Objective
To investigate the impact of economic crisis in the perinatal rates in Greece.

Methods
We analyzed the official national data of all births in Greece during 2005-2012 obtained from Hellenic statistical authority.

Results
In 2008, the stillbirth and infant mortality rates reached their historical low values after decades of declining trends. Stillbirth rate increased by 34.1%, from 2008 through 2012. In contrast, although during 2008-2010 the infant mortality rate increased by 43.1%, this was succeeded by a 23% decrease from 2010 through 2012 (p<0.001) with no significant difference overall between crisis (2009-2012) and pre-crisis (2005-2008) periods. During 2008-2010, preterm birth and low birth weight rates increased by 16.1% and 18.6% respectively to historic high values in 2010. However, during 2010-2012 although the financial recession deepened, slight declines of 2.3% and 3.7% were observed in low-birthweight and preterm birth rates, respectively. This linked to the concurrent decline by 7.2% in multiple birth rates due to reduction in fertility treatments.

Conclusion
During the first biennium of the economic recession in Greece, all the four rates deteriorated. However, in the second biennium, there was favorable trends in the infant mortality, preterm and low birth weight rates while the stillbirth rate increased.