

186/2016 - 30 September 2016

August 2016

Euro area unemployment at 10.1%

EU28 at 8.6%

The **euro area** (EA19) seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate was 10.1% in August 2016, stable compared to July 2016 and down from 10.7% in August 2015. This remains the lowest rate recorded in the **euro area** since July 2011. The **EU28** unemployment rate was 8.6% in August 2016, stable compared to July 2016 and down from 9.3% in August 2015. This remains the lowest rate recorded in the **EU28** since March 2009. These figures are published by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**.

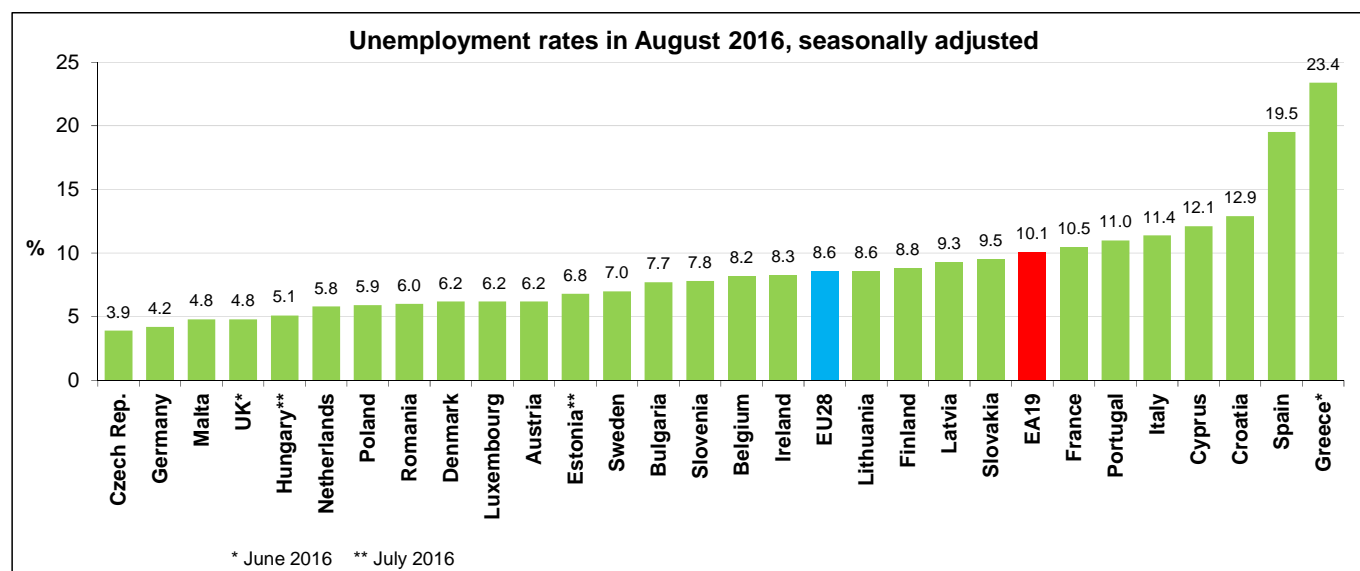
Eurostat estimates that 20.973 million men and women in the **EU28**, of whom 16.326 million were in the **euro area**, were unemployed in August 2016. Compared with July 2016, the number of persons unemployed decreased by 40 000 in the **EU28**, while it increased by 8 000 in the **euro area**. Compared with August 2015, unemployment fell by 1.587 million in the **EU28** and by 875 000 in the **euro area**.

Member States

Among the Member States, the lowest unemployment rates in August 2016 were recorded in the **Czech Republic** (3.9%) and **Germany** (4.2%). The highest unemployment rates were observed in **Greece** (23.4% in June 2016) and **Spain** (19.5%).

Compared with a year ago, the unemployment rate in August 2016 fell in twenty-four Member States, remained stable in **Denmark**, while it increased in **Estonia** (from 5.3% to 6.8% between July 2015 and July 2016), **Austria** (from 5.7% to 6.2%) and **Belgium** (from 8.0% to 8.2%). The largest decreases were registered in **Croatia** (from 16.6% to 12.9%) and **Cyprus** (from 14.7% to 12.1%).

In August 2016, the unemployment rate in the **United States** was 4.9%, stable compared to July 2016 and down from 5.1% in August 2015.



Youth unemployment

In August 2016, 4.199 million young persons (under 25) were unemployed in the **EU28**, of whom 2.927 million were in the **euro area**. Compared with August 2015, youth unemployment decreased by 381 000 in the **EU28** and by 209 000 in the **euro area**. In August 2016, the youth unemployment rate was 18.6% in the **EU28** and 20.7% in the **euro area**, compared with 20.1% and 22.3% respectively in August 2015. In August 2016, the lowest rate was observed in **Germany** (6.9%), and the highest were recorded in **Greece** (47.7% in June 2016), **Spain** (43.2%) and **Italy** (38.8%).

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 [163/2016](#) of 31 August 2016, the July 2016 unemployment rate remains unchanged for both the EA19 and the EU28. Among Member States, rates have been revised by more than 0.1 percentage points (pp) downwards for Croatia, Portugal and Finland (all three by 0.2 pp). The unemployment rate has been revised by more than 0.1 pp upwards for Malta (by 1.0 pp) and Cyprus (by 0.5 pp).

For more information

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

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

Eurostat [Statistics Explained article](#) on unemployment

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

Eurostat [metadata](#) on adjusted unemployment series


Eurostat €-indicators [release calendar](#)

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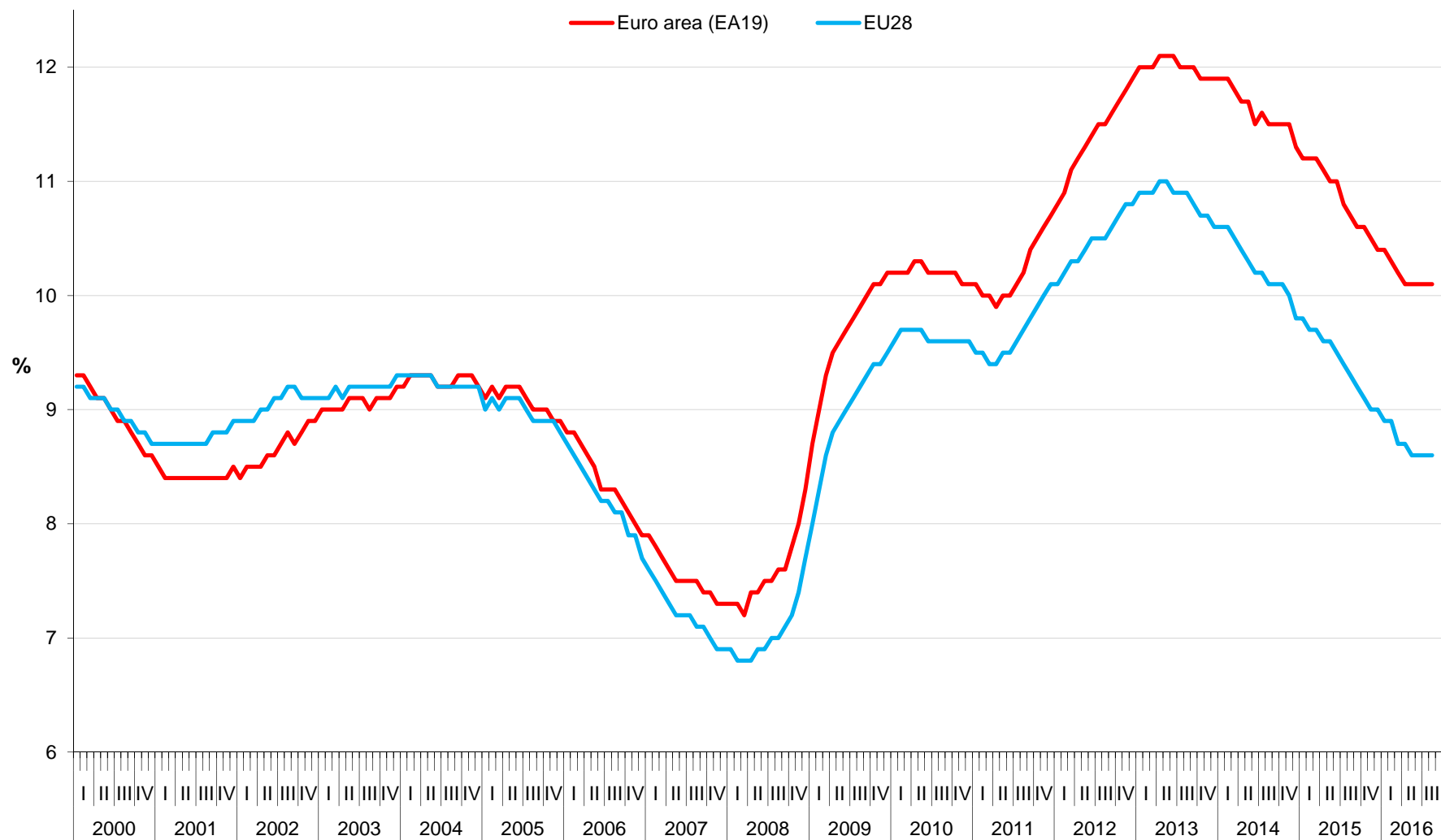
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Euro area and EU28 unemployment rates Seasonally adjusted series



Seasonally adjusted unemployment, totals

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	Aug 15	May 16	Jun 16	Jul 16	Aug 16	Aug 15	May 16	Jun 16	Jul 16	Aug 16
EA19	10.7	10.1	10.1	10.1	10.1	17 201	16 329	16 349	16 318	16 326
EU28	9.3	8.6	8.6	8.6	8.6	22 560	21 099	21 043	21 013	20 973
Belgium	8.0	8.2	8.3	8.3	8.2	398	409	414	413	413
Bulgaria	8.8	7.9	8.0	7.9	7.7	294	262	262	259	255
Czech Republic	4.8	4.0	4.1	4.1	3.9	255	215	219	218	210
Denmark	6.2	6.1	6.1	6.3	6.2	181	187	186	190	188
Germany	4.5	4.3	4.3	4.2	4.2	1 908	1 821	1 823	1 822	1 819
Estonia	5.3**	6.5	6.9	6.8	:	36**	45	48	48	:
Ireland	9.1	8.4	8.4	8.3	8.3	197	183	184	183	182
Greece	24.9*	23.6	23.4	:	:	1 198*	1 131	1 125	:	:
Spain	21.6	20.1	19.9	19.6	19.5	4 954	4 586	4 527	4 468	4 442
France	10.6	9.9	10.1	10.3	10.5	3 127	2 920	2 980	3 064	3 130
Croatia	16.6	13.2	13.1	13.0	12.9	316	247	244	240	237
Italy	11.5	11.4	11.5	11.4	11.4	2 933	2 938	2 973	2 935	2 932
Cyprus	14.7	12.4	12.2	12.1	12.1	61	52	52	51	51
Latvia	10.0	9.5	9.6	9.5	9.3	100	94	95	94	92
Lithuania	9.0	8.2	8.4	8.8	8.6	131	121	124	130	127
Luxembourg	6.5	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.2	18	17	17	17	17
Hungary	6.8**	5.2	5.1	5.1	:	308**	237	233	232	:
Malta	5.2	4.8	5.0	4.9	4.8	10	10	10	10	10
Netherlands	6.8	6.3	6.1	6.0	5.8	604	560	550	541	521
Austria	5.7	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.2	250	275	276	276	282
Poland	7.4	6.3	6.2	6.0	5.9	1 282	1 085	1 062	1 034	1 013
Portugal	12.3	11.2	11.1	10.9	11.0	630	573	565	560	562
Romania	6.8	6.2	6.0	6.1	6.0	630	555	534	546	529
Slovenia	9.1	8.0	8.0	7.8	7.8	91	80	79	78	77
Slovakia	11.4	9.9	9.7	9.6	9.5	311	274	269	265	262
Finland	9.4	9.0	8.9	8.9	8.8	254	240	239	238	237
Sweden	7.2	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	379	368	368	368	369
United Kingdom	5.5*	4.9	4.8	:	:	1 798*	1 606	1 604	:	:
Iceland	3.9	2.9	2.8	2.9	2.9	7	6	6	6	6
Norway	4.3**	4.7	4.8	5.0	:	120**	132	135	139	:
United States	5.1	4.7	4.9	4.9	4.9	8 038	7 467	7 796	7 763	7 865

The source datasets are available [here](#) (rates) and [here](#) (in 1000 persons).
: Data not available * June 2015 ** July 2015

Seasonally adjusted youth (under 25s) unemployment

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	Aug 15	May 16	Jun 16	Jul 16	Aug 16	Aug 15	May 16	Jun 16	Jul 16	Aug 16
EA19	22.3	21.0	20.9	20.8	20.7	3 136	2 972	2 951	2 945	2 927
EU28	20.1	18.8	18.7	18.7	18.6	4 580	4 296	4 243	4 233	4 199
Belgium	21.1	21.0	21.0	:	:	82	79	79	:	:
Bulgaria	21.3	15.2	15.4	14.7	14.8	39	25	25	24	24
Czech Republic	12.0	10.8	11.5	11.5	11.6	40	36	38	38	39
Denmark	11.4	11.3	11.8	12.6	12.6	51	55	58	62	61
Germany	7.1	7.1	7.0	7.0	6.9	285	298	296	294	292
Estonia	12.5	13.7	15.5	15.1	:	7	8	9	9	:
Ireland	20.5	17.3	17.9	17.7	17.1	39	36	37	37	36
Greece	48.3	49.1	47.7	:	:	135	127	123	:	:
Spain	47.2	45.3	45.2	43.9	43.2	746	671	654	633	620
France	25.2	24.3	24.5	24.5	24.9	698	681	682	678	691
Croatia	44.6	31.7	31.7	:	:	72	59	59	:	:
Italy	39.6	36.9	37.2	39.2	38.8	621	580	587	609	600
Cyprus	32.1	26.7	26.7	:	:	11	10	10	:	:
Latvia	14.6	18.8	18.7	17.4	15.8	11	15	14	13	12
Lithuania	15.9	15.5	16.2	16.5	16.6	19	19	20	20	20
Luxembourg	17.4	17.3	17.2	17.0	16.9	4	4	4	4	4
Hungary	16.2	13.6	13.1	12.6	:	55	47	46	44	:
Malta	13.3	9.5	10.6	10.8	10.8	4	3	3	3	3
Netherlands	11.2	11.1	10.8	10.8	10.6	158	158	152	152	150
Austria	10.9	11.1	11.3	11.0	10.8	61	62	65	64	62
Poland	20.3	17.6	17.1	16.3	15.8	274	250	237	222	213
Portugal	31.6	28.1	26.8	27.2	27.9	117	102	98	101	102
Romania	21.2	20.4	20.4	:	:	145	121	121	:	:
Slovenia	14.8	14.8	14.8	:	:	11	10	10	:	:
Slovakia	27.0	21.7	20.9	20.0	19.3	57	44	41	39	38
Finland	22.1	20.9	20.8	20.6	20.5	72	67	66	66	66
Sweden	19.3	19.0	18.6	19.7	19.6	129	123	122	122	121
United Kingdom	14.1	13.4	13.5	:	:	639	598	600	:	:
Iceland	8.1	6.0	6.0	6.1	6.1	3	2	2	2	2
Norway	10.4	11.5	10.9	11.1	:	40	42	40	41	:

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				
	Aug 15	May 16	Jun 16	Jul 16	Aug 16	Aug 15	May 16	Jun 16	Jul 16	Aug 16
EA19	10.5	9.7	9.8	9.7	9.7	10.9	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5
EU28	9.2	8.4	8.4	8.4	8.4	9.4	8.9	8.8	8.8	8.8
Belgium	8.5	8.1	8.1	8.1	8.2	7.5	8.4	8.6	8.5	8.3
Bulgaria	9.5	8.6	8.6	8.5	8.4	8.1	7.2	7.2	7.1	7.0
Czech Republic	4.1	3.4	3.5	3.5	3.4	5.8	4.8	4.9	4.9	4.6
Denmark	5.8	5.9	6.0	5.8	5.8	6.6	6.4	6.2	6.8	6.7
Germany	4.9	4.5	4.5	4.6	4.6	4.1	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.8
Estonia	4.8	7.7	8.0	7.6	:	5.9	5.3	5.7	6.0	:
Ireland	10.6	9.6	9.5	9.5	9.5	7.4	6.9	7.0	6.9	6.8
Greece	21.5	19.9	19.8	:	:	28.5	28.2	27.8	:	:
Spain	20.4	18.4	18.2	17.9	17.7	23.1	22.0	21.8	21.6	21.5
France	11.1	10.2	10.4	10.6	10.7	10.1	9.6	9.7	10.0	10.3
Croatia	15.4	12.9	12.5	12.2	11.9	18.1	13.6	13.9	14.0	14.1
Italy	10.8	10.5	10.7	10.6	10.5	12.4	12.7	12.7	12.6	12.6
Cyprus	14.6	12.2	12.1	11.8	11.8	14.8	12.6	12.4	12.4	12.4
Latvia	11.5	10.4	10.4	10.3	10.1	8.5	8.6	8.8	8.8	8.6
Lithuania	9.9	9.3	9.4	10.2	9.9	8.2	7.2	7.4	7.4	7.3
Luxembourg	6.1	5.8	5.7	5.7	5.7	7.1	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8
Hungary	6.4	5.3	5.2	5.1	:	6.8	5.0	4.9	5.0	:
Malta	5.5	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.3	4.8	5.5	5.8	5.7	5.7
Netherlands	6.5	5.9	5.7	5.6	5.4	7.1	6.7	6.6	6.5	6.3
Austria	6.2	6.6	6.5	6.5	6.5	5.1	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.9
Poland	7.2	6.3	6.2	6.1	6.0	7.6	6.3	6.1	5.9	5.8
Portugal	12.1	11.1	10.9	10.7	11.0	12.6	11.4	11.2	11.2	11.0
Romania	7.4	6.9	6.8	6.9	6.8	6.0	5.2	4.9	5.0	4.9
Slovenia	7.8	7.3	7.3	7.2	7.1	10.6	8.9	8.7	8.6	8.5
Slovakia	10.2	8.7	8.5	8.4	8.3	12.8	11.3	11.2	11.0	10.9
Finland	10.0	9.1	9.0	9.0	8.9	8.8	8.8	8.8	8.8	8.8
Sweden	7.4	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.0	6.6	6.6	6.7	6.7
United Kingdom	5.4	4.9	5.0	:	:	5.1	4.8	4.7	:	:
Iceland	4.0	2.9	2.9	2.9	3.0	3.8	2.9	2.8	2.8	2.7
Norway	5.0	5.4	5.6	5.7	:	4.1	4.0	4.0	4.1	:

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

: Data not available