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March 1999
EURO-ZONE UNEMPLOYMENT STAYS AT 10.4%
EU15 remains 9.6%

Euro-zone¹ seasonally-adjusted unemployment stayed at 10.4% in March, same as February, **Eurostat – Statistical Office of the European Communities in Luxembourg** – reports today. This compares to 11.1% in March last year.

The **EU15** rate was 9.6%, also same as February. In March a year before it was 10.1%.

Lowest rates were in **Luxembourg** (2.8%) and the **Netherlands** (3.6% in February), followed by **Portugal** (4.2%), **Austria** (4.6%) and **Denmark** (4.7%).

Spain's 17.4% was still by far the **EU's** highest rate. However, **Spain** did register a big fall over the year, down from 19.2%, as did **Portugal**, from 5.8% to 4.2%.

EU unemployment of under-25s ranged from less than 7.5% in **Austria, Luxembourg, Denmark** and the **Netherlands** (February) to over 30% in **Italy** (January) and **Spain**. **EU15**-wide, it was 18.6%, and 19.9% in the **euro-zone**. A year earlier it was 19.7% and 21.4% respectively.

US unemployment was 4.2%; the **Japanese** rate 4.7%.

Eurostat estimates 13.5 million men and women were unemployed in the **euro-zone** and 16.3 million in **EU15** in March. These are seasonally-adjusted figures in line with ILO criteria.

Unemployment rates (%) in March & February in ascending order

	March	Feb		March	Feb
Luxembourg	2.8	2.8	Germany	9.0	9.0
Netherlands	:	3.6	Belgium	9.1	9.1

Portugal	4.2	4.2	EU15	9.6	9.6
Austria	4.6	4.6	Euro-zone	10.4	10.4
Denmark	4.7	4.8	Finland	10.6	10.7
Ireland	6.9	7.0	France	11.4	11.4
Sweden	7.5	7.3	Spain	17.4	17.6

: data unavailable
Data for Greece, Italy and UK unavailable

Background notes

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.
3. 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.

SEASONALLY-ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATES (%)

TOTAL

MALES AND FEMALES

	<i>EU15</i>	<i>EUR 11</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>DK</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>GR</i>	<i>E</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>IRL</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>L</i>	<i>NL</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>FIN</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>UK</i>	<i>USA</i>	<i>JAP</i>
97.03	10.7	11.7	9.3	5.8	9.7	:	21.2	12.4	10.5	12.2	2.5	5.4	4.3	7.0	13.3	10.5	7.3	5.1	3.2
98.03	10.1	11.1	9.6	5.4	9.7	11.5	19.2	11.8	8.2	11.8	2.8	4.4	4.7	5.8	11.9	8.4	6.4	4.7	3.8
98.11	9.7	10.6	9.2	4.7	9.1	:	18.1	11.6	7.3	11.8	2.7	3.6	4.6	4.4	10.8	7.7	6.2	4.4	4.4
98.12	9.7	10.6	9.1	4.7	9.2	:	18.0	11.5	7.3	11.8	2.6	3.6	4.6	4.4	10.8	7.5	6.4	4.3	4.4
99.01	9.6	10.5	9.1	4.9	9.0	:	17.8	11.4	7.2	11.7	2.8	3.5	4.6	4.3	10.7	7.7	6.3	4.3	4.4
99.02	9.6	10.4	9.1	4.8	9.0	:	17.6	11.4	7.0	:	2.8	3.6	4.6	4.2	10.7	7.3	:	4.4	4.6
99.03	9.6	10.4	9.1	4.7	9.0	:	17.4	11.4	6.9	:	2.8	:	4.6	4.2	10.6	7.5	:	4.2	4.7

MALES

	EU15	EUR 11	B	DK	D	GR	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	USA	JAP
97.03	9.5	10.0	7.3	4.8	9.2	:	16.6	10.7	10.4	9.5	1.8	4.2	3.6	6.2	12.8	10.7	8.1	5.1	3.2
98.03	8.8	9.3	7.8	4.1	9.1	7.7	14.3	10.0	8.4	9.1	2.0	3.2	3.9	4.6	11.3	8.8	7.1	4.6	3.9
98.11	8.4	8.8	7.4	3.6	8.6	:	13.0	9.8	7.4	9.2	1.9	2.8	3.9	3.5	10.2	7.8	7.0	4.2	4.4
98.12	8.4	8.8	7.4	3.7	8.8	:	13.0	9.7	7.3	9.1	1.8	2.7	3.8	3.4	10.3	7.9	7.1	4.4	4.5
99.01	8.3	8.7	7.4	3.9	8.4	:	12.7	9.7	7.3	9.0	1.9	2.7	3.9	3.4	10.4	7.9	7.1	4.2	4.5
99.02	8.2	8.6	7.4	3.8	8.4	:	12.4	9.6	7.1	:	1.9	2.6	3.9	3.4	10.5	7.8	:	4.3	4.7
99.03	8.2	8.6	7.4	3.7	8.4	:	12.3	9.6	6.9	:	1.9	:	3.8	3.3	10.4	7.8	:	3.9	4.8

FEMALES

	EU15	EUR 11	B	DK	D	GR	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	USA	JAP
97.03	12.4	14.0	12.1	6.9	10.4	:	28.5	14.4	10.7	16.6	3.7	7.0	5.2	7.9	13.9	10.2	6.2	5.2	3.3
98.03	11.9	13.6	12.2	6.9	10.6	17.3	26.8	14.0	7.8	16.1	4.2	5.9	5.7	7.2	12.6	7.8	5.6	4.8	3.7
98.11	11.4	13.0	11.5	5.9	9.8	:	25.9	13.7	7.1	16.1	4.0	4.7	5.5	5.6	11.5	7.5	5.3	4.6	4.3
98.12	11.4	13.0	11.5	5.8	9.9	:	25.8	13.6	7.2	16.0	3.8	4.7	5.6	5.5	11.3	7.1	5.4	4.3	4.2
99.01	11.4	12.9	11.5	6.1	9.8	:	25.7	13.5	7.1	16.0	4.3	4.5	5.5	5.5	11.1	7.5	5.4	4.4	4.3
99.02	11.4	12.9	11.4	5.9	9.8	:	25.5	13.5	7.0	:	4.2	4.9	5.5	5.3	10.9	6.8	:	4.5	4.6
99.03	11.3	12.8	11.4	5.7	9.9	:	25.3	13.4	6.9	:	4.3	:	5.4	5.3	10.8	7.1	:	4.5	4.7

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
97.03	21.5	23.6	23.2	8.8	10.7	:	40.0	29.6	16.5	33.3	7.5	9.7	6.7	15.3	25.7	21.9	14.4	11.7	6.6
98.03	19.7	21.4	22.5	7.6	10.1	32.0	36.3	26.9	12.3	31.1	7.3	8.9	6.8	11.5	24.3	17.8	13.6	10.6	7.7
98.11	18.9	20.4	21.5	6.8	9.6	:	34.0	26.2	10.3	30.4	6.5	7.0	6.4	8.8	22.8	15.1	13.9	10.0	8.2
98.12	18.9	20.2	21.5	7.1	9.7	:	33.7	26.1	10.2	30.2	5.9	6.8	6.4	8.6	22.8	15.1	14.2	9.6	9.1
99.01	18.8	20.1	21.6	7.3	9.4	:	33.3	26.2	10.1	31.0	6.7	6.5	6.3	8.5	22.7	16.0	14.0	9.9	8.6
99.02	18.7	20.0	21.6	7.2	9.2	:	32.8	26.1	9.8	:	6.7	7.2	6.3	8.2	22.6	15.1	:	10.1	9.3
99.03	18.6	19.9	21.7	7.2	9.0	:	32.5	26.1	9.5	:	6.5	:	6.2	8.2	22.4	15.3	:	9.9	9.2

MALES

	EU15	EUR 11	B	DK	D	GR	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	USA	JAP
97.03	19.9	21.3	19.2	7.2	11.6	:	34.3	27.0	17.2	28.6	5.7	8.8	5.8	12.3	24.6	21.7	16.2	12.2	6.8
98.03	18.2	19.3	19.9	6.8	10.8	23.0	29.7	24.4	12.7	27.5	7.4	7.7	5.4	8.9	23.2	19.0	14.8	11.2	8.6
98.11	17.7	18.4	19.3	6.4	10.3	:	27.1	23.9	10.6	27.4	6.7	6.7	5.2	7.3	21.6	15.5	15.8	10.4	8.8
98.12	17.7	18.3	19.3	6.9	10.5	:	26.9	23.8	10.5	27.1	5.9	6.0	5.1	7.2	21.8	16.1	16.3	10.7	9.7
99.01	17.7	18.3	19.5	7.3	10.0	:	26.3	24.1	10.4	28.0	6.9	6.7	5.1	7.2	22.0	16.2	15.9	10.5	9.7
99.02	17.5	18.1	19.5	7.1	9.9	:	25.7	24.0	10.1	:	6.8	6.8	5.2	7.1	22.0	16.1	:	10.2	10.7
99.03	17.4	18.0	19.7	7.0	9.6	:	25.4	24.1	9.8	:	6.5	:	5.1	6.9	21.9	15.3	:	10.0	10.2

FEMALES

	EU15	EUR 11	B	DK	D	GR	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	USA	JAP
97.03	23.3	26.3	28.1	10.7	9.6	:	46.8	32.4	15.7	39.2	9.7	10.7	7.8	19.2	26.8	22.0	12.3	11.0	6.3
98.03	21.4	23.9	25.6	8.4	9.2	42.2	44.6	29.7	11.9	35.7	7.1	10.1	8.4	14.4	25.6	16.5	12.1	9.8	6.7
98.11	20.4	22.6	24.2	7.1	8.7	:	42.5	28.8	10.0	34.4	6.2	7.3	7.7	10.6	24.2	14.8	11.6	9.5	7.6
98.12	20.3	22.5	24.3	7.3	8.7	:	42.1	28.5	9.9	34.3	5.9	7.6	7.8	10.3	23.9	14.0	11.7	8.4	8.5
99.01	20.2	22.3	24.3	7.4	8.6	:	41.8	28.6	9.7	34.7	6.4	6.2	7.6	10.1	23.6	15.9	11.7	9.3	7.6
99.02	20.0	22.2	24.2	7.4	8.5	:	41.4	28.5	9.5	:	6.6	7.6	7.5	9.6	23.2	14.0	:	10.0	7.9
99.03	19.9	22.0	24.2	7.3	8.3	:	41.1	28.3	9.3	:	6.4	:	7.4	9.8	22.8	15.3	:	9.8	8.2

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
97.03	9.1	9.9	7.8	5.1	9.6	:	17.5	10.5	9.1	8.8	2.0	4.5	3.9	5.6	11.8	9.1	5.9	3.9	2.8
98.03	8.7	9.6	8.2	4.9	9.7	8.4	15.9	10.2	7.2	8.8	2.3	3.5	4.4	4.7	10.3	7.2	5.1	3.6	3.3
98.11	8.3	9.2	7.8	4.2	9.1	:	15.1	10.0	6.5	8.8	2.3	2.9	4.4	3.6	9.1	6.8	4.8	3.3	3.8
98.12	8.3	9.2	7.8	4.2	9.2	:	15.1	9.9	6.5	8.8	2.2	3.0	4.3	3.6	9.1	6.6	4.9	3.3	3.7
99.01	8.2	9.1	7.8	4.4	9.0	:	15.0	9.9	6.5	8.7	2.4	2.9	4.3	3.6	9.1	6.7	4.9	3.2	3.9
99.02	8.2	9.1	7.7	4.3	9.0	:	14.8	9.8	6.4	:	2.4	2.9	4.3	3.5	9.0	6.4	:	3.3	4.0
99.03	8.2	9.1	7.7	4.2	9.0	:	14.7	9.8	6.3	:	2.4	:	4.3	3.5	9.0	6.5	:	3.1	4.2

MALES

	EU15	EUR 11	B	DK	D	GR	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	USA	JAP
97.03	8.0	8.4	6.1	4.3	8.9	:	13.6	9.0	9.0	6.8	1.5	3.4	3.3	5.2	11.3	9.3	6.7	3.8	2.8
98.03	7.4	7.9	6.5	3.6	8.9	5.8	11.6	8.5	7.5	6.5	1.4	2.4	3.7	3.8	9.8	7.6	5.7	3.4	3.4
98.11	7.1	7.5	6.2	3.1	8.4	:	10.7	8.3	6.7	6.5	1.4	2.1	3.8	2.8	8.6	7.0	5.4	3.1	3.9
98.12	7.1	7.5	6.2	3.1	8.6	:	10.7	8.2	6.7	6.4	1.4	2.2	3.6	2.8	8.7	6.9	5.5	3.2	3.9
99.01	7.0	7.4	6.2	3.3	8.3	:	10.5	8.2	6.6	6.4	1.5	2.0	3.7	2.8	8.8	6.9	5.5	3.0	4.0
99.02	6.9	7.4	6.2	3.2	8.3	:	10.3	8.2	6.5	:	1.5	1.9	3.7	2.7	8.9	6.8	:	3.2	4.0
99.03	6.9	7.3	6.2	3.1	8.3	:	10.2	8.1	6.3	:	1.5	:	3.7	2.7	8.8	6.9	:	2.8	4.2

FEMALES

	EU15	EUR 11	B	DK	D	GR	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	USA	JAP
97.03	10.6	12.0	10.1	6.1	10.5	:	24.0	12.3	9.3	12.2	2.8	6.2	4.7	6.1	12.3	8.7	5.0	4.1	2.8
98.03	10.4	11.9	10.6	6.5	10.8	12.7	22.8	12.2	6.7	12.6	3.8	5.0	5.2	5.8	10.8	6.7	4.3	3.8	3.2
98.11	10.0	11.5	10.0	5.6	9.9	:	22.3	12.0	6.3	12.6	3.8	4.1	5.1	4.6	9.7	6.6	4.1	3.6	3.7
98.12	10.0	11.5	10.0	5.5	10.0	:	22.2	12.0	6.4	12.6	3.6	4.0	5.2	4.6	9.5	6.3	4.1	3.5	3.5
99.01	10.0	11.4	10.0	5.9	10.0	:	22.1	11.9	6.3	12.6	4.0	4.1	5.2	4.6	9.4	6.6	4.2	3.4	3.8
99.02	10.0	11.4	9.9	5.6	10.0	:	22.0	11.8	6.3	:	3.9	4.3	5.1	4.6	9.2	5.9	:	3.4	4.0
99.03	9.9	11.4	9.9	5.4	10.1	:	21.9	11.8	6.2	:	4.0	:	5.1	4.5	9.1	6.2	:	3.4	4.1