

Greece 2026

The country has recovered faster than everyday life.

BUILT FROM OFFICIAL STATISTICS AND FORECASTS · UPDATED JUNE 2026

+1.7%

GOVERNMENT BUDGET

28.9%

HIGH HOUSING COST

-7.1%

MONEY FLOWING OUT

23.7%

AGED OVER 65

The picture Greece is in much better shape than during the crisis years. Public finances are repaired and the economy is growing. But the improvement is uneven: rents, prices and low pay mean many households do not feel better off yet.

What this is — and what it isn't

A short guide before the numbers begin.

WHAT IT IS

- A short briefing, built only from official statistics and published forecasts — not from opinion.
- A snapshot of where the country stands right now, in mid-2026.
- Updated to June 2026, with every figure carrying a numbered source you can check at the back.
- It keeps three things apart: the facts, our reading of them, and the things still worth watching.

WHAT IT ISN'T

- Not new survey research: there is no new fieldwork or polling in these pages.
- Not a political forecast, and not a prediction of the next election.
- Not an economic model, and not a forecast we have made ourselves.
- Where a figure is someone else's forecast, we label it clearly and treat it as a forecast, not a fact.

How to read it Read the numbers as the firm part, and the short notes beside them as our plain-English reading of what they mean. Everything here is drawn from official sources and updated to June 2026.

The whole country on one screen

Every number, what it means, and where it comes from.

WHAT	LATEST	WHAT IT MEANS	TREND	SRC
Economic growth	+2.1% '25 → +1.8% '26f	Still growing, about twice the euro-area rate.	—	S1
Cost of living	+4.9% a year, May 2026	Rising again, faster than the euro area.	▼	S6
Government budget	+1.7% of GDP, 2025	A strength now, not a worry.	▲	S2
Government debt	146% → 134% by '27	Still high, but falling.	▲	S2
Money flowing abroad	-7.1% of GDP, 2026f	Greece still buys far more abroad than it earns.	▼	S2
Housing cost	28.9% of people stretched	The hardest squeeze on daily life.	—	S8
At risk of poverty	27.5% of people	A big share of the country is financially exposed.	—	S10
Aged over 65	23.7% of people	An older population now limits growth.	▼	S11
Income per person	68% of the EU average	Among the lowest in the European Union.	▲	S2
People online	89.2% of people	Most are online; trust is the open question.	▲	S15

In short Greece looks strongest on its public finances and weakest on housing, on its ageing population, and on how much it still has to buy from abroad. Those are the areas to keep watching.

Five things to know

The five points that matter most — each explained in plain terms.



The state is on firmer ground. 1

Public finances are far stronger than a few years ago: the budget is in surplus, debt is falling, and all five rating agencies now call Greece a safe borrower.



But daily life still feels tight. 2

The recovery shows up in the national figures more than in people's pockets. High rents, rising prices and low pay mean most households don't feel better off yet.



Growth is real, but narrow. 3

Tourism, shipping and EU money do most of the work. Too few other industries are growing, so the gains reach too few people.



People are the real limit. 4

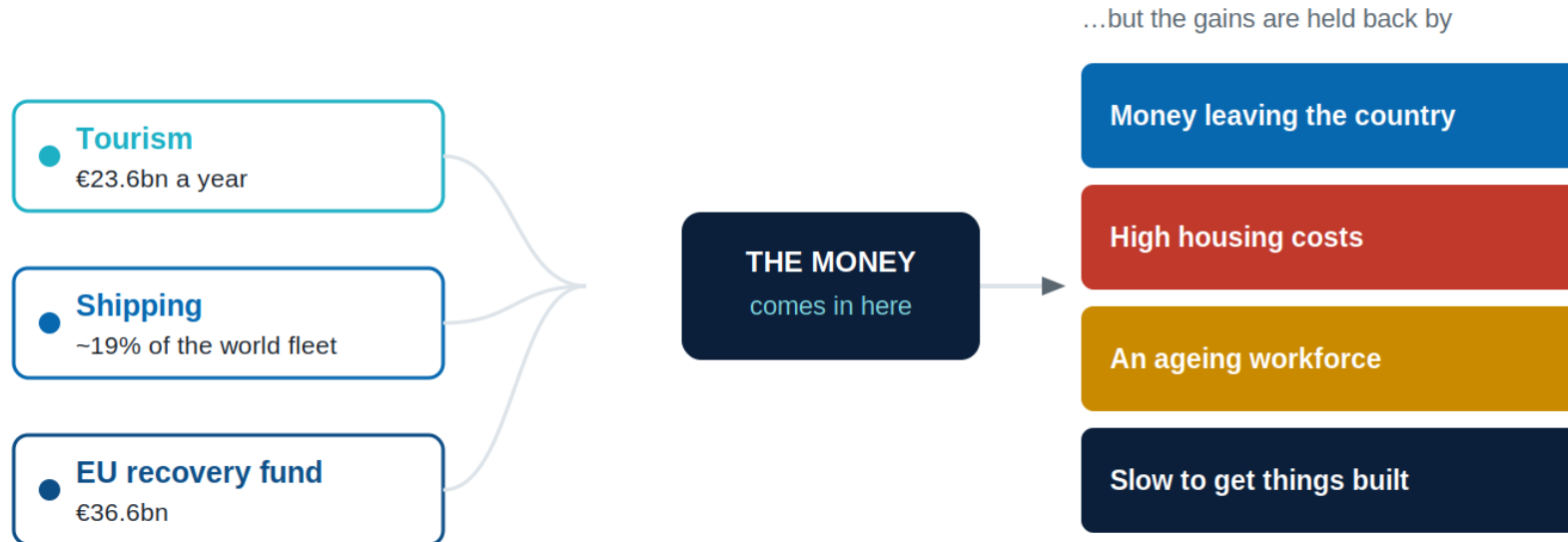
An ageing population, very few births, and young people leaving home late mean future growth now depends on people, not just money.



Now the hard part. Turn financial trust into investment, a few strong industries into better-paid jobs, and a connected country into better everyday services.

Strong finances, but narrow growth

Greece has fixed its public finances. The harder job now is making the economy broader.



In short The country already earns well from tourism, shipping and EU funds. The harder task is spreading those gains and getting projects built, so growth leans less on imports.

The recovery hasn't reached home yet

Where the big numbers meet rent, prices, and family plans.

28.9%

of Greeks spend 40% or more of what they earn on housing — over three times the EU rate of 8.2%.

These four figures show how that pressure plays out in everyday life:

+4.9%

cost of living, May '26

27.5%

at risk of poverty

9.5%

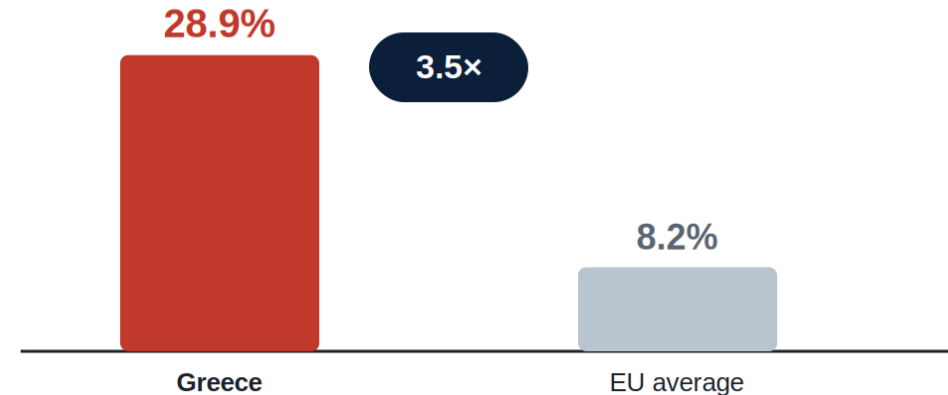
out of work

30.7

age people leave home

Housing costs: Greece vs the EU

Share spending $\geq 40\%$ of income on housing

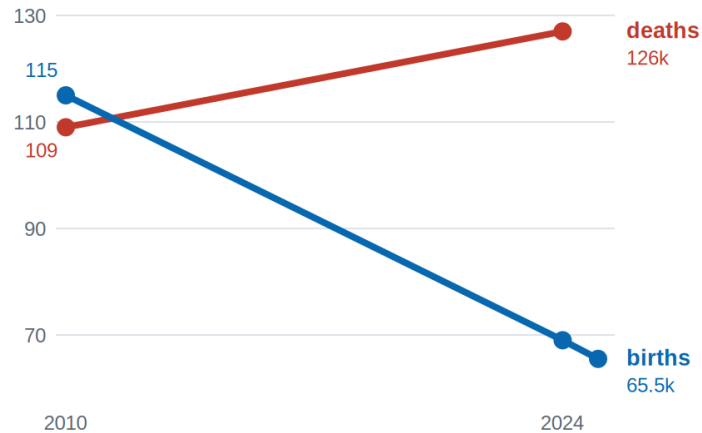


Why it matters rent and house prices decide when young people move out, whether families grow, and whether Greeks abroad ever come home.

Greece is growing older, and smaller

More people die each year than are born — and many young Greeks build their lives abroad.

Each year, more deaths than births



The lines crossed around 2014; the gap has widened since.

10.4m

people, and slowly shrinking

23.7%

are over 65

126k

deaths in 2024

65.5k

births in 2024

● Educated here, working abroad

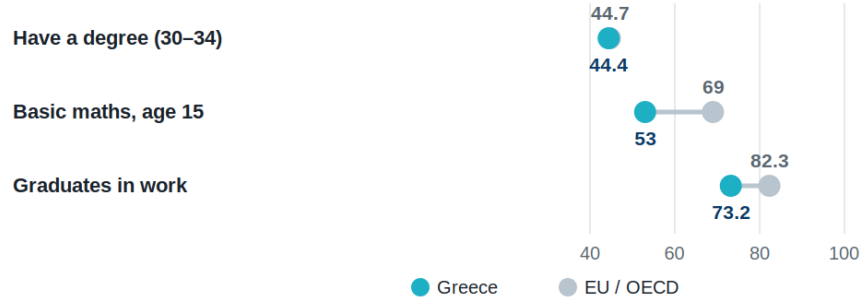
A record number of Greek graduates worked abroad in 2025. Some do come back — 2023 was the first year in over a decade when more returned than left — but the pull of foreign jobs is strong.

In short A population that is both ageing and slowly shrinking means fewer workers and more retirees over time. This is now one of the biggest limits on how fast the economy can grow.

Proud and online — but the gains are uneven

An old culture that took quickly to the internet. The open question is who gains.

School results: Greece vs the average



20

UNESCO World Heritage sites

S13

89.2%

are online · half now use AI tools

S15

86th

of 180 for press freedom — last in the EU

S16

● Values change, roots hold

More than 80% call themselves Orthodox — yet Greece became the first Orthodox-majority country to allow same-sex marriage (2024). Opinion is split: 62% back the marriage law, 69% are against same-sex parenthood.

S29

● Fewer families forming

Marriages and partnerships fell from 59,000 in 2009 to 51,000 in 2024, and people leave home at 30. Family life is starting later.

S10,S12

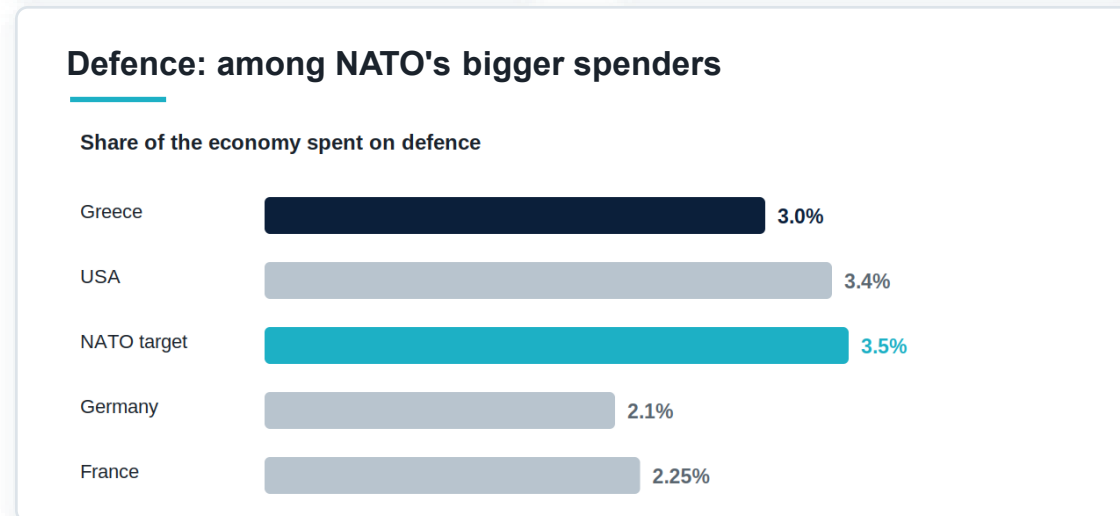
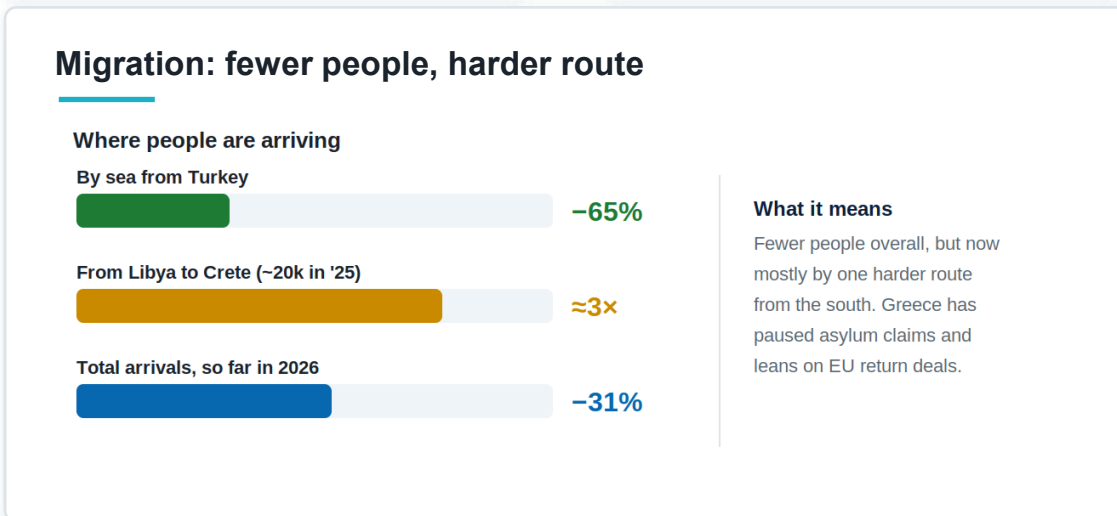
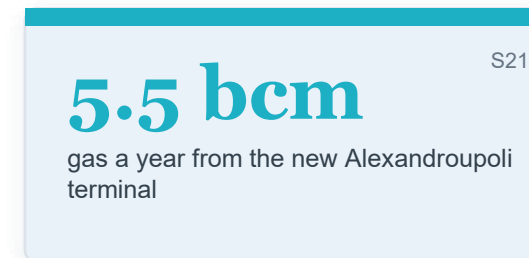
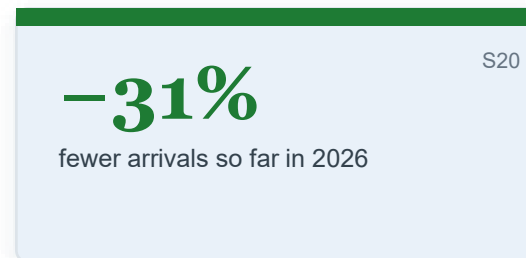
● Culture earns more from fewer

In 2025, museums took 38% more money on the same number of visitors; ancient sites earned double from slightly fewer. Fewer guests, higher value.

S30

It matters more – and that costs more

Its location gives Greece weight abroad. It also brings bills for defence, migration and energy.



In short Relations with Turkey are calm for now, but the long-standing tensions have not gone away. Greece's location is an advantage only if it can manage the costs that come with it.

The year ahead, in six questions

The things most likely to change the story over the next year or two.

€ Life after EU money

Can investment keep going once the EU recovery fund ends?

projects · private money · jobs

🏠 Enough homes

Whether home-building catches up decides if the recovery feels real.

rent · supply · holiday lets · rules

⚡ Energy and prices

Either one can quickly push the cost of living back up.

energy bills · imports · inflation

👥 Workers and ageing

An older country needs more working hands to keep growing.

migration · women at work · skills

⌚ Public patience

People still need to feel the recovery, not just read about it.

trust · mood · protests

📍 The neighbourhood

Migration, defence and energy with Turkey can all shift fast.

Turkey · Libya–Crete · gas routes

What kind of country is Greece becoming?

Greece in 2026 is stronger than the country tied to the debt crisis. The books are in better shape, debt is falling, lenders trust it again, tourism and shipping bring the world to its door, and EU money has opened a real chance to modernise.

But the recovery hasn't reached everyone. Housing is the clearest case: it shapes how much money people have left, when the young move out, whether Greeks abroad come home, and whether families grow. Rising prices, poverty, patchy job quality and later family life make daily life harder than the headline numbers suggest.

The next chapter is about turning strengths into everyday gains: financial trust into investment, tourism and culture into wider prosperity, a connected country into better services, and a prized location into an advantage Greece controls rather than a burden it carries.

The bottom line *the crisis chapter has largely closed; the everyday-repair chapter is still being written.*

Where every number comes from

Every figure is drawn from official statistics and published forecasts, updated to June 2026.

S1	ELSTAT National accounts, Q1 2026	S12	Eurostat Age people leave the family home
S2	European Commission Spring 2026 forecast for Greece	S13	UNESCO World Heritage sites in Greece
S3	PDMA Sovereign credit ratings	S15	ELSTAT Internet and AI-tool use, 2025
S4	Bank of Greece Balance of payments	S16	Reporters Without Borders World Press Freedom Index 2026
S5	Bank of Greece Tourism receipts	S17	European Commission Greece's EU recovery plan
S6	ELSTAT Cost-of-living inflation, May 2026	S18	Union of Greek Shipowners Annual report 2025-2026
S7	Bank of Greece House prices	S19	NATO Defence spending; €25bn plan
S8	Eurostat Households stretched by housing	S20	UNHCR / Frontex Migration arrivals
S9	ELSTAT Labour Force Survey, April 2026	S21	Gastrade Alexandroupoli gas terminal
S10	ELSTAT / Eurostat Poverty and family formation	S29	Metron Analysis / CNN Same-sex marriage law and opinion
S11	ELSTAT Population, births and deaths	S30	ELSTAT Museum and ancient-site visitors, 2025

WHO THEY ARE ELSTAT = the Greek statistics office · Eurostat = the EU statistics office · PDMA = Greece's public-debt agency · figures marked "f" are forecasts.