

New Member States contribute to reducing unemployment in Europe

Statistics in focus

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Regions

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Contents

Distribution of regional
unemployment rates..... 2

Youth unemployment in the EU-
27 fell by 1.3 percentage points
in 2006..... 2

Disparities in regional
unemployment reduced 2

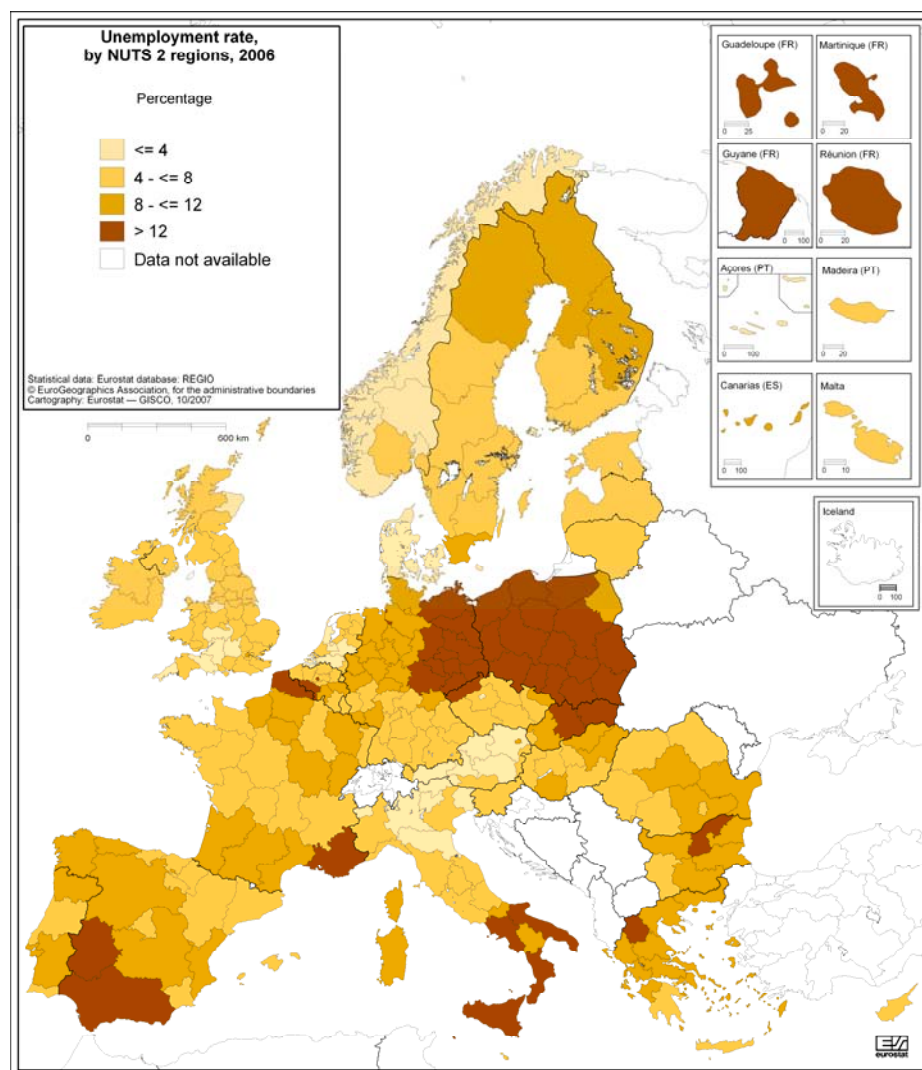
Long-term unemployment rate
increased in the EU-15 and
reduced in the New Member
States 3



The latest estimates for 2006 show that the EU-27 unemployment rate was 8.2%, 0.8 percentage points less than in 2005. The contribution of the New Member States was crucial to this reduction.

At regional level, unemployment is becoming more uniform across EU-27 due to two factors: regions with high unemployment rates, located mainly in the new Member states, have reduced unemployment, while some regions with low unemployment rates in the EU-15 have experienced the opposite trend.

Map 1: Unemployment rate, by NUTS 2 regions, 2006



Distribution of regional unemployment rates

Map 1 shows the distribution of unemployment rates by NUTS 2 regions. Almost every region in Poland, except the region of Podlaskie, plus the former GDR regions, had unemployment rates above 12% in 2006. However, all Polish regions have shown significant reductions in their unemployment rates over the last five years.

Four regions in southern Italy, Campania, Puglia, Calabria and Sicilia, also had unemployment rates above 12%, but all of these regions have posted significant reductions over the last five years. The two southern Spanish regions of Extremadura and Andalucía had the same performance levels as in the south of Italy: their unemployment rates were above 12% in 2006 but the scenario has improved over the last five years.

Further regions with unemployment rates above 12% are Severen tsentralen, in Bulgaria, the regions of Stredne Slovensko and Vychodne Slovensko, in Slovakia, and the region of Dytiki Makedonia, in Greece. All

these regions have however recorded significant reductions over the last five years. By contrast, the region of Severozapad, in the Czech Republic, and the regions of Région de Bruxelles-Capitale / Brussel Hoofdstedelijk Gewest and Prov. Hainaut, in Belgium, posted significant increases in unemployment in that period.

The French Oversea Departments (DOM) had the highest unemployment rates, which, with the exception of Réunion, have even increased over the past five years. The other two French regions with unemployment rates above 12% were Nord - Pas-de-Calais, with a small reduction over the last five years, and, in the south, the region of Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, with a small increase over that period.

The regions with the lowest unemployment rates tend to be located in the Netherlands, Austria, Ireland and Denmark, a country which consists of a single NUTS level 2 region.

Youth unemployment in the EU-27 fell by 1.3 percentage points in 2006

The EU-27 youth unemployment rate was 17.5% in 2006, 1.3 percentage points less than the previous year. This reduction contrasts markedly with the upward trend observed from 2002 to 2005.

Seven Member States have reduced their youth unemployment rates by more than 5 percentage points over the last five years, six of them new Member States: Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Slovakia.

As with the overall unemployment rate, the new Member States have also played a crucial role in bringing these unemployment rates down. The contribution was particularly evident in unemployment among young men. While there was a clear upward trend in the EU-15 in the unemployment rates of young men, starting at 14.8% in 2002 and rising to 15.9% in 2006, the new Member States have shown a clear opposite trend. In

2002, the unemployment rate of young men in the new Member States was 30.8% whereas in 2006 it was 22.8%. It is true that there is still a gap of almost 7 percentage points between the EU-15 and the new Member States, but it is also true that this gap has closed by more than 9 percentage points in the last five years.

Although regional discrepancies in youth unemployment rates are also narrowing over time, there are still big differences in these rates between regions. The lowest regional youth unemployment rate can be found in Noord-Brabant, Netherlands, at 5.0%, the highest on Guadeloupe, France, at 59.9%.

Regions with low rates are mainly situated in the Netherlands, Denmark, Ireland, Austria and Lithuania. The highest rates are mainly found in Poland, Greece, Sweden, Slovakia and France.

Disparities in regional unemployment reduced

The fall in unemployment in the EU-27 in 2006 was driven mainly by the new Member States. While the drop in EU-15 between 2005 and 2006 was 0.4 percentage points, in the new Member States it was 1.9. In the last five years, the new Member States have lagged behind EU-15 countries by almost six percentage points in terms of unemployment rates. Now, the gap is almost a third of what it was five years ago.

The behaviour of the new Member States labour market is lessening regional discrepancies in unemployment rates in the EU-27. High unemployment rates in regions in the new Member States are on the decrease.

One of the indicators used to measure regional disparities in the labour market is the dispersion of regional unemployment rates. This indicator confirms that regional disparities have narrowed over the last five years.

There are still countries with significant differences between their regional unemployment rates. In Slovakia, for example, while the region of Bratislavsky kraj had an unemployment rate of 4.6% in 2006, unemployment in the region of Vychodne Slovensko stood at 19.1%.

There are also significant disparities in unemployment within the regions of the Czech Republic: the unemployment rate of 2.8% in the region of Praha contrasts

sharply with the unemployment rate of 12.8% in the region of Severozápad.

As regards the disparities between unemployment within the regions of a country, almost every EU-15

Member State had reduced their dispersion of unemployment rates, with the exception of Belgium and Austria, with high dispersion, and Denmark, which has one of the lowest dispersion levels of the EU-15.

Long-term unemployment rate increased in the EU-15 and reduced in the New Member States

The long-term unemployment rate stood at 45.8%, 0.3 percentage points lower than the previous year. This means that almost 46% of unemployed persons in the EU-27 have been looking for a job for more than a year.

The 0.3 percentage point reduction in the EU-27 is due to the new Member States. In these countries, the long-term unemployment rate dropped by one percentage point, to 52.5% in 2006, while, in the EU-15, this rate has increased from 41.8% to 42.4%.

Different Member States have shown distinct patterns regarding long-term unemployment. The Netherlands, Portugal and Slovakia have increased their rates by more than 10 percentage points over the last five years while Bulgaria, Spain and Italy have reduced them by 10 or more percentage points.

The regional long-term unemployment rate at NUTS level 2 had a wide range of values: from 6.6% in North-Eastern Scotland, United Kingdom, to 83.2% in Východné Slovensko, Slovakia. This wide range of values indicates that there is significant asymmetry at regional level in long-term unemployment. Greece, France and Italy had differences between the highest and lowest regional long-term unemployment rates of more than 40 percentage points. This difference was less than 10 percentage points in Ireland, Sweden, Finland and Hungary.

The regions with higher long-term unemployment rates tend to be located in the new Member States, in particular in Slovakia, Romania and Poland. The lowest long-term unemployment rates tend to be located in Sweden, the United Kingdom and in Cyprus, which consists of a single NUTS level 2 region.

Table 1: Regional youth unemployment rate

Youth unemployment rate	Total			Men			Women		
	2002	2006	Change	2002	2006	Change	2002	2006	Change
EU-27	18.4	17.5	-0.9	18.3	17.2	-1.1	18.6	18.0	-0.6
EU-15	15.1	16.2	1.1	14.8	15.9	1.1	15.4	16.6	1.2
New Member States	13.4	9.6	-3.8	30.8	22.8	-8.0	30.5	24.6	-5.9
Noord-Brabant (NL)	4.3	5.0	0.8	4.4	4.6	0.2	4.2	5.5	1.3
Gelderland (NL)	4.0	5.2	1.1	4.1	4.8	0.7	4.0	5.6	1.6
Oberösterreich (AT)	5.1	5.7	0.6	4.2	5.3	1.1	6.1	6.2	0.1
Utrecht (NL)	4.3	5.8	1.5	4.9	6.0	1.1	3.8	5.6	1.8
Overijssel (NL)	4.8	6.0	1.2	5.0	5.2	0.2	4.7	6.9	2.2
Tirol (AT)	3.4	6.3	2.9	3.6	6.1	2.5	3.2	6.6	3.3
Freiburg (DE)	5.3	6.5	1.1	4.9	6.6	1.8	6.0	6.3	0.3
Noord-Holland (NL)	3.9	6.5	2.5	3.8	6.0	2.2	4.1	7.0	2.9
Oberbayern (DE)	3.6	7.0	3.4	4.2	8.1	3.9	3.0	5.9	2.9
Friesland (NL)	6.7	7.1	0.4	5.0	5.9	1.0	8.6	8.3	-0.3
...									
Région de Bruxelles-Capitale / Brussels									
Hoofdstedelijk Gewest (BE)	32.9	35.3	2.4	33.8	34.4	0.6	31.9	36.2	4.3
Campania (IT)	59.5	35.4	-24.1	53.6	31.1	-22.5	67.7	41.6	-26.1
Calabria (IT)	58.2	35.5	-22.8	49.4	31.3	-18.1	69.9	43.1	-26.8
Vychodne Slovensko (SK)	44.4	35.7	-8.7	46.0	35.3	-10.7	42.3	36.2	-6.0
Swietokrzyskie (PL)	48.7	36.6	-12.1	45.1	34.0	-11.1	53.6	39.6	-14.0
Prov. Hainaut (BE)	32.5	36.8	4.3	29.9	32.1	2.2	36.0	43.0	7.1
Sicilia (IT)	51.2	39.0	-12.2	43.1	35.1	-8.0	64.2	45.3	-19.0
Réunion (FR)	48.6	50.4	1.8	45.1	51.9	6.8	53.2	48.4	-4.8
Martinique (FR)	55.2	56.1	1.0	51.5	50.6	-0.9	60.0	62.6	2.6
Guadeloupe (FR)	57.8	59.9	2.1	52.2	57.8	5.7	65.4	62.8	-2.7

Table 2: Dispersion of unemployment rates

Unemployment rate	Unemployment rate			Dispersion NUTS 2			Dispersion NUTS 3		
	2002	2006	Change	2002	2006	Change	2002	2006	Change
EU-27	9.0	8.2	-0.8	63.1	46.5	-16.6	67.3	50.5	-16.8
EU-15	7.8	7.8	0.0	-	-	-	-	-	-
New Member States	13.7	10.0	-3.7	-	-	-	-	-	-
Belgium	7.5	8.2	0.7	48.3	55.1	6.8	51.4	:	:
Bulgaria	17.8	9.0	-8.8	19.1	26.3	7.2	32.2	46.6	14.3
Czech Republic	7.3	7.1	-0.2	43.6	44.6	1.0	48.3	46.1	-2.2
Denmark	4.6	3.9	-0.7	-	-	-	20.3	24.0	3.7
Germany	8.5	10.2	1.7	57.3	40.1	-17.2	60.2	45.0	-15.2
Estonia	10.3	5.9	-4.4	-	-	-	37.1	37.0	0.0
Irlande	4.4	4.4	-0.1	-	-	-	18.9	14.4	-4.5
Greece	10.3	8.9	-1.4	14.7	14.0	-0.7	28.9	26.7	-2.1
Spain	11.5	8.5	-3.0	36.9	29.1	-7.8	41.7	31.5	-10.2
France	9.2	9.5	0.4	37.4	34.6	-2.8	39.7	36.7	-3.0
Italy	9.0	6.8	-2.2	77.5	57.1	-20.4	81.3	60.6	-20.8
Cyprus	3.3	4.5	1.2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Latvia	12.1	6.8	-5.3	-	-	-	20.1	27.2	7.2
Lithuania	13.7	5.6	-8.1	-	-	-	11.5	19.7	8.2
Luxembourg	2.6	4.7	2.1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hungary	5.8	7.5	1.6	32.1	31.8	-0.3	35.9	35.8	-0.1
Malta	6.9	7.3	0.4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Netherlands	2.8	3.9	1.1	16.1	14.8	-1.3	25.9	25.0	-0.8
Austria	4.0	4.7	0.8	42.8	44.2	1.4	44.0	45.2	1.2
Poland	19.9	13.9	-6.0	16.5	12.1	-4.4	27.1	21.4	-5.8
Portugal	5.0	7.7	2.7	30.7	21.0	-9.7	35.7	28.5	-7.2
Romania	8.4	7.3	-1.2	14.6	22.7	8.1	38.4	47.0	8.6
Slovenia	6.3	6.0	-0.4	-	-	-	35.1	30.1	-5.1
Slovakia	18.7	13.4	-5.3	22.9	37.8	14.9	30.7	43.4	12.7
Finland	9.1	7.7	-1.4	28.1	23.9	-4.2	34.6	31.1	-3.5
Sweden	5.1	7.1	2.0	17.3	11.9	-5.4	20.2	14.9	-5.3
United Kingdom	5.1	5.3	0.2	29.6	26.2	-3.4	36.8	32.8	-3.9

Table 3: Long-term unemployment rate

Long-term unemployment rate	Country level					Regional minimum		Regional maximum	
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2006	2006	2006	2006
EU-27	45.3	46.0	45.3	46.1	45.8	6.6	North Eastern Scotland (UK)	83.2	Východné Slovensko (SK)
Belgium	48.8	45.4	49.0	51.7	51.2	36.5	Prov. Vlaams-Brabant	59.4	Prov. Hainaut
Bulgaria	66.0	65.4	59.5	59.8	55.7	:	:	:	:
Czech Republic	50.2	48.8	51.0	53.0	54.2	40.0	Praha	63.2	Severozápad
Denmark	19.1	20.4	21.5	23.4	20.8	-	-	-	-
Germany	47.9	50.0	51.8	53.0	56.4	41.5	Trier	67.1	Halle
Estonia	52.4	45.9	52.2	53.4	48.2	-	-	-	-
Ireland	30.1	32.8	34.9	33.4	32.3	31.9	Southern and Eastern	33.3	Border, Midland and Western
Greece	51.3	54.9	53.1	52.2	54.3	24.6	Íονια Νησιά	68.3	Δυτική Μακεδονία
Spain	33.7	33.6	32.0	24.5	21.7	11.7	Illes Balears	40.8	Ciudad Autónoma de Melilla
France	34.8	41.0	41.9	42.5	43.7	32.1	Pays de la Loire	82.8	Guadeloupe
Italy	59.6	58.1	49.2	49.9	49.6	15.6	Provincia Autonoma Bolzano/Bozen	60.1	Sicilia
Cyprus	20.1	23.9	28.0	23.5	19.3	-	-	-	-
Latvia	45.3	41.4	43.8	46.0	36.2	-	-	-	-
Lithuania	53.5	48.0	51.2	52.5	44.3	-	-	-	-
Luxembourg	27.4	24.7	21.0	26.4	29.5	-	-	-	-
Hungary	43.4	41.1	44.0	45.0	45.1	39.3	Közép-Dunántúl	48.9	Dél-Dunántúl
Malta	44.0	41.5	46.7	46.4	40.2	-	-	-	-
Netherlands	26.5	27.8	34.2	40.2	43.0	36.8	Utrecht	48.8	Limburg (NL)
Austria	26.7	26.4	27.5	25.3	27.4	14.4	Tirol	34.0	Wien
Poland	54.7	55.9	54.0	57.7	56.2	36.4	Lubuskie	65.4	Warmińsko-Mazurskie
Portugal	34.6	35.0	44.3	48.2	50.2	34.9	Região Autónoma dos Açores	54.8	Norte
Romania	54.0	61.9	58.9	56.3	57.8	47.1	Bucureşti - Ilfov	65.9	Sud-Vest Oltenia
Slovenia	55.6	52.8	51.5	47.3	49.3	-	-	-	-
Slovakia	65.2	65.2	64.7	71.9	76.3	55.1	Bratislavský kraj	83.2	Východné Slovensko
Finland	24.9	25.2	24.0	25.8	25.2	20.4	Itä-Suomi	28.3	Etelä-Suomi
Sweden	19.9	17.7	19.3	15.4	15.2	11.9	Mellersta Norrland	18.9	Östra Mellansverige
United Kingdom	21.7	21.5	20.6	21.1	22.4	6.6	North Eastern Scotland	33.9	Northern Ireland

Table 4: Regional unemployment rate in New Member States

	Total		Females		15-24 years old	
	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006
BULGARIA	10.1	9.0	9.8	9.3	22.3	19.5
<i>Severna i Iztochna Bulgaria</i>	11.2	10.8	11.4	11.6	24.6	23.3
Severozapaden	12.5	11.0	11.9	11.5	30.2	25.8
Severen tsentralen	12.5	13.5	11.2	14.2	26.0	25.2
Severoiztochen	12.1	11.0	13.7	12.5	25.1	23.6
Yugoiztochen	8.3	8.1	8.8	8.7	19.1	19.3
<i>Yugozapadna i Yuzhna tsentralna Bulgaria</i>	9.0	7.1	8.4	7.0	20.1	15.8
Yugozapaden	7.6	6.5	7.1	6.1	14.8	13.0
Yuzhen tsentralen	11.0	8.2	10.4	8.5	28.6	21.1
CZECH REPUBLIC	7.9	7.1	9.8	8.8	19.2	17.5
Praha	3.5	2.8	4.0	2.7	9.2	8.0
Střední Čechy	5.2	4.6	6.9	6.0	11.1	10.9
Jihozápad	5.1	4.9	6.6	6.2	12.4	11.4
Severozápad	13.5	12.8	15.1	15.7	27.8	28.1
Severovýchod	5.6	6.1	7.6	7.7	14.8	12.0
Jihovýchod	7.7	7.1	9.3	8.8	19.9	18.7
Střední Morava	9.7	7.6	12.5	10.3	22.4	15.3
Moravskoslezsko	13.9	12.0	17.2	14.3	32.2	30.5
ESTONIA	7.9	5.9	7.1	5.6	15.9	12.0
CYPRUS	5.3	4.5	6.5	5.4	13.9	10.0
LATVIA	8.9	6.8	8.7	6.2	13.6	12.2
LITHUANIA	8.3	5.6	8.3	5.4	15.7	9.8
HUNGARY	7.2	7.5	7.4	7.8	19.4	19.1
<i>Közép Magyarország</i>	5.1	5.1	5.7	5.5	14.4	14.1
<i>Dunántúl</i>	6.9	6.8	7.2	7.2	16.8	16.1
Közép-Dunántúl	6.3	6.0	6.8	6.5	13.9	13.7
Nyugat-Dunántúl	5.9	5.7	6.2	6.4	13.5	13.6
Dél-Dunántúl	8.8	9.0	8.8	9.1	24.9	22.8
<i>Alföld és Észak</i>	9.2	9.9	9.2	10.3	24.7	24.5
Észak-Magyarország	10.6	11.0	10.0	11.1	28.5	26.3
Észak-Alföld	9.0	11.0	9.0	11.5	24.8	26.7
Dél-Alföld	8.1	7.8	8.6	8.5	21.0	20.0
MALTA	7.3	7.3	8.9	8.9	16.8	16.1
POLAND	17.7	13.9	19.1	15.0	36.9	30.1
<i>Centralny</i>	15.7	12.7	16.5	12.9	32.3	27.3
Łódzkie	17.4	13.4	17.9	13.5	33.1	25.0
Mazowieckie	14.8	12.3	15.7	12.6	31.9	28.6
<i>Południowy</i>	17.4	13.5	19.0	15.1	38.0	30.0
Małopolskie	15.3	12.6	15.6	12.5	36.7	30.2
Śląskie	19.0	14.2	21.4	17.0	38.8	29.8
<i>Wschodni</i>	15.9	13.4	16.4	13.9	36.5	33.7
Lubelskie	14.3	12.8	14.3	13.1	30.3	32.1
Podkarpackie	16.7	13.7	17.3	14.8	43.3	35.3
Świętokrzyskie	19.0	15.5	18.6	15.5	43.6	36.6
Podlaskie	14.4	11.3	16.1	12.0	30.6	(29.9)
<i>Północno-Zachodni</i>	18.9	14.1	21.4	16.0	36.5	28.6
Wielkopolskie	17.2	12.7	20.4	15.6	34.9	27.1
Zachodniopomorskie	22.7	17.2	24.8	18.0	41.7	32.4
Lubuskie	19.1	14.0	19.7	14.8	35.3	(29.3)
<i>Południowo-Zachodni</i>	21.4	16.4	23.0	17.2	42.8	31.9
Dolnośląskie	22.8	17.3	23.7	17.8	45.0	32.8
Opolskie	16.9	13.5	20.7	15.1	36.1	(29.1)
<i>Północny</i>	19.7	15.3	21.9	17.2	38.2	30.2
Kujawsko-Pomorskie	19.8	16.2	21.7	18.1	39.1	31.1
Warmińsko-Mazurskie	20.4	16.0	22.6	19.1	39.9	33.5
Pomorskie	18.9	13.8	21.5	14.7	36.3	27.3
ROMÂNIA	7.2	7.3	6.4	6.1	20.2	21.4
<i>Macroregiunea unu</i>	7.1	7.4	6.7	6.9	19.3	20.6
Nord-Vest	5.9	5.9	5.6	5.9	18.8	18.6
Centru	8.4	9.0	8.0	8.0	19.9	22.7
<i>Macroregiunea doi</i>	6.6	7.2	5.5	5.7	18.5	21.0
Nord-Est	5.7	5.9	4.6	4.1	17.1	18.1
Sud-Est	7.9	9.0	7.0	8.2	20.6	24.8
<i>Macroregiunea trei</i>	8.3	7.5	7.7	6.5	24.4	23.7
Sud - Muntenia	9.2	9.4	8.9	8.0	25.0	27.0
București - Ilfov	6.9	4.8	6.2	4.5	23.4	15.9
<i>Macroregiunea patru</i>	6.6	6.8	5.8	5.2	18.8	19.9
Sud-Vest Oltenia	6.6	7.1	6.2	5.3	19.1	23.4
Vest	6.7	6.4	5.3	5.2	18.5	15.8
SLOVENIA	6.5	6.0	7.0	7.2	15.9	13.9
SLOVAKIA	16.3	13.4	17.2	14.7	30.1	26.6
Bratislavský kraj	5.3	4.6	6.2	4.4	9.8	(8.0)
Západné Slovensko	12.5	9.8	13.3	11.1	22.5	21.9
Stredné Slovensko	19.6	16.4	21.4	19.1	34.7	28.8
Východné Slovensko	23.1	19.1	24.0	20.7	41.4	35.7

() - data with reduced reliability due to small sample size

Table 5: Regional unemployment rate in EU15

	Total		Females		15-24 years old	
	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006
EU27	9.0	8.2	9.7	9.0	18.8	17.5
Provincia Autonoma Bolzano/Bozen (IT)	2.8	2.6	3.5	3.6	(7.3)	(7.2)
North Eastern Scotland (UK)	3.9	2.6	u	u	u	u
Zeeland (NL)	3.3	2.7	(3.5)	(3.1)	(6.2)	u
Tirol (AT)	3.5	2.9	(3.8)	(3.6)	(8.2)	(6.3)
Valle d'Aosta/Vallée d'Aoste (IT)	(3.2)	(3.0)	u	u	u	u
Provincia Autonoma Trento (IT)	3.6	3.1	5.2	4.8	(10.3)	(9.4)
Salzburg (AT)	3.2	3.1	(3.4)	(3.6)	u	u
Oberösterreich (AT)	4.0	3.2	4.8	4.0	6.9	5.7
Gelderland (NL)	4.3	3.3	4.8	3.7	7.7	5.2
Utrecht (NL)	3.8	3.3	3.8	3.3	6.8	5.8
Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Bristol/Bath area (UK)	3.5	3.3	3.1	3.2	10.7	9.2
Emilia-Romagna (IT)	3.8	3.4	5.3	4.3	10.7	10.7
Noord-Brabant (NL)	3.9	3.4	4.4	3.9	6.5	5.0
Friuli-Venezia Giulia (IT)	4.1	3.5	5.3	4.9	10.5	11.5
Cheshire (UK)	3.3	3.6	u	3.0	u	9.8
Lombardia (IT)	4.1	3.7	5.4	4.8	13.0	12.3
Dorset and Somerset (UK)	3.5	3.7	3.1	3.6	7.5	7.7
Noord-Holland (NL)	4.9	3.8	4.8	4.2	8.1	6.5
Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Warwickshire (UK)	2.6	3.8	2.3	3.7	7.8	12.6
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly (UK)	3.4	3.8	u	u	u	u
...						
Dytiki Makedonia (GR)	18.0	14.2	28.0	20.3	44.1	u
Prov. Hainaut (BE)	14.0	14.4	17.0	16.6	36.6	36.8
Bremen (DE)	16.5	14.4	14.9	12.6	19.2	16.6
Thüringen (DE)	17.1	15.6	16.9	16.2	19.1	17.3
Brandenburg - Südwest (DE)	16.7	15.8	16.7	15.1	19.9	18.6
Magdeburg (DE)	18.6	15.9	19.1	16.3	20.5	16.6
Chemnitz (DE)	17.8	16.2	18.2	17.7	16.3	16.7
Dresden (DE)	18.3	16.2	17.7	16.5	20.7	19.5
Brandenburg - Nordost (DE)	19.8	17.5	19.0	17.2	25.3	21.5
Région de Bruxelles-Capitale / Brussels Hoofdstedelijk Gewest (BE)	16.3	17.6	16.4	18.2	35.1	35.3
Leipzig (DE)	20.5	17.9	18.5	15.7	25.4	18.8
Berlin (DE)	19.2	18.7	16.9	16.7	23.7	25.1
Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (DE)	21.3	19.2	20.7	18.7	20.8	20.3
Halle (DE)	22.2	19.4	21.2	19.0	27.5	21.1
Dessau (DE)	21.2	19.6	20.5	19.7	23.3	19.3
Ciudad Autónoma de Ceuta (ES)	19.7	21.0	(29.4)	(29.9)	u	u
Martinique (FR)	18.7	24.1	20.4	24.7	(42.7)	(56.1)
Guadeloupe (FR)	25.9	26.9	29.5	29.1	(59.1)	59.9
Réunion (FR)	30.1	28.3	33.3	29.3	52.2	50.4
Guyane (FR)	24.8	28.5	(27.1)	32.7	u	u

() Data with reduced reliability due to sample size

u Data not published due to small sample size

➤ ESSENTIAL INFORMATION – METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

Data characteristics

The primary source of 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.

The LFS target population is made up of all persons in private households aged 15 and over. The survey definitions are based on 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 design.

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 in question) 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 and over in ES and UK, 15 to 74 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 (also labelled as labour force or active population) comprises employed and unemployed persons.

The **unemployment rate** shows unemployed persons as a percentage of the economically active population.

The **dispersion of unemployment rates** is expressed by the coefficient of variation of regional unemployment rates.

The coefficient of variation is the ratio between the weighted standard deviation of the regional unemployment rates (NUTS level 2 or 3), compared to the national unemployment rate, and the national unemployment rate. For the EU-27, the regional unemployment rates are compared with the EU-27 unemployment rates. This coefficient of variation is multiplied by 100 for expression as a percentage.

This indicator measures the spread of regional unemployment rates as regards the national or EU-27 unemployment rate. If all the regional unemployment rates of a country are equal, the dispersion is zero. Big differences between regional unemployment rates within a country imply a fairly wide dispersion of unemployment rates.

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

The **long-term unemployment rate** means long-term unemployed (12 months or longer) as a percentage of all unemployed persons.

Regional level

All regional results presented in the SIF publication concern NUTS level 2 regions.

Down to NUTS level 2, the regional labour market data provided by Eurostat are derived from the LFS. For further information on regional labour market statistics, see the metadata on the Eurostat website (<http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu>) under data/general and regional statistics/regions/regional labour market.

The dispersion of unemployment rates used in this analysis was at NUTS level 3, except for Belgium. For Belgium, NUTS level 2 was used, since Eurostat was unable to obtain NUTS level 3 active population, which is used to break down the NUTS level 2 LFS figures into NUTS level 3.

For a list of European statistical regions, see

http://europa.eu.int/comm/eurostat/ramon/nuts/codelist_en.cfm.

Break in time series

Since the 1st 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 have been revised in order to improve coverage. The 2003 data for Cyprus refer to the 2nd quarter, while the 2004 data represent annual averages. Consequently, 2004 and 2003 data are not fully comparable for these countries.

Further information:

Data:

[EUROSTAT Website/Home page/General and regional statistics/Population and social conditions/Data](#)

General and regional statistics

 **European and national short term indicators**

 **Labour market**

 **Regional statistics**

 **Regional labour market statistics**

Population and social conditions

 **Labour market**

 **Employment and unemployment (Labour Force Survey)**

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European Statistical Data Support:

Eurostat set up with the members of the 'European statistical system' a network of support centres, which will exist in nearly all Member States as well as in some EFTA countries.

Their mission is to provide help and guidance to Internet users of European statistical data.

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