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17.4 millions unemployed in March
EU15 UNEMPLOYMENT RATE: 10.3%
11.4% for EUR-11

EU15 seasonally-adjusted unemployment was 10.3% in March, **Eurostat, Statistical Office of the European Communities in Luxembourg**, reports¹ today. Following revisions, this indicates no change for two months - and compares with 10.7% in March 1997 and 10.9% in March 1996.

The **EUR-11**² rate stood at 11.4%.

Ten Member States are under the **EU15** average. Lowest rate in this latest month was **Luxembourg's** 2.2%; next lowest - **Austria** with 4.5%. **Spain's** 19.5% (February) was still by far the **EU's** highest rate.

Eurostat estimates 17.4 million men and women were unemployed in **EU15** in March. This seasonally-adjusted figure in line with ILO³ criteria is 710,000 less than March 1997.

US unemployment was 4.7%; the **Japanese** rate 3.8%.

The 1997 Community Labour Force results for **Germany, Denmark** and **Luxembourg** have led to marked revisions to earlier figures - upward for **Germany** and downward for the other two. Figures for **Sweden** have also been revised. Data for **Finland**⁴ are not included due to revisions and a break in the series of data; revised data will be published next month.

Unemployment rates in March and February

	March	Feb		March	Feb
Luxembourg	2.2	2.3	Germany	10.0	10.0
Austria	4.5	4.4	EU15	10.3	10.3
Netherlands	:	4.6	EUR-11 ²	11.4	11.4
Denmark	4.8	4.9	Italy	:	:
Portugal	6.5	6.6	France	12.0	12.1

UK	:	6.5	Finland⁴	:	:
Belgium	9.0	9.0	Spain	:	19.5
Sweden	8.3	8.7	Greece⁴	:	:
Ireland	9.4	9.5			

: data not available

Notes

1. This news release summarises Eurostat *Monthly bulletin theme 3 series B 5/98*, out shortly.
2. EUR-11: the 11 EU Member States participating in Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) - Belgium, Germany, Spain, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Austria, Portugal and Finland.
3. 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.
4. Data for Greece are not included because monthly indicators based on the ILO methodology are not provided. Data for Finland are not included this month due to revisions and a break in the series of data; revised data will be published next month.

k to detailed tables **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
96.03	10.9	9.9	7.3	8.8	:	22.5	12.3	11.9	12.0	3.2	6.5	4.5	7.4	:	9.2	8.4	5.5	3.1
97.03	10.7	9.3	5.7	9.7	:	21.2	12.4	10.5	12.2	2.5	5.4	4.3	7.1	:	10.4	7.3	5.2	3.2
97.11	10.5	9.0	5.1	10.3	:	20.3	12.4	9.8	12.1	2.5	4.6	4.4	6.6	:	8.9	6.5	4.6	3.4
97.12	10.5	9.0	5.0	10.3	:	20.0	12.2	9.7	12.0	2.5	4.6	4.3	6.6	:	8.7	6.4	4.7	3.5
98.01	10.4	8.9	5.3	10.1	:	19.7	12.1	9.7	12.0	2.3	4.7	4.4	6.6	:	9.0	6.4	4.7	3.5
98.02	10.3	9.0	4.9	10.0	:	19.5	12.1	9.5	:	2.3	4.6	4.4	6.6	:	8.7	6.5	4.6	3.6
98.03	10.3	9.0	4.8	10.0	:	:	12.0	9.4	:	2.2	:	4.5	6.5	:	8.3	:	4.7	3.8

MALES

	EU15	B	DK	D	GR	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	USA	JAP
96.03	9.8	7.7	6.0	8.2	:	17.9	10.4	11.8	9.4	2.4	5.2	4.0	6.7	:	9.7	10.0	5.6	3.2

97.03	9.5	7.3	4.8	9.2	:	16.6	10.7	10.4	9.5	1.8	4.2	3.6	6.2	:	10.6	8.2	5.1	3.2
97.11	9.2	7.1	4.1	9.5	:	15.4	10.6	9.7	9.3	1.7	3.3	3.6	5.8	:	8.9	7.3	4.5	3.4
97.12	9.1	7.1	4.2	9.6	:	15.2	10.4	9.6	9.2	1.7	3.5	3.4	5.8	:	9.3	7.1	4.7	3.5
98.01	9.0	7.0	4.3	9.2	:	14.9	10.3	9.5	9.2	1.6	3.6	3.5	5.8	:	9.7	7.0	4.6	3.6
98.02	8.9	7.0	3.9	9.2	:	14.6	10.3	9.4	:	1.5	3.6	3.6	5.7	:	8.8	7.1	4.5	3.7
98.03	8.9	7.0	3.8	9.2	:	:	10.2	9.2	:	1.5	:	3.6	5.6	:	8.7	:	4.6	3.9

FEMALES

	EU15	B	DK	D	GR	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	USA	JAP
96.03	12.5	13.0	8.7	9.7	:	29.9	14.6	12.1	16.4	4.6	8.3	5.2	8.3	:	8.6	6.5	5.4	3.1
97.03	12.4	12.1	6.8	10.4	:	28.4	14.4	10.7	16.5	3.7	7.0	5.2	8.1	:	10.2	6.2	5.3	3.2
97.11	12.4	11.7	6.2	11.3	:	27.9	14.4	10.0	16.6	3.7	6.2	5.3	7.6	:	8.9	5.6	4.7	3.5
97.12	12.3	11.7	6.1	11.2	:	27.6	14.2	9.9	16.6	3.7	6.1	5.5	7.6	:	8.0	5.6	4.7	3.4
98.01	12.2	11.6	6.4	11.1	:	27.2	14.2	9.9	16.5	3.6	6.1	5.4	7.7	:	8.4	5.7	4.8	3.3
98.02	12.2	11.7	6.0	11.1	:	27.0	14.2	9.8	:	3.6	6.1	5.4	7.6	:	8.5	5.6	4.8	3.4
98.03	12.2	11.6	5.8	11.1	:	:	14.1	9.7	:	3.5	:	5.6	7.6	:	7.8	:	4.9	3.6

UNDER 25 YEARS

MALES AND FEMALES

	EU15	B	DK	D	GR	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	USA	JAP
96.03	22.0	23.2	11.6	9.9	:	42.3	28.6	18.6	33.6	8.9	12.1	6.3	17.0	:	19.4	15.7	12.2	6.3
97.03	21.5	23.3	8.7	10.6	:	39.9	29.4	16.5	33.3	7.5	9.8	6.7	15.4	:	21.9	14.4	11.7	6.4
97.11	20.6	22.5	7.5	11.2	:	38.0	28.7	14.6	32.9	7.3	7.4	6.5	15.3	:	17.6	13.5	10.9	6.7
97.12	20.5	22.4	7.3	11.0	:	37.6	28.0	14.4	32.9	7.3	7.7	6.6	15.2	:	18.0	13.6	10.5	7.2
98.01	20.4	22.1	7.7	10.7	:	37.1	27.5	14.3	33.4	6.2	8.5	6.6	15.2	:	18.2	13.7	10.9	7.3
98.02	20.3	22.4	7.1	10.5	:	36.7	27.3	14.0	:	6.3	8.2	6.7	15.2	:	17.7	13.6	10.6	7.1
98.03	20.1	22.4	6.9	10.5	:	:	27.0	13.9	:	6.1	:	6.7	15.0	:	17.7	:	10.6	7.4

MALES

	EU15	B	DK	D	GR	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	USA	JAP
96.03	20.9	19.7	9.9	10.6	:	36.6	25.6	19.5	29.5	9.4	11.5	5.6	15.1	:	19.8	18.5	13.0	6.7
97.03	19.9	19.2	7.2	11.6	:	34.2	26.8	17.2	28.6	5.7	8.6	5.7	12.3	:	21.6	16.2	12.2	6.6
97.11	19.0	18.4	5.9	12.1	:	31.8	25.9	15.2	28.6	5.1	5.9	5.5	11.6	:	17.4	15.0	11.6	6.4

97.12	19.0	18.3	5.8	12.0	:	31.5	25.3	15.1	28.6	4.9	7.4	5.3	11.5	:	21.0	15.1	10.9	7.5
98.01	18.9	18.1	6.1	11.6	:	31.2	24.8	15.0	29.1	4.0	8.5	5.3	11.6	:	18.2	14.9	11.4	8.0
98.02	18.7	18.3	5.6	11.4	:	30.6	24.6	14.7	:	4.1	8.2	5.5	11.5	:	18.2	14.8	11.5	7.7
98.03	18.6	18.4	5.3	11.4	:	:	24.3	14.5	:	4.0	:	5.3	11.2	:	18.6	:	11.1	8.1

FEMALES

	EU15	B	DK	D	GR	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	USA	JAP
96.03	23.4	27.3	13.6	9.1	:	49.1	31.9	17.6	38.8	8.2	12.7	7.1	19.4	:	18.9	12.3	11.2	6.0
97.03	23.3	28.1	10.6	9.6	:	46.6	32.2	15.7	39.2	9.5	11.0	7.8	19.3	:	22.2	12.3	11.2	6.3
97.11	22.4	27.5	9.5	10.0	:	45.5	31.6	13.8	38.3	9.8	8.9	7.5	19.8	:	17.9	11.8	10.1	6.9
97.12	22.2	27.3	9.2	9.8	:	45.0	30.9	13.6	38.3	9.9	8.1	8.0	19.6	:	14.8	12.0	10.1	6.8
98.01	22.3	27.0	9.6	9.7	:	44.4	30.5	13.5	38.9	8.8	8.5	7.9	19.6	:	18.3	12.3	10.4	6.5
98.02	22.1	27.3	9.1	9.6	:	44.4	30.2	13.2	:	8.7	8.2	7.9	19.6	:	17.2	12.1	9.7	6.5
98.03	22.0	27.3	8.9	9.5	:	:	29.9	13.1	:	8.6	:	8.1	19.5	:	16.8	:	10.0	6.7

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
96.03	9.2	8.4	6.3	8.7	:	18.5	10.4	10.4	8.5	2.4	5.4	4.2	5.8	:	7.9	7.0	4.2	2.7
97.03	9.1	7.8	5.1	9.6	:	17.5	10.5	9.1	8.8	2.0	4.5	3.9	5.7	:	9.0	6.0	4.0	2.7
97.11	9.0	7.6	4.6	10.2	:	16.8	10.6	8.7	8.8	1.9	4.0	4.0	5.1	:	7.8	5.2	3.4	3.0
97.12	9.0	7.6	4.6	10.2	:	16.7	10.5	8.6	8.7	1.9	4.0	4.0	5.2	:	7.6	5.1	3.6	2.9
98.01	8.9	7.5	4.8	10.0	:	16.4	10.4	8.6	8.7	1.9	4.0	4.0	5.2	:	8.0	5.1	3.5	3.0
98.02	8.9	7.5	4.4	10.0	:	16.2	10.4	8.5	:	1.9	4.0	4.0	5.1	:	7.6	5.1	3.5	3.1
98.03	8.8	7.5	4.3	10.0	:	:	10.4	8.4	:	1.8	:	4.1	5.1	:	7.1	:	3.6	3.3

MALES

	EU15	B	DK	D	GR	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	USA	JAP
96.03	8.1	6.5	5.2	7.9	:	14.6	8.7	10.2	6.5	1.6	4.2	3.7	5.2	:	8.5	8.4	4.2	2.7
97.03	8.0	6.1	4.3	8.9	:	13.5	9.0	9.0	6.9	1.5	3.4	3.3	5.2	:	9.3	6.8	3.8	2.7
97.11	7.8	5.9	3.8	9.2	:	12.6	9.0	8.5	6.5	1.4	2.9	3.4	4.8	:	7.9	5.9	3.2	3.0
97.12	7.7	5.9	3.8	9.3	:	12.3	8.9	8.5	6.4	1.4	2.9	3.2	4.8	:	7.9	5.7	3.6	3.0
98.01	7.6	5.9	4.0	9.0	:	12.1	8.9	8.4	6.4	1.3	2.8	3.2	4.8	:	8.6	5.6	3.3	3.1
98.02	7.6	5.9	3.6	9.0	:	11.9	8.9	8.3	:	1.3	2.9	3.3	4.7	:	7.7	5.7	3.2	3.2
98.03	7.6	5.9	3.5	9.0	:	:	8.8	8.2	:	1.2	:	3.3	4.6	:	7.6	:	3.4	3.4

FEMALES

	EU15	B	DK	D	GR	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	USA	JAP
96.03	10.6	11.2	7.7	9.7	:	25.1	12.4	10.6	12.0	3.9	7.3	4.8	6.5	:	7.3	5.2	4.2	2.5
97.03	10.6	10.1	6.1	10.5	:	24.0	12.3	9.3	12.2	2.8	6.1	4.7	6.2	:	8.7	4.9	4.1	2.7
97.11	10.8	9.9	5.5	11.5	:	23.8	12.5	8.9	12.6	2.8	5.7	4.9	5.5	:	7.8	4.4	3.6	2.9
97.12	10.7	9.9	5.4	11.4	:	23.7	12.4	8.9	12.6	2.8	5.7	5.0	5.6	:	7.2	4.3	3.7	2.9
98.01	10.6	9.8	5.7	11.3	:	23.3	12.3	8.8	12.5	2.9	5.6	5.0	5.7	:	7.3	4.4	3.7	2.7
98.02	10.6	9.8	5.3	11.3	:	23.1	12.4	8.8	:	2.9	5.6	5.0	5.7	:	7.4	4.4	3.8	2.9
98.03	10.6	9.8	5.2	11.3	:	:	12.3	8.8	:	2.8	:	5.1	5.6	:	6.6	:	3.9	3.1