

Greece

Report by

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Introduction - Key Issues

The National Statistical Service of Greece (NSSG) is a General Secretariat of the Ministry of Economy and Finance, with the following structure: a Central Service, with two General Directorates, twelve Central Divisions and seven Decentralised Divisions.

For more information see http://www.statistics.gr/Main_eng.asp

Sources providing the NSSG with data

Individuals, households, public and private enterprises of almost all the branches of economic activity (agricultural, industrial and commercial enterprises, enterprises providing services), State services, local government, public utility organizations, educational establishments, hospitals, social insurance organizations etc. constitute the sources from which the NSSG collects data. These data are then tabulated after the appropriate processing. The response rate of the above sources is considered satisfactory and facilitates the collection of data by the NSSG.

Data collected

The statistics compiled by the NSSG – monthly, trimestrial, annual, quinquennial and decennial – cover almost all the activity sectors. Population data (population by different categories, vital statistics – marriages – births – deaths), employment and unemployment data, data concerning health and social insurance, education, justice, the production process, finance, prices, the national income and, finally, the cultural activities constitute the main input for the derivation of statistical tables and indices compiled by the NSSG on a short-term and long-term basis.

The use of the NSSG data

The Greek State is the main user of statistics and indices compiled by the NSSG. On the basis of these data, it materializes and follows up its policies in various domains. Other users are the European Union, which needs the particular data of its Member – States in order to compile the European statistics, international organizations (UN, UNESCO, FAO, ILO, OECD etc), businessmen, scientists, researchers and analysts, as well as citizens.

Points of particular interest for the NSSG

The National Statistical Service of Greece concentrates on and operates properly in order to:

- coordinate effectively all the statistical works,
- ensure the harmonization of statistics compiled in our country, through uniform methodology, concepts, definitions and classifications to be applied by all services and institutions,
- provide methodological support to services and institutions asking its assistance,
- set up and update databases and meta-databases,
- provide products of high quality.

The drawing up of cultural statistics is shared by many Organisations and Departments of the Hellenic Ministry of Culture.

- Regarding the number of visitors to State archaeological museums and archaeological sites, the raw data is collected by the **Archaeological Receipts Fund** and then processed and analysed by the **Direction of Museums, Exhibitions and Cultural Programmes of the Ministry of Culture (itself part of the General Directorate of Antiquities and Cultural Heritage)**. The Direction manages an organised electronic database for the period 1992 onwards. Similarly, the Direction of Modern Cultural Heritage holds and updates a Directory of Folklore Museums (State, and of the private museums those which are supervised by the Ministry). The Direction of Visual Arts (Department of Art Galleries), itself under the

General Directorate of Modern Culture, is responsible for keeping similar data for the Art Museums (Galleries, Modern and Contemporary Art Museums and Collections).

- The **National Book Centre of Greece**, through its Book Monitoring Unit, tries to create a structured, diversified and continually evolving information system that: meets the needs of the industry, the professionals and their associations; constitutes the necessary background for the implementation of a modern public-welfare policy for books and reading. In this context: basic research has been carried out concerning all the major players in the book chain (surveys of publishing houses, booksellers, libraries, a regular publication, titled: "The book economy in Greece", reading behaviour and literacy surveys); new surveys have been carried out concerning the professional profiles of writers and literary translators and the training needs of librarians; The data produced have been registered in archives that can be searched on this web-site (www.ekebi.gr) or at: www.readingeurope.org, together with data from the rest of Europe. The main survey reports are also available in printed form.
- The NSSG

For an updated and accurate overview of the Cultural Policies in Greece (information and statistics), one can visit the Compendium web site (Cultural Policies in Europe), which is a joint venture between the Council of Europe and ERICarts realized with a community of practice of independent cultural policy researchers, NGOs and national governments (see <http://www.culturalpolicies.net/>).

Definition of Museum

According to the recently passed Law No. 3028/2002, On the Protection of Antiquities and the Cultural Heritage in General, Article 45:

Museum shall mean the service or the organisation of non-profit character with or without legal personality which acquires, accepts, safeguards, conserves, records, documents, researches, interprets and primarily exhibits and promotes to the public collections of archaeological, artistic, ethnological or other material evidence of people and their environment, for purposes of study, education and enjoyment. As museums may also be considered services or organisations with similar objectives and functions, such as open-air museums.

Existence of Museum-related Laws

The obligation of the State to support artistic creativity and protect cultural heritage stems from the Greek constitution (*Articles 16 and 24*). Policy making, establishing cultural institutions and allocating funds for culture are the responsibilities of the Ministry of Culture as outlined in their organisational statutes. When appropriate, the Ministry of Culture co-operates with other Ministries (such as the Ministry for the Economy) to prepare and introduce legislation, which is approved by the Parliament and via Presidential decrees.

Legislation related to heritage, culture and the arts originally consisted of an agglomeration of amendments to laws dating back to the 19th and early 20th century. After 1974, and especially since the 1980s, there has been a consistent attempt to modernise, bring together and systematise legislation within a smaller number of comprehensive laws.

The following pieces of legislation regarding culture and more specifically museums should be noted:

- *Presidential decree no. 191/2003, Organisation of the Ministry of Culture*, defining the organisational plan and responsibilities of the Ministry of Culture.
- *Law no. 2557/1997, Institutions, Measures and Actions for Cultural Development*, containing a wide range of legislation whose clauses include, among others, a new framework for national literary and other prizes, enforcement of a fixed book price, establishment of new national art galleries and museums, new statutes for the Thessaloniki Film Festival and the Greek Cinema Centre, provisions regarding music, cinema and arts education, establishment of a state-owned company entrusted with cultural heritage valorisation and promotion through editions, audiovisual and multimedia productions and related activities (Greek Culture Organisation SA), and several important terms related to intellectual property rights.

- *Law no. 3028/2002, For the Protection of Antiquities and Cultural Heritage in General*, broadening the notion and scope for the protection of monuments and works of all cultural traditions and historical periods, establishing legal provisions for the museum sector (Article 45), introducing stricter controls to the provenance of works in private hands and the art market, stipulating the public right of access to cultural heritage (and the consequent obligations of the State, of archaeological research and of private collectors), defining regulations for archaeological research, including foreign archaeological schools operating in Greece, introducing fiscal incentives for the protection of cultural heritage, introducing stricter penalties for offenders, and making provisions for lending and exhibiting Greek cultural heritage objects abroad.

There are 173 Archaeological and Byzantine Museums, some 60 or so Folklore and Historical Museums, 25 Art Museums, 3 Theatre Museums, 2 Cinema Museums, 2 Museums of Musical Instruments, 5 Maritime Museums, 4 Museums of Natural History, 6 Museums of Science and Industry. From the afore-mentioned, Stately-owned in their entirety and thus stately managed are the Archaeological and Byzantine museums.

The National Museum Accreditation Scheme, which would thus be the most accurate means to establish the precise number of museums in Greece as well as their exact characteristics, is currently under formulation and hopefully in enforcement in the near future.

Categories regarding Types of Collection

- Archaeological Museums
- Byzantine Museums
- Museums of Archaeological Sites
- Monument-Museums
- Folk Life or Ethnographic Museums
- Historic Museums
- Museum-Houses. Museums which are home or residences of a renowned person
- Monographic (Specialised) Museums (e.g. Numismatic Museum, Epigraphic Museum)
- Fine Art Museums
- Contemporary Art Museums
- Decorative Art Museums
- Science and Technology Museums
- Natural history and natural sciences Museums
- General. Museums, which have mixed collections and cannot be assigned to any of the above categories.
- University Museums
- Military Museums
- Other. Museums that cannot be included in any of the above categories.

Categories used regarding Type of Ownership

Public museums:

- Museums owned by the State
- Museums owned by local authorities
- Museums owned by the Greek church
- Museums owned by the Universities

Private museums:

- Museums owned by individuals or private organisations.

List of References

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