

September 2009

## Euro area unemployment up to 9.7%

### EU27 up to 9.2%

The **euro area**<sup>1</sup> (EA16) seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate<sup>2</sup> was 9.7% in September 2009, compared with 9.6% in August<sup>3</sup>. It was 7.7% in September 2008. The **EU27**<sup>1</sup> unemployment rate was 9.2% in September 2009, compared with 9.1% in August<sup>3</sup>. It was 7.1% in September 2008. For the **euro area** this is the highest rate since January 1999 and for the **EU27** since the start of the series in January 2000.

Eurostat estimates that 22.123 million men and women in the **EU27**, of which 15.324 million were in the **euro area**, were unemployed in September 2009. Compared with August, the number of persons unemployed increased by 286 000 in the **EU27** and by 184 000 in the **euro area**. Compared with September 2008, unemployment went up by 5.011 million in the **EU27** and by 3.204 million in the **euro area**.

These figures are published by **Eurostat, the Statistical Office of the European Communities**.

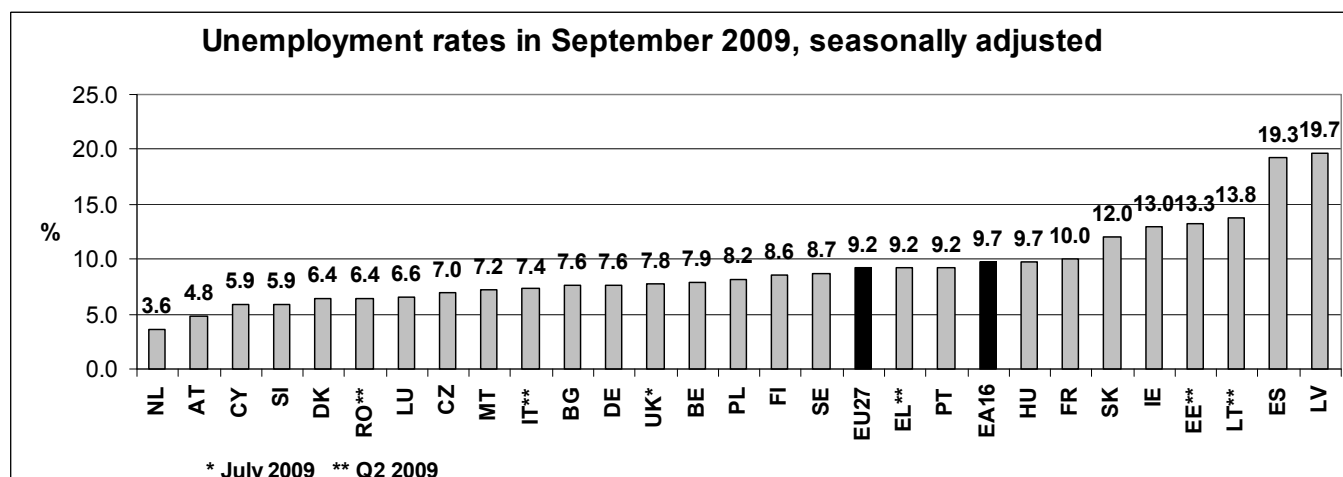
Among the Member States, the lowest unemployment rates were recorded in the **Netherlands** (3.6%) and **Austria** (4.8%), and the highest rates in **Latvia** (19.7%) and **Spain** (19.3%).

Compared with a year ago, all Member States recorded an increase in their unemployment rate. The smallest increases were observed in **Germany** (7.1% to 7.6%), **Italy** (6.8% to 7.4% between the second quarters of 2008 and 2009) and **Belgium** (7.3% to 7.9%). The highest increases were registered in **Latvia** (8.1% to 19.7%) and **Estonia** (4.1% to 13.3% between the second quarters of 2008 and 2009).

Between September 2008 and September 2009, the unemployment rate for males rose from 7.1% to 9.6% in the **euro area** and from 6.8% to 9.3% in the **EU27**. The female unemployment rate increased from 8.4% to 9.8% in the **euro area** and from 7.5% to 9.0% in the **EU27**.

In September 2009, the youth unemployment rate (under-25s) was 20.1% in the **euro area** and 20.2% in the **EU27**. In September 2008 it was 15.7% and 15.8% respectively. The lowest rate was observed in the **Netherlands** (6.8%), and the highest rates in **Spain** (41.7%) and **Latvia** (33.6% in the third quarter of 2009).

The unemployment rate was 9.8% in the **USA** in September 2009. In **Japan** it was 5.5% in August 2009.



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. 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 age limit for working is 16.  
*Netherlands:* Persons without a job, who are available for work and looking for a job are only included in unemployment if they express that they would like to work.
3. The August 2009 unemployment rates published in News Release 139/2009 of 1 October 2009 for the euro area and the EU27 have not been revised. Among Member States, the rate has been revised by between 0.2 and 0.4 percentage points for Latvia and Finland. Larger revisions are observed for Sweden, see footnote 5.  
The following LFS data are used in the calculations of the monthly unemployment rates published in this News Release:  
For Germany, Finland and Sweden up to and including September 2009.  
For the Netherlands up to and including July-August-September 2009 (3-month rolling average).  
For the United Kingdom up to and including June-July-August 2009 (3-month rolling average).  
For Spain up to and including 2009Q3.  
For Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, France, Italy, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Hungary, Malta, Austria, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia and Slovakia up to and including 2009Q2.
4. Estonia, Greece, Italy, Lithuania and Romania: quarterly data for all series.  
Cyprus, Latvia, and Slovenia: quarterly data for youth unemployment.
5. For Sweden, the trend component is used instead of the more volatile seasonally adjusted data, causing a large downward revision of the August 2009 unemployment rate. The trend component has already been used for Finland for several years.

Issued by:  
**Eurostat Press Office**

**Johan WULLT**  
Tel: +352-4301-33 444  
[eurostat-pressoffice@ec.europa.eu](mailto:eurostat-pressoffice@ec.europa.eu)

For further information on data:

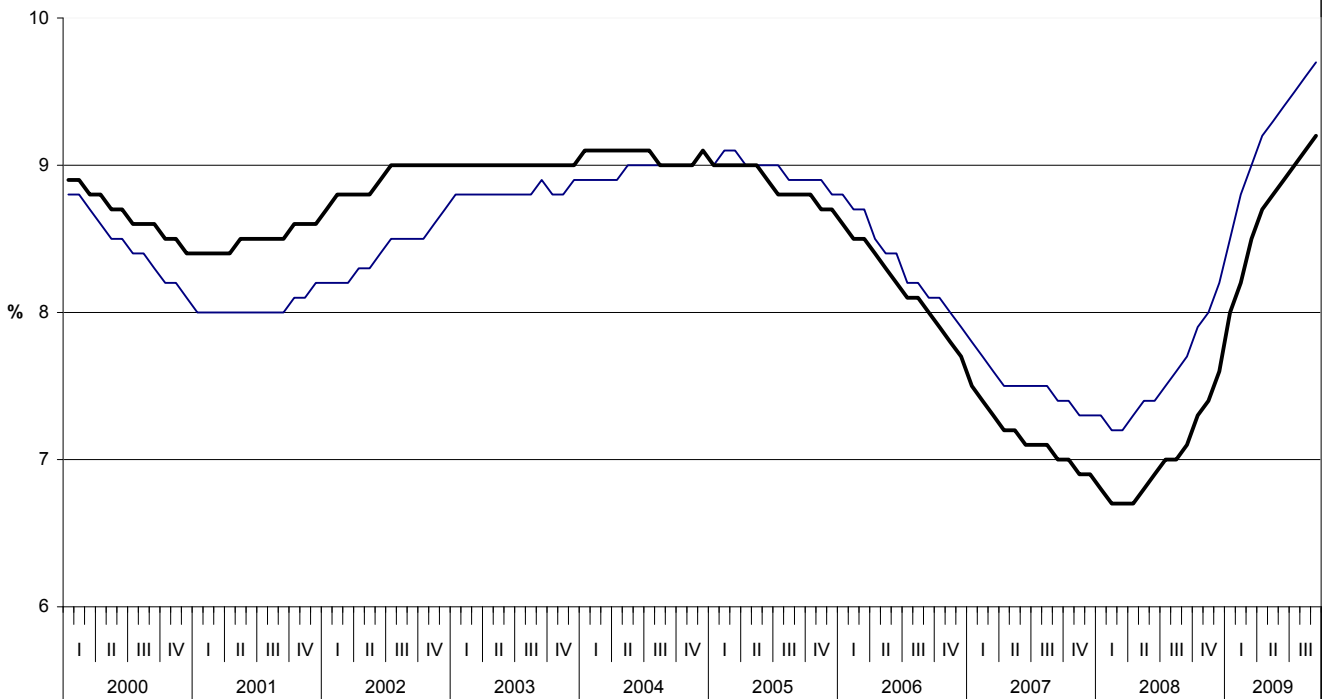
**Remko HIJMAN**  
Tel: +352-4301-35 357  
[estat-monthly-unemployment@ec.europa.eu](mailto:estat-monthly-unemployment@ec.europa.eu)

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### Euro area and EU27 unemployment rates

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



### SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATES (%) TOTALS

	Sep 2008	Mar 2009	Apr 2009	Mai 2009	Jun 2009	Jul 2009	Aug 2009	Sep 2009
<b>EA16</b>	7.7	9.0	9.2	9.3	9.4	9.5	9.6	<b>9.7</b>
<b>EU27</b>	7.1	8.5	8.7	8.8	8.9	9.0	9.1	<b>9.2</b>
<b>BE</b>	7.3	7.8	7.8	7.7	7.8	7.8	7.9	<b>7.9</b>
<b>BG</b>	5.2	6.2	6.2	6.3	6.5	6.8	7.2	<b>7.6</b>
<b>CZ</b>	4.3	5.9	6.1	6.3	6.5	6.7	6.9	<b>7.0</b>
<b>DK</b>	3.4	5.2	5.7	5.9	6.1	6.0	6.0	<b>6.4</b>
<b>DE</b>	7.1	7.4	7.6	7.6	7.7	7.6	7.6	<b>7.6</b>
<b>EE<sup>4</sup></b>	6.5	11.0	13.3	13.3	13.3	:	:	:
<b>IE</b>	6.7	11.1	11.7	12.2	12.2	12.3	12.5	<b>13.0</b>
<b>EL<sup>4</sup></b>	7.5	8.8	9.2	9.2	9.2	:	:	:
<b>ES</b>	12.4	17.2	17.6	17.9	18.2	18.5	18.8	<b>19.3</b>
<b>FR</b>	8.0	9.1	9.2	9.4	9.5	9.7	9.8	<b>10.0</b>
<b>IT<sup>4</sup></b>	6.8	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.4	:	:	:
<b>CY</b>	3.5	4.6	5.0	5.2	5.3	5.4	5.6	<b>5.9</b>
<b>LV</b>	8.1	14.3	15.5	16.6	17.2	17.8	18.6	<b>19.7</b>
<b>LT<sup>4</sup></b>	6.3	11.0	13.8	13.8	13.8	:	:	:
<b>LU</b>	5.1	6.0	6.1	6.3	6.4	6.5	6.5	<b>6.6</b>
<b>HU</b>	7.8	9.6	9.7	9.7	9.6	9.5	9.6	<b>9.7</b>
<b>MT</b>	5.8	6.7	7.0	7.2	7.3	7.3	7.2	<b>7.2</b>
<b>NL</b>	2.7	3.0	3.1	3.2	3.3	3.4	3.5	<b>3.6</b>
<b>AT</b>	3.9	4.6	4.7	4.8	4.8	4.7	4.7	<b>4.8</b>
<b>PL</b>	6.8	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.1	<b>8.2</b>
<b>PT</b>	7.8	9.0	9.1	9.2	9.2	9.2	9.1	<b>9.2</b>
<b>RO<sup>4</sup></b>	5.8	6.2	6.4	6.4	6.4	:	:	:
<b>SI</b>	4.1	5.3	5.6	5.9	6.0	5.9	5.9	<b>5.9</b>
<b>SK</b>	8.9	10.4	10.7	10.9	11.2	11.5	11.7	<b>12.0</b>
<b>FI<sup>5</sup></b>	6.5	7.7	8.0	8.2	8.4	8.5	8.5	<b>8.6</b>
<b>SE<sup>5</sup></b>	6.4	7.7	7.9	8.1	8.3	8.4	8.6	<b>8.7</b>
<b>UK</b>	6.0	7.2	7.5	7.7	7.8	7.8	:	:
<b>NO</b>	2.5	3.2	3.1	3.1	3.0	3.1	3.2	:
<b>US</b>	6.2	8.5	8.9	9.4	9.5	9.4	9.7	<b>9.8</b>
<b>JP</b>	4.0	4.8	5.0	5.2	5.4	5.7	5.5	:

: Data not available Source: Eurostat

## SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATES (%)

	Youth (under 25's)				Males				Females			
	Sep-08	Jul-09	Aug-09	Sep-09	Sep-08	Jul-09	Aug-09	Sep-09	Sep-08	Jul-09	Aug-09	Sep-09
EA16	15.7	19.8	20.0	<b>20.1</b>	7.1	9.3	9.4	<b>9.6</b>	8.4	9.6	9.7	<b>9.8</b>
EU27	15.8	19.9	20.1	<b>20.2</b>	6.8	9.1	9.2	<b>9.3</b>	7.5	8.8	8.9	<b>9.0</b>
BE	19.9	21.4	21.2	<b>20.9</b>	6.8	7.7	7.8	<b>7.9</b>	7.9	7.9	8.0	<b>8.0</b>
BG	11.2	15.7	16.2	<b>16.8</b>	5.1	6.8	7.3	<b>7.7</b>	5.2	6.8	7.0	<b>7.4</b>
CZ	10.3	15.5	15.9	<b>16.5</b>	3.4	5.7	5.9	<b>6.1</b>	5.6	8.0	8.1	<b>8.2</b>
DK	8.3	11.3	11.2	<b>11.4</b>	3.1	6.4	6.3	<b>6.8</b>	3.7	5.6	5.6	<b>6.0</b>
DE	9.5	10.8	10.7	<b>10.4</b>	7.2	8.3	8.3	<b>8.3</b>	7.0	6.9	6.9	<b>6.9</b>
EE <sup>4</sup>	14.3	24.1*	:	:	7.3	16.5*	:	:	5.6	10.1*	:	:
IE	14.2	26.3	26.3	<b>27.6</b>	7.9	15.5	15.7	<b>16.2</b>	5.2	8.3	8.4	<b>8.9</b>
EL <sup>4</sup>	22.0	25.2*	:	:	5.0	6.6*	:	:	11.2	12.8*	:	:
ES	26.2	39.9	40.9	<b>41.7</b>	11.4	18.3	18.7	<b>19.2</b>	13.8	18.8	19.1	<b>19.3</b>
FR	19.8	24.0	24.3	<b>24.5</b>	7.4	9.2	9.3	<b>9.4</b>	8.5	10.2	10.4	<b>10.6</b>
IT <sup>4</sup>	21.3	24.5*	:	:	5.6	6.3*	:	:	8.5	8.8*	:	:
CY <sup>4</sup>	8.7	14.1	14.1	<b>14.1</b>	3.0	5.3	5.5	<b>5.8</b>	4.2	5.5	5.8	<b>5.9</b>
LV <sup>4</sup>	12.9	33.6	33.6	<b>33.6</b>	8.6	20.6	21.3	<b>22.5</b>	7.6	14.9	15.9	<b>16.9</b>
LT <sup>4</sup>	14.9	31.2*	:	:	6.6	16.8*	:	:	5.9	10.7*	:	:
LU	18.3	22.0	21.8	<b>21.6</b>	4.5	6.2	6.3	<b>6.3</b>	5.9	6.9	6.9	<b>6.8</b>
HU	20.0	24.9	25.1	<b>25.2</b>	7.7	9.8	9.9	<b>10.0</b>	7.9	9.2	9.3	<b>9.4</b>
MT	11.2	15.3	14.9	<b>14.8</b>	5.6	6.9	6.8	<b>6.8</b>	6.2	8.2	8.0	<b>8.1</b>
NL	5.2	6.3	6.6	<b>6.8</b>	2.6	3.3	3.3	<b>3.4</b>	2.8	3.5	3.7	<b>3.8</b>
AT	7.9	10.0	9.9	<b>9.9</b>	3.7	5.0	5.0	<b>5.0</b>	4.1	4.4	4.4	<b>4.5</b>
PL	16.6	19.9	20.0	<b>20.5</b>	6.1	7.7	7.8	<b>7.9</b>	7.7	8.5	8.4	<b>8.5</b>
PT	17.3	19.0	18.6	<b>18.6</b>	6.7	8.8	8.7	<b>8.7</b>	9.2	9.6	9.7	<b>9.7</b>
RO <sup>4</sup>	18.6	19.8*	:	:	6.6	7.2*	:	:	4.7	5.3*	:	:
SI <sup>4</sup>	10.2	11.7	11.7	<b>11.7</b>	4.0	5.9	5.9	<b>6.0</b>	4.3	6.0	5.8	<b>5.8</b>
SK	19.2	25.7	26.3	<b>27.0</b>	7.8	10.8	11.1	<b>11.5</b>	10.3	12.3	12.4	<b>12.5</b>
FI <sup>5</sup>	17.0	22.3	22.6	<b>22.8</b>	6.4	9.3	9.3	<b>9.4</b>	6.7	7.6	7.7	<b>7.8</b>
SE <sup>5</sup>	20.5	25.4	26.0	<b>26.2</b>	6.1	8.8	9.0	<b>9.1</b>	6.7	8.0	8.1	<b>8.2</b>
UK	15.8	19.5	:	:	6.5	9.0	:	:	5.3	6.5	:	:
NO	7.6	9.3	9.5	:	2.6	3.4	3.5	:	2.3	2.7	2.8	:
US	13.4	17.8	18.2	<b>18.1</b>	6.8	10.5	10.9	<b>11.0</b>	5.5	8.1	8.2	<b>8.4</b>
JP	:	:	:	:	4.1	6.1	5.8	:	3.8	5.1	5.0	:

\*Data for Q2 2009

: Data not available

Source: Eurostat

## SEASONALLY ADJUSTED NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED (in millions)

	Sep 2008	Mar 2009	Apr 2009	May 2009	Jun 2009	Jul 2009	Aug 2009	Sep 2009
EA16	12.120	14.239	14.507	14.691	14.839	14.988	15.140	<b>15.324</b>
EU27	17.112	20.395	20.854	21.184	21.390	21.607	21.837	<b>22.123</b>

Euro area and EU27 unemployed (in millions)

