

170/2012 - 30 November 2012

October 2012

Euro area unemployment rate at 11.7%

EU27 at 10.7%

The **euro area**¹ (EA17) seasonally-adjusted² unemployment rate³ was 11.7% in October 2012, up from 11.6% in September⁴. The **EU27**¹ unemployment rate was 10.7% in October 2012, up from 10.6% in September⁴. In both zones, rates have risen markedly compared with October 2011, when they were 10.4% and 9.9% respectively. These figures are published by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**.

Eurostat estimates that 25.913 million men and women in the **EU27**, of whom 18.703 million were in the **euro area**, were unemployed in October 2012. Compared with September 2012, the number of persons unemployed increased by 204 000 in the **EU27** and by 173 000 in the **euro area**. Compared with October 2011, unemployment rose by 2.160 million in the **EU27** and by 2.174 million in the **euro area**.

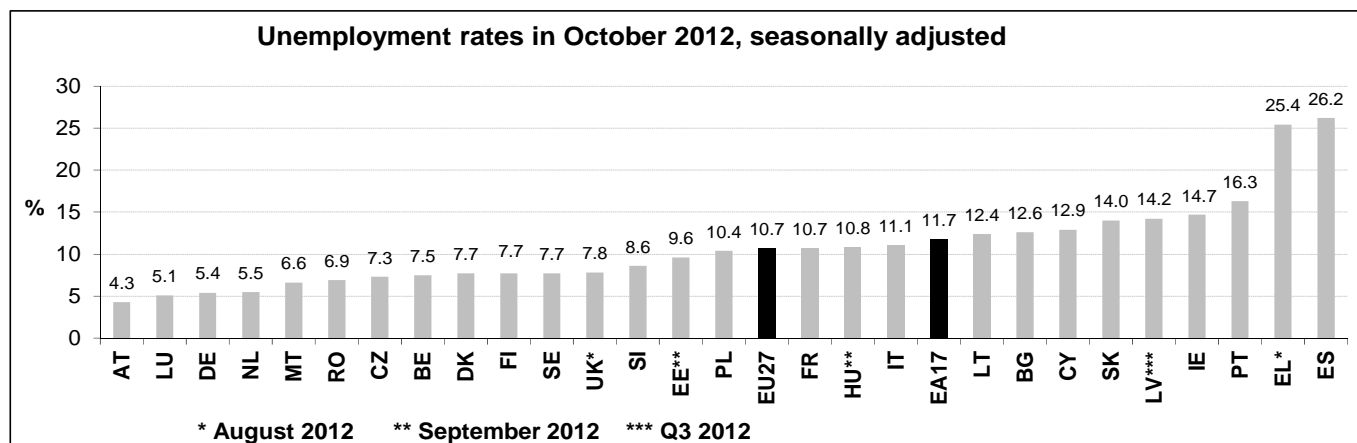
Among the Member States, the lowest unemployment rates were recorded in **Austria** (4.3%), **Luxembourg** (5.1%), **Germany** (5.4%) and the **Netherlands** (5.5%), and the highest in **Spain** (26.2%) and **Greece** (25.4% in August 2012).

Compared with a year ago, the unemployment rate increased in sixteen Member States, fell in nine and remained stable in **Austria** and **Slovenia**. The largest decreases were observed in **Estonia** (11.5% to 9.6% between September 2011 and September 2012), **Lithuania** (14.2% to 12.4%) and **Latvia** (15.7% to 14.2% between the third quarters of 2011 and 2012). The highest increases were registered in **Greece** (18.4% to 25.4% between August 2011 and August 2012), **Cyprus** (9.2% to 12.9%), **Spain** (22.7% to 26.2%) and **Portugal** (13.7% to 16.3%).

Between October 2011 and October 2012, the unemployment rate for males increased from 10.3% to 11.6% in the **euro area** and from 9.8% to 10.7% in the **EU27**. The female unemployment rate rose from 10.7% to 11.8% in the **euro area** and from 10.0% to 10.7% in the **EU27**.

In October 2012, 5.678 million young persons (under 25) were unemployed in the **EU27**, of whom 3.609 million were in the **euro area**. Compared with October 2011, youth unemployment rose by 279 000 in the **EU27** and by 350 000 in the **euro area**. In October 2012, the youth unemployment rate was 23.4% in the **EU27** and 23.9% in the **euro area**, compared with 21.9% and 21.2% respectively in October 2011. In October 2012 the lowest rates were observed in **Germany** (8.1%), **Austria** (8.5%) and the **Netherlands** (9.8%) and the highest in **Greece** (57.0% in August 2012) and **Spain** (55.9%).

In October 2012, the unemployment rate was 7.9% in the **USA**. In **Japan** it was 4.2% in September 2012.



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. In this news release unemployment rates are based on employment and unemployment data covering persons aged 15 to 74. Exceptions are Spain, Italy and the United Kingdom, for which the lower age limit is 16 (in Spain and Italy this is the legal minimum age for working). In addition, employment data used for Italy includes also those above 74.
The number 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 harmonised 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 LFS 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 the national LFS or corresponding surveys. These rates may vary from those published by Eurostat due to a different definition or methodological choices.
4. Compared with the rates published in News Release 155/2012 of 31 October 2012, the September 2012 unemployment rates for the EA17 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 the Czech Republic, Ireland, Greece (for July), Lithuania, Poland and Finland. It has been revised by 0.5 percentage points for Portugal and 0.7 percentage points for Denmark (for August). The revisions are primarily caused by the inclusion of the most recent LFS data in the calculation process and by updates to the seasonally adjusted series. Revisions for Ireland, Lithuania and Poland are also due to the inclusion of the latest census results in the weighting of the LFS.
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 October 2012.
For Greece, monthly data up to and including August 2012.
For Estonia and Hungary monthly data (3 month moving average) up to and including August-September-October 2012.
For the United Kingdom monthly data (3 month moving average) up to and including July-August-September 2012.
For the Czech Republic, Denmark, Ireland, Spain, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Portugal: quarterly data up to and including Q3 2012.
For Belgium, Bulgaria, France, Cyprus, Luxembourg, Malta, Slovenia and Slovakia: quarterly data up to and including Q2 2012.
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. Latvia: 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.

Issued by: **Eurostat Press Office**

For further information on data:

Tim ALLEN
Tel: +352-4301-33 444
eurostat-pressoffice@ec.europa.eu

Nicola MASSARELLI
Tel: +352-4301-34 525

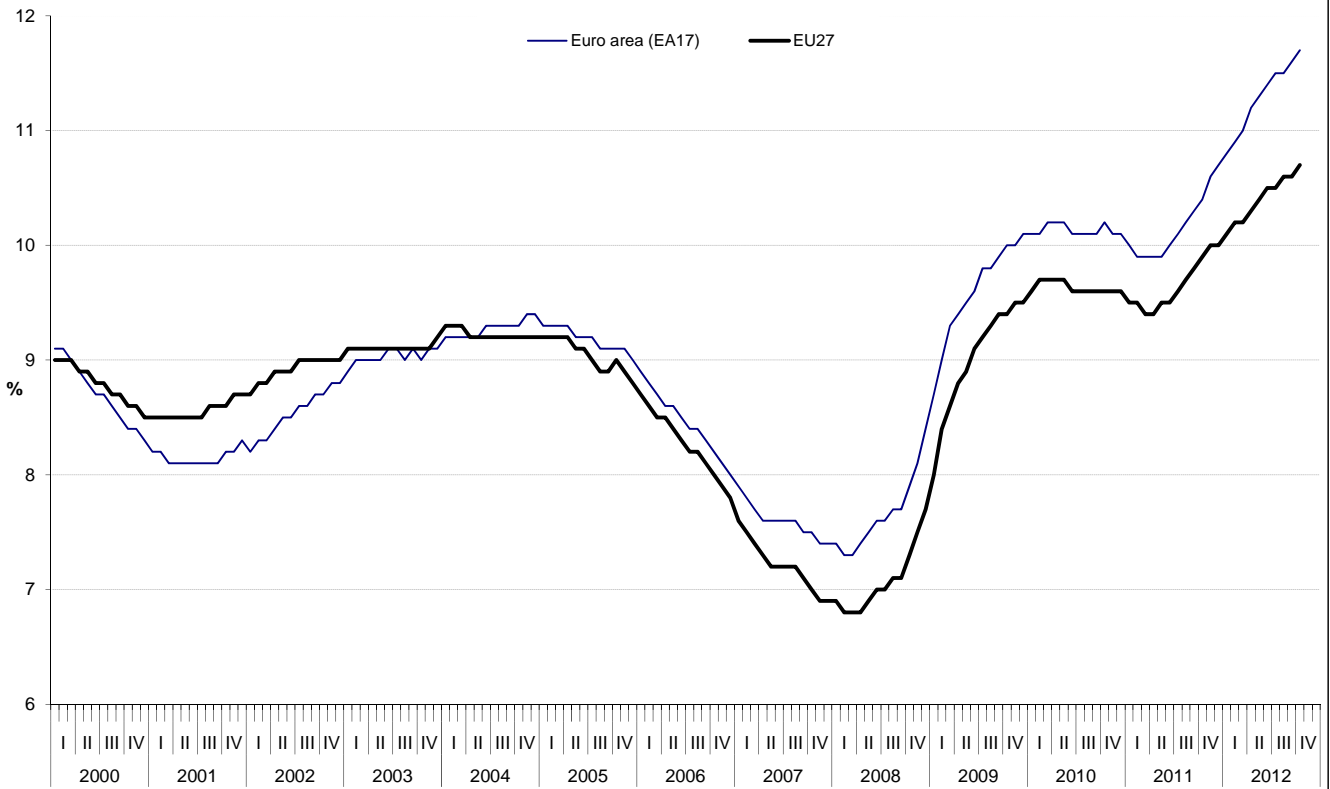
Hubertus VREESWIJK
Tel: +352-4301-34 323

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

estat-monthly-unemployment@ec.europa.eu

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Euro area and EU27 unemployment rates
Seasonally adjusted series



SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATES (%)
TOTALS

	Oct 2011	Apr 2012	May 2012	Jun 2012	Jul 2012	Aug 2012	Sep 2012	Oct 2012
EA17	10.4	11.2	11.3	11.4	11.5	11.5	11.6	11.7
EU27	9.9	10.3	10.4	10.5	10.5	10.6	10.6	10.7
BE	7.2	7.3	7.4	7.5	7.6	7.6	7.5	7.5
BG	11.4	12.1	12.2	12.4	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.6
CZ	6.5	6.8	6.8	6.9	6.9	7.0	7.1	7.3
DK	7.8	7.9	8.0	7.9	7.7	7.4	7.4	7.7
DE⁷	5.7	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.4	5.4
EE	11.5**	10.0	10.0	9.9	10.0	9.9	9.6	:
IE	15.0	14.9	14.8	14.8	14.8	14.8	14.8	14.7
EL	18.4*	23.1	23.9	24.7	24.8	25.4	:	:
ES	22.7	24.4	24.8	25.0	25.4	25.6	25.8	26.2
FR	9.7	10.1	10.2	10.4	10.5	10.6	10.7	10.7
IT⁵	8.8	10.5	10.4	10.6	10.5	10.5	10.8	11.1
CY	9.2	11.2	11.6	11.5	11.9	11.9	12.3	12.9
LV⁶	15.7***	15.7	15.7	15.7	14.2	14.2	14.2	:
LT	14.2	13.2	13.0	12.9	12.7	12.6	12.5	12.4
LU	4.8	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1
HU	11.1**	11.1	11.0	10.8	10.7	10.7	10.8	:
MT	6.5	6.2	6.5	6.7	6.6	6.6	6.5	6.6
NL	4.8	5.2	5.1	5.1	5.3	5.3	5.4	5.5
AT⁷	4.3	4.1	4.3	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.4	4.3
PL	9.9	9.9	10.0	10.1	10.1	10.3	10.3	10.4
PT	13.7	15.3	15.5	15.8	16.0	16.3	16.2	16.3
RO	7.3	7.1	7.1	7.3	7.1	7.0	7.0	6.9
SI	8.6	8.3	8.5	8.5	8.4	8.4	8.5	8.6
SK	13.9	13.7	13.8	14.0	14.1	14.2	14.0	14.0
FI⁷	7.6	7.6	7.7	7.7	7.8	7.8	7.7	7.7
SE	7.5	7.4	7.8	7.6	7.5	7.8	7.8	7.7
UK	8.3*	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.8	:	:
IS	6.6	6.4	6.2	6.1	5.9	5.8	5.7	5.7
NO	3.4**	3.0	3.0	3.1	3.0	3.1	3.0	:
US	8.9	8.1	8.2	8.2	8.3	8.1	7.8	7.9
JP	4.4**	4.6	4.4	4.3	4.3	4.2	4.2	:

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATES (%)

	Youth (under 25's)				Males				Females			
	Oct 11	Aug 12	Sep 12	Oct 12	Oct 11	Aug 12	Sep 12	Oct 12	Oct 11	Aug 12	Sep 12	Oct 12
EA17	21.2	23.3	23.6	23.9	10.3	11.4	11.5	11.6	10.7	11.7	11.7	11.8
EU27	21.9	23.0	23.2	23.4	9.8	10.5	10.6	10.7	10.0	10.6	10.6	10.7
BE	18.0	18.9	18.9	18.8	7.1	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.3	7.8	7.6	7.5
BG	25.1	29.3	29.6	30.3	12.6	14.0	13.9	14.1	10.0	10.8	10.8	11.0
CZ	17.9	19.2	19.8	20.7	5.6	6.0	6.1	6.3	7.6	8.3	8.4	8.5
DK	14.5	13.2	12.9	13.7	7.8	7.5	7.6	7.9	7.9	7.3	7.1	7.4
DE¹	8.3	8.1	8.1	8.1	5.9	5.7	5.6	5.6	5.4	5.2	5.1	5.1
EE	26.0	20.0	19.1	:	12.9	10.7	10.5	:	11.3	9.2	8.7	:
IE	30.1	30.7	30.2	29.9	18.0	17.9	17.7	17.6	11.2	10.9	11.2	11.1
EL	47.3	57.0	:	:	17.1	22.7	:	:	23.1	29.0	:	:
ES	48.3	54.1	54.7	55.9	22.4	25.4	25.6	25.9	23.2	25.8	26.1	26.5
FR	22.7	25.1	25.4	25.5	9.3	10.3	10.4	10.5	10.1	10.9	10.9	10.8
IT⁵	30.7	34.6	35.9	36.5	8.1	9.7	10.2	10.4	9.9	11.7	11.7	12.1
CY⁶	26.0	29.3	29.3	:	9.8	12.3	12.7	13.5	8.5	11.4	11.8	12.2
LV⁶	28.5	31.9	31.9	:	17.5	14.4	14.4	:	13.5	13.9	13.9	:
LT	31.1	27.2	26.5	24.3	16.4	14.8	14.7	14.5	12.0	10.3	10.2	10.4
LU	17.6	17.9	18.2	18.6	4.2	4.5	4.5	4.5	5.5	5.8	5.8	5.8
HU	26.1	29.1	29.9	:	10.9	11.0	11.0	:	10.9	10.3	10.5	:
MT	13.9	16.5	16.3	16.8	6.2	6.4	6.3	6.5	7.1	6.8	6.7	6.7
NL	8.2	9.4	9.7	9.8	4.7	5.3	5.4	5.6	4.8	5.2	5.4	5.4
AT⁷	8.9	9.3	8.9	8.5	4.1	4.5	4.4	4.5	4.5	4.4	4.3	4.1
PL	26.6	26.8	27.1	27.8	9.1	9.6	9.8	9.9	10.9	11.0	11.0	11.1
PT	33.1	39.4	39.0	39.1	13.6	16.8	16.8	16.9	13.8	15.7	15.6	15.7
RO⁶	24.8	23.0*	:	:	7.9	7.6	7.6	7.5	6.6	6.3	6.3	6.2
SI⁶	16.2	17.5	17.5	:	8.3	7.8	7.8	8.1	8.9	9.2	9.2	9.2
SK	33.5	31.4	30.1	30.1	13.7	13.9	13.8	13.9	14.0	14.5	14.3	14.2
FI¹	19.8	18.7	18.8	18.8	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.2	6.9	7.2	7.2	7.2
SE	22.6	25.6	23.3	23.0	7.6	8.2	7.8	8.0	7.4	7.5	7.8	7.3
UK	22.1	20.6	:	:	9.0	8.3	:	:	7.6	7.3	:	:
IS	15.0	12.8	12.7	12.6	6.7	6.1	5.9	5.9	6.5	5.6	5.5	5.4
NO	8.7	8.8	8.5	:	3.7	3.4	3.4	:	3.0	2.7	2.7	:
US	16.7	16.8	15.5	16.0	9.4	8.3	8.0	8.0	8.4	7.8	7.5	7.7
JP	8.1	8.0	7.0	:	4.8	4.5	4.4	:	4.0	3.7	3.8	:

Source: Eurostat : Data not available * Data for Q2 2012

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED (in millions)

	Oct 2011	Apr 2012	May 2012	Jun 2012	Jul 2012	Aug 2012	Sep 2012	Oct 2012
EA17	16.529	17.729	17.921	18.136	18.280	18.375	18.530	18.703
EU27	23.753	24.869	25.090	25.341	25.435	25.532	25.709	25.913
EA17 - youth	3.259	3.419	3.443	3.455	3.495	3.508	3.560	3.609
EU27 - youth	5.399	5.504	5.532	5.519	5.526	5.561	5.614	5.678

Euro area and EU27 unemployed (in millions)
Seasonally adjusted series

