

The development of the statistical service of Greece

o 1828-1859

1828: conduct of the first Population Census.

1836: a Special Bureau of Public Finance is set up in the Ministry of Internal Affairs. It organizes Censuses based on administrative sources. This procedure is repeated annually up to 1845 and later at irregular intervals in 1848, 1853 and 1856.

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1860-1909

1860: the Bureau of Public Finance is divided into four (4) Sections, one of them under the name of Statistics Section. It is the first time that a Specific Statistical Entity begins to function within the public administration.

1861: conduct of the Population Census and the Agricultural Census.

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1910-1924

The innovation in public administration, including state statistics, begins in 1910. A Section of Statistics is set up in the newly created Ministry of National Economy. Later this Section is upgraded to a Central Department of Statistics, responsible for collecting, processing and publishing all the national statistics referring to: population, vital statistics and migration, agricultural production, industry, cottage industry and related sectors, transport, internal/external trade, communication, justice, prices, etc. The setting up of a Council of Statistics composed of University professors and representatives of the Chambers of Commerce and Industry. The main statistical works of this period are the following: the Agricultural Census and the Surveys on Prices of basic consumer goods (1911), the Population Censuses in new territories (1913), the Industrial Census and the Population Census (1920) and the Census of Refugees from Asia Minor (1923).

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1925-1955

1925: creation of the General Statistical Service of Greece within the Ministry of National Economy centralizing all official statistics.

1929: publication for the first time of the Monthly Statistical Bulletin.

1930: publication of the Statistical Yearbook of Greece.

Main statistical activities during this period: the Population Census, the Statistical Surveys on Libraries and Press Statistics and the Household Budget Survey of Industrial Workers (1929), the Census of Industrial Enterprises (1930), the Agricultural Census and the Population Census (1940), the Agricultural Census (1950) and the Population Census (1951).

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1956 and onwards

By the Legislative Decree 3627/56 the National Statistical Service of Greece is organized and by the same decree the following actions come into force:

- A centralized system of statistical organization is adopted.
- The operational and technical independence of the Statistical Service is established.

The coordination of the state services charged with collection and processing of statistical data emanating from their administrative functions is ensured.

- The principle of confidentiality of statistical data is introduced.
- The provision of statistics requested from those approached by the NSSG (individuals, enterprises, state authorities, public and private organizations, local government, etc.) is made obligatory.

The above basic principles are still in force.