

February 2011

## Euro area unemployment rate at 9.9%

EU27 at 9.5%

The **euro area**<sup>1</sup> (EA17) seasonally-adjusted<sup>2</sup> unemployment rate<sup>3</sup> was 9.9% in February 2011, compared with 10.0% in January<sup>4</sup>. It was 10.0% in February 2010. The **EU27**<sup>1</sup> unemployment rate was 9.5% in February 2011, compared with 9.6% in January<sup>4</sup>. It was 9.6% in February 2010.

Eurostat estimates that 23.051 million men and women in the **EU27**, of whom 15.747 million were in the **euro area**, were unemployed in February 2011. Compared with January 2011, the number of persons unemployed fell by 99 000 in the **EU27** and by 77 000 in the **euro area**. Compared with February 2010, unemployment decreased by 31 000 in the **EU27** and by 77 000 in the **euro area**.

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

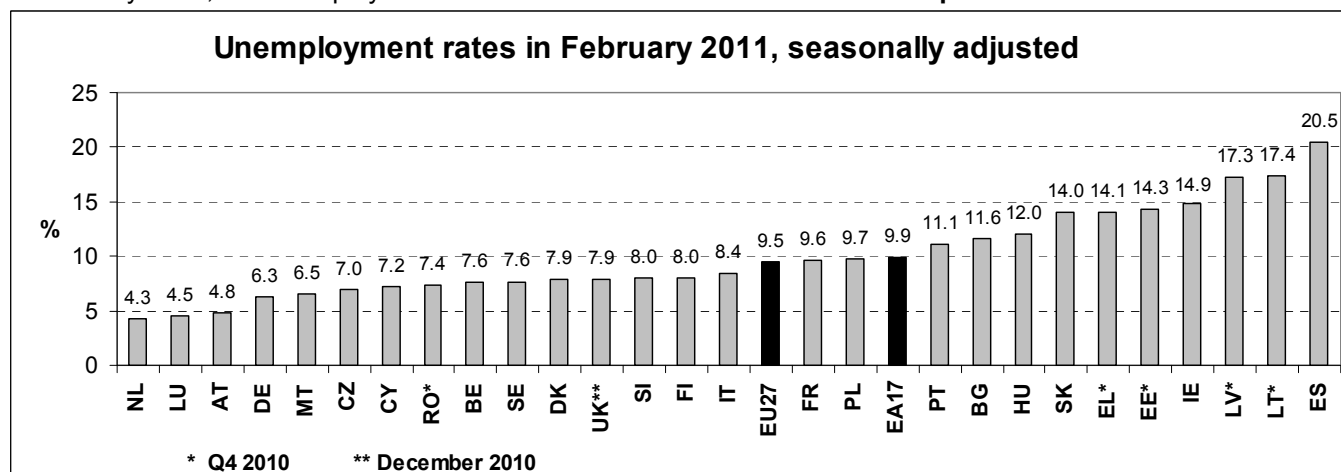
Among the Member States, the lowest unemployment rates were recorded in the **Netherlands** (4.3%), **Luxembourg** (4.5%) and **Austria** (4.8%), and the highest in **Spain** (20.5%), **Lithuania** (17.4% in the fourth quarter of 2010) and **Latvia** (17.3% in the fourth quarter of 2010).

Compared with a year ago, the unemployment rate fell in thirteen Member States, remained stable in two and increased in twelve. The largest falls were observed in **Latvia** (20.1% to 17.3% between the fourth quarters of 2009 and 2010), **Estonia** (16.1% to 14.3% between the fourth quarters of 2009 and 2010) and **Sweden** (8.8% to 7.6%). The highest increases were registered in **Greece** (10.2% to 14.1% between the fourth quarters of 2009 and 2010), **Bulgaria** (9.4% to 11.6%) and **Ireland** (13.0% to 14.9%).

Between February 2010 and February 2011, the unemployment rate for males fell from 9.9% to 9.7% in the **euro area** and from 9.8% to 9.5% in the **EU27**. The female unemployment rate increased from 10.1% to 10.2% in the **euro area** and from 9.4% to 9.6% in the **EU27**.

In February 2011, the youth unemployment rate (under-25s) was 19.4% in the **euro area** and 20.4% in the **EU27**. In February 2010 it was 20.5% and 20.9% respectively. The lowest rates were observed in the **Netherlands** (7.4%) and **Germany** (7.9%), and the highest in **Spain** (43.5%) and **Greece** (36.1% in the fourth quarter of 2010).

In February 2011, the unemployment rate was 8.9% in the **USA** and 4.6% in **Japan**.



1. The euro area (EA17) consists of Belgium, Germany, Estonia, 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 31/2011 of 1 March 2011, the January 2011 unemployment rates have been revised from 9.9% to 10.0% for the EA17 and from 9.5% to 9.6% for the EU27. Among Member States, the rate has been revised by between 0.2 and 0.4 percentage points for Belgium, the Czech Republic, Cyprus, Luxembourg, Malta, Austria and Slovenia. The rates for Hungary and Slovakia have been revised downwards by 0.5 percentage points. The rates for Bulgaria and Ireland have been revised upwards by 1.4 percentage points. The revisions are primarily caused by the inclusion of the most recent EU Labour Force Survey data in the calculation process and the annual update of seasonal adjustment parameters.  
The following LFS data are used in the calculations of the monthly unemployment rates published in this News Release:  
For Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Austria, Finland and Sweden monthly data up to and including February 2011.  
For the United Kingdom monthly data up to and including November 2010-December 2010-January 2011 (3-month rolling average).  
For Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Spain, Ireland, Greece, France, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia and Slovakia quarterly data up to and including Q4 2010.
5. Italy has 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 Austria and Finland the trend component is used instead of the more volatile seasonally adjusted data.

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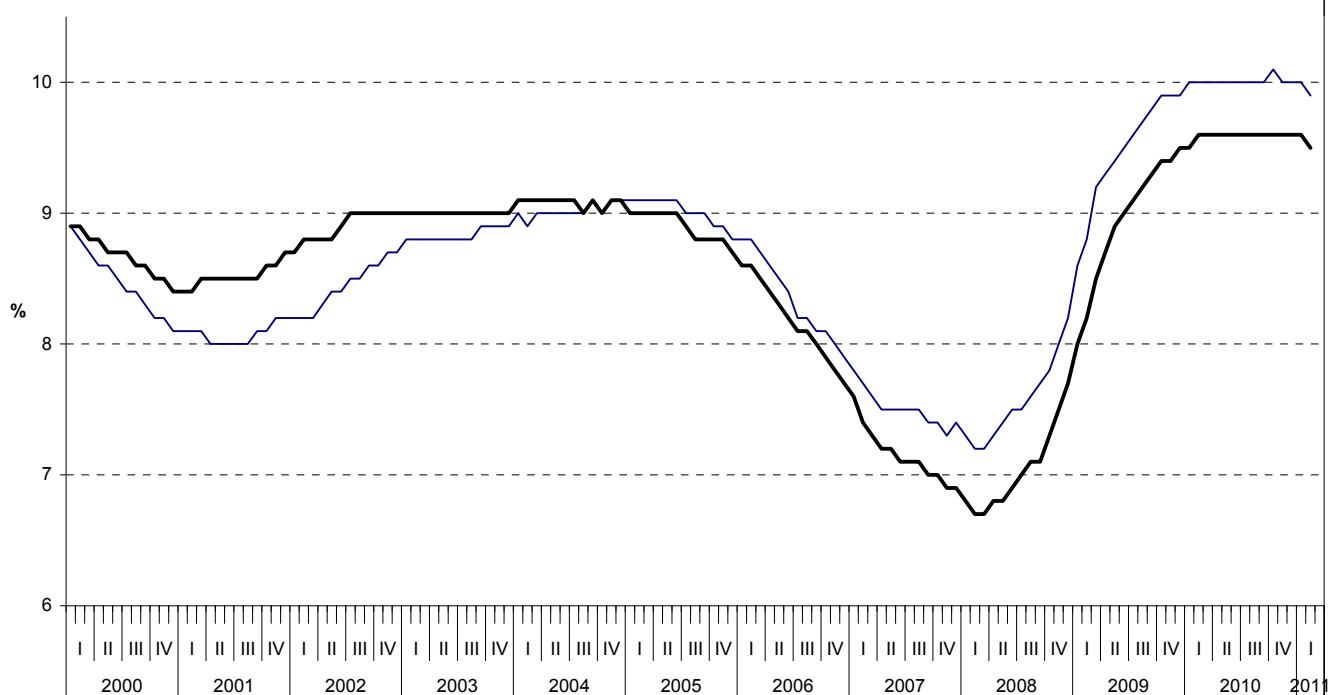
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Selected Principal European Economic Indicators: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/euroindicators>

### Euro area and EU27 unemployment rates

— Euro area (EA17), seasonally adjusted series  
 — EU27, seasonally adjusted series



### SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATES (%) TOTALS

	Feb 2010	Aug 2010	Sep 2010	Oct 2010	Nov 2010	Dec 2010	Jan 2011	Feb 2011
<b>EA17</b>	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.1	10.0	10.0	10.0	<b>9.9</b>
<b>EU27</b>	9.6	9.6	9.6	9.6	9.6	9.6	9.6	<b>9.5</b>
<b>BE</b>	8.4	8.3	8.2	8.1	8.0	7.8	7.7	<b>7.6</b>
<b>BG</b>	9.4	10.1	10.5	11.0	11.5	11.5	11.6	<b>11.6</b>
<b>CZ</b>	7.8	7.1	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.2	7.1	<b>7.0</b>
<b>DK</b>	7.1	7.3	7.6	7.6	7.7	7.7	7.9	<b>7.9</b>
<b>DE</b>	7.3	6.7	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.5	6.5	<b>6.3</b>
<b>EE<sup>5</sup></b>	18.8	15.9	15.9	14.3	14.3	14.3	:	:
<b>IE</b>	13.0	13.8	13.9	14.2	14.5	14.8	14.9	<b>14.9</b>
<b>EL<sup>6</sup></b>	11.0	13.0	13.0	14.1	14.1	14.1	:	:
<b>ES</b>	19.3	20.5	20.6	20.6	20.5	20.4	20.4	<b>20.5</b>
<b>FR</b>	9.9	9.8	9.7	9.7	9.6	9.6	9.6	<b>9.6</b>
<b>IT<sup>5</sup></b>	8.4	8.3	8.4	8.6	8.5	8.4	8.5	<b>8.4</b>
<b>CY</b>	6.2	6.7	6.6	6.8	6.9	6.9	7.0	<b>7.2</b>
<b>LV<sup>6</sup></b>	19.8	18.2	18.2	17.3	17.3	17.3	:	:
<b>LT<sup>6</sup></b>	17.4	18.3	18.3	17.4	17.4	17.4	:	:
<b>LU</b>	4.6	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.6	4.6	4.5	<b>4.5</b>
<b>HU</b>	11.1	11.1	11.0	11.1	11.1	11.3	12.1	<b>12.0</b>
<b>MT</b>	7.2	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.4	6.5	6.3	<b>6.5</b>
<b>NL</b>	4.5	4.5	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.3	4.3	<b>4.3</b>
<b>AT<sup>7</sup></b>	4.5	4.4	4.3	4.2	4.3	4.2	4.5	<b>4.8</b>
<b>PL</b>	9.7	9.6	9.7	9.7	9.7	9.7	9.7	<b>9.7</b>
<b>PT</b>	10.5	11.1	11.2	11.2	11.2	11.2	11.2	<b>11.1</b>
<b>RO<sup>6</sup></b>	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.4	7.4	7.4	:	:
<b>SI</b>	6.8	7.3	7.3	7.6	7.7	8.0	8.0	<b>8.0</b>
<b>SK</b>	14.7	14.4	14.3	14.3	14.1	14.0	14.0	<b>14.0</b>
<b>FI<sup>7</sup></b>	8.7	8.3	8.2	8.1	8.1	8.0	8.0	<b>8.0</b>
<b>SE</b>	8.8	8.2	8.2	8.0	7.8	7.8	7.8	<b>7.6</b>
<b>UK</b>	7.9	7.7	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.9	:	:
<b>NO</b>	3.5	3.4	3.5	3.5	3.6	3.3	3.2	:
<b>US</b>	9.7	9.6	9.6	9.7	9.8	9.4	9.0	<b>8.9</b>
<b>JP</b>	4.9	5.0	5.0	5.1	5.1	4.9	4.9	<b>4.6</b>

: Data not available Source: Eurostat

## SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATES (%)

	Youth (under 25's)				Males				Females			
	Feb-10	Dec-10	Jan-11	Feb-11	Feb-10	Dec-10	Jan-11	Feb-11	Feb-10	Dec-10	Jan-11	Feb-11
EA17	20.5	19.8	19.6	<b>19.4</b>	9.9	9.8	9.8	<b>9.7</b>	10.1	10.2	10.2	<b>10.2</b>
EU27	20.9	20.6	20.5	<b>20.4</b>	9.8	9.5	9.5	<b>9.5</b>	9.4	9.6	9.6	<b>9.6</b>
BE	23.8	21.0	20.8	<b>20.4</b>	8.2	7.8	7.8	<b>7.7</b>	8.6	7.9	7.7	<b>7.5</b>
BG	22.2	26.6	28.2	<b>28.8</b>	9.9	12.4	12.6	<b>12.7</b>	8.9	10.5	10.5	<b>10.3</b>
CZ	19.4	17.2	17.4	<b>17.6</b>	7.1	6.4	6.3	<b>6.2</b>	8.7	8.3	8.1	<b>8.1</b>
DK	13.4	13.6	13.8	<b>13.4</b>	8.3	8.1	8.4	<b>8.3</b>	5.8	7.4	7.4	<b>7.4</b>
DE	9.9	8.4	8.1	<b>7.9</b>	8.0	7.1	7.0	<b>6.8</b>	6.5	5.9	5.9	<b>5.9</b>
EE <sup>6</sup>	39.5	26.1	:	:	23.4	15.4	:	:	14.4	13.1	:	:
IE	26.6	31.3	31.8	<b>31.9</b>	16.4	18.0	18.1	<b>18.0</b>	8.8	10.9	11.0	<b>11.0</b>
EL <sup>6</sup>	29.9	36.1	:	:	8.3	11.4	:	:	14.8	17.8	:	:
ES	40.1	43.0	43.2	<b>43.5</b>	19.2	20.0	20.0	<b>20.1</b>	19.5	20.9	20.8	<b>20.9</b>
FR	24.0	21.9	21.4	<b>21.1</b>	9.7	9.0	8.9	<b>8.9</b>	10.1	10.3	10.3	<b>10.3</b>
IT <sup>5</sup>	28.1	28.5	29.4	<b>28.1</b>	7.5	7.7	7.7	<b>7.6</b>	9.9	9.5	9.7	<b>9.5</b>
CY <sup>6</sup>	17.7	19.4	:	:	6.1	6.5	6.5	<b>6.7</b>	6.3	7.3	7.6	<b>7.7</b>
LV <sup>6</sup>	38.3	31.0	:	:	24.1	18.7	:	:	15.5	15.8	:	:
LT <sup>6</sup>	35.2	34.2	:	:	21.9	19.9	:	:	12.9	15.0	:	:
LU	16.5	16.6	16.0	<b>15.7</b>	4.2	4.1	3.8	<b>3.7</b>	5.2	5.3	5.4	<b>5.4</b>
HU	26.6	26.0	27.8	<b>27.3</b>	11.6	11.6	12.7	<b>12.5</b>	10.5	10.9	11.5	<b>11.4</b>
MT	14.4	12.2	11.5	<b>11.7</b>	6.9	6.4	6.3	<b>6.5</b>	7.8	6.7	6.4	<b>6.4</b>
NL	8.8	8.2	7.8	<b>7.4</b>	4.5	4.2	4.2	<b>4.3</b>	4.5	4.4	4.3	<b>4.2</b>
AT <sup>7</sup>	9.5	8.2	8.9	<b>10.1</b>	4.7	4.1	4.4	<b>4.7</b>	4.2	4.4	4.7	<b>5.0</b>
PL	23.4	24.4	25.0	<b>25.6</b>	9.5	9.4	9.4	<b>9.5</b>	10.0	10.1	10.1	<b>10.1</b>
PT	21.8	21.5	21.3	<b>21.3</b>	9.6	10.3	10.2	<b>10.2</b>	11.4	12.3	12.3	<b>12.2</b>
RO <sup>6</sup>	21.1	23.0	:	:	8.0	8.0	:	:	6.6	6.6	:	:
SI <sup>6</sup>	13.5	14.2	:	:	7.0	8.4	8.3	<b>8.3</b>	6.5	7.6	7.7	<b>7.8</b>
SK	33.3	33.8	34.3	<b>34.7</b>	14.3	14.0	14.1	<b>14.1</b>	15.1	14.1	14.0	<b>13.9</b>
FI <sup>7</sup>	22.6	20.5	20.2	<b>20.1</b>	9.5	8.5	8.4	<b>8.3</b>	7.8	7.5	7.6	<b>7.6</b>
SE	25.8	24.2	22.6	<b>23.0</b>	8.9	7.7	7.9	<b>7.7</b>	8.7	7.8	7.7	<b>7.5</b>
UK	19.9	20.5	:	:	9.0	8.5	:	:	6.6	7.1	:	:
NO	9.1	8.9	9.1	:	4.1	3.8	3.7	:	2.9	2.8	2.7	:
US	18.5	18.1	18.1	<b>17.7</b>	10.7	10.1	9.5	<b>9.3</b>	8.6	8.7	8.5	<b>8.5</b>
JP	:	:	:	:	5.3	5.3	5.3	<b>4.8</b>	4.4	4.3	4.3	<b>4.3</b>

: Data not available Source: Eurostat

## SEASONALLY ADJUSTED NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED (in millions)

	Feb 2010	Aug 2010	Sep 2010	Oct 2010	Nov 2010	Dec 2010	Jan 2011	Feb 2011
EA17	15.824	15.913	15.905	15.995	15.909	15.832	15.824	<b>15.747</b>
EU27	23.082	23.064	23.111	23.225	23.130	23.119	23.150	<b>23.051</b>

### Euro area and EU27 unemployed (in millions)

