

August 2010

## Euro area unemployment rate stable at 10.1%

### EU27 stable at 9.6%

The **euro area**<sup>1</sup> (EA16) seasonally-adjusted<sup>2</sup> unemployment rate<sup>3</sup> was 10.1% in August 2010, unchanged compared with July<sup>4</sup>. It was 9.7% in August 2009. The **EU27**<sup>1</sup> unemployment rate was 9.6% in August 2010, also unchanged compared with July<sup>4</sup>. It was 9.2% in August 2009.

Eurostat estimates that 23.066 million men and women in the **EU27**, of whom 15.869 million were in the **euro area**, were unemployed in August 2010. Compared with July, the number of persons unemployed decreased by 68 000 in the **EU27** and by 20 000 in the **euro area**. Compared with August 2009, unemployment rose by 0.894 million in the **EU27** and by 0.569 million in the **euro area**.

These figures are published by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**.

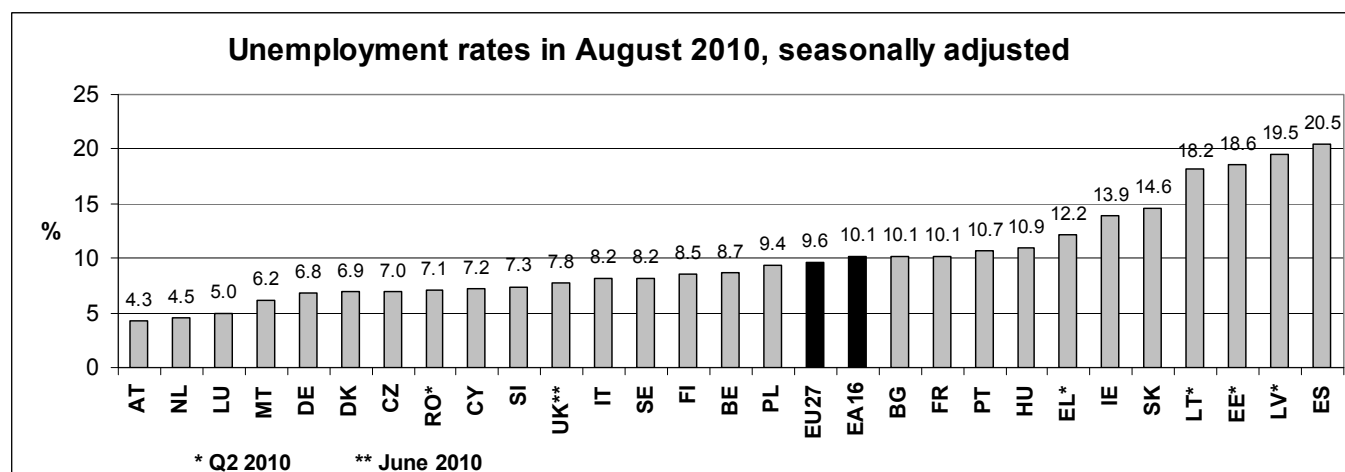
Among the Member States, the lowest unemployment rates were recorded in **Austria** (4.3%) and the **Netherlands** (4.5%), and the highest in **Spain** (20.5%), **Latvia** (19.5% in the second quarter of 2010), **Estonia** (18.6% in the second quarter of 2010) and **Lithuania** (18.2% in the second quarter of 2010).

Compared with a year ago, the unemployment rate fell in seven Member States, remained stable in one and increased in nineteen. The largest falls were observed in **Malta** (7.2% to 6.2%), **Austria** (5.2% to 4.3%) and **Germany** (7.6% to 6.8%). The highest increases were registered in **Estonia** (13.5% to 18.6% between the second quarters of 2009 and 2010), **Lithuania** (13.5% to 18.2% between the second quarters of 2009 and 2010) and **Bulgaria** (7.0% to 10.1%).

Between August 2009 and August 2010, the unemployment rate for males rose from 9.5% to 9.9% in the **euro area** and from 9.3% to 9.6% in the **EU27**. The female unemployment rate increased from 9.9% to 10.3% in the **euro area** and from 9.1% to 9.6% in the **EU27**.

In August 2010, the youth unemployment rate (under-25s) was 19.8% in the **euro area** and 20.2% in the **EU27**. In both the **euro area** and the **EU27** the rate fell for the second consecutive month. In August 2009 it was 20.1% and 20.4% respectively. The lowest rates were observed in **Austria** (8.5%), **Germany** and the **Netherlands** (both 8.8%), and the highest rates in **Spain** (41.6%), **Lithuania** (37.6% in the second quarter of 2010) and **Estonia** (37.2% in the second quarter of 2010).

In the **USA**, the unemployment rate was 9.6% in August 2010. In **Japan** it was 5.2% in July 2010.



1. The euro area (EA16) consists of Belgium, Germany, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Italy, Cyprus, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Austria, Portugal, Slovenia, Slovakia and Finland.  
The EU27 includes Belgium (BE), Bulgaria (BG), the Czech Republic (CZ), Denmark (DK), Germany (DE), Estonia (EE), Ireland (IE), Greece (EL), Spain (ES), France (FR), Italy (IT), Cyprus (CY), Latvia (LV), Lithuania (LT), Luxembourg (LU), Hungary (HU), Malta (MT), the Netherlands (NL), Austria (AT), Poland (PL), Portugal (PT), Romania (RO), Slovenia (SI), Slovakia (SK), Finland (FI), Sweden (SE) and the United Kingdom (UK).
2. Non-seasonally adjusted and trend data can be found in the statistical database on the Eurostat website.
3. Eurostat produces harmonised unemployment rates for individual EU Member States, the euro area and the EU. These unemployment rates are based on the definition recommended by the International Labour Organisation (ILO). The measurement is based on a harmonised source, the European Union Labour Force Survey (LFS).  
Based on the ILO definition, Eurostat defines unemployed persons as persons aged 15 to 74 who:
  - are without work;
  - are available to start work within the next two weeks;
  - and have actively sought employment at some time during the previous four weeks.The *unemployment rate* is the number of people unemployed as a percentage of the labour force. The labour force is the total number of people employed plus unemployed.  
The numbers of unemployed and the monthly unemployment rates are estimates based on results of the LFS which is a continuous household survey carried out in Member States on the basis of agreed definitions. These results are interpolated/extrapolated to monthly data using national survey data and/or national monthly series on registered unemployment. The most recent figures are therefore provisional; results from the Labour Force Survey are available 90 days after the end of the reference period for most Member States.  
Monthly unemployment and employment series are calculated first at the level of four categories for each Member State (males and females 15-24 years, males and females 25-74 years). These series are then seasonally adjusted and all the national and European aggregates are calculated.  
Member States may publish other rates such as register based unemployment rates, or rates based on national Labour Force Surveys or corresponding surveys. These rates may vary from those published by Eurostat due to a different definition or methodological choices.  
*Current deviations from the definition of unemployment in the EU Labour Force Survey:*  
*Spain, Italy and United Kingdom:* Unemployment is restricted to persons aged 16-74. In Spain and Italy the legal minimum age for working is 16. Employment data used for Italy includes also those above 74.
4. Compared with the rates published in News Release 125/2010 of 31 August 2010, the July 2010 unemployment rate for the EA16 has been revised from 10.0% to 10.1%, while the rate for the EU27 remains unchanged. Among Member States, the rate has been revised between 0.2 and 0.4 percentage points for Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Ireland, Luxembourg and Slovenia. Larger revisions were observed for Hungary (+0.8 pp), Austria (+0.5 pp) and Slovakia (-0.5 pp). The revisions are primarily caused by the inclusion of the most recent EU Labour Force Survey data in the calculation process and updates to the seasonally adjusted series.  
The following LFS data are used in the calculations of the monthly unemployment rates published in this News Release:  
For Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Finland and Sweden monthly data up to and including August 2010.  
For the United Kingdom monthly data up to and including May-June-July 2010 (3-month rolling average).  
For Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Hungary, Malta, Austria, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia and Slovakia quarterly data up to and including Q2 2010.
5. Italy recently implemented a method to produce monthly unemployment data purely based on the LFS. For the moment, these data should be considered provisional.
6. Estonia, Greece, Latvia, Lithuania and Romania: quarterly data for all series.  
Cyprus and Slovenia: quarterly data for youth unemployment.
7. For Finland the trend component is used instead of the more volatile seasonally adjusted data.
8. Following recent improvements in methodology, the series for the Netherlands are now direct monthly estimates from the LFS. In consequence, the monthly series released in this News Release are revised compared with previous releases. Over the last twelve months, this results in the unemployment rate for the Netherlands being revised upwards by between 0.1 and 0.4 percentage points.

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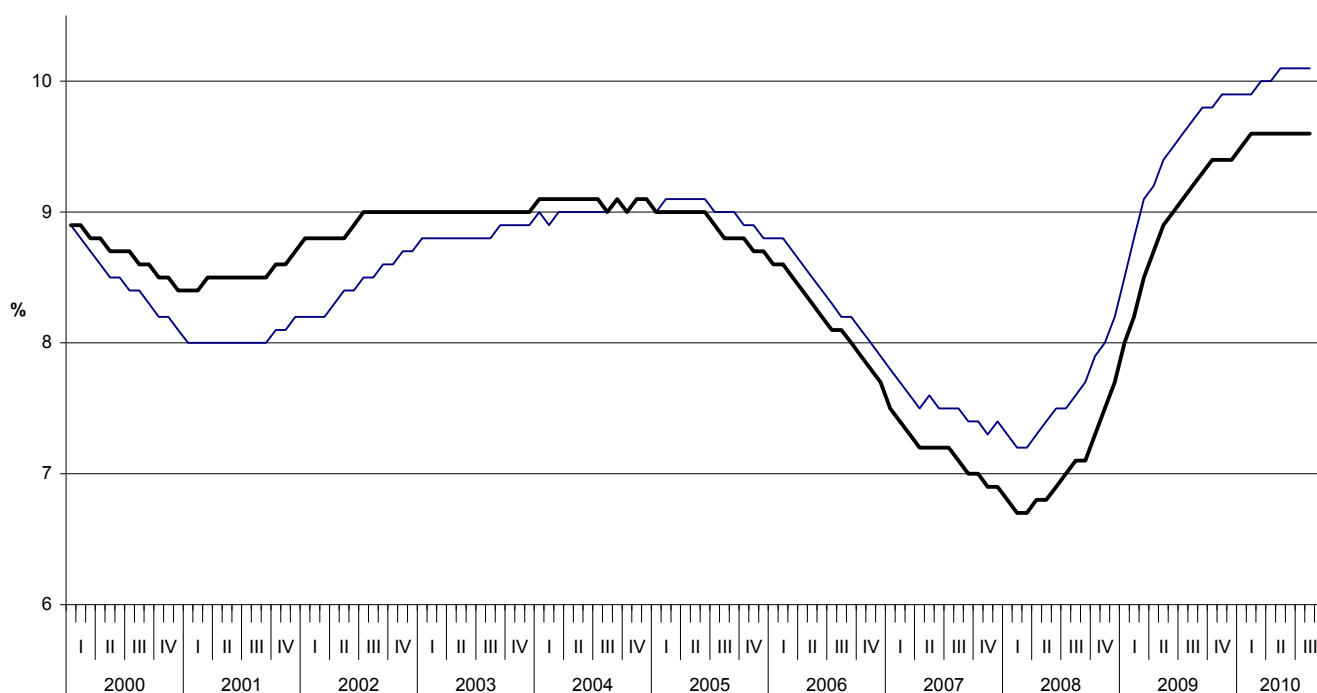
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### Euro area and EU27 unemployment rates

— Euro area (EA16), seasonally adjusted series  
 — EU27, seasonally adjusted series



### SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATES (%) TOTALS

	Aug 2009	Feb 2010	Mar 2010	Apr 2010	May 2010	June 2010	July 2010	Aug 2010
<b>EA16</b>	9.7	9.9	10.0	10.0	10.1	10.1	10.1	<b>10.1</b>
<b>EU27</b>	9.2	9.6	9.6	9.6	9.6	9.6	9.6	<b>9.6</b>
<b>BE</b>	8.1	8.4	8.4	8.5	8.5	8.6	8.7	<b>8.7</b>
<b>BG</b>	7.0	9.4	9.7	9.9	10.0	10.1	10.1	<b>10.1</b>
<b>CZ</b>	7.3	7.8	7.8	7.5	7.3	7.1	7.0	<b>7.0</b>
<b>DK</b>	6.1	7.1	7.3	7.4	7.3	7.3	7.0	<b>6.9</b>
<b>DE</b>	7.6	7.3	7.2	7.0	7.0	6.9	6.9	<b>6.8</b>
<b>EE<sup>5</sup></b>	15.3	19.0	19.0	18.6	18.6	18.6	:	:
<b>IE</b>	12.5	12.8	12.9	13.2	13.6	13.7	13.8	<b>13.9</b>
<b>EL<sup>6</sup></b>	9.7	11.1	11.1	12.2	12.2	12.2	:	:
<b>ES</b>	18.7	19.2	19.5	19.7	20.0	20.2	20.3	<b>20.5</b>
<b>FR</b>	9.6	9.9	9.8	9.8	9.9	9.9	10.0	<b>10.1</b>
<b>IT<sup>5</sup></b>	7.9	8.4	8.6	8.6	8.6	8.4	8.4	<b>8.2</b>
<b>CY</b>	5.7	6.4	6.7	6.9	7.1	7.2	7.1	<b>7.2</b>
<b>LV<sup>6</sup></b>	18.6	20.0	20.0	19.5	19.5	19.5	:	:
<b>LT<sup>6</sup></b>	14.4	17.2	17.2	18.2	18.2	18.2	:	:
<b>LU</b>	5.1	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	5.0	<b>5.0</b>
<b>HU</b>	10.5	11.3	11.5	11.4	11.2	11.3	11.1	<b>10.9</b>
<b>MT</b>	7.2	7.1	6.9	6.9	6.7	6.5	6.4	<b>6.2</b>
<b>NL<sup>8</sup></b>	3.9	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.6	<b>4.5</b>
<b>AT</b>	5.2	4.5	4.5	4.6	4.6	4.5	4.3	<b>4.3</b>
<b>PL</b>	8.5	9.7	9.8	9.7	9.6	9.5	9.4	<b>9.4</b>
<b>PT</b>	10.2	10.4	10.7	10.9	11.0	11.0	10.8	<b>10.7</b>
<b>RO<sup>6</sup></b>	7.2	7.3	7.3	7.1	7.1	7.1	:	:
<b>SI</b>	6.4	6.7	6.9	7.2	7.3	7.3	7.2	<b>7.3</b>
<b>SK</b>	12.7	14.6	14.6	14.5	14.4	14.4	14.5	<b>14.6</b>
<b>FI<sup>7</sup></b>	8.6	8.7	8.7	8.6	8.6	8.5	8.5	<b>8.5</b>
<b>SE</b>	8.8	8.8	8.5	9.0	8.7	8.1	8.5	<b>8.2</b>
<b>UK</b>	7.8	7.9	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8	:	:
<b>NO</b>	3.2	3.5	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.3	:
<b>US</b>	9.7	9.7	9.7	9.9	9.7	9.5	9.5	<b>9.6</b>
<b>JP</b>	5.4	4.8	5.0	5.1	5.2	5.3	5.2	:

: Data not available

Source: Eurostat

## SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATES (%)

	Youth (under 25's)				Males				Females			
	Aug-09	June-10	July-10	Aug-10	Aug-09	June-10	July-10	Aug-10	Aug-09	June-10	July-10	Aug-10
EA16	20.1	20.1	20.0	<b>19.8</b>	9.5	9.9	9.9	<b>9.9</b>	9.9	10.2	10.3	<b>10.3</b>
EU27	20.4	20.5	20.3	<b>20.2</b>	9.3	9.6	9.6	<b>9.6</b>	9.1	9.6	9.6	<b>9.6</b>
BE	22.3	23.6	24.1	<b>24.2</b>	7.7	8.3	8.4	<b>8.4</b>	8.6	8.9	9.0	<b>9.1</b>
BG	17.0	21.5	21.1	<b>20.7</b>	7.3	10.6	10.6	<b>10.6</b>	6.7	9.4	9.5	<b>9.5</b>
CZ	17.7	18.6	18.4	<b>18.5</b>	6.5	6.1	6.0	<b>6.0</b>	8.4	8.4	8.4	<b>8.4</b>
DK	11.5	12.3	11.8	<b>12.2</b>	6.9	8.6	8.0	<b>7.6</b>	5.2	5.9	5.8	<b>6.0</b>
DE	10.8	9.3	9.1	<b>8.8</b>	8.3	7.4	7.4	<b>7.3</b>	6.9	6.3	6.3	<b>6.3</b>
EE <sup>o</sup>	28.9	37.2	:	:	18.5	22.3	:	:	12.0	15.0	:	:
IE	25.1	27.6	28.3	<b>28.6</b>	15.6	16.8	17.0	<b>17.1</b>	8.5	9.8	9.8	<b>9.8</b>
EL <sup>o</sup>	25.8	32.1	:	:	7.1	9.7	:	:	13.5	15.7	:	:
ES	40.2	41.1	41.4	<b>41.6</b>	18.4	19.7	19.8	<b>19.9</b>	19.0	20.7	21.0	<b>21.2</b>
FR	23.6	24.0	24.1	<b>24.4</b>	9.3	9.6	9.6	<b>9.7</b>	10.0	10.3	10.4	<b>10.5</b>
IT <sup>o</sup>	25.3	27.2	26.7	<b>25.9</b>	6.8	7.6	7.5	<b>7.6</b>	9.4	9.5	9.7	<b>9.1</b>
CY <sup>o</sup>	15.2	19.7	:	:	5.7	7.2	7.1	<b>7.1</b>	5.8	7.1	7.1	<b>7.3</b>
LV <sup>o</sup>	36.1	34.0	:	:	22.1	22.8	:	:	15.0	16.2	:	:
LT <sup>o</sup>	33.0	37.6	:	:	18.3	22.1	:	:	10.6	14.4	:	:
LU	16.1	16.9	16.8	<b>16.9</b>	4.4	4.3	4.3	<b>4.4</b>	6.0	5.8	5.8	<b>5.8</b>
HU	27.2	27.9	27.4	<b>27.1</b>	10.9	11.8	11.6	<b>11.3</b>	10.1	10.6	10.5	<b>10.5</b>
MT	14.8	12.1	11.9	<b>11.2</b>	6.9	6.3	6.2	<b>6.0</b>	7.7	7.0	6.9	<b>6.6</b>
NL <sup>o</sup>	8.0	8.8	8.8	<b>8.8</b>	3.9	4.5	4.5	<b>4.5</b>	3.9	4.6	4.6	<b>4.5</b>
AT	10.8	8.9	8.2	<b>8.5</b>	5.4	4.6	4.5	<b>4.5</b>	4.9	4.2	4.1	<b>4.1</b>
PL	22.2	23.3	22.9	<b>22.6</b>	8.2	9.1	9.0	<b>8.9</b>	8.9	10.0	10.0	<b>10.0</b>
PT	20.3	21.0	20.5	<b>20.3</b>	9.6	10.0	9.8	<b>9.7</b>	10.9	12.1	11.9	<b>11.8</b>
RO <sup>o</sup>	21.4	21.4	:	:	8.1	7.5	:	:	6.2	6.5	:	:
SI <sup>o</sup>	14.3	16.5	:	:	6.5	7.6	7.4	<b>7.4</b>	6.3	7.0	7.1	<b>7.3</b>
SK	28.2	32.5	31.8	<b>31.6</b>	12.2	14.1	14.2	<b>14.2</b>	13.3	14.8	15.0	<b>15.1</b>
FI <sup>o</sup>	22.6	21.3	21.1	<b>21.0</b>	9.3	9.1	9.1	<b>9.2</b>	7.8	7.9	7.9	<b>7.9</b>
SE	28.4	24.8	25.2	<b>25.2</b>	9.2	8.4	8.5	<b>8.2</b>	8.3	7.7	8.5	<b>8.3</b>
UK	19.7	19.1	:	:	9.0	8.5	:	:	6.4	6.8	:	:
NO	9.4	8.9	8.2	:	3.6	4.0	3.8	:	2.7	2.8	2.7	:
US	18.3	18.2	18.6	<b>18.1</b>	11.0	10.5	10.4	<b>10.6</b>	8.3	8.3	8.5	<b>8.6</b>
JP	:	:	:	:	5.8	5.6	5.5	:	4.9	4.9	4.7	:

: Data not available Source: Eurostat

## SEASONALLY ADJUSTED NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED (in millions)

	Aug 2009	Feb 2010	Mar 2010	Apr 2010	May 2010	June 2010	July 2010	Aug 2010
EA16	15.300	15.653	15.741	15.849	15.913	15.880	15.889	<b>15.869</b>
EU27	22.172	23.048	23.137	23.218	23.227	23.154	23.134	<b>23.066</b>

Euro area and EU27 unemployed (in millions)

