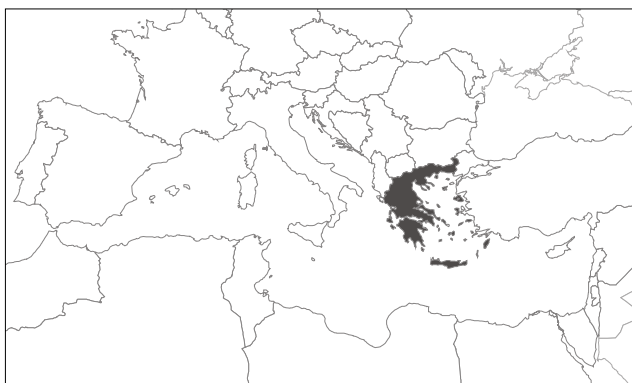


## GREECE

### Whole country

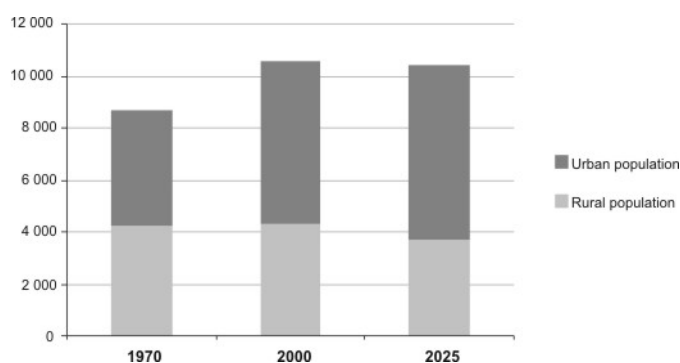
Demographically-speaking, Greece is now a model European Mediterranean country. Life expectancy is high, while fertility has been below replacement since the early 1980s and is projected to recover very little during the first quarter of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, rising from 1.59 children per woman in 2000 to



just 1.70 in 2025. Because of this, population growth will be very low until 2010, rising from 10.56 million in 2000 to 10.65 million in 2010, when net annual immigration (approximately 5 to 6 000) will no longer offset the sharp downturn in natural increase. The Greek population will then start to decline, falling to 10.39 million in 2025, having lost 165 000 people over the period (2000-2025).

Greece is comparatively less urbanized than other countries in the region: in 2000, 59.6% of its population live in urban areas of over 10 000 people. This proportion will rise very slowly to reach 64.6% by 2025.

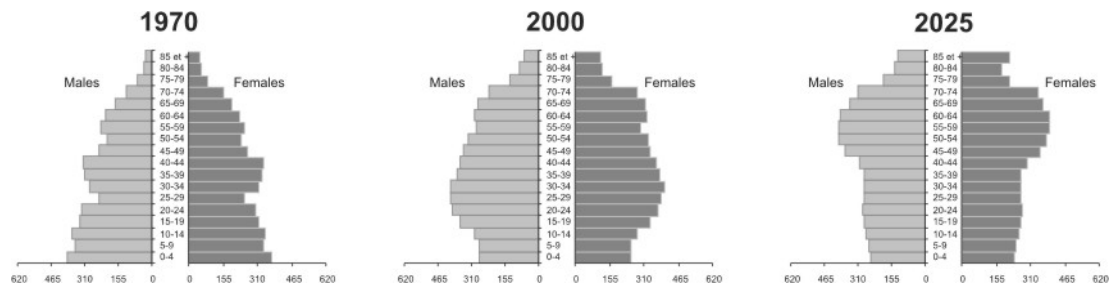
**Figure 55. Rural population and urban population 1970-2000-2025 (in thousands)**



Greek population growth has been very low for the past decade: 3.6 per thousand a year in the 1990s, less than half that of the record emigration years of the 1960s. The downtrend will deepen over the coming decades, as the growth rate falls to 1.3 per thousand between 2000 and 2005, becoming negative from 2010. The population of urban areas of over 10 000 people will decline more slowly than the rest of the population, however, slipping into negative growth only from 2020.

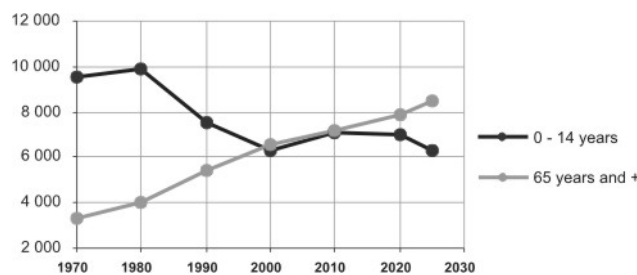
Like other European countries, Greece is ageing more quickly. The share of over-65s will rise from 17.2% in 2000 to 23.5% in 2025, nearly a quarter of the total population, while the older population will grow in size by 34% from 1.8 to 2.4 million between 2000 and 2025.

**Figure 56. Population age structure (by 5-year age groups) 1970-2000-2025 (in thousands)**



While the under-15s' share of the total population will remain relatively stable at around 15%, that of 15-64 year olds - the working age population - will drop sharply from 67.4% in 2000 to 61.9% by 2025. In absolute numbers, it will lose nearly 700 000 people - 10% of the current population size.

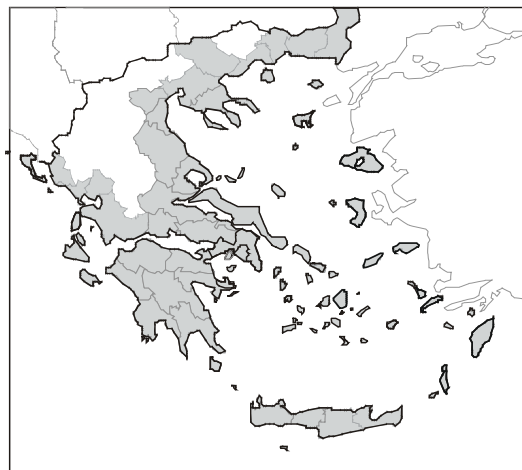
**Figure 57. Populations aged 15-and-under and 65-and-over, 1970-2025 (in thousands)**



Declining fertility will cause the number of labour market entries to contract each year between 2000 and 2025, while total exits rise steadily. By 2010, the labour supply will be in deficit from a strictly demographic perspective.

### Mediterranean coastal regions

Nine out of ten Greeks live in one of the 42 Mediterranean *nomói* (NUTS3), one of the highest proportions in the region. In 2000, their aggregated population was 9.482 million, having increased at a fairly low 0.85% mean annual rate of growth between 1970 and 1990. This rate stands in marked contrast to the near-zero (0.19% a year) growth achieved by the much less populated inland region over the same period.



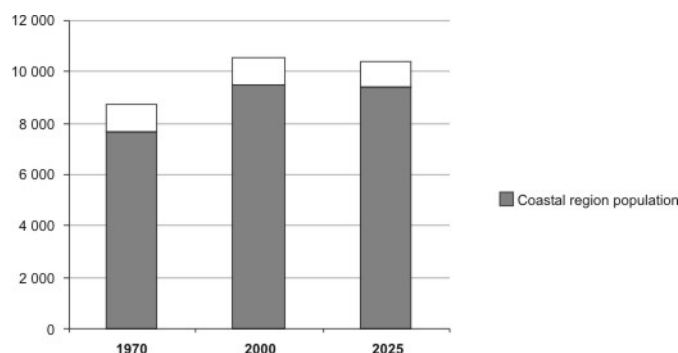
These differentials, then, reflect inland-to-coastal internal migration more

than fertility and natural increase differentials. Greater Athens alone has over 3 million people (3.090 million in 1990), a full third of the coastal population. High levels of in-migration (and immigration) to the capital are behind its relatively strong growth of 1.1%, well above its natural rate of increase.

The picture for other *nomói* of over 200 000 people is mixed. Thessaloniki's growth has outpaced Greater Athens (1.7%), but for a total population one third the size (966 000 people in 1990). The *nomós* of Attica (417 000), picking up on Athens' dynamic, has grown more quickly still at an average annual rate of 2.5%. The populations of Achaëa (295 000 people in 1990 and a

mean annual rate of growth of 1.0%), Iràklion (262 000, 1.1%) and Euboea (207 000, 0.9%) have grown at modest rates, while Aetolia (230 000) has had zero growth. The aggregate population of *nomói* of under 200 000 people (including many islands) achieved a very low mean annual rate of growth of 0.3% between 1970 (population 3.210 million people) and 1990 (3.393 million).

**Figure 58. Mediterranean coastal regions population as a share of total population 1970-2000-2025 (in thousands)**



While the Mediterranean coastal regions will experience a minute population loss (from 9.482 million in 2000 to 9.412 million in 2025), most of the population decline will occur inland, which will lose 9% of its population at the rate of -0.37% a year.

In 1995, Greece had approximately sixty Mediterranean coastal urban areas of over 10 000 people. Their aggregate population of 4.266 million in 1970 gained nearly a million and a half people in 25 years, reaching 5.780 million in 1995. This is a mean annual rate of growth of 1.2%, substantially above the 0.7% of the Mediterranean regions which include these conurbations, but about level-pegging (1.29%) with inland urban areas of over 10 000 people. This has raised the Mediterranean coastal urbanization rate from 55.4% in 1970 to 63.5% in 2000.

There are very few conurbations of over 100 000 people. Athens alone has 50% of the urban population, notwithstanding a relatively modest 0.89% growth rate between 1970 and 1995, due to a sharp drop in in-migration after 1980 following mass rural-urban migration to the capital. Thessaloniki (750 000 people in 1995), Patras (171 000), Iràklion (133 000), Volos (116 000) and Larissa (113 000) have grown more rapidly, especially the latter and Iràklion, with a mean annual rate of growth of 1.9%.

The population of other smaller urban areas - 1.423 million people in 1995 - has increased at the mean annual rate of 1.5%, demonstrating a clear in-migration pull factor. The coastal urban population will increase - unlike total population growth, which will stagnate - from 6.022 to 6.434 million between 2000 and 2025. Its mean annual rate of growth will plummet to 0.27% from the previous period's 1.2%, as a result of which the coastal urbanization rate will increase from 63.5% to 68.4%. The hinterland will also experience increasing urbanization (at a mean annual rate of growth of 0.23% between 2000 and 2025).

**Figure 59. Rural and urban population of the Mediterranean coastal regions 1970-2000-2025 (in thousands)**

