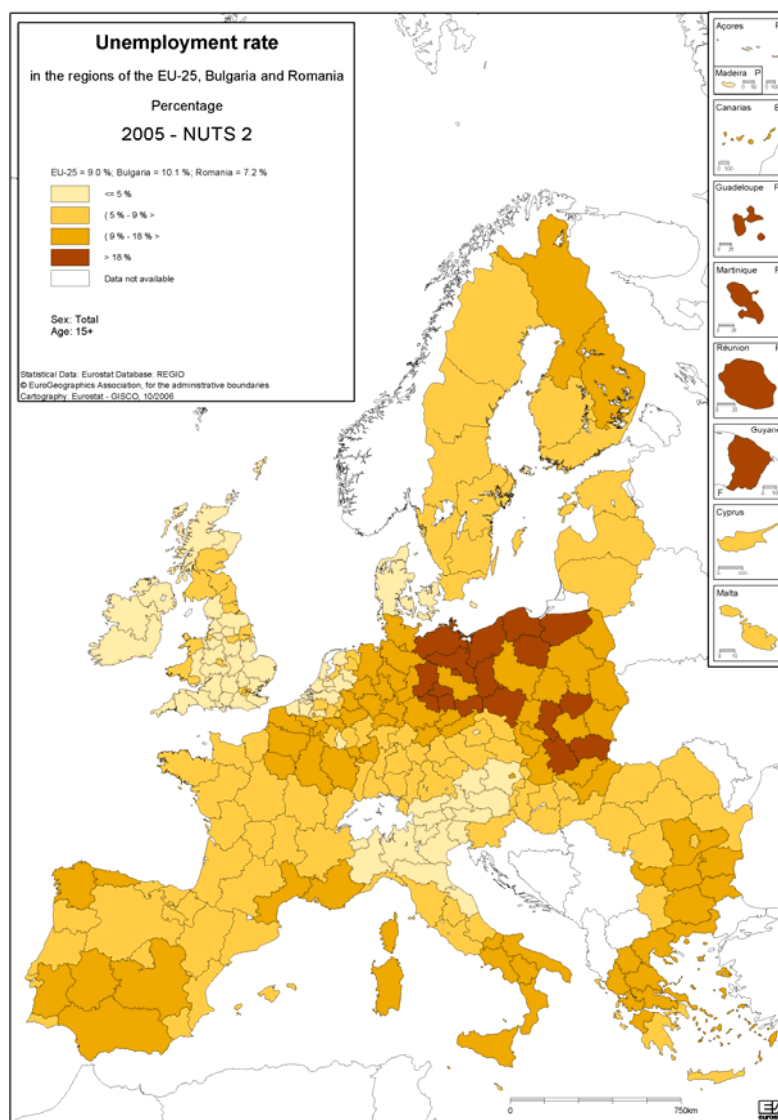


Regional unemployment in the European Union, Bulgaria and Romania in 2005

Map 1: Unemployment rate in the regions of the EU-25, Bulgaria and Romania in 2005



Source: Eurostat, LFS

In 2005, unemployment in the EU-25 decreased from 9.2% in 2004 to 9.0% (-83 600 unemployed). This was due to improvements in the labour markets of the new Member States (-279 300 unemployed), closely linked to working migration to EU-15. After the year-to-year rise in the number of unemployed persons (+222 000) in the EU-25 in 2004, the trend thus changed to positive last year.

Regional* unemployment in the EU-25 varied between 2.6% (region of Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Warwickshire in the West Midlands of the UK) and 23.1% (Východné Slovensko in eastern Slovakia) (Map 1).

In Bulgaria and Romania, a downward trend in unemployment was observed in all regions.

*Regions mentioned elsewhere in this publication refer to NUTS level 2 for the EU-25 and the corresponding level 2 in Bulgaria and Romania. This text does not cover the four French overseas regions (Guadeloupe, Martinique, Guyane and Réunion)

Statistics in focus

GENERAL AND
REGIONAL STATISTICS
POPULATION AND
SOCIAL CONDITIONS

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Regions

Author
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New Member States: decreasing unemployment in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Slovakia, increasing unemployment in Hungary

Significant positive trends in unemployment in the new Member States (MS) in 2005, compared to previous year, were registered by Estonia (-1.7 percentage points), Latvia (-1.5 p.p.), Lithuania (-3.1 p.p. – the biggest improvement in the EU), Poland (-1.2 p.p.) and Slovakia (-2.0 p.p.), whereas Hungary experienced a negative trend (+1.1 p.p.) (Table 1).

Employment in the new MS grew by 527 600 persons, almost twice as high as the drop in unemployed persons (-279 300), most sharply in Estonia (+2.0%), Cyprus (+2.5%), Lithuania (+2.9%), Poland (+2.3%: +244 600 employed males and +77 100 employed females) and Slovakia (+2.2%: +41 000 employed males and +6 500 employed females).

Table 1: Employment and unemployment in EU-25 countries in 2004 and 2005

Area / Country	Employed persons aged 15 and over			Unemployed persons aged 15-74			Unemployment rate persons aged 15 and over		
	2004 <i>in thous.</i>	2005 <i>in thous.</i>	difference between 2005 and 2004 <i>in thous.</i>	2004 <i>in thous.</i>	2005 <i>in thous.</i>	difference between 2005 and 2004 <i>in thous.</i>	2004 <i>in %</i>	2005 <i>in %</i>	difference between 2005 and 2004 <i>in percen. points</i>
EU-25	194 619.1	197 960.1	3 341.0	19 771.2	19 687.6	-83.6	9.2	9.0	-0.2
EU-15	165 589.7	168 403.1	2 813.4	14 921.3	15 117.0	195.7	8.2	8.2	0.0
New Member States	29 029.4	29 557.1	527.6	4 849.9	4 570.6	-279.3	14.3	13.4	-0.9
Belgium	4 138.9	4 235.4	96.5	379.1	390.4	11.3	8.4	8.4	0.0
Czech Republic	4 690.5	4 764.0	73.5	425.7	410.2	-15.6	8.3	7.9	-0.4
Denmark	2 738.2	2 752.4	14.2	159.6	139.7	-19.9	5.5	4.8	-0.7
Germany*	35 462.6	36 352.8	890.2	4 111.9	4 576.7	464.8	10.29133	11.2	0.9
Estonia	595.5	607.4	11.9	63.6	52.2	-11.4	9.7	7.9	-1.7
Greece	4 313.2	4 368.9	55.8	505.6	477.3	-28.3	10.5	9.8	-0.6
Spain*	17 970.8	18 973.2	1 002.4	2 213.6	1 912.5	-301.1	11.0	9.2	-1.8
France	24 861.4	25 029.5	168.1	2 644.2	2 632.4	-11.8	9.6	9.5	-0.1
Ireland	1 864.9	1 952.0	87.1	88.7	88.6	-0.1	4.5	4.3	-0.2
Italy	22 404.4	22 562.8	158.4	1 960.4	1 888.6	-71.8	8.0	7.7	-0.3
Cyprus	339.5	348.0	8.5	17.5	19.5	2.0	4.9	5.3	0.4
Latvia	1 018.0	1 033.7	15.7	118.3	101.0	-17.4	10.4	8.9	-1.5
Lithuania	1 432.6	1 473.9	41.3	184.1	132.9	-51.2	11.4	8.3	-3.1
Luxembourg	188.4	193.6	5.2	10.2	9.1	-1.1	5.1	4.5	-0.6
Hungary	3 900.4	3 901.5	1.1	252.5	302.2	49.7	6.1	7.2	1.1
Malta	147.9	148.5	0.6	11.5	11.2	-0.2	7.2	7.0	-0.2
Netherlands	8 105.8	8 110.9	5.1	387.1	402.1	15.1	4.6	4.7	0.2
Austria	3 743.9	3 824.4	80.5	194.6	207.7	13.1	4.9	5.2	0.2
Poland	13 793.9	14 115.6	321.7	3 230.3	3 045.4	-184.9	19.0	17.7	-1.2
Portugal	5 122.8	5 122.6	-0.2	365.0	422.3	57.2	6.7	7.6	1.0
Slovenia	943.4	949.2	5.8	63.3	66.0	2.7	6.3	6.5	0.2
Slovakia	2 167.8	2 215.2	47.5	483.0	430.0	-53.0	18.2	16.3	-2.0
Finland	2 364.6	2 400.8	36.2	228.8	219.6	-9.2	8.8	8.4	-0.4
Sweden*	4 290.0	4 336.4	46.4	299.5	350.9	51.4	6.5	7.5	1.0
United Kingdom	28 019.6	28 187.3	167.7	1 373.0	1 399.1	26.0	4.7	4.7	0.1

* see Methodological Notes – Break in time series

Source: Eurostat, LFS

The strategy of full employment adopted by the Lisbon European Council (March 2000) was expressed as targets for 2010: 70% overall employment rate and 60% female employment rate. Both figures refer to the 15-64 age group.

In 2005, the employment rate of the 15-64 age group in the EU-25 stood at 63.7%, thus 3.3 percentage points below the mid-term target of 67% set for 2005 by the Stockholm European Council (March 2001). For the EU-15 and the new MS the rate was as follows: 65.1% and 56.9%, respectively.

Only nine EU countries achieved the mid-term target for employment last year: Denmark, Ireland, Cyprus, the Netherlands, Austria, Portugal, Finland, Sweden and the UK. Two countries posted a figure of between 65%-67%: Germany and Slovenia, while Malta and Poland recorded employment rates of below 55%.

97 out of a total of 254 EU regions recorded a rate of 67% or above – only five of them in the new MS (three in the Czech Republic, one in Slovakia, and the single-region state Cyprus).

In the three Baltic countries, each representing a single region, unemployment after accession was on the decrease. The year-to-year changes for 2003-2004 and 2004-2005 were as follows: in Latvia -300 and -17 400 unemployed, in Lithuania -19 400 and -51 200 unemployed, and in Estonia -2 600 and -11 400 unemployed.

In 2005, they all posted falling long-term unemployment levels, in particular Lithuania (-24 500 persons).

Employment in these three countries increased in services (in Lithuania also in industry: +24 600 employed persons), but dropped in agriculture.

Despite decreasing unemployment, Lithuania saw a negative trend in the economic activity rate of the 15-64 age group: from 69.1% in 2004 to 68.4% in 2005. This was due to the fact that in the 15-34 age group the fall in unemployment was not linked to any corresponding increase in employment, which indicates working migration.

The economic activity rates, i.e. employed and unemployed persons as a percentage of population, are above the employment rates, i.e. employed persons as a percentage of population: 62.6% in Lithuania in 2005.

Table 2: Employment and unemployment in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and regions in Hungary, Poland and Slovakia in 2004 and 2005

Country / Region	Employed persons aged 15 and over			Unemployed persons aged 15-74			Unemployment rate persons aged 15 and over		
	2004 <i>in thous.</i>	2005 <i>in thous.</i>	difference between 2005 and 2004 <i>in thous.</i>	2004 <i>in thous.</i>	2005 <i>in thous.</i>	difference between 2005 and 2004 <i>in thous.</i>	2004 <i>in %</i>	2005 <i>in %</i>	difference between 2005 and 2004 <i>in percen. points</i>
ESTONIA	595.5	607.4	11.9	63.6	52.2	-11.4	9.7	7.9	-1.7
LATVIA	1 018.0	1 033.7	15.7	118.3	101.0	-17.4	10.4	8.9	-1.5
LITHUANIA	1 432.6	1 473.9	41.3	184.1	132.9	-51.2	11.4	8.3	-3.1
HUNGARY	3 900.4	3 901.5	1.1	252.5	302.2	49.7	6.1	7.2	1.1
Közép-Magyarország	1 226.3	1 238.9	12.6	57.8	66.5	8.7	4.5	5.1	0.6
Közép-Dunántúl	455.3	459.5	4.2	26.9	30.7	3.7	5.6	6.3	0.7
Nyugat-Dunántúl	424.6	425.5	0.9	20.5	26.7	6.2	4.6	5.9	1.3
Dél-Dunántúl	350.9	353.6	2.7	27.5	33.9	6.5	7.3	8.8	1.5
Észak-Magyarország	431.1	418.7	-12.4	46.2	49.6	3.4	9.7	10.6	0.9
Észak-Alföld	523.5	517.4	-6.1	40.6	51.3	10.7	7.2	9.0	1.8
Dél-Alföld	488.7	487.8	-0.9	32.6	43.2	10.6	6.3	8.1	1.9
POLAND	13 793.9	14 115.6	321.7	3 230.3	3 045.4	-184.9	19.0	17.7	-1.2
Łódzkie	1 097.8	1 114.3	16.5	253.2	233.7	-19.5	18.8	17.4	-1.4
Mazowieckie	1 964.2	1 978.5	14.4	334.1	342.9	8.9	14.6	14.8	0.2
Małopolskie	1 211.6	1 244.7	33.1	253.0	223.9	-29.1	17.3	15.3	-2.0
Śląskie	1 624.3	1 665.8	41.5	388.5	390.3	1.8	19.3	19.0	-0.3
Lubelskie	896.3	930.7	34.4	179.1	155.1	-24.1	16.7	14.3	-2.4
Podkarpackie	735.1	747.9	12.7	146.6	149.4	2.8	16.6	16.7	0.0
Świętokrzyskie	480.8	508.0	27.2	124.8	118.7	-6.1	20.6	19.0	-1.7
Podlaskie	421.3	429.7	8.4	78.0	72.2	-5.8	15.6	14.4	-1.2
Wielkopolskie	1 253.2	1 274.2	21.0	278.1	263.7	-14.4	18.2	17.2	-1.0
Zachodniopomorskie	547.6	551.5	3.9	170.9	161.6	-9.3	23.8	22.7	-1.1
Lubuskie	377.5	397.6	20.2	113.9	93.9	-19.9	23.2	19.1	-4.1
Dolnośląskie	949.2	1 003.7	54.5	313.9	296.9	-17.0	24.9	22.8	-2.1
Opolskie	322.8	351.5	28.7	69.9	71.5	1.6	17.8	16.9	-0.9
Kujawsko-Pomorskie	764.9	740.8	-24.2	216.5	183.4	-33.1	22.1	19.8	-2.2
Warmińsko-Mazurskie	467.1	483.0	16.0	134.0	123.7	-10.2	22.3	20.4	-1.9
Pomorskie	680.2	693.8	13.6	171.7	161.9	-9.9	20.2	18.9	-1.2
SLOVAKIA	2 167.8	2 215.2	47.5	483.0	430.0	-53.0	18.2	16.3	-2.0
Bratislavský kraj	302.8	313.3	10.5	27.5	17.5	-10.0	8.3	5.3	-3.0
Západné Slovensko	796.5	813.4	16.9	132.3	115.8	-16.6	14.3	12.5	-1.8
Stredné Slovensko	512.7	529.6	16.9	145.4	129.0	-16.4	22.1	19.6	-2.5
Východné Slovensko	555.8	558.9	3.1	177.6	167.6	-10.0	24.2	23.1	-1.1

Source: Eurostat, LFS

Figures of working migration from the Baltic countries highlight a significant effect of migration to their labour markets. Flows to the UK, Ireland and Sweden, which opened up their labour markets for people from the new Member States as from the first day of accession (1st May 2004), were as follows:

- UK – in 2004 (May-December) and 2005: Lithuanians 20 675 and 24 045, Latvians 9 360 and 13 665, Estonians 2 045 and 2 635
- Ireland – in 2004 (May-December) and 2005: Lithuanians 11 410 and 18 932, Latvians 5 769 and 9 412, Estonians 1 637 and 2 025
- Sweden – between May 2004 - December 2005: Estonians 1 903, Lithuanians 1 750 and Latvians 440

Around 2 000 out of a total of 2 632 work permits were issued to Estonians in Finland in 2005.

Poland, with the highest level of unemployment in the EU, has been making rapid improvements since accession. Year-to-year changes of employed and unemployed persons approximately doubled: +177 100 and -92 800 between 2003-2004; +321 700 and -184 900 between 2004-2005.

Significant falling unemployment was recorded in 12 out of 16 Polish regions (*Table 2*), especially Lubuskie in the west, Małopolskie in the south (with a marked decrease in long-term unemployment), Lubelskie in the east and two central regions (Kujawsko-Pomorskie and Łódzkie).

Employment grew in all Polish regions except Kujawsko-Pomorskie. This was due to notable changes in industry and services: mainly in Dolnośląskie (+28 500 and +30 000 employed), in Opolskie in the south (+12 100 and +15 700 employed) and Lubuskie (where employment also rose in agriculture). This positive trend resulted in rising employment rates in all Polish regions, with the biggest improvements in Lubuskie and Świętokrzyskie. Nonetheless, Poland had the lowest employment rate in the EU in 2005: 52.8%.

Working migration from Poland to the EU-15 over the last two years is put at 1.1 million persons [1] (around 3% of the total population; similar to Italian migrants living in other European countries). This has obviously had a strong influence on developments on the domestic labour market. Some estimates of Polish workers who left Poland in this period go as far as 2 million persons.

The highest flow from Poland to the EU-15 was registered by Germany: around 535 000 persons over the past two years (but only 10 000 work permits, period: July 2004 – December 2005). Work permits issued to Polish citizens in the UK and Ireland in 2004 and 2005 were as follows: 75 455 and 129 440, and 25 222 and 65 305 respectively – i.e. a total of around 295 000 persons.

In Slovakia, all four regions recorded positive trends both in employment and in unemployment (+47 500 and -53 000 persons in total, respectively).

Employment went up in industry (capital region of Bratislavský kraj, the central region of Stredné Slovensko and Východné

Slovensko in the east) and services (Západné Slovensko in the west and Stredné Slovensko). Stredné Slovensko also posted significantly higher self-employment in 2005 (+10 100 persons).

Despite improvements, the trend in economic activity in Slovakia was negative: 69.7% in 2004 and 68.9% in 2005. Similarly to Lithuania, this was because of the fact that falling unemployment in the 15-34 age group was not matched by a corresponding increase in employment, which indicates migration from the country. The highest drop in rate was observed in Východné Slovensko (from 68.3% to 66.9%). In addition, long-term unemployment increased in central and eastern Slovakia.

In 2005, changes in the Slovak labour market were in line with working migration from the country to the EU-15 – mainly to the UK (22 515) and Ireland (9 342).

In Hungary, unemployment rose in all regions, and was at a relatively low level of between 5.1% and 10.6%. The trend in unemployment in this instance was linked to decreasing overall employment in two north-eastern regions (Észak-Magyarország and Észak-Alföld) and a drop in employment in some sectors in Nyugat-Dunántúl (in the west) and Dél-Alföld (in the south-east):

- Észak-Magyarország: -6 600 and -5 100 employed in industry and services, and -6 400 self-employed;
- Észak-Alföld: -3 200 and -9 300 employed in agriculture and industry, and -4 100 self-employed, but +6 400 employed in services
- Dél-Alföld: -4 000 employed in agriculture, and -6 100 self-employed;
- Nyugat-Dunántúl: -7 200 employed in industry

At the same time, a positive year-to-year change was recorded in the south-western region of Dél-Dunántúl – growth in the employment rate from 52.3% to 53.4% and in the economic activity rate from 56.4% to 58.5%. Both indicators refer to the 15-64 age group.

As regards migration, Hungary belongs to the group of "low mobility" countries, with 0.8%-1.3% of the population showing a firm intention to migrate [1]. The primary EU-15 destinations for Hungarians were Germany and Austria. Migration in Hungary started before accession. 49 500 Hungarians (as of December 2005) had lived in Germany for 12.1 years on average. In Austria, there were 14 693 employed Hungarians in 2005 (3 250 permanently and 11 500 seasonally). But the flow of workers to Austria between 2004 and 2005 rose slightly – by 1.1% in the neighbouring region of Burgenland and in Wien (13 488 in April 2004 and 14 753 in May 2005) [2].

In 2005, 6 500 work permits were issued to Hungarians in the UK and 3 104 issued to Hungarians in Ireland.

Consequently, the effect of working migration from Hungary to EU-15 on the domestic labour market was not significant.

EU-15: positive unemployment trend in Denmark, Greece, Luxembourg, Spain, negative trend in Germany, Portugal and Sweden

In the EU-15, the most positive trends in unemployment in 2005 were recorded in Denmark, Greece, Spain and Luxembourg, while negative trends were observed in Germany, Portugal and Sweden (Table 3).

Spain and Ireland showed the biggest increase in employment in the EU. Employment significantly grew also in Belgium, Germany, Luxembourg and Austria.

Denmark, comprising a single region, is marked by a very high employment rate (75.9%). In addition to improving unemployment (-19 900 persons), employment in Denmark rose in industry by 14 300 persons. During the period May 2004-March 2006, only 9 059 work permits were granted to new MS residents in Denmark under the transitional regime.

A positive trend on the Greek labour market was recorded in two northern regions (Anatoliki Makedonia, Thraki; Kentriki Makedonia), two western regions (Ionia Nisia with +5 000 self-employed persons and Dytiki Ellada), the central region of Sterea Ellada (+11 600 employed in services), Peloponnisos (+10 400 employed in agriculture) and Attiki, comprising the capital Athens.

No figures are available on migration from the new Member States to Greece in 2005. In 2004, there were only 3 700 nationals from these countries (excluding Cyprus and Malta) seeking for work in Greece [1]. More people working in Greece come from neighbouring Bulgaria (200 000) [4] and Romania (17 800).

Luxembourg, a single-region state, recorded an increase in the employment rate of 1.1 percentage points, to 63.6%, in 2005. Even though migrant workers represent 44% of its economically active population [1] (40% of them from Portugal and 8% from Italy), migration from the new MS to Luxembourg is limited.

In Spain, the opposite trend in employment and unemployment led to the sharpest rise in the employment rate in the EU-25 in 2005. Improvement in unemployment was mainly due to notable changes in northern regions (Galicia, Cantabria, País Vasco, Castilla y León and Cataluña), in Illes Balears in the east, in Andalucía and Región de Murcia in the south.

Table 3: Employment and unemployment in Denmark, Luxembourg and some regions in Germany, Greece, Spain, Ireland, Portugal and Sweden in 2004 and 2005

Country / Region	Employed persons aged 15 and over			Unemployed persons aged 15-74			Unemployment rate persons aged 15 and over		
	2004 in thous.	2005 in thous.	difference between 2005 and 2004 in thous.	2004 in thous.	2005 in thous.	difference between 2005 and 2004 in thous.	2004 in %	2005 in %	difference between 2005 and 2004 in percen. points
DENMARK	2 738.2	2 752.4	14.2	159.6	139.7	-19.9	5.5	4.8	-0.7
LUXEMBOURG	188.4	193.6	5.2	10.2	9.1	-1.1	5.1	4.5	-0.6
Bremen (DE)*	257.4	261.0	3.6	43.3	52.1	8.8	14.3	16.6	2.3
Kassel (DE)*	529.4	543.7	14.2	42.2	55.9	13.7	7.3	9.3	2.0
Weser-Ems (DE)*	1 021.0	1 064.1	43.1	97.2	120.7	23.5	8.6	10.2	1.6
Arnsberg (DE)*	1 502.4	1 538.1	35.7	180.1	214.0	33.9	10.6	12.2	1.6
Koblenz (DE)*	644.6	681.0	36.4	50.9	65.3	14.4	7.2	8.8	1.5
Trier (DE)*	222.4	236.4	14.0	13.7	18.7	5.0	5.7	7.3	1.6
Rheinessen-Pfalz (DE)*	867.5	885.6	18.1	63.8	90.3	26.5	6.8	9.3	2.5
Saarland (DE)*	424.3	429.5	5.1	39.6	52.2	12.6	8.5	10.8	2.4
Dessau (DE)*	200.2	209.0	8.8	60.3	56.7	-3.6	22.9	21.3	-1.6
Halle (DE)*	318.4	325.5	7.1	98.2	93.5	-4.7	23.4	22.3	-1.1
Magdeburg (DE)*	481.4	490.2	8.8	120.8	112.8	-8.0	19.9	18.7	-1.2
Thüringen (DE)*	1 020.3	1 009.5	-10.8	187.8	209.9	22.1	15.3	17.2	1.9
Anatoliki Makedonia, Thraki (GR)	228.6	227.7	-0.8	34.8	30.6	-4.2	13.2	11.8	-1.4
Kentriki Makedonia (GR)	719.2	731.6	12.4	99.5	91.0	-8.6	12.2	11.1	-1.1
Ionia Nisia (GR)	85.6	90.7	5.1	11.0	8.5	-2.5	11.4	8.5	-2.8
Dytiki Ellada (GR)	262.2	268.1	5.9	37.3	31.6	-5.6	12.5	10.6	-1.9
Sterea Ellada (GR)	206.4	217.1	10.8	30.3	26.7	-3.6	12.8	10.9	-1.9
Peloponnisos (GR)	237.3	243.6	6.2	23.8	23.2	-0.6	9.1	8.7	-0.4
Attiki (GR)	1 612.7	1 631.0	18.4	161.4	157.8	-3.6	9.1	8.8	-0.3
Galicia (ES)*	1 083.6	1 130.1	46.4	170.6	124.8	-45.8	13.6	9.9	-3.7
Cantabria (ES)*	224.9	239.2	14.3	26.5	22.2	-4.2	10.5	8.5	-2.0
País Vasco (ES)*	922.0	958.2	36.3	99.1	75.8	-23.2	9.7	7.3	-2.4
Castilla y León (ES)*	959.5	1 022.7	63.3	114.7	97.6	-17.1	10.7	8.7	-2.0
Cataluña (ES)*	3 106.5	3 291.1	184.6	333.4	245.9	-87.4	9.7	7.0	-2.7
Illes Balears (ES)*	448.8	468.1	19.3	45.0	36.3	-8.6	9.1	7.2	-1.9
Andalucía (ES)*	2 763.1	2 959.6	196.4	568.4	475.6	-92.8	17.1	13.8	-3.2
Región de Murcia (ES)*	542.5	569.7	27.2	64.6	49.5	-15.1	10.6	8.0	-2.6
Border, Midland and Western (IE)	480.8	501.2	20.4	23.6	23.1	-0.5	4.7	4.4	-0.3
Southern and Eastern (IE)	1 384.1	1 450.8	66.7	65.0	65.5	0.5	4.5	4.3	-0.2
Norte (PT)	1 794.0	1 797.9	4.0	148.7	173.7	25.0	7.7	8.8	1.2
Centro (PT)	1 277.7	1 273.9	-3.7	57.8	69.6	11.9	4.3	5.2	0.9
Lisboa (PT)	1 294.2	1 290.3	-3.9	106.9	121.0	14.1	7.6	8.6	0.9
Norra Mellansverige (SE)*	372.9	376.2	3.3	31.8	35.7	3.9	7.9	8.7	0.8
Mellersta Norrland (SE)*	171.0	172.4	1.3	12.2	15.4	3.2	6.7	8.2	1.5
Västssverige (SE)*	863.9	877.8	13.9	56.5	64.0	7.4	6.1	6.8	0.6

* see Methodological Notes – Break in time series

Source: Eurostat, LFS

An upward trend in employment was observed in all Spanish regions, except the non-continental region of Ciudad Autónoma de Melilla. Upward trends were observed in particular in the capital region of Comunidad de Madrid (in services and agriculture; increase also in self-employment), in Cataluña (in services and agriculture), in Comunidad Valenciana in the east (in services), in Andalucía (in agriculture, industry and services) and in País Vasco (increase in self-employment).

Up to date figures are not available concerning migration from the new MS to Spain during 2004 and 2005. According to national statistics, 10 815 migrants from these countries (excluding Malta and Cyprus) were resident in Spain in 2004. The number of Romanians residing and working in Spain is much higher: estimated around 400 000 people with highest share in the capital region of Comunidad de Madrid and the sub-region of Castellón in Comunidad Valenciana in the south-east.

In Portugal, rising unemployment was due to higher figures in Norte (+25 000 unemployed), Centro (+11 900 unemployed) and Lisboa (+14 100 unemployed). Interestingly, at national level a different trend was observed in male and female employment (-18 800 and +18 600 respectively). The highest absolute increase in female employment was registered in Norte (+8 300 employed).

Statistical data available for Portugal show that there were only 1 034 new Member State nationals resident in Portugal in 2005. At the beginning of 2006, most people willing to take up employment in Portugal come mainly from third countries, in particular Romania, Ukraine and Belorussia.

In Germany, unemployment rate increased by more than 0.5 percentage points in 30 out of a total of 41 regions, with the relatively highest changes in five western regions (Koblenz, Trier, Rheinhessen-Pfalz, Saarland and Arnsberg), two north-western regions (Weser-Ems and Bremen) and in two central regions (Kassel and Thüringen). Similar improvements (above 0.5 p.p.) were recorded in seven eastern regions, in particular in Dessau, Halle and Magdeburg.

The number of new MS nationals residing and working in Germany account for only 0.6% of the total German population.

Three countries that opened up their labour markets to people from the new Member States as from the first day of accession saw the following developments in 2005:

Ireland:

- Slight improvement in unemployment: from 4.5% in 2004 to 4.3% in 2005
- Marked increase in employment (4.7%), the second highest in the EU – this growth is seen as "a milestone in the history of the Irish economy" [1]: +20 400 employed in Border, Midland and Western, +66 700 employed in Southern and Eastern
- Inflow of 112 887 workers from the new Member States (53 582 in 2004).

Sweden:

- Increasing unemployment but also employment in all regions (+40 400 employed males, +6 000 employed females in total)
- Positive employment trend in services in two central regions (Norra Mellansverige and Mellersta Norrland: +6 400 and +3 500 employed, respectively), and Västsverige in the south-west (+15 300 employed)
- 8 768 work permits issued to people from the new MS in the period May 2004 - December 2005.

UK:

- Stable unemployment rate of 4.7%, +167 000 employed and +26 000 unemployed persons
- Positive development in unemployment in Inner London, while increasing unemployment in Outer London and the region of Dorset and Somerset (in the south-west);
- Highest employment growth in six regions (Cheshire in the north-west; west-midlands region of Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Warwickshire; Kent in the south-east; south-western region of Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and North Somerset; Highlands and Islands in north-western Scotland; Northern Ireland)
- Largest decline in employment in Lancashire (in the north-west), in the region of Dorset and Somerset, and region of East Riding and North Lincolnshire (in Yorkshire and the Humber)
- 210 090 work permits issued to people from the new MS (134 535 in 2004, i.e. 344 625 persons in total in 2004-2005)

Regional unemployment rate: between 2.6% (Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Warwickshire – UK) and 23.1% (Východné Slovensko – SK)

Regional unemployment varied in the EU-25 last year between 2.6% in the region of Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Warwickshire (west midlands UK) and 23.1% in Východné Slovensko (eastern Slovakia) (Table 4).

Unemployment of under 5% (Map 1) was recorded in 3 out of 11 regions in Belgium, both Irish regions, 9 out of 21 regions in Italy, 8 out of 12 in the Netherlands, 6 out of 9 in Austria, 26 out of 37 in the UK and 1 region each in the Czech Republic and Portugal (Map 1). These low figures were also observed in Denmark and Luxembourg, both of them single-state regions.

The biggest increases in employment in regions with the lowest unemployment were in Southern and Eastern (Ireland;

+53 700 employed in services) and Salzburg (western Austria; +7 000 employed in services).

Regions with unemployment above 18%, twice as high as the EU figure (9.0%), could be found in Germany (8 out of a total of 41 regions), Spain (1 out of 19), Poland (8 out of 16) and Slovakia (2 out of 4).

From regions with the highest levels of unemployment, marked increases in employment in services and industry were recorded in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (north-eastern Germany) and Dolnośląskie (south-western Poland).

Table 4: EU-25 regions with lowest/highest unemployment in 2005 and the unemployment level in 2004

Region	Employed persons aged 15 and over			Unemployed persons aged 15-74			Unemployment rate persons aged 15 and over		
	2004 in thous.	2005 in thous.	difference between 2005 and 2004 in thous.	2004 in thous.	2005 in thous.	difference between 2005 and 2004 in thous.	2004 in %	2005 in %	difference between 2005 and 2004 in percen. points
Hereford., Worcester. and Warwick. (UK)	611.7	633.7	22.0	20.0	16.8	-3.2	3.2	2.6	-0.6
Provincia Autonoma Bolzano/Bozen (IT)	221.9	223.3	1.5	6.0	6.3	0.3	2.7	2.7	0.1
North Yorkshire (UK)	372.8	375.5	2.7	9.9	11.1	1.2	2.6	2.9	0.3
Salzburg (AT)	251.1	262.8	11.8	9.6	8.6	-1.0	3.7	3.2	-0.5
Valle d'Aosta/Vallée d'Aoste (IT)	55.5	54.8	-0.7	1.7	1.8	0.1	3.0	3.2	0.2
Cheshire (UK)	470.2	488.3	18.1	15.0	16.6	1.5	3.1	3.3	0.2
Lincolnshire (UK)	323.2	321.1	-2.1	15.7	11.0	-4.7	4.6	3.3	-1.3
Zeeland (NL)	177.3	181.1	3.8	6.3	6.2	0.0	3.4	3.3	-0.1
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly (UK)	240.1	233.7	-6.4	9.9	8.2	-1.7	4.0	3.4	-0.6
Gloucester., Wilt. and North Somerset (UK)	1 093.2	1 133.3	40.1	37.8	40.7	2.9	3.3	3.5	0.1
⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮
Kujawsko-Pomorskie (PL)	764.9	740.8	-24.2	216.5	183.4	-33.1	22.0	19.8	-2.2
Brandenburg-Nordost (DE)*	478.9	496.4	17.4	NA	123.5	x	NA	19.9	x
Warmińsko-Mazurskie (PL)	467.1	483.0	16.0	134.0	123.7	-10.2	22.3	20.4	-1.9
Leipzig (DE)*	438.5	455.3	16.8	106.7	117.2	10.5	19.3	20.5	1.1
Dessau (DE)*	200.2	209.0	8.8	60.3	56.7	-3.6	22.9	21.3	-1.6
Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (DE)*	690.7	726.4	35.7	189.0	197.4	8.4	21.2	21.4	0.2
Halle (DE)*	318.4	325.5	7.1	98.2	93.5	-4.7	23.4	22.3	-1.1
Zachodniopomorskie (PL)	547.6	551.5	3.9	170.9	161.6	-9.3	23.8	22.7	-1.1
Dolnośląskie (PL)	949.2	1 003.7	54.5	313.9	296.9	-17.0	24.8	22.8	-2.0
Východné Slovensko (SK)	555.8	558.9	3.1	177.6	167.6	-10.0	24.2	23.1	-1.1

* see Methodological Notes – Break in time series

Source: Eurostat, LFS

Female unemployment rate: lowest in Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Warwickshire (UK) (2.3%), highest in Ciudad Autónoma de Ceuta (ES) (29.4%)

In 2005, the female unemployment rate in the EU-25 stood at 9.9% (9.1% in the EU-15 and 14.5% in the new MS).

Female employment, the counterpart of unemployment, reached 56.2% in the EU-25 last year – the mid-term target for 2005 was 57% (Stockholm European Council (March 2001)). In the EU-15 the rate was 57.3% and in the new MS 50.7%. These figures refer to the 15-64 age group.

At national level, the female employment rate for the age group 15-64 (i.e. the proportion of those employed out of all females in that age group) was at least 57% in 15 EU countries, while rates of below 50% were recorded in 4 EU countries (Greece, Italy, Malta and Poland).

145 out of a total of 254 EU-25 regions posted female employment rates of at least at 57%.

Table 5: EU-25 regions with lowest/highest female unemployment in 2005 and the corresponding level in 2004

Region	Employed females aged 15 and over			Unemployed females aged 15-74			Female unemployment rate persons aged 15 and over		
	2004 in thous.	2005 in thous.	difference between 2005 and 2004 in thous.	2004 in thous.	2005 in thous.	difference between 2005 and 2004 in thous.	2004 in %	2005 in %	difference between 2005 and 2004 in percen. points
Hereford., Worcester. and Warwick. (UK)	281.6	298.5	16.9	8.4	7.0	-1.3	2.9	2.3	-0.6
East Wales (UK)	234.7	239.9	5.3	8.1	6.2	-1.9	3.3	2.5	-0.8
Gloucester., Wilt. and North Somerset (UK)	509.1	533.8	24.7	15.8	17.1	1.4	3.0	3.1	0.1
Dorset and Somerset (UK)	276.2	268.1	-8.2	6.1	8.7	2.6	2.2	3.1	1.0
Salzburg (AT)	114.8	122.5	7.7	(5.1)	(4.3)	-0.8	(4.3)	(3.4)	-0.9
Northern Ireland (UK)	325.5	338.0	12.5	10.3	12.1	1.8	3.1	3.4	0.4
Hampshire and Isle of Wight (UK)	412.4	420.5	8.2	12.8	15.1	2.3	3.0	3.5	0.5
Berkshire, Buckingham. and Oxford. (UK)	531.4	533.7	2.3	21.5	19.4	-2.2	3.9	3.5	-0.4
Provincia Autonoma Bolzano/Bozen (IT)	93.3	93.0	-0.3	3.4	3.4	0.0	3.5	3.5	0.0
Zeeland (NL)	76.8	78.5	1.7	(3.4)	(2.9)	-0.5	(4.2)	(3.5)	-0.7
⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮
Sicilia (IT)	456.7	476.4	19.7	141.9	131.2	-10.7	23.7	21.6	-2.1
Kujawsko-Pomorskie (PL)	345.4	325.6	-19.8	102.7	90.4	-12.3	22.9	21.7	-1.2
Extremadura (ES)*	123.5	137.9	14.4	46.3	39.9	-6.4	27.3	22.4	-4.8
Warmińsko-Mazurskie (PL)	203.4	212.3	8.9	66.3	61.9	-4.4	24.6	22.6	-2.0
Ciudad Autónoma de Melilla (ES)*	9.1	7.7	-1.3	(3.0)	(2.3)	-0.7	(24.7)	(23.3)	-1.5
Dolnośląskie (PL)	430.1	451.4	21.3	147.1	140.1	-7.0	25.5	23.7	-1.8
Východné Slovensko (SK)	246.4	242.9	-3.6	80.5	76.5	-4.0	24.6	24.0	-0.7
Zachodniopomorskie (PL)	248.0	241.7	-6.3	81.7	79.6	-2.1	24.8	24.8	0.0
Dytiki Makedonia (GR)	35.5	34.0	-1.5	12.5	13.2	0.7	26.0	28.0	2.0
Ciudad Autónoma de Ceuta (ES)*	7.1	8.2	1.1	.	(3.4)	x	.	(29.4)	x

* see Methodological Notes – Break in time series

Source: Eurostat, LFS

The lowest female unemployment rates were observed in the UK (7 regions), Austria (1), Italy (1) and the Netherlands (1) (Table 5). Female employment rates varied in these regions from 59.0% to 72.6%.

The highest female unemployment rates were found in Poland (4 regions), Spain (3), Greece (1), Italy (1) and Slovakia (1). The female employment rates in these countries were below 50%, with the following variations: in Poland 41.8%-44.9%, in Spain 34.4%-39.9%, in Dytiki Makedonia (northern Greece) 37.0%, in Sicilia (southern Italy) 28.2% and in Východné Slovensko (eastern Slovakia) 44.6%.

In countries with the highest changes in total unemployment between 2004 and 2005, the range of regional female unemployment was as follows:

- New MS: Poland 14.3%-24.8%, Slovakia 6.2%-24.0% and Hungary 5.7%-10.0%. Single-region states: Estonia 7.1%, Latvia 8.7% and Lithuania 8.3%.
- EU-15: Greece 11.2%-28.0%, Spain 7.6%-29.4%, Germany 6.3%-21.5%, Portugal 4.9%-10.6% and Sweden 6.1%-8.8%. Single-region states: Denmark 5.3% and Luxembourg 5.8%.

Youth unemployment rate: lowest in Zeeland (NL) (6.2%), highest in Calabria (IT) (46.1%)

The EU-25 youth unemployment rate was 18.7% in 2005, more than twice as high as the total unemployment rate (9.0%). Similarly, the figures in the EU-15 were 16.9% (youth unemployment) and 8.2% (total unemployment); the difference was even higher in the new MS: 29.5% (youth unemployment) and 13.4% (total unemployment).

The best performing regions as regards youth unemployment were in the Netherlands (6 regions - Zeeland recorded the lowest figure in the EU: 6.2%), in the UK (2), Austria (1) and Italy (1). On the other hand, the highest youth unemployment was observed in Poland (6 regions), Italy (2 regions - Calabria had the highest youth unemployment in the EU: 46.1%), Greece (1) and Slovakia (1).

In these twenty regions (Table 6), notable changes in youth employment were observed in Oberösterreich (northern Austria) and in Warmińsko-Mazurskie (northern Poland), while

a negative trend was recorded in Dorset and Somerset (south-western UK), Sicilia and Calabria (southern Italy).

In countries with the highest changes in total unemployment, the variation in regional youth unemployment was as follows:

- New MS: Poland 30.3%-45.0%, Slovakia 9.8%-41.4% and Hungary 13.5%-28.5%. Single-region states: Estonia 15.9%, Latvia 13.6% and Lithuania 15.7%.
- EU-15: Greece 17.7%-44.1%, Spain 12.8%-28.3%, Germany 9.4%-27.6%, Portugal 14.6%-20.4% and Sweden 18.5%-23.9%. Single-region states: Denmark 8.6% and Luxembourg 13.7%.

Table 6: EU-25 regions with lowest/highest youth unemployment in 2005 and the corresponding level in 2004

Region	Youth employment persons aged 15-24			Youth unemployment persons aged 15-24			Youth unemployment rate persons aged 15-24		
	2004 in thous.	2005 in thous.	difference between 2005 and 2004 in thous.	2004 in thous.	2005 in thous.	difference between 2005 and 2004 in thous.	2004 in %	2005 in %	difference between 2005 and 2004 in percen. points
Zeeland (NL)	29.0	28.9	-0.1	(1.7)	(1.9)	0.2	(5.4)	(6.2)	0.8
Noord-Brabant (NL)	198.5	195.5	-3.0	13.8	13.5	-0.2	6.5	6.5	0.0
Utrecht (NL)	94.7	95.2	0.5	7.3	7.0	-0.3	7.2	6.8	-0.3
Oberösterreich (AT)	96.1	102.4	6.2	8.9	7.6	-1.3	8.4	6.9	-1.5
Provincia Autonoma Bolzano/Bozen (IT)	23.8	22.8	-1.0	.	(1.8)	x	.	(7.3)	x
Dorset and Somerset (UK)	86.6	74.3	-12.4	.	6.0	x	.	7.5	x
Gelderland (NL)	155.6	155.3	-0.3	13.0	13.0	0.0	7.7	7.7	0.0
Hereford., Worcester. and Warwick. (UK)	79.7	82.4	2.7	7.9	7.0	-1.0	9.1	7.8	-1.2
Overijssel (NL)	91.1	92.2	1.1	9.3	7.9	-1.4	9.3	7.9	-1.4
Noord-Holland (NL)	186.7	185.8	-0.9	16.4	16.3	-0.1	8.1	8.1	0.0
⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮
Kujawsko-Pomorskie (PL)	81.9	81.0	-0.9	59.5	52.1	-7.5	42.1	39.1	-3.0
Warmińsko-Mazurskie (PL)	34.0	39.9	6.0	29.7	26.5	-3.2	46.7	39.9	-6.8
Východné Slovensko (SK)	60.6	57.4	-3.2	44.8	40.5	-4.3	42.5	41.4	-1.1
Zachodniopomorskie (PL)	51.3	48.7	-2.5	42.8	34.9	-7.9	45.5	41.7	-3.8
Podkarpackie (PL)	62.4	58.9	-3.5	41.6	45.1	3.4	40.0	43.3	3.3
Świętokrzyskie (PL)	37.6	39.3	1.7	28.3	30.4	2.1	42.9	43.6	0.7
Dytiki Makedonia (GR)	5.8	6.0	0.2	5.6	4.7	-0.9	49.3	44.1	-5.3
Sicilia (IT)	112.1	101.8	-10.3	84.4	82.6	-1.8	42.9	44.8	1.9
Dolnośląskie (PL)	83.5	80.9	-2.6	76.9	66.1	-10.7	47.9	45.0	-3.0
Calabria (IT)	41.6	33.1	-8.5	28.3	28.3	-0.1	40.5	46.1	5.5

Source: Eurostat, LFS

Bulgaria and Romania: decreasing unemployment in all regions

In 2005, Bulgaria and Romania recorded positive trends in unemployment compared to 2004: from 12.0% to 10.1% and from 8.1% to 7.2% respectively (Table 7). This was due to improvements in all their regions, in particular in Severoiztochen (north-east), Yugozapaden (south-west) and Yugoiztochen (south-east) in Bulgaria and in Sud-Est, Vest and Centru in Romania.

In Bulgaria, this trend was linked with rising employment in Severoiztochen (+6 600 employed in construction), Yugozapaden (22 300 males and 3 900 females, +14 600 in industry) and Yugoiztochen (+6 200 in construction).

At the same time, a negative trend in economic activity rate was observed between 2004 and 2005 in Severozapaden (north-west), from 55.8% to 54.6% (the lowest figure in Bulgaria), and in Yugoiztochen, from 61.2% to 60.1%. In contrast, in Severen tsentralen (north central) the rate rose from 59.0% to 60.0%. These figures refer to the 15-64 age group.

Of the three Romanian regions that saw the sharpest drop in unemployment (Sud-Est, Vest and Centru), only in Centru was this linked to an increase in employment (+19 600 in agriculture, +9 200 services; but -19 000 in industry).

Despite declining unemployment, there was a negative trend in economic activity in the 15-64 age group in all Romanian regions, particularly in Nord-Est (from 66.8% in 2004 to 65.5% in 2005), Sud-Est (from 60.8% to 59.5%) and Vest (from 61.8% to 60.6%).

Self-employment fell in Bulgaria (-9 600 persons), but increased significantly in all Romanian regions except Sud-Est.

There are no figures available on working migration from these two countries to the EU-15 in 2005. The largest Bulgarian communities are found mainly in Greece (200 000) [4], Italy (60 000) and Spain (80 000), emigration to other EU countries being marginal. Destinations chosen by Bulgarians are most often located outside Europe: USA, Canada, Australia and South Africa.

The numbers of Romanians resident in Europe are as follows: around 400 000 [1] in Spain, 175 000 in Italy, 73 000 in Germany, 60 000 in France in 2005 and 17 800 in Greece in 2004. Most Romanians prefer overseas destinations: Canada and USA.

Table 7: Regional unemployment in Bulgaria and Romania in 2004 and 2005

Country / Region	Employed persons aged 15 and over			Unemployed persons aged 15-74			Unemployment rate persons aged 15 and over		
	2004 in thous.	2005 in thous.	difference between 2005 and 2004 in thous.	2004 in thous.	2005 in thous.	difference between 2005 and 2004 in thous.	2004 in %	2005 in %	difference between 2005 and 2004 in percen. points
BULGARIA	2 922.6	2 981.9	59.4	400.0	334.4	-65.7	12.0	10.1	-2.0
Severozapaden	157.5	152.4	-5.1	27.4	24.2	-3.2	14.8	13.7	-1.1
Severen tsentralen	412.2	414.5	2.3	54.6	50.2	-4.4	11.7	10.8	-0.9
Severoiztochen	454.7	481.4	26.7	97.3	73.5	-23.8	17.6	13.2	-4.4
Yugozapaden	894.5	920.7	26.2	92.3	75.4	-16.9	9.4	7.6	-1.8
Yuzhen tsentralen	721.3	723.9	2.6	84.7	80.3	-4.4	10.5	10.0	-0.5
Yugoiztochen	282.3	289.0	6.7	43.8	30.8	-13.0	13.4	9.6	-3.8
ROMANIA	9 103.2	9 114.6	11.3	799.5	704.5	-95.1	8.1	7.2	-0.9
Nord-Est	1 694.2	1 684.2	-10.0	112.9	101.9	-11.1	6.2	5.7	-0.5
Sud-Est	1 140.7	1 141.6	0.9	125.7	98.5	-27.2	9.9	7.9	-2.0
Sud	1 408.1	1 406.8	-1.3	149.0	142.5	-6.5	9.6	9.2	-0.4
Sud-Vest	1 033.1	1 040.0	6.9	84.0	73.7	-10.3	7.5	6.6	-0.9
Vest	787.6	785.1	-2.5	68.5	56.2	-12.3	8.0	6.7	-1.3
Nord-Vest	1 110.4	1 115.4	5.0	77.7	69.9	-7.7	6.5	5.9	-0.6
Centru	972.2	981.5	9.2	103.6	90.2	-13.4	9.6	8.4	-1.2
Bucureşti	956.8	960.0	3.2	78.2	71.6	-6.5	7.6	6.9	-0.6

Source: Eurostat, LFS

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➤ ESSENTIAL INFORMATION – METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

Data characteristics

The primary source of regional labour market information is the EU Labour Force Survey (LFS). The LFS is a quarterly household sample survey conducted in the 25 Member States of the European Union and in Bulgaria and Romania in accordance with Council Regulation (EEC) No 577/98 of 9 March 1998. This SIF publication does not cover three EFTA countries (Iceland, Norway and Switzerland) or Croatia, in all of which the LFS is also conducted (for Switzerland and Croatia no regional data are available).

The LFS target population is made up of all persons in private households aged 15 and over. LFS sampling rates vary between 0.3% and 3.3%. The survey definitions are based on the definitions and recommendations of the International Labour Organisation (ILO). In addition, harmonisation is achieved through adherence by the Member States to common principles of questionnaire design.

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

The figures in Map 1 and Tables 1 to 7 are annual averages of the quarterly LFS figures except for the 2004 data for Germany. For 2004, employment figures for Germany refer to the 2nd quarter, while unemployment figures are annual estimates provided by the Federal Statistical Office of Germany.

Main sources of working migration data

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http://www.ecas.org/file_uploads/1182.pdf

- Source of data on migration to Ireland: Department of social and family affairs (DSFA), Ireland.

- Source of data on migration to the UK: A joint online report by the Home Office, the Department for Work and Pensions, the HM Revenue & Customs and the Office of the Deputy

Prime Minister: Accession Monitoring Report May 2004 – December 2005. Crown, London 28 February 2006.

<http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/6353/aboutus/accessionmonitoringreport1.pdf>

Break in time series

The data for Sweden are from a revised questionnaire. In particular, students looking for jobs and available for work are now considered as unemployed according to EU definitions.

In 2005, the Spanish questionnaire was revised to improve the coverage of short duration jobs and of methods used to find work. The impact of these changes in Spain was estimated at +0.4 percentage points on the employment rate (16-64 year-olds), +0.2 p.p. on the economic activity rate and -0.4 p.p. on the unemployment rate.

For 2004, employment figures for Germany refer to the 2nd quarter while unemployment figures are annual LFS-based estimates provided by the Federal Statistical Office of Germany. The 2005 data for Germany are annual averages of the quarterly LFS results.

Availability of data

As a result of the small sample sizes or an insufficient number of persons within samples for the indicators concerned, some figures have reduced reliability: these are in brackets (e.g. the youth unemployment rate in Zeeland (NL) in 2004 and 2005); and some are extremely unreliable: these have been replaced by a full stop (e.g. the youth unemployment rate in Dorset and Somerset (UK) in 2004).

Employment by sectors

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

Data for EU and France

Figures for France and the EU include four French overseas regions (Guadeloupe, Martinique, Guyane and Réunion).

Definition of indicators

Population covers persons aged 15 and over, living in private households (persons 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 household 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 were those aged 15 and over (16 and over in ES and UK, 15 to 74 in DK, EE, HU, LV, SE and FI,) who during the reference week did any work for pay, profit or family gain for at least one hour, or were not at work but had a job or business from which they were temporarily absent because of, for example, illness, holidays, industrial dispute and education or training. 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. currently available for work; 3. actively seeking work in the past four weeks or who had found a job to start within the next three months.

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

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

Youth unemployment rate gives unemployed persons aged 15-24 as a percentage of the economically active population of the same age group.

Economic activity rate gives employed and unemployed persons as a percentage of population.

Employment rate gives employed persons as a percentage of population. The prime age category for this indicator is 15-64 for both males and females.

Long-term unemployed persons comprise persons unemployed for one year or longer.

Self-employment refers to persons who work in their own business, professional practice or farm for the purpose of profit or gain.

Regional level

Regional results presented in the SIF publication refer to NUTS level 2 regions (or the corresponding level 2 regions in Bulgaria and Romania).

Down to NUTS level 2, the regional labour market data provided by Eurostat are taken 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.cf.

Further information:

Data:

[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 \(1000\)](#)

[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 - Non-EU25 Countries \(1000\)](#)

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