

# Regional unemployment in the European Union and candidate countries in 2004

## Statistics in focus

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Regions

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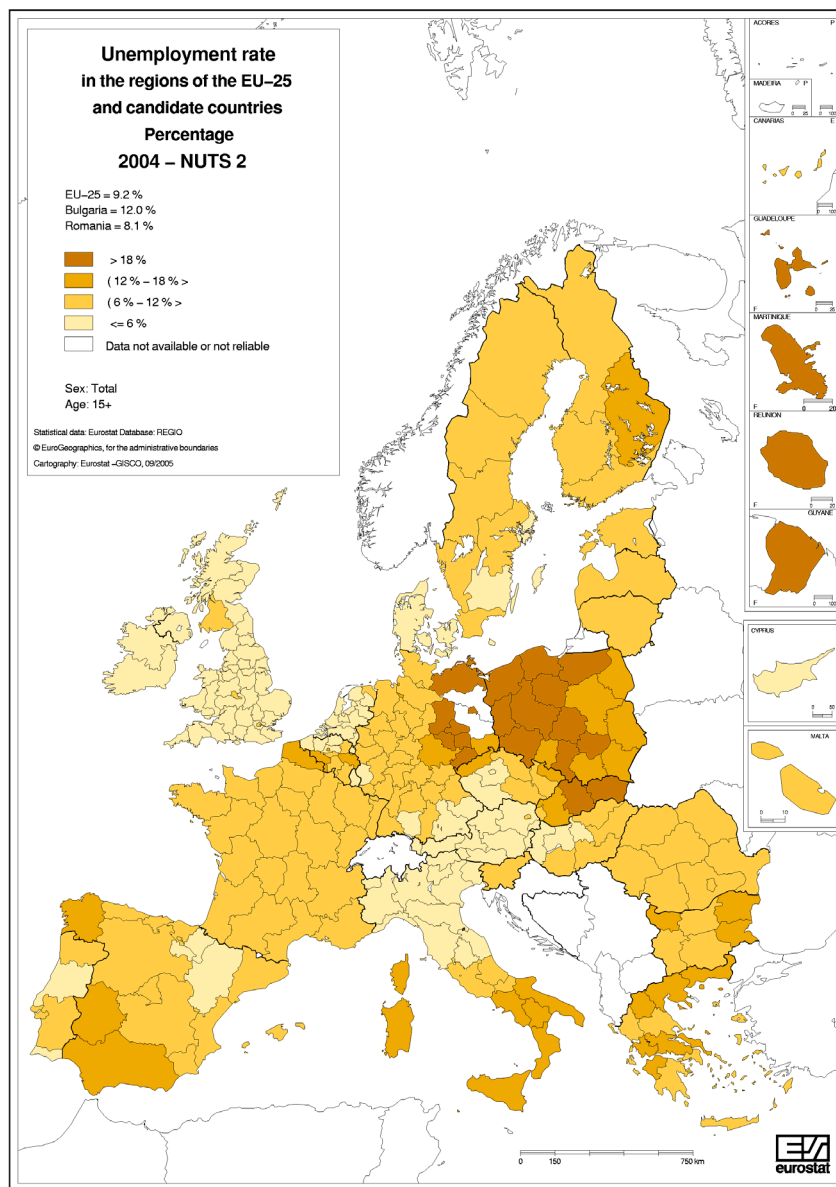
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Map 1: Unemployment rate in the regions of the EU-25 and candidate countries in 2004

Source: Eurostat, LFS

In 2004, the unemployment rate in the EU-25 NUTS level 2 regions\* varied between 2.4 % in the south-western UK region of Dorset and Somerset and 24.9 % in the south-western Polish region of Dolnośląskie.

Data is available for two of the candidate countries: in Romania, the unemployment rate was below 10 % in all level 2 regions in 2004, while in Bulgaria it was between 9.4 % and 17.6 %. Regions mentioned elsewhere in this publication refer to NUTS level 2 regions in the EU-25 or the corresponding level 2 statistical regions in the candidate countries.

\* This text does not cover the four French overseas regions (Guadeloupe, Martinique, Guyane and Réunion).

## New Member states: positive unemployment trend in Lithuania and Poland, negative trend in the Czech Republic and Slovakia

The unemployment rate remained stable in the EU-25 (9.2 %), with the old Member States at 8.2 % and the new Member States at 14.3 % in 2004.

A significant positive trend in unemployment between 2003 and 2004 (Table 1), after the new Member States joined the EU in 1<sup>st</sup> May 2004, saw Lithuania moving from 12.4 % to 11.4 % (-19 400 unemployed persons) and Poland from 19.6 % to 19.0 % (-92 800 unemployed persons), while a negative trend resulted in the Czech Republic going from 7.8 % to 8.3 % (+27 400 unemployed persons) and Slovakia from 17.6 % to 18.2 % (+22 800 unemployed persons).

In Lithuania, which comprises a single region and showed a remarkable drop in total unemployment, the female employment rate decreased from 58.4 % to 57.8 % (-8 400 employed females). Both figures refer to the 15-64 age group.

Of the seven Polish regions experiencing the greatest improvement, marked employment growth could be found in two central regions: Łódzkie (+18 700 employed in industry) and Mazowieckie (+85 300 employed in services). The positive changes in Poland were clearly reflected in a downward trend of long-term unemployment, in particular in five regions: Podkarpackie in the south-east, Podlaskie and Warmińsko-Mazurskie in the north-east, Zachodniopomorskie in the north-west and Mazowieckie. Declining unemployment and, paradoxically, also employment (-21 200 in agriculture and -10 500 in in-

dustry) in Podkarpackie meant a lower rate of economic activity in the 15-64 age group: 62.1 % (in 2003 it was 64.0 %).

On the other hand, a noticeable negative trend in unemployment was observed in the Polish regions of Lubelskie in the east and the two central regions: Świętokrzyskie and Wielkopolskie. Lubelskie and Świętokrzyskie, in spite of small changes in total employment, were distinguished by significant changes in employment in agriculture and industry.

In two Czech regions with noticeable growth in unemployment, employment also rose (Severozápad in the west-north and Jihovýchod in the south-east). In the capital region of Praha, where both unemployment and total employment fell (-6 700 persons in industry, but +1 200 in services), the economically active rate decreased from 74.2 % to 73.1 % in the 15-64 age group.

Slovakia, with rising unemployment in three regions, recorded a remarkable improvement in the western region of Západné Slovensko (-5 600 long-term unemployed, +19 300 employed persons in industry and +11 800 employed in services).

\* Employment figures for Germany refer to the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter while unemployment figures represent annual estimates.

\*\* 2003 and 2004 data on Greece, Italy, Cyprus, Malta and Austria is not fully comparable – for more information see Methodological Notes.

| Area / Country    | Employed persons aged 15 and over |                   |  | Unemployed persons aged 15-74 |                   |  | Unemployment rate persons aged 15 and over |              |  |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|--|-------------------------------|-------------------|--|--|--------------|--|
|                   | 2003<br>in thous.                 | 2004<br>in thous. | difference between<br>2004 and 2003<br>in thous. | 2003<br>in thous.             | 2004<br>in thous. | difference between<br>2004 and 2003<br>in thous. | 2003<br>in %                               | 2004<br>in % | difference between<br>2004 and 2003<br>in percen. points |
| EU-25             | 193 186.8                         | 194 439.6         | 1 252.8  | 19 535.6                      | 19 750.3          | 214.7  | 9.2  | 9.2          | 0.0  |
| Old Member States | 164 379.5                         | 165 410.1         | 1 030.7  | 14 630.7                      | 14 900.5          | 269.9  | 8.2  | 8.2          | 0.1  |
| New Member States | 28 807.3                          | 29 029.4          | 222.1  | 4 905.0                       | 4 849.8           | -55.2  | 14.5                                       | 14.3         | -0.2   |
| Belgium           | 4 070.4                           | 4 138.9           | 68.6   | 362.3                         | 379.1             | 16.8   | 8.2  | 8.4          | 0.2  |
| Czech Republic    | 4 701.1                           | 4 690.5           | -10.6  | 398.4                         | 425.7             | 27.4   | 7.8  | 8.3          | 0.5  |
| Denmark           | 2 707.4                           | 2 738.2           | 30.8   | 154.7                         | 159.6             | 4.9  | 5.4  | 5.5          | 0.1  |
| Germany*          | 35 926.5                          | 35 462.6          | -463.9   | 3 938.3                       | 4 111.9           | 173.6  | 9.9  | 10.3         | 0.4  |
| Estonia           | 594.3                             | 595.5             | 1.2  | 66.2                          | 63.6              | -2.6   | 10.0                                       | 9.7          | -0.4   |
| Greece**          | 4 274.5                           | 4 313.2           | 38.7   | 459.8                         | 505.6             | 45.8   | 9.7  | 10.5         | 0.8  |
| Spain             | 17 295.9                          | 17 970.8          | 674.9  | 2 242.2                       | 2 213.6           | -28.6  | 11.5                                       | 11.0         | -0.5   |
| France            | 24 600.7                          | 24 683.9          | 83.2   | 2 520.7                       | 2 624.2           | 103.5  | 9.3  | 9.6          | 0.3  |
| Ireland           | 1 810.6                           | 1 864.9           | 54.4   | 90.1                          | 88.7              | -1.4   | 4.7  | 4.5          | -0.2   |
| Italy**           | 22 054.2                          | 22 404.4          | 350.2  | 2 094.0                       | 1 960.4           | -133.6   | 8.7  | 8.0          | -0.6   |
| Cyprus**          | 327.1                             | 339.5             | 12.5   | 14.1                          | 17.5              | 3.4  | 4.1  | 4.9          | 0.8  |
| Latvia            | 1 006.9                           | 1 018.0           | 11.1   | 118.6                         | 118.3             | -0.3   | 10.5                                       | 10.4         | -0.1   |
| Lithuania         | 1 432.6                           | 1 432.6           | 0.0  | 203.6                         | 184.1             | -19.4  | 12.4                                       | 11.4         | -1.1   |
| Luxembourg        | 187.8                             | 186.4             | -1.5   | 7.2                           | 9.4               | 2.2  | 3.7  | 4.8          | 1.1  |
| Hungary           | 3 921.9                           | 3 900.4           | -21.5  | 244.5                         | 252.5             | 8.0  | 5.9  | 6.1          | 0.2  |
| Malta**           | 147.8                             | 147.9             | 0.1  | 12.1                          | 11.4              | -0.7   | 7.6  | 7.2          | -0.4   |
| Netherlands       | 8 121.4                           | 8 105.8           | -15.6  | 310.5                         | 387.1             | 76.6   | 3.7  | 4.6          | 0.9  |
| Austria**         | 3 735.9                           | 3 743.9           | 8.0  | 165.3                         | 194.6             | 29.3   | 4.2  | 4.9          | 0.7  |
| Poland            | 13 616.8                          | 13 793.9          | 177.1  | 3 323.1                       | 3 230.3           | -92.8  | 19.6                                       | 19.0         | -0.6   |
| Portugal          | 5 118.0                           | 5 122.8           | 4.8  | 342.3                         | 365.0             | 22.7   | 6.3  | 6.7          | 0.4  |
| Slovenia          | 897.2                             | 943.4             | 46.2   | 64.2                          | 63.3              | -0.8   | 6.7  | 6.3          | -0.4   |
| Slovakia          | 2 161.7                           | 2 167.8           | 6.1  | 460.2                         | 483.0             | 22.8   | 17.6                                       | 18.2         | 0.7  |
| Finland           | 2 364.9                           | 2 364.6           | -0.3   | 234.8                         | 228.8             | -5.9   | 9.0  | 8.8          | -0.2   |
| Sweden            | 4 314.4                           | 4 290.0           | -24.3  | 259.7                         | 299.5             | 39.8   | 5.7  | 6.5          | 0.8  |
| United Kingdom    | 27 796.8                          | 28 019.6          | 222.9  | 1 448.8                       | 1 373.0           | -75.8  | 5.0  | 4.7          | -0.3   |

Table 1: Employment and unemployment in EU-25 countries in 2003 and 2004

Source: Eurostat, LFS

| Country / Region    | Employed persons aged 15 and over |                   |  | Unemployed persons aged 15-74 |                   |  | Unemployment rate persons aged 15 and over |              |  |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|--|-------------------------------|-------------------|--|--|--------------|--|
|                     | 2003<br>in thous.                 | 2004<br>in thous. | difference between<br>2004 and 2003<br>in thous. | 2003<br>in thous.             | 2004<br>in thous. | difference between<br>2004 and 2003<br>in thous. | 2003<br>in %                               | 2004<br>in % | difference between<br>2004 and 2003<br>in percen. points |
| CZECH REPUBLIC      | 4 701.1                           | 4 690.5           | -10.6  | 398.4                         | 425.7             | 27.4   | 7.8  | 8.3          | 0.5  |
| Praha               | 605.4                             | 600.0             | -5.4   | 26.4                          | 24.3              | -2.1   | 4.2  | 3.9          | -0.3   |
| Střední Čechy       | 540.9                             | 542.5             | 1.6  | 29.7                          | 31.2              | 1.5  | 5.2  | 5.4          | 0.2  |
| Jihozápad           | 557.8                             | 558.8             | 0.9  | 31.0                          | 34.3              | 3.3  | 5.3  | 5.8          | 0.5  |
| Severozápad         | 496.0                             | 499.7             | 3.7  | 62.5                          | 75.2              | 12.7   | 11.2                                       | 13.1         | 1.9  |
| Severovýchod        | 687.0                             | 682.7             | -4.3   | 48.1                          | 49.0              | 0.8  | 6.5  | 6.7          | 0.1  |
| Jihovýchod          | 743.8                             | 745.4             | 1.6  | 57.8                          | 63.8              | 6.0  | 7.2  | 7.9          | 0.7  |
| Střední Morava      | 550.1                             | 540.9             | -9.2   | 52.1                          | 59.0              | 6.8  | 8.7  | 9.8          | 1.2  |
| Moravskoslezsko     | 520.2                             | 520.7             | 0.5  | 90.7                          | 89.0              | -1.7   | 14.8                                       | 14.6         | -0.2   |
| LITHUANIA           | 1 432.6                           | 1 432.6           | 0.0  | 203.6                         | 184.1             | -19.4  | 12.4                                       | 11.4         | -1.1   |
| POLAND              | 13 616.8                          | 13 793.9          | 177.1  | 3 323.1                       | 3 230.3           | -92.8  | 19.6                                       | 19.0         | -0.6   |
| Łódzkie             | 1 077.7                           | 1 097.8           | 20.1   | 263.8                         | 254.1             | -9.6   | 19.7                                       | 18.8         | -0.9   |
| Mazowieckie         | 1 879.3                           | 1 964.2           | 84.8   | 366.0                         | 335.4             | -30.6  | 16.3                                       | 14.6         | -1.7   |
| Małopolskie         | 1 212.4                           | 1 211.6           | -0.8   | 265.5                         | 253.0             | -12.5  | 18.0                                       | 17.3         | -0.7   |
| Śląskie             | 1 532.5                           | 1 624.3           | 91.8   | 389.0                         | 388.7             | -0.3   | 20.2                                       | 19.3         | -0.9   |
| Lubelskie           | 897.6                             | 896.3             | -1.3   | 171.1                         | 179.3             | 8.1  | 16.0                                       | 16.7         | 0.7  |
| Podkarpackie        | 768.0                             | 735.1             | -32.8  | 165.3                         | 146.6             | -18.7  | 17.7                                       | 16.6         | -1.1   |
| Świętokrzyskie      | 482.8                             | 480.8             | -2.0   | 114.3                         | 124.8             | 10.5   | 19.1                                       | 20.6         | 1.5  |
| Podlaskie           | 428.5                             | 421.3             | -7.2   | 92.5                          | 78.0              | -14.5  | 17.8                                       | 15.6         | -2.1   |
| Wielkopolskie       | 1 301.3                           | 1 253.2           | -48.1  | 268.6                         | 278.1             | 9.5  | 17.1                                       | 18.2         | 1.0  |
| Zachodniopomorskie  | 546.3                             | 547.6             | 1.3  | 186.9                         | 170.9             | -16.0  | 25.5                                       | 23.8         | -1.7   |
| Lubuskie            | 356.5                             | 377.5             | 21.0   | 115.6                         | 113.9             | -1.7   | 24.5                                       | 23.2         | -1.3   |
| Dolnośląskie        | 895.1                             | 949.2             | 54.1   | 315.1                         | 314.6             | -0.5   | 26.0                                       | 24.9         | -1.1   |
| Opolskie            | 319.7                             | 322.8             | 3.1  | 71.4                          | 70.1              | -1.3   | 18.3                                       | 17.8         | -0.4   |
| Kujawsko-Pomorskie  | 775.3                             | 764.9             | -10.3  | 216.4                         | 216.9             | 0.4  | 21.8                                       | 22.1         | 0.3  |
| Warmińsko-Mazurskie | 459.6                             | 467.1             | 7.5  | 144.6                         | 134.2             | -10.4  | 23.9                                       | 22.3         | -1.6   |
| Pomorskie           | 684.3                             | 680.2             | -4.0   | 176.9                         | 171.7             | -5.1   | 20.5                                       | 20.2         | -0.4   |
| SLOVAKIA            | 2 161.7                           | 2 167.8           | 6.1  | 460.2                         | 483.0             | 22.8   | 17.6                                       | 18.2         | 0.7  |
| Bratislavský kraj   | 307.5                             | 302.8             | -4.7   | 23.3                          | 27.5              | 4.2  | 7.1  | 8.3          | 1.3  |
| Západné Slovensko   | 770.1                             | 796.5             | 26.4   | 145.4                         | 132.4             | -13.0  | 15.9                                       | 14.3         | -1.6   |
| Stredné Slovensko   | 519.3                             | 512.7             | -6.6   | 134.2                         | 145.5             | 11.3   | 20.5                                       | 22.1         | 1.6  |
| Východné Slovensko  | 564.8                             | 555.8             | -9.0   | 157.3                         | 177.6             | 20.3   | 21.8                                       | 24.2         | 2.4  |

Table 2: Regional employment and unemployment in the Czech Republic, Lithuania, Poland and Slovakia in 2003 and 2004

Source: Eurostat, LFS

### Old Member States: decreasing unemployment in Spain, increasing unemployment in Luxembourg, The Netherlands and Sweden

In the old Member States, the strongest decrease in unemployment was observed in Spain (from 11.5 % to 11.0 % and -28 600 persons), while, by contrast, an increase was seen in Luxembourg (from 3.7 % to 4.8 % and +2 200 persons), The Netherlands (from 3.7 % to 4.6 % and +76 600 persons) and Sweden (from 5.7 % to 6.5 %, +39 800 persons).

Of the three countries which opened up their labour markets for people from new Member States as from the first day of accession (Ireland, Sweden and the UK), an improvement in unemployment between 2003 and 2004 was recorded in Ireland (from 4.7 % to 4.5 % and -1 400 persons) and the UK (from 5.0 % to 4.7 %, -75 800 persons).

At regional level, declining unemployment could be found in a majority of Spanish regions, while the opposite trend was seen in all Swedish and Dutch regions, and the majority of

German regions. Table 3 shows the most marked regional changes in Germany, Spain, The Netherlands, Portugal, Sweden and Luxembourg (a single region). These changes were linked:

- in the western region of Düsseldorf with lower employment in industry; and in the eastern region of Thüringen with increased employment in services
- in Spain, in the capital region of Madrid and in the southern region of Andalucía, with higher employment in services and industry
- in the capital region of Lisboa with declining employment in industry, but higher employment in services
- in two southern Swedish regions (Östra Mellansverige and Västsverige), with a drop in employment in services.

| Region                   | Employed persons aged 15 and over |                   |  | Unemployed persons aged 15-74 |                   |  | Unemployment rate persons aged 15 and over |              |  |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|--|-------------------------------|-------------------|--|--|--------------|--|
|                          | 2003<br>in thous.                 | 2004<br>in thous. | difference between<br>2004 and 2003<br>in thous. | 2003<br>in thous.             | 2004<br>in thous. | difference between<br>2004 and 2003<br>in thous. | 2003<br>in %                               | 2004<br>in % | difference between<br>2004 and 2003<br>in percen. points |
| Bremen (DE)*             | 269.7                             | 257.4             | -12.3  | 36.0                          | 43.3              | 7.3  | 11.9                                       | 14.3         | 2.4  |
| Düsseldorf (DE)*         | 2 162.1                           | 2 135.1           | -27.0  | 217.2                         | 232.4             | 15.2   | 9.1  | 9.7          | 0.6  |
| Thüringen (DE)*          | 1 015.8                           | 1 020.3           | 4.5  | 195.8                         | 187.8             | -8.0   | 16.1                                       | 15.3         | -0.7   |
| Comunidad de Madrid (ES) | 2 573.2                           | 2 705.5           | 132.3  | 204.4                         | 194.6             | -9.7   | 7.4  | 6.7          | -0.6   |
| Andalucía (ES)           | 2 627.3                           | 2 763.1           | 135.8  | 599.8                         | 568.4             | -31.4  | 18.6                                       | 17.1         | -1.5   |
| LUXEMBOURG               | 187.8                             | 186.4             | -1.5   | 7.2                           | 9.4               | 2.2  | 3.7  | 4.8          | 1.1  |
| Gelderland (NL)          | 988.6                             | 979.9             | -8.6   | 33.3                          | 44.0              | 10.8   | 3.3  | 4.3          | 1.0  |
| Zuid-Holland (NL)        | 1 701.9                           | 1 712.0           | 10.1   | 67.2                          | 83.6              | 16.3   | 3.8  | 4.7          | 0.9  |
| Noord-Brabant (NL)       | 1 227.0                           | 1 222.3           | -4.7   | 43.6                          | 54.1              | 10.5   | 3.4  | 4.2          | 0.8  |
| Norte (PT)               | 1 793.8                           | 1 794.0           | 0.2  | 130.8                         | 148.7             | 17.9   | 6.8  | 7.7          | 0.9  |
| Lisboa (PT)              | 1 289.5                           | 1 294.2           | 4.7  | 114.4                         | 106.9             | -7.5   | 8.1  | 7.6          | -0.5   |
| Östra Mellansverige (SE) | 713.2                             | 702.2             | -11.0  | 44.4                          | 51.5              | 7.1  | 5.9  | 6.8          | 1.0  |
| Västssverige (SE)        | 873.5                             | 863.9             | -9.6   | 45.3                          | 56.5              | 11.3   | 4.9  | 6.1          | 1.2  |

Table 3: Regions with the highest changes in unemployment between 2003 and 2004 in Germany, Spain, The Netherlands, Portugal, Sweden and the single region Luxembourg

Source: Eurostat, LFS

### Unemployment rate: between 2.4 % (Dorset and Somerset – UK) and 24.9 % (Dolnośląskie – PL)

An unemployment rate below half of the EU-25 level (i.e. below 4.6 %) was observed in 43 regions out of the 250 studied (these excluded the four French overseas regions) and a rate of over 18.4 %, i.e. a rate at least twice as high as the overall EU-25 level, was seen in 21 regions.

In the regions with the lowest unemployment, three different ranges in the breakdown of the economically active persons by high and low educational level respectively could be distinguished – in the UK 25 %-34 % and 8 %-14 %, in Italy 10 %-12 % and 34 %-52 % and in the western Austrian region of Tirol 17 % and 19 %. Long-term unemployment in these regions varied from 9.8 % (Tirol) to 26.0 % (the midlands UK region of Cheshire).

At the other end of the scale, in regions with the highest unemployment, the proportion of the economically active persons with high and low educational level respectively was 22 %-28 % and 10 %-13 % in Germany, 14 %-18 % and 11 %-18 % in Poland and 11 %-13 % and 8 %-10 % in Slovakia. Long-term unemployment, varying here between 49.4 % (Dolnośląskie – PL) and 69.6 % (Východné Slovensko

– SK), reflected a noticeable downward trend in four Polish regions (Kujawsko-Pomorskie, Warmińsko-Mazurskie, Zachodniopomorskie and Dolnośląskie), while there was a negative trend in the Slovak region of Východné Slovensko.

There was a considerable range in the level of economic activity between regions showed in Table 4: in the UK 76.5 %-79.1 %, in Italy 67.9 %-71.3 %, in Tirol (AT) 71.7 %, in Poland 62 %-64.7 %, in Germany 73.6 %-75.2 % and in Slovakia 68.3 %-69.2 % – these figures refer to persons aged 15-64.

In three German regions, rising unemployment was associated with a drop of employment – in the north-eastern region of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (at the same time, this region showed an increase in self-employment: +11 500 persons) and in two eastern regions: Dessau and Halle. Their youth unemployment (around 20 %) was still much lower compared to that of Slovakia and Poland (almost 50 %).

\*Employment figures for Germany refer to the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter while unemployment figures represent annual estimates.

| Region                                   | Employed persons aged 15 and over |                   |  | Unemployed persons aged 15-74 |                   |  | Unemployment rate persons aged 15 and over |              |  |
|--|-----------------------------------|-------------------|--|-------------------------------|-------------------|--|--|--------------|--|
|  | 2003<br>in thous.                 | 2004<br>in thous. | difference between<br>2004 and 2003<br>in thous. | 2003<br>in thous.             | 2004<br>in thous. | difference between<br>2004 and 2003<br>in thous. | 2003<br>in %                               | 2004<br>in % | difference between<br>2004 and 2003<br>in percen. points |
| Dorset and Somerset (UK)                 | 571.1                             | 586.3             | 15.2   | 18.4                          | 14.4              | -4.0   | 3.1  | 2.4          | -0.7   |
| North Yorkshire (UK)                     | 373.7                             | 372.8             | -0.8   | 10.5                          | 9.9               | -0.6   | 2.7  | 2.6          | -0.1   |
| Provincia Autonoma Bolzano/Bozen (IT)    | 227.7                             | 221.9             | -5.8   | 4.7                           | 6.0               | 1.4  | 2.0  | 2.7          | 0.6  |
| Valle d'Aosta/Vallée d'Aoste (IT)        | 55.1                              | 55.5              | 0.4  | 2.3                           | 1.7               | -0.6   | (4.1)                                      | (3.0)        | -1.1   |
| Cheshire (UK)                            | 474.0                             | 470.2             | -3.7   | 16.2                          | 15.2              | -1.1   | 3.3  | 3.1          | -0.2   |
| Herefordshire, Worces. and Warwick. (UK) | 604.4                             | 611.7             | 7.3  | 24.1                          | 20.1              | -4.0   | 3.8  | 3.2          | -0.7   |
| Provincia Autonoma Trento (IT)           | 201.2                             | 216.4             | 15.2   | 6.0                           | 7.1               | 1.1  | 2.9  | 3.2          | 0.3  |
| Tirol (AT)                               | 321.2                             | 326.6             | 5.4  | 8.3                           | 11.1              | 2.8  | 2.5  | 3.3          | 0.8  |
| Hampshire and Isle of Wight (UK)         | 903.9                             | 903.9             | 0.0  | 31.9                          | 30.9              | -1.0   | 3.4  | 3.3          | -0.1   |
| Surrey, East and West Sussex (UK)        | 1 267.7                           | 1 262.5           | -5.1   | 44.3                          | 43.6              | -0.7   | 3.4  | 3.3          | 0.0  |
| ⋮  | ⋮                                 | ⋮                 | ⋮  | ⋮                             | ⋮                 | ⋮  | ⋮  | ⋮            | ⋮  |
| Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (DE)*             | 716.8                             | 690.7             | -26.1  | 183.2                         | 189.0             | 5.8  | 20.4                                       | 21.2         | 0.8  |
| Kujawsko-Pomorskie (PL)                  | 775.3                             | 764.9             | -10.3  | 216.4                         | 216.9             | 0.4  | 21.8                                       | 22.1         | 0.3  |
| Stredné Slovensko (SK)                   | 519.3                             | 512.7             | -6.6   | 134.2                         | 145.5             | 11.3   | 20.5                                       | 22.1         | 1.6  |
| Warmińsko-Mazurskie (PL)                 | 459.6                             | 467.1             | 7.5  | 144.6                         | 134.2             | -10.4  | 23.9                                       | 22.3         | -1.6   |
| Dessau (DE)*                             | 208.2                             | 200.2             | -8.0   | 58.2                          | 60.3              | 2.1  | 21.8                                       | 22.9         | 1.0  |
| Lubuskie (PL)                            | 356.5                             | 377.5             | 21.0   | 115.6                         | 113.9             | -1.7   | 24.5                                       | 23.2         | -1.3   |
| Halle (DE)*                              | 327.6                             | 318.4             | -9.1   | 91.8                          | 98.2              | 6.4  | 21.9                                       | 23.4         | 1.5  |
| Zachodniopomorskie (PL)                  | 546.3                             | 547.6             | 1.3  | 186.9                         | 170.9             | -16.0  | 25.5                                       | 23.8         | -1.7   |
| Východné Slovensko (SK)                  | 564.8                             | 555.8             | -9.0   | 157.3                         | 177.6             | 20.3   | 21.8                                       | 24.2         | 2.4  |
| Dolnośląskie (PL)                        | 895.1                             | 949.2             | 54.1   | 315.1                         | 314.6             | -0.5   | 26.0                                       | 24.9         | -1.1   |

Table 4: EU-25 regions with lowest/highest unemployment in 2004 and the unemployment level in 2003

Source: Eurostat, LFS

## Female unemployment rate: lowest in Dorset and Somerset (UK) (2.2 %), highest in Extremadura (ES) (27.3 %)

In 2004, the female unemployment rate remained unchanged at the EU level (10.1 %) with slight differences in the old MS (9.1 % in 2003 and 9.2 % 2004) and the new MS (15.3 % in 2003 and 15.1 % in 2004).

At the regional level, the lowest figures were observed in the UK regions, all but one (Northern Ireland) of which had a female employment rate of around 70 % in the 15-64 age group. The highest female unemployment was found in two

regions in Germany, three in Spain and Poland, and one each in Slovakia and Greece. The employment rate here was entirely different: in Poland 41.6 %-45.6 %, in Spain 35.8 %-38.9 % and in the northern Greek region of Dytiki Makedonia 38.3 %. The Spanish region of Andalucía and the Polish region of Dolnośląskie recorded a remarkable improvement in female employment, while a decrease was observed in Východné Slovensko in Slovakia.

| Region                                     | Employed females aged 15 and over |                   |  | Unemployed females aged 15-74 |                   |  | Female unemployment rate persons aged 15 and over |              |  |
|--|-----------------------------------|-------------------|--|-------------------------------|-------------------|--|---|--------------|--|
|  | 2003<br>in thous.                 | 2004<br>in thous. | difference between<br>2004 and 2003<br>in thous. | 2003<br>in thous.             | 2004<br>in thous. | difference between<br>2004 and 2003<br>in thous. | 2003<br>in %                                      | 2004<br>in % | difference between<br>2004 and 2003<br>in percen. points |
| Dorset and Somerset (UK)                   | 266.5                             | 276.2             | 9.8  | 6.4                           | 6.1               | -0.3   | 2.3   | 2.2          | -0.2   |
| Hereford., Worcester. and Warwick. (UK)    | 277.0                             | 281.6             | 4.6  | 10.4                          | 8.4               | -2.1   | 3.6   | 2.9          | -0.7   |
| Devon (UK)                                 | 241.7                             | 236.9             | -4.8   | 8.1                           | 7.1               | -1.0   | 3.2   | 2.9          | -0.3   |
| Leicester., Rutland and Northampton. (UK)  | 350.5                             | 366.2             | 15.7   | 13.8                          | 11.2              | -2.6   | 3.8   | 3.0          | -0.8   |
| Gloucestershire, Wilt. and North Som. (UK) | 511.5                             | 509.1             | -2.4   | 18.3                          | 15.8              | -2.5   | 3.5   | 3.0          | -0.5   |
| Hampshire and Isle of Wight (UK)           | 416.5                             | 412.4             | -4.1   | 14.8                          | 12.8              | -2.0   | 3.4   | 3.0          | -0.4   |
| Northern Ireland (UK)                      | 322.7                             | 325.5             | 2.8  | 14.6                          | 10.3              | -4.3   | 4.3   | 3.1          | -1.3   |
| East Anglia (UK)                           | 505.6                             | 510.2             | 4.6  | 17.8                          | 17.0              | -0.8   | 3.4   | 3.2          | -0.2   |
| Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire (UK)        | 366.3                             | 382.8             | 16.5   | 17.1                          | 13.0              | -4.1   | 4.5   | 3.3          | -1.2   |
| Surrey, East and West Sussex (UK)          | 585.3                             | 575.3             | -9.9   | 18.5                          | 19.6              | 1.1  | 3.1   | 3.3          | 0.2  |
| :  | :                                 | :                 | :  | :                             | :                 | :  | :   | :            | :  |
| Andalucía (ES)                             | 916.7                             | 978.0             | 61.3   | 327.8                         | 311.4             | -16.3  | 26.3  | 24.2         | -2.2   |
| Dessau (DE)                                | 97.2                              | 94.0              | -3.3   | 29.0                          | 30.7              | 1.7  | 23.0  | 24.4         | 1.4  |
| Warmińsko-Mazurskie (PL)                   | 203.5                             | 203.4             | -0.1   | 71.5                          | 66.3              | -5.2   | 26.0  | 24.6         | -1.4   |
| Východné Slovensko (SK)                    | 254.1                             | 246.4             | -7.6   | 70.1                          | 80.5              | 10.3   | 21.6  | 24.6         | 3.0  |
| Ciudad Autónoma de Melilla (ES)            | 8.4                               | 9.1               | 0.7  | .                             | (3.0)             | x  | .   | (24.7)       | x  |
| Zachodniopomorskie (PL)                    | 246.1                             | 248.0             | 1.9  | 91.0                          | 81.7              | -9.3   | 27.0  | 24.8         | -2.2   |
| Halle (DE)                                 | 151.0                             | 146.2             | -4.8   | 45.6                          | 49.2              | 3.6  | 23.2  | 25.1         | 1.9  |
| Dolnośląskie (PL)                          | 406.8                             | 430.1             | 23.3   | 142.7                         | 147.1             | 4.4  | 26.0  | 25.5         | -0.5   |
| Dytiki Makedonia (GR)                      | 33.7                              | 35.5              | 1.8  | 12.6                          | 12.5              | -0.1   | 27.2  | 26.0         | -1.2   |
| Extremadura (ES)                           | 123.3                             | 123.5             | 0.3  | 41.8                          | 46.3              | 4.5  | 25.3  | 27.3         | 1.9  |

Table 5: EU-25 regions with lowest/highest female unemployment in 2004 and the corresponding level in 2003

Source: Eurostat, LFS

## Youth unemployment rate: lowest in Zeeland (NL) (5.4 %), highest in Dytiki Makedonia (GR) (49.3 %)

The EU-25 youth unemployment rate was 18.5 % in 2004 (18.6 % in 2003), twice as high as the total unemployment rate. This strong difference was similar in the old MS, with a youth unemployment rate of 16.2 % and a total unemployment rate of 8.2 % in 2003, and even higher in the new Member States, with a youth unemployment rate of 31.6 % and a total unemployment rate of 14.3 %.

The lowest level of youth unemployment was recorded in regions in Germany, the UK, The Netherlands and Austria, the highest in Poland, Slovakia, Italy and Greece. Trends in the southern Polish region of Śląskie and the Slovak region of Východné Slovensko were linked to the corresponding changes in youth employment.

| Region                   | Youth employment persons aged 15-24 |                   |  | Youth unemployment persons aged 15-24 |                   |  | Youth unemployment rate persons aged 15-24 |              |  |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|--|---------------------------------------|-------------------|--|--|--------------|--|
|                          | 2003<br>in thous.                   | 2004<br>in thous. | difference between<br>2004 and 2003<br>in thous. | 2003<br>in thous.                     | 2004<br>in thous. | difference between<br>2004 and 2003<br>in thous. | 2003<br>in %                               | 2004<br>in % | difference between<br>2004 and 2003<br>in percen. points |
| Zeeland (NL)             | 28.4                                | 29.0              | 0.6  | .                                     | (1.7)             | x  | .  | (5.4)        | x  |
| Noord-Brabant (NL)       | 201.7                               | 198.5             | -3.2   | 12.5                                  | 13.8              | 1.3  | 5.8  | 6.5          | 0.7  |
| Oberbayern (DE)          | 202.8                               | 200.1             | -2.7   | 14.3                                  | 15.6              | 1.3  | 6.5  | 7.1          | 0.6  |
| Utrecht (NL)             | 98.3                                | 94.7              | -3.6   | 6.3                                   | 7.3               | 1.1  | 6.0  | 7.2          | 1.2  |
| Steiermark (AT)          | 68.8                                | 76.9              | 8.1  | 4.2                                   | 6.0               | 1.8  | 5.7  | 7.3          | 1.5  |
| Mittelfranken (DE)       | 94.7                                | 88.2              | -6.5   | .                                     | (7.1)             | x  | .  | (7.3)        | x  |
| Friesland (NL)           | 52.0                                | 51.7              | -0.3   | (4.3)                                 | (4.1)             | -0.2   | (7.6)                                      | (7.3)        | -0.3   |
| Niederbayern (DE)        | 80.4                                | 76.8              | -3.6   | .                                     | (6.4)             | x  | .  | (7.5)        | x  |
| Tirol (AT)               | 43.7                                | 47.5              | 3.8  | 2.1                                   | (3.9)             | 1.8  | 4.5  | (7.6)        | 3.1  |
| Schwaben (DE)            | 109.5                               | 109.8             | 0.3  | 9.3                                   | 9.3               | 0.0  | 7.7  | 7.7          | -0.1   |
| :                        | :                                   | :                 | :  | :                                     | :                 | :  | :  | :            | :  |
| Kujawsko-Pomorskie (PL)  | 71.4                                | 81.9              | 10.5   | 58.8                                  | 59.5              | 0.8  | 45.2                                       | 42.1         | -3.1   |
| Śląskie (PL)             | 137.5                               | 149.3             | 11.9   | 117.5                                 | 109.8             | -7.7   | 46.1                                       | 42.4         | -3.7   |
| Východné Slovensko (SK)  | 66.4                                | 60.6              | -5.8   | 46.1                                  | 44.8              | -1.3   | 41.0                                       | 42.5         | 1.5  |
| Świętokrzyskie (PL)      | 32.8                                | 37.6              | 4.7  | 28.8                                  | 28.3              | -0.5   | 46.7                                       | 42.9         | -3.8   |
| Sicilia (IT)             | 90.0                                | 112.1             | 22.1   | 103.6                                 | 84.4              | -19.3  | 53.5                                       | 42.9         | -10.6  |
| Zachodniopomorskie (PL)  | 42.9                                | 51.3              | 8.3  | 45.6                                  | 42.8              | -2.8   | 51.5                                       | 45.5         | -6.0   |
| Warmińsko-Mazurskie (PL) | 40.1                                | 34.0              | -6.2   | 34.7                                  | 29.7              | -5.0   | 46.4                                       | 46.7         | 0.3  |
| Dolnośląskie (PL)        | 82.5                                | 83.5              | 1.0  | 72.6                                  | 76.9              | 4.2  | 46.8                                       | 47.9         | 1.1  |
| Lubuskie (PL)            | 31.3                                | 32.2              | 0.8  | 29.0                                  | 29.7              | 0.7  | 48.1                                       | 48.0         | -0.1   |
| Dytiki Makedonia (GR)    | 8.0                                 | 5.8               | -2.2   | 5.7                                   | 5.6               | -0.1   | 41.6                                       | 49.3         | 7.7  |

Table 6: EU-25 regions with lowest/highest youth unemployment in 2004 and the corresponding level in 2003

Source: Eurostat, LFS

## Unemployment in Bulgaria: downward trend in all regions. In Romania, upward trend in all but two regions

Of all the countries studied, Bulgaria, as in 2003, recorded the strongest improvement in 2004, a decrease of 1.7 percentage points to 12.0 %. Regional unemployment rates varied here from 9.4 % (Yugozapaden in the south-west) to 17.6 % (Severoiztochen in the north-east). The opposite development was observed in Romania (from 7.0 % in 2003 to 8.1 % in 2004) with regional figures between 6.2 % (Nord-Est) and 9.9 % (Sud-Est).

All Bulgarian regions recorded a downward unemployment trend, the highest being in Yugoiztochen in the south-east, Yugozapaden (-16 200 unemployed and + 39 100 employed persons) and in the central northern region of Severen tsentralen. This positive development was linked in all regions with a fall in long-term unemployment, in particular in Severozapaden in the north-west, Yugozapaden (with remarkable

changes in employment in all sectors), Severoiztochen and Yugoiztochen.

In Romania, all regions except Nord-Est and the capital region of Bucureşti recorded upward unemployment trends. Employment in agriculture (32 % of total employment at national level) and self-employment decreased noticeably in all but one region (Bucureşti), in particular in Centru, Vest and Nord-Vest. On the other hand, a positive employment trend could be found in Nord-Est (+62 400 employed in services), the capital region of Bucureşti (+67 900 employed persons in services), in Sud-Est (+28 500 employed in industry) and in Vest (+49 300 employed in industry). Long-term-unemployment decreased in the capital region of Bucureşti, while a growth was seen in Sud and Centru.

| Country / Region   | Unemployment rate<br>persons aged 15 and over |              |  | Female unemployment rate<br>persons aged 15 and over |              |  | Youth unemployment rate<br>persons aged 15-24 |              |  |
|--------------------|---|--------------|--|--|--------------|--|---|--------------|--|
|                    | 2003<br>in %                                  | 2004<br>in % | difference between<br>2004 and 2003<br>in percen. points | 2003<br>in %   | 2004<br>in % | difference between<br>2004 and 2003<br>in percen. points | 2003<br>in %                                  | 2004<br>in % | difference between<br>2004 and 2003<br>in percen. points |
| BULGARIA           | 13.7  | 12.0         | -1.6   | 13.2   | 11.5         | -1.7   | 28.2  | 25.8         | -2.4   |
| Severozapaden      | 16.5  | 14.8         | -1.7   | 14.8   | 12.7         | -2.1   | (40.4)  | (29.5)       | -10.9  |
| Severen tsentralen | 13.6  | 11.7         | -1.9   | 12.8   | 10.6         | -2.2   | 29.0  | 27.8         | -1.2   |
| Severoiztochen     | 19.4  | 17.6         | -1.8   | 20.6   | 18.4         | -2.2   | 31.9  | 31.8         | -0.1   |
| Yugozapaden        | 11.3  | 9.4          | -1.9   | 10.6   | 8.6          | -2.0   | 23.2  | 20.7         | -2.6   |
| Yuzhen tsentralen  | 11.1  | 10.5         | -0.6   | 10.0   | 9.8          | -0.2   | 25.3  | 25.8         | 0.4  |
| Yugoiztochen       | 16.2  | 13.4         | -2.8   | 17.4   | 14.0         | -3.4   | 34.6  | 26.0         | -8.7   |
| ROMANIA            | 7.0   | 8.1          | 1.0  | 6.4  | 6.9          | 0.5  | 19.6  | 21.9         | 2.3  |
| Nord-Est           | 6.3   | 6.2          | -0.1   | 5.6  | 5.1          | -0.5   | 14.9  | 17.7         | 2.8  |
| Sud-Est            | 8.3   | 9.9          | 1.6  | 7.4  | 8.5          | 1.1  | 18.3  | 24.3         | 6.0  |
| Sud                | 7.8   | 9.6          | 1.8  | 7.0  | 8.2          | 1.2  | 25.2  | 27.6         | 2.4  |
| Sud-Vest           | 6.0   | 7.5          | 1.5  | 5.3  | 6.4          | 1.1  | 19.4  | 21.2         | 1.8  |
| Vest               | 5.9   | 8.0          | 2.1  | 4.9  | 5.9          | 1.0  | 14.8  | 19.7         | 4.9  |
| Nord-Vest          | 6.0   | 6.5          | 0.5  | 5.6  | 6.0          | 0.4  | 17.2  | 18.3         | 1.1  |
| Centru             | 7.2   | 9.6          | 2.5  | 7.4  | 8.4          | 1.0  | 22.4  | 24.7         | 2.3  |
| Bucureşti          | 8.6   | 7.6          | -1.0   | 7.8  | 7.0          | -0.8   | 26.9  | 22.2         | -4.7   |

Table 7: Regional unemployment in candidate countries in 2003 and 2004

Source: Eurostat, LFS

## ➤ ESSENTIAL INFORMATION – METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

### Data characteristics

The primary source for regional labour market information is the EU Labour Force Survey (LFS). This survey is a quarterly household sample survey conducted in the Member States of the European Union, as well as in Bulgaria and Romania.

The LFS' target population is made up of all persons in private households aged 15 and over. The definitions of the survey's characteristics follow the definitions and recommendations of the International Labour Organisation (ILO). In addition, harmonisation is achieved through adherence of the Member States to common principles of questionnaire construction.

The results on Map 1 and tables 1 to 7 represent annual average data (average of the 2004 (2003, respectively) quarterly surveys), except for Germany and Cyprus. Employment figures for Germany refer to the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter while unemployment figures represent annual estimates provided by the Federal Statistical Institute of Germany. The 2003 data for Cyprus refer to the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter.

The reference year is the calendar year except for Ireland, the United Kingdom (December 2002 to November 2003 for the 2003 data, and December 2003 to November 2004 for the 2004 data) and Cyprus (April 2004 to March 2005 for the 2004 data).

### Definition of indicators

**Population** covers persons aged 15 and over, living in private households (population living in collective households, i.e. residential homes, boarding houses, hospitals, religious institutions, workers' hostels, etc. are not included). This comprises all persons living in the households surveyed during the reference week. This definition also includes persons absent from the households for short periods (but having retained a link with the private household) owing to studies, holidays, illness, business trips, etc. Persons on obligatory military service are not included.

**Employed persons** are all persons aged 15 and over (16 years and over in ES and UK, 15 to 74 years in DK, EE, HU, LV, SE and FI) who during the reference week worked at least one hour for pay or profit, or were temporarily absent from such work. Family workers are included.

**Unemployed persons** comprise persons aged 15-74 (16 to 74 in ES and UK) who were (all three conditions must be fulfilled simultaneously): 1. without work during the reference week; 2. available for work at the time (i.e. were available for paid employment or self-employment before the end of the two weeks following the reference week); 3. actively seeking work (i.e. had taken specific steps in the four-week period ending with the reference week to seek paid employment or self-employment) or who found a job to start within a period of at most three months.

**Economically active population** (labelled also as **labour force** or **active population**) comprises employed and unemployed persons.

**Unemployment rate** represents unemployed persons as a percentage of the economically active population.

The unemployment rate can be broken down further by age and sex. The **youth unemployment rate** relates to persons aged 15-24.

### Regional level

All regional results presented in the SIF publication concern NUTS level 2 regions (or the corresponding level 2 regions in the candidate countries).

Down to NUTS level 2, the regional labour market data provided by Eurostat is derived from the LFS. For more information see meta-data files (blue icon) under

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/eurostat/> (Data / Regions / Regional labour market / Regional unemployment (employment)).

For a list of the European statistical regions see

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/eurostat/ramon/nuts/codelist\\_en.cfm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/eurostat/ramon/nuts/codelist_en.cfm).

### Availability of the data

As a result of small sample sizes or an insufficient number of persons within samples for the indicators concerned, some figures have reduced reliability: these appear between brackets (e.g. the youth unemployment rate in Tirol (AT) in 2004); and some are extremely unreliable: these have been replaced with a full stop (e.g. the youth unemployment rate in Zeeland (NL) in 2003).

### Break in time series

Since the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2004, the samples for the Austrian, Italian and Maltese Labour Force Surveys have been spread over all weeks of the quarter. At the same time the sampling and weighting procedures in Greece were revised in order to improve coverage. The 2003 data for Cyprus refer to the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter, while 2004 data represent annual averages. Consequently, 2004 and 2003 data is not fully comparable for these countries.

### Employment by sectors

Agriculture covers sections A and B, Industry sections C to F, Services sections G to P – NACE Rev.1.

## ***Further information:***

### **Databases**

[EUROSTAT Website/General and regional statistics/Regions/Regional labour market/ Regional unemployment - LFS adjusted series/ Unemployment rates by sex and age, at NUTS levels 1, 2 and 3 - EU 25 \(%\)](#)

[EUROSTAT Website/General and regional statistics/Regions/Regional labour market/ Regional unemployment - LFS adjusted series/ Unemployment rates by sex and age, at NUTS levels 1, 2 and 3 - Non-EU25 Countries \(%\)](#)

[EUROSTAT Website/General and regional statistics/Regions/Regional labour market/ Regional unemployment - LFS adjusted series/ Unemployment by sex and age, at NUTS levels 1, 2 and 3 - EU 25 \(1000\)](#)

[EUROSTAT Website/General and regional statistics/Regions/Regional labour market/ Regional unemployment - LFS adjusted series/ Unemployment by sex and age, at NUTS levels 1, 2 and 3 - Non-EU25 Countries \(1000\)](#)

[EUROSTAT Website/General and regional statistics/Regions/Regional labour market/Regional employment - LFS series/Employment by sex and age, at NUTS levels 1 and 2 - EU 25 \(1000\)](#)

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