



EUROSTAT: UNEMPLOYMENT AT 9.8% IN THE EU AND AT 11.2% IN THE EURO AREA

On 2nd March 2015 Eurostat, the statistical office of the EU, published its seasonally-adjusted figures of unemployment in Europe. The **January 2015** unemployment rate in the EU was **9.8%**, down from 9.9% in December 2014 and from 10.6% in January 2014. The unemployment rate in the euro area was **11.2%** in January 2015, down from 11.3% in December 2014, and from 11.8% in January 2014. This is the lowest rate recorded in the **euro area** since April 2012.

Main findings

Eurostat estimates that 23.815 million men and women in the **EU**, of whom 18.059 million were in the **euro area**, were unemployed in January 2015. Compared with December 2014, the number of persons unemployed decreased by 156 000 in the **EU** and by 140 000 in the **euro area**. Compared with January 2014, unemployment fell by 1.820 million in the **EU** and by 896 000 in the **euro area**.

Among the Member States, the lowest unemployment rates in January 2015 were recorded in **Germany** (4.7%) and **Austria** (4.8%), and the highest in **Greece** (25.8% in November 2014) and **Spain** (23.4%).

Compared with a year ago, the unemployment rate in January 2015 fell in twenty-four Member States, remained stable in **Belgium** and increased in **Cyprus** (15.7% to 16.1%), **Finland** (8.4% to 8.8%) and **France** (10.1% to 10.2%). The largest decreases were registered in **Spain** (25.5% to 23.4%), **Estonia** (8.5% to 6.4% between December 2013 and December 2014), and **Ireland** (12.1% to 10.0%).

In January 2015, the youth unemployment rate was 21.2% in the **EU** and 22.9% in the **euro area**, compared with 23.3% and 24.3% respectively in January 2014. In January 2015, the lowest rates were observed in **Germany** (7.1%), **Austria** (8.2%) and **Denmark** (10.8%), and the highest in **Spain** (50.9%), **Greece** (50.6% in November 2014), **Croatia** (44.1% in the fourth quarter 2014) and **Italy** (41.2%).

In January 2015, the unemployment rate in the **United States** was 5.7%, up from 5.6% in December 2014, but down from 6.6% in January 2014.

