



KEY FIGURES

Bulletin of economic trends in Europe and summaries 10/99

Foreword

Euro-zone annual inflation rose from 0,9% to 1,1% between June and July. For the same period, EU-15 annual inflation was up from 1,0% to 1,1% in July. EEA annual inflation increased from 1,0% to 1,1%.

Euro-zone seasonally-adjusted unemployment fell to 10,2% in July 99 from 10,3% in June. The EU-15 rate was 9,3% in July, also down on June (9,4%).

The euro-zone had a trade surplus with the rest of the world of 1,7 billion euro in May 1999, down 7,0 billion on May 1998. Extra-EU-15 trade was 2,6 billion euro in deficit in May, 5,9 billion down on the surplus in May 1998. And there was a deficit of 11,5 billion euro in the first five months compared to a surplus of 3,2 billion euro in 1998.

The euro bounced back against the US dollar in July, before stabilising in August, ending the month at USD 1,0573. In terms of its effective rate, the euro was in August 6,4% below its January value.

The average government bond yield for EU-15 increased in July by 30 basis points, to 4,93%. The euro-zone average also rose, by 33 basis points to 4,86%.

EU money supply growth increased in July. The annual rate of M3 growth was an estimated 6,1% (5,6% for the euro-zone).

Foreign official reserves of the euro-zone amounted to 345,4 billion euro in June, marginally higher than in May. Those of the EU-15 were an estimated 430,6 billion euro in May.

Euro-zone industrial production trend rose by 0,3% in April to June compared with the previous three months. In EU-15 it was up 0,4%. Estimates for the previous period (March-May) were revised upwards from -0,1% to +0,2% for euro-zone and from 0,0% to +0,2% for EU-15.

The "Dossier of the month" of this edition is devoted to the *services sector in the European economy*, to the *balance of payments* and to the *European Labour Force Survey*.

Contents

Foreword
European economy at a glance

1- Short-term indicators

Inflation rate
Unemployment
External trade
Money and finance
Industrial production

2- Dossier of the month

Services sector in the European economy
Balance of payments
European Labour Force Survey

"Key Figures" is published in partnership with

BANQUE DE LUXEMBOURG

European economy at a glance



	Date	B	DK	D	EL	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	EUR-11	EU-15
GDP, seasonally adjusted volume trends, T/T-1 % (1) (2)	11/99	0,25	-0,42	0,04	:	0,88	0,59	:	0,16	:	0,75	0,34	2,41	-0,10	0,91	0,50	0,32	0,36
GFCF, seasonally adjusted volume trends, T/T-1 % (1) (2)	11/99	-1,54	-4,2	1,53	:	1,48	0,41	:	0,12	:	:	:	:	-1,13	:	-3,91	-1,38	-1,35
Private final national consumption volume trends, T/T-1 % (1) (2)	11/99	2,37	0,37	-0,46	:	1,43	0,59	:	0,48	:	1,35	0,75	0,71	-0,77	:	1,34	0,14	0,34
Production index 1995=100 total, seasonally adjusted (3)	06/99	108,9	110,9	108,5	113,5	114,4	109,8	:	101,1	:	107,9	:	115,7	126,8	114,6	102,5	109,6	108,7
Consumer price index T/T-12 %	7/99	0,7	2,0	0,6	1,8	2,1	0,4p	1,9	1,7	-0,3	1,8p	0,3p	1,9	1,4	0,2	1,3	1,1p	1,1p
Unemployment rate seasonally adjusted %	7/99	9,0	4,5	9,1	:	16,1	11,0	6,8	:	2,8	3,2	4,3	4,5	9,8	6,8	:	10,2	9,3
Extra-EU trade balance Billion EUR	01-05/99	-2,3	0,8	10,0	-1,4	-3,56	3,6	2,0	3,5	-0,3	-14,9	1,2	-1,7	2,2	4,6	-14,2	16,6 ⁽⁴⁾	-11,5 ⁽⁴⁾
Intra-EU trade balance Billion EUR	01-05/99	8,9	0,3	15,4	-4,0	-4,15	-1,6	6,9	0,1	-0,8	20,9	-5,6	-3,0	1,0	1,3	-6,2	:	:

Data in italics are not necessarily for the indicated period but are the latest available (usually the previous month or quarter)

(1) = All quarterly figures presented respect the ESA95 methodology, except for the Netherlands, Austria and Portugal which are still under the national concept. This is also true for the USA and Japan (national concept), which are both not yet in line with the SNA93. Among Member States on an annual basis, only Austria and Portugal are computing figures under the national concept

(2) = Seasonally adjusted figures for France, Germany, The Netherlands and Spain are also corrected for working days.

(3) = Excluding construction

(4) = The EUR-11 figure represent the total of the Extra-UE balance

p = provisional data. : = data not available.

Euro-zone and EU-15 annual inflation rise to 1,1% in July

Euro-zone¹ annual inflation² rose from 0,9% to 1,1% between June and July. A year earlier the rate was 1,3%. EU-15 annual inflation² was up from 1,0% in June to 1,1% in July. In July 1998 it was 1,4%. EEA annual inflation² increased from 1,0% to 1,1%.

Highest annual rates were in Spain (2,1%), Denmark (2,0%), Ireland and Portugal (both: 1,9%). Lowest rates were in Luxembourg (-0,3%), Sweden (0,2%) and Austria (0,3%).

Compared with June, annual inflation fell in six Member States, rose in five and was unchanged in four. Compared

to a year earlier, the biggest relative rises were in Denmark (1,4% to 2,0%) and Finland (1,1% to 1,4%) and biggest relative falls were in Luxembourg (1,2% to -0,3%) and Sweden (1,3% to 0,2%).

Lowest 12-month averages³ up to July were in Sweden (0,2%), Germany, France and Austria (all three: 0,4%), and highest in Greece (3,3%), Portugal (2,4%) and Ireland (2,3%).

Annual inflation⁴ rose to 2,1% in the USA and 0,7% in Switzerland. These indices are not strictly comparable with EU harmonized indices.

1. Euro-zone: Belgium, Germany, Spain, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Austria, Portugal and Finland.

2 As measured by the Harmonized Index of Consumer Prices (HICP) aggregate, the Monetary Union Index of Consumer Prices (MUICP) for the euro-zone, the European Index of Consumer Prices (EICP) for the EU-15 and the European Economic Area Index of Consumer Prices (EEAICP) for the EEA area.

3 Measure used to determine price stability in Convergence report 1998 by the Commission to the Council.

4 As measured by national CPIs.

Unemployment for Euro-zone fall 10,2% in July 1999

Euro-zone seasonally-adjusted unemployment fell to 10,2% in July 99 from 10,3% in June. This compares to 10,9% in July last year. The EU-15 rate was 9,3% in July, also down on June (9,4%). In July a year earlier it was 10,0%.

Lowest rates were in Luxembourg (2,8%) and the Netherlands (3,2% June) followed by Austria (4,3%), Portugal (4,5%), and Denmark (4,5% June):

US unemployment was 4,3%; the Japanese rate 4,9%.

Spain's 15,9% was still by far the EU's highest rate. However, Spain did register a big fall over the year, down from

18,8% to 15,9%. Notable falls were also recorded in the Netherlands (from 3,8% to 3,2% in June) and in Sweden (from 8,5% to 6,8%).

EU unemployment of under-25s ranged from 5,7% in Austria to 32% in Italy (April). EU-15-wide, it was 17,8%, and 19,3% in the euro-zone. A year earlier it was 19,5% and 21,3% respectively.

Eurostat estimates 13,2 million men and women were unemployed in the euro-zone and 15,8 million in EU-15 in July. These are seasonally-adjusted figures in line with ILO criteria.

Unemployed people according to International Labour Organisation (ILO) criteria are those aged 15 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.

The monthly unemployment rate and numbers of unemployed are estimates based on results of the Community Labour Force Survey (LFS). These results are interpolated/extrapolated to monthly data using national survey data and national monthly series on registered unemployment. Estimated rates might differ from national unemployment rates due to differences in methods and definitions of unemployment.

Euro-zone surplus 1,7 billion euro in May

2,6 billion euro deficit for EU-15

The euro-zone¹ had a trade surplus with the rest of the world of 1,7 billion euro² in May 1999, down 7,0 billion on May 1998. This gave a total surplus of 16,6 billion euro for January-May, down 13,4 billion euro on the same period a year earlier.

Extra-EU-15 trade was 2,6 billion euro in deficit in May, 5,9 billion down on the surplus in May 1998. And there was a deficit of 11,5 billion euro in the first five months compared to a surplus of 3,2 billion euro in 1998.

There were signs of renewed growth in imports in May, concentrated in the "Machinery and Vehicles" sector,

although exports continued to fall.

EU-15 trade growth with most major partners was weak or falling in the first five months. Exceptions were exports to China (+16%) and imports from Hungary (+19%). Trade flows with Russia (-55% for exports, -10% for imports) and Norway (-11% for exports, -23% for imports) were particularly weak.

In January-May, Germany still enjoyed the largest surplus (25,3 billion euro), while the UK deficit rose to 20,3 billion euro. Trade growth was weak or falling for all Member States except Austria and Ireland, which now has the second largest trade surplus.

Euro-zone trade

billion euro²

Flows	May 99	May 98	Growth	Jan-May 99	Jan-May 98	Growth
Extra-EUR-11 exports	63,1r	65,7	-4%	314,9	327,7	-4%
Extra-EUR-11 imports	61,4r	57,0	8%	298,3	297,7	0%
Extra-EUR-11 trade balance	1,7r	8,7		16,6	30,0	
Intra-EUR-11 dispatches	68,5r	66,3	3%	345,4	340,1	2%

EU-15 trade

billion euro²

Flows	May 99	May 98	Growth	Jan-May 99	Jan-May 98	Growth
Extra-EU-15 exports	58,1r	60,7	-4%	285,3	302,5	-6%
Extra-EU-15 imports	60,7r	57,4	6%	296,8	299,3	-1%
Extra-EU-15 trade balance	-2,6r	3,3		-11,5	3,2	
Intra-EU-15 dispatches	102,9r	101,2	2%	521,6	522,5	0%

r: revised

1. Extra-EUR-11 trade is trade with all countries outside the euro-zone, including the four Member States not in the euro-zone.

2. Technically data before 1 January 1999 are in ECU, and data after this date are in euro. However as the conversion rate was 1 ECU = 1 euro, for practical purposes the two terms can be used interchangeably.

Euro bounces back against the dollar

US interest rates rise in August

Having weakened during the first half of 1999 against the US dollar (USD), the euro (EUR) bounced back from a lowpoint of USD 1,0124 on 12 July, to reach 1,0791 on 5 August. It then depreciated slightly, to end the month at 1,0573. Meanwhile the Japanese yen (JPY) appreciated against both the EUR and USD, reaching JPY 115,5 to the EUR on the last day of August, its highest level so far in 1999. During the eight months since it came into existence, the EUR depreciated by 9,4% and 13,0% against the USD and JPY respectively.

ERM II remained very calm in August. At the end of the month the EUR was worth Danish krone (DKK) 7,4344 and Greek drachma (GRD) 326,35, and the degree of divergence of the DKK and GRD from their EUR central rates was 0,35% and 7,58% respectively. The

pound sterling (GBP) showed little movement against the EUR in August, ending the month at GBP 0,6585. However, the Swedish krona (SEK) strengthened from 8,7735 to 8,691 to the EUR during the month.

There were no moves in central bank interest rates in the EU during July and August. The key interest rate for the euro-zone, the main refinancing rate, has been at 2,5% since April. The Japanese discount rate has been unchanged at 0,5% for nearly four years. However, the US Federal Reserve raised its key interest rates in August, the discount and federal funds rates moving up 25 basis points to 4,75% and 5,25%, respectively. These are the highest rates since the autumn of 1998, when they were lowered.

Note: Exchange rates are as supplied to Eurostat by the European Central Bank on a daily basis. Basis point = 1/100th of a percentage point in interest rates.

ERM II = exchange rate mechanism which came into being at the start of monetary union, linking the Danish krone and Greek drachma to the euro. The GRD is allowed to fluctuate within a band of +/- 15% and the DKK within +/- 2,25% relative to their central rates.

	Periode	DK	EL	S	UK	EUR-11	EU-15
Exchange rate 1 EUR =...	August 99	7,44	326,4	8,75	0,66	1,00	:
Monthly average							
Exchange rate 1 USD =...	August 99	7,01	307,8	8,25	0,62	0,94	:
Monthly average							
Central bank interest rate	August 99	2,85	12,00	2,90	5,00	2,50	:
end month % (1)							
Money supply M1	July 99	:	24,5	:	7,5 *	13,8	13,9 **
T / T- 12 %							
Money supply M3 ***	July 99	5,7	14,9	4,5	3,5	5,6	6,1 **
T / T- 12 %							
Yield on long-term government bonds %	July 99	5,1	6,4	5,3	5,3	4,9	4,9

(1) EUR-11: main refinancing rate; UK, DK, S: repo rate; EL: liquidity draining rate.

* UK measure is M0.

** EU-15 is estimated.

*** UK measure is M4, Denmark is M2.

Upward trend in EU bond yields continues the highest levels for twelfth months

The average long-term interest rate for the EU-15, as measured by the yield on government bonds, increased by 30 basis points between June and July, to reach 4,93%, the highest level for 12 months. Yields have been on an upward trend since January, when the EU-15 average was at an historical low of 3,92%. The yield increased in July in all countries, while the differential between the highest and lowest yields in the EU (Greece and Germany respectively) was almost unchanged at 169

basis points. For the euro-zone, the average yield increased in July to 4,86%, from 4,53% a month earlier, while the differential between the highest and lowest yields increased slightly to 31 basis points.

The US yield has also tended to rise this year, but eased by 10 basis points in July, to 5,80%. Meanwhile the Japanese yield moved up from 1,60% to 1,69%, compared with a record low set in October 1998 with 0,82%.

Note: The above-mentioned yields relate to government bonds of around 10 years to maturity. Data are monthly average.

Euro-zone calculation is weighted by the nominal stock of government bonds, and EU-15 by GDP. Basis point = 1/100th of a percentage point in interest rates.

EU money supply growth quickens in July M1 growth is relatively fast

For the euro-zone, the annual rate of M3 monetary growth increased in July to 5,6%, from a revised 5,3% in June. Most of the increase, seasonally adjusted, in July was due to currency in circulation and overnight deposits. Other short-term deposits were also higher than a month earlier, but the volume of marketable instruments declined. Measured on a 3MMA basis, the annual rate of expansion in M3 moved up to 5,4%, from 5,3%. This compares with a reference value for 1999 set by the ECB, as part of its strategy for maintaining

price stability, of 4,5% on a 3MMA basis. The annual rate of M1 and M2 growth for the euro-zone also increased in July, to 13,8% and 7,6% respectively, from 11,4% and 6,2% respectively in June.

For the EU-15, the annual rate of M3 growth is estimated to have increased in July to 6,1%, from 5,9% in June. M1 and M2 also expanded more quickly, by 13,9% and 8,0% respectively, compared with 11,5% and 6,6% respectively a month earlier.

Note: Of the three definitions (M1, M2, M3), M1 is the narrowest and most liquid measure, and M3 the broadest and least liquid. Euro-zone consolidated series are compiled by the European Central Bank. EU-15 series are Eurostat estimates in euro, calculated by adding euro-zone to the remaining four EU countries, to the extent that data are available.

3MMA = three-month moving average.

Euro-zone official reserves steady in June following May's decline

Gross foreign reserve assets of the euro-zone, held by the ECB and participating national central banks, amounted to 345,4 billion euro at end-June, marginally higher than in May (344,7 billion), although below April's peak of 352,2 billion. Foreign exchange holdings in June increased by 2,7 billion to 212,9 billion euro, whereas the value of gold holdings fell by 2,0 billion euro to 101,9 billion. Total foreign official reserves for the EU-15 were 430,6 billion euro at end-May, down from 439,5 billion a month earlier. When the monetary union was established on

1 January, euro-zone reserves amounted to 330,3 billion euro, and EU-15 reserves 406,3 billion. These increases, however, are largely the result of US dollar appreciation against the euro: in dollar terms, the value of euro-zone and EU-15 reserves has fallen since the beginning of the year.

Japan's reserves amounted to 219,0 billion in euro terms at end-May, a new world record, including 6,2 billion euro of gold. US reserves at end-May were 125,6 billion euro, over half of which (67,2 billion) comprised gold.

Note: Euro-zone reserves data (compiled by the European Central Bank) exclude holdings in euro and its national denominations, whereas these are included in the reserves of countries not belonging to the euro-zone. EU-15 is a Eurostat estimate calculated by adding euro-zone to the remaining four EU countries. Gold is valued on a market basis.

Industrial production

Euro-zone industrial production up by 0,3% in April-June 1999

Euro-zone¹ industrial production trend² rose by 0,3% in April to June compared with the previous three months. In EU-15 it was up 0,4%.

Estimates for the previous period (March-May) were revised upwards from -0,1% to +0,2% for euro-zone and from 0,0% to +0,2% for EU-15. Whereas output had declined since November 1998, the rate turned positive in May. The fall was especially pronounced in January and February 1999.

Finland (1,1%) recorded the biggest

increase in industrial production of all Member States. Production was also up in Portugal², the Netherlands (both 0,9%), Denmark, Spain², France², Greece² and Sweden² (all 0,7%). Production fell however in Germany (-0,2%), the UK and Italy (-0,4% both) and Belgium* (-0,5%).

Since the turn of the year activity has accelerated in Denmark, Spain, France, the Netherlands and somewhat in Portugal. Still declining, but with abating negative rates are Germany and Italy and to a lesser extent Belgium and the UK.

Production trend ² - % changes January-March to April-June Member States with available data, in descending order			
Euro-zone	-0,1	Greece²	0,3
EU-15	0,0	Sweden²	0,1
Finland	1,5	Germany	0,2
Portugal²	1,2	UK	-0,4
Netherlands	0,7	Italy	-0,6
Denmark	0,6	Belgium²	-0,7
Spain²	0,6	USA	1,1
France²	0,3	Japan	0,3

1 Production volume of total industry, excluding construction, adjusted for seasonal and one-off fluctuations. 2 Eurostat estimate.

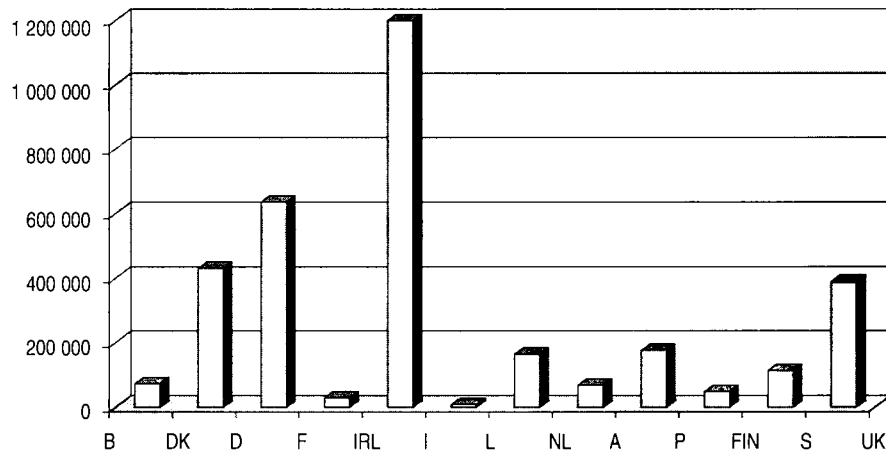
Dossier of the month

Services sector in the European economy Expansion of service industries

Services play an increasingly important role in the European economy. The number of enterprises varies greatly depending on the activity

Distributive trades comprised the main service-sector activity in France, Germany and the United Kingdom, but Italy had the greatest number of enterprises in the distributive trades sector. Greece, Spain and Portugal had a higher proportion of enterprises in distribution.

Number of undertakings in distributive trades, 1996 (units)



Number of undertakings, 1996 (units)

	DK ⁽¹⁾	D ⁽²⁾	F	IRL	I	L	NL ⁽³⁾	A	P	FIN	S	UK
Distributive trades	73 049	429 425	636 067	29 169	1 199 790	6 652	163 747	67 886	175 440	47 779	112 743	388 189

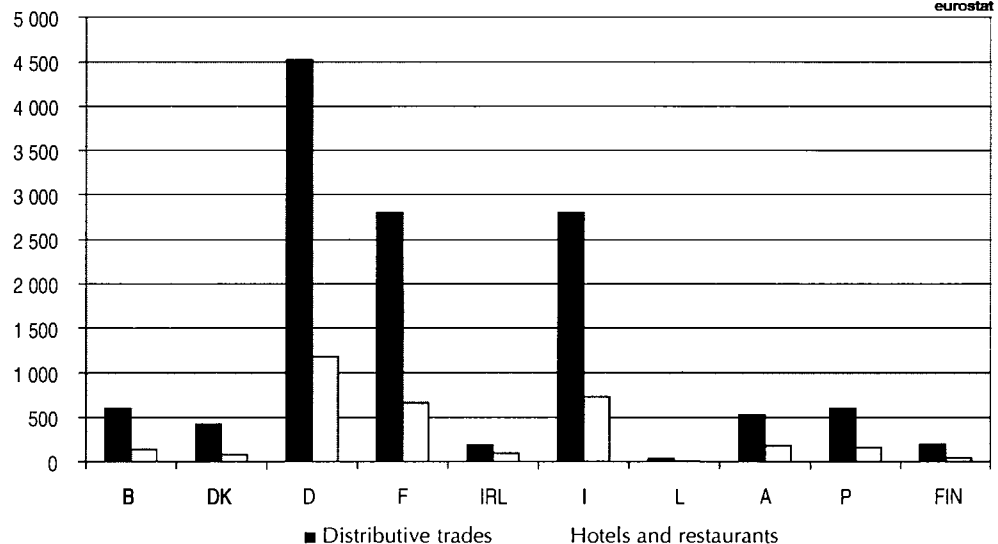


(1) 1995 data; (2) Distributive trades: excluding Groups 50,2, 51,1, 52,7; (3) 1995 data; distributive trades: excluding Group 51,1 and Class 52,31.

Services now provide jobs for about 100 million people in the EU

Between 1995 and 1996, France recorded the largest increase with regard to jobs in the renting sector, followed by Germany for wholesale trade in industrial equipment and Italy for retail trade. During the same period, there was a sharp reduction in France in the number of people employed in the sector of "other business activities".

Number of persons employed, 1996 (thousands)



Number of persons employed, 1996 (thousands)

	B ⁽¹⁾ (2)	DK ⁽¹⁾	D ^(2a)	F	IRL ⁽³⁾	I	L	NL ⁽¹⁾ (4)	A	P	FIN
Distributive trades	594,4	421,6	4 529,10	2 805,20	192,4	2 798,80	35,2	1 122,60	521,4	599,9	196,5
Hotels and restaurants	139,2	78,9	1181,1	663,6	96,4	727,7	10,6	:	183,1	162,5	42,8

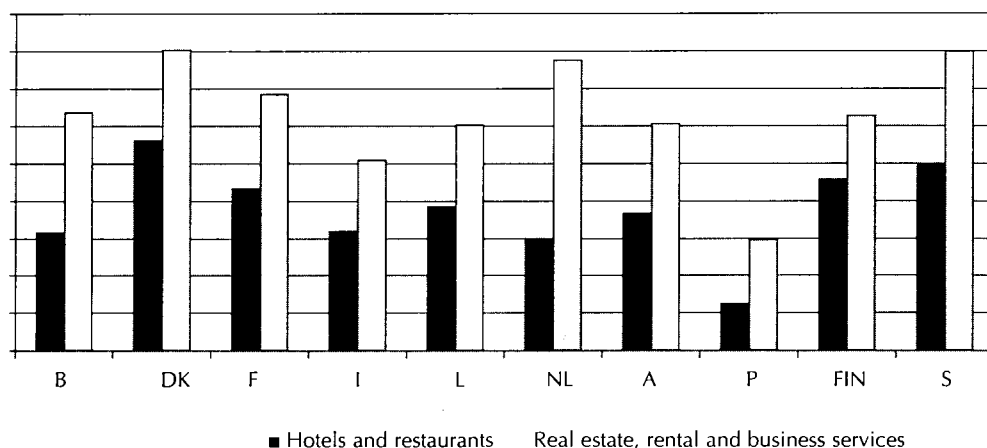


(1) 1995 data; (2) Distributive trades: excluding Class 52,71; (2a) excluding Groups 50,2, 51,1, 52,7; (3) Hotels and restaurants: excluding Group 52,2; (4) Distributive trades: excluding Group 51,1 and Classes 52,12, 52,31.

In 1996, for some activities in the EU personnel costs per employee did not reach ECU 10 000 per year

This was the case in motor trade and retail trade in Portugal, and in the Netherlands and Denmark for some branches of retail trade. The highest paid jobs in services were in transport and communications, financial intermediation, real estate, renting and business services.

Unit cost of labour, 1996 (ECU thousand)



Unit cost of labour, 1996 (ECU thousand)

	B ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾	DK ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾	F	I ^{(1)(2a)}	L	NL ^{(1)(2a)(3b)}	A ⁽¹⁾	P ⁽¹⁾	FIN	S ^(2c)
A	33,8	:	:	28,4	24,9	20,6	28	9,6	29,2	33,5
B	15,8	28,1	21,6	16	19,2	14,8	18,3	6,2	22,8	24,7
C	31,8	40,2	34,2	25,4	30,1	38,8	30,3	14,8	31,3	39,9

A: Distributive trades; B: Hotels and restaurants; C: Real estate, rental and business services;

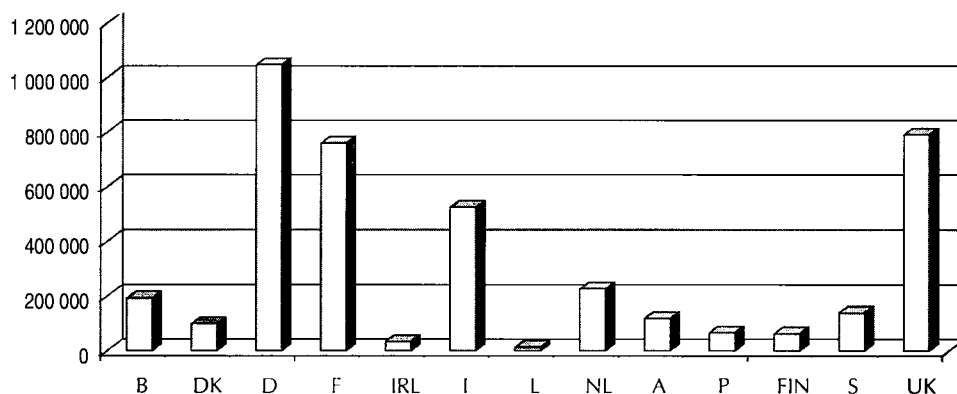
(1) 1995 data; (2) Distributive trades: excluding Class 52,71; (2a) excluding Group 51,1 and Classes 52,12, 52,31;

(3) Real estate, rental and business services: excluding Divisions 70, 73; (3a) excluding Divisions 71, 73, 74; (3b) excluding Divisions 70, 73, 74.; (3c) excluding Division 70.

Services spurring economic growth

The United Kingdom recorded the highest turnover for wholesale trade in 1996, while Germany recorded the highest figure for "other business activities". Excluding distributive trades, the highest average turnover per person employed in the hotels and restaurants sector was in Finland, although overall it was the transport and communications sector that had the highest average turnover per capita. In 1996, the figure of ECU 200 000 per capita was exceeded only in Belgium for advertising and in Luxembourg for market research and opinion polling.

Turnover (ECU million) - Distributive trades section



Turnover (ECU million)

	B ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾	DK ⁽¹⁾	D ^{(2a)(4)}	F	IRL ⁽³⁾	I ^{(1)(4a)}	L	NL ^{(1)(2b)(4b)}	A ^{(1)(4c)}	P ⁽¹⁾	FIN	S	UK ^(4d)
A	191 776	97 789	1 047 783	759 736	33 940	524 958	11 780	226 068	118 959	67 194	63 061	138 774	791 579
B	6 393	3 334	41 559	38 649	3 664	30 375	700	10 344	8 383	3 410	3 411	5 859	53 064
C	30 270	6 987	49 295	131 657	6 505	86 135	2 647	32 186	20 978	9 156	14 555	35 024	91 191

A: Distributive trades; B: Hotels and restaurants; C: Transport and communications;

(1) 1995 data; (2) Distributive trades: excluding Class 52,71; (2a) excluding Groups 50,2, 51,1, 52,7; (2b) excluding Groups 50,1, 50,3, 51,1 and Classes 52,12, 52,31; (3) Hotels and restaurants: excluding Group 55,2; (4) Transport and communications: excluding Divisions 60, 61, 63; 4a) excluding Groupe 62,3; (4b) excluding Division 62; (4c) excluding Group 64,1; (4d) excluding Division 64.

Source : Eurostat - Statistics in Focus Distributive Trades and Services No 21/1999.

3,5 billion euro EU-15 current account surplus in second quarter 1999

2,4 billion surplus for trade in services

The EU-15 external current account registered a surplus of 3,5 billion euro in the second quarter of 1999, compared with a surplus of 14,9 billion ecu in the second quarter of 1998 and with a deficit of 2,2 billion euro in the first quarter of 1999.

In the second quarter of 1999 the external EU-15 balance of trade in services

was in surplus by 2,4 billion euro, compared with a surplus of 4,3 billion ecu in the second quarter 1998 and with a deficit of 0,1 billion euro in the first quarter of 1999.

These provisional figures come from Eurostat¹ and will be subject to revision in the very near future.

Balance of payments euro-indicators for Euro-zone and for EU-15 (1998 in billion ecu, 1999 in billion euro)

	Q1/1998	Q2/1998	Q3/1998	Q4/1998	Q1/1999	Q2/1999
EU-15 current account balance (*)	2,1r	14,9r	13,9r	11,5r	-2,2r	3,5
EU-15 balance of trade in services (*)	1,0r	4,3r	1,7r	1,1r	-0,1r	2,4
% of EU-15 current account balance to GDP (*)	0,1%	0,8%	0,7%	0,6%	0,1%	:
Euro-zone current account balance (**)	7,5r	22,2r	19,3	17,9	11,9r	14,4
Euro-zone balance of trade in services (**)	-2,6	3,7	2,7	-0,6	-3,3r	-1,6
% of euro-zone current account balance to GDP (**)	0,5%	1,5%	1,3%	1,2%	0,8%	:

* Source: Eurostat ** Source: ECB, issued 27 August 1999
r: revised : not available.

Methodological Note

The European Central Bank (ECB) Directorate Statistics ("DS") and the European Commission (Eurostat) have agreed on a common new approach for compiling the balance of payments (b.o.p.) statistics of the euro-zone (EUR-11) and of the European Union (EU-15). According to the old methodology, quarterly balance of payments data of the EU-15 and euro-zone published by Eurostat were compiled by summing up the total national balance of payments of each EU/euro-zone Member State, because data on transactions outside the EU-15 and the euro-zone were not available for all Member States.

Although in theory the balance (credit minus debit) vis-à-vis the world should equal the balance with extra for both EU-15 and the euro-zone, this is not the case in practice. This is because there are large discrepancies in bilateral transactions within the zone. The ECB DS and Eurostat are working to reduce these discrepancies, in full co-operation

with balance of payments, external trade and national accounts statisticians in Member States. The most suitable way to compile the EU-15 and euro-zone aggregates is, in any case to use recorded transactions vis-à-vis countries outside the EU-15/euro-zone. These are now becoming available following start of Stage Three of Economic and Monetary Union as 1 January 1999. The data published by Eurostat and the ECB DS conform to this new methodology.

For a limited time there will be a difference in figures and methods between short-term data (monthly and quarterly) and annual data. This is due mainly to a methodological change in the principle of the geographical allocation of imports within EU-15 and the euro-zone. To conform to internationally-agreed methodology, certain Member States have changed the geographical allocation of intra EU-15/euro-zone imports from the country of origin to

that of consignment.

The consequence of these two methodological changes is that the aggregates compiled under the old methodology cannot be compared with those published following the new compilation procedure, and should no longer be used. The new figures show a lower surplus on the balance of payments cur-

rent account for recent years and contribute in turn to a reduction in the world discrepancies in balance of payments statistics.

Since May 1999 three sets of balance of payments figures appear in the Euro indicators web site:

(<http://europa.eu.int/en/comm/eurostat/serven/part3/euroind/eur11.htm>).

1. Eurostat compiles and issues the EU-15 balance of payments aggregates, whereas European Central Bank covers the euro-zone. Both use recording transactions vis-à-vis countries outside the EU-15 resp. euro-zone (see methodological annex). Euro-zone figures were released 27 August 1999 by ECB.

Source: Eurostat News Release No 89/99.

Although in theory the
minus
EU-15 and the euro-zone
case in
are
trans-

available for all Member States
the EU-15 and the euro-zone were
because data on transactions outside
of each EU-euro-zone Member State
the total national
Eurostat were
the EU-15 and
quantity balance of payments data in
According to the old methodology
of the Eurozone (EU-15)
including the balance of payments
for the euro-zone (EU-15)
and the euro-zone (EU-15)

152 million in the EU have a job

UK has the longest working week

Last year's EU Labour Force Survey (LFS) indicated 152 million EU people with a job, 42% of them women. This was an EU employment rate² of 61% in the spring 1998, reports¹ realized by Eurostat. Over 26,4 million or 17% of the 152 million with jobs said they worked part-time; 8 out of 10 of these were women. More than 19 million part-timers said they were not available for full-time work; more than 8 out of 10 of these were women.

EU-wide, 33% of female employment is part-time; highest by far is the Netherlands' 67,9% followed by the UK's 44,8%. Nearly 1,9 million unemployed women said they were looking for a part-time job.

Of the 125,5 million people with a full-time job, only one in three were women.

13% of all employees had a 'contract of limited duration'. This ranged from

2,9% in Luxembourg to 32,9% in Spain. EU figure for the under-25s was 37,6% (73,1% in Spain).

The EU has a jobless rate of 10,2% in spring - 17,3 million people (11,3% or 14,5 million people in the euro-zone). Lowest was Luxembourg's 2,8%, highest Spain's 18,9%, with Finland next at 13,2%. Nearly half the jobless had been so for over a year. 21,2% of the unemployed were looking for their first job - over half in Italy.

Highest employment rate was Denmark's 75,3%, lowest Spain's 49,7%.

Across the EU, employees in full-time work (men and women) averaged a 40,5-hour week (48 minutes less in the euro-zone). Longest working week was in the UK - 44,0 hours; shortest in Italy (38,5), followed by Belgium (38,6) and Denmark (38,7).

Nearly two-thirds work in services

Of the 125,5 million in full-time work, 103,8 million were employees, 19,7 million were self-employed and 1,9 million were family-workers. Women accounted for little more than a fifth of the self-employed but nearly two-thirds of family-workers.

65,7% of total jobs were in the service sector (80,2% of women's jobs). Employment in services was lowest in Portugal (50,2%) and Greece (58,9%). In Belgium, UK, Sweden, Netherlands and Luxembourg it topped 70%.

EU-wide, only 4,8% were employed in agriculture - ranging from 1,7% in UK to 17,8% in Greece.

Highest employment in industry was in Portugal (36,0%). EU-wide it was 29,5%.

EU-wide, nearly six million women said they would like to work but were not seeking it; nearly half-a-million said this was because they believed none was available. Over 75 million women said they were 'non-active' because they didn't want to work.

1. Eurostat Statistics in Focus, Population and social conditions, no 11/99 : "Labour Force Survey - Principal Results 1998".

2. Employment rate is people in employment as a percentage of the population aged 15-64 living in private households.

3. 1997 data for Ireland.

NB: Concepts and definitions follow International Labour Organisation (ILO) guidelines.

Source: Eurostat News release No 79/99.

INTERNET ADDRESS OF EUROSTAT:

<http://eurapa.eu.int/eurostat>.

Press Releases : the latest news available on-line.

<http://eurapa.eu.int/en/comm/eurostat/serve/part6/6som.htm>

Euro-Indicators : Statistics for Economic and Monetary Union and European Union

<http://eurapa.eu.int/en/comm/eurostat/serve/part3/euraind/eur11.htm>

The Euro-Indicators are a set of indicators that provide a comprehensive overview of the economic and financial situation of the Euro area. They are published in a monthly bulletin, which is available in both English and French. The indicators cover a wide range of economic and financial data, including GDP, inflation, unemployment, and government accounts. The Euro-Indicators are an essential tool for policymakers, analysts, and the general public.



Founded in 1937, the Banque de Luxembourg is one of the oldest and most prominent financial institutions in the Grand Duchy. Private banking and portfolio management are the core business areas of this Luxembourg commercial bank.

For research and forecasting work, its Financial Analysis Department draws on many prestigious external sources and studies, including those published by Eurostat.

**BANQUE
DE LUXEMBOURG**

BELGIQUE/BELGIË

**Eurostat Data Shop
Bruxelles/Brussel**
Chaussée d'Etterbeek 13/
Etterbeeksesteenweg 13
B-1049 Bruxelles/Brussel
Tel. (32-2) 299 66 66
Fax (32-2) 295 01 25
E-mail:
datashop.brussels@eurostat.cec.be

DANMARK

**Danmarks Statistik
Bibliotek og Information
Eurostat Data Shop**
Sejregade 11
DK-2100 København Ø
Tel. (45) 39 17 30 30
Fax (45) 39 17 30 03
E-mail: bib@dst.dk

DEUTSCHLAND

**Statistisches Bundesamt
Eurostat Data Shop Berlin**
Otto-Braun-Straße 70-72
D-10178 Berlin
Tel. (49-30) 23 24 64 27/28
Fax (49-30) 23 24 64 30
E-mail:
stba-berlin.datashop@t-online.de

ESPAÑA

**INE
Eurostat Data Shop**
Paseo de la Castellana, 183
Oficina 009
Entrada por Estébanez Calderón
E-28046 Madrid
Tel. (34) 915 83 91 67
Fax (34) 915 79 71 20
E-mail: datashop.eurostat@ine.es

FRANCE

**INSEE Info Service
Eurostat Data Shop**
195, rue de Bercy
Tour Gamma A
F-75582 Paris Cedex 12
Tel. (33) 153 17 88 44
Fax (33) 153 17 88 22
E-mail: datashop@insee.fr

ITALIA — Roma

**ISTAT — Centro di Informazione
Statistica — Sede di Roma
Eurostat Data Shop**
Via Cesare Balbo, 11A
I-00184 Roma
Tel. (39) 06 46 73 31 02/06
Fax (39) 06 46 73 31 01/07
E-mail: dipdiff@istat.it

Prix au Luxembourg, TVA exclue:

Prix par numéro: EUR 11 - Abonnement: EUR 102

ITALIA — Milano

**ISTAT — Centro di Informazione
Statistica — Sede di Milano
Eurostat Data Shop**
Piazza della Repubblica, 22
I-20124 Milano
Tel. (39) 026 59 51 33/134
Fax (39) 02 65 30 75
E-mail: Mileuro@it.tin

LUXEMBOURG

Eurostat Data Shop Luxembourg
BP 453 L-2014 Luxembourg
4, rue A. Weicker
L-2721 Luxembourg
Tel. (352) 43 35 22 51
Fax (352) 43 35 22 221
E-mail: dslux@eurostat.datashop.lu

NEDERLAND

**Statistics Netherlands
Eurostat Data Shop Voorburg**
PO box 4000
2270 JM Voorburg
Nederland
Tel. (31-70) 337 49 00
Fax (31-70) 337 59 84
E-mail: datashop@cbs.nl

PORTUGAL

**Eurostat Data Shop Lisboa
INE/Serviço de Difusão**
Avenida António de Almeida, 2
P-1000-043 Lisboa
Tel. (351-1) 842 61 00
Fax (351-1) 842 63 64
E-mail: data.shop@ine.pt

FINLAND/SUOMI

**Eurostat Data Shop
Tilastokirjasto**
Postiosoite: PL 2B
FIN-00022 Tilastokeskus
Käyntiosoite: Työpajakatu 13 B, 2 krs
FIN-Helsinki
Tel. (358-9) 17 34 22 21
Fax (358-9) 17 34 22 79
E-mail: datashop.tilastokeskus@tilastokeskus.fi
Internet: <http://www.tilastokeskus.fi/tik/kk/datashop.html>

SVERIGE

**Statistics Sweden
Information Service
Eurostat Data Shop**
Karlavägen 100
Box 24 300
S-104 51 Stockholm
Tel. (46-8) 783 48 01
Fax (46-8) 783 48 99
E-mail: infoservice@scb.se

UNITED KINGDOM

Enquiries, advice and publications
Office for National Statistics
Customers and Electronic Services Unit
B1/05
1 Drummond Gate
London SW1V 2QQ
United Kingdom
Tel. (44-171) 533 56 76
Fax (44-171) 533 56 88
E-mail: gloria.ryan@ons.gov.uk

Electronic Data Extractions,
Enquiries and advice

R.cade**Unit 1L**

**Mountjoy Research Centre
University of Durham**
Durham DH1 3SW
United Kingdom
Tel. (44-191) 374 73 50
Fax (44-191) 384 49 71
E-mail: r-cade@dur.ac.uk
URL: <http://www.rcade.dur.ac.uk>

NORGE

**Eurostat Data Shop Norway
Statistisk sentralbyrå
Bibliotek og informasjonscenteret**
Kongensgt.6
PB 8131, dep.
N-0033 Oslo
Tel: (47) 22 86 46 43
Fax: (47) 22 86 45 04
E-mail: biblioteket@ssb.no

SCHWEIZ/SUISSE/SVIZZERA

**Statistisches Amt des Kantons
Zürich**
Eurostat Data Shop
Bleicherweg 5
CH-8090 Zürich
Tel. (41-1) 225 12 12
Fax (41-1) 225 12 99
E-mail: datashop@zh.ch
<http://www.zh.ch/statistik>

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**Haver Analytics
Eurostat Data Shop**
60 East 42nd Street
Suite 3310
New York, NY 10165
United States of America
Tel. (1-212) 986 93 00
Fax (1-212) 986 58 57
E-mail: eurodata@haver.com



OFFICE FOR OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS

OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

L-2985 Luxembourg

FAX: +352-2929 42758

Internet address: <http://eur-op.eu.int/en/general/s-ad.htm>

e-mail: Info.Info@opoce.cec.be

CA-DC-99-010-EN-C