

1998 ▲ 1.5% EMPLOYMENT GROWTH IN THE E.U.

Statistics in focus

POPULATION AND
SOCIAL CONDITIONS

THEME 3 – 4/1999

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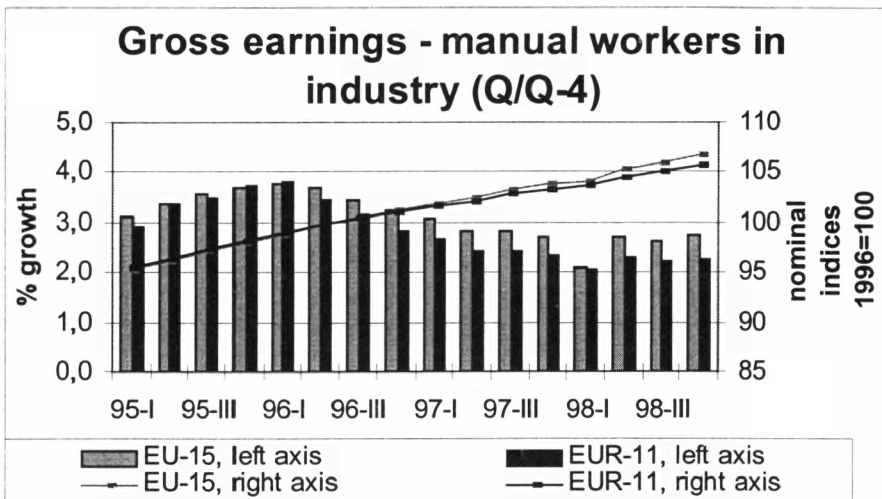
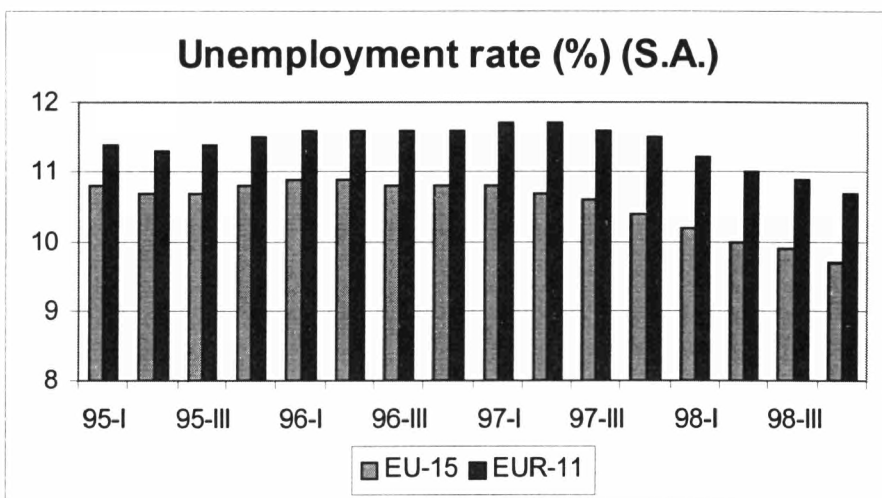
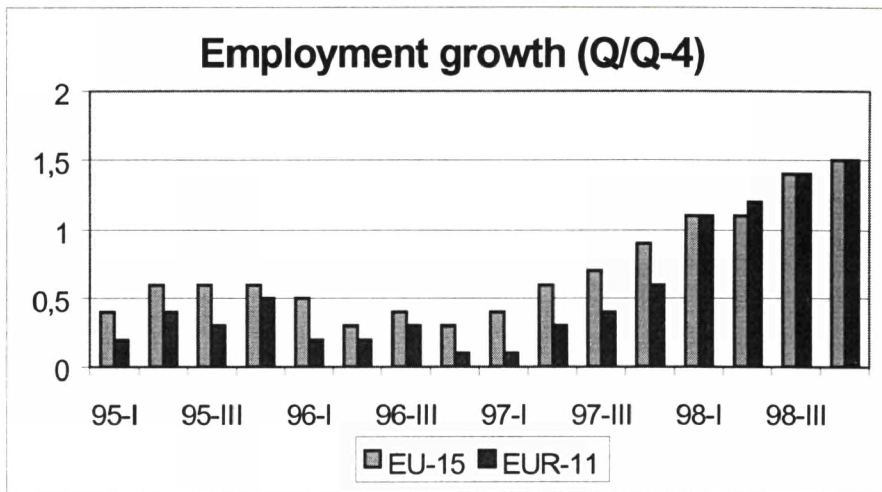
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Quarterly Employment

The number of those employed in the European Union (EU-15) in the last quarter of 1998 rose by approximately 2.3 millions, an increase of 1.5% on the previous year. The rise is similar in the Eurozone representing around 1.7 million extra jobs. There is a particular strong rise in the rate of employment in Luxembourg (4.7%), Portugal (4.3%) and Spain (3.3%), France corresponds to the community average whereas the United Kingdom (1.1%), Italy (0.9%), Austria (0.6%) and Germany (0.5%) are below this average.

The increase in employment has been continually accelerating since the second quarter of 1997 and has averaged 0.5% per year. The United Kingdom was already experiencing rising employment which explains why the rates of increase are higher for EU-15 than for the Euro-zone. However this difference has decreased throughout 1998 and at the end of 1998 the United Kingdom's rate of employment increase has slowed.

Quarterly Unemployment

In the last quarter of 1998, European Union unemployment rates decreased noticeably compared to the same quarter a year earlier. For the Euro-zone the unemployment rate (ILO definition) decreased by 0.8 points in one year and is at 10.7% for the last quarter, that is to say 13.7 million persons. The EU-15 rate of 9.7% (16.4 million persons) is slightly lower because of the comparatively low rate of unemployment in the United Kingdom and has decreased by 0.7 points.

Over the previous year the largest reductions have been seen in Spain, Portugal, Ireland, Sweden and Finland with -2.0 points, -2.0 points; -1.7 points, -1.6 points and -1.1 points respectively.

Whilst Spain remains the Member State with the highest unemployment rate in the last quarter of 1998 (18.2%), Portugal (4.4%) along with Luxembourg (2.7%), the Netherlands (3.6%), Austria (4.4%), and Denmark (4.7%) makes up the group of countries with low unemployment rates. In Germany the unemployment rate dropped by 1.0 points and stands at 9.1%, in France the rate dropped by 0.5 points and stands at 11.8%. Italy and the United Kingdom have seen relatively stable rates throughout the past year of around 12.3% and 6.2% respectively

The unemployment rates have improved more rapidly for those aged under 25 than for the population as a whole. (-1.3 points for EU-15 and -1.7 points for the Euro-zone). Improvements in the rate of youth unemployment are also to be found in Spain, Portugal, Ireland, Sweden and Finland whose overall totals have improved rapidly, but also in France (-1.9 points).

Quarterly Earnings Indices

From the second quarter of 1997 the growth rate of earnings of manual workers in industry has remained at below 3% (compared to the respective quarter of the previous year). The fourth quarter of 1998 shows a 2.7% growth for the EU-15 whilst the growth for the Euro-zone stands at 2.2% compared to the fourth quarter of 1997. For the fourth quarter of 1998 earnings grew by 2% in Germany, 1.8% in France, 3.1% in Sweden and 3% in Finland compared to the same period a year earlier.

► ESSENTIAL INFORMATION – METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

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

Employment

Employment according to International Labour Organisation (ILO) criteria is of those people who receive a salary for their job or have retained a link to their employer even if temporarily absent (paid work); or those who have undertaken a job with a view to obtaining gain or profit (non-paid work).

In nine Member States (Germany, Spain, France, Italy, Luxembourg, Portugal, Finland, Sweden and the UK) data are according to ILO criteria. In Denmark, the Netherlands and Austria, non-paid work is not included in the quarterly data used. In the Netherlands and Austria, the data refer to the number of jobs rather than the number of people with one or more jobs. In Denmark, the data used are "full-time equivalents".

In spite of these limitations, for the whole of the euro-zone and EU15, the published data can be considered a good indicator of real employment change.

Unemployment

Unemployed people according to the 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; have actively sought employment at some time during the previous four weeks.

The unemployment rate and numbers of unemployed are estimates based on the results from the Community Labour Force Survey (LFS). Estimated rates might differ from national unemployment rates due to differences in methods and definitions of unemployment.

Earnings indices

Gross earnings cover remuneration in cash paid directly and regularly by the employer at the time of each wage payment, before tax deductions and social security contributions payable by wage earners and retained by the employer, and before fines. The indices here represent the most used earnings indices in the Member States, and because they are not harmonised, there are dissimilarities in coverage and definitions.

Employment growth rate
% change compared to same quarter a year earlier

	EU-15	EUR-11	B	DK	D	EL	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK
1995-I	0.4	0.2	:	2.5	-0.2	:	1.9	1.1	:	-1.6	2.2	1.4	0.4	-1.0	2.1	1.6	1.2
1995-II	0.6	0.4	:	2.4	-0.2	:	2.6	1.1	:	-0.7	2.6	1.9	0.1	-1.4	2.7	2.0	1.1
1995-III	0.6	0.3	:	1.9	-0.4	:	3.0	0.6	:	-0.3	2.7	1.8	-0.2	-2.1	2.2	1.8	1.3
1995-IV	0.6	0.5	:	1.5	-0.7	:	3.2	0.7	:	0.4	2.3	2.3	-0.7	-0.7	1.5	0.8	1.2
1996-I	0.5	0.2	:	0.7	-1.3	:	2.6	0.3	:	0.7	3.0	2.1	-1.3	0.7	1.7	0.7	1.4
1996-II	0.3	0.2	:	1.6	-1.0	:	2.6	0.2	:	0.3	2.6	2.3	-0.9	0.3	1.1	-1.1	0.9
1996-III	0.4	0.3	:	1.6	-1.2	:	3.2	0.1	:	0.3	2.8	2.5	-0.4	1.1	1.0	-1.1	0.9
1996-IV	0.3	0.1	:	1.6	-1.5	:	3.3	0.0	:	0.2	3.2	2.7	-0.1	0.6	1.7	-0.8	1.2
1997-I	0.4	0.1	:	2.2	-1.6	:	3.3	0.1	:	0.0	2.9	2.8	0.3	0.7	2.8	-1.8	1.4
1997-II	0.6	0.3	:	2.5	-1.5	:	3.0	0.4	:	0.0	3.1	2.6	0.3	2.1	3.9	-1.3	1.8
1997-III	0.7	0.4	:	2.6	-1.3	:	2.7	0.7	:	0.0	3.5	2.7	0.2	2.2	3.6	-0.7	1.8
1997-IV	0.9	0.6	:	3.4	-0.9	:	3.0	1.0	:	0.0	3.8	2.8	0.3	2.6	3.9	-0.6	1.7
1998-I	1.1	1.1	:	2.2	-0.5	:	3.3	1.3	:	0.6	3.8	2.9	0.6	4.9	2.6	0.5	1.3
1998-II	1.1	1.2	:	0.6	-0.2	:	3.6	1.6	:	0.1	4.5	2.9	0.8	5.1	2.0	1.1	1.0
1998-III	1.4	1.4	:	2.8	0.3	:	3.6	1.6	:	0.6	4.6	2.9	0.8	4.1	2.7	1.7	1.2
1998-IV	1.5	1.5	:	2.4	0.5	:	3.3	1.5	:	0.9	4.7	:	0.6	4.3	2.3	2.4	1.1

: At present, no quarterly data available for Belgium, Greece and Ireland.

Quarterly unemployment rate (%) (seasonally adjusted)

	EU-15	EUR-11	B	DK	D	EL	E	FR	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK
1995-I	10.8	11.4	9.8	7.4	8.0	:	23.3	11.7	12.6	11.8	2.9	7.2	3.8	7.3	15.1	8.9	9.0
1995-II	10.7	11.3	9.8	7.3	8.1	9.1	22.9	11.6	12.3	11.9	2.9	7.1	3.8	7.4	15.1	8.7	8.8
1995-III	10.7	11.4	9.9	7.2	8.2	:	22.8	11.6	12.1	12.0	2.9	6.7	4.0	7.2	15.4	8.6	8.7
1995-IV	10.8	11.5	10.1	7.1	8.4	:	22.7	12.0	12.1	12.0	3.0	6.7	4.2	7.3	15.4	9.0	8.5
1996-I	10.9	11.6	10.0	7.2	8.7	:	22.6	12.3	12.0	12.0	3.1	6.5	4.4	7.3	14.8	9.1	8.4
1996-II	10.9	11.6	9.8	7.1	8.8	9.7	22.4	12.3	11.9	12.0	3.1	6.3	4.4	7.5	14.5	9.5	8.3
1996-III	10.8	11.6	9.6	6.7	8.9	:	22.0	12.4	11.6	12.0	2.9	6.3	4.3	7.3	14.7	9.7	8.1
1996-IV	10.8	11.6	9.4	6.1	9.2	:	21.7	12.4	11.0	12.0	2.8	6.1	4.3	7.1	14.2	10.0	7.9
1997-I	10.8	11.7	9.3	5.9	9.7	:	21.3	12.4	10.6	12.2	2.6	5.6	4.3	7.1	13.5	10.3	7.4
1997-II	10.7	11.7	9.3	5.6	9.9	9.6	21.1	12.4	10.2	12.1	2.7	5.4	4.3	6.8	12.9	10.4	7.3
1997-III	10.6	11.6	9.2	5.5	10.0	:	20.7	12.4	9.6	12.1	2.8	5.1	4.4	6.9	12.2	9.7	6.9
1997-IV	10.4	11.5	9.1	5.4	10.1	:	20.2	12.3	9.0	12.1	2.9	4.6	4.4	6.4	11.9	9.1	6.6
1998-I	10.2	11.2	9.0	5.5	9.8	:	19.4	12.1	8.4	12.1	2.8	4.5	4.4	5.8	11.9	8.7	6.5
1998-II	10.0	11.0	8.8	5.2	9.5	:	19.0	11.9	7.9	12.3	2.8	4.0	4.5	4.8	11.8	8.6	6.3
1998-III	9.9	10.9	8.8	5.1	9.3	:	18.7	11.9	7.6	12.3	2.8	3.8	4.5	4.6	11.2	8.1	6.3
1998-IV	9.7	10.7	8.5	4.7	9.1	:	18.2	11.8	7.3	12.3	2.7	3.6	4.4	4.4	10.8	7.5	6.2

Gross earnings – manual workers in industry – nominal indices 1996 = 100

	95-I	95-II	95-III	95-IV	96-I	96-II	96-III	96-IV	97-I	97-II	97-III	97-IV	98-I	98-II	98-III	98-IV
EU-15	95.23	96.14	97.04	97.95	98.82	99.67	100.39	101.13	101.85	102.49	103.24	103.87	103.98	105.28	105.96	106.7
EUR-11	95.37	96.37	97.26	98.16	99.01	99.70	100.32	100.93	101.66	102.11	102.73	103.30	103.75	104.45	105.00	105.6

**Gross earnings – manual workers in industry –
% change compared to same quarter a year earlier**

	95-I	95-II	95-III	95-IV	96-I	96-II	96-III	96-IV	97-I	97-II	97-III	97-IV	98-I	98-II	98-III	98-IV
EU-15	3.1	3.4	3.6	3.7	3.8	3.7	3.5	3.2	3.1	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.1	2.7	2.6	2.7
EUR-11	2.9	3.4	3.5	3.7	3.8	3.5	3.1	2.8	2.7	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.1	2.3	2.2	2.2

N.B. The index series for the individual Member States will fully presented in the next issue of this publication on the Labour Market

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