

October 2006

Euro area unemployment down to 7.7%

EU25 unchanged at 7.9%

Euro area¹ seasonally-adjusted unemployment² stood at 7.7% in October 2006, compared to 7.8% in September³. It was 8.5% in October 2005. The **EU25**⁴ unemployment rate was 7.9% in October 2006, the same as September³. It was 8.6% in October 2005.

In October 2006, the lowest rates were registered in **Denmark** (3.5% in September), the **Netherlands** (3.9%), **Estonia** and **Ireland** (both 4.2%), and **Austria** (4.7%). Unemployment rates were highest in **Poland** (14.0%), **Slovakia** (12.7%), **Greece** (9.0% in the second quarter of 2006), **France** (8.8%) and **Spain** (8.4%).

These figures come from **Eurostat, the Statistical Office of the European Communities**.

Amongst the Member States, twenty recorded a fall in their unemployment rate over a year, three reported an increase, while the rate remained stable in **Malta**. The largest relative falls were observed in **Estonia** (7.4% to 4.2%), **Denmark** (4.6% in September 2005 to 3.5% in September 2006), **Slovenia** (6.8% to 5.4%) and **Slovakia** (15.9% to 12.7%). The only increases were registered in the **United Kingdom** (4.7% in August 2005 to 5.6% in August 2006), **Hungary** (7.5% to 7.9%) and **Luxembourg** (4.7% to 4.9%).

The unemployment rate for males fell from 7.2% to 6.5% between October 2005 and October 2006 in the **euro area** and from 7.7% to 6.9% in the **EU25**. The female unemployment rate declined from 10.0% to 9.3% in the **euro area** and from 9.8% to 9.1% in the **EU25**.

In October 2006, the unemployment rate for under-25s was 16.6% in the **euro area** and 17.3% in the **EU25**. In October 2005 it was 17.6% and 18.4% respectively. The lowest rates for under-25s were observed in the **Netherlands** (6.6%), **Denmark** (6.9% in September), **Estonia** (7.9% in the third quarter of 2006) and **Ireland** (8.7%), the highest in **Poland** (29.1%), **Greece** (25.2% in the second quarter of 2006), **Slovakia** (24.9%), and **France** (21.6%).

Eurostat estimates that 11.4 million men and women were unemployed in the **euro area** in October 2006, and 17.2 million in the **EU25**. These are seasonally-adjusted figures in line with ILO criteria.

The **US** unemployment rate was 4.4% in October 2006, and the **Japanese** rate was 4.2% in September 2006.

Unemployment (%) in October 2006 - in ascending order

DK	NL	EE	IE	AT	LU	CY	SI	UK	LT	IT	LV	CZ
Sep 06 3.5	3.9	4.2	4.2	4.7	4.9	5.1	5.4	Aug 06 5.6	5.7	2006 Q2 6.8	6.8	6.9
PT	MT	Euro area	EU25	HU	FI	DE ⁵	BE	ES	FR	EL	SK	PL
7.2	7.3	7.7	7.9	7.9	7.9	8.2	8.3	8.4	8.8	2006 Q2 9.0	12.7	14.0

1. Euro area: Belgium, Germany, Greece, Spain, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Austria, Portugal and Finland. Data for the forthcoming enlargement of the euro area (12 Member States plus Slovenia) are available in the labour market domain of the Eurostat internet site.
2. *Eurostat's unemployment rates*
Eurostat compiles "harmonised" unemployment rates for Member States. These unemployment rates are based on definitions recommended by the International Labour Organisation (ILO). "Harmonised" means that the national micro data concerning the individuals and households are treated by Eurostat in the same fashion throughout the EU so as to allow comparability between the Member States.
The Eurostat definition of unemployed people are those aged 15 to 74 and who, following the International Labour Organisation (ILO) definition:
 - 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 and unemployed.
The numbers of unemployed and the monthly unemployment rate are estimates based on results of the European Union Labour Force Survey which is a household survey carried out in all countries on the basis of agreed definitions. These results are interpolated/ extrapolated to monthly data using national survey data and national monthly series on registered unemployment. The most recent figures are therefore provisional; first 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. Before the aggregation, missing national data are estimated using the most recent trends of the series.
Registered unemployed data are national administrative data compiled on a purely national basis and purposes. There are no European-wide rules on definition and coverage. Therefore the ensuing unemployment rates cannot be compared from one country to another. National legislation on the definition of unemployment and therefore its calculation can change in individual states. The conditions to receive unemployment benefits and assistance vary from one country to another. This affects the willingness of people to register themselves and the published unemployment rates.
Member States may also publish other rates than register based unemployment rates, for example based on national Labour Force or corresponding surveys. Although still internationally comparable, these rates may vary to a minor extent from those published by Eurostat due to different methodological choices.
Current deviations from definition of unemployment in the EU Labour Force Survey
Spain, United Kingdom: Unemployment is restricted to persons aged 16-74. In Spain the legal age limit for working is 16.
Netherlands: Persons without a job, who are available for work and looking for a job are only included in unemployment if they express that they would like to work.
3. The September 2006 unemployment rate for the EU25 has been revised. The rate published in News Release 143/2006 of 3 November 2006 was 8.0%. The rate published for the euro area remains unchanged.
4. EU25: Belgium (BE), the Czech Republic (CZ), Denmark (DK), Germany (DE), Estonia (EE), Greece (EL), Spain (ES), France (FR), Ireland (IE), Italy (IT), Cyprus (CY), Latvia (LV), Lithuania (LT), Luxembourg (LU), Hungary (HU), Malta (MT), the Netherlands (NL), Austria (AT), Poland (PL), Portugal (PT), Slovenia (SI), Slovakia (SK), Finland (FI), Sweden (SE) and the United Kingdom (UK). Data for the forthcoming enlargement of the EU (25 Member States plus Bulgaria (BG) and Romania (RO)) are available in the labour market domain of the Eurostat internet site.
5. Provisional data. German seasonally adjusted data are based on the German statistical office's telephone survey. Due to the relative shortness of the time series offered by the survey, it is not possible to fully extract the seasonal component. Hence, European aggregates have been compiled using smoothed German seasonally adjusted data. This method is applied for the data from 2003 onwards.
6. Due to the introduction of an EU-harmonised Swedish Labour Force Survey in April 2005, seasonally adjusted time series are not yet available.
7. Quarterly data.

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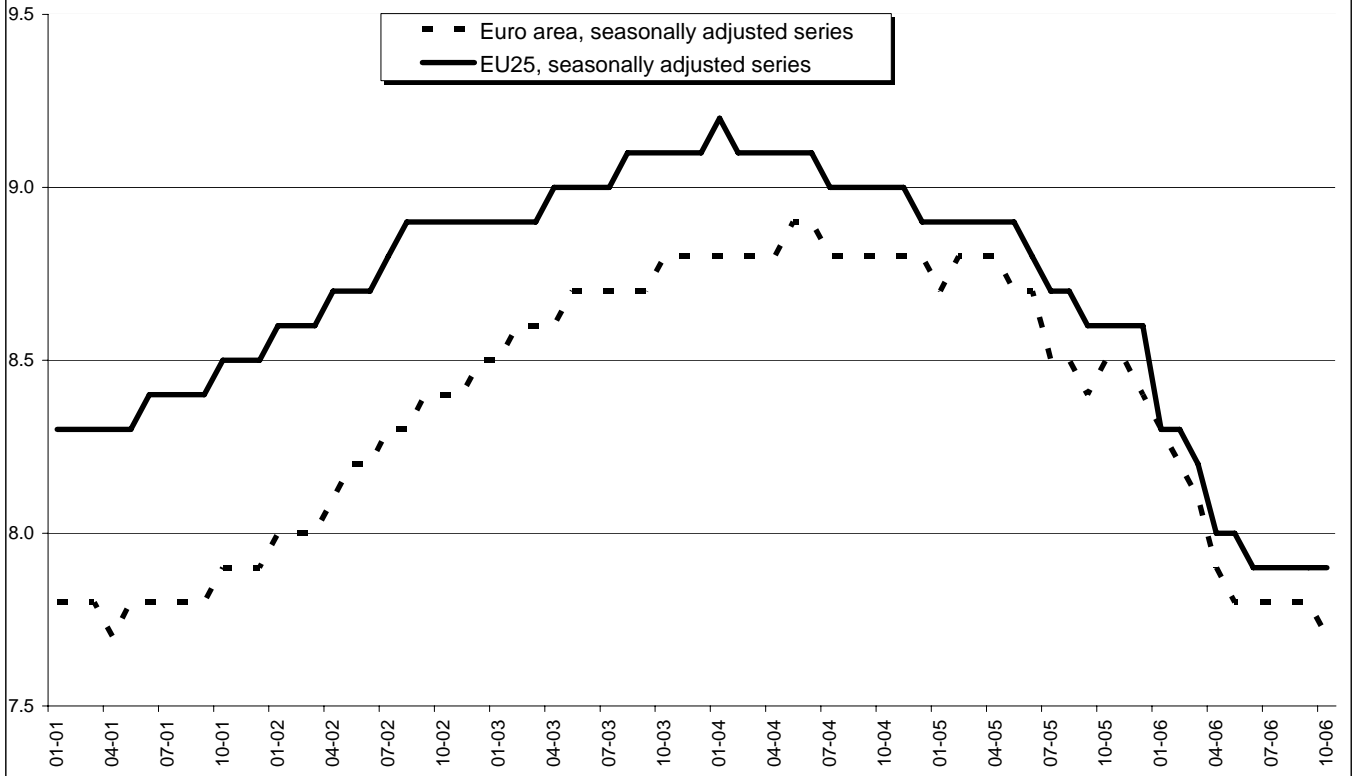
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Euro area and EU25 unemployment rates



**SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATES (%)
TOTAL MALES AND FEMALES**

	Oct 2005	Apr 2006	May 2006	June 2006	July 2006	Aug 2006	Sep 2006	Oct 2006
Euro area⁵	8.5	7.9	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.7
EU25⁵	8.6	8.0	8.0	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.9
BE	8.4	8.7	8.7	8.6	8.5	8.5	8.6	8.3
CZ	7.9	7.4	7.3	7.1	7.2	7.1	7.0	6.9
DK	4.2	4.2	4.1	4.0	3.7	3.7	3.5	:
DE⁵	9.2	8.2	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.5	8.6	8.2
EE	7.4	6.6	6.2	6.0	4.6	4.4	4.2	4.2
EL⁷	9.6	9.0	9.0	9.0	:	:	:	:
ES	8.8	8.6	8.6	8.5	8.4	8.4	8.3	8.4
FR	9.9	9.4	9.3	9.2	9.1	9.0	8.9	8.8
IE	4.4	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.2	4.2
IT⁷	7.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	:	:	:	:
CY	5.2	5.1	5.3	5.3	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.1
LV	8.0	7.5	7.3	7.2	7.4	7.2	7.0	6.8
LT	7.0	6.1	5.7	5.6	5.6	5.8	6.1	5.7
LU	4.7	4.8	4.7	4.7	4.8	4.8	4.9	4.9
HU	7.5	7.4	7.2	7.3	7.5	7.6	7.6	7.9
MT	7.3	7.6	7.5	7.6	7.5	7.5	7.4	7.3
NL	4.6	4.0	3.9	3.9	3.8	4.1	3.9	3.9
AT	5.2	4.9	4.9	4.8	4.9	4.8	4.7	4.7
PL	17.2	14.5	14.4	14.2	14.4	14.2	14.1	14.0
PT	7.8	7.5	7.4	7.4	7.3	7.2	7.2	7.2
SI	6.8	6.4	6.3	6.2	6.1	6.0	5.8	5.4
SK	15.9	13.6	13.6	13.5	13.2	13.1	12.9	12.7
FI	8.3	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.9	7.9	7.9
SE⁶	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
UK	5.0	5.4	5.5	5.5	5.6	5.6	:	:
BG	9.8	9.5	9.1	8.9	8.3	8.1	7.9	:
RO	8.6	7.9	7.8	7.7	7.7	7.7	7.6	:
US	5.0	4.7	4.6	4.6	4.8	4.7	4.6	4.4
JP	4.5	4.1	4.0	4.2	4.1	4.2	4.2	:

: Data not available
Source: Eurostat

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATES (%)
MALES

	Oct 2005	Apr 2006	May 2006	June 2006	July 2006	Aug 2006	Sep 2006	Oct 2006
Euro area^b	7.2	6.8	6.8	6.7	6.7	6.6	6.6	6.5
EU25^b	7.7	7.2	7.2	7.1	7.0	7.0	6.9	6.9
BE	7.6	8.1	8.1	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.2	7.5
CZ	6.2	5.9	5.8	5.7	5.6	5.5	5.4	5.5
DK	3.9	3.8	3.6	3.6	3.1	3.2	3.1	:
DE^b	8.6	7.8	8.0	7.9	7.6	7.9	7.5	7.1
EE	7.9	6.3	5.7	5.4	5.2	4.9	4.7	4.3
EL^c	5.9	5.8	5.8	5.8	:	:	:	:
ES	6.7	6.5	6.4	6.4	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.2
FR	8.9	8.6	8.4	8.3	8.2	8.1	8.1	8.0
IE	4.6	4.7	4.7	4.4	4.4	4.5	4.4	4.4
IT^c	5.9	5.3	5.3	5.3	:	:	:	:
CY	4.5	4.5	4.6	4.6	4.5	4.5	4.4	4.4
LV	8.3	8.3	8.0	7.8	8.3	8.0	7.7	7.4
LT	7.2	5.8	5.4	5.6	5.4	5.8	6.1	5.7
LU	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.6
HU	7.3	7.1	6.9	6.9	7.4	7.5	7.5	7.8
MT	6.5	6.8	6.7	6.8	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.5
NL	4.3	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.8	3.4	3.5
AT	4.9	4.5	4.5	4.4	4.5	4.4	4.3	4.3
PL	16.1	13.7	13.5	13.3	13.2	13.0	12.8	12.7
PT	6.8	6.5	6.4	6.3	6.2	6.2	6.1	6.1
SI	6.4	5.6	5.5	5.3	5.0	4.9	4.7	4.7
SK	15.0	12.4	12.4	12.3	12.0	11.9	11.6	11.4
FI	7.9	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.5	7.5	7.5
SE^b	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
UK	5.4	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.9	:	:
BG	9.9	9.2	8.9	8.6	8.1	7.8	7.6	:
RO	9.2	8.7	8.6	8.4	8.4	8.3	8.3	:
US	4.8	4.7	4.8	4.6	4.8	4.7	4.4	4.4
JP	4.5	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.3	4.3	:

FEMALES

	Oct 2005	Apr 2006	May 2006	June 2006	July 2006	Aug 2006	Sep 2006	Oct 2006
Euro area^b	10.0	9.3	9.2	9.2	9.2	9.3	9.3	9.3
EU25^b	9.8	9.0	9.0	8.9	9.0	9.0	9.1	9.1
BE	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.1	9.1	9.2	9.2
CZ	10.0	9.3	9.1	8.9	9.2	9.1	9.0	8.8
DK	4.5	4.7	4.6	4.5	4.3	4.2	4.1	:
DE^b	10.0	8.7	8.7	8.7	9.1	9.3	9.8	9.4
EE	6.9	7.0	6.7	6.6	3.9	3.9	3.7	4.0
EL^c	14.8	13.7	13.7	13.7	:	:	:	:
ES	11.7	11.5	11.5	11.4	11.3	11.3	11.3	11.4
FR	10.9	10.4	10.3	10.2	10.1	10.0	9.9	9.8
IE	4.1	4.4	4.4	4.5	4.5	4.5	3.9	3.9
IT^c	10.6	8.9	8.9	8.9	:	:	:	:
CY	6.2	6.0	6.2	6.1	6.2	6.1	5.9	6.1
LV	7.7	6.7	6.6	6.5	6.4	6.3	6.2	6.2
LT	6.8	6.3	6.1	5.6	5.8	5.9	6.0	5.8
LU	6.2	6.3	6.3	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.6	6.7
HU	7.7	7.7	7.7	7.7	7.7	7.8	7.7	7.9
MT	9.3	9.4	9.3	9.3	9.2	9.3	9.2	9.1
NL	4.9	4.4	4.3	4.4	4.3	4.4	4.4	4.5
AT	5.7	5.3	5.4	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.2	5.2
PL	18.6	15.5	15.5	15.2	15.8	15.7	15.6	15.7
PT	9.1	8.7	8.6	8.5	8.5	8.4	8.4	8.5
SI	7.3	7.4	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.2	7.0	6.2
SK	17.0	15.2	15.2	14.9	14.7	14.6	14.4	14.3
FI	8.6	8.2	8.1	8.1	8.2	8.2	8.3	8.3
SE^b	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
UK	4.6	5.0	5.1	5.2	5.3	5.2	:	:
BG	9.6	9.7	9.4	9.2	8.5	8.3	8.1	:
RO	7.8	6.9	6.9	6.9	6.9	6.9	6.8	:
US	5.1	4.7	4.5	4.6	4.8	4.7	4.7	4.4
JP	4.5	3.8	3.8	4.2	3.9	3.9	4.1	:

: Data not available
Source: Eurostat

**SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATES (%)
UNDER 25 YEARS**

	Oct 2005	Apr 2006	May 2006	June 2006	July 2006	Aug 2006	Sep 2006	Oct 2006
Euro area^b	17.6	16.6	16.3	16.3	16.4	16.6	16.6	16.6
EU25^b	18.4	17.4	17.2	17.1	17.2	17.3	17.3	17.3
BE	21.3	20.7	20.7	20.2	20.7	20.6	21.3	20.2
CZ	18.9	18.5	18.3	17.8	17.1	17.0	17.0	16.4
DK	8.9	7.6	7.4	7.4	7.1	7.1	6.9	:
DE^b	14.9	13.9	13.0	13.5	14.3	15.5	15.6	14.6
EE^c	12.9	12.7	12.7	12.7	7.9	7.9	7.9	:
EL^c	26.3	25.2	25.2	25.2	:	:	:	:
ES	18.4	18.9	18.5	18.1	17.5	17.4	17.1	17.4
FR	23.8	22.7	22.5	22.3	22.0	21.9	21.7	21.6
IE	8.7	9.1	9.1	8.4	8.4	8.5	8.6	8.7
IT^c	24.1	20.7	20.7	20.7	:	:	:	:
CY^c	12.5	12.9	12.9	12.9	12.2	12.2	12.2	:
LV^c	11.5	15.4	15.4	15.4	12.2	12.2	12.2	:
LT^c	12.5	9.7	9.7	9.7	11.0	11.0	11.0	:
LU	14.0	14.4	14.2	14.1	14.0	14.2	14.3	14.2
HU	19.7	18.1	17.8	17.8	18.1	18.1	17.9	18.8
MT	16.7	18.2	17.7	17.7	17.3	17.5	17.3	16.8
NL	7.6	6.2	6.1	6.2	6.3	6.6	6.6	6.6
AT	10.4	9.6	9.6	9.5	9.6	9.5	9.1	9.2
PL	35.2	30.4	30.1	29.4	29.7	29.4	28.9	29.1
PT	16.1	15.4	15.2	15.0	15.0	14.8	14.8	14.8
SI^c	16.1	16.0	16.0	16.0	12.4	12.4	12.4	:
SK	29.7	27.8	27.5	27.2	26.3	25.8	24.8	24.9
FI	19.7	18.9	18.9	18.9	19.0	19.2	19.3	19.5
SE^b	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
UK	13.9	14.6	14.8	15.0	14.8	15.0	:	:
BG	21.6	22.6	21.5	20.7	17.4	17.0	16.5	:
RO	30.2	26.9	27.0	27.2	27.4	27.3	27.5	:
US	10.8	10.3	10.0	10.4	10.8	10.8	10.7	10.7
JP	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:

25 YEARS AND OVER

	Oct 2005	Apr 2006	May 2006	June 2006	July 2006	Aug 2006	Sep 2006	Oct 2006
Euro area^b	7.3	6.8	6.7	6.7	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6
EU25^b	7.3	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.6	6.6	6.6
BE	7.0	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.2	7.3	7.3	7.0
CZ	6.8	6.3	6.2	6.1	6.3	6.2	6.1	6.1
DK	3.4	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.1	3.1	3.0	:
DE^b	8.3	7.3	7.6	7.4	7.3	7.3	7.4	7.1
EE	6.7	5.7	5.5	5.4	4.1	4.0	3.9	3.7
EL^c	8.1	7.6	7.6	7.6	:	:	:	:
ES	7.5	7.2	7.2	7.2	7.2	7.2	7.2	7.2
FR	8.2	7.9	7.8	7.7	7.6	7.5	7.4	7.4
IE	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.3	3.3
IT^c	6.3	5.5	5.5	5.5	:	:	:	:
CY	4.4	4.3	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.3	4.3
LV	7.5	6.3	6.2	6.1	6.7	6.5	6.3	6.2
LT	6.5	5.7	5.4	5.2	5.2	5.4	5.4	5.1
LU	3.9	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.1	4.2
HU	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.9
MT	4.9	5.0	5.0	5.1	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
NL	4.0	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.6	3.4	3.4
AT	4.4	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.0	4.0
PL	14.7	12.4	12.3	12.2	12.4	12.3	12.1	12.1
PT	6.9	6.6	6.6	6.5	6.5	6.4	6.4	6.4
SI	5.7	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.2	5.2	5.2	4.7
SK	14.1	11.8	11.8	11.7	11.5	11.4	11.3	11.2
FI	6.6	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.3	6.3	6.3
SE^b	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
UK	3.4	3.7	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.9	:	:
BG	8.6	8.2	7.9	7.8	7.4	7.2	7.1	:
RO	5.7	5.6	5.5	5.4	5.3	5.3	5.2	:
US	3.9	3.7	3.7	3.6	3.7	3.6	3.5	3.3
JP	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:

: Data not available
Source: Eurostat