

July 2006

Euro area unemployment stable at 7.8%

EU25 unchanged at 8.0%

Euro area¹ seasonally-adjusted unemployment² stood at 7.8% in July 2006, unchanged compared to June³. It was 8.6% in July 2005. The **EU25**⁴ unemployment rate was 8.0% in July 2006, stable compared to June³. It was 8.7% in July 2005.

In July 2006, the lowest rates were registered in the **Netherlands** (3.9%), **Denmark** (3.9% in June 2006), **Estonia** (4.2%), **Ireland** (4.4%), and **Luxembourg** (4.8%). Unemployment rates were highest in **Poland** (15.0%), **Slovakia** (14.0%), **Greece** (9.2% in the first quarter 2006), **France** (8.9%), and **Belgium** (8.7%).

These figures come from **Eurostat, the Statistical Office of the European Communities**.

Amongst the Member States, seventeen recorded a fall in their unemployment rate over a year, one remained stable and six reported an increase. The largest relative falls were observed in **Estonia** (7.6% to 4.2%), **Lithuania** (8.0% to 5.5%), **Denmark** (5.1% in June 2005 to 3.9% in June 2006), and **Latvia** (9.0% to 7.5%). The highest relative increases were registered in the **United Kingdom** (4.7% in May 2005 to 5.4% in May 2006), **Cyprus** (5.3% to 5.6%), **Luxembourg** (4.6% to 4.8%) and **Hungary** (7.3% to 7.6%).

The unemployment rate for males fell from 7.4% to 6.8% between July 2005 and July 2006 in the **euro area** and from 7.9% to 7.1% in the **EU25**. The female unemployment rate declined from 10.0% to 9.2% in the **euro area** and from 9.8% to 9.0% in the **EU25**.

In July 2006, the unemployment rate for under-25s was 16.6% in the **euro area** and 17.2% in the **EU25**. In July 2005 it was 17.5% and 18.4% respectively. The lowest rates for under-25s were observed in the **Netherlands** (6.6%), **Denmark** (7.4% in June 2006), **Ireland** (8.1%) and **Lithuania** (9.1% in second quarter 2006), the highest in **Poland** (31.3%), **Slovakia** (27.4%), **Greece** (24.5% in first quarter 2006) and **Italy** (23.4% in first quarter 2006).

Eurostat estimates that 11.5 million men and women were unemployed in the **euro area** in July 2006, and 17.4 million in the **EU25**. These are seasonally-adjusted figures in line with ILO criteria.

In July 2006, the **US** unemployment rate was 4.8% and the **Japanese** rate was 4.1%.

Unemployment (%) in July 2006 - in ascending order

NL	DK	EE	IE	LU	AT	UK	LT	CY	SI	CZ	PT	MT
3.9	Jun 06 3.9	4.2	4.4	4.8	4.9	May 06 5.4	5.5	5.6	6.3	7.2	7.2	7.3
IT	LV	ES	HU	FI	Euro area	EU25	DE ⁵	BE	FR	EL	SK	PL
2006 Q1 7.4	7.5	7.6	7.6	7.7	7.8	8.0	8.2	8.7	8.9	2006 Q1 9.2	14.0	15.0

1. Euro area: Belgium, Germany, Greece, Spain, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Austria, Portugal and Finland.
2. *Eurostat's unemployment rates*
Eurostat compiles "harmonised" unemployment rates for Member States. These unemployment rates are based on definitions recommended by the International Labour Organisation (ILO). "Harmonised" means that the national micro data concerning the individuals and households are treated by Eurostat in the same fashion throughout the EU so as to allow comparability between the Member States.
The Eurostat definition of unemployed people are those aged 15 to 74 and who, following the International Labour Organisation (ILO) definition:
 - 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 and unemployed.
The numbers of unemployed and the monthly unemployment rate are estimates based on results of the European Union Labour Force Survey which is a household survey carried out in all countries on the basis of agreed definitions. These results are interpolated/ extrapolated to monthly data using national survey data and national monthly series on registered unemployment. The most recent figures are therefore provisional; first results from the Labour Force Survey 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. Before the aggregation, missing national data are estimated using the most recent trends of the series.
Registered unemployed data are national administrative data compiled on a purely national basis and purposes. There are no European-wide rules on definition and coverage. Therefore the ensuing unemployment rates cannot be compared from one country to another. National legislation on the definition of unemployment and therefore its calculation can change in individual states. The conditions to receive unemployment benefits and assistance vary from one country to another. This affects the willingness of people to register themselves and the published unemployment rates.
Member States may also publish other rates than register based unemployment rates, for example based on national Labour Force or corresponding surveys. Although still internationally comparable, these rates may vary to a minor extent from those published by Eurostat due to different methodological choices.
Current deviations from definition of unemployment in the EU Labour Force Survey
Spain, United Kingdom: Unemployment is restricted to persons aged 16-74. In Spain the legal age limit for working is 16.
Netherlands: Persons without a job, who are available for work and looking for a job are only included in unemployment if they express that they would like to work.
3. The June 2006 unemployment rate published for the euro area in News Release 103/2006 of 1 August 2006 remains unchanged, while the rate published for the EU25 has been revised from 8.1% to 8.0%. As a regular update of the calculation process, the most recent EU Labour Force Survey data have been included for several Member States. This has caused revisions in the monthly unemployment rates of 0.1 percentage point or more for Belgium, Estonia, France, Latvia, Malta, Austria, Poland and Portugal. The revision of Maltese data is also due to a methodological change in the model used by Eurostat, in order to better estimate the monthly harmonised unemployment rates.
4. EU25: Belgium (BE), the Czech Republic (CZ), Denmark (DK), Germany (DE), Estonia (EE), Greece (EL), Spain (ES), France (FR), Ireland (IE), Italy (IT), Cyprus (CY), Latvia (LV), Lithuania (LT), Luxembourg (LU), Hungary (HU), Malta (MT), the Netherlands (NL), Austria (AT), Poland (PL), Portugal (PT), Slovenia (SI), Slovakia (SK), Finland (FI), Sweden (SE) and the United Kingdom (UK).
5. Provisional data. German seasonally adjusted data are based on the German statistical office's telephone survey. Due to the relative shortness of the time series offered by the survey, it is not possible to fully extract the seasonal component. Hence, European aggregates have been compiled using smoothed German seasonally adjusted data. This method is applied for the data from 2003 onwards.
6. Due to the introduction of a EU-harmonised Swedish Labour Force Survey in April 2005, seasonally adjusted time series are not yet available.
7. Individual country data in this table may show large fluctuations. This is partly caused by the sample size used in some countries. The most volatile series are published quarterly.

Issued by:
Eurostat Press Office

Tim ALLEN
BECH Building
L-2920 LUXEMBOURG

Tel: +352-4301-33 444
Fax: +352-4301-35 349

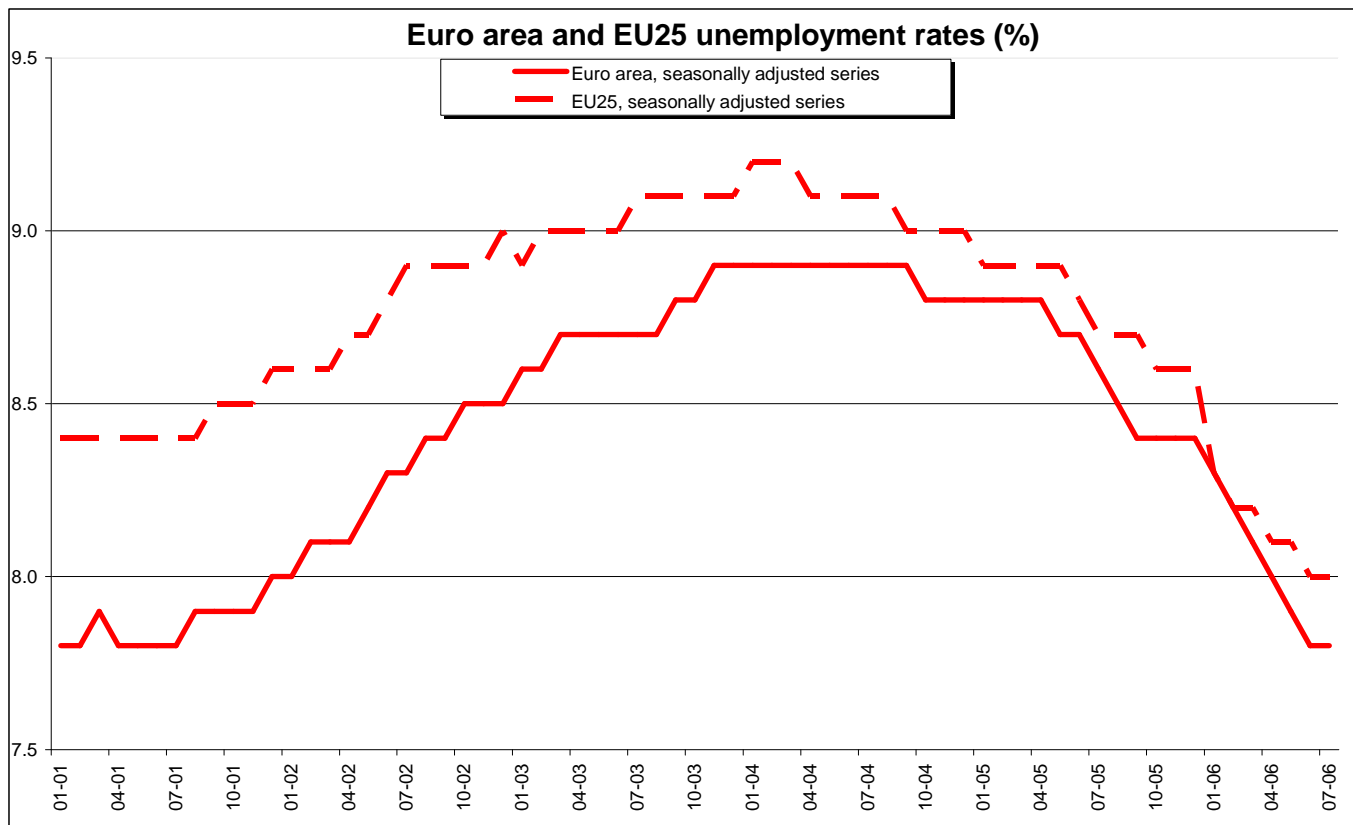
eurostat-pressoffice@ec.europa.eu

Eurostat news releases on Internet:
<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/>

For further information on data:

Veijo RITOLA
Tel: +352-4301-35 560
Fax: +352-4301-33 649
veijo-ismo.ritola@ec.europa.eu

Hubertus VREESWIJK
Tel: +352-4301-34 323
Fax: +352-4301-33 649
hubertus.vreeswijk@ec.europa.eu



**SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATES (%)
TOTAL MALES AND FEMALES**

	July 2005	Jan 2006	Feb 2006	Mar 2006	Apr 2006	May 2006	June 2006	July 2006
Euro area⁵	8.6	8.3	8.2	8.1	8.0	7.9	7.8	7.8
EU25⁵	8.7	8.3	8.2	8.2	8.1	8.1	8.0	8.0
BE	8.5	8.6	8.5	8.5	8.6	8.6	8.6	8.7
CZ	7.8	7.7	7.7	7.6	7.5	7.4	7.3	7.2
DK	4.7	4.3	4.3	4.2	4.0	3.9	3.9	:
DE⁵	9.3	9.1	8.9	8.7	8.2	8.3	8.1	8.2
EE	7.6	6.1	5.9	5.6	5.3	5.1	5.0	4.2
EL	10.1	9.2	9.2	9.2	:	:	:	:
ES	8.5	8.8	8.8	8.9	8.2	8.3	8.2	7.6
FR	9.9	9.4	9.4	9.3	9.2	9.1	9.0	8.9
IE	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.4	4.4
IT	7.6	7.4	7.4	7.4	:	:	:	:
CY	5.3	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.6	5.6	5.6
LV	9.0	8.0	7.8	7.6	7.5	7.4	7.3	7.5
LT	8.0	6.3	6.0	5.9	5.8	5.4	5.3	5.5
LU	4.6	4.7	4.7	4.8	4.8	4.7	4.7	4.8
HU	7.3	7.5	7.5	7.3	7.4	7.3	7.3	7.6
MT	7.3	7.4	7.4	7.5	7.5	7.4	7.5	7.3
NL	4.6	4.3	4.1	4.0	4.0	3.9	3.9	3.9
AT	5.3	5.2	5.1	5.1	4.9	5.0	4.9	4.9
PL	17.8	15.5	15.3	15.3	15.7	15.6	15.3	15.0
PT	7.6	7.7	7.7	7.6	7.5	7.4	7.3	7.2
SI	6.6	6.5	6.5	6.4	6.5	6.5	6.4	6.3
SK	16.0	14.3	14.3	14.3	14.4	14.4	14.3	14.0
FI	8.3	8.1	8.0	7.9	7.8	7.7	7.7	7.7
SE⁶	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
UK	4.6	5.0	5.1	5.2	5.3	5.4	:	:
US	5.0	4.7	4.8	4.7	4.7	4.6	4.6	4.8
JP	4.4	4.5	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.0	4.2	4.1

: Data not available

Source: Eurostat

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATES (%)

MALES

	July 2005	Jan 2006	Feb 2006	Mar 2006	Apr 2006	May 2006	June 2006	July 2006
Euro area^b	7.4	7.0	7.0	6.9	6.9	6.9	6.8	6.8
EU25^b	7.9	7.4	7.4	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.2	7.1
BE	7.6	7.8	7.9	7.9	8.0	8.0	8.1	8.2
CZ	6.3	6.2	6.2	6.2	5.9	5.8	5.7	5.6
DK	4.1	3.4	3.5	3.4	3.6	3.6	3.6	:
DE^b	8.7	8.2	8.2	8.0	7.7	8.1	7.9	7.6
EE	8.5	6.5	6.2	5.9	5.7	5.3	5.1	5.0
EL	6.4	5.8	5.8	5.8	:	:	:	:
ES	6.7	6.6	6.5	6.5	6.4	6.4	6.3	5.9
FR	8.9	8.5	8.5	8.4	8.3	8.1	8.0	7.9
IE	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.5	4.5
IT	6.0	5.8	5.8	5.8	:	:	:	:
CY	4.3	4.7	4.8	4.7	4.6	4.8	4.8	4.7
LV	9.3	8.5	8.2	8.0	8.0	7.9	7.9	8.3
LT	7.8	6.7	6.4	6.4	5.8	5.5	5.4	5.4
LU	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.7	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.5
HU	7.1	7.3	7.3	7.0	7.2	7.0	7.0	7.6
MT	6.6	6.5	6.5	6.7	6.6	6.5	6.6	6.4
NL	4.3	4.0	3.8	3.7	3.7	3.6	3.6	3.5
AT	5.0	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6
PL	16.6	14.5	14.5	14.3	14.4	14.2	13.9	13.6
PT	6.7	6.6	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.4	6.3	6.2
SI	6.3	5.3	5.3	5.2	5.6	5.5	5.4	5.3
SK	15.3	13.0	13.0	13.0	13.3	13.3	13.2	13.0
FI	8.2	7.8	7.7	7.6	7.5	7.4	7.4	7.4
SE^b	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
UK	5.0	5.4	5.5	5.6	5.7	5.8	:	:
US	4.9	4.6	4.8	4.7	4.7	4.8	4.6	4.8
JP	4.5	4.8	4.5	4.3	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2

FEMALES

	July 2005	Jan 2006	Feb 2006	Mar 2006	Apr 2006	May 2006	June 2006	July 2006
Euro area^b	10.0	9.8	9.6	9.5	9.3	9.2	9.2	9.2
EU25^b	9.8	9.4	9.3	9.2	9.2	9.1	9.0	9.0
BE	9.5	9.6	9.3	9.3	9.3	9.3	9.3	9.4
CZ	9.7	9.6	9.5	9.4	9.6	9.5	9.3	9.3
DK	5.4	5.2	5.1	5.0	4.4	4.3	4.3	:
DE^b	10.2	10.2	9.8	9.4	8.8	8.6	8.5	8.8
EE	6.7	5.8	5.5	5.2	5.0	4.9	5.0	3.3
EL	15.4	14.0	14.0	14.0	:	:	:	:
ES	11.0	12.0	12.0	12.2	10.8	10.9	10.9	9.8
FR	10.9	10.5	10.4	10.4	10.2	10.1	10.0	9.9
IE	4.0	3.9	3.9	3.9	4.0	3.9	4.3	4.3
IT	10.0	9.9	9.9	9.9	:	:	:	:
CY	6.5	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.6	6.5	6.7
LV	8.8	7.4	7.3	7.1	7.1	6.9	6.8	6.6
LT	8.3	5.8	5.5	5.3	5.7	5.4	5.2	5.5
LU	5.9	6.1	6.1	6.2	6.3	6.3	6.4	6.4
HU	7.5	7.8	7.7	7.6	7.7	7.7	7.7	7.7
MT	9.0	9.4	9.4	9.5	9.6	9.4	9.5	9.4
NL	5.1	4.7	4.5	4.5	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.4
AT	5.6	5.5	5.4	5.4	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3
PL	19.3	16.7	16.4	16.5	17.3	17.2	17.0	16.7
PT	8.6	9.0	9.0	8.8	8.6	8.6	8.5	8.4
SI	7.1	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.6	7.6	7.5	7.5
SK	16.9	15.8	15.8	15.8	15.9	15.8	15.6	15.3
FI	8.4	8.5	8.4	8.3	8.1	8.1	8.0	8.0
SE^b	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
UK	4.1	4.7	4.6	4.7	4.8	4.9	:	:
US	5.1	4.9	4.8	4.7	4.7	4.5	4.6	4.8
JP	4.2	3.9	3.6	3.9	3.8	3.8	4.2	3.9

: Data not available

Source: Eurostat

**SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATES (%)
UNDER 25 YEARS⁷**

	July 2005	Jan 2006	Feb 2006	Mar 2006	Apr 2006	May 2006	June 2006	July 2006
Euro area^b	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.3	17.0	16.7	16.5	16.6
EU25^b	18.4	18.0	18.0	17.9	17.7	17.5	17.3	17.2
BE	22.2	20.4	20.8	20.8	20.7	20.8	20.8	21.0
CZ	18.5	18.8	19.0	19.0	18.3	18.1	17.5	17.0
DK	8.8	9.1	9.2	9.1	7.5	7.4	7.4	:
DE^b	13.0	14.8	16.3	15.2	14.7	13.2	13.2	13.9
EE	:	:	13.4	:	:	9.2	:	:
EL	26.7	24.5	24.5	24.5	:	:	:	:
ES	17.6	18.2	18.2	18.3	18.1	18.1	17.9	14.3
FR	23.4	22.5	22.3	22.1	21.8	21.6	21.4	21.2
IE	8.2	8.6	8.6	8.8	8.9	8.9	8.2	8.1
IT	24.3	23.4	23.4	23.4	:	:	:	:
CY	:	:	13.7	:	:	13.9	:	:
LV	:	:	10.8	:	:	10.1	:	:
LT	:	:	10.2	:	:	9.1	:	:
LU	14.0	14.2	14.1	14.4	14.4	14.1	14.1	14.0
HU	19.6	19.0	18.8	18.4	18.5	18.2	18.2	18.5
MT	16.8	18.0	18.2	18.4	18.3	17.8	17.8	17.5
NL	8.1	7.4	7.1	6.7	6.5	6.3	6.5	6.6
AT	10.8	10.3	10.1	10.1	10.0	10.0	9.9	9.9
PL	36.7	33.2	33.0	32.7	33.2	33.0	32.1	31.3
PT	16.1	15.8	15.6	15.4	15.2	14.9	14.6	14.3
SI	:	:	16.6	:	:	16.1	:	:
SK	29.8	28.9	28.8	28.7	28.8	28.6	28.3	27.4
FI	20.3	19.4	19.2	19.0	18.7	18.5	18.2	18.0
SE^b	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
UK	12.6	13.4	13.3	13.6	14.1	14.3	:	:
US	10.8	10.5	10.7	10.2	10.3	10.0	10.4	10.8
JP	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:

25 YEARS AND OVER

	July 2005	Jan 2006	Feb 2006	Mar 2006	Apr 2006	May 2006	June 2006	July 2006
Euro area^b	7.4	7.0	6.9	6.8	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.6
EU25^b	7.4	7.0	6.9	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.7	6.7
BE	7.0	7.3	7.1	7.1	7.2	7.3	7.3	7.3
CZ	6.8	6.6	6.6	6.5	6.5	6.4	6.3	6.3
DK	4.1	3.5	3.4	3.3	3.4	3.3	3.3	:
DE^b	8.7	8.2	7.7	7.6	7.2	7.5	7.3	7.2
EE	6.5	5.1	4.9	4.7	4.8	4.7	4.6	3.8
EL	8.5	7.8	7.8	7.8	:	:	:	:
ES	7.3	7.6	7.6	7.6	6.9	7.0	7.0	6.7
FR	8.2	7.9	7.9	7.8	7.7	7.6	7.5	7.4
IE	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.7	3.6
IT	6.1	6.0	6.0	6.0	:	:	:	:
CY	4.2	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.5	4.6	4.6
LV	8.8	7.5	7.3	7.2	7.2	7.1	7.0	7.1
LT	7.4	5.8	5.6	5.5	5.5	5.1	4.9	5.0
LU	3.8	3.9	3.9	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
HU	6.2	6.5	6.5	6.3	6.5	6.4	6.4	6.7
MT	4.8	4.7	4.7	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.9	4.8
NL	4.0	3.7	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.4	3.4	3.4
AT	4.4	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1
PL	15.2	13.2	13.0	13.0	13.4	13.3	13.1	13.0
PT	6.6	6.9	6.8	6.7	6.6	6.6	6.5	6.4
SI	5.4	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
SK	14.2	12.3	12.3	12.4	12.5	12.6	12.4	12.3
FI	6.6	6.5	6.4	6.3	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.3
SE^b	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
UK	3.2	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.7	3.8	:	:
US	4.0	3.7	3.8	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.6	3.7
JP	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:

: Data not available
Source: Eurostat