

May 2010

Euro area unemployment rate at 10.0%

EU27 at 9.6%

The **euro area**¹ (EA16) seasonally-adjusted² unemployment rate³ was 10.0% in May 2010, unchanged compared with April⁴. It was 9.4% in May 2009. The **EU27**¹ unemployment rate was 9.6% in May 2010, unchanged compared with April⁴. It was 8.9% in May 2009.

Eurostat estimates that 23.127 million men and women in the **EU27**, of whom 15.789 million were in the **euro area**, were unemployed in May 2010. Compared with April 2010, the number of persons unemployed decreased by 37 000 in the **EU27**. In the **euro area**, the number of persons unemployed increased by 35 000. Compared with May 2009, unemployment rose by 1.801 million in the **EU27**, and by 0.991 million in the **euro area**.

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

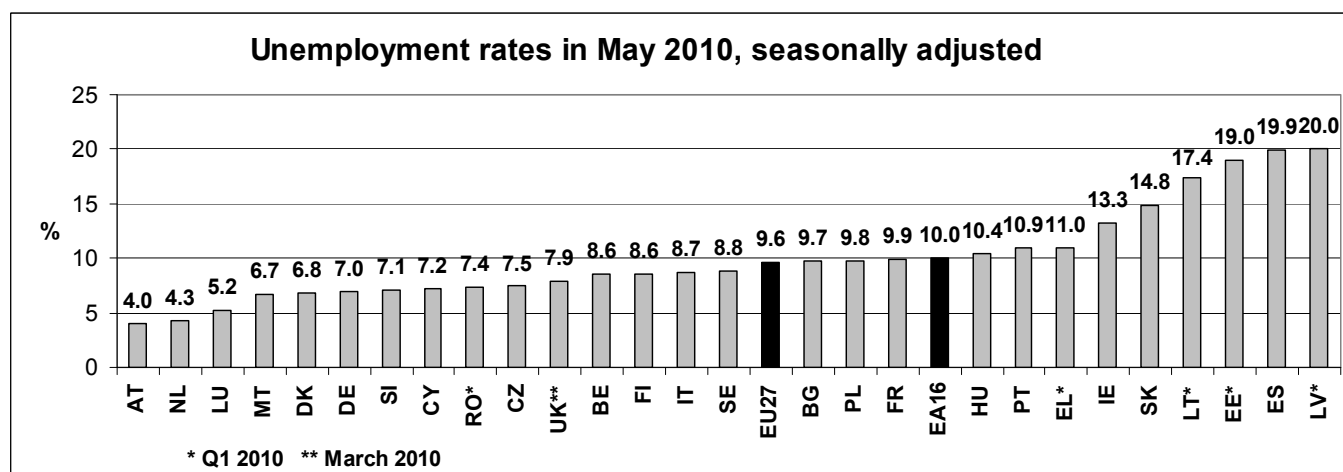
Among the Member States, the lowest unemployment rates were recorded in **Austria** (4.0%) and the **Netherlands** (4.3%), and the highest rates in **Latvia** (20.0% in the first quarter of 2010), **Spain** (19.9%) and **Estonia** (19.0% in the first quarter of 2010).

Compared with a year ago, five Member States recorded a fall in the unemployment rate and twenty-two an increase. The largest falls were observed in **Austria** (4.9% to 4.0%) and **Germany** (7.6% to 7.0%). The highest increases were registered in **Estonia** (11.0% to 19.0% between the first quarters of 2009 and 2010) and **Latvia** (13.5% to 20.0% between the first quarters of 2009 and 2010).

Between May 2009 and May 2010, the unemployment rate for males rose from 9.2% to 9.9% in the **euro area** and from 8.9% to 9.7% in the **EU27**. The female unemployment rate increased from 9.5% to 10.2% in the **euro area** and from 8.8% to 9.5% in the **EU27**.

In May 2010, the youth unemployment rate (under-25s) was 19.9% in the **euro area** and 20.5% in the **EU27**. In May 2009 it was 19.4% and 19.5% respectively. The lowest rate was observed in the **Netherlands** (8.1%), and the highest rates in **Spain** (40.5%), **Estonia** (39.8% in the first quarter of 2010) and **Latvia** (39.7% in the first quarter of 2010).

In May 2010, the unemployment rate was 9.7% in the **USA** and 5.2% in **Japan**.



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 78/2010 of 1 June 2010, the April 2010 unemployment rate for the EA16 has been revised from 10.1% to 10.0% and the EU27 rate has been revised from 9.7% to 9.6%. Among Member States, the rate has been revised by between 0.2 and 0.4 percentage points for Belgium, Ireland, France, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Sweden. Larger revisions were observed for Austria (-0.8 pp), Hungary (+0.5 pp), Slovakia (+0.7 pp), Slovenia (+0.8 pp) and Bulgaria (+0.9 pp). The revisions are primarily caused by the inclusion of the most recent EU Labour Force Survey data in the calculation process and updates of 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, Finland and Sweden up to and including May 2010.
For the Netherlands up to and including March-April-May 2010 (3-month rolling average).
For the United Kingdom up to and including February-March-April 2010 (3-month rolling average).
For Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Hungary, Austria, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia and Slovakia up to and including 2010Q1.
For Malta up to and including 2009Q4.
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.
Due to recent large revisions of provisional monthly data, Latvia has been added to the group of Member States for which only quarterly data is being published until further notice.
7. For Finland the trend component is used instead of the more volatile seasonally adjusted data.

Issued by:
Eurostat Press Office

Johan WULLT
Tel: +352-4301-33 444
eurostat-pressoffice@ec.europa.eu

Eurostat news releases on internet:
<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat>

For further information on data:

Hubertus VREESWIJK
Tel: +352-4301-34 323

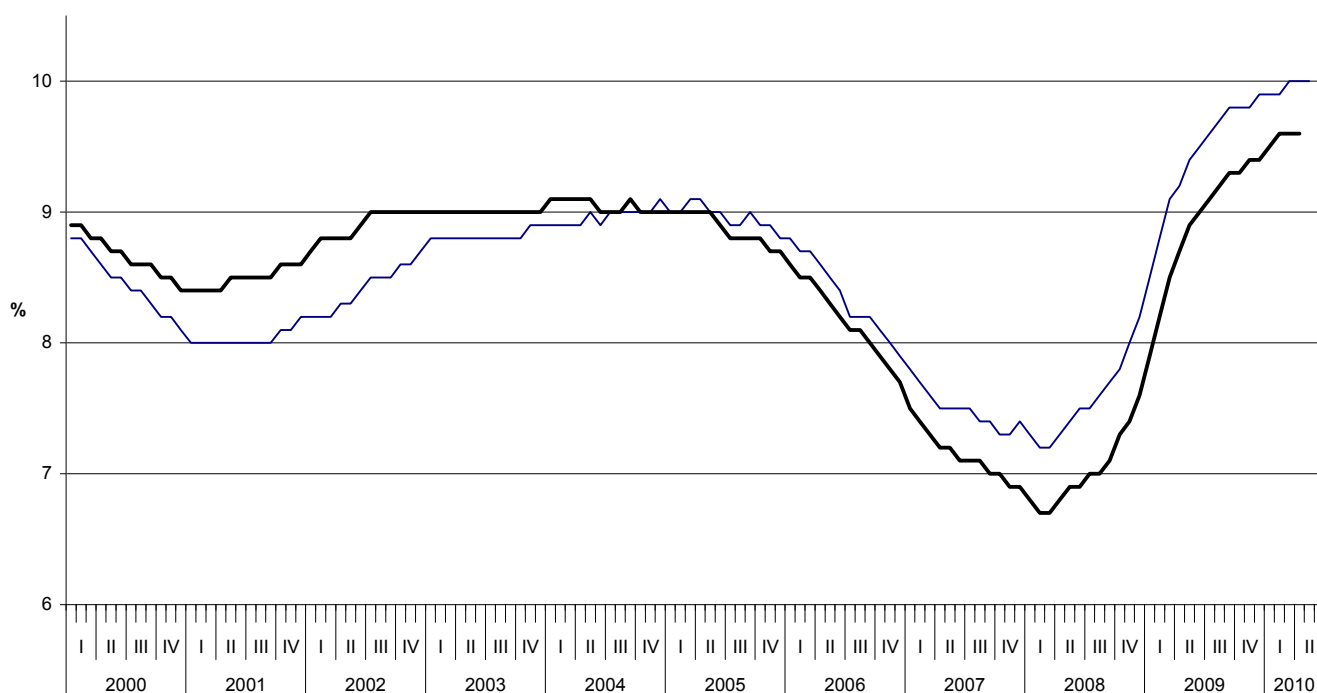
Hannah KILVER
Tel: +352-4301-38 438

estat-monthly-unemployment@ec.europa.eu

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

Euro area and EU27 unemployment rates

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



SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATES (%) TOTALS

	May 2009	Nov 2009	Dec 2009	Jan 2010	Feb 2010	Mar 2010	Apr 2010	May 2010
EA16	9.4	9.8	9.9	9.9	9.9	10.0	10.0	10.0
EU27	8.9	9.4	9.4	9.5	9.6	9.6	9.6	9.6
BE	7.7	8.1	8.2	8.3	8.4	8.5	8.5	8.6
BG	6.4	8.2	8.6	8.9	9.3	9.5	9.7	9.7
CZ	6.5	7.3	7.5	7.7	7.9	7.9	7.6	7.5
DK	6.0	7.1	7.2	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.0	6.8
DE	7.6	7.5	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.3	7.1	7.0
EE⁵	13.5	15.6	15.6	19.0	19.0	19.0	:	:
IE	12.0	13.0	12.9	12.9	12.8	12.8	12.9	13.3
EL⁶	9.2	10.2	10.2	11.0	11.0	11.0	:	:
ES	17.9	19.0	19.0	19.0	19.2	19.5	19.7	19.9
FR	9.4	9.8	9.8	9.9	9.9	9.9	9.9	9.9
IT⁵	7.5	8.3	8.5	8.4	8.5	8.7	8.7	8.7
CY	5.2	6.2	6.2	6.3	6.4	6.8	6.9	7.2
LV⁶	16.5	19.8	19.8	20.0	20.0	20.0	:	:
LT⁶	13.5	15.9	15.9	17.4	17.4	17.4	:	:
LU	5.3	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2
HU	9.8	10.6	10.7	11.2	11.2	11.2	10.9	10.4
MT	7.1	7.0	7.1	6.9	7.0	6.9	6.9	6.7
NL	3.3	3.8	4.0	4.1	4.2	4.2	4.3	4.3
AT	4.9	4.7	4.7	4.6	4.5	4.2	4.1	4.0
PL	8.0	8.8	9.1	9.5	9.8	9.9	9.9	9.8
PT	9.4	10.1	10.2	10.4	10.4	10.6	10.8	10.9
RO⁶	6.4	7.6	7.6	7.4	7.4	7.4	:	:
SI	5.8	6.4	6.5	6.6	6.7	6.9	7.1	7.1
SK	11.2	14.2	14.4	14.5	14.7	14.7	14.8	14.8
FI⁷	8.2	8.8	8.8	8.9	8.9	9.0	8.8	8.6
SE	9.0	8.7	8.9	8.9	8.8	8.6	9.1	8.8
UK	7.7	7.8	7.7	7.9	7.9	7.9	:	:
NO	3.1	3.3	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.5	3.7	:
US	9.4	10.0	10.0	9.7	9.7	9.7	9.9	9.7
JP	5.1	5.3	5.2	4.9	4.8	5.0	5.1	5.2

: Data not available

Source: Eurostat

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATES (%)

	Youth (under 25's)				Males				Females			
	May-09	Mar-10	Apr-10	May-10	May-09	Mar-10	Apr-10	May-10	May-09	Mar-10	Apr-10	May-10
EA16	19.4	20.0	20.0	19.9	9.2	9.9	9.9	9.9	9.5	10.1	10.1	10.2
EU27	19.5	20.6	20.6	20.5	8.9	9.8	9.8	9.7	8.8	9.5	9.5	9.5
BE	21.4	24.3	23.9	23.8	7.6	8.2	8.2	8.2	7.8	8.8	8.9	9.0
BG	15.4	23.1	22.9	22.5	6.3	10.0	10.2	10.4	6.4	9.0	9.0	9.0
CZ	15.9	19.4	19.4	19.4	5.6	7.1	6.8	6.5	7.6	8.9	8.8	8.7
DK	11.4	13.0	12.7	12.4	6.6	8.4	8.2	7.9	5.5	5.6	5.6	5.5
DE	10.8	9.8	9.5	9.4	8.2	7.9	7.7	7.6	7.0	6.6	6.5	6.4
EE ^o	25.5	39.8	:	:	16.7	23.8	:	:	10.3	14.4	:	:
IE	24.5	26.3	25.7	26.5	15.1	16.3	16.3	16.8	8.0	8.5	8.6	8.9
EL ^o	25.5	29.5	:	:	6.7	8.3	:	:	12.9	14.8	:	:
ES	37.6	40.1	40.2	40.5	17.6	19.4	19.5	19.7	18.4	19.6	19.9	20.2
FR	23.8	22.9	22.6	22.6	9.2	9.6	9.6	9.6	9.7	10.1	10.1	10.2
IT ^o	24.6	27.6	29.1	29.2	6.6	7.6	7.8	7.7	8.9	10.3	10.0	10.1
CY ^o	12.9	18.4	:	:	5.1	6.7	7.0	7.2	5.3	6.9	6.9	7.1
LV ^o	29.3	39.7	:	:	19.8	24.6	:	:	13.1	15.5	:	:
LT ^o	29.5	34.4	:	:	16.4	22.2	:	:	10.5	12.6	:	:
LU	17.6	16.8	16.3	15.8	4.6	4.5	4.4	4.3	6.1	6.3	6.3	6.4
HU	26.1	26.1	25.4	24.5	10.0	11.8	11.3	10.6	9.5	10.5	10.4	10.2
MT	14.9	14.9	15.1	14.9	6.7	6.8	6.9	6.7	7.8	7.0	7.0	6.7
NL	6.1	8.0	8.1	8.1	3.2	4.2	4.4	4.4	3.3	4.2	4.2	4.2
AT	10.7	9.4	9.4	9.5	5.2	4.2	4.0	3.9	4.6	4.2	4.2	4.2
PL	19.7	23.6	23.4	23.5	7.5	9.7	9.6	9.4	8.6	10.2	10.2	10.3
PT	19.4	21.8	22.1	22.1	8.9	9.7	9.9	9.9	10.0	11.6	11.9	12.0
RO ^o	20.3	20.9	:	:	7.3	8.0	:	:	5.4	6.5	:	:
SI ^o	13.5	12.8	:	:	5.8	7.1	7.2	7.1	5.8	6.6	6.9	7.0
SK	25.6	33.9	34.6	35.1	10.4	14.3	14.4	14.4	12.2	15.2	15.2	15.2
FI ^l	21.2	23.7	23.5	22.2	9.0	9.7	9.7	9.6	7.4	8.1	7.9	7.6
SE	28.0	26.5	27.2	25.9	9.2	8.8	8.9	8.9	8.8	8.4	9.4	8.6
UK	18.9	19.7	:	:	8.8	8.9	:	:	6.5	6.6	:	:
NO	8.9	9.2	9.8	:	3.5	4.0	4.1	:	2.6	3.0	3.1	:
US	17.5	18.8	19.6	18.1	10.5	10.7	10.8	10.5	8.1	8.6	8.8	8.8
JP	:	:	:	:	5.4	5.6	5.5	5.5	4.8	4.3	4.7	4.8

: Data not available Source: Eurostat

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED (in millions)

	May 2009	Nov 2009	Dec 2009	Jan 2010	Feb 2010	Mar 2010	Apr 2010	May 2010
EA16	14.798	15.493	15.555	15.624	15.705	15.760	15.754	15.789
EU27	21.326	22.550	22.701	22.936	23.112	23.171	23.164	23.127

Euro area and EU27 unemployed (in millions)

