

December 2001

Euro-zone unemployment stable at 8.5%

EU15 steady at 7.8%

Euro-zone¹ seasonally-adjusted unemployment² stood at 8.5% in December 2001 unchanged compared to November³, **Eurostat – Statistical Office of the European Communities in Luxembourg** – reports today. Between December 2000 and December 2001, the unemployment rate has varied between 8.4% and 8.5%.

The **EU15** unemployment rate was 7.8% in December, unchanged compared to November³. It was 7.9% in December 2000.

Lowest rates were registered in the **Netherlands** (2.2% in November), **Luxembourg** (2.5%), **Austria** and **Ireland** (4.2% each), **Portugal** (4.3%), and **Denmark** (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** (2.8% in November 2000 to 2.2% in November 2001), **Denmark** (4.7% to 4.4%) and **Spain** (13.5% to 12.9%). **Austria** (3.6% to 4.2%), **Ireland** (3.8% to 4.2%) and **Portugal** (4.0% to 4.3%) recorded the most important increases over the past year.

In December 2001 compared to December 2000, the unemployment rate for males in the **euro-zone** grew from 7.0% to 7.2%, while the female unemployment rate decreased from 10.5% to 10.3%. In the **EU15** the unemployment rate for males grew from 6.7% in December 2000 to 6.9% in December 2001. Over the same period the female rate decreased from 9.4% to 9.0%.

In December 2001, the unemployment rate of the under-25s was 16.9% in the **euro-zone** and 15.7% in the **EU15**. This compared to 16.4% and 15.6% respectively a year earlier. In December 2001, it ranged from 5.0% in the **Netherlands** (in November) to 24.8% in **Spain**.

In December, **US** unemployment rate was 5.7% and the Japanese rate was 5.5%.

Eurostat estimates that in December 2001, 11.7 million men and women were unemployed in the **euro-zone** and 13.6 million in the **EU15**. These are seasonally-adjusted figures in line with ILO criteria.

Unemployment rates (%) in November and December 2001 in ascending order

	December	November		December	November
EU15	7.8	7.8	Denmark	4.4	4.4
Euro-zone	8.5	8.5	Sweden	5.0	4.9
Netherlands	:	2.2	Belgium	6.9	7.0
Luxembourg	2.5	2.5	Germany	8.0	8.0
Austria	4.2	4.1	Finland	9.1	9.2
Ireland	4.2	4.1	France	9.3	9.2
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. The euro-zone is treated as an entity regardless of its composition. For analytical purposes, Eurostat incorporated in its NewCronos database historical series covering EUR-11 + Greece since 1991.
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. For more details on the methodology of the unemployment rates statistics in the EU, see news release n°37/2001, 3 April 2001.
3. See news release n°1/2002, 4 January 2002.

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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
1999.12	8.7	9.4	7.8	4.9	8.3	:	15.0	10.4	4.9	11.1	2.4	2.8	3.9	4.3	10.0	6.7	6.0	4.0	4.7
2000.12	7.9	8.5	6.8	4.7	7.7	:	13.5	9.1	3.8	9.9	2.4	2.8	3.6	4.0	9.3	5.1	5.2	3.9	4.9
2001.08	7.7	8.4	6.8	4.5	7.9	:	13.0	9.0	3.8	9.4	2.5	2.2	3.9	4.2	9.1	4.9	5.2	4.9	5.0
2001.09	7.7	8.5	6.9	4.5	7.9	:	13.0	9.0	3.9	9.4	2.5	2.2	4.0	4.1	9.1	5.1	5.2	5.0	5.3
2001.10	7.8	8.5	7.0	4.4	8.0	:	12.9	9.1	4.0	9.3	2.5	2.2	4.1	4.1	9.2	5.2	5.2	5.4	5.4
2001.11	7.8	8.5	7.0	4.4	8.0	:	12.9	9.2	4.1	:	2.5	2.2	4.1	4.3	9.2	4.9	:	5.6	5.4
2001.12	7.8	8.5	6.9	4.4	8.0	:	12.9	9.3	4.2	:	2.5	:	4.2	4.3	9.1	5.0	:	5.7	5.5

MALES

	EU15	Euro-zone	B	DK	D	GR	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	USA	JAP
1999.12	7.5	7.8	6.5	4.4	7.9	:	10.4	8.7	4.9	8.7	1.8	2.2	3.4	3.7	9.4	6.7	6.5	4.0	4.9
2000.12	6.7	7.0	5.5	4.2	7.4	:	9.4	7.3	3.9	7.6	1.8	2.2	3.1	3.1	8.6	5.1	5.7	4.0	5.0
2001.08	6.7	7.0	5.6	4.1	7.7	:	9.2	7.3	3.9	7.3	1.9	1.9	3.5	3.4	8.7	5.0	5.7	5.1	5.1
2001.09	6.7	7.0	5.6	4.1	7.7	:	9.2	7.3	4.0	7.2	1.9	1.9	3.6	3.4	8.7	5.2	5.8	5.0	5.4
2001.10	6.8	7.1	5.8	4.1	7.8	:	9.3	7.5	4.1	7.2	1.9	1.9	3.6	3.4	8.8	5.2	5.7	5.4	5.8
2001.11	6.8	7.1	5.8	4.1	7.9	:	9.3	7.6	4.2	:	2.0	1.8	3.7	3.6	8.7	5.1	:	5.8	5.8
2001.12	6.9	7.2	5.8	4.1	7.9	:	9.3	7.8	4.3	:	2.0	:	3.9	3.6	8.7	5.1	:	5.8	5.8

FEMALES

	EU15	Euro-zone	B	DK	D	GR	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	USA	JAP
1999.12	10.3	11.5	9.6	5.4	8.8	:	21.9	12.5	4.8	15.1	3.2	3.6	4.6	5.0	10.7	6.6	5.3	4.0	4.4
2000.12	9.4	10.5	8.6	5.2	8.1	:	19.6	11.2	3.7	13.7	3.1	3.5	4.3	5.1	10.2	5.1	4.6	3.8	4.6
2001.08	9.1	10.4	8.4	4.9	8.1	:	18.6	11.0	3.7	12.8	3.3	2.6	4.5	5.0	9.5	4.7	4.5	4.8	4.8
2001.09	9.1	10.3	8.5	4.9	8.1	:	18.5	11.0	3.7	12.8	3.3	2.6	4.6	5.0	9.6	4.9	4.5	5.0	5.2
2001.10	9.1	10.3	8.6	4.8	8.2	:	18.4	11.0	3.8	12.6	3.3	2.6	4.6	4.8	9.6	5.1	4.5	5.3	4.8
2001.11	9.1	10.3	8.6	4.8	8.2	:	18.4	11.1	3.9	:	3.4	2.7	4.6	5.1	9.6	4.8	:	5.4	4.9
2001.12	9.0	10.3	8.5	4.8	8.2	:	18.3	11.1	3.9	:	3.3	:	4.6	5.1	9.6	4.9	:	5.6	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
1999.12	16.9	18.0	20.4	8.1	9.0	:	27.7	22.1	7.3	32.2	7.0	5.2	5.5	8.6	22.0	11.9	13.0	9.6	:
2000.12	15.6	16.4	17.0	7.0	8.9	:	25.3	19.3	5.8	28.7	7.1	5.8	5.2	9.1	20.5	9.8	12.4	9.2	:
2001.08	15.4	16.7	17.3	6.6	9.4	:	24.8	20.1	6.2	27.9	7.6	4.2	5.9	9.2	19.9	10.3	12.3	11.3	:
2001.09	15.5	16.7	17.4	6.6	9.5	:	24.8	20.2	6.3	27.6	7.4	4.6	6.0	9.3	20.0	11.8	12.5	10.8	:
2001.10	15.6	16.8	17.7	6.6	9.7	:	24.9	20.7	6.5	27.3	7.4	5.0	6.1	9.3	20.0	12.4	12.5	11.5	:
2001.11	15.6	16.9	17.6	6.6	9.7	:	24.9	21.1	6.7	:	7.6	5.0	6.2	9.3	20.1	10.7	:	11.7	:
2001.12	15.7	16.9	17.5	6.6	9.7	:	24.8	21.4	6.9	:	7.6	:	6.3	9.3	20.1	12.5	:	11.9	:

MALES

	EU15	Euro-zone	B	DK	D	GR	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	USA	JAP
1999.12	15.5	16.2	18.7	7.7	9.8	:	21.6	20.1	6.9	28.7	6.2	4.4	4.8	6.6	20.8	11.2	14.1	10.4	:
2000.12	14.4	14.7	14.3	6.8	9.6	:	19.9	17.3	5.5	25.4	6.7	5.1	4.7	7.0	19.0	8.5	13.7	9.8	:
2001.08	14.6	15.1	14.8	6.6	10.4	:	19.7	18.5	5.9	24.5	6.9	4.9	5.6	7.7	19.1	10.4	13.7	12.3	:
2001.09	14.7	15.2	14.9	6.6	10.5	:	19.8	18.7	6.1	24.3	6.9	5.3	5.7	7.8	19.2	12.4	14.1	11.5	:
2001.10	14.9	15.5	15.3	6.6	10.7	:	20.0	19.4	6.3	24.4	6.9	5.5	5.9	7.9	19.2	12.1	13.9	12.4	:
2001.11	15.0	15.6	15.3	6.6	10.8	:	20.1	20.0	6.6	:	7.1	5.5	6.0	7.9	19.3	11.5	:	13.0	:
2001.12	15.2	15.8	15.3	6.6	10.8	:	20.1	20.6	6.8	:	7.2	:	6.1	7.9	19.2	12.4	:	12.8	:

FEMALES

	EU15	Euro-zone	B	DK	D	GR	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	USA	JAP
1999.12	18.4	20.1	22.5	8.4	8.2	:	35.0	24.4	7.8	36.6	7.8	6.1	6.2	11.1	23.2	12.7	11.7	8.7	:
2000.12	16.9	18.4	20.3	7.2	8.0	:	32.3	21.8	6.2	32.9	7.7	6.6	5.8	11.7	22.1	11.3	10.9	8.5	:
2001.08	16.4	18.5	20.4	6.7	8.3	:	31.4	22.0	6.6	32.2	8.4	3.4	6.3	11.2	20.7	10.1	10.6	10.3	:
2001.09	16.4	18.5	20.4	6.6	8.4	:	31.3	22.1	6.6	31.8	8.2	3.8	6.4	11.2	20.8	11.1	10.6	10.1	:
2001.10	16.4	18.5	20.5	6.6	8.4	:	31.2	22.2	6.7	31.0	8.1	4.5	6.4	11.2	20.9	12.6	11.0	10.5	:
2001.11	16.3	18.4	20.4	6.6	8.5	:	31.2	22.3	6.9	30.6	8.2	4.6	6.4	11.0	21.0	9.9	:	10.3	:
2001.12	16.3	18.3	20.3	6.6	8.5	:	31.0	22.4	7.0	30.3	8.1	:	6.5	11.0	21.0	12.6	:	11.0	:

**25 YEARS AND OVER
MALES AND FEMALES**

	EU15	Euro-zone	B	DK	D	GR	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	USA	JAP
1999.12	7.5	8.2	6.4	4.3	8.2	:	12.8	9.1	4.3	8.5	1.9	2.4	3.7	3.5	8.3	6.1	4.7	3.0	:
2000.12	6.8	7.4	5.6	4.3	7.6	:	11.4	7.9	3.3	7.7	1.9	2.1	3.4	3.2	7.7	4.6	4.0	2.9	:
2001.08	6.6	7.3	5.6	4.1	7.7	:	10.9	7.7	3.3	7.4	2.0	1.8	3.6	3.3	7.5	4.2	3.9	3.8	:
2001.09	6.6	7.3	5.7	4.1	7.7	:	10.9	7.7	3.3	7.4	2.0	1.7	3.7	3.3	7.6	4.3	3.9	3.8	:
2001.10	6.6	7.4	5.8	4.0	7.8	:	10.9	7.8	3.3	7.4	2.0	1.7	3.8	3.2	7.6	4.3	3.8	4.2	:
2001.11	6.7	7.4	5.8	4.0	7.8	:	10.9	7.8	3.5	:	2.0	1.6	3.8	3.4	7.6	4.2	:	4.4	:
2001.12	6.7	7.4	5.7	4.0	7.8	:	10.9	7.9	3.5	:	2.0	:	3.9	3.5	7.5	4.1	:	4.5	:

MALES

	EU15	Euro-zone	B	DK	D	GR	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	USA	JAP
1999.12	6.4	6.8	5.2	3.8	7.7	:	8.6	7.4	4.5	6.5	1.4	1.9	3.2	3.2	7.8	6.2	5.2	2.8	:
2000.12	5.7	6.0	4.5	3.8	7.2	:	7.7	6.1	3.5	5.7	1.4	1.7	2.8	2.5	7.0	4.7	4.4	2.9	:
2001.08	5.6	6.0	4.5	3.7	7.3	:	7.5	6.0	3.5	5.6	1.5	1.3	3.2	2.7	7.2	4.4	4.3	3.8	:
2001.09	5.6	6.0	4.6	3.6	7.4	:	7.5	6.0	3.5	5.6	1.5	1.3	3.2	2.7	7.2	4.4	4.3	3.7	:
2001.10	5.7	6.0	4.7	3.6	7.5	:	7.5	6.1	3.6	5.5	1.5	1.2	3.3	2.7	7.2	4.4	4.2	4.2	:
2001.11	5.7	6.1	4.8	3.6	7.5	:	7.6	6.2	3.7	:	1.5	1.2	3.4	2.9	7.2	4.3	:	4.5	:
2001.12	5.7	6.1	4.7	3.6	7.6	:	7.6	6.3	3.8	:	1.5	:	3.5	2.9	7.1	4.3	:	4.5	:

FEMALES

	EU15	Euro-zone	B	DK	D	GR	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	USA	JAP
1999.12	9.0	10.3	8.1	4.8	8.8	:	19.2	11.2	4.0	11.9	2.7	3.0	4.3	4.0	8.8	5.9	4.1	3.1	:
2000.12	8.2	9.3	7.1	4.8	8.1	:	17.2	10.0	3.1	11.0	2.6	2.8	4.0	4.0	8.4	4.3	3.4	2.9	:
2001.08	8.0	9.2	7.0	4.6	8.1	:	16.2	9.7	2.9	10.4	2.8	2.5	4.2	4.1	7.9	4.0	3.3	3.8	:
2001.09	7.9	9.2	7.1	4.5	8.1	:	16.1	9.7	2.9	10.4	2.8	2.3	4.3	4.0	7.9	4.1	3.3	4.0	:
2001.10	7.9	9.2	7.2	4.5	8.2	:	16.0	9.7	3.0	10.3	2.8	2.2	4.3	3.8	7.9	4.2	3.3	4.2	:
2001.11	8.0	9.2	7.1	4.5	8.2	:	16.0	9.7	3.0	:	2.8	2.2	4.3	4.1	7.9	4.1	:	4.4	:
2001.12	7.9	9.2	7.1	4.5	8.1	:	15.9	9.8	3.0	:	2.8	:	4.4	4.2	7.9	4.0	:	4.6	: