

October 2009

Euro area unemployment rate stable at 9.8%

EU27 up to 9.3%

The **euro area**¹ (EA16) seasonally-adjusted² unemployment rate³ was 9.8% in October 2009, the same as in September⁴. It was 7.9% in October 2008. The **EU27**¹ unemployment rate was 9.3% in October 2009, compared with 9.2% in September⁴. It was 7.3% in October 2008.

Eurostat estimates that 22.510 million men and women in the **EU27**, of whom 15.567 million were in the **euro area**, were unemployed in October 2009. Compared with September, the number of persons unemployed increased by 258 000 in the **EU27** and by 134 000 in the **euro area**. Compared with October 2008, unemployment went up by 5.002 million in the **EU27** and by 3.149 million in the **euro area**.

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

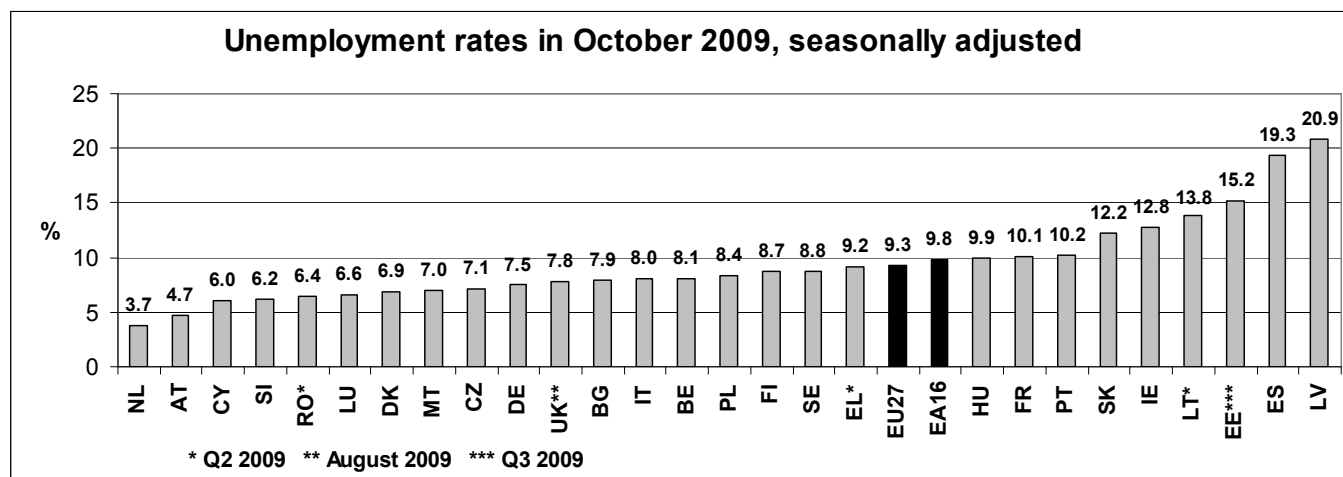
Among the Member States, the lowest unemployment rates were recorded in the **Netherlands** (3.7%) and **Austria** (4.7%), and the highest rates in **Latvia** (20.9%) and **Spain** (19.3%).

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 7.5%), **Austria** (4.0% to 4.7%) and **Romania** (5.7% to 6.4% between the second quarters of 2008 and 2009). The highest increases were registered in **Latvia** (9.1% to 20.9%) and **Lithuania** (4.8% to 13.8% between the second quarters of 2008 and 2009).

Between October 2008 and October 2009, the unemployment rate for males rose from 7.3% to 9.7% in the **euro area** and from 7.0% to 9.5% in the **EU27**. The female unemployment rate increased from 8.5% to 10.0% in the **euro area** and from 7.6% to 9.2% in the **EU27**.

In October 2009, the youth unemployment rate (under-25s) was 20.6% in the **euro area** and 20.7% in the **EU27**. In October 2008 it was 16.2% in both zones. The lowest rate was observed in the **Netherlands** (7.2%), and the highest rates in **Spain** (42.9%) and **Latvia** (33.6% in the third quarter of 2009).

In October 2009, the unemployment rate was 10.2% in the **USA** and 5.1% in **Japan**.



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 age limit for working is 16. Employment data used for Italy includes also those above 74.
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.
4. The September 2009 unemployment rate for the euro area (EA16) has been revised. The rate published in News Release 153/2009 of 30 October 2009 was 9.7%. The rate for the EU27 has not been revised. Among Member States, the rate has been revised by 0.2 percentage points for Spain. There was an upward revision of 0.9 percentage points for Portugal. 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, Finland and Sweden up to and including October 2009.
For the Netherlands up to and including August-September-October 2009 (3-month rolling average).
For the United Kingdom up to and including July-August-September 2009 (3-month rolling average).
For Denmark, Estonia, Spain and Portugal up to and including 2009Q3.
For Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Ireland, Greece, France, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Hungary, Malta, Austria, Poland, Romania, Slovenia and Slovakia up to and including 2009Q2.
5. From now onwards, Italy is producing monthly unemployment data purely based on the LFS. The data may still be revised for the most recent months where quarterly LFS figures are not yet available.
6. Estonia, Greece, Lithuania and Romania: quarterly data for all series.
Cyprus, Latvia, and Slovenia: quarterly data for youth unemployment.
7. For Finland and Sweden, the trend component is used instead of the more volatile seasonally adjusted data.

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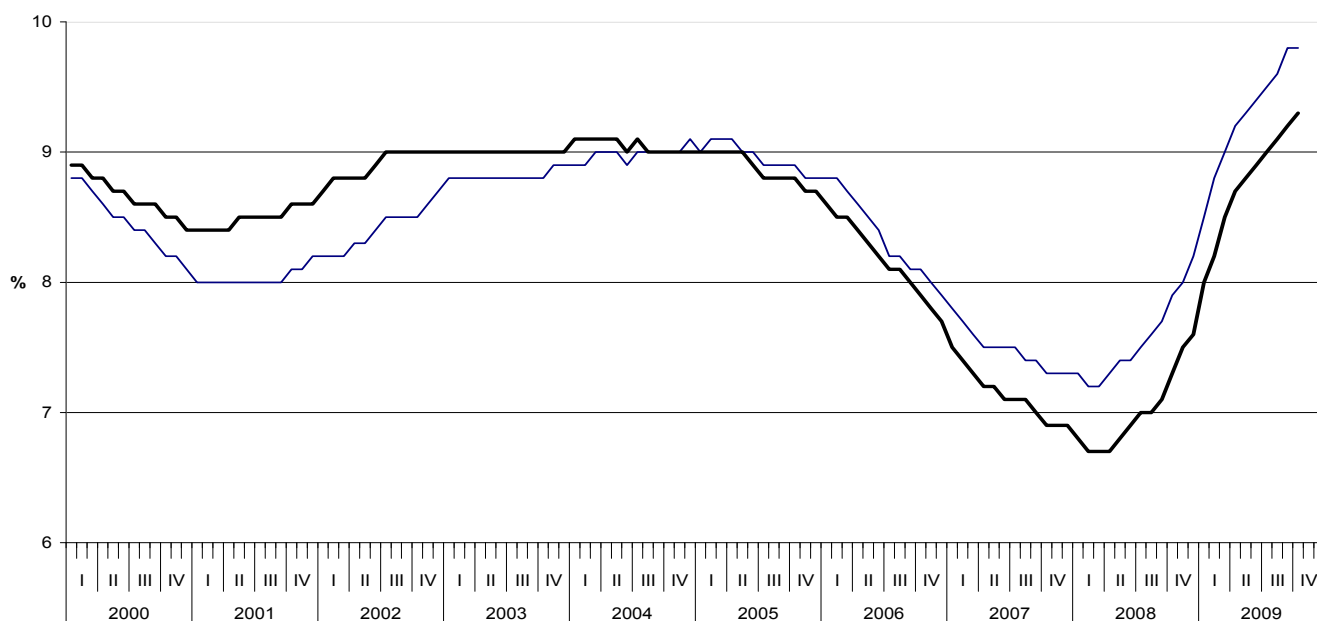
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Selected Principal European Economic Indicators: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/euroindicators>

Euro area and EU27 unemployment rates

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



SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATES (%) TOTALS

	Oct 2008	Apr 2009	Mai 2009	Jun 2009	Jul 2009	Aug 2009	Sep 2009	Oct 2009
EA16	7.9	9.2	9.3	9.4	9.5	9.6	9.8	9.8
EU27	7.3	8.7	8.8	8.9	9.0	9.1	9.2	9.3
BE	7.0	7.8	7.7	7.8	7.8	7.9	8.0	8.1
BG	5.1	6.2	6.3	6.5	6.8	7.2	7.6	7.9
CZ	4.4	6.1	6.3	6.5	6.7	6.9	7.0	7.1
DK	3.6	5.7	5.9	6.1	6.0	6.0	6.5	6.9
DE	7.1	7.6	7.6	7.7	7.6	7.6	7.6	7.5
EE⁶	7.7	13.3	13.3	13.3	15.2	15.2	15.2	:
IE	7.2	11.7	12.2	12.2	12.3	12.5	12.9	12.8
EL⁶	7.9	9.2	9.2	9.2	:	:	:	:
ES	13.2	17.6	17.9	18.1	18.4	18.7	19.1	19.3
FR	8.1	9.2	9.4	9.5	9.7	9.8	10.0	10.1
IT⁵	7.0	7.3	7.2	7.5	7.6	7.6	7.8	8.0
CY	3.6	5.0	5.2	5.3	5.4	5.6	5.9	6.0
LV	9.1	15.6	16.6	17.2	17.8	18.6	19.7	20.9
LT⁶	8.1	13.8	13.8	13.8	:	:	:	:
LU	5.1	6.1	6.2	6.4	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.6
HU	7.8	9.7	9.7	9.6	9.5	9.6	9.7	9.9
MT	6.0	6.9	7.1	7.3	7.3	7.2	7.2	7.0
NL	2.7	3.2	3.2	3.3	3.5	3.6	3.7	3.7
AT	4.0	4.7	4.8	4.8	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7
PL	6.7	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.1	8.1	8.2	8.4
PT	7.8	9.3	9.5	9.6	9.8	9.9	10.1	10.2
RO⁶	5.9	6.4	6.4	6.4	:	:	:	:
SI	4.2	5.6	5.9	6.0	6.0	5.9	5.9	6.2
SK	9.0	10.7	10.9	11.2	11.5	11.7	12.0	12.2
FI⁷	6.6	8.0	8.2	8.4	8.5	8.6	8.6	8.7
SE⁷	6.6	8.0	8.2	8.3	8.5	8.6	8.7	8.8
UK	6.2	7.5	7.7	7.8	7.8	7.8	:	:
NO	2.7	3.1	3.1	3.0	3.1	3.1	3.1	:
US	6.6	8.9	9.4	9.5	9.4	9.7	9.8	10.2
JP	3.8	5.0	5.2	5.4	5.7	5.5	5.3	5.1

: Data not available

Source: Eurostat

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATES (%)

	Youth (under 25's)				Males				Females			
	Oct-08	Aug-09	Sep-09	Oct-09	Oct-08	Aug-09	Sep-09	Oct-09	Oct-08	Aug-09	Sep-09	Oct-09
EA16	16.2	20.0	20.3	20.6	7.3	9.5	9.6	9.7	8.5	9.8	9.9	10.0
EU27	16.2	20.2	20.4	20.7	7.0	9.2	9.4	9.5	7.6	9.0	9.1	9.2
BE	18.6	21.0	20.7	20.4	6.5	7.9	8.0	8.1	7.7	8.0	8.0	8.0
BG	11.5	16.2	16.7	17.4	4.9	7.3	7.8	8.1	5.2	7.0	7.3	7.7
CZ	10.5	16.2	16.8	17.5	3.4	5.9	6.1	6.3	5.6	8.1	8.2	8.3
DK	8.4	10.9	11.6	12.0	3.4	6.8	7.3	7.8	3.8	5.2	5.6	5.9
DE	9.6	10.7	10.4	10.3	7.2	8.3	8.3	8.2	6.9	6.9	6.8	6.8
EE ⁶	18.4	28.4	28.4	:	8.5	18.4	18.4	:	6.9	11.9	11.9	:
IE	15.5	26.2	27.4	28.4	8.6	15.7	16.1	16.2	5.2	8.4	8.8	8.6
EL ⁶	22.5	25.2*	:	:	5.3	6.6*	:	:	11.6	12.8*	:	:
ES	27.9	40.9	41.9	42.9	12.2	18.5	19.0	19.4	14.5	19.0	19.2	19.2
FR	20.2	24.4	24.6	24.7	7.6	9.3	9.4	9.6	8.7	10.4	10.6	10.7
IT ⁵	22.4	25.2	26.2	26.9	6.0	6.7	6.9	6.9	8.6	8.9	9.2	9.5
CY ⁶	9.4	14.1	14.1	:	3.1	5.5	5.8	6.0	4.2	5.8	5.9	6.1
LV ⁶	19.7	33.6	33.6	:	10.0	21.3	22.4	23.7	8.1	15.9	17.0	18.1
LT ⁶	18.0	31.2*	:	:	8.7	16.8*	:	:	7.4	10.8*	:	:
LU	18.6	21.2	21.0	21.5	4.6	6.2	6.3	6.4	5.8	6.8	6.8	6.9
HU	19.5	25.1	25.2	26.1	7.8	9.9	10.0	10.2	7.9	9.3	9.4	9.6
MT	11.8	14.9	14.7	14.1	5.8	6.8	6.7	6.5	6.4	8.0	8.0	8.0
NL	5.3	7.0	7.1	7.2	2.6	3.5	3.5	3.6	2.8	3.8	3.8	3.9
AT	8.8	9.9	9.9	10.2	3.7	4.9	4.9	4.8	4.3	4.4	4.5	4.7
PL	17.1	20.0	20.6	21.2	6.1	7.8	8.0	8.2	7.5	8.4	8.5	8.6
PT	16.3	18.8	18.8	18.9	6.7	9.3	9.5	9.6	9.1	10.6	10.7	10.9
RO ⁶	18.2	19.8*	:	:	6.8	7.2*	:	:	4.9	5.3*	:	:
SI ⁶	9.8	11.8	11.8	:	3.9	5.9	6.1	6.4	4.5	5.8	5.8	5.9
SK	19.3	26.4	27.1	27.9	7.9	11.2	11.6	12.0	10.2	12.4	12.5	12.5
FI ⁷	17.2	22.3	22.4	22.5	6.5	9.3	9.3	9.3	6.7	7.8	7.9	8.0
SE ⁷	21.1	26.3	26.6	26.8	6.4	9.0	9.1	9.2	6.8	8.2	8.3	8.3
UK	16.3	19.7	:	:	6.8	9.0	:	:	5.4	6.5	:	:
NO	8.1	9.4	9.1	:	2.9	3.5	3.5	:	2.6	2.8	2.8	:
US	13.8	18.2	18.1	19.1	7.2	10.9	11.0	11.4	5.9	8.2	8.4	8.8
JP	:	:	:	:	3.9	5.8	5.6	5.3	3.5	5.0	5.0	4.8

*Data for Q2 2009

: Data not available

Source: Eurostat

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED (in millions)

	Oct 2008	Apr 2009	Mai 2009	Jun 2009	Jul 2009	Aug 2009	Sep 2009	Oct 2009
EA16	12.418	14.533	14.685	14.894	15.052	15.199	15.433	15.567
EU27	17.508	20.880	21.182	21.451	21.679	21.911	22.252	22.510

Euro area and EU27 unemployed (in millions)

