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February 2000

Euro-zone unemployment stays at 9.5% EU15 unchanged at 8.8%

Euro-zone¹ seasonally-adjusted unemployment² stayed at 9.5% in February 2000, the same as the revised³ rate for January 2000, **Eurostat – Statistical Office of the European Communities in Luxembourg** – reports today. This compares to 10.3% in February last year.

The **EU15** rate was 8.8% in February 2000, same as the rate for January 2000. In February a year before it was 9.5%.

Lowest rates were registered in **Luxembourg** (2.2%) and in the **Netherlands** (2.7% in January 2000) followed by **Austria** (3.5%), **Portugal** (4.2%) and **Denmark** (4.9%).

Spain's 15.2% was still the **EU's** highest rate. In the last twelve months, unemployment decreased in all Member States; notable relative falls were recorded in the **Netherlands** (from 3.8% to 2.7% in January), and in **Ireland** (from 6.4% to 5.1%).

EU unemployment of under-25s ranged from 4.7% in **Austria** to 31.8% in **Italy** (in January). In February 2000 **EU15**-wide, it was 16.8%, and 17.9% in the **euro-zone**. In February 1999 it was 18.7% and 20.0% respectively.

US unemployment was 4.1%; the **Japanese** rate 4.9%.

Eurostat estimates 12.4 million men and women were unemployed in the **euro-zone** and 15.0 million in **EU15** in February 2000. **EU15**-wide, 18 million men and women were unemployed in March 1997, 17 million in May 1998 and 16 million in March 1999. These are seasonally-adjusted figures in line with ILO criteria.

Unemployment rates (%) in February and January 2000 in ascending order

	Feb	Jan		Feb	Jan
EU15	8.8	8.8	Ireland	5.1	5.1
Euro zone	9.5	9.5	Sweden	6.6	6.6
			Germany	8.4	8.5
Luxembourg	2.2	2.2	Belgium	8.6	8.7
Netherlands	:	2.7	France	10.4	10.5
Austria	3.5	3.6	Finland	10.5	10.4
Portugal	4.2	4.1	Italy	:	11.2
Denmark	4.9	5.0	Spain	15.2	15.1

Source: Eurostat
: data not available

- 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.

This news release includes the results of the Spring 1999 Community Survey. As a consequence, estimates have been revised for some Member states, particularly Denmark, Ireland, Luxembourg and Austria.

- 3) See news release no 28/2000, 1st March 2000.

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
98.02	10.2	11.2	9.6	5.3	9.8	:	19.4	11.9	8.4	11.8	2.8	4.6	4.6	5.9	11.9	8.8	6.5	4.6	3.6
99.02	9.5	10.3	9.2	5.4	8.7	:	16.9	11.7	6.4	11.6	2.5	3.8	4.0	4.7	10.6	7.5	6.3	4.3	4.6
99.10	8.9	9.7	8.9	4.9	8.7	:	15.2	10.9	5.4	11.1	2.2	2.9	3.6	4.2	10.0	6.7	5.9	4.1	4.6
99.11	8.9	9.7	8.8	4.8	8.7	:	15.3	10.8	5.3	11.1	2.2	2.7	3.6	4.1	10.1	6.8	5.9	4.1	4.5
99.12	8.9	9.6	8.7	4.9	8.6	:	15.2	10.6	5.2	11.2	2.2	2.8	3.6	4.1	10.3	6.8	6.0	4.0	4.7
00.01	8.8	9.5	8.7	5.0	8.5	:	15.1	10.5	5.1	11.2	2.2	2.7	3.6	4.1	10.4	6.6	:	4.0	4.7
00.02	8.8	9.5	8.6	4.9	8.4	:	15.2	10.4	5.1	:	2.2	:	3.5	4.2	10.5	6.6	:	4.1	4.9

MALES

	EU15	EUR 11	B	DK	D	GR	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	USA	JAP
98.02	8.8	9.4	7.7	4.1	9.1	:	14.6	10.1	8.6	9.1	2.0	3.5	3.9	4.7	11.3	8.8	7.1	4.5	3.8
99.02	8.2	8.6	7.9	4.6	8.3	:	12.1	10.0	6.4	8.9	1.8	2.7	3.3	3.9	10.3	7.8	7.0	4.3	4.7
99.10	7.7	8.1	7.7	4.3	8.3	:	10.7	9.2	5.4	8.7	1.7	2.2	3.0	3.7	9.4	6.6	6.5	4.1	4.7
99.11	7.7	8.1	7.6	4.2	8.2	:	10.7	9.1	5.2	8.7	1.6	1.8	3.0	3.6	9.5	7.0	6.4	4.0	4.7
99.12	7.6	8.0	7.5	4.3	8.1	:	10.6	8.9	5.1	8.8	1.6	2.1	3.0	3.6	9.7	7.1	6.5	4.1	4.9
00.01	7.6	7.9	7.4	4.2	8.0	:	10.5	8.8	5.1	8.8	1.6	2.1	3.0	3.7	9.8	6.7	:	3.9	4.9
00.02	7.5	7.9	7.4	4.2	7.9	:	10.4	8.7	5.1	:	1.6	:	3.1	3.8	10.0	6.7	:	4.0	5.1

FEMALES

	EU15	EUR 11	B	DK	D	GR	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	USA	JAP
98.02	12.1	13.7	12.2	6.8	10.7	:	26.9	14.1	8.1	16.3	4.2	6.1	5.6	7.3	12.5	8.7	5.6	4.7	3.4
99.02	11.1	12.6	11.0	6.3	9.3	:	24.3	13.7	6.2	16.0	3.5	5.2	4.8	5.6	11.0	7.2	5.4	4.4	4.5
99.10	10.6	11.8	10.5	5.7	9.3	:	22.0	12.9	5.4	15.0	3.2	3.8	4.3	4.9	10.7	6.9	5.3	4.1	4.5
99.11	10.5	11.8	10.4	5.5	9.2	:	22.2	12.8	5.3	15.1	3.1	3.9	4.3	4.8	10.8	6.5	5.3	4.2	4.2
99.12	10.5	11.8	10.3	5.6	9.2	:	22.1	12.6	5.2	15.1	3.0	3.8	4.3	4.8	10.9	6.4	5.3	4.0	4.3
00.01	10.4	11.7	10.3	5.8	9.1	:	22.0	12.5	5.1	15.1	3.0	3.6	4.3	4.7	11.0	6.4	:	4.1	4.5
00.02	10.4	11.6	10.3	5.6	9.0	:	22.2	12.4	5.1	:	3.0	:	4.2	4.6	11.2	6.5	:	4.1	4.5

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
98.02	19.9	21.8	22.4	7.6	10.2	:	36.6	27.3	12.6	33.7	7.2	9.2	6.7	11.6	23.6	17.8	13.5	10.6	7.1
99.02	18.7	20.0	24.7	10.1	9.3	:	31.7	24.9	9.3	33.9	7.0	7.8	5.4	9.7	22.1	14.5	13.7	10.0	8.9
99.10	17.1	18.3	24.3	8.9	9.0	:	28.0	22.6	7.5	32.4	6.3	5.1	4.7	8.0	21.5	13.0	12.5	10.0	9.3
99.11	17.0	18.2	24.0	8.6	8.9	:	28.4	22.2	7.2	32.3	6.0	5.1	4.7	7.8	22.1	12.7	12.7	10.0	9.3
99.12	16.8	18.0	23.6	8.6	8.9	:	28.1	21.6	7.0	32.2	5.9	5.1	4.7	7.8	22.7	11.8	12.9	9.6	9.5
00.01	16.8	18.0	23.5	8.6	8.9	:	28.2	21.5	6.8	31.8	6.0	5.2	4.7	7.7	23.1	12.0	:	9.3	8.3
00.02	16.8	17.9	23.4	8.4	8.9	:	28.4	21.5	6.8	:	6.2	:	4.7	7.6	23.4	12.0	:	9.8	8.9

MALES

	EU15	EUR 11	B	DK	D	GR	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	USA	JAP
98.02	18.5	19.8	19.6	6.8	10.9	:	30.5	24.8	13.1	29.8	7.2	8.4	5.4	9.0	22.5	18.1	14.8	11.7	7.6
99.02	17.6	18.3	24.4	9.6	10.0	:	25.4	23.1	9.5	30.2	6.3	7.2	4.0	8.1	21.4	14.4	15.6	10.3	9.8
99.10	15.8	16.6	24.3	8.2	9.8	:	22.1	20.8	7.4	29.0	5.5	4.5	3.5	6.0	20.3	12.2	13.6	10.3	10.2
99.11	15.7	16.4	23.9	8.1	9.7	:	22.3	20.3	7.1	28.9	5.2	3.3	3.5	5.9	20.9	11.8	13.7	10.2	10.6
99.12	15.6	16.3	23.6	8.2	9.7	:	22.1	19.8	6.9	28.8	5.0	3.9	3.4	6.0	21.5	10.8	13.9	10.7	11.2
00.01	15.6	16.3	23.4	8.1	9.7	:	22.3	19.6	6.8	28.5	5.1	4.1	3.5	6.1	21.9	10.4	:	9.6	9.3
00.02	15.6	16.2	23.3	7.8	9.6	:	22.2	19.5	6.8	:	5.3	:	3.6	6.2	22.2	10.9	:	10.2	10.2

FEMALES

	EU15	EUR 11	B	DK	D	GR	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	USA	JAP
98.02	21.6	24.3	25.9	8.5	9.3	:	44.2	30.1	12.1	38.9	7.3	10.1	8.2	14.5	24.8	17.5	12.0	9.5	6.5
99.02	19.9	22.1	25.2	10.6	8.6	:	39.3	26.9	9.1	38.5	7.7	8.4	7.0	11.7	22.9	14.6	11.5	9.7	7.9
99.10	18.5	20.2	24.4	9.5	8.2	:	35.2	24.8	7.7	36.7	7.2	5.7	6.0	10.4	22.8	13.9	11.2	9.7	8.3
99.11	18.5	20.2	24.0	9.0	8.1	:	35.7	24.4	7.4	36.6	6.9	6.9	6.0	10.1	23.5	13.8	11.4	9.7	8.0
99.12	18.2	20.0	23.7	9.1	8.0	:	35.5	23.8	7.1	36.4	6.9	6.3	6.0	10.0	24.0	12.9	11.7	8.4	7.7
00.01	18.2	19.9	23.6	9.1	8.0	:	35.5	23.8	6.9	35.9	7.1	6.4	6.0	9.6	24.5	13.7	:	8.9	7.3
00.02	18.3	19.9	23.5	9.0	8.0	:	35.9	23.8	6.8	:	7.3	:	5.9	9.3	24.8	13.4	:	9.3	7.5

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
98.02	8.8	9.7	8.2	4.9	9.8	:	16.2	10.3	7.4	8.8	2.4	3.7	4.3	4.8	10.3	7.7	5.1	3.5	3.2
99.02	8.1	8.9	7.5	4.5	8.7	:	14.2	10.3	5.6	8.7	2.0	3.0	3.7	3.8	9.0	6.7	4.9	3.3	4.1
99.10	7.8	8.5	7.3	4.2	8.7	:	12.9	9.7	4.9	8.4	1.8	2.5	3.4	3.6	8.3	6.0	4.7	3.0	4.0
99.11	7.7	8.5	7.2	4.1	8.6	:	13.0	9.6	4.8	8.5	1.8	2.3	3.4	3.5	8.4	6.1	4.7	3.0	3.9
99.12	7.7	8.5	7.1	4.2	8.5	:	12.8	9.5	4.7	8.6	1.8	2.4	3.4	3.5	8.4	6.2	4.7	3.0	4.0
00.01	7.6	8.4	7.1	4.3	8.4	:	12.7	9.3	4.7	8.6	1.8	2.2	3.4	3.5	8.5	5.9	:	3.0	4.3
00.02	7.6	8.3	7.1	4.2	8.3	:	12.8	9.2	4.6	:	1.8	:	3.4	3.6	8.6	6.0	:	3.0	4.3

MALES

	EU15	EUR 11	B	DK	D	GR	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	USA	JAP
98.02	7.5	8.0	6.4	3.6	8.9	:	11.9	8.6	7.7	6.5	1.5	2.7	3.6	3.9	9.8	7.7	5.8	3.1	3.3
99.02	6.9	7.3	6.1	3.7	8.1	:	9.9	8.6	5.8	6.4	1.4	2.0	3.2	3.2	8.8	7.0	5.5	3.2	4.1
99.10	6.6	7.0	6.0	3.6	8.1	:	8.8	8.0	4.9	6.4	1.3	1.8	2.9	3.3	7.9	5.9	5.2	3.0	4.1
99.11	6.6	7.0	5.9	3.6	8.1	:	8.8	7.9	4.8	6.5	1.3	1.6	2.9	3.2	7.9	6.4	5.1	2.9	4.1
99.12	6.6	7.0	5.9	3.6	8.0	:	8.7	7.8	4.8	6.6	1.3	1.7	2.9	3.2	7.9	6.6	5.2	2.8	4.2
00.01	6.5	6.9	5.8	3.6	7.8	:	8.6	7.7	4.7	6.6	1.3	1.7	3.0	3.3	8.0	6.3	:	2.8	4.4
00.02	6.4	6.8	5.8	3.5	7.7	:	8.5	7.6	4.7	:	1.3	:	3.0	3.3	8.1	6.2	:	2.9	4.5

FEMALES

	EU15	EUR 11	B	DK	D	GR	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	USA	JAP
98.02	10.5	12.0	10.6	6.4	10.9	:	23.1	12.3	6.9	12.6	3.8	5.2	5.1	5.9	10.8	7.6	4.4	3.8	2.9
99.02	9.7	11.1	9.3	5.4	9.4	:	21.0	12.3	5.4	12.5	3.0	4.5	4.4	4.5	9.3	6.3	4.2	3.4	4.0
99.10	9.3	10.6	9.0	4.9	9.4	:	19.3	11.6	4.8	11.8	2.7	3.4	4.0	3.9	8.9	6.2	4.2	3.0	3.9
99.11	9.3	10.6	8.9	4.8	9.4	:	19.4	11.5	4.7	11.9	2.6	3.3	4.0	3.9	8.9	5.7	4.1	3.1	3.6
99.12	9.2	10.5	8.9	4.9	9.3	:	19.3	11.4	4.6	12.0	2.6	3.2	4.0	3.9	8.9	5.7	4.1	3.2	3.8
00.01	9.2	10.5	8.8	5.2	9.2	:	19.2	11.3	4.6	12.0	2.5	3.0	4.0	3.8	9.0	5.6	:	3.2	4.1
00.02	9.2	10.4	8.8	5.0	9.1	:	19.4	11.2	4.6	:	2.5	:	3.9	3.8	9.1	5.7	:	3.0	4.0

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