

239/2016 - 1 December 2016

October 2016

Euro area unemployment at 9.8%

EU28 at 8.3%

The **euro area** (EA19) seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate was 9.8% in October 2016, down from 9.9% in September 2016 and from 10.6% in October 2015. This is the lowest rate recorded in the **euro area** since July 2009. The **EU28** unemployment rate was 8.3% in October 2016, down from 8.4% in September 2016 and from 9.1% in October 2015. This is the lowest rate recorded in the **EU28** since February 2009. These figures are published by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**.

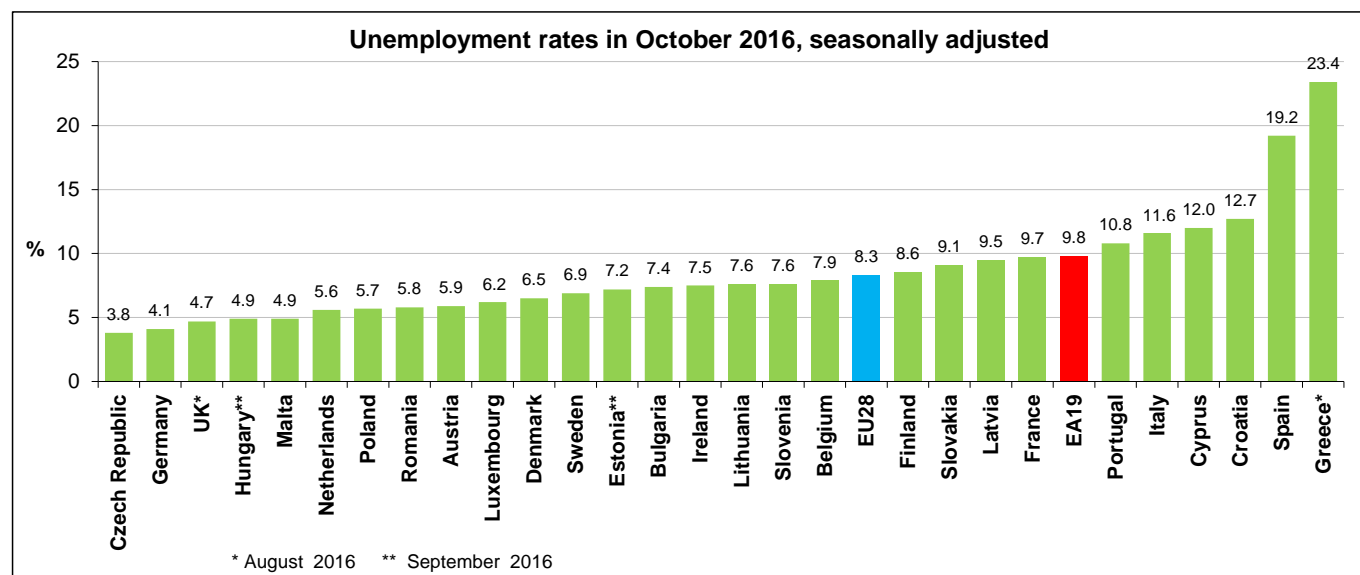
Eurostat estimates that 20.448 million men and women in the **EU28**, of whom 15.908 million were in the **euro area**, were unemployed in October 2016. Compared with September 2016, the number of persons unemployed decreased by 190 000 in the **EU28** and by 178 000 in the **euro area**. Compared with October 2015, unemployment fell by 1.782 million in the **EU28** and by 1.124 million in the **euro area**.

Member States

Among the Member States, the lowest unemployment rates in October 2016 were recorded in the **Czech Republic** (3.8%) and **Germany** (4.1%). The highest unemployment rates were observed in **Greece** (23.4% in August 2016) and **Spain** (19.2%).

Compared with a year ago, the unemployment rate in October 2016 fell in twenty-four Member States, remained stable in **Italy**, while it increased in **Estonia** (from 5.7% to 7.2% between September 2015 and September 2016), **Denmark** (from 6.0% to 6.5%) and **Austria** (from 5.8% to 5.9%). The largest decreases were registered in **Croatia** (from 16.1% to 12.7%), **Spain** (from 21.2% to 19.2%) and **Slovakia** (from 11.1% to 9.1%).

In October 2016, the unemployment rate in the **United States** was 4.9%, down from 5.0% in both September 2016 and October 2015.



Youth unemployment

In October 2016, 4.169 million young persons (under 25) were unemployed in the **EU28**, of whom 2.939 million were in the **euro area**. Compared with October 2015, youth unemployment decreased by 350 000 in the **EU28** and by 171 000 in the **euro area**. In October 2016, the youth unemployment rate was 18.4% in the **EU28** and 20.7% in the **euro area**, compared with 19.9% and 22.2% respectively in October 2015. In October 2016, the lowest rate was observed in **Germany** (6.9%), and the highest were recorded in **Greece** (46.5% in August 2016), **Spain** (43.6%) and **Italy** (36.4%).

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 [217/2016](#) of 3 November 2016, the September 2016 unemployment rate has been revised downwards for both the EA19 (from 10.0% to 9.9%) and the EU28 (from 8.5% to 8.4%). Among Member States, rates have been revised by more than 0.1 percentage points (pp) upwards for Latvia (by 0.5 pp) and Denmark (by 0.2 pp). The unemployment rate has been revised by more than 0.1 pp downwards for Lithuania (by 0.8 pp), France (by 0.3 pp), Ireland and Austria (both by 0.2 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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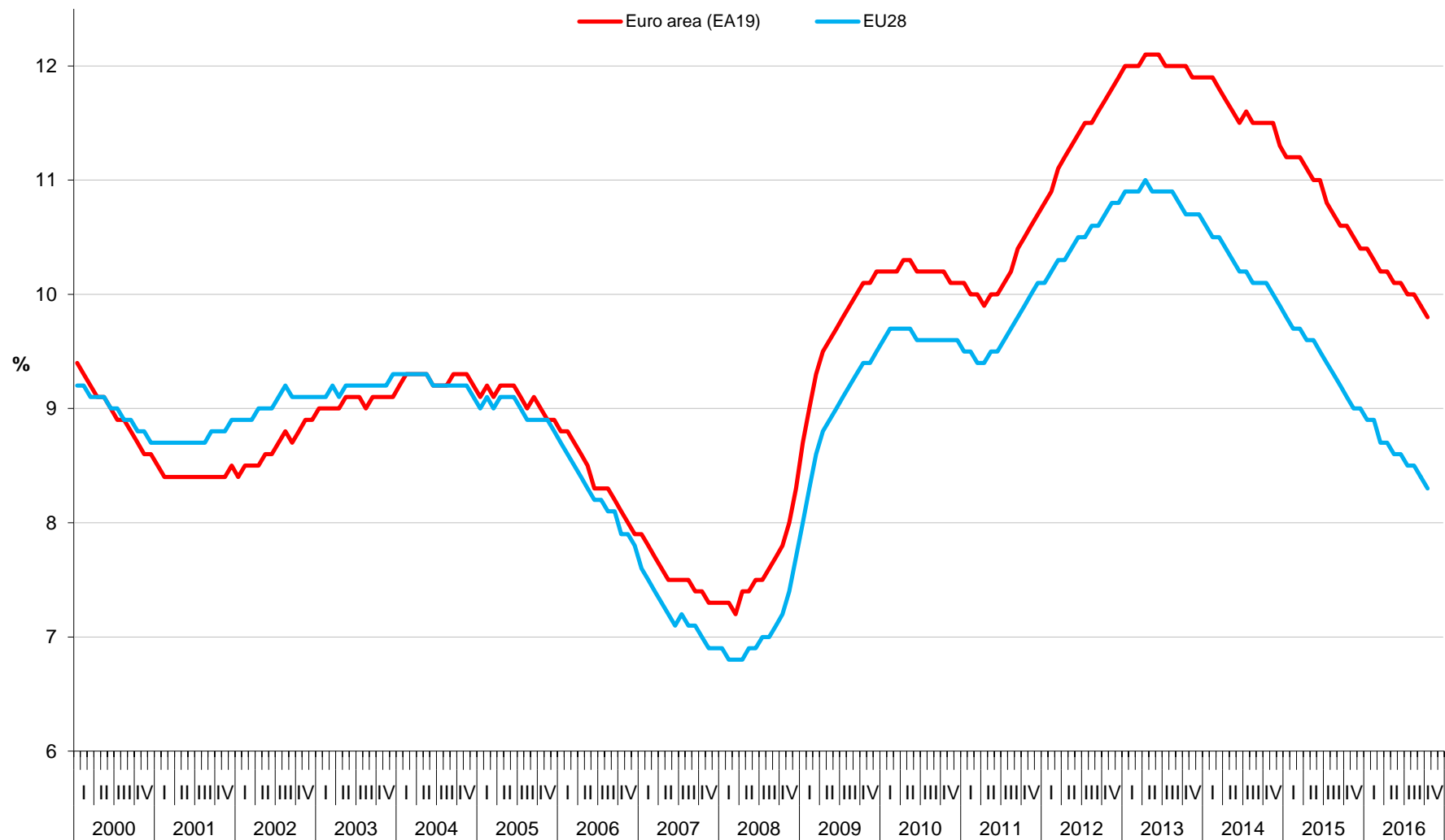
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Euro area and EU28 unemployment rates Seasonally adjusted series



Seasonally adjusted unemployment, totals

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	Oct 15	Jul 16	Aug 16	Sep 16	Oct 16	Oct 15	Jul 16	Aug 16	Sep 16	Oct 16
EA19	10.6	10.0	10.0	9.9	9.8	17 032	16 229	16 200	16 086	15 908
EU28	9.1	8.5	8.5	8.4	8.3	22 230	20 921	20 797	20 638	20 448
Belgium	8.5	8.2	8.2	8.0	7.9	424	412	411	401	396
Bulgaria	8.1	7.8	7.7	7.5	7.4	268	258	254	249	243
Czech Republic	4.6	4.2	3.7	3.9	3.8	243	222	200	210	205
Denmark	6.0	6.3	6.3	6.5	6.5	178	191	192	199	198
Germany	4.5	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.1	1 884	1 815	1 807	1 796	1 782
Estonia	5.7**	7.0	7.6	7.2	:	39**	49	53	50	:
Ireland	9.2	8.0	7.9	7.7	7.5	198	176	173	168	164
Greece	24.6*	23.3	23.4	:	:	1 186*	1 125	1 126	:	:
Spain	21.2	19.5	19.4	19.3	19.2	4 842	4 465	4 435	4 412	4 381
France	10.3	10.1	10.2	9.9	9.7	3 044	2 976	3 016	2 918	2 855
Croatia	16.1	13.0	12.9	12.7	12.7	304	240	237	232	234
Italy	11.6	11.5	11.5	11.7	11.6	2 951	2 964	2 960	3 026	2 989
Cyprus	13.8	12.1	12.1	12.0	12.0	57	51	51	50	51
Latvia	9.8	9.9	9.8	9.7	9.5	98	97	96	95	94
Lithuania	8.9	7.8	7.6	7.6	7.6	130	114	111	111	112
Luxembourg	6.5	6.2	6.3	6.3	6.2	18	17	17	17	17
Hungary	6.5**	5.1	5.0	4.9	:	296**	232	231	224	:
Malta	5.4	4.9	4.8	4.8	4.9	11	10	10	10	10
Netherlands	6.9	6.0	5.8	5.7	5.6	616	541	521	510	502
Austria	5.8	6.2	6.2	6.1	5.9	256	280	280	272	266
Poland	7.3	6.0	5.9	5.8	5.7	1 263	1 036	1 016	996	981
Portugal	12.4	10.9	10.9	10.9	10.8	635	559	560	558	554
Romania	6.6	6.0	5.8	5.8	5.8	613	535	521	522	522
Slovenia	8.5	7.8	7.8	7.7	7.6	85	78	77	76	75
Slovakia	11.1	9.6	9.5	9.3	9.1	305	264	261	257	251
Finland	9.4	8.8	8.7	8.7	8.6	253	236	234	233	232
Sweden	7.1	7.0	6.9	6.9	6.9	374	365	365	364	364
United Kingdom	5.3*	4.8	4.7	:	:	1 739*	1 607	1 568	:	:
Iceland	3.7	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	7	6	6	6	6
Norway	4.6**	5.0	4.9	4.8	:	129**	138	136	135	:
United States	5.0	4.9	4.9	5.0	4.9	7 932	7 763	7 865	7 945	7 794

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

: Data not available

* August 2015

** September 2015

Seasonally adjusted youth (under 25s) unemployment

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	Oct 15	Jul 16	Aug 16	Sep 16	Oct 16	Oct 15	Jul 16	Aug 16	Sep 16	Oct 16
EA19	22.2	21.0	20.9	20.7	20.7	3 110	2 966	2 968	2 939	2 939
EU28	19.9	18.7	18.6	18.4	18.4	4 519	4 252	4 211	4 161	4 169
Belgium	24.5	21.2	21.2	21.2	:	96	81	81	81	:
Bulgaria	20.7	14.6	14.7	14.9	14.5	36	24	24	24	23
Czech Republic	11.5	11.2	11.1	10.1	10.7	39	37	36	33	35
Denmark	10.7	12.5	12.0	12.4	12.2	49	61	58	60	59
Germany	7.2	7.1	7.0	6.9	6.9	288	299	297	295	293
Estonia	15.8	15.3	14.7	13.4	:	9	9	9	8	:
Ireland	20.6	17.7	17.6	16.7	16.4	38	36	36	35	33
Greece	48.7	43.8	46.5	:	:	133	121	124	:	:
Spain	46.8	44.0	43.3	42.9	43.6	715	649	644	651	661
France	24.5	25.2	26.1	25.4	25.8	680	687	718	699	712
Croatia	39.9	29.7	29.7	29.7	:	68	54	54	54	:
Italy	39.2	38.4	37.6	36.8	36.4	619	602	588	573	559
Cyprus	30.7	26.8	26.8	26.8	:	11	10	10	10	:
Latvia	18.6	18.8	17.7	17.5	17.5	16	14	13	13	12
Lithuania	14.1	14.2	13.6	13.7	12.7	17	17	17	17	16
Luxembourg	17.8	17.5	17.5	17.9	17.7	4	4	4	4	4
Hungary	15.3	12.7	12.6	12.5	:	52	44	44	43	:
Malta	12.8	10.7	10.7	10.2	11.4	3	3	3	3	3
Netherlands	11.6	10.8	10.6	10.5	10.5	163	152	150	149	148
Austria	11.4	11.6	11.6	11.4	11.1	64	67	66	64	63
Poland	20.7	16.4	16.0	15.8	15.6	282	225	217	213	210
Portugal	32.0	27.2	26.7	28.6	28.9	119	101	96	104	105
Romania	20.9	20.4*	:	:	:	140	121*	:	:	:
Slovenia	16.9	13.5	13.5	13.5	:	12	8	8	8	:
Slovakia	26.2	20.1	19.5	19.1	18.8	54	40	38	37	37
Finland	21.7	20.5	20.3	20.1	20.1	70	66	66	66	66
Sweden	19.6	19.3	19.1	18.4	18.0	127	119	117	116	114
United Kingdom	13.5	13.3	12.9	:	:	609	586	562	:	:
Iceland	8.0	6.2	6.2	6.0	5.9	3	2	2	2	2
Norway	9.6	10.9	10.7	10.3	:	36	41	40	39	:

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				
	Oct 15	Jul 16	Aug 16	Sep 16	Oct 16	Oct 15	Jul 16	Aug 16	Sep 16	Oct 16
EA19	10.4	9.6	9.6	9.6	9.5	10.8	10.4	10.4	10.3	10.1
EU28	9.0	8.3	8.3	8.2	8.2	9.3	8.8	8.8	8.7	8.6
Belgium	9.0	8.1	8.1	8.1	8.0	7.9	8.5	8.3	8.0	7.8
Bulgaria	8.4	8.5	8.3	8.1	7.9	7.7	7.1	7.0	6.9	6.8
Czech Republic	3.9	3.5	3.3	3.3	3.2	5.5	5.0	4.3	4.8	4.6
Denmark	5.6	5.8	5.7	5.7	5.9	6.5	6.9	7.0	7.4	7.3
Germany	4.8	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.1	3.9	3.8	3.8	3.7
Estonia	6.3	7.6	7.8	7.5	:	6.2	6.4	7.4	6.8	:
Ireland	10.7	9.2	9.1	8.8	8.6	7.3	6.6	6.5	6.3	6.2
Greece	21.2	19.6	19.7	:	:	28.6	28.0	28.0	:	:
Spain	19.8	18.0	17.9	17.8	17.7	22.7	21.3	21.1	21.0	20.8
France	10.8	10.1	10.1	9.8	9.6	9.8	10.1	10.3	10.0	9.8
Croatia	14.5	12.1	11.9	11.7	11.6	18.0	14.0	14.1	13.8	14.1
Italy	11.0	10.7	10.7	11.0	11.0	12.3	12.6	12.6	12.8	12.4
Cyprus	13.9	11.9	11.9	11.8	12.0	13.8	12.4	12.4	12.2	12.0
Latvia	11.2	11.4	11.6	11.6	11.2	8.5	8.3	8.0	7.8	7.9
Lithuania	9.6	8.9	8.7	8.8	8.8	8.2	6.7	6.4	6.4	6.5
Luxembourg	6.0	5.7	5.7	5.8	5.8	7.1	6.8	6.9	6.9	6.8
Hungary	6.4	5.1	5.1	4.8	:	6.5	5.0	5.0	5.0	:
Malta	5.5	4.4	4.2	4.2	4.3	5.3	5.7	5.7	5.6	5.9
Netherlands	6.5	5.6	5.4	5.3	5.1	7.3	6.5	6.3	6.1	6.1
Austria	6.3	6.7	6.6	6.2	6.2	5.3	5.7	5.8	5.9	5.7
Poland	7.2	6.1	5.9	5.8	5.7	7.4	6.0	5.9	5.7	5.7
Portugal	12.2	10.6	10.8	10.8	10.7	12.6	11.2	11.0	11.0	10.9
Romania	7.3	6.7	6.6	6.6	6.6	5.8	4.9	4.8	4.8	4.8
Slovenia	7.8	7.2	7.1	7.1	7.0	9.3	8.6	8.5	8.3	8.3
Slovakia	9.8	8.4	8.3	8.1	7.9	12.7	11.0	10.9	10.7	10.5
Finland	9.9	8.9	8.8	8.8	8.8	8.8	8.7	8.6	8.5	8.5
Sweden	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.3	6.9	6.6	6.6	6.5	6.4
United Kingdom	5.2	4.9	4.8	:	:	4.9	4.8	4.7	:	:
Iceland	3.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.8	3.5	2.9	2.9	3.0	2.9
Norway	5.1	5.6	5.5	5.5	:	4.1	4.2	4.2	4.1	:

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

: Data not available