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October 2000

## Euro-zone unemployment fell to 8.9%

### EU15 down to 8.2%

**Euro-zone**<sup>1</sup> seasonally-adjusted unemployment<sup>2</sup> fell to 8.9% in October 2000 from 9.0% in September<sup>3</sup>, **Eurostat – Statistical Office of the European Communities in Luxembourg** – reports today. This rate fell below 9% for the first time since May 1992. In October 1999, the rate was 9.7%.

The **EU15** rate fell to 8.2% in October 2000 from 8.3% in September<sup>3</sup>. In October a year earlier it was 9.0%.

Lowest rates were registered in **Luxembourg** (2.1%), in the **Netherlands** (2.7% in September) and in **Austria** (3.2%). **Spain's** 13.6% remained the **EU's** highest rate.

In the last twelve months, unemployment fell in all Member States. The most important relative falls were recorded in **Ireland** (from 5.3% to 4.2%), in **Sweden** (from 6.7% to 5.4%) and in **France** (from 10.9% to 9.3%).

Unemployment of the under-25s was 17.1% in the **euro-zone** and 16.1% in the **EU15** in October 2000. This compares to 18.4% and 17.2% respectively a year earlier. It ranged from below 5% in **Austria** and **the Netherlands**, to more than 25% in **Spain** and to more than 30% in **Italy** (in July).

**US** unemployment stood at 3.9% and the **Japanese** rate at 4.7%.

Eurostat estimates that in October 2000, 11.6 million men and women were unemployed in the **euro-zone** and 14.0 million in the **EU15**. These are seasonally-adjusted figures in line with ILO criteria.

**Unemployment rates (%) in September and October 2000 in ascending order**

	October	September		October	September
<b>EU15</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>Denmark</b>	:	5.0
<b>Euro-zone</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>9.0</b>	<b>Sweden</b>	5.4	5.5
			<b>Germany</b>	8.2	8.3
<b>Luxembourg</b>	2.1	2.1	<b>Belgium</b>	8.5	8.6
<b>Netherlands</b>	:	2.7	<b>France</b>	9.3	9.5
<b>Austria</b>	3.2	3.2	<b>Finland</b>	9.6	9.7
<b>Portugal</b>	4.1	4.2	<b>Spain</b>	13.6	13.8
<b>Ireland</b>	4.2	4.3			

Source: Eurostat  
: data not available

## REMARKS

- 1) Euro-zone: Belgium, Germany, Spain, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Austria, Portugal and Finland.
- 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) See news release n°127/2000, 7 November 2000. The revision of unemployment rates for Spain and Portugal is due to the fact that the results of the second quarter 2000 Community Survey have been taken in account.

## SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATES (%)

### TOTAL MALES AND FEMALES

	EU15	EUR 11	B	DK	D	GR	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	USA	JAP
1998.10	9.7	10.6	9.4	5.1	9.0	:	18.5	11.8	7.0	11.8	2.6	3.8	4.3	4.9	10.9	7.7	6.3	4.5	4.3
1999.10	9.0	9.7	8.9	5.0	8.7	:	15.1	10.9	5.3	11.1	2.3	2.9	3.6	4.2	10.0	6.7	6.0	4.1	4.6
2000.06	8.4	9.1	8.4	4.9	8.3	:	14.0	9.6	4.5	10.6	2.2	2.6	3.3	4.4	9.7	6.0	5.4	4.0	4.7
2000.07	8.3	9.0	8.5	4.9	8.3	:	13.8	9.6	4.5	10.5	2.2	2.5	3.2	4.3	9.7	5.6	5.3	4.0	4.6
2000.08	8.3	9.0	8.6	4.9	8.3	:	14.0	9.6	4.4	:	2.1	2.7	3.2	4.2	9.7	5.9	5.4	4.1	4.6
2000.09	8.3	9.0	8.6	5.0	8.3	:	13.8	9.5	4.3	:	2.1	2.7	3.2	4.2	9.7	5.5	:	3.9	4.7
2000.10	8.2	8.9	8.5	:	8.2	:	13.6	9.3	4.2	:	2.1	:	3.2	4.1	9.6	5.4	:	3.9	4.7

### MALES

	EU15	EUR 11	B	DK	D	GR	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	USA	JAP
1998.10	8.4	8.9	7.9	4.1	8.5	:	13.3	10.0	7.2	9.1	1.9	3.0	3.7	3.8	10.3	8.0	7.0	4.3	4.4
1999.10	7.7	8.1	7.7	4.3	8.3	:	10.6	9.2	5.4	8.6	1.7	2.2	3.1	3.7	9.5	6.6	6.5	4.1	4.7
2000.06	7.2	7.5	7.2	4.2	8.0	:	9.7	8.0	4.6	8.1	1.6	1.9	2.8	3.9	9.1	6.1	5.9	3.9	4.8
2000.07	7.1	7.5	7.2	4.2	8.0	:	9.5	8.0	4.5	8.0	1.6	1.8	2.8	3.8	9.0	5.8	5.8	3.9	4.8
2000.08	7.1	7.5	7.3	4.1	8.0	:	9.7	8.1	4.5	:	1.6	1.9	2.7	3.7	9.0	6.5	5.8	4.0	4.7
2000.09	7.1	7.4	7.3	4.3	7.9	:	9.6	8.0	4.4	:	1.6	1.7	2.7	3.6	9.1	5.5	:	3.9	4.8
2000.10	7.0	7.4	7.3	:	7.9	:	9.4	7.7	4.3	:	1.6	:	2.7	3.5	9.1	5.1	:	3.9	5.0

### FEMALES

	EU15	EUR 11	B	DK	D	GR	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	USA	JAP
1998.10	11.5	13.0	11.5	6.3	9.6	:	26.4	13.9	6.7	16.3	3.9	4.9	5.2	6.2	11.6	7.4	5.3	4.7	4.3
1999.10	10.6	11.8	10.6	5.7	9.3	:	22.0	12.9	5.2	15.1	3.2	3.8	4.3	4.9	10.6	6.9	5.3	4.1	4.5
2000.06	10.0	11.1	10.0	5.6	8.8	:	20.4	11.5	4.5	14.7	3.1	3.5	3.9	5.1	10.4	5.9	4.8	4.1	4.5
2000.07	9.9	11.1	10.1	5.7	8.8	:	20.2	11.5	4.4	14.5	3.1	3.4	3.8	4.9	10.4	5.5	4.8	4.2	4.4
2000.08	9.9	11.1	10.2	5.7	8.7	:	20.4	11.5	4.4	:	3.1	3.8	3.8	4.8	10.3	5.3	4.9	4.3	4.4
2000.09	9.8	11.0	10.2	5.8	8.7	:	20.2	11.3	4.2	:	3.0	4.0	3.8	4.8	10.3	5.5	:	4.0	4.5
2000.10	9.7	10.9	10.1	:	8.6	:	19.9	11.1	4.1	:	3.0	:	3.8	4.8	10.2	5.8	:	3.9	4.3

### UNDER 25 YEARS MALES AND FEMALES

	EU15	EUR 11	B	DK	D	GR	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	USA	JAP
1998.10	19.4	21.0	23.9	8.4	9.7	:	34.6	26.1	10.3	34.2	7.1	7.6	6.0	10.5	22.8	14.7	13.8	10.4	8.0
1999.10	17.2	18.4	24.5	8.9	9.2	:	28.0	23.2	7.6	32.3	6.4	5.1	4.8	8.0	21.5	13.0	12.5	9.9	9.4
2000.06	16.4	17.3	23.2	8.2	9.3	:	25.4	20.2	6.1	31.6	5.9	4.5	4.4	9.3	21.4	12.5	11.8	9.3	9.2
2000.07	16.3	17.3	23.2	8.2	9.4	:	25.4	20.2	6.1	31.8	5.8	4.4	4.3	8.8	21.0	11.3	11.8	9.4	8.9
2000.08	16.4	17.5	23.6	8.3	9.5	:	26.1	20.3	6.0	:	5.9	5.3	4.4	8.6	20.8	10.5	12.2	9.3	9.2
2000.09	16.3	17.3	23.6	8.4	9.3	:	25.7	20.1	5.9	:	6.0	4.9	4.4	8.5	20.6	10.2	:	8.9	9.3
2000.10	16.1	17.1	23.2	:	9.2	:	25.1	19.5	5.7	:	5.9	:	4.4	8.4	21.0	10.3	:	8.8	9.3

### MALES

	EU15	EUR 11	B	DK	D	GR	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	USA	JAP
1998.10	18.1	19.0	22.6	7.7	10.4	:	27.7	24.1	10.6	30.1	6.9	7.9	4.6	8.0	21.7	15.0	15.7	10.8	8.7
1999.10	16.0	16.7	24.6	8.2	10.0	:	21.9	21.3	7.5	28.9	5.7	4.6	3.6	6.1	20.6	12.4	13.6	10.2	10.3
2000.06	15.1	15.7	23.1	7.6	10.3	:	19.8	18.4	6.1	27.9	4.7	4.5	3.2	6.3	20.1	11.3	12.8	9.7	10.4
2000.07	15.1	15.7	23.1	7.7	10.4	:	20.0	18.4	6.1	27.9	4.6	4.6	3.3	5.9	19.8	12.1	12.7	9.7	10.1
2000.08	15.2	15.9	23.4	7.7	10.5	:	21.0	18.7	6.0	:	4.7	4.3	3.3	5.8	19.6	11.8	12.8	9.9	10.3
2000.09	14.9	15.6	23.5	7.8	10.3	:	20.6	18.4	5.8	:	5.1	2.7	3.4	5.8	19.6	9.9	:	9.5	10.3
2000.10	14.7	15.4	23.2	:	10.2	:	20.2	17.6	5.6	:	5.1	:	3.4	5.7	20.0	10.0	:	9.3	10.8

### FEMALES

	EU15	EUR 11	B	DK	D	GR	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	USA	JAP
1998.10	20.9	23.3	25.4	9.1	8.9	:	43.1	28.4	9.9	39.3	7.2	7.4	7.6	13.3	24.0	14.3	11.4	9.9	7.2
1999.10	18.7	20.3	24.5	9.7	8.4	:	35.4	25.4	7.7	36.6	7.3	5.6	6.1	10.5	22.6	13.6	11.3	9.5	8.4
2000.06	17.8	19.2	23.3	8.8	8.2	:	32.2	22.4	6.1	36.1	7.2	4.4	5.6	13.0	22.7	13.8	10.7	8.8	8.0
2000.07	17.7	19.1	23.4	8.7	8.3	:	32.1	22.3	6.1	36.6	7.2	4.2	5.4	12.4	22.4	10.5	10.8	9.0	7.6
2000.08	17.9	19.4	23.9	8.9	8.4	:	32.6	22.3	6.1	:	7.2	6.3	5.5	12.1	22.0	9.0	11.6	8.5	7.9
2000.09	17.9	19.3	23.8	8.9	8.2	:	32.2	22.2	5.9	:	7.1	7.0	5.5	11.9	21.8	10.6	:	8.3	8.3
2000.10	17.6	19.0	23.2	:	8.0	:	31.5	21.8	5.7	:	6.8	:	5.5	11.8	22.1	10.6	:	8.4	7.7

### 25 YEARS AND OVER MALES AND FEMALES

	EU15	EUR 11	B	DK	D	GR	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	USA	JAP
1998.10	8.3	9.2	7.9	4.5	8.9	:	15.4	10.2	6.1	8.8	2.2	3.1	4.1	3.9	9.3	6.9	4.9	3.4	3.8
1999.10	7.8	8.5	7.3	4.3	8.7	:	12.8	9.6	4.8	8.4	1.8	2.5	3.5	3.6	8.3	6.0	4.7	3.0	4.0
2000.06	7.2	8.0	6.9	4.2	8.2	:	12.0	8.5	4.2	8.0	1.8	2.3	3.1	3.6	8.0	5.3	4.2	3.0	4.1
2000.07	7.2	7.9	6.9	4.3	8.2	:	11.8	8.5	4.1	7.9	1.8	2.1	3.1	3.5	8.0	5.0	4.2	3.0	4.1
2000.08	7.2	7.9	7.0	4.2	8.2	:	11.8	8.5	4.1	:	1.8	2.2	3.0	3.5	8.0	5.4	4.2	3.1	4.0
2000.09	7.1	7.8	7.0	4.4	8.1	:	11.7	8.4	3.9	:	1.8	2.3	3.0	3.5	8.1	4.9	:	3.0	4.1
2000.10	7.1	7.8	6.9	:	8.1	:	11.6	8.2	3.8	:	1.7	:	3.0	3.4	7.9	4.8	:	2.9	4.1

### MALES

	EU15	EUR 11	B	DK	D	GR	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	USA	JAP
1998.10	7.1	7.6	6.3	3.4	8.3	:	10.9	8.5	6.4	6.6	1.4	2.1	3.5	3.1	8.7	7.2	5.4	3.2	3.8
1999.10	6.6	7.0	6.0	3.7	8.1	:	8.8	7.9	4.9	6.4	1.3	1.9	3.0	3.3	7.9	6.0	5.2	2.9	4.1
2000.06	6.1	6.5	5.6	3.6	7.7	:	8.0	6.9	4.3	5.9	1.3	1.5	2.7	3.5	7.4	5.5	4.7	2.8	4.2
2000.07	6.0	6.4	5.6	3.6	7.7	:	7.8	6.9	4.2	5.9	1.3	1.3	2.7	3.4	7.4	5.1	4.6	2.8	4.3
2000.08	6.0	6.4	5.7	3.5	7.7	:	7.8	7.0	4.1	:	1.3	1.5	2.6	3.3	7.5	5.9	4.6	2.8	4.1
2000.09	6.0	6.4	5.7	3.7	7.6	:	7.8	6.8	4.1	:	1.3	1.5	2.6	3.3	7.6	5.0	:	2.8	4.2
2000.10	6.0	6.4	5.7	:	7.6	:	7.7	6.7	4.0	:	1.3	:	2.6	3.2	7.5	4.6	:	2.8	4.3

### FEMALES

	EU15	EUR 11	B	DK	D	GR	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	USA	JAP
1998.10	10.0	11.4	9.9	5.7	9.7	:	22.7	12.3	5.7	12.6	3.4	4.4	4.8	4.9	9.8	6.6	4.2	3.7	3.8
1999.10	9.3	10.6	9.0	5.0	9.4	:	19.2	11.5	4.5	11.9	2.7	3.4	4.0	3.9	8.8	6.1	4.2	3.1	3.9
2000.06	8.7	9.9	8.6	5.0	8.9	:	18.1	10.4	4.0	11.5	2.6	3.3	3.6	3.8	8.6	5.0	3.7	3.2	4.0
2000.07	8.7	9.9	8.6	5.1	8.8	:	17.9	10.3	4.0	11.3	2.6	3.3	3.5	3.7	8.6	4.9	3.6	3.3	3.9
2000.08	8.6	9.8	8.7	5.1	8.8	:	17.9	10.3	3.9	:	2.6	3.2	3.5	3.7	8.6	4.9	3.6	3.5	3.8
2000.09	8.6	9.8	8.7	5.2	8.7	:	17.8	10.2	3.8	:	2.5	3.3	3.5	3.7	8.6	4.9	:	3.2	3.9
2000.10	8.5	9.7	8.6	:	8.7	:	17.6	10.0	3.6	:	2.5	:	3.5	3.7	8.4	5.1	:	3.0	3.8

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