

Regions: Statistical yearbook 2006

Data 2000-2004

Chapter 4



EUROPEAN
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THEME
General and
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Introduction



Statistical data at the regional level

The Structural Funds for the period 2007 to 2013 were decided in December 2005. This decision was based on the objective regional statistics compiled by Eurostat, thus highlighting the importance of our effort to produce a wide range of comparable regional information.

This yearbook shows many aspects of this regional data and suggests in the various chapters some of the analyses which can be made with them. But we also invite you the reader to yourself continue the analyses of the regional data supplied in each of the different themes presented here. We also hope that this publication will make you keen to further investigate Eurostat's statistical databases (available free of charge on the internet).

In keeping with the traditions of the Regional yearbook, we try to renew the publication a little each year, but also to keep its structure basically unchanged. In this way, many subjects reappear from year to year, but the theme or focus of the subject is always slightly different. This year we again have one theme that is totally new for the Regional Yearbook, namely "labour productivity", which combines statistics on GDP with labour market statistics in a very interesting way. This kind of cross-cutting of different statistical domains could of course also be conducted with other statistical themes, but we will for the moment leave that to a future edition of the yearbook.

Some highlights

We will not present here the content of all chapters of this Regional Yearbook. Here, however, are some hints to whet your appetite to read it carefully:

- The population chapter this year focuses on old and young dependency ratios in the coming decades, highlighting the drastic changes of society we will have to cope with.
- The chapter on regional GDP centres its attention on growth rates between 1999 and 2003, giving interesting insights into regional differences.

- The Urban Audit chapter concentrates on the competitiveness of cities, analysing various facets of benchmarking cities that compete against each other.
- The chapter on the Structural Business Survey focuses on specialised regions in different industrial and service activities. This highlights the heterogeneity of European regions in terms of the production process and skills.

Regional classification

All regional analysis in this yearbook is based on NUTS 2003. In the meantime, the ten new Member States have also been formally integrated into the new regional classification in the form of an amendment to the NUTS Regulation. The texts of the Regulation and the amendment are available on the CD-ROM – as is the annex, which lists the regions making up the nomenclature in each country.

Coverage

No distinction is made in the yearbook between the old Member States, the countries that became Member States in 2004 and those due to join in 2007 or 2008: wherever data are available for Bulgaria and Romania, these of course also feature in the maps and commentaries. In the case of Turkey and Croatia, there are still too few regional data to justify including them in the analyses.

Structure

In each chapter, regional distributions are highlighted by colour maps and graphs which are then evaluated by expert authors in text commentaries. In keeping with the traditions of the yearbook, an effort has been made to focus on aspects not recently covered.

In order to assist the understanding of the maps, the data series used for the maps in the yearbook are provided as Excel files on the CD-ROM.

In the maps, the statistics are presented at NUTS level 2. A map giving the code numbers of the regions can be found in the sleeve of this publication. At the end of the publication there is a list of all the NUTS-2 regions in the European Union, together with a list of the level 2 statistical regions in Bulgaria and Romania. Full details of these national regional breakdowns, including lists of level 2 and level 3 regions and the appropriate maps, may be consulted on the RAMON server.¹

More regional information needed?

The public REGIO database on the Eurostat website contains more extensive time series (which may go back as far as 1970) and more detailed statistics than those given in this yearbook, such as population, death and birth by single years of age, detailed results of the Community labour-force survey, etc. Moreover, there is coverage in REGIO of a number of indicators at NUTS level 3 (such as area, population, births and deaths, gross domestic product, unemployment rates). This is important because there are no fewer than eight EU Member States (Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta and Slovenia) that do not have a level 2 breakdown.

For more detailed information on the contents of the REGIO database, please consult the Eurostat publication 'European regional and urban statistics — Reference Guide 2003', a copy of which is available in PDF format on the accompanying CD-ROM.

In addition, the reader is also invited to consult the web version of the "Portraits of the Regions", which give regional profiles of all individual regions across Europe.² These regional topical profiles describe the geography and history of the region, before going on to assess its strengths and weaknesses in terms of demographic, economic and cultural issues. Among the aspects examined are the labour market, education, infrastructure and resources.

Regional interest group on the web

Eurostat's regional statistics team maintains a publicly accessible interest group on the web ('CIRCA site') with many useful links and documents.³

Among other resources, you will find:

- a list of all regional coordination officers in the Member States, the candidate countries and the EFTA countries;
- the latest edition of the "Regional and Urban Reference Guide";
- PowerPoint presentations of Eurostat's work concerning regional and urban statistics;
- the regional classification NUTS for the Member States and the regional classification of the candidate countries.

Closure date for the yearbook data

The cut-off date for this issue was the 15th of May 2006.

¹ See http://europa.eu.int/comm/eurostat/ramon/index.cfm?TargetUrl=DSP_PUB_WELC

² See <http://forum.europa.eu.int/irc/dsis/regportraits/info/data/en/index.htm>

³ See <http://forum.europa.eu.int/Public/irc/dsis/regstat/information>

Regional labour market

4.



Introduction

One of the main economic targets of employment policy at EU level is to take the employment rate for the 15-64 age group to 67% by 2005 and 70% by 2010 and the employment rate for persons aged 55 to 64 to 50% by 2010. These targets were set by the Lisbon European Council (in March 2000) and by the Stockholm European Council (in March 2001).

This chapter aims to explore the regional aspects of these key labour market indicators and to present different factors linked with employment and unemployment (economic activity rate, employment by economic activity, educational level, part-time employment, long-term unemployment, etc.). The analysis starts with indicators at national level and then goes deeper into regions to show in greater detail the labour market situation in each country and in neighbouring regions across national boundaries. It uses a rich set of regional labour market data provided by Eurostat containing annual data (with some exceptions) from 1999 onwards and covering four categories - regional economically active population, employment, unemployment and socio-demographic labour force statistics - plus one category with second-quarter data up to 2001 (regional labour market data based on pre-2003 methodology).

Methodology

The source for regional labour market information down to NUTS level 2 is the EU Labour Force Survey (LFS). This is a quarterly household sam-

ple survey conducted in the Member States of the European Union, plus Bulgaria and Romania.

The LFS target population is made up of all members of private households aged 15 or over. The survey follows the definitions and recommendations of the International Labour Organisation (ILO). To achieve further harmonisation, the Member States also adhere to common principles of questionnaire construction.

The reference year is the calendar year except for Ireland, the United Kingdom (December 2002 to November 2003 for the 2003 data, and December 2003 to November 2004 for the 2004 data in both cases) and Cyprus (April 2004 to March 2005 for the 2004 data).

All regional results presented here concern NUTS level 2 regions (or the corresponding level 2 regions in the candidate countries).

Since the first quarter of 2004, the samples for the Austrian, Italian and Maltese Labour Force Surveys have been spread over every week in the quarter. At the same time the sampling and weighting procedures in Greece were revised in order to improve coverage. The 2003 data for Cyprus refer to the second quarter, while the 2004 data are the annual averages. Consequently, the 2004 and 2003 data are not fully comparable in the case of these countries.

Agriculture covers sections A and B, Industry sections C to F and Services sections G to P of NACE Rev.1.

For further information about regional labour market statistics see the meta-data (M) on the Eurostat web-site <http://europa.eu.int/comm/eurostat> under Data/General and regional statistics/Regions/Regional Labour Market.

Employment – the 15–64 age group

In 2004 the employment rate at EU level stood at 63.1% compared with 62.8% in 2003. At national level, the highest employment rate was recorded by Denmark (75.7%), followed by Sweden (72.1%), the UK (71.6%), Austria, Portugal, Finland and Cyprus (all over 67%). In Ireland the figure was 66.3% and in Slovenia 65.3%. At the other end, the lowest employment rates were recorded in Malta (54.1%) and Poland (51.7%).

Regions with high employment rates

Regions with an employment rate of over 67% (*Map 4.1*) can be found in Belgium (central region of Vlaams-Brabant), the Netherlands (all 12 regions), Austria (six of the eight regions), Germany (10 southern regions), the Czech Republic (capital region of Praha and central region of Střední Čechy), Slovakia (the capital region of Bratislava), Sweden (all eight regions), Finland (two southern regions – Åland and Etelä-Suomi), Italy (three northern regions - Valle d'Aosta/Valleée d'Aoste, Provincia Autonoma Bolzano/Bozen and Emilia-Romagna), Spain (two – Cataluña and Illes Balears in the east), Portugal (three – Algarve in the south, Centro and the capital region of Lisboa) and the UK (31 out of all 37 regions).

The strongest upward trends in total employment between 2003 and 2004 were in regions in Austria (Vorarlberg in the west: +9 100 employed), Spain (Cataluña in the east: +102 600 employed with +118 300 in services; Illes Balears in the east: +18 600 employed), the UK (Cumbria in the north-west: +15 400 employed; West Yorkshire in the centre: +24 500 employed with +10 000 in industry and +12 400 in services; West Midlands: +27 400 employed with +41 800 in services and -13 300 in industry; Outer London: +36 300 employed; Kent in the south-east: +36 200 employed with +34 700 in services; Cornwall and Isles of Scilly in the south-west: +17 000 employed; Eastern Scotland: +29 400 employed with +12 000 in industry and +19 000 in services) and in Denmark, which is a single NUTS 2 region (+30 800 employed and +28 300 in services).

On the other hand, a downward trend was observed in Freiburg in south-west Germany (-10 000 employed with -12 700 in services).

Economic activity rates for persons aged 15 to 64 in these regions ranged between 69.2% and 81.0%, the highest being in Sweden (the capital region of Stockholm: 81.0%), the UK (the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire region in the south-east: 80.9% and the Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire region in the south: 80.2%) and in Denmark (80.1%).

The proportion of highly educated persons in the total economically active population differed significantly between regions with employment rates above 67% – in the Netherlands, Germany, Slovakia, France, Spain, Cyprus, Finland, Sweden and the UK it was 18% to 38%, in Italy and Austria 11% to 19%, in the Czech Republic and Portugal 11% to 28% and in the Belgian region of Vlaams-Brabant 43%.

In all these regions the share of part-time employment in total employment was over 10%, except for regions in Spain, Portugal, Cyprus, the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

Regions with employment rates immediately below the highest level

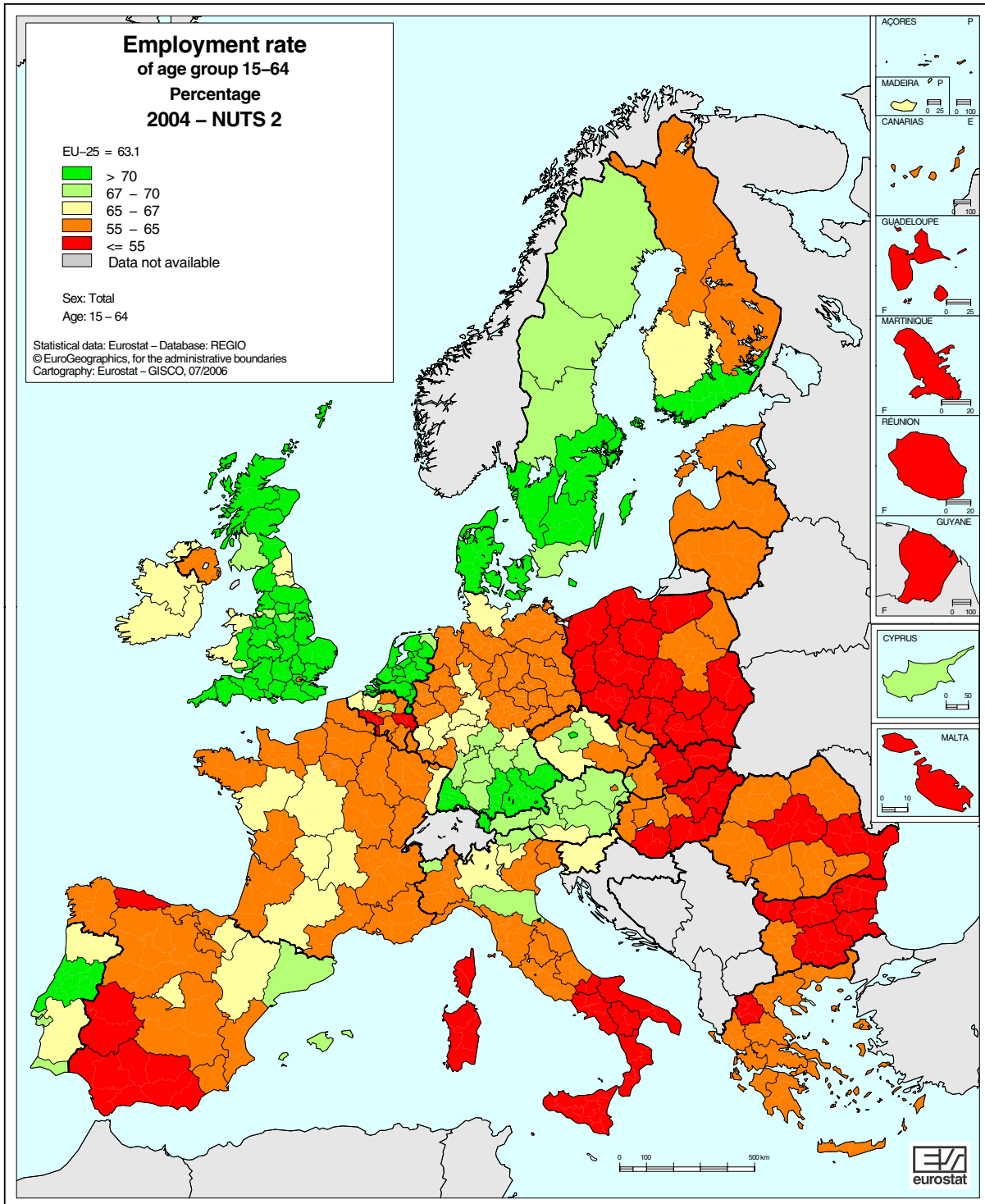
Employment rates of 65% to 67%, very close to the target of 67% to be reached by 2005, were recorded in regions in Ireland (both two regions), Belgium (Oost-Vlaanderen and West-Vlaanderen, both in the north-west), Spain (Comunidad Foral de Navarra and Aragón, both in the north, and the capital region of Comunidad de Madrid), Portugal (Norte, Alentejo in the south and Região Autónoma da Madeira), Finland (Länsi-Suomi in the west), Italy (Lombardia and Provincia Autonoma Trento, both in the north), Austria (Kärnten in the south) and the Czech Republic (Jihozápad in the south-west and Severozápad in the north-west). This was also the case with Slovenia, which is a single NUTS 2 region.

Out of these regions, the biggest improvements in total employment were in two Spanish regions (Aragón: +24 600 employed, with +15 800 in services and +5 400 in agriculture; and the capital region of Comunidad de Madrid: +132 300 employed, with +40 500 in industry and +87 400 in services), two French regions (Midi-Pyrénées in the south-west: +71 200 employed, with +19 000

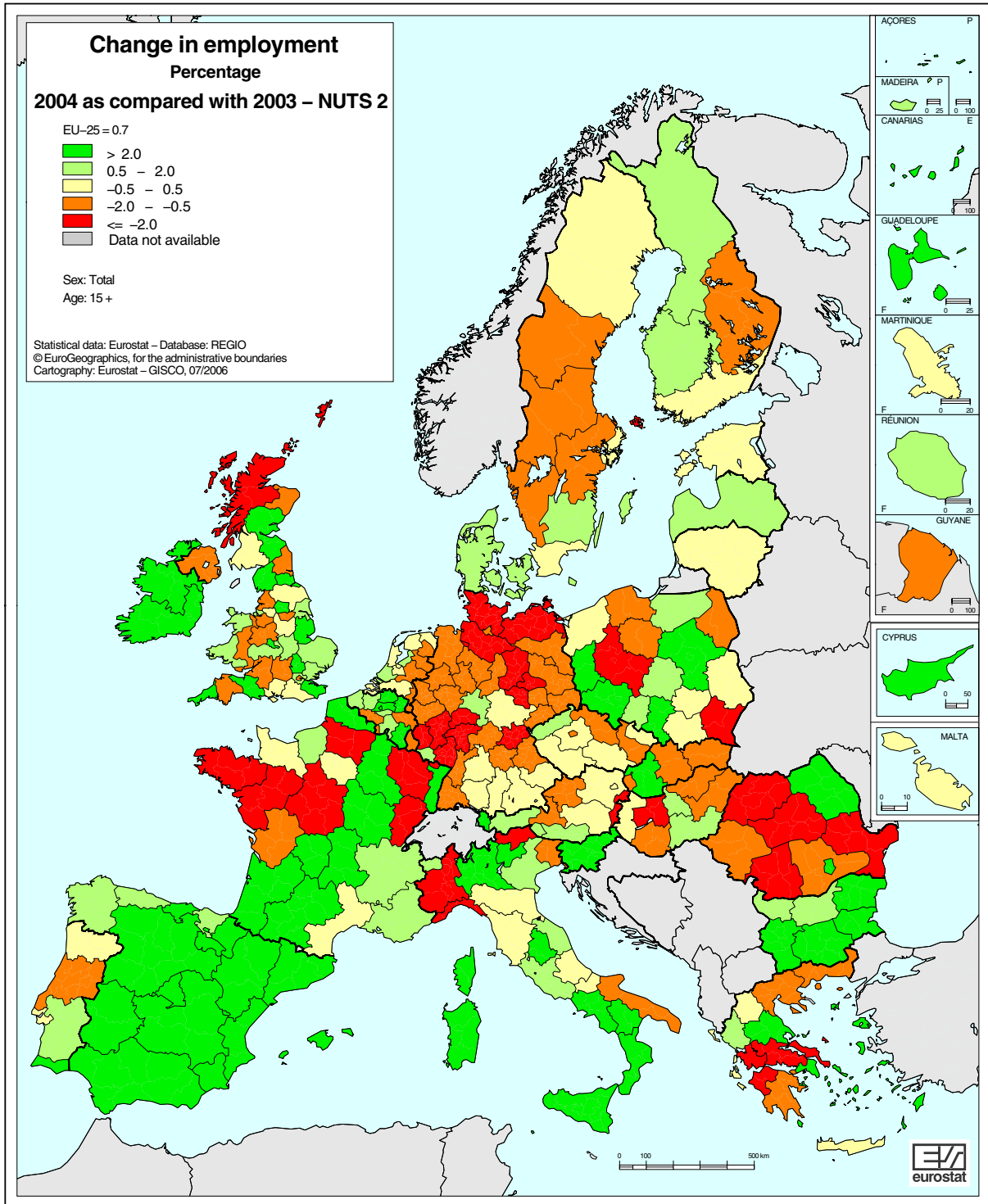
in industry and +59 400 in services; and Auvergne in the centre: +29 800 employed), both two Irish regions (Border, Midland and Western: +24 500 employed; Southern and Eastern: +29 800 employed) and one region in the UK (Tees Valley and Durham in the north-east: +34 800 employed, with +31 600 in services).

Slovenia also recorded significant growth in total employment (+46 200 employed, with +17 100 in agriculture, +6 200 in industry and +20 000 in services).

By contrast, the biggest decrease in total employment was recorded by the western French region



Map 4.1



Map 4.2

of Pays de la Loire (-94 800 employed, of which -24 700 in agriculture, -35 300 in industry and -32 600 in services).

Regions with low employment rates

Low employment rates were generally observed in the southern and eastern parts of EU-25. Rates below 55% were recorded in 42 regions – five in Spain (Principado de Asturias in the north, Extremadura in the west, Andalucía in the

south, Ciudad Autónoma de Ceuta and Ciudad Autónoma de Melilla, both in northern Africa), seven in southern Italy, one in Greece (Dytiki Makedonia in the north), four in Hungary (Dél-Dunántúl and Dél-Alföld, both in the south, and Észak-Magyarország and Észak-Alföld, both in the north-east), two in Slovakia (Stredné Slovensko in the centre and Východné Slovensko in the east), 14 out of the 16 regions in Poland and five in France (Corse plus four overseas regions). The

same employment rate was also recorded in the single NUTS 2 region of Malta and three Belgian regions (capital region of Brussels, Hainaut in the west and Liège in the east).

In spite of the low employment rate, a marked upward trend in total employment was recorded in 2004 in one region in Belgium (capital region of Brussels: +9 700 employed and +10 100 in services) and Spain (Andalucía in the south: +135 800 employed, +38 600 in industry and +98 700 in services) and in four regions in Poland (Łódzkie in the centre: +20 100 employed and -5 800 in agriculture, +18 700 in industry and +7 200 in services; Śląskie in the south: +91 800 employed and +16 900 in agriculture, +15 600 in industry and +59 000 in services; Lubuskie in the west: +21 000 employed and +12 400 in industry; Dolnośląskie in the south-west: +55 100 employed, +9 100 in industry and +46 500 in services).

On the other hand, total employment fell in one region in Hungary (Észak-Alföld in the north-east: -10 500 employed with -7 600 in industry) and two regions in Poland (Podkarpackie in the south-east: -32 800 employed with -21 200 in agriculture and -10 500 in industry and Wielkopolskie in the centre: -48 100 employed with -15 200 in agriculture and -41 100 in services, but +7 900 in industry).

Economic activity rates of persons aged 15 to 64 in these regions varied noticeably between countries: in Belgium 60%-63.7%, in Italy 53.7%-59.7% (in Sardegna 59.7%), in France 57.1%-61.4% (59.3% in Corse), in Spain 60%-63.9%, in Poland 59.7%-66.4%, in Slovakia 68.3%-69.2% and in Hungary 54.3%-57.2%. In the northern Greek region of Dytiki Makedonia the rate was 64.2% and in Malta, which is a single NUTS 2 region, 58.3%.

The proportion of highly educated persons in the total economically active population in these regions was between 30% and 46% in Belgium, between 22% and 33% in Spain and between 11% and 18% in Italy, Hungary, Slovakia and Poland. In the French region of Corse it stood at 19%, in the Greek region of Dytiki Makedonia at 18% and in Malta at 15%.

In regions with a low employment rate the proportion of part-time employment in total employment varied – in Belgium 19%-22%, in France, Italy and Poland 7%-20%, in Spain, Malta and the Greek region of Dytiki Makedonia 5%-9%, in Hungary 5%-6% and in Slovakia 1%-3%.

Employment in Bulgaria and Romania

In Bulgaria the national employment rate for the 15-64 age group stood at 54.2%, varying from one region to another between 47.5% and 59.7%. All regions in Bulgaria recorded an upward trend in total employment, the strongest being in Yugozapaden in the south-west (+39 100 employed, +22 100 in industry and +25 500 in services), Severoiztochen in the north-east (+16 700 employed, +4 400 in agriculture, +5 100 in industry and +7 000 in services), and in Yuzhen tsentralen in the centre/south (+16 300 employed, +9 500 in industry and +8 400 in services).

The employment rate in Romania stood at 57.7% with regional rates ranging from 53.7% to 62.3%. Between 2003 and 2004 total employment grew in two regions of Romania: Nord-Est (+53 900 employed, with -24 100 in agriculture, +15 600 in industry and +62 400 in services) and the capital region of Bucureşti (+54 000 employed, with -14 900 in industry and +67 900 in services). At the same time, Romania recorded a strong decrease in employment in agriculture: -88 900 employed in Centru, -73 000 in Nord-Vest, -53 500 in Vest, -64 900 in Sud-Est and -67 800 in Sud.

Regional economic activity rates for the 15-64 age group ranged from 55.8% to 65.9% in Bulgaria, while in Romania the figures varied between 59.5% and 66.8%.

Employment – the 55-64 age group

The primary reason why EU policy has been focusing on employment of older people (the 55-64 age group) is the ageing of the European population (low birth rates and increasing life expectancy) and the consequent need to reduce the pressure on social protection systems by increasing labour market participation. Another reason why it is important to study employment of this age group is that older people stand a lower chance of retaining or finding a job, especially in regions with high unemployment.

In 2004 the employment rate of persons aged 55 to 64 in EU-25 rose to 40.9% from 40.1% in 2003. At national level, rates above 50% were observed

in Sweden (69.1%), Denmark (60.3%), Finland (50.9%), Estonia (52.4%), the UK (56.2%) and Portugal (50.3%) and of almost 50% in Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania and Cyprus. At the other end of the scale, around 30% was recorded in Belgium, Austria, Luxembourg, Italy, Malta, Hungary, Poland, Slovenia and Slovakia.

Between 2003 and 2004 both the population and employment in the 55-64 age group changed significantly in EU-25 as a whole (+933 300 persons and +755 500 employed) and in the following Member States: Belgium (+23 900 persons, +27 900 employed), the Netherlands (+64 500 persons, +45 900 employed), France (+288 200 persons, +136 900 employed), Spain (+122 900 persons, +75 500 employed), Germany (population down by 229 900, but employment up by 116 000), Poland (+112 800 persons, +5 000 employed), Slovakia (+35 100 persons, +19 600 employed), the Czech Republic (+50 000 persons, +26 200 employed), Slovenia (+5 500 persons, +13 600 employed), the UK (+161 300 persons, +145 300 employed), Ireland (+13 500 persons, +8 600 employed) and Finland (+27 100 persons, +22 200 employed). The only decrease observed in employment of persons aged 55 to 64 was in Portugal (-11 000 employed).

At regional level, in spite of the high employment rate amongst persons aged 55 to 64 (above 50%) in 2004, the employment rate for the 15-64 age group did not exceed 67% in the UK's Inner London region (62.9%), in the Greek region of Kriti (64.0%) or in Estonia (63.0%), which is a single NUTS 2 region. Similarly, there are regions with a low level of employment (below 35%) amongst persons aged 55 to 64 but with a high rate (above 67%) amongst persons aged 15 to 64 – six Austrian regions (Burgenland, Niederösterreich, Steiermark, Oberösterreich, Salzburg and Tirol), the central Belgian region of Vlaams-Brabant and two northern Italian regions (Valle d'Aosta/Vallée d'Aoste and Emilia-Romagna).

Economic activity rates of persons aged 55 to 64 in regions with an employment rate above 50% for this age group varied between 53.3% and 77.4%, whereas in regions with a rate below 35% they were between 20.6% and 47.5%.

High employment rates for persons aged 55 to 64

An employment rate above 50% for persons aged 55 to 64 was observed in all regions in Sweden,

in 30 of the 37 regions in the UK, in two regions in Portugal (Algarve in the south and Centro) and one each in the Czech Republic (the capital region of Praha), Germany (Tübingen in the south), in Greece (Kriti) and in Finland (Etelä-Suomi in the south). Denmark and Estonia, each of which is a single NUTS 2 region, also had a figure above 50%.

In these regions employment of persons aged 55 to 64 grew markedly in Germany (Tübingen: +27 500 employed), Finland (Etelä-Suomi: +11 700 employed), Sweden (Västsvrige in the south-west: +6 700 employed), the UK (East Riding and North Lincolnshire in the east: +7 300 employed; West Yorkshire in the centre: +12 800 employed; Outer London: +22 300 employed, Surrey, East and West Sussex in the south: +16 900 employed, Kent in the south-east: +21 700 employed, Dorset and Somerset in the south: +11 900 employed) and in Denmark (+6 800 employed). On the contrary, employment went down in the Portuguese region of Centro (-5 300 employed) and in the Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire region in the south of the UK (-18 000 employed).

Low employment rates for persons aged 55 to 64

An employment rate of below 35% amongst persons aged 55 to 64 was recorded in most regions of Belgium, Austria, Slovakia, Hungary and Italy, in every region in Poland, 12 regions in France, 8 regions in Germany, two in Spain (Andalucía in the south and Principado de Asturias in the north-west) and one each in the Czech Republic (Moravskoslezsko in the north-east) and Greece (Dytiki Makedonia in the north). Luxembourg, Malta and Slovenia, each of which is a single NUTS 2 region, also had outstandingly low levels of employment amongst persons aged 55 to 64.

An upward trend in employment amongst persons aged 55 to 64 was recorded in regions of Belgium (Antwerpen: +6 300 employed and West-Vlaanderen in the north-west: +6 500 employed), the Czech Republic (Moravskoslezsko: +5 500 employed), France (Rhône-Alpes in the south-east: +19 300 employed; Languedoc-Roussillon in the south: +10 000 employed), Poland (Mazowieckie in the centre: +13 200 employed; Dolnośląskie in the south-west: +5 700 employed), Slovakia (Západné Slovensko in the west: +6 500 employed and Východné Slovensko in the east: +5 500 employed) and in Spain (Andalucía: +16 600

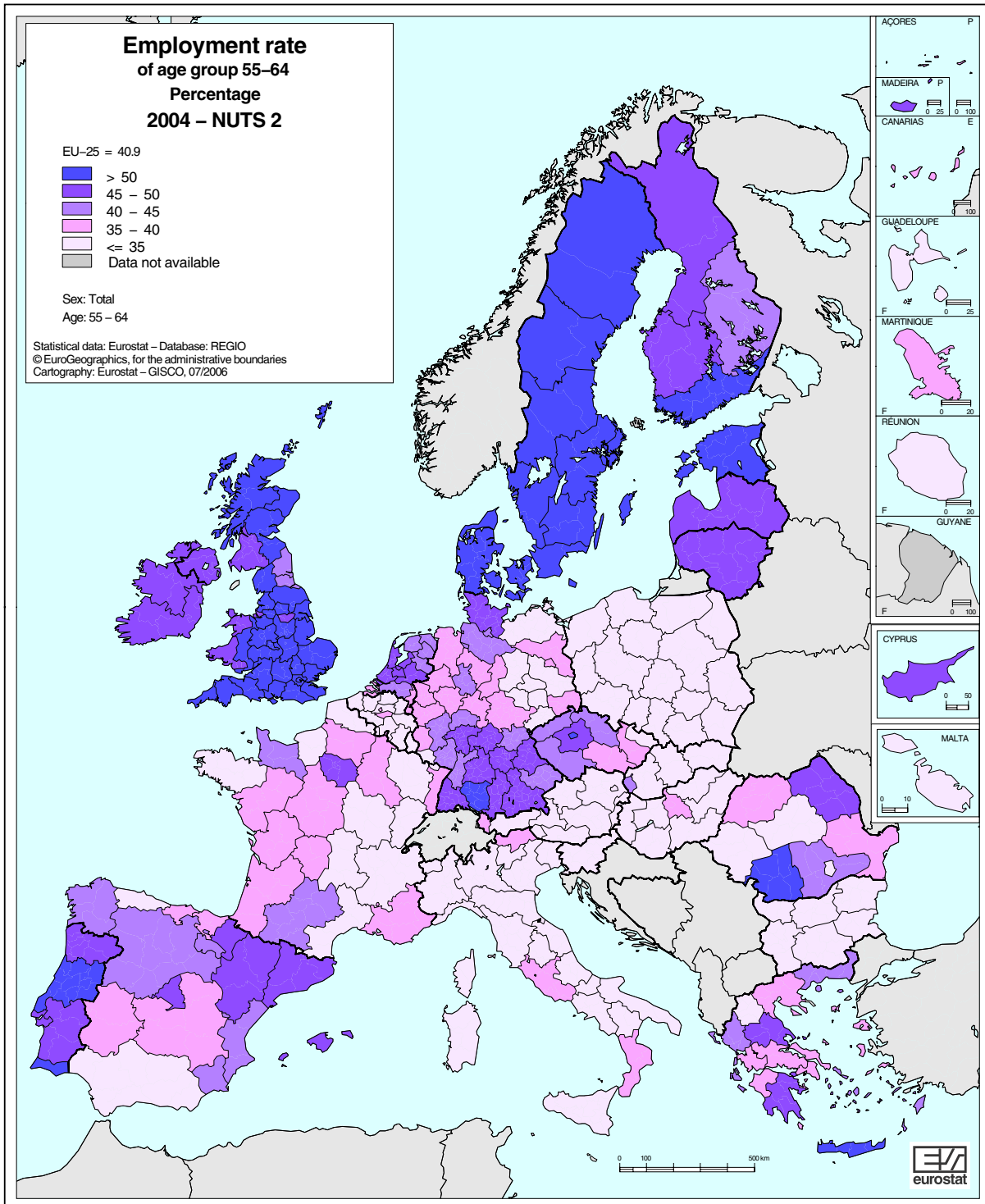
employed). The same was also the case in Slovenia, which is a single NUTS 2 region (+13 600 employed).

On the other hand, a downward trend was observed in Austria (Wien: -6 000 employed and Steiermark in the south-east: -6 500 employed), France (Haute-Normandie in the north: -8 700 employed and Bourgogne in the centre: -5 300 employed) and, finally, Poland (central region of

Łódzkie: -7 600 employed; Podkarpackie in the south-east: -5 800 employed; central region of Wielkopolskie: -11 100 employed).

Employment rates for persons aged 55 to 64 in Bulgaria and Romania

In Bulgaria, where an employment rate of 32.5% was reported in 2004, both the population and employment figures for the 55-64 age group rose



Map 4.3

(+8 400 persons, +25 900 employed) compared with 2003. Romania, with a higher proportion of persons aged 55 to 64 (36.9%), recorded a population trend in the opposite direction (-26 100 persons) and stable employment (+700 persons) for the 55-64 age group in 2004.

At regional level, the highest absolute growth in employment of persons aged 55 to 64 was reported in the south-western Bulgarian region of Yugozapaden (+9 500 employed) and in the Romanian region of Nord-Est (+22 200 employed). Economic activity rates of persons aged 55 to 64 in Bulgaria varied between 32.7% and 40.4%, while in Romania the variation was significantly wider: from 25.9% to 53.4%.

Unemployment

In 2004 the unemployment rate at EU level remained unchanged on 9.2%. A significant upward trend in unemployment between 2003 and 2004, after the new Member States joined the EU on 1 May 2004, saw Lithuania move from 12.4% to 11.4% and Poland from 19.6% to 19.0%, while a downward trend took the Czech Republic from 7.8% to 8.3% and Slovakia from 17.6% to 18.2%.

Lithuania (*Map 4.4*), which is a single NUTS 2 region, showed a remarkable drop in total unemployment, with female employment down from 58.4% to 57.8% (-8 400). Both figures refer to the 15-64 age group.

Out of the seven Polish regions showing the greatest improvement (*Map 4.5*), employment grew markedly in two central regions: Łódzkie (+18 700 employed in industry) and Mazowieckie (+85 300 employed in services). The positive changes in Poland were clearly reflected in a downward trend in long-term unemployment, in particular in five regions: Podkarpackie in the south-east, Podlaskie and Warmińsko-Mazurskie in the north-east, Zachodniopomorskie in the north-west and Mazowieckie. Declining unemployment and, paradoxically, also employment (-21 200 in agriculture and -10 500 in industry) in Podkarpackie lowered the rate of economic activity in the 15-64 age group to 62.1% (from 64.0% in 2003).

Employment also rose in two Czech regions with notable growth in unemployment, (Severozápad

in the north-west and Jihovýchod in the south-east). In the capital region of Praha, where both unemployment and total employment fell (-6 700 persons in industry, but +1 200 in services), the economically active rate decreased from 74.2% to 73.1% in the 15-64 age group.

Slovakia, with rising unemployment in three regions, recorded a remarkable improvement in the western region of Západne Slovensko (-5 600 long-term unemployed, +19 300 employed in industry and +11 800 in services).

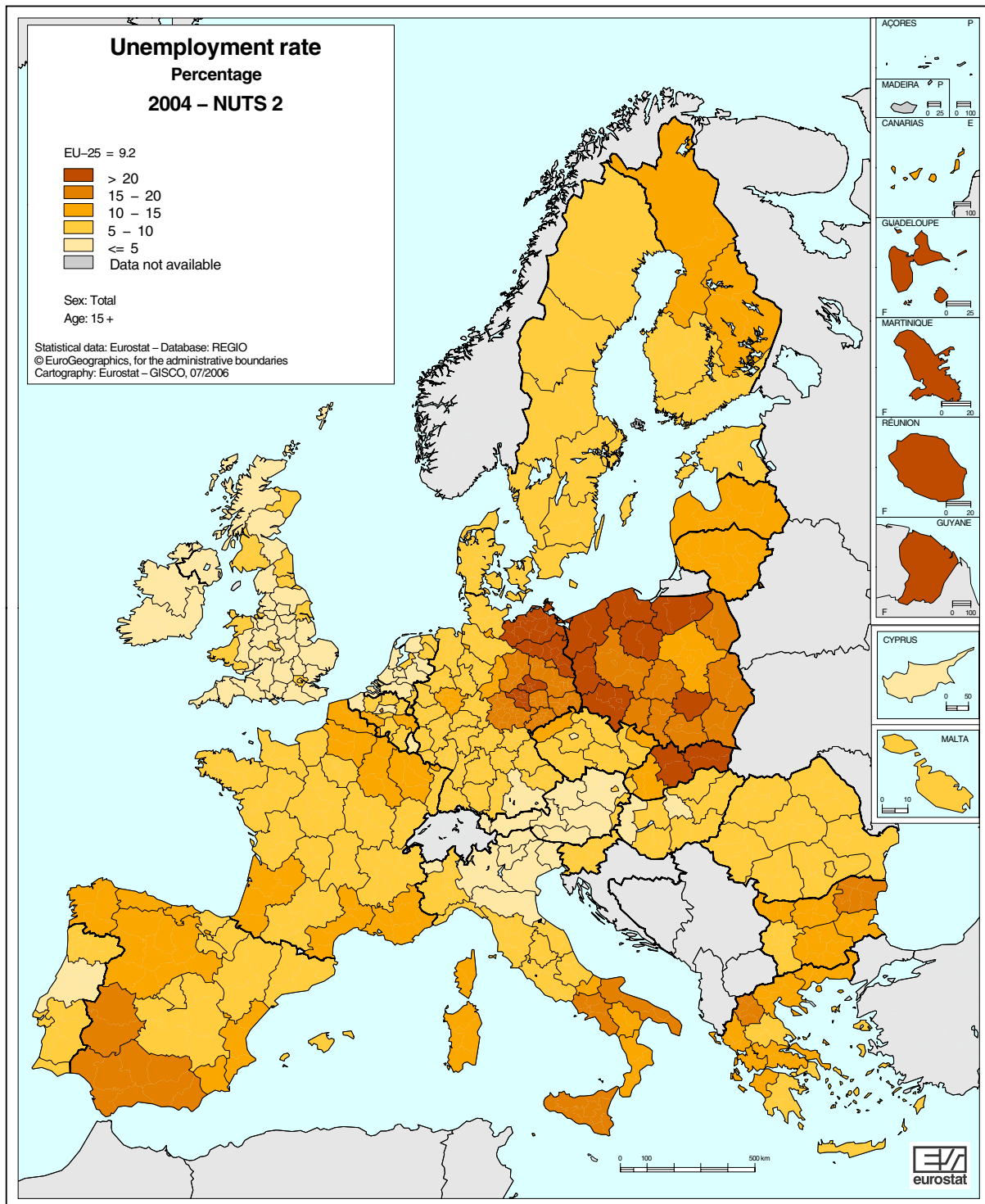
In the "old" Member States, the sharpest fall in unemployment was in Spain (from 11.5% to 11.0%), while, by contrast, increases were reported in Luxembourg (from 3.7% to 4.8%), the Netherlands (from 3.7% to 4.6%) and Sweden (from 5.7% to 6.5%).

In the three countries which opened up their labour markets to workers from the new Member States as from the first day of accession (Ireland, Sweden and the UK), between 2003 and 2004 improvements in unemployment were recorded in Ireland (from 4.7% to 4.5% and -1 400 persons) and the UK (from 5.0% to 4.7%, -75 800 persons) but not in Sweden (from 5.7% to 6.5%, +39 800 persons).

At regional level in the "old" Member States (*Map 4.4*), unemployment fell in most regions of Spain, while the opposite trend was seen in all regions of Sweden and The Netherlands and most regions of Germany. The most marked regional changes were in Germany, Spain, The Netherlands, Portugal, Sweden and Luxembourg (a single NUTS 2 region), which were linked with:

- lower employment in industry in the western region of Düsseldorf and higher employment in services in the eastern region of Thüringen;
- higher employment in services and industry in Spain, in the capital region of Madrid and in the southern region of Andalucía;
- declining employment in industry, but higher employment in services in the capital region of Lisboa;
- lower employment in services in two southern regions of Sweden (Östra Mellansverige and Västsverige).

Out of all the countries studied, as in 2003 Bulgaria recorded the strongest improvement in unemployment in 2004, with a decrease of 1.7

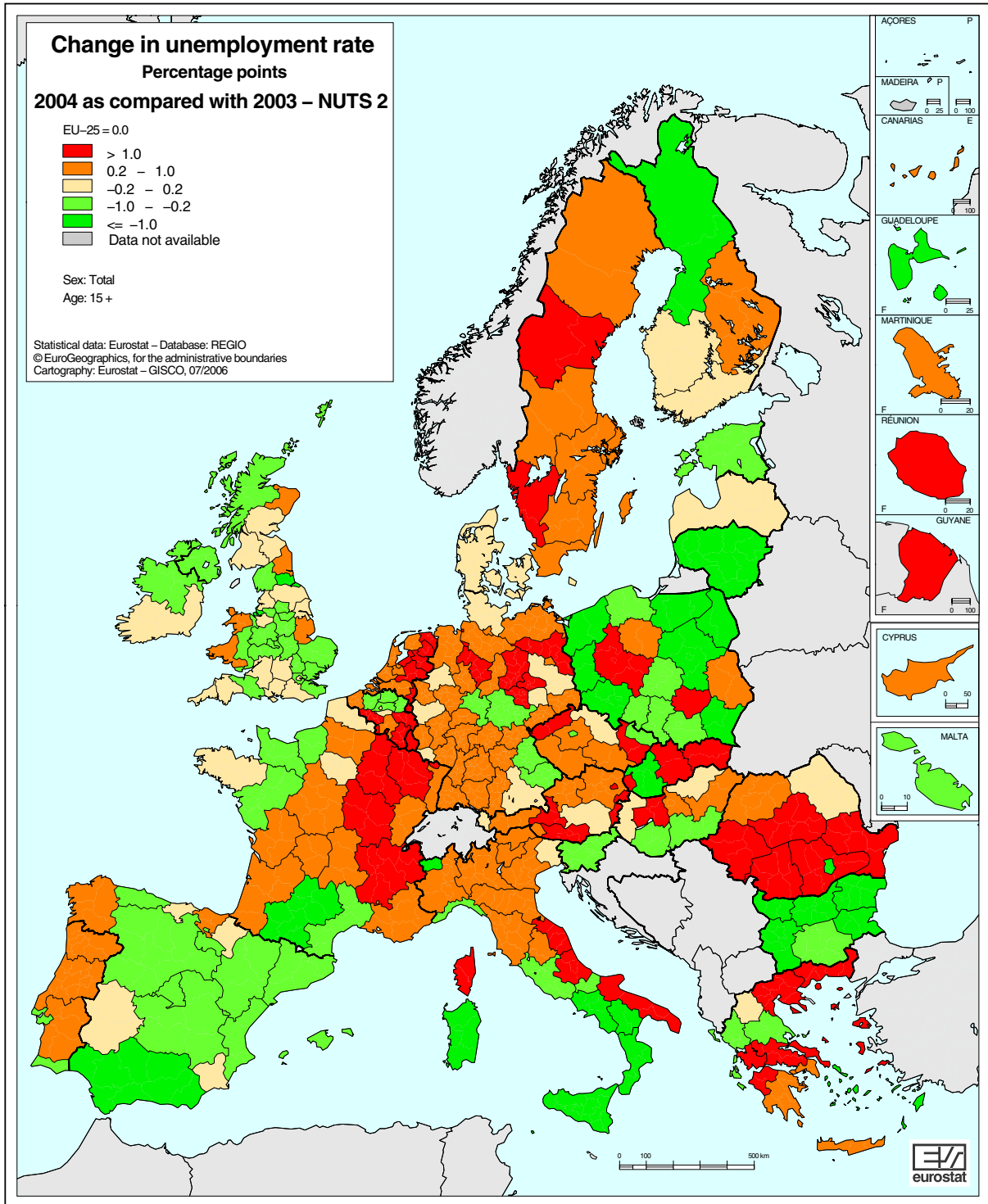


Map 4.4

percentage points to 12.0%. Regional unemployment rates there varied from 9.4% (Yugozapaden in the south-west) to 17.6% (Severoiztochen in the north-east). The opposite trend was observed in Romania (from 7.0% in 2003 to 8.1% in 2004), with regional figures of between 6.2% (Nord-Est) and 9.9% (Sud-Est).

Every region in Bulgaria recorded a downward unemployment trend, the highest being in Yu-

goiztochen in the south-east, Yugozapaden (-16 200 unemployed and +39 100 employed) and in the central/northern region of Severen tsentralen. This upward trend was linked with a fall in long-term unemployment in every region, in particular in Severozapaden in the north-west, Yugozapaden (with marked changes in employment in all sectors), Severoiztochen and Yugoiztochen.



Map 4.5

In Romania, all regions except Nord-Est and the capital region of București recorded upward unemployment trends. Employment in agriculture (32% of total employment at national level) and self-employment decreased noticeably in all but one region (București), in particular in Centru, Vest and Nord-Vest. On the other hand, an upward employment trend

was observed in Nord-Est (+62 400 employed in services), the capital region of București (+67 900 employed in services), in Sud-Est (+28 500 employed in industry) and in Vest (+49 300 employed in industry). Long-term-unemployment decreased in the capital region of București, while growth was recorded in Sud and Centru.

Conclusion

This chapter aims to illustrate the regional dimension of a positive employment trend for persons aged 55-64 in most EU countries and Bulgaria, as well as the regional dimension of trends in employment for the age group 15-64

and unemployment in EU-25, Bulgaria and Romania. It identifies and describes some of the main factors connected with developments on the regional and national labour markets, such as economic activity rate, employment by economic activity, educational level, part-time employment, long-term unemployment and population.



Definitions

Population means persons aged 15 or over, living in private households (persons living in collective households, i.e. residential homes, boarding houses, hospitals, religious institutions, workers' hostels, etc., are not included). This comprises all persons living in the households surveyed during the reference week. This definition also includes persons absent from the households for short periods owing to studies, holidays, illness, business trips, etc. (but having retained a link with the private household). Persons on compulsory military service are not included.

Employed persons means all persons aged 15 or over (16 or over in ES and UK and 15 to 74 in DK, EE, HU, LV, SE and FI) who, during the reference week, worked at least one hour for pay or profit, or were temporarily absent from such work. Family workers are included.

Unemployed persons means persons aged 15 to 74 (16 to 74 in ES and UK) who were: 1. without work during the reference week; 2. available for work at the time (i.e. were available for paid employment or self-employment before the end of the two weeks following the reference week); 3. actively seeking work (i.e. had taken specific steps in the four-week period ending with the reference week to seek

paid employment or self-employment) or who found a job to start within a period of at most three months (all three conditions must be fulfilled simultaneously).

Employment rate means employed persons as a percentage of the population. The employment rate can be broken down further by age and sex, e.g. the **employment rate of the 15-64 age group**.

Economically active population (also called **labour force** or **active population**) means employed and unemployed persons.

Unemployment rate means unemployed persons as a percentage of the economically active population.

The unemployment rate can be broken down further by age and sex. The **youth unemployment rate** covers persons aged 15 to 24.

Economic activity rate means employed and unemployed persons (i.e. economically active population) as a percentage of the population.

Long-term unemployment rate means long-term unemployed (12 months or longer) as a percentage of the sum of unemployed for less than one year and long-term unemployed.

EUROPEAN UNION: NUTS 2 regions

BE10	Région de Bruxelles-Capitale/Brussels Hoofdstedelijk Gewest	DEC0	Saarland	FR43	Franche-Comté
BE21	Prov. Antwerpen	DED1	Chemnitz	FR51	Pays de la Loire
BE22	Prov. Limburg (BE)	DED2	Dresden	FR52	Bretagne
BE23	Prov. Oost-Vlaanderen	DED3	Leipzig	FR53	Poitou-Charentes
BE24	Prov. Vlaams-Brabant	DEE1	Dessau	FR61	Aquitaine
BE25	Prov. West-Vlaanderen	DEE2	Halle	FR62	Midi-Pyrénées
BE31	Prov. Brabant Wallon	DEE3	Magdeburg	FR63	Limousin
BE32	Prov. Hainaut	DEF0	Schleswig-Holstein	FR71	Rhône-Alpes
BE33	Prov. Liège	DEG0	Thüringen	FR72	Auvergne
BE34	Prov. Luxembourg (BE)	EE00	Eesti	FR81	Languedoc-Roussillon
BE35	Prov. Namur	GR11	Anatoliki Makedonia, Thraki	FR82	Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur
CZ01	Praha	GR12	Kentriki Makedonia	FR83	Corse
CZ02	Střední Čechy	GR13	Dytiki Makedonia	FR91	Guadeloupe
CZ03	Jihozápad	GR14	Thessalia	FR92	Martinique
CZ04	Severozápad	GR21	Ipeiros	FR93	Guyane
CZ05	Severovýchod	GR22	Ionia Nisia	FR94	Réunion
CZ06	Jihovýchod	GR23	Dytiki Ellada	IE01	Border, Midland and Western
CZ07	Střední Morava	GR24	Stereia Ellada	IE02	Southern and Eastern
CZ08	Moravskoslezsko	GR25	Peloponnisos	ITC1	Piemonte
DK00	Danmark	GR30	Attiki	ITC2	Valle d'Aosta/Vallée d'Aoste
DE11	Stuttgart	GR41	Voreio Aigaio	ITC3	Liguria
DE12	Karlsruhe	GR42	Notio Aigaio	ITC4	Lombardia
DE13	Freiburg	GR43	Kriti	ITD1	Provincia Autonoma Bolzano/Bozen
DE14	Tübingen	ES11	Galicia	ITD2	Provincia Autonoma Trento
DE21	Oberbayern	ES12	Principado de Asturias	ITD3	Veneto
DE22	Niederbayern	ES13	Cantabria	ITD4	Friuli-Venezia Giulia
DE23	Oberpfalz	ES21	País Vasco	ITD5	Emilia-Romagna
DE24	Oberfranken	ES22	Comunidad Foral de Navarra	ITE1	Toscana
DE25	Mittelfranken	ES23	La Rioja	ITE2	Umbria
DE26	Unterfranken	ES24	Aragón	ITE3	Marche
DE27	Schwaben	ES30	Comunidad de Madrid	ITE4	Lazio
DE30	Berlin	ES41	Castilla y León	ITF1	Abruzzo
DE41	Brandenburg — Nordost	ES42	Castilla-La Mancha	ITF2	Molise
DE42	Brandenburg — Südwest	ES43	Extremadura	ITF3	Campania
DE50	Bremen	ES51	Cataluña	ITF4	Puglia
DE60	Hamburg	ES52	Comunidad Valenciana	ITF5	Basilicata
DE71	Darmstadt	ES53	Illes Balears	ITF6	Calabria
DE72	Gießen	ES61	Andalucía	ITG1	Sicilia
DE73	Kassel	ES62	Región de Murcia	ITG2	Sardegna
DE80	Mecklenburg-Vorpommern	ES63	Ciudad Autónoma de Ceuta	CY00	Kypros/Kıbrıs
DE91	Braunschweig	ES64	Ciudad Autónoma de Melilla	LV00	Latvija
DE92	Hannover	ES70	Canarias	LT00	Lietuva
DE93	Lüneburg	FR10	Île-de-France	LU00	Luxembourg (Grand-Duché)
DE94	Weser-Ems	FR21	Champagne-Ardenne	HU10	Közép-Magyarország
DEA1	Düsseldorf	FR22	Picardie	HU21	Közép-Dunántúl
DEA2	Köln	FR23	Haute-Normandie	HU22	Nyugat-Dunántúl
DEA3	Münster	FR24	Centre	HU23	Dél-Dunántúl
DEA4	Detmold	FR25	Basse-Normandie	HU31	Észak-Magyarország
DEA5	Arnsberg	FR26	Bourgogne	HU32	Észak-Alföld
DEB1	Koblenz	FR30	Nord - Pas-de-Calais	HU33	Dél-Alföld
DEB2	Trier	FR41	Lorraine	MT00	Malta
DEB3	Rheinessen-Pfalz	FR42	Alsace	NL11	Groningen

NL12	Friesland	PT20	Região Autónoma dos Açores	UKF3	Lincolnshire
NL13	Drenthe	PT30	Região Autónoma da Madeira	UKG1	Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Warwickshire
NL21	Overijssel	SI00	Slovenija	UKG2	Shropshire and Staffordshire
NL22	Gelderland	SK01	Bratislavský kraj	UKG3	West Midlands
NL23	Flevoland	SK02	Západné Slovensko	UKH1	East Anglia
NL31	Utrecht	SK03	Stredné Slovensko	UKH2	Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire
NL32	Noord-Holland	SK04	Východné Slovensko	UKH3	Essex
NL33	Zuid-Holland	FI13	Itä-Suomi	UKI1	Inner London
NL34	Zeeland	FI18	Etelä-Suomi	UKI2	Outer London
NL41	Noord-Brabant	FI19	Länsi-Suomi	UKJ1	Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire
NL42	Limburg (NL)	FI1A	Pohjois-Suomi	UKJ2	Surrey, East and West Sussex
AT11	Burgenland	FI20	Åland	UKJ3	Hampshire and Isle of Wight
AT12	Niederösterreich	SE01	Stockholm	UKJ4	Kent
AT13	Wien	SE02	Östra Mellansverige	UKK1	Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and North Somerset
AT21	Kärnten	SE04	Sydsverige	UKK2	Dorset and Somerset
AT22	Steiermark	SE06	Norra Mellansverige	UKK3	Cornwall and Isles of Scilly
AT31	Oberösterreich	SE07	Mellersta Norrland	UKK4	Devon
AT32	Salzburg	SE08	Övre Norrland	UKL1	West Wales and the Valleys
AT33	Tirol	SE09	Småland med öarna	UKL2	East Wales
AT34	Vorarlberg	SE0A	Västssverige	UKM1	North Eastern Scotland
PL11	Łódzkie	UKC1	Tees Valley and Durham	UKM2	Eastern Scotland
PL12	Mazowieckie	UKC2	Northumberland and Tyne and Wear	UKM3	South Western Scotland
PL21	Małopolskie	UKD1	Cumbria	UKM4	Highlands and Islands
PL22	Śląskie	UKD2	Cheshire	UKN0	Northern Ireland
PL31	Lubelskie	UKD3	Greater Manchester		
PL32	Podkarpackie	UKD4	Lancashire		
PL33	Świętokrzyskie	UKD5	Merseyside		
PL34	Podlaskie	UKE1	East Riding and North Lincolnshire		
PL41	Wielkopolskie	UKE2	North Yorkshire		
PL42	Zachodniopomorskie	UKE3	South Yorkshire		
PL43	Lubuskie	UKE4	West Yorkshire		
PL51	Dolnośląskie	UKF1	Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire		
PL52	Opolskie	UKF2	Leicestershire, Rutland and Northamptonshire		
PL61	Kujawsko-Pomorskie				
PL62	Warmińsko-Mazurskie				
PL63	Pomorskie				
PT11	Norte				
PT15	Algarve				
PT16	Centro (PT)				
PT17	Lisboa				
PT18	Alentejo				

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CANDIDATE COUNTRIES: Statistical regions at level 2

BG11 Severozapaden
BG12 Severen tsentralen
BG13 Severoiztochen
BG21 Yugozapaden
BG22 Yuzhen tsentralen
BG23 Yugoiztochen
RO01 Nord-Est
RO02 Sud-Est
RO03 Sud
RO04 Sud-Vest
RO05 Vest
RO06 Nord-Vest
RO07 Centru
RO08 București