilities
5. collective residences
6. buildings

The Census has been carried out on the basis of UNECE recommendations and according to the directives of EUROSTAT. With the inventory it is sought:

- the simultaneous enumeration of all the residents of the country, at region, prefecture, municipality or villages levels, municipal or community sector and at self-existent settlement (city, town or village), aiming at the verification of the country's real population, that is the number of individuals present at census day in each settlement and this, whatever the cause of presence, even they are permanent residents even they are temporarily or accidentally present;
- the verification of the legal population, i.e. the number of burghers in each municipality or community;
- the verification of permanent population, i.e. the number of individuals that have permanent residence in each municipality or community and self-existent settlement;
- the collection of data on the distribution of population by sex, age, familial situation, citizenship, level of education and other socio-economic characteristics. The different results will be used for many statistical purposes including the inter-census population estimates.

## Legislation

The Census in Greece is carried out under the 1956 Statistics Law and the 1996 Data Protection Law. For the 2001 Census, the No 70/2000 Presidential Decree "*Execution of General Censuses of a) Buildings and b) Population – Dwellings – Cottage Industry*" gives the legal basis.

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<sup>1</sup> Censuses were held in the following years: 1828, 1838, 1839, 1840, 1841, 1842, 1843, 1844, 1845, 1848, 1853, 1856, 1861, 1870, 1879, 1889, 1896, 1907, 1920, 1928, 1940, 1951, 1961, 1971, 1981, 1991 and 2001.

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More specifically, the realisation of general census was determined diachronically, according to the No 2613/C-347/5-9-2000 Common Decision of the Ministers of National Defence, Foreign Affairs, National Economy, Public Order and Environment, Planning and Public Works as well as the Vice-Minister of Interior, Public Administration and Decentralisation and the Vice-Minister of Economy and Finance.

### Organisational structure and preparatory phases

The Project has been organised through a decentralised system while Departmental Units constituted the basic organisational units. The management and administration of the whole system was under the responsibility of the Central Administration.

Working groups were established in each department of Greece in order to supervise all the phases of the Census. Each department constituted one **Departmental Nucleus**. Nevertheless, due to the high concentration of population in Attica and Thessalonica, these two departments have been divided in 37 and 5 nuclei respectively. On the basis of inhabitants' number, each Departmental Nucleus has been divided in **Sector Nuclei**. Each sector was subdivided in 14 until 18 **Census Sections**. Each Census Section included 30 until 35 dwellings in order the enumerators can in one day complete all the interviews relating to the residences and the individuals.

The basic preliminary work included the following phases:

- finalisation of administrative limits of municipalities and communities
- determination of self-existent settlements
- denomination of roads and squares as well as the numeration of buildings
- cartographic work (briefing of maps)
- pro-numeration of residences and inhabited places in settlements with population more than 1°000 residents
- definition of inventory sectors and sections
- organisation and conduction of a Pilot Census (on 31 October 1999)

The enumeration staff has been distinguished and selected as follows:

- National Co-ordinators (directors of the NSSG)
- Supervisors (superior executives of the NSSG services)
- Assistant Supervisors (experienced NSSG staff)
- Departmental Inspectors (employees of other public services, institutions, organisms and private sector)
- Enumerators (employees of other public services, institutions, organisms and private sector)
- Translators – Interpreters

Globally about 180°000 people (including the reservists) were engaged: 9 National Co-ordinators, 91 Supervisors, 475 Assistant Supervisors, 11°224 Departmental Inspectors (regular, special or reservists) and 166°501 Enumerators (regular, experts for collective residences that offer accommodation for 30 and more individuals, or

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reservists). Finally 1°420 translators and interpreters have been employed to deal with the cases of respondents not speaking Greek.

The census questionnaires had the form of bulletins with special structure and numeration while special printing has been used, in order to be readable from scanners with system of recognition of points (OMR).

The questionnaire for private households and the questionnaire for collective residences were translated in 5 different languages: English, French, German, Russian and Albanian.

### Population definition and coverage

The *real population* includes all the individuals that were found in the limits of Greek territory (Greeks and foreigners), while the *legal population* includes only individuals having Greek citizenship or Greek and foreign citizenship, and at the same time, they are burghers of a municipality or community, also including the Greeks temporarily absent abroad.

The 2001 Population Census enumerated the foreigners and the economic immigrants that constitute a difficult population group. This was achieved through the continuous information of the census bodies and the special communication program with the help of translators. The effort of the NSSG was facilitated by the more general political willingness to support, legalise and incorporate the immigrants.

As general rule, were included in the Census, all individuals of each age and sex, whatever their citizenship, nationality and religion, who were present in the limits of Greek Territory (land, marine or airspace) at midnight between Saturday and Sunday, 17 to 18 March 2001. According to the above rule were included in the Census:

- the children born before midnight between 17 and 18 March 2001. Were not included, however, infants born afterwards midnight during the same night;
- the persons died afterwards midnight between 17 and 18 March 2001. Were not included, however, the persons that died before that moment;
- the individuals that left with any means (boat, plane, train, automotive) the country because of foreign travel, before the same midnight, so they were not anymore present in the Greek Territory after the hour zero;
- all the travellers that reached Greece from abroad, that is to say present in the Greek space, before that midnight, even if they remained in the place of entry in the country (ports, airports and other border points) for the control of their passports. Travellers that had not reached in time their accommodation during the day of census, have been registered by enumerators especially appointed for the airports, the ports and the other points of entry in the country;
- the foreign diplomats and the members of foreign missions with their families and the relative personnel, even if they were Greek or foreigners. These persons have been registered in collaboration with the Foreign Ministry.

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## Publicity and information

A communication program was drawn and carried out in collaboration with experts. This program included the following actions:

- television and radio spots, some of them were especially addressed to foreigners living in the country;
- posters, leaflets and other printed material delivered to all the public institutions, the transport infrastructure (stations, airports, etc), the banks and other public locations;
- messages diffused through the screens of automatic banking machines,
- informative letters sent to all the embassies, associations of foreigners living in Greece, and other bodies,
- informative material available on the NSSG Internet site.

## Data processing

Afterwards the field operations, enumerators sent back the questionnaires to the Departmental Inspectors that later on delivered the questionnaires to their Supervisors. The questionnaires of each nucleus remained for a programmed time interval in the Nucleus Office in order to realise a first logic control as well as a control of completeness.

An OMR system was adopted for data capture of questionnaires in combination with data entry of certain questions. Visual Basic, MS Access and SQL were associated in the data entry system. All the data capture process was performed in some 5 months.

After the intermediate creation of ASCII files and the creation, for security reasons, of backup files, the material led to daily tables and finally was unified in the central database created with ORACLE version 8.1.3. The database is managed through the Oracle Developer version 6.0.

A manual codification of roughly 40% of the total census material was realised by the NSSG employees. The remaining material (roughly 60%) was imported and codified with the help of specific software. The product used for automatic optical reading and codification is considered as very efficient due to the fact that, until now, all the geographical fields as well as the fields of citizenship and titles of study have been already recognised and automatically codified. With regard to the codification of the profession and the sector of economic activity, this work is in development and up to today, more than 60% of data - percentage that is increasing day by day - have already been recognised and codified. It has to be noted that this software which is property of the NSSG will be used for all research and studies implemented by the Institute and for which the same type of codification will be absolutely necessary.

Following the data capture and codification phase, the data have been submitted to a three phases data control in order to check and analyse the quality of data. The control also included the connection of information between them:

residence, individuals and immigrants

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identity of residence (geographic code, Census Section and Sector Nucleus as well as serial number of residence in the nucleus)

verification code

automatic corrections of connected fields

corrections and completions of missing fields

After this control the final primary database was created and then a secondary one in which the primary analytic data was brought together at building square level.

### **Data dissemination**

Preliminary results were published on the basis of the enumeration control lists. Final tables of results will be produced directly from the census database starting from 18 months after the census.

For the needs of data dissemination (hard copy, Internet, CDs) to final users, a special database with information at municipal and community level for each department of the country will be created. For the main urban centres of Athens and Thessalonica, the information will be added up in major layers that is areas of building square.

### **Comparison of results**

#### ***Main conclusion from the census results on the real population***

During the period 1991-2001, the country is characterised by serious demographic changes. The population of the country has increased about 704°180 persons, that is 6.9% against 5.3% during the previous decade.

The most important increase is observed in the department of Eastern Attica with 36.3% and follows the departments of Evritania (31.9%), Kephallinia (21.8%), Zakynthos (19.8%), Kyklades (19.8%) and Dodekanissos (16.3%). The most important increases observed in Eastern Attica (36.3%) and Western Attica (21.1%) are owed not only to permanent but also to temporary movement of population to these regions.

It is pointed out that the islander regions present expected increase due to tourist growth and permanent installation of population employed in the tourist sector. The highest diminution of population is observed in the departments of Arkadia (-3.1%), Viotia (-2.2%) and Etoilia-Akarnania (-1.5%).

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### ***Main conclusion from the census results on the legal population***

The legal population of 10°206°595 is about 757°485 persons lower than the real one, i.e. 6.9%, while in 1991 the legal population (10°134°534) was only about 125°266 lower than the real one (10°259°900), i.e. 1.2%.

This difference between legal and real population is due to the fact that, during the 2001 Population Census, 797°093 persons with foreign nationality or without nationality were registered, against just 167°276 in 1991.

The highest increase is observed in the departments of Thessalonika (12.7%), Dodekanissos (8.7%), Pierias (4.5%) and Rodopi (3.0%). At the contrary, the biggest diminution of legal population appears in the departments of Arkadia (-10.8%), Evritania (-10.8%), Grevana (-9.7%), Arta (-8.2%) and Karditsa (-8.1%), and this is mainly owed in the supremacy of deaths against births (department of Arkadia 4°453, Evritania 1°026, Grevena 1°372, Arta 2°161 and Karditsa 3°173) as well as changes of the municipal identification number.

### **Costs**

The final cost of the 2001 Census would be about €49.7°million – an average of €4.5 per person enumerated. The most important element of total cost (about 71%) concerns the enumeration process (including training). Expenses linked to the general preparation, services and logistics represent 11.2% of the total cost while about 10% are linked to data processing, checking and coding.

### **Conclusion**

The 2001 Population and Housing Census has been regularly realised according to the planning schedule, without main organisational, administrative or methodological problems, considering the extent and complexity of such a work. The data processing has been achieved in a very short time in comparison with the previous census and this, because of the combination of manual and computer methods.

Despite the fact that new technologies for questionnaire design, data processing and production of results have been used for the first time by the NSSG, all the process was finally successful and gave the possibility to execute full controls of the whole census material and to publish quite quickly the results. These results do not present not acceptable divergences and "extreme" values. All the combined controls using data from natural population movement and other NSSG's researches do not give inconsistent and incompatible results.

To sum up, it is possible to say that the Project was a successful operation mostly due to the following elements:

evident definitions and explicit directives for completion of questionnaires contributing to minimise errors not due to sampling but frequent during the

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census operations (errors of correspondence, errors due to the researchers etc.)

possibility to select, organise and train at every necessary level, all the human potential involved in the Census

a well-focused communication programme informing and motivating the population, especially all the “difficult” groups such as the immigrants

the continuous briefing and support through material and information offered to the census bodies

the implementation of all foreseen controls during the data processing phase, including centralised controls and comparison between results.

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