

# Economic crisis and child health in Greece

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Socioeconomic crisis and policies to protect children  
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# Outline

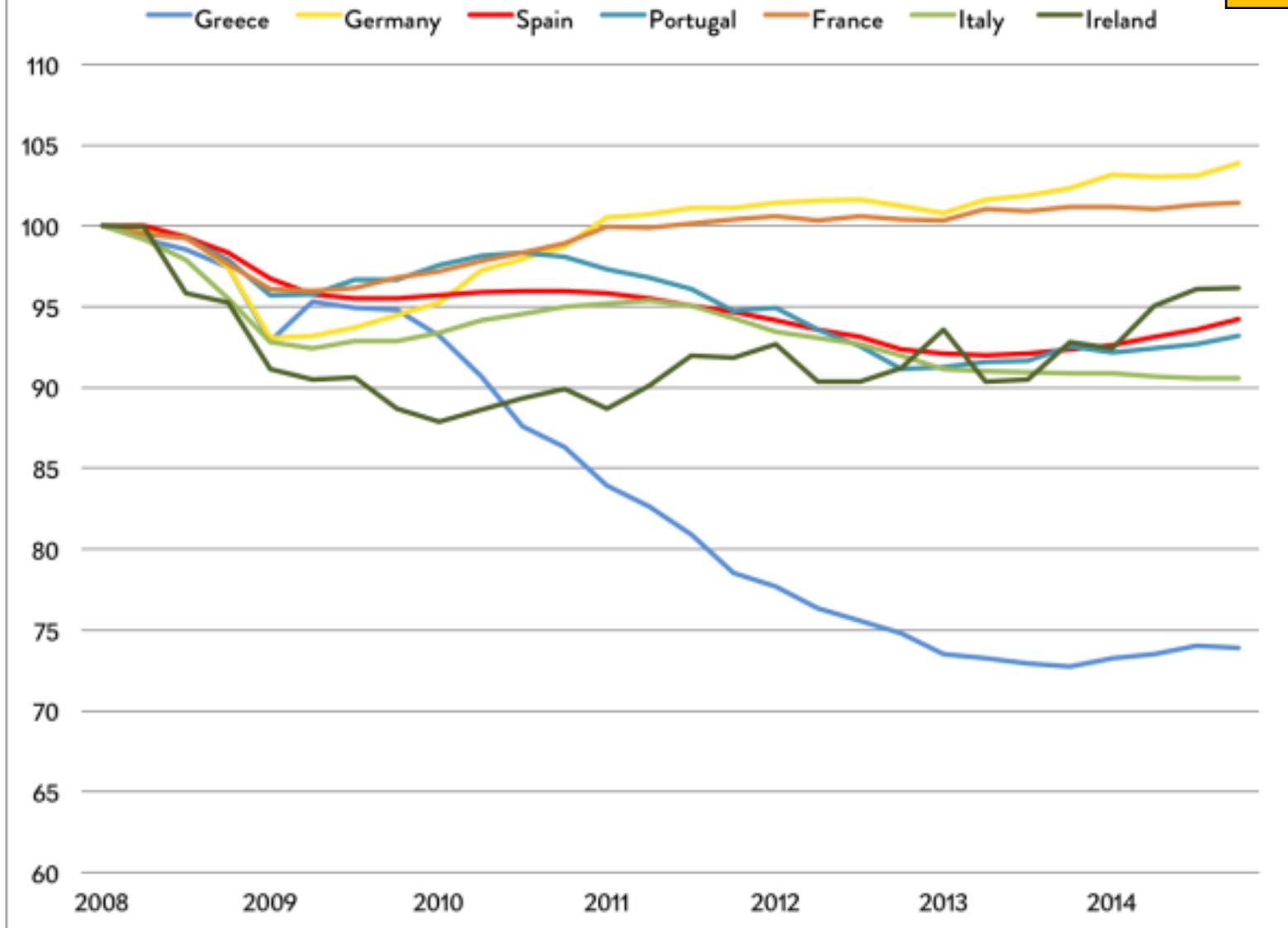
- The economic crisis in Greece: deep and prolonged
- The refugee crisis: disproportionate burden on Greece, a mother and child issue
- Impact on health: not a single pattern, areas of uncertainty
- Response to the crisis: austerity and horizontal cuts
- Conclusions

# **The economic crisis**

# Greece vs. Europe

GDP since the crisis, indexed to 2008. Source: OECD

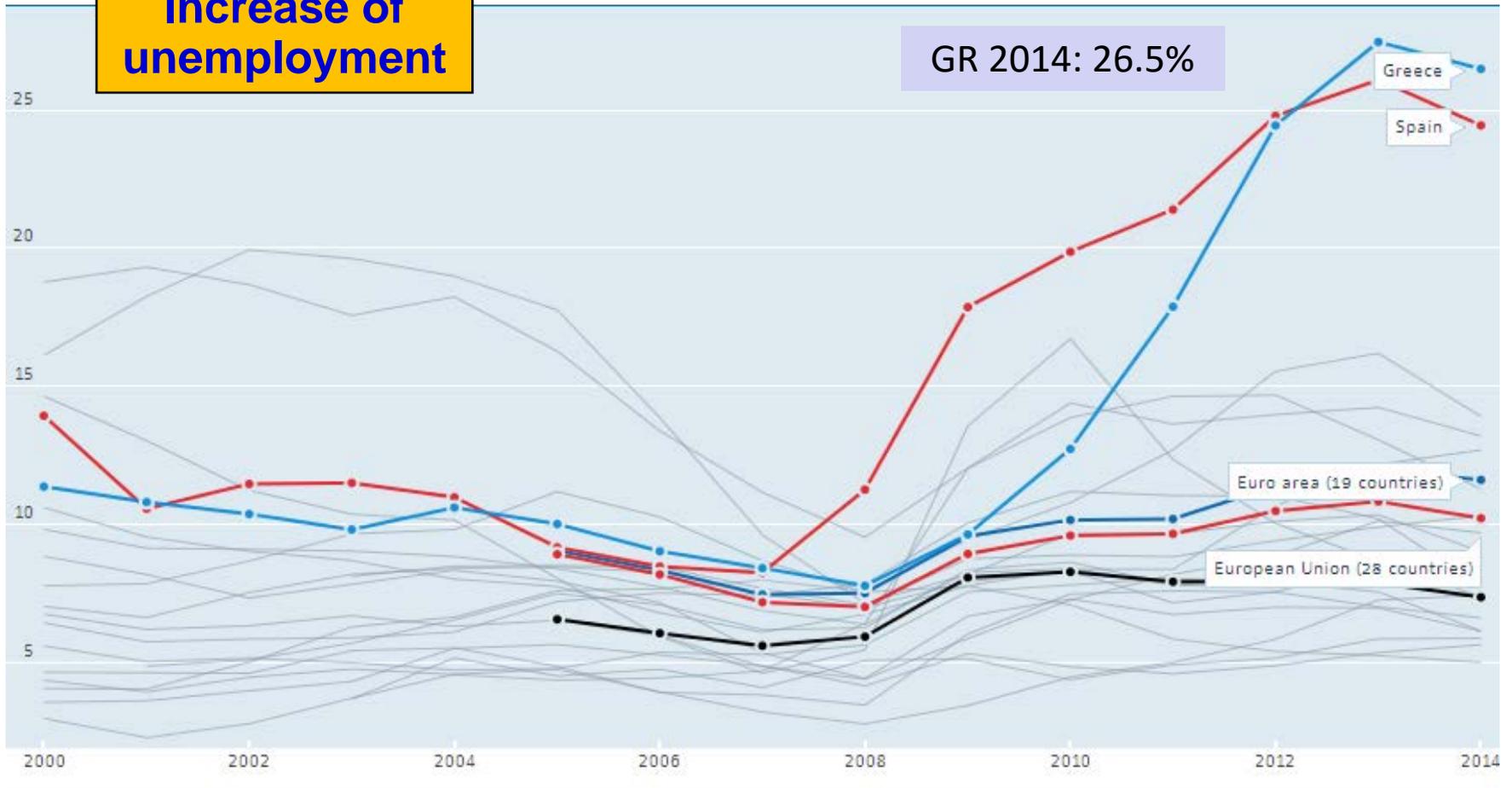
**Reduction  
of GDP**



Source:  
Bloomberg

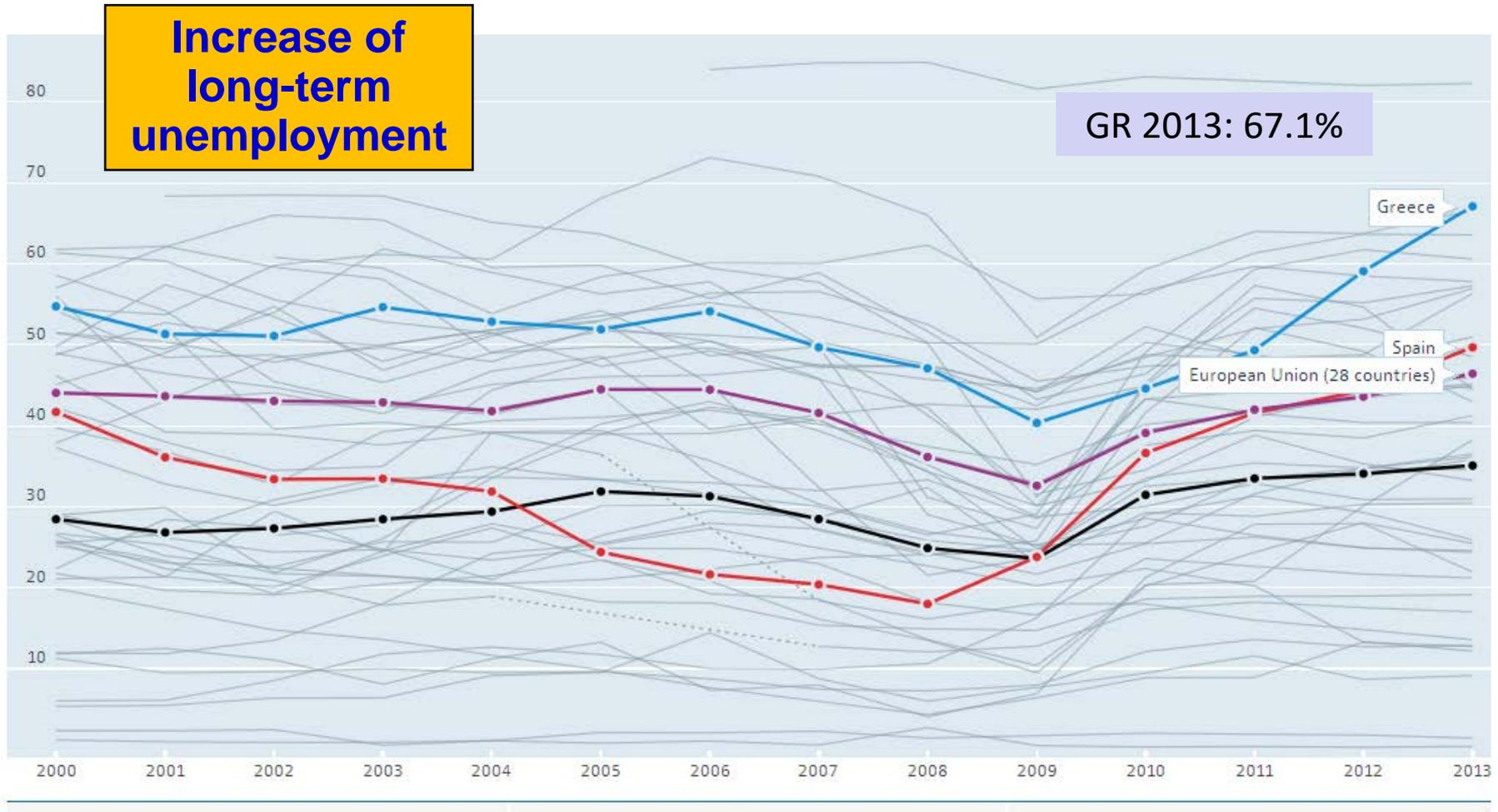
# Total unemployment rate, % of labour force, selected European countries, 2000–2014

Increase of unemployment



Source: <https://data.oecd.org/unemp/unemployment-rate.htm>. Accessed: October 2015

# Total long-term unemployment rate, % of unemployed, selected European countries, 2000–2013

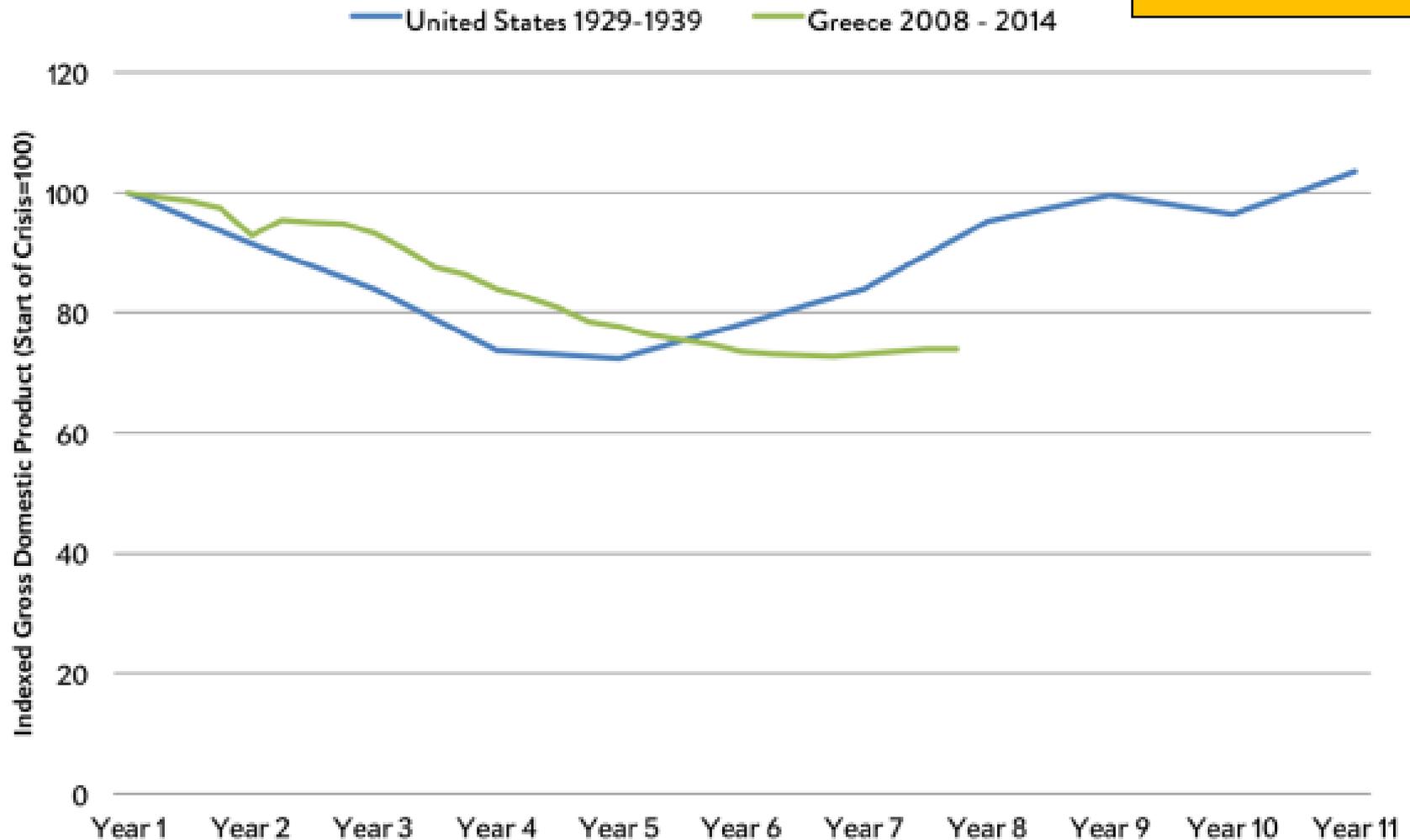


Source: <https://data.oecd.org/unemp/unemployment-rate.htm>. Accessed: October 2015

# The Greek Depression vs. The Great Depression

GDP over time, indexed to the first year of the crisis. Source: OECD, Angus Maddison Project, University of Groningen

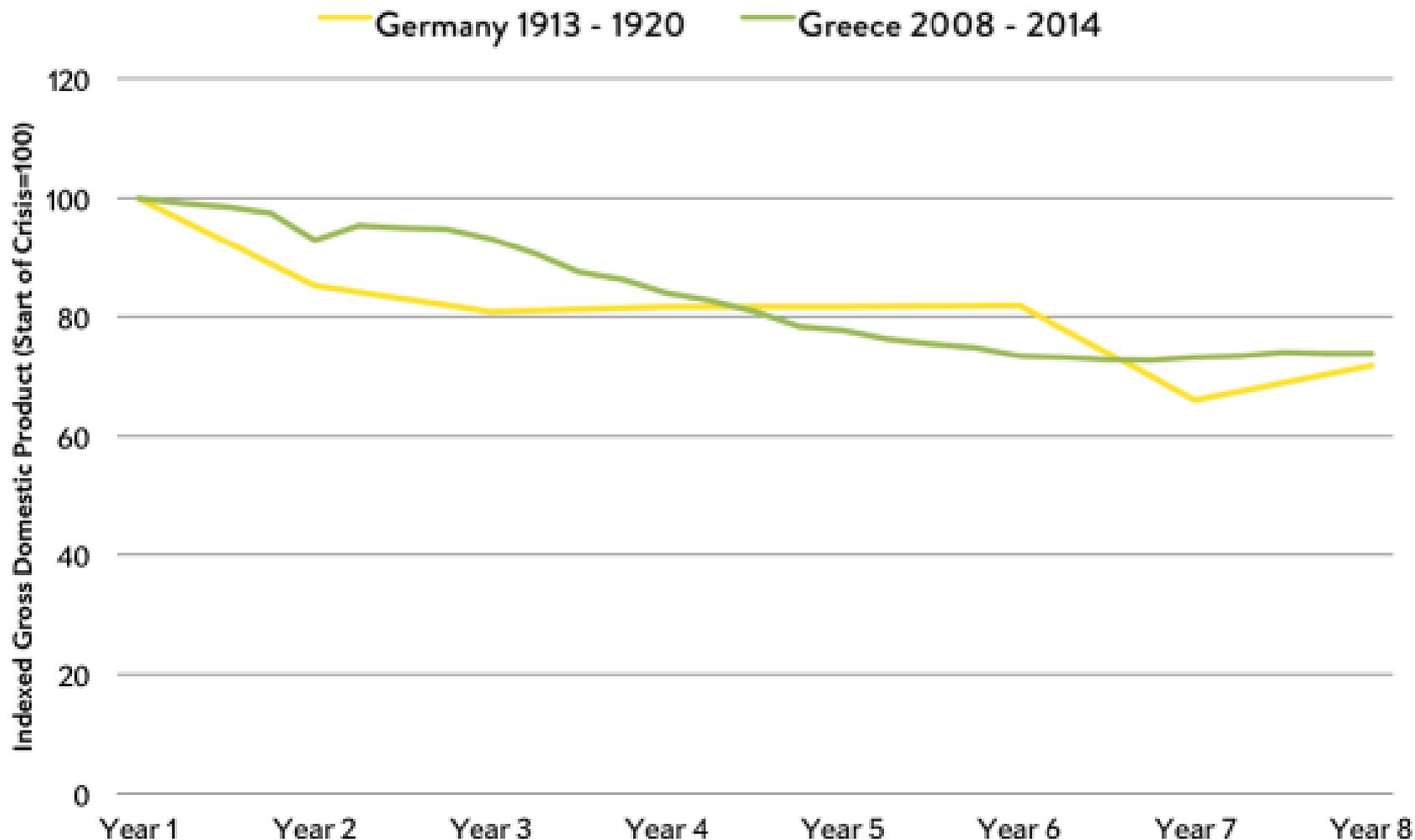
Long-lasting economic recession



# Modern Greece vs. Post-War Germany

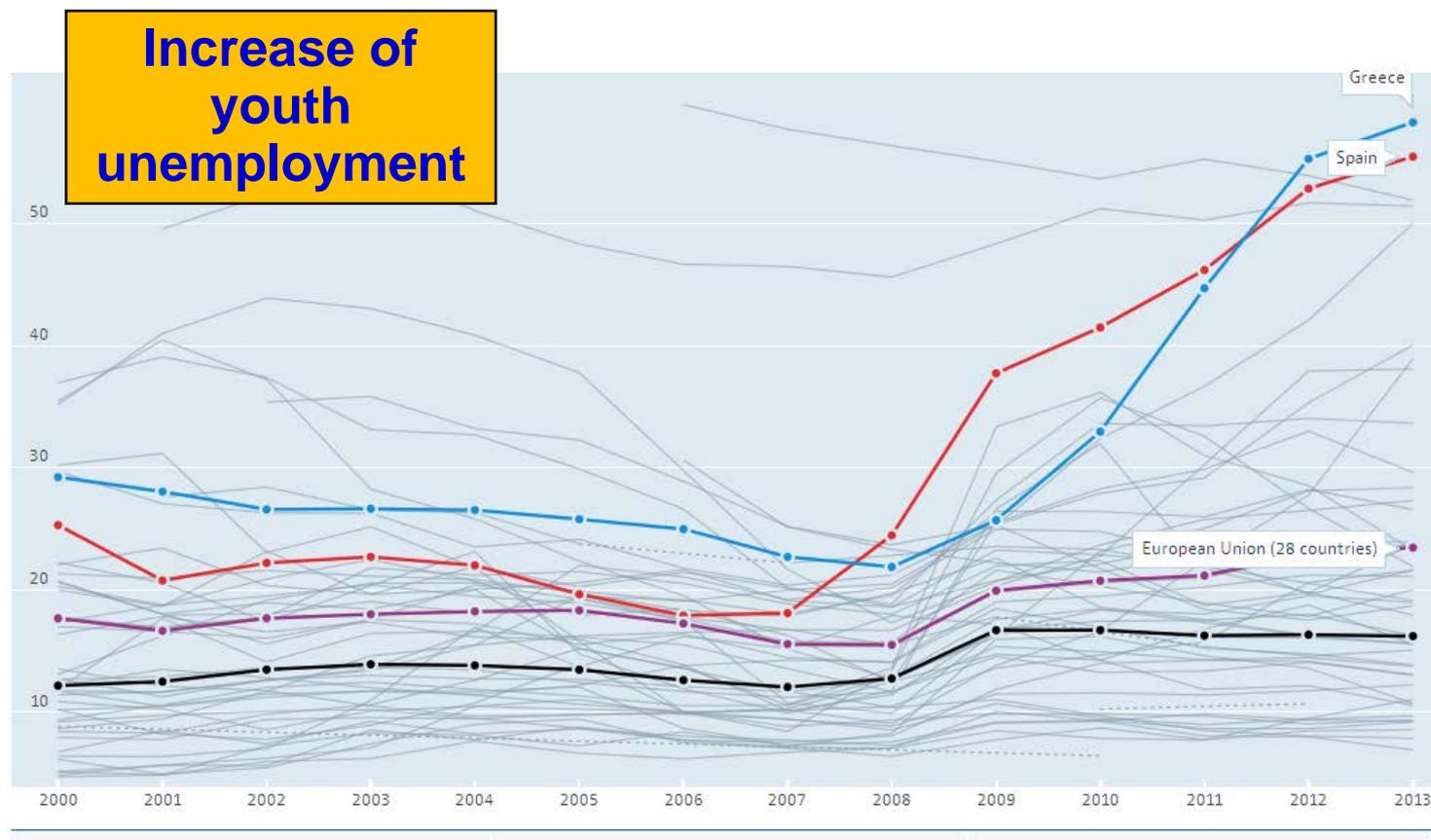
GDP over time, indexed to the start of the crisis. Sources: OECD, Angus Maddison Project at the University of Groningen

Long-lasting economic recession



## Youth unemployment rate Total, % of youth labour force, 2000 – 2013

Source: Labour Market Statistics: Labour force statistics by sex and age: indicators



### Definition of Youth unemployment rate

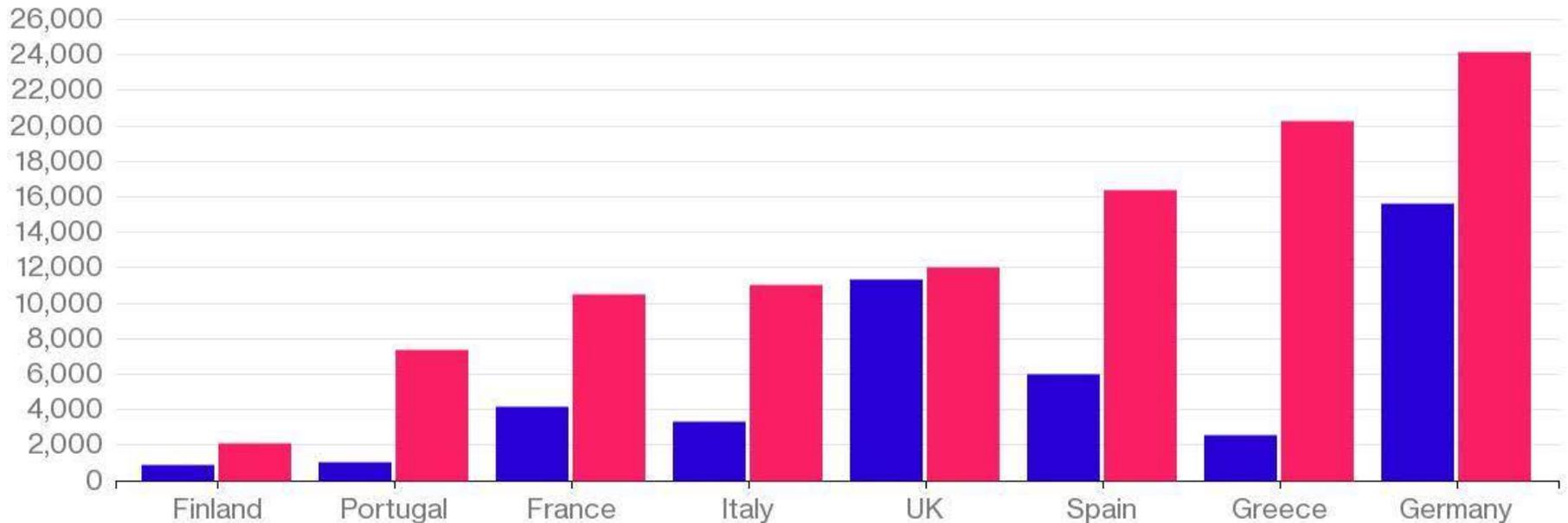
The youth unemployment rate is the number of unemployed 15-24 year-olds expressed as a percentage of the youth labour force. Unemployed people are those who report that they are without work, that they are available for work and that they have taken active steps to find work in the last four weeks

## Increase in emigration

### Crisis Drives Europeans to Leave Their Homes

Nowhere more than in Greece, which experienced a sevenfold increase in the rate of exodus

■ 1999/2000-2005/2006 ■ 2009-2014



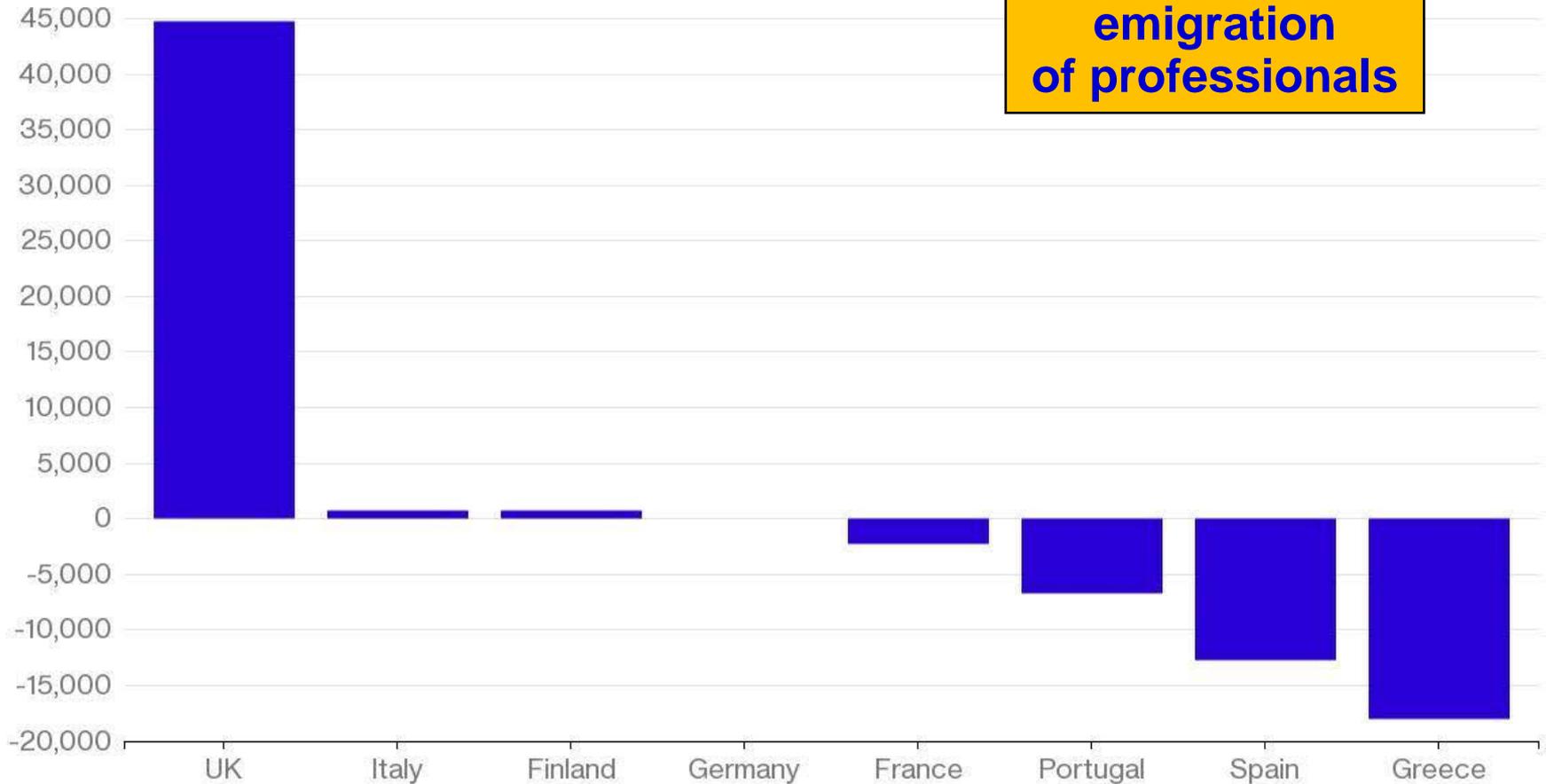
Source: Eurostat

\* The chart shows the number of professionals seeking to leave the country in two different time periods, before and after the crisis.

# Brain Drain in the Crisis Years

Greeks depart on Odyssey for jobs

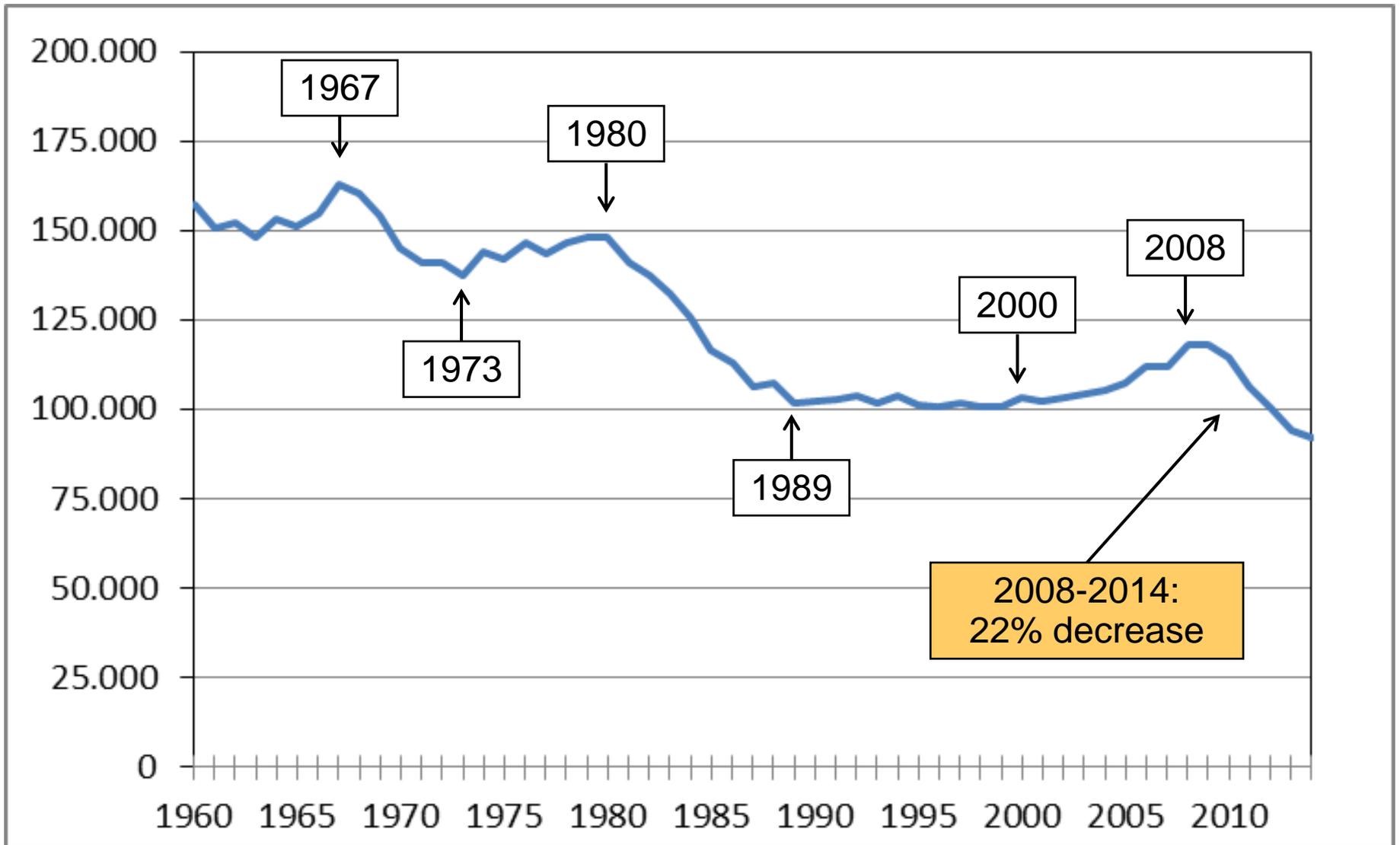
■ Net gain or loss of talent between 2009 and 2014



Source: Eurostat.

\* The chart calculates the difference between professionals seeking to leave the country and professionals seeking to come into the country. A negative number indicates more people seeking to leave than those seeking entrance.

# Live births, Greece, 1960-2014



Source of data: ELSTAT

# The refugee crisis

## Response - Mediterranean

Italy

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**Total arrivals in Greece (Jan - 31 Dec 2015):**

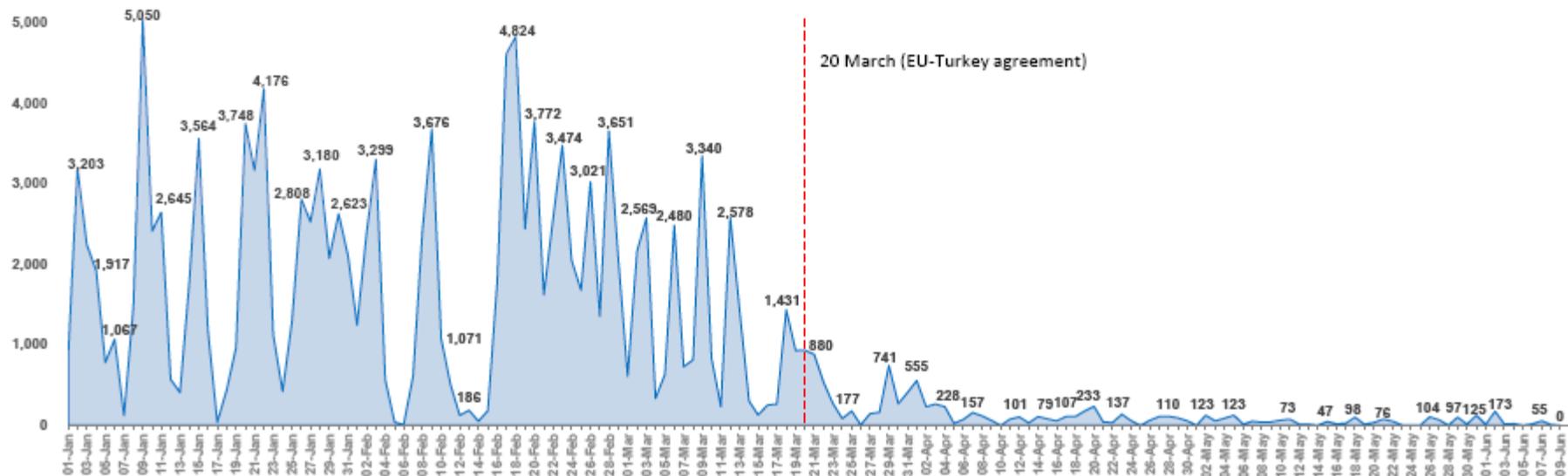
**851,319**

**Total arrivals in Greece (Jan - 08 Jun 2016):**

**157,119**

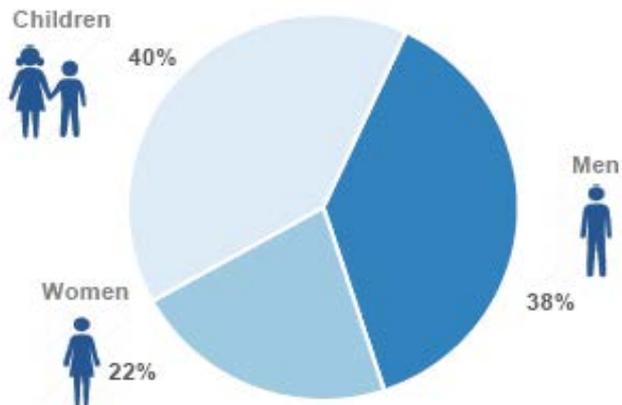
**Estimated daily arrivals and weekly average**

Daily arrivals are estimates based on the most reliable information available provided by the authorities. Daily estimates cannot be considered final and might change based on consolidated figures provided by authorities on a regular basis.

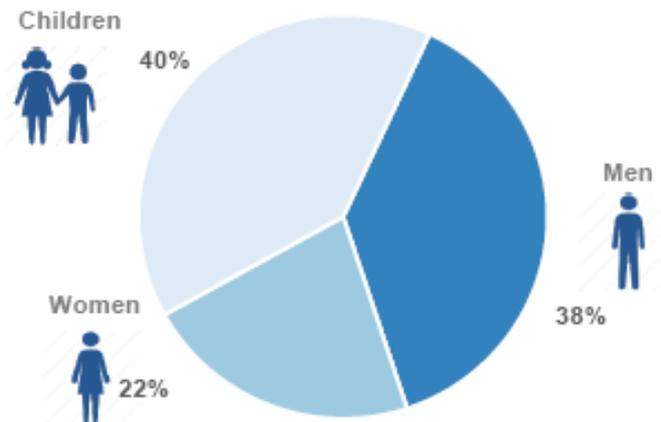




**Age and Gender (1-29 Feb.)**

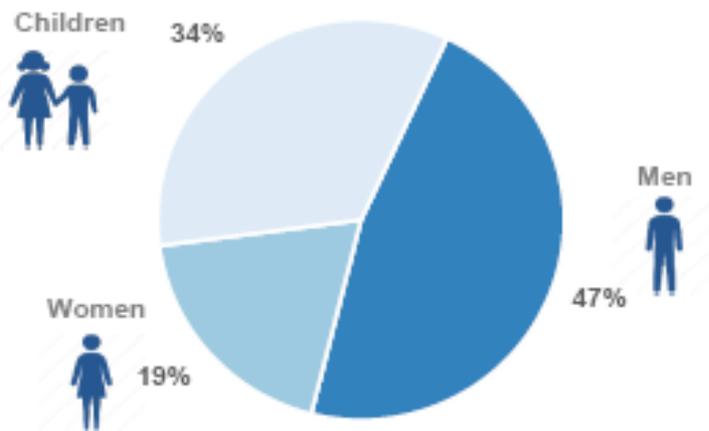


**Age and Gender (1-29 Feb.)**

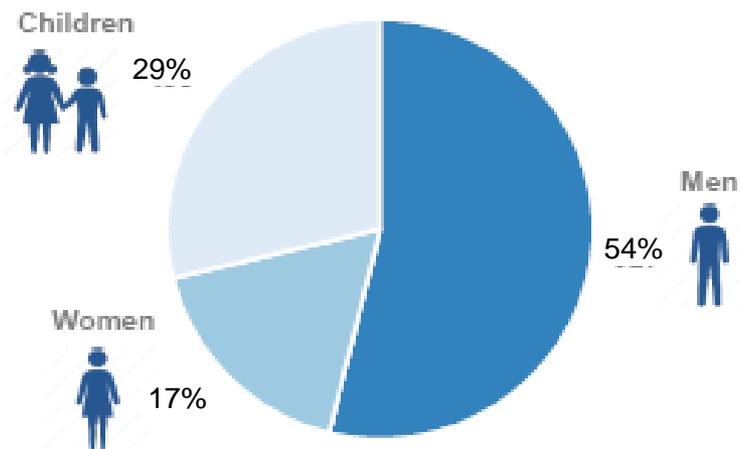


Source: Hellenic Police 1-29 February

**Age and Gender (1-30 April)**



**Age and Gender (1-31 May)**



Source: Hellenic Police (partial data)

## Mediterranean death toll soars in first 5 months of 2016

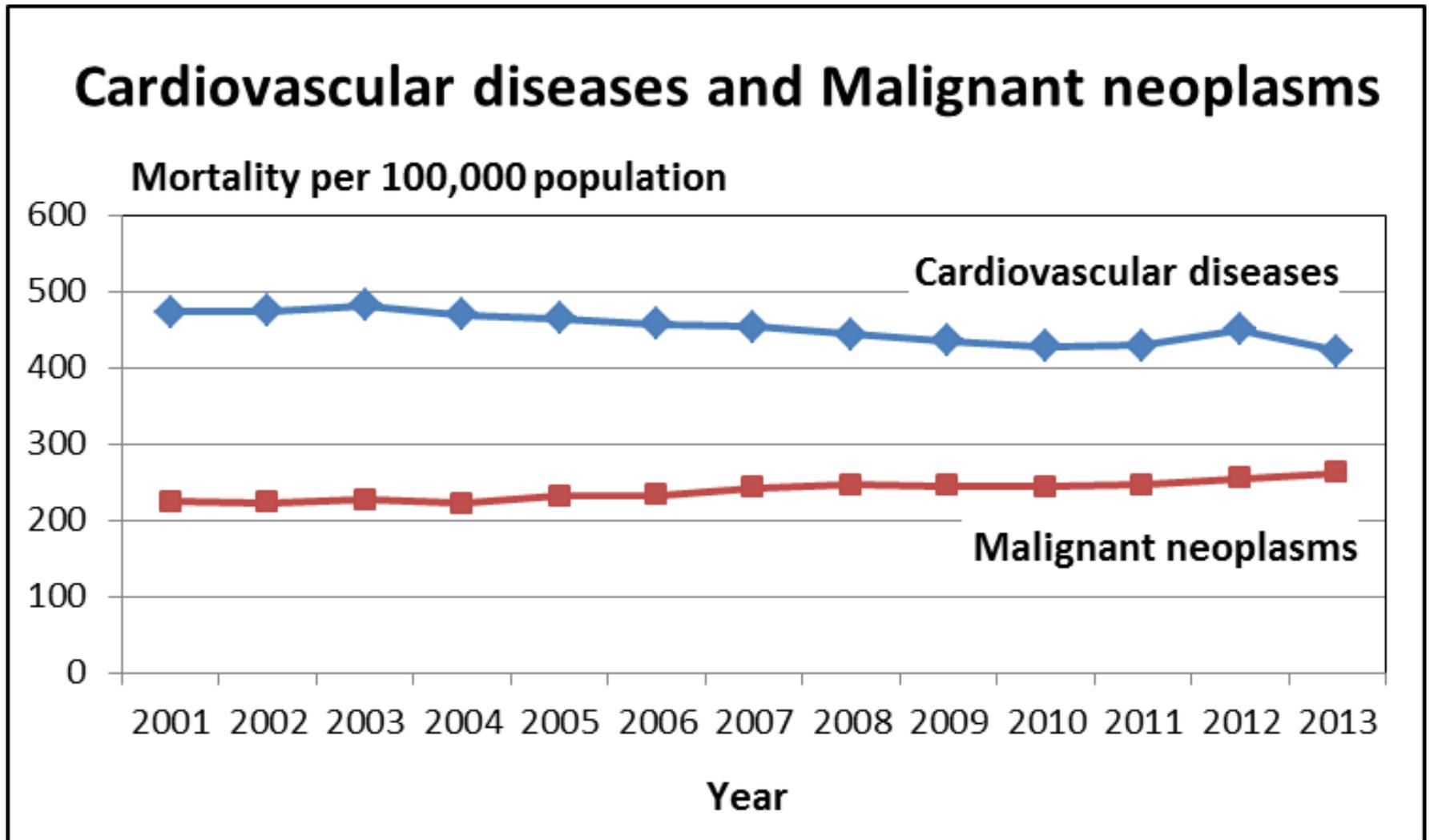
UNHCR says series of shipwrecks and capsizings last week now appears to have claimed at least 880 lives.

**By:** Adrian Edwards in Geneva and Medea Savary in Italy | 31 May 2016 | [Français](#) | [عربي](#)

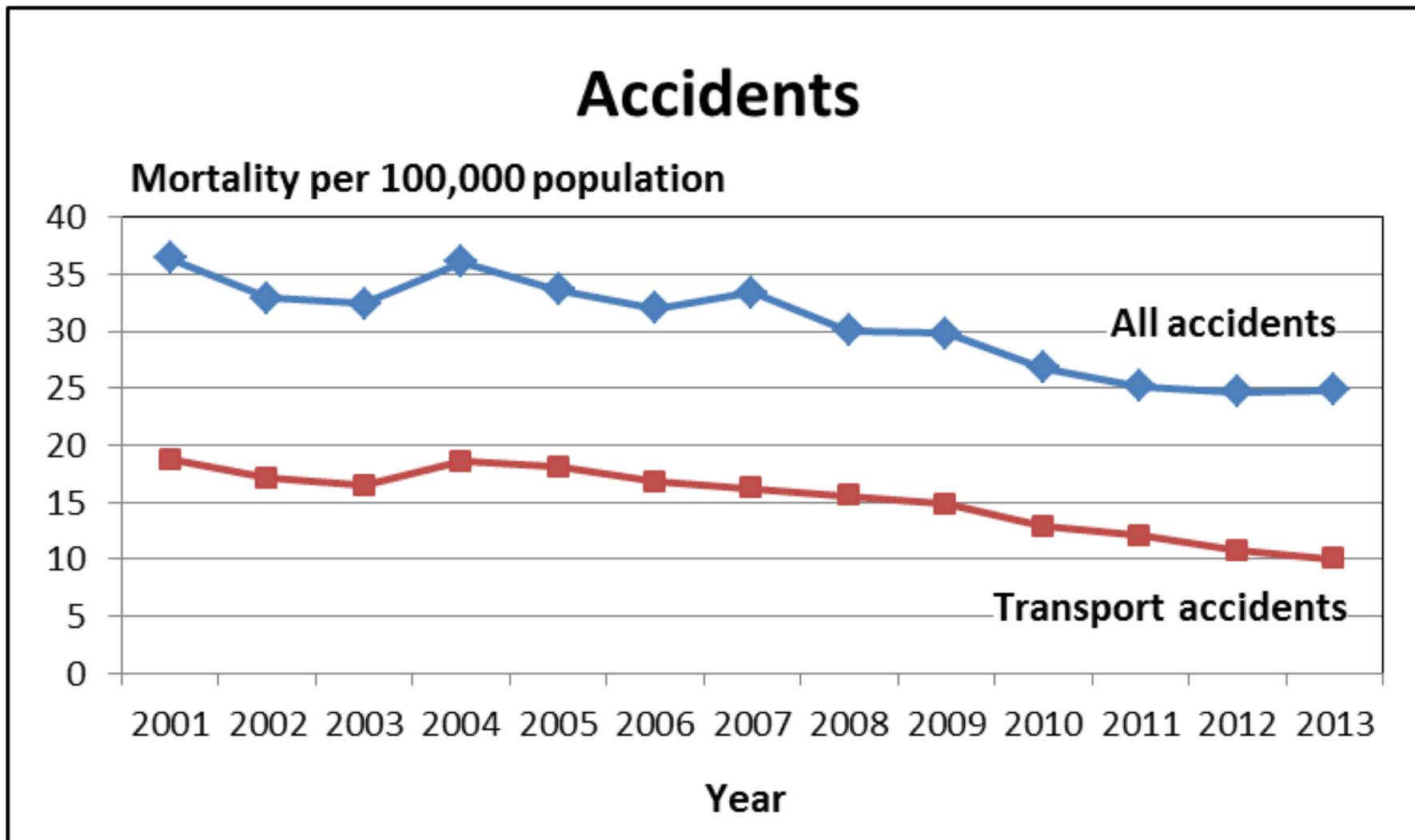


# **Impact of economic crisis on health**

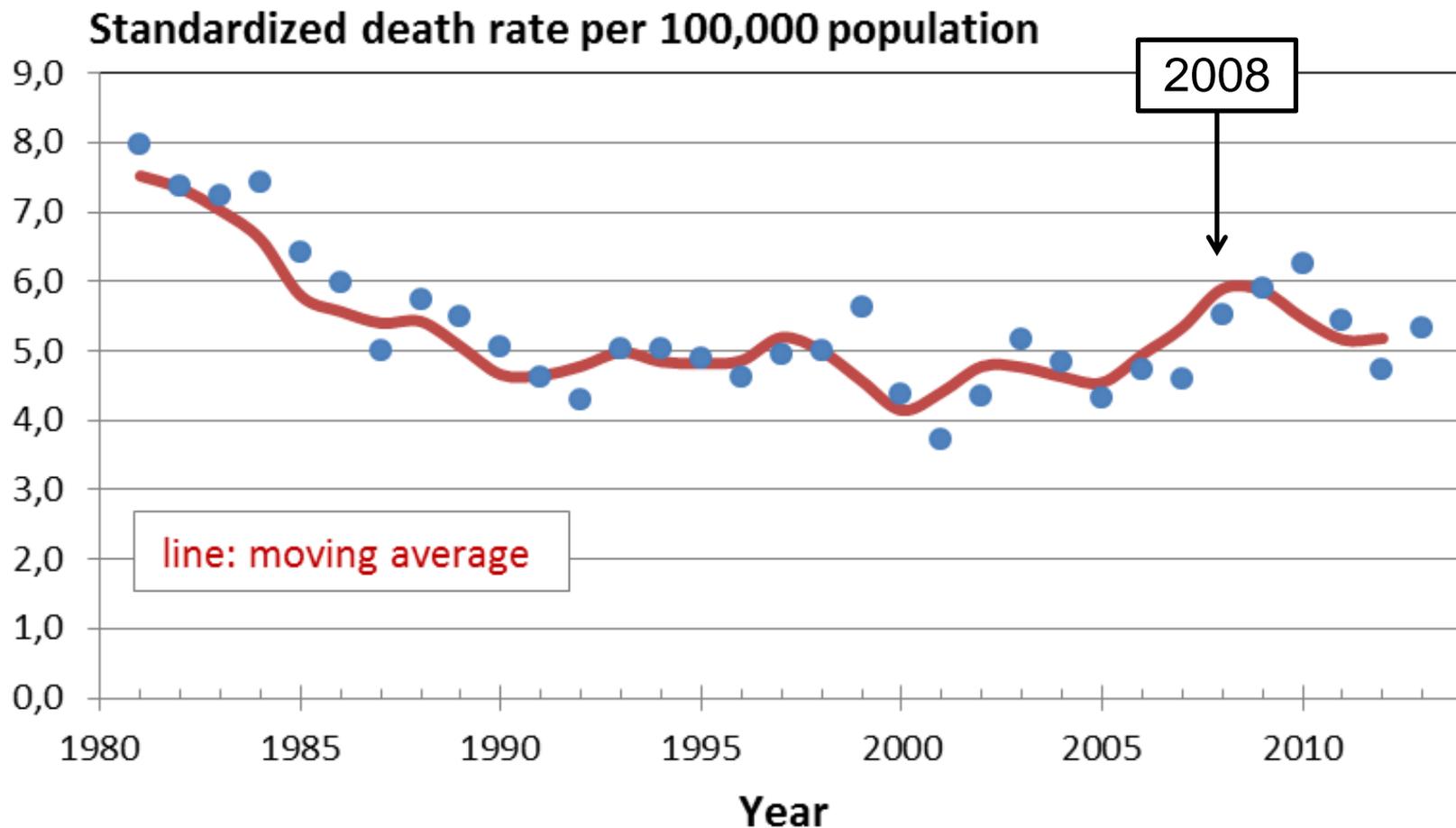
# Disease-specific mortality, both genders, Greece, 2001–2013



# Disease-specific mortality, both genders, Greece, 2001–2013

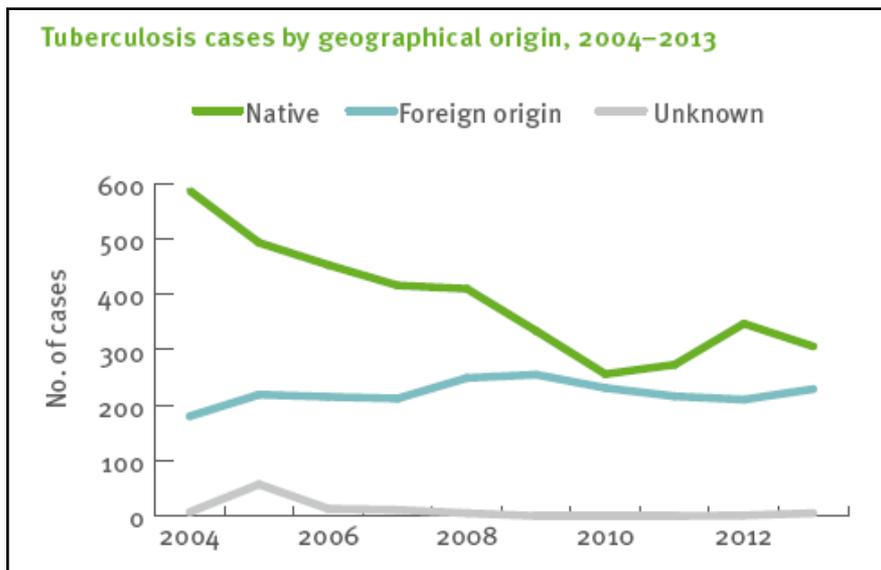


# Standardized death rate, infectious and parasitic diseases, Greece, 1980–2013

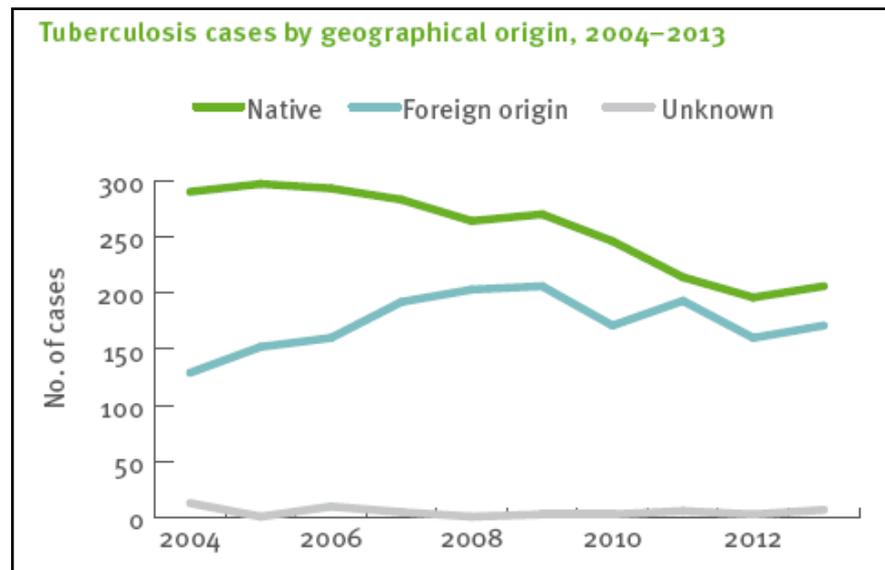


Source of data: WHO/Euro, Health for all mortality database (MDB), Nov 2015

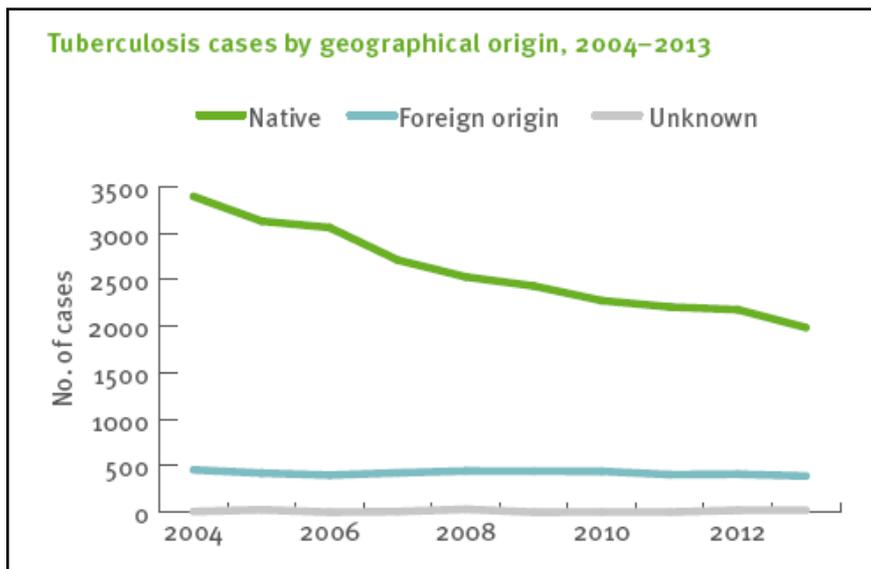
## Greece



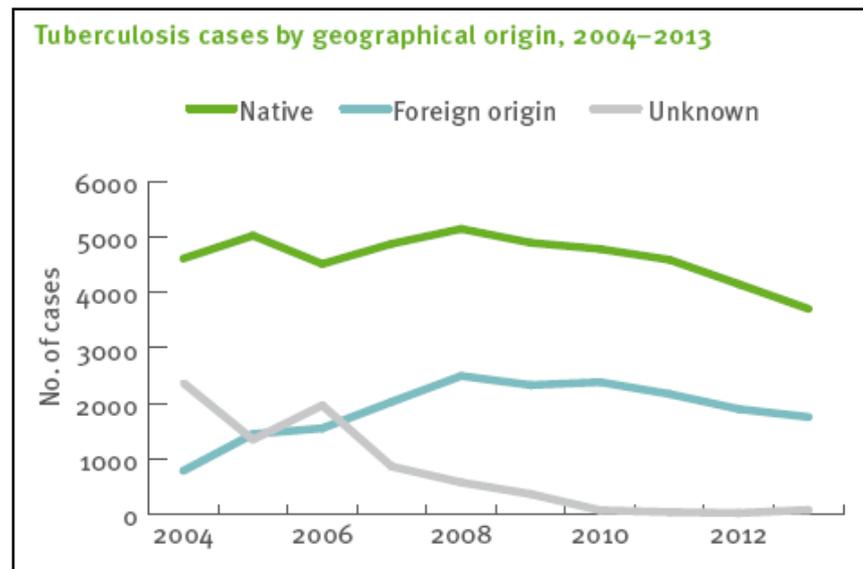
## Ireland



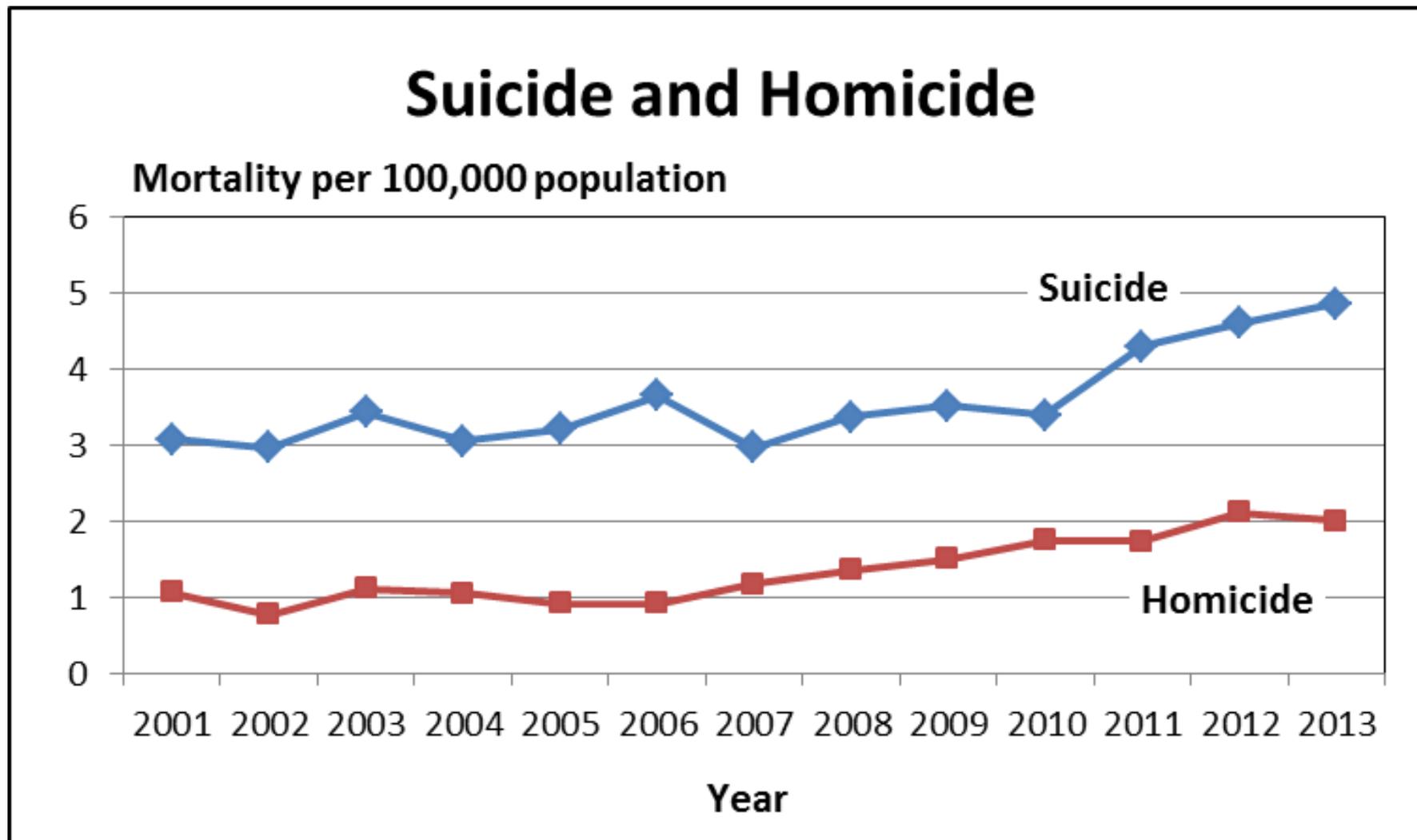
## Portugal



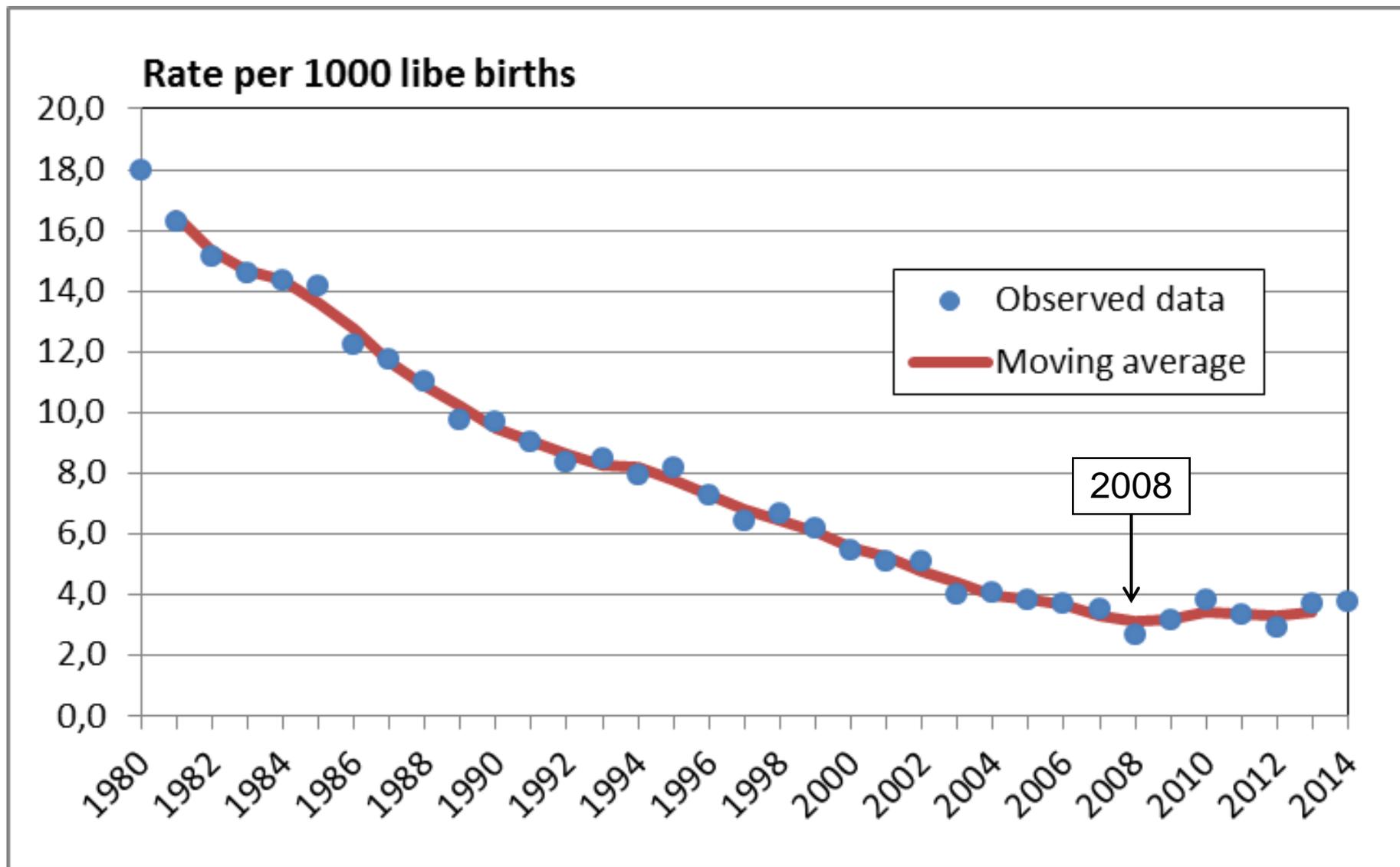
## Spain



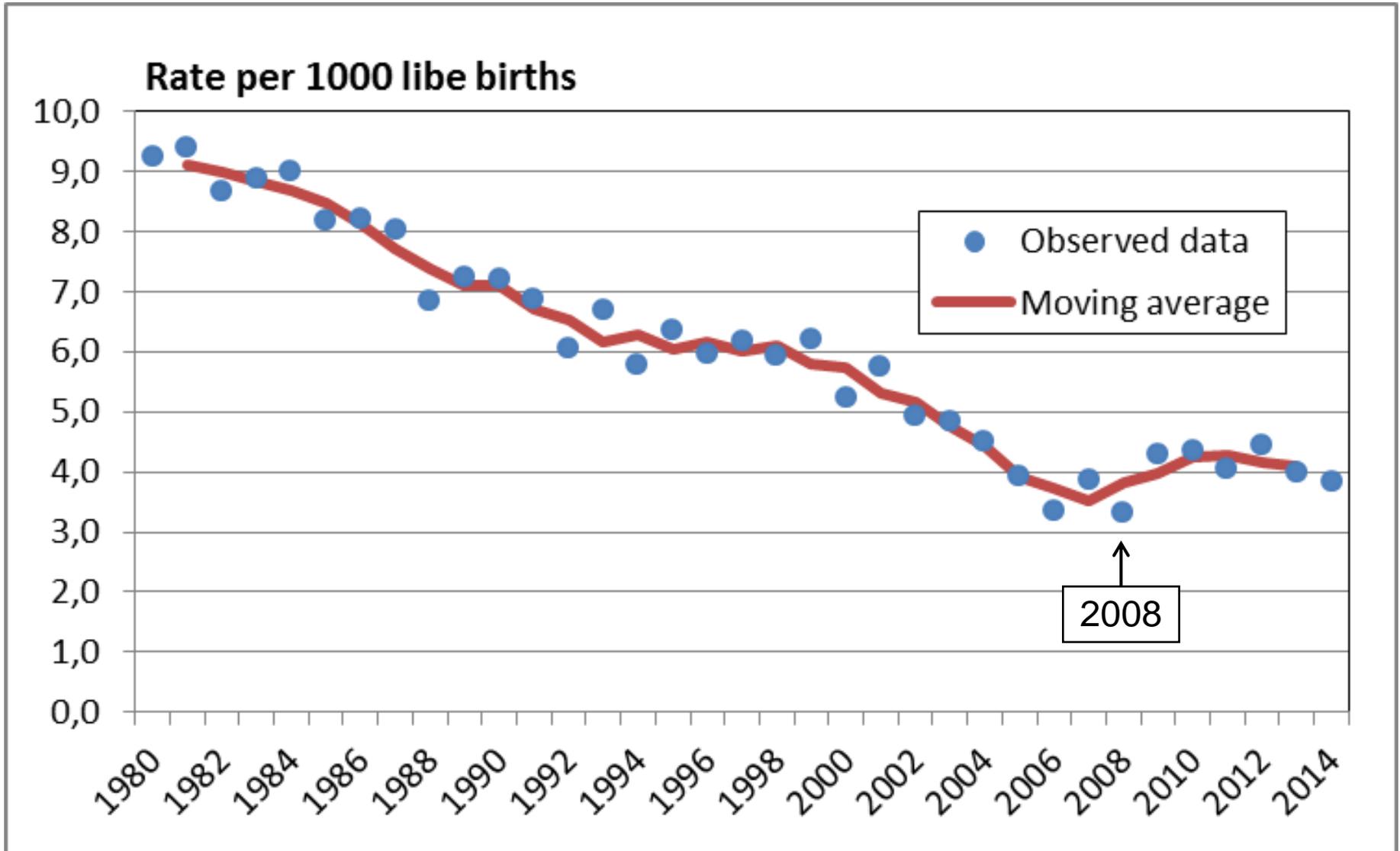
Disease-specific mortality, both genders,  
Greece, 2001–2013



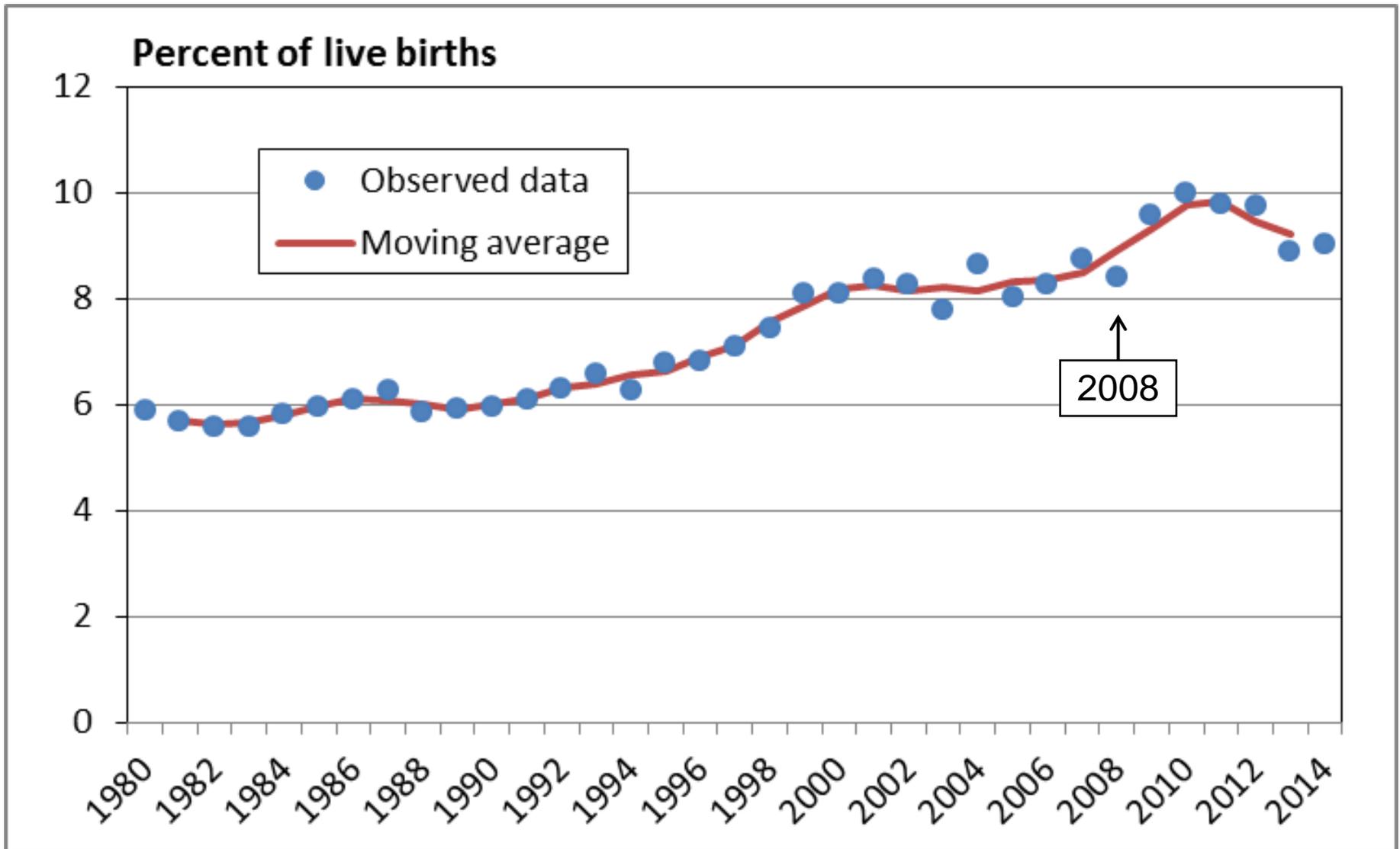
# Infant mortality, Greece, 1980-2014



# Stillbirth rate, Greece, 1980-2014



# Low birth weight (<2500 g), Greece, 1980-2014



## Reported impact of economic crisis, Health Behaviour in School-Aged Children (HBSC) survey, Greece, 2014 (ages 11, 13, 15 yrs)

	Total	Boys	Girls	P-value
	N=4113	N=2048	N=2065	
<b>At least one parent lost job</b>	<b>21.3%</b>	<b>21.9%</b>	<b>20.8%</b>	ns
<b>Stopped going on trips/holidays</b>	<b>27.9%</b>	<b>25.3%</b>	<b>30.5%</b>	<0.001
<b>Unable to buy food</b>	<b>5.4%</b>	<b>4.6%</b>	<b>6.2%</b>	<0.05
<b>Family tension</b>	<b>27.3%</b>	<b>23.2%</b>	<b>31.2%</b>	<0.001

Source: Kokkevi A et al, UNICEF, 2014

# Health Behaviour in School-Aged Children (HBSC) survey, Greece, 2010 and 2014 (ages 11, 13, 15 yrs)

	2010	2014
	N=4899	N=4113
<b>At least one parent unemployed</b>	<b>6.0%</b>	<b>13.0%</b>
<b>Smoking (last 30 days)</b>	<b>11.4%</b>	<b>8.2%</b>
<b>Cannabis use (last 30 days)</b>	<b>4.0%</b>	<b>4.9%</b>
<b>Physical activity twice a week or more</b>	<b>69.5%</b>	<b>74.0%</b>
<b>Good relationships in family (scale 0-10): 8-10</b>	<b>81.0%</b>	<b>81.7%</b>

Source: Kokkevi A et al, UNICEF, 2014

# Undernutrition?

- Anecdotal accounts
- HBSC, 2014

Unable to buy food			
<b>Total</b>		<b>5.4</b>	
<b>Age:</b>	<b>11 yrs</b>	<b>3.6</b>	
	<b>13 yrs</b>	<b>5.3</b>	
	<b>15 yrs</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>P&lt;0.001</b>
<b>Gender:</b>	<b>Boys</b>	<b>4.6</b>	
	<b>Girls</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>P&lt;0.05</b>

- Children 6-59 months, refugee camps

# Evidence of very low malnutrition rate among children in refugee camps in Greece

Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) screening in informal refugee camps at the Northern Greece border (Idomeni, EKO, BP/Hara), by MSF, 11-14 May 2016



## Nutrition status of children 6 months to 59 months

MUAC (cm)	Nutritional status	N= ( % )
>13.4		1134 (98.0)
12.5 to 13.4	At risk of Malnutrition	21 (1.8)
11.5 to 12.4	Moderate Malnutrition	2 (0.2)
< 11.5	Severe Malnutrition	0 (0)
Oedema	Severe Malnutrition	0 (0)

# **Response to the crisis**

## Response to the crisis

- Horizontal cuts
- Troika: pressure for immediate results in expenditure cuts in health sector (MoU provisions)
- No (or very limited) structural reforms
- No policies or service development to counterbalance the impact of the crisis (e.g. long-standing weaknesses of the Greek health system: primary health care, public health, children in need) → on the contrary, these were the first victims

# National study on vaccination coverage of Roma children aged 2-6 yrs, 2012-13

acroo	Dose	Estimate of vaccination coverage	
		Low (N=211)	High (N=188)
No vaccination at all		9%	18%
BCG at birth		0	0
Diphth.-Tetanus-Pertussis	1	79%	89%
	3	53%	59%
Polio	1	80%	88%
	3	52%	58%
Measles-Mumps-Rubella	1	43%	48%
	2	7%	8%

Sample: 30 Roma settlements across the country, stratified by geographical region and type of housing.

## Medico-social centres

- Established in 2006 → eventually ~ 30 centres
- Close to Roma settlements
- Medical and social services
- Roma community involvement
- Aim to promote integration
- **Since 2009: serious underfunding, closure of the large majority**

# Conclusions - 1

- The economic crisis in Greece: deep and prolonged
- Mass emigration of young people, decrease of birth rate: long-term implications
- The refugee crisis: disproportionate burden on Greece, a mother and child issue
- Impact on health: not a single pattern, areas of uncertainty
- Response to the crisis: austerity and horizontal cuts

## Conclusions - 2

- Issues to address
  - Priority to structural reforms of the health system (e.g. primary health care, public health, children in need)
  - No horizontal cuts → judgement, planning according to needs
  - Public debate: shift from an exclusively “financial discourse” to include values of equity and welfare as criteria for health policies

**Thank you**