

# Regional unemployment rates in the Central European Candidate Countries 2001

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Statistics  
in focus

GENERAL  
STATISTICS

THEME 1 – 6/2002

REGIONS

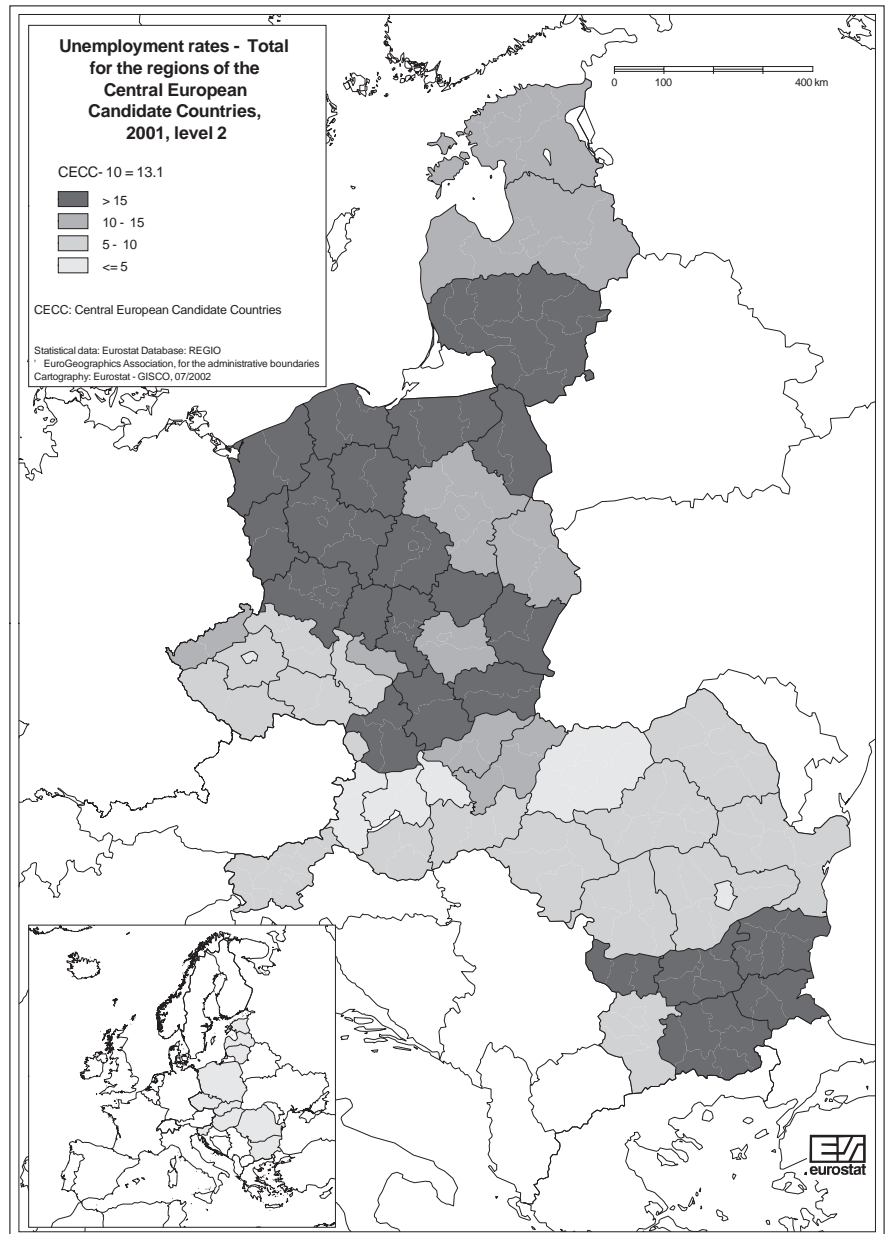
## Contents

CECC unemployment rates vary  
between 2.0 % and 32,8 % ..... 2

Increase of unemployment in  
four countries – slight decrease  
in six countries ..... 2

Female unemployment rates  
similar to male rates ..... 3

Wider range of Youth  
unemployment - strong  
increase in some regions ..... 3



*Figure 1: Unemployment rates 2001 - total - level 2*

According to the most recent estimates, unemployment rates for the second quarter 2001 for level 2 regions in the Central European Candidate Countries (CECC) varied between 2.0 % and 32.8 %. The breakdown by gender shows that the range for women is similar, i.e. between 2.0 % and 28.5 %. Youth unemployment has a much wider range, from 3.0 % to 75.5 %.



## CECC unemployment rates vary between 2.0 % and 32,8 %

Region	Unemployment rate
KÖZÉP-MAGYARORSZÁG (HU)	2.0
PRAHA (CZ)	3.0
NYUGAT-DUNÁNTÚL (HU)	3.2
BUCURESTI (RO)	4.1
KÖZÉP- DUNÁNTÚL (HU)	4.3
NORD-VEST (RO)	4.8
JIHOZÁPAD (CZ)	5.7
SLOVENIJA	5.7
YUGOIZTOCHEN (BG)	22.9
SEVEREN TSENTRALEN (BG)	23.3
LUBUSKIE (PL)	23.6
VÝCHODNÉ SLOVENSKO (SK)	23.9
DOLNOŠLASKI E ( PL)	24.1
SEVEROIZTOCHEN (BG)	26.5
SEVEROZAPADEN (BG)	32.8

Table 1: Unemployment in the regions of the Central European Candidate Countries 2001

The mean unemployment rate in the Central European Candidate Countries (CECC), i.e. the ratio of unemployed persons to the total economically active population, stood at 13.1 % in the second quarter of 2001. At regional level, there were some remarkable deviations from this average.

Taking only level 2 regions into consideration, the unemployment rates varied between 2.0 % in the Hungarian capital region of Közép-Magyarország and 32.8 % in the Bulgarian region of Severozapaden. Interestingly, this range is quite similar to the range of the European Union, where unemployment rates for NUTS level 2 regions vary between 1.2 % and 33.3 %.

Recent trends in the EU Member States are the opposite of those in the CECC. In the EU, the unemployment rate fell from 9.2 % in 1999 to 8.3 % in 2000 and now stands at 7.6 % (2001). In 1999, the CECC recorded a rate of 10.4 %, in 2000 of 12.5 %, and the rate increased in 2001 to 13.1 %.

Of the 53 regions under consideration, six had an unemployment rate below 5 %. A further 16 regions fell below 10 %. These regions can be found in Romania, the Czech Republic, Hungary and Slovenia. Also below 10 % are the capital regions of Slovakia and Bulgaria. At the other end of the scale, 13 regions exceeded 20 %; these were in Poland, Bulgaria and Slovakia. Compared to 2000, when only ten regions were above 20 %, this is a slight increase.

Table 1 lists the regions with the lowest and highest unemployment rates in 2001.

Table 2 additionally gives some idea of regional differences within the countries, where Slovakia and Bulgaria show the widest gap between regions. Considering the size of those countries, the regional differences are quite similar to those in the European Union.

	Level-2-regions with minimum value	Level-2-regions with maximum value
BG	YUGOZAPADEN 9.7	SEVEROZAPADEN 32.8
CZ	PRAHA 3.0	MORAVSKOSLEZKO 13.6
HU	KÖZÉP-MAGYARORSZÁG 2.0	ÉSZAK-MAGYARORSZÁG 11.3
PL	MALOPOLSKIE 12.8	DOLNOŠLASKI E 24.1
RO	BUCURESTI 4.1	SUD-EST 8.0
SK	BRATISLAVSKÝ 8.4	VÝCHODNÉ SLOVENSKO 23.9

Table 2: Range of unemployment rate in CECC level-2-regions in 2001

## Increase of unemployment in four countries – slight decrease in six countries

The trends that can be observed at regional level are also reflected at national level. Total unemployment rose between 2000 and 2001 from 12.5 % to 13.1 % for all CECC combined. There was a notable increase for Poland (2.1 percentage points), Bulgaria (1.3 percentage points) and Lithuania (0.9 percentage points), whereas the increase for Slovakia (0.3 percentage points) was more moderate. On the other hand, unemployment rates decreased slightly in Slovenia, Latvia, Hungary, Estonia, the Czech Republic and in Romania.

## Female unemployment rates similar to male rates

Region	Female unemployment rates
KÖZÉP-MAGYARORSZÁG (HU)	2.0
NYUGAT-DUNÁNTÚL (HU)	2.8
PRAHA (CZ)	3.5
KÖZÉP-DUNÁNTÚL (HU)	4.0
NORD-VEST (RO)	4.4
BUCURESTI (RO)	4.6
SUD-VEST (RO)	5.4
:	
ŚLĄSKIE (PL)	23.0
YUGOIZTOCHEN (BG)	23.4
WARMIŃSKO-MAZURSKIE (PL)	25.0
SEVEROIZTOCHEN (BG)	26.2
DOLNOŚLĄSKIE (PL)	26.3
LUBUSKIE (PL)	27.9
SEVEROZAPADEN (BG)	28.5

The breakdown by gender shows that the range for female unemployment rates is similar to the range for men, i.e. between 2.0 % for the capital region of Hungary (Közép-Magyarország) and 28.5 %, for the Bulgarian region of Severozapaden.

For the European Union NUTS level 2 regions, this range is, at 1.1 % to 36.4 %, wider than for the CECC. From that perspective, it could be concluded that the role of men and women in the CECC labour market is more equal than in the European Union.

*Table 3: The regions on the CECC with the highest/lowest female unemployment rates in 2001*

## Wider range of Youth unemployment - strong increase in some regions

Region	Youth unemployment rates
KÖZÉP-MAGYARORSZÁG (HU)	3.0
NYUGAT-DUNÁNTÚL (HU)	5.8
PRAHA (CZ)	8.2
KÖZÉP-DUNÁNTÚL (HU)	8.5
NORD-VEST (RO)	9.6
BUCURESTI (RO)	10.6
JIHOZÁPAD (CZ)	10.7
:	
ZACHODNIOPOMORSKIE (PL)	47.2
YUGOIZTOCHEN (BG)	49.2
SEVEROIZTOCHEN (BG)	49.3
LUBUSKIE (PL)	50.1
WARMIŃSKO-MAZURSKIE (PL)	50.5
ŚWIĘTOKRZYSKIE (PL)	51.3
SEVEROZAPADEN (BG)	75.5

The youth unemployment rates show a wider range than the total or female rates. They varied between 3.0 % in the Hungarian region of Közép-Magyarország and 75.5 % in the Bulgarian region of Severozapaden. Compared to youth unemployment within the European Union, the trend is also reversed; whereas last year only two regions of the CECC exceed 50%, now four regions surpass 50 % and 15 more regions (Poland: 9, Bulgaria: 4, Slovakia: 2) show a youth unemployment rate of above 40 %.

Especially in Poland, there has been a substantial increase in youth unemployment rates. In Estonia, youth unemployment is increasing, whereas total unemployment is decreasing.

*Table 4: The regions on the CECC with the highest/lowest youth unemployment rates in 2001*

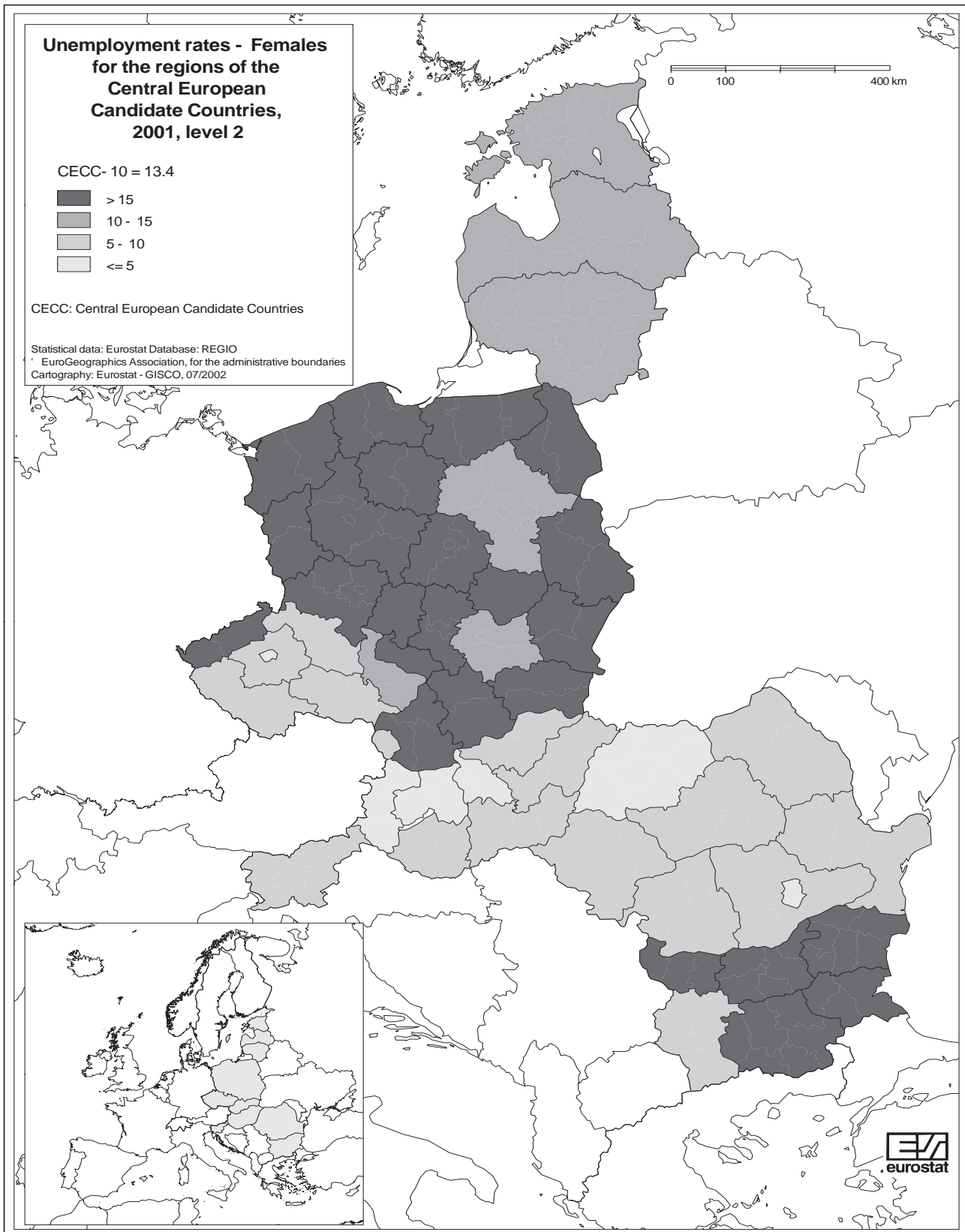


Figure 2: Unemployment rates 2001 - females - level 2

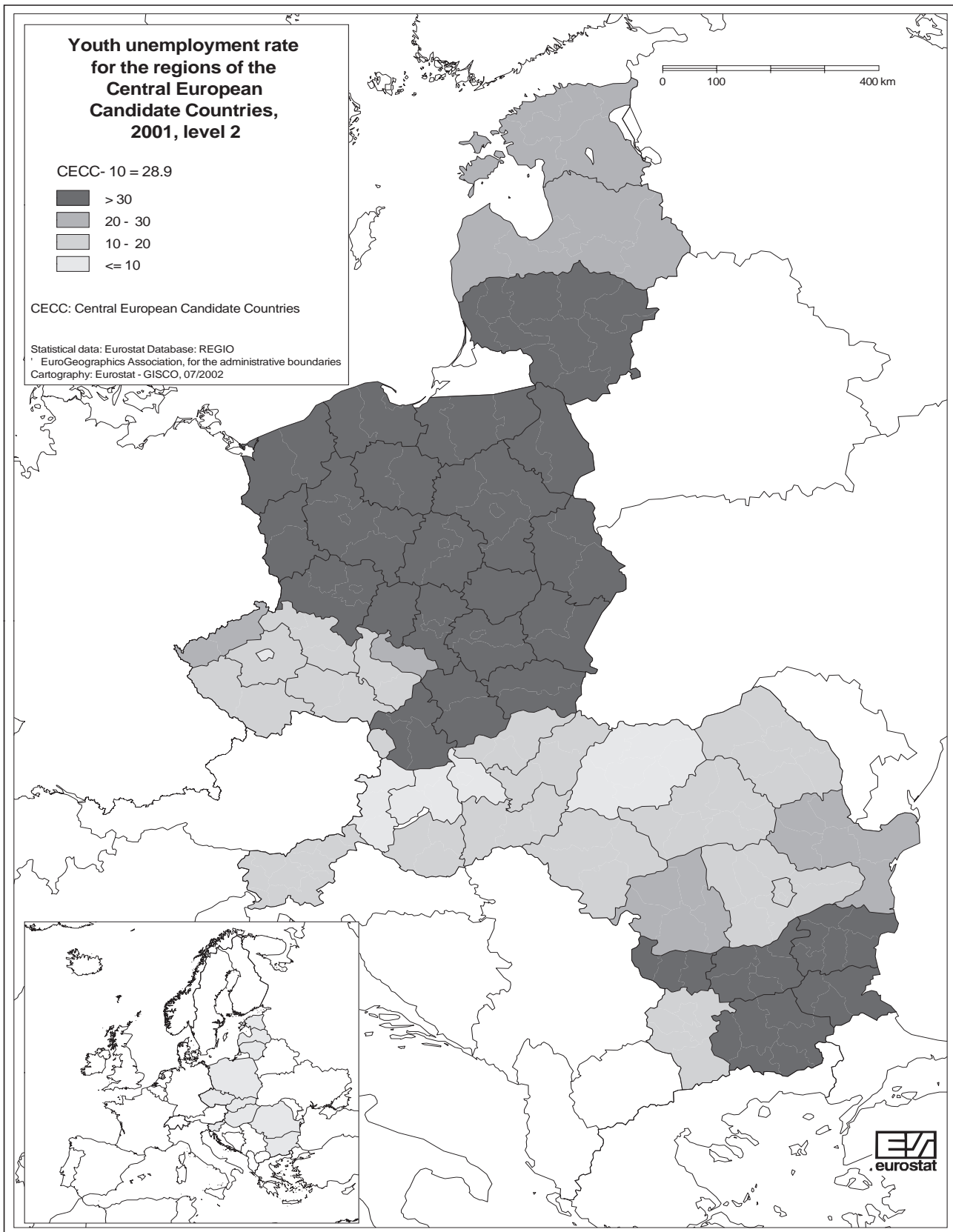


Figure 3: Unemployment rates 2001 - youth - level 2

	Total		Females		< 25 years	
	2000	2001	2000	2001	2000	2001
<b>EU-15</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>7.6</b>	<b>10.9</b>	<b>9.9</b>	<b>16.3</b>	<b>15.1</b>
<b>CECC-10</b>	<b>12.5</b>	<b>13.1</b>	<b>13.0</b>	<b>13.4</b>	<b>26.4</b>	<b>28.9</b>
<b>EU-15 + CECC-10</b>	<b>9.2</b>	<b>8.8</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>18.5</b>	<b>18.1</b>
<b>BULGARIA</b>	<b>18.6</b>	<b>19.9</b>	<b>18.3</b>	<b>18.9</b>	<b>39.4</b>	<b>39.3</b>
SEVEROZAPADEN	31.0	32.8	27.4	28.5	73.1	75.5
SEVEREN TSENTRALEN	22.0	23.3	21.0	21.1	45.4	44.2
SEVEROIZTOCHEN	25.0	26.5	25.3	26.2	45.1	49.3
YUGOZAPADEN	8.7	9.7	8.7	9.0	19.2	17.2
YUZHEN TSENTRALEN	19.4	20.6	19.6	20.1	42.4	42.4
YUGOIZTOCHEN	21.7	22.9	22.8	23.4	42.6	49.2
<b>CZECH REPUBLIC</b>	<b>8.8</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>9.6</b>	<b>17.0</b>	<b>16.3</b>
PRAHA	3.4	3.0	4.1	3.5	8.4	8.2
STREDNI ČECHY	6.8	6.0	8.8	7.9	11.8	11.8
JIHOZÁPAD	6.1	5.7	7.7	7.2	11.3	10.7
SEVEROZÁPAD	13.7	12.7	16.4	15.2	25.4	24.6
SEVEROVÝCHOD	6.7	6.4	8.2	7.8	12.7	13.5
JIHOVÝCHOD	8.8	8.0	10.8	9.8	17.1	16.4
STREDNI MORAVA	10.1	9.2	12.1	11.1	19.4	18.5
MORAVSKOSLEZKO	15.2	13.6	17.3	15.7	28.6	24.8
<b>ESTONIA</b>	<b>13.2</b>	<b>12.4</b>	<b>11.6</b>	<b>13.1</b>	<b>23.7</b>	<b>24.5</b>
<b>HUNGARY</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>12.3</b>	<b>10.5</b>
KÖZÉP MAGYARORSZÁG	2.4	2.0	2.5	2.0	3.5	3.0
KÖZÉP DUNÁNTÚL	5.4	4.3	5.2	4.0	10.2	8.5
NYUGAT DUNÁNTÚL	3.8	3.2	3.4	2.8	5.9	5.8
DÉL DUNÁNTÚL	8.5	7.6	7.6	6.7	16.1	14.6
ÉSZAK MAGYARORSZÁG	12.4	11.3	10.3	9.2	22.5	19.6
ÉSZAK ALFÖLD	12.0	10.3	10.3	8.6	23.2	18.0
DÉL ALFÖLD	7.6	6.5	7.0	5.8	15.1	13.0
<b>LITHUANIA</b>	<b>15.6</b>	<b>16.5</b>	<b>13.1</b>	<b>13.5</b>	<b>27.5</b>	<b>30.9</b>
<b>LATVIA</b>	<b>14.1</b>	<b>13.1</b>	<b>13.2</b>	<b>11.5</b>	<b>21.2</b>	<b>22.9</b>
<b>POLAND</b>	<b>16.3</b>	<b>18.4</b>	<b>18.3</b>	<b>20.0</b>	<b>35.7</b>	<b>41.5</b>
DOLNOSLASKIE	22.5	24.1	24.5	26.3	42.3	46.3
KUJAWSKO-POMORSKIE	18.1	21.8	20.5	22.4	37.9	43.4
LUBELSKIE	13.7	14.7	14.3	16.1	35.1	38.4
LUBUSKIE	21.3	23.6	24.5	27.9	36.0	50.1
ŁÓDZKIE	16.2	19.6	16.8	22.9	41.3	45.1
MALOPOLSKIE	11.7	12.8	12.8	14.3	27.8	34.8
MAZOWIECKIE	13.3	14.2	14.0	14.4	32.1	32.4
OPOLSKIE	14.5	19.1	20.2	20.7	30.8	43.4
PODKARPACKIE	14.4	17.5	13.8	18.3	40.9	46.3
PODLASKIE	15.7	15.7	18.2	17.5	29.4	40.8
POMORSKIE	17.1	18.0	20.8	19.6	34.1	33.3
ŚLĄSKIE	18.9	20.4	23.0	23.0	34.3	44.9
ŚWIĘTOKRZYSKIE	16.9	20.0	18.3	19.0	40.3	51.3
WARMINSKO-MAZURSKIE	22.5	22.3	24.5	25.0	40.5	50.5
WIELKOPOLSKIE	14.1	19.0	17.9	21.2	33.1	40.8
ZACHODNIOPOMORSKIE	20.5	21.5	23.7	22.9	45.9	47.2
<b>ROMANIA</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>17.8</b>	<b>17.6</b>
NORD-EST	7.4	7.0	6.3	5.7	20.9	19.9
SUD-EST	7.7	8.0	7.3	8.1	17.7	20.1
SUD	7.3	6.9	6.3	6.0	20.0	19.3
SUD-VEST	6.6	6.4	5.4	5.4	20.9	22.1
VEST	7.5	6.7	7.1	6.5	15.9	17.1
NORD-VEST	5.7	4.8	5.2	4.4	11.2	9.6
CENTRU	8.3	7.8	8.5	7.6	19.0	18.5
BUCURESTI	4.5	4.1	5.2	4.6	11.4	10.6
<b>SLOVENIA</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>7.1</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>16.4</b>	<b>15.7</b>
<b>SLOVAKIA</b>	<b>19.1</b>	<b>19.4</b>	<b>18.6</b>	<b>18.5</b>	<b>36.9</b>	<b>38.9</b>
BRATISLAVSKÝ	7.3	8.4	7.9	8.6	18.1	19.5
ZÁPADNÉ SLOVENSKO	18.1	18.6	17.9	18.0	34.0	36.0
STREDNÉ SLOVENSKO	20.7	21.1	21.9	20.5	36.3	42.5
VÝCHODNÉ SLOVENSKO	24.3	23.9	22.0	22.4	47.3	46.9

Table 5: Unemployment rates in CECC regions

## ➤ ESSENTIAL INFORMATION – METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

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At the level 2 regional breakdown considered in this publication, there are 53 regions in the CECC. The figures at a level 3 regional breakdown and further subdivisions are available on request from the Eurostat Data Shop network.

The data presented in this publication were supplied by the CECC to Eurostat and they take account of corrections up to June 2002.

The unemployment rate is defined as the percentage of unemployed persons in the total economically active population. It relates to persons who are aged at least 15 at a certain point in time and can be broken down further by age and sex. The youth unemployment rate relates to persons under 25 years of age.

The definition of unemployment is in line with the recommendations of the International Labour Office (ILO) and may, therefore, differ markedly from the respective national concepts. According to the international recommendations, a person is deemed to be unemployed if all three of the following conditions are met:

- he or she is without work during the survey reference week;
- he or she is available for work, being able to take up employment within two weeks;
- he or she has actively sought work over the past four weeks.

Estimates of regional unemployment rates are based on the estimates of employed and unemployed persons taken from the Community Labour Force Survey at national level for the second quarter. In a second step, the estimated jobless figures are broken down over the individual regions, applying the regional structures of registered unemployed persons or regionally representative results of labour force surveys. A similar procedure is followed in respect of employed persons, with regional results of labour force surveys or the regional structures of the most recent population censuses being used for regionalisation.

Initially, separate estimates are made for the sub-populations comprising women under 25 years of age, women aged 25 and above, men under 25 years and men aged 25 and above. The estimates for unemployed and employed persons in the individual sub-populations are subsequently added together to obtain an estimate of the overall unemployment rate.

Unemployment rates reflect the development at the labour market concerned. Labour market related political decisions and general political trends may therefore influence unemployment rates. The smaller the respective subpopulation, the more marked these effects will be. We can take as an example the youth unemployment rate: if low demand for labour means young people continue to go to school, the youth unemployment rate will be smaller than if they were to look for jobs. Such effects should always be taken into account when interpreting unemployment rates.



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