

3/2016 - 7 January 2016

November 2015

Euro area unemployment rate at 10.5%

EU28 at 9.1%

The **euro area** (EA19) seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate was 10.5% in November 2015, down from 10.6% in October 2015, and from 11.5% in November 2014. This is the lowest rate recorded in the **euro area** since October 2011. The **EU28** unemployment rate was 9.1% in November 2015, down from 9.2% in October 2015, and from 10.0% in November 2014. This is the lowest rate recorded in the **EU28** since July 2009. These figures are published by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**.

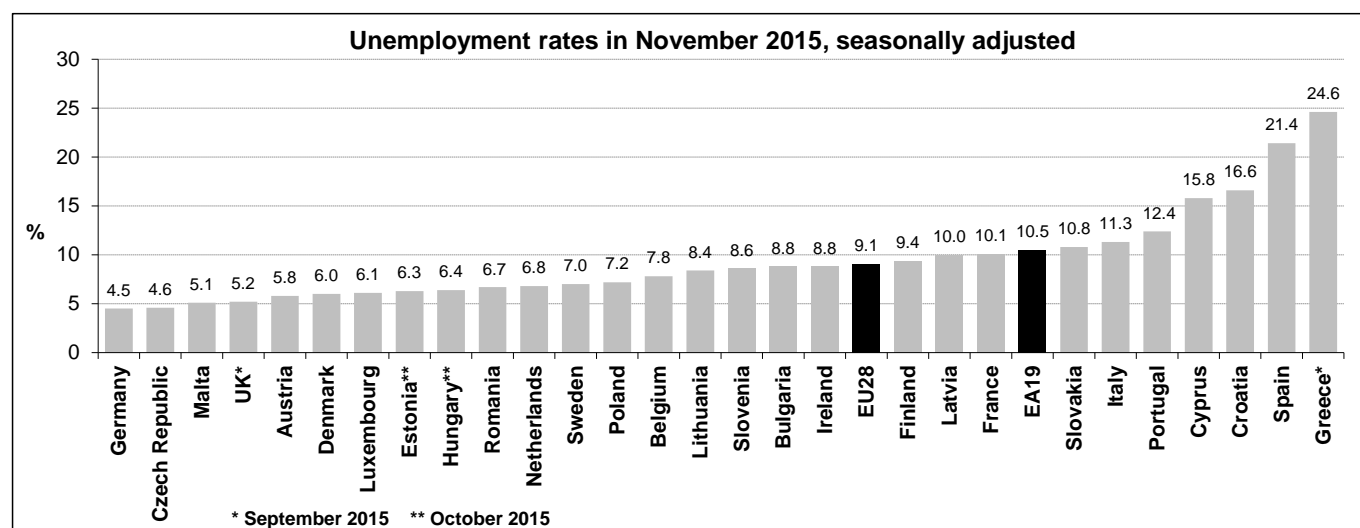
Eurostat estimates that 22.159 million men and women in the **EU28**, of whom 16.924 million were in the **euro area**, were unemployed in November 2015. Compared with October 2015, the number of persons unemployed decreased by 179 000 in the **EU28** and by 130 000 in the **euro area**. Compared with November 2014, unemployment fell by 2.146 million in the **EU28** and by 1.573 million in the **euro area**.

Member States

Among the Member States, the lowest unemployment rates in November 2015 were recorded in **Germany** (4.5%), the **Czech Republic** (4.6%) and **Malta** (5.1%), and the highest in **Greece** (24.6% in September 2015) and **Spain** (21.4%).

Compared with a year ago, the unemployment rate in November 2015 fell in twenty-five Member States, remained stable in **Romania** and increased in **Austria** (from 5.6% to 5.8%) and **Finland** (from 9.0% to 9.4%). The largest decreases were registered in **Spain** (from 23.7% to 21.4%), **Bulgaria** (from 10.6% to 8.8%) and **Italy** (from 13.1% to 11.3%).

In November 2015, the unemployment rate in the **United States** was 5.0%, stable compared to October 2015 and down from 5.8% in November 2014.



Youth unemployment

In November 2015, 4.553 million young persons (under 25) were unemployed in the **EU28**, of whom 3.167 million were in the **euro area**. Compared with November 2014, youth unemployment decreased by 412 000 in the **EU28** and by 163 000 in the **euro area**. In November 2015, the youth unemployment rate was 20.0% in the **EU28** and 22.5% in the **euro area**, compared with 21.5% and 23.2% respectively in November 2014. In November 2015, the lowest rates were observed in **Germany** (7.0%), **Denmark** (9.9%) and **Austria** (10.9%), and the highest in **Greece** (49.5% in September 2015), **Spain** (47.5%), **Croatia** (45.1% in the third quarter 2015) and **Italy** (38.1%).

Geographical coverage

The **euro area (EA19)** includes Belgium, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Italy, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Austria, Portugal, Slovenia, Slovakia and Finland.

The **European Union (EU28)** includes Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Croatia, Italy, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Hungary, Malta, the Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Finland, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

Methods and definition

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.

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.

Country notes:

Germany, the Netherlands, Austria, Finland, Sweden and Iceland: the trend component is used instead of the more volatile seasonally adjusted data.

Denmark, Estonia, Hungary, Portugal, the United Kingdom and Norway: 3-month moving averages of LFS data are used instead of pure monthly indicators.

Revisions and timetable

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 [210/2015](#) of 1 December 2015, the October 2015 unemployment rates were revised downwards for both EU28 (from 9.3% to 9.2%) and EA19 (from 10.7% to 10.6%). Among Member States, rates have been revised by more than 0.1 percentage points (pp) downwards for Belgium (by 0.9 pp), Bulgaria (by 0.8 pp), France (by 0.5 pp) and Slovenia (by 0.4 pp). The unemployment rate has been revised by more than 0.1 pp upwards for Croatia (by 0.7 pp), Slovakia (by 0.4 pp) as well as for Cyprus, Luxembourg and Poland (all by 0.3 pp).

For more information

Eurostat's [website section](#) on employment and unemployment

Eurostat's [database section](#) on unemployment, including non-seasonally adjusted and trend data

Eurostat's [Statistics Explained article](#) on unemployment

Eurostat's [Statistics Explained article](#) on youth unemployment

Eurostat's [metadata](#) on adjusted unemployment series

Eurostat's €-indicators [release calendar](#)

Issued by: **Eurostat Press Office**

Tim ALLEN
Tel: +352-4301-33 444
eurostat-pressoffice@ec.europa.eu

 ec.europa.eu/eurostat/


 [@EU_Eurostat](https://twitter.com/EU_Eurostat)

For further information on data:

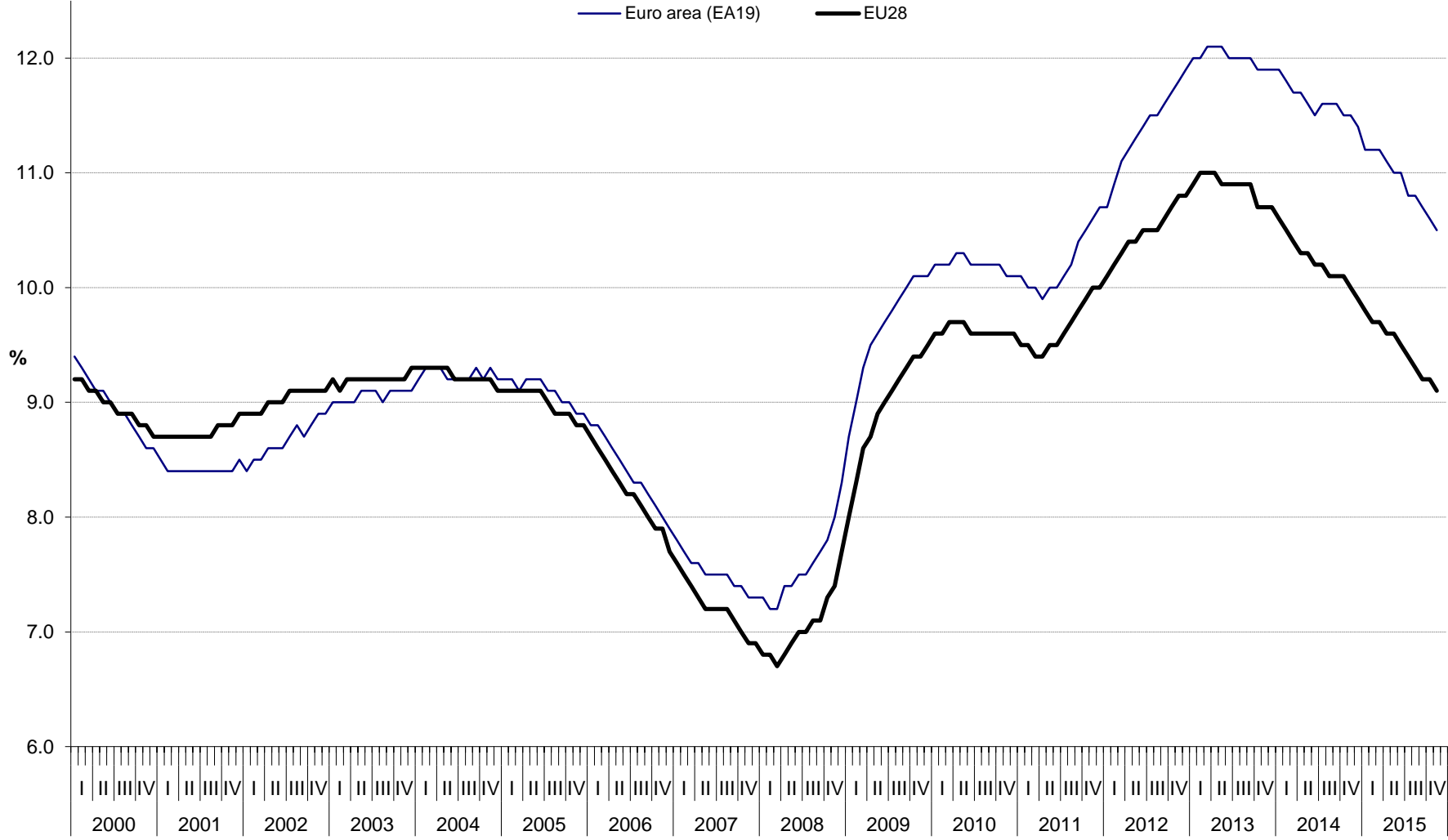
Boyan GENEV
Tel: +352-4301-36 409

Hubertus VREESWIJK
Tel: +352-4301-34 323

estat-monthly-unemployment@ec.europa.eu

 **Media requests:** Eurostat media support / Tel: +352-4301-33 408 / eurostat-mediasupport@ec.europa.eu

Euro area and EU28 unemployment rates Seasonally adjusted series



Seasonally adjusted unemployment, totals

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	Nov 14	Aug 15	Sep 15	Oct 15	Nov 15	Nov 14	Aug 15	Sep 15	Oct 15	Nov 15
EA19	11.5	10.8	10.7	10.6	10.5	18 497	17 290	17 130	17 054	16 924
EU28	10.0	9.3	9.2	9.2	9.1	24 305	22 645	22 441	22 338	22 159
Belgium	8.6	8.1	7.9	7.8	7.8	430	402	393	389	389
Bulgaria	10.6	9.0	8.7	8.7	8.8	354	299	291	291	293
Czech Republic	5.9	4.8	4.8	4.7	4.6	311	256	252	248	244
Denmark	6.5	6.2	6.0	6.0	6.0	190	182	176	176	176
Germany	4.9	4.6	4.5	4.5	4.5	2 063	1 909	1 902	1 899	1 898
Estonia	6.9**	5.8	6.0	6.3	:	47**	40	41	43	:
Ireland	10.4	9.1	9.0	8.9	8.8	223	197	194	192	191
Greece	26.1*	24.7	24.6	:	:	1 253*	1 187	1 184	:	:
Spain	23.7	21.8	21.6	21.5	21.4	5 443	4 984	4 952	4 943	4 917
France	10.5	10.6	10.4	10.3	10.1	3 106	3 129	3 065	3 021	2 980
Croatia	17.7	16.3	16.2	16.5	16.6	334	308	307	310	311
Italy	13.1	11.7	11.5	11.5	11.3	3 350	2 980	2 936	2 918	2 871
Cyprus	16.6	15.2	15.2	15.4	15.8	72	64	64	65	66
Latvia	10.5	10.0	9.9	9.9	10.0	103	99	98	99	100
Lithuania	10.1	9.0	9.0	8.9	8.4	149	133	132	131	124
Luxembourg	6.2	6.2	6.1	6.1	6.1	16	17	17	17	17
Hungary	7.4**	6.5	6.5	6.4	:	327**	296	295	290	:
Malta	6.0	5.1	5.1	5.2	5.1	12	10	10	10	10
Netherlands	7.1	6.8	6.8	6.9	6.8	635	604	609	616	606
Austria	5.6	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.8	246	250	249	251	256
Poland	8.3	7.5	7.4	7.3	7.2	1 439	1 291	1 287	1 273	1 251
Portugal	13.5	12.3	12.4	12.4	12.4	691	629	634	634	637
Romania	6.7	6.8	6.9	6.8	6.7	620	632	634	630	621
Slovenia	9.4	9.0	8.8	8.7	8.6	94	90	88	87	87
Slovakia	12.5	11.4	11.3	11.1	10.8	342	311	309	303	295
Finland	9.0	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.4	243	253	253	253	253
Sweden	7.8	7.2	7.2	7.1	7.0	409	378	374	370	367
United Kingdom	5.9*	5.3	5.2	:	:	1 921*	1 723	1 692	:	:
Iceland	4.4	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	8	8	8	8	8
Norway	3.8**	4.6	4.6	4.6	:	104**	127	127	129	:
United States	5.8	5.1	5.1	5.0	5.0	9 109	8 080	7 887	7 947	7 976

The source datasets are available [here](#) (rates) and [here](#) (in 1000 persons).

: Data not available

* September 2014

** October 2014

Seasonally adjusted youth (under 25s) unemployment

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	Nov 14	Aug 15	Sep 15	Oct 15	Nov 15	Nov 14	Aug 15	Sep 15	Oct 15	Nov 15
EA19	23.2	22.5	22.4	22.6	22.5	3 330	3 154	3 154	3 184	3 167
EU28	21.5	20.2	20.1	20.2	20.0	4 965	4 588	4 569	4 594	4 553
Belgium	22.8	21.7	21.5	22.0	22.6	91	85	84	84	86
Bulgaria	22.8	20.9	20.3	20.6	20.7	44	38	37	37	37
Czech Republic	14.9	12.1	12.1	11.9	11.4	53	41	41	41	40
Denmark	11.7	11.6	10.7	10.2	9.9	53	52	48	46	45
Germany	7.3	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.0	309	285	283	281	279
Estonia	13.4	13.7	15.1	15.4	:	8	8	8	8	:
Ireland	21.9	20.6	20.3	19.7	19.4	42	39	39	37	37
Greece	51.2	48.2	49.5	:	:	154	135	139	:	:
Spain	51.4	48.0	47.7	47.8	47.5	810	758	766	784	786
France	24.6	25.4	25.3	25.6	25.7	675	697	705	717	721
Croatia	45.3	45.1	45.1	:	:	74	72	72	:	:
Italy	43.0	39.9	39.1	39.3	38.1	691	621	601	603	581
Cyprus	34.3	32.6	32.6	:	:	15	12	12	:	:
Latvia	18.6	14.6	15.2	17.1	18.0	16	11	11	13	14
Lithuania	18.5	16.1	16.1	15.6	14.9	24	20	20	19	18
Luxembourg	22.0	15.1	15.0	15.1	14.6	4	4	4	4	3
Hungary	18.7	15.8	15.6	15.0	:	62	54	53	51	:
Malta	11.7	12.6	12.7	12.9	12.7	3	3	3	4	4
Netherlands	11.9	11.2	11.5	11.6	11.4	164	158	161	163	159
Austria	10.3	10.8	10.9	10.9	10.9	58	61	61	60	60
Poland	21.9	20.5	20.7	20.7	20.5	306	277	282	284	282
Portugal	33.3	31.7	32.1	32.4	33.4	122	117	118	119	124
Romania	23.6	21.2	21.2	:	:	159	145	145	:	:
Slovenia	19.1	14.5	14.5	:	:	14	10	10	:	:
Slovakia	27.0	26.7	26.6	26.0	25.4	57	56	56	55	54
Finland	21.4	22.5	22.1	22.0	22.0	71	73	72	72	72
Sweden	22.2	19.8	19.4	19.1	18.8	147	128	125	123	121
United Kingdom	16.0	14.0	13.5	:	:	724	628	607	:	:
Iceland	9.3	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.6	3	3	3	3	3
Norway	8.0	10.2	9.8	9.4	:	30	39	37	35	:

The source datasets are available [here](#) (rates) and [here](#) (in 1000 persons).

: Data not available

Croatia, Cyprus, Romania and Slovenia: quarterly data

Seasonally adjusted unemployment rates (%), by gender

	Males					Females				
	Nov 14	Aug 15	Sep 15	Oct 15	Nov 15	Nov 14	Aug 15	Sep 15	Oct 15	Nov 15
EA19	11.4	10.6	10.5	10.5	10.4	11.7	11.0	10.8	10.7	10.6
EU28	9.9	9.2	9.2	9.1	9.1	10.1	9.4	9.3	9.2	9.2
Belgium	9.0	8.5	8.3	8.1	8.1	8.2	7.7	7.6	7.5	7.5
Bulgaria	11.5	9.7	9.4	9.4	9.5	9.5	8.1	7.9	7.9	8.0
Czech Republic	5.0	4.1	3.9	3.9	3.7	7.0	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.8
Denmark	6.5	5.8	5.6	5.6	5.7	6.4	6.7	6.5	6.5	6.3
Germany	5.2	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.8	4.5	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1
Estonia	6.6	5.8	6.1	6.7	:	6.5	5.8	5.9	5.8	:
Ireland	11.9	10.5	10.4	10.2	10.1	8.6	7.4	7.3	7.3	7.3
Greece	22.9	21.5	21.2	:	:	29.6	28.7	28.9	:	:
Spain	22.8	20.5	20.4	20.4	20.3	24.8	23.2	23.0	22.8	22.7
France	10.9	11.1	10.9	10.9	10.8	10.2	10.1	9.9	9.6	9.4
Croatia	17.4	15.3	15.1	15.2	15.3	18.1	17.5	17.5	18.0	18.1
Italy	12.2	11.0	11.0	11.0	10.8	14.3	12.6	12.3	12.1	12.0
Cyprus	17.6	14.8	14.7	15.0	15.5	15.5	15.7	15.8	15.8	16.1
Latvia	10.9	11.5	11.5	11.4	11.6	10.1	8.5	8.3	8.5	8.5
Lithuania	11.5	10.1	10.1	10.0	9.4	8.7	8.0	7.9	7.8	7.5
Luxembourg	5.6	5.5	5.3	5.4	5.4	6.9	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0
Hungary	7.3	6.4	6.4	6.4	:	7.3	6.7	6.7	6.4	:
Malta	6.2	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.7	4.9	4.8	4.9	4.9
Netherlands	6.9	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.3	7.4	7.1	7.3	7.3	7.4
Austria	5.9	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.3	5.3	5.2	5.0	5.1	5.2
Poland	7.9	7.3	7.3	7.2	7.1	8.8	7.6	7.5	7.5	7.4
Portugal	13.3	12.0	12.2	12.1	12.2	13.7	12.6	12.6	12.6	12.7
Romania	7.1	7.6	7.7	7.6	7.4	6.1	5.8	5.7	5.7	5.7
Slovenia	8.8	7.6	7.5	7.4	7.5	10.1	10.5	10.3	10.1	10.0
Slovakia	11.7	10.2	10.1	9.9	9.6	13.5	12.8	12.8	12.5	12.3
Finland	9.7	10.0	9.9	9.9	10.0	8.3	8.8	8.8	8.8	8.7
Sweden	8.0	7.4	7.3	7.2	7.1	7.7	7.1	7.0	7.0	6.9
United Kingdom	5.9	5.5	5.3	:	:	5.3	5.1	5.0	:	:
Iceland	4.4	4.2	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.0	3.9	3.9	3.8
Norway	3.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	:	3.6	4.2	4.2	4.3	:

The source dataset is available [here](#).

: Data not available