

August 2011

## Euro area unemployment rate at 10.0%

EU27 at 9.5%

The **euro area**<sup>1</sup> (EA17) seasonally-adjusted<sup>2</sup> unemployment rate<sup>3</sup> was 10.0% in August 2011, unchanged compared with July<sup>4</sup>. It was 10.2% in August 2010. The **EU27**<sup>1</sup> unemployment rate was 9.5% in August 2011, unchanged compared with July<sup>4</sup>. It was 9.6% in August 2010.

Eurostat estimates that 22.785 million men and women in the **EU27**, of whom 15.739 million were in the **euro area**, were unemployed in August 2011. Compared with July 2011, the number of persons unemployed decreased by 62 000 in the **EU27** and by 38 000 in the **euro area**. Compared with August 2010, unemployment fell by 300 000 in the **EU27** and by 215 000 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 **Austria** (3.7%), the **Netherlands** (4.4%) and **Luxembourg** (4.9%), and the highest in **Spain** (21.2%), **Greece** (16.7% in the second quarter of 2011) and **Latvia** (16.2% in the second quarter of 2011).

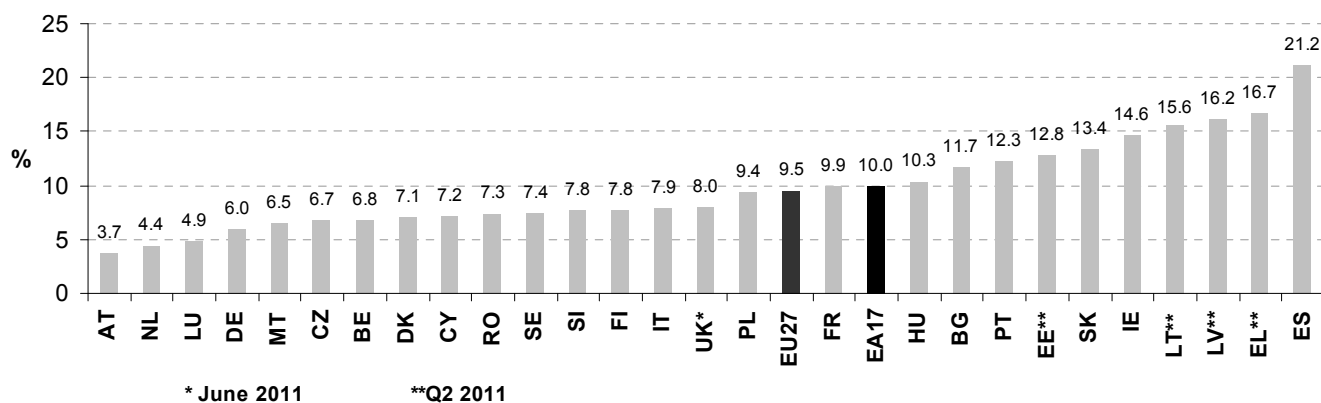
Compared with a year ago, the unemployment rate fell in sixteen Member States, increased in ten and remained stable in **Romania**. The largest falls were observed in **Estonia** (17.9% to 12.8% between the second quarters of 2010 and 2011), **Latvia** (19.4% to 16.2% between the second quarters of 2010 and 2011) and **Lithuania** (18.2% to 15.6% between the second quarters of 2010 and 2011). The highest increases were registered in **Greece** (12.1% to 16.7% between the second quarters of 2010 and 2011), **Bulgaria** (10.2% to 11.7%) and **Cyprus** (6.2% to 7.2%).

Between August 2010 and August 2011, the unemployment rate for males fell from 10.0% to 9.6% in the **euro area** and from 9.6% to 9.3% in the **EU27**. The female unemployment rate decreased from 10.4% to 10.3% in the **euro area** and remained stable at 9.7% in the **EU27**.

In August 2011, 5.139 million young persons (under-25s) were unemployed in the **EU27**, of which 3.129 million were in the **euro area**. Compared with August 2010, youth unemployment decreased by 107 000 in the **EU27** and by 110 000 in the **euro area**. In August 2011, the youth unemployment rate was 20.9% in the **EU27** and 20.4% in the **euro area**. In August 2010 it was 20.8% and 20.9% respectively. The lowest rates were observed in the **Netherlands** (7.5%), **Austria** (7.9%) and **Germany** (8.9%), and the highest in **Spain** (46.2%), **Greece** (42.9% in the second quarter of 2011) and **Lithuania** (33.2% in the second quarter of 2011).

In August 2011, the unemployment rate was 9.1% in the **USA**. In July 2011, it was 4.7% in **Japan**.

**Unemployment rates in August 2011, seasonally adjusted**



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 124/2011 of 31 August 2011, the July 2011 unemployment rates for the EA17 and the EU27 were unchanged. Among Member States, the rate has been revised by between 0.2 to 0.4 percentage points for the Czech Republic, Cyprus, Luxembourg and Malta. The unemployment rate was revised downwards by 0.5 percentage points for Slovenia and by 0.6 percentage points for Belgium. It was revised upwards by 0.9 percentage points for Hungary. 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. For Cyprus and Malta the method of benchmarking the monthly figures to the LFS data has been changed. Revisions to the data of the last months for these two Member States are thus due to this change as well as the inclusion of the latest quarterly LFS data.  
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, Romania, Finland and Sweden monthly data up to and including August 2011.  
For the United Kingdom monthly data up to and including May-June-July 2011 (3-month rolling average).  
For Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia and Slovakia quarterly data up to and including Q2 2011.
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: quarterly data for all series.  
Cyprus, Romania and Slovenia: quarterly data for youth unemployment.
7. For Germany, Austria and Finland the trend component is used instead of the more volatile seasonally adjusted data.

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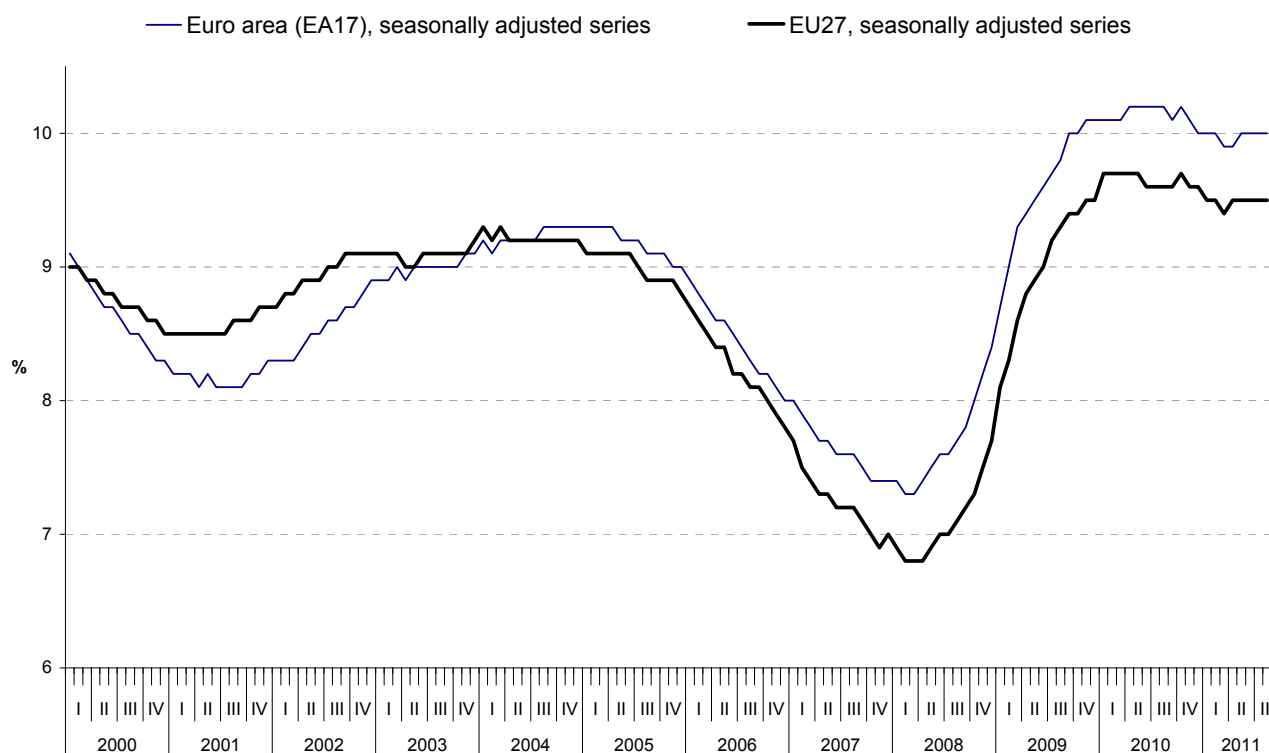
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## Euro area and EU27 unemployment rates



### SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATES (%) TOTALS

	Aug 2010	Feb 2011	Mar 2011	Apr 2011	May 2011	Jun 2011	Jul 2011	Aug 2011
<b>EA17</b>	10.2	10.0	9.9	9.9	10.0	10.0	10.0	<b>10.0</b>
<b>EU27</b>	9.6	9.5	9.4	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5	<b>9.5</b>
<b>BE</b>	8.3	7.1	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	6.9	<b>6.8</b>
<b>BG</b>	10.2	11.1	11.1	11.2	11.3	11.5	11.6	<b>11.7</b>
<b>CZ</b>	7.1	6.9	6.9	6.9	6.9	6.8	6.8	<b>6.7</b>
<b>DK</b>	7.3	7.6	7.6	7.3	7.4	7.3	7.1	<b>7.1</b>
<b>DE<sup>7</sup></b>	6.9	6.3	6.2	6.2	6.1	6.1	6.0	<b>6.0</b>
<b>EE<sup>5</sup></b>	16.1	13.6	13.6	12.8	12.8	12.8	:	:
<b>IE</b>	13.7	14.3	14.2	14.2	14.2	14.4	14.6	<b>14.6</b>
<b>EL<sup>6</sup></b>	13.0	15.1	15.1	16.7	16.7	16.7	:	:
<b>ES</b>	20.4	20.6	20.7	20.7	20.8	21.0	21.1	<b>21.2</b>
<b>FR</b>	9.8	9.7	9.7	9.7	9.7	9.8	9.8	<b>9.9</b>
<b>IT<sup>5</sup></b>	8.2	8.1	8.1	7.9	8.0	8.0	8.0	<b>7.9</b>
<b>CY</b>	6.2	6.6	6.7	6.8	6.9	7.0	7.1	<b>7.2</b>
<b>LV<sup>6</sup></b>	18.2	16.2	16.2	16.2	16.2	16.2	:	:
<b>LT<sup>6</sup></b>	18.3	16.5	16.5	15.6	15.6	15.6	:	:
<b>LU</b>	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.6	4.6	4.8	<b>4.9</b>
<b>HU</b>	11.0	10.9	10.8	10.9	10.9	10.9	10.6	<b>10.3</b>
<b>MT</b>	7.1	6.6	6.5	6.6	6.6	6.7	6.6	<b>6.5</b>
<b>NL</b>	4.5	4.3	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.1	4.3	<b>4.4</b>
<b>AT<sup>7</sup></b>	4.4	4.5	4.3	4.1	4.2	3.9	3.7	<b>3.7</b>
<b>PL</b>	9.5	9.3	9.4	9.5	9.6	9.5	9.4	<b>9.4</b>
<b>PT</b>	12.2 <sup>e</sup>	12.4	12.4	12.6	12.6	12.5	12.3	<b>12.3</b>
<b>RO</b>	7.3	7.0	6.9	7.5	7.3	7.3	7.3	<b>7.3</b>
<b>SI</b>	7.3	8.1	8.1	8.0	7.9	7.9	7.9	<b>7.8</b>
<b>SK</b>	14.3	13.4	13.3	13.3	13.3	13.3	13.3	<b>13.4</b>
<b>FI<sup>7</sup></b>	8.3	8.0	8.0	7.9	7.8	7.8	7.8	<b>7.8</b>
<b>SE</b>	8.2	7.6	7.7	7.4	7.7	7.4	7.3	<b>7.4</b>
<b>UK</b>	7.7	7.7	7.7	7.8	7.9	8.0	:	:
<b>NO</b>	3.5	3.2	3.3	3.4	3.3	3.3	3.2	:
<b>US</b>	9.6	8.9	8.8	9.0	9.1	9.2	9.1	<b>9.1</b>
<b>JP</b>	5.0	4.6	4.6	4.7	4.5	4.6	4.7	:

: Data not available

e: Estimate

Source: Eurostat

## SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATES (%)

	Youth (under 25's)				Males				Females			
	Aug-10	Jun-11	Jul-11	Aug-11	Aug-10	Jun-11	Jul-11	Aug-11	Aug-10	Jun-11	Jul-11	Aug-11
EA17	20.9	20.5	20.5	<b>20.4</b>	10.0	9.7	9.7	<b>9.6</b>	10.4	10.3	10.3	<b>10.3</b>
EU27	20.8	21.0	20.9	<b>20.9</b>	9.6	9.4	9.4	<b>9.3</b>	9.7	9.7	9.7	<b>9.7</b>
BE	20.7	18.3	17.6	<b>17.4</b>	8.0	6.7	6.7	<b>6.6</b>	8.7	7.3	7.2	<b>7.0</b>
BG	22.6	27.3	27.1	<b>27.1</b>	10.9	12.5	12.6	<b>12.9</b>	9.4	10.3	10.4	<b>10.5</b>
CZ	17.8	18.8	18.6	<b>18.6</b>	6.1	5.8	5.7	<b>5.6</b>	8.4	8.2	8.1	<b>8.1</b>
DK	14.8	13.9	14.1	<b>14.1</b>	7.5	7.4	7.1	<b>6.9</b>	7.1	7.1	7.1	<b>7.2</b>
DE <sup>7</sup>	9.7	8.9	8.9	<b>8.9</b>	7.4	6.3	6.2	<b>6.1</b>	6.4	5.8	5.8	<b>5.7</b>
EE <sup>6</sup>	27.8	21.8	:	:	17.5	13.1	:	:	14.7	12.5	:	:
IE	27.8	30.4	31.0	<b>31.9</b>	16.9	17.6	17.7	<b>17.8</b>	9.8	10.4	10.7	<b>10.5</b>
EL <sup>6</sup>	33.6	42.9	:	:	10.3	14.0	:	:	16.6	20.3	:	:
ES	42.4	45.5	46.0	<b>46.2</b>	19.9	20.7	20.8	<b>20.8</b>	21.1	21.3	21.5	<b>21.6</b>
FR	24.0	23.5	23.6	<b>23.5</b>	9.4	9.2	9.3	<b>9.3</b>	10.2	10.4	10.5	<b>10.5</b>
IT <sup>5</sup>	26.8	27.6	27.5	<b>27.6</b>	7.6	7.0	7.1	<b>7.0</b>	9.2	9.3	9.3	<b>9.2</b>
CY <sup>6</sup>	15.0	20.0	:	:	6.0	6.9	7.0	<b>7.1</b>	6.4	7.0	7.2	<b>7.4</b>
LV <sup>6</sup>	33.2	30.2	:	:	20.9	19.0	:	:	15.7	13.3	:	:
LT <sup>6</sup>	35.1	33.2	:	:	21.2	18.2	:	:	15.5	12.9	:	:
LU	14.3	14.2	14.8	<b>15.4</b>	3.7	3.4	3.7	<b>3.7</b>	5.4	6.1	6.2	<b>6.4</b>
HU	26.1	25.0	24.3	<b>23.8</b>	11.3	10.7	10.4	<b>10.1</b>	10.7	11.0	10.8	<b>10.6</b>
MT	12.9	15.0	14.9	<b>14.9</b>	6.9	6.6	6.6	<b>6.6</b>	7.3	6.8	6.6	<b>6.4</b>
NL	8.8	7.1	7.5	<b>7.5</b>	4.5	4.2	4.4	<b>4.4</b>	4.5	4.0	4.3	<b>4.3</b>
AT <sup>7</sup>	9.2	7.8	7.8	<b>7.9</b>	4.7	3.8	3.4	<b>3.4</b>	4.1	4.0	4.0	<b>4.1</b>
PL	23.9	24.4	23.8	<b>23.6</b>	9.2	8.8	8.7	<b>8.6</b>	9.9	10.3	10.3	<b>10.3</b>
PT	29.6 <sup>e</sup>	28.3	27.2	<b>26.9</b>	11.7 <sup>e</sup>	12.2	12.1	<b>12.1</b>	12.7 <sup>e</sup>	12.8	12.7	<b>12.7</b>
RO <sup>6</sup>	22.1	22.8	:	:	7.9	7.6	7.6	<b>7.7</b>	6.5	7.0	6.9	<b>6.9</b>
SI <sup>6</sup>	14.6	14.3	:	:	7.3	8.0	8.0	<b>7.9</b>	7.3	7.6	7.7	<b>7.7</b>
SK	33.7	32.3	31.9	<b>31.6</b>	14.2	13.5	13.6	<b>13.6</b>	14.5	13.0	13.1	<b>13.2</b>
FI <sup>7</sup>	20.9	20.0	20.0	<b>19.9</b>	8.9	8.3	8.3	<b>8.3</b>	7.6	7.3	7.3	<b>7.2</b>
SE	24.7	22.9	21.6	<b>23.0</b>	8.2	7.5	7.6	<b>7.5</b>	8.3	7.4	7.1	<b>7.2</b>
UK	18.5	20.9	:	:	8.3	8.6	:	:	6.9	7.2	:	:
NO	8.1	8.3	8.2	:	3.8	3.6	3.4	:	3.1	3.0	2.9	:
US	18.1	17.3	17.4	<b>17.7</b>	10.5	9.7	9.6	<b>9.6</b>	8.6	8.6	8.5	<b>8.5</b>
JP	:	:	:	:	5.3	4.7	4.9	:	4.6	4.5	4.5	:

: Data not available e: Estimate Source: Eurostat

## SEASONALLY ADJUSTED NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED (in millions)

	Aug 2010	Feb 2011	Mar 2011	Apr 2011	May 2011	Jun 2011	Jul 2011	Aug 2011
EA17	15.954	15.639	15.624	15.657	15.719	15.726	15.777	<b>15.739</b>
EU27	23.085	22.656	22.630	22.773	22.871	22.852	22.847	<b>22.785</b>
EA17 - youth	3.239	3.162	3.183	3.150	3.161	3.140	3.143	<b>3.129</b>
EU27 - youth	5.246	5.197	5.213	5.197	5.230	5.198	5.162	<b>5.139</b>

