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Unemployment in the urban areas of the European Union
Data from the Community survey of the labour force

The 3/1998 issue of Statistics in focus - Regions *described the persistent variations in unemployment between the different European regions. The present study is also based on the 1997 Community Labour Force Survey. It offers an initial idea of the unemployment situation in urban areas[1] for these same European regions. While the variations are large in themselves, urban areas have specific characteristics which usually give rise to higher levels of unemployment.*

Very large variations within urban Europe

By breaking down the results of the Labour Force Survey (LFS) according to the degree of urbanisation, we can produce an initial account of the unemployment situation in the densely populated areas of each region of the European Union (see the methodological note and the map of "LFS urban areas"). Thus, in April 1997 the rate of unemployment for all urban agglomerations (regarded for the purpose of this analysis as equivalent to the "densely populated areas" used in the LFS) in the European Union was 11.6%. This average conceals substantial variations. The rate of unemployment ranges from 2.8% in Luxembourg to 30.5% in the urban areas of Andalusia.

Of the 141 LFS regions with urban areas comprising one or more urban agglomerations and for which the available figures are sufficiently reliable, a dozen or so stand out with less than 5.5% unemployment, which is 50% lower than the average for the European Union. Most of these urban areas are concentrated in the Benelux countries (Table 1).

Conversely, there are a dozen or so urban areas where unemployment is more than twice the European Union average. They are found mainly in Italy and Spain.

Leaving aside these extremes, the attached map indicates the geographical distribution of urban unemployment in Europe by using three categories based on the average rate (11.6%): relatively low unemployment (under 8%), moderate (8 to 14%) and above-average (14% or more). This map reveals wide variations in unemployment between the urban areas of the European Union. In general, unemployment is rife in the urban areas of Greece, the new German Länder, southern Belgium, northern and southern France, northern and southern Spain and southern Italy. On the other hand, the areas least affected by unemployment are found in central and southern Britain, the Netherlands, Austria, northern Belgium, the old German Länder, northern and central Italy and along the Adriatic coast. Where figures are available, unemployment levels are also very low in Portuguese urban areas.

[1] See the methodological notes at the end of the text for information on the definition of "urban area" used.

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For further information please contact: F. Cardoso
Eurostat, L-2920 Luxembourg, tel. 4301-33361 Fax: 4301-34029

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Figure 1: The unemployment rate (%) in the urban areas of some countries of the European Union

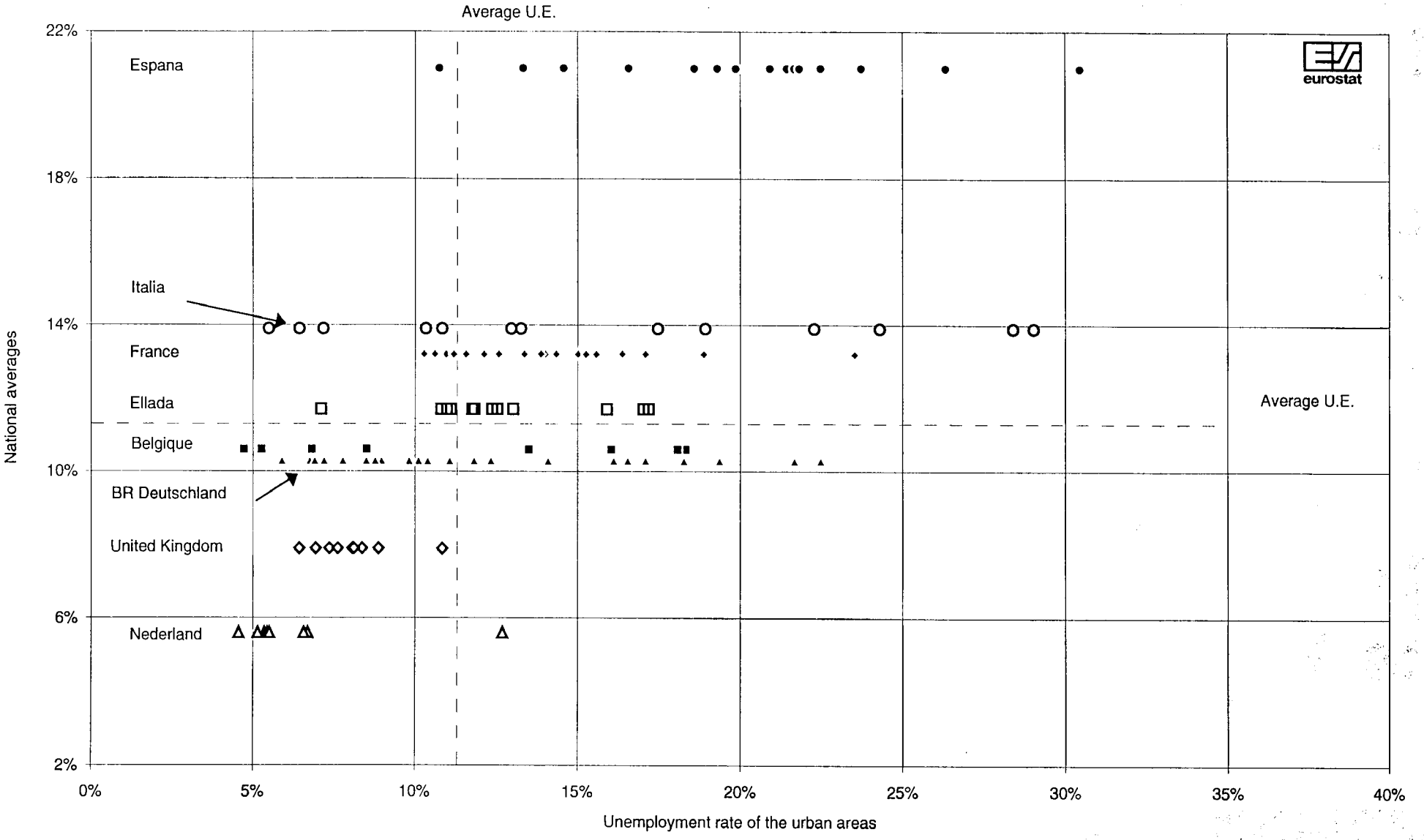


Table 1:
Urban areas of the European Union with the highest and lowest rates of unemployment in 1997

Regions	Unemployment in urban areas
Luxembourg (Lu)	2.80%
Oberoesterreich (A)	3.80%
Utrecht (NI)	4.60%
Vlaams Brabant (Be)	4.70%
Vorarlberg (A)	4.80%
Noord-Brabant (NI)	5.10%
Salzburg (A)	5.20%
West-Vlaanderen (Be)	5.20%
Overijssel (NI)	5.30%
Noord-Holland (NI)	5.40%
Zuid-Holland (NI)	5.50%
Veneto (I)	5.50%
Madeira (P)	5.50%
...	...
Halle (D)	18.30%
Hainaut (B)	18.30%
Communidad de Madrid (E)	18.60%
Nord-Pas de Calais (F)	18.90%
Molise (I)	19.20%
Cataluna (E)	19.30%
Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (D)	19.30%
Pais Vasco (E)	19.90%
Cantabria (E)	20.90%
Galicia (E)	21.20%
Communidad Valenciana (E)	21.60%
Magdeburg (D)	21.60%
Canarias (E)	21.70%
Sardegna (I)	22.20%
Castilla y Leon (E)	22.40%
Dessau (D)	22.50%
Languedoc-Roussillon (F)	23.60%
Principado de Asturias (E)	23.70%
Calabria (I)	24.40%
Ceuta y Melilla (E)	26.30%
Sicilia (I)	28.20%
Campania (I)	29.00%
Andalucia (E)	30.50%

Significant variations within most European Union countries

The contrasts between European urban areas are considerable and bear witness to the diversity and profound socio-economic inequality in Europe. If we consider the situation within each country, the same applies (Figure 1 and Table 2). For instance, in Italy the level of unemployment is five times higher in the urban agglomerations of Campania than in those of Veneto. In Belgium, the largest variation is between the urban areas of Vlaams-Brabant, with under 5% unemployment and those of Hainaut, where the rate exceeds 18%.

Table 2:
Lowest and highest rates of unemployment in urban areas in some European Union countries, 1997

Country		
Regions containing urban areas with the lowest rate		
Belgique	Vlaams Brabant	4.70%
BR Deutschland	Oberbayern	5.80%
Ellada	Notio Aigaio	7.10%
Espana	Comuni. foral de Navarra	10.70%
France	Limousin	10.20%
Italia	Veneto	5.50%
Nederland	Utrecht	4.60%
United Kingdom	South-West	6.50%
Regions containing urban areas with the highest rate		
Belgique	Hainaut	18.30%
BR Deutschland	Dessau	22.50%
Ellada	Dytiki Makedonia	16.70%
Espana	Andalucia	30.50%
France	Languedoc-Roussillon	23.60%
Italia	Campania	29.00%
Nederland	Groningen	12.70%
United Kingdom	North	10.80%

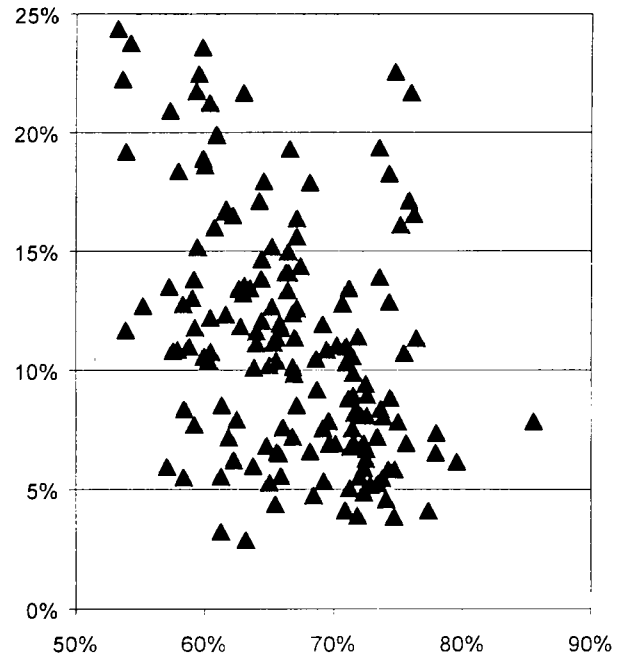
In Germany the variations are also very large. In the urban region of Dessau unemployment is almost four times higher than in that of Oberbayern. In Spain, France, Greece and the Netherlands, unemployment in the urban areas of some regions is two or even three times higher than in other regions, while in the UK internal variations are less widespread.

A slight negative correlation between the rate of unemployment and the rate of activity

Figure 2 plots the rate of activity against the rate of unemployment for each of the urban areas in the various LFS regions of the European Union.

We find a significant negative correlation (R^2 = -0.48) which might suggest that the lower the proportion of the active population, the greater the likelihood of high unemployment. This finding is important, because it enables us to identify urban areas with both a low rate of activity and a high rate of unemployment. However, its effect is to reduce the relative importance of the numbers of unemployed in the total population.

Figure 2:
Relationship between the rate of unemployment and the rate of activity in the urban areas of the



This might show that, in addition to "visible" unemployment, these areas also have pockets of inactivity comprising people who have lost all hope of finding work and who state that they are inactive. However, the link between these two indicators is not direct. Thus, the urban areas with the highest rates of unemployment are not necessarily among those with the lowest rates of activity, and vice versa. Areas with the lowest rates of activity include the urban agglomerations of southern Italy, much of Spain and Greece, and those of Languedoc-Roussillon.

Further north there is also the case of the urban areas of Nord-Pas de Calais in France, Limbourg and Hainaut in Belgium and Northern Ireland, where rates of activity are well below the European average (66.2%). In general, rates of activity are highest in the urban areas of northern Europe, and more particularly in the Netherlands, Austria, Germany and Sweden.

Unemployment particularly affects the young

Though unemployment has been the main socio-economic problem for European Union countries for the past twenty five years, it does not affect the whole population to the same degree. Thus, in general, rates of unemployment are higher among the young than among older people. To demonstrate this, we can simply compare the rate of unemployment for young people aged 15 to 24 with the overall rate of unemployment taking all ages together. If the ratio is greater than 1, there is "excess unemployment" among the young. Conversely, an index of less than 1 shows that unemployment is proportionately lower among young people than for the population as a whole.

There are only a few urban areas where young people aged 15-24 are proportionately less affected by unemployment (Table 3). They are all in Germany. Conversely, in 40% of the urban areas of the European Union for which reliable figures are available[1], the rate of unemployment among the young is at least twice as high, in proportional terms, as the rate for the population as a whole. The most striking differences are found in the urban areas of certain regions of Greece and Italy.

The rate of unemployment is higher, on average, for women than for men

Does unemployment affect more women than men? To answer this question we have considered the 25-39 age group, which has the highest rate of activity for women, and we have compared the rate of unemployment among active women in this age group with the total active population in the same 25-39 age group. This index should be read in the same way as the previous one. An index greater than 1 indicates "excess unemployment" among women while a figure of less than 1 shows that unemployment is proportionately lower among women.

Table 3:
Ratio between the rate of unemployment among young people (15 to 24) and total unemployment ("under-unemployment" if < 1 and "excess unemployment" if > 1)

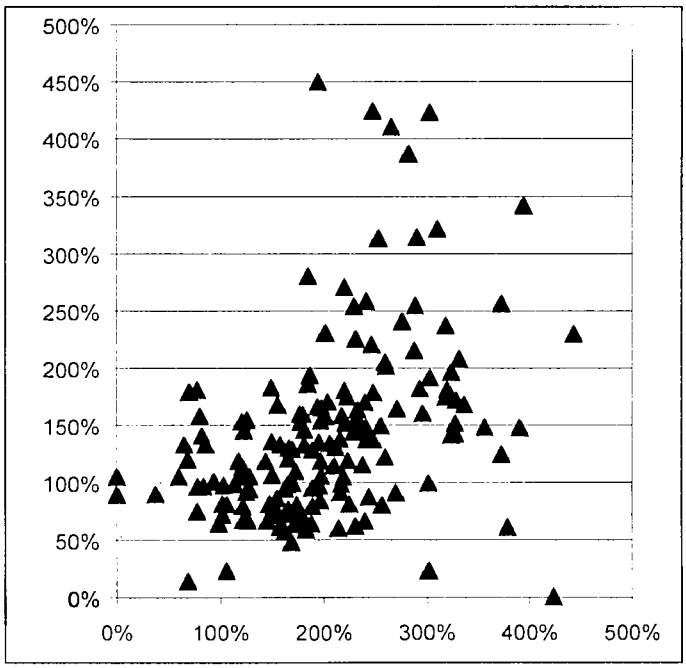
Regions (urban areas)	
Brandeburg (D)	0.65
Thueringen (D)	0.68
Sachsen (D)	0.70
Halle (D)	0.8
Berlin-Ost, Stadt (D)	0.82
Magdeburg (D)	0.86
Stuttgart (D)	0.94
Bremen (D)	0.99
...	...
Anatoloki Makedonia Thraki (G)	3.02
Ipeiros (G))	3.18
Lombardia (I)	3.18
Dykiti Ellada (G)	3.27
Piemonte (I)	3.28
Toscana (I)	3.31
Lazio (I)	3.72
Liguria (I)	3.73

[1] In view of the breakdown by age groups, and hence the greater incidence of the problem of small numbers, there are no more than 44 urban areas for which the unemployment rates for young people are sufficiently reliable.

The unequal impact of unemployment is less noticeable for women than for young people[1]. Nevertheless, in almost three quarters of urban areas[2] we find "excess unemployment" among women aged 25-39[3]. The urban agglomerations of the south, in Spain, Italy and Greece, are the ones with the highest proportional difference between male and female levels of unemployment. Some German urban areas also fall into this category. On the other hand, the urban areas of just over ten regions have levels of unemployment which are relatively lower for women than for men. Most of these regions are found in Germany.

Figure 3 compares the rate of unemployment among the young and among women in urban areas of the European Union for which the figures are sufficiently reliable. There is a small positive correlation between these two variables (R2 = 0.41). In very general terms we can say that where there is "excess unemployment" among the young, women are also in a comparatively unfavourable position.

Figure 3:
The rate of unemployment among the young (15-24) compared with the rate among women (25-39) in the urban agglomerations of the European Union



Levels of unemployment vary between urban and non-urban areas

If we look at both urban and non-urban areas in the same LFS region, we can compare the respective rates of unemployment provided that the figures are sufficiently reliable for both sub-sets. Table 5 gives details of the extreme situations in descending order of the difference between urban and non-urban areas. Taking all regions where the comparison is possible, the average rate of unemployment in urban areas is 11.6% against 9.7% in the corresponding non-urban areas.

Table 4:
The ratio between rates of unemployment among women (25-39) and total unemployment ("under- unemployment" if > 1 and "excess unemployment" if < 1) in the urban areas of the European Union

Regions (urban areas)	
Bremen (D)	0.64
Darmstadt (D)	0.71
Noord-Holland (NI)	0.71
Arnsberg (D)	0.71
Koeln (D)	0.76
Schleswig-Holstein (D)	0.79
South-West (Irl)	0.79
East (Irl)	0.81
Saarland (D)	0.81
Duesseldorf (D)	0.94
Hamburg (D)	0.95
Norte (P)	0.98
Rég. Bruxelles Capitale (B)	0.98
...	...
Puglia (I)	2.01
Auvergne (F)	2.05
Toscana (I)	2.08
Kentriki Makedonia (G)	2.15
Veneto (I)	2.25
Ipeiros (G)	2.37
Cantabria (E)	2.54
Thessalia (G)	2.54
Liguria (I)	2.56
Aragon (E)	2.70
Dytiki Makedonia (G)	3.86
Sterea Ellada (G)	4.10
Anatoliki Makedonia, Thraki (G)	4.22

1 For the whole urban territory of the European Union the "excess unemployment" index is 2 for young people aged 15-24 and 1.2 for women aged 25-39.

2 For a reason similar to that mentioned in the case of young people, we shall consider only 44 urban areas where the figures are felt to be sufficiently reliable.

3 This age group contains the great majority of the active female population.

Nevertheless, this higher unemployment in urban areas is not a general rule since we find the opposite situation in 16 regions, though we cannot identify any geographical link for these areas. However, the differences this way round are far smaller and fewer in number than for the converse. These results therefore allow us to say that urban areas also have higher levels of unemployment than rural areas. Among the areas with high urban unemployment we find many Greek regions but also some French, Belgian and Italian regions, mainly those affected by the process of post-industrialisation.

Figure 4.
Trend in the rate of unemployment between 1992 and 1997 by types of urban areas

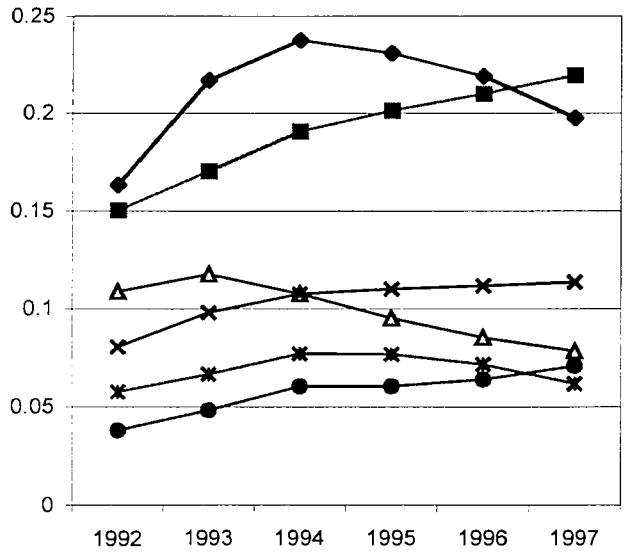


Table 5:
Comparison of rates of unemployment between urban and non urban areas: extremes within the European Union

Regions	Rate of unemployment			Regions	Rate of unemployment		
Urban excess-unemployment	Urban	Non urban	Difference	***Urban under-unemployment***	Urban	Non urban	Difference
CAMPANIA	29.00%	18.90%	10.10%	SACHSEN	17.10%	17.40%	-0.30%
DYTIKI ELLADA	12.70%	3.70%	9.00%	BRABANT WALLON	7.90%	8.20%	-0.30%
LIEGE	16.00%	7.30%	8.60%	WALES	7.50%	7.80%	-0.30%
LANGUEDOC-ROUSSILLON	23.60%	16.00%	7.60%	MADEIRA	5.50%	5.80%	-0.30%
PIEMONTE	13.20%	5.70%	7.50%	UNTERFRANKEN	6.20%	6.60%	-0.40%
IPEIROS	15.10%	8.10%	7.10%	EMILIA-ROMAGNA	6.50%	7.00%	-0.50%
ANATOLIKI MAKEDONIA	12.30%	5.40%	6.90%	CANTABRIA	20.90%	21.60%	-0.70%
VOREIO AIGAIO	11.60%	4.90%	6.80%	RHEINHESSEN-PFALZ	7.20%	8.10%	-1.00%
SICILIA	28.20%	21.50%	6.80%	LAZIO	13.00%	14.20%	-1.20%
GRONINGEN	12.70%	6.40%	6.30%	PUGLIA	17.50%	18.80%	-1.30%
HAINAUT	18.30%	12.40%	6.00%	STOCKHOLM	7.80%	9.20%	-1.40%
STEREA ELLADA	16.60%	10.80%	5.80%	BRANDENBURG	16.10%	17.60%	-1.50%
CATALUNA	19.30%	13.50%	5.80%	THUERINGEN	16.50%	18.10%	-1.60%
ALSACE	11.30%	5.60%	5.70%	UUSIMAA	10.70%	12.40%	-1.70%
PRINCIPADO DE ASTURIAS	23.70%	18.30%	5.50%	ANDALUCIA	30.50%	32.90%	-2.40%
NORD-PAS-DE-CALAIS	18.90%	13.40%	5.40%	HALLE	18.30%	21.00%	-2.70%
PELOPONNISOS	11.70%	6.40%	5.30%				
MIDI-PYRENEES	15.20%	9.90%	5.30%				
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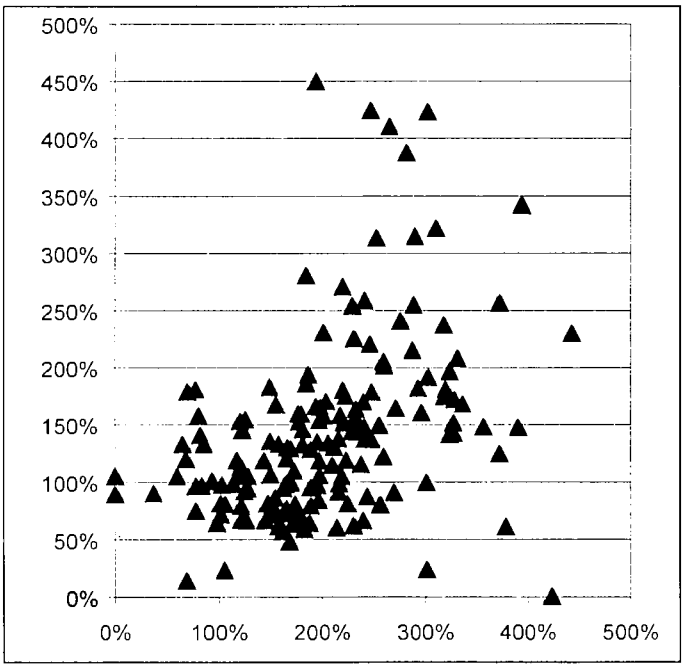

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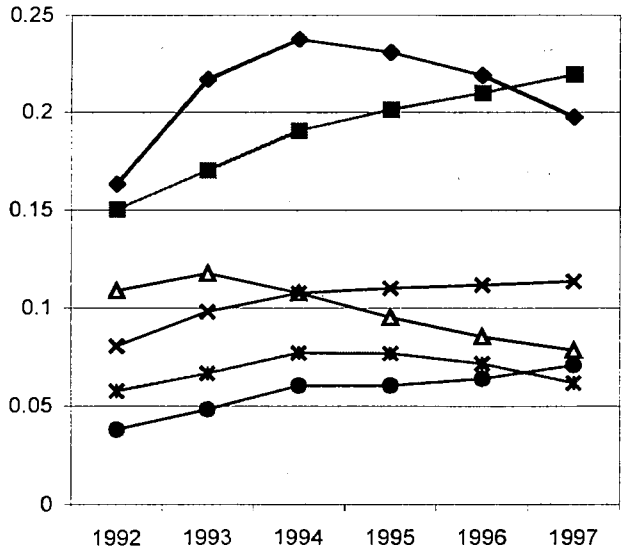

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THESSALIA	10.50%	5.50%	5.10%				

Table 6 :

Trend in the rate of unemployment in urban areas of the regions of the Community Labour Force Survey from 1992 to 1997

	LFS Region	Active population (aged 15-64) (in thousands)	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Group 1 :	***High unemployment declining at end of period***							
ES21	PAIS VASCO	*1 005.0*	19.8%	23.9%	25.7%	25.4%	22.5%	19.8%
	BILBAO, DONOSTIA-SAN SEBASTIAN, VITORIA-							
ES52	COMUNIDAD VALENCIANA	*1 494.0*	19.2%	25.0%	26.5%	24.2%	23.1%	21.5%
	ALICANTE, CASTELLON DE LA PLANA, VALENCIA							
ES51	CATALUNA	*2 774.6*	13.8%	20.7%	22.6%	22.2%	20.9%	19.2%
	BARCELONA, LERIDA, MATARO, TARRAGONA							
ES3	COMUNIDAD DE MADRID	*3 154.7*	12.6%	17.1%	20.1%	20.5%	21.0%	18.5%
	FUENLABRADA, MADRID							
Group 2 :	***High and steadily rising unemployment***							
ITA0	SICILIA	*1 400.3*	18.2%	20.2%	23.5%	25.6%	26.7%	28.1%
	CATANIA, MESSINA, PALERMO, SIRACUSA							
IT80	CAMPANIA	*2 839.2*	17.8%	21.1%	25.3%	28.2%	27.9%	28.8%
	NAPOLI							
FR3	NORD-PAS-DE-CALAIS	*1 505.2*	13.8%	15.4%	16.8%	16.4%	18.7%	18.8%
	DUNKERQUE, LILLE/VALENCIENNES/LENS/KORTRIJK							
FR82	PROVENCE-ALPES-COTE DAZUR	*1 238.9*	12.9%	15.1%	14.9%	16.3%	16.2%	17.0%
	AVIGNON, MARSEILLE, NICE/CANNES/ANTIBES,							
DED	SACHSEN	*1 402.5*	12.5%	13.4%	14.8%	14.1%	15.4%	17.0%
	CHEMNITZ, DRESDEN, GLAUCHAU, LEIPZIG,							
Group 3 :	***Moderate unemployment falling sharply since 1993***							
UK70	WEST MIDLANDS	*2 242.2*	12.4%	12.8%	11.8%	10.2%	8.3%	8.0%
	COVENTRY/BEDWORTH, TELFORD SOUTH, THE POTTERIES, WEST MIDLANDS,							
UK80	NORTH WEST	*3 295.0*	12.1%	12.1%	10.8%	9.9%	8.4%	8.0%
	BIRKENHEAD, BLACKBURN/DARWEN, BLAKPOOL, BURNLEY/NELSON, GREATER MANCHESTER/LIVERPOOL, PRESTON, THE							
UK10	NORTH	*1 322.9*	12.1%	13.5%	12.7%	12.0%	11.0%	10.8%
	HARTEPOOL, SUNDERLAND/WHITBURN, TEESSIDE, TYNESIDE							
UKA0	SCOTLAND	*1 692.2*	11.5%	12.1%	10.8%	9.6%	9.3%	8.8%
	ABERDEEN, DUNDEE, EDINBURGH, FALKIRK, GLASGOW							
UK60	SOUTH-WEST	*1 160.0*	10.6%	12.0%	10.2%	8.5%	7.6%	6.4%
	BOURNEMOUTH, BRISTOL, CHELTENHAM/CHARLTON KINGS, GLOUCESTER, PLYMOUTH, SWINDON, TORBAY							
UK50	SOUTH-EAST	*8 207.1*	10.6%	11.6%	11.0%	9.6%	8.2%	7.3%
	ALDERSHOT/READING, BOURNEMOUTH, BRIGHTON/WORTHING/LITTLEHAMPTON, COLCHESTER, CRAWLEY, EASTBOURNE, HASTINGS/BEXHILL, HIGH WYCOMBE, LONDON, LUTON/DUNSTABLE, MILTON KEYNES, OXFORD, PORTSMOUTH, SLOUGH, SOUTHAMPTON/EASTLEIGH, SOUTHEND/BASILDON,							
UK20	YORKSHIRE AND HUMBERSIDE	*2 338.1*	10.5%	10.7%	10.3%	9.5%	8.4%	8.3%
	DONCASTER URBAN AREA, GRIMSBY/CLEETHORPES, KINGSTON UPON HULL, WEST YORKSHIRE/SHEFFIELD, YORK							
UK30	EAST MIDLANDS	*1 352.1*	10.0%	10.6%	10.0%	9.2%	7.8%	6.9%
	COVENTRY/BEDWORTH, DERBY, GREATER MANCHESTER/LIVERPOOL, GRIMSBY/CLEETHORPES, LEICESTER, LINCOLN, MANSFIELD, NORTHAMPTON, NOTTINGHAM, WEST							
DK	DANMARK	*1 179.9*	8.2%	10.5%	9.2%	7.2%	7.7%	6.1%
	AARHUS, KOBENHAVN, ODENSE							

Table 6 :

eurostat **Trend in the rate of unemployment in urban areas of the regions of the Community Labour Force Survey from 1992 to 1997**

	LFS Region	Active population (aged 15-64) (in thousands)	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Group 4 :	*Unemployment keeping fairly close to the trend in the European average*							
FR71	RHONE-ALPES	*1 324.9*	10.3%	12.3%	13.0%	12.8%	12.2%	12.5%
	ANNECY, GRENOBLE, LYON, SAINT-ETIENNE							
GR3	ATTIKI	*2 550.2*	9.6%	11.1%	11.3%	11.0%	11.9%	11.6%
	ATHINAI							
FR1	ILE DE FRANCE	*6 540.7*	8.2%	9.8%	10.9%	10.2%	10.7%	10.9%
	MANTES-LA-JOLIE, PARIS							
IT60	LAZIO	*2 114.2*	7.7%	9.3%	9.3%	12.8%	12.8%	12.8%
	ROMA							
DEA5	ARNSBERG	*1 870.6*	6.5%	8.9%	11.0%	10.3%	10.1%	10.3%
	RHEIN-RUHR, SIEGEN							
DEA1	DUESSELDORF	*3 106.3*	6.1%	7.5%	9.1%	9.0%	9.3%	10.0%
	RHEIN-RUHR							
Group 5 :	*Very low unemployment falling still further at the end of the period*							
NL32	NOORD-HOLLAND	*1 447.2*	6.0%	7.0%	7.7%	8.0%	6.6%	5.4%
	RANDSTAD HOLLAND							
DEA2	KOELN	*1 927.5*	5.8%	7.5%	8.5%	8.2%	8.5%	8.4%
	AACHEN/MAASTRICHT/LIEGE, RHEIN-RUHR							
IT32	VENETO	*1 087.2*	5.7%	5.9%	7.2%	7.2%	6.8%	5.4%
	PADOVA, SCHIO, VENEZIA, VERONA, VICENZA							
NL33	ZUID-HOLLAND	*1 950.7*	5.5%	6.2%	7.4%	7.3%	6.7%	5.5%
	RANDSTAD HOLLAND							
Group 6 :	*Very low unemployment, increasing slowly but steadily*							
IT20	LOMBARDIA	*4 202.6*	5.3%	6.3%	6.6%	6.9%	7.1%	7.2%
	BRESCIA, MILANO							
DE6	HAMBURG	*1 189.1*	5.2%	5.8%	6.9%	7.1%	7.9%	8.7%
	HAMBURG							
DE71	DARMSTADT	*1 774.0*	3.1%	4.1%	5.9%	6.0%	6.2%	6.9%
	MANNHEIM/LUDWIGSHAFEN AM RHEIN/HEIDELB.							
DE21	OBERBAYERN	*1 312.6*	2.8%	3.5%	4.8%	4.7%	4.8%	5.8%
	INGOLSTADT, MUNCHEN, SALZBURG							
DE11	STUTTGART	*1 476.0*	2.6%	4.4%	6.0%	5.5%	5.9%	6.8%
	HEILBRONN, STUTTGART							

Varying trends since 1992

If the rate of sampling is adequate, we can also compare the trend in urban unemployment since 1992. If we confine ourselves to regions with an active population in excess of one million (Table 6) we can group the regions into six classes according to the level of unemployment and how it has changed over the six years of observation. Incidentally, there is a significant "national" component: this may be due to economic cycles which can vary quite considerably between countries.

In descending order of the rates for 1992, we find a first group with a high level of unemployment combined with a downward trend since 1995, a second group corresponding to high and steadily rising unemployment, a third group where unemployment was above the European average in 1992 and has been falling since 1994, ending up below the average figure; a fourth group which keeps fairly closely in line with the general trend in unemployment, a fifth group with low unemployment which has also been falling since 1995 and finally a sixth group with very low unemployment which is rising slowly.

Table 7 - Unemployment rate and Active population in European Union Urban areas

eurostat

code	1997 data Figures in thousands	Total population	Total population (15-64 age group)	Total population in urban areas (15-64 age group)	Total population in urban areas (15-64 age group)	Active population in urban areas (15-64 age group)	Rage of activity in urban areas (15-64 age group)[1]	Unemployed in urban areas (15-64 age group)	Rate of unemployment in urban areas (15-64 age group)[1,2]
code	*LFS regions*								
AT11	BURGENLAND	272.2	181.0	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
AT12	NIEDEROESTERREICH	1 495.7	992.0	121.2	12.2%	87.1	71.8%	4.7	NF
AT13	WIEN	1 572.6	1 081.5	1 081.5	100.0%	784.3	72.4%	56.4	5.9%
AT21	KAERNTEN	556.1	368.9	69.3	18.8%	48.8	70.9%	1.7	NF
AT22	STEIERMARK	1 185.5	792.0	133.0	16.8%	86.6	65.5%	3.7	NF
AT31	OBEROESTERREICH	1 344.0	898.7	202.1	22.5%	150.0	74.7%	8.9	3.8%
AT32	SALZBURG	498.9	340.2	131.0	38.5%	96.4	73.4%	5.4	5.2%
AT33	TIROL	644.6	436.6	71.1	16.3%	46.7	66.1%	2.6	NF
AT34	VORARLBERG	336.8	229.2	114.0	49.7%	82.7	72.4%	4.0	*4.8%*
BE1	REG.BRUXELLES-CAP./ BRUSSELS HFDST. GEW.	946.6	618.3	618.3	100.0%	388.0	63.1%	62.5	13.5%
BE21	ANTWERPEN	1 634.4	1 082.5	676.4	62.5%	414.5	61.4%	25.7	8.5%
BE22	LIMBURG (B)	778.8	538.9	99.4	18.4%	56.6	57.1%	3.3	NF
BE23	OOST-VLAANDEREN	1 352.2	905.0	494.5	54.6%	319.3	64.8%	16.2	6.8%
BE24	VLAAMS BRABANT	1 002.7	670.1	302.3	45.1%	206.3	68.5%	9.8	4.7%
BE25	WEST-VLAANDEREN	1 122.8	734.9	380.9	51.8%	246.3	65.1%	12.7	5.2%
BE31	BRABANT WALLON	340.5	225.0	104.5	46.4%	64.5	62.5%	5.2	7.9%
BE32	HAINAUT	1 282.9	831.8	452.3	54.4%	261.2	58.0%	52.9	18.3%
BE33	LIEGE	1 014.4	658.8	390.1	59.2%	235.2	60.7%	43.8	16.0%
BE34	LUXEMBOURG (B)	242.5	154.1	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
BE35	NAMUR	436.4	283.0	64.3	22.7%	41.2	64.5%	6.9	17.9%
DE11	STUTTGART	3 842.1	2 634.4	1 476.0	56.0%	1 056.9	72.3%	77.5	6.9%
DE12	KARLSRUHE	2 620.0	1 791.2	899.6	50.2%	634.8	71.3%	47.3	6.7%
DE13	FREIBURG	2 061.8	1 387.3	377.2	27.2%	257.5	69.6%	20.6	7.8%
DE14	TUEBINGEN	1 710.6	1 143.0	275.4	24.1%	201.3	74.3%	12.0	NF
DE21	OBERBAYERN	3 937.6	2 728.6	1 312.6	48.1%	961.5	74.7%	61.6	5.8%
DE22	NIEDERBAYERN	1 137.1	777.0	51.9	6.7%	38.0	74.4%	3.5	NF
DE23	OBERPFALZ	1 046.5	703.1	103.7	14.8%	76.8	75.0%	6.1	NF
DE24	OBERFRANKEN	1 096.0	730.3	147.3	20.2%	104.2	71.8%	9.9	8.3%
DE25	MITTELFRANKEN	1 648.8	1 125.3	575.2	51.1%	412.3	72.6%	40.8	8.9%
DE26	UNTERFRANKEN	1 297.8	875.4	230.0	26.3%	165.0	72.5%	11.1	6.2%
DE27	SCHWABEN	1 702.3	1 148.0	325.2	28.3%	236.7	73.4%	18.2	7.2%
DE31	BERLIN-WEST, STADT	2 119.0	1 506.7	1 506.7	100.0%	1 066.1	70,8% (2)	155.0	14,5% (2)
DE32	BERLIN-OST, STADT	1 286.7	937.9	937.9	100.0%	698.9	74,5% (2)	101.7	14,5% (2)
DE4	BRANDENBURG	2 508.6	1 757.6	482.6	27.5%	361.9	75.1%	56.1	16.1%
DE5	BREMEN	671.0	460.5	460.5	100.0%	306.5	66.8%	33.0	12.3%
DE6	HAMBURG	1 692.5	1 189.1	1 189.1	100.0%	837.7	71.1%	86.7	8.8%
DE71	DARMSTADT	3 652.4	2 528.4	1 774.0	70.2%	1 232.7	70.1%	99.8	6.9%
DE72	GIESSEN	1 028.2	691.4	142.2	20.6%	94.0	66.9%	9.9	9.8%
DE73	KASSEL	1 253.5	840.7	218.8	26.0%	143.0	65.8%	15.9	11.9%
DE8	MECKLENBURG-VORPOMMERN	1 786.0	1 250.4	399.2	31.9%	293.1	73.5%	55.2	19.3%
DE91	BRAUNSCHWEIG	1 633.3	1 115.8	453.4	40.6%	299.2	66.3%	36.2	14.1%
DE92	HANNOVER	2 113.6	1 452.9	617.6	42.5%	422.8	69.1%	48.2	11.9%
DE93	LUENEBURG	1 478.9	992.9	40.3	4.1%	28.9	72.5%	2.5	NF
DE94	WESER-EMS	2 293.7	1 525.8	373.8	24.5%	260.6	70.2%	24.5	11.0%
DEA1	DUESSELDORF	5 201.0	3 548.6	3 106.3	87.5%	2 056.6	66.8%	196.4	10.1%
DEA2	KOELN	4 138.0	2 844.1	1 927.5	67.8%	1 284.7	67.2%	102.3	8.5%
DEA3	MUENSTER	2 537.5	1 704.0	842.7	49.5%	533.9	63.9%	48.8	10.1%
DEA4	DETMOLD	1 992.7	1 288.3	613.9	47.6%	417.4	68.7%	35.9	10.4%
DEA5	ARNSBERG	3 765.5	2 535.7	1 870.6	73.8%	1 217.7	65.6%	126.6	10.4%
DEB1	KOBLENZ	1 474.6	972.9	209.6	21.5%	144.6	69.7%	11.0	6.9%
DEB2	TRIER	502.7	327.8	71.4	21.8%	48.6	68.7%	4.0	NF
DEB3	RHEINHESSEN-PFALZ	1 980.0	1 343.9	543.4	40.4%	359.9	66.8%	27.6	7.2%
DEC	SAARLAND	1 063.1	712.1	442.2	62.1%	276.2	62.8%	28.5	11.8%
DED	SACHSEN	4 450.8	3 009.7	1 402.5	46.6%	1 059.6	75.8%	182.3	17.1%
DEE1	DESSAU	564.1	389.5	96.0	24.7%	71.7	74.7%	16.4	22.5%
DEE2	HALLE	888.8	606.9	233.2	38.4%	173.0	74.3%	31.5	18.3%
DEE3	MAGDEBURG	1 231.4	838.7	220.0	26.2%	167.0	76.0%	36.6	21.6%
DEF	SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN	2 709.1	1 833.9	746.8	40.7%	527.3	71.5%	58.5	9.8%
DEG	THUERINGEN	2 449.5	1 693.6	530.2	31.3%	403.0	76.2%	66.6	16.5%
DK	DANMARK	5 235.9	3 511.3	1 179.9	33.6%	926.9	79.6%	53.7	6.1%
ES11	GALICIA	2 696.8	1 792.6	615.7	34.3%	365.3	60.4%	78.0	21.2%
ES12	PRINCIPADO DE ASTURIAS	1 056.8	719.1	403.0	56.0%	218.0	54.3%	51.3	23.7%
ES13	CANTABRIA	519.8	347.0	189.7	54.7%	108.3	57.3%	22.5	20.9%
ES21	PAIS VASCO	2 042.2	1 443.5	1 005.0	69.6%	610.6	60.9%	120.5	19.9%
ES22	COMUNIDAD FORAL DE NAVARRA	519.8	358.0	165.7	46.3%	99.8	60.5%	10.6	10.7%
ES23	LA RIOJA	256.4	168.7	84.8	50.2%	53.0	62.6%	7.0	13.4%
ES24	ARAGON	1 161.6	771.8	410.1	53.1%	252.4	62.2%	41.6	16.5%
ES3	COMUNIDAD DE MADRID	4 971.8	3 531.1	3 154.7	89.3%	1 889.7	60.0%	348.1	18.6%

Table 7 - Unemployment rate and Active population in European Union Urban areas

eurostat

1997 data Figures in thousands		Total population	Total population (15-64 age group)	Total population in urban areas (15-64 age group)	Total population in urban areas (15-64 age group)	Active population in urban areas (15-64 age group)	Rage of activity in urban areas (15-64 age group)[1]	Unemployed in urban areas (15-64 age group)	Rate of unemployment in urban areas (15-64 age group)[1, 2]
code	***LFS regions***								
ES41	CASTILLA Y LEON	2 465.3	1 624.0	610.5	**37.6%**	360.8	**59.5%**	80.9	**22.4%**
ES42	CASTILLA-LA MANCHA	1 679.0	1 062.3	10.6	**1.0%**	7.2	**68.1%**	1.3	**NF**
ES43	EXTREMADURA	1 066.8	674.2	0	**NA**	NA	**NA**	NA	NA
ES51	CATALUNA	6 001.7	4 025.3	2 774.6	**68.9%**	1 837.7	**66.6%**	352.9	**19.3%**
ES52	COMUNIDAD VALENCIANA	3 884.3	2 638.1	1 494.0	**56.6%**	936.9	**63.0%**	201.5	**21.6%**
ES53	ISLAS BALEARES	724.0	480.4	204.0	**42.5%**	131.0	**64.4%**	19.0	*14.6%*
ES61	ANDALUCIA	7 087.6	4 727.4	1 730.2	**36.6%**	991.6	**57.4%**	300.1	**30.5%**
ES62	REGION DE MURCIA	1 083.1	734.0	0	**NA**	NA	**NA**	NA	NA
ES63	CEUTA Y MELILLA	132.7	89.5	89.5	**100.0%**	50.7	**56.9%**	13.2	**26.3%**
ES7	CANARIAS	1 560.4	1 095.0	653.0	**59.6%**	383.6	**59.4%**	83.2	**21.7%**
FI11	UUSIMAA	1 334.1	938.8	673.0	**71.7%**	518.5	**75.5%**	57.1	10.7%
FI12	ETELAE-SUOMI	1 766.9	1 181.4	185.3	**15.7%**	134.7	**73.5%**	18.3	13.9%
FI13	ITAE-SUOMI	708.2	450.9	0	**NA**	NA	**NA**	NA	NA
FI14	VAELI-SUOMI	698.7	448.9	50.2	**11.2%**	32.7	**65.2%**	**3.9**	**NF**
FI15	POHJOIS-SUOMI	574.4	364.6	0	**NA**	NA	**NA**	NA	NA
FI2	AHVENANMAA/AALAND	30.1	15.3	0	**NA**	NA	**NA**	NA	NA
FR1	ILE DE FRANCE	10 891.1	7 396.7	6 540.7	**88.4%**	4 651.0	**71.0%**	536.4	**11.0%**
FR21	CHAMPAGNE-ARDENNE	1 265.4	822.4	310.6	**37.8%**	197.7	**63.5%**	26.5	13.4%
FR22	PICARDIE	1 689.2	1 099.3	197.1	**17.9%**	132.8	**67.1%**	21.0	15.6%
FR23	HAUTE-NORMANDIE	1 835.3	1 160.0	397.8	**34.3%**	268.2	**67.1%**	42.5	**16.3%**
FR24	CENTRE	2 369.2	1 525.9	421.9	**27.6%**	281.3	**66.4%**	40.4	13.3%
FR25	BASSE-NORMANDIE	1 275.0	809.5	176.0	**21.7%**	117.1	**66.4%**	16.1	14.9%
FR26	BOURGOGNE	1 549.2	992.8	199.6	**20.1%**	142.9	**71.4%**	16.3	10.6%
FR3	NORD PAS-DE-CALAIS	3 986.5	2 574.9	1 505.2	**58.5%**	906.0	**59.9%**	196.0	**18.9%**
FR41	LORRAINE	2 162.7	1 404.7	588.6	**41.9%**	386.7	**65.6%**	46.1	11.3%
FR42	ALSACE	1 595.2	1 075.9	418.4	**38.9%**	281.6	**67.0%**	33.8	11.3%
FR43	FRANCHE-COMTE	1 132.3	751.2	194.4	**25.9%**	125.6	**64.4%**	16.3	12.0%
FR51	PAYS DE LA LOIRE	3 026.2	1 972.8	621.7	**31.5%**	421.5	**67.4%**	64.5	**14.3%**
FR52	BRETAGNE	2 889.2	1 814.1	466.5	**25.7%**	299.6	**64.0%**	38.3	11.6%
FR53	POITOU-CHARENTES	1 598.5	1 017.8	213.9	**21.0%**	142.2	**66.5%**	20.1	14.1%
FR61	AQUITAINE	3 049.6	1 981.0	677.5	**34.2%**	436.0	**64.4%**	62.8	**13.8%**
FR62	MIDI-PYRENEES	2 418.6	1 572.7	434.0	**27.6%**	283.3	**65.2%**	47.9	15.2%
FR63	LIMOUSIN	688.1	433.8	132.4	**30.5%**	85.8	**65.0%**	9.5	10.2%
FR71	RHONE-ALPES	5 568.5	3 712.8	1 324.9	**35.7%**	892.6	**67.1%**	113.4	**12.6%**
FR72	AUVERGNE	1 264.6	830.0	200.5	**24.2%**	127.9	**64.0%**	13.5	11.1%
FR81	LANGUEDOC-ROUSSILLON	2 117.1	1 344.0	334.3	**24.9%**	200.7	**59.8%**	50.1	**23.6%**
FR82	PROVENCE-ALPES-COTE D'AZUR	4 225.8	2 697.8	1 238.9	**45.9%**	809.7	**64.2%**	146.1	**17.1%**
FR83	CORSE	220.6	136.2	26.3	**19.3%**	11.9	**NF**	5.1	NF
GR11	ANATOLIKI MAKEDONIA, THRAKI	556.0	370.2	182.3	**49.2%**	109.1	**61.6%**	13.8	**12.3%**
GR12	KENTRIKI MAKEDONIA	1 804.9	1 239.6	840.6	**67.8%**	482.6	**58.8%**	53.8	**11.0%**
GR13	DYTIKI MAKEDONIA	293.5	192.7	77.6	**40.3%**	46.7	**61.6%**	8.0	**16.7%**
GR14	THESSALIA	703.5	451.9	234.9	**52.0%**	134.6	**60.0%**	14.9	**10.5%**
GR21	IPEIROS	283.0	175.6	76.7	**43.7%**	43.1	**59.4%**	6.9	**15.1%**
GR22	IONIA NISIA	178.0	110.0	35.6	**32.3%**	23.3	**71.0%**	2.6	10.3%
GR23	DYTIKI ELLADA	602.4	388.5	208.3	**53.6%**	118.0	**58.3%**	15.5	**12.7%**
GR24	STEREA ELLADA	464.7	290.0	93.7	**32.3%**	54.9	**61.6%**	9.5	**16.6%**
GR25	PELOPONNISOS	517.7	312.5	107.3	**34.3%**	66.0	**65.9%**	8.3	11.7%
GR3	ATTIKI	3 945.6	2 686.3	2 550.2	**94.9%**	1 492.1	**59.3%**	177.0	**11.7%**
GR41	VOREIO AIGAIO	179.3	103.8	38.1	**36.7%**	19.9	**53.9%**	2.4	11.6%
GR42	NOTIO AIGAIO	232.4	157.8	56.9	**36.0%**	35.2	**63.8%**	2.1	5.9%
GR43	KRITI	504.6	312.5	155.4	**49.7%**	93.0	**65.6%**	6.6	6.5%
IE01	EAST	1 410.7	966.9	728.8	**75.4%**	476.1	**65,3% (2)**	53.0	**11,1% (2)**
IE02	SOUTH-WEST (IRL)	538.5	352.3	84.9	**24.1%**	48.6	**57,2% (2)**	6.5	**13,5% (2)**
IE03	SOUTH-EAST (IRL)	387.2	250.0	28.8	**11.5%**	17.4	**60,4% (2)**	2.1	12,2% (2)
IE04	NORTH-EAST (IRL)	198.7	128.4	0	**0.0%**				
IE05	MID-WEST	312.4	204.6	34.2	**16.7%**	18.9	**55,2% (2)**	2.4	12,7% (2)
IE06	NORTH-WEST AND DONEGAL	202.4	123.3	0	**NA**	NA	**NA**	NA	NA
IE07	MIDLANDS	254.5	158.4	0	**NA**	NA	**NA**	NA	NA
IE08	WEST	300.6	193.9	46.5	**24.0%**	27.5	**59,2% (2)**	3.8	13,8% (2)
IT11	PIEMONTE	4 221.8	2 954.3	1 243.5	**42.1%**	772.3	**63.0%**	103.8	**13.2%**
IT12	VALLE DAOSTA	117.0	83.2	0	**0.0%**	-	-	-	-
IT13	LIGURIA	1 626.5	1 102.4	724.2	**65.7%**	413.8	**57.9%**	45.8	**10.8%**
IT20	LOMBARDIA	8 839.2	6 303.2	4 202.6	**66.7%**	2 574.4	**61.9%**	185.3	**7.1%**
IT31	TRENTINO-ALTO ADIGE	901.0	623.1	147.3	**23.6%**	89.0	**61.3%**	2.9	**NF**
IT32	VENETO	4 375.2	3 098.5	1 087.2	**35.1%**	659.4	**61.3%**	36.9	**5.5%**
IT33	FRIULI-VENEZIA GIULIA	1 165.2	808.9	271.3	**33.5%**	158.9	**59.2%**	12.5	**7.7%**
IT40	EMILIA-ROMAGNA	3 882.7	2 681.9	875.1	**32.6%**	563.5	**65.8%**	37.6	6.5%
IT51	TOSCANA	3 476.5	2 383.0	826.3	**34.7%**	491.5	**60.3%**	52.1	**10.4%**
IT52	UMBRIA	819.0	554.2	68.5	**12.4%**	39.4	**58.4%**	3.3	**NF**

eurostat

Table 7 - Unemployment rate and Active population in Europe Union Urban areas

1997 data Figures in thousands		Total population	Total population (15-64 age group)	Total population in urban areas (15-64 age group)	Total population in urban areas (15-64 age group)	Active population in urban areas (15-64 age group)	Rage of activity in urban areas (15-64 age group)[1]	Unemployed in urban areas (15-64 age group)	Rate of unemployment in urban areas (15-64 age group)[1,2]
code	***LFS regions***								
IT53	MARCHE	1 429.8	968.9	265.5	**27.4%**	162.1	**62.3%**	10.2	**NF**
IT60	LAZIO	5 136.4	3 611.7	2 114.2	**58.5%**	1 231.3	**59.1%**	163.4	**13.0%**
IT71	ABRUZZO	1 258.7	847.1	159.0	**18.8%**	91.3	**58.4%**	5.1	**NF**
IT72	MOLISE	325.9	215.2	35.2	**16.4%**	18.7	**53.9%**	3.7	19.2%
IT80	CAMPANIA	5 729.0	3 851.6	2 839.2	**73.7%**	1 469.5	**52.2%**	432.6	**29.0%**
IT91	PUGLIA	4 036.7	2 737.9	807.6	**29.5%**	391.7	**49.0%**	69.9	**17.5%**
IT92	BASILICATA	599.7	397.7	0.0	**NA**	NA	**NA**	NA	NA
IT93	CALABRIA	2 026.1	1 339.6	293.5	**21.9%**	154.7	**53.3%**	38.3	**24.4%**
ITA0	SICILIA	5 038.7	3 352.0	1 400.3	**41.8%**	699.5	**50.6%**	201.3	**28.2%**
ITB0	SARDEGNA	1 642.8	1 156.8	249.7	**21.6%**	132.5	**53.7%**	30.0	22.2%
LU	LUXEMBOURG (GRAND DUCHE)	415.7	280.1	83.2	**29.7%**	52.2	**63.2%**	1.5	2.8%
NL11	GRONINGEN	549.4	381.8	124.1	**32.5%**	87.0	**70.7%**	11.8	12.7%
NL12	FRIESLAND	606.3	408.3	64.2	**15.7%**	46.4	**71.9%**	6.1	**NF**
NL13	DRENTHE	452.8	305.9	35.9	**11.7%**	25.2	**71.3%**	1.6	**NF**
NL21	OVERIJSSEL	1 043.5	707.7	349.2	**49.3%**	248.0	**69.2%**	14.2	**5.3%**
NL22	GELDERLAND	1 854.8	1 272.7	357.8	**28.1%**	258.0	**72.5%**	17.6	**6.7%**
NL23	FLEVOLAND	281.8	188.2	80.2	**42.6%**	62.1	**77.3%**	3.8	NF
NL31	UTRECHT	1 062.0	737.1	542.9	**73.7%**	400.3	**74.1%**	17.5	**4.6%**
NL32	NOORD-HOLLAND	2 438.5	1 694.9	1 447.2	**85.4%**	1 062.1	**73.8%**	63.6	**5.4%**
NL33	ZUID-HOLLAND	3 299.0	2 251.3	1 950.7	**86.6%**	1 392.7	**72.0%**	79.7	**5.5%**
NL34	ZEELAND	362.1	239.5	57.1	**23.9%**	40.2	**71.6%**	3.0	**NF**
NL41	NOORD-BRABANT	2 270.5	1 588.3	968.3	**61.0%**	700.8	**72.8%**	40.6	**5.1%**
NL42	LIMBURG (NL)	1 114.2	776.6	438.6	**56.5%**	300.3	**68.2%**	20.0	**6.6%**
PT11	NORTE	3 507.0	2 365.1	1 600.6	**67.7%**	1 093.6	**71.6%**	91.7	**8.2%**
PT12	CENTRO (P)	1 690.9	1 110.6	0	**NA**	NA	**NA**	NA	NA
PT13	LISBOA E VALE DO TEJO	3 295.5	2 357.5	1 982.1	**84.1%**	1 330.0	**69.2%**	100.9	**7.5%**
PT14	ALENTEJO	516.1	328.3	0	**NA**	NA	**NA**	NA	NA
PT15	ALGARVE	344.3	220.7	0	**NA**	NA	**NA**	NA	NA
PT2	ACORES	238.9	154.7	0	**NA**	NA	**NA**	NA	NA
PT3	MADEIRA	254.8	168.6	123.6	**73.3%**	78.6	**65.9%**	4.4	5.5%
SE01	STOCKHOLM	1 655.3	1 183.7	714.7	**60.4%**	582.4	**85.5%**	43.7	7.8%
SE02	OESTRA MELLANSVERIGE	1 105.5	974.8	0	**NA**	NA	**NA**	NA	NA
SE03	SMAALAND MED OEARNA	574.5	498.9	0	**NA**	NA	**NA**	NA	NA
SE04	SYDSVERIGE	895.9	779.8	162.6	**20.9%**	116.3	**74.3%**	13.9	**NF**
SE05	VAESTSVERIGE	1 249.9	1 095.5	302.4	**27.6%**	226.3	**76.4%**	25.0	11.3%
SE06	NORRA MELLANSVERIGE	619.7	534.8	0	**NA**	NA	**NA**	NA	NA
SE07	MELLERSTA NORRLAND	277.1	237.6	0	**NA**	NA	**NA**	NA	NA
SE08	OEVRE NORRLAND	390.5	342.2	0	**NA**	NA	**NA**	NA	NA
UK10	NORTH	3 054.0	1 976.4	1 322.9	**66.9%**	910.5	**69.5%**	97.5	**10.8%**
UK20	YORKSHIRE AND HUMBERSIDE	4 976.6	3 230.6	2 338.1	**72.4%**	1 699.6	**73.6%**	143.8	**8.3%**
UK30	EAST MIDLANDS	4 100.7	2 674.2	1 352.1	**50.6%**	1 005.9	**75.6%**	71.3	**6.9%**
UK40	EAST ANGLIA	2 120.1	1 359.2	295.2	**21.7%**	209.3	**72.6%**	18.6	**NF**
UK50	SOUTH-EAST	17 701.8	11 635.0	8 207.1	**70.5%**	6 290.5	**77.9%**	486.3	**7.3%**
UK60	SOUTH-WEST	4 759.0	3 016.8	1 160.0	**38.5%**	884.7	**77.9%**	53.1	**6.5%**
UK70	WEST MIDLANDS	5 245.4	3 397.6	2 242.2	**66.0%**	1 632.3	**73.9%**	127.6	**8.0%**
UK80	NORTH WEST	6 333.3	4 079.4	3 295.0	**80.8%**	2 346.7	**72.1%**	172.9	**8.1%**
UK90	WALES	2 883.0	1 826.3	797.0	**43.6%**	559.5	**71.5%**	47.5	**7.5%**
UKA0	SCOTLAND	5 053.2	3 332.5	1 692.2	**50.8%**	1 192.6	**71.5%**	114.6	**8.9%**
UKB0	NORTHERN IRELAND	1 627.1	1 044.3	123.1	**11.8%**	69.7	**57.6%**	5.5	NF
	TOTAL	**365171.0**	**246102.6**	**122438.2**	***49.8%***	**81983.0**	**67.0%**	**9483.6**	**11.6%**

[1] These are adjusted rates relating to April and compatible with those published at regional level (Statistics in brief - Regions, 1998-3).

[2] Conventions:

: Not available

5,2% (figures bold). Reliable data with a 95% confidence interval of between 10 and 20%.

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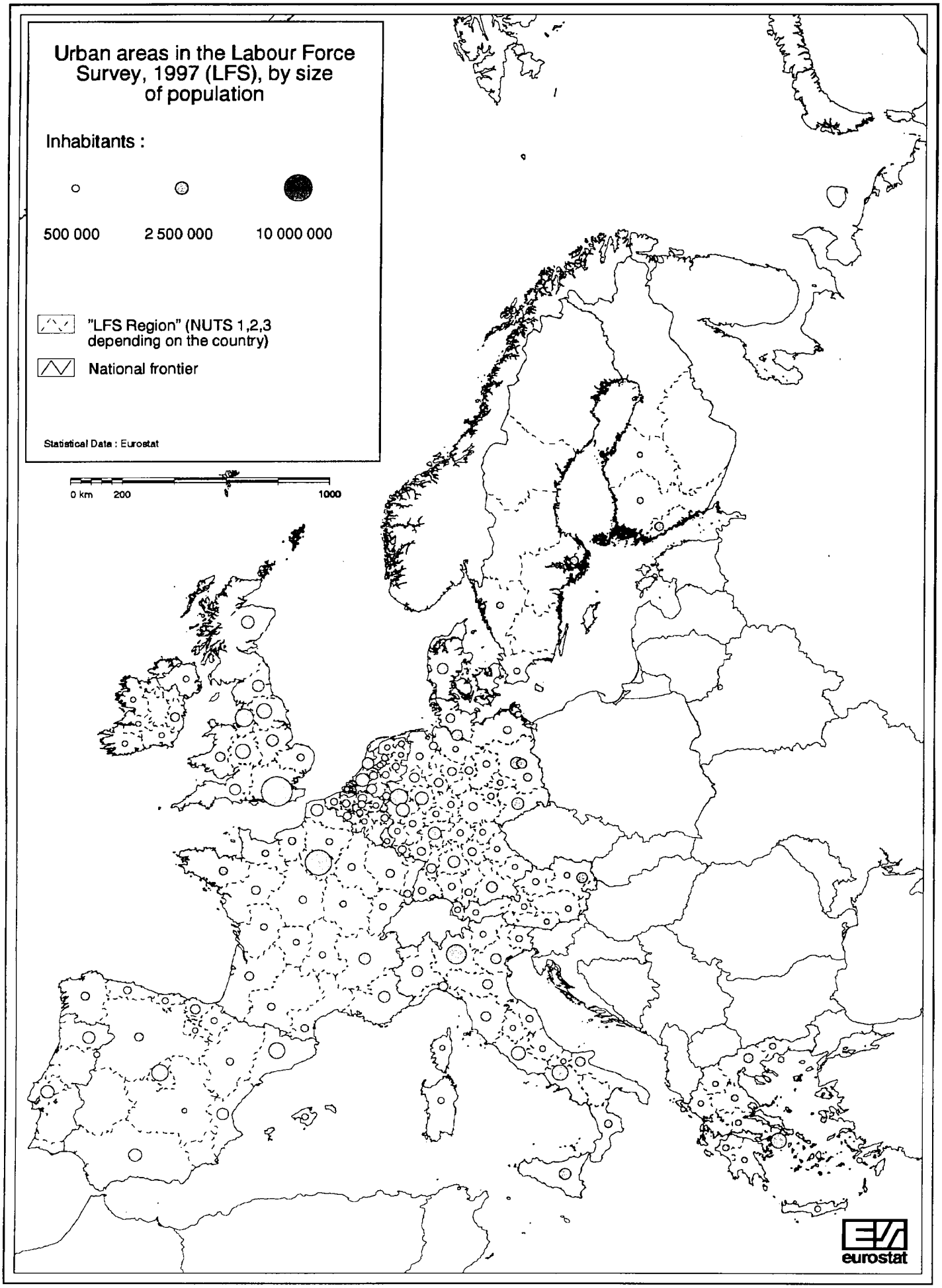
Urban areas in the Labour Force Survey, 1997 (LFS), by size of population
Inhabitants :
500 000
2 500 000
10 000 000
"LFS Region" (NUTS 1,2,3 depending on the country)
National frontier
Statistical Data : Eurostat
0 km
200
1000
eurostat

eurostat

Table 7 - Unemployment rate and Active population in Europe Union Urban areas

1997 data Figures in thousands		Total population	Total population (15-64 age group)	Total population in urban areas (15-64 age group)	Total population in urban areas (15-64 age group)	Active population in urban areas (15-64 age group)	Rage of activity in urban areas (15-64 age group)[1]	Unemployed in urban areas (15-64 age group)	Rate of unemployment in urban areas (15-64 age group)[1,2]
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PT2	ACORES	**238.9**	154.7	0	**NA**	NA	**NA**	NA	NA
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SE02	OESTRA MELLANSVERIGE	1 105.5	974.8	0	**NA**	NA	**NA**	NA	NA
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UK90	WALES	2 883.0	1 826.3	797.0	**43.6%**	559.5	**71.5%**	47.5	**7.5%**
UKA0	SCOTLAND	5 053.2	3 332.5	1 692.2	**50.8%**	1 192.6	**71.5%**	114.6	**8.9%**
UKB0	NORTHERN IRELAND	1 627.1	1 044.3	123.1	**11.8%**	69.7	**57.6%**	5.5	NF
	TOTAL	**365171.0**	**246102.6**	**122438.2**	***49.8%***	**81983.0**	**67.0%**	**9483.6**	**11.6%**

[1] These are adjusted rates relating to April and compatible with those published at regional level (Statistics in brief - Regions, 1998-3).

[2] Conventions:

: Not available

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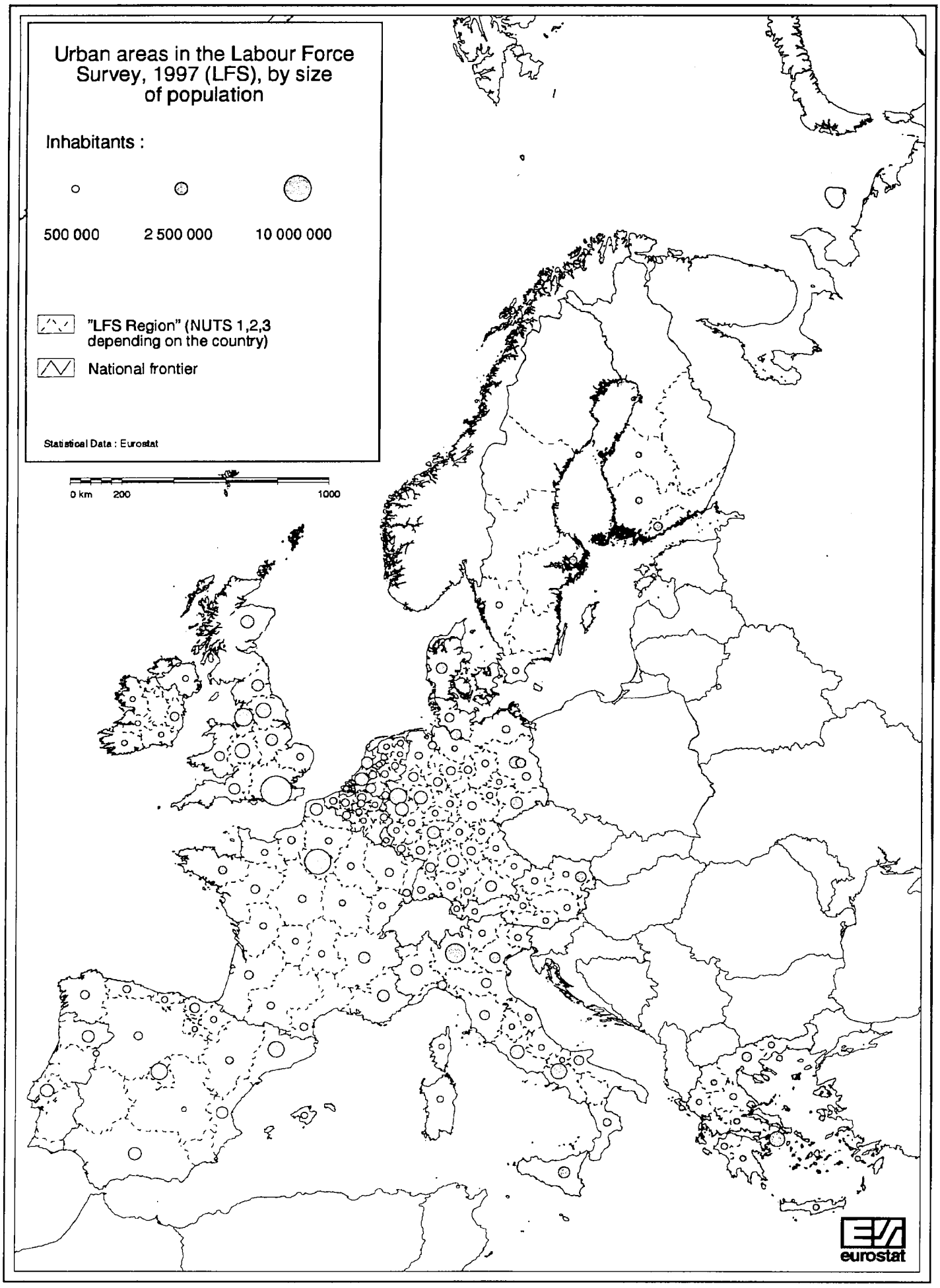
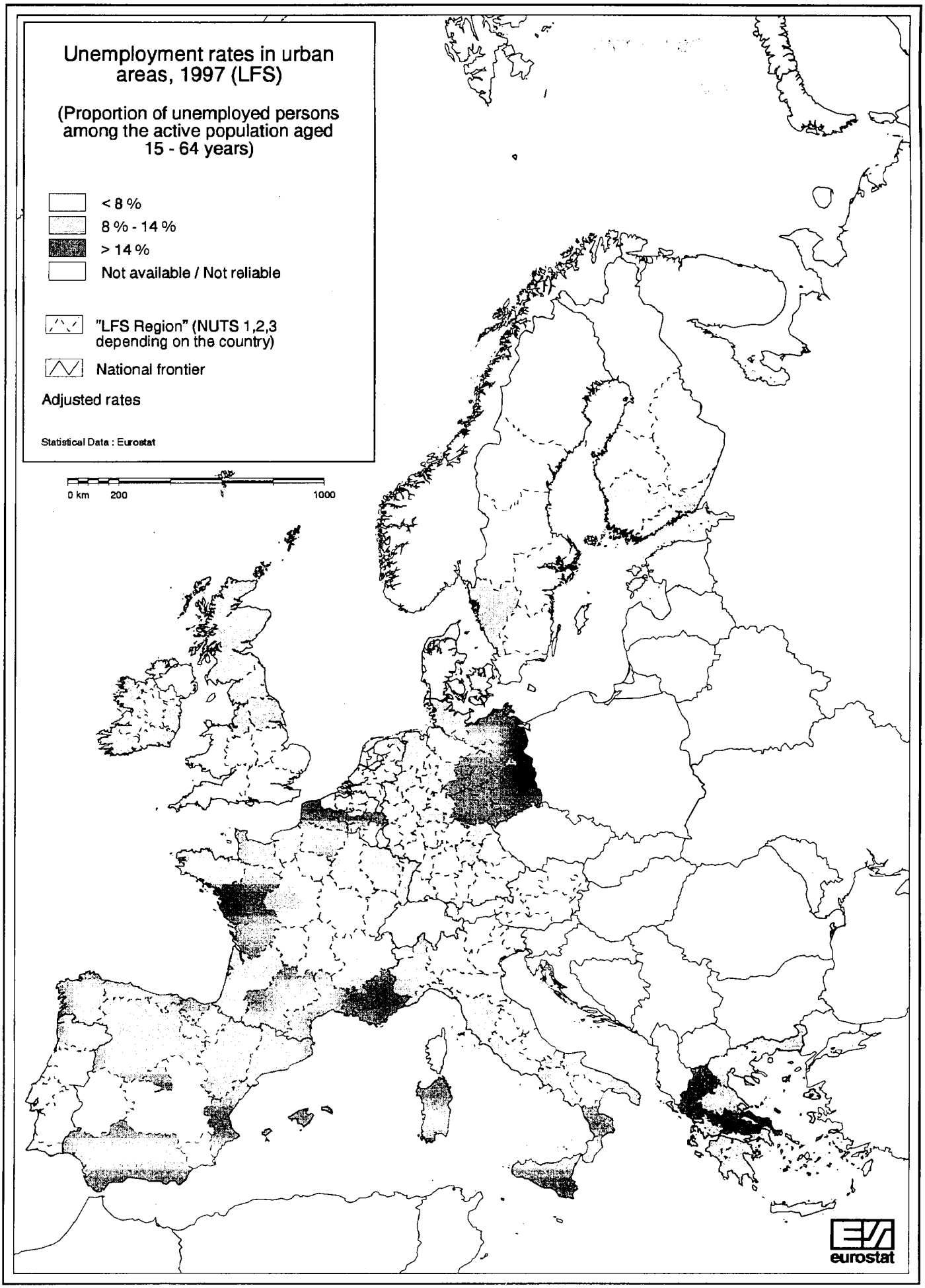
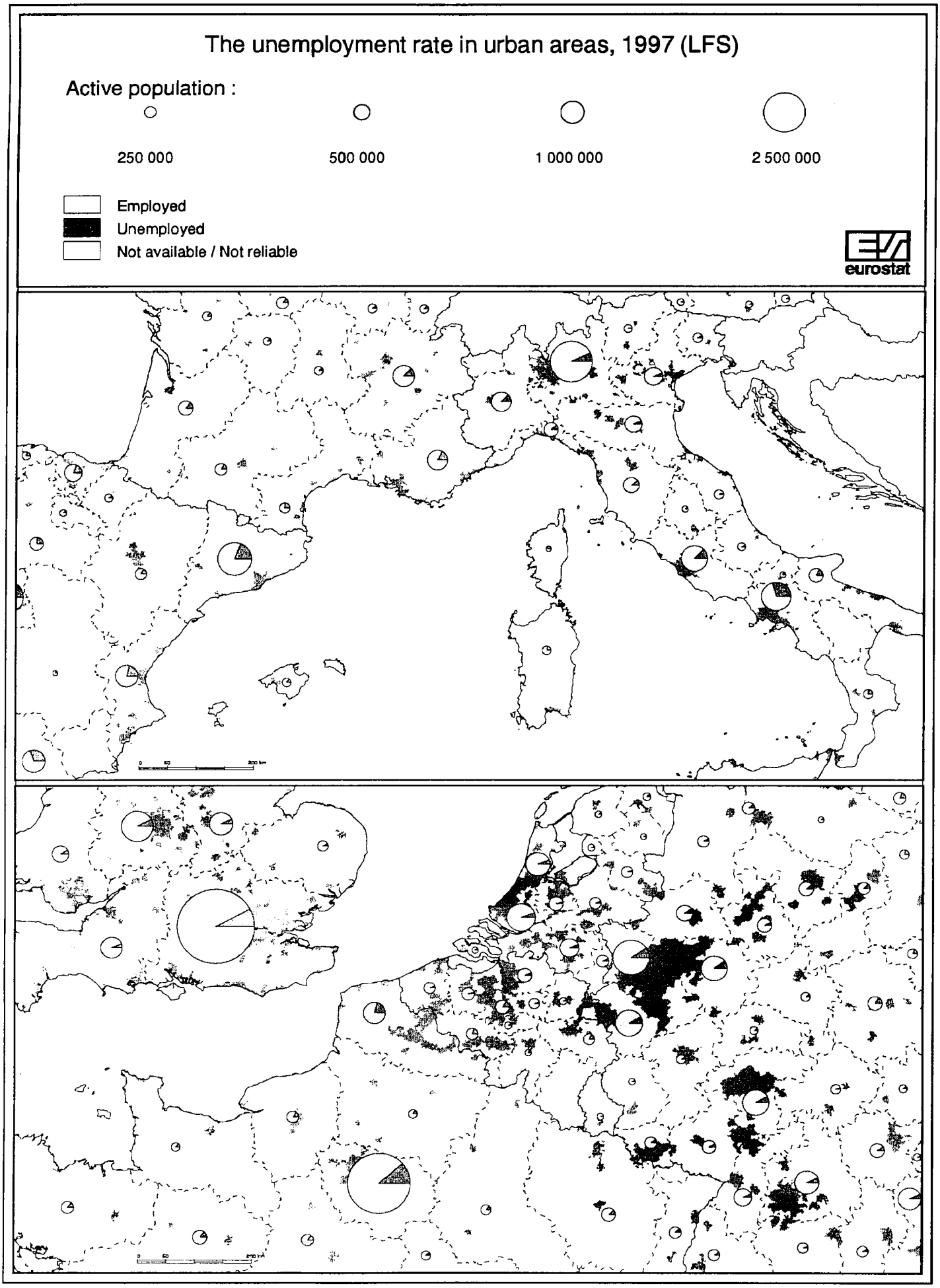
[3] No data at regional level (NUTS 2), these rates could not be adjusted.


Urban areas in the Labour Force Survey, 1997 (LFS), by size of population
Inhabitants :
500 000
2 500 000
10 000 000
"LFS Region" (NUTS 1,2,3 depending on the country)
National frontier
Statistical Data : Eurostat
0 km
200
1000
eurostat


Unemployment rates in urban areas, 1997 (LFS)
(Proportion of unemployed persons among the active population aged 15 - 64 years)
< 8 %
8 % - 14 %
> 14 %
Not available / Not reliable
"LFS Region" (NUTS 1,2,3 depending on the country)
National frontier
Adjusted rates
Statistical Data : Eurostat
0 km
200
1000
eurostat


The unemployment rate in urban areas, 1997 (LFS)
Active population :
250 000
500 000
1 000 000
2 500 000
Employed
Unemployed
Not available / Not reliable
eurostat

Methodological note

In view of the ever growing demand for urban statistics, Eurostat has started establishing an "urban data" bank. Initially, it will be based on three sources of information: the Community Labour Force Survey[1], the Household Budget Survey[2] and data at local level collected by the SIRE database[3]. This urban database is intended to compose a set of comparable statistical information which can be analysed at "urban area" level and, where possible, at "urban agglomeration" level for countries in the European Union. These "urban breakdowns" are the new feature of this study, but they are also one of its problems. Moreover, the data sources used, and more particularly the surveys, are based on a sample of the population and there is no advance guarantee that the results will be representative for these types of geographical breakdown. Often it will not be possible to exploit the full potential of the survey questionnaires because an over-detailed multivariate analysis will very soon show up the statistical problem of using small numbers.

A number of pragmatic solutions had to be found in view of these difficulties. Thus, the concept of urbanisation was introduced into the Labour Force Survey to describe the place of residence of the respondents. Three types of area are defined according to their "degree of urbanisation", each area forming a group of adjacent local units (NUTS 5). The different types are as follows:

- Densely populated area. With a population of more than 50 000, it comprises adjacent local units each with a population density of more than 500 per km2. It may nevertheless contain units with a lower density so long as they fall entirely within the area.
- Intermediate area. This comprises adjacent local units with a population density of more than 100 per km2, not belonging to a densely populated area. The whole area represents a population of at least 50 000 or borders on a densely populated area.
- Area with a low population density. This comprises a group of adjacent local units not belonging to a densely populated area or an intermediate area.

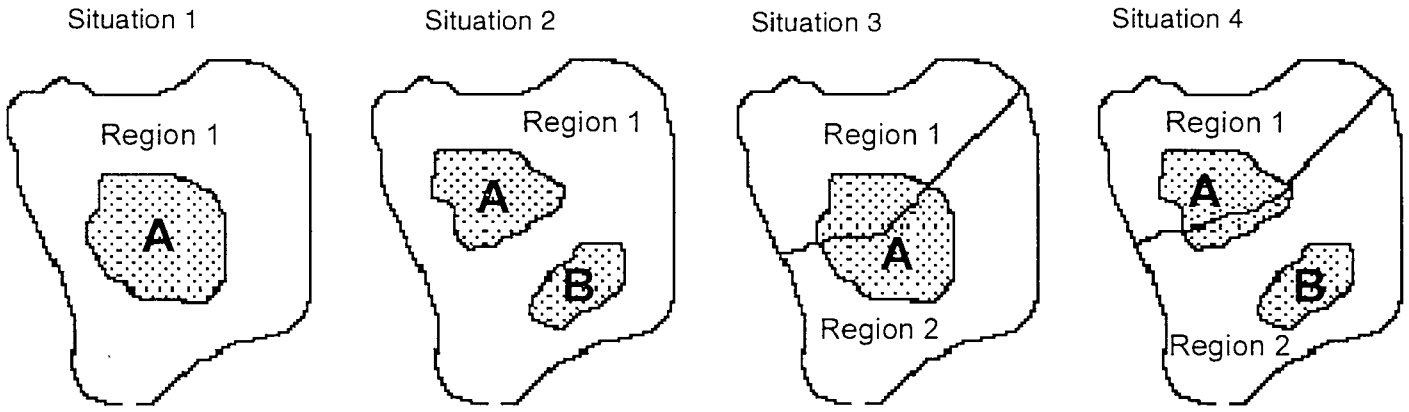
Since the basic survey data also indicate the region of residence (NUTS level 2, except in a few cases) as well as this information, it becomes possible to isolate the "urban area" for each region. Where this consists of a single continuous area it can be called an "urban agglomeration". If it contains a large town, the town may or may not be surrounded by other local units at NUTS 5 level with lower level "urban" functions. If there are two or more units at the same functional level, the whole area will constitute a "conurbation". In this report, these units are called LFS urban agglomerations[4]. In view of the above, the following four situations may arise:

1. The **LFS region** identified in the Labour Force Survey contains a single LFS urban area. This applies, for example to the NUTS 2 region of Athens, which contains only the LFS urban agglomeration of Athens. It also applies to Madrid and Stockholm, where the NUTS 2 region used by the survey corresponds exactly to the LFS urban agglomeration (marked A).

2. The **LFS region** contains two or more LFS urban agglomerations. For instance, the LFS region of Rhône-Alpes contains the urban agglomerations of Lyon, Saint-Etienne, Grenoble, Annecy, Valence, Chambéry, Roanne and Annemasse.

3. The **LFS urban agglomeration** extends into more than one LFS region. The urban agglomeration of Rhein-Ruhr extends into the LFS regions of Düsseldorf, Cologne, Münster and Arnsberg. Another special case is the urban agglomeration of Aachen-Maastricht-Liège which covers parts of three countries, Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands.

4. The **LFS urban agglomeration** extends into two or more LFS regions, the latter comprising two or more urban agglomerations. This is a combination of cases 2 and 3 above. For example, the urban agglomeration of Milan extends into the LFS regions of Piedmont and Lombardy but the latter contains the urban agglomerations of Milan, Brescia, Verona, Pavia, Cremona and Mantua.



[1] This survey aims to obtain harmonised data at European Union level on unemployment and employment; the urban character of the respondent's place of residence was included in the survey at the time of the adoption of Council Regulation (EEC) No. 3711/91 of 16 December 1991.

[2] The results of this survey permit an identical breakdown for certain countries. For more information, see Household budget surveys in the European Union, Methodology and recommendations for harmonisation, Eurostat, 1997.

[3] This is a non-public Eurostat database which contains variables derived at local level (NUTS 5) from the Population Censuses.

[4] LFS stands for Labour Force Survey, the English translation of "Enquête sur la Force de Travail". Nevertheless, we would point out that the labour force survey data arenot available on the basis of these LFS urban agglomerations except in cases where a region has only one urban agglomeration and the sample is sufficiently representative to ensure that the information is reliable.

The data supplied in this report and based on the LFS results concern in each case all the densely populated areas within the same LFS region. Whether we can deduce separate information for a given LFS agglomeration will depend, of course, on the specific case and it is only for the first and third situations mentioned above that we can do so without approximation.

This report on unemployment in the urban areas of the European Union is based entirely on analysis of the Labour Force Survey (LFS). It was in 1960 that a set of comparable data on employment and unemployment was collected for the first time via the labour force survey conducted in the six Member States which made up the European Community at that time. Since then, the survey methodology has greatly improved while the questionnaires have become more detailed and have been harmonised in the course of the preparation of various sets of international recommendations. Very briefly, we should point out that the main aim of the LFS is to divide the population of working age (15 or over) into three categories (people with jobs, the unemployed and the inactive) and to supply a set of information on each of them in order to ascertain the socio-economic trends as accurately as possible for society in general and rapid changes in the labour market in particular.

Although the surveys generally provide more detailed information than that produced by the population censuses, for example, the small size of the sample - imposed by budgetary constraints - means that we cannot generally obtain reliable information for relatively detailed breakdowns within countries. Nevertheless, since 1992 the sampling plan developed in each Member State has had to conform to a required standard of statistical reliability and representativeness at regional level (NUTS 2 for most countries). This is the level of breakdown for which data are available in the various Member States, except for the United Kingdom, which offers figures only at NUTS 2 level and only since 1996 (previously NUTS 1), and Ireland, for which data are produced at NUTS 3 level.

The problem of the representativeness or reliability of the results inevitably arises in the case of sample survey data. This problem will be all the more crucial the smaller the population being considered, the fewer the number of surveys available and the lower the probability of occurrence in relation to the indicator chosen to describe this population. We therefore have to estimate the degree of reliability of the results taking account of these three parameters. Thus, for each indicator we shall determine a 95% confidence interval. Let us take an actual example. In 1997, the rate of unemployment in urban areas in Ile de France (corresponding to the large Paris agglomeration) was 11% and the associated confidence interval was 0.5%. This means that there is a 95% chance that the true rate of unemployment is between 10.5% and 11.5%. For each urban area, an index of unreliability was calculated. It expresses in percentage terms the ratio between the size of the confidence interval and the rate of unemployment. Below 10% the unemployment figure is deemed reliable. Between 10 and 20% this figure is considered moderately reliable and above 20% it is regarded as unreliable. All data concerning urban areas for which the level of unreliability of the rate of unemployment exceeds 20% have been excluded from the tables and analyses in this report.

The **rate of unemployment** is the proportion of unemployed persons in the active population. The unemployed are defined as persons who have lost their job and are looking for a new job, those re-entering the labour market and those looking for their first job. Finally, the active population contains both persons in work and the unemployed. In all cases, it is persons in the 15 to 65 age group who are taken into account. (For more information, see Community labour force survey. Methods and definitions, Eurostat, 1996).

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