

# Statistics in focus

## GENERAL STATISTICS

THEME 1 – 1/2001

## REGIONS

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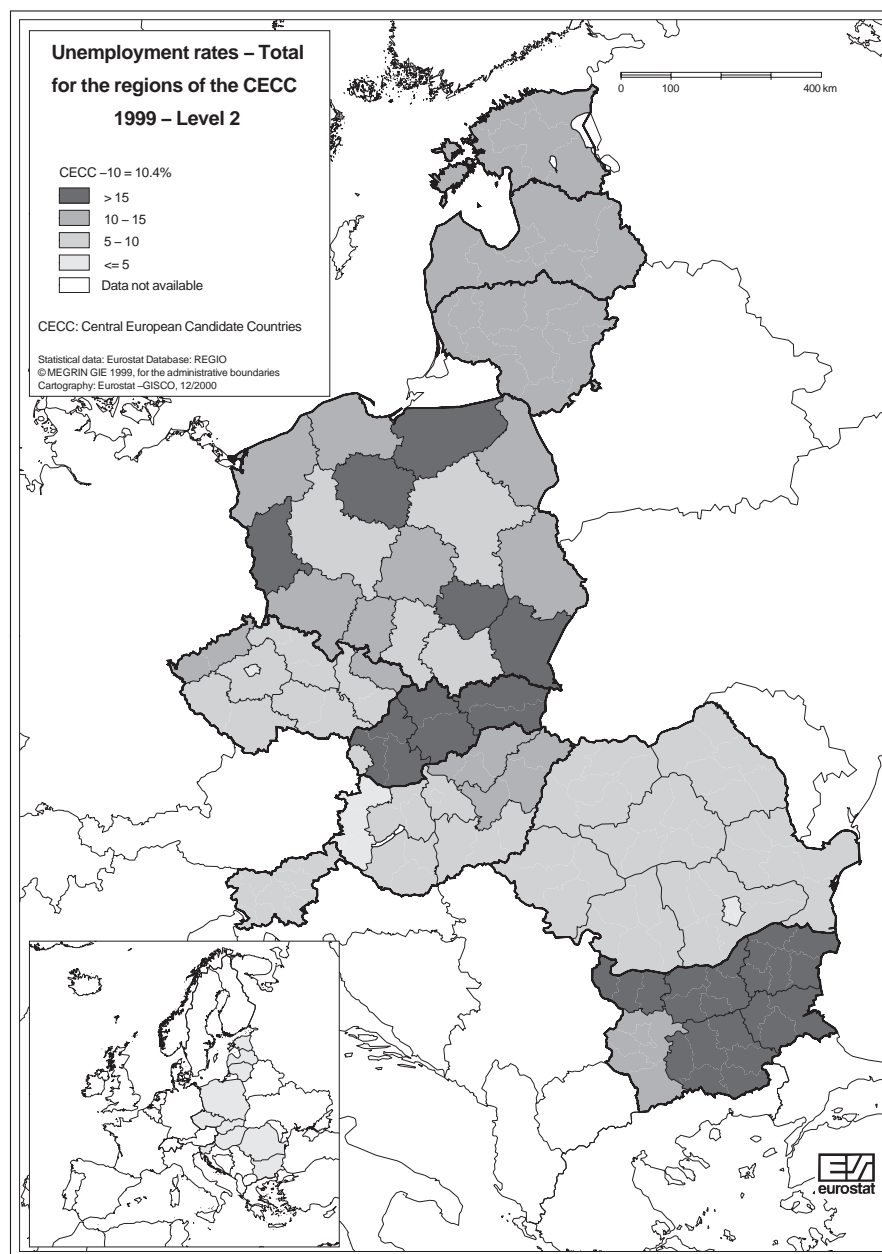
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# Regional unemployment rates in the Central European Candidate Countries 1999

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*Figure 1: Unemployment rates 1999 - total - level 2*

According to the most recent estimates, the unemployment rates for the second quarter 1999 for level 2 regions in the Central European Candidate Countries (CECC) varied between 3.2% and 23.7%. Breakdown by gender show that the range for women is similar, i.e. between 3.8% and 25.4%. The youth unemployment has a wider range, between 7.2% and 48.8%.



Manuscript completed on: 27/11/2000  
ISSN 1561-4875  
Catalogue number: KS-DN-01-001-EN-I  
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## CECC unemployment rates vary between 3,2% and 23.7%.

Region	Unemployment rate
PRAHA (CZ)	3.2
BUCURESTI (RO)	3.4
NYUGAT-DUNÁNTÚL (HU)	4.4
KÖZÉP-MAGYARORSZÁG (HU)	5.2
SUD-VEST (RO)	5.4
NORD-VEST (RO)	5.6
DÉL-ALFÖLD (HU)	5.7
BRATISLAVSKÝ (SK)	5.9
:	:
SEVEREN TSENTRALEN (BG)	17.7
SEVEROZAPADEN (BG)	21.2
WARMÍNSKO-MAZURSKIE (PL)	21.3
VÝCHODNÉ SLOVENSKO (SK)	21.9
SEVEROIZTOCHEN (BG)	23.2
YUGOIZTOCHEN (BG)	23.7

Table 1: The unemployment in the regions of the Central European Candidate Countries 1999

The mean unemployment rate in the Central European Candidate Countries (CECC), i.e. the ratio of unemployed persons to the total economically active population, stood at 10.4% in the second quarter 1999. At regional level there were some remarkable deviations from this average.

Taking only level 2 regions into consideration, the unemployment rates varied between 3.2% in the Czech capital region of Praha and 23.7% in the

Bulgarian region Yugoiztochen. Interestingly this range is quite similar to the range of the European Union, where unemployment rates for NUTS level 2 regions vary between 2.1% and 28.7%.

Of the 53 regions under consideration, as many as three achieved an unemployment rate below 5%. These regions can be found in the Czech Republic, in Romania and in Hungary. A further 22 regions ranged below 10%. At the other end of the scale only five regions exceeded 20%, these were in Bulgaria, Slovakia and Poland.

Looking for the most important factors influencing the unemployment rates at the regional breakdown at level 3, where data are available upon request, it can be seen that the capital regions show the lowest unemployment rates, regardless whether total, female or youth unemployment is taken. The exception are Slovenia and Hungary, where the border regions to Italy and Austria respectively have the lowest unemployment rates. The border effect to Austria seems to be important as well for the unemployment rates of Slovakia, whereas for Poland the border regions to Germany show higher unemployment than the average.

Table 1 lists the regions with the lowest and highest unemployment rates in 1999.

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

	Level-2-regions with minimum value		Level-2-regions with maximum value	
BG	YUGOZAPADEN	11.3	YUGOIZTOCHEN	23.7
CZ	PRAHA	3.2	OSTRAVSKO	13.7
HU	NYUGAT-DUNÁNTÚL	4.4	ÉSZAK-MAGYARORSZÁG	11.4
PL	MAZOWIECKIE	9.2	WARMINSKO-MAZURSKIE	21.3
RO	BUCURESTI	3.4	SUD-EST	7.3
SK	BRATISLAVSKÝ	5.9	VÝCHODNÉ SLOVENSKO	21.9

Table 2: Range of unemployment rate on CECC level-2-regions in 1999

## Falling unemployment in Hungary and Lithuania

The trends that can be observed at national level are also reflected at regional level. Total unemployment rose from 1998 to 1999 from 9.1% to 10.4% for all CECC. Whereas the change for Latvia, Slovenia, Romania and Bulgaria was moderate, in Lithuania and Hungary the unemployment rates decreased by more than two percentage points. In Estonia, Poland, Slovakia and the Czech Republic, on the other hand, the unemployment rates increased by more than two percentage points.

## Female unemployment rates similar to male rates

Region	Female unemployment rates
PRAHA (CZ)	3.8
BUCURESTI (RO)	3.8
SUD-VEST (RO)	4.4
NYUGAT-DUNÁNTÚL (HU)	4.5
KÖZÉP-MAGYARORSZÁG (HU)	4.8
NORD-VEST (RO)	5.1
DÉL-ALFÖLD (HU)	5.2
:	
SEVEROZAPADEN (BG)	17.5
STREDNÉ SLOVENSKO (SK)	17.6
VÝCHODNÉ SLOVENSKO (SK)	21.5
WARMÍNSKO-MAZURSKIE (PL)	23.1
SEVEROIZTOCHEN (BG)	24.0
YUGOIZTOCHEN (BG)	25.4

The breakdown by gender shows that the range for female unemployment rates is similar to the range for men, i.e. between 3.8% for the capital region of the Czech Republic Praha and 25.4%, again for the Bulgarian region of Yugoiztochen.

For the European Union NUTS level 2 regions this range is, at 2.0% to 41.1%, wider than for the CECC. From that perspective, it could be concluded that the role of men and women in the CECC labour market is more equal than in the European Union.

Table 3: The regions on the CECC with the highest/lowest female unemployment rates in 1999

## Wider range of Youth unemployment - but less than EU

Region	Youth unemployment rate
NYUGAT-DUNÁNTÚL (HU)	7.2
PRAHA (CZ)	8.4
BUCURESTI (RO)	9.2
KÖZÉP-MAGYARORSZÁG (HU)	9.3
KÖZÉP-DUNÁNTÚL (HU)	9.5
DÉL-ALFÖLD (HU)	11.3
JIHOZÁPAD (CZ)	11.7
:	
SEVEROZAPADEN (BG)	38.7
VÝCHODNÉ SLOVENSKO (SK)	41.5
SWIETOKRZYSKIE (PL)	41.6
SEVEROIZTOCHEN (BG)	44.0
YUGOIZTOCHEN (BG)	46.7
PODKARPACKIE (PL)	47.9
WARMÍNSKO-MAZURSKIE (PL)	48.8

Table 4: The regions on the CECC with the highest/lowest youth unemployment rates in 1999

The youth unemployment rates show a wider range than the total or female rates. They varied between 7.2% in the Hungarian region of Nyugat-Dunántúl and 48.8% in the Polish region of Warmińsko-Mazurskie. Compared to the youth unemployment within the European Union, however, there are less extreme values. No region of the CECC exceeds 50%. Only six regions in Poland, Bulgaria and Slovakia surpassed 40%.

Disregarding Romania, where no figures for 1998 are available, it can be seen that it is especially in Poland where there had been a sharp increase of the youth unemployment rates. Equally important is the increase in the most easterly Czech region Ostravský.

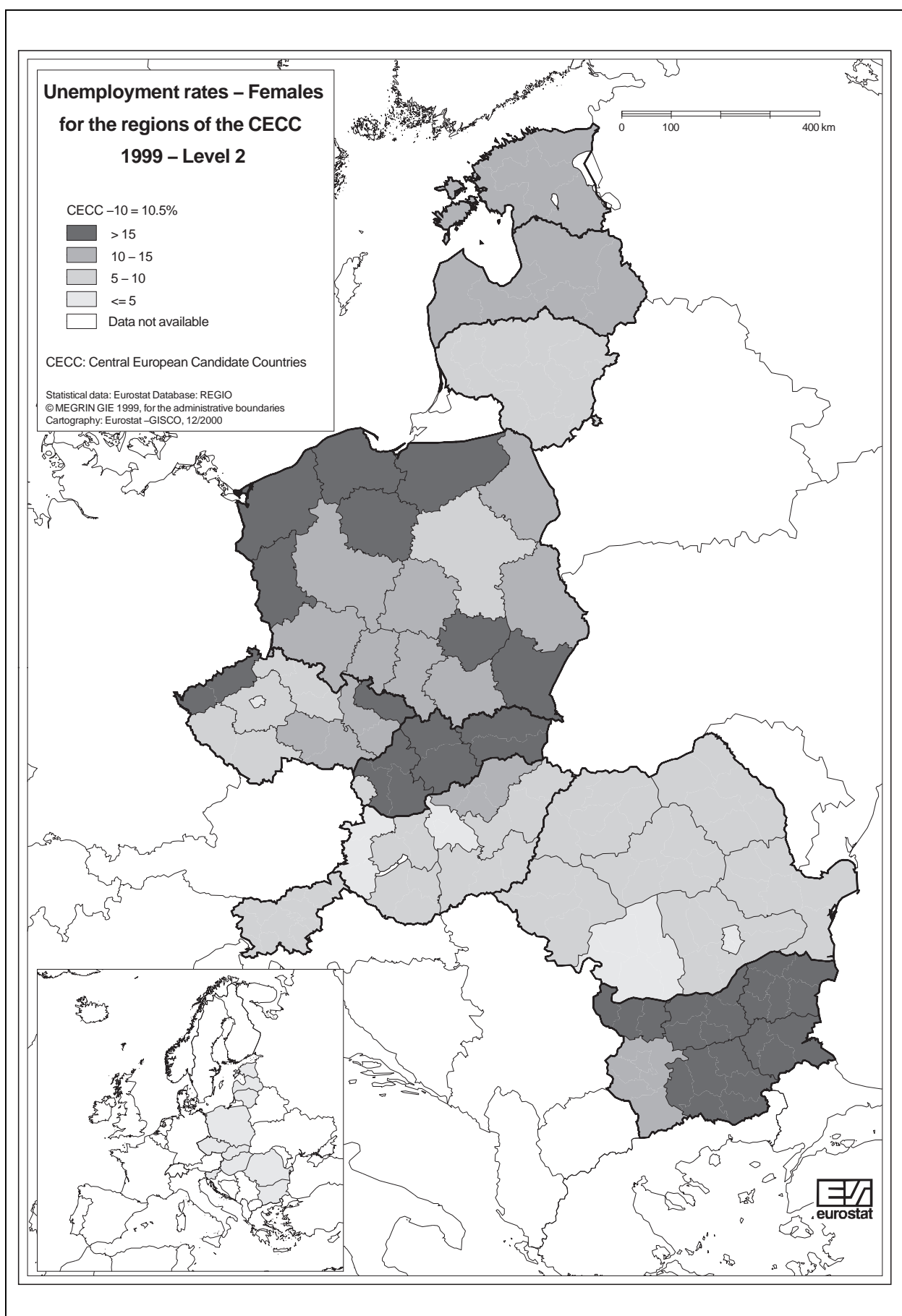


Figure 2: Unemployment rates 1999 - females - level 2

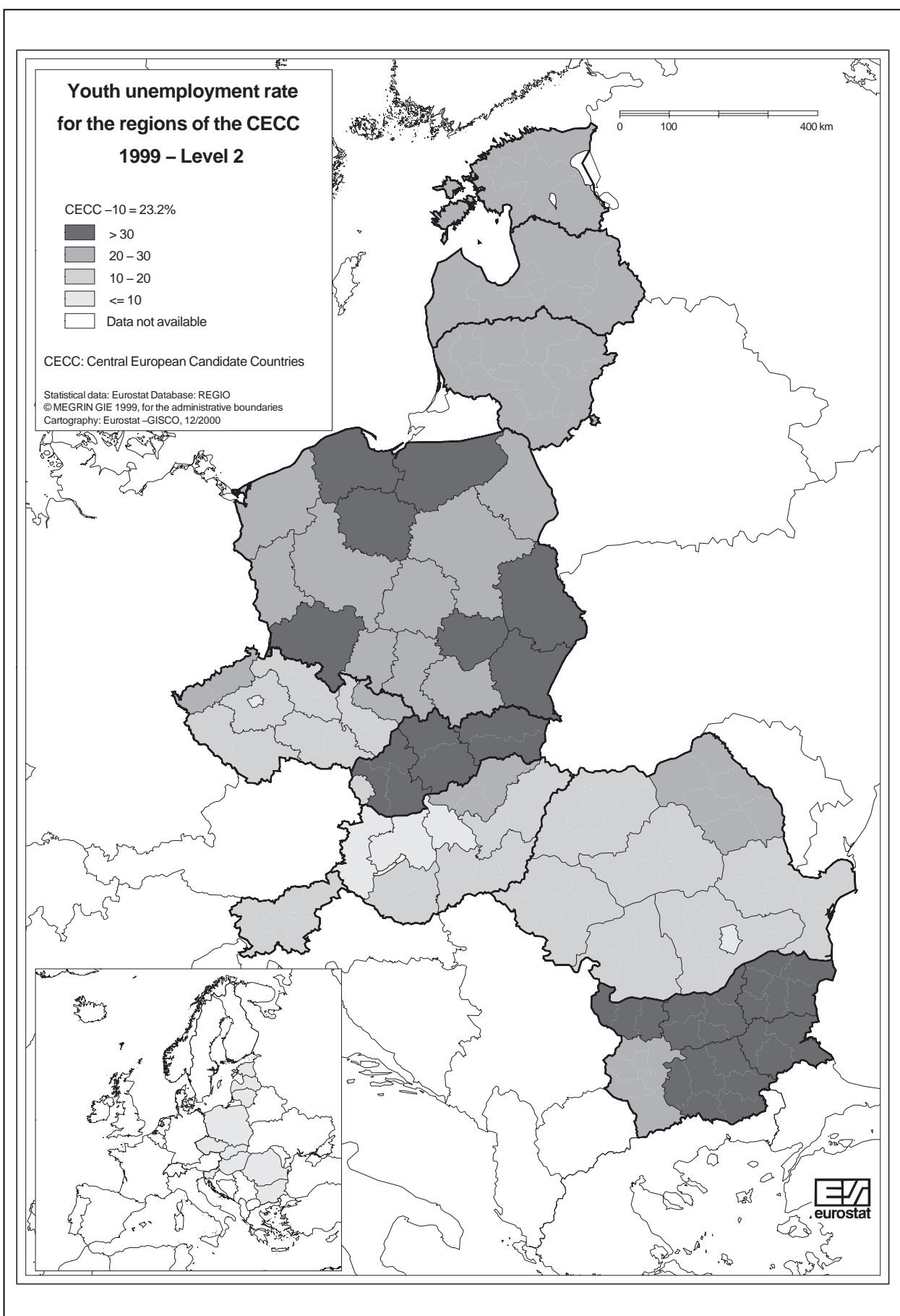


Figure 3: Unemployment rates 1999 - youth - level 2

	Total		Females		< 25 years	
	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
<b>EU-15</b>	<b>10.1</b>	<b>9.4</b>	<b>11.9</b>	<b>10.9</b>	<b>19.2</b>	<b>17.8</b>
<b>CECC-10</b>	<b>9.1</b>	<b>10.4</b>	<b>9.8</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>19.7</b>	<b>23.2</b>
<b>EU-15 + CECC-10</b>	<b>9.9</b>	<b>9.6</b>	<b>11.4</b>	<b>10.9</b>	<b>19.3</b>	<b>19.0</b>
<b>BALGARJA</b>	<b>16.0</b>	<b>17.0</b>	<b>15.9</b>	<b>16.8</b>	<b>36.0</b>	<b>36.7</b>
SEVEROIZTOCHEN	18.5	23.2	18.5	24.0	39.1	44.0
SEVEREN TSENTRALEN	18.7	17.7	19.1	16.6	38.7	38.5
SEVEROZAPADEN	23.6	21.2	23.3	17.5	48.4	38.7
YUGOIZTOCHEN	19.3	23.7	20.9	25.4	48.3	46.7
YUZHEN TSENTRALEN	13.9	15.4	13.6	16.0	31.8	36.4
YUGOZAPADEN	12.0	11.3	11.4	10.6	29.0	25.6
<b>ČEZKÁ REPUBLIKA</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>8.5</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>10.1</b>	<b>10.8</b>	<b>16.6</b>
PRAHA	1.8	3.2	2.3	3.8	3.9	8.4
STREDNÍ ČECHY	4.8	6.7	6.7	8.9	7.8	12.0
JIHOZÁPAD	4.7	6.4	6.3	8.0	8.4	11.7
SEVEROZÁPAD	9.1	12.6	11.4	15.0	16.3	23.0
SEVEROVÝCHOD	5.1	7.3	6.6	8.8	9.5	13.5
JIHOVÝCHOD	6.2	8.8	8.2	10.7	11.3	17.6
STREDNÍ MORAVA	6.9	9.7	8.8	11.5	12.3	18.3
OSTRAVSKO	8.9	13.7	10.8	15.4	15.5	26.4
<b>EESTI</b>	<b>9.6</b>	<b>11.7</b>	<b>8.6</b>	<b>10.2</b>	<b>14.8</b>	<b>22.1</b>
<b>MAGYARORSZAG</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>8.1</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>15.2</b>	<b>12.3</b>
KÖZÉP MAGYARORSZÁG	6.5	5.2	6.1	4.8	12.0	9.3
KÖZÉP DUNÁNTÚL	7.7	6.0	7.9	5.5	11.2	9.5
NYUGAT DUNÁNTÚL	6.9	4.4	6.5	4.5	10.1	7.2
DÉL DUNÁNTÚL	10.6	8.2	9.4	7.4	18.8	14.6
ÉSZAK MAGYARORSZÁG	13.7	11.4	11.7	10.7	22.1	20.2
ÉSZAK ALFÖLD	12.7	10.1	10.9	8.1	22.3	17.1
DÉL ALFÖLD	8.2	5.7	7.6	5.2	13.7	11.3
<b>LIETUVA</b>	<b>12.5</b>	<b>10.2</b>	<b>10.8</b>	<b>9.2</b>	<b>23.7</b>	<b>21.3</b>
<b>LATVIJA</b>	<b>14.5</b>	<b>13.7</b>	<b>13.6</b>	<b>13.3</b>	<b>27.1</b>	<b>23.4</b>
<b>POLSKA</b>	<b>9.9</b>	<b>12.3</b>	<b>11.8</b>	<b>13.2</b>	<b>21.3</b>	<b>29.6</b>
DOLNOSLASKIE	11.2	13.8	13.2	14.8	20.2	31.1
KUJAWSKO-POMORSKIE	13.0	15.2	15.5	17.0	22.4	37.3
LUBELSKIE	10.3	12.6	11.0	12.2	26.2	35.5
LUBUSKIE	11.5	15.3	13.6	16.8	21.2	27.5
ŁÓDZKIE	10.3	12.7	11.0	12.2	23.2	28.5
MALOPOLSKIE	7.4	9.7	9.3	10.5	18.6	29.1
MAZOWIECKIE	7.7	9.2	8.7	9.5	16.4	20.9
OPOLSKIE	9.0	12.1	11.9	14.5	19.4	25.0
PODKARPACKIE	13.3	16.1	15.1	16.7	35.6	47.9
PODLASKIE	11.5	11.4	12.4	11.8	25.2	25.9
POMORSKIE	10.3	13.0	13.5	15.1	20.6	31.2
ŚLĄSKIE	6.8	9.7	9.1	11.3	14.8	23.8
ŚWIĘTOKRZYSKIE	13.1	15.6	14.8	15.6	35.6	41.6
WARMINSKO-MAZURSKIE	17.5	21.3	20.8	23.1	33.4	48.8
WIELKOPOLSKIE	7.7	9.8	9.8	11.3	17.2	24.9
ZACHODNIOPOMORSKIE	12.6	14.9	15.4	16.0	23.4	28.5
<b>ROMÂNIA</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>16.8</b>	<b>17.3</b>
NORD-EST	6.4	7.1	5.6	5.8	:	21.2
SUD-EST	6.6	7.3	6.7	6.8	:	19.7
SUD	5.7	6.3	5.4	5.3	:	17.9
SUD-VEST	5.3	5.4	4.8	4.4	:	19.1
VEST	5.9	6.6	5.6	6.0	:	14.9
NORD-VEST	4.7	5.6	4.7	5.1	:	12.9
CENTRU	6.6	7.1	6.9	7.0	:	16.9
BUCUREȘTI	3.1	3.4	4.0	3.8	:	9.2
<b>SLOVENIJA</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>17.6</b>	<b>18.5</b>
<b>SLOVENSKÁ REPUBLIKA</b>	<b>13.9</b>	<b>16.4</b>	<b>14.3</b>	<b>16.4</b>	<b>30.0</b>	<b>33.8</b>
BRATISLAVSKÝ	4.1	5.9	4.5	6.3	10.3	17.0
ZÁPADNÉ SLOVENSKO	12.1	15.1	13.0	15.7	25.2	32.1
STREDNÉ SLOVENSKO	15.1	17.6	15.3	17.6	31.4	33.5
VÝCHODNÉ SLOVENSKO	20.6	21.9	21.3	21.5	45.7	41.5

Table 5: Unemployment rates in the regions on the CECC

## ➤ Essential information – Methodological notes

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

The data presented in this publication were supplied by the CECC to Eurostat and they take account of corrections up to 11 December 2000.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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