

March 2011

Euro area unemployment rate at 9.9%

EU27 at 9.5%

The **euro area**¹ (EA17) seasonally-adjusted² unemployment rate³ was 9.9% in March 2011, unchanged compared with February⁴. It was 10.1% in March 2010. The **EU27**¹ unemployment rate was 9.5% in March 2011, also unchanged compared with February⁴. It was 9.7% in March 2010.

Eurostat estimates that 22.828 million men and women in the **EU27**, of whom 15.596 million were in the **euro area**, were unemployed in March 2011. Compared with February 2011, the number of persons unemployed fell by 10 000 in the **EU27** and by 9 000 in the **euro area**. Compared with March 2010, unemployment decreased by 291 000 in the **EU27** and by 260 000 in the **euro area**.

These figures are published by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**.

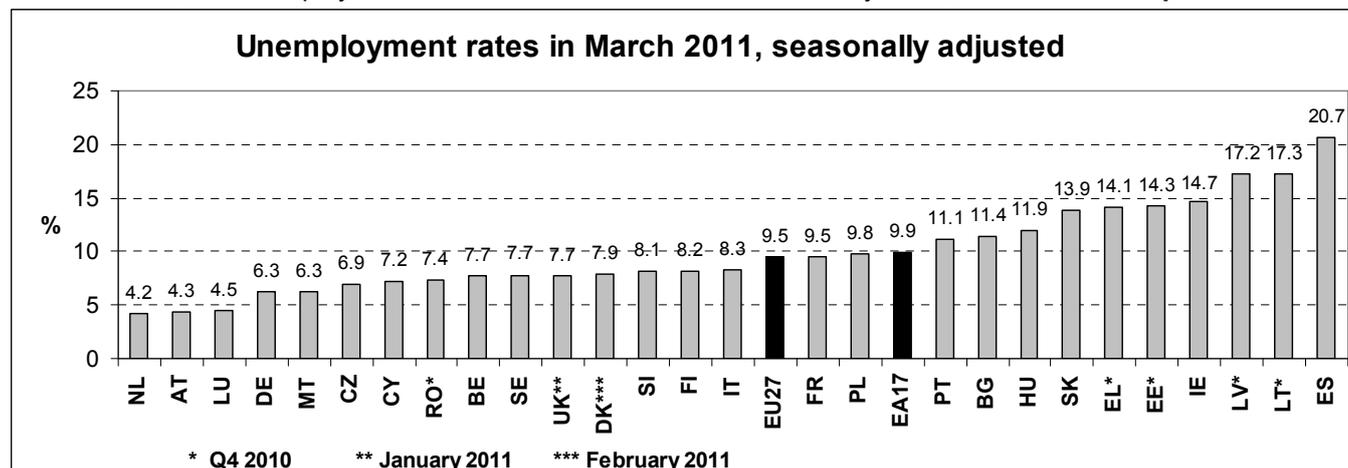
Among the Member States, the lowest unemployment rates were recorded in the **Netherlands** (4.2%), **Austria** (4.3%) and **Luxembourg** (4.5%), and the highest in **Spain** (20.7%), **Lithuania** (17.3% in the fourth quarter of 2010) and **Latvia** (17.2% in the fourth quarter of 2010).

Compared with a year ago, the unemployment rate fell in sixteen Member States, increased in ten and remained stable in **Poland**. The largest falls were observed in **Latvia** (20.1% to 17.2% between the fourth quarters of 2009 and 2010), **Estonia** (16.1% to 14.3% between the fourth quarters of 2009 and 2010) and **Germany** (7.4% to 6.3%). The highest increases were registered in **Greece** (10.2% to 14.1% between the fourth quarters of 2009 and 2010), **Bulgaria** (9.7% to 11.4%) and **Ireland** (13.1% to 14.7%).

Between March 2010 and March 2011, the unemployment rate for males fell from 9.9% to 9.6% in the **euro area** and from 9.8% to 9.4% in the **EU27**. The female unemployment rate decreased from 10.3% to 10.2% in the **euro area**, but increased from 9.5% to 9.6% in the **EU27**.

In March 2011, the youth unemployment rate (under-25s) was 19.8% in the **euro area** and 20.7% in the **EU27**. In March 2010 it was 20.9% and 21.1% respectively. The lowest rates were observed in the **Netherlands** (6.9%), **Germany** (8.2%) and **Austria** (9.4%), and the highest in **Spain** (44.6%), **Greece** (36.1% in the fourth quarter of 2010), **Slovakia** (35.2%) and **Lithuania** (34.2% in the fourth quarter of 2010).

In March 2011, the unemployment rate was 8.8% in the **USA**. In February 2011, it was 4.6% in **Japan**.



1. The euro area (EA17) consists of Belgium, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Italy, Cyprus, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Austria, Portugal, Slovenia, Slovakia and Finland.
The EU27 includes Belgium (BE), Bulgaria (BG), the Czech Republic (CZ), Denmark (DK), Germany (DE), Estonia (EE), Ireland (IE), Greece (EL), Spain (ES), France (FR), Italy (IT), Cyprus (CY), Latvia (LV), Lithuania (LT), Luxembourg (LU), Hungary (HU), Malta (MT), the Netherlands (NL), Austria (AT), Poland (PL), Portugal (PT), Romania (RO), Slovenia (SI), Slovakia (SK), Finland (FI), Sweden (SE) and the United Kingdom (UK).
2. Non-seasonally adjusted and trend data can be found in the statistical database on the Eurostat website.
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.
The numbers of unemployed and the monthly unemployment rates are estimates based on results of the LFS which is a continuous household survey carried out in Member States on the basis of agreed definitions. These results are interpolated/extrapolated to monthly data using national survey data and/or national monthly series on registered unemployment. The most recent figures are therefore provisional; results from the Labour Force Survey are available 90 days after the end of the reference period for most Member States.
Monthly unemployment and employment series are calculated first at the level of four categories for each Member State (males and females 15-24 years, males and females 25-74 years). These series are then seasonally adjusted and all the national and European aggregates are calculated.
Member States may publish other rates such as register based unemployment rates, or rates based on national Labour Force Surveys or corresponding surveys. These rates may vary from those published by Eurostat due to a different definition or methodological choices.
Current deviations from the definition of unemployment in the EU Labour Force Survey:
Spain, Italy and United Kingdom: Unemployment is restricted to persons aged 16-74. In Spain and Italy the legal minimum age for working is 16. Employment data used for Italy includes also those above 74.
4. Compared with the rates published in News Release 49/2011 of 1 April 2011, the February 2011 unemployment rates remain unchanged for the EA17 and the EU27. Among Member States, the rate has been revised by 0.2 percentage points for Italy and Finland. The revisions are primarily caused by the inclusion of the most recent EU Labour Force Survey data in the calculation process and updates to the seasonally adjusted series.
The following LFS data are used in the calculations of the monthly unemployment rates published in this News Release:
For Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Austria, Finland and Sweden monthly data up to and including March 2011.
For the United Kingdom monthly data up to and including December 2010-January 2011-February 2011 (3-month rolling average).
For Spain quarterly data up to and including Q1 2011.
For Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, France, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia and Slovakia quarterly data up to and including Q4 2010.
5. Italy has implemented a method to produce monthly unemployment data purely based on the LFS. For the moment, these data should be considered provisional.
6. Estonia, Greece, Latvia, Lithuania and Romania: quarterly data for all series.
Cyprus and Slovenia: quarterly data for youth unemployment.
7. For Germany, Austria and Finland the trend component is used instead of the more volatile seasonally adjusted data.
8. The methodology for the calculation of the German unemployment series has been adapted to be fully in line with the approach taken for all other Member States. Data from the LFS is now used also for the employment figures in the denominator when calculating the unemployment rates. In addition, trend estimates are published rather than the more volatile seasonally adjusted series. In consequence, the monthly series for Germany published in this News Release are revised by between -0.1 to +0.3 percentage points compared with previous releases (size of revisions refer to data since 2010). The impact on the EU and EA aggregates does not exceed 0.2 percentage points.

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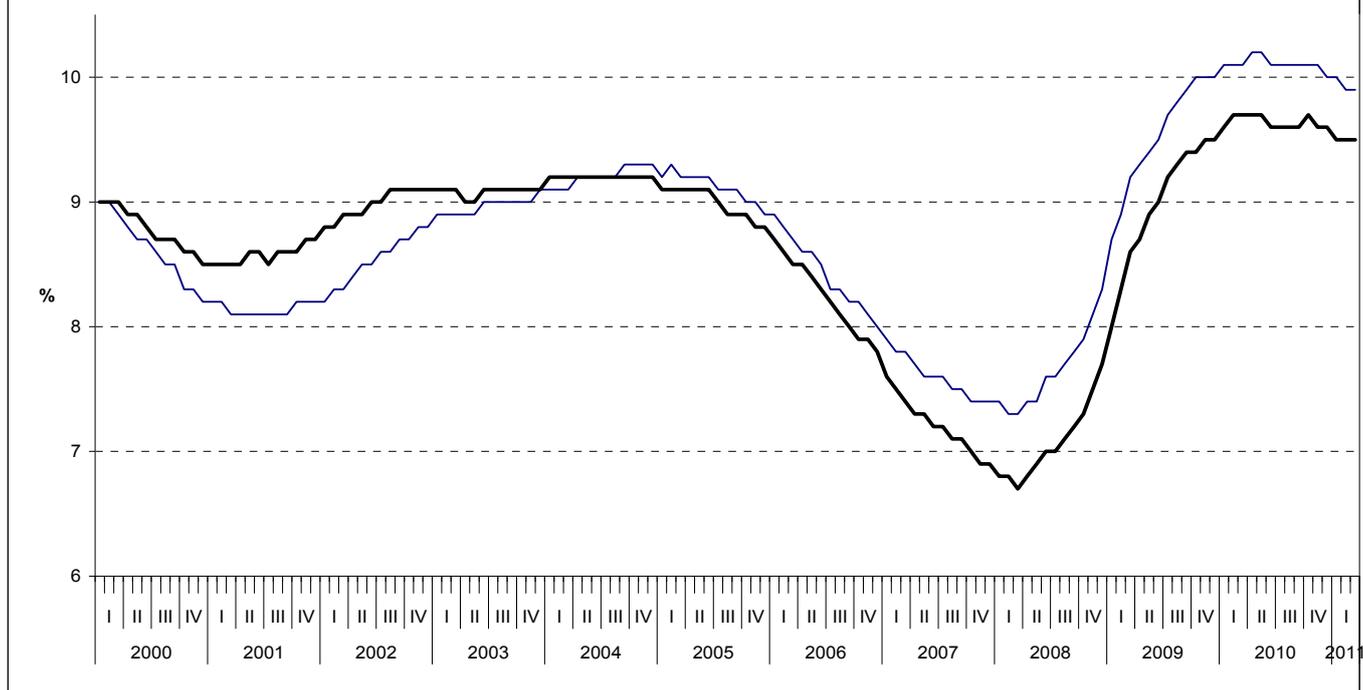
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Selected Principal European Economic Indicators: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/euroindicators>

Euro area and EU27 unemployment rates

— Euro area (EA17), seasonally adjusted series
 — EU27, seasonally adjusted series



SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATES (%) TOTALS

	Mar 2010	Sep 2010	Oct 2010	Nov 2010	Dec 2010	Jan 2011	Feb 2011	Mar 2011
EA17	10.1	10.1	10.1	10.1	10.0	10.0	9.9	9.9
EU27	9.7	9.6	9.7	9.6	9.6	9.5	9.5	9.5
BE	8.4	8.2	8.1	8.0	7.9	7.8	7.7	7.7
BG	9.7	10.6	11.1	11.4	11.4	11.6	11.5	11.4
CZ	7.7	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.2	7.1	7.0	6.9
DK	7.4	7.6	7.6	7.7	7.7	7.9	7.9	:
DE^{7,8}	7.4	6.9	6.8	6.7	6.6	6.4	6.4	6.3
EE⁶	18.9	15.9	14.3	14.3	14.3	:	:	:
IE	13.1	13.9	14.2	14.5	14.8	14.8	14.8	14.7
EL⁶	11.0	13.0	14.1	14.1	14.1	:	:	:
ES	19.6	20.6	20.6	20.5	20.4	20.5	20.6	20.7
FR	9.8	9.7	9.7	9.6	9.6	9.6	9.5	9.5
IT⁵	8.5	8.3	8.5	8.4	8.3	8.3	8.2	8.3
CY	6.4	6.6	6.8	6.8	6.8	7.0	7.2	7.2
LV⁶	19.9	18.3	17.2	17.2	17.2	:	:	:
LT⁶	17.3	18.3	17.3	17.3	17.3	:	:	:
LU	4.6	4.5	4.5	4.6	4.6	4.4	4.4	4.5
HU	11.4	11.0	11.0	11.0	11.3	12.3	12.1	11.9
MT	7.1	6.6	6.6	6.4	6.5	6.3	6.4	6.3
NL	4.5	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.2
AT⁷	4.5	4.3	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.6	4.7	4.3
PL	9.8	9.7	9.7	9.7	9.7	9.7	9.8	9.8
PT	10.7	11.2	11.2	11.2	11.2	11.2	11.1	11.1
RO⁶	7.3	7.3	7.4	7.4	7.4	:	:	:
SI	7.0	7.3	7.6	7.7	8.0	8.0	8.1	8.1
SK	14.6	14.3	14.3	14.1	14.0	14.0	14.0	13.9
FI⁷	8.6	8.2	8.1	8.1	8.1	8.1	8.2	8.2
SE	8.5	8.2	8.1	7.8	7.8	7.9	7.6	7.7
UK	7.9	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.7	:	:
NO	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.6	3.3	3.2	:	:
US	9.7	9.6	9.7	9.8	9.4	9.0	8.9	8.8
JP	5.1	5.0	5.1	5.1	4.9	4.9	4.6	:

: Data not available Source: Eurostat

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATES (%)

	Youth (under 25's)				Males				Females			
	Mar-10	Jan-11	Feb-11	Mar-11	Mar-10	Jan-11	Feb-11	Mar-11	Mar-10	Jan-11	Feb-11	Mar-11
EA17	20.9	20.1	19.9	19.8	9.9	9.7	9.7	9.6	10.3	10.3	10.2	10.2
EU27	21.1	20.7	20.7	20.7	9.8	9.5	9.4	9.4	9.5	9.6	9.6	9.6
BE	23.8	21.1	20.8	20.7	8.2	7.8	7.7	7.6	8.7	7.7	7.7	7.8
BG	22.7	28.1	28.7	28.7	10.3	12.6	12.7	12.8	9.1	10.4	10.2	9.9
CZ	19.2	17.3	17.5	17.5	6.9	6.3	6.2	6.1	8.8	8.1	8.1	8.0
DK	13.4	13.8	13.4	:	8.8	8.4	8.3	:	5.8	7.4	7.4	:
DE ^{7,8}	10.8	8.6	8.4	8.2	7.9	6.9	6.8	6.7	6.8	6.0	5.9	5.8
EE ⁶	39.7	25.9*	:	:	23.4	15.4*	:	:	14.4	13.1*	:	:
IE	26.7	31.7	31.8	31.6	16.4	18.0	17.9	17.8	9.0	10.9	11.0	10.9
EL ⁶	29.9	36.1*	:	:	8.3	11.4*	:	:	14.8	17.8*	:	:
ES	40.4	43.9	44.3	44.6	19.4	19.9	20.0	20.1	19.7	21.1	21.3	21.5
FR	23.8	21.2	20.8	20.5	9.5	8.9	8.8	8.7	10.1	10.3	10.3	10.3
IT ⁵	27.3	29.0	28.3	28.6	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.6	10.0	9.4	9.1	9.2
CY ⁶	17.7	20.2	20.2	20.2	6.3	6.6	6.8	7.0	6.6	7.5	7.6	7.5
LV ⁶	39.4	31.1*	:	:	24.4	18.7*	:	:	15.5	15.8*	:	:
LT ⁶	35.3	34.2*	:	:	21.8	19.7*	:	:	12.9	15.0*	:	:
LU	15.8	15.4	14.9	15.6	4.1	3.7	3.6	3.7	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.5
HU	27.1	27.9	27.4	27.1	11.9	12.7	12.5	12.4	10.7	11.8	11.6	11.4
MT	13.9	11.5	11.6	11.0	6.8	6.3	6.4	6.3	7.8	6.4	6.4	6.3
NL	8.9	7.8	7.4	6.9	4.5	4.2	4.3	4.3	4.5	4.3	4.2	4.1
AT ⁷	9.1	9.1	10.1	9.4	4.9	4.4	4.5	4.1	4.1	4.8	5.0	4.6
PL	23.4	25.0	25.6	26.0	9.5	9.4	9.4	9.5	10.1	10.1	10.1	10.2
PT	21.9	21.3	21.3	21.3	9.8	10.2	10.2	10.2	11.7	12.2	12.2	12.2
RO ⁶	21.1	23.0*	:	:	8.0	8.0*	:	:	6.6	6.6*	:	:
SI ⁶	13.6	13.4	13.4	13.4	7.2	8.3	8.3	8.4	6.7	7.7	7.8	7.8
SK	33.4	34.4	34.8	35.2	14.3	14.1	14.1	14.1	15.0	14.0	13.9	13.8
FI ⁷	22.2	20.9	21.0	21.3	9.4	8.6	8.6	8.6	7.8	7.7	7.7	7.8
SE	26.0	22.7	23.3	24.1	8.9	7.9	7.6	7.2	8.1	7.8	7.6	8.2
UK	19.7	20.0	:	:	8.9	8.3	:	:	6.6	7.0	:	:
NO	9.0	9.1	:	:	4.1	3.7	:	:	2.9	2.7	:	:
US	18.7	18.1	17.7	17.6	10.7	9.5	9.3	9.3	8.6	8.5	8.5	8.3
JP	:	:	:	:	5.6	5.3	4.8	:	4.4	4.3	4.3	:

* Data for Q4 2010 : Data not available Source: Eurostat

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED (in millions)

	Mar 2010	Sep 2010	Oct 2010	Nov 2010	Dec 2010	Jan 2011	Feb 2011	Mar 2011
EA17	15.856	15.913	15.949	15.817	15.700	15.652	15.605	15.596
EU27	23.119	23.117	23.167	23.020	22.967	22.912	22.838	22.828

Euro area and EU27 unemployed (in millions)

