

October 2015

Euro area unemployment rate at 10.7%

EU28 at 9.3%

The **euro area** (EA19) seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate was 10.7% in October 2015, down from 10.8% in September 2015, and from 11.5% in October 2014. This is the lowest rate recorded in the **euro area** since January 2012. The **EU28** unemployment rate was 9.3% in October 2015, stable compared to September 2015, and down from 10.1% in October 2014. This is the lowest rate recorded in the **EU28** since September 2009. These figures are published by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**.

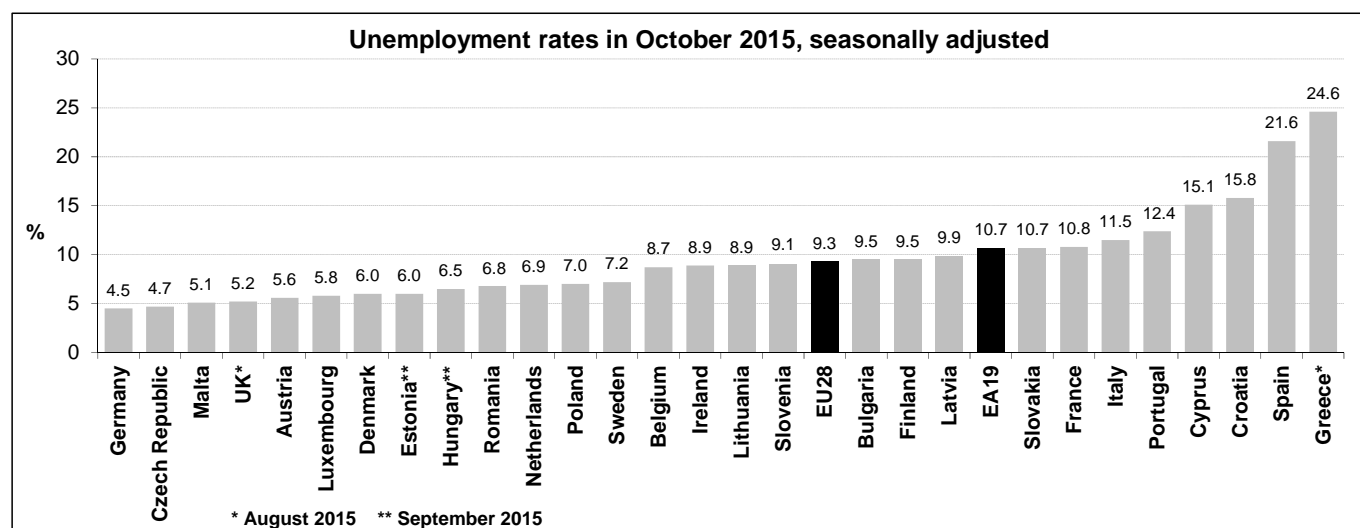
Eurostat estimates that 22.497 million men and women in the **EU28**, of whom 17.240 million were in the **euro area**, were unemployed in October 2015. Compared with September 2015, the number of persons unemployed decreased by 36 000 in the **EU28** and by 13 000 in the **euro area**. Compared with October 2014, unemployment fell by 1.942 million in the **EU28** and by 1.302 million in the **euro area**.

Member States

Among the Member States, the lowest unemployment rates in October 2015 were recorded in **Germany** (4.5%), the **Czech Republic** (4.7%) and **Malta** (5.1%), and the highest in **Greece** (24.6% in August 2015) and **Spain** (21.6%).

Compared with a year ago, the unemployment rate in October 2015 fell in twenty-four Member States and increased in four. The largest decreases were registered in **Spain** (from 23.9% to 21.6%), **Slovakia** (from 12.7% to 10.7%), **Ireland** (from 10.7% to 8.9%) and **Croatia** (from 17.6% to 15.8%). The increases were registered in **Finland** (9.0% to 9.5%), **France** (10.5% to 10.8%), **Belgium** (8.6% to 8.7%) and **Romania** (6.7% to 6.8%).

In October 2015, the unemployment rate in the **United States** was 5.0%, down from 5.1% in September 2015 and from 5.7% in October 2014.



Youth unemployment

In October 2015, 4.530 million young persons (under 25) were unemployed in the **EU28**, of whom 3.148 million were in the **euro area**. Compared with October 2014, youth unemployment decreased by 466 000 in the **EU28** and by 191 000 in the **euro area**. In October 2015, the youth unemployment rate was 20.0% in the **EU28** and 22.3% in the **euro area**, compared with 21.7% and 23.3% respectively in October 2014. In October 2015, the lowest rates were observed in **Germany** (7.1%), **Austria** (10.4%), **Denmark** (10.9%) and the **Netherlands** (11.6%), and the highest in **Greece** (47.9% in August 2015), **Spain** (47.7%), **Croatia** (43.1% in the third quarter 2015) and **Italy** (39.8%).

Geographical coverage

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; inclusion of new weights in the LFS data due to the 2011 Census.

Compared with the rates published in News Release [192/2015](#) of 30 October 2015, the September 2015 unemployment rates remained unchanged for both EU28 and EA19. Among Member States, rates have been revised by more than 0.1 percentage points (pp) downwards for Lithuania (by 0.5 pp), Ireland (by 0.4 pp), Denmark and Italy (both by 0.2 pp). The unemployment rate has been revised by more than 0.1 pp upwards for Portugal (by 0.2 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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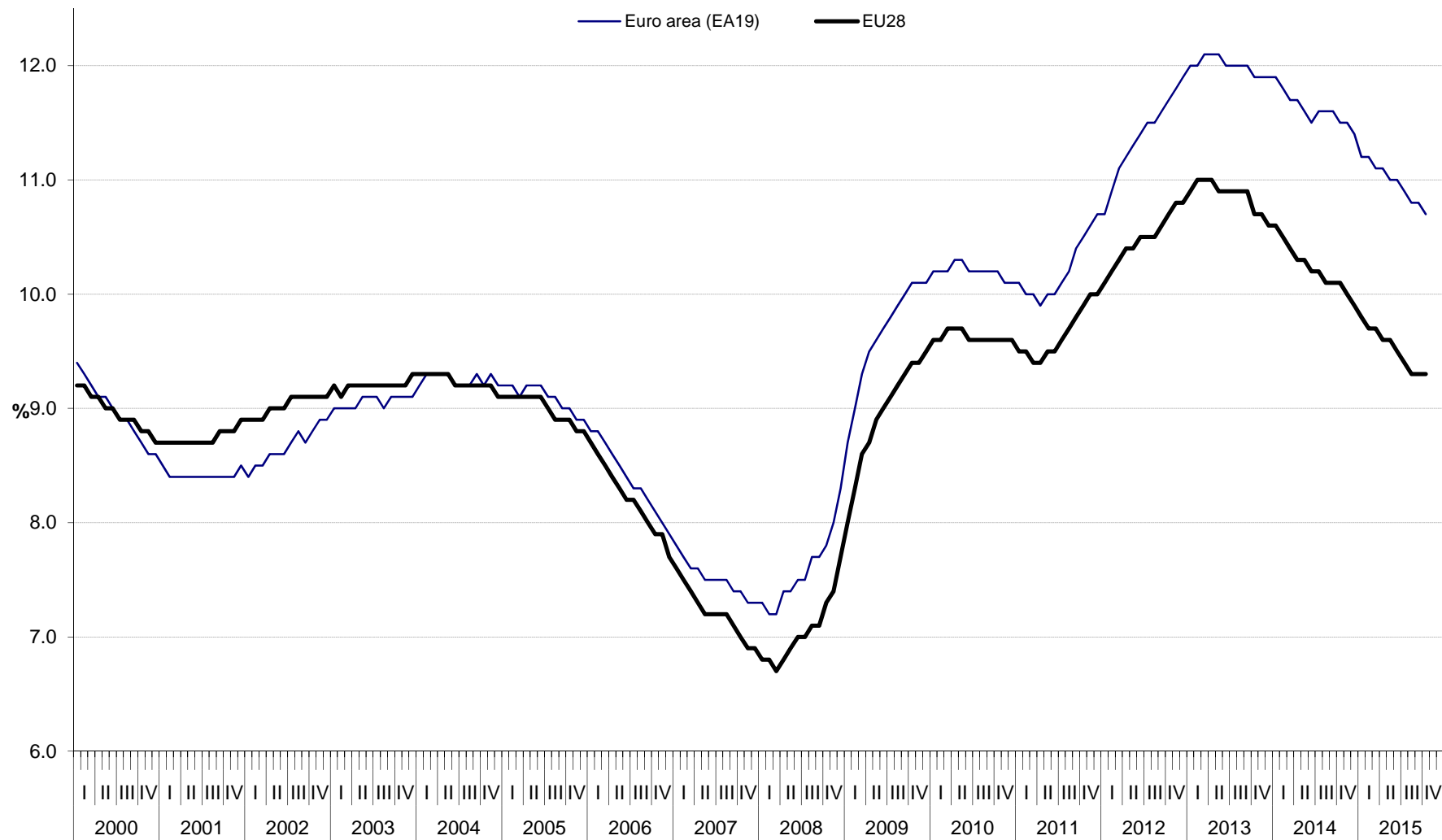
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Euro area and EU28 unemployment rates Seasonally adjusted series



Seasonally adjusted unemployment, totals

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	Oct 14	Jul 15	Aug 15	Sep 15	Oct 15	Oct 14	Jul 15	Aug 15	Sep 15	Oct 15
EA19	11.5	10.9	10.8	10.8	10.7	18 542	17 417	17 358	17 253	17 240
EU28	10.1	9.4	9.3	9.3	9.3	24 439	22 785	22 656	22 533	22 497
Belgium	8.6	8.8	8.8	8.7	8.7	429	435	434	431	429
Bulgaria	10.9	9.8	9.7	9.5	9.5	368	324	322	316	316
Czech Republic	5.8	5.0	4.8	4.8	4.7	305	263	256	252	249
Denmark	6.5	6.2	6.2	6.0	6.0	190	182	181	176	176
Germany	5.0	4.6	4.5	4.5	4.5	2 080	1 921	1 898	1 880	1 868
Estonia	7.7**	5.8	5.8	6.0	:	52**	40	40	41	:
Ireland	10.7	9.2	9.1	9.0	8.9	229	200	197	194	192
Greece	26.2*	24.9	24.6	:	:	1 258*	1 196	1 180	:	:
Spain	23.9	21.9	21.8	21.6	21.6	5 482	5 031	4 987	4 956	4 953
France	10.5	10.7	10.8	10.8	10.8	3 079	3 139	3 188	3 171	3 196
Croatia	17.6	15.7	15.6	15.5	15.8	333	298	296	294	295
Italy	13.0	11.8	11.7	11.6	11.5	3 337	2 997	2 977	2 940	2 927
Cyprus	16.4	15.2	15.2	15.0	15.1	71	65	65	64	65
Latvia	10.7	10.1	10.0	9.9	9.9	104	100	99	98	99
Lithuania	10.3	9.1	9.0	9.0	8.9	151	134	133	132	131
Luxembourg	6.1	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.8	16	16	16	16	16
Hungary	7.3**	6.8	6.5	6.5	:	323**	308	297	295	:
Malta	6.0	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	12	10	10	10	10
Netherlands	7.1	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.9	632	603	604	609	616
Austria	5.7	5.6	5.7	5.6	5.6	247	248	249	248	245
Poland	8.4	7.3	7.2	7.1	7.0	1 461	1 251	1 239	1 229	1 214
Portugal	13.5	12.3	12.3	12.4	12.4	694	628	629	634	633
Romania	6.7	6.8	6.8	6.9	6.8	618	628	632	634	630
Slovenia	9.5	9.4	9.3	9.2	9.1	95	95	93	92	91
Slovakia	12.7	11.2	11.1	10.9	10.7	347	305	302	298	293
Finland	9.0	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5	242	256	257	257	259
Sweden	7.9	7.4	7.2	7.2	7.2	410	384	380	377	374
United Kingdom	5.9*	5.3	5.2	:	:	1 926*	1 734	1 705	:	:
Iceland	4.6	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	9	8	8	8	8
Norway	3.7**	4.3	4.6	4.6	:	103**	120	128	127	:
United States	5.7	5.3	5.1	5.1	5.0	9 061	8 292	8 080	7 887	7 947

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

: Data not available

* August 2014

** September 2014

Seasonally adjusted youth (under 25s) unemployment

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	Oct 14	Jul 15	Aug 15	Sep 15	Oct 15	Oct 14	Jul 15	Aug 15	Sep 15	Oct 15
EA19	23.3	22.1	22.2	22.2	22.3	3 339	3 105	3 127	3 123	3 148
EU28	21.7	20.0	19.9	19.9	20.0	4 996	4 544	4 517	4 508	4 530
Belgium	22.5	23.2	23.2	23.8	24.3	90	94	94	96	97
Bulgaria	22.8	21.5	21.4	21.1	21.5	44	39	38	37	37
Czech Republic	14.3	12.8	12.1	12.3	12.3	51	43	41	42	42
Denmark	11.8	11.4	11.6	10.7	10.9	54	52	52	48	49
Germany	7.4	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1	313	292	291	289	287
Estonia	13.7	12.0	13.6	15.1	:	8	7	8	8	:
Ireland	22.1	20.6	20.6	20.4	19.7	43	39	39	39	38
Greece	51.3	48.3	47.9	:	:	158	136	132	:	:
Spain	52.1	48.2	48.0	47.7	47.7	818	753	758	767	784
France	24.5	24.3	24.5	24.5	24.7	675	658	664	662	668
Croatia	45.4	43.1	43.1	43.1	:	75	64	64	64	:
Italy	42.6	39.2	39.7	39.4	39.8	685	606	618	604	611
Cyprus	34.3	32.5	32.5	32.5	:	14	14	14	14	:
Latvia	19.1	15.3	14.5	15.1	17.1	16	12	11	11	13
Lithuania	18.6	16.4	16.1	16.1	15.6	25	20	20	20	19
Luxembourg	21.4	16.7	16.9	16.8	16.9	4	4	4	4	4
Hungary	19.3	17.6	15.9	15.7	:	64	61	54	54	:
Malta	11.4	12.6	12.8	13.1	13.1	3	3	3	3	3
Netherlands	12.0	11.3	11.2	11.5	11.6	165	159	158	161	163
Austria	10.4	10.2	10.8	10.8	10.4	59	57	60	61	58
Poland	22.4	19.4	19.2	19.3	19.2	317	257	253	253	253
Portugal	32.9	31.1	31.6	31.9	31.8	122	113	117	118	117
Romania	23.6	22.3*	:	:	:	159	153*	:	:	:
Slovenia	18.9	16.2	16.2	16.2	:	14	12	12	12	:
Slovakia	27.6	25.1	24.5	23.7	23.2	58	51	50	48	47
Finland	21.1	23.0	22.6	22.2	22.0	70	75	74	73	73
Sweden	22.6	21.0	19.7	19.9	19.7	148	132	130	129	128
United Kingdom	16.6	14.4	13.7	:	:	740	643	614	:	:
Iceland	9.6	8.9	8.9	9.0	9.0	3	3	3	3	3
Norway	8.1	10.6	10.4	9.9	:	29	41	40	37	:

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

: Data not available

* Q2 2015

Croatia, Cyprus, Romania and Slovenia: quarterly data

Seasonally adjusted unemployment rates (%), by gender

	Males					Females				
	Oct 14	Jul 15	Aug 15	Sep 15	Oct 15	Oct 14	Jul 15	Aug 15	Sep 15	Oct 15
EA19	11.4	10.7	10.7	10.6	10.7	11.7	11.0	11.0	10.9	10.8
EU28	10.0	9.3	9.3	9.2	9.2	10.2	9.4	9.4	9.3	9.3
Belgium	8.9	9.6	9.6	9.6	9.6	8.3	7.9	7.8	7.7	7.7
Bulgaria	11.9	10.7	10.6	10.5	10.4	9.9	8.6	8.6	8.4	8.5
Czech Republic	4.9	4.2	4.1	3.9	4.0	6.9	6.0	5.8	5.8	5.7
Denmark	6.4	5.9	5.8	5.5	5.6	6.5	6.5	6.7	6.5	6.5
Germany	5.3	5.0	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.6	4.1	4.1	4.0	4.0
Estonia	7.2	5.9	5.7	6.0	:	6.6	5.7	5.8	5.9	:
Ireland	12.1	10.6	10.5	10.4	10.2	8.9	7.6	7.4	7.3	7.3
Greece	23.3	21.7	21.5	:	:	29.6	28.9	28.5	:	:
Spain	22.9	20.7	20.6	20.5	20.5	25.0	23.4	23.2	23.0	22.8
France	10.7	11.1	11.3	11.2	11.4	10.2	10.2	10.3	10.3	10.2
Croatia	17.2	15.5	15.4	15.3	15.5	18.1	15.8	15.8	15.8	16.1
Italy	12.2	11.2	11.0	11.0	11.1	14.1	12.5	12.6	12.3	12.2
Cyprus	17.3	15.0	15.1	15.0	15.1	15.4	15.3	15.2	15.1	15.1
Latvia	11.1	11.6	11.5	11.4	11.4	10.2	8.6	8.5	8.3	8.5
Lithuania	11.7	10.2	10.1	10.1	10.0	8.8	8.0	8.0	7.9	7.8
Luxembourg	5.5	5.1	5.1	5.0	5.1	6.7	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6
Hungary	7.2	6.5	6.4	6.4	:	7.5	7.2	6.8	6.7	:
Malta	6.2	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.7	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8
Netherlands	6.8	6.4	6.5	6.5	6.5	7.5	7.1	7.1	7.3	7.3
Austria	6.1	6.0	6.2	6.2	6.1	5.2	5.3	5.1	5.0	5.0
Poland	8.0	7.2	7.1	7.1	7.0	8.9	7.4	7.3	7.2	7.1
Portugal	13.2	12.2	12.0	12.2	12.0	13.9	12.4	12.6	12.6	12.7
Romania	7.1	7.5	7.6	7.7	7.6	6.1	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.7
Slovenia	8.8	8.4	8.3	8.2	8.2	10.3	10.6	10.6	10.3	10.2
Slovakia	12.0	9.9	9.7	9.5	9.3	13.6	12.8	12.7	12.6	12.4
Finland	9.8	10.0	10.0	9.9	9.9	8.2	9.0	9.0	9.1	9.2
Sweden	8.1	7.5	7.4	7.4	7.3	7.7	7.2	7.1	7.1	7.0
United Kingdom	6.0	5.5	5.4	:	:	5.5	5.1	5.0	:	:
Iceland	4.5	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.7	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4
Norway	3.9	4.7	4.9	4.9	:	3.6	4.0	4.2	4.2	:

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

: Data not available