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## October 1998

# EURO-ZONE UNEMPLOYMENT DOWN TO 10.8%

## EU15 stays at 9.8% – lowest in six years

Euro-zone<sup>1</sup> seasonally-adjusted unemployment fell to 10.8% in October from 10.9% in September, **Eurostat – Statistical Office of the European Communities in Luxembourg** – reports today. This compares to 11.6% in October of both 1997 and 1996.

The **EU15** rate was 9.8%, same as in September when it fell to under 10% for the first time in six years. It was 10.6% in October last year and 10.8% in October 1996.

Lowest unemployment rates were **Luxembourg's** 2.2% and the **Netherlands'** 3.7% (both September). Next came **Denmark** (4.2%), **Austria** (4.4%) and **Portugal** (4.5%).

**Spain's** 18.2% was still by far the **EU's** highest rate, but down more than two percentage points on the same month a year ago (20.3%). Big falls over the year were also recorded in **Portugal** (6.5% to 4.5%) and **Sweden** (9.5% to 7.5%).

The under-25 rate ranged from over 30% in **Spain** and **Italy** to less than 7% in **Luxembourg, Denmark, Austria** and the **Netherlands**. **EU15**-wide it stood at 19.1%, and 21.1% in the **euro-zone**.

**US** unemployment was 4.5%; the **Japanese** rate 4.3% (September).

Eurostat estimates that 14.1 million men and women were jobless in the **euro-zone** in September with 16.8 million in **EU15**. These are seasonally-adjusted figures in line with ILO criteria.

### Unemployment rates (%) in October & September in ascending order

	Oct	Sept		Oct	Sept
<b>Luxembourg</b>	:	2.2	<b>Ireland</b>	8.6	8.8
<b>Netherlands</b>	:	3.7	<b>Germany</b>	9.3	9.5
<b>Denmark</b>	4.2	4.3	<b>EU15</b>	<b>9.8</b>	<b>9.8</b>

<b>Austria</b>	4.4	4.5	<b>Euro-zone<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>10.8</b>	<b>10.9</b>
<b>Portugal</b>	4.5	4.6	<b>Finland</b>	11.0	11.2
<b>UK</b>	:	:	<b>France</b>	11.8	11.9
<b>Sweden</b>	7.5	7.6	<b>Italy</b>	:	:
<b>Belgium</b>	8.6	8.8	<b>Spain</b>	18.2	18.4

: data unavailable  
Data for Greece unavailable

### Background notes

1. EUR-11: the 11 Member States participating in Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) – Belgium, Germany, Spain, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Austria, Portugal and Finland.

2. This news release summarises Eurostat's *Monthly bulletin theme 3 series B 10/98*, out shortly.

3. 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 in the previous four weeks.

4. 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	EUR 11	B	DK	D	GR	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	USA	JAP
<b>96.10</b>	10.8	11.6	9.4	6.3	9.1	:	21.7	12.5	11.2	12.0	2.8	6.1	4.3	7.1	15.0	9.8	8.0	5.2	3.4
<b>97.10</b>	10.6	11.6	9.1	5.2	10.3	:	20.3	12.4	9.9	12.1	2.5	4.7	4.4	6.5	12.3	9.5	6.7	4.7	3.4
<b>98.06</b>	10.0	11.1	8.8	4.5	9.7	:	19.0	11.8	9.2	12.3	2.2	3.9	4.5	4.7	12.4	8.0	6.2	4.5	4.2
<b>98.07</b>	10.0	11.0	8.8	4.6	9.6	:	18.8	11.9	9.1	12.3	2.3	3.8	4.5	4.6	12.0	8.5	6.3	4.5	4.2
<b>98.08</b>	10.0	11.0	8.9	4.5	9.6	:	18.7	11.9	9.0	:	2.2	3.7	4.5	4.6	11.4	8.2	6.2	4.5	4.3
<b>98.09</b>	9.8	10.9	8.8	4.3	9.5	:	18.4	11.9	8.8	:	2.2	3.7	4.5	4.6	11.2	7.6	:	4.6	4.3
<b>98.10</b>	<b>9.8</b>	<b>10.8</b>	<b>8.6</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>9.3</b>	:	<b>18.2</b>	<b>11.8</b>	<b>8.6</b>	:	:	:	<b>4.4</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>11.0</b>	<b>7.5</b>	:	<b>4.5</b>	:

## MALES

	EU15	EUR 11	B	DK	D	GR	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	USA	JAP
96.10	9.6	9.9	7.4	5.1	8.5	:	17.1	10.7	11.1	9.3	2.0	4.8	3.6	6.4	14.6	10.6	9.2	5.1	3.4
97.10	9.2	9.8	7.2	4.3	9.5	:	15.4	10.7	9.7	9.3	1.7	3.5	3.7	6.0	11.9	10.1	7.4	4.8	3.5
98.06	8.6	9.2	6.9	3.7	9.0	:	13.9	10.0	8.9	9.5	1.4	3.0	3.7	3.7	12.0	8.4	6.7	4.4	4.3
98.07	8.6	9.2	6.9	3.7	8.9	:	13.8	10.1	8.8	9.5	1.5	3.0	3.7	3.6	11.2	8.8	6.8	4.6	4.2
98.08	8.6	9.2	7.0	3.7	8.9	:	13.6	10.2	8.6	:	1.4	3.0	3.7	3.6	10.8	8.2	6.9	4.4	4.4
98.09	8.5	9.1	6.9	3.5	8.8	:	13.2	10.1	8.5	:	1.4	3.0	3.7	3.6	10.2	8.3	:	4.6	4.4
98.10	8.4	9.0	6.8	3.4	8.7	:	13.1	10.0	8.3	:	:	:	3.6	3.5	9.6	8.0	:	4.4	:

## FEMALES

	EU15	EUR 11	B	DK	D	GR	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	USA	JAP
96.10	12.4	14.0	12.4	7.7	9.9	:	29.0	14.5	11.3	16.3	4.0	7.9	5.3	8.0	15.5	8.9	6.5	5.3	3.3
97.10	12.4	14.2	11.8	6.3	11.2	:	28.1	14.4	10.1	16.7	3.8	6.4	5.4	7.1	12.6	8.9	5.8	4.7	3.4
98.06	11.9	13.6	11.4	5.4	10.6	:	26.8	14.0	9.6	16.9	3.4	5.1	5.6	5.8	12.9	7.6	5.6	4.7	4.1
98.07	11.8	13.5	11.3	5.6	10.4	:	26.7	14.0	9.6	16.8	3.6	4.9	5.5	5.7	12.9	8.2	5.5	4.5	4.2
98.08	11.8	13.5	11.6	5.6	10.4	:	26.6	14.0	9.5	:	3.5	4.8	5.5	5.7	12.1	8.2	5.4	4.7	4.3
98.09	11.7	13.4	11.4	5.2	10.3	:	26.3	14.0	9.3	:	3.5	4.8	5.5	5.8	12.3	6.9	:	4.6	4.2
98.10	11.6	13.3	11.1	5.1	10.2	:	26.1	13.9	9.1	:	:	:	5.4	5.7	12.6	7.0	:	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
96.10	22.0	23.9	23.0	9.6	10.3	:	40.9	29.7	17.5	33.6	8.1	11.8	6.5	16.0	27.1	20.4	15.7	11.7	6.9
97.10	20.7	23.0	22.7	7.7	11.2	:	38.3	28.9	14.9	32.9	7.4	7.7	6.6	14.3	23.5	19.6	13.3	11.1	6.7
98.06	19.7	21.7	21.8	6.8	10.1	:	35.7	26.6	13.4	34.3	5.6	6.8	6.7	9.2	25.3	16.2	13.3	10.7	7.7
98.07	19.6	21.4	21.7	6.8	10.3	:	35.2	26.7	13.2	32.5	6.0	6.5	6.6	9.0	24.3	17.0	13.7	10.6	7.6
98.08	19.5	21.3	22.8	6.8	10.4	:	35.0	27.0	12.9	:	5.9	5.9	6.5	9.0	21.7	16.4	13.5	10.9	8.0
98.09	19.3	21.2	22.3	6.4	10.4	:	34.2	26.9	12.4	:	5.8	6.6	6.4	9.1	22.5	16.0	:	11.1	7.9
98.10	19.1	21.1	21.6	6.3	10.1	:	33.9	26.8	12.0	:	:	:	6.3	8.9	23.6	14.8	:	10.6	:

## MALES

	EU15	EUR 11	B	DK	D	GR	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	USA	JAP
96.10	20.6	21.6	19.1	7.9	11.1	:	35.0	27.2	18.2	29.0	7.4	11.0	5.5	13.3	24.1	23.4	18.0	12.3	7.0
97.10	19.2	20.7	18.6	6.1	12.2	:	32.0	26.4	15.5	28.5	5.2	6.4	5.5	11.7	24.1	19.7	15.0	12.0	6.9
98.06	18.2	19.5	18.0	5.3	10.9	:	29.6	24.0	13.9	29.4	3.4	7.1	5.3	8.0	25.1	18.3	14.5	11.1	8.1
98.07	18.2	19.4	17.9	5.3	11.2	:	29.0	24.2	13.6	28.3	3.6	7.1	5.3	7.7	24.3	17.4	15.2	11.5	8.1
98.08	18.2	19.4	18.8	5.3	11.4	:	28.9	24.7	13.4	:	3.6	7.3	5.3	7.6	22.7	16.3	15.1	11.4	8.5
98.09	17.9	19.2	18.5	5.0	11.2	:	27.6	24.6	12.9	:	3.5	7.4	5.2	7.6	18.5	16.4	:	12.2	8.6
98.10	17.7	19.1	18.0	4.9	11.0	:	27.5	24.3	12.5	:	:	:	5.2	7.5	20.8	15.5	:	11.1	:

## FEMALES

	EU15	EUR 11	B	DK	D	GR	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	USA	JAP
96.10	23.6	26.6	27.7	11.7	9.3	:	48.1	32.6	16.6	39.3	8.8	12.6	7.6	19.6	31.3	17.2	13.0	11.1	6.7
97.10	22.5	25.6	27.6	9.7	10.1	:	45.8	31.7	14.2	38.5	10.0	9.0	7.8	17.6	22.8	19.6	11.3	10.0	6.5
98.06	21.5	24.2	26.5	8.5	9.1	:	43.3	29.6	12.7	40.6	8.1	6.5	8.1	10.8	25.6	13.7	11.9	10.2	7.2
98.07	21.2	23.8	26.3	8.5	9.3	:	42.9	29.5	12.6	37.8	8.8	5.8	8.0	10.7	24.3	16.5	11.9	9.6	7.0
98.08	21.0	23.5	27.6	8.6	9.2	:	42.6	29.5	12.3	:	8.5	4.5	7.7	10.6	20.5	16.6	11.6	10.5	7.4
98.09	20.9	23.7	27.0	8.2	9.3	:	42.2	29.5	11.8	:	8.3	5.8	7.7	10.8	27.7	15.5	:	9.9	7.2
98.10	20.8	23.5	26.2	8.0	9.0	:	41.8	29.5	11.4	:	:	:	7.6	10.7	26.6	13.8	:	10.1	:

## 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
96.10	9.1	9.8	7.9	5.6	9.0	:	17.8	10.5	9.7	8.6	2.1	5.0	4.0	5.6	13.6	8.4	6.5	4.0	2.8
97.10	9.0	10.0	7.6	4.7	10.1	:	16.8	10.6	8.7	8.9	1.9	4.2	4.0	5.3	10.8	8.4	5.4	3.5	3.0
98.06	8.6	9.6	7.4	4.0	9.6	:	15.8	10.3	8.2	9.1	1.8	3.4	4.2	3.8	10.7	7.0	4.9	3.4	3.7
98.07	8.6	9.6	7.4	4.1	9.5	:	15.7	10.3	8.1	9.1	1.8	3.3	4.2	3.8	10.4	7.5	4.8	3.4	3.7
98.08	8.5	9.5	7.4	4.1	9.5	:	15.6	10.3	8.1	:	1.8	3.3	4.1	3.8	10.0	7.2	4.9	3.3	3.8
98.09	8.4	9.4	7.3	3.8	9.3	:	15.4	10.3	7.9	:	1.8	3.2	4.2	3.8	9.7	6.7	:	3.4	3.8
98.10	8.4	9.4	7.2	3.8	9.3	:	15.2	10.2	7.9	:	:	:	4.1	3.7	9.3	6.7	:	3.4	:

### MALES

	EU15	EUR 11	B	DK	D	GR	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	USA	JAP
96.10	8.0	8.3	6.1	4.6	8.2	:	14.0	8.9	9.7	6.6	1.5	3.8	3.3	5.1	13.3	9.0	7.5	3.8	2.9
97.10	7.8	8.3	6.0	3.9	9.2	:	12.6	9.0	8.5	6.6	1.4	3.0	3.4	5.1	10.2	9.0	6.0	3.5	3.0
98.06	7.3	7.9	5.8	3.3	8.8	:	11.2	8.6	7.8	6.8	1.3	2.4	3.5	3.0	10.2	7.2	5.3	3.2	3.8
98.07	7.3	7.8	5.8	3.3	8.7	:	11.2	8.7	7.8	6.8	1.3	2.4	3.4	2.9	9.4	7.7	5.3	3.4	3.7
98.08	7.2	7.8	5.8	3.3	8.6	:	11.0	8.7	7.7	:	1.2	2.3	3.4	2.9	9.1	7.2	5.4	3.2	3.9
98.09	7.2	7.7	5.8	3.2	8.5	:	10.8	8.6	7.6	:	1.2	2.3	3.5	2.9	9.0	7.4	:	3.2	3.9
98.10	7.1	7.7	5.7	3.1	8.5	:	10.7	8.6	7.5	:	:	:	3.4	2.8	8.1	7.1	:	3.2	:

### FEMALES

	EU15	EUR 11	B	DK	D	GR	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	USA	JAP
96.10	10.6	12.0	10.5	6.9	10.0	:	24.3	12.3	9.8	12.0	3.3	6.8	4.8	6.2	13.9	7.8	5.2	4.2	2.7
97.10	10.7	12.4	10.0	5.6	11.4	:	23.9	12.5	8.9	12.6	2.9	5.8	4.9	5.4	11.4	7.7	4.7	3.7	2.9
98.06	10.4	12.0	9.6	4.8	10.7	:	23.1	12.2	8.7	12.8	2.7	4.8	5.1	4.9	11.2	6.9	4.3	3.6	3.6
98.07	10.3	11.9	9.6	5.0	10.6	:	23.1	12.2	8.7	12.9	2.8	4.7	5.1	4.8	11.4	7.2	4.3	3.5	3.7
98.08	10.3	11.9	9.6	4.9	10.6	:	23.0	12.3	8.7	:	2.7	4.8	5.1	4.8	11.0	7.1	4.2	3.5	3.8
98.09	10.2	11.8	9.5	4.6	10.4	:	22.8	12.2	8.6	:	2.8	4.6	5.1	4.9	10.4	5.8	:	3.5	3.7
98.10	10.1	11.7	9.3	4.5	10.3	:	22.6	12.2	8.5	:	:	:	5.0	4.8	10.6	6.2	:	3.6	: