



63/2016 - 4 April 2016

February 2016

Euro area unemployment rate at 10.3%

EU28 at 8.9%

The **euro area** (EA19) seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate was 10.3% in February 2016, down from 10.4% in January 2016, and from 11.2% in February 2015. This is the lowest rate recorded in the **euro area** since August 2011. The **EU28** unemployment rate was 8.9% in February 2016, stable compared to January 2016, and down from 9.7% in February 2015. This is the lowest rate recorded in the **EU28** since May 2009. These figures are published by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**.

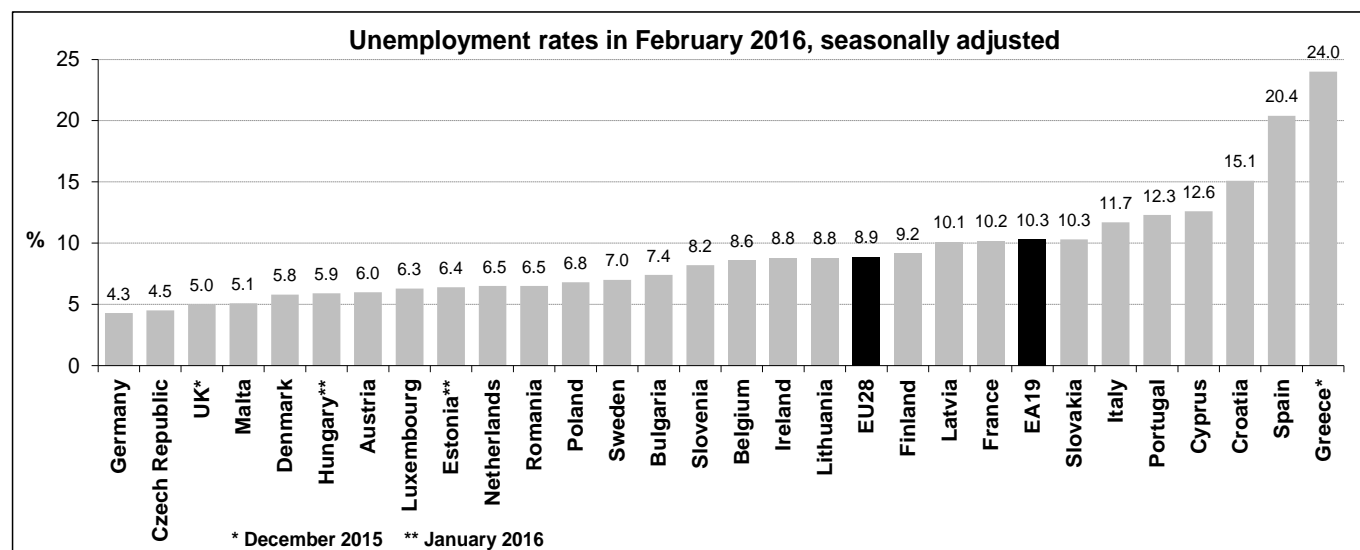
Eurostat estimates that 21.651 million men and women in the **EU28**, of whom 16.634 million were in the **euro area**, were unemployed in February 2016. Compared with January 2016, the number of persons unemployed decreased by 59 000 in the **EU28** and by 39 000 in the **euro area**. Compared with February 2015, unemployment fell by 1.971 million in the **EU28** and by 1.303 million in the **euro area**.

Member States

Among the Member States, the lowest unemployment rates in February 2016 were recorded in **Germany** (4.3%) and the **Czech Republic** (4.5%). The highest unemployment rates were observed in **Greece** (24.0% in December 2015) and **Spain** (20.4%).

Compared with a year ago, the unemployment rate in February 2016 fell in twenty-four Member States, remained stable in **Belgium** and increased in **Austria** (from 5.4% to 6.0%), **Latvia** (from 9.7% to 10.1%) and **Finland** (from 9.1% to 9.2%). The largest decreases were registered in **Cyprus** (from 16.6% to 12.6%), **Spain** (from 23.2% to 20.4%), and **Bulgaria** (from 9.8% to 7.4%).

In February 2016, the unemployment rate in the **United States** was 4.9%, stable compared to January 2016, and down from 5.5% in February 2015.



Youth unemployment

In February 2016, 4.381 million young persons (under 25) were unemployed in the **EU28**, of whom 3.011 million were in the **euro area**. Compared with February 2015, youth unemployment decreased by 428 000 in the **EU28** and by 219 000 in the **euro area**. In February 2016, the youth unemployment rate was 19.4% in the **EU28** and 21.6% in the **euro area**, compared with 20.9% and 22.7% respectively in February 2015. In February 2016, the lowest rates were observed in **Germany** (6.9%), the **Czech Republic** (10.2%), **Denmark** (10.5%) and **Malta** (10.8%), and the highest in **Greece** (48.9% in December 2015), **Spain** (45.3%), **Croatia** (40.3% in the fourth quarter 2015) and **Italy** (39.1%).

Geographical information

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.

Compared with the rates published in News Release [41/2016](#) of 1 March 2016, the January 2016 unemployment rate remains unchanged for the EU28 and has been revised from 10.3% to 10.4% for the EA19. Among Member States, rates have been revised by more than 0.1 percentage points (pp) upwards for Belgium (by 0.8 pp), Luxembourg (by 0.5 pp), Ireland (by 0.3 pp), Malta and Slovakia (both by 0.2 pp). The rates have been revised by more than 0.1 percentage points (pp) downwards for Cyprus (by 2.5 pp), Croatia (by 1.2 pp), Bulgaria (by 1.0 pp) and Slovenia (by 0.6 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](#)

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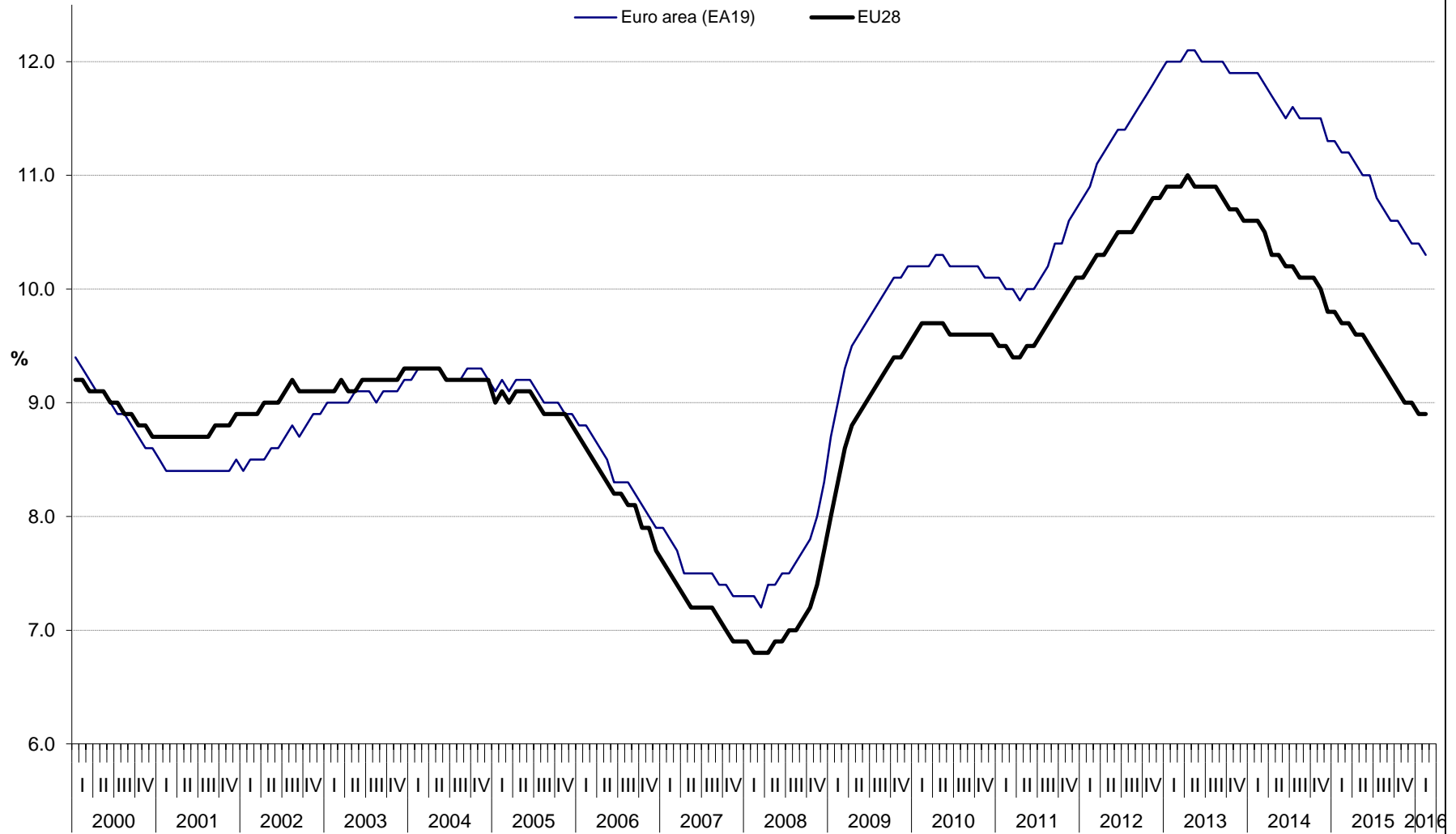
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Euro area and EU28 unemployment rates Seasonally adjusted series



Seasonally adjusted unemployment, totals

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	Feb 15	Nov 15	Dec 15	Jan 16	Feb 16	Feb 15	Nov 15	Dec 15	Jan 16	Feb 16
EA19	11.2	10.5	10.4	10.4	10.3	17 937	16 858	16 791	16 673	16 634
EU28	9.7	9.0	9.0	8.9	8.9	23 622	21 968	21 883	21 710	21 651
Belgium	8.6	8.7	8.8	8.7	8.6	427	433	439	433	426
Bulgaria	9.8	7.9	7.7	7.6	7.4	329	263	258	252	248
Czech Republic	5.7	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	305	239	239	241	240
Denmark	6.2	6.1	6.0	5.8	5.8	181	180	179	175	175
Germany	4.8	4.4	4.4	4.3	4.3	2 007	1 873	1 854	1 833	1 812
Estonia	6.6**	6.4	6.3	6.4	:	45**	44	43	44	:
Ireland	10.0	9.1	9.0	8.9	8.8	214	196	196	193	191
Greece	25.9*	24.4	24.0	:	:	1 237*	1 169	1 150	:	:
Spain	23.2	20.9	20.7	20.5	20.4	5 302	4 765	4 727	4 670	4 642
France	10.3	10.2	10.2	10.2	10.2	3 029	3 005	3 000	2 985	2 993
Croatia	17.0	15.7	15.3	15.2	15.1	322	294	288	288	287
Italy	12.2	11.5	11.7	11.6	11.7	3 116	2 942	2 967	2 972	2 980
Cyprus	16.6	13.5	13.1	12.8	12.6	72	56	54	53	52
Latvia	9.7	10.0	10.1	10.3	10.1	96	99	101	103	102
Lithuania	9.3	8.8	8.9	9.0	8.8	136	129	131	132	130
Luxembourg	6.4	6.4	6.5	6.3	6.3	17	18	18	17	17
Hungary	7.5**	6.3	6.1	5.9	:	336**	286	279	269	:
Malta	5.8	5.2	5.2	5.3	5.1	11	10	10	10	10
Netherlands	7.1	6.7	6.6	6.5	6.5	633	596	588	574	581
Austria	5.4	5.9	6.0	6.0	6.0	236	260	264	267	269
Poland	8.0	7.1	7.0	6.9	6.8	1 387	1 234	1 216	1 202	1 192
Portugal	13.5	12.3	12.2	12.1	12.3	694	628	622	617	622
Romania	6.8	6.6	6.7	6.5	6.5	626	607	616	604	597
Slovenia	9.1	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.2	91	83	83	83	81
Slovakia	12.2	10.9	10.7	10.5	10.3	333	298	294	288	285
Finland	9.1	9.4	9.4	9.3	9.2	246	253	252	249	248
Sweden	7.7	7.1	7.1	7.0	7.0	403	372	370	370	370
United Kingdom	5.6*	5.0	5.0	:	:	1 808*	1 647	1 638	:	:
Iceland	4.2	3.5	3.3	3.2	3.1	8	7	6	6	6
Norway	3.9**	4.6	4.6	4.8	:	109**	127	128	134	:
United States	5.5	5.0	5.0	4.9	4.9	8 650	7 963	7 905	7 736	7 818

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

: Data not available

* December 2014

** January 2015

Seasonally adjusted youth (under 25s) unemployment

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	Feb 15	Nov 15	Dec 15	Jan 16	Feb 16	Feb 15	Nov 15	Dec 15	Jan 16	Feb 16
EA19	22.7	21.9	21.8	21.7	21.6	3 230	3 047	3 033	3 010	3 011
EU28	20.9	19.6	19.5	19.5	19.4	4 809	4 415	4 410	4 387	4 381
Belgium	20.3	25.1	25.1	:	:	83	98	98	:	:
Bulgaria	21.5	20.9	21.0	21.4	20.8	42	36	36	36	35
Czech Republic	14.2	11.0	10.8	10.6	10.2	51	37	37	37	36
Denmark	10.5	10.7	10.8	10.7	10.5	47	49	50	50	50
Germany	7.2	7.0	7.0	6.9	6.9	299	282	281	279	277
Estonia	12.8	16.1	16.3	15.6	:	7	9	9	8	:
Ireland	22.0	20.5	20.3	20.3	20.1	42	38	38	37	37
Greece	52.5	48.2	48.9	:	:	151	127	129	:	:
Spain	50.8	46.4	46.0	45.5	45.3	792	696	684	667	664
France	24.9	24.5	24.5	24.5	24.6	688	677	677	677	681
Croatia	44.1	40.3	40.3	:	:	70	68	68	:	:
Italy	41.6	38.3	38.6	39.3	39.1	644	592	595	591	595
Cyprus	34.4	30.5	30.5	:	:	14	11	11	:	:
Latvia	15.1	19.9	19.8	19.6	18.2	13	17	17	17	16
Lithuania	18.4	13.7	13.9	14.4	14.5	23	17	18	18	19
Luxembourg	18.6	15.3	15.3	14.9	15.1	4	4	4	4	4
Hungary	19.1	15.7	14.7	14.4	:	64	53	50	49	:
Malta	10.5	11.5	11.1	11.4	10.8	3	3	3	3	3
Netherlands	11.0	11.2	11.2	11.2	11.3	154	156	155	155	158
Austria	8.8	11.5	11.6	12.4	12.6	48	64	65	70	72
Poland	21.8	20.3	20.0	20.1	20.0	302	276	276	275	274
Portugal	33.1	32.0	30.3	29.9	30.0	123	119	110	109	108
Romania	22.4	20.9	20.9	:	:	156	140	140	:	:
Slovenia	17.3	16.9	16.9	:	:	12	12	12	:	:
Slovakia	26.6	25.8	25.2	24.4	24.1	57	53	52	50	50
Finland	21.8	22.0	22.1	22.1	22.1	72	71	71	71	71
Sweden	21.4	19.3	19.2	19.2	19.1	142	125	125	125	124
United Kingdom	15.5	13.3	13.4	:	:	700	597	599	:	:
Iceland	8.8	7.7	7.4	7.1	7.0	3	2	2	2	2
Norway	9.1	9.8	10.0	11.0	:	34	36	38	42	:

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

: Data not available

Belgium, Croatia, Cyprus, Romania and Slovenia: quarterly data

Seasonally adjusted unemployment rates (%), by gender

	Males					Females				
	Feb 15	Nov 15	Dec 15	Jan 16	Feb 16	Feb 15	Nov 15	Dec 15	Jan 16	Feb 16
EA19	11.0	10.3	10.3	10.2	10.2	11.4	10.7	10.6	10.6	10.5
EU28	9.6	8.9	8.9	8.8	8.8	9.9	9.2	9.1	9.1	9.0
Belgium	9.1	9.3	9.4	9.4	9.2	7.9	8.1	8.1	7.9	7.8
Bulgaria	10.6	8.2	8.0	7.8	7.7	9.0	7.6	7.5	7.2	7.1
Czech Republic	4.9	3.7	3.7	3.8	3.7	6.8	5.6	5.5	5.5	5.5
Denmark	6.0	5.8	5.8	5.6	5.5	6.4	6.4	6.1	6.2	6.2
Germany	5.1	4.7	4.6	4.5	4.5	4.4	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.0
Estonia	7.4	6.3	6.8	6.7	:	5.6	6.6	5.8	6.0	:
Ireland	11.5	10.8	10.8	10.6	10.5	8.2	7.0	6.9	6.8	6.8
Greece	22.6	20.8	20.5	:	:	29.8	28.8	28.3	:	:
Spain	22.1	19.5	19.3	19.1	18.9	24.5	22.5	22.3	22.2	22.1
France	10.7	10.7	10.6	10.6	10.7	10.0	9.7	9.8	9.7	9.7
Croatia	17.2	14.4	14.2	14.2	14.2	16.8	17.1	16.6	16.4	16.1
Italy	11.5	11.0	11.3	11.0	11.3	13.3	12.3	12.1	12.5	12.3
Cyprus	17.0	13.9	13.7	13.4	13.1	16.3	13.1	12.4	12.2	12.1
Latvia	10.2	11.3	11.5	12.0	11.7	9.2	8.6	8.6	8.6	8.6
Lithuania	10.5	9.5	9.6	9.8	9.6	8.1	8.1	8.2	8.2	8.0
Luxembourg	5.7	5.8	5.8	5.6	5.5	7.2	7.2	7.3	7.1	7.1
Hungary	7.3	6.1	6.0	5.8	:	7.6	6.5	6.3	6.1	:
Malta	6.0	5.2	5.1	5.2	5.0	5.5	5.2	5.3	5.4	5.3
Netherlands	6.8	6.2	6.2	6.1	6.1	7.5	7.3	7.0	6.9	7.0
Austria	5.7	6.3	6.4	6.5	6.7	5.2	5.4	5.5	5.4	5.2
Poland	7.7	7.0	6.9	6.8	6.7	8.4	7.2	7.1	7.0	7.0
Portugal	12.9	12.2	12.2	12.2	12.3	14.2	12.3	12.3	12.1	12.2
Romania	7.6	7.3	7.3	7.1	7.0	5.9	5.7	5.9	5.8	5.8
Slovenia	8.2	7.8	8.0	8.0	7.8	10.2	8.9	8.7	8.7	8.6
Slovakia	11.3	9.5	9.3	9.1	9.0	13.2	12.6	12.4	12.1	12.0
Finland	9.7	10.0	9.9	9.8	9.7	8.6	8.8	8.8	8.8	8.8
Sweden	7.9	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.5	6.8	6.8	6.7	6.7
United Kingdom	5.6	5.1	5.1	:	:	5.3	4.9	4.8	:	:
Iceland	4.1	3.9	3.7	3.6	3.5	4.3	3.2	2.9	2.7	2.6
Norway	4.3	5.1	5.1	5.4	:	3.8	4.0	4.0	4.1	:

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

: Data not available