

July 2008

Euro area unemployment stable at 7.3%

EU27 stable at 6.8%

The **euro area**¹ (EA15) seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate² stood at 7.3% in July 2008, unchanged compared with June³. It was 7.4% in July 2007. The **EU27**¹ unemployment rate was 6.8% in July 2008, unchanged compared with June³. It was 7.1% in July 2007.

Eurostat estimates that 16.292 million men and women in the **EU27**, of which 11.372 million in the **euro area**, were unemployed in July 2008. Compared with June 2008, the number of persons unemployed decreased by 73 000 in the **EU27** and increased by 25 000 in the **euro area**. Compared with July 2007, unemployment fell by 563 000 in the **EU27** and rose by 59 000 in the **euro area**.

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

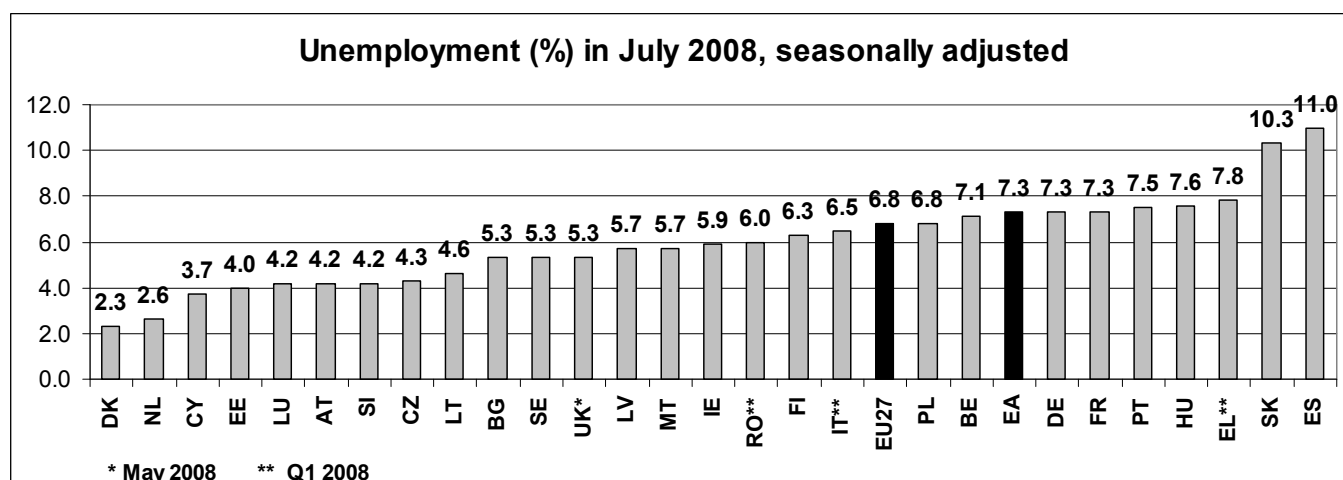
Among the Member States, the lowest unemployment rates were registered in **Denmark** (2.3%) and the **Netherlands** (2.6%), and the highest in **Spain** (11.0%) and **Slovakia** (10.3%).

Compared with a year ago, twenty Member States recorded a fall in their unemployment rate, six an increase and in one the rate remained stable. The largest falls were observed in **Poland** (9.5% to 6.8%) and **Denmark** (4.1% to 2.3%), and the highest increases in **Spain** (8.2% to 11.0%) and **Ireland** (4.6% to 5.9%).

The unemployment rate for males increased from 6.6% to 6.7% between July 2007 and July 2008 in the **euro area** and fell from 6.6% to 6.4% in the **EU27**. The female unemployment rate declined from 8.4% to 8.1% in the **euro area** and from 7.7% to 7.2% in the **EU27**.

In July 2008, the youth unemployment rate (under-25s) was 14.7% in the **euro area** and 14.6% in the **EU27**. In July 2007 it was 14.6% and 15.3% respectively. The lowest rates were observed in the **Netherlands** (4.5%) and in **Denmark** (4.9%), and the highest in **Spain** (24.8%) and **Greece** (22.7% in the first quarter 2008).

The unemployment rate was 5.7% in the **USA** in July 2008 and 4.1% in **Japan** in June 2008.



1. The euro area (EA15) consists of Belgium, Germany, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Italy, Cyprus, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Austria, Portugal, Slovenia 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 and 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 all countries 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; first results from the Labour Force Survey are available 90 days after the end of the reference period for most Member States. Technical details on the calculations for each Member State can be found on the Eurostat internet site under Data / Population and social conditions / Labour market / Employment and unemployment / LFS main indicators, together with more detailed tables.
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 different definition or methodological choices.
Current deviations from the definition of unemployment in the EU Labour Force Survey:
Spain, Italy, 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 unemployment rates for the euro area and the EU27 for June 2008 published in News Release 109/2008 of 31 July 2008 remain unchanged. As a regular update of the calculation process, the most recent EU Labour Force Survey data have been included for several Member States. This has caused a revision in the monthly unemployment rates of more than 0.1 percentage point for Estonia. Portuguese data has been revised upwards by around 0.1 percentage point after excluding persons aged 75 and older in the calculations, in line with age restrictions used for all other countries.
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 July 2008.
For the Netherlands up to and including May-June-July 2008 (3-month rolling average).
For the United Kingdom up to and including April-May-June 2008 (3-month rolling average).
For Estonia, Portugal and Spain up to and including 2008Q2.
For Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Ireland, Greece, France, Italy, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Hungary, Malta, Austria, Poland, Romania, Slovenia and Slovakia up to and including 2008Q1.
4. 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.
5. Greece, Italy and Romania: quarterly data for all series.
Estonia, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania and Slovenia: quarterly data for youth unemployment.

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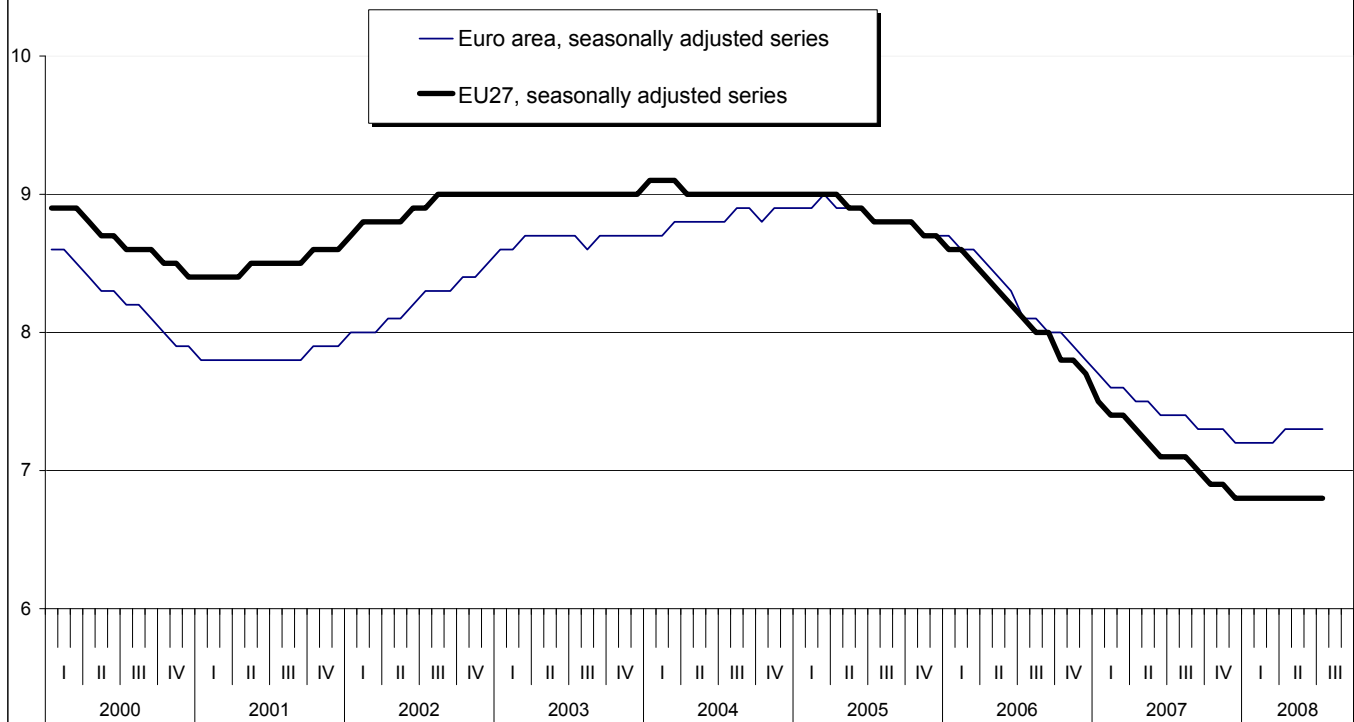
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Selected Principal European Economic Indicators: **<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/euroindicators>**

Euro area and EU27 unemployment rates (%)



SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATES (%) TOTALS

	July 2007	Jan 2008	Feb 2008	March 2008	April 2008	May 2008	June 2008	July 2008
EA15	7.4	7.2	7.2	7.2	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.3
EU27	7.1	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8
BE	7.3	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	6.9	7.0	7.1
BG	6.9	6.2	6.1	6.0	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.3
CZ	5.3	4.6	4.5	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.3
DK	4.1	3.1	3.0	2.9	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.3
DE	8.4	7.7	7.6	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.4	7.3
EE	4.4	4.2	4.4	4.2	4.1	3.9	3.9	4.0
IE	4.6	4.9	5.0	5.3	5.4	5.5	5.7	5.9
EL⁵	8.2	7.8	7.8	7.8	:	:	:	:
ES	8.2	9.2	9.4	9.6	10.0	10.4	10.7	11.0
FR	8.2	7.6	7.6	7.6	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.3
IT⁵	6.2	6.5	6.5	6.5	:	:	:	:
CY	3.9	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.5	3.6	3.7
LV	6.3	6.1	6.0	6.0	5.6	5.6	5.7	5.7
LT	4.1	4.5	4.7	4.7	4.5	4.5	4.4	4.6
LU	4.1	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.2
HU	7.3	7.7	7.6	7.6	7.5	7.6	7.6	7.6
MT	6.4	5.9	5.8	5.7	5.7	5.8	5.8	5.7
NL	3.2	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.8	2.7	2.6
AT	4.4	4.2	4.1	4.1	4.2	4.2	4.1	4.2
PL	9.5	8.0	7.7	7.5	7.6	7.5	7.3	6.8
PT	8.2	7.6	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.6	7.6	7.5
RO⁵	6.3	6.0	6.0	6.0	:	:	:	:
SI	4.8	4.8	4.7	4.6	4.3	4.3	4.2	4.2
SK	11.2	10.5	10.4	10.3	10.4	10.4	10.4	10.3
FI	6.9	6.4	6.3	6.3	6.2	6.3	6.3	6.3
SE⁴	5.8	5.9	5.8	5.8	5.6	5.4	5.3	5.3
UK	5.3	5.1	5.1	5.2	5.2	5.3	:	:
NO	2.5	2.4	2.5	2.4	2.4	2.5	2.6	:
US	4.7	4.9	4.8	5.1	5.0	5.5	5.5	5.7
JP	3.6	3.8	3.9	3.8	4.0	4.0	4.1	:

: Data not available

Source: Eurostat

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATES (%)

	Youth (under 25's)				Males				Females			
	Jul-07	May-08	Jun-08	Jul-08	Jul-07	May-08	Jun-08	Jul-08	Jul-07	May-08	Jun-08	Jul-08
EA15	14.6	14.8	14.8	14.7	6.6	6.6	6.7	6.7	8.4	8.1	8.1	8.1
EU27	15.3	14.9	14.8	14.6	6.6	6.4	6.4	6.4	7.7	7.3	7.3	7.2
BE	18.2	17.5	17.6	17.3	6.6	6.3	6.4	6.4	8.1	7.7	7.7	7.8
BG	15.8	12.2	12.1	10.2	6.5	5.1	5.1	4.9	7.4	6.1	6.0	5.7
CZ	10.3	10.7	10.1	8.9	4.3	3.4	3.4	3.3	6.6	5.7	5.6	5.6
DK	9.5	6.0	6.0	4.9	3.9	2.5	2.5	2.2	4.5	2.9	2.8	2.5
DE	11.0	10.0	9.9	9.7	8.4	7.5	7.5	7.4	8.3	7.4	7.3	7.2
EE⁵	10.0	8.0	8.0	:	5.2	4.2	4.1	4.2	3.7	3.6	3.6	3.7
IE	8.8	11.3	10.8	11.1	4.9	6.4	6.5	6.7	4.1	4.4	4.7	4.8
EL⁵	22.7	22.7*	:	:	5.2	5.1*	:	:	12.6	11.7*	:	:
ES	18.2	23.6	24.1	24.8	6.3	9.0	9.4	9.8	10.8	12.3	12.4	12.6
FR	18.8	17.5	17.7	16.8	7.7	7.2	7.2	7.1	8.7	7.8	7.8	7.6
IT⁵	20.2	20.8*	:	:	4.9	5.1*	:	:	8.0	8.6*	:	:
CY⁵	9.9	8.9	8.9	:	3.4	3.0	3.0	3.0	4.6	4.2	4.4	4.5
LV⁵	12.6	8.9	8.9	:	6.8	5.9	6.1	6.1	5.7	5.3	5.3	5.3
LT⁵	8.8	7.8	7.8	:	4.1	4.6	4.6	4.7	4.2	4.3	4.3	4.4
LU	15.5	15.8	15.9	15.5	3.4	3.5	3.5	3.5	4.9	4.9	5.0	5.0
HU	18.1	19.6	19.7	19.4	7.0	7.2	7.3	7.2	7.7	8.0	8.1	8.1
MT	14.0	11.1	11.1	10.9	5.8	5.2	5.2	5.3	7.5	6.8	6.8	6.6
NL	6.1	5.1	4.7	4.5	2.8	2.5	2.4	2.4	3.6	3.1	3.0	3.0
AT	8.7	8.4	8.4	8.5	3.9	3.7	3.7	3.7	5.0	4.7	4.7	4.7
PL	21.6	17.3	17.0	15.8	8.9	6.9	6.7	6.3	10.2	8.3	8.0	7.5
PT	16.4	15.1	14.9	14.7	6.9	6.5	6.5	6.4	9.7	8.8	8.9	8.8
RO⁵	20.5	18.4*	:	:	7.1	7.2*	:	:	5.4	4.3*	:	:
SI⁵	9.8	9.4	9.4	:	4.0	3.8	3.7	3.7	5.7	4.9	4.9	4.8
SK	20.5	17.6	17.2	16.6	9.9	8.8	8.8	8.7	12.8	12.5	12.4	12.4
FI	16.2	16.1	16.2	16.2	6.5	5.9	6.0	6.0	7.2	6.6	6.6	6.5
SE⁴	18.2	16.7	16.4	16.5	5.7	5.2	5.1	5.1	6.0	5.7	5.5	5.5
UK	14.4	14.4	:	:	5.6	5.8	:	:	5.0	4.8	:	:
NO	6.7	6.4	6.9	:	2.5	2.5	2.6	:	2.4	2.4	2.5	:
US	10.6	13.0	12.6	13.4	4.7	5.6	5.7	6.1	4.6	5.3	5.2	5.2
JP	:	:	:	:	3.7	4.2	4.2	:	3.3	3.7	4.0	:

: Data not available

Source: Eurostat

* Data for Q1 2008

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED (in millions)

	July 2007	Jan 2008	Feb 2008	March 2008	April 2008	May 2008	June 2008	July 2008
EA15	11.313	11.141	11.114	11.115	11.221	11.308	11.347	11.372
EU27	16.855	16.299	16.211	16.175	16.266	16.370	16.365	16.292

Euro area and EU27 unemployed (in millions)

