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## December 1997 EU UNEMPLOYMENT FALLS TO 10.5% 17.7 million jobless

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**EU** seasonally-adjusted unemployment fell to 10.5% at end-December, **Eurostat – the Statistical Office of the European Communities in Luxembourg** – reports today. This compares with 10.6% at end-November and 10.8% at end of both 1996 and 1995. Ten Member States were under the **EU** average.

Eurostat says the jobless rate fell last year in most Member States – by at least one percentage point in the **Netherlands, Portugal, Finland, Sweden, UK** and **Ireland**. Only **Germany** saw a noticeable rise: from 9.2% to 10.0%, where it stuck for last four months of '97.

**Spain's** 21.0% was still by far the **EU's** highest rate. Lowest was **Luxembourg's** 3.6%. Next lowest was **Austria** with 4.4%.

**EU** average for men was 9.1%, 0.4 percentage points down on the year. For women it was 12.5%, same as at end of '96 and '95. Lowest **EU-wide** rate was 7.7% for men 25 and over - a fall on 8.0% at end of the two previous years.

Under-25s remained hardest hit – 18.7% for young men and 22.2% for young women at the year-end, but down on the 20.2% and 23.2% respectively seen at end of both '96 and '95. **Spanish** under-25 rates were still 33.5% for men and 46.9% for women, little changed.

Eurostat estimates 17.7 million men and women were unemployed in the **EU** in December 1997. This seasonally-adjusted figure in line with ILO criteria is 370,000 fewer than in December 1996.

**US** and **Japanese** unemployment stood at 4.7% and 3.4% respectively (October).

**Unemployment rates in December & November 1997**

	Dec	Nov		Dec	Nov
<b>Luxembourg</b>	3.6%	3.6%	<b>Ireland</b>	9.8%	9.8%
<b>Austria</b>	4.4%	4.5%	<b>Germany</b>	10.0%	10.0%
<b>Netherlands</b>	:	4.7%	<b>EU</b>	<b>10.5%</b>	<b>10.6%</b>
<b>Denmark</b>	5.6%	5.7%	<b>Italy</b>	:	:
<b>Portugal</b>	5.9%	5.9%	<b>France</b>	12.3%	12.5%
<b>UK</b>	6.6%	6.6%	<b>Finland</b>	12.6%	12.7%
<b>Sweden</b>	9.1%	9.2%	<b>Spain</b>	21.0%	20.8%
<b>Belgium</b>	9.3%	9.3%	<b>Greece</b>	:	:

: data not available

## Notes

1. This news release summarises Eurostat *Monthly bulletin theme 3 series B 2/98*, out shortly.
2. The monthly unemployment rate and numbers of unemployed are estimated and based on data from the annual Community Labour Force Survey (LFS) held in spring according to ILO recommendations. These results are interpolated/extrapolated to monthly data using figures from national quarterly surveys and national monthly series on registered unemployment. Estimated rates might differ from national unemployment rates due to differences in methods and definitions of unemployment.

## SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATES (%)

### TOTAL

### MALES AND FEMALES

	EU15	B	DK	D	GR	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	USA	JAP
<b>95.12</b>	10.8	10.0	7.1	8.5	:	22.6	12.1	12.1	12.0	3.0	6.6	4.2	7.3	16.1	9.6	8.4	5.6	3.4
<b>96.12</b>	10.8	9.5	6.3	9.2	:	21.4	12.5	10.9	12.1	3.6	6.1	4.3	7.1	14.7	10.6	7.7	5.4	3.3
<b>97.08</b>	10.7	9.6	6.2	9.9	:	20.6	12.6	10.1	12.1	3.7	5.4	4.5	6.2	12.6	9.8	7.0	4.9	3.4
<b>97.09</b>	10.6	9.5	5.8	10.0	:	20.7	12.6	10.0	12.1	3.7	5.1	4.5	6.1	13.1	9.8	6.8	4.9	3.5
<b>97.10</b>	10.6	9.4	5.8	10.0	:	20.8	12.6	9.9	12.1	3.7	4.9	4.5	6.0	13.0	9.8	6.7	4.7	3.4
<b>97.11</b>	10.6	9.3	5.7	10.0	:	20.8	12.5	9.8	:	3.6	4.7	4.5	5.9	12.7	9.2	6.6	:	:
<b>97.12</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>9.3</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>10.0</b>	:	<b>21.0</b>	<b>12.3</b>	<b>9.8</b>	:	<b>3.6</b>	:	<b>4.4</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>12.6</b>	<b>9.1</b>	<b>6.6</b>	:	:

### MALES

	EU15	B	DK	D	GR	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	USA	JAP
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95.12	9.6	7.9	5.7	7.6	:	18.0	10.2	11.9	9.2	2.2	5.2	3.6	6.5	16.0	10.0	9.9	5.7	3.4
96.12	9.5	7.4	5.0	8.6	:	16.8	10.7	10.8	9.5	2.8	4.8	3.3	6.4	13.4	10.8	8.8	5.1	3.3
97.08	9.2	7.5	4.7	9.1	:	15.6	10.8	9.9	9.3	2.8	4.0	3.7	5.4	11.5	9.8	7.8	4.8	3.4
97.09	9.2	7.5	4.4	9.2	:	15.6	10.7	9.8	9.2	2.7	3.9	3.7	5.3	12.1	10.8	7.6	4.8	3.6
97.10	9.2	7.3	4.4	9.2	:	15.6	10.7	9.7	9.3	2.7	3.7	3.7	5.3	12.3	10.3	7.4	4.8	3.5
97.11	9.1	7.3	4.3	9.2	:	15.7	10.6	9.7	:	2.6	3.5	3.7	5.2	11.8	9.4	7.3	:	:
97.12	9.1	7.2	4.3	9.3	:	15.9	10.4	9.6	:	2.7	:	3.5	5.1	11.8	9.7	7.2	:	:

### FEMALES

	EU15	B	DK	D	GR	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	USA	JAP
95.12	12.5	13.1	8.7	9.7	:	30.0	14.4	12.3	16.6	4.5	8.5	5.0	8.3	16.1	9.1	6.3	5.5	3.3
96.12	12.5	12.5	7.9	10.0	:	28.7	14.7	11.1	16.4	5.1	7.9	5.5	8.0	16.1	10.3	6.4	5.7	3.3
97.08	12.6	12.5	8.0	10.9	:	28.3	14.8	10.4	16.7	5.4	7.2	5.4	7.1	13.8	9.8	6.1	5.0	3.5
97.09	12.6	12.4	7.5	11.0	:	28.5	14.8	10.3	16.8	5.4	6.7	5.4	7.0	14.1	8.7	5.8	5.0	3.3
97.10	12.6	12.3	7.5	11.0	:	28.9	14.8	10.2	16.8	5.3	6.6	5.4	6.9	13.8	9.1	5.7	4.6	3.4
97.11	12.5	12.2	7.4	11.1	:	28.8	14.8	10.1	:	5.2	6.4	5.4	6.8	13.8	8.9	5.7	:	:
97.12	12.5	12.2	7.3	11.0	:	28.9	14.6	10.0	:	5.3	:	5.5	6.8	13.5	8.4	5.8	:	:

### UNDER 25 YEARS

### MALES AND FEMALES

	EU15	B	DK	D	GR	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	USA	JAP
95.12	21.6	23.6	11.0	9.3	:	42.2	28.4	18.9	32.8	8.2	11.9	5.8	16.8	30.8	19.5	15.3	12.4	6.4
96.12	21.6	22.4	9.2	10.0	:	40.4	28.9	17.0	33.8	10.2	10.3	6.0	16.1	27.6	22.1	15.1	11.8	6.5
97.08	20.6	22.0	8.1	10.6	:	38.1	27.8	16.0	32.7	10.5	9.2	5.9	13.3	26.0	19.3	13.9	11.1	6.5
97.09	20.7	22.4	7.5	10.8	:	38.4	28.0	15.6	32.7	10.2	8.3	5.9	13.1	26.9	22.2	13.9	11.1	6.6
97.10	20.6	21.7	7.5	10.6	:	39.4	27.8	15.2	32.9	9.7	7.3	5.8	12.9	24.5	20.0	13.4	11.0	6.5
97.11	20.4	21.6	7.4	10.5	:	39.4	27.4	14.8	:	9.4	7.0	5.7	12.7	22.3	17.8	13.3	:	:
97.12	20.3	21.5	7.2	10.3	:	39.6	26.8	14.7	:	9.5	:	5.8	12.5	23.7	18.8	13.1	:	:

### MALES

	EU15	B	DK	D	GR	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	USA	JAP
95.12	20.2	20.5	9.0	9.7	:	36.5	25.3	19.9	28.3	8.3	11.1	4.9	14.8	29.2	19.2	18.0	12.9	6.5
96.12	20.2	18.7	7.5	10.7	:	35.0	26.1	17.6	29.6	11.3	10.1	4.5	13.2	27.4	21.6	17.1	12.1	6.5
97.08	19.1	18.5	6.5	11.3	:	32.1	25.3	16.6	28.3	11.5	8.3	4.8	10.0	24.5	18.5	15.6	11.8	6.6
97.09	19.2	18.9	6.0	11.5	:	32.2	25.1	16.0	28.1	10.9	8.1	4.8	9.8	24.9	25.2	15.5	12.0	6.9
97.10	19.0	18.2	6.0	11.4	:	33.0	24.9	15.6	28.4	10.4	6.1	4.8	9.6	24.3	20.6	15.0	12.1	6.7
97.11	18.7	18.0	5.8	11.2	:	33.0	24.4	15.4	:	10.3	5.5	4.7	9.4	21.9	17.6	14.9	:	:
97.12	18.7	18.0	5.8	11.2	:	33.5	23.8	15.2	:	10.0	:	4.5	9.3	22.1	21.9	14.6	:	:

### FEMALES

	EU15	B	DK	D	GR	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	USA	JAP
95.12	23.2	27.1	13.3	8.9	:	48.8	31.8	17.6	38.6	8.0	12.7	6.7	19.5	32.7	19.8	11.9	11.8	6.3
96.12	23.2	26.8	11.0	9.1	:	47.0	32.0	16.3	39.1	9.0	10.6	7.6	19.9	27.7	22.6	12.7	11.6	6.5
97.08	22.4	26.3	9.9	9.8	:	45.3	30.5	15.4	38.4	9.4	10.0	7.1	17.4	27.7	20.3	12.0	10.4	6.4
97.09	22.5	26.6	9.2	10.0	:	45.8	31.1	15.0	38.5	9.3	8.4	7.1	17.2	28.9	19.0	12.1	10.2	6.2
97.10	22.5	26.0	9.3	9.8	:	47.1	30.9	14.6	38.6	8.9	8.5	7.0	16.9	24.7	19.2	11.4	9.8	6.4
97.11	22.3	25.9	9.1	9.6	:	47.0	30.6	14.2	:	8.5	8.5	6.8	16.7	22.6	17.9	11.4	:	:
97.12	22.2	25.8	8.9	9.4	:	46.9	29.9	14.0	:	9.0	:	7.2	16.5	25.2	15.4	11.3	:	:

## 25 YEARS AND OVER

### MALES AND FEMALES

	EU15	B	DK	D	GR	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	USA	JAP
95.12	9.1	8.4	6.2	8.4	:	18.6	10.2	10.5	8.6	2.3	5.5	3.9	5.7	14.2	8.3	7.0	4.3	2.9
96.12	9.1	8.0	5.7	9.1	:	17.6	10.6	9.5	8.7	2.8	5.3	4.0	5.6	13.1	9.1	6.3	4.2	2.8
97.08	9.1	8.2	5.8	9.8	:	17.1	10.9	8.7	8.9	2.9	4.7	4.2	5.0	10.8	8.6	5.7	3.7	3.0
97.09	9.1	8.1	5.5	9.9	:	17.2	10.9	8.7	8.9	2.9	4.5	4.2	4.9	11.3	8.2	5.5	3.7	3.0
97.10	9.1	8.0	5.4	9.9	:	17.1	10.8	8.7	8.9	2.9	4.5	4.2	4.9	11.5	8.6	5.4	3.5	3.0
97.11	9.1	7.9	5.3	10.0	:	17.1	10.8	8.7	:	2.8	4.3	4.2	4.8	11.5	8.1	5.3	:	:
97.12	9.1	7.9	5.3	10.0	:	17.3	10.7	8.7	:	2.9	:	4.2	4.8	11.1	7.9	5.3	:	:

### MALES

	EU15	B	DK	D	GR	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	USA	JAP
95.12	8.0	6.5	5.0	7.4	:	14.8	8.6	10.3	6.5	1.5	4.3	3.4	5.1	14.3	8.9	8.4	4.4	3.0
96.12	8.0	6.2	4.4	8.3	:	13.6	9.0	9.4	6.7	1.8	3.9	3.2	5.2	11.7	9.4	7.2	3.8	2.9
97.08	7.8	6.3	4.3	8.8	:	12.8	9.2	8.6	6.6	1.8	3.3	3.6	4.6	9.7	8.7	6.4	3.5	3.0
97.09	7.8	6.3	4.1	8.9	:	12.8	9.2	8.6	6.5	1.8	3.2	3.6	4.6	10.5	8.9	6.1	3.5	3.1
97.10	7.8	6.2	4.0	9.0	:	12.6	9.2	8.5	6.6	1.8	3.3	3.6	4.6	10.7	9.1	6.0	3.5	3.1
97.11	7.7	6.1	4.0	9.0	:	12.6	9.1	8.5	:	1.8	3.2	3.6	4.5	10.4	8.4	5.9	:	:
97.12	7.7	6.1	3.9	9.0	:	12.8	9.0	8.5	:	1.9	:	3.4	4.5	10.4	8.2	5.8	:	:

### FEMALES

	EU15	B	DK	D	GR	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	USA	JAP
95.12	10.7	11.2	7.7	9.8	:	25.1	12.2	10.8	12.3	3.8	7.4	4.7	6.4	14.1	7.7	5.2	4.3	2.8
96.12	10.7	10.7	7.2	10.1	:	24.2	12.6	9.6	12.1	4.4	7.2	5.1	6.1	14.7	8.8	5.1	4.6	2.8
97.08	10.9	10.8	7.6	11.0	:	24.3	12.9	9.0	12.7	4.7	6.6	5.1	5.4	12.0	8.4	4.9	3.9	2.9
97.09	10.9	10.7	7.1	11.1	:	24.5	12.9	9.0	12.8	4.7	6.3	5.1	5.3	12.2	7.4	4.6	3.9	2.8
97.10	10.9	10.6	7.1	11.2	:	24.4	12.9	9.0	12.8	4.7	6.1	5.1	5.2	12.4	8.0	4.6	3.6	2.9
97.11	10.9	10.5	7.0	11.2	:	24.5	12.9	9.0	:	4.7	5.9	5.1	5.2	12.6	7.8	4.5	:	:
97.12	10.9	10.5	6.9	11.2	:	24.6	12.8	8.9	:	4.6	:	5.2	5.2	11.8	7.5	4.7	:	: