

Unemployment rates in the European Union and selected member countries,
civilian labor force basis (1), seasonally adjusted, 1995-2008

Period	European Union-27 (2)	European Union-15 (3)	Euro area (4)	Austria	Belgium	Denmark	Finland	Greece (5)	Ireland	Portugal	Spain
1995	NA	10.0	10.5	3.9	9.7	6.7	15.4	9.2	12.3	7.2r	18.4
1996	NA	10.1	10.7	4.3	9.5	6.3	14.6	9.6	11.7	7.2	17.8
1997	NA	9.8	10.6	4.4	9.2	5.2	12.7	9.8	9.9	6.7	16.7
1998	NA	9.3	10.0	4.5	9.3	4.9	11.4	10.8	7.5	5.0r	15.0
1999	NA	8.5r	9.1	3.9	8.5	5.2	10.2	12.0	5.7	4.5r	12.5
2000	8.7	7.7	8.2	3.6	6.9	4.3	9.8	11.2	4.3	4.0r	11.1
2001	8.5	7.2	7.8	3.6	6.6	4.5	9.1	10.7	4.0	4.1r	10.3
2002	8.9	7.6	8.3r	4.2	7.5	4.6	9.1	10.3	4.5	5.1r	11.1
2003	9.0	7.9	8.7	4.3	8.2	5.4	9.0	9.7	4.7	6.4r	11.1
2004	9.0	8.1	8.8	4.8	8.4	5.5	8.8	10.5	4.5	6.7	10.6
2005	8.9	8.1	8.9	5.2	8.5	4.8	8.4	9.9	4.4	7.7r	9.2
2006	8.2	7.7	8.3	4.8	8.3	3.9	7.7	8.9	4.5	7.8r	8.5
I	8.6	8.0	8.7	5.1	8.6	4.1	8.0	9.2	4.5	7.8r	8.7
II	8.3	7.8	8.4	4.8	8.5	4.1	7.9	9.1	4.6	7.6r	8.6
III	8.0	7.6	8.1	4.7r	8.1	3.6	7.7	8.7	4.5	7.6r	8.4
IV	7.8	7.4	7.9	4.5	7.9	3.7	7.3	8.7	4.4	8.1r	8.3
2007	7.1	7.0	7.4	4.4	7.5	3.8	6.9	8.3	4.6r	8.1r	8.3
I	7.4	7.2	7.6	4.5	7.8	4.0r	7.1	8.6	4.6	8.3r	8.2r
II	7.2	7.0r	7.5	4.5r	7.8	3.8	6.9	8.4	4.7	8.3r	8.0r
III	7.0	6.9r	7.4	4.4	7.2r	3.9	6.8	8.2	4.6	8.1r	8.3
IV	6.9	6.8	7.3	4.3	7.1	3.3r	6.6	8.0	4.7r	7.8r	8.7r
2008											
I	6.8	6.8	7.2	4.2	7.0r	3.0	6.3	7.8	5.1r	7.5r	9.4r
II	6.8	6.9	7.3	4.2	7.0	2.7	6.3		5.5	7.6	10.4
Feb	6.8	6.8	7.2	4.1	7.0r	3.0	6.3	NA	5.0r	7.5r	9.4r
Mar	6.8r	6.8	7.2	4.1	7.0r	2.9	6.3	NA	5.3r	7.5r	9.6r
Apr	6.8r	6.8	7.3r	4.2r	7.0r	2.7	6.2r	NA	5.4r	7.5r	10.0r
May	6.8	6.9r	7.3r	4.2r	6.9r	2.7	6.3	NA	5.5r	7.6r	10.4r
Jun	6.8	6.9	7.3	4.1	7.0	2.6	6.3	NA	5.7	7.6	10.7
Jul	6.8	6.9	7.3	4.2	7.1	2.3	6.3	NA	5.9	7.5	11.0

r = revised.

NA = Not Available.

(1) Excludes conscripts, but includes career military living in private households.

(2) European Union-27 (EU-27) refers to European Union member countries as of January 1, 2007. The EU-27 rate is the population-weighted average for the following 27 countries: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom.

(3) European Union-15 (EU-15) refers to European Union member countries prior to May 1, 2004. The EU-15 rate is the population-weighted average for the following 15 countries: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom.

(4) Euro area (EA) refers to European Union member countries that have adopted the euro as a common currency. The composition of the euro area has changed over the years. As the euro area expands, data for new member countries are linked into this moving coverage series. Thus, the euro area rate changes its geographical coverage according to the composition of the euro area during the period to which the data refer. The harmonized unemployment rate for this group for January 2008 onward is the population-weighted average for the following 15 countries: Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Portugal, Slovenia, and Spain. For analytical purposes, Eurostat also makes available historical series covering all the current euro area countries.

(5) Prior to 1998, data refer to the spring of each year.

NOTES

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) has not adjusted these data to reflect U.S. labor force concepts.

Six European Union member countries are covered in the BLS international comparisons program -- France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Sweden, and the United Kingdom. They are available in the table "Unemployment rates in 10 countries, civilian labor force basis, approximating U.S. concepts, seasonally adjusted, 1995-2008," on the Internet at <http://www.bls.gov/fls/home.htm>.

SOURCE

These data are reproduced with permission from the Statistical Office of the European Communities (EUROSTAT). These data are prepared by EUROSTAT according to the International Labor Office (ILO) definitions and are called harmonized unemployment rates. The European Union labor force survey is carried out in member countries on the basis of agreed definitions. EUROSTAT estimates monthly figures based on the best available national indicator of unemployment. No reliable monthly indicator exists for Greece. For more details on methods and concepts, see "European Union labor force survey, methods and concepts, 2001," on the Internet at http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_OFFPUB/KS-BF-03-002/EN/KS-BF-03-002-EN.PDF.

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