

50/2013 - 2 April 2013

February 2013

Euro area unemployment rate at 12.0%

EU27 at 10.9%

The **euro area**¹ (EA17) seasonally-adjusted² unemployment rate³ was 12.0% in February 2013, stable compared with January⁴. The **EU27**¹ unemployment rate was 10.9%, up from 10.8% in the previous month⁴. In both zones, rates have risen markedly compared with February 2012, when they were 10.9% and 10.2% respectively. These figures are published by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**.

Eurostat estimates that 26.338 million men and women in the **EU27**, of whom 19.071 million were in the **euro area**, were unemployed in February 2013. Compared with January 2013, the number of persons unemployed increased by 76 000 in the **EU27** and by 33 000 in the **euro area**. Compared with February 2012, unemployment rose by 1.805 million in the **EU27** and by 1.775 million in the **euro area**.

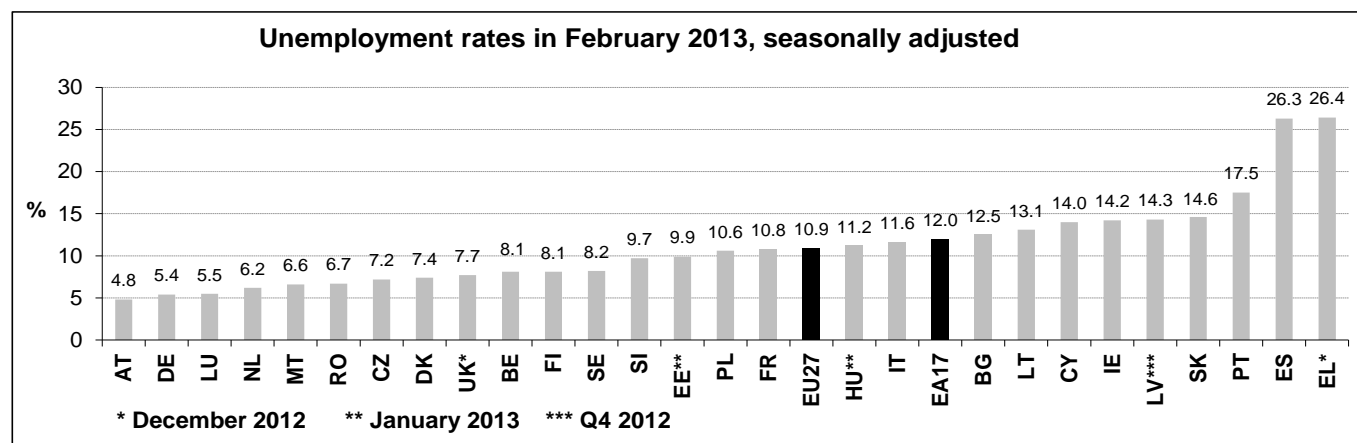
Among the Member States, the lowest unemployment rates were recorded in **Austria** (4.8%), **Germany** (5.4%), **Luxembourg** (5.5%) and the **Netherlands** (6.2%), and the highest in **Greece** (26.4% in December 2012), **Spain** (26.3%) and **Portugal** (17.5%).

Compared with a year ago, the unemployment rate increased in nineteen Member States and fell in eight. The highest increases were registered in **Greece** (21.4% to 26.4% between December 2011 and December 2012), **Cyprus** (10.2% to 14.0%), **Portugal** (14.8% to 17.5%) and **Spain** (23.9% to 26.3%). The largest decreases were observed in **Latvia** (15.6% to 14.3% between the fourth quarters of 2011 and 2012), **Estonia** (10.8% to 9.9% between January 2012 and January 2013) and **Ireland** (15.1% to 14.2%).

Between February 2012 and February 2013, the unemployment rate for males increased from 10.7% to 11.9% in the **euro area** and from 10.1% to 10.9% in the **EU27**. The female unemployment rate rose from 11.2% to 12.0% in the **euro area** and from 10.3% to 10.9% in the **EU27**.

In February 2013, 5.694 million young persons (under 25) were unemployed in the **EU27**, of whom 3.581 million were in the **euro area**. Compared with February 2012, youth unemployment rose by 196 000 in the **EU27** and by 188 000 in the **euro area**. In February 2013, the youth unemployment rate was 23.5% in the **EU27** and 23.9% in the **euro area**, compared with 22.5% and 22.3% respectively in February 2012. In February 2013, the lowest rates were observed in **Germany** (7.7%), **Austria** (8.9%) and the **Netherlands** (10.4%), and the highest in **Greece** (58.4% in December 2012), **Spain** (55.7%), **Portugal** (38.2%) and **Italy** (37.8%).

The unemployment rate in the **USA** was 7.7% in February 2013. In **Japan** it was 4.2% in January 2013.



1. The euro area (EA17) consists of Belgium, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Italy, Cyprus, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Austria, Portugal, Slovenia, Slovakia and Finland.
The EU27 includes Belgium (BE), Bulgaria (BG), the Czech Republic (CZ), Denmark (DK), Germany (DE), Estonia (EE), Ireland (IE), Greece (EL), Spain (ES), France (FR), Italy (IT), Cyprus (CY), Latvia (LV), Lithuania (LT), Luxembourg (LU), Hungary (HU), Malta (MT), the Netherlands (NL), Austria (AT), Poland (PL), Portugal (PT), Romania (RO), Slovenia (SI), Slovakia (SK), Finland (FI), Sweden (SE) and the United Kingdom (UK).
2. Non-seasonally adjusted and trend data can be found in the statistical database on the Eurostat website.
3. Eurostat produces harmonised unemployment rates for individual EU Member States, the euro area and the EU. These unemployment rates are based on the definition recommended by the International Labour Organisation (ILO). The measurement is based on a harmonised source, the European Union Labour Force Survey (LFS).
Based on the ILO definition, Eurostat defines unemployed persons as persons aged 15 to 74 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.

The *unemployment rate* is the number of people unemployed as a percentage of the labour force. The labour force is the total number of people employed plus unemployed. In this news release unemployment rates are based on employment and unemployment data covering persons aged 15 to 74. Exceptions are Spain, Italy and the United Kingdom, for which the lower age limit is 16 (in Spain and Italy this is the legal minimum age for working). In addition, employment data used for Italy includes also those above 74.

The number of unemployed and the monthly unemployment rates are estimates based on results of the LFS which is a continuous household survey carried out in Member States on the basis of harmonised definitions. These results are interpolated/extrapolated to monthly data using national survey data and/or national monthly series on registered unemployment. The most recent figures are therefore provisional; results from the LFS are available 90 days after the end of the reference period for most Member States.

Monthly unemployment and employment series are calculated first at the level of four categories for each Member State (males and females 15-24 years, males and females 25-74 years). These series are then seasonally adjusted and all the national and European aggregates are calculated.

Member States may publish other rates such as register-based unemployment rates, or rates based on the national LFS or corresponding surveys. These rates may vary from those published by Eurostat due to a different definition or methodological choices.
4. Compared with the rates published in News Release 31/2013 of 1 March 2013, the January 2013 unemployment rate for the EA17 has been revised from 11.9% to 12.0%. The rate for the EU27 remains unchanged at 10.8%. Among Member States, the rate has been revised by between 0.2 and 0.4 percentage points for Greece (for November 2012), Malta, Slovakia and Finland. The rate has been revised by 0.5 percentage points for Ireland, by 0.6 percentage points for Slovenia, by 0.8 percentage points for Belgium, and by 1.0 percentage point for Cyprus. Revisions are caused by the inclusion of the most recent LFS data in the calculation process and by the updates to the seasonally adjusted series.
The following LFS data are used in the calculations of the monthly unemployment rates published in this News Release:
For the Czech Republic, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Austria, Romania, Finland and Sweden: monthly data up to and including February 2013.
For Greece: monthly data up to and including December 2012.
For Estonia and Hungary: monthly data (3 month moving average) up to and including December 2012, January and February 2013.
For the United Kingdom: monthly data (3 month moving average) up to and including November and December 2012 and January 2013.
For Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, Ireland, Spain, France, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia and Slovakia: quarterly data up to and including Q4 2012.
5. Italy has implemented a method to produce monthly unemployment data purely based on the LFS. For the moment, these data should be considered provisional.
6. Latvia: quarterly data for all series.
Cyprus, Romania and Slovenia: quarterly data for youth unemployment.
7. For Germany, Austria, Finland and Iceland the trend component is used instead of the more volatile seasonally adjusted data.

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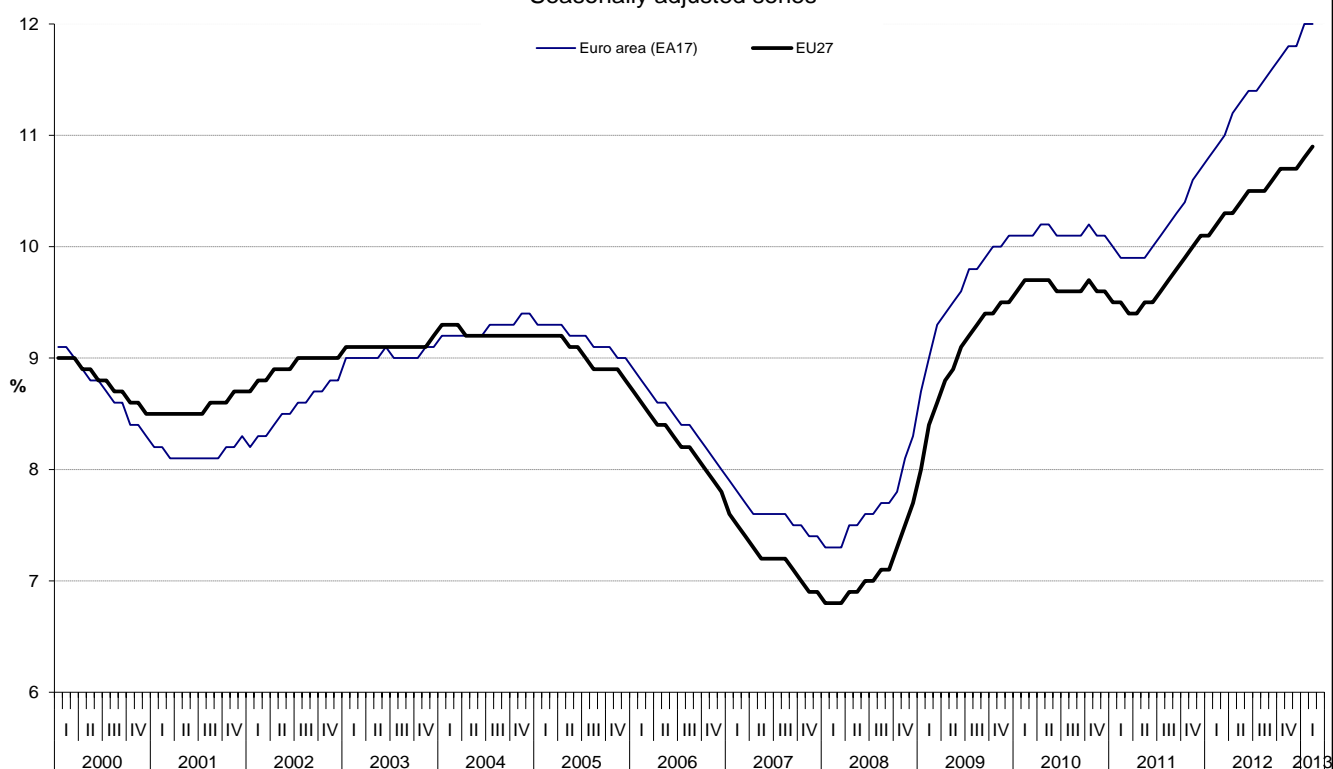
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Selected Principal European Economic Indicators: **<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/euroindicators>**

Euro area and EU27 unemployment rates
Seasonally adjusted series



SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATES (%)

TOTALS

	Feb 2012	Aug 2012	Sep 2012	Oct 2012	Nov 2012	Dec 2012	Jan 2013	Feb 2013
EA17	10.9	11.5	11.6	11.7	11.8	11.8	12.0	12.0
EU27	10.2	10.5	10.6	10.7	10.7	10.7	10.8	10.9
BE	7.2	7.6	7.7	8.0	8.1	8.2	8.2	8.1
BG	12.0	12.3	12.3	12.5	12.5	12.4	12.5	12.5
CZ	6.9	7.0	7.0	7.2	7.2	7.2	7.1	7.2
DK	7.5	7.4	7.2	7.3	7.3	7.4	7.4	7.4
DE⁷	5.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
EE	10.8**	10.1	9.8	9.7	9.9	9.9	9.9	:
IE	15.1	14.7	14.6	14.4	14.3	14.2	14.2	14.2
EL	21.4*	25.4	26.1	26.3	26.6	26.4	:	:
ES	23.9	25.5	25.7	26.0	26.2	26.1	26.2	26.3
FR	10.0	10.3	10.4	10.4	10.5	10.6	10.7	10.8
IT⁵	10.1	10.6	10.9	11.2	11.2	11.2	11.7	11.6
CY	10.2	12.3	12.7	13.2	13.2	13.6	13.7	14.0
LV⁶	15.6***	14.4	14.4	14.3	14.3	14.3	:	:
LT	13.6	13.0	13.0	13.1	13.2	13.3	13.3	13.1
LU	4.9	5.1	5.2	5.2	5.3	5.4	5.4	5.5
HU	11.1**	10.7	10.8	10.9	10.9	11.1	11.2	:
MT	6.1	6.3	6.3	6.5	6.6	6.6	6.7	6.6
NL	4.9	5.3	5.4	5.5	5.6	5.8	6.0	6.2
AT⁷	4.1	4.5	4.4	4.5	4.5	4.7	4.8	4.8
PL	10.0	10.2	10.3	10.3	10.4	10.4	10.6	10.6
PT	14.8	16.2	16.4	16.8	17.0	17.3	17.5	17.5
RO	7.3	6.9	6.9	6.8	6.7	6.7	6.6	6.7
SI	8.2	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.3	9.4	9.6	9.7
SK	13.6	14.1	14.1	14.3	14.4	14.5	14.6	14.6
FI⁷	7.5	7.8	7.9	7.9	7.9	8.0	8.1	8.1
SE	7.8	8.1	8.1	8.0	8.4	8.0	8.0	8.2
UK	8.3*	7.8	7.8	7.7	7.7	7.7	:	:
IS⁷	6.8	5.6	5.6	5.4	5.3	5.2	5.1	5.1
NO	3.3*	3.1	3.1	3.3	3.5	3.5	:	:
US	8.3	8.1	7.8	7.9	7.8	7.8	7.9	7.7
JP	4.5**	4.2	4.3	4.2	4.2	4.3	4.2	:

Source: Eurostat

: Data not available

* December 2011

** January 2012

*** Q4 2011

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATES (%)

	Youth (under 25's)				Males				Females			
	Feb 12	Dec 12	Jan 13	Feb 13	Feb 12	Dec 12	Jan 13	Feb 13	Feb 12	Dec 12	Jan 13	Feb 13
EA17	22.3	23.7	24.0	23.9	10.7	11.7	11.9	11.9	11.2	11.9	12.1	12.0
EU27	22.5	23.3	23.5	23.5	10.1	10.7	10.8	10.9	10.3	10.8	10.9	10.9
BE	19.9	22.0	22.4	22.4	7.2	8.8	8.8	8.8	7.2	7.4	7.4	7.4
BG	28.6	28.4	28.8	29.1	13.4	13.3	13.4	13.4	10.5	11.4	11.4	11.4
CZ	19.2	19.3	18.9	19.1	6.0	6.2	6.1	6.2	8.1	8.4	8.3	8.4
DK	14.7	14.6	14.8	14.8	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.6	7.5	7.5	7.5
DE [/]	8.1	7.9	7.8	7.7	5.8	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.2	5.1	5.1	5.1
EE	21.6	19.8	21.3	:	11.5	11.1	11.1	:	9.7	8.6	8.7	:
IE	31.0	29.5	30.4	30.8	18.1	17.0	17.1	17.1	11.4	10.7	10.7	10.7
EL	52.5	58.4	:	:	19.0	24.3	:	:	25.7	29.3	:	:
ES	50.9	55.3	55.4	55.7	23.5	25.7	25.8	26.0	24.4	26.6	26.6	26.6
FR	23.0	25.5	26.0	26.2	9.8	10.4	10.6	10.7	10.1	10.7	10.9	11.0
IT ^b	33.9	37.1	38.6	37.8	9.0	10.4	10.8	10.8	11.5	12.4	12.8	12.6
CY ^b	25.3	31.8	:	:	11.0	13.8	13.7	13.9	9.4	13.3	13.7	14.1
LV ^b	29.2	24.7	:	:	16.5	15.8	:	:	14.3	12.8	:	:
LT	28.9	24.2	25.7	25.3	15.5	15.0	14.9	14.7	11.9	11.6	11.7	11.6
LU	18.4	18.6	18.7	19.2	4.5	4.8	4.8	4.8	5.5	6.1	6.2	6.4
HU	27.1	28.9	29.0	:	11.2	11.4	11.5	:	11.0	10.7	10.8	:
MT	13.8	14.5	14.8	14.8	5.7	6.3	6.4	6.3	6.8	7.1	7.1	7.0
NL	9.4	10.0	10.3	10.4	4.9	6.1	6.4	6.6	4.9	5.5	5.6	5.7
AT [/]	8.7	9.0	9.3	8.9	3.8	4.9	5.0	5.0	4.5	4.4	4.7	4.6
PL	26.0	27.8	28.0	28.1	9.3	9.7	9.9	10.0	10.8	11.3	11.4	11.4
PT	34.8	38.0	38.3	38.2	14.7	17.2	17.5	17.5	14.9	17.5	17.6	17.6
RO ^b	23.7	22.2	:	:	7.8	7.0	6.9	7.0	6.6	6.2	6.2	6.3
SI ^b	16.9	23.2	:	:	8.0	9.3	9.4	9.4	8.4	9.6	9.8	10.1
SK	33.5	35.0	35.0	35.0	13.2	14.2	14.4	14.5	14.1	14.8	14.9	14.8
FI [/]	19.2	19.5	19.7	19.9	8.2	8.6	8.6	8.7	6.9	7.3	7.4	7.5
SE	23.5	24.1	23.5	24.5	8.0	8.2	8.3	8.5	7.6	7.8	7.6	7.8
UK	21.7	21.1	:	:	8.7	8.2	:	:	7.5	7.2	:	:
IS [/]	15.7	10.4	9.9	9.7	7.1	5.5	5.4	5.3	6.5	4.8	4.8	4.8
NO	7.9	9.7	:	:	3.7	3.7	:	:	2.6	3.3	:	:
US	16.5	16.3	16.8	16.3	8.3	7.9	8.0	7.8	8.2	7.8	7.8	7.7
JP	9.1	7.1	7.3	:	4.7	4.5	4.6	:	4.2	4.0	3.8	:

Source: Eurostat : Data not available

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED (in millions)

	Feb 2012	Aug 2012	Sep 2012	Oct 2012	Nov 2012	Dec 2012	Jan 2013	Feb 2013
EA17	17.296	18.262	18.444	18.658	18.762	18.816	19.038	19.071
EU27	24.533	25.410	25.596	25.819	25.953	26.022	26.262	26.338
EA17 - youth	3.393	3.493	3.537	3.557	3.559	3.550	3.592	3.581
EU27 - youth	5.498	5.536	5.560	5.607	5.630	5.645	5.695	5.694

Euro area and EU27 unemployed (in millions)
Seasonally adjusted series

