

57/2015 - 31 March 2015

February 2015

# Euro area unemployment rate at 11.3%

EU28 at 9.8%

The **euro area**<sup>1</sup> (EA19) seasonally-adjusted<sup>2</sup> unemployment rate<sup>3</sup> was 11.3% in February 2015, down from 11.4% in January 2015<sup>4</sup>, and from 11.8% in February 2014. This is the lowest rate recorded in the **euro area** since May 2012. The **EU28**<sup>1</sup> unemployment rate was 9.8% in February 2015, down from 9.9% in January 2015 and from 10.5% in February 2014. This is the lowest rate recorded in the **EU28** since September 2011. These figures are published by **Eurostat**, the statistical office of the European Union.

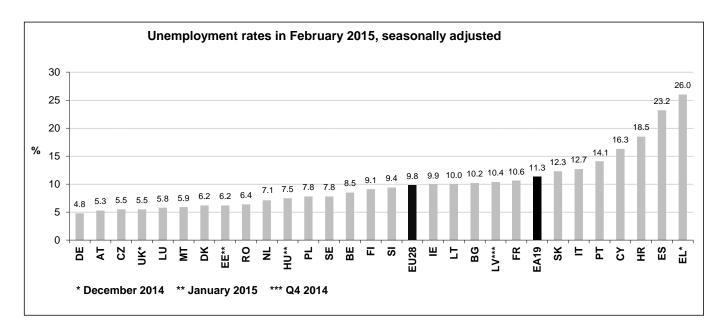
Eurostat estimates that 23.887 million men and women in the **EU28**, of whom 18.204 million in the **euro area**, were unemployed in February 2015. Compared with January 2015, the number of persons unemployed decreased by 91 000 in the **EU28** and by 49 000 in the **euro area**. Compared with February 2014, unemployment fell by 1.547 million in the **EU28** and by 643 000 in the **euro area**.

#### **Member States**

Among the Member States, the lowest unemployment rates in February 2015 were recorded in **Germany** (4.8%) and **Austria** (5.3%), and the highest in **Greece** (26.0% in December 2014) and **Spain** (23.2%).

Compared with a year ago, the unemployment rate in February 2015 fell in twenty-two Member States and increased in six Member States. The largest decreases were registered in **Estonia** (8.4% to 6.2% between January 2014 and January 2015), **Ireland** (12.1% to 9.9%) and **Bulgaria** (12.3% to 10.2%). The largest increases were registered in **Croatia** (17.3% to 18.5%), **Cyprus** (15.6% to 16.3%) and **Finland** (8.4% to 9.1%).

In February 2015, the unemployment rate in the **United States** was 5.5%, down from 5.7% in January 2015 and down from 6.7% in February 2014.



#### Youth unemployment

In February 2015, 4.850 million young persons (under 25) were unemployed in the **EU28**, of whom 3.245 million were in the **euro area**. Compared with February 2014, youth unemployment decreased by 494 000 in the **EU28** and by 230 000 in the **euro area**. In February 2015, the youth unemployment rate<sup>5</sup> was 21.1% in the **EU28** and 22.9% in the **euro area**, compared with 22.9% and 24.0% respectively in February 2014. In February 2015, the lowest rates were observed in **Germany** (7.2%), **Austria** (9.0%) and **Denmark** (10.2%), and the highest in **Greece** (51.2% in December 2014), **Spain** (50.7%), **Croatia** (46.4% in the fourth quarter 2014) and **Italy** (42.6%).

- 2. Non-seasonally adjusted and trend data can be found in the statistical database on the Eurostat website. For further details please refer to the *Unemployment statistics* article in Statistics Explained: <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Unemployment statistics">http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Unemployment statistics</a>
- 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. In this news release unemployment rates are based on employment and unemployment data covering persons aged 15 to 74.

- 4. The data in this News Release can be subject to revisions, caused by: updates to the seasonally adjusted series whenever new monthly data are added; the inclusion of the most recent LFS data in the calculation process; update of seasonal adjustment models with complete annual data; inclusion of new weights in the LFS data due to the 2011 Census. Compared with the rates published in News Release 36/2015 of 2 March 2015, the January 2015 unemployment rates have been revised from 11.2% to 11.4% for the EA19 and from 9.8% to 9.9% for the EU28. Among Member States, rates have been revised between 0.2 and 0.4 percentage points for the Czech Republic, France, Latvia, Slovenia and Finland. The rate has been revised downwards by 0.6 percentage points (pp) for Bulgaria and upwards by 0.5 pp for Portugal and by 2.3 pp for Croatia. The unemployment rate for Austria has been revised upwards by 0.6 percentage points due to an improved calibration scheme which includes the labour status from administrative data as additional weighting specification. The absolute average revision for the complete Austrian time series is 0.5 percentage points.
- 5. The *youth unemployment rate* is the number of people aged 15 to 24 unemployed as a percentage of the labour force of the same age. Therefore, the youth unemployment rate should not be interpreted as the share of jobless people in the overall youth population. For further details please refer to the *Youth unemployment* article in Statistics Explained: <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Youth\_unemployment">http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Youth\_unemployment</a>
- Latvia: quarterly data for all series.
   Croatia, Cyprus, Romania and Slovenia: quarterly data for youth unemployment.
- 7. For Germany, the Netherlands, Austria, Finland, Sweden and Iceland the trend component is used instead of the more volatile seasonally adjusted data. For Sweden and Iceland, seasonally adjusted data are available in the online database on the Eurostat website: <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database">http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database</a>
- 8. For Denmark, Estonia, Hungary, Portugal, the United Kingdom and Norway 3-month moving averages of LFS data are used instead of pure monthly indicators.

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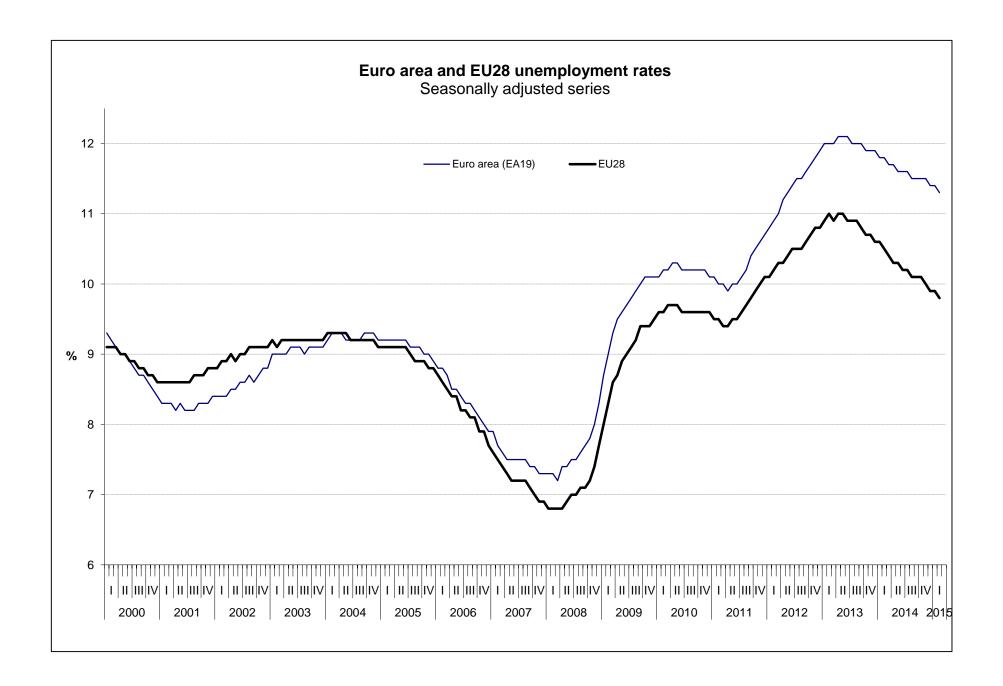
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### Seasonally adjusted unemployment, totals

	Rates (%)						Number of persons (in thousands)					
	Feb 14	Nov 14	Dec 14	Jan 15	Feb 15	Feb 14	Nov 14	Dec 14	Jan 15	Feb 15		
EA19	11.8	11.5	11.4	11.4	11.3	18 847	18 532	18 345	18 253	18 204		
EU28	10.5	10.0	9.9	9.9	9.8	25 434	24 343	24 075	23 978	23 887		
Belgium	8.4	8.6	8.5	8.5	8.5	416	428	425	425	426		
Bulgaria	12.3	10.5	10.2	10.2	10.2	414	353	342	342	342		
Czech Republic	6.5	5.8	5.7	5.6	5.5	345	310	304	300	293		
Denmark <sup>8</sup>	7.0	6.4	6.2	6.2	6.2	201	188	181	183	182		
Germany <sup>7</sup>	5.1	4.9	4.9	4.8	4.8	2 115	2 061	2 037	2 017	2 002		
Estonia <sup>8</sup>	8.4**	6.5	6.3	6.2	:	57**	44	42	42	:		
Ireland	12.1	10.4	10.1	10.0	9.9	260	222	217	214	211		
Greece	27.3*	25.9	26.0	:	:	1 310*	1 234	1 233	:	:		
Spain	25.2	23.7	23.6	23.4	23.2	5 772	5 451	5 431	5 380	5 326		
France	10.1	10.5	10.5	10.6	10.6	2 975	3 094	3 109	3 114	3 116		
Croatia	17.3	18.1	18.3	18.5	18.5	322	342	346	352	353		
Italy	12.5	13.2	12.7	12.6	12.7	3 174	3 396	3 239	3 217	3 240		
Cyprus	15.6	16.6	16.4	16.2	16.3	67	73	72	71	71		
Latvia <sup>6</sup>	11.5***	10.4	10.4	:	:	117***	102	102	:	:		
Lithuania	11.3	10.1	10.0	9.8	10.0	167	149	147	144	146		
Luxembourg	6.0	5.8	5.9	5.8	5.8	15	15	15	15	15		
Hungary <sup>8</sup>	8.1**	7.3	7.3	7.5	:	359**	325	328	336	:		
Malta	6.0	6.1	6.1	6.1	5.9	11	12	12	12	11		
Netherlands <sup>7</sup>	7.9	7.1	7.2	7.2	7.1	699	635	643	645	633		
Austria <sup>7</sup>	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.4	5.3	244	246	245	237	232		
Poland	9.8	8.3	8.2	8.0	7.8	1 716	1 449	1 422	1 394	1 367		
Portugal <sup>8</sup>	14.9	13.5	13.6	13.8	14.1	767	694	698	708	720		
Romania	7.0	6.7	6.6	6.5	6.4	644	620	609	607	598		
Slovenia	10.1	9.5	9.4	9.4	9.4	102	95	95	95	95		
Slovakia	13.8	12.5	12.4	12.4	12.3	374	342	340	339	337		
Finland <sup>7</sup>	8.4	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.1	224	242	242	242	244		
Sweden <sup>7</sup>	8.0	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8	414	408	409	409	410		
United Kingdom <sup>8</sup>	7.1*	5.6	5.5	:	:	2 295*	1 816	1 800	:	:		
Iceland <sup>7</sup>	5.2	4.6	4.5	4.5	4.4	10	9	9	9	8		
Norway <sup>8</sup>	3.4**	3.7	3.8	3.9	:	99**	102	105	109	:		
United States	6.7	5.8	5.6	5.7	5.5	10 342	9 109	8 703	8 887	8 680		

<sup>:</sup> Data not available

<sup>\*\*\*</sup> Q4 2013



<sup>\*</sup> December 2014

<sup>\*\*</sup> January 2014

## Seasonally adjusted youth (under 25s) unemployment

			Rates (%)		Number of persons (in thousands)					
	Feb 14	Nov 14	Dec 14	Jan 15	Feb 15	Feb 14	Nov 14	Dec 14	Jan 15	Feb 15
EA19	24.0	23.3	23.0	22.9	22.9	3 475	3 345	3 283	3 256	3 245
EU28	22.9	21.5	21.2	21.1	21.1	5 344	4 976	4 883	4 862	4 850
Belgium	23.6	22.6	22.6	22.6	22.6	95	91	91	91	91
Bulgaria	25.9	23.2	23.0	23.4	23.6	54	44	43	44	44
Czech Republic	16.4	14.9	14.4	14.6	14.8	59	53	52	53	54
Denmark <sup>8</sup>	13.5	11.5	10.3	10.6	10.2	58	52	46	48	46
Germany <sup>7</sup>	7.9	7.4	7.3	7.3	7.2	336	311	308	305	302
Estonia <sup>8</sup>	15.4	13.9	15.7	13.9	:	9	8	8	8	:
Ireland	26.2	21.8	21.6	21.8	21.6	53	42	42	42	42
Greece	56.1	50.8	51.2	:	:	168	155	157	:	:
Spain	54.0	51.6	51.3	50.9	50.7	878	820	818	805	795
France	23.7	24.6	24.7	24.8	24.7	659	671	673	674	671
Croatia <sup>6</sup>	44.7	46.4	46.4	:	:	73	78	78	:	:
Italy	42.5	42.9	41.3	41.2	42.6	670	700	641	633	644
Cyprus <sup>6</sup>	37.6	34.2	34.2	:	:	16	15	15	:	:
Latvia <sup>6</sup>	20.1	19.4	19.4	:	:	18	16	16	:	:
Lithuania	20.7	18.5	18.4	18.2	18.5	27	24	24	24	25
Luxembourg	18.1	22.5	22.4	21.7	21.7	3	3	3	3	3
Hungary <sup>8</sup>	20.8	18.6	18.9	18.8	:	69	62	64	64	
Malta	13.5	11.7	11.3	11.8	11.8	4	3	3	3	3
Netherlands <sup>7</sup>	13.8	11.9	11.8	11.7	11.0	192	165	164	164	154
Austria <sup>7</sup>	10.9	10.4	9.6	8.8	9.0	63	59	55	49	50
Poland	25.7	21.8	21.3	21.0	20.8	387	308	301	300	298
Portugal <sup>8</sup>	36.1	33.5	34.0	34.5	35.0	138	123	126	129	133
Romania <sup>6</sup>	24.7	23.6	23.6	:	:	164	159	159	:	
Slovenia <sup>6</sup>	21.3	19.1	19.1	:	:	15	14	14	:	:
Slovakia	31.8	26.9	26.4	25.5	24.9	67	57	56	55	54
Finland <sup>7</sup>	20.1	20.9	21.1	21.2	21.4	67	69	70	70	70
Sweden <sup>7</sup>	23.0	22.3	22.2	22.2	22.2	154	148	147	147	147
United Kingdom <sup>8</sup>	18.8	16.0	15.9	:	:	847	720	716	:	:
Iceland <sup>7</sup>	9.9	9.6	9.4	9.2	9.1	3	3	3	3	3
Norway <sup>8</sup>	7.6	7.5	7.9	8.5	:	28	28	30	32	:

<sup>:</sup> Data not available



## Seasonally adjusted unemployment rates (%), by gender

	Males					Females					
	Feb 14	Nov 14	Dec 14	Jan 15	Feb 15	Feb 14	Nov 14	Dec 14	Jan 15	Feb 15	
EA19	11.7	11.4	11.2	11.2	11.1	11.8	11.7	11.6	11.5	11.5	
EU28	10.5	9.9	9.8	9.7	9.7	10.5	10.1	10.0	10.0	10.0	
Belgium	9.0	8.9	8.8	8.8	8.8	7.7	8.3	8.2	8.1	8.1	
Bulgaria	13.0	11.5	11.1	11.0	11.0	11.4	9.5	9.2	9.2	9.2	
Czech Republic	5.5	5.0	4.9	4.7	4.6	7.8	7.0	6.8	6.8	6.7	
Denmark <sup>8</sup>	6.5	6.4	6.1	6.0	5.9	7.5	6.4	6.2	6.5	6.5	
Germany <sup>7</sup>	5.3	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.1	4.8	4.6	4.5	4.5	4.4	
Estonia <sup>8</sup>	8.0	6.7	6.7	6.8	:	7.4	6.2	5.9	5.6	:	
Ireland	13.8	11.8	11.6	11.5	11.4	10.0	8.6	8.3	8.1	8.0	
Greece	24.4	23.2	23.4	:	:	30.8	29.3	29.3	:	:	
Spain	24.5	22.9	22.7	22.5	22.2	26.0	24.7	24.6	24.4	24.3	
France	10.4	10.8	10.9	10.9	10.9	9.9	10.2	10.2	10.2	10.2	
Croatia	16.3	17.7	18.1	18.4	18.4	18.6	18.6	18.6	18.7	18.7	
Italy	12.0	12.1	11.7	11.8	11.7	13.2	14.7	14.0	13.7	14.1	
Cyprus	16.1	17.7	17.4	16.9	17.1	15.2	15.5	15.4	15.4	15.4	
Latvia <sup>6</sup>	13.0	10.8	10.8	:	:	10.1	10.0	10.0	:	:	
Lithuania	12.8	11.5	11.4	11.2	11.6	9.9	8.7	8.6	8.5	8.4	
Luxembourg	5.9	5.8	5.9	5.8	5.7	6.0	5.9	5.9	5.9	5.9	
Hungary <sup>8</sup>	7.5	7.3	7.3	7.4	:	8.3	7.3	7.4	7.5	:	
Malta	6.2	6.3	6.2	6.1	5.8	5.7	5.9	6.0	6.2	6.2	
Netherlands <sup>7</sup>	7.7	6.9	6.9	6.9	6.8	8.0	7.4	7.6	7.6	7.5	
Austria <sup>7</sup>	5.7	5.9	5.9	5.7	5.6	5.5	5.3	5.3	5.1	5.1	
Poland	9.4	7.9	7.7	7.5	7.3	10.4	8.9	8.7	8.6	8.5	
Portugal <sup>8</sup>	14.8	13.3	13.3	13.5	13.8	15.0	13.8	14.0	14.1	14.3	
Romania	7.6	7.1	6.9	6.8	6.7	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	
Slovenia	9.3	9.0	9.1	9.1	9.1	11.1	10.1	9.9	9.8	9.7	
Slovakia	13.8	11.8	11.6	11.5	11.4	13.7	13.5	13.4	13.4	13.3	
Finland <sup>7</sup>	9.0	9.7	9.6	9.5	9.5	7.8	8.2	8.3	8.5	8.6	
Sweden <sup>7</sup>	8.2	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	7.8	7.6	7.6	7.7	7.7	
United Kingdom <sup>8</sup>	7.0	5.8	5.8	:	:	6.4	5.3	5.3	:	:	
Iceland <sup>7</sup>	5.4	4.5	4.4	4.4	4.3	5.0	4.7	4.6	4.6	4.6	
Norway <sup>8</sup>	3.5	3.9	4.0	4.1	:	3.4	3.5	3.6	3.7	:	

<sup>:</sup> Data not available

