

September 2011

## Euro area unemployment rate at 10.2%

EU27 at 9.7%

The **euro area**<sup>1</sup> (EA17) seasonally-adjusted<sup>2</sup> unemployment rate<sup>3</sup> was 10.2% in September 2011, compared with 10.1% in August<sup>4</sup>. It was 10.1% in September 2010. The **EU27**<sup>1</sup> unemployment rate was 9.7% in September 2011, compared with 9.6% in August<sup>4</sup>. It was 9.6% in September 2010.

Eurostat estimates that 23.264 million men and women in the **EU27**, of whom 16.198 million were in the **euro area**, were unemployed in September 2011. Compared with August 2011, the number of persons unemployed increased by 174 000 in the **EU27** and by 188 000 in the **euro area**. Compared with September 2010, unemployment rose by 215 000 in the **EU27** and by 329 000 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** (3.9%), the **Netherlands** (4.5%) and **Luxembourg** (4.8%), and the highest in **Spain** (22.6%), **Greece** (17.6% in July) and **Latvia** (16.1% in the second quarter of 2011).

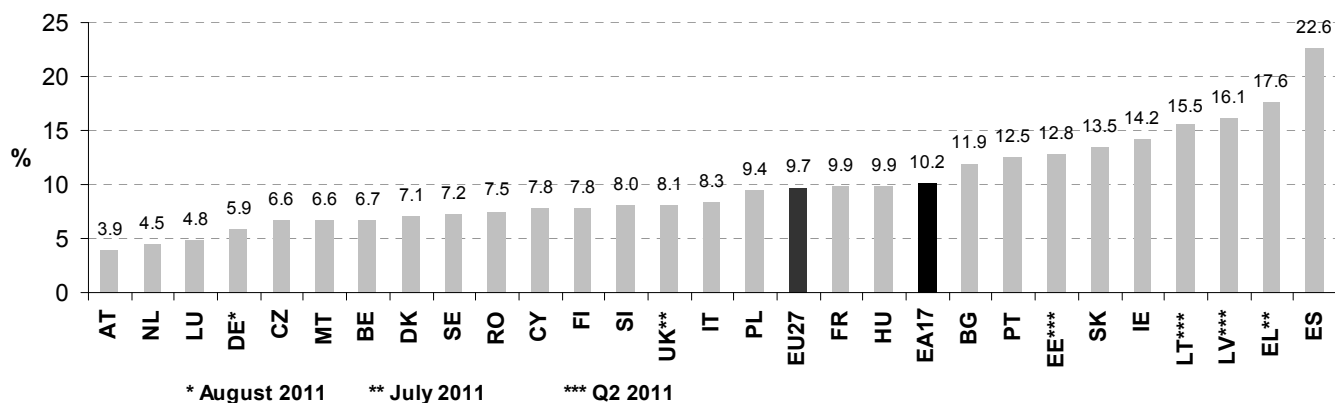
Compared with a year ago, the unemployment rate fell in fourteen Member States and increased in thirteen. The largest falls were observed in **Estonia** (17.9% to 12.8% between the second quarters of 2010 and 2011), **Latvia** (19.4% to 16.1% between the second quarters of 2010 and 2011) and **Lithuania** (18.2% to 15.5% between the second quarters of 2010 and 2011). The highest increases were registered in **Greece** (12.6% to 17.6% between July 2010 and July 2011), **Spain** (20.5% to 22.6%) and **Cyprus** (6.0% to 7.8%).

Between September 2010 and September 2011, the unemployment rate for males remained stable at 9.9% in the **euro area** and fell from 9.6% to 9.5% in the **EU27**. The female unemployment rate increased from 10.4% to 10.6% in the **euro area** and from 9.7% to 9.9% in the **EU27**.

In September 2011, 5.308 million young persons (under-25s) were unemployed in the **EU27**, of whom 3.290 million were in the **euro area**. Compared with September 2010, youth unemployment increased by 41 000 in the **EU27** and by 71 000 in the **euro area**. In September 2011, the youth unemployment rate was 21.4% in the **EU27** and 21.2% in the **euro area**. In September 2010 it was 20.9% and 20.8% respectively. The lowest rates were observed in **Austria** (7.1%) and the **Netherlands** (8.0%), and the highest in **Spain** (48.0%) and **Greece** (43.5% in July).

In September 2011, the unemployment rate was 9.1% in the **USA**. In August 2011, it was 4.3% in **Japan**.

### Unemployment rates in September 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 143/2011 of 30 September 2011, the August 2011 unemployment rates have been revised from 10.0% to 10.1% for the EA17 and from 9.5% to 9.6% for the EU27. Among Member States, the rate has been revised by between 0.2 to 0.4 percentage points for Ireland and Cyprus. It was revised upwards by 1.0 percentage point for Spain. 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.  
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 September 2011.  
For Greece data up to and including July 2011.  
For the United Kingdom monthly data up to and including June-July-August 2011 (3-month rolling average).  
For Spain quarterly data up to and including Q3 2011.  
For Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Ireland, 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, 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. For Germany, the September 2011 unemployment data will be published on 2 November by the German statistical office.
8. For Greece, monthly unemployment data based on direct extractions from the LFS are now available. The series are different from the monthly data published nationally, which are not seasonally adjusted and are not benchmarked to the quarterly LFS data.

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For further information on data:

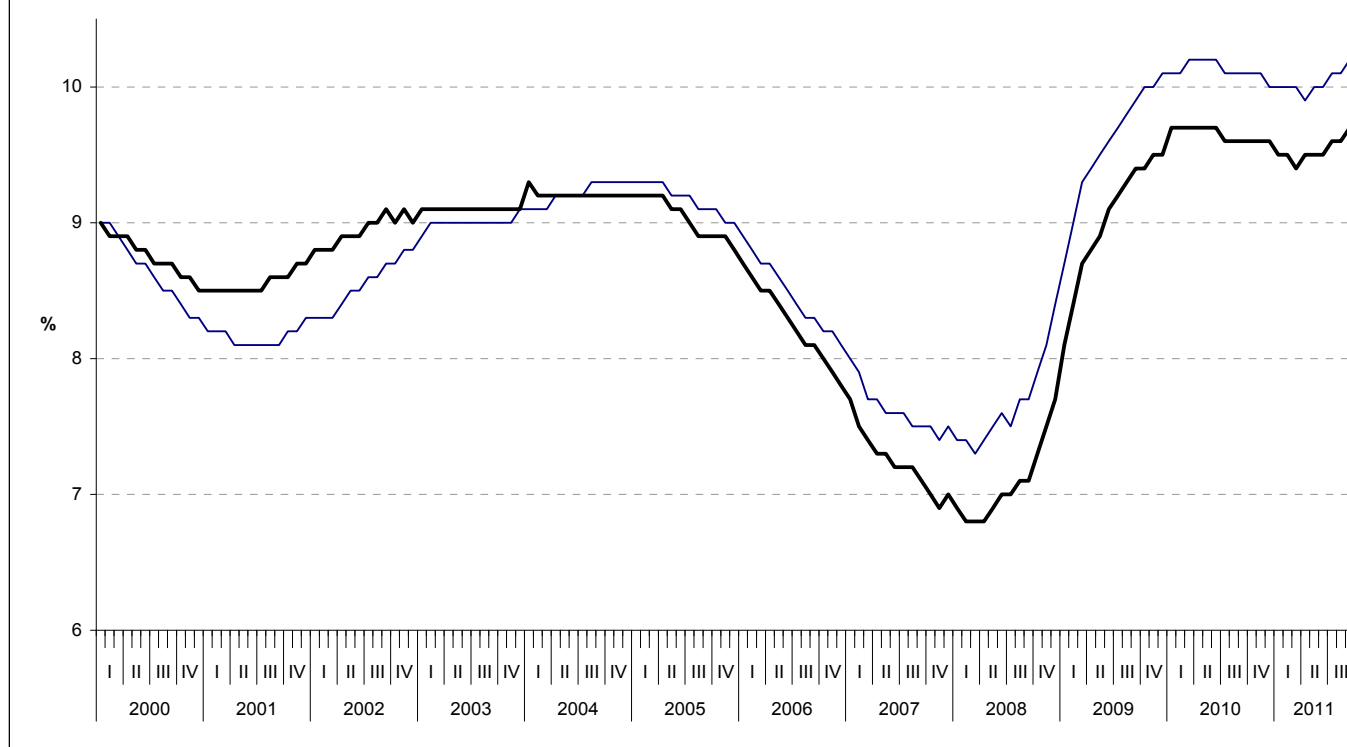
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Eurostat news releases on internet: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat>  
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## Euro area and EU27 unemployment rates

— Euro area (EA17), seasonally adjusted series      — EU27, seasonally adjusted series



### SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATES (%) TOTALS

|                       | Sep 2010          | Mar 2011 | Apr 2011 | May 2011 | Jun 2011 | Jul 2011 | Aug 2011 | Sep 2011    |
|-----------------------|-------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-------------|
| <b>EA17</b>           | 10.1              | 10.0     | 9.9      | 10.0     | 10.0     | 10.1     | 10.1     | <b>10.2</b> |
| <b>EU27</b>           | 9.6               | 9.4      | 9.5      | 9.5      | 9.5      | 9.6      | 9.6      | <b>9.7</b>  |
| <b>BE</b>             | 8.2               | 7.0      | 7.0      | 7.0      | 7.0      | 6.9      | 6.8      | <b>6.7</b>  |
| <b>BG</b>             | 10.6              | 11.1     | 11.2     | 11.3     | 11.4     | 11.5     | 11.7     | <b>11.9</b> |
| <b>CZ</b>             | 7.0               | 6.9      | 6.9      | 6.9      | 6.8      | 6.8      | 6.7      | <b>6.6</b>  |
| <b>DK</b>             | 7.6               | 7.6      | 7.3      | 7.4      | 7.2      | 7.1      | 7.1      | <b>7.1</b>  |
| <b>DE<sup>7</sup></b> | 6.8               | 6.2      | 6.1      | 6.0      | 5.9      | 5.9      | 5.9      | :           |
| <b>EE<sup>6</sup></b> | 16.1              | 13.6     | 12.8     | 12.8     | 12.8     | :        | :        | :           |
| <b>IE</b>             | 13.9              | 14.2     | 14.2     | 14.2     | 14.3     | 14.5     | 14.4     | <b>14.2</b> |
| <b>EL<sup>8</sup></b> | 13.4              | 15.6     | 16.0     | 16.8     | 17.1     | 17.6     | :        | :           |
| <b>ES</b>             | 20.5              | 20.7     | 20.7     | 21.0     | 21.3     | 21.8     | 22.2     | <b>22.6</b> |
| <b>FR</b>             | 9.8               | 9.7      | 9.7      | 9.7      | 9.8      | 9.8      | 9.9      | <b>9.9</b>  |
| <b>IT<sup>5</sup></b> | 8.1               | 8.2      | 8.1      | 8.2      | 8.1      | 8.2      | 8.0      | <b>8.3</b>  |
| <b>CY</b>             | 6.0               | 6.7      | 6.9      | 7.1      | 7.1      | 7.3      | 7.5      | <b>7.8</b>  |
| <b>LV<sup>6</sup></b> | 18.2              | 16.3     | 16.1     | 16.1     | 16.1     | :        | :        | :           |
| <b>LT<sup>6</sup></b> | 18.3              | 16.5     | 15.5     | 15.5     | 15.5     | :        | :        | :           |
| <b>LU</b>             | 4.5               | 4.5      | 4.5      | 4.6      | 4.6      | 4.8      | 4.8      | <b>4.8</b>  |
| <b>HU</b>             | 11.0              | 10.8     | 10.9     | 10.9     | 10.8     | 10.6     | 10.3     | <b>9.9</b>  |
| <b>MT</b>             | 7.1               | 6.6      | 6.7      | 6.7      | 6.7      | 6.7      | 6.6      | <b>6.6</b>  |
| <b>NL</b>             | 4.4               | 4.2      | 4.2      | 4.2      | 4.1      | 4.3      | 4.4      | <b>4.5</b>  |
| <b>AT<sup>7</sup></b> | 4.3               | 4.3      | 4.1      | 4.2      | 3.9      | 3.7      | 3.7      | <b>3.9</b>  |
| <b>PL</b>             | 9.6               | 9.3      | 9.5      | 9.6      | 9.5      | 9.4      | 9.4      | <b>9.4</b>  |
| <b>PT</b>             | 12.3 <sup>e</sup> | 12.4     | 12.6     | 12.6     | 12.5     | 12.4     | 12.4     | <b>12.5</b> |
| <b>RO</b>             | 7.2               | 6.9      | 7.5      | 7.3      | 7.3      | 7.3      | 7.3      | <b>7.5</b>  |
| <b>SI</b>             | 7.3               | 8.1      | 8.0      | 7.9      | 7.9      | 7.9      | 7.8      | <b>8.0</b>  |
| <b>SK</b>             | 14.3              | 13.3     | 13.2     | 13.2     | 13.3     | 13.3     | 13.4     | <b>13.5</b> |
| <b>FI<sup>7</sup></b> | 8.2               | 8.0      | 7.9      | 7.8      | 7.8      | 7.8      | 7.8      | <b>7.8</b>  |
| <b>SE</b>             | 8.2               | 7.7      | 7.4      | 7.7      | 7.4      | 7.3      | 7.4      | <b>7.2</b>  |
| <b>UK</b>             | 7.8               | 7.7      | 7.8      | 7.9      | 8.0      | 8.1      | :        | :           |
| <b>NO</b>             | 3.6               | 3.3      | 3.4      | 3.3      | 3.3      | 3.2      | :        | :           |
| <b>US</b>             | 9.6               | 8.8      | 9.0      | 9.1      | 9.2      | 9.1      | 9.1      | <b>9.1</b>  |
| <b>JP</b>             | 5.0               | 4.6      | 4.7      | 4.5      | 4.6      | 4.7      | 4.3      | :           |

: Data not available

e: Estimate

Source: Eurostat

## SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATES (%)

|                 | Youth (under 25's) |        |        |             | Males             |        |        |             | Females           |        |        |             |
|-----------------|--------------------|--------|--------|-------------|-------------------|--------|--------|-------------|-------------------|--------|--------|-------------|
|                 | Sep-10             | Jul-11 | Aug-11 | Sep-11      | Sep-10            | Jul-11 | Aug-11 | Sep-11      | Sep-10            | Jul-11 | Aug-11 | Sep-11      |
| EA17            | 20.8               | 20.8   | 20.9   | <b>21.2</b> | 9.9               | 9.8    | 9.8    | <b>9.9</b>  | 10.4              | 10.5   | 10.5   | <b>10.6</b> |
| EU27            | 20.9               | 21.2   | 21.2   | <b>21.4</b> | 9.6               | 9.5    | 9.5    | <b>9.5</b>  | 9.7               | 9.8    | 9.8    | <b>9.9</b>  |
| BE              | 20.8               | 17.6   | 17.3   | <b>17.4</b> | 8.0               | 6.7    | 6.7    | <b>6.6</b>  | 8.5               | 7.2    | 7.0    | <b>6.7</b>  |
| BG              | 23.5               | 27.0   | 26.9   | <b>26.8</b> | 11.3              | 12.6   | 12.8   | <b>13.1</b> | 9.7               | 10.3   | 10.4   | <b>10.5</b> |
| CZ              | 17.6               | 18.6   | 18.6   | <b>18.8</b> | 6.0               | 5.7    | 5.6    | <b>5.6</b>  | 8.3               | 8.1    | 8.1    | <b>8.0</b>  |
| DK              | 15.0               | 14.0   | 14.1   | <b>13.9</b> | 7.6               | 7.0    | 6.9    | <b>6.9</b>  | 7.5               | 7.1    | 7.3    | <b>7.3</b>  |
| DE <sup>7</sup> | 9.4                | 9.0    | 9.1    | :           | 7.2               | 6.1    | 6.1    | :           | 6.3               | 5.7    | 5.6    | :           |
| EE <sup>6</sup> | 27.8               | 21.8*  | :      | :           | 17.5              | 13.1*  | :      | :           | 14.7              | 12.5*  | :      | :           |
| IE              | 28.2               | 30.1   | 30.8   | <b>29.5</b> | 17.1              | 17.6   | 17.6   | <b>17.2</b> | 9.9               | 10.7   | 10.5   | <b>10.5</b> |
| EL <sup>8</sup> | 34.2               | 43.5   | :      | :           | 10.7              | 15.2   | :      | :           | 17.0              | 20.9   | :      | :           |
| ES              | 42.3               | 47.3   | 47.6   | <b>48.0</b> | 20.1              | 21.5   | 21.7   | <b>22.1</b> | 21.0              | 22.2   | 22.7   | <b>23.1</b> |
| FR              | 23.7               | 23.9   | 23.9   | <b>24.0</b> | 9.3               | 9.2    | 9.2    | <b>9.2</b>  | 10.3              | 10.5   | 10.6   | <b>10.6</b> |
| IT <sup>5</sup> | 27.7               | 27.8   | 28.0   | <b>29.3</b> | 7.2               | 7.2    | 7.1    | <b>7.4</b>  | 9.3               | 9.5    | 9.4    | <b>9.7</b>  |
| CY <sup>6</sup> | 15.2               | 22.6   | 22.6   | <b>22.6</b> | 5.8               | 7.2    | 7.3    | <b>7.7</b>  | 6.3               | 7.5    | 7.8    | <b>8.1</b>  |
| LV <sup>6</sup> | 33.1               | 29.7*  | :      | :           | 20.8              | 18.9*  | :      | :           | 15.7              | 13.3*  | :      | :           |
| LT <sup>6</sup> | 35.0               | 32.7*  | :      | :           | 21.3              | 18.2*  | :      | :           | 15.5              | 12.9*  | :      | :           |
| LU              | 14.1               | 14.7   | 14.7   | <b>14.7</b> | 3.7               | 3.6    | 3.6    | <b>3.6</b>  | 5.6               | 6.2    | 6.2    | <b>6.3</b>  |
| HU              | 25.6               | 24.2   | 23.7   | <b>23.1</b> | 11.3              | 10.4   | 10.1   | <b>9.8</b>  | 10.7              | 10.8   | 10.5   | <b>10.1</b> |
| MT              | 13.1               | 15.1   | 15.1   | <b>15.3</b> | 7.0               | 6.7    | 6.6    | <b>6.7</b>  | 7.2               | 6.7    | 6.5    | <b>6.5</b>  |
| NL              | 8.6                | 7.5    | 7.5    | <b>8.0</b>  | 4.3               | 4.4    | 4.4    | <b>4.5</b>  | 4.6               | 4.3    | 4.3    | <b>4.6</b>  |
| AT <sup>7</sup> | 9.1                | 7.7    | 7.2    | <b>7.1</b>  | 4.6               | 3.5    | 3.5    | <b>3.8</b>  | 4.0               | 4.0    | 4.0    | <b>4.0</b>  |
| PL              | 24.2               | 23.9   | 23.7   | <b>23.8</b> | 9.2               | 8.7    | 8.7    | <b>8.6</b>  | 10.0              | 10.3   | 10.3   | <b>10.3</b> |
| PT              | 29.3 <sup>e</sup>  | 27.2   | 26.9   | <b>27.1</b> | 11.8 <sup>e</sup> | 12.1   | 12.1   | <b>12.2</b> | 12.8 <sup>e</sup> | 12.7   | 12.7   | <b>12.9</b> |
| RO <sup>6</sup> | 22.1               | 22.8*  | :      | :           | 7.8               | 7.6    | 7.7    | <b>7.9</b>  | 6.5               | 6.9    | 6.9    | <b>7.1</b>  |
| SI <sup>6</sup> | 14.6               | 13.4   | 13.4   | <b>13.4</b> | 7.3               | 8.0    | 7.9    | <b>8.0</b>  | 7.4               | 7.8    | 7.7    | <b>8.0</b>  |
| SK              | 33.8               | 31.6   | 31.2   | <b>30.7</b> | 14.2              | 13.5   | 13.6   | <b>13.6</b> | 14.3              | 13.0   | 13.2   | <b>13.3</b> |
| FI <sup>7</sup> | 20.8               | 20.2   | 20.3   | <b>20.4</b> | 8.8               | 8.4    | 8.5    | <b>8.5</b>  | 7.5               | 7.1    | 7.1    | <b>7.0</b>  |
| SE              | 24.7               | 21.5   | 22.9   | <b>22.1</b> | 8.4               | 7.6    | 7.5    | <b>7.3</b>  | 7.9               | 7.1    | 7.2    | <b>7.1</b>  |
| UK              | 19.2               | 21.2   | :      | :           | 8.4               | 8.8    | :      | :           | 7.0               | 7.3    | :      | :           |
| NO              | 8.6                | 8.2    | :      | :           | 4.0               | 3.4    | :      | :           | 3.1               | 2.9    | :      | :           |
| US              | 17.9               | 17.4   | 17.7   | <b>17.4</b> | 10.4              | 9.6    | 9.6    | <b>9.4</b>  | 8.6               | 8.5    | 8.5    | <b>8.7</b>  |
| JP              | :                  | :      | :      | :           | 5.5               | 4.9    | 4.5    | :           | 4.3               | 4.5    | 4.1    | :           |

\* Data for Q2 2011 : Data not available e: Estimate Source: Eurostat

## SEASONALLY ADJUSTED NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED (in millions)

|              | Sep 2010 | Mar 2011 | Apr 2011 | May 2011 | Jun 2011 | Jul 2011 | Aug 2011 | Sep 2011      |
|--------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|---------------|
| EA17         | 15.869   | 15.678   | 15.641   | 15.757   | 15.823   | 15.980   | 16.010   | <b>16.198</b> |
| EU27         | 23.049   | 22.686   | 22.758   | 22.908   | 22.947   | 23.083   | 23.090   | <b>23.264</b> |
| EA17 - youth | 3.219    | 3.204    | 3.169    | 3.194    | 3.189    | 3.218    | 3.222    | <b>3.290</b>  |
| EU27 - youth | 5.267    | 5.234    | 5.214    | 5.259    | 5.243    | 5.245    | 5.243    | <b>5.308</b>  |

