Euro area unemployment at 8.9%
EU28 at 7.5%

The euro area (EA19) seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate was 8.9% in September 2017, down from 9.0% in August 2017 and from 9.9% in September 2016. This is the lowest rate recorded in the euro area since January 2009. The EU28 unemployment rate was 7.5% in September 2017, stable compared to August 2017 and down from 8.4% in September 2016. This remains the lowest rate recorded in the EU28 since November 2008. These figures are published by Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union.

Eurostat estimates that 18.446 million men and women in the EU28, of whom 14.513 million in the euro area, were unemployed in September 2017. Compared with August 2017, the number of persons unemployed decreased by 116 000 in the EU28 and by 96 000 in the euro area. Compared with September 2016, unemployment fell by 2.076 million in the EU28 and by 1.463 million in the euro area.

Member States

Among the Member States, the lowest unemployment rates in September 2017 were recorded in the Czech Republic (2.7%), Germany (3.6%) and Malta (4.1%). The highest unemployment rates were observed in Greece (21.0% in July 2017) and Spain (16.7%).

Compared with a year ago, the unemployment rate fell in all Member States for which data is comparable over time, except Finland where it remained stable and Lithuania where it increased (from 7.6% to 7.7%). The largest decreases were registered in Cyprus (from 13.0% to 10.3%), Spain (from 19.1% to 16.7%) and Greece (from 23.4% to 21.0% between July 2016 and July 2017).

In September 2017, the unemployment rate in the United States was 4.2%, down from 4.4% in August 2017 and from 4.9% in September 2016.
Youth unemployment

In September 2017, 3.735 million young persons (under 25) were unemployed in the EU28, of whom 2.656 million were in the euro area. Compared with September 2016, youth unemployment decreased by 396 000 in the EU28 and by 229 000 in the euro area. In September 2017, the youth unemployment rate was 16.6% in the EU28 and 18.7% in the euro area, compared with 18.3% and 20.4% respectively in September 2016. In September 2017, the lowest rate was observed in Germany (6.4%), while the highest were recorded in Greece (42.8% in July 2017), Spain (37.2%) and Italy (35.7%).

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;
- 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.

When data for the most recent month are not available for a Member State, EU and EA aggregates are calculated using the latest data available for that Member State.

Country notes
Belgium: Due to a methodological break in the LFS data for the 1st quarter of 2017, data prior to Q1 2017 are not comparable and therefore not shown.
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 145/2017 of 2 October 2017, the August 2017 unemployment has been revised downwards for both the EU28 (from 7.6% to 7.5%) and the EA19 (from 9.1% to 9.0%). Among Member States, the rate has been revised by more than 0.1 percentage points (pp) downwards for Spain (by 0.3 pp) as well as for Estonia, Ireland and Croatia (all by 0.2 pp, July data for Estonia).

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 e-indicators release calendar

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Media requests: Eurostat media support / Tel: +352-4301-33 408 / eurostat-mediasupport@ec.europa.eu
## Seasonally adjusted unemployment, totals

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The source datasets are available [here](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat) (rates) and [here](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat) (in 1000 persons).

: Data not available  
* July 2016  
** August 2016
Seasonally adjusted youth (under 25s) unemployment

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

: Data not available
Belgium, Croatia, Cyprus, Romania and Slovenia: quarterly data

ec.europa.eu/eurostat
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The source dataset is available here.
: Data not available

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