

Unemployment

8/9 □ 1996 Monthly

6 September 1996

UNEMPLOYMENT IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

June and July 1996

Eurostat estimates that the seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate in the European Union (fifteen Member States) for the months of June and July 1996 was 10.7%, representing a decrease of 0.1% by comparison with the two previous months. The European unemployment rate peaked at 10.9% in March 1996, but is now at the same level as one year ago.

Unemployment has been falling steadily for a number of years in several Member States including Denmark (from 10.6% in June 1993 to 6.3% in July 1996), Spain (from 24.5% in May 1994 to 21.3% in July 1996), the United Kingdom (from 10.7% in January 1993 to 8.3% in July 1996) and Finland (from 19.6% in March 1994 to 16.3% in July 1996). In recent months it has been falling also in Belgium, the Netherlands and Portugal.

On the other hand, the current rates are noticeably higher than one year ago in Germany (8.9% in July 1996 compared with 8.1% in May 1995) and France (11.7% in July 1996 compared with 11.2% in July 1995).

The unemployment rate for persons aged between 15 and 24 years in the European Union has been falling since the beginning of 1994 and is now below 21%, so that one young person is unemployed for every four who have a job. But since more than half of young people aged between 15 and 24 are still studying, it may be considered that in fact one young person in ten is unemployed.

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L-2920 Luxembourg — Tél. 43 01-1 — Téléx COMEUR LU 3423
B-1049 Bruxelles, rue de la Loi 200 — Tél. 299 11 11

This report has been produced by the *Population, migration, employment and unemployment* unit at Eurostat. The data presented are in line with the definitions and recommendations of the International Labour Office (*Current International Recommendations on Labour Statistics*, 1988 edition, ILO Geneva). The figures have been estimated by Eurostat on the basis of the European Labour Force Survey and are presented for individual Member States of the European Union in order to facilitate international comparisons.

These figures may therefore differ from those generally used in the Member States, which usually reflect national legislation and administrative procedures, and which for this reason are less comparable between Member States.

For further information : A. Persenaire tel. Lux.4301-32005
R. Brandenbourger tel. Lux.4301-33272

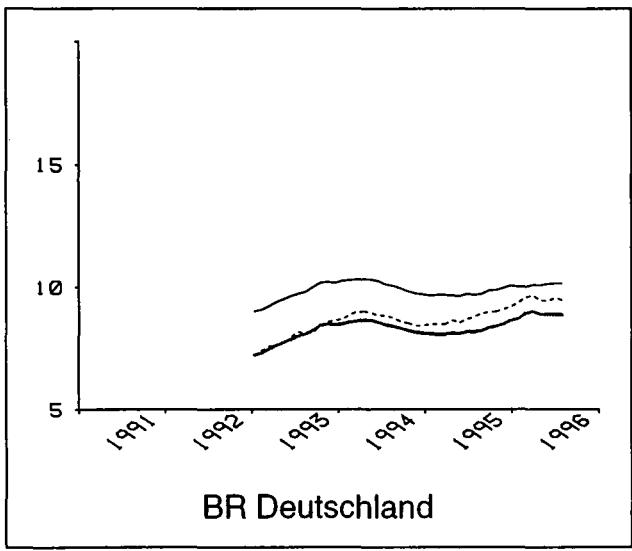
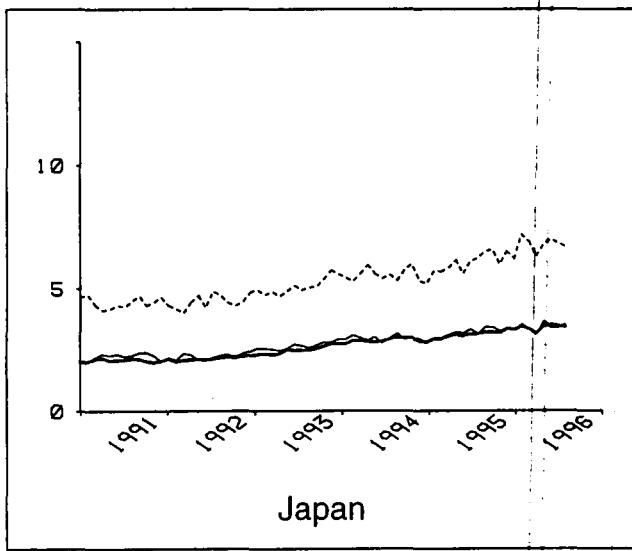
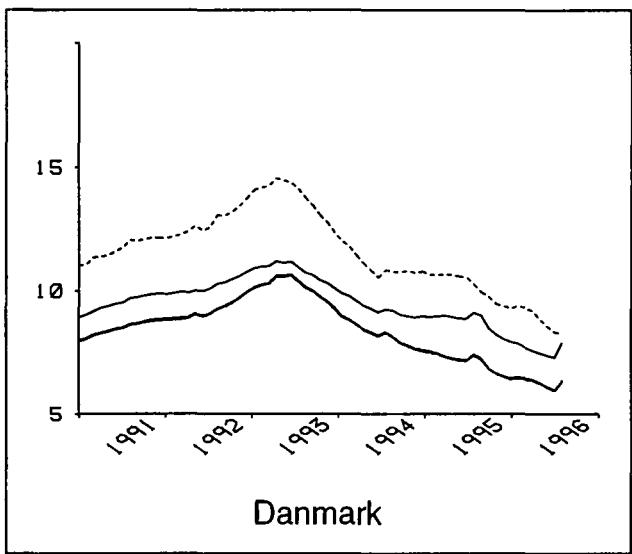
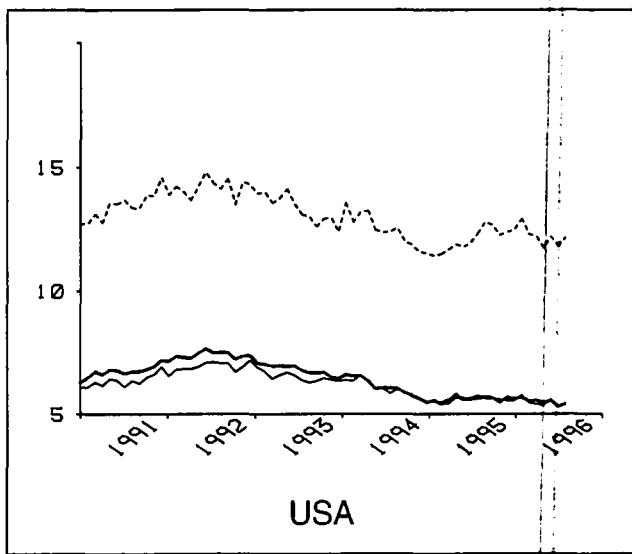
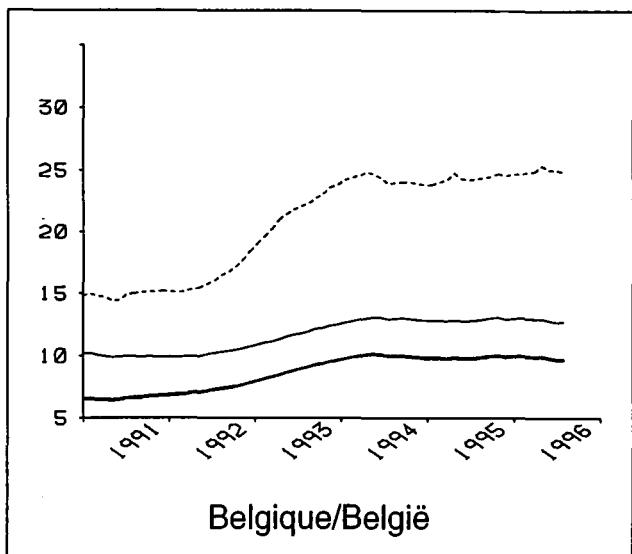
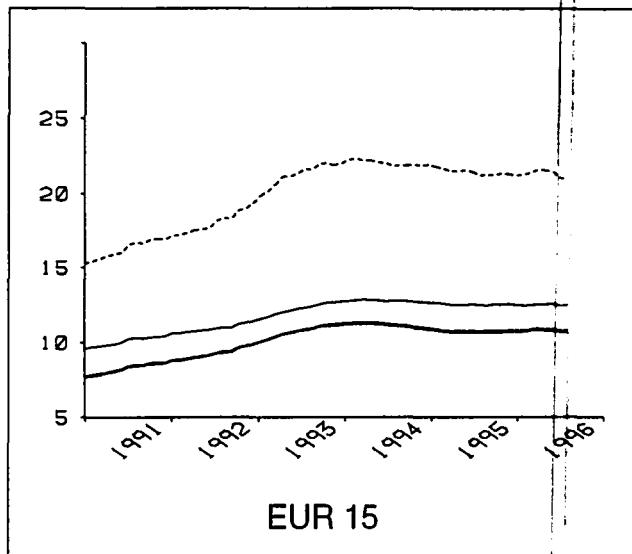
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Signs and abbreviations :

Eur-15	All Member States of the European Union
T	Total
F	Females
< 25	Persons aged under 25
:	Data not available

Unemployment rates, seasonally adjusted (%)

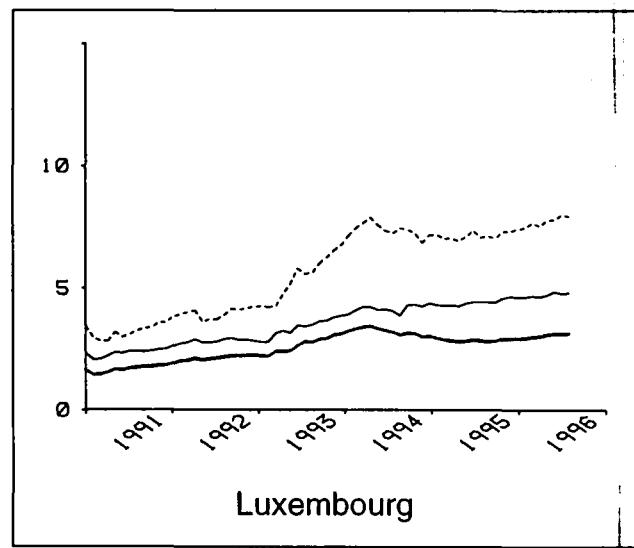
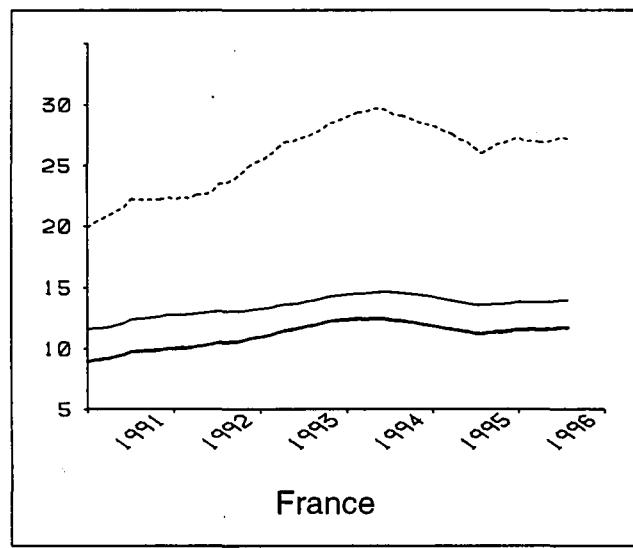
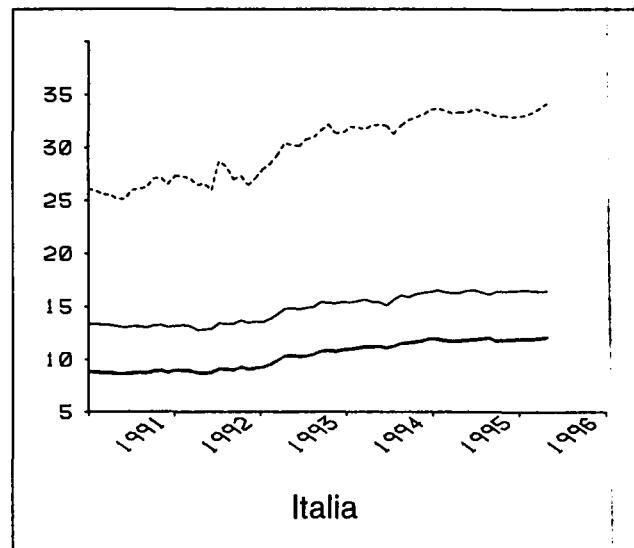
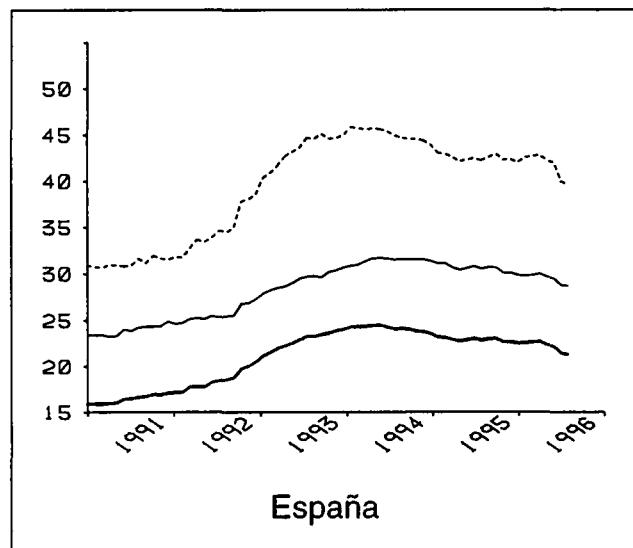
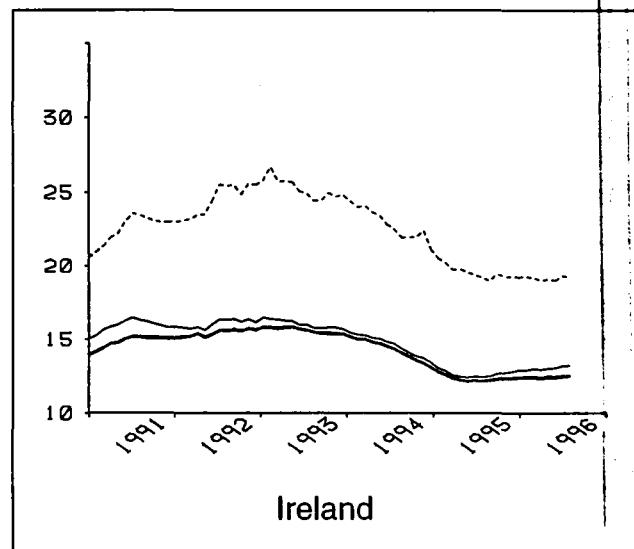
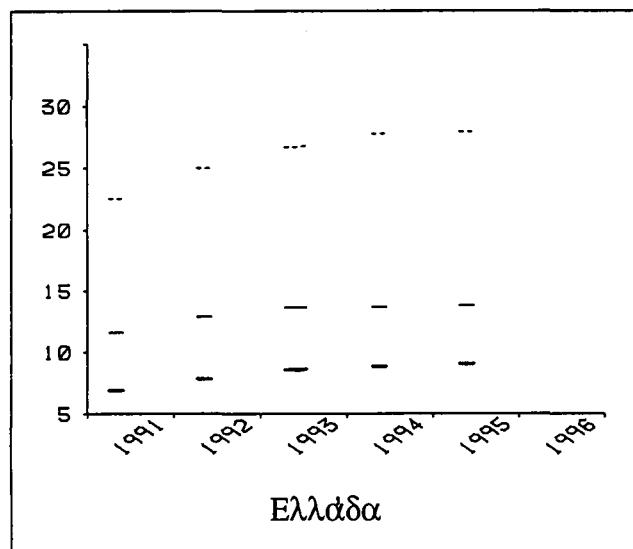


— Total

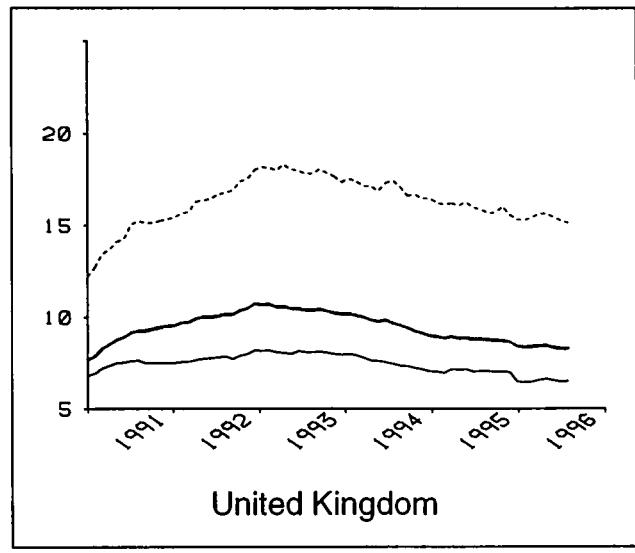
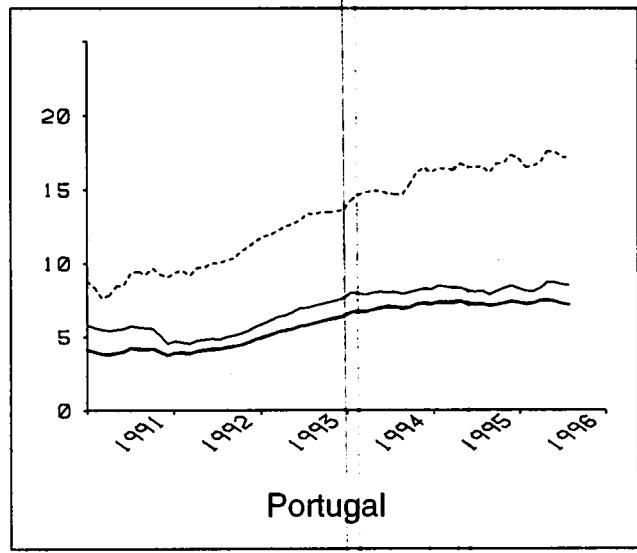
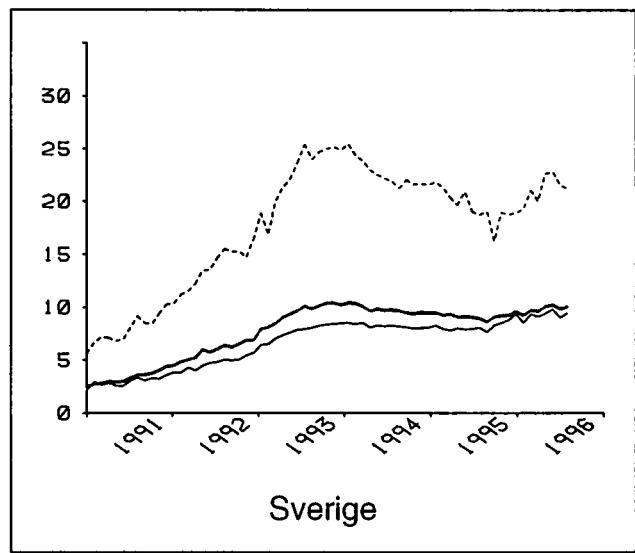
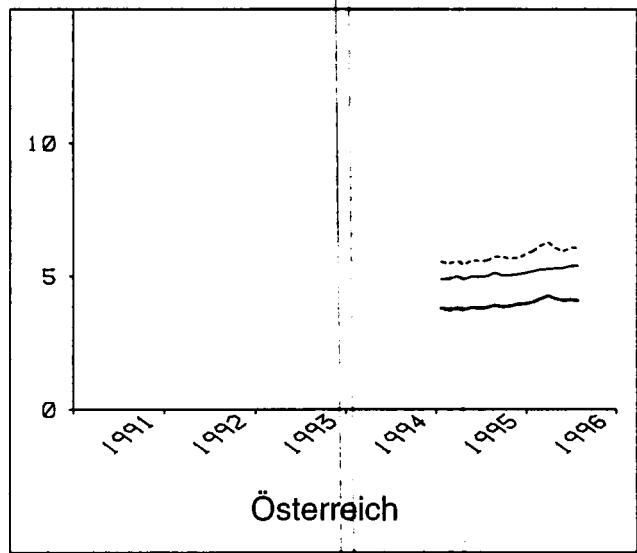
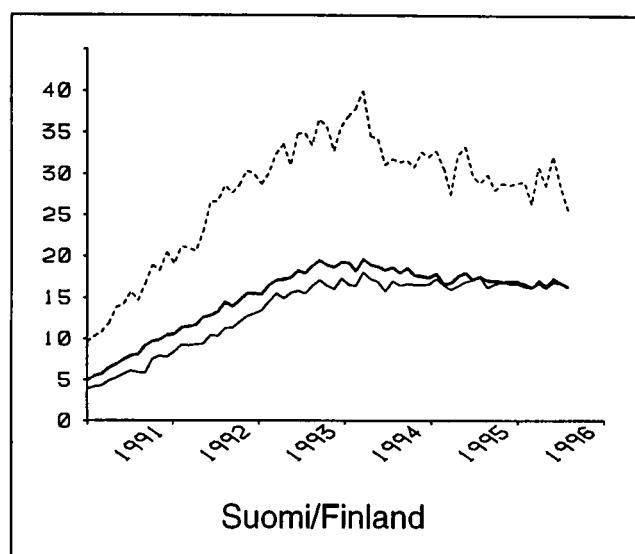
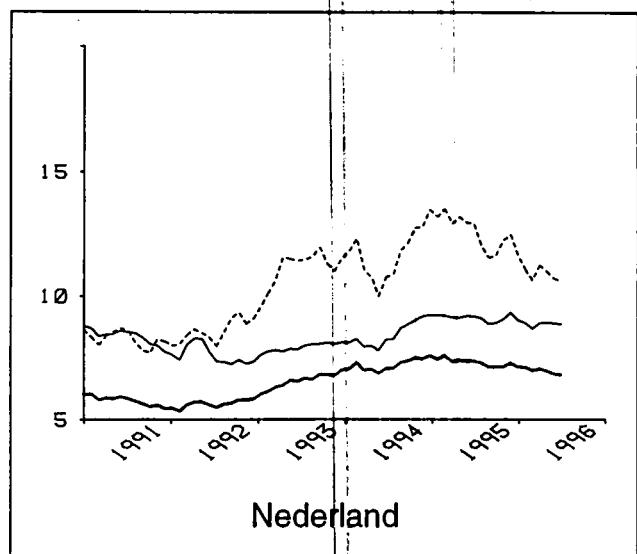
----- Under 25 years

— Females

Unemployment rates, seasonally adjusted (%)



Unemployment rates, seasonally adjusted (%)



— Total

----- Under 25 years

— Females

Methodological notes

1. The Eurostat unemployment rates are calculated according to the recommendations of the 13th International Conference of Labour Statisticians organised by the International Labour Office (ILO) in 1982. Unemployed persons are those persons aged 15 years and over who
 - are without work
 - are available to start work within the next two weeks
 - and have actively sought employment at some time during the previous four weeks.
2. The unemployment estimates are based on the results of the European Community Labour Force Survey. It is carried out in the spring of each year. The use of the same definitions and concepts throughout the EU ensures comparability of the results between Member States.
3. The **unemployment rate** is the number of unemployed as a percentage of the labour force (people living in collective households are excluded). The labour force is the total of the employed and the unemployed. Monthly estimates of the **number of unemployed** are derived by interpolating/extrapolating each year's Community Labour Force Survey results using the results of the national labour force surveys (see table A) and monthly indicators of unemployment (see table B). Monthly estimates of **employment** are obtained by
 - interpolating/extrapolating linearly the annual Community LFS results (Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Greece, France, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands)
 - interpolating/extrapolating linearly the results of the national quarterly labour force surveys after adjustment to the Community LFS (Spain, Italy, Portugal, United Kingdom)
 - using the results of the national monthly labour force surveys (Finland, Sweden, USA, Japan).
4. Estimates are made separately for males under 25, females under 25, males aged 25 years and over, and females aged 25 years and over. Totals are obtained by adding up these four basic categories.
5. The figures for the four basic categories are seasonally adjusted using the multiplicative version of the X-11 method of the US Bureau of the Census. The reliability of the figures is adversely affected if deseasonalisation is performed on short series (such as Germany since the reunification) or where breaks occur (such as Sweden since 1993).
6. From 1992, in some member States, the more restrictive application of the ILO guidelines introduces a break in the series. In such cases, no estimates are provided for the period before 1992.

Table A: Reference period of the last surveys used

Country	Community labour force surveys	National labour force surveys
Belgium	1995Q2	-
Denmark	1995Q2	-
Germany	1995Q2	-
Greece	1995Q2	-
Spain	1995Q2	1996Q2
France	1995Q2	-
Ireland	1995Q2	-
Italy	1995Q2	1996Q2
Luxembourg	1995Q2	-
Netherlands	1995Q2	-
Austria	1995Q2	1995Q1
Portugal	1995Q2	1996Q2
Finland	-	1996JUL
Sweden	-	1996JUL
United Kingdom	1995Q2	1996Q2

NB: 1994Q2 = 2nd quarter of 1994

Table B: Monthly indicators of unemployment.

BELGIUM: All persons in the following categories registered at employment offices: wholly unemployed persons in receipt of benefit, other unemployed persons compulsory registered and voluntarily registered persons without work.

Series provided by the Office National de l'Emploi.

DENMARK: Persons seeking full-time or part-time employment, whether or not they are members of an unemployment insurance fund.

Series provided by Danmarks Statistik.

GERMANY: Unemployed persons registered at public employment offices and seeking work as employees for at least 18 hours per week.

Series provided by the Bundesanstalt für Arbeit.

GREECE: No monthly indicator

SPAIN: Unemployed persons registered at public employment offices and seeking work as employees for 20 hours or more per week.

Series provided by the Ministerio de Trabajo y Seguridad Social.

FRANCE: Unemployed persons registered at the Agence de l'Emploi and seeking permanent full-time employment (demandeurs de catégorie 1).

Series provided by the Ministère du Travail, de l'Emploi et de la Formation Professionnelle.

IRELAND: Claimants for unemployment benefit, applicants for unemployment assistance and others seeking work who are registered with the employment services of the Department of Social Welfare. Excluded are persons seeking part-time employment.

Series provided by the Central Statistics Office.

ITALY: Persons without work, persons seeking their first job, persons working part-time for less than 20 hours per week and workers on a fixed-term contract of not more than 4 months in any 12-month period, who are looking for a different job.

Series provided by the Ministero del Lavoro e della Previdenza Sociale.

LUXEMBURG: Unemployed persons registered at employment offices and seeking work as employees for at least 20 hours per week.

Series provided by the Administration de l'Emploi.

NETHERLANDS: Persons registered at employment offices, between the ages of 16 and 64 years,

- who are without work or with work less than 12 hours a week and
- who are immediately available for paid employment for at least 12 hours a week or who found a job and will start working for at least 12 hours a week.

Series provided by the CBS.

AUSTRIA: No monthly indicator.

PORUGAL: Persons registered at employment offices who are available for work within 30 days after registration.

Series provided by the Instituto de Emprego e Formação Profissional.

FINLAND: Number of unemployed in the monthly labour force survey.

SWEDEN: Number of unemployed in the monthly labour force survey.

UNITED KINGDOM: Persons seeking full-time work and claiming unemployment benefit because they are out of work.

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