

Unemployment rate remains stable in eurozone in February

BRUSSELS, April 2 (Xinhua) -- The unemployment rate in the euro zone stayed at 12.0 percent in February, stable from January, the European Union's (EU) statistical bureau Eurostat said Tuesday. It was up from 10.9 percent registered one year ago, a sign that the eurozone labor market deteriorated due to ongoing debt crisis, austerity measures and financial market turbulences. For the 27-nation EU, the jobless rate stayed at 10.9 percent in February, 0.1 percentage point higher than last month. It was 10.2 percent a year ago. Eurostat estimated that 26.338 million men and women in the EU, of whom 19.071 million in the euro zone, were unemployed in February. Compared with January, the number of persons unemployed rose by 76,000 in the EU and by 33,000 in the eurozone. Compared with February 2011, unemployment increased 1.805 million in the EU and by 1.775 million in the euro zone. Among the Member States, the lowest unemployment rates were recorded in Austria (4.8 percent), Germany (5.4 percent), Luxembourg (5.5 percent) and Netherlands (6.2 percent), and the highest in Greece (26.4 percent in December 2012) and Spain (26.3 percent). The unemployment situation in Europe was still worse than that in the United States and Japan. In February, the unemployment rate was 7.7 percent in the U.S., and 4.2 percent in Japan (January).