

# WZB

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## **Atypical Employment in Greece**

### **Discussion Paper**

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[www.wzb.eu/atypical](http://www.wzb.eu/atypical)

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### **Social Science Research Center Berlin (WZB)**

Research Area

#### **President's Project Group**

Project

**The Institutional Determinants of Atypical Employment and Social Inequality in Europe, founded by the Hans Böckler Foundation and supervised by Jutta Allmendinger, Johannes Giesecke, and Kathrin Leuze**



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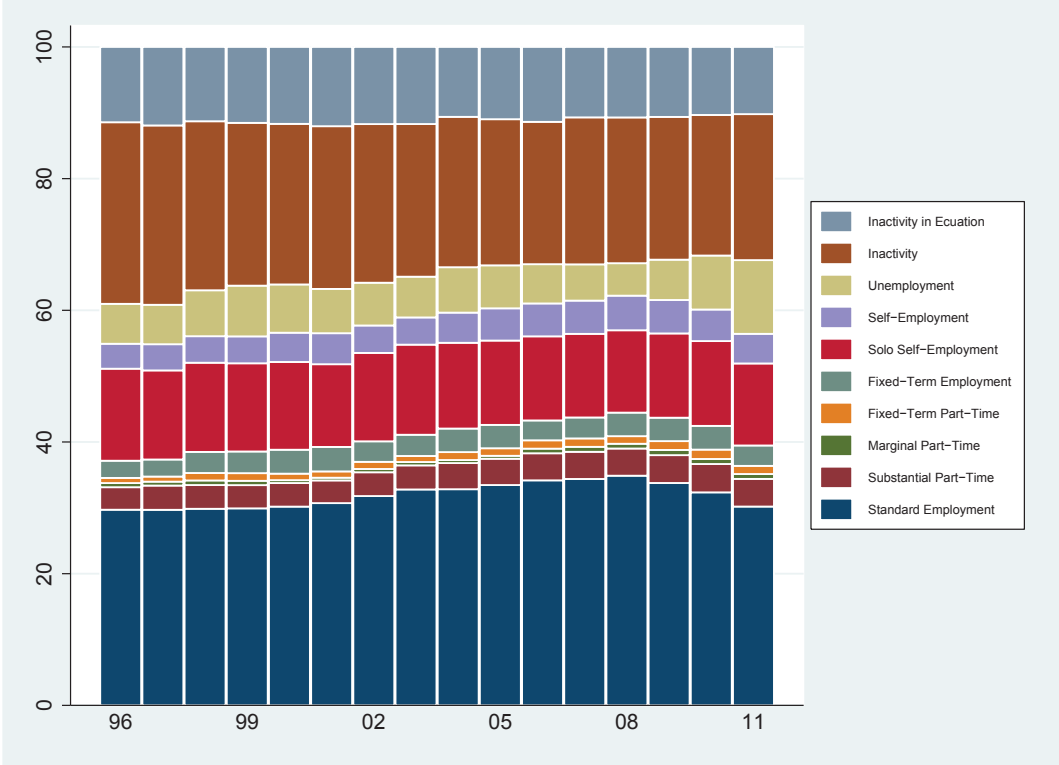
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## Greece

Between 1996 and 2008, employment in Greece increased. However, among men, the under-30s, and people with medium-level qualifications, employment fell slightly. Although inactivity fell in almost all the groups investigated, women, older people, and low-skilled workers were still comparatively poorly integrated in the labor market. Since 2009, unemployment has risen in all the groups studied. Women, the under-30s, and people with medium-level qualifications had the highest unemployment rates during the entire period studied. In all the groups, more people worked in permanent full-time jobs in 2009 than in 1996. Women and people aged between 30 and 49 experienced the highest levels of growth in this form of employment. Nevertheless, it was women, but also younger people, older people, and low-skilled workers who were the least likely to be in standard employment. No clear trend emerged in atypical employment. Whereas the proportion of atypically employed men fell, this proportion increased for women and people with medium education levels. There was little change in other groups. Overall, solo self-employment was the dominant form of atypical employment. This was particularly true for men, people aged between 30 and 64, and low-skilled individuals. Among high-skilled individuals, by contrast, part-time work was very prevalent.

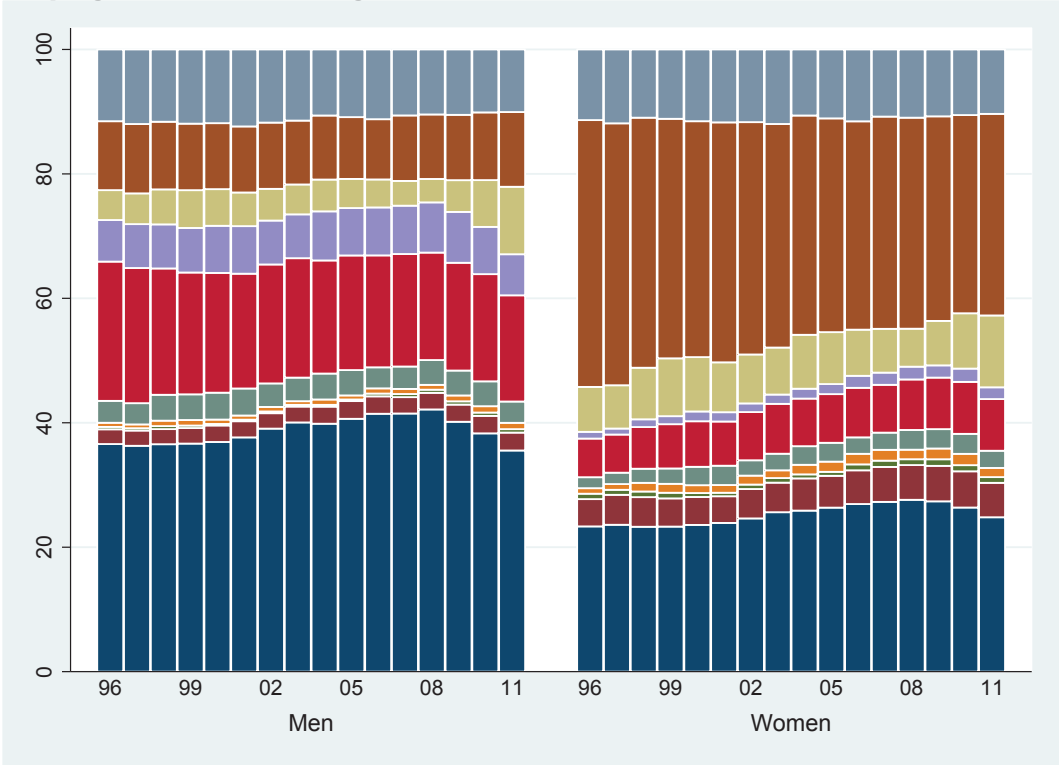
Since the beginning of the crisis, Greece has experienced a massive drop in employment. Our data go as far as 2011 and document a drop in overall employment of 2.1 percentage points from 2009 to 2010, as well as a drop of 3.7 percentage points from 2010 to 2011. Most of this drop was due to the decline of standard employment. A disproportionate number of men lost their jobs. Their employment rates dropped by 8.3 percentage points; among women it was “only” 3.3 percentage points. In Greece, it is primarily the younger population that has suffered due to the crisis. Their employment rates have fallen by 10 percentage points. This meant that only every third person between the ages of 16 and 30 had a job in the year 2011. Employment fell by 6.1 percentage points among the middle age group; for older people it fell by 2.5 percentage points. All the education groups were affected by drops in employment to a similar extent (5 to 7 percentage points). Highly qualified individuals suffered the greatest declines in employment, with a drop of 7 percentage points between 2008 and 2011.

**Employment in Greece (1996–2011).**



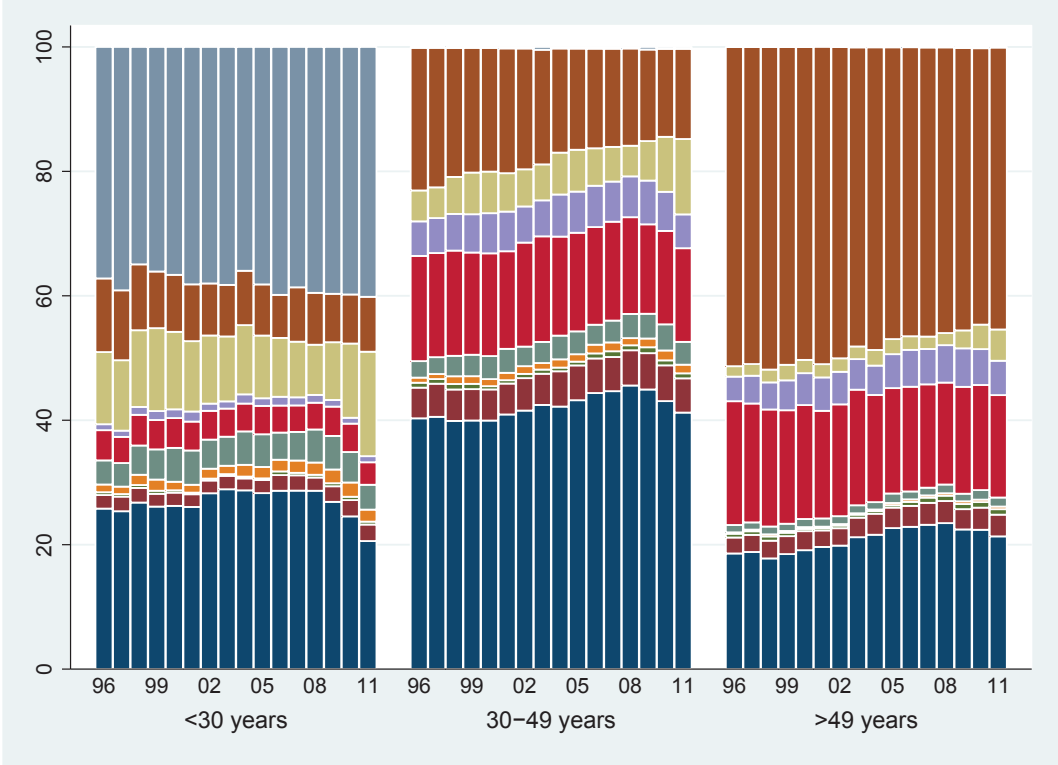
Data source: ELFS (second quarter based on yearly and quarterly surveys).

**Employment in Greece by Gender (1996–2011).**



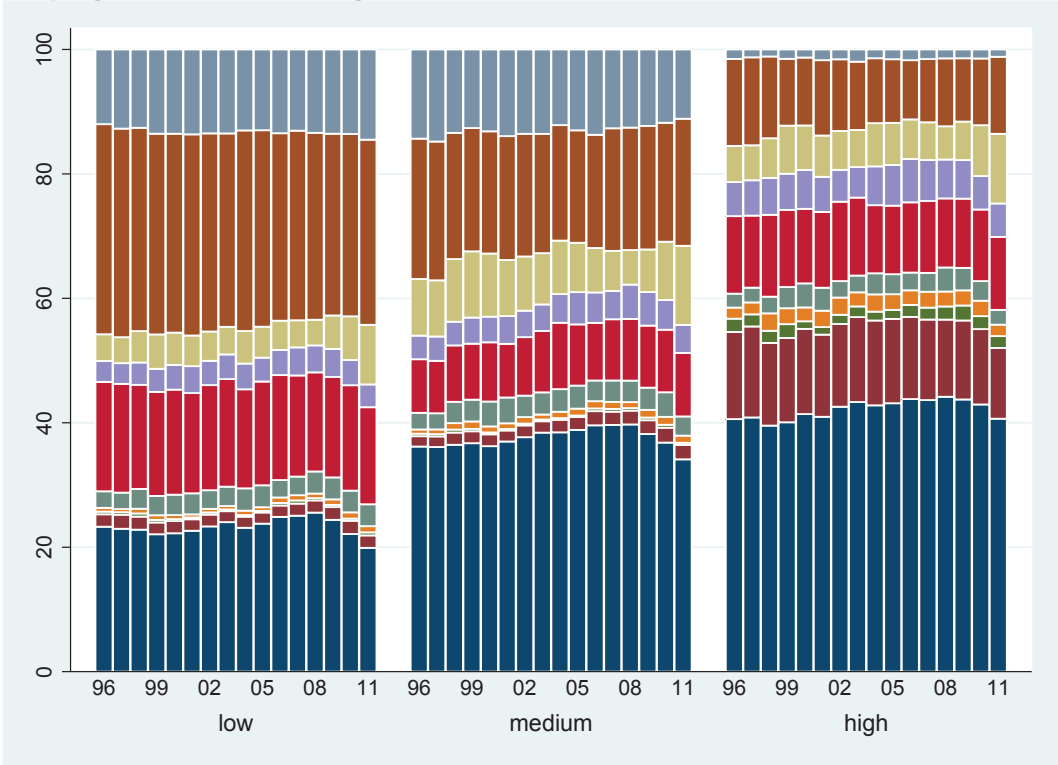
Data source: ELFS (second quarter based on yearly and quarterly surveys).

**Employment in Greece by Age (1996–2011).**



Data source: ELFS (second quarter based on yearly and quarterly surveys).

**Employment in Greece by Education (1996–2011).**



Data source: ELFS (second quarter based on yearly and quarterly surveys).

## **Important terms**

The **population studied** includes all people who were of working age (between 15 and 64 years of age) at the time of the survey but excludes those living in collective living quarters (monasteries/convents, hospitals, etc.) and those doing military service.

A person was considered **employed** if they were working in the private or public sector, either in a dependent or self-employed capacity, for at least one hour a week and received a salary, wage, or other monetary remuneration for this.

Individuals were considered **unemployed** if they were not employed but were actively seeking work and were available to the labor market or if they were entering employment within the following three months.

Those who were neither employed nor unemployed were considered economically **inactive**. Inactive individuals who were in education or training were assigned to the inactive **in education or training** category.

A **standard employment relationship** exists when an individual is in a dependent employment relationship for at least 35 hours weekly and has a permanent employment contract.

**Marginal part-time employment** is employment with fewer than 20 hours a week.

**Substantial part-time employment** is employment with 20 hours and more a week but less than 35 hours a week.

**Fixed-term employment** exists when the period during which a contract is valid is limited. We differentiate between fixed-term employment (35 hours and more a week) and fixed-term part-time employment (less than 35 hours a week).

**Self-employment** exists when an individual's main economic activity is not dependent employment.

**Solo self-employment** refers to self-employment without employees.

The **educational/skill levels** "low," "medium," and "high" are based on the ISCED classification of qualifications developed by UNESCO.

The aggregated data used in our country profiles can be downloaded from the project's website ([www.wzb.eu/atypical](http://www.wzb.eu/atypical)). Interested users can also find explanations regarding some of the methodological problems that exist for certain years or variables.