

42/2012 - 15 March 2012

First estimate for the fourth quarter of 2011

Employment down by 0.2% in the euro area and by 0.1% in the EU27

-0.2% and 0.0% respectively compared with the fourth quarter of 2010

The number of persons employed decreased by 0.2% in the **euro area**¹ (EA17) and by 0.1% in the **EU27**¹ in the fourth quarter of 2011 compared with the previous quarter, according to national accounts estimates published by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**. In the third quarter of 2011, employment decreased by 0.2% in both zones. These figures are seasonally adjusted.

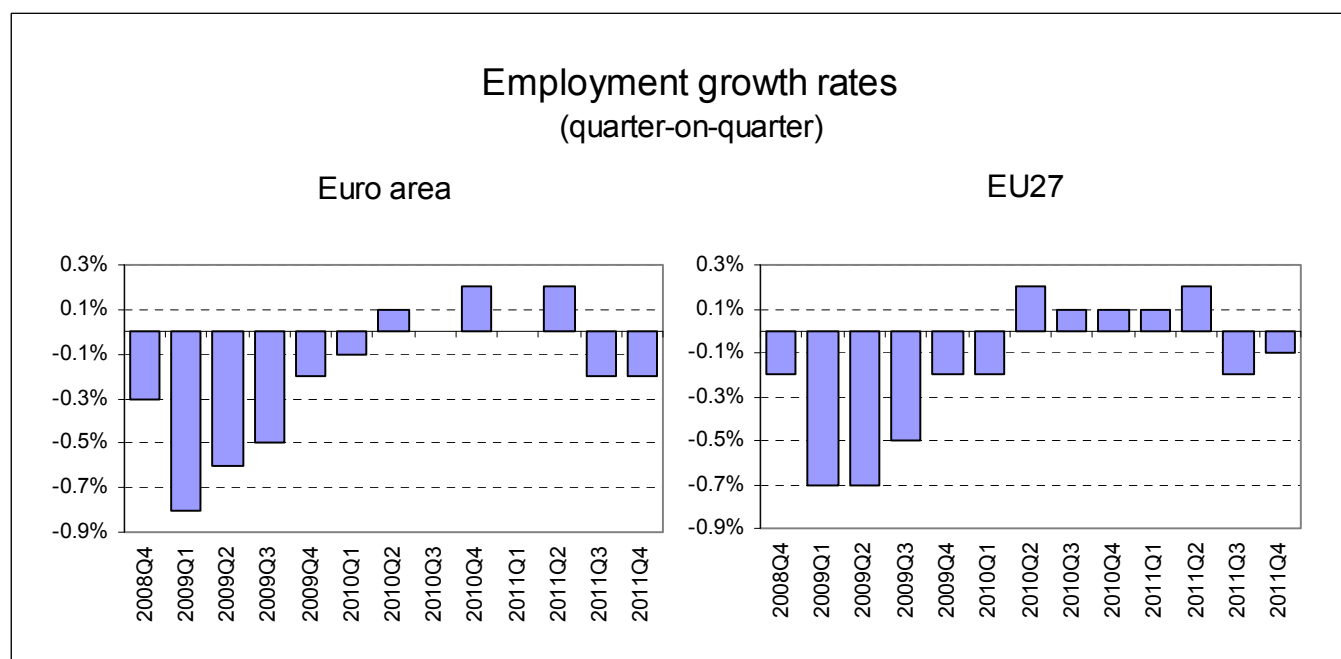
The largest fall in employment was recorded in construction (-1.5% in the **euro area** and -0.8% in the **EU27**) and the highest increase in real estate activities (+2.2% and +2.4% respectively).

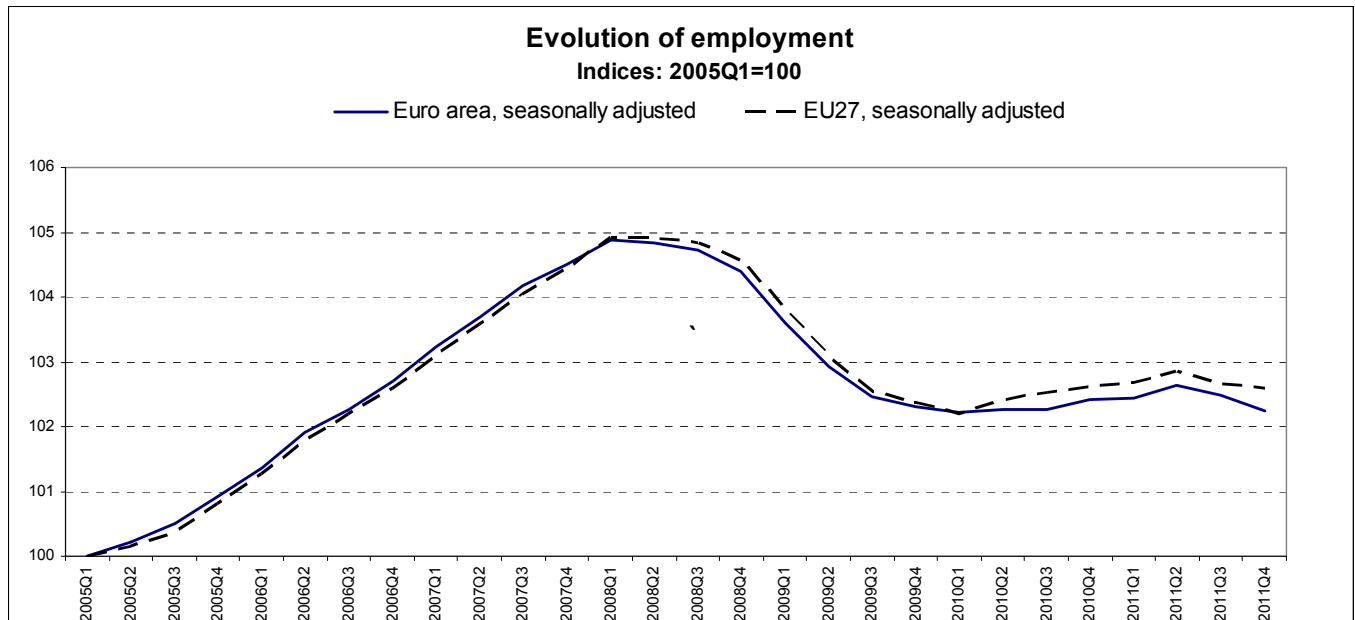
Compared with the same quarter of the previous year, employment fell by 0.2% in the **euro area** and remained stable in the **EU27** in the fourth quarter of 2011.

Over the whole year 2011, employment increased by 0.2% in the **euro area** and by 0.3% in the **EU27**, compared with -0.5% in both zones in 2010.

Eurostat estimates that, in the fourth quarter of 2011, 223.0 million men and women were employed in the **EU27**, of which 146.4 million in the **euro area**. These figures are seasonally adjusted.

These quarterly data on employment provide a picture of labour input consistent with the output and income measure of national accounts.





1. The euro area (EA17) includes Belgium, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Italy, Cyprus, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Austria, Portugal, Slovenia, Slovakia and Finland.
The EU27 includes Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Italy, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Hungary, Malta, the Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Finland, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

Methodological information:

Estimates of employment in the European quarterly national accounts are compiled in accordance with the European System of Accounts 1995 (ESA95). National accounts measure employment alongside other variables such as GDP, output, compensation of employees, etc. ESA95 (chapter 11) defines employment in line with International Labour Organisation criteria.

Employment covers employees and self-employed working in resident production units (i.e. the domestic employment concept). Unless otherwise stated, all employment estimates in this release use *persons* as the measurement unit. ESA95 acknowledges other possible measures for employment: jobs, full-time equivalents and total hours worked.

The methodology used by Eurostat to estimate the European aggregates in this release is the same as for the European quarterly national accounts (for details see Eurostat press release 77/2006 of 14 June 2006, annex I). Estimates of employment in national accounts may differ from results of other statistics and surveys, in particular the labour force survey. For further details see press release 77/2006 of 14 June 2006, annex II. The estimate of fourth quarter of 2011 employment growth presented in this release is based on Member States' data, as available. For this quarter it covers close to 100% of employment in both the euro area and the EU27.

More data on European quarterly national accounts are available on Eurostat's website ("Data" / "Economy and finance" / "National Accounts"). Additional general information on European national accounts is also available in the metadata files linked to the tables.

Release policy:

Eurostat publishes a first quarterly estimate of employment in national accounts 75 days after the end of the reference period ('t+75 days'). A second estimate of employment after t+100 days is published in the Eurostat database, together with the third GDP estimate (scheduled for 3 April 2012).

Euro area and EU employment figures for earlier quarters are revised in both first and second employment estimates.

Issued by: **Eurostat Press Office**

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

For further information on data:

Jenny RUNESSON
Tel: +352-4301-36 130
estat-gdp-query@ec.europa.eu

Eurostat news releases on the internet: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat>
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Employment growth rates*

	Percentage change compared with the previous quarter				Percentage change compared with the same quarter of the previous year			
	2011				2011			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
EA17	0.0	0.2	-0.2	-0.2	0.2	0.4	0.2	-0.2
EU27	0.1	0.2	-0.2	-0.1	0.5	0.4	0.1	0.0
Member States								
Belgium	0.4	0.4	0.0	-0.1	1.6	1.6	1.4	0.7
Bulgaria	-1.2	-0.6	-0.9	0.2	-5.0	-4.5	-5.0	-2.3
Czech Republic	-0.1	0.2	0.4	-0.3	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.1
Denmark	-0.2	0.0	-0.4	0.1	-0.5	-0.5	-1.0	-0.5
Germany	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.4
Estonia	3.0	1.0	1.8	-1.0	6.5	7.7	8.9	4.8
Ireland	-0.5	0.1	-0.9	c	-2.8	-2.0	-2.5	c
Greece**	:	:	:	:	-4.7p	-6.1p	-7.6p	-8.5p
Spain	-0.5	-0.2	-1.2	-1.0	-1.6	-1.3	-2.2	-3.0
France	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.6	0.8	0.8	0.6
Italy	-0.1	0.5	-0.3	-0.1	0.2	0.6	0.7	-0.2
Cyprus	0.1	0.0	0.0	-0.1	1.1	0.9	0.4	-0.3
Latvia	1.0	1.1	0.3	1.4	3.2	3.6	2.8	3.9
Lithuania	0.5	1.7	-1.9	0.7	0.9	4.3	2.0	0.9
Luxembourg	0.7	0.9	0.5	:	2.5	2.9	2.9	:
Hungary	-0.9	0.3	0.6	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.5	0.3
Malta	1.5	0.5	0.9	-0.8	2.4	1.9	3.0	2.2
Netherlands	-0.1	0.1	0.1	-0.1	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.0
Austria	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.3
Poland	0.0p	0.2p	0.2p	0.7p	1.9p	1.0p	0.4p	0.6p
Portugal	-0.1	0.1	-0.4	-2.7	-1.6	-0.8	-0.7	-3.1
Romania	:	:	:	:	-0.5	-0.1	0.8	1.5
Slovenia	-0.4	-0.2	-0.4	-0.3	-2.1	-1.8	-1.7	-1.3
Slovakia	0.8	0.3	0.2	0.0	2.3	2.3	1.7	0.9
Finland	0.6	1.1	-0.3	0.3	0.5	1.4	1.2	1.6
Sweden	0.8	0.3	0.3	0.1	2.8	2.4	2.1	1.5
United Kingdom	0.4	0.1	-0.7	0.2	1.4	0.8	-0.4	0.0
EFTA countries								
Norway	0.2	0.5	0.7	0.3	0.7	1.3	1.8	1.8

: Data not available c: confidential p: provisional data

* Percentage change in the number of persons employed in resident production units compared with the previous quarter based on seasonally adjusted data. Percentage change compared with the same quarter of the previous year based on non-seasonally adjusted data.

** More information can be found on the website of the Greek Statistical Office:

http://www.statistics.gr/portal/page/portal/ESYE/BUCKET/A0704/PressReleases/A0704_SEL84_DT_QQ_02_2011_01_P_EN.pdf

T1 - TOTAL EMPLOYMENT AND EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

t/t-1 - PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER THE PREVIOUS QUARTER – SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

NACE Rev 2	Total economy				Agriculture, forestry and fishing				Industry (mining, manufacturing, electricity, water and waste)				Of which: Manufacturing				Construction				Trade, transport, accommodation and food service activities				Information and communication			
Division					A				B, C, D and E				C				F				G, H and I				J			
	2011				2011				2011				2011				2011				2011				2011			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
EA17	0.0	0.2	-0.2	-0.2	-1.7	0.4	-1.0	-0.8	0.2	0.0	0.1	-0.3	0.2	-0.1	0.0	-0.2	-1.2	-0.5	-1.6	-1.5	0.0	0.6	-0.1	-0.4	1.3	0.5	-0.3	0.0
EU27	0.1	0.2	-0.2	-0.1	-0.8	0.0	0.0	-0.3	0.4	0.1	-0.2	0.0	0.4	0.1	-0.3	0.0	-1.1	-0.3	-1.0	-0.8	0.1	0.5	-0.1	-0.3	1.5	0.8	-0.2	-0.1

NACE Rev 2	Financial and insurance activities				Real estate activities				Professional and support service activities				Administration and other public services				Arts, entertainment and other services			
Division	K				L				M and N				O, P and Q				R, S, T and U			
	2011				2011				2011				2011				2011			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
EA17	0.4	-0.2	0.1	-0.1	2.4	-0.5	-0.5	2.2	0.9	0.9	-0.2	0.4	-0.1	-0.1	0.1	-0.1	-0.2	-0.4	0.0	0.0
EU27	0.4	-0.1	-0.4	0.1	0.9	-0.6	-0.2	2.4	0.6	1.1	0.1	0.4	-0.2	-0.2	-0.3	0.0	0.0	-0.5	0.2	0.2

T2 - TOTAL EMPLOYMENT AND EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

t/t-4 - PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER THE SAME QUARTER OF THE PREVIOUS YEAR – NON-SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

NACE Rev 2	Total economy				Agriculture, forestry and fishing				Industry (mining, manufacturing, electricity, water and waste)				Of which: Manufacturing				Construction				Trade, transport, accommodation and food service activities				Information and communication			
Division					A				B, C, D and E				C				F				G, H and I				J			
	2011				2011				2011				2011				2011				2011				2011			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
EA17	0.2	0.4	0.2	-0.2	-2.8	-2.1	-2.2	-3.3	-0.2	-0.2	0.1	0.0	-0.1	-0.2	0.1	0.0	-3.4	-2.9	-4.0	-4.8	0.2	1.1	0.9	0.0	1.0	2.0	1.8	1.4
EU27	0.5	0.4	0.1	0.0	-0.8	-1.0	-0.7	-1.3	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3	-2.0	-2.2	-2.8	-3.2	0.4	0.9	0.5	0.2	1.8	3.0	2.7	1.4

NACE Rev 2	Financial and insurance activities				Real estate activities				Professional and support service activities				Administration and other public services				Arts, entertainment and other services			
Division	K				L				M and N				O, P and Q				R, S, T and U			
	2011				2011				2011				2011				2011			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
EA17	-0.1	0.0	0.2	0.2	3.3	2.6	0.7	3.7	3.2	3.4	2.1	2.0	0.3	0.0	0.1	-0.1	0.4	-0.4	0.0	-0.7
EU27	1.5	0.5	-0.1	-0.1	0.8	-0.4	-1.7	2.7	2.4	3.2	2.4	2.1	0.3	-0.3	-0.7	-0.3	0.9	0.1	0.5	-0.7