

March 2002

Euro-zone unemployment stable at 8.4%

EU15 steady at 7.6%

Euro-zone¹ seasonally-adjusted unemployment² stood at 8.4% in March 2002 unchanged compared to February³, **Eurostat - Statistical Office of the European Communities in Luxembourg** - reports today. It was 8.3% in March 2001.

The **EU15** unemployment rate was 7.6% in March unchanged compared to February³. It was also 7.6% in March 2001.

In March 2002, lowest rates were registered in the **Netherlands** (2.4% in February), **Luxembourg** (2.6%), **Austria** (4.0%), **Denmark** (4.1%), **Portugal** (4.3%), and **Ireland** (4.4%). **Spain's** 12.9% remained the **EU's** highest rate.

In the last twelve months, the most important relative falls were recorded in the **Netherlands** (2.6% in February 2001 to 2.4% in February 2002) and **Denmark** (4.4% to 4.1%). **Ireland** (3.7% to 4.4%), **Austria** (3.4% to 4.0%), **Luxembourg** (2.3% to 2.6%) and **Portugal** (4.0% to 4.3%) recorded the most important relative increases over the past year.

In March 2002 compared to March 2001, the unemployment rate for males in the **euro-zone** grew from 6.9% to 7.1%, while the female unemployment rate decreased from 10.3% to 10.1%. In the **EU15** the unemployment rate for males grew from 6.5% in March 2001 to 6.7% in March 2002. Over the same period the female rate decreased from 9.0% to 8.8%.

In March 2002, the unemployment rate for under-25s was 16.8% in the **euro-zone** and 15.5% in the **EU15**. This compares to 16.4% and 15.2% respectively a year earlier. In March 2002, it ranged from 5.2% in the **Netherlands** (in February) to 24.2% in **Spain**.

In March, the **US** unemployment rate was 5.7% and the Japanese rate was 5.2%.

Eurostat estimates that, in March 2002, 11.5 million men and women were unemployed in the **euro-zone** and 13.3 million in the **EU15**. These are seasonally-adjusted figures in line with ILO criteria.

Unemployment rates (%) in February and March 2002 in ascending order

	March	February		March	February
EU15	7.6	7.6	Ireland	4.4	4.3
Euro-zone	8.4	8.4	Sweden	5.2	5.2
Netherlands	:	2.4	Belgium	6.8	6.8
Luxembourg	2.6	2.6	Germany	8.1	8.1
Austria	4.0	3.9	Finland	8.9	9.0
Denmark	4.1	4.2	France	9.1	9.0
Portugal	4.3	4.3	Spain	12.9	12.9

Source: Eurostat

: Data not available

REMARKS

1. Euro-zone: Belgium, Germany, Greece (from January 2001), Spain, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Austria, Portugal and Finland. Euro-zone data up to end 2000 cover the eleven Member States; with Greece's entry into the euro-zone from the beginning of 2001, they cover the twelve Member States.
2. Unemployed people according to International Labour Organisation (ILO) criteria are those aged 15 and over 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 monthly unemployment rate and numbers of unemployed are estimates based on results of the Community Labour Force Survey (LFS). These results are interpolated/ extrapolated to monthly data using national survey data and national monthly series on registered unemployment. Estimated rates might differ from national unemployment rates due to differences in methods and definitions of unemployment.
3. Revised data. See news release n°40/2002, 3 April 2002.

Issued by:

Eurostat Press Office
Philippe BAUTIER, Tim ALLEN,
Louise CORSELLI-NORDBLAD
Bâtiment Joseph Bech
L-2920 LUXEMBOURG
Tel: +352-4301-33 444
+352-4301-33 408
Fax: +352-4301-35 349
eurostat-pressoffice@cec.eu.int

For further information on data:

Veijo RITOLA
Morag OTTENS
Tel: +352-4301-35 560
Tel: +352-4301-32 021
Fax: +352-4301-34 415
veijo-ismo.ritola@cec.eu.int
morag.ottens@cec.eu.int

Eurostat news releases on Internet:
<http://europa.eu.int/comm/eurostat/>

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATES (%)

**TOTAL
MALES AND FEMALES**

	EU15	Euro-zone	B	DK	D	GR	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	USA	JAP
2000.03	8.4	9.1	7.1	4.4	8.1	:	14.5	9.7	4.5	10.8	2.4	2.8	3.9	4.2	10.0	6.3	5.5	4.0	4.8
2001.03	7.6	8.3	6.6	4.4	7.8	:	13.1	8.6	3.7	9.6	2.3	2.3	3.4	4.0	9.1	5.2	4.9	4.3	4.7
2001.11	7.6	8.4	6.7	4.2	8.0	:	12.9	8.8	4.1	9.2	2.5	2.4	3.8	4.2	9.2	5.0	5.1	5.6	5.4
2001.12	7.6	8.4	6.7	4.2	8.0	:	12.9	8.9	4.1	9.1	2.5	2.4	3.9	4.2	9.2	5.1	5.1	5.7	5.5
2002.01	7.6	8.4	6.7	4.2	8.1	:	12.9	8.9	4.2	9.0	2.6	2.3	4.0	4.3	9.1	5.2	5.0	5.6	5.3
2002.02	7.6	8.4	6.8	4.2	8.1	:	12.9	9.0	4.3	:	2.6	2.4	3.9	4.3	9.0	5.2	:	5.6	5.3
2002.03	7.6	8.4	6.8	4.1	8.1	:	12.9	9.1	4.4	:	2.6	:	4.0	4.3	8.9	5.2	:	5.7	5.2

MALES

	EU15	Euro-zone	B	DK	D	GR	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	USA	JAP
2000.03	7.2	7.5	5.7	4.1	7.7	:	10.0	8.0	4.6	8.2	1.9	2.3	3.4	3.5	9.4	6.5	6.1	3.8	5.1
2001.03	6.5	6.9	5.9	3.9	7.5	:	9.2	6.9	3.8	7.4	1.8	2.0	2.9	3.1	8.4	5.3	5.4	4.4	4.9
2001.11	6.7	7.0	6.2	3.7	7.9	:	9.1	7.3	4.2	7.1	2.0	1.9	3.2	3.4	8.8	5.2	5.6	5.8	5.7
2001.12	6.7	7.0	6.2	3.7	7.9	:	9.1	7.5	4.3	7.0	2.0	1.8	3.4	3.4	8.8	5.3	5.6	5.8	5.8
2002.01	6.7	7.1	6.2	3.7	8.0	:	9.2	7.6	4.4	6.9	2.1	1.8	3.4	3.5	8.8	5.4	5.5	5.8	5.4
2002.02	6.7	7.1	6.3	3.7	8.0	:	9.2	7.7	4.5	:	2.1	1.7	3.3	3.5	8.7	5.4	:	5.6	5.4
2002.03	6.7	7.1	6.3	3.7	8.0	:	9.3	7.8	4.6	:	2.1	:	3.3	3.5	8.6	5.3	:	5.9	5.4

FEMALES

	EU15	Euro-zone	B	DK	D	GR	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	USA	JAP
2000.03	9.9	11.3	8.9	4.7	8.5	:	21.2	11.6	4.5	14.8	3.2	3.4	4.5	5.0	10.7	6.2	4.9	4.3	4.5
2001.03	9.0	10.3	7.5	5.1	8.1	:	19.1	10.5	3.6	13.1	3.1	2.9	4.1	5.1	9.9	5.1	4.4	4.2	4.5
2001.11	8.9	10.2	7.4	4.8	8.2	:	18.5	10.5	3.9	12.5	3.4	3.0	4.5	5.1	9.6	4.8	4.5	5.4	5.0
2001.12	8.9	10.1	7.4	4.8	8.2	:	18.4	10.5	3.9	12.4	3.3	3.1	4.5	5.1	9.5	5.0	4.4	5.6	5.1
2002.01	8.9	10.1	7.4	4.7	8.2	:	18.4	10.5	4.0	12.2	3.4	3.1	4.6	5.2	9.5	5.0	4.3	5.4	5.1
2002.02	8.9	10.1	7.4	4.7	8.2	:	18.4	10.6	4.1	:	3.4	3.2	4.7	5.3	9.4	4.9	:	5.6	5.2
2002.03	8.8	10.1	7.5	4.6	8.2	:	18.4	10.6	4.2	:	3.3	:	4.8	5.3	9.3	5.2	:	5.5	5.1

**UNDER 25 YEARS
MALES AND FEMALES**

	EU15	Euro-zone	B	DK	D	GR	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	USA	JAP
2000.03	16.5	17.8	17.4	6.8	9.2	:	27.2	20.6	6.9	31.3	7.3	5.6	5.5	8.7	22.0	11.7	12.8	9.6	:
2001.03	15.2	16.4	17.4	8.5	9.1	:	24.9	18.9	6.1	28.1	7.0	5.0	5.4	9.0	19.8	11.3	11.8	9.9	:
2001.11	15.4	16.7	18.0	8.5	9.7	:	24.5	20.3	7.3	27.5	7.6	5.8	6.3	10.0	20.7	10.9	12.2	11.7	:
2001.12	15.4	16.8	17.9	8.5	9.8	:	24.4	20.6	7.5	27.3	7.7	5.6	6.4	10.0	21.0	12.8	12.0	11.9	:
2002.01	15.5	16.8	18.0	8.4	9.9	:	24.3	20.8	7.7	27.5	8.1	5.3	6.5	10.1	21.4	12.4	11.9	11.9	:
2002.02	15.5	16.9	18.1	8.4	10.0	:	24.3	21.0	7.9	:	8.4	5.2	6.5	10.3	21.6	13.0	:	11.6	:
2002.03	15.5	16.8	18.2	8.2	10.1	:	24.2	21.3	8.1	:	8.4	:	6.6	10.3	21.7	13.1	:	12.5	:

MALES

	EU15	Euro-zone	B	DK	D	GR	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	USA	JAP
2000.03	15.2	15.8	14.9	6.9	9.9	:	21.2	18.5	6.4	27.7	6.6	5.2	5.0	6.6	20.8	11.3	13.8	9.3	:
2001.03	14.2	14.7	16.0	7.6	9.9	:	19.6	16.8	6.3	25.1	6.2	4.2	4.7	6.7	18.4	10.8	13.0	10.9	:
2001.11	14.7	15.4	17.2	7.6	10.8	:	19.6	18.9	7.7	24.5	7.1	5.2	5.6	8.2	20.0	11.7	13.5	13.0	:
2001.12	14.7	15.4	17.1	7.6	10.9	:	19.6	19.3	7.9	24.4	7.3	4.6	5.9	8.3	20.3	12.7	13.5	12.8	:
2002.01	14.8	15.5	17.1	7.7	11.0	:	19.6	19.6	8.1	24.7	7.8	4.4	5.9	8.3	20.7	13.5	13.4	12.5	:
2002.02	14.9	15.6	17.3	7.6	11.1	:	19.8	20.0	8.4	:	8.2	4.0	5.7	8.5	20.9	13.6	:	12.4	:
2002.03	14.9	15.8	17.4	7.5	11.2	:	19.9	20.4	8.7	:	8.3	:	5.8	8.5	20.9	12.4	:	13.7	:

FEMALES

	EU15	Euro-zone	B	DK	D	GR	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	USA	JAP
2000.03	17.9	20.2	20.3	6.7	8.3	:	34.4	23.0	7.4	35.8	8.3	6.1	6.0	11.3	23.3	12.3	11.5	10.0	:
2001.03	16.5	18.5	19.1	9.5	8.2	:	31.7	21.5	6.0	31.8	8.0	5.9	6.3	11.9	21.3	11.9	10.3	8.9	:
2001.11	16.3	18.4	19.1	9.4	8.5	:	30.8	22.1	6.8	31.2	8.2	6.4	7.0	12.1	21.4	10.1	10.7	10.3	:
2001.12	16.3	18.4	19.0	9.4	8.5	:	30.6	22.2	7.0	31.0	8.1	6.7	7.1	12.2	21.7	12.9	10.2	11.0	:
2002.01	16.2	18.4	19.0	9.2	8.6	:	30.3	22.3	7.1	31.1	8.5	6.3	7.2	12.4	22.1	11.1	10.1	11.3	:
2002.02	16.3	18.3	19.1	9.2	8.7	:	30.2	22.4	7.3	:	8.6	6.5	7.4	12.5	22.3	12.4	:	10.7	:
2002.03	16.1	18.1	19.2	9.1	8.7	:	30.0	22.5	7.4	:	8.5	:	7.5	12.5	22.5	13.8	:	11.2	:

**25 YEARS AND OVER
MALES AND FEMALES**

	<i>EU15</i>	<i>Euro-zone</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>DK</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>GR</i>	<i>E</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>IRL</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>L</i>	<i>NL</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>FIN</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>UK</i>	<i>USA</i>	<i>JAP</i>
2000.03	7.2	7.9	5.9	4.0	7.9	:	12.3	8.5	4.0	8.2	2.0	2.2	3.6	3.4	8.2	5.7	4.2	3.0	:
2001.03	6.5	7.2	5.4	3.8	7.6	:	11.1	7.4	3.2	7.5	1.9	1.8	3.1	3.2	7.6	4.4	3.7	3.2	:
2001.11	6.5	7.2	5.5	3.5	7.8	:	11.0	7.5	3.3	7.2	2.0	1.6	3.4	3.2	7.5	4.3	3.8	4.4	:
2001.12	6.5	7.3	5.5	3.5	7.8	:	11.0	7.5	3.4	7.2	2.0	1.7	3.5	3.3	7.5	4.2	3.8	4.5	:
2002.01	6.5	7.3	5.5	3.5	7.9	:	11.0	7.6	3.4	7.0	2.0	1.7	3.6	3.3	7.3	4.4	3.8	4.4	:
2002.02	6.5	7.3	5.5	3.5	7.9	:	11.0	7.6	3.5	:	2.1	1.8	3.5	3.4	7.2	4.2	:	4.5	:
2002.03	6.5	7.3	5.6	3.5	7.8	:	11.1	7.7	3.6	:	2.0	:	3.6	3.4	7.1	4.3	:	4.5	:

MALES

	<i>EU15</i>	<i>Euro-zone</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>DK</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>GR</i>	<i>E</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>IRL</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>L</i>	<i>NL</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>FIN</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>UK</i>	<i>USA</i>	<i>JAP</i>
2000.03	6.1	6.4	4.7	3.6	7.5	:	8.2	6.9	4.1	6.1	1.5	1.8	3.1	3.0	7.7	5.9	4.7	2.8	:
2001.03	5.5	5.9	4.8	3.3	7.2	:	7.5	5.8	3.2	5.6	1.4	1.6	2.6	2.5	7.0	4.6	4.1	3.2	:
2001.11	5.6	6.0	5.0	3.1	7.5	:	7.5	6.0	3.5	5.4	1.5	1.3	2.9	2.6	7.2	4.4	4.2	4.5	:
2001.12	5.6	6.0	5.0	3.1	7.6	:	7.5	6.0	3.5	5.3	1.5	1.3	3.1	2.6	7.2	4.4	4.2	4.5	:
2002.01	5.6	6.0	5.0	3.1	7.6	:	7.5	6.1	3.6	5.2	1.5	1.3	3.1	2.7	7.1	4.5	4.2	4.5	:
2002.02	5.6	6.0	5.1	3.1	7.6	:	7.6	6.2	3.7	:	1.6	1.3	3.0	2.7	7.0	4.5	:	4.4	:
2002.03	5.6	6.0	5.2	3.1	7.6	:	7.6	6.3	3.7	:	1.6	:	3.0	2.7	6.8	4.5	:	4.5	:

FEMALES

	<i>EU15</i>	<i>Euro-zone</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>DK</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>GR</i>	<i>E</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>IRL</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>L</i>	<i>NL</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>FIN</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>UK</i>	<i>USA</i>	<i>JAP</i>
2000.03	8.7	10.0	7.5	4.4	8.5	:	18.6	10.3	3.7	11.7	2.7	2.8	4.3	3.9	8.8	5.5	3.6	3.2	:
2001.03	7.9	9.1	6.2	4.3	8.1	:	16.6	9.3	3.1	10.6	2.6	2.2	3.8	4.1	8.2	4.2	3.2	3.2	:
2001.11	7.8	9.0	6.1	4.0	8.2	:	16.2	9.2	3.1	10.2	2.8	2.1	4.1	4.0	7.9	4.2	3.4	4.4	:
2001.12	7.8	9.0	6.0	4.0	8.1	:	16.2	9.2	3.1	10.1	2.8	2.2	4.1	4.0	7.8	4.0	3.3	4.6	:
2002.01	7.8	8.9	6.0	4.0	8.2	:	16.2	9.2	3.2	9.9	2.8	2.3	4.2	4.1	7.6	4.3	3.3	4.3	:
2002.02	7.7	9.0	6.1	3.9	8.1	:	16.3	9.3	3.2	:	2.8	2.5	4.3	4.2	7.5	4.0	:	4.6	:
2002.03	7.7	8.9	6.2	3.9	8.1	:	16.3	9.3	3.3	:	2.8	:	4.3	4.2	7.5	4.1	:	4.4	: