

First estimate for the fourth quarter of 2009

Employment down by 0.2% in the euro area and by 0.3% in the EU27

-2.0% and -2.1% respectively compared with the fourth quarter of 2008

The number of persons employed in the **euro area**¹ (EA16) fell by 0.2% (347 000 persons) in the fourth quarter of 2009 compared with the previous quarter, according to national accounts estimates published by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**. In the same period, the number of persons employed in the **EU27**¹ decreased by 0.3% (583 000 persons). In the third quarter of 2009, employment declined by 0.5% in both zones. These figures are seasonally adjusted.

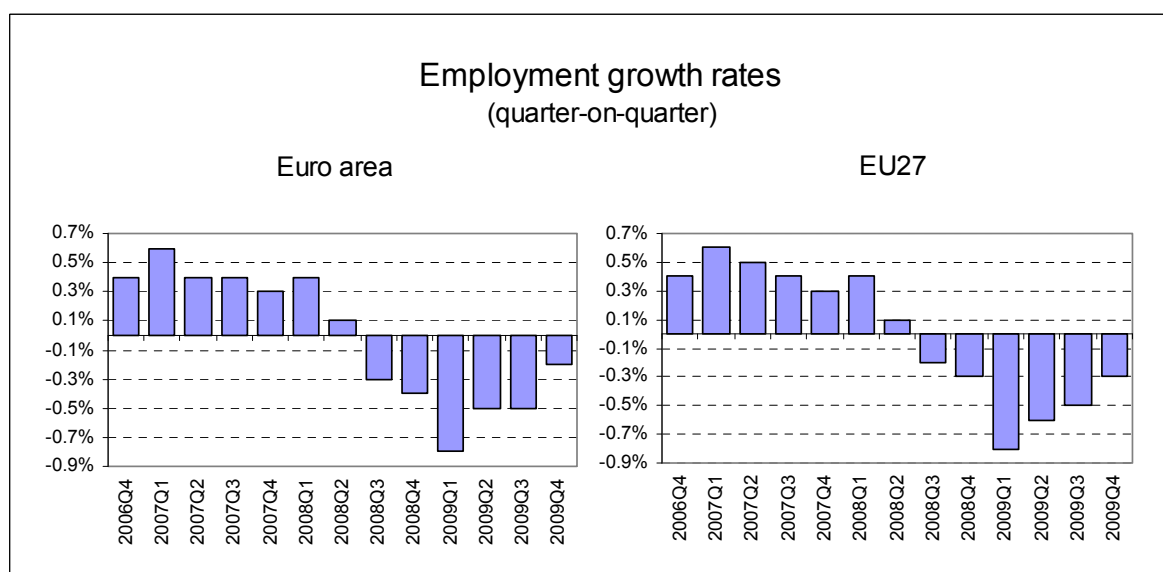
Falls in employment were recorded in manufacturing (-1.1% in the **euro area** and -1.0% in the **EU27**), construction (-0.4% and -0.7% respectively) and trade, transport & communication services (-0.5% in both zones). Financial services & business activities decreased by 0.1% in the **euro area**, but grew by 0.1% in the **EU27**. Agriculture increased by 0.5% and 0.1% respectively, and other services (which mainly includes public administration, health and education) grew by 0.2% in both zones.

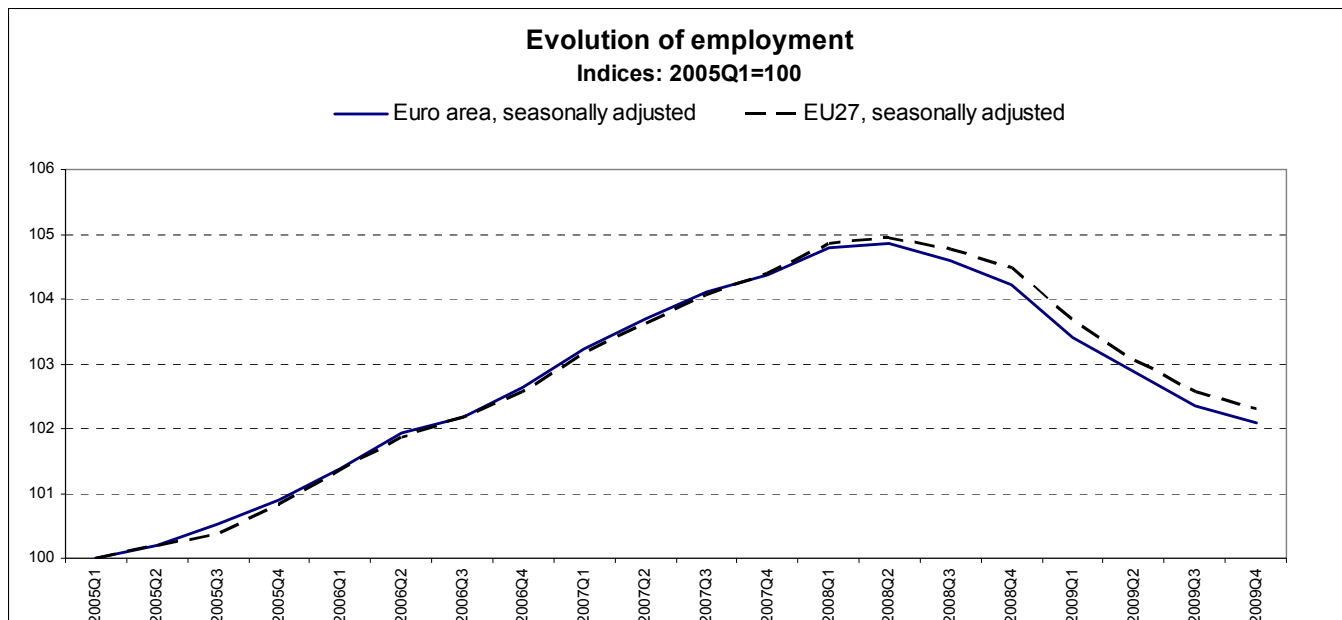
Compared with the same quarter of the previous year, employment fell by 2.0% in the **euro area** and by 2.1% in the **EU27** in the fourth quarter of 2009. In the third quarter of 2009, employment decreased by 2.2% and 2.1% respectively.

Eurostat estimates that, in the fourth quarter of 2009, 221.1 million men and women were employed in the **EU27**, of which 144.3 million were in the **euro area**. These figures are seasonally adjusted.

Over the whole of 2009, employment decreased by 1.8% (2 721 000 persons) in the **euro area** and also by 1.8% (4 021 000 persons) in the **EU27**, compared with +0.9% and +0.7% respectively in 2008.

These quarterly data on employment provide a picture of labour input consistent with the output and income measure of national accounts.





- 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).

Methodological information:

Estimates of employment in the European quarterly national accounts are compiled in accordance with the European System of Accounts 1995 (ESA95). National accounts measure employment alongside other variables such as GDP, output, compensation of employees, etc. ESA95 (chapter 11) defines employment in line with International Labour Organisation criteria.

Employment covers employees and self-employed working in resident production units (i.e. the domestic employment concept). Unless otherwise stated, all employment estimates in this release use *persons* as the measurement unit. ESA95 acknowledges other possible measures for employment: jobs, full-time equivalents and total hours worked.

The methodology used by Eurostat to estimate the European aggregates in this release is the same as for the European quarterly national accounts (for details see Eurostat press release 77/2006 of 14 June 2006, annex I). Estimates of employment in national accounts may differ from results of other statistics and surveys, in particular the labour force survey. For further details see press release 77/2006 of 14 June 2006, annex II. The estimate of 2009 Q4 employment growth presented in this release is based on Member States' data, as available, including confidential figures for Ireland and the Netherlands. For this quarter it covers 99% of employment in the euro area and 93% in the EU27.

More data on European quarterly national accounts are available on Eurostat's website ("Data" / "Economy and finance" / "National Accounts"). Additional general information on European national accounts is also available in the metadata files linked to the tables.

Release policy:

Eurostat publishes a first quarterly estimate of employment in national accounts 75 days after the end of the reference period ('t+75 days'). There is a second estimate after t+100 days, published together with the second regular GDP release (scheduled for 7 April 2010). There is no specific employment News Release at t+100 days.

Euro area and EU employment figures for earlier quarters are revised in both first and second employment estimates.

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Employment growth rates*

	Percentage change compared to the previous quarter				Percentage change compared to the same quarter of the previous year			
	2009				2009			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
EA16	-0.8	-0.5	-0.5	-0.2	-1.3	-1.9	-2.2	-2.0
EU27	-0.8	-0.6	-0.5	-0.3	-1.1	-1.8	-2.1	-2.1
Member States								
Belgium	-0.4	-0.3	-0.3	-0.3	0.5	-0.2	-0.9	-1.4
Bulgaria	:	:	:	:	-0.3	-1.8	-3.7	-5.8
Czech Republic	-0.7	-1.0	-0.4	0.2	0.0	-0.9	-1.9	-1.9
Denmark	-1.9	-0.7	-1.6	:	-2.1	-2.3	-4.5	:
Germany	-0.1	-0.2	-0.1	0.0	0.5	0.1	-0.2	-0.4
Estonia	-7.2	-1.9	-0.7	:	-7.2	-10.2	-10.7	-11.9
Ireland	-3.7	-1.5	-2.0	c	-7.5	-8.3	-8.7	c
Greece	-0.6	-0.2	-0.5	-0.8	-0.2	-1.0	-1.2	-2.2
Spain	-2.5	-1.3	-1.5	-0.8	-6.4	-7.1	-7.2	-6.0
France	-0.4	-0.4	-0.2	-0.1	-0.7	-1.2	-1.3	-1.1
Italy	-0.6	-0.4	-0.6	-0.1	-1.1	-1.6	-2.1	-1.8
Cyprus	:	:	:	:	1.4	-0.5	-2.0	:
Latvia	-3.2	-5.4	-5.7	:	-8.2	-13.2	-16.5	-16.5
Lithuania	-4.0	-1.5	-0.4	-2.3	-5.1	-6.7	-7.5	-8.3
Luxembourg	-0.2	-0.1	0.0	:	2.3	1.2	0.3	:
Hungary	-1.6	-1.5	-0.1	-0.5	-2.7	-4.4	-3.8	-3.5
Malta	:	:	:	:	0.4	-0.5	-1.5	-0.7
Netherlands	-0.4	-0.6	-0.5	c	0.3	-0.8	-1.5	c
Austria	-0.9	-0.1	0.0	0.1	-0.4	-1.1	-1.2	-0.9
Poland	-0.5	0.3	0.1	-0.4	1.0	1.1	0.3	-0.8
Portugal	-1.1	-1.0	-0.8	0.0	-1.6	-2.7	-3.1	-2.8
Romania	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Slovenia	-0.8	-1.0	-1.1	-1.0	0.4	-1.7	-3.4	-4.0
Slovakia	-1.8	-0.7	-0.8	-0.6	-0.4	-1.3	-3.7	-4.0
Finland	-0.9	-1.5	-1.1	-0.7	-1.2	-3.1	-3.5	-4.1
Sweden	:	:	:	:	-1.2	-2.2	-2.6	-2.1
United Kingdom	-0.6	-0.8	0.0	0.0	-1.1	-2.1	-1.7	-1.4
EFTA countries								
Norway	-0.5	-0.3	-0.3	0.1	0.9	-0.1	-1.4	-0.9

: Data not available

c: confidential

* Percentage change in the number of persons employed in resident production units compared with the previous quarter based on seasonally adjusted data. Percentage change compared with the same quarter of the previous year based on non-seasonally adjusted data.

T1 - TOTAL EMPLOYMENT AND EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

t/t-1 - PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER THE PREVIOUS QUARTER – SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

% of total*	Total economy				Agriculture, hunting and fishing				Industry, incl. Energy								Construction				Trade, transport and communication services				Financial services and business activities				Other services			
									Total				of which; Manufacturing																			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
	100.0				5.7				16.9				15.8				7.2				25.5				15.2				29.7			
	2009				2009				2009				2009				2009				2009				2009				2009			
EA16	-0.8	-0.5	-0.5	-0.2	-0.8	-0.9	-1.2	0.5	-1.6	-1.8	-1.7	-1.1	-1.7	-1.9	-1.7	-1.1	-2.3	-1.3	-1.7	-0.4	-0.8	-0.5	-0.2	-0.5	-0.9	-0.8	-0.5	-0.1	0.2	0.6	0.2	0.2
EU27	-0.8	-0.6	-0.5	-0.3	-0.2	-0.5	-0.5	0.1	-1.7	-1.8	-1.5	-1.0	-1.8	-1.9	-1.5	-1.0	-2.4	-1.6	-2.0	-0.7	-0.9	-0.7	-0.2	-0.5	-0.6	-0.9	-0.4	0.1	0.1	0.5	0.3	0.2

T2 - TOTAL EMPLOYMENT AND EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

t/t-4 - PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER THE SAME QUARTER OF THE PREVIOUS YEAR – NON-SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

% of total*	Total economy				Agriculture, hunting and fishing				Industry, incl. Energy								Construction				Trade, transport and communication services				Financial services and business activities				Other services			
									Total				of which; Manufacturing																			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
	100.0				5.7				16.9				15.8				7.2				25.5				15.2				29.7			
	2009				2009				2009				2009				2009				2009				2009				2009			
EA16	-1.3	-1.9	-2.2	-2.0	-2.3	-2.4	-3.0	-2.4	-3.1	-4.9	-6.4	-6.2	-3.2	-5.0	-6.6	-6.3	-7.1	-7.5	-7.5	-5.7	-1.3	-2.0	-1.9	-1.9	-1.4	-2.3	-2.8	-2.2	1.5	1.7	1.7	1.3
EU27	-1.1	-1.8	-2.1	-2.1	-0.9	-2.0	-0.9	-1.1	-3.1	-4.7	-6.0	-5.9	-3.3	-5.0	-6.2	-6.1	-5.3	-6.3	-7.2	-6.7	-1.3	-1.9	-2.0	-2.2	-1.1	-2.1	-2.6	-1.7	1.2	1.5	1.5	1.1

* EU27 data for 2009