

Regional unemployment rates in the Central European Candidate Countries 2000

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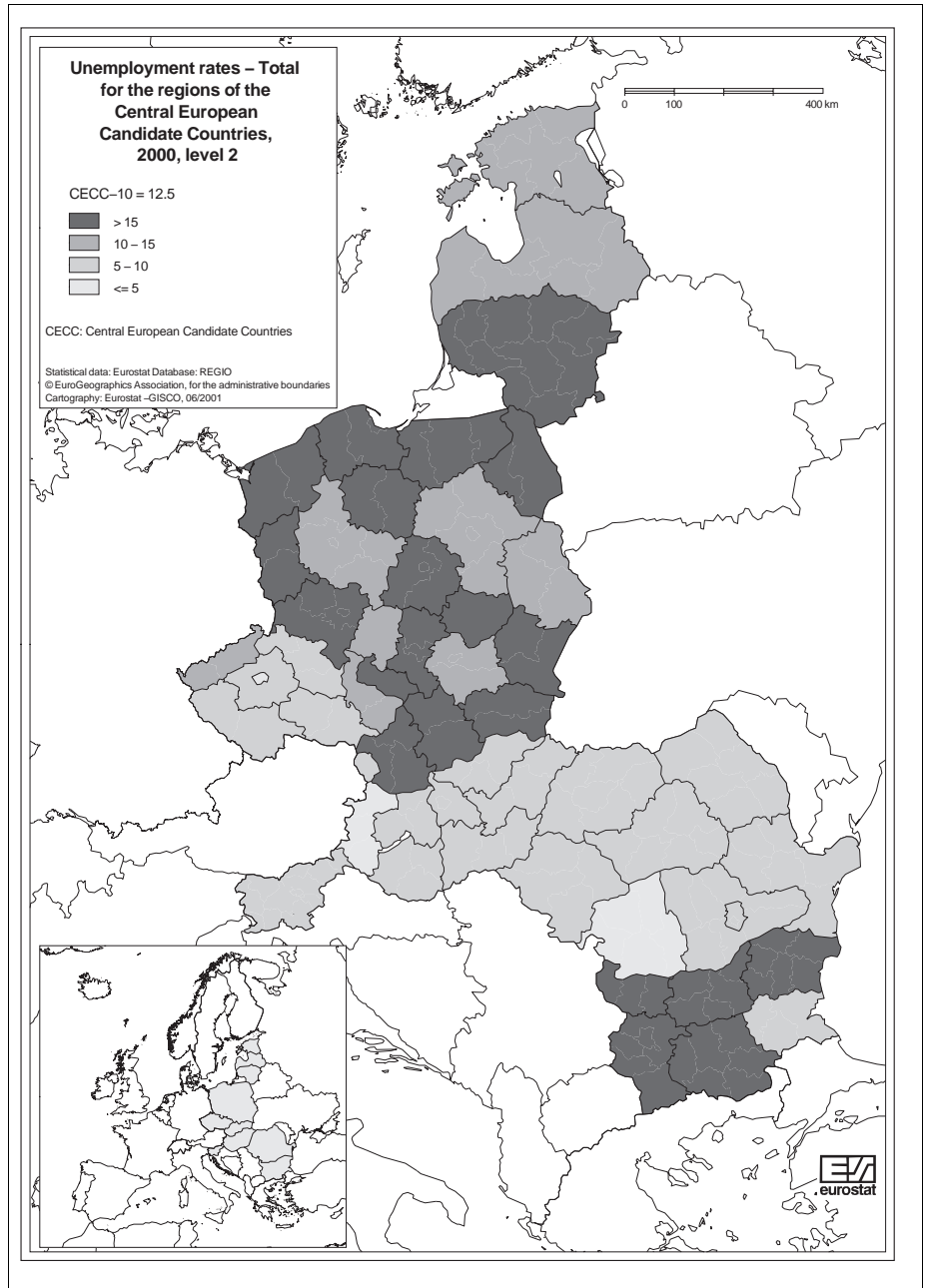


Figure 1: Unemployment rates 2000 - total - level 2

According to the most recent estimates, the unemployment rates for the second quarter 2000 for level 2 regions in the Central European Candidate Countries (CECC) varied between 3.4% and 31.0%. Breakdown by gender show that the range for women is similar, i.e. between 4.1% and 27.8%. The youth unemployment has a wider range, between 7.9% and 73.1%.



CECC unemployment rates vary between 3.4% and 31.0%

Region	Unemployment rate
PRAHA (CZ)	3.4
NYUGAT-DUNÁNTÚL (HU)	4.4
SUD-VEST (RO)	5.0
DÉL-ALFÖLD (HU)	5.1
KÖZÉP- DUNÁNTÚL (HU)	5.1
KÖZÉP-MAGYARORSZÁG (HU)	5.4
JIHOZÁPAD (CZ)	6.1
:	
YUGOIZTOCHEN (BG)	21.7
ZACHODNIOPOMORSKIE (PL)	21.7
SEVEREN TSENTRALEN (BG)	22.0
WARMÍNSKO-MAZURSKIE (PL)	24.4
SEVEROIZTOCHEN (BG)	25.0
VÝCHODNÉ SLOVENSKO (SK)	25.1
SEVEROZAPADEN (BG)	31.0

Table 1: The unemployment in the regions of the Central European Candidate Countries 2000

The mean unemployment rate in the Central European Candidate Countries (CECC), i.e. the ratio of unemployed persons to the total economically active population, stood at 12.5% in the second quarter 2000. At regional level there were some remarkable deviations from this average.

Taking only level 2 regions into consideration, the unemployment rates varied between 3.4% in the Czech capital region of Praha and 31.0% in the Bulgarian region Severozapaden. Interestingly, this range is quite similar to the range of the European Union, where unemployment rates for NUTS level 2 regions vary between 1.7% and 33.1%.

Quite obviously the trends in the EU countries and in the CECC are reversed. In the EU countries the unemployment rate fell from 10.4 % in 1998 to 9.4 % in 1999 and now stands at 8.5 % in 2000. The CECC faced a rate for 1998 of 9.1 %, in 1999 of 10.4%, and finally the rate increased in 2000 to 12.5 %.

Of the 53 regions under consideration, two achieved an unemployment rate below 5%. A further 21 regions ranged below 10%. These regions can be found in the Czech Republic, in Romania, Hungary and Slovakia. Also below 10% are the capital regions of Slovakia and Bulgaria. At the other end of the scale 10 regions exceeded 20%, these were in Bulgaria, Slovakia and Poland. Compared to last year, where only four regions scored above 20 %, this is a strong increase.

Table 1 lists the regions with the lowest and highest unemployment rates in 2000.

Table 2 additionally gives some idea of regional differences within the countries, where Slovakia and Bulgaria show the widest gap between regions. The regional differences are quite similar to the European Union differences.

	Level-2-regions with minimum value		Level-2-regions with maximum value	
BG	YUGOZAPADEN	8.7	SEVEROZAPADEN	31.0
CZ	PRAHA	3.4	OSTRAVSKO	15.2
HU	NYUGAT-DUNÁNTÚL	4.4	ÉSZAK-MAGYARORSZÁG	9.9
PL	WIELKOPOLSKIE	12.0	WARMINSKO-MAZURSKIE	24.4
RO	SUD-VEST	5.0	SUD-EST	8.9
SK	BRATISLAVSKÝ KRAJ	6.6	VÝCHODNÉ SLOVENSKO	25.1

Table 2: Range of unemployment rate on CECC level-2-regions in 2000

Substantial increase of unemployment in Poland and Lithuania

The trends that can be observed at national level are also reflected at regional level. Total unemployment rose from 1999 to 2000 from 10.4% to 12.5% for all CECC. Whereas the change for Latvia, Slovenia, Romania and the Czech Republic was moderate, only in Hungary the unemployment rates decreased. In the regions of Estonia, Poland, Slovakia, Bulgaria and Lithuania, on the other hand, the unemployment rates increased. Particular striking was the increase for Poland and Lithuania.

Female unemployment rates similar to male rates

Region	Female unemployment rates
PRAHA (CZ)	4.1
DÉL-ALFÖLD (HU)	4.5
SUD-VEST (RO)	4.7
NYUGAT-DUNÁNTÚL (HU)	4.8
KÖZÉP-MAGYARORSZÁG (HU)	5
KÖZÉP-DUNÁNTÚL (HU)	5.1
BUCURESTI (RO)	5.8
:	
KUJAWSKO-POMORSKIE (PL)	23.0
LUBUSKIE (PL)	23.0
VÝCHODNÉ SLOVENSKO (SK)	24.0
ZACHODNIOPOMORSKIE (PL)	25.1
SEVEROIZTOCHEN (BG)	25.3
SEVEROZAPADEN (BG)	27.4
WARMÍNSKO-MAZURSKIE (PL)	27.8

The breakdown by gender shows that the range for female unemployment rates is similar to the range for men, i.e. between 4.1% for the capital region of the Czech Republic Praha and 27.8%, for the Polish region of Warmińsko-Mazurskie.

For the European Union NUTS level 2 regions this range is, at 1.7% to 40.7%, wider than for the CECC. From that perspective, it could be concluded that the role of men and women in the CECC labour market is more equal than in the European Union.

Table 3: The regions on the CECC with the highest/lowest female unemployment rates in 2000

Wider range of Youth unemployment - strong increase in some regions

Region	Youth unemployment rate
KÖZÉP-DUNÁNTÚL (HU)	7.9
DÉL-ALFÖLD (HU)	8.1
PRAHA (CZ)	8.4
NYUGAT-DUNÁNTÚL (HU)	8.5
JIHOZÁPAD (CZ)	11.3
KÖZÉP-MAGYARORSZÁG (HU)	11.6
STREDNÍ CECHY (CZ)	11.8
:	
ZACHODNIOPOMORSKIE (PL)	45.0
SEVEROIZTOCHEN (BG)	45.1
KUJAWSKO-POMORSKIE (PL)	45.3
SEVEREN TSENTRALEN (BG)	45.4
VÝCHODNÉ SLOVENSKO (SK)	47.1
PODKARPACKIE (PL)	58.5
SEVEROZAPADEN (BG)	73.1

The youth unemployment rates show a wider range than the total or female rates. They varied between 7.9% in the Hungarian region of Közép-Dunántúl and 73.1% in the Bulgarian region of Severozapaden. Compared to the youth unemployment within the European Union the trend is also reversed, whereas last year no region of the CECC exceeds 50% and only six regions in Poland, Bulgaria and Slovakia surpassed 40%, now 12 regions show a youth unemployment of above 40%, two regions even above 50%.

Especially in Poland there has been a substantial increase of the youth unemployment rates.

Table 4: The regions on the CECC with the highest/lowest youth unemployment rates in 2000

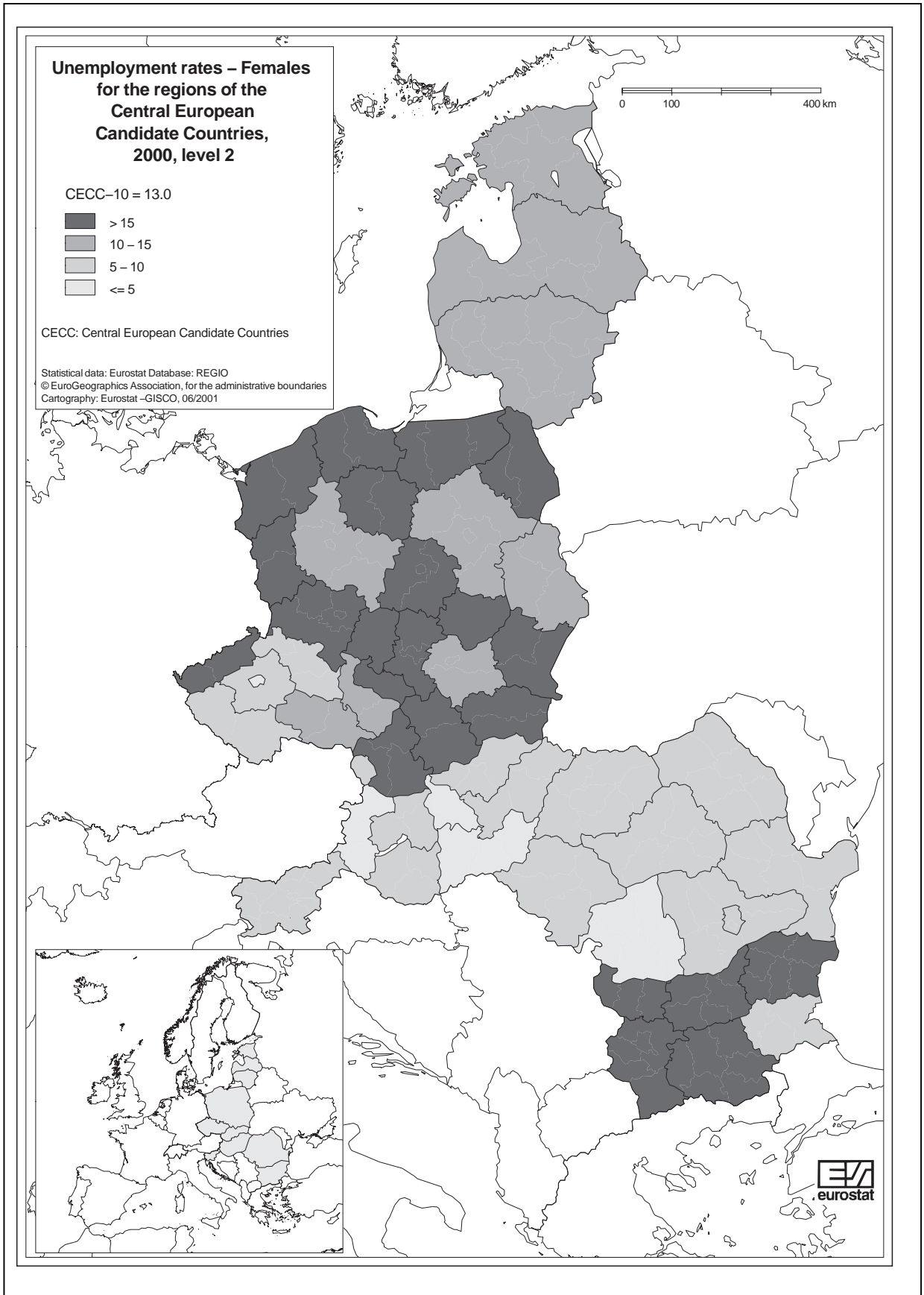


Figure 2: Unemployment rates 2000 - females - level 2

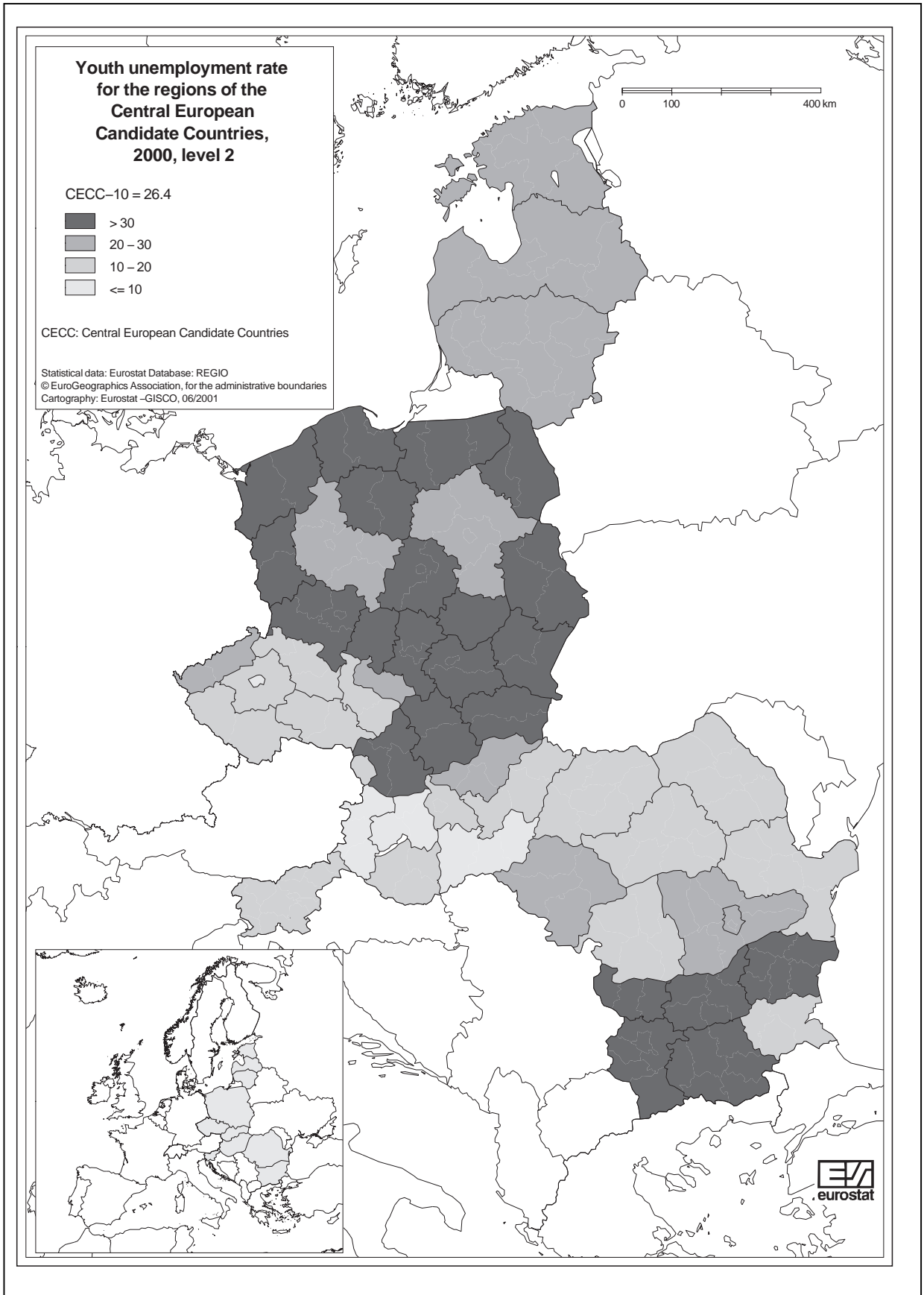


Figure 3: Unemployment rates 2000 - youth - level 2

	Total		Females		< 25 years	
	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000
EU-15	9.3	8.4	10.9	9.9	17.9	16.1
CECC-10	10.4	12.5	10.5	13.0	23.2	26.4
EU-15 + CECC-10	9.6	9.3	10.8	10.6	19.1	18.4
BALGARJA	17.0	18.6	16.8	18.3	36.7	39.4
SEVEROIZTOCHEN	22.3	25.0	22.8	25.3	42.8	45.1
SEVEREN TSENTRALEN	19.4	22.0	18.5	21.0	37.0	45.4
SEVEROZAPADEN	29.4	31.0	26.1	27.4	81.1	73.1
YUGOIZTOCHEN	19.2	21.7	20.4	22.8	38.0	42.6
YUZHEN TSENTRALEN	18.4	19.4	18.5	19.6	41.1	42.4
YUGOZAPADEN	8.1	8.7	8.1	8.7	18.5	19.2
ČEZKÁ REPUBLIKA	8.5	8.8	10.1	10.5	16.6	17.0
PRAHA	3.2	3.4	3.8	4.1	8.4	8.4
STREDNÍ ČECHY	6.7	6.8	8.9	8.8	12.0	11.8
JIHOZÁPAD	6.4	6.1	8.0	7.7	11.7	11.3
SEVEROZÁPAD	12.6	13.7	15.0	16.4	23.0	25.4
SEVEROÝCHOD	7.3	6.7	8.8	8.2	13.5	12.7
JIHOVÝCHOD	8.8	8.8	10.7	10.8	17.6	17.1
STREDNÍ MORAVA	9.7	10.1	11.5	12.1	18.3	19.4
OSTRAVSKO	13.7	15.2	15.4	17.3	26.4	28.6
EESTI	11.7	13.2	10.2	11.6	22.1	23.7
MAGYARORSZÁG	6.9	6.6	6.2	5.8	12.3	12.3
KÖZÉP MAGYARORSZÁG	4.9	5.4	4.5	5.0	8.4	11.6
KÖZÉP DUNÁNTÚL	6.1	5.1	5.7	5.1	9.3	7.9
NYUGAT DUNÁNTÚL	4.6	4.4	4.3	4.8	6.6	8.5
DÉL DUNÁNTÚL	8.5	8.0	7.6	6.1	17.3	12.4
ÉSZAK MAGYARORSZÁG	11.6	9.9	11.3	7.7	20.7	20.1
ÉSZAK ALFÖLD	10.1	9.8	7.7	8.7	16.8	16.9
DÉL ALFÖLD	5.9	5.1	5.4	4.5	11.8	8.1
LIETUVA	10.2	15.6	9.2	13.1	21.3	27.5
LATVIJA	13.7	14.1	13.3	13.2	23.4	21.2
POLSKA	12.3	16.3	13.2	18.3	29.6	35.7
DOLNOSLASKIE	13.8	19.3	14.8	22.1	31.1	38.6
KUJAWSKO-POMORSKIE	15.2	19.7	17.0	23.0	37.3	45.3
LUBELSKIE	12.6	14.4	12.2	15.0	35.5	41.0
LUBUSKIE	15.3	20.5	16.8	23.0	27.5	42.5
ŁÓDZKIE	12.7	15.3	12.2	15.7	28.5	32.9
MALOPOLSKIE	9.7	12.6	10.5	14.2	29.1	31.3
MAZOWIECKIE	9.1	12.5	9.4	13.6	20.7	25.8
OPOLSKIE	12.1	14.8	14.5	17.8	25.0	33.2
PODKARPACKIE	16.1	20.1	16.7	21.5	47.9	58.5
PODLASKIE	11.4	15.6	11.8	16.9	25.9	37.6
POMORSKIE	13.0	19.0	15.1	22.6	31.2	38.2
ŚLĄSKIE	9.7	16.6	11.3	20.1	23.8	35.0
ŚWIĘTOKRZYSKIE	15.6	19.6	15.6	21.3	41.6	43.2
WARMINSKO-MAZURSKIE	21.3	24.4	23.1	27.8	48.8	39.7
WIELKOPOLSKIE	9.8	12.0	11.3	14.0	24.9	25.9
ZACHODNIOPOMORSKIE	14.9	21.7	16.0	25.1	28.5	45.0
ROMÂNIA	6.2	7.0	5.5	6.4	17.3	17.8
NORD-EST	6.8	6.9	6.6	6.6	16.5	15.3
SUD-EST	7.0	8.9	5.8	8.4	17.1	20.0
SUD	6.3	6.6	6.2	5.9	20.0	21.4
SUD-VEST	4.0	5.0	3.3	4.7	11.4	14.1
VEST	6.4	7.6	5.3	6.4	13.7	21.0
NORD-VEST	6.8	7.0	5.6	6.5	18.6	15.3
CENTRU	7.2	7.4	6.5	6.6	18.9	16.5
BUCURESTI	4.8	6.6	3.9	5.8	21.2	22.5
SLOVENIJA	7.3	6.9	7.5	7.1	18.5	16.4
SLOVENSKÁ REPUBLIKA	16.4	19.1	16.5	18.6	33.8	36.9
BRATISLAVSKÝ	5.9	6.6	6.3	7.0	17.4	17.8
ZÁPADNÉ SLOVENSKO	15.2	17.8	15.7	17.8	32.5	34.9
STREDNÉ SLOVENSKO	17.7	20.6	17.8	20.3	34.5	35.5
VÝCHODNÉ SLOVENSKO	22.1	25.1	21.7	24.0	43.4	47.1

Table 5: Unemployment rates in the regions on the CECC

➤ ESSENTIAL INFORMATION – METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

At the level 2 regional breakdown considered in this publication, there are 50 regions in the CECC. The figures at a level 3 regional breakdown and further subdivisions are available on request.

The data presented in this publication were supplied by the CECC to Eurostat and they take account of corrections up to June 2001.

The unemployment rate is defined as the percentage of unemployed persons in the total economically active population. It relates to persons who are aged at least 15 at a certain point in time and can be broken down further by age and sex. The youth unemployment rate relates to persons under 25 years of age.

The definition of unemployment is in line with the recommendations of the International Labour Office (ILO) and may, therefore, differ markedly from the respective national concepts. According to the international recommendations, a person is deemed to be unemployed if all three of the following conditions are met:

- he or she is without work during the survey reference week;
- he or she is available for work, being able to take up employment within two weeks;
- he or she has actively sought work over the past four weeks.

Estimates of regional unemployment rates are based on the estimates of employed and unemployed persons taken from the Community Labour Force Survey at national level. In a second step, the estimated jobless figures are broken down over the individual regions, applying the regional structures of registered unemployed persons or regionally representative results of labour force surveys. A similar procedure is followed in respect of employed persons, with regional results of labour force surveys or the regional structures of the most recent population censuses being used for regionalisation.

Initially, separate estimates are made for the sub-populations comprising women under 25 years of age, women aged 25 and above, men under 25 years and men aged 25 and above. The estimates for unemployed and employed persons in the individual sub-populations are subsequently added together to obtain an estimate of the overall unemployment rate.

Unemployment rates reflect the development at the labour market concerned. Labour market related political decisions and general political trends may therefore influence unemployment rates. The smaller the respective subpopulation, the more marked these effects will be. We can take as an example the youth unemployment rate: if low demand for labour means young people continue to go to school, the youth unemployment rate will be smaller than in the case when they look for jobs. Such effects should always be taken into account when interpreting unemployment rate.

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