

Thessaloniki



THE FACTS

City: Thessaloniki

Major Cities: Thessaloniki

Country: Greece

Population: 322,240

Population Density: 16,703/km²

Sex Profile: 84.6 Males/100 Females

Governance Structure: 6 self-governing municipalities with 71 regional directors elected by direct regional elections.

Age Profile:

Years	Share
< 15	12.5%
15–64	71%
> 65	16.5%

ECONOMY AND LABOUR FORCE

Occupational Typology (C/S/W): 20.5% / 39.1% / 47.6%

Top Employers: N/A

Technopolis — Thessaloniki ICT Business Park

Thessaloniki's ICT business park is a multi-shareholder organization of private companies, educational and research institutions, and social businesses. It is anchored by a Business Incubator building and provides offices, facilities, and infrastructure for high tech companies and research activity. The park hosts more than 220 Greek and foreign enterprises. More than 30% of the park is made up of facilities such as conference spaces, sports arenas, hotels and perimeter greens, while the remaining land is organized into four sections for establishing businesses.

Tenants of the park must abide by regulations approved by the Ministry of Development, and are selected based on such criteria as quality and originality of business ideas, experience of the management team, innovation and functionality in underlying concepts, and the company's comparative position in relation to the market and competition. Technopolis is included in the Thessaloniki Innovation Zone — a state subsidized innovation network cluster that provides tax incentives and resource support to local and foreign enterprises.



Labour Force Distribution by Sector:

Industry	Proportion of Total
Agriculture	4.8%
Manufacturing, mining, and energy	18.4%
Construction	7.4%
Trade and repair	17.0%
Hotels and restaurants	5.4%
Transport, storage, and communications	5.9%
Financial organizations and real estate	8.8%
Public administration, defence, and social security	5.1%
Education services, health, and welfare	11.7%
Other	4.9%
Youth and unclassified	10.5%

GDP: \$26,401M

Economic Growth Rate: 4% (2006–2010), -1.83% (2008–2010),
-4.5% (2010)

TALENT SCORECARD

Talent	Score	Justification
Educated Population: K–8 (Primary)	C	The net enrollment rate in primary education is 96%, while the percentage of the working population with primary education as their highest level of educational attainment is 25.7%.
Educated Population: 9–12 (Secondary)	B	50.4% of the population has secondary education as their highest level of educational achievement.
Educated Population: Post-secondary	B	23.9% of the working population has post-secondary education as their highest level of educational attainment.
Educational Institutions: College	B	Thessaloniki is home to 16 different institutes, colleges, and conservatories.
Educational Institutions: University	C	Thessaloniki has 5 universities. The city's main university, Aristotle University, is the largest in Greece, ranked 1st in the country and 158th in the world.
Education Spending	C	Education spending comprises 9.2% of total government expenditure and 4.1% of GDP. The latter places Greece 85th out of 132 countries (2002).
Creative Class Share	B-	Approximately 20.5% of the city's working population belongs to the Creative Class.
Overall score for talent	B-	Thessaloniki's education expenditure and post-secondary environment is average among developed countries; however, there is a significant portion of the population whose highest education level is primary.

TECHNOLOGY SCORECARD

Technology	Score	Justification
Patents	C	16 international patents were produced in the Central Macedonia region where Thessaloniki is located in 2009, accounting for 16% of the nation's patents that year.
Innovation	C	The Innovation Zone is a state driven project hoping to transform Thessaloniki into an international hub of knowledge-based entrepreneurship. It has a strong policy foundation but limited follow through and unstable funding.
Job Growth	F	The unemployment rate in Thessaloniki increased from below 7.5% in 2009 to over 20.5% in 2010.
Creative Class Share	B-	Thessaloniki's Creative Class share is approximately 20.5%.
High-Tech Index	D	The Greek ICT sector has an \$8 billion Euro market value, which is 4.3% of the nation's GDP. However, the high-tech sector in the country has experienced an average yearly decline of 5.7% since 2008.
Sustainability/ Green Economy	D	Greece's development in green technologies and infrastructure has been limited, and primarily supported by EU funds. Its own environmental expenditures represent less than 1% of GDP, which is low compared to similar OECD countries.
Entrepreneurship	B	Thessaloniki has had some success with entrepreneurship. It is home to Open Coffee, a region wide start-up networking organization. However, the growth rate of start-up enterprises is stagnant due to the economic crisis.
Overall score for technology	D	Economic hardship in the country has resulted in severe job loss and decline in government investment in industries. High-tech sectors represent a substantial portion of the Greek's economy but have experienced negative growth in the past three years.

TOLERANCE SCORECARD

Tolerance	Score	Justification
Diversity	B-	Although the population living in Thessaloniki is relatively homogenous, the city makes up for its lack of demographic diversity through its diverse range of cultural activities, such as arts, music and film festivals, and by its large number of tourists and business visitors.
Immigration	B	Immigrants represent 11.6% of the population. Albanians represent 30.6% of all immigrants, followed by Georgians at 16.1% and former Soviet Union countries at 10.2%.
Visible Minority	D	Visible minorities (mainly Nigerians, Chinese, and Phillipinos) form 2% of the population.
Integration	C	The immigrant population is concentrated in working class districts, although not completely excluded from the more prosperous neighbourhoods. Immigrants are also disproportionately employed by the manufacturing and construction sector.
Multiculturalism	D	While there is weak constitutional or legislative affirmation of multiculturalism at central, regional and municipal levels, there is some inclusion of multiculturalism in the school curriculum. Public broadcasting has a multicultural agenda in place, but it is not well enforced. Dual citizenship is allowed.
Gay and Lesbian Population	B	Thessaloniki has hosted gay pride parades, and there have been recent efforts to promote gay tourism. There is an emerging gay scene in the city and the number of LGBT friendly venues are growing. Homosexual activities are legal in Greece, but same-sex unions are not recognized.
Religious Diversity	D	In 2011, it was announced that Thessaloniki would build its first mosque to serve its 5,000 Muslims. The constitution established the Eastern Orthodox Church of Christ as the prevailing religion, but also protects the right of all citizens to practice the religion of their choice. The religious breakdown is: Greek Orthodox 98%, Muslim 1.3%, other 0.7%.
Openness	B	Historically, Thessaloniki has been known as an international tourist destination, and a place where cultures mix. Women enjoy comparable education and benefits to men (Rates of educational enrollment for males and females are stable at around 50/50 from primary education through post-secondary.) Acceptance of gays and lesbians is growing.

Thessaloniki

Tolerance	Score	Justification
Civil Rights	B	Greece is a democratic country protecting basic rights to speech, assembly, education, and religion. It saw a voter turnout of 74% in the last national election.
Bohemians	B-	Thessaloniki has alternative music and art niches catering to both younger and older artists. Much of its nightlife also caters to alternative cultures.
Overall score for tolerance	B-	Despite having little ethnic and religious diversity, Thessaloniki's progressive attitude with regards to LGBT and alternative cultures rank it above average in Tolerance.

AMENITIES AND QUALITY OF PLACE SCORECARD

Amenities and Quality of Place	Score	Justification
The SOBs (Symphony, Opera, Ballet)	B	Thessaloniki is home to two symphony orchestras and one opera company, but no there is no city ballet.
Museums	A	A number of important art galleries in Thessaloniki house exhibitions of well-known Greek and international artists. The city also has a number of museums including the Science Center and Technology Museum and the Museum of Photography.
Entertainment and Nightlife	A	According to Lonely Planet (2010), Thessaloniki ranks 5th out of the 10 best party towns in the world. Some well known annual events in the region include the Thessaloniki International Film Festival, Thessaloniki International Trade Fair, and the Dimitria Festival. It is also the finish point of the annual Alexander The Great Marathon.
Crime Rate	B	The most current crime rate stands at 3,687 crimes per 100,000 persons, and it is has been steadily decreasing since 2006. Greece's crime rate currently ranks 7th lowest among the OECD countries.
Recreation Facilities	A	Thessaloniki is home to three major stadiums hosting three national teams. The city also has a free zoo, water park, and a variety of parks and trekking routes that take advantage of surrounding mountainous areas.
Neighbourhoods	B-	Neighbourhoods in Thessaloniki have their own distinct functions and specialties. However, because the city has developed around its port, areas closer to the waterfront are more developed than neighbourhoods further inland. There is a divide between the more expensive areas of the south-east and the poorer areas of the north-west.
Scenes	B	Thessaloniki is best known for its cuisine, art, and nightlife and trumps Athens as the cultural centre of the nation. It is home to a vibrant alternative music scene and each year stages many parades and festivals.
Public Transit	C	The current transit system is made up of 75 bus routes. A 33km metro is expected to be completed in 2020 with operation beginning in 2015.
Bike Paths	D	There is a limited bicycle presence within the city itself, but biking from Thessaloniki to Athens is a popular tourist activity. Bike riding was 0% in a self-reported survey on means of transportation in the city.

Amenities and Quality of Place	Score	Justification
Civic Capital (NGOs, Non-Profits)	C	WANGO lists 13 international non-profit organizations headquartered in Thessaloniki. Local NGO's have a focus on immigration and migrant issues.
Built Form Investment	B	1,343 new buildings were constructed in 2010. Thessaloniki recently began 'Thessaloniki 2012', a Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change initiative, to overcome developmental deficits of the city by redesigning the waterfront and integrating historical sites into pedestrian city life. The city is also home to a number of UNESCO heritage sights.
Infrastructure (Utilities, Roads, etc.)	C-	The city's economy is centred on the Port of Thessaloniki, the second largest port in the country. An international airport is 45 minutes away by public transport. All international train links from the city have been suspended as of February 2011, due to the economic crisis.
Overall score for amenities and quality of place	C+	Thessaloniki's reputation as a cultural and recreation centre is well established. Unfortunately, the recent economic crisis has prevented growth in this area and has even halted some of the amenities and services.

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