

March 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 March 2010, the same as in February⁴. It was 9.1% in March 2009. The **EU27**¹ unemployment rate was 9.6% in March 2010, unchanged compared with February⁴. It was 8.5% in March 2009.

Eurostat estimates that 23.130 million men and women in the **EU27**, of whom 15.808 million were in the **euro area**, were unemployed in March 2010. Compared with February 2010, the number of persons unemployed increased by 123 000 in the **EU27** and by 101 000 in the **euro area**. Compared with March 2009, unemployment went up by 2.546 million in the **EU27** and by 1.389 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** (4.1%) and **Austria** (4.9%), and the highest rates in **Latvia** (22.3%) and **Spain** (19.1%).

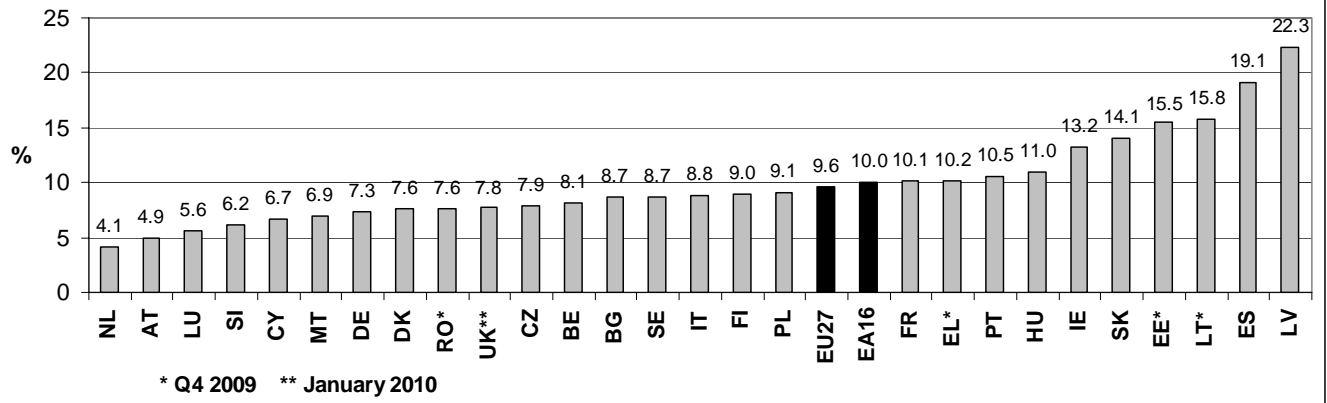
Compared with a year ago, one Member State recorded a fall in the unemployment rate and twenty-six an increase. The fall was observed in **Germany** (7.4% to 7.3%), and the smallest increases in **Luxembourg** (5.4% to 5.6%) and **Malta** (6.7% to 6.9%). The highest increases were registered in **Latvia** (14.3% to 22.3%), **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 March 2009 and March 2010, the unemployment rate for males rose from 8.9% to 10.0% in the **euro area** and from 8.6% to 9.8% in the **EU27**. The female unemployment rate increased from 9.3% to 10.1% in the **euro area** and from 8.5% to 9.4% in the **EU27**.

In March 2010, the youth unemployment rate (under-25s) was 19.9% in the **euro area** and 20.6% in the **EU27**. In March 2009 it was 19.0% and 18.9% respectively. The lowest rate was observed in the **Netherlands** (7.4%), and the highest rates in **Latvia** (44.9% in the first quarter of 2010) and **Spain** (41.2%).

In the **USA**, the unemployment rate was 9.7% in March 2010. In **Japan** it was 4.8% in February 2010.

Unemployment rates in March 2010, seasonally adjusted



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.

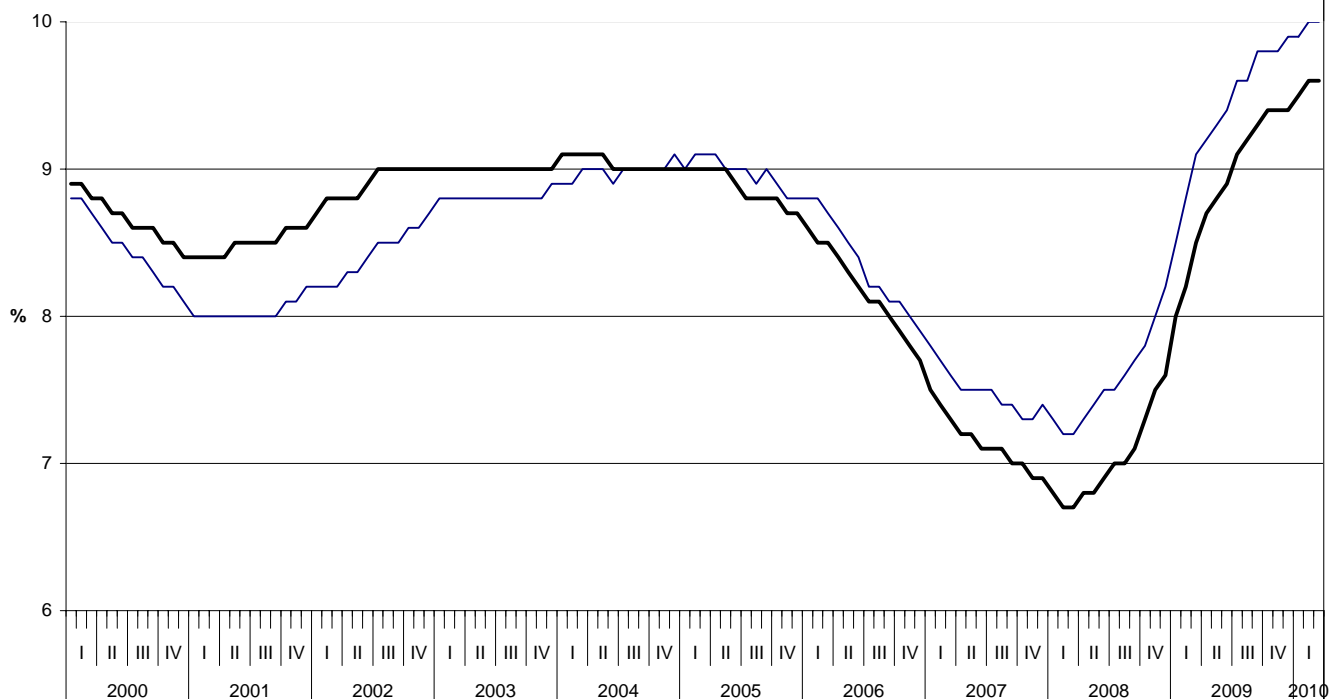
Current deviations from the definition of unemployment in the EU Labour Force Survey:
Spain, Italy and United Kingdom: Unemployment is restricted to persons aged 16-74. In Spain and Italy the legal minimum age for working is 16. Employment data used for Italy includes also those above 74.
4. Compared with the rates published in News Release 46/2010 of 31 March 2010, the February 2010 unemployment rates for the EA16 and the EU27 have not been revised.
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 March 2010.
 For the Netherlands up to and including January-February-March 2010 (3-month rolling average).
 For the United Kingdom up to and including December 2009-January 2010-February 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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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

	Mar 2009	Sep 2009	Oct 2009	Nov 2009	Dec 2009	Jan 2010	Feb 2010	Mar 2010
EA16	9.1	9.8	9.8	9.8	9.9	9.9	10.0	10.0
EU27	8.5	9.3	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.5	9.6	9.6
BE	7.7	8.1	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.1
BG	6.3	7.3	7.7	8.1	8.3	8.4	8.6	8.7
CZ	6.0	7.4	7.3	7.4	7.4	7.7	7.9	7.9
DK	5.3	6.5	6.9	7.2	7.3	7.5	7.6	7.6
DE	7.4	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.3
EE⁶	11.0	15.2	15.5	15.5	15.5	:	:	:
IE	10.9	12.9	13.0	13.1	12.9	13.1	13.1	13.2
EL⁶	8.8	9.8	10.2	10.2	10.2	:	:	:
ES	17.4	19.0	19.0	19.0	18.9	18.9	19.0	19.1
FR	9.1	9.8	9.9	10.0	9.9	10.0	10.1	10.1
IT⁵	7.8	8.0	8.1	8.1	8.4	8.5	8.6	8.8
CY	4.6	5.9	6.0	6.2	6.2	6.3	6.4	6.7
LV	14.3	19.7	19.9	20.3	20.4	20.9	21.6	22.3
LT⁶	11.1	14.4	15.8	15.8	15.8	:	:	:
LU	5.4	5.4	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.4	5.6	5.6
HU	9.6	10.6	10.6	10.6	10.7	11.1	11.1	11.0
MT	6.7	7.1	6.9	7.0	7.1	7.0	7.1	6.9
NL	3.1	3.7	3.8	3.8	3.9	3.9	4.0	4.1
AT	4.6	5.1	5.0	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.9	4.9
PL	7.9	8.5	8.6	8.7	8.8	8.9	9.0	9.1
PT	9.0	10.2	10.2	10.1	10.2	10.3	10.3	10.5
RO⁶	6.2	7.2	7.6	7.6	7.6	:	:	:
SI	5.3	6.4	6.5	6.4	6.3	6.2	6.1	6.2
SK	10.6	13.3	13.8	14.1	14.2	14.1	14.1	14.1
FI⁷	7.7	8.6	8.7	8.8	8.8	8.9	8.9	9.0
SE	7.8	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.9	9.0	8.9	8.7
UK	7.2	7.8	7.8	7.7	7.7	7.8	:	:
NO	3.1	3.2	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	:	:
US	8.6	9.8	10.1	10.0	10.0	9.7	9.7	9.7
JP	4.8	5.3	5.2	5.3	5.2	4.9	4.8	:

: Data not available

Source: Eurostat

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATES (%)

	Youth (under 25's)				Males				Females			
	Mar-09	Jan-10	Feb-10	Mar-10	Mar-09	Jan-10	Feb-10	Mar-10	Mar-09	Jan-10	Feb-10	Mar-10
EA16	19.0	19.8	19.9	19.9	8.9	9.9	10.0	10.0	9.3	9.9	10.0	10.1
EU27	18.9	20.5	20.6	20.6	8.6	9.7	9.8	9.8	8.5	9.3	9.3	9.4
BE	21.6	23.9	24.3	24.2	7.4	8.2	8.2	8.1	8.2	7.8	7.8	8.0
BG	14.3	21.1	22.2	22.5	6.3	9.0	9.3	9.5	6.2	7.8	7.9	7.9
CZ	14.0	21.1	21.5	21.7	5.1	7.2	7.4	7.4	7.0	8.3	8.5	8.7
DK	10.0	13.9	13.9	14.2	5.8	8.2	8.5	8.6	4.7	6.6	6.5	6.5
DE	10.4	10.1	10.1	10.0	7.9	8.0	8.1	8.0	6.9	6.7	6.7	6.7
EE ⁶	24.5	32.0*	:	:	13.2	19.8*	:	:	9.0	11.2*	:	:
IE	21.8	28.9	28.6	27.9	13.7	16.5	16.5	16.7	7.2	8.9	8.9	8.9
EL ⁶	24.5	27.5*	:	:	6.2	7.6*	:	:	12.4	13.9*	:	:
ES	36.3	39.8	40.6	41.2	17.0	18.8	19.0	19.2	17.8	19.0	19.0	19.1
FR	23.4	22.2	22.1	22.1	8.8	9.8	9.8	9.8	9.5	10.2	10.3	10.4
IT ⁵	24.8	27.3	28.2	27.7	7.0	7.6	7.7	7.8	9.0	9.9	9.8	10.2
CY ⁶	10.9	17.8	17.8	17.8	4.3	6.1	6.3	6.5	5.0	6.5	6.6	6.9
LV ⁶	27.9	44.9	44.9	44.9	17.2	25.2	26.3	27.2	11.3	16.8	17.1	17.5
LT ⁶	24.0	30.4*	:	:	13.5	19.9*	:	:	8.6	11.8*	:	:
LU	18.7	17.5	18.2	18.0	4.8	4.9	4.9	4.9	6.2	6.2	6.4	6.5
HU	25.6	29.3	28.6	28.4	9.8	11.5	11.5	11.4	9.4	10.7	10.6	10.5
MT	14.1	14.8	15.0	14.8	6.3	6.8	6.9	6.8	7.6	7.3	7.3	7.2
NL	6.3	7.3	7.3	7.4	2.9	4.0	4.0	4.1	3.2	3.9	3.9	4.0
AT	9.6	9.6	10.0	10.1	4.7	5.3	5.4	5.3	4.4	4.2	4.4	4.4
PL	18.6	23.1	23.4	23.6	7.3	8.8	9.0	9.0	8.7	9.0	9.1	9.2
PT	19.4	21.2	21.1	21.4	8.3	9.8	9.8	9.9	9.9	10.9	10.9	11.2
RO ⁶	20.2	20.4*	:	:	7.0	8.3*	:	:	5.1	6.8*	:	:
SI ⁶	12.3	12.2	12.2	12.2	5.5	6.1	6.1	6.1	5.1	6.3	6.3	6.3
SK	23.8	32.4	32.8	33.3	9.7	13.9	14.0	14.0	11.7	14.4	14.3	14.2
FI ⁷	19.6	23.4	23.5	23.7	8.2	9.7	9.7	9.7	7.2	8.0	8.1	8.1
SE	22.3	26.4	25.3	26.0	7.8	9.4	9.0	8.8	7.9	8.6	8.8	8.6
UK	18.6	19.7	:	:	8.1	8.8	:	:	6.2	6.7	:	:
NO	8.8	8.4	:	:	3.7	3.7	:	:	2.5	2.8	:	:
US	16.4	18.9	18.5	18.8	9.6	10.8	10.7	10.7	7.6	8.4	8.6	8.6
JP	:	:	:	:	4.9	5.2	5.2	:	4.6	4.6	4.4	:

* Data for Q4 2009 : Data not available Source: Eurostat

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED (in millions)

	Mar 2009	Sep 2009	Oct 2009	Nov 2009	Dec 2009	Jan 2010	Feb 2010	Mar 2010
EA16	14.419	15.405	15.492	15.506	15.547	15.652	15.707	15.808
EU27	20.584	22.331	22.484	22.543	22.645	22.885	23.007	23.130

Euro area and EU27 unemployed (in millions)

