

Short introduction of the Region of Crete

“Demographic Elements”

The population of Region Crete is in 601.131 residents (2001), that is around 5,5% of total population of country. The urban population amounts in the 41% of total population. The rural population amounts in the 42%, while the semi-urban population remains constant and amounts in the 17% of total.

“Regional GNP (Gross national product)”

The regional GNP contributes to the 10,8% of the national GNP (2005). The contribution of the primary sector is 8,52%, the contribution of the secondary sector is 13,35% and the contribution of the tertiary sector is 78,13%. The corresponding percentages for the country are 4% for the primary sector, 19,4% for the secondary sector and 76,6% for the tertiary sector.

“Employment”

The 22,67% occupied workers are in the primary sector, the 9,14% in the secondary sector and the 68,19% in the tertiary sector, while the equivalents national percentages are 13,04% in the primary sector, 15,18% in the secondary sector and 71,78% in the tertiary sector (2006). The rate of unemployment in the Region in 2006 reaches the 7% and it is found in lower level than the corresponding national which is amounted in 8,9%.

“Primary sector”

Despite his important attendance in macroeconomic sizes, the primary sector is characterized by long-lasting structural weakness because the small and divided up agricultural lot. The structure of cultures in the Region elects the specialization in traditional cultures as the cultivation of olive trees and the viticulture. Roughly the 50% of the country's greenhouses are assembled in Crete. The Region allocates comparative advantages in the production of fresh vegetables and blooms. The livestock-farming in Crete has mainly extensional character. The bigger department of animal capital is constituted by ovine of free pasturage. Important are the conditions of growth in the production of hard cheeses, where it participates at 25% in the domestic production.

“Secondary sector”

The enterprises of transformation are relatively small size with the exception of co-operatives. The connection of transformation and services, the networking as well as the interconnection are found relatively in low levels. The land-planning/urban organization of transformation is insufficient, so that it causes environmental dues and it accepts pressures from the built-up extension and the growth of other sectors of local economy.

“Tertiary sector”

The administrative, educational and financing services, as well as the services of transports are assembled mainly in the big urban centers. Because the islander character of local economy and export orientation have been developed most powerful companies of transports and shipping companies. Academic, polytechnic and technological educational institutions, as well as research centres (Foundation for Research and Technology - FORTH, Institute of Marine Biology of Crete etc) have been established in Crete. The research institutions have

developed collaborations with industries outside of Crete. Satisfied level of synergy has been achieved between the research and academic institutions of the Region.

“Tourism”

Crete receives every year 3 million tourists. The tourist season lasts from March to November with July and August being the peak months. It is also important to notice that some big hotels in Crete are already certified with ISO 14001, for their environmental friendly operation.