

August 2009

## Euro area unemployment up to 9.6%

### EU27 up to 9.1%

The **euro area**<sup>1</sup> (EA16) seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate<sup>2</sup> was 9.6% in August 2009, compared with 9.5% in July<sup>3</sup>. It was 7.6% in August 2008. The **EU27**<sup>1</sup> unemployment rate was 9.1% in August 2009, compared with 9.0% in July<sup>3</sup>. It was 7.0% in August 2008. For the **euro area** this is the highest rate since March 1999 and for the **EU27** since March 2004.

Eurostat estimates that 21.872 million men and women in the **EU27**, of which 15.165 million were in the **euro area**, were unemployed in August 2009. Compared with July, the number of persons unemployed increased by 236 000 in the **EU27** and by 165 000 in the **euro area**. Compared with August 2008, unemployment went up by 5.008 million in the **EU27** and by 3.224 million in the **euro area**.

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

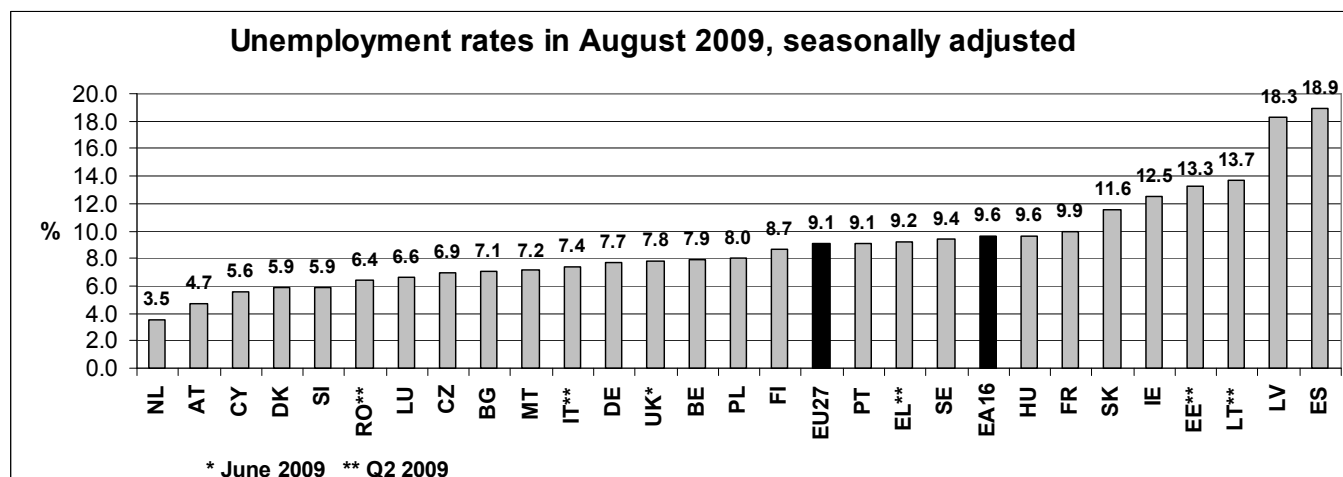
Among the Member States, the lowest unemployment rates were recorded in the **Netherlands** (3.5%) and **Austria** (4.7%), and the highest rates in **Spain** (18.9%) and **Latvia** (18.3%).

Compared with a year ago, all Member States recorded an increase in their unemployment rate. The smallest increases were observed in **Belgium** (7.5% to 7.9%) and **Germany** (7.2% to 7.7%). The highest increases were registered in **Latvia** (7.4% to 18.3%) and **Estonia** (4.1% to 13.3% between the second quarters of 2008 and 2009).

Between August 2008 and August 2009, the unemployment rate for males rose from 7.0% to 9.4% in the **euro area** and from 6.7% to 9.1% in the **EU27**. The female unemployment rate increased from 8.3% to 9.8% in the **euro area** and from 7.5% to 9.0% in the **EU27**.

In August 2009, the youth unemployment rate (under-25s) was 19.7% in the **euro area** and 19.8% in the **EU27**. In August 2008 it was 15.6% and 15.5% respectively. The lowest rate was observed in the **Netherlands** (6.3%), and the highest rates in **Spain** (39.2%) and **Lithuania** (31.2% in the second quarter of 2009).

The unemployment rate was 9.7% in the **USA** in August 2009. In **Japan** it was 5.7% in July 2009.



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. 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.  
*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.
3. The July 2009 unemployment rates published in News Release 123/2009 of 1 September 2009 for the euro area 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 Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Ireland, Latvia, Austria and Poland. Larger revisions are observed for Lithuania (see footnote 4), Hungary and Slovakia. 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, Finland and Sweden up to and including August 2009.  
For the Netherlands up to and including June-July-August 2009 (3-month rolling average).  
For the United Kingdom up to and including May-June-July 2009 (3-month rolling average).  
For Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Italy, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Hungary, Malta, Austria, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia and Slovakia up to and including 2009Q2.
4. Due to recent large revisions of provisional monthly data for Lithuania, only quarterly data will be published for this Member State until further notice.
5. Estonia, Greece, Italy, Lithuania and Romania: quarterly data for all series.  
Cyprus, Latvia, and Slovenia: quarterly data for youth unemployment.
6. Provisional data: the Swedish Labour Force Survey was amended in April 2005 to take further account of the EU harmonised methodology. This break in the series may affect the reliability of the seasonal adjustment.

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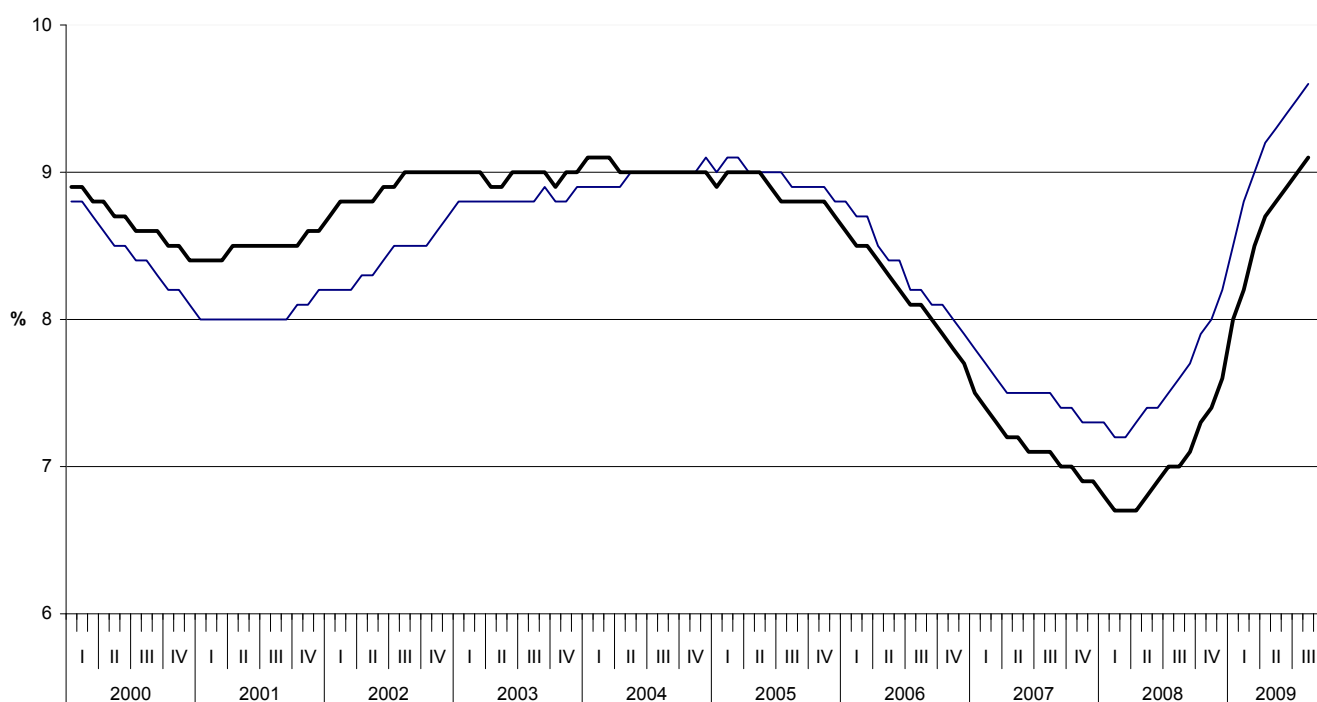
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Selected Principal European Economic Indicators: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/euroindicators>

### Euro area and EU27 unemployment rates

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



### SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATES (%) TOTALS

	Aug 2008	Feb 2009	Mar 2009	Apr 2009	May 2009	Jun 2009	Jul 2009	Aug 2009
<b>EA16</b>	7.6	8.8	9.0	9.2	9.3	9.4	9.5	<b>9.6</b>
<b>EU27</b>	7.0	8.2	8.5	8.7	8.8	8.9	9.0	<b>9.1</b>
<b>BE</b>	7.5	7.7	7.8	7.8	7.7	7.7	7.8	<b>7.9</b>
<b>BG</b>	5.3	6.0	6.2	6.2	6.3	6.4	6.8	<b>7.1</b>
<b>CZ</b>	4.3	5.5	5.9	6.1	6.3	6.5	6.7	<b>6.9</b>
<b>DK</b>	3.3	4.7	5.2	5.7	5.9	6.1	6.0	<b>5.9</b>
<b>DE</b>	7.2	7.3	7.4	7.6	7.6	7.7	7.7	<b>7.7</b>
<b>EE<sup>5</sup></b>	6.5	11.0	11.0	13.3	13.3	13.3	:	:
<b>IE</b>	6.3	10.3	11.1	11.7	12.2	12.2	12.3	<b>12.5</b>
<b>EL<sup>5</sup></b>	7.5	8.8	8.8	9.2	9.2	9.2	:	:
<b>ES</b>	11.8	16.5	17.2	17.6	17.9	18.1	18.5	<b>18.9</b>
<b>FR</b>	7.8	8.9	9.1	9.2	9.4	9.5	9.7	<b>9.9</b>
<b>IT<sup>5</sup></b>	6.8	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.4	:	:
<b>CY</b>	3.5	4.3	4.6	5.0	5.2	5.3	5.4	<b>5.6</b>
<b>LV</b>	7.4	13.1	14.2	15.5	16.5	17.1	17.6	<b>18.3</b>
<b>LT<sup>4,5</sup></b>	6.3	11.0	11.0	13.7	13.7	13.7	:	:
<b>LU</b>	5.1	5.8	6.0	6.2	6.3	6.4	6.5	<b>6.6</b>
<b>HU</b>	7.8	9.2	9.6	9.7	9.7	9.6	9.5	<b>9.6</b>
<b>MT</b>	6.0	6.6	6.7	7.0	7.2	7.3	7.3	<b>7.2</b>
<b>NL</b>	2.7	2.9	3.0	3.1	3.2	3.3	3.4	<b>3.5</b>
<b>AT</b>	3.8	4.4	4.6	4.7	4.8	4.8	4.8	<b>4.7</b>
<b>PL</b>	6.9	7.7	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	<b>8.0</b>
<b>PT</b>	7.9	8.8	9.0	9.1	9.2	9.2	9.2	<b>9.1</b>
<b>RO<sup>5</sup></b>	5.8	6.2	6.2	6.4	6.4	6.4	:	:
<b>SI</b>	4.3	4.9	5.3	5.6	5.8	6.0	5.9	<b>5.9</b>
<b>SK</b>	9.0	10.1	10.4	10.7	10.9	11.2	11.4	<b>11.6</b>
<b>FI</b>	6.4	7.4	7.7	8.0	8.3	8.5	8.7	<b>8.7</b>
<b>SE<sup>6</sup></b>	6.0	7.5	7.8	8.2	8.5	8.8	9.1	<b>9.4</b>
<b>UK</b>	5.8	7.1	7.3	7.5	7.7	7.8	:	:
<b>NO</b>	2.4	3.1	3.2	3.1	3.1	3.0	3.0	:
<b>US</b>	6.2	8.1	8.5	8.9	9.4	9.5	9.4	<b>9.7</b>
<b>JP</b>	4.1	4.4	4.8	5.0	5.2	5.4	5.7	:

: Data not available Source: Eurostat

### SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATES (%)

	Youth (under 25's)				Males				Females			
	Aug-08	Jun-09	Jul-09	Aug-09	Aug-08	Jun-09	Jul-09	Aug-09	Aug-08	Jun-09	Jul-09	Aug-09
EA16	15.6	19.4	19.6	<b>19.7</b>	7.0	9.2	9.3	<b>9.4</b>	8.3	9.6	9.7	<b>9.8</b>
EU27	15.5	19.5	19.7	<b>19.8</b>	6.7	8.9	9.0	<b>9.1</b>	7.5	8.8	8.9	<b>9.0</b>
BE	20.9	21.5	21.4	<b>21.2</b>	6.9	7.7	7.7	<b>7.7</b>	8.1	7.8	7.9	<b>8.0</b>
BG	11.2	15.1	15.7	<b>16.3</b>	5.2	6.4	6.8	<b>7.2</b>	5.4	6.5	6.8	<b>7.1</b>
CZ	9.9	15.1	15.5	<b>16.0</b>	3.4	5.6	5.7	<b>5.9</b>	5.5	7.7	8.0	<b>8.1</b>
DK	8.2	11.4	11.2	<b>11.0</b>	2.9	6.6	6.4	<b>6.3</b>	3.7	5.5	5.5	<b>5.6</b>
DE	9.4	10.9	10.9	<b>10.8</b>	7.2	8.2	8.2	<b>8.3</b>	7.0	7.0	7.0	<b>7.0</b>
EE <sup>5</sup>	14.3	24.0	:	:	7.3	16.5	:	:	5.6	10.1	:	:
IE	13.1	26.9	26.3	<b>26.4</b>	7.3	15.4	15.5	<b>15.7</b>	5.0	8.1	8.2	<b>8.4</b>
EL <sup>5</sup>	22.0	25.2	:	:	5.0	6.6	:	:	11.2	12.8	:	:
ES	25.8	37.3	38.2	<b>39.2</b>	10.8	17.7	18.1	<b>18.5</b>	13.3	18.7	19.0	<b>19.4</b>
FR	19.4	23.9	24.1	<b>24.4</b>	7.3	9.1	9.2	<b>9.3</b>	8.4	10.0	10.3	<b>10.5</b>
IT <sup>5</sup>	21.3	24.5	:	:	5.6	6.3	:	:	8.5	8.8	:	:
CY <sup>5</sup>	8.8	12.1	:	:	2.9	5.1	5.3	<b>5.4</b>	4.2	5.5	5.5	<b>5.8</b>
LV <sup>5</sup>	12.9	28.1	:	:	7.7	20.3	20.6	<b>21.3</b>	7.2	13.9	14.6	<b>15.4</b>
LT <sup>4,5</sup>	14.9	31.2	:	:	6.6	16.6	:	:	5.9	10.7	:	:
LU	18.0	22.0	22.1	<b>21.8</b>	4.4	6.1	6.2	<b>6.3</b>	6.0	6.8	6.9	<b>6.9</b>
HU	20.4	25.6	25.0	<b>25.1</b>	7.7	9.9	9.8	<b>9.9</b>	8.0	9.3	9.2	<b>9.3</b>
MT	12.1	15.5	15.4	<b>15.0</b>	5.6	6.8	6.9	<b>6.8</b>	6.6	8.3	8.2	<b>8.0</b>
NL	5.3	6.2	6.2	<b>6.3</b>	2.5	3.2	3.2	<b>3.3</b>	2.9	3.4	3.5	<b>3.7</b>
AT	7.4	10.5	10.1	<b>10.0</b>	3.6	5.1	5.0	<b>5.0</b>	3.9	4.5	4.4	<b>4.4</b>
PL	16.3	19.6	19.6	<b>19.5</b>	6.1	7.5	7.6	<b>7.6</b>	7.8	8.6	8.4	<b>8.4</b>
PT	17.0	19.5	18.9	<b>18.5</b>	6.7	8.8	8.7	<b>8.6</b>	9.2	9.6	9.6	<b>9.6</b>
RO <sup>5</sup>	18.6	19.8	:	:	6.6	7.2	:	:	4.7	5.3	:	:
SI <sup>5</sup>	10.3	13.6	:	:	4.1	5.9	5.9	<b>5.9</b>	4.5	6.1	6.0	<b>5.8</b>
SK	19.0	24.9	25.1	<b>25.6</b>	7.9	10.3	10.6	<b>10.9</b>	10.4	12.2	12.3	<b>12.4</b>
FI	16.8	22.1	22.6	<b>23.2</b>	6.2	9.4	9.7	<b>9.7</b>	6.7	7.6	7.7	<b>7.8</b>
SE <sup>6</sup>	19.1	26.5	26.9	<b>27.3</b>	5.7	9.0	9.3	<b>9.7</b>	6.3	8.6	8.8	<b>9.1</b>
UK	15.3	19.3	:	:	6.3	8.9	:	:	5.3	6.6	:	:
NO	7.3	9.0	9.4	:	2.5	3.4	3.4	:	2.3	2.6	2.6	:
US	13.3	17.8	17.8	<b>18.2</b>	6.4	10.6	10.5	<b>10.9</b>	5.9	8.3	8.1	<b>8.2</b>
JP	:	:	:	:	4.3	5.7	6.1	:	3.9	5.0	5.1	:

: Data not available

Source: Eurostat

### SEASONALLY ADJUSTED NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED (in millions)

	Aug 2008	Feb 2009	Mar 2009	Apr 2009	May 2009	Jun 2009	Jul 2009	Aug 2009
EA16	11.941	13.851	14.237	14.503	14.684	14.837	15.000	<b>15.165</b>
EU27	16.864	19.824	20.405	20.860	21.170	21.419	21.636	<b>21.872</b>

#### Euro area and EU27 unemployed (in millions)

