

September 2003

Euro-zone unemployment stable at 8.8%

EU15 steady at 8.0%

Euro-zone¹ seasonally -adjusted unemployment² stood at 8.8% in September 2003, unchanged compared to August³, **Eurostat, the Statistical Office of the European Communities**, reports today. It was 8.5% in September 2002. The **EU15** unemployment rate was 8.0% in September 2003, unchanged compared to August³. It was 7.8% in September 2002.

In September 2003, lowest rates were registered in **Luxembourg** (3.8%), the **Netherlands** (4.2% in August), **Austria** (4.5%) and **Ireland** (4.7%). **Spain's** 11.2% remained the **EU's** highest rate.

Among the twelve Member States for which data are available for the most recent two months, ten recorded an increase in their unemployment rate in the last twelve months. The **Netherlands** (2.8% in August 2002 to 4.2% in August 2003), **Portugal** (5.4% to 7.4%) and **Luxembourg** (2.9% to 3.8%), recorded the most important relative increases. **Spain's** rate fell from 11.5% to 11.2% and **Finland's** from 9.1% to 8.9%.

In September 2003 compared to September 2002, the unemployment rate for males in the **euro-zone** grew from 7.4% to 7.8%, and the female unemployment rate rose from 9.9% to 10.3%. In the **EU15** the unemployment rate for males grew from 7.0% in September 2002 to 7.3% in September 2003. Over the same period the female rate increased from 8.7% to 9.0%.

In September 2003, the unemployment rate for under-25s was 16.8% in the **euro-zone** and 15.7% in the **EU15**, compared to 16.2% and 15.1% respectively in September 2002. The rate ranged from 7.5% in **Austria** to 22.4% in **Spain**.

In September 2003, the **US** unemployment rate was 6.1% and the **Japanese** rate was 5.1%.

Eurostat estimates that, in September 2003, 12.4 million men and women were unemployed in the **euro-zone** and 14.3 million in the **EU15**. These are seasonally-adjusted figures in line with ILO criteria.

Unemployment rates (%) in August and September 2003 in ascending order

	September	August		September	August
EU15	8.0	8.0	Sweden	5.5	5.4
Euro-zone	8.8	8.8	Portugal	7.4	6.9
Luxembourg	3.8	3.8	Belgium	8.0	8.0
Netherlands	:	4.2	Finland	8.9	9.0
Austria	4.5	4.5	Germany	9.4	9.4
Ireland	4.7	4.7	France	9.5	9.5
Denmark	5.5	5.4	Spain	11.2	11.2

: Data not available
Source: Eurostat

1. Euro-zone: Belgium, Germany, Greece, Spain, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Austria, Portugal and Finland.

2. *Eurostat's unemployment rates*

Eurostat compiles "harmonised" unemployment rates for Member States and Acceding and Candidate Countries. 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.

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.

Further information on the methodology of the monthly unemployment rate statistics can be found on the annex to News Release 67/2002 of 4 June 2002.

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.

Current deviations from definition of unemployment in the EU Labour Force Survey

Austria: Persons without a job who expect to start or to return to their job in more than 3 months time and are available for work are included in unemployment.

Spain, United Kingdom: Unemployment is restricted to persons aged 16-74. In Spain the legal age limit for working is 16.

France: Persons (without a job, who are available for work and) whose only job search method in the past 4 weeks is their status of registration at the public employment service are included in unemployment.

Italy: Persons (without a job, who are available for work and) whose only job search method in the past 4 weeks is a renewal of their registration at the public employment service are included in unemployment. Employment includes persons on unpaid leave with a duration longer than 3 months, while these persons should be considered as unemployed or inactive.

Netherlands, Sweden: 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.

These remaining deviations will disappear as Member States adapt their surveys to the new definitions.

Austria and France are adapting their surveys in 2003. Italy is adapting in 2004 and the Netherlands and Sweden in 2005.

Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Luxembourg, Portugal and Finland already comply with the definition.

3. The unemployment rates for the euro-zone and EU15 for August 2003 remain the same as published in News Release 113/2003 of 1 October 2003.

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATES (%)

TOTAL MALES AND FEMALES

	EU15	Euro-zone	BE	DK	DE	EL	ES	FR	IE	IT	LU	NL	AT	PT	FI	SE	UK	USA	JAP
2001.09	7.4	8.0	6.7	4.3	8.0	10.3	10.6	8.5	3.9	9.3	2.2	2.4	3.7	4.1	9.1	4.9	5.1	5.0	5.3
2002.09	7.8	8.5	7.3	4.6	8.7	9.9	11.5	8.9	4.4	8.9	2.9	2.9	4.3	5.4	9.1	5.0	5.2	5.7	5.5
2003.05	8.0	8.8	7.9	5.2	9.4	9.2	11.3	9.3	4.6	8.6	3.6	4.0	4.3	6.5	9.2	5.4	4.9	6.2	5.4
2003.06	8.0	8.8	8.0	5.3	9.4	9.2	11.3	9.4	4.7	8.6	3.7	4.1	4.4	6.6	9.1	5.4	5.0	6.4	5.3
2003.07	8.0	8.8	8.1	5.3	9.4	:	11.2	9.4	4.7	8.5	3.8	4.1	4.5	6.8	9.1	5.4	5.0	6.2	5.3
2003.08	8.0	8.8	8.0	5.4	9.4	:	11.2	9.5	4.7	:	3.8	4.2	4.5	6.9	9.0	5.4	:	6.1	5.1
2003.09	8.0	8.8	8.0	5.5	9.4	:	11.2	9.5	4.7	:	3.8	:	4.5	7.4	8.9	5.5	:	6.1	5.1

MALES

	EU15	Euro-zone	BE	DK	DE	EL	ES	FR	IE	IT	LU	NL	AT	PT	FI	SE	UK	USA	JAP
2001.09	6.5	6.8	6.1	3.9	8.0	7.0	7.5	7.1	4.0	7.2	1.7	2.0	3.3	3.4	8.7	5.2	5.6	5.0	5.5
2002.09	7.0	7.4	6.6	4.7	8.9	6.5	8.1	7.9	4.7	7.0	2.2	2.7	4.2	4.4	9.2	5.4	5.7	5.9	5.8
2003.05	7.3	7.7	7.3	5.3	9.7	6.0	8.2	8.2	4.8	6.7	2.7	3.8	4.2	5.4	9.4	5.8	5.4	6.6	5.6
2003.06	7.3	7.7	7.3	5.4	9.7	6.0	8.2	8.3	4.9	6.6	2.7	3.8	4.2	5.5	9.3	5.9	5.5	6.8	5.7
2003.07	7.3	7.7	7.4	5.5	9.7	:	8.2	8.3	4.9	6.6	2.8	3.8	4.3	5.6	9.2	5.8	5.5	6.5	5.5
2003.08	7.3	7.7	7.4	5.5	9.7	:	8.2	8.4	4.9	:	2.8	3.8	4.3	5.6	9.1	5.9	:	6.4	5.3
2003.09	7.3	7.8	7.4	5.6	9.7	:	8.1	8.4	4.9	:	2.8	:	4.3	5.8	9.0	5.8	:	6.4	:

FEMALES

	EU15	Euro-zone	BE	DK	DE	EL	ES	FR	IE	IT	LU	NL	AT	PT	FI	SE	UK	USA	JAP
2001.09	8.5	9.7	7.6	4.8	8.0	15.2	15.4	10.1	3.7	12.7	2.8	2.8	4.3	5.0	9.5	4.5	4.4	5.0	5.1
2002.09	8.7	9.9	8.1	4.6	8.4	15.0	16.5	10.2	4.1	12.0	4.1	3.0	4.5	6.6	9.0	4.6	4.6	5.5	4.9
2003.05	8.9	10.2	8.8	5.1	9.0	13.8	15.9	10.6	4.3	11.7	5.0	4.3	4.6	7.7	8.9	5.0	4.3	5.7	5.1
2003.06	9.0	10.2	8.9	5.2	9.0	13.8	15.9	10.6	4.4	11.6	5.2	4.5	4.6	7.9	8.9	4.8	4.4	5.9	4.8
2003.07	9.0	10.2	9.0	5.2	9.0	:	15.7	10.7	4.4	11.6	5.2	4.5	4.7	8.3	8.9	5.0	4.4	5.7	4.9
2003.08	9.0	10.2	8.9	5.2	9.0	:	15.7	10.7	4.5	:	5.3	4.6	4.7	8.5	8.9	5.0	:	5.8	4.8
2003.09	9.0	10.3	8.9	5.3	9.0	:	15.6	10.7	4.4	:	5.3	:	4.7	9.1	8.8	5.1	:	5.8	:

UNDER 25 YEARS MALES AND FEMALES

	EU15	Euro-zone	BE	DK	DE	EL	ES	FR	IE	IT	LU	NL	AT	PT	FI	SE	UK	USA	JAP
2001.09	14.7	15.7	17.7	8.2	8.6	27.5	21.3	19.1	6.9	27.9	7.3	5.3	6.0	9.3	19.9	11.6	12.1	10.8	:
2002.09	15.1	16.2	18.4	7.8	9.8	26.2	22.4	19.7	8.2	26.9	8.5	5.6	7.0	12.2	20.8	11.7	12.1	11.9	:
2003.05	15.7	16.8	19.3	8.9	10.5	25.5	22.6	20.0	8.6	27.0	10.2	8.1	7.1	14.2	21.6	12.4	12.4	13.1	:
2003.06	15.7	16.8	19.5	9.2	10.2	25.5	22.7	20.1	8.7	27.0	10.3	8.0	7.4	14.3	21.8	12.8	12.7	13.5	:
2003.07	15.7	16.8	19.7	9.1	10.2	:	22.7	20.2	8.8	27.0	10.4	7.5	7.4	14.6	22.0	12.8	12.6	13.0	:
2003.08	15.6	16.8	19.8	9.1	10.2	:	22.5	20.3	8.8	:	10.4	7.6	7.4	14.6	21.9	11.7	:	12.3	:
2003.09	15.7	16.8	19.7	9.3	10.1	:	22.4	20.5	8.8	:	10.5	:	7.5	15.2	21.9	12.4	:	13.0	:

MALES

	EU15	Euro-zone	BE	DK	DE	EL	ES	FR	IE	IT	LU	NL	AT	PT	FI	SE	UK	USA	JAP
2001.09	14.0	14.4	17.0	8.0	9.8	21.7	16.6	17.1	7.2	24.8	7.3	5.1	5.5	7.5	19.2	13.1	13.6	11.3	:
2002.09	14.9	15.3	18.9	9.8	11.5	19.5	18.7	17.9	8.9	23.7	6.4	5.8	6.9	10.2	21.0	12.1	13.6	13.1	:
2003.05	15.4	16.0	19.9	11.4	12.2	18.4	19.4	18.2	9.2	23.9	7.8	7.7	6.9	11.3	22.1	12.2	13.8	14.3	:
2003.06	15.4	15.9	20.1	11.7	12.1	18.4	19.5	18.3	9.3	23.9	7.9	7.1	7.2	11.3	22.2	13.3	13.8	14.3	:
2003.07	15.3	15.9	20.5	11.6	12.0	:	19.5	18.4	9.4	23.9	7.9	6.3	7.2	11.5	22.2	12.5	13.8	14.5	:
2003.08	15.3	15.8	20.6	11.6	11.9	:	19.4	18.5	9.4	:	7.8	6.3	7.2	11.4	22.2	11.9	:	12.7	:
2003.09	15.2	15.8	20.5	11.8	11.7	:	19.3	18.8	9.4	:	7.9	:	7.2	11.2	22.1	11.8	:	14.4	:

FEMALES

	EU15	Euro-zone	BE	DK	DE	EL	ES	FR	IE	IT	LU	NL	AT	PT	FI	SE	UK	USA	JAP
2001.09	15.5	17.3	18.5	8.4	7.3	33.9	27.6	21.6	6.4	31.7	7.4	5.5	6.7	11.6	20.7	10.0	10.4	10.3	:
2002.09	15.4	17.3	17.7	5.6	7.9	33.7	27.2	21.8	7.3	31.2	11.0	5.3	7.1	14.7	20.5	11.3	10.3	10.5	:
2003.05	16.0	17.9	18.6	6.3	8.5	34.4	26.9	22.1	7.8	31.0	13.2	8.5	7.4	17.7	21.1	12.6	10.8	11.8	:
2003.06	16.0	17.9	18.7	6.4	8.2	34.4	26.9	22.2	7.9	31.0	13.3	9.1	7.6	17.9	21.4	12.3	11.4	12.5	:
2003.07	16.1	17.9	18.8	6.4	8.2	:	26.9	22.3	8.0	30.9	13.4	8.8	7.7	18.2	21.6	13.1	11.2	11.3	:
2003.08	16.1	18.0	18.7	6.4	8.3	:	26.7	22.4	8.1	:	13.6	8.9	7.7	18.5	21.7	11.6	:	12.0	:
2003.09	16.2	18.0	18.7	6.5	8.2	:	26.5	22.5	8.1	:	13.8	:	7.8	19.9	21.7	13.0	:	11.5	:

**25 YEARS AND OVER
MALES AND FEMALES**

	EU15	Euro-zone	BE	DK	DE	EL	ES	FR	IE	IT	LU	NL	AT	PT	FI	SE	UK	USA	JAP
2001.09	6.4	7.0	5.5	3.6	7.9	8.1	9.0	7.2	3.2	7.3	1.7	1.8	3.4	3.3	7.6	3.9	3.8	3.9	:
2002.09	6.7	7.5	6.0	4.1	8.6	8.0	9.9	7.7	3.6	7.1	2.4	2.3	4.0	4.4	7.4	4.1	3.9	4.6	:
2003.05	6.9	7.8	6.7	4.6	9.3	7.4	9.7	8.1	3.8	6.8	3.0	3.2	3.9	5.3	7.4	4.4	3.6	4.9	:
2003.06	7.0	7.8	6.7	4.7	9.3	7.4	9.7	8.1	3.8	6.7	3.0	3.3	4.0	5.5	7.4	4.4	3.6	5.1	:
2003.07	7.0	7.8	6.8	4.7	9.3	:	9.7	8.2	3.8	6.7	3.1	3.4	4.0	5.7	7.2	4.4	3.6	5.0	:
2003.08	7.0	7.8	6.7	4.8	9.3	:	9.7	8.2	3.8	:	3.1	3.5	4.0	5.8	7.1	4.6	:	5.0	:
2003.09	7.0	7.8	6.7	4.9	9.3	:	9.7	8.2	3.8	:	3.2	:	4.0	6.2	7.0	4.5	:	4.9	:

MALES

	EU15	Euro-zone	BE	DK	DE	EL	ES	FR	IE	IT	LU	NL	AT	PT	FI	SE	UK	USA	JAP
2001.09	5.5	5.9	4.9	3.2	7.7	5.4	6.2	5.9	3.3	5.5	1.2	1.4	3.0	2.7	7.2	4.2	4.2	3.8	:
2002.09	6.0	6.4	5.3	3.9	8.6	5.2	6.7	6.7	3.8	5.4	1.8	2.2	3.8	3.5	7.5	4.5	4.3	4.6	:
2003.05	6.2	6.7	5.9	4.4	9.4	4.7	6.7	7.0	3.9	5.1	2.2	3.1	3.8	4.6	7.6	4.9	4.0	5.2	:
2003.06	6.2	6.7	5.9	4.4	9.4	4.7	6.7	7.1	4.0	5.0	2.2	3.2	3.8	4.6	7.5	4.9	4.1	5.5	:
2003.07	6.2	6.7	6.0	4.5	9.4	:	6.7	7.1	4.0	4.9	2.3	3.3	3.9	4.7	7.4	4.9	4.0	5.2	:
2003.08	6.2	6.7	5.9	4.6	9.5	:	6.7	7.1	4.0	:	2.3	3.4	3.9	4.7	7.2	5.1	:	5.3	:
2003.09	6.2	6.8	5.9	4.6	9.5	:	6.7	7.2	4.0	:	2.3	:	3.9	5.0	7.1	5.0	:	5.0	:

FEMALES

	EU15	Euro-zone	BE	DK	DE	EL	ES	FR	IE	IT	LU	NL	AT	PT	FI	SE	UK	USA	JAP
2001.09	7.5	8.6	6.3	4.1	8.1	12.4	13.3	8.8	3.0	10.3	2.3	2.2	3.9	3.9	7.9	3.7	3.3	4.0	:
2002.09	7.8	8.9	7.1	4.4	8.5	12.4	14.8	8.8	3.3	9.8	3.3	2.5	4.1	5.4	7.3	3.6	3.5	4.5	:
2003.05	7.9	9.2	7.7	4.9	9.1	11.3	14.3	9.3	3.5	9.5	4.1	3.4	4.1	6.2	7.2	3.8	3.0	4.6	:
2003.06	7.9	9.2	7.8	5.0	9.1	11.3	14.3	9.3	3.5	9.4	4.2	3.4	4.2	6.5	7.2	3.8	3.1	4.7	:
2003.07	7.9	9.2	7.8	5.0	9.1	:	14.1	9.3	3.6	9.4	4.3	3.5	4.2	6.9	7.1	3.8	3.1	4.7	:
2003.08	8.0	9.2	7.8	5.1	9.1	:	14.1	9.4	3.6	:	4.4	3.6	4.2	7.1	7.0	4.0	:	4.6	:
2003.09	8.0	9.2	7.8	5.1	9.1	:	14.0	9.4	3.6	:	4.4	:	4.2	7.5	6.9	3.9	:	4.8	:

: Data not available
Source: Eurostat

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ANNEX

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATES (%) ACCEding COUNTRIES

TOTAL MALES AND FEMALES

	ACC	CZ	EE	CY	LV	LT	HU	MT	PL	SI	SK
2001.09	14.7	8.0	11.4	4.3	12.8	15.7	5.5	6.7	19.0	5.7	19.3
2002.09	14.8	7.3	8.8	3.8	12.8	12.6	5.7	7.4	20.1	6.1	18.3
2003.05	14.6	7.0	8.3	4.3	12.3	11.3	5.9	7.7	20.1	5.7	16.6
2003.06	14.6	7.0	8.3	4.3	12.3	11.1	5.8	7.8	20.1	5.7	16.4
2003.07	14.5	6.9	8.2	4.3	12.3	11.0	5.8	7.9	20.0	5.7	16.2
2003.08	14.5	6.9	8.1	4.4	12.3	10.9	5.8	:	20.0	5.8	16.0
2003.09	14.4	6.8	8.0	4.4	12.3	10.7	5.9	:	20.0	5.8	15.9

MALES

	ACC	CZ	EE	CY	LV	LT	HU	MT	PL	SI	SK
2001.09	14.0	6.7	11.5	2.8	14.0	17.7	6.0	6.1	17.7	5.3	19.7
2002.09	14.3	5.9	9.4	2.9	13.5	12.5	6.1	6.3	19.4	5.8	18.1
2003.05	14.0	5.5	8.9	3.2	13.0	10.7	6.2	6.4	19.4	5.3	16.3
2003.06	13.9	5.4	8.9	3.2	13.0	10.5	6.1	6.4	19.4	5.3	16.0
2003.07	13.9	5.3	8.8	3.2	13.0	10.3	6.1	6.6	19.4	5.3	15.8
2003.08	13.8	5.3	8.6	3.3	12.9	10.3	6.1	:	19.3	5.3	15.7
2003.09	13.8	5.2	8.5	3.3	13.0	10.1	6.2	:	19.3	5.3	15.6

FEMALES

	ACC	CZ	EE	CY	LV	LT	HU	MT	PL	SI	SK
2001.09	15.6	9.6	11.3	6.1	11.4	13.7	4.9	8.2	20.5	6.1	18.9
2002.09	15.5	9.0	8.1	4.8	11.9	12.7	5.1	9.8	20.9	6.4	18.6
2003.05	15.4	8.9	7.7	5.7	11.7	12.0	5.4	10.7	20.9	6.2	17.0
2003.06	15.3	8.9	7.7	5.7	11.6	11.8	5.4	10.8	20.9	6.2	16.8
2003.07	15.3	8.9	7.6	5.7	11.6	11.6	5.4	10.8	20.9	6.3	16.6
2003.08	15.3	8.8	7.5	5.7	11.5	11.5	5.4	:	20.8	6.4	16.5
2003.09	15.2	8.8	7.5	5.7	11.5	11.3	5.5	:	20.8	6.4	16.4

: Data not available

The Acceding countries (ACC) are: the Czech Republic (CZ), Estonia (EE), Cyprus (CY), Latvia (LV), Lithuania (LT), Hungary (HU), Malta (MT), Poland (PL), Slovenia (SI) and Slovakia (SK).