

November 2010

## Euro area unemployment rate at 10.1%

EU27 at 9.6%

The **euro area**<sup>1</sup> (EA16) seasonally-adjusted<sup>2</sup> unemployment rate<sup>3</sup> was 10.1% in November 2010, unchanged compared with October<sup>4</sup>. It was 9.9% in November 2009. The **EU27**<sup>1</sup> unemployment rate was 9.6% in November 2010, unchanged compared with October<sup>4</sup>. It was 9.4% in November 2009.

Eurostat estimates that 23.248 million men and women in the **EU27**, of whom 15.924 million were in the **euro area**, were unemployed in November 2010. Compared with October, the number of persons unemployed decreased by 35 000 in the **EU27** and by 39 000 in the **euro area**. Compared with November 2009, unemployment rose by 606 000 in the **EU27** and by 347 000 in the **euro area**.

These figures are published by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**.

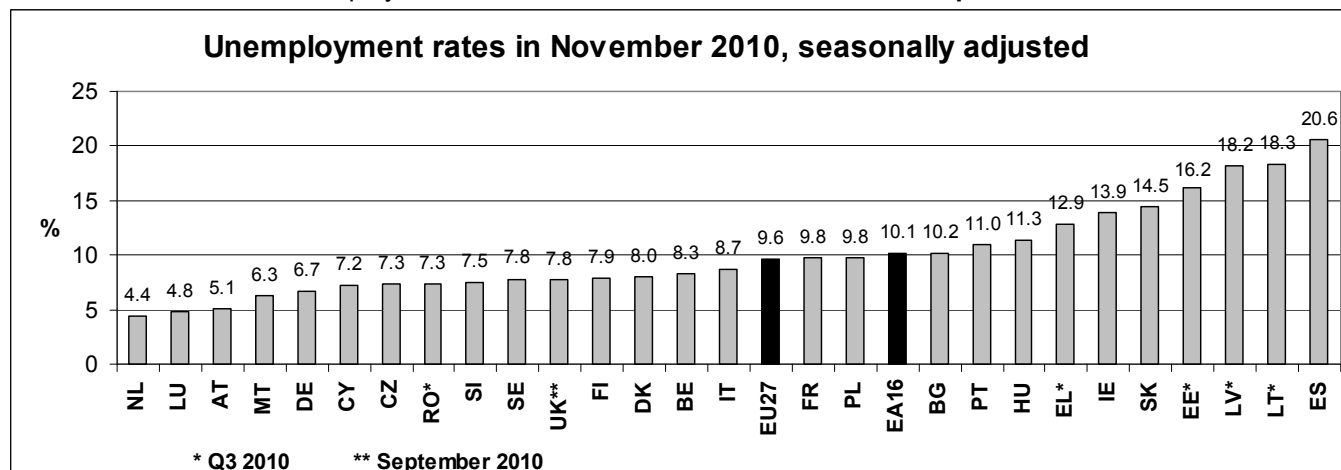
Among the Member States, the lowest unemployment rates were recorded in the **Netherlands** (4.4%), **Luxembourg** (4.8%) and **Austria** (5.1%), and the highest in **Spain** (20.6%), **Lithuania** (18.3% in the third quarter of 2010) and **Latvia** (18.2% in the third quarter of 2010).

Compared with a year ago, the unemployment rate fell in six Member States, remained stable in three and increased in eighteen. The largest falls were observed in **Finland** (8.8% to 7.9%), **Sweden** (8.7% to 7.8%), **Germany** (7.5% to 6.7%) and **Malta** (7.1% to 6.3%). The highest increases were registered in **Lithuania** (14.3% to 18.3% between the third quarters of 2009 and 2010), **Greece** (9.7% to 12.9% between the third quarters of 2009 and 2010) and **Bulgaria** (8.3% to 10.2%).

Between November 2009 and November 2010, the unemployment rate for males rose from 9.8% to 9.9% in the **euro area** and remained stable at 9.6% in the **EU27**. The female unemployment rate increased from 9.9% to 10.2% in the **euro area** and from 9.2% to 9.6% in the **EU27**.

In November 2010, the youth unemployment rate (under-25s) was 20.7% in the **euro area** and 21.0% in the **EU27**. In November 2009 it was 20.1% and 20.5% respectively. The lowest rates were observed in the **Netherlands** (8.4%), **Germany** (8.6%) and **Austria** (10.3%), and the highest in **Spain** (43.6%), **Slovakia** (36.6%) and **Lithuania** (35.2% in the third quarter of 2010).

In November 2010, the unemployment rate was 9.8% in the **USA** and 5.1% in **Japan**.



1. The euro area (EA16) consisted of 16 Member States up to 31 December 2010: Belgium, Germany, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Italy, Cyprus, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Austria, Portugal, Slovenia, Slovakia and Finland. From 1 January 2011 the euro area (EA17) also includes Estonia.  
The EU27 includes Belgium (BE), Bulgaria (BG), the Czech Republic (CZ), Denmark (DK), Germany (DE), Estonia (EE), Ireland (IE), Greece (EL), Spain (ES), France (FR), Italy (IT), Cyprus (CY), Latvia (LV), Lithuania (LT), Luxembourg (LU), Hungary (HU), Malta (MT), the Netherlands (NL), Austria (AT), Poland (PL), Portugal (PT), Romania (RO), Slovenia (SI), Slovakia (SK), Finland (FI), Sweden (SE) and the United Kingdom (UK).  
As part of Eurostat's guidelines for the dissemination of data when the EU or euro area is enlarged, the aggregate data series commented on refer to the official composition of the euro area in the most recent month for which data are available. Thus News Releases with data for months up to December 2010 comment on EA16 series, while Releases with data for January 2011 onwards will comment on EA17 series.
2. Non-seasonally adjusted and trend data can be found in the statistical database on the Eurostat website.
3. 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.  
The numbers of unemployed and the monthly unemployment rates are estimates based on results of the LFS which is a continuous household survey carried out in Member States on the basis of agreed definitions. These results are interpolated/extrapolated to monthly data using national survey data and/or national monthly series on registered unemployment. The most recent figures are therefore provisional; results from the Labour Force Survey are available 90 days after the end of the reference period for most Member States.  
Monthly unemployment and employment series are calculated first at the level of four categories for each Member State (males and females 15-24 years, males and females 25-74 years). These series are then seasonally adjusted and all the national and European aggregates are calculated.  
Member States may publish other rates such as register based unemployment rates, or rates based on national Labour Force Surveys or corresponding surveys. These rates may vary from those published by Eurostat due to a different definition or methodological choices.  
*Current deviations from the definition of unemployment in the EU Labour Force Survey:*  
*Spain, Italy and United Kingdom:* Unemployment is restricted to persons aged 16-74. In Spain and Italy the legal minimum age for working is 16. Employment data used for Italy includes also those above 74.
4. Compared with the rates published in News Release 180/2010 of 30 November 2010, the October 2010 unemployment rates remain unchanged for both the euro area and the EU27. Among Member States, the rate has been revised between 0.2 and 0.4 percentage points for Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Ireland, Cyprus, Luxembourg, Hungary, Malta and Slovakia. The revisions are primarily caused by the inclusion of the most recent EU Labour Force Survey data in the calculation process and updates to the seasonally adjusted series.  
The following LFS data are used in the calculations of the monthly unemployment rates published in this News Release:  
For Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Finland and Sweden monthly data up to and including November 2010.  
For the United Kingdom monthly data up to and including August-September-October 2010 (3-month rolling average).  
For Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Hungary, Malta, Austria, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia and Slovakia quarterly data up to and including Q3 2010.
5. Italy recently implemented a method to produce monthly unemployment data purely based on the LFS. For the moment, these data should be considered provisional.
6. Estonia, Greece, Latvia, Lithuania and Romania: quarterly data for all series.  
Cyprus and Slovenia: quarterly data for youth unemployment.
7. For Finland the trend component is used instead of the more volatile seasonally adjusted data.

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For further information on data:

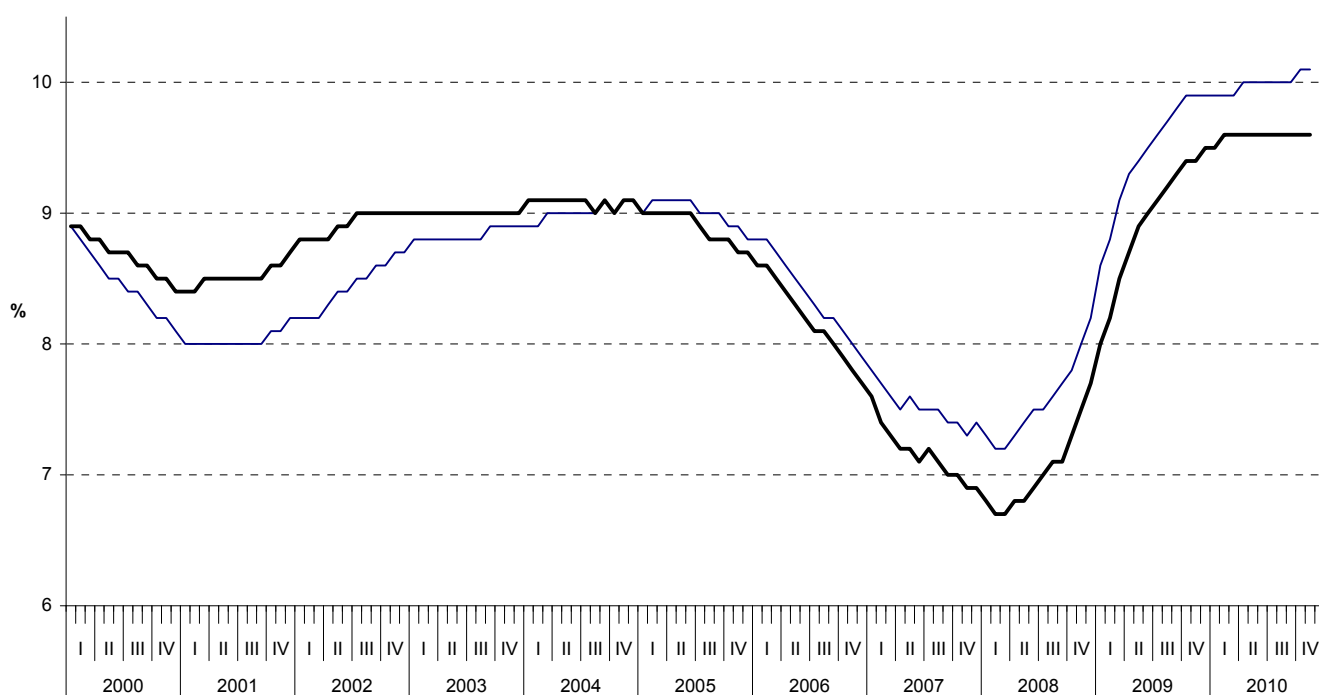
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Eurostat news releases on internet: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat>  
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### Euro area and EU27 unemployment rates

— Euro area (EA16), seasonally adjusted series  
 — EU27, seasonally adjusted series



### SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATES (%) TOTALS

|                         | Nov 2009 | May 2010 | Jun 2010 | Jul 2010 | Aug 2010 | Sep 2010 | Oct 2010 | Nov 2010    |
|-------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-------------|
| <b>EA16</b>             | 9.9      | 10.0     | 10.0     | 10.0     | 10.0     | 10.0     | 10.1     | <b>10.1</b> |
| <b>EU27</b>             | 9.4      | 9.6      | 9.6      | 9.6      | 9.6      | 9.6      | 9.6      | <b>9.6</b>  |
| <b>EA17<sup>1</sup></b> | 9.9      | 10.0     | 10.0     | 10.0     | 10.0     | 10.1     | 10.1     | <b>10.1</b> |
| <b>BE</b>               | 8.1      | 8.4      | 8.5      | 8.5      | 8.5      | 8.4      | 8.3      | <b>8.3</b>  |
| <b>BG</b>               | 8.3      | 10.0     | 10.0     | 10.0     | 10.0     | 10.1     | 10.1     | <b>10.2</b> |
| <b>CZ</b>               | 7.3      | 7.3      | 7.2      | 7.1      | 7.1      | 7.1      | 7.2      | <b>7.3</b>  |
| <b>DK</b>               | 7.2      | 7.4      | 7.5      | 7.3      | 7.3      | 7.6      | 7.8      | <b>8.0</b>  |
| <b>DE</b>               | 7.5      | 6.9      | 6.8      | 6.8      | 6.7      | 6.7      | 6.7      | <b>6.7</b>  |
| <b>EE<sup>5</sup></b>   | 15.7     | 18.5     | 18.5     | 16.2     | 16.2     | 16.2     | :        | :           |
| <b>IE</b>               | 13.1     | 13.6     | 13.6     | 13.6     | 13.7     | 13.9     | 13.9     | <b>13.9</b> |
| <b>EL<sup>6</sup></b>   | 10.2     | 12.2     | 12.2     | 12.9     | 12.9     | 12.9     | :        | :           |
| <b>ES</b>               | 19.0     | 20.0     | 20.2     | 20.4     | 20.5     | 20.6     | 20.6     | <b>20.6</b> |
| <b>FR</b>               | 10.0     | 9.8      | 9.8      | 9.7      | 9.7      | 9.7      | 9.7      | <b>9.8</b>  |
| <b>IT<sup>5</sup></b>   | 8.3      | 8.5      | 8.3      | 8.3      | 8.2      | 8.4      | 8.7      | <b>8.7</b>  |
| <b>CY</b>               | 6.2      | 6.9      | 7.0      | 6.9      | 7.0      | 6.9      | 7.1      | <b>7.2</b>  |
| <b>LV<sup>6</sup></b>   | 19.9     | 19.4     | 19.4     | 18.2     | 18.2     | 18.2     | :        | :           |
| <b>LT<sup>6</sup></b>   | 16.0     | 18.2     | 18.2     | 18.3     | 18.3     | 18.3     | :        | :           |
| <b>LU</b>               | 4.8      | 4.6      | 4.7      | 4.7      | 4.7      | 4.7      | 4.7      | <b>4.8</b>  |
| <b>HU</b>               | 10.6     | 11.2     | 11.3     | 11.1     | 11.0     | 11.0     | 11.2     | <b>11.3</b> |
| <b>MT</b>               | 7.1      | 6.8      | 6.7      | 6.7      | 6.5      | 6.5      | 6.5      | <b>6.3</b>  |
| <b>NL</b>               | 4.2      | 4.5      | 4.5      | 4.6      | 4.5      | 4.4      | 4.4      | <b>4.4</b>  |
| <b>AT</b>               | 4.7      | 4.6      | 4.5      | 4.4      | 4.5      | 4.7      | 4.9      | <b>5.1</b>  |
| <b>PL</b>               | 8.8      | 9.6      | 9.6      | 9.6      | 9.6      | 9.7      | 9.8      | <b>9.8</b>  |
| <b>PT</b>               | 10.2     | 11.1     | 11.1     | 11.1     | 11.1     | 11.1     | 11.0     | <b>11.0</b> |
| <b>RO<sup>6</sup></b>   | 7.6      | 7.1      | 7.1      | 7.3      | 7.3      | 7.3      | :        | :           |
| <b>SI</b>               | 6.4      | 7.3      | 7.4      | 7.2      | 7.3      | 7.3      | 7.5      | <b>7.5</b>  |
| <b>SK</b>               | 14.1     | 14.5     | 14.5     | 14.4     | 14.4     | 14.5     | 14.5     | <b>14.5</b> |
| <b>FI<sup>7</sup></b>   | 8.8      | 8.5      | 8.4      | 8.3      | 8.2      | 8.1      | 8.0      | <b>7.9</b>  |
| <b>SE</b>               | 8.7      | 8.7      | 8.1      | 8.5      | 8.2      | 8.2      | 8.1      | <b>7.8</b>  |
| <b>UK</b>               | 7.8      | 7.7      | 7.8      | 7.7      | 7.7      | 7.8      | :        | :           |
| <b>NO</b>               | 3.2      | 3.6      | 3.5      | 3.4      | 3.4      | 3.5      | 3.6      | :           |
| <b>US</b>               | 10.0     | 9.7      | 9.5      | 9.5      | 9.6      | 9.6      | 9.6      | <b>9.8</b>  |
| <b>JP</b>               | 5.3      | 5.2      | 5.3      | 5.2      | 5.1      | 5.0      | 5.1      | <b>5.1</b>  |

: Data not available Source: Eurostat

### SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATES (%)

|                 | Youth (under 25's) |        |        |             | Males  |        |        |             | Females |        |        |             |
|-----------------|--------------------|--------|--------|-------------|--------|--------|--------|-------------|---------|--------|--------|-------------|
|                 | Nov-09             | Sep-10 | Oct-10 | Nov-10      | Nov-09 | Sep-10 | Oct-10 | Nov-10      | Nov-09  | Sep-10 | Oct-10 | Nov-10      |
| EA16            | 20.1               | 20.3   | 20.5   | <b>20.7</b> | 9.8    | 9.9    | 10.0   | <b>9.9</b>  | 9.9     | 10.2   | 10.2   | <b>10.2</b> |
| EU27            | 20.5               | 20.6   | 20.8   | <b>21.0</b> | 9.6    | 9.6    | 9.6    | <b>9.6</b>  | 9.2     | 9.6    | 9.6    | <b>9.6</b>  |
| BE              | 23.2               | 21.3   | 21.0   | <b>20.9</b> | 8.2    | 8.2    | 8.2    | <b>8.1</b>  | 8.0     | 8.6    | 8.5    | <b>8.5</b>  |
| BG              | 19.4               | 22.2   | 22.5   | <b>23.0</b> | 8.7    | 10.9   | 10.8   | <b>10.8</b> | 7.8     | 9.2    | 9.3    | <b>9.5</b>  |
| CZ              | 20.1               | 18.0   | 18.4   | <b>18.8</b> | 6.6    | 6.1    | 6.2    | <b>6.3</b>  | 8.2     | 8.4    | 8.5    | <b>8.6</b>  |
| DK              | 13.1               | 15.6   | 15.9   | <b>16.0</b> | 7.8    | 7.6    | 7.9    | <b>8.2</b>  | 6.5     | 7.5    | 7.8    | <b>7.9</b>  |
| DE              | 10.2               | 8.4    | 8.7    | <b>8.6</b>  | 8.1    | 7.2    | 7.2    | <b>7.2</b>  | 6.8     | 6.1    | 6.1    | <b>6.1</b>  |
| EE <sup>6</sup> | 32.3               | 28.0   | :      | :           | 20.0   | 17.6   | :      | :           | 11.4    | 14.7   | :      | :           |
| IE              | 27.9               | 27.5   | 28.0   | <b>28.4</b> | 16.3   | 17.0   | 16.9   | <b>16.8</b> | 9.0     | 10.0   | 10.2   | <b>10.3</b> |
| EL <sup>6</sup> | 27.8               | 33.4   | :      | :           | 7.6    | 10.3   | :      | :           | 13.9    | 16.6   | :      | :           |
| ES              | 39.3               | 42.8   | 43.2   | <b>43.6</b> | 18.9   | 20.2   | 20.4   | <b>20.4</b> | 19.2    | 21.1   | 21.0   | <b>20.8</b> |
| FR              | 23.7               | 24.1   | 24.6   | <b>24.9</b> | 9.9    | 9.4    | 9.4    | <b>9.5</b>  | 10.1    | 10.1   | 10.1   | <b>10.1</b> |
| IT <sup>6</sup> | 26.4               | 28.2   | 27.9   | <b>28.9</b> | 7.3    | 7.5    | 7.9    | <b>7.8</b>  | 9.7     | 9.7    | 9.9    | <b>10.0</b> |
| CY <sup>6</sup> | 17.0               | 19.5   | :      | :           | 6.2    | 6.8    | 7.0    | <b>7.0</b>  | 6.2     | 7.1    | 7.3    | <b>7.4</b>  |
| LV <sup>6</sup> | 40.6               | 33.3   | :      | :           | 24.0   | 20.9   | :      | :           | 15.8    | 15.5   | :      | :           |
| LT <sup>6</sup> | 31.2               | 35.2   | :      | :           | 20.2   | 21.3   | :      | :           | 11.7    | 15.4   | :      | :           |
| LU              | 15.9               | 16.1   | 16.3   | <b>17.1</b> | 4.3    | 4.1    | 4.2    | <b>4.2</b>  | 5.5     | 5.4    | 5.4    | <b>5.5</b>  |
| HU              | 28.3               | 25.8   | 26.6   | <b>27.2</b> | 10.8   | 11.3   | 11.4   | <b>11.6</b> | 10.4    | 10.7   | 10.8   | <b>10.9</b> |
| MT              | 14.7               | 12.1   | 12.3   | <b>11.8</b> | 6.8    | 6.5    | 6.4    | <b>6.2</b>  | 7.7     | 6.5    | 6.6    | <b>6.4</b>  |
| NL              | 8.7                | 8.6    | 8.5    | <b>8.4</b>  | 4.2    | 4.3    | 4.2    | <b>4.3</b>  | 4.3     | 4.6    | 4.5    | <b>4.5</b>  |
| AT              | 9.3                | 9.3    | 9.8    | <b>10.3</b> | 5.1    | 5.1    | 5.5    | <b>5.8</b>  | 4.4     | 4.1    | 4.2    | <b>4.4</b>  |
| PL              | 22.5               | 24.3   | 24.6   | <b>24.9</b> | 8.5    | 9.3    | 9.4    | <b>9.4</b>  | 9.1     | 10.2   | 10.3   | <b>10.3</b> |
| PT              | 21.4               | 23.1   | 22.6   | <b>22.3</b> | 9.6    | 9.8    | 9.8    | <b>9.7</b>  | 10.8    | 12.5   | 12.4   | <b>12.3</b> |
| RO <sup>6</sup> | 20.6               | 21.7   | :      | :           | 8.2    | 7.9    | :      | :           | 6.8     | 6.5    | :      | :           |
| SI <sup>6</sup> | 13.9               | 14.8   | :      | :           | 6.4    | 7.3    | 7.7    | <b>7.7</b>  | 6.4     | 7.4    | 7.4    | <b>7.3</b>  |
| SK              | 31.5               | 34.8   | 35.9   | <b>36.6</b> | 13.8   | 14.5   | 14.6   | <b>14.7</b> | 14.5    | 14.4   | 14.4   | <b>14.4</b> |
| FI <sup>7</sup> | 22.8               | 20.6   | 20.5   | <b>20.5</b> | 9.5    | 8.8    | 8.7    | <b>8.7</b>  | 7.9     | 7.3    | 7.2    | <b>7.1</b>  |
| SE              | 25.5               | 24.7   | 23.8   | <b>22.9</b> | 9.1    | 8.4    | 8.1    | <b>7.9</b>  | 8.3     | 7.9    | 8.0    | <b>7.7</b>  |
| UK              | 19.6               | 19.1   | :      | :           | 8.8    | 8.4    | :      | :           | 6.6     | 7.0    | :      | :           |
| NO              | 8.8                | 8.6    | 8.7    | :           | 3.7    | 3.9    | 3.9    | :           | 2.7     | 3.2    | 3.2    | :           |
| US              | 19.1               | 17.9   | 18.6   | <b>18.3</b> | 11.2   | 10.5   | 10.4   | <b>10.6</b> | 8.6     | 8.6    | 8.8    | <b>8.9</b>  |
| JP              | :                  | :      | :      | :           | 5.5    | 5.5    | 5.4    | <b>5.4</b>  | 5.0     | 4.3    | 4.6    | <b>4.7</b>  |

: Data not available Source: Eurostat

### SEASONALLY ADJUSTED NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED (in millions)

|      | Nov 2009 | May 2010 | Jun 2010 | Jul 2010 | Aug 2010 | Sep 2010 | Oct 2010 | Nov 2010      |
|------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|---------------|
| EA16 | 15.577   | 15.819   | 15.780   | 15.816   | 15.809   | 15.867   | 15.963   | <b>15.924</b> |
| EU27 | 22.642   | 23.138   | 23.075   | 23.102   | 23.067   | 23.171   | 23.283   | <b>23.248</b> |

Euro area and EU27 unemployed (in millions)

