

September 2010

Euro area unemployment rate at 10.1%

EU27 at 9.6%

The **euro area**¹ (EA16) seasonally-adjusted² unemployment rate³ was 10.1% in September 2010, compared with 10.0% in August⁴. It was 9.8% in September 2009. The **EU27**¹ unemployment rate was 9.6% in September 2010, unchanged compared with August⁴. It was 9.3% in September 2009.

Eurostat estimates that 23.109 million men and women in the **EU27**, of whom 15.917 million were in the **euro area**, were unemployed in September 2010. Compared with August, the number of persons unemployed increased by 71 000 in the **EU27** and by 67 000 in the **euro area**. Compared with September 2009, unemployment rose by 0.656 million in the **EU27** and by 0.424 million in the **euro area**.

These figures are published by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**.

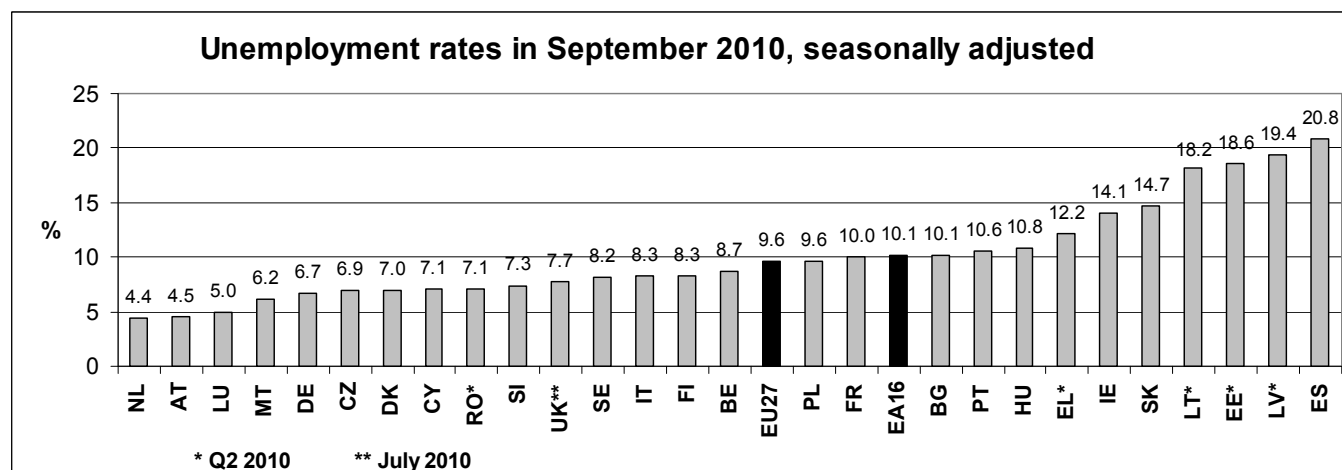
Among the Member States, the lowest unemployment rates were recorded in the **Netherlands** (4.4%) and **Austria** (4.5%) and the highest in **Spain** (20.8%), **Latvia** (19.4% in the second quarter of 2010), **Estonia** (18.6% in the second quarter of 2010) and **Lithuania** (18.2% in the second quarter of 2010).

Compared with a year ago, the unemployment rate fell in seven Member States, remained stable in one and increased in nineteen. The largest falls were observed in **Malta** (7.2% to 6.2%), **Germany** (7.6% to 6.7%) and **Austria** (5.1% to 4.5%). The highest increases were registered in **Estonia** (13.4% to 18.6% between the second quarters of 2009 and 2010), **Lithuania** (13.5% to 18.2% between the second quarters of 2009 and 2010) and **Greece** (9.2% to 12.2% between the second quarters of 2009 and 2010).

Between September 2009 and September 2010, the unemployment rate for males rose from 9.8% to 9.9% in the **euro area** and remained stable at 9.5% in the **EU27**. The female unemployment rate increased from 9.9% to 10.3% in the **euro area** and from 9.1% to 9.6% in the **EU27**.

In September 2010, the youth unemployment rate (under-25s) was 20.0% in the **euro area** and 20.3% in the **EU27**. In September 2009 it was 20.2% and 20.6% respectively. The lowest rates were observed in **Germany** (8.5%), the **Netherlands** (8.6%) and **Austria** (8.9%), and the highest rates in **Spain** (42.5%), **Lithuania** (37.6% in the second quarter of 2010) and **Estonia** (37.2% in the second quarter of 2010).

In the **USA**, the unemployment rate was 9.6% in September 2010. In **Japan** it was 5.1% in August 2010.



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 142/2010 of 1 October 2010, the August 2010 unemployment rate has been revised from 10.1% to 10.0% for the euro area and remains unchanged at 9.6% for the EU27. Among Member States, the rate has been revised by 0.2 percentage points for Finland.
The following LFS data are used in the calculations of the monthly unemployment rates published in this News Release:
For Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Finland and Sweden monthly data up to and including September 2010.
For the United Kingdom monthly data up to and including June-July-August 2010 (3-month rolling average).
For Spain quarterly data up to and including Q3 2010.
For Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, France, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Hungary, Malta, Austria, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia and Slovakia quarterly data up to and including Q2 2010.
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, Latvia, Lithuania and Romania: quarterly data for all series.
Cyprus 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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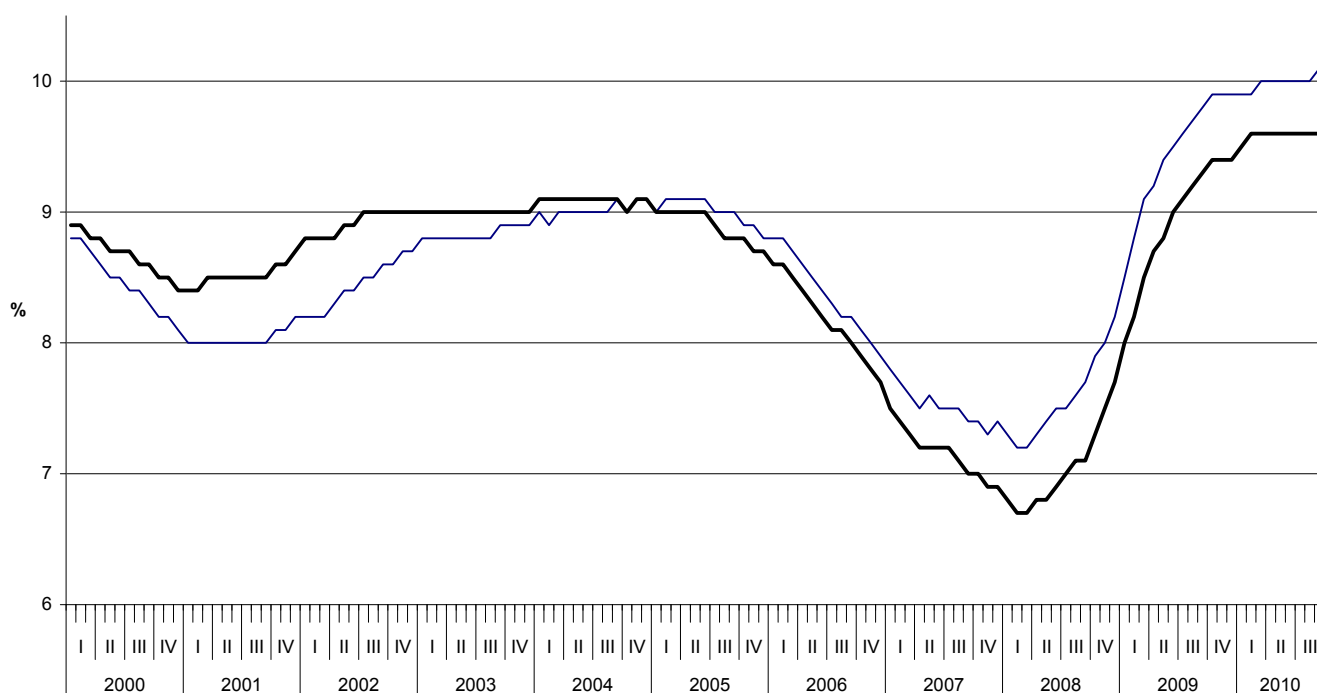
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Selected Principal European Economic Indicators: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/euroindicators>

Euro area and EU27 unemployment rates

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



SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATES (%) TOTALS

	Sep 2009	Mar 2010	Apr 2010	May 2010	Jun 2010	Jul 2010	Aug 2010	Sep 2010
EA16	9.8	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.1
EU27	9.3	9.6	9.6	9.6	9.6	9.6	9.6	9.6
BE	8.1	8.4	8.5	8.5	8.6	8.7	8.7	8.7
BG	7.4	9.7	9.9	10.0	10.0	10.1	10.0	10.1
CZ	7.4	7.8	7.5	7.3	7.1	7.0	6.9	6.9
DK	6.5	7.3	7.4	7.3	7.3	7.0	6.8	7.0
DE	7.6	7.2	7.0	6.9	6.9	6.8	6.8	6.7
EE⁵	15.3	19.0	18.6	18.6	18.6	:	:	:
IE	12.9	13.0	13.2	13.6	13.7	13.8	13.9	14.1
EL⁶	9.7	11.1	12.2	12.2	12.2	:	:	:
ES	19.0	19.5	19.8	20.0	20.2	20.4	20.6	20.8
FR	9.7	9.8	9.8	9.9	9.9	9.9	10.0	10.0
IT⁵	8.2	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.3	8.3	8.1	8.3
CY	6.0	6.7	6.9	7.0	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1
LV⁶	18.6	20.0	19.4	19.4	19.4	:	:	:
LT⁶	14.4	17.2	18.2	18.2	18.2	:	:	:
LU	5.0	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	5.0	5.0	5.0
HU	10.6	11.5	11.4	11.2	11.2	11.1	10.9	10.8
MT	7.2	6.9	7.0	6.7	6.5	6.4	6.2	6.2
NL	4.0	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.6	4.5	4.4
AT	5.1	4.5	4.6	4.6	4.5	4.3	4.3	4.5
PL	8.6	9.8	9.7	9.6	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.6
PT	10.2	10.7	10.9	11.0	11.0	10.8	10.6	10.6
RO⁶	7.2	7.3	7.1	7.1	7.1	:	:	:
SI	6.4	6.9	7.2	7.3	7.3	7.2	7.3	7.3
SK	13.3	14.6	14.5	14.4	14.4	14.5	14.6	14.7
FI⁷	8.6	8.7	8.6	8.5	8.5	8.4	8.3	8.3
SE	8.7	8.5	9.0	8.7	8.1	8.5	8.2	8.2
UK	7.9	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.7	:	:
NO	3.2	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.3	:	:
US	9.8	9.7	9.9	9.7	9.5	9.5	9.6	9.6
JP	5.3	5.0	5.1	5.2	5.3	5.2	5.1	:

: Data not available

Source: Eurostat

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATES (%)

	Youth (under 25's)				Males				Females			
	Sep-09	Jul-10	Aug-10	Sep-10	Sep-09	Jul-10	Aug-10	Sep-10	Sep-09	Jul-10	Aug-10	Sep-10
EA16	20.2	20.0	19.9	20.0	9.8	9.8	9.9	9.9	9.9	10.3	10.2	10.3
EU27	20.6	20.4	20.3	20.3	9.5	9.6	9.5	9.5	9.1	9.6	9.6	9.6
BE	22.7	24.1	24.3	24.4	7.9	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.4	9.0	9.0	9.0
BG	17.7	21.1	20.7	20.7	7.7	10.6	10.5	10.5	7.0	9.5	9.5	9.6
CZ	18.9	17.7	17.3	17.3	6.6	5.9	5.9	5.8	8.4	8.4	8.3	8.3
DK	12.0	11.7	12.0	12.2	7.3	8.0	7.5	7.6	5.6	5.9	6.1	6.3
DE	10.5	9.1	8.8	8.5	8.2	7.3	7.3	7.2	6.8	6.2	6.2	6.1
EE ^o	28.9	37.2*	:	:	18.5	22.3*	:	:	12.0	15.0*	:	:
IE	26.3	28.3	28.6	29.1	16.0	17.0	17.1	17.3	9.0	9.8	9.9	10.1
EL ^o	25.8	32.1*	:	:	7.1	9.7*	:	:	13.5	15.7*	:	:
ES	40.5	42.0	42.3	42.5	18.8	19.9	20.0	20.3	19.2	21.0	21.2	21.3
FR	23.7	24.0	24.4	24.4	9.5	9.5	9.6	9.5	10.0	10.4	10.4	10.5
IT ^o	26.1	26.1	25.0	26.4	7.4	7.4	7.5	7.3	9.3	9.6	9.1	9.7
CY ^o	15.2	20.6	20.6	20.6	6.0	7.1	7.0	6.9	6.0	7.1	7.2	7.3
LV ^o	36.1	34.0*	:	:	22.0	22.8*	:	:	15.1	16.1*	:	:
LT ^o	33.0	37.6*	:	:	18.3	22.1*	:	:	10.6	14.4*	:	:
LU	15.7	16.8	16.9	16.6	4.4	4.3	4.4	4.3	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8
HU	27.7	27.3	27.1	26.7	11.0	11.5	11.3	11.1	10.2	10.5	10.5	10.4
MT	14.7	11.9	11.3	11.6	6.9	6.2	6.0	6.0	7.7	6.9	6.6	6.5
NL	8.3	8.8	8.8	8.6	4.0	4.5	4.5	4.3	4.1	4.6	4.5	4.6
AT	10.3	8.2	8.5	8.9	5.4	4.5	4.5	4.7	4.8	4.1	4.1	4.3
PL	22.8	23.0	22.8	22.9	8.3	9.0	9.0	9.1	9.0	10.0	10.1	10.1
PT	20.7	20.4	20.1	19.8	9.6	9.8	9.6	9.5	10.8	11.8	11.7	11.7
RO ^o	21.4	21.4*	:	:	8.1	7.5*	:	:	6.2	6.5*	:	:
SI ^o	14.3	15.2	15.2	15.2	6.4	7.4	7.4	7.3	6.4	7.1	7.2	7.3
SK	30.1	31.9	31.7	31.9	13.0	14.2	14.2	14.4	13.7	14.9	15.0	15.1
FI ^l	22.6	21.1	21.0	21.0	9.4	9.0	9.0	8.9	7.8	7.7	7.7	7.6
SE	25.4	25.1	25.1	25.0	9.0	8.5	8.2	8.4	8.5	8.4	8.3	8.0
UK	19.9	19.2	:	:	9.0	8.4	:	:	6.5	6.9	:	:
NO	9.2	8.2	:	:	3.6	3.8	:	:	2.7	2.7	:	:
US	18.3	18.6	18.1	17.9	11.0	10.4	10.6	10.5	8.5	8.5	8.6	8.6
JP	:	:	:	:	5.6	5.5	5.4	:	4.9	4.7	4.6	:

* Data for Q2 2010 : Data not available Source: Eurostat

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED (in millions)

	Sep 2009	Mar 2010	Apr 2010	May 2010	Jun 2010	Jul 2010	Aug 2010	Sep 2010
EA16	15.493	15.703	15.799	15.859	15.836	15.858	15.850	15.917
EU27	22.453	23.097	23.167	23.173	23.110	23.094	23.038	23.109

Euro area and EU27 unemployed (in millions)

