

Unemployment rates in the European Union and selected member countries,
civilian labor force basis (1), seasonally adjusted, 1990-2004

Period	European Union (2)	Austria	Belgium	Denmark	Finland	Greece (3)	Ireland	Nether- lands	Portugal	Spain
1990	8.1	NA	6.6	7.2	3.2	6.4	13.4	5.8	4.8	13.1
1991	(4) 8.1	NA	6.4	7.9	6.6	7.1	14.7	5.5	4.2	13.2
1992	8.8	NA	7.1	8.6	11.7	7.9	15.4	5.3	4.3	14.9
1993	10.1	3.9	8.6	9.5	16.4	8.6	15.6	6.2	5.6	18.6
1994	10.5	3.8	9.8	7.7	16.6	8.9	14.3	6.8	6.9	19.8
1995	10.1	3.9	9.7	6.7	15.4	9.2	12.3	6.6	7.3	18.8
1996	10.2	4.4	9.5	6.3	14.6	9.6	11.7	6.0	7.3	18.1
1997	10.0	4.4	9.2	5.2	12.7	9.8	9.9	4.9	6.8	17.0
1998	9.4	4.5	9.3	4.9	11.4	10.9	7.5	3.8	5.2	15.2
1999	8.7	4.0	8.6	4.8	10.2	11.9	5.6	3.2	4.5	12.8
2000	7.8	3.7	6.9	4.4	9.8	11.0	4.3	2.9	4.1	11.3
2001	7.4	3.6	6.7	4.3	9.1	10.4	3.9	2.5	4.0R	10.6
2002	7.7	4.2	7.3	4.6	9.1	10.0	4.3	2.7	5.0	11.3
I	7.5	4.1	7.1	4.3	9.2	10.4	4.3	2.4	4.3	11.1
II	7.6	4.3	7.3	4.4	9.1	9.9	4.3	2.7	4.7	11.2
III	7.7	4.3	7.3	4.6	9.1	9.9	4.4	2.8	5.2	11.4
IV	7.8	4.3	7.5	4.9	9.0	9.6	4.4	3.0	6.0	11.5
2003	8.1	4.1	8.1	5.6	9.0	9.3	4.6	3.8	6.2R	11.3
I	7.9	4.3	7.8	5.2	9.0	9.4	4.5	3.4	6.2	11.4
II	8.1	4.1	8.0	5.5	9.1	9.2	4.6	3.7	6.3	11.3
III	8.1	4.2	8.2	5.8	8.9R	9.2	4.7R	3.8	6.3	11.3R
IV	8.1	4.2	8.3	5.9	8.9R	9.3	4.6	4.2	6.4	11.2
2004										
I	8.1	4.2	8.5	5.9	9.0		4.5	4.6	6.2R	11.1
II	8.1	4.2	8.6	5.9	9.0R		4.5	4.8	6.4R	11.0R
Feb	8.1	4.2	8.5	5.9	9.0	NA	4.5	4.6	6.2	11.1R
Mar	8.1	4.2	8.5	5.9	9.0	NA	4.5	4.7	6.3R	11.1R
Apr	8.1	4.2	8.6R	5.9	9.0R	NA	4.5	4.8R	6.5	11.1
May	8.1	4.2	8.6	5.9	9.0R	NA	4.5	4.8	6.4R	11.0R
Jun	8.1	4.2	8.6	5.8	9.0R	NA	4.5	4.8	6.4R	11.0R
Jul	8.1	4.2	8.6	5.9	9.0	NA	4.5		6.4	11.0

R = Revised. NA = Not available.

- (1) Excludes conscripts, but includes career military living in private households.
- (2) European Union-15 (EU-15) refers to European Union member countries prior to the expansion of the European Union to 25 countries on May 1, 2004. The EU-15 rate is the average for Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom. In 1990, the figure excludes Austria, Finland, and Sweden; and for 1991-1992, the figures also exclude Austria. These three

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countries joined the European Union in January 1995. Five countries covered in the BLS international comparisons program -- France, Germany (former West Germany prior to 1991), Italy, Sweden, and the United Kingdom -- are not shown

here. The BLS adjusted rates are about the same as the European Union estimates. The EU-15 unemployment rates since 1991 include Germany after unification; the 1990 figure relates to the former West Germany.

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

(4) Break in series. The break results mainly from changes in the unemployment rate for Spain, and, to a lesser extent,

for Belgium, Denmark, and the Netherlands. The impact of the revision was to lower the annual EU-15 unemployment rates by an average of 0.5 percentage point for 1990-97. The revisions reflect the incorporation of a more precise definition of unemployment. The impact of these revisions was to lower the annual unemployment rate by an average of 3.8

percentage points for Spain, 0.2 percentage point for Belgium, 0.5 percentage point for Denmark, and 0.3 percentage point for the Netherlands.

SOURCE: These data are reproduced by permission from the Statistical Office of the European Communities (EUROSTAT). For further information, see News Releases on <http://europa.eu.int/comm/eurostat/>. The EUROSTAT unemployment rates are also regularly published by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in the monthly press release on Standardized Unemployment Rates available at <http://www.oecd.org/statistics/news-releases>. More historical data and documentation are available from the OECD publication, Quarterly Labor Force Statistics, in the Standardized Unemployment Rates section.

These data are prepared by EUROSTAT according to the International Labor Office (ILO) definitions. They are based on European Union labor force surveys carried out each spring in the member countries. Monthly and quarterly estimates are

made by EUROSTAT by applying adjustment factors from the spring survey to the best available national indicator of unemployment. No reliable monthly indicator exists for Greece. The stricter application of ILO guidelines beginning in

1992 may cause a slight break between 1991 and 1992. In March 2002, Eurostat implemented a more precise definition of

unemployment in several countries, either entirely or partially, in 2001 labor force survey data. For further

information,

see News Release Number 27/2002, "Euro-zone unemployment stable at 8.4%", dated March 5, 2002, on <http://europa.eu.int/comm/eurostat/>.

Data compiled by U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics; BLS has not adjusted these data to reflect U. S.

labor force concepts. October 8, 2004.