

April 2009

Euro area unemployment up to 9.2%

EU27 up to 8.6%

The **euro area**¹ (EA16) seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate² was 9.2% in April 2009, compared with 8.9% in March³. It was 7.3% in April 2008. The **EU27**¹ unemployment rate was 8.6% in April 2009, compared with 8.4% in March³. It was 6.8% in April 2008. For the **euro area** this is the highest rate since September 1999, and for the **EU27** since January 2006.

Eurostat estimates that 20.825 million men and women in the **EU27**, of which 14.579 million were in the **euro area**, were unemployed in April 2009. Compared with March, the number of persons unemployed increased by 556 000 in the **EU27** and by 396 000 in the **euro area**. Compared with April 2008, unemployment went up by 4.653 million in the **EU27** and by 3.100 million in the **euro area**.

These figures are published by **Eurostat, the Statistical Office of the European Communities**.

Among the Member States, the lowest unemployment rates were recorded in the **Netherlands** (3.0%) and **Austria** (4.2%), and the highest rates in **Spain** (18.1%), **Latvia** (17.4%) and **Lithuania** (16.8%).

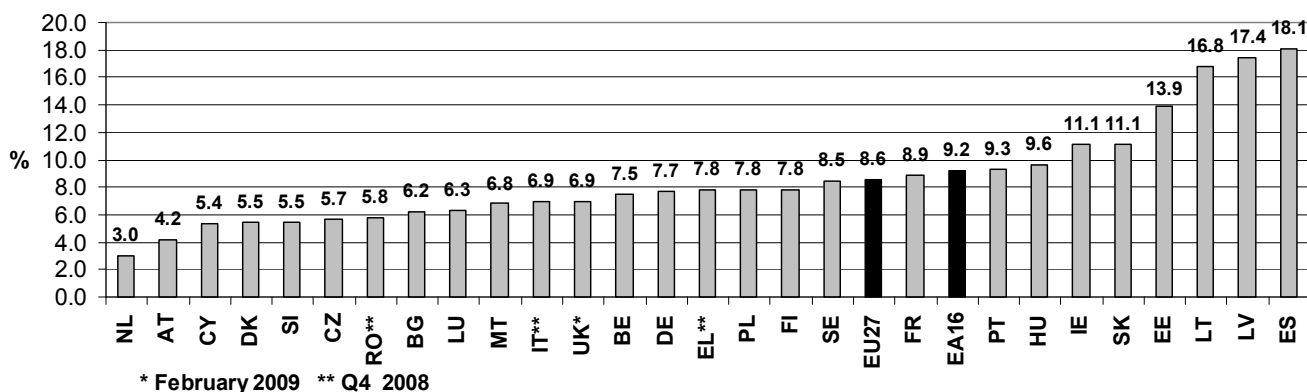
Compared with a year ago, two Member States recorded a fall in their unemployment rate and twenty-five Member States an increase. The falls were observed in **Romania** (6.1% to 5.8% between the fourth quarters of 2007 and 2008) and **Greece** (7.9% to 7.8% between the fourth quarters of 2007 and 2008). The highest increases were registered in **Lithuania** (4.3% to 16.8%), **Latvia** (6.1% to 17.4%) and **Estonia** (3.7% to 13.9%).

Between April 2008 and April 2009, the unemployment rate for males rose from 6.6% to 8.9% in the **euro area** and from 6.3% to 8.6% in the **EU27**. The female unemployment rate increased from 8.2% to 9.4% in the **euro area** and from 7.3% to 8.5% in the **EU27**.

In April 2009, the youth unemployment rate (under-25s) was 18.5% in the **euro area** and 18.7% in the **EU27**. In April 2008 it was 14.7% in both zones. The lowest rate was observed in the **Netherlands** (6.0%), and the highest rates in **Spain** (36.2%) and **Latvia** (29.2% in the first quarter of 2009).

In April 2009, the unemployment rate was 8.9% in the **USA**. In **Japan** it was 4.8% in March 2009.

Unemployment rates in April 2009, seasonally adjusted



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. 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 age limit for working is 16.
Netherlands: Persons without a job, who are available for work and looking for a job are only included in unemployment if they express that they would like to work.
3. The March 2009 unemployment rate for the EU27 has been revised. The rate published in News Release 61/2009 of 30 April 2009 was 8.3%. For the euro area the rate remains unchanged. Among Member States, the rate has been revised by between 0.2 and 0.4 percentage points for Lithuania and Austria, and by more than 0.4 percentage points for Denmark, Estonia and Portugal. 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, Finland and Sweden up to and including April 2009.
For the Netherlands up to and including February-March-April 2009 (3-month rolling average).
For the United Kingdom up to and including January-February-March 2009 (3-month rolling average).
For Denmark, Estonia, Spain, Austria and Portugal up to and including 2009Q1.
For Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Ireland, Greece, France, Italy, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovenia and Slovakia up to and including 2008Q4.
4. Greece, Italy and Romania: quarterly data for all series.
Estonia, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania and Slovenia: quarterly data for youth unemployment.
5. Provisional data: the Swedish Labour Force Survey was amended in April 2005 to take further account of the EU harmonised methodology. This break in the series may affect the reliability of the seasonal adjustment.

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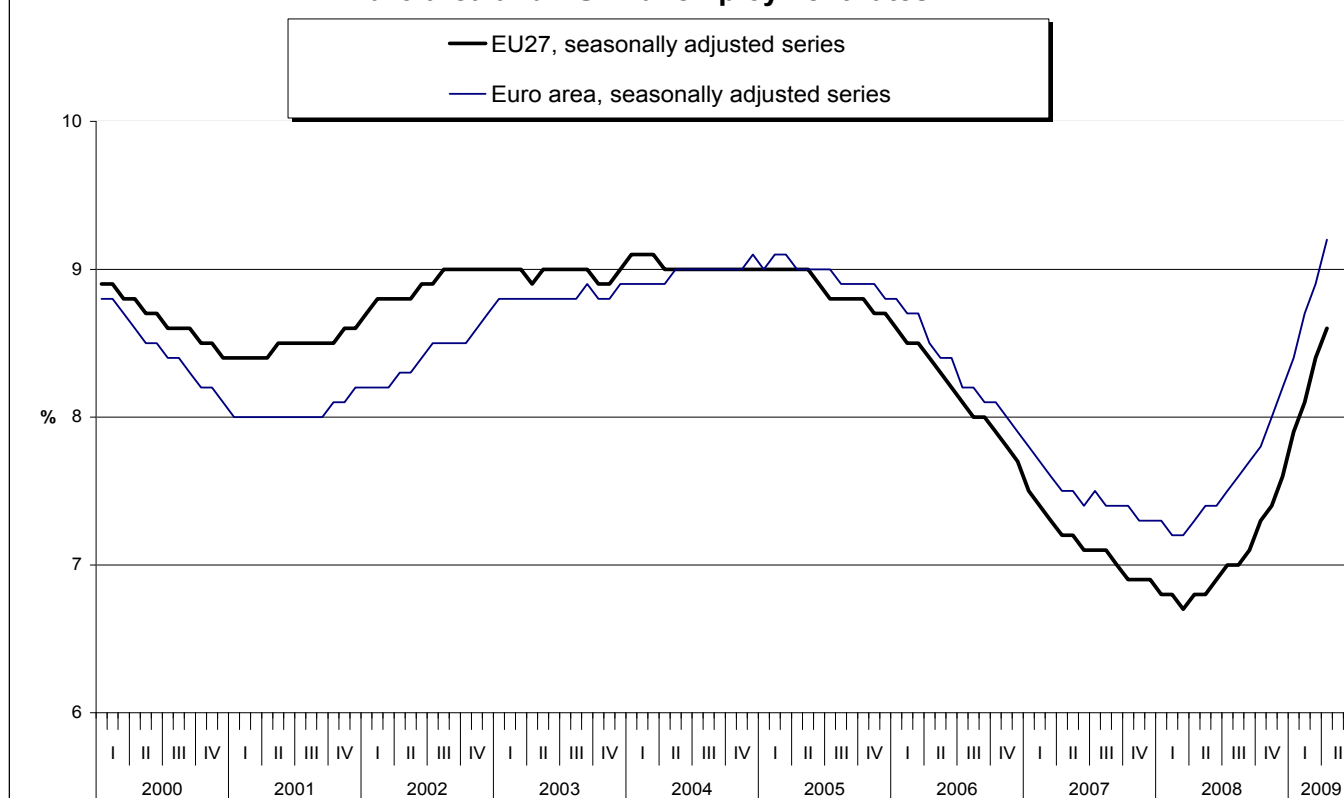
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Selected Principal European Economic Indicators: **<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/euroindicators>**

Euro area and EU27 unemployment rates



SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATES (%) TOTALS

	April 2008	Oct 2008	Nov 2008	Dec 2008	Jan 2009	Feb 2009	March 2009	April 2009
EA16	7.3	7.8	8.0	8.2	8.4	8.7	8.9	9.2
EU27	6.8	7.3	7.4	7.6	7.9	8.1	8.4	8.6
BE	6.7	7.1	6.9	6.9	7.1	7.2	7.3	7.5
BG	6.0	5.1	5.1	5.3	5.3	5.6	5.9	6.2
CZ	4.3	4.4	4.5	4.7	4.9	5.2	5.5	5.7
DK	3.1	3.6	3.8	4.1	4.4	4.6	5.1	5.5
DE	7.4	7.1	7.1	7.2	7.3	7.4	7.6	7.7
EE	3.7	7.1	7.6	8.4	9.8	11.1	12.4	13.9
IE	5.2	7.6	8.2	8.7	9.4	10.0	10.6	11.1
EL⁴	7.5	7.8	7.8	7.8	:	:	:	:
ES	10.0	13.2	14.0	14.7	15.6	16.5	17.3	18.1
FR	7.6	8.0	8.2	8.3	8.5	8.6	8.8	8.9
IT⁴	6.8	6.9	6.9	6.9	:	:	:	:
CY	3.6	3.8	4.0	4.3	4.5	4.7	5.0	5.4
LV	6.1	9.3	10.4	11.5	13.2	14.6	16.1	17.4
LT	4.3	7.2	8.4	9.7	11.5	13.5	15.2	16.8
LU	4.7	5.2	5.3	5.5	5.8	5.9	6.1	6.3
HU	7.6	7.8	8.0	8.3	8.5	8.8	9.3	9.6
MT	5.9	5.9	6.1	6.0	6.3	6.5	6.6	6.8
NL	2.8	2.7	2.7	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.9	3.0
AT	3.7	4.0	4.1	4.2	4.2	4.3	4.3	4.2
PL	7.3	6.8	6.9	7.0	7.2	7.5	7.7	7.8
PT	7.6	7.9	7.9	8.2	8.5	8.9	9.1	9.3
RO⁴	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	:	:	:	:
SI	4.4	4.2	4.2	4.1	4.4	4.6	5.0	5.5
SK	9.8	9.1	9.2	9.4	9.7	10.2	10.6	11.1
FI	6.2	6.6	6.6	6.8	7.0	7.2	7.5	7.8
SE⁵	5.7	6.7	7.0	7.0	7.4	7.7	8.1	8.5
UK	5.1	6.1	6.3	6.5	6.7	6.9	:	:
NO	2.4	2.7	2.8	2.9	3.0	3.1	3.2	:
US	5.0	6.6	6.8	7.2	7.6	8.1	8.5	8.9
JP	4.0	3.8	4.0	4.3	4.2	4.4	4.8	:

: Data not available

Source: Eurostat

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATES (%)

	Youth (under 25's)				Males				Females			
	Apr-08	Feb-09	Mar-09	Apr-09	Apr-08	Feb-09	Mar-09	Apr-09	Apr-08	Feb-09	Mar-09	Apr-09
EA16	14.7	17.6	18.1	18.5	6.6	8.4	8.7	8.9	8.2	9.0	9.2	9.4
EU27	14.7	17.9	18.3	18.7	6.3	8.1	8.3	8.6	7.3	8.2	8.4	8.5
BE	16.1	19.4	19.9	20.0	6.3	6.7	6.9	7.0	7.2	7.7	7.9	8.2
BG	13.8	14.9	16.1	17.2	5.7	6.0	6.5	6.9	6.3	5.1	5.3	5.4
CZ	9.4	12.4	13.0	13.5	3.4	4.5	4.8	5.0	5.5	6.2	6.4	6.6
DK	7.4	8.6	9.0	9.2	2.7	5.0	5.6	6.1	3.6	4.2	4.5	4.7
DE	9.8	10.4	10.8	11.0	7.4	7.8	8.0	8.2	7.4	7.0	7.1	7.2
EE ⁴	8.0	24.1	24.1	:	3.6	13.3	15.0	16.9	3.8	8.8	9.8	10.9
IE	11.2	21.4	22.9	24.0	6.2	12.1	12.8	13.5	3.9	7.3	7.7	8.0
EL ⁴	21.6	22.3*	:	:	4.9	5.2*	:	:	11.3	11.5*	:	:
ES	22.4	33.8	35.1	36.2	8.5	16.0	17.0	17.8	12.0	17.1	17.8	18.4
FR	18.1	21.1	21.5	22.0	7.1	8.2	8.4	8.6	8.2	9.1	9.2	9.3
IT ⁴	20.9	22.4*	:	:	5.5	5.9*	:	:	8.8	8.4*	:	:
CY ⁴	9.0	12.6	12.6	:	3.1	4.4	4.8	5.3	4.2	5.1	5.3	5.5
LV ⁴	10.1	29.2	29.2	:	6.2	17.8	19.8	21.6	6.0	11.1	11.9	12.7
LT ⁴	11.5	27.9	27.9	:	4.9	16.1	18.6	20.9	3.7	10.7	11.6	12.2
LU	16.4	19.0	19.6	20.0	3.8	5.2	5.4	5.5	5.8	6.9	7.1	7.3
HU	19.4	22.0	23.3	24.5	7.3	8.9	9.3	9.8	8.0	8.8	9.2	9.5
MT	11.9	13.0	14.0	14.5	5.5	6.1	6.2	6.4	6.6	7.3	7.6	7.6
NL	5.4	5.7	5.9	6.0	2.5	2.8	2.9	2.9	3.1	2.8	3.0	3.1
AT	7.7	9.0	8.9	8.4	3.4	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.0	4.3	4.3	4.2
PL	17.5	19.7	20.5	21.3	6.6	6.9	7.2	7.3	8.1	8.2	8.3	8.4
PT	15.6	19.7	20.3	20.6	6.4	8.2	8.5	8.7	8.9	9.7	9.8	10.0
RO ⁴	18.4	18.0*	:	:	6.7	6.6*	:	:	4.7	4.8*	:	:
SI ⁴	10.7	10.1	10.1	:	3.7	4.4	4.8	5.2	5.2	5.0	5.3	5.8
SK	18.9	22.7	23.7	25.2	8.5	9.6	10.1	10.5	11.4	10.9	11.4	11.9
FI	15.9	17.8	18.1	18.3	5.9	7.5	8.0	8.4	6.6	7.0	7.1	7.1
SE ⁵	18.6	24.0	25.1	25.9	5.3	7.8	8.2	8.7	6.2	7.7	8.0	8.3
UK	13.9	17.6	:	:	5.6	7.7	:	:	4.6	6.0	:	:
NO	6.7	8.5	8.8	:	2.5	3.3	3.4	:	2.2	2.9	3.0	:
US	11.0	15.5	16.3	16.7	5.2	8.8	9.5	10.0	4.8	7.3	7.5	7.6
JP	:	:	:	:	4.0	4.4	4.9	:	3.9	4.5	4.7	:

: Data not available

Source: Eurostat

* Data for 2008Q4

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED (in millions)

	April 2008	Oct 2008	Nov 2008	Dec 2008	Jan 2009	Feb 2009	March 2009	April 2009
EA16	11.479	12.387	12.646	12.945	13.360	13.757	14.183	14.579
EU27	16.172	17.493	17.901	18.371	18.976	19.649	20.269	20.825

Euro area and EU27 unemployed (in millions)

