

February 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 February 2010, compared with 9.9% in January⁴. It was 8.8% in February 2009. The **EU27**¹ unemployment rate was 9.6% in February 2010, compared with 9.5% in January⁴. It was 8.3% in February 2009. For the **euro area** this is the highest rate since August 1998 and for the **EU27** since the start of the series in January 2000.

Eurostat estimates that 23.019 million men and women in the **EU27**, of whom 15.749 million were in the **euro area**, were unemployed in February 2010. Compared with January 2010, the number of persons unemployed increased by 131 000 in the **EU27** and by 61 000 in the **euro area**. Compared with February 2009, unemployment went up by 3.139 million in the **EU27** and by 1.844 million in the **euro area**.

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

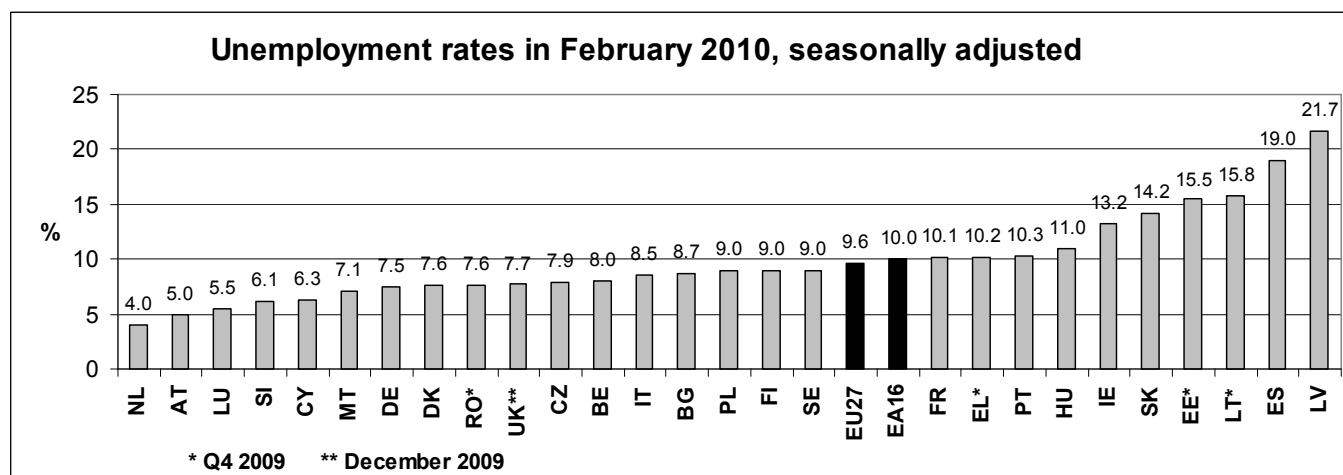
Among the Member States, the lowest unemployment rates were recorded in the **Netherlands** (4.0%) and **Austria** (5.0%), and the highest rates in **Latvia** (21.7%) and **Spain** (19.0%).

Compared with a year ago, all Member States recorded an increase in their unemployment rate. The smallest increases were observed in **Luxembourg** (5.4% to 5.5%), **Germany** (7.3% to 7.5%), and **Belgium** (7.7% to 8.0%). The highest increases were registered in **Latvia** (13.2% to 21.7%), **Estonia** (7.6% to 15.5% between the fourth quarters of 2008 and 2009) and **Lithuania** (8.1% to 15.8% between the fourth quarters of 2008 and 2009).

Between February 2009 and February 2010, the unemployment rate for males rose from 8.5% to 10.0% in the **euro area** and from 8.2% to 9.8% in the **EU27**. The female unemployment rate increased from 9.2% to 10.0% in the **euro area** and from 8.4% to 9.3% in the **EU27**.

In February 2010, the youth unemployment rate (under-25s) was 20.0% in the **euro area** and 20.6% in the **EU27**. In February 2009 it was 18.4% in both zones. The lowest rate was observed in the **Netherlands** (7.3%), and the highest rates in **Latvia** (41.3% in the fourth quarter of 2009) and **Spain** (40.7%).

In the **USA**, the unemployment rate was 9.7% in February 2010. In **Japan** it was 4.9% in January 2010.



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 29/2010 of 1 March 2010, the January 2010 unemployment rates for the EA16 and the EU27 have not been revised.
Among Member States, the rate has been revised between 0.2 and 0.4 percentage points for Austria, Bulgaria, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Portugal. The rate has been revised downwards by 0.5 percentage points for the Czech Republic, by 0.6 percentage points for Ireland and Slovenia, and by 1.9 percentage points for Latvia. It has been revised upwards by 0.5 percentage points for Slovakia. 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. For Ireland, the LFS series from 1999 have been updated contributing to the revision.
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 February 2010.
For the Netherlands up to and including December 2009-January 2010-February 2010 (3-month rolling average).
For the United Kingdom up to and including November 2009-December 2009-January 2010 (3-month rolling average).
For Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Hungary, Malta, Austria, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia and Slovakia 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, Lithuania and Romania: quarterly data for all series.
Cyprus, Latvia, and Slovenia: quarterly data for youth unemployment.
7. For Finland the trend component is used instead of the more volatile seasonally adjusted data.

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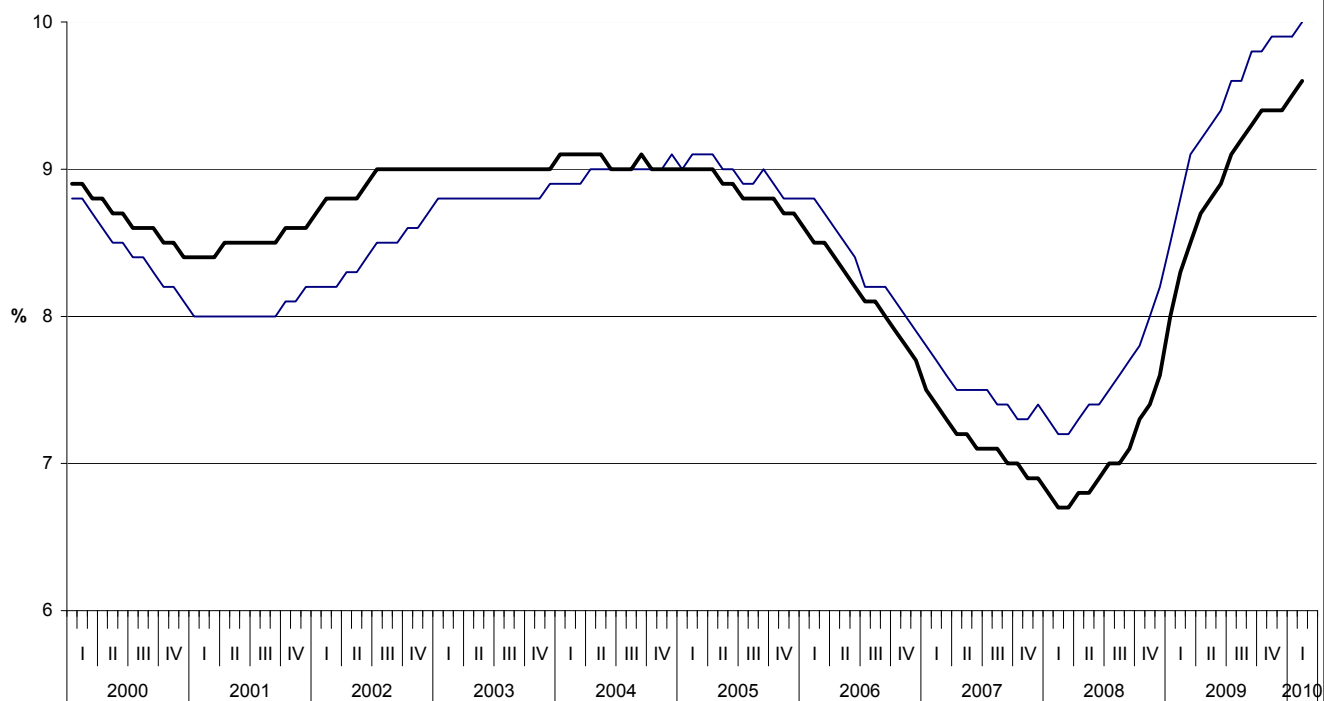
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Selected Principal European Economic Indicators: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/euroindicators>

Euro area and EU27 unemployment rates

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



SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATES (%) TOTALS

	Feb 2009	Aug 2009	Sep 2009	Oct 2009	Nov 2009	Dec 2009	Jan 2010	Feb 2010
EA16	8.8	9.6	9.8	9.8	9.9	9.9	9.9	10.0
EU27	8.3	9.2	9.3	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.5	9.6
BE	7.7	8.1	8.1	8.1	8.2	8.2	8.0	8.0
BG	6.0	6.9	7.3	7.7	8.1	8.3	8.5	8.7
CZ	5.6	7.3	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.5	7.7	7.9
DK	4.7	6.2	6.6	7.0	7.3	7.4	7.6	7.6
DE	7.3	7.6	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5
EE⁶	11.1	15.2	15.2	15.5	15.5	15.5	:	:
IE	10.2	12.4	12.9	13.0	13.1	13.0	13.2	13.2
EL⁶	8.8	9.8	9.8	10.2	10.2	10.2	:	:
ES	16.7	18.7	19.0	19.0	19.0	18.9	18.9	19.0
FR	8.9	9.7	9.8	9.9	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.1
IT⁵	7.3	7.7	8.0	8.1	8.1	8.4	8.5	8.5
CY	4.3	5.7	5.9	6.0	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.3
LV	13.2	18.8	19.7	20.0	20.3	20.5	21.0	21.7
LT⁶	11.1	14.4	14.4	15.8	15.8	15.8	:	:
LU	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.5	5.5	5.6	5.5	5.5
HU	9.3	10.5	10.6	10.6	10.6	10.6	11.0	11.0
MT	6.5	7.1	7.1	6.9	7.0	7.1	7.0	7.1
NL	2.8	3.7	3.7	3.8	3.8	3.9	3.9	4.0
AT	4.4	5.1	5.1	5.0	4.9	4.8	4.9	5.0
PL	7.7	8.4	8.5	8.6	8.7	8.7	8.9	9.0
PT	8.8	10.2	10.2	10.1	10.1	10.1	10.3	10.3
RO⁶	6.2	7.2	7.2	7.6	7.6	7.6	:	:
SI	5.0	6.4	6.4	6.5	6.4	6.3	6.2	6.1
SK	10.1	12.6	13.3	13.8	14.2	14.2	14.2	14.2
FI⁷	7.4	8.6	8.6	8.7	8.8	8.9	8.9	9.0
SE	7.7	8.7	8.7	8.8	8.7	9.0	9.1	9.0
UK	7.1	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.7	7.7	:	:
NO	3.0	3.2	3.2	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	:
US	8.2	9.7	9.8	10.1	10.0	10.0	9.7	9.7
JP	4.5	5.4	5.3	5.2	5.3	5.2	4.9	:

: Data not available Source: Eurostat

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATES (%)

	Youth (under 25's)				Males				Females			
	Feb-09	Dec-09	Jan-10	Feb-10	Feb-09	Dec-09	Jan-10	Feb-10	Feb-09	Dec-09	Jan-10	Feb-10
EA16	18.4	19.7	19.8	20.0	8.5	9.8	9.9	10.0	9.2	9.9	9.9	10.0
EU27	18.4	20.3	20.5	20.6	8.2	9.6	9.7	9.8	8.4	9.2	9.2	9.3
BE	21.1	23.5	24.3	24.8	7.3	8.4	8.2	8.1	8.2	7.8	7.8	7.8
BG	13.5	20.4	21.2	22.4	6.0	8.8	9.0	9.3	5.9	7.7	7.9	8.0
CZ	12.8	20.7	21.2	21.6	4.7	6.9	7.3	7.5	6.7	8.2	8.4	8.6
DK	8.8	13.4	13.7	13.7	5.2	8.0	8.4	8.6	4.2	6.7	6.6	6.5
DE	10.1	10.2	10.1	10.2	7.6	8.1	8.1	8.1	6.9	6.8	6.8	6.7
EE ⁶	24.5	32.1	:	:	13.2	19.8	:	:	8.9	11.2	:	:
IE	20.5	28.7	29.1	28.6	12.8	16.4	16.6	16.7	6.9	8.8	8.9	8.9
EL ⁶	24.5	27.5	:	:	6.2	7.6	:	:	12.4	13.9	:	:
ES	34.8	39.3	39.8	40.7	16.3	18.8	18.8	19.0	17.1	19.0	18.9	18.9
FR	22.9	22.7	22.2	22.1	8.5	9.8	9.9	9.9	9.4	10.1	10.2	10.3
IT ⁵	24.2	26.7	27.4	28.2	6.2	7.3	7.6	7.7	9.0	9.9	9.8	9.7
CY ⁶	10.9	16.4	:	:	3.9	6.1	6.1	6.2	4.8	6.2	6.3	6.4
LV ⁶	27.8	41.3	:	:	15.8	24.4	25.2	26.3	10.5	16.7	16.9	17.3
LT ⁶	23.9	30.4	:	:	13.5	19.9	:	:	8.6	11.8	:	:
LU	18.5	18.1	17.6	18.2	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	6.0	6.4	6.2	6.4
HU	24.7	28.3	28.4	27.6	9.4	10.9	11.4	11.3	9.1	10.4	10.6	10.5
MT	12.8	15.4	14.8	15.0	6.1	7.0	6.8	6.9	7.3	7.5	7.4	7.4
NL	6.1	7.4	7.3	7.3	2.8	4.0	4.0	4.1	2.9	3.8	3.9	3.9
AT	9.3	9.4	9.6	10.0	4.5	5.3	5.4	5.5	4.4	4.3	4.3	4.4
PL	18.2	22.7	23.1	23.4	7.0	8.6	8.8	9.0	8.5	8.9	9.0	9.1
PT	19.2	21.2	21.2	21.0	8.0	9.6	9.8	9.7	9.6	10.7	10.8	10.9
RO ⁶	20.2	20.4	:	:	7.0	8.3	:	:	5.1	6.8	:	:
SI ⁶	12.3	13.9	:	:	5.1	6.2	6.1	6.1	4.8	6.3	6.3	6.2
SK	22.6	32.2	32.7	33.2	9.2	14.0	14.0	14.1	11.3	14.5	14.5	14.4
FI ⁷	18.9	23.4	23.6	23.7	7.7	9.7	9.7	9.8	7.1	8.0	8.1	8.1
SE	23.8	26.3	26.6	25.6	7.8	9.3	9.5	9.1	7.6	8.7	8.7	8.9
UK	18.1	19.7	:	:	7.8	8.8	:	:	6.2	6.5	:	:
NO	8.5	8.9	8.4	:	3.6	3.8	3.7	:	2.4	2.8	2.8	:
US	15.8	18.9	18.9	18.5	9.0	11.0	10.8	10.7	7.3	8.8	8.4	8.6
JP	:	:	:	:	4.5	5.4	5.2	:	4.4	5.0	4.6	:

: Data not available Source: Eurostat

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED (in millions)

	Feb 2009	Aug 2009	Sep 2009	Oct 2009	Nov 2009	Dec 2009	Jan 2010	Feb 2010
EA16	13.905	15.225	15.424	15.519	15.536	15.583	15.688	15.749
EU27	19.880	22.062	22.344	22.508	22.572	22.683	22.888	23.019

Euro area and EU27 unemployed (in millions)

