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Subject: 2010 Update of the Joint Assessment by the SPC and the European
Commission of the social impact of the economic crisis and of policy responses

Delegations will find attached the full version of the 2010 Update of the above mentioned joint assessment by the Social Protection Committee and the European Commission.

JOINT ASSESSMENT BY THE SPC AND THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION
OF THE SOCIAL IMPACT OF THE ECONOMIC CRISIS AND OF POLICY RESPONSES

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1. Introduction

The Social Protection Committee (SPC) and the European Commission have monitored the social impact of the crisis as it has unfolded. The monitoring has shown that firm policy intervention and the automatic stabilizers embedded in European welfare systems have limited the economic and social impact of the worst recession in decades¹. At the same time the crisis has highlighted great diversity within the EU, both in terms of impacts of the crisis and in the capacity of Member States to respond.

With growth resuming, priorities are changing. Tackling the fiscal consequences of the crisis is increasingly addressed by Member States. The Joint report on Social Protection and Social Inclusion 2010 acknowledged the need to contain the rise in public spending and called for enhancing the quality of intervention, and in some cases setting clear priorities. This means more effective and efficient social inclusion and social protection, in line with the principles of access for all, adequacy and sustainability. This is further underscored by the emphasis on inclusive growth in the Europe 2020 strategy.

The present note provides the main findings of a reporting exercise conducted in October 2010 within the Social Protection Committee and a assessment of Member States' challenges and policy responses since last reporting, focusing on fiscal consolidation measures and new measures taken. The report is based on the replies of SPC members to the Commission questionnaire from 20 Member States (BE, BG, CZ, DK, DE, IE, EL, ES, FR, CY, LU, HU, NL, AT, PL, PT, SK, FI, SE, and UK) received up to 18. November 2010.

2. The social impact of the crisis: State of play

The financial and economic crisis led to a significant deterioration of the social situation for large groups of people, in particular young people, people working on temporary contracts and migrants. In all countries the unemployed are among the groups most at risk of poverty.

As seen in the previous crisis monitoring report², most Member States implemented recovery packages with measures to offset the social impact of the financial and economic crisis. The main measures consisted of active labour market policies (including job search assistance, employment subsidies, and training), short-time work arrangements and measures to support people's income and other fiscal stimulus and, in the UK, monetary stimulus. Particular attention has been paid in several countries in protecting incomes of disadvantaged groups. Measures have also addressed over-indebtedness.

Evidence shows that in several countries total expenditure on social assistance has increased since the start of the crisis. The number of people granted benefits (unemployment benefits, social assistance and housing allowance) has also increased, and there has been an increase in the number of people seeking debt counselling. In addition, reports from NGOs show an increase in the demand for emergency services, such as food banks, soup kitchens or shelters for the homeless.

¹ Joint Report on Social Protection and Social Inclusion 2010

² Second joint assessment by the Social Protection Committee and the European Commission of the social impact of the economic crisis and of policy responses

2.1. The economic downturn and its impact on social cohesion

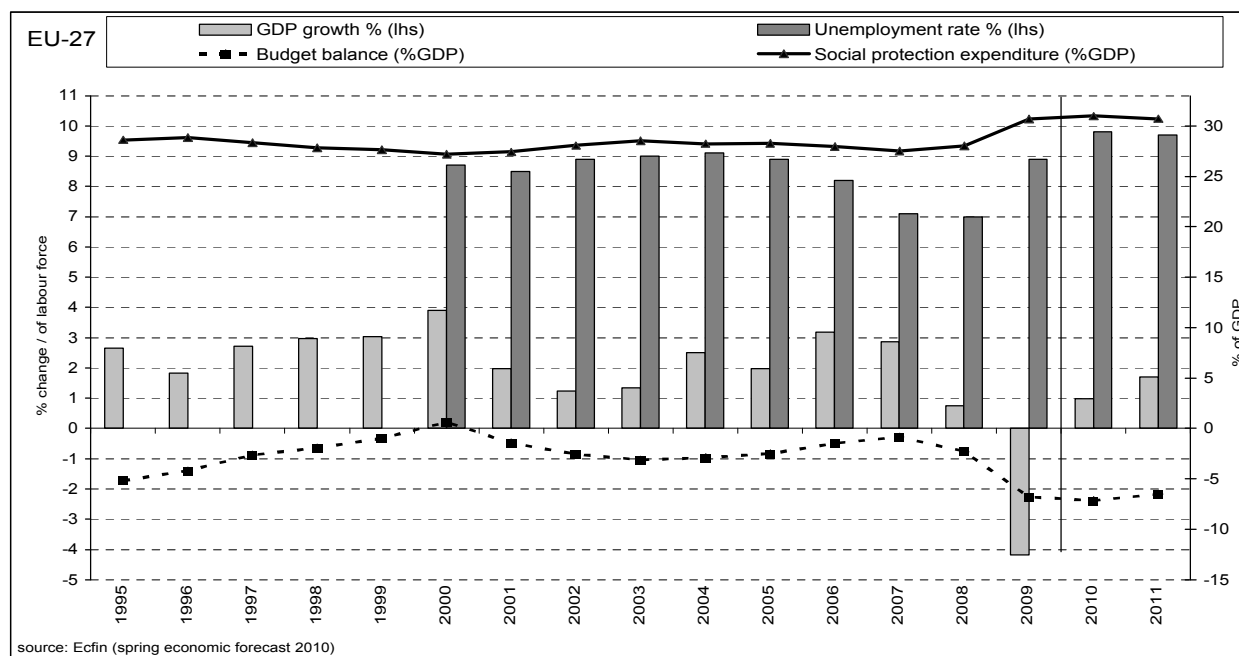
2.1.1. Forecast 2010-2011

According to the latest economic forecast published by the Commission in Spring³, gradual recovery is underway in the EU. Real GDP fell dramatically (by 4.2%) in 2009 but started to grow again in third quarter of 2009 and is expected to remain subdued until the third quarter of 2010 -partly due to the fading impact of the exceptional measures taken for the crisis- and regain ground in the last quarter of the year. For 2010 as a whole, GDP growth is now forecast at 1.8% in the EU.

However, the impact of the crisis in MS' economies varies significantly and therefore the recovery is expected to follow a different pace among them. Among the seven largest Member States, GDP is expected to grow in 2010 in by 3.4% in Germany and Poland and at more moderate pace in the Netherlands (+1.9%), UK (+1.7%), France (+1.6%) and Italy (+1.1%). In 2011 all Member States –with the exception of Greece- are projected to have returned to positive economic growth.

Regarding public finances –severely hit by the crisis- the deficit tripled in 2009 to reach 6.8% of GDP as had been projected mainly due to the working of automatic stabilisers (i.e. unemployment benefits) and to fiscal measures taken under the European Economic Recovery Plan to respond to the crisis. The European Commission forecasts that as a result of reduced GDP and more people in receipt of income replacement benefits, social expenditure is likely to reach 30.7% in 2011, against 27.5% in 2007.

Figure 1 - Real GDP growth, unemployment rate, budget balance and social protection expenditure: historic evolution 1995-2009 and forecasts 2010-11



Detailed data by country is provided in table 1 of the statistical annex.

³ http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/publications/european_economy/2010/ee2_en.htm

2.1.2. Labour Market trends

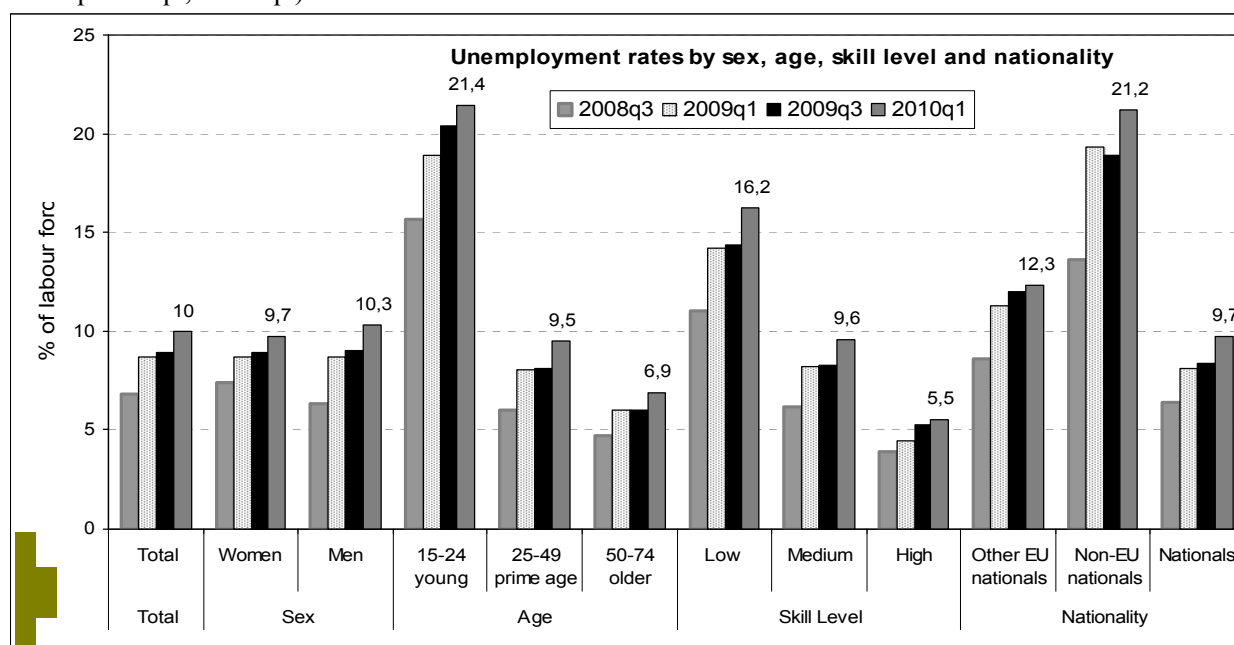
Labour markets were severely hit by the crisis. At EU level, the employment rate reached its lowest point in the first quarter of 2010 at 64.3%, to increase slightly again in the second quarter, after nearly two years of contraction. The EU unemployment rate has been stable since February, reflecting the underlying recent stabilisation or falls in rates in most of the Member States. Employment in the EU-27 continued declining since the last quarter of 2009 (64.4%) and reached 64.3% compared to 64.8% one year before. Unemployment rates increased from 8.8% in the second quarter of 2009 to reach 9.6% in February this year, but has stabilised since then (9.6% in September 2010).

More specifically, the employment rate between the second quarter of 2009 and the second quarter of 2010 remained stable in Belgium and Poland but fell considerably –by 3.1 to 4.3 percentage points (pp) in Bulgaria, Lithuania and Estonia. Employment rates increased by 0.2 pp in Germany and Sweden in the same period and by 1 pp in Romania and Malta. They decreased in all other countries and by as much as 2.1 pp in Denmark and 2.5 pp in Latvia.

Unemployment rates increased in most member states between the second quarter of 2009 and the second quarter of 2010, differences ranging from +0.1 pp (United Kingdom) to +5.2 pp (Estonia). Two years after the beginning of the crisis, unemployment rates vary greatly across the EU. In September 2009 they ranged from less than 5% in Austria (4.5%) and the Netherlands (4.4%) to 14% or more in Ireland (14.1%), Slovakia (14.7%), Lithuania (18.2% in June), Latvia (19.4% in June), Estonia (18.6% in June) and Spain 20.0% in Q2-2010.

The crisis had severe effects in particular groups such as youth (21.4% in Q1-2010 against 16% in Q3-2008), the low skilled workers (16.2% in Q1-2010 against 11.5% in Q3-2008), non-EU migrants (21.2% in Q3-2008 against 14% in Q1-2010). *Detailed data by Country is provided in Table 2 to of the statistical annex.*

Figure 2 - Unemployment rate: total, by sex, age groups, skill levels and nationality, (2008 q3, 2009 q1 and q3, 2010 q1):



2.1.3. Take up of benefits

Administrative data on benefit recipients for different social schemes (unemployment, social assistance and disability) was provided by Member States at the end of October 2010 through the SPC/ISG questionnaire on the social impact of the crisis (See detailed data by Country in figure 1 of the statistical annex). The data provided is much timelier than EU-SILC data and is available on a quarterly or monthly basis. Many countries provided data up to June 2010, but it has to be noted that cross country comparisons cannot be made since the data is collected for administrative purpose and the underlying concepts and definitions are not harmonised.

Strong pressure on unemployment benefit schemes

Following the continued rise in the number of people unemployed (ILO definition) the number of unemployment benefit recipients continued to increase between June 2009 and June 2010 in most Member States. Among the countries where unemployment increased by 2 percentage points or more in one year (BG, EE, EL, ES, LV, LT), the number of benefit recipients increased most in Greece (+44%), in Bulgaria (+31%) and Spain (+14.3%). In Romania and the Netherlands the number of recipients increased strongly despite a moderate increase in the level of unemployment.

Increased pressure on social assistance schemes

Regarding social assistance, in almost half of the countries the number of recipients increased in the period 2009-2010. The highest increases were observed in LT (190.9%), EE (80.1%), BG (40.1%) and CZ (30.6%). In CY, SI and SK the increase was between 13%-17% while social assistance recipients increased by 0.7% in MT, and 1.9% in DE and 6.5% in Hungary and 5% in PT.

No strong pressure on disability schemes, while beneficiaries of early retirement schemes increased in a few countries

Furthermore, available data shows that the crisis has not lead to a significant increase in the take-up of measures that enable permanent withdrawal from the labour market, namely disability pensions and early retirement. In some countries (EE, IE, IT, HU and SK) claimants of disability benefits have increased between 2% to 5% while significant decreases were observed in PL (-6.4% and the UK(-14%). Only few countries provided data on the take-up of early retirement schemes (CZ, EE, IT, LT, LU, PT and the UK). In these countries the increase in the number of recipients between 2008 and 2009 varied between +2.8% in the UK and 10.2% in CZ.

Illustrative examples of the diversity of trends observed across EU Member States

The graphs presented in Figure 3⁴ should only be interpreted in trends and are illustrative of the diverse ways in which unemployment, social assistance and disability schemes have operated in the crisis. Further analysis would be needed at country level to explain the observed trends.

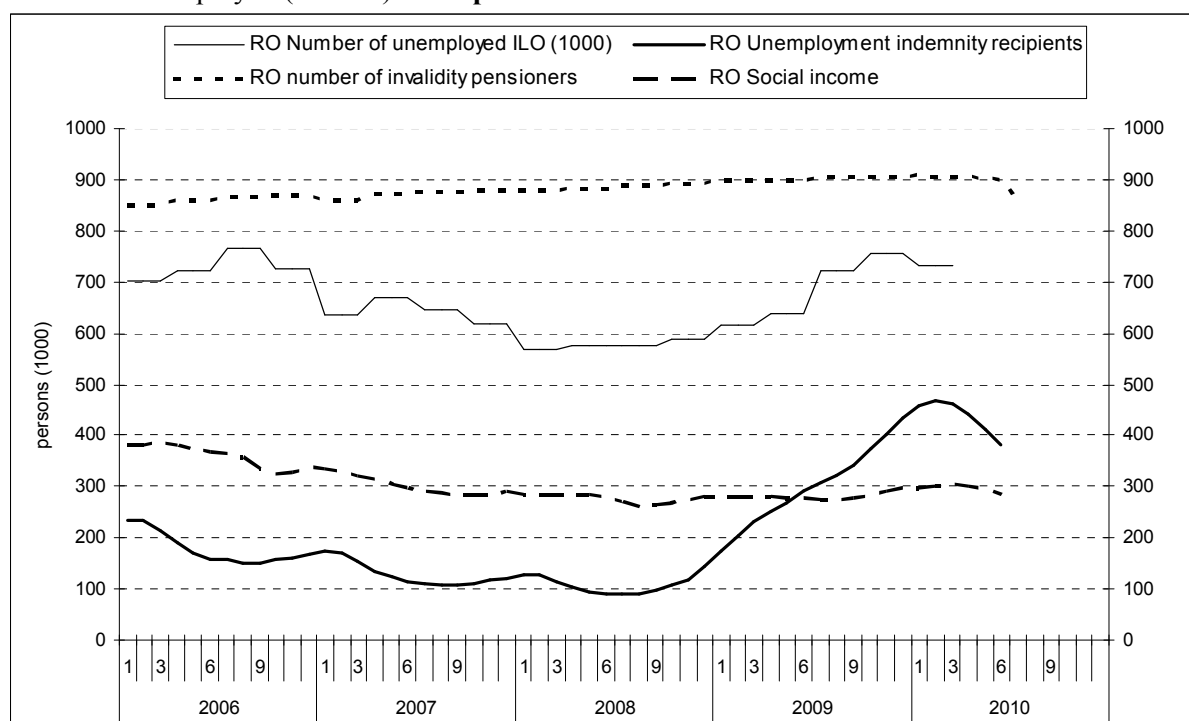
⁴ These figures are based on **administrative data and are not comparable between countries**. They cannot be interpreted in levels, because they only reflect the main schemes, and depending on the countries, the scope and definition of the schemes differ, and the systems include the individual recipients only, or the main recipient and other dependant household members.

Countries where job losses mainly lead to an increase in unemployment benefits recipients with little impact on other schemes

In BG, MT, PL, RO, and the UK the number of unemployment benefit recipients increased together with unemployment since the beginning of the crisis, and have started decreasing in the first quarter of 2010 following the improvement of unemployment figures in these countries. At the same time, the take-up of other schemes seems to be little affected by the crisis. In Germany, the impact of the crisis was mainly absorbed by employer-initiated reductions in working time, reductions in overtime and the system of short-time working arrangements, coupled with unemployment benefits for the worker on short time work or the unemployed and their families and little impact was observed on social assistance benefits. In the Netherlands, the number of unemployment beneficiaries started decreasing in 2010 even though the number of unemployed is still going up.

The relative importance of each scheme and the actual interaction between schemes may vary among these countries.

Figure 3a- Number of benefit recipients (unemployment benefits, social assistance, disability) and number of unemployed (in 1000) **Example 1 Romania**



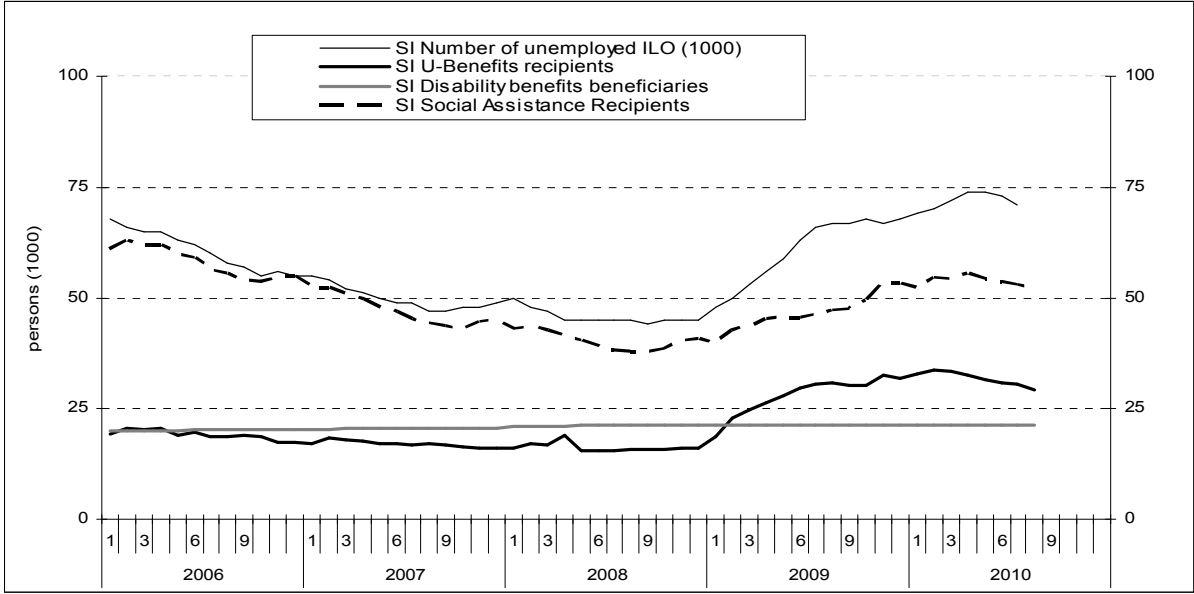
Sources: data on number of unemployed from Eurostat (ILO definition; thousands of persons, seasonally adjusted); data on number of benefit recipients collected through the ISG questionnaire⁵ (national data).

Countries where the crisis had an impact on both unemployment benefits and social assistance schemes

In another group of countries (CZ, FR, CY, LU, HU, AT, SI, PT), the number of unemployment benefits recipients increased in the early stages of the crisis soon followed by an increase in the number of social assistance recipients. In some of these countries (PT, FR, LU), the increase in social assistance and/or unemployment benefit beneficiaries may be due to the reinforcement of the scheme (extended coverage, reform), as part of a long-term active inclusion strategy and/or as a response to the crisis.

⁵ See exact definition of schemes in annex

Figure 3b - Number of benefit recipients (unemployment benefits, social assistance, disability) and number of unemployed (in 1000) Example 2: Slovenia

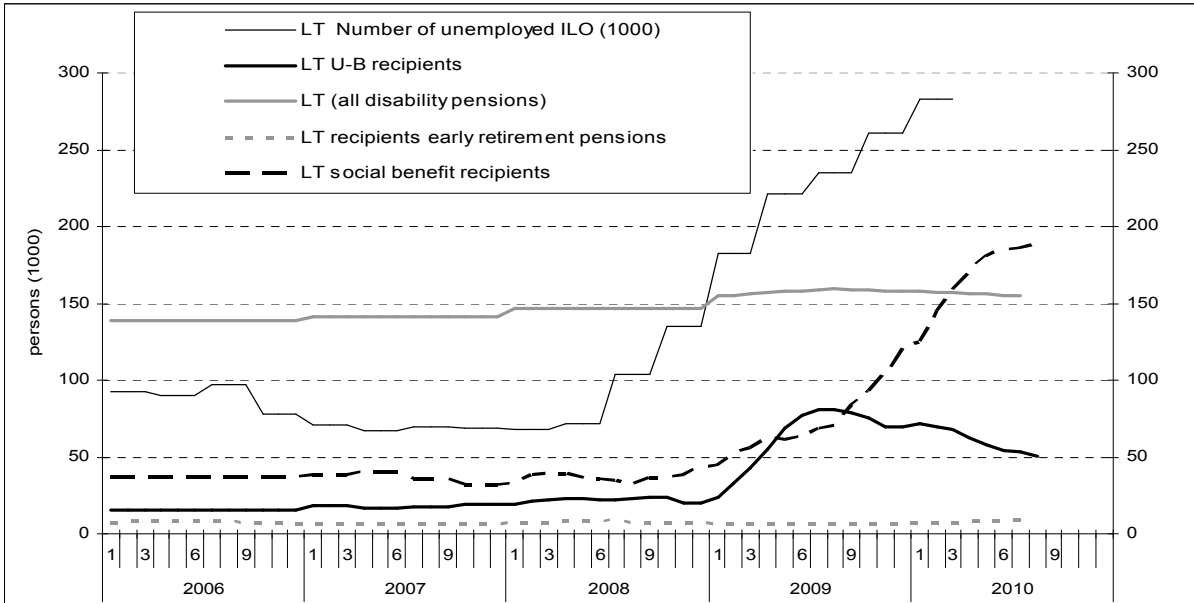


Countries where a shift towards social assistance schemes was observed

In a few countries (EE, LT, SK), after an initial rise in the early stages of the crisis, the number of unemployment benefit recipients started to decrease in 2009, while the number of people on social assistance increased dramatically. Such a shift from unemployment benefits towards social assistance schemes may be reflecting the reduction in the duration of unemployment benefits (see Fig 3b below).

Such trends illustrate the potential risk of withdrawing crisis measures that had increased duration or relaxed conditionality of benefits too early, i.e. as long as labour market conditions do not improve.

Figure 3c - Number of benefit recipients (unemployment benefits, social assistance, disability) and number of unemployed (in 1000) Example 3: Lithuania



Sources: data on number of unemployed from Eurostat (ILO definition; thousands of persons, seasonally adjusted); data on number of benefit recipients collected through the ISG questionnaire (national data).

2.2. No overall assessment of the crisis is available yet

At the end of 2009, Member States had indicated that it was still too early to fully evaluate the social impact of the measures. Now two years after, most countries are not in a position to give an overall assessment of the impact of the crisis, but in general find that the crisis has aggravated the situation for those in precarious situations and led new groups into poverty.

A reason for the difficulty in giving an overall assessment is a lack of timely data. In most countries, the 2009 EU-SILC data that will be released soon will only provide income data referring to 2008. Many countries do report on relevant national indicators, administrative data and statistics from various sources produced regularly in government reports. In one case, specific monitoring of the crisis is done by an independent research institute on a semi-annual basis (AT). A few countries publish regular reports assessing poverty and establishing a clear "state of nation" overview.

3. Fiscal consolidation

3.1. Fiscal consolidation is firmly on the agenda, but the scope of consolidation varies

Fiscal stimulus packages were launched as key elements of the recovery plans during the last two years in order to dampen the negative effects from the crisis. The stimulus packages varied in their composition of measures. Some predominantly invested in the support to households, others in labour market measures, and others also dedicating large shares of their spending on investments expenditures. This has had effects on both sides of public budgets.

On the one hand, some stimulus measures further aggravated the drops in receipts resulting from the economic slowdown (both social security contributions and earmarked taxes): e.g. lower social contributions have been used in specific cases to encourage labour market participation (BE, PT). On the other hand, investments in infrastructures and measures to reinforce income support to households, including to the most vulnerable have added to the strong increases in expenditure resulting from the cost of unemployment benefits.

Public finances are now under considerable strain following the steep recession and taking steps to counteract the rises in governments' deficit⁶ and debt and regaining confidence is now a priority.

Already in autumn 2009 Member States reported a stronger emphasis on provisions aimed at ensuring budgetary discipline⁷. At the same time fiscal consolidation packages were planned

⁶ As highlighted by the European Commission 2010 Spring Forecast one of the legacies of the recent economic and financial crisis has been a marked deterioration in the fiscal position. The general government deficit has tripled since 2008. It is projected to peak this year in the EU (reaching 7¼% of GDP) and to improve slightly in 2011 (to around 6½%). This follows from the expiry of temporary support measures and the pick-up in activity.

or adopted in a number of countries. At the end of 2010, a significant number of Member States report to have launched consolidation measures for the medium-term. Fiscal consolidation will start in most cases in the year 2011, although in some Member States the consolidation path has already started. On the other hand, some Member States report that they have not launched any fiscal consolidation measures as yet, but in most cases it will be considered in the next budget.

While varying across countries, fiscal consolidation will consist in general of a mix of reduced public spending and increased tax revenues. In 2009, some countries had started implementing reforms of the public sector (e.g. redundancies and reduced wages for State employees), tax increases, etc. In the course of 2010, some Member States have started phasing out some of the measures implemented as a response to the crisis, while extending the duration of crisis measures in certain areas, such as short time working arrangements and active labour market measures. It is also underscored that with growth resuming, automatic stabilisers will contribute to fiscal consolidation, as spending will be reduced.

3.2. Fiscal consolidation will affect social inclusion and social protection policies

Most Member States report that they have implemented or planned fiscal consolidation measures that will impact social inclusion and social protection policies. A few respondents acknowledge that the consolidation of the general government deficit will take place in most sections of the budget, therefore it will also influence social inclusion and social protection. Only one Member State indicates that measures taken at this time will not have any substantial impact on social inclusion and social protection policies. In other answers, specific areas of social protection (e.g. health and long term care in UK and PT [long term care]) seem to be protected and no changes/cuts in their funding are foreseen for the provision of these services.

3.2.1. Measures to increase revenue

Member States highlight several types of measures being implemented that will affect social inclusion and social protection policies. Some planned measures will affect the whole population, such as higher VAT or fuel tax rates (e.g. AT, EL, ES, PL, PT, RO). While other measures will affect specific groups, for example through the reduction of targeted tax credits. Changes to increase the rate at which tax credits are withdrawn once household income rises are also mentioned (UK, PT).

On the financing side, some Member States opted for increasing the revenue of their social protection systems by widening the social insurance base (PT) and by limiting the exemptions from social insurance and other social security contributions. Other countries, however, as mentioned above, lowered the social security contributions in order to promote job creation. Other measures aimed at increasing revenues to compensate for the lower yield from reduced

⁷ Second joint assessment by the Social Protection Committee and the European Commission of the social impact of the economic crisis and of policy responses,
<http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/09/st16/st16169-ad01.en09.pdf>

economic activity included the increase of tax ceilings and postponement or reversal of tax rebates or exemptions.

On the financing of social protection, SK argues that the reform of the pension system which shifted part of the social security contributions for the Pay-As-You-Go (PAYG) public system to mandatory funded pension schemes has had negative impact on fiscal consolidation. The outflow of contributions to the funded defined contribution schemes creates imbalances for the financing of the current pension costs of the PAYG system. The revenue diverted to the build up of future pension rights have to be covered by tax resources from state budget or through increased public debt. Based on similar observations, Hungary has recently adopted a measure to shift social security contributions from mandatory private pillar to the Pay-as-you-go (PAYG) public system. On the other hand the Government deleted the mandatory access to the private pillar and opened the possibility for the private pension fund members to return to the PAYG system.

3.2.2. Measures to reduce expenditure

In addition to changes on the revenue side, reduction in public spending with social inclusion / social protection consequences is also highlighted among the respondents. Member States have implemented changes that reduce the number of people eligible and/or the level of benefits. For example, tightening conditions to qualify for certain benefits – such as unemployment or social assistance (CZ, IE) -, shortening of the benefit period for unemployed (DK), reduced unemployment benefit (LT), discontinuation of contribution payments to pension insurance under unemployment benefits, narrowing of family allowances (CZ, DK, LU, HU, PT), reduction of benefits for persons with disabilities (CZ) and children (PL), abolition of birth grants and school aids (CZ), changes in indexation rules for pensions (CZ, BG, temporary measure for LU), adjustment of social care services, decreasing of sick leave benefits (BG, CZ, HU, LT), etc. Increased targeting of housing benefits and child benefits (LT) is also highlighted among the respondents as a response to budgetary constraints (UK). A few countries have taken measures to reduce staff in public services, with potential impacts on access and quality of services (CZ, IE, UK).

3.2.3. Measures to increase efficiency

Measures to increase efficiency can have several aims, such as reducing administrative costs, reducing fraud, improving take up rates, removing disincentives and improving the impact of benefits and quality of intervention. Different measures can be used to reach the various aims, including simplification of rules, better dissemination of information, better design of benefits and dissemination of quality standards.

Focusing on increasing efficiency in the use of public funds is a key measure of the consolidation programmes. Member States have mainly reported on simplification of rules (FR, UK), efforts to reduce administration costs (FR, UK, DK, DE, BE, EL, PT), introduce transparency in the budget by linking expenditure items to performance indicators (PL, FR) and to reduce the cost of fraud and error (UK, BG, PT). Increasing take up rates of benefits are addressed by very few countries. In general the focus is on ensuring the best value for money and ensuring that quality standards are maintained in the tighter financial context (e.g. undertaking quality, improvement, productivity and prevention programme in the health

sector (DK, DE, BE)). UK and LT will introduce stronger result orientation to programmes and integrate services by providing services based on the needs of the person rather than according to standard benefit claims. Several countries (CZ, DE, UK, NL, PT) highlight that measures to stimulate labour market participation of benefit recipients will also contribute to the greater efficiency of spending.

Member States strive towards maintaining/adopting balanced active inclusion strategies, combining adequate income support, access to the labour market and to social services. Some emphasize the need to promote active social security systems in order to prevent long-term benefit dependency, while others are concerned about maintaining or reinforcing adequate protection with a view to support the capacity of individuals to participate actively in society and the economy.

3.3. Few have conducted social impact assessments of fiscal consolidation measures

Social impact assessments is a tool to obtain important information of the consequences that policy developments can have, including their potential distributional effects, and how they will affect vulnerable groups. Only a few Member States have conducted impact assessments of major policy and spending decisions or have a general impact assessment framework in place (IE, DK, UK, LU, and PT). In these few cases, direct implications of the measures on household's disposable incomes have been analysed and the distributional effects have played an important role in the composition and the timing of measures. For instance, UK estimated the impact of changes in the benefit system on child poverty levels over the two years following the policy change. Portugal has conducted estimates to understand the impact of the changes in the allocation of the non-contributory benefits on beneficiaries, families and expenditure. Also more indirect social impacts have been considered, e.g. how to prevent an increase in long term unemployment and how to strengthen the effort towards the most vulnerable in the current situation. The UK has published an analysis of the distributional effects of recently announced fiscal consolidation measures⁸ and recommendations on measuring the social impacts of employment policy⁹. See also section 6 on Governance regarding monitoring and evaluation of measures.

3.4. Budget imbalances between government levels have not received particular attention

The impact of austerity measures on national, regional and local governments vary according to the actions taken, and can have indirect consequences for budgets on different levels. For example, services that are delivered at the local level can obviously be affected by measures taken at other government levels. Only strict budgetary discipline at all governmental levels can ensure that public-sector budgets are robust and sustainable in the long term. Thus, often regional and local levels of government are no longer permitted to incur structural debt. This question is especially relevant for countries where lower tiers of government are responsible for larger parts of the social budgets and where the crisis might have put stronger pressures on

⁸ http://cdn.hm-treasury.gov.uk/sr2010_completereport.pdf

⁹ Fujiwara (2010) 'The Department for Work and Pensions Social Cost Benefit Analysis Framework'. DWP Working Paper 86. http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/report_abstracts/wp_abstracts/wpa_086.asp

their budget balances given the specific composition of their revenues and types of expenditures.

Very few countries were in a position to share information on measures to alleviate budget imbalances between different government levels. DK highlights a budget guarantee scheme which compensates local governments for changes in expenditure in areas that are influenced by levels of activity. In three countries (EL, FI, HU) service structures will be strengthened by increasing cooperation between the municipalities (or merging them) where services provision require a broader population base. One Member State has stabilised transfers to local level, but as the local level is not in a position to increase budgets, through taxes or borrowing, this will result in increased pressure on finances at the local level. Three Member States (DE, FR, EL) report that budget discipline will be strengthened through all government levels to ensure sustainability in the long-term.

4. Policy measures to maintain social cohesion, and shield vulnerable groups

4.1. Labour market measures have been taken to alleviate the social impacts of fiscal consolidation

Member States have undertaken various measures to alleviate the social impacts of fiscal consolidation, depending on the type of consolidation measures envisaged. Several Member States aim at fostering the labour market participation of benefit recipients through the use of active labour market measures coupled with increased conditionality (CZ, DE, UK, NL, FI, PT), highlighting that active labour market measures can contribute to alleviate the social impacts of fiscal consolidation. Some (AT, BE, EL, ES, LU, SK) have prolonged the duration for measures introduced during the crisis or introduced new measures to lower labour costs and flexible working time arrangements¹⁰.

Measures to support job creation through support to the self-employed and small businesses have been introduced in one country (EL, LT), while some countries have extended such measures implemented during the crisis (AT, BE, SK, UK).

4.2. A few countries have implemented new measures to support people's income

The coverage and adequacy of minimum income provisions vary greatly across EU. Over the last 2 years, a few Member States (AT, FR, LU) have developed or reformed Minimum income schemes, extending coverage for young people and for the working age population, along active inclusion principles. A few Member States (AT, CZ, FR, FI) have taken measures which increases activation and conditionality of benefits, such as a means tested guaranteed minimum income linked with willingness to accept job offers and training, in order to prevent long-term benefit dependency (AT, PT).

¹⁰ Concerning the assessment of short-time work arrangements and other labour market measures, see joint EMCO-COM report to EPSCO of October 2010.

4.3. Measures addressed to specific groups of population have been strengthened

Individualised quality social and employment services, taking into account the personal, family and social situation people face, is needed to support the integration of the most vulnerable in society and labour market.

Member States have taken specific measures to support vulnerable groups throughout the financial and economic crisis. Some of these measures have been or are in the process of being phased out, but it is not reported that these measures or programmes have been abandoned due to fiscal consolidation. In some countries on the contrary, crisis measures targeting specific groups have been further extended to reduce unemployment and support growth, such as wage subsidies for different groups (including migrants and youths) (AT, BE), flexible working time arrangements (AT, BE, DE, NL, SK, EL), training and apprenticeship for young people (NL, EL, BG), postponement of social security contributions (BE) or tax credits (UK) for the self-employed and reinforced active labour market measures (EL).

New measures have been taken by some Member States targeting the Roma (ES, FI), older workers (UK), youth (UK, BE, NL, PL), children (BE), people with disabilities (AT, BE). These measures focus on active labour market measures (SK), Public Employment Services (NL), training and apprenticeship measures (NL), guaranteed minimum income, and alleviating child poverty (BE). For example, in one Member State measures to increase tax revenues will not affect vulnerable groups, as impacts will be alleviated by reassessing social assistance levels, strengthening active labour market measures, and expanding child care facilities (DE, PT). Another Member State will increase the targeting of child benefits and tax credits (UK, PT), while others have developed action plans alleviating the impact on vulnerable groups (FI, NL) and increased tax deductions for those in the lowest income brackets. DK introduced a reform of the financing of social housing along with initiatives focusing on the protection of tenants at risk of being evicted.

4.4. Measures aimed at strengthening equal opportunities for all, a focus for some

Most countries have not adopted specific measures to alleviate the potential gender impacts of the crisis and austerity measures. This is either because they are high scorers in gender equality policies or because the measures introduced are considered gender neutral (CZ). Two Member States (NL) report that most measures were directed to “male”- dominated sectors (construction, industry, financial services) most hit by the crisis.

Three countries (AT, FI, LU) have adopted new Action plans for Gender Equality including measures to reduce the gender segregation in the labour market, reconcile work and family life and improving access to childcare facilities. One country (UK) has paid particular attention to ensuring that different experiences of men and women in relation to the economic downturn are taken into account by conducting research, monitoring the impact and publishing relevant guidance.

5. Policy measures related to social protection

5.1. Structural reforms aimed at improving the efficiency and effectiveness of social protection expenditure have been initiated

Several Member States are introducing structural reforms aimed at improving the efficiency and effectiveness of social protection expenditure. Many of these structural reforms concern the pension systems and include in several Member States (e.g. BG, FR, IE, NL, PT) the raising of the pensionable age and incentives for people to work more and longer with the view to raising the effective retirement age, as well as the introduction of stricter criteria for certain pensions (e.g. disability pensions in EL and PL, early retirement and pension benefits for people working under unhealthy and hazardous conditions in BG) and adjustment mechanisms that link the contribution-benefit formula and/or the pensionable age to longevity and GDP developments. Similarly, the conditions for awarding several social security benefits on a means-tested basis have been reinforced (in BG, IE, SK).

Other measures are geared towards the health care systems with a view to improving their performance (LU) and to strengthening competition in the system. In some Member States (e.g. DE, SE), the authorities intend to give more autonomy to health insurance funds in what regards their organisation, functioning, planning and collection of contributions to their schemes. New regulations on the application of competition and anti-trust legislation are envisaged in certain cases (DE). Measures include those that directly affect the patients, such as changes in the thresholds for cost reimbursement (in DE, IE), increased co-payments of outpatient services and diagnostic services in public hospitals (in EL) and initiatives that empower users by giving them larger freedom of choice have also been proposed (in BG, SE, UK).

Other approaches to ensuring more efficient and effective expenditure on social protection involve improving the access to data on social security beneficiaries by linking various administrative social security databases (in BE, EL, LU), by introducing electronic medical and social security cards (in BE, BG, EL, LU) and by promoting a better cooperation and coordination among authorities responsible for the organisation and management of service provision (in BE, EL, ES, FI, LU, PL, PT, SK). Initiatives to reduce pharmaceutical costs (EL, ES, HU, LU, LT, PT), for example by expanding the use of generics and introducing e-prescriptions are also mentioned.

5.2. Pension reforms are ongoing and in some cases made more urgent by the crisis

Overhauls of the pension systems are ongoing in many Member States and many countries give details on the progress of the planned pension reforms since last report. The major trends in pension reforms encompass the strengthening of the link between contributions and benefits (EL), the raising of the statutory and effective retirement age (EL, FI, HU, NL), the establishment of automatic adjustment mechanisms to life expectancy and/or GDP developments (PT, FI), etc. A few Member States (CZ) point out that these reforms primarily respond to the demographic developments and aim at meeting the challenge of guaranteeing the adequacy and sustainability of pension systems in the long term, thus, they should not be

seen as motivated consequence of the financial market turbulences and the ensuing economic recession.

Other pension policy measures, however, have been directly prompted by the crisis and the new financial constraints: notably, many Member States have reduced the indexation of pensions or temporarily frozen pension benefits levels (in BG, CZ, LU, LT, PT). Very often minimum pensions and minimum income provisions for older people are exempted from these limits so as to ensure that the low income pensioners are well-protected and the smallest pensions maintain their purchasing power (in CY, EL, ES, LT).

Also, in the context of pensions and the crisis, BE mentions that short time work will be retroactively assimilated with full time employment for the calculation of pensions. DE will seek to compensate for the discontinuation of contribution payments to pension insurance from the unemployment benefit system by focused employment policies and childcare facilities to enable parents to minimize periods away from the labour market and improve contribution records.

5.3. Few Member States have evaluated the impact of the crisis on health status, but those that have, find negative links to mental and physical health

Even two years into the crisis the vast majority of Member States were not in a position to give a full picture of the effects on the health status of specific population groups. Neither were they able to assess possible changes in health-related behaviour or in the extent of health inequalities. Member States cited a lack of retrospective reviews of the impact of the crisis. Observations are still too few and far between especially in countries where the crisis broke out relatively recently or where stabilization effect of national policies could dampen the social impact of the current crisis. Member States also mentioned that it was difficult to evaluate the specific impact of the crisis compared to other possible factors or already existing trends. However some Member States identified a specific impact of the crisis on citizens' mental health status or related subjects, even if connection with other sources than economic crisis can be found (BE, SE, IE, UK). SE for instance has clearly identified a negative impact in the field of mental illness and alcohol consumption. Generally speaking, a clear link between the crisis and poorer mental health status has been established especially with in the following areas: depression, anxiety, increased alcohol consumption and suicidal behaviours . Concerning IE, provisional data show a sharp and clear increase in suicides between 2008 and 2009 (24%). The level of suicide is the highest level ever recorded in the country. This worrying phenomenon is clearly associated with the crisis. As reported by IE, international research indicates a connection between economic crisis and suicide trends in general, but the extent of this phenomenon is of particular concern in IE in 2009.

Regarding health status of the population two Member States UK and HU offer a very comprehensive and complete view of the population's health status, including a direct impact of the crisis on physical health or on health-related lifestyles and behaviours (smoking, food habits, etc..). In Hungary several phenomena have been mentioned, but given the short retrospective view, the it remains difficult to distinguish the impact of the crisis from other possible factors. In the UK, a very precise analysis has been carried out, and some phenomena or trends seem to be connected with the crisis: increased obesity prevalence, STD, rising

smoking prevalence in the routine and manual households (and therefore an increased gap in smoking prevalence between the different social groups), a drop in purchases of fresh fruit and vegetables. We can thus infer that unhealthy lifestyles or behaviours seem to be more frequent among underprivileged people than they used to be before the crisis. Social gradient remains a key factor in health status and health inequalities, and the crisis is apt to increase these inequalities. However, given the short retrospective view, this statement should be considered with some care.

Some Member States provided information on health status over the last years (generally since 2004), but very few Member States replied to the specific question on health inequalities, in connection with the crisis itself, mainly because of the lack of data and studies. Still, they emphasized the importance of the social gradient on health inequalities, and more specifically the strong impact of the economic crisis and unemployment on mental health (and unhealthy lifestyles). In Member States where plans to reduce health inequalities have been developed, the interface between the health care dimension and the social dimension was identified as a key focus of measures.

5.4. There is a clear awareness of the importance of Long-Term Care

In the context of reforming the health care and social services sectors long-term care (LTC) represents a key area for intervention in many Member States. The purpose of these reform processes is to improve the efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability of the long-term care and social service provision. Several measures have been implemented with the aim of supporting the de-institutionalisation of the long-term care sector, of promoting home care and of improving end-of-life care (in CZ, IE, SE, UK).

As in the case of health care systems, measures to widen the range of options available to potential users of long-term care services and to promote the cooperation and coordination among service providers in order to ensure a continuous and comprehensive delivery of long-term care have been considered in several Member States.

Approximately half of the respondents mentioned specific measures on LTC financing, but generally not in connection with the crisis. Indeed, in a noticeable number of Member States (e.g. BE, BG, CZ, CY, DE, EL, FR, IE, SE, SK, UK) reflections on LTC had already been launched or plans had already been implemented, in response to the challenging demographic trends identified by public authorities. In some Member States (e.g. BE, SE), complete and comprehensive LTC plans have been implemented (or improved on some points) over the last years, but not necessarily as an effect of cost constraints generated by the crisis.

Furthermore, some Member States have planned (SK), or will soon plan (FR), specific plans either to improve access to affordable LTC and thus improve social inclusion (SK) or to organise and guarantee long-term sustainability of LTC systems (FR).

Some others, like the IE, UK have recently implemented a number of measures (Home care package scheme, Nursing Home Support scheme, etc..) without specific "Long Term Care" labelling but whose practical impact is to improve the financing of this type of care.

As a whole, there is a clear awareness of the importance of LTC, but also of the particular traits of LTC compared to other types of care.

6. Governance

6.1. Regular monitoring of the crisis based on a variety of sources is conducted

Most member states report that they have regular monitoring exercises either within an existing pre crisis policy monitoring framework (BE, FI, AT, UK, SK, PL) or within a system particularly set up in the context of the crisis (BG) (i.e. monthly/quarterly reporting on crisis, studies and forecasts on the impact of crisis). Some have set up specific bodies (council, committee, inter-ministerial group) with the task of monitoring the social impact of the crisis (LU), while some report directly to parliament on the implementation of stimulus packages (FR).

The majority of the countries (AT, SE, UK, SK, DE, FR, BE, NL, BG, CY) use a variety of indicators from several sources of data (Labour Force Surveys, administrative data from employment services, Social Insurance Agencies, local authorities) along with the common indicators. These data are published quarterly or monthly. They mainly refer to economic indicators (GDP, inflation rate,) the labour market (employment, unemployment, vacancies, take up of unemployment benefits, shifts among full and part time employment, long term unemployment), take up of social assistance, increase of minimum income, disability benefits, minimum pensions, child benefits and long term care allowances. An overview of the data collected within the Indicator's Sub-Group of the SPC is available in section 1. Most countries have not developed specific indicators on a regular basis, because the already existing indicators and evidence was considered sufficient to monitor the changing situation. Some countries have set up reporting systems using existing indicators and administrative data to assess the social impacts of the crisis (AT, CZ).

6.2. Impact of measures taken in response to the crisis are being evaluated

Several countries report on the evaluation of the impact of specific measures implemented, in particular on labour market measures. The evaluations are mainly done by government bodies, with the involvement of independent research institutes in some countries (AT, BE, HU, CZ, DE, CY, FI, SK, BG) . Only one country reports of an independent evaluation of a specific programme, including an impact assessment (UK). An evaluation strategy for another programme is also currently being designed (CZ). Other countries have commissioned studies with ex-ante evaluations of their economic stimulus programmes.

Annex: Statistical tables

Table 1 - Real GDP growth, unemployment rate, budget balance and social protection expenditure¹¹: historic values 2007-08 and forecasts 2010-11

		2007	2008	2009	2010*	2011*
EU27	Real GDP growth (%)	2,9	0,7	-4,2	1,0	1,7
	Unemployment rate (%)	7,1	7,0	8,9	9,8	9,7
	Budget balance (% of GDP)	-0,9	-2,3	-6,8	-7,2	-6,5
	Social protection expenditure (% of GDP)	27,5	28,0	30,7	31,0	30,7
BE	Real GDP growth (%)	2,9	1,0	-3,1	1,3	1,6
	Unemployment rate (%)	7,5	7,0	7,9	8,8	9,0
	Budget balance (% of GDP)	-0,2	-1,2	-6,1	-5,0	-5,0
	Social protection expenditure (% of GDP)	29,2	30,3	32,9	33,0	33,0
BG	Real GDP growth (%)	6,2	6,0	-5,0	0,0	2,7
	Unemployment rate (%)	6,9	5,6	6,8	7,9	7,3
	Budget balance (% of GDP)	0,1	1,8	-3,9	-2,8	-2,2
	Social protection expenditure (% of GDP)	18,1	18,1	20,2	20,0	19,8
CZ	Real GDP growth (%)	6,1	2,5	-4,2	1,6	2,4
	Unemployment rate (%)	5,3	4,4	6,7	8,3	8,0
	Budget balance (% of GDP)	-0,7	-2,7	-5,9	-5,7	-5,7
	Social protection expenditure (% of GDP)	23,1	23,1	24,3	24,7	24,7
DK	Real GDP growth (%)	1,7	-0,9	-4,9	1,6	1,8
	Unemployment rate (%)	3,8	3,3	6,0	6,9	6,5
	Budget balance (% of GDP)	4,8	3,4	-2,8	-5,6	-5,0
	Social protection expenditure (% of GDP)	33,1	33,8	38,1	38,4	38,0
DE	Real GDP growth (%)	2,5	1,3	-5,0	1,2	1,6
	Unemployment rate (%)	8,4	7,3	7,5	7,8	7,8
	Budget balance (% of GDP)	0,2	0,0	-3,3	-5,0	-4,7
	Social protection expenditure (% of GDP)	27,9	27,6	30,1	30,5	30,1
EE	Real GDP growth (%)	7,2	-3,6	-14,1	0,9	3,8
	Unemployment rate (%)	4,7	5,5	13,8	15,8	14,6
	Budget balance (% of GDP)	2,6	-2,8	-1,7	-2,4	-2,4
	Social protection expenditure (% of GDP)	17,9	21,3	26,5	26,1	24,8
IE	Real GDP growth (%)	6,0	-3,0	-7,1	-0,9	3,0
	Unemployment rate (%)	4,6	6,3	11,9	13,8	13,4
	Budget balance (% of GDP)	0,1	-7,3	-14,3	-11,7	-12,1
	Social protection expenditure (% of GDP)	20,6	23,5	27,6	27,4	27,2
EL	Real GDP growth (%)	4,5	2,0	-2,0	-3,0	-0,5
	Unemployment rate (%)	8,3	7,7	9,5	11,8	13,2
	Budget balance (% of GDP)	-5,4	-7,7	-13,5	-9,4	-10,0
	Social protection expenditure (% of GDP)	24,8	25,9	28,0	28,2	27,7
ES	Real GDP growth (%)	3,6	0,9	-3,6	-0,4	0,8
	Unemployment rate (%)	8,3	11,3	18,0	19,7	19,8
	Budget balance (% of GDP)	1,9	-4,1	-11,2	-9,8	-8,8
	Social protection expenditure (% of GDP)	22,3	23,8	26,9	27,9	29,4
FR	Real GDP growth (%)	2,3	0,4	-2,2	1,3	1,5
	Unemployment rate (%)	8,4	7,8	9,5	10,2	10,1
	Budget balance (% of GDP)	-2,7	-3,3	-7,6	-8,0	-7,4
	Social protection expenditure (% of GDP)	32,5	32,7	34,8	35,2	35,0
IT	Real GDP growth (%)	1,5	-1,3	-5,0	0,8	1,4
	Unemployment rate (%)	6,1	6,7	7,8	8,8	8,8
	Budget balance (% of GDP)	-1,5	-2,7	-5,2	-5,2	-5,0
	Social protection expenditure (% of GDP)	28,7	29,6	31,8	31,8	31,4
CY	Real GDP growth (%)	5,1	3,6	-1,7	-0,4	1,3
	Unemployment rate (%)	4,0	3,6	5,3	6,7	7,0
	Budget balance (% of GDP)	3,4	0,9	-6,1	-7,1	-7,7
	Social protection expenditure (% of GDP)	19,1	19,8	22,2	23,9	24,4

¹¹ Source Ameco: Social protection expenditure = Social transfers in kind D63 + Social transfers other than in kind general government (D62). http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/ameco/user/serie/SelectSerie.cfm?. The AMECO database is based on National Accounts. In this extract from AMECO the sum of "Social transfers in kind" and "Social benefits other than social transfers in kind" in accordance with European System of Accounts 1995 (ESA95) has been used. Generally speaking the results for total expenditure on social protection is somewhat higher than in ESSPROS. For details on the main differences compared with the European System of Integrated Social Protection Statistics (ESSPROS) in the way social benefits in cash and kind are distinguished please refer to Manual on sources and methods for the compilation of COFOG Statistics, page 65-66, Eurostat, http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_OFFPUB/KS-RA-07-022/EN/KS-RA-07-022-EN.PDF

		2007	2008	2009	2010*	2011*
LV	Real GDP growth (%)	10,0	-4,6	-18,0	-3,5	3,3
	Unemployment rate (%)	6,0	7,5	17,1	20,6	18,8
	Budget balance (% of GDP)	-0,3	-4,1	-8,9	-8,6	-9,8
	Social protection expenditure (% of GDP)	14,6	16,5	21,0	23,9	22,6
LT	Real GDP growth (%)	9,8	2,8	-15,0	-0,6	3,2
	Unemployment rate (%)	4,3	5,8	13,7	16,7	16,3
	Budget balance (% of GDP)	-1,0	-3,3	-8,9	-8,4	-8,5
	Social protection expenditure (% of GDP)	18,8	21,6	27,6	25,4	24,5
LU	Real GDP growth (%)	6,5	0,0	-3,4	2,0	2,4
	Unemployment rate (%)	4,2	4,9	5,4	6,1	6,4
	Budget balance (% of GDP)	3,6	2,9	-0,7	-3,5	-3,9
	Social protection expenditure (% of GDP)	21,8	22,6	25,7	26,2	26,2
HU	Real GDP growth (%)	1,0	0,6	-6,3	0,0	2,8
	Unemployment rate (%)	7,4	7,8	10,0	10,8	10,1
	Budget balance (% of GDP)	-5,0	-3,8	-4,0	-4,0	-3,9
	Social protection expenditure (% of GDP)	26,7	27,7	28,1	27,5	27,0
MT	Real GDP growth (%)	3,8	2,1	-1,9	1,1	1,7
	Unemployment rate (%)	6,4	5,9	6,9	7,3	7,2
	Budget balance (% of GDP)	-2,2	-4,5	-3,8	-4,3	-3,6
	Social protection expenditure (% of GDP)	21,7	23,4	24,0	24,0	24,0
NL	Real GDP growth (%)	3,6	2,0	-4,0	1,3	1,8
	Unemployment rate (%)	3,2	2,8	3,4	4,9	5,2
	Budget balance (% of GDP)	0,2	0,7	-5,3	-6,3	-5,1
	Social protection expenditure (% of GDP)	25,4	25,4	28,4	29,1	28,4
AT	Real GDP growth (%)	3,5	2,0	-3,6	1,3	1,6
	Unemployment rate (%)	4,4	3,8	4,8	5,1	5,4
	Budget balance (% of GDP)	-0,5	-0,5	-3,5	-4,7	-4,6
	Social protection expenditure (% of GDP)	28,7	29,0	31,1	31,7	31,5
PL	Real GDP growth (%)	6,8	5,0	1,7	2,7	3,3
	Unemployment rate (%)	9,6	7,1	8,2	9,2	9,4
	Budget balance (% of GDP)	-1,9	-3,7	-7,1	-7,3	-7,0
	Social protection expenditure (% of GDP)	24,2	24,6	25,4	25,8	25,0
PT	Real GDP growth (%)	1,9	0,0	-2,7	0,5	0,7
	Unemployment rate (%)	8,1	7,7	9,6	9,9	9,9
	Budget balance (% of GDP)	-2,7	-2,9	-9,4	-8,5	-7,9
	Social protection expenditure (% of GDP)	26,9	27,8	30,5	31,0	30,8
RO	Real GDP growth (%)	6,3	7,3	-7,1	0,8	3,5
	Unemployment rate (%)	6,4	5,8	6,9	8,5	7,9
	Budget balance (% of GDP)	-2,5	-5,4	-8,3	-8,8	-7,4
	Social protection expenditure (% of GDP)	17,6	19,6	22,8	13,4	12,9
SI	Real GDP growth (%)	6,8	3,5	-7,8	1,1	1,8
	Unemployment rate (%)	4,9	4,4	5,9	7,0	7,3
	Budget balance (% of GDP)	0,0	-1,7	-5,5	-6,1	-5,2
	Social protection expenditure (% of GDP)	24,8	25,7	29,3	30,0	29,7
SK	Real GDP growth (%)	10,6	6,2	-4,7	2,7	3,6
	Unemployment rate (%)	11,1	9,5	12,0	14,1	13,3
	Budget balance (% of GDP)	-1,9	-2,3	-6,8	-6,0	-5,4
	Social protection expenditure (% of GDP)	19,6	18,9	23,0	22,4	21,7
FI	Real GDP growth (%)	4,9	1,2	-7,8	1,4	2,1
	Unemployment rate (%)	6,9	6,4	8,2	9,5	9,2
	Budget balance (% of GDP)	5,2	4,1	-2,4	-4,0	-3,2
	Social protection expenditure (% of GDP)	29,3	30,4	34,4	34,8	34,2
SE	Real GDP growth (%)	2,5	-0,2	-4,9	1,8	2,5
	Unemployment rate (%)	6,1	6,2	8,3	9,2	8,8
	Budget balance (% of GDP)	3,8	2,5	-0,8	-2,3	-1,8
	Social protection expenditure (% of GDP)	34,2	34,4	37,1	37,1	36,1
UK	Real GDP growth (%)	2,6	0,5	-4,9	1,2	2,1
	Unemployment rate (%)	5,3	5,6	7,6	7,8	7,4
	Budget balance (% of GDP)	-2,8	-4,9	-11,4	-11,8	-9,9
	Social protection expenditure (% of GDP)	25,8	26,5	29,8	30,3	29,9

Notes: *forecasts

Source: Ameco database, Ecfm (spring economic forecast 2010)

Table 2 - Employment rate (15-64, percentage employed persons as a percentage of same age) total population: historic values from 2008Q1

	2008Q1	2008Q2	2008Q3	2008Q4	2009Q1	2009Q2	2009Q3	2009Q4	2010Q1	2010Q2
EU27	65,5	66,0	66,4	65,8	64,6	64,8	64,8	64,4	63,6	64,3
BE	62,6	62,0	62,6	62,4	61,7	61,5	61,4	61,8	61,9	61,5
BG	62,6	63,9	65,0	64,3	62,6	63,3	63,1	61,2	58,8	60,2
CZ	66,1	66,6	66,7	66,8	65,6	65,4	65,2	65,3	64,1	64,9
DK	77,0	78,4	78,6	78,3	76,2	76,2	76,3	74,2	73,0	74,1
DE	70,0	70,3	71,3	71,3	70,4	70,8	71,0	71,6	70,2	71,0
EE	69,5	69,8	70,4	69,6	65,3	63,8	63,4	61,7	58,9	59,5
IE	68,5	68,1	68,0	65,6	62,8	62,2	61,8	60,6	59,7	60,4
EL	61,3	62,2	62,2	61,7	61,0	61,6	61,7	60,8	60,1	60,1
ES	65,1	65,0	64,5	62,8	60,4	59,9	59,7	59,0	58,3	58,6
FR	64,6	65,1	65,4	64,7	64,1	64,6	64,5	63,7	63,6	64,2
IT	58,3	59,2	59,0	58,5	57,4	57,9	57,5	57,1	56,6	57,2
CY	70,2	71,1	71,0	71,1	69,5	70,2	70,0	70,0	68,8	69,8
LV	69,6	69,5	69,0	66,5	64,3	61,4	59,8	58,4	57,7	58,9
LT	63,9	64,6	65,0	63,8	61,0	60,3	60,4	58,7	56,8	56,7
LU	62,8	64,4	63,9	62,6	64,5	65,7	65,8	64,8	64,8	64,6
HU	56,1	56,5	57,3	56,7	55,1	55,6	55,5	55,5	54,5	55,3
MT	54,7	55,2	56,1	55,0	54,9	54,9	55,1	54,9	55,3	55,9
NL	76,4	77,2	77,5	77,6	77,4	77,0	77,0	76,5	75,8	76,3
AT	71,0	72,3	72,8	72,2	70,8	71,7	72,3	71,6	70,6	71,4
PL	58,0	58,9	60,0	60,0	58,9	59,3	59,9	59,4	58,2	59,3
PT	68,1	68,6	68,1	67,9	67,0	66,7	65,8	65,7	65,8	65,7
FI	69,5	72,3	72,1	70,3	68,5	69,8	69,3	67,3	66,5	69,2
RO	57,7	59,7	60,5	58,3	57,4	59,2	60,4	57,4	57,0	60,1
SE	73,4	74,8	75,7	73,4	71,9	72,7	72,9	71,3	71,0	72,9
SI	67,1	68,3	70,1	68,8	66,7	67,6	68,3	67,5	66,3	66,5
SK	61,3	61,7	63,1	62,9	61,0	60,4	60,1	59,2	58,0	58,6
UK	71,6	71,6	71,5	71,3	70,4	69,6	69,8	69,7	69,0	69,3

Source: Eurostat, EU LFS

Table 3 – Total unemployment rate (15-74), unemployed persons as a percentage of the active population, values from 2008Q1

	2008Q1	2008Q2	2008Q3	2008Q4	2009Q1	2009Q2	2009Q3	2009Q4	2010Q1	2010Q2
EU27	7,0	6,8	6,8	7,3	8,7	8,7	8,9	9,3	10,1	9,5
BE	7,1	6,3	7,7	6,8	7,9	7,5	8,2	8,1	8,6	8,1
BG	6,5	5,8	5,1	5,0	6,4	6,3	6,7	7,9	10,2	10,0
CZ	4,7	4,2	4,3	4,4	5,8	6,3	7,3	7,3	8,1	7,1
DK	3,3	3,1	3,4	3,5	5,2	6,0	6,1	6,7	7,8	7,3
DE	8,2	7,7	7,1	6,9	8,0	7,7	7,8	7,2	8,0	7,0
EE	4,2	4,0	6,2	7,6	11,4	13,5	14,6	15,5	19,8	18,6
IE	4,6	5,3	6,8	7,5	10,1	12,0	12,6	12,4	12,9	13,6
EL	8,3	7,2	7,2	8,0	9,4	8,9	9,3	10,3	11,7	11,9
ES	9,6	10,4	11,3	13,9	17,4	17,9	17,9	18,8	20,1	20,1
FR	7,4	7,0	7,3	7,9	8,9	8,8	9,0	9,7	9,8	8,9
IT	7,1	6,8	6,1	7,1	8,0	7,4	7,3	8,6	9,1	8,4
CY	4,6	3,2	3,6	3,4	4,6	5,2	5,5	6,0	7,3	6,4
LV	6,5	6,3	7,2	9,9	13,9	16,7	18,4	19,7	20,4	19,4
LT	4,9	4,5	6,0	7,9	11,9	13,6	13,8	15,6	18,1	18,3
LU	4,3	5,0	5,5	5,4	5,8	5,1	4,4	5,3	4,9	4,1
HU	8,0	7,6	7,7	8,0	9,7	9,6	10,3	10,5	11,8	11,1
MT	6,0	6,0	5,7	6,3	6,6	7,0	6,9	7,4	7,2	6,8
NL	3,1	2,8	2,5	2,6	3,2	3,3	3,5	3,8	4,5	4,1
AT	4,2	3,4	3,7	4,0	4,7	4,7	5,1	4,7	4,7	4,4
PL	8,1	7,1	6,6	6,7	8,3	7,9	8,1	8,5	10,6	9,5
PT	7,7	7,4	7,8	7,9	9,0	9,2	10,0	10,3	10,8	10,8
RO	6,3	5,6	5,4	5,8	6,9	6,3	6,8	7,5	8,1	6,8
SI	5,1	4,1	4,1	4,3	5,3	5,6	6,2	6,4	7,1	7,1
SK	10,5	10,0	8,9	8,6	10,4	11,3	12,5	13,9	15,2	14,4
FI	6,6	7,3	5,6	6,0	7,6	9,6	7,5	8,2	9,3	9,6
SE	6,3	6,8	5,7	6,2	7,9	9,2	8,1	8,3	9,2	9,3
UK	5,1	5,2	6,1	6,2	7,0	7,6	8,0	7,6	8,0	7,7

(Source: Eurostat, EU LFS)

Table 4 – Youth (Between 15 and 24 years) unemployment rate, values from 2008Q1

	2008Q1	2008Q2	2008Q3	2008Q4	2009Q1	2009Q2	2009Q3	2009Q4	2010Q1	2010Q2
EU27	14,9	15,1	15,7	16,4	18,9	19,6	20,4	20,3	21,4	20,7
BE	16,5	14,3	22,7	17,8	20,8	19,8	24,0	23,0	24,8	21,1
BG	14,4	13,1	11,4	12,1	14,2	14,6	16,5	19,5	23,8	21,2
CZ	10,1	8,6	10,3	10,4	13,0	14,8	18,3	20,2	19,7	17,9
DK	6,9	7,2	8,7	7,6	9,5	11,6	11,4	12,3	14,2	12,8
DE	10,6	10,8	11,1	9,5	11,0	11,5	12,1	10,1	11,3	9,7
EE	:	8,9	14,7	15,8	24,5	27,0	29,2	29,6	40,6	39,0
IE	9,0	10,7	15,1	16,0	19,3	25,6	26,1	26,0	25,8	28,2
EL	23,4	20,6	21,3	23,0	25,5	24,5	24,7	28,5	30,9	31,4
ES	21,3	23,9	24,2	29,2	35,7	38,1	38,6	39,1	40,9	42,1
FR	17,4	17,0	17,9	21,0	22,5	21,9	22,2	24,1	23,0	21,7
IT	21,3	20,4	19,5	23,9	26,3	24,0	23,5	27,9	28,8	27,9
CY	11,2	7,1	8,4	9,3	10,0	13,0	15,8	16,5	20,4	18,6
LV	10,7	11,9	12,2	18,5	28,2	30,5	35,3	40,4	39,5	34,7
LT	10,1	10,8	15,0	17,3	25,0	29,6	33,3	29,1	35,9	37,1
LU	17,3	13,5	23,0	18,0	24,8	13,0	14,3	18,1	15,5	16,6
HU	20,1	18,8	20,8	19,7	25,3	24,9	27,7	27,8	27,7	26,7
MT	12,4	12,9	11,2	12,4	12,6	15,7	13,2	16,0	13,5	14,9
NL	5,7	5,6	4,9	5,0	6,5	6,3	6,6	7,0	8,5	7,8
AT	8,1	6,8	8,2	9,0	9,2	10,0	11,3	9,3	9,5	8,8
PL	18,9	17,1	16,1	17,1	19,3	19,2	21,8	22,3	24,7	23,1
PT	16,4	14,3	17,1	18,0	20,1	18,7	19,2	22,2	22,7	20,3
RO	19,8	17,4	19,2	17,9	21,3	19,2	22,3	20,0	22,2	20,5
SI	12,8	9,3	9,1	10,9	14,3	12,3	12,8	15,2	14,7	15,7
SK	19,0	19,1	19,4	18,6	22,4	25,1	29,3	31,9	33,6	31,9
FI	17,1	22,2	11,2	14,2	19,1	28,3	16,3	20,3	24,7	27,6
SE	20,5	25,1	16,2	18,8	24,3	29,1	22,2	24,0	28,6	29,7
UK	13,3	13,9	16,6	16,0	17,5	18,8	20,9	19,0	19,5	18,9

Source: Eurostat, EU LFS

Table 5 – Males unemployment rate (15-74), values from 2008Q1

	2008Q1	2008Q2	2008Q3	2008Q4	2009Q1	2009Q2	2009Q3	2009Q4	2010Q1	2010Q2
EU27	6,6	6,4	6,3	7,0	8,7	8,8	9,0	9,3	10,3	9,6
BE	6,7	6,0	7,2	6,0	7,6	7,5	7,8	8,1	8,4	8,1
BG	6,4	5,6	5,0	4,9	6,6	6,3	6,8	8,4	10,8	10,6
CZ	3,7	3,5	3,3	3,4	5,0	5,5	6,4	6,5	7,5	6,2
DK	3,1	2,5	2,9	3,6	5,8	6,5	6,6	7,3	9,4	8,6
DE	8,3	7,7	6,8	7,0	8,4	8,2	8,1	7,6	8,7	7,5
EE	3,6	4,4	6,8	8,2	13,8	16,9	17,0	19,8	25,2	22,6
IE	5,4	6,3	7,6	9,2	12,8	15,1	15,6	15,7	16,5	16,7
EL	5,6	4,7	4,7	5,4	6,8	6,4	6,6	7,7	9,1	9,4
ES	7,9	9,1	10,3	13,0	16,9	17,6	17,8	18,7	20,0	19,7
FR	7,1	6,5	6,7	7,4	8,7	8,6	8,6	9,6	9,7	8,7
IT	5,8	5,4	4,9	6,1	6,9	6,3	6,5	7,5	8,1	7,6
CY	4,2	2,6	3,1	3,0	4,2	5,0	5,4	6,2	7,2	6,1
LV	6,8	6,2	7,4	11,4	16,9	19,8	21,2	23,5	25,6	22,7
LT	4,6	5,1	6,0	8,5	14,6	16,7	17,4	19,6	23,2	22,3
LU	2,4	4,3	5,1	5,5	5,1	4,3	3,7	4,5	4,5	4,2
HU	7,6	7,4	7,4	8,0	9,9	9,9	10,5	10,7	12,5	11,7
MT	5,4	6,0	5,7	5,5	6,1	7,1	6,7	6,7	7,2	6,2
NL	3,0	2,5	2,3	2,4	3,1	3,2	3,4	3,8	4,6	4,1
AT	4,1	3,1	3,4	3,6	5,0	4,8	5,2	4,9	5,2	4,5
PL	7,6	6,6	5,7	6,0	7,8	7,5	7,6	8,2	10,5	9,3
PT	6,5	6,4	6,6	6,9	8,3	8,8	9,3	9,7	10,0	9,9
RO	7,4	6,5	6,1	6,7	7,9	7,1	7,6	8,1	8,8	7,3
SI	4,7	3,5	3,9	3,9	5,5	5,6	6,3	6,3	7,4	7,5
SK	9,2	9,0	7,7	7,6	9,6	10,5	11,9	13,5	15,0	14,2
FI	6,4	7,0	5,0	5,8	8,4	10,5	7,7	8,9	10,5	10,3
SE	6,0	6,5	5,3	6,0	8,0	9,5	8,4	8,7	9,5	9,4
UK	5,5	5,7	6,5	6,8	7,9	8,7	9,1	8,6	9,1	8,6

Source: Eurostat, EU LFS

Table 6 – Females unemployment rate (15-74), values from 2008Q1

	2008Q1	2008Q2	2008Q3	2008Q4	2009Q1	2009Q2	2009Q3	2009Q4	2010Q1	2010Q2
EU27	7,6	7,3	7,4	7,7	8,7	8,6	8,9	9,2	9,8	9,4
BE	7,5	6,7	8,4	7,8	8,3	7,4	8,8	8,0	8,9	8,2
BG	6,7	6,0	5,3	5,1	6,2	6,4	6,5	7,4	9,5	9,4
CZ	6,0	5,2	5,6	5,7	6,8	7,4	8,5	8,2	8,9	8,3
DK	3,7	3,7	4,0	3,5	4,5	5,4	5,4	6,1	6,0	5,8
DE	8,0	7,8	7,5	6,9	7,5	7,2	7,4	6,8	7,2	6,5
EE	4,8	3,6	5,6	6,9	9,0	10,0	12,2	11,2	14,6	14,8
IE	3,6	4,0	5,6	5,2	6,7	7,9	8,9	8,2	8,4	9,7
EL	12,3	11,0	10,8	11,7	13,0	12,5	13,1	14,0	15,5	15,3
ES	12,0	12,3	12,7	15,1	18,0	18,3	18,2	19,1	20,2	20,6
FR	7,8	7,5	7,8	8,6	9,1	9,0	9,5	9,8	9,8	9,1
IT	9,0	8,7	7,9	8,6	9,6	8,8	8,6	10,2	10,5	9,5
CY	5,1	3,9	4,3	3,8	5,2	5,5	5,6	5,8	7,3	6,8
LV	6,3	6,3	6,9	8,2	10,8	13,5	15,5	16,0	15,1	16,2
LT	5,1	4,0	5,9	7,4	9,2	10,5	10,3	11,6	13,1	14,4
LU	6,7	6,1	6,2	5,2	6,7	6,2	5,3	6,4	5,3	4,0
HU	8,3	7,9	8,0	8,0	9,3	9,2	10,1	10,2	11,0	10,5
MT	7,2	6,1	5,9	8,0	7,4	6,9	7,2	8,8	7,2	8,1
NL	3,4	3,2	2,7	2,8	3,2	3,3	3,5	3,8	4,4	4,1
AT	4,2	3,8	4,1	4,4	4,3	4,4	5,1	4,4	4,1	4,2
PL	8,7	7,8	7,8	7,7	8,9	8,4	8,6	8,8	10,7	9,8
PT	9,1	8,5	9,2	9,1	9,8	9,7	10,8	10,9	11,6	11,7
RO	4,9	4,6	4,5	4,6	5,5	5,2	5,9	6,7	7,1	6,2
SI	5,5	4,9	4,3	4,7	5,1	5,6	6,1	6,6	6,8	6,7
SK	12,1	11,3	10,4	9,9	11,4	12,3	13,3	14,3	15,4	14,7
FI	6,9	7,5	6,2	6,1	6,9	8,5	7,4	7,5	8,0	8,8
SE	6,6	7,2	6,1	6,4	7,7	8,8	7,7	7,9	8,8	9,2
UK	4,6	4,7	5,5	5,4	6,0	6,4	6,7	6,4	6,6	6,6

Source: Eurostat, EU LFS

Table 7 – Low-skilled unemployment rate (Pre-primary, primary and lower secondary education), values from 2008Q1

	2008Q1	2008Q2	2008Q3	2008Q4	2009Q1	2009Q2	2009Q3	2009Q4	2010Q1	2010Q2
EU27	11,1	11,0	11,0	12,0	14,2	14,4	14,4	14,9	16,3	15,8
BE	13,4	11,2	13,7	11,3	14,1	13,6	13,1	13,4	15,0	14,1
BG	18,1	14,7	13,1	12,6	15,3	14,4	15,1	17,5	23,4	22,6
CZ	20,4	18,4	18,2	19,3	22,0	23,7	25,4	25,3	28,0	25,2
DK	5,6	4,7	4,9	5,7	7,7	8,6	8,6	10,2	11,8	10,0
DE	15,4	15,5	15,3	14,3	15,2	16,0	16,1	14,3	15,6	15,3
EE	9,3	7,7	14,2	16,9	23,1	30,8	29,8	30,2	34,4	32,7
IE	7,6	8,6	10,9	11,7	14,6	17,7	18,2	18,4	19,8	21,2
EL	8,2	7,1	6,8	7,7	9,5	9,1	8,8	10,1	12,1	11,9
ES	12,7	13,9	15,6	19,0	23,7	24,4	24,4	25,8	27,4	27,5
FR	12,1	11,5	11,3	12,3	14,0	13,9	14,0	15,2	16,0	14,9
IT	8,8	8,7	7,6	8,6	9,6	9,0	9,1	10,1	11,1	10,2
CY	6,7	4,0	4,1	4,6	5,5	6,7	5,6	6,6	9,4	7,4
LV	13,8	11,1	13,0	18,1	29,0	32,4	28,7	30,7	34,1	30,9
LT	11,1	11,5	12,1	16,9	30,7	29,2	27,7	30,1	38,9	40,4
LU	7,5	6,7	6,6	5,8	7,1	10,0	7,0	8,4	5,4	7,4
HU	18,8	18,5	17,6	19,9	23,9	22,3	23,0	23,5	26,6	25,0
MT	8,8	8,3	7,6	9,1	9,1	9,0	8,3	9,6	9,9	8,6
NL	5,2	4,9	3,9	4,3	5,2	5,3	5,5	5,8	7,5	6,8
AT	8,8	6,6	7,6	8,4	9,3	9,4	11,2	9,5	8,8	8,9
PL	13,8	12,7	10,4	11,6	14,6	14,6	13,7	16,1	19,9	17,4
PT	7,9	7,7	7,8	8,1	9,7	9,9	10,6	11,3	11,8	11,9
RO	8,1	7,0	6,5	7,0	8,8	7,3	7,2	6,6	6,4	5,7
SI	6,4	6,9	6,2	5,1	7,3	8,6	9,5	9,7	11,8	11,7
SK	45,5	43,7	33,1	34,5	39,5	40,2	41,2	45,2	49,6	43,7
FI	12,0	16,3	10,1	11,1	12,8	19,8	12,2	13,9	17,1	21,1
SE	12,1	14,0	10,9	11,8	14,6	18,6	15,3	16,1	17,9	20,4
UK	11,1	11,0	11,0	12,0	14,2	14,4	14,4	14,9	16,3	15,8

Source: Eurostat, EU LFS

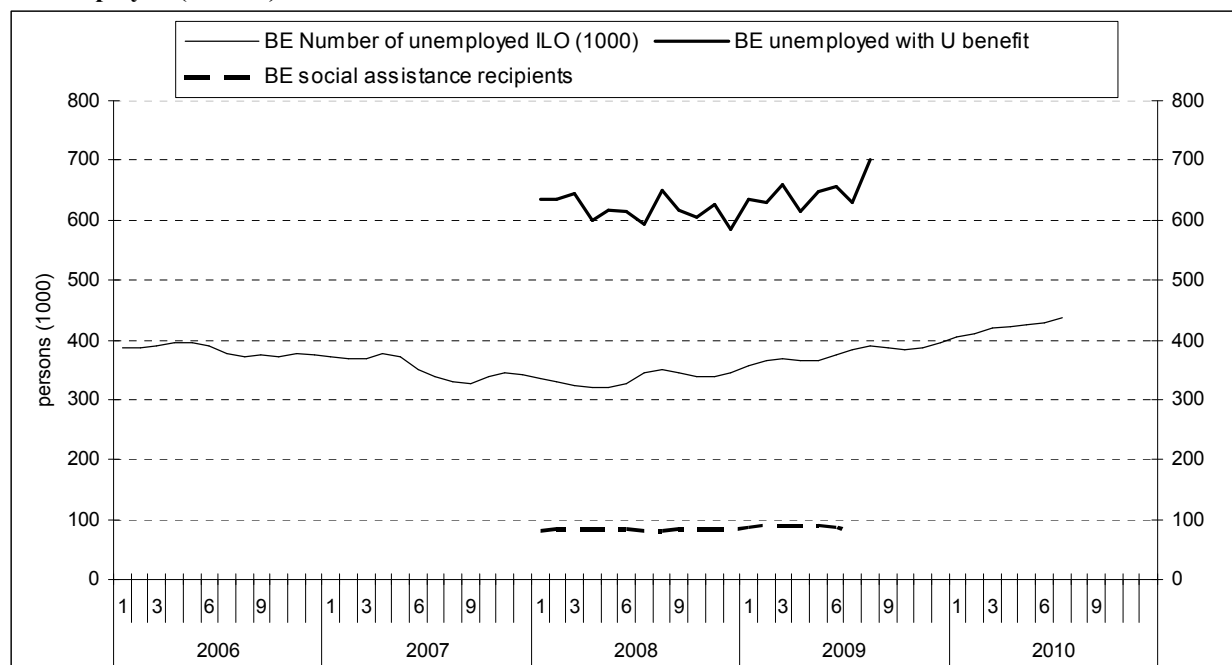
Table 8 – Citizens of countries outside the EU-27 unemployment rate, values from 2008Q1

	2008Q1	2008Q2	2008Q3	2008Q4	2009Q1	2009Q2	2009Q3	2009Q4	2010Q1	2010Q2
EU27	14,0	14,0	13,6	15,7	19,3	19,2	18,9	20,0	21,2	19,9
BE	29,4	23,5	28,8	27,3	28,7	25,2	32,1	31,4	30,8	29,1
BG	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
CZ	6,1	5,6	4,1	3,2	4,9	6,7	7,7	7,7	4,5	3,1
DK	10,2	11,2	7,9	11,9	13,1	14,3	11,9	16,1	17,4	19,8
DE	18,7	18,1	16,9	17,3	19,3	18,4	18,2	17,0	19,1	17,0
EE	6,9	7,5	10,7	14,1	17,0	21,3	26,4	23,7	34,5	32,4
IE	5,2	7,9	10,2	9,2	12,1	15,1	16,0	15,1	15,7	15,1
EL	7,1	6,3	5,8	7,1	10,1	9,8	9,6	11,7	14,7	14,8
ES	15,2	17,0	17,5	22,6	30,2	29,7	28,5	32,2	33,0	32,1
FR	19,3	18,6	17,9	20,4	24,4	22,6	22,6	25,1	24,7	21,1
IT	9,6	9,3	7,3	9,1	10,5	11,3	10,3	13,1	13,3	11,9
CY	4,1	2,1	4,4	4,7	5,3	6,0	9,1	8,8	7,7	6,2
LV	6,5	9,0	10,7	14,7	20,4	20,7	24,5	26,1	27,4	27,0
LT	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
LU	26,3	25,7	39,3	46,7	16,6	22,1	:	20,5	18,8	13,7
HU	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
MT	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
NL	8,9	7,8	5,4	9,0	8,7	10,2	8,1	10,3	15,0	14,1
AT	11,1	8,0	8,0	9,6	13,5	11,3	13,2	13,0	11,1	10,8
PL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
PT	13,8	10,6	10,0	13,5	17,8	18,7	16,5	16,1	18,4	17,1
RO	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
SI	10,0	10,3	:	:	16,6	14,9	20,5	11,5	13,8	17,0
SK	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FI	23,3	24,3	18,5	17,9	18,7	24,4	19,1	20,7	24,0	27,6
SE	19,5	24,1	20,2	24,1	23,0	27,3	26,9	27,3	26,4	32,0
UK	8,8	8,7	8,8	8,8	9,7	11,6	12,3	11,2	11,1	11,6

Source: Eurostat, EU LFS

BELGIUM

Figure 1 - Number of benefit recipients (unemployment benefits, social assistance, disability) and number of unemployed (in 1000)



Sources: data on number of unemployed from Eurostat (ILO definition; thousands of persons, seasonally adjusted); data on number of benefit recipients collected through the ISG questionnaire (national data).

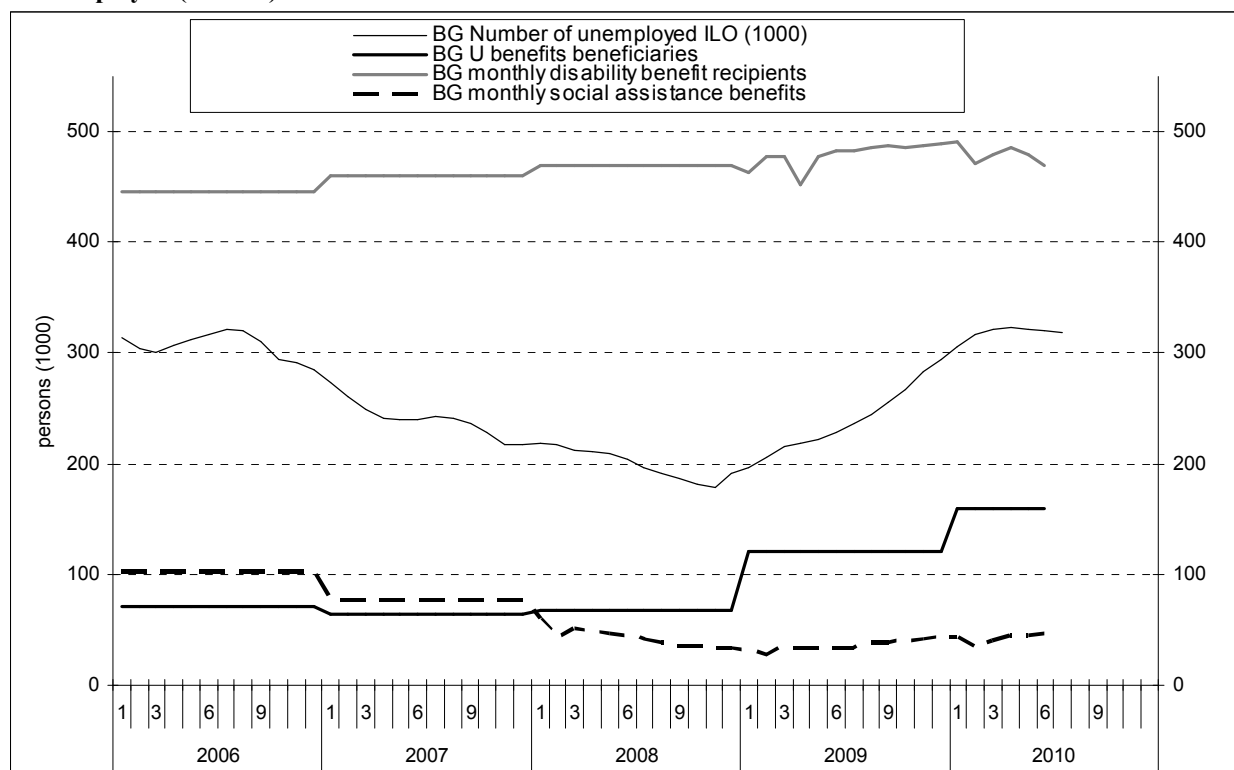
Brief description of the schemes for which data are provided and comments on trends displayed in Figure 1

Unemployment	
Definition	Unemployment according to ILO definition - Total
Unit	Thousands of persons - seasonally adjusted
Source	Source: eurostat
link	http://nui.epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=lmhu_m&lang=en
comment	
Unemployment benefit	
Definition	number of full-time unemployed with an unemployment benefit
Unit	number of recipients
Source	Administrative data National Employment Office; FPS Social Security on the basis of the NEO website
link	
comment	This number is the sum of a number of different administrative categories of unemployed: after full-time employment, after studies, after voluntary part-time employment, different categories of early retirement and unemployed with social or familial difficulties
Social assistance benefit	
Definition	number of social assistance recipients
Unit	number of recipients
Source	FPS Social Security on the basis of the SPP Social Integration website
link	website SPP Social Integration
comment	
Comments	

Source: information provided by national delegate.

BULGARIA

Figure 2 - Number of benefit recipients (unemployment benefits, social assistance, disability) and number of unemployed (in 1000)



Sources: data on number of unemployed from Eurostat (ILO definition; thousands of persons, seasonally adjusted); data on number of benefit recipients collected through the ISG questionnaire (national data).

Brief description of the schemes for which data are provided and comments on trends displayed in Figure 1:

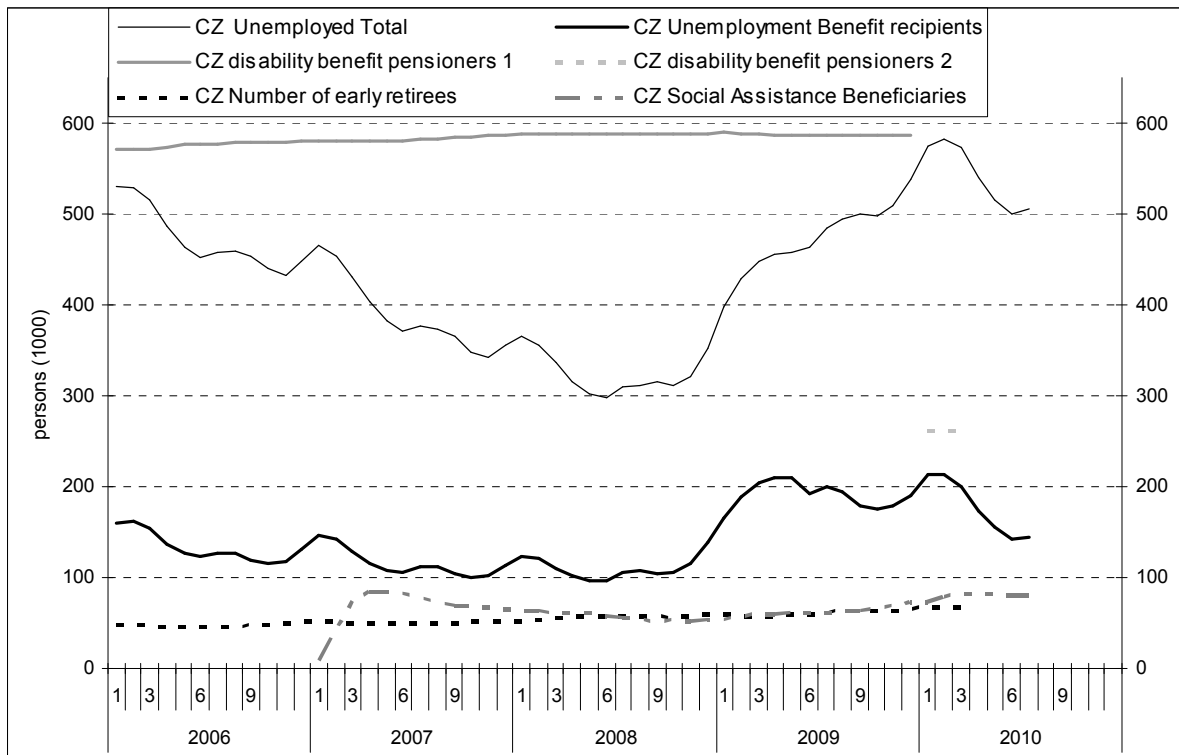
Unemployment	
Definition	Unemployment according to ILO definition - Total
Unit	Thousands of persons - seasonally adjusted
Source	Source: eurostat
link	http://nui.epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=lmhu_m&lang=en
comment	
Unemployment benefit	
Definition	U benefits beneficiaries
Unit	thousands of beneficiaries
Source	Source: National Social Security Institute
link	
comment	The unemployment benefit is granted to people who have been insured for at least 9 months During the last 15 months. The benefit is not mean-tested. It is equal to 60% of the average monthly contributory income for the last 9 months during which the person has been subject to compulsory insurance.
Social assistance benefit	
Definition	Monthly social assistance benefit recipients
Unit	thousands of recipients
Source	Source: Social assistance Agency
link	
comment	Social assistance benefit - cash or in-kind resources from the central government budget which supplement or substitute personal income to provide basic subsistence needs.
Disability benefit	

Definition	Monthly disability benefit recipients
Unit	thousands of recipients
Source	Source: Social Assistance Agency
link	
comment	Monthly disability benefits - a monthly social integration supplement depending on the individual needs of the permanently disabled persons according to the extent of reduced working capacity and the type and extent of disability.
Comments	The number of recipients of monthly social aid benefits is decreasing during the period of 2006-2009 due to newly imposed limits for their distribution. We expect an increase in the number of beneficiaries during 2010 which is in directly dependent on the increase of the unemployment due to the economic crisis. As seen from the data the number of beneficiaries of unemployment benefits shows a significant and steady growth since the year of 2007, and in 2010 the increase is considerable. The number of the monthly social aid benefits during the second quarter of this year is increasing also.

Source: information provided by national delegate.

CZECH REPUBLIC

Figure 3 - Number of benefit recipients (unemployment benefits, social assistance, disability) and number of unemployed (in 1000)



Sources: data on number of unemployed from Eurostat (ILO definition; thousands of persons, seasonally adjusted); data on number of benefit recipients collected through the ISG questionnaire (national data).

Brief description of the schemes for which data are provided and comments on trends displayed in Figure 1

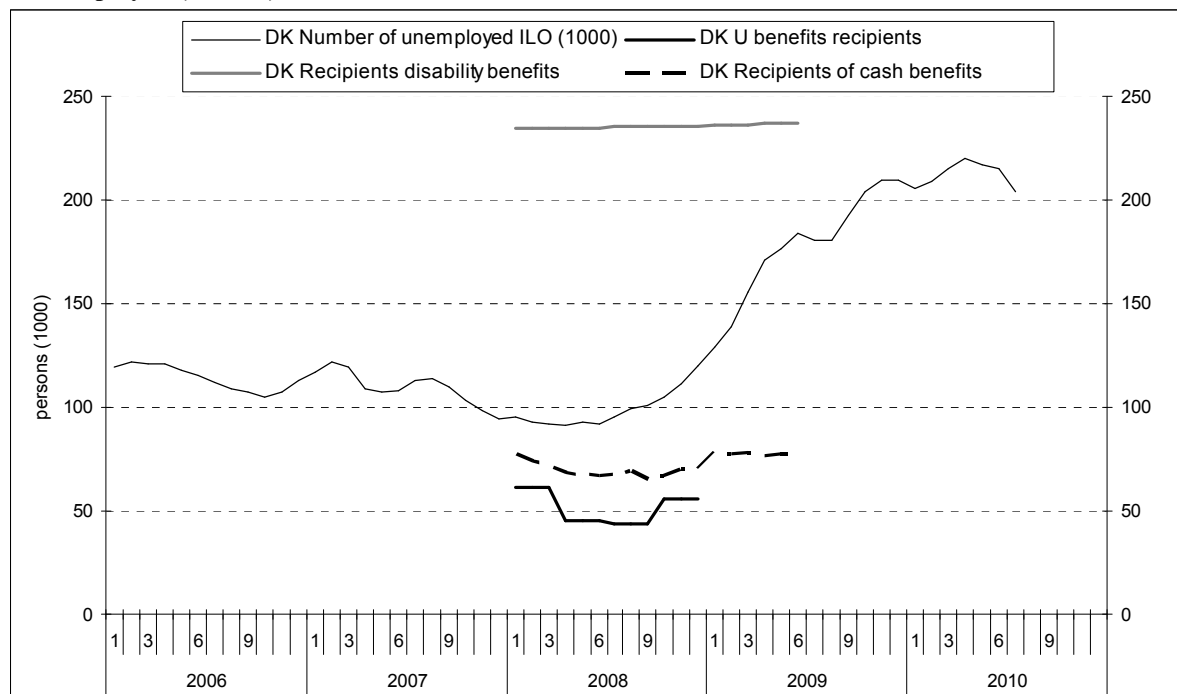
Unemployment	
Definition	Unemployment according to Employment Act - Total
Unit	Thousands of persons
Source	Source: eurostat
link	http://nui.epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=lmhu_m&lang=en
comment	
Unemployment benefit	
Definition	Unemployment Benefits recipients
Unit	thousands of recipients
Source	Source: www.mpsv.cz
link	
comment	
Social assistance benefit	
Definition	Social assistance beneficiaries
Unit	thousands of beneficiaries
Source	Source: MoLSA
link	
comment	The curve for "social assistance beneficiaries" is in the graph provided only for the period of time 2007-2009 and reflects the development of the number of subsistence allowance recipients (see the Act No. 111/2006 Coll., on assistance in material need, as amended that is in effect from 01.01. 2007); Till the end of 2006 was the system of social assistance benefits regulated quite differently and because of this fact there is no reasonable comparability.

Disability benefit	
Definition	Number of pensioners (disability benefits full+partial)
Unit	thousands of pensioners
Source	
link	
comment	<p>From the beginning of 2010 the new types of disability were implemented to the social system. Currently three levels of disability are differentiated (1st , 2nd , 3rd) instead of the former two levels (full disability, partial disability). The 3rd level is equal to the full disability while the partial disability was split in current 1st and 2nd level. From Jan 2010 all receivers of disability pension older then 65 years of age are no more implicated in the number of disability pensioners. They are implicated in the number of old age pensioners. This change is displayed in the drop of number of disability pensioners in January 2010. According to these changes, new data (starting Jan 2010) are being presented separately</p>

Source: information provided by national delegate.

DENMARK

Figure 4 - Number of benefit recipients (unemployment benefits, social assistance, disability) and number of unemployed (in 1000)



Sources: data on number of unemployed from Eurostat (ILO definition; thousands of persons, seasonally adjusted); data on number of benefit recipients collected through the ISG questionnaire (national data).

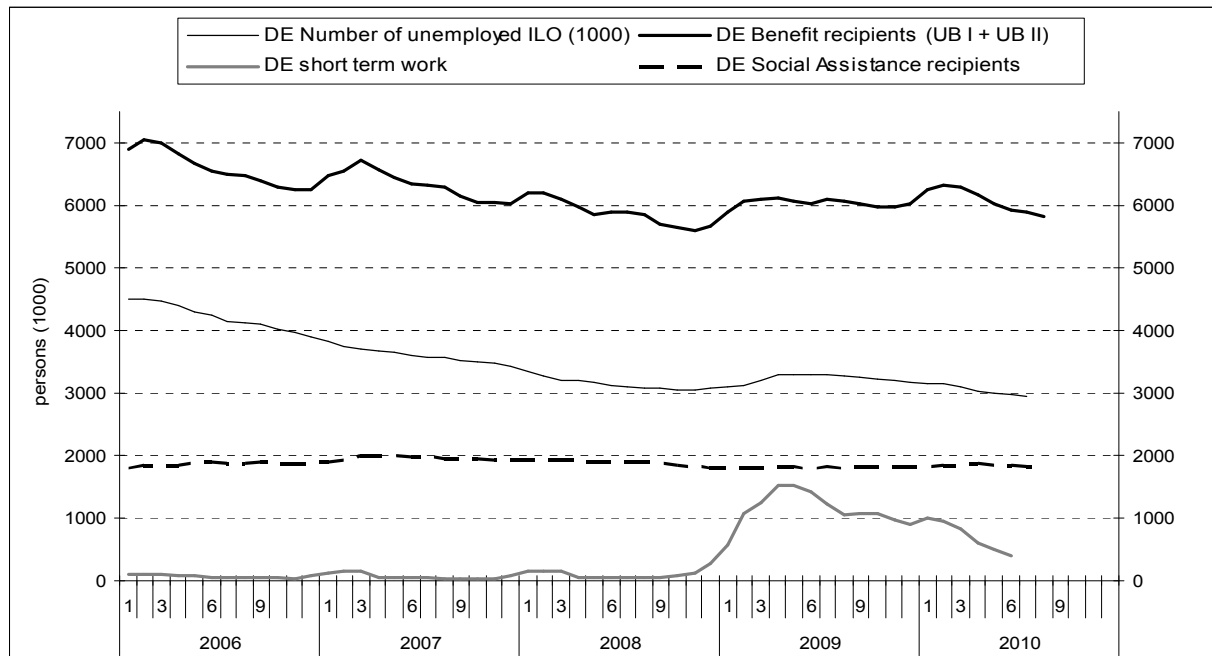
Brief description of the schemes for which data are provided in Figure 1

Unemployment	
Definition	Unemployment according to ILO definition - Total
Unit	Thousands of persons - seasonally adjusted
Source	Source: Eurostat
link	http://nui.epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=lmhu_m&lang=en
comment	
Unemployment benefit	
Definition	U benefits recipients
Unit	thousands of recipients
Source	
link	
comment	
Social assistance benefit	
Definition	Recipients of cash benefits
Unit	thousands of recipients
Source	
link	
comment	* Individuals receiving any type of cash benefit during the month (excluding persons enrolled in ALMP programmes).
Disability benefit	
Definition	Recipients of disability benefits
Unit	
Source	
link	

Source: information provided by national delegate.

GERMANY

Figure 1 - Number of benefit recipients (unemployment benefits, social assistance, disability) and number of unemployed (in 1000)



Sources: data on number of unemployed from Eurostat (ILO definition; thousands of persons, seasonally adjusted); data on number of benefit recipients collected through the ISG questionnaire (national data).

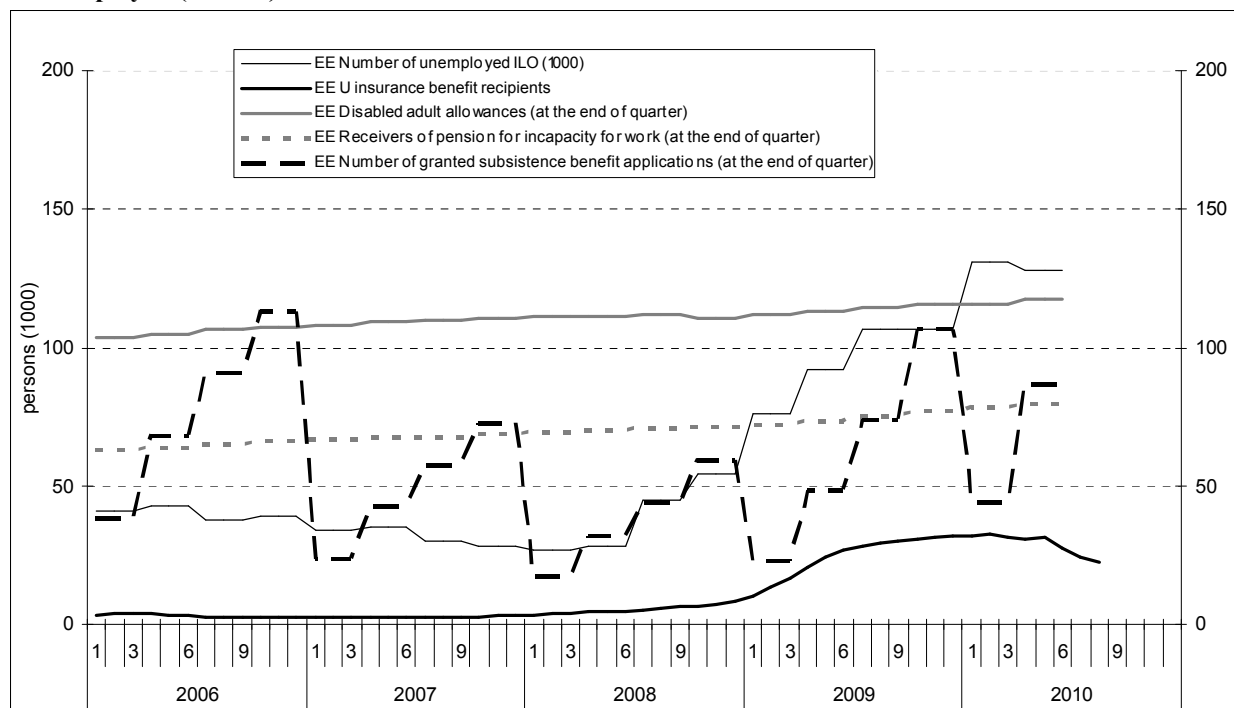
Brief description of the schemes for which data are provided in Figure 1

Definition	Unemployment according to ILO definition - Total
Unit	Thousands of persons - seasonally adjusted
Source	Source: eurostat
link	http://nui.epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=lmhu_m&lang=en
comment	
	Unemployment benefit
Definition	Benefit recipients (UB I + UB II)
Unit	thousands of recipients
Source	Source: Bundesagentur für Arbeit
link	www.pub.arbeitsamt.de/hst/services/statistik/detail/a.html
comment	unemployment benefit recipients I (below 12 or 18 months depending the age of the unemployed); unemployment benefit recipients II (beneficiaries able to work and their family members in the household)
	Social assistance benefit
Definition	Social Assistance recipients
Unit	thousands of recipients
Source	Source: Bundesagentur für Arbeit
link	www.pub.arbeitsamt.de/hst/services/statistik/detail/a.html
comment	
	Short term work
Definition	partial and full reduction in earning capacity
Unit	thousands of recipients
Source	Source Deutsche Rentenversicherung Bund
link	http://www.deutsche-rentenversicherung-bund.de/nn_15142/SharedDocs/de/Inhalt/04_Formulare_Publikationen/03_publicationen/Statistiken/alle_broschueren_statistikbaende_lv2=25936.html
Comments	

Source: information provided by national delegate.

ESTONIA

Figure 1 - Number of benefit recipients (unemployment benefits, social assistance, disability) and number of unemployed (in 1000)



Sources: data on number of unemployed from Eurostat (ILO definition; thousands of persons, seasonally adjusted); data on number of benefit recipients collected through the ISG questionnaire (national data).

Brief description of the schemes for which data are provided in Figure 1

Unemployment	
Definition	Unemployment according to ILO definition - Total
Unit	Thousands of persons - seasonally adjusted
Source	Source: eurostat
link	http://nui.epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=lmhu_m&lang=en
comment	
Unemployment benefit	
Definition	Unemployment insurance benefit recipients
Unit	thousands of recipients
Source	Source: Estonian Unemployment Insurance Fund
link	http://www.tootukassa.ee/public/TKH.xls ; Data is also published in the database of Statistics Estonia (also by county, gender and age) http://pub.stat.ee/px-web.2001/I_Databas/Social_life/15Social_protection/06Social_insurance/08Unemployment_insurance/08Unemployment_insurance.asp
comment	Definition: Unemployment insurance benefit recipients - unemployed persons who received a payment of unemployment insurance benefit during the specified period. The yearly total counts every person single time, no matter how many months a person received a payment. Unemployment insurance is a type of compulsory insurance, unemployment insurance is financed from unemployment insurance premiums paid by the insured persons (employees) and the employers. The unemployment insurance benefit is paid to unemployed persons whose unemployment insurance period in the three preceding years is at least 12 months and whose last relationship did not end on their own initiative or mutual agreement.
Social assistance benefit	
Definition	Subsistence benefit (to maintain subsistence level) receivers
Unit	Number of granted applications (thousands, cumulative during the year)
Source	Source: Ministry of Social Affairs

link	
comment	These serie is cumulative during the year; Definition: A person living alone or a family whose monthly disposable income, after deduction of the fixed expenses connected with permanent dwelling during the current month, is below the subsistence level has right to receive a subsistence benefit.
Disability benefit	
Definition	Recipients of benefits for disabled persons
Unit	thousands of recipients at the end of quarter
Source	Source: Social Insurance Fund
link	http://www.ensib.ee/social-benefits-for-disabled-persons/
comment	Definition: Disability is the loss of or an abnormality in an anatomical, physiological or mental structure of function of a person, which in conjunction with different relational and environmental restrictions prevents participation in social life on equal bases with others. (2) From 2008 the disabled adult allowance was replaced by disability allowance for a person of working age and disability allowance for a person of retirement age. Therefore the indicator since 2008 includes recipients of three types of benefits: recipients of the allowance for disabled persons of at least 16 years of age, for disabled persons of working age and for disabled persons of retirement age.
incapacity for work	
Definition	Receivers of pension for incapacity for work
Unit	Thousands of recipients (at the end of quarter)
Source	Source: Social Insurance Board
link	
comment	Definition: The right for the pension for incapacity for work has a person, who is at least 16 years of age and has been declared to be permanently incapable to work, loss of whose working capacity is 40 to 100 per cent and who by the initial date of granting of the pension has acquired the following pensionable service or accumulation period in Estonia.
Comments	<p>The rapid growth in the number of recipients of the unemployment allowance and the unemployment insurance benefit can be associated with the fast increase in the number of the registered unemployed. In previous years, the number of recipients of the unemployment allowance has always been higher than the number of recipients of the unemployment insurance benefit.</p> <p>The number of persons receiving the unemployment insurance benefit started to increase at the end of 2008 and, in the 1st half of 2009, this number exceeded the number of recipients of the unemployment allowance. This change was caused by a change in the structure of the registered unemployed: there were increasingly more unemployed persons with previous work experience who lost their jobs on the initiative of the employer (large redundancies). The number of unemployment insurance benefit slightly decreased in April 2010 and the decrease continued in June-August. At the same time, the number of registered unemployed persons also decreased – first time after the crisis the registered unemployment decreased in April 2010.</p> <p>Additional information: <i>Employment and Working Life in Estonia 2008-2009, Ministry of Social Affairs</i> http://www.sm.ee/fileadmin/meedia/Dokumendid/Toovaldkond/toovaldkonna_areng_2008-2009_eng.pdf</p> <p>The number of recipients of subsistence benefit continuously decreased (because of the general wage increase, introduction of unemployment insurance benefit, increased employment rate, decrease of unemployed persons). From the end of 2008, the number of recipients of subsistence benefit started to increase as a result of the rapid increase in the number of unemployed persons. The growth continued in 2009-2010: 2nd quarter 2009 there was 48,338 subsistence benefit receivers (number of satisfied applications), 2nd quarter 2010 there was 87,069 receivers. The growth of satisfied applications is mainly caused by the increasing number of applications with unemployed family member.</p> <p>Source: <i>Health, Labour and Social Life in Estonia 2008-2009, Ministry of Social Affairs</i> http://www.sm.ee/fileadmin/meedia/Dokumendid/V2ljaanded/Publikatsioonid/2009/esinduskogumik_2009eng.pdf</p>

The number of receivers of the disabled adult allowances has been gradually increasing each year, crossing the 110,000 margin in 2007 and reaching over 110,000 persons in 2008 and over 115,000 persons in 2009. The growth has continued in 2010, reaching over 117,000 persons in first quarters of 2010.

Additional information:

Health, Labour and Social Life in Estonia 2008-2009, Ministry of Social Affairs

http://www.sm.ee/fileadmin/meedia/Dokumendid/V2ljaanded/Publikatsioonid/2009/esinduskogumik_2009eng.pdf

The number of incapacity for work pensioners had also slightly growing trend. At the end of the end of 2009 there was 77 344 and at the end of the 2008 there was 71 913 persons receiving the incapacity for work pension. The number of incapacity of work pensioners has increased also during the 1st half of 2010 by reaching over 80,000 persons.

Additional information:

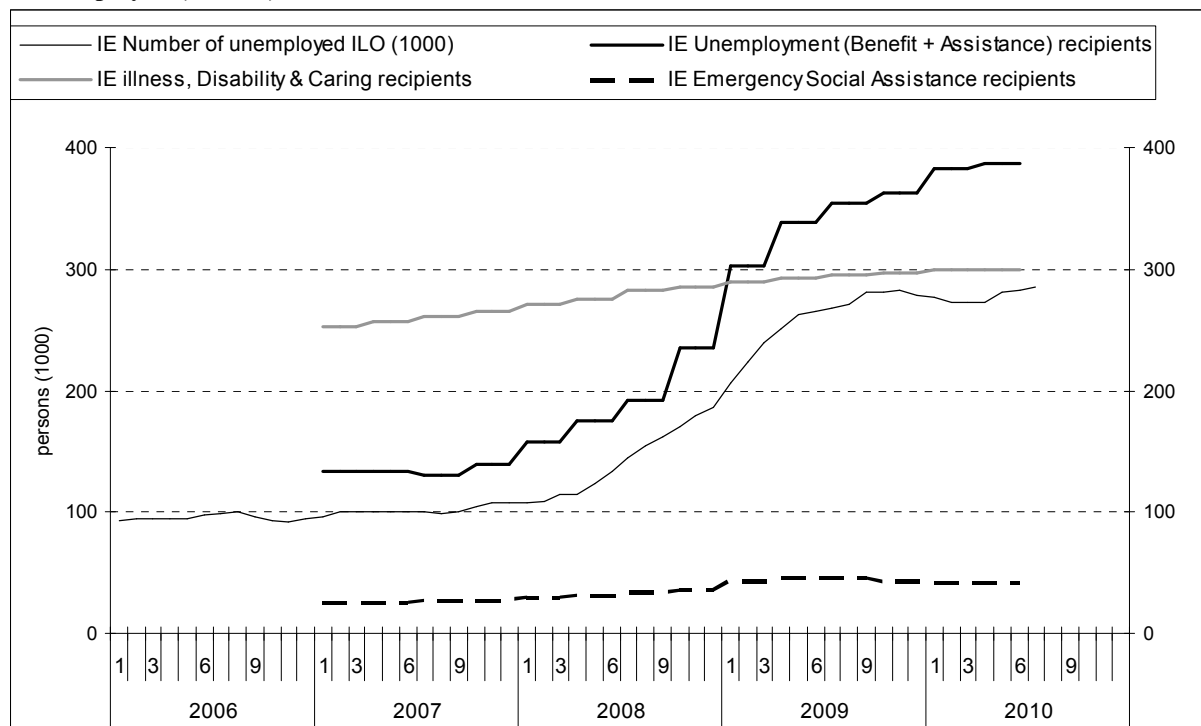
Health, Labour and Social Life in Estonia 2008-2009, Ministry of Social Affairs

http://www.sm.ee/fileadmin/meedia/Dokumendid/V2ljaanded/Publikatsioonid/2009/esinduskogumik_2009eng.pdf

Source: information provided by national delegate.

IRELAND

Figure 1 - Number of benefit recipients (unemployment benefits, social assistance, disability) and number of unemployed (in 1000)



Sources: data on number of unemployed from Eurostat (ILO definition; thousands of persons, seasonally adjusted); data on number of benefit recipients collected through the ISG questionnaire (national data).

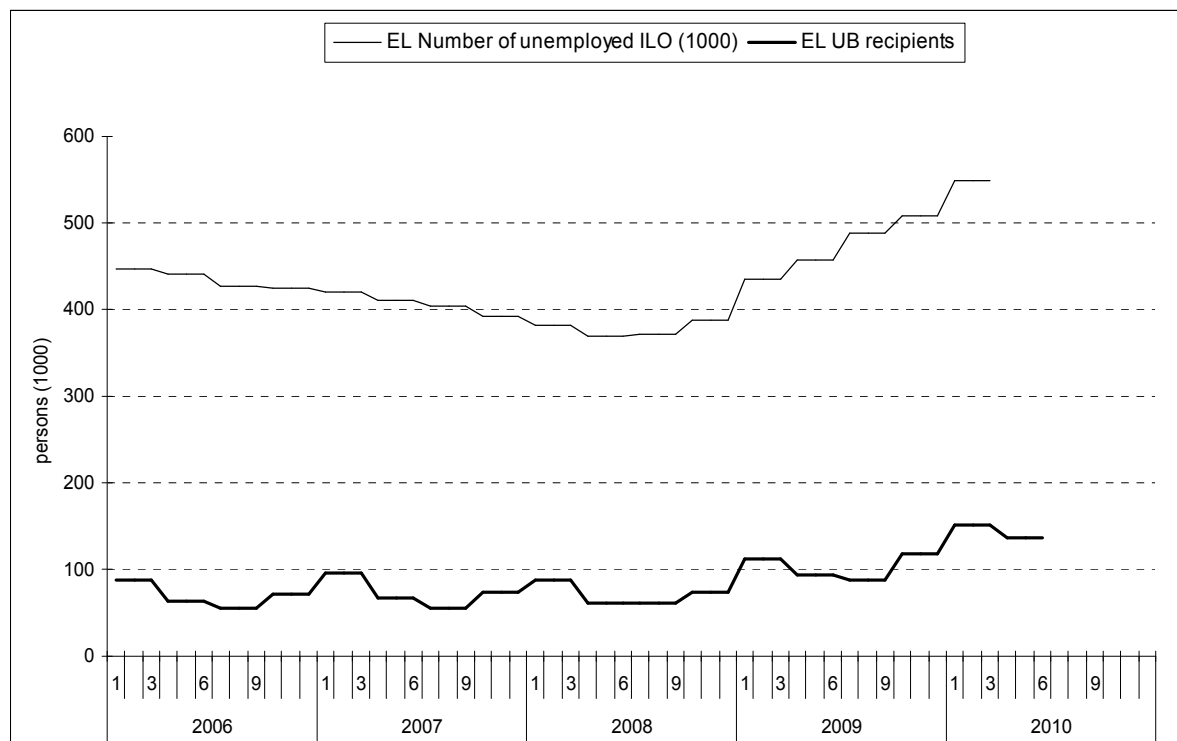
Brief description of the schemes for which data are provided in Figure 1

Unemployment	
Definition	Unemployment according to ILO definition - Total
Unit	Thousands of persons - seasonally adjusted
Source	Source: eurostat
link	http://nui.epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=lmhu_m&lang=en
comment	
Unemployment benefit	
Definition	Unemployment Benefits recipients
Unit	thousands of recipients
Source	Central Statistics Office; Quarterly National Household Survey
link	
comment	
Social assistance benefit	
Definition	Emergency Social Assistance recipients
Unit	thousands of beneficiaries
Source	Source: Social Welfare Quarterly Statistical Reports
link	
comment	
Disability benefit	
Definition	Illness, Disability & Caring recipients
Unit	thousands of beneficiaries
Source	Source: Social Welfare Quarterly Statistical Reports
link	
comment	

Source: information provided by national delegate.

GREECE

Figure 5 - Number of benefit recipients (unemployment benefits, social assistance, disability) and number of unemployed (in 1000)



Sources: data on number of unemployed from Eurostat (ILO definition; thousands of persons, seasonally adjusted); data on number of benefit recipients collected through the ISG questionnaire (national data).

Brief description of the schemes for which data are provided in Figure 1

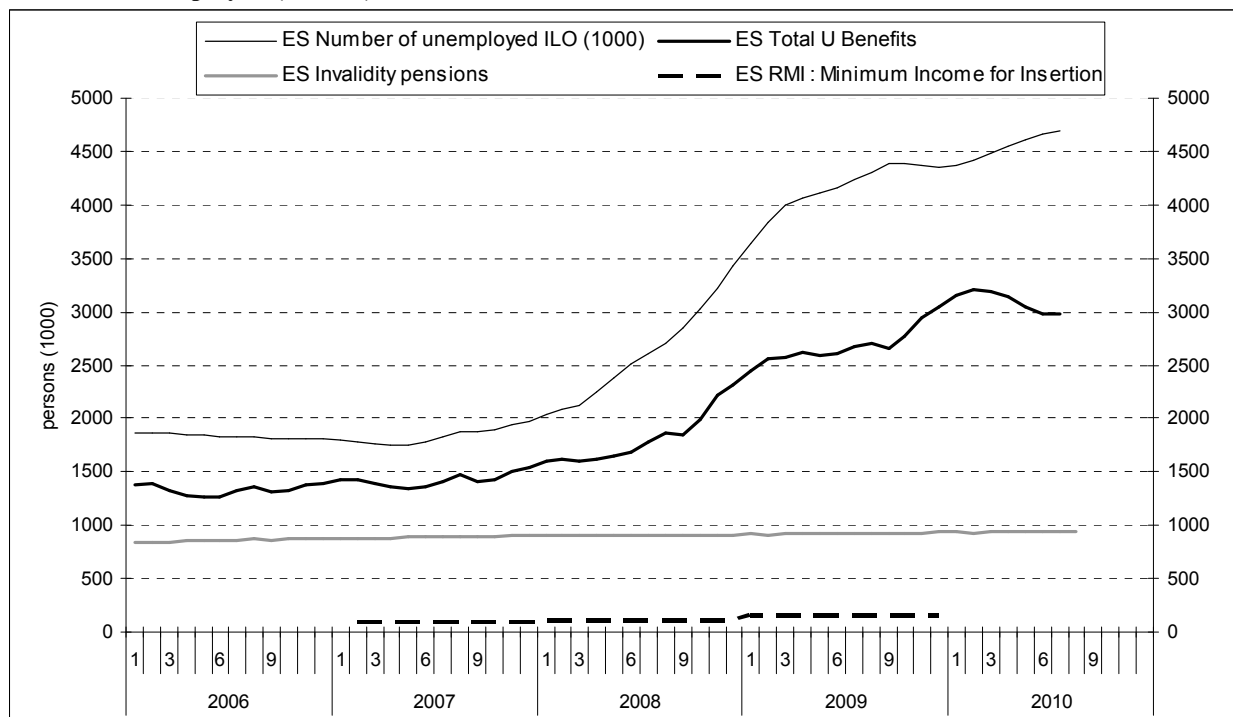
Unemployment	
Definition	Unemployment according to ILO definition - Total
Unit	Thousands of persons - seasonally adjusted
Source	Source: eurostat
link	http://nui.epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=lmhu_m&lang=en
comment	
Definition	Registered at the National Manpower Agency (OAED) receiving an unemployment benefit
Unit	thousands of receivers
Source	Source : National Statistical Service of Greece (NSSG), Labour Force Survey
link	
comment	Note on the unemployed receiving or not an unemployment benefit: In the above data, the unemployed are defined according to the Eurostat definition. Therefore, it should be underlined that the above figures for the registered unemployed (receiving or not an unemployment benefit) are lower enough than the figures of the National Manpower Agency for the registered unemployed, largely due to the fact that only recipients classified as "unemployment" according to the Eurostat definition are taken into account. "
Social assistance benefit	
Definition	
Unit	
Source	
link	

comment	Concerning the data for social assistance beneficiaries: Regarding the “Social Assistance Benefit” granted to citizens unable to financially cover an emergency in Greece, the administrative data available are only the amounts allocated on a yearly basis. The number of beneficiaries cannot be deduced from that fact, since the amount granted varies depending on the case, with a maximum of € 600.
Disability benefit	
Definition	
Unit	
Source	
link	
comment	Concerning the data for disability beneficiaries: (a) Disability benefits granted to pensioners In Greece, these benefits are designed to top up the pension benefit of this group of pensioners and (obviously) cannot signal any crisis effects, since they are related to the degree of disability and not to any income, or similar, restrictions. (b) Special programmes run for persons with disabilities. The financial support programmes for PwD are implemented on a non-contributory basis for various categories of disability with differing sums depending on the type of disability. Therefore, we consider that the number of people benefited from these programmes cannot be seen too as indicating any crisis impact.
Comments	

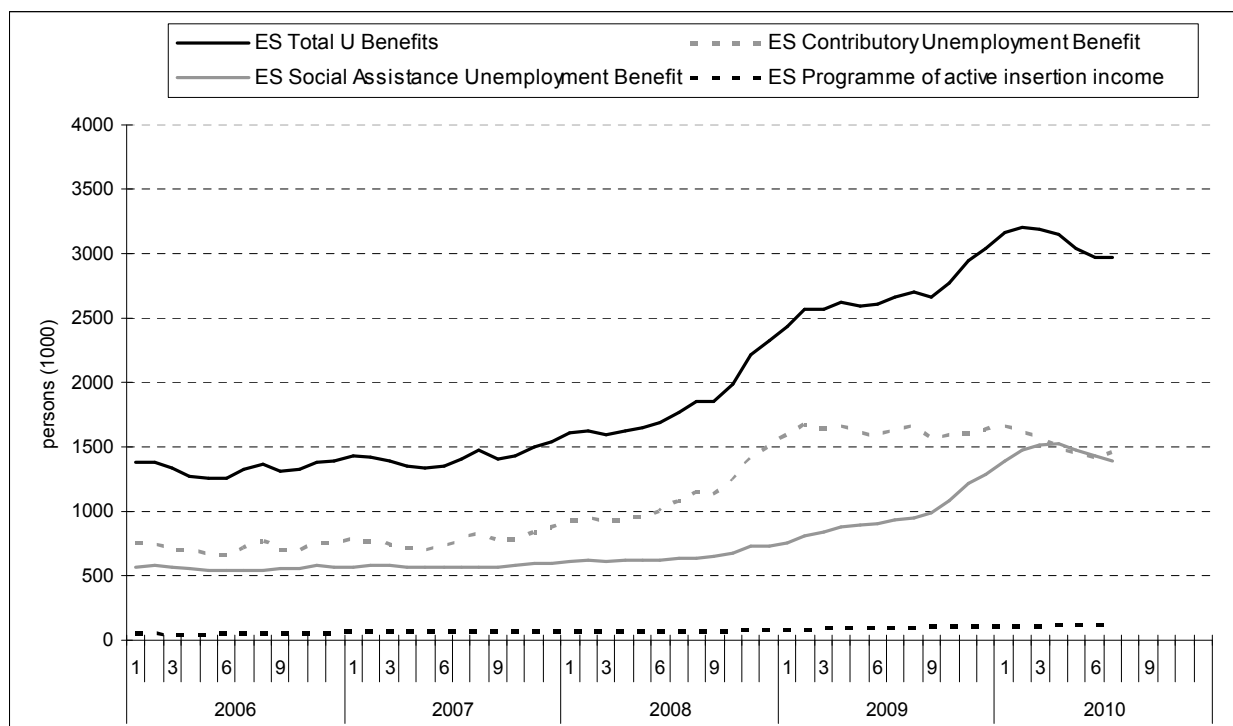
Source: information provided by national delegate.

SPAIN

Figure 1a - Number of benefit recipients (unemployment benefits, social assistance, disability) and number of unemployed (in 1000)



1b



Sources: data on number of unemployed from Eurostat (ILO definition; thousands of persons, seasonally adjusted); data on number of benefit recipients collected through the ISG questionnaire (national data).

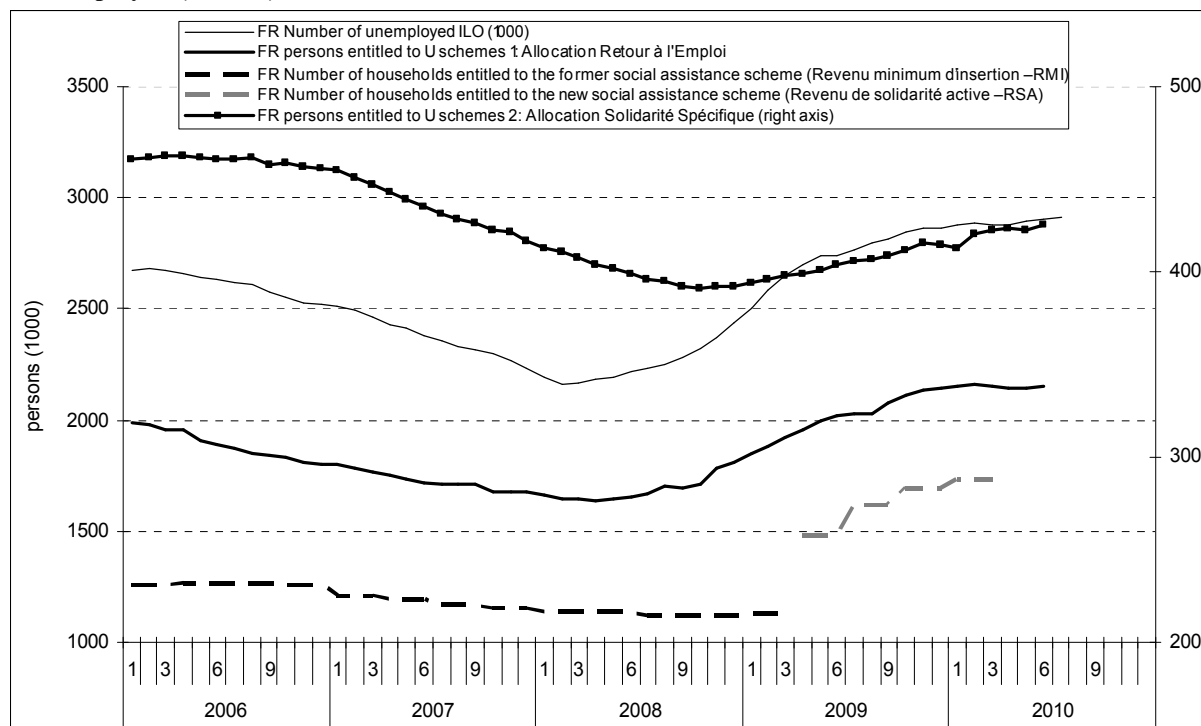
Brief description of the schemes for which data are provided in Figure 1a and 1b:

Unemployment	
Definition	Unemployment according to ILO definition - Total
Unit	Thousands of persons - seasonally adjusted
Source	Source: eurostat
link	http://nui.epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=lmhu_m&lang=en
comment	
Unemployment benefit	
Definition	Number of Unemployment Benefits Total (In Thousands) 1) Contributory Unemployment Benefit 2) Social Assistance Unemployment Benefit 3) Programme of active insertion income
Unit	thousands of recipients
Source	Ministry of Labour and Immigration
link	http://www.mtin.es/estadisticas/bel/PRD/prd1_top_EXCEL.htm
comment	Unemployment Benefits include: 1) contributory unemployment benefit, 2) social assistance unemployment benefit and 3) programme of active insertion income.
Social assistance benefit	
Definition	RMI : Minimum Income for Insertion (holders)
Unit	thousands of beneficiaries
Source	Source: Autonomous Communities
link	
comment	RMI : Minimum Income for Insertion. Within the “minimum income schemes” This benefit called the “Ingreso Mínimo / Renta Mínima de Inserción” is implemented in the 17 Autonomous Communities / regions and in the Autonomous city of Melilla. There is no national legislation defining it; it is established in each region through an specific law in which different requirements and conditions are defined to obtain the RMI. Its general aim is to alleviate poverty by means of cash benefits for basic living needs, although some other supports are provided such us guidance, training....in order to get the social integration of the holders. Source: Autonomous Communities
Disability benefit	
Definition	Number of disability pensions
Unit	thousands of beneficiaries
Source	Source: Ministry of Labour and Immigration
link	http://www.mtin.es/estadisticas/bel/PEN/pen1_top_EXCEL.htm
comment	Degrees of disability depend on the anatomic or functional impairments suffered by the workers, provided they reduce or annul their capacity to work: Permanent and partial disability for the usual profession. Permanent and complete disability for the usual profession. Permanent and total disability for any type or working activity. Severe disability.
Comments	

Source: information provided by national delegate.

FRANCE

Figure 1 - Number of benefit recipients (unemployment benefits, social assistance, disability) and number of unemployed (in 1000)



Sources: data on number of unemployed from Eurostat (ILO definition; thousands of persons, seasonally adjusted); data on number of benefit recipients collected through the ISG questionnaire (national data).

Brief description of the schemes for which data are provided in Figure 1

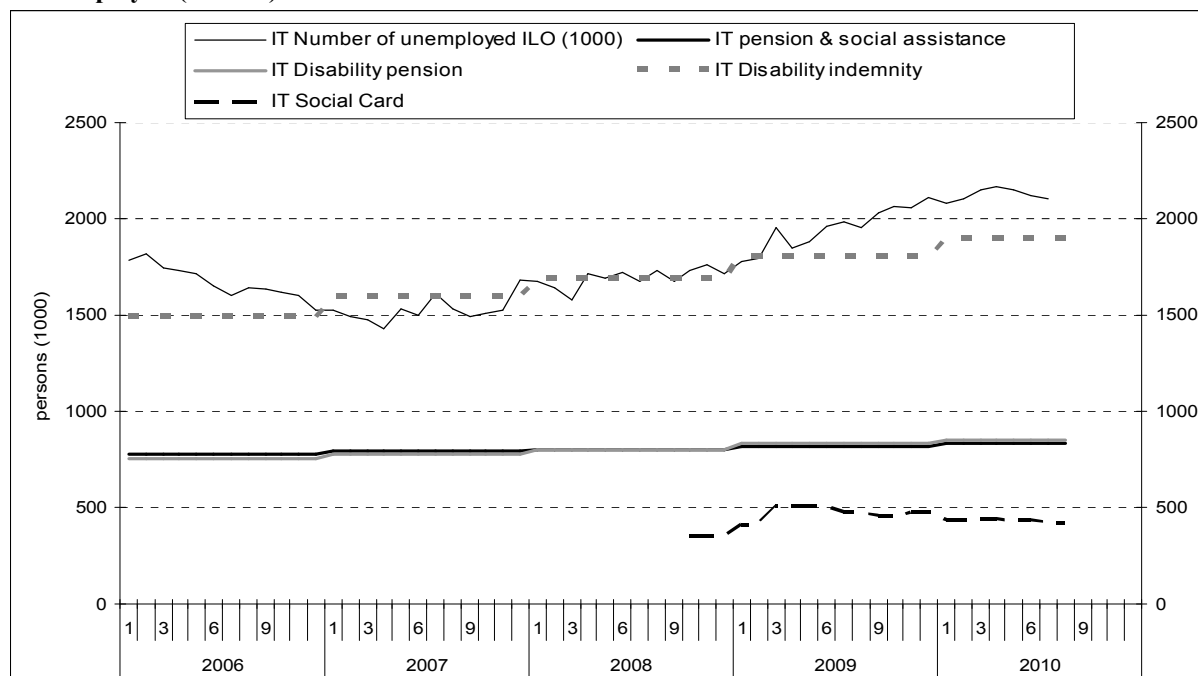
Unemployment	
Definition	Unemployment according to ILO definition - Total
Unit	Thousands of persons - seasonally adjusted
Source	Source: eurostat
link	http://nui.epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=lmhu_m&lang=en
comment	
Unemployment benefit 1	
Definition	persons entitled to unemployment insurance scheme ARE: (Allocation de Retour à l'Emploi)
Unit	thousands of beneficiaries Seasonally adjusted
Source	Source : Pôle Emploi
link	http://info.assedic.fr/unistatis/
comment	Comments : Changes in eligibility rules in January 2006 and April 2009 Eligibility conditions: The job-seeker has to prove 122 days of affiliation to the scheme or 610 working hours during: - The 28 months preceding the end of the employment contract (term of the advance notice) for people less than 50 years old. - The 36 months preceding the end of the employment contract (term of the advance notice) for people that are 50 years old and more.
Unemployment benefit 2	
Definition	persons entitled to unemployment assistance scheme ASS: (Allocation de Solidarité Spécifique)
Unit	thousands of beneficiaries Seasonally adjusted
Source	Source : Pôle Emploi
link	http://info.assedic.fr/unistatis/

comment	Definition: "L'allocation de solidarité spécifique (ASS)", established in 1984, is an unemployment benefit for unemployed persons having exhausted their rights to unemployment insurance, and having at least five years of paid activity during the last ten years preceding the break of their employment contract.
Social assistance benefit	
Definition	Households entitled to social assistance Benefit (RSA since Q2/2009) The "revenu minimum d'insertion (RMI)" , created in 1988, guaranteed minimal resources to every person being at least 25 years old or bearing the responsibility of at least one born child or one child to be born.
Unit	thousands of beneficiaries
Source	Source : CNAF
link	
comment	Comments : A new social assistance scheme, revenu de solidarité active (RSA), has been introduced in June 2009. It replaces two former social assistance benefits, the former minimum income scheme (revenu minimum d'insertion, RMI), and the lone parents benefit (allocation de parent isolé, API), and the various in-work benefits which were related to these two social assistance benefits. Notably for these reasons, the data on RMI and the data on RSA are not fully comparable.
Disability benefit	
Definition	
Unit	
Source	
link	
comment	
Comments :	After a long period of decrease, the unemployment curve according to the BIT definition and the unemployment benefit reciprocity curve showed a reverted trend during year 2008. The number of beneficiaries of social assistance ("revenue d'assistance") continued to decrease till the second half of 2009. By that time, the previous schemes (revenu minimum d'insertion (RMI) and API) were replaced by the "revenu de solidarité active (RSA)" which continues since its load increase. It is consequently difficult for the time being to spot a trend in the number of beneficiaries of this social assistance scheme.

Source: information provided by national delegate.

ITALY

Figure 1 - Number of benefit recipients (unemployment benefits, social assistance, disability) and number of unemployed (in 1000)



Sources: data on number of unemployed from Eurostat (ILO definition; thousands of persons, seasonally adjusted); data on number of benefit recipients collected through the ISG questionnaire (national data).

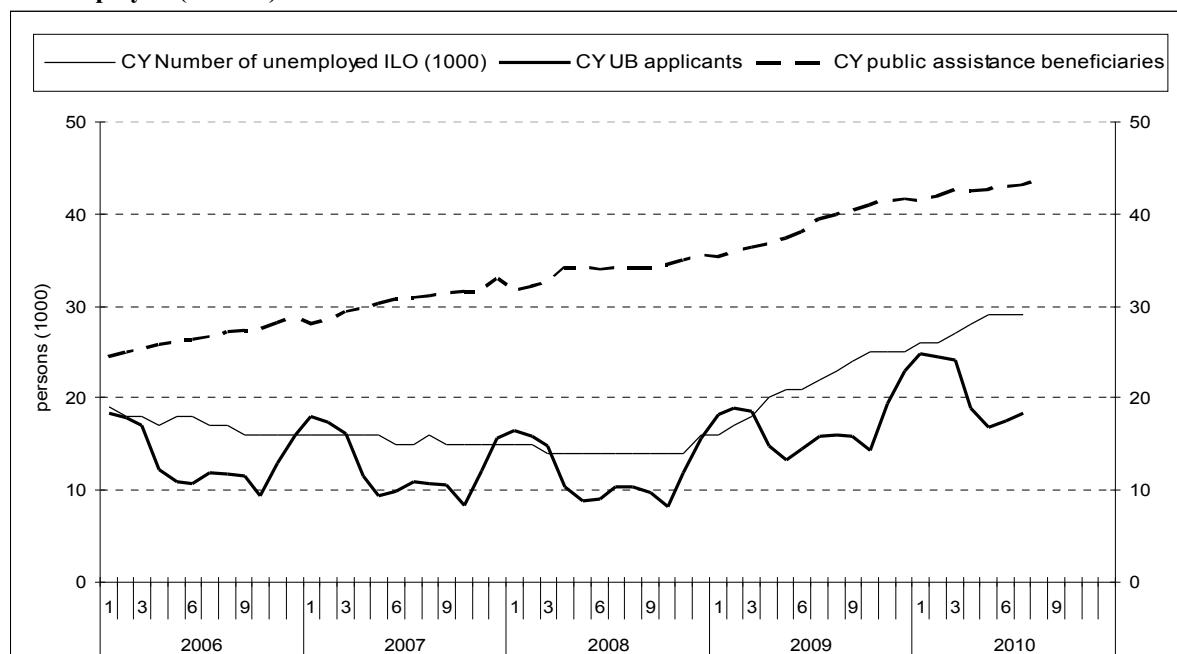
Brief description of the schemes for which data are provided in Figure 1

Unemployment	
Definition	Unemployment according to ILO definition - Total
Unit	Thousands of persons - seasonally adjusted
Source	Source: eurostat
link	http://nui.epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=lmhu_m&lang=en
Unemployment benefit	
Definition	1) IND. DISOCCUPAZIONE 2) IND. MOBILITA 3) CASSA INTEGRAZIONE
Unit	
Source	
link	
Social assistance benefit	
Definition	1) Social Card
Unit	thousands of beneficiaries
Source	Source: Labour, Health and Social policy Minister, number of active social cards
link	
comment	
Definition	2) pensioni e assegni sociali
Unit	
Source	
link	
Disability benefit	
Definition	1) Pensioni di invalidità 2) Indennità di invalidità
Unit	
Source	
link	
Comments:	

Source: information provided by national delegate.

CYPRUS

Figure 6 - Number of benefit recipients (unemployment benefits, social assistance, disability) and number of unemployed (in 1000)



Sources: data on number of unemployed from Eurostat (ILO definition; thousands of persons, seasonally adjusted); data on number of benefit recipients collected through the ISG questionnaire (national data).

Brief description of the schemes for which data are provided in Figure 1:

Unemployment	
Definition	Unemployment according to ILO definition - Total
Unit	Thousands of persons - seasonally adjusted
Source	Source: eurostat
link	http://nui.epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=lmhu_m&lang=en
Unemployment benefit	
Definition	Number of applicants for unemployment benefit
Unit	thousands of applicants
Source	Social Insurance Services, Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance, Cyprus
link	
comment	CY UB applicants refer to the number of applicants for unemployment benefit from Social Insurance Services. Some of those applicants can be rejected due to the qualifying contribution conditions of the unemployment benefit. The unsmoothness of the number of applicants is due to the seasonality effect of the hospitality industry.
Social assistance benefit	
Definition	Number of public assistance beneficiaries
Unit	thousands of beneficiaries
Source	Social Welfare Services, Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance, Cyprus
link	
comment	With the revised Public Assistance and Services Law [L.95(1)/2006] there have been amendments which financially reinforce public assistance recipients and encourage their integration into the labour market. With the wider application of certain provisions, as well as the introduction of new ones, the new legislation especially favours persons with disabilities and single-parent families.

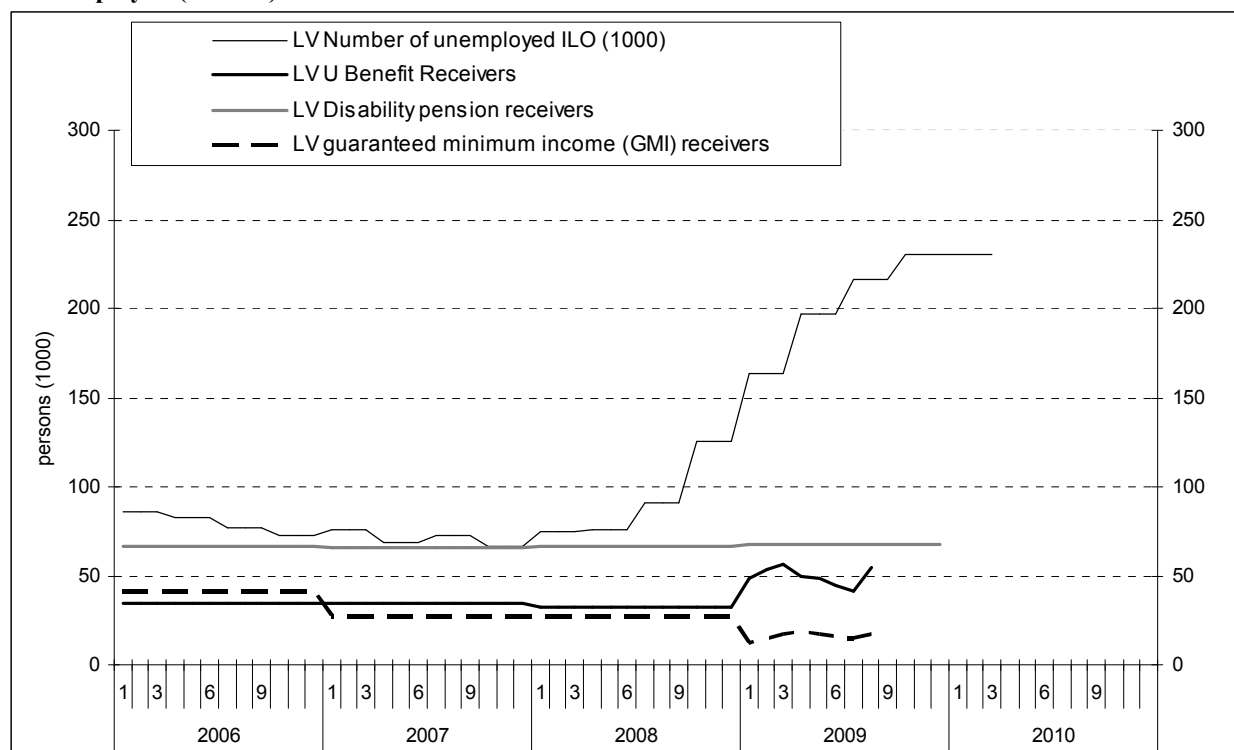
Comments:

Though the number of public assistance beneficiaries increased from 28.906 in 2006 to 43.709 in August 2010, with the main increases observed in the population groups of persons with disabilities, asylum seekers, older persons, lone parent families and unemployed, the increase is mainly attributed to the special provision mentioned above where working single parents and persons with disabilities have extra benefits as work incentives and not to the current economic crisis. It should be mentioned that the cases of public assistance with a nature of distress “unemployment” have been increased over the last years with 311 cases in 2006 reaching 2.218 in August 2010.

Source: information provided by national delegate.

LATVIA

Figure 1 - Number of benefit recipients (unemployment benefits, social assistance, disability) and number of unemployed (in 1000)



Sources: data on number of unemployed from Eurostat (ILO definition; thousands of persons, seasonally adjusted); data on number of benefit recipients collected through the ISG questionnaire (national data).

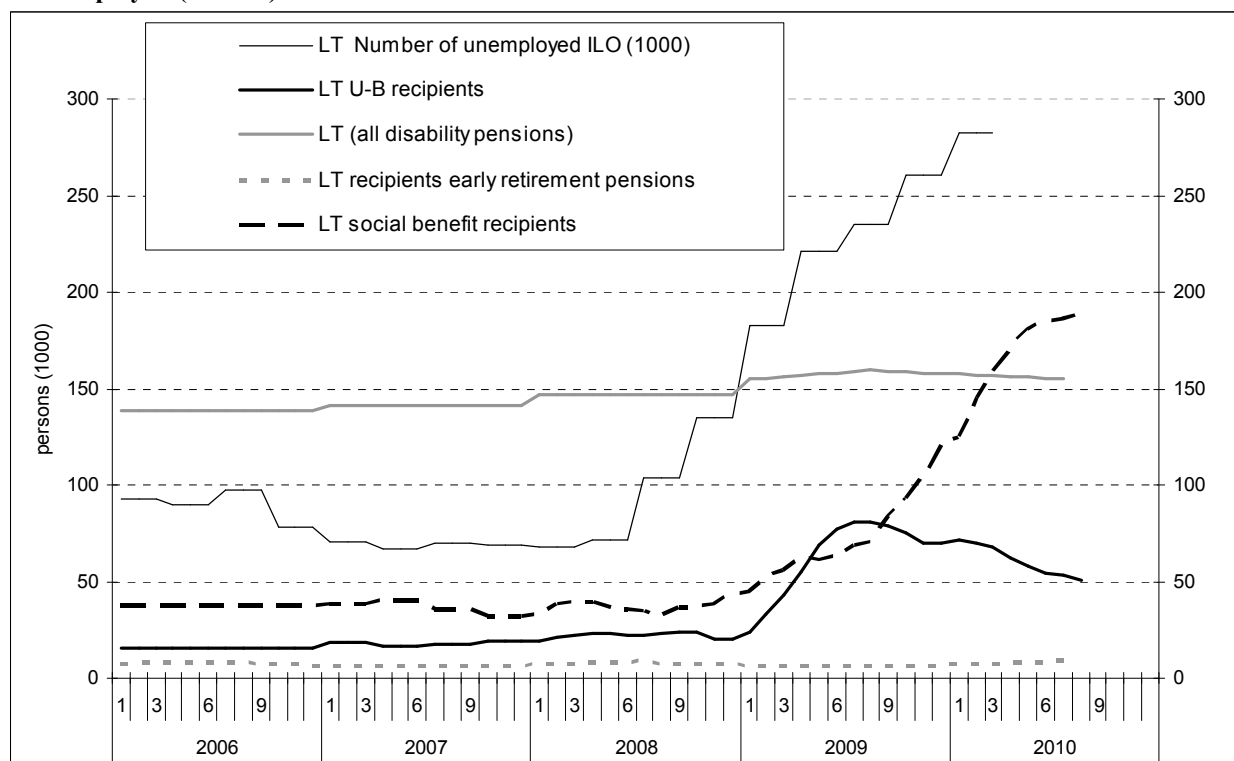
Brief description of the schemes for which data are provided in Figure 1:

Unemployment	
Definition	Unemployment according to ILO definition - Total
Unit	Thousands of persons - seasonally adjusted
Source	Source: eurostat
link	http://nui.epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=lmhu_m&lang=en
Unemployment benefit	
Definition	persons receiving unemployment benefit
Unit	thousands of recipients
Source	Source: State Social Insurance Agency
link	
Social assistance benefit	
Definition	persons in household receiving municipal GMI benefit
Unit	thousands of recipients
Source	Source: annual statistical reports from local municipalities
link	
Disability benefit	
Definition	persons receiving disability pension
Unit	thousands of pensioners
Source	Source: State Social Insurance Agency
link	
comment	
Comments:	

Source: information provided by national delegate.

LITHUANIA

Figure 7 - Number of benefit recipients (unemployment benefits, social assistance, disability) and number of unemployed (in 1000)



Sources: data on number of unemployed from Eurostat (ILO definition; thousands of persons, seasonally adjusted); data on number of benefit recipients collected through the ISG questionnaire (national data).

Brief description of the schemes for which data are provided in Figure 1:

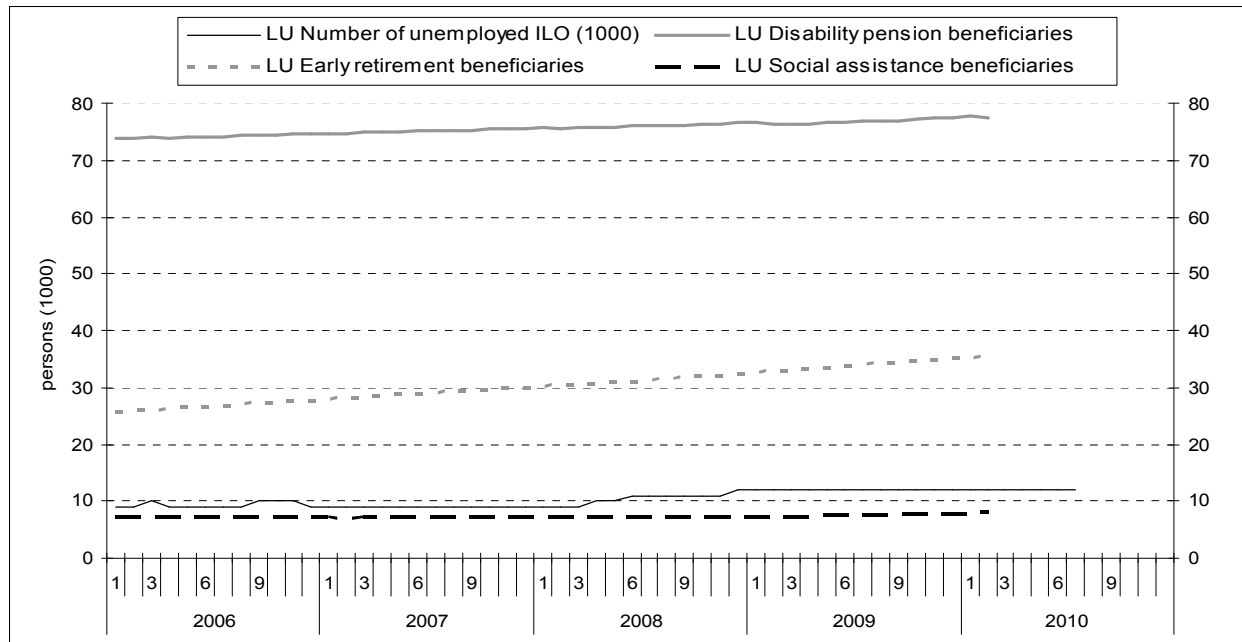
Unemployment	
Definition	Unemployment according to ILO definition - Total
Unit	Thousands of persons - seasonally adjusted
Source	Source: eurostat
link	http://nui.epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=lmhu_m&lang=en
comment	
Unemployment benefit	
Definition	Unemployment benefit recipients
Unit	thousands of recipients
Source	Data source: National Labour Exchange.
link	
comment	The unemployed have possibility to receive unemployment benefit if he has a minimum period of insurance: 18 months within 3 years preceding unemployment (there are exceptions for certain groups of unemployed people who contributed but have not acquired the necessary social insurance record due to important reasons). The duration of payment of Unemployment Insurance Benefit depends on the length of the insurance record: Service years Duration less than 25 years 6 months; 25 - 30 years -7 months, 30 - 35 years- 8 months; 35 years and over-9 months. The duration of payment is prolonged for additional 2 months for elderly persons within 5 years till pension age.
Social assistance benefit	
Definition	number of recipients of social benefit
Unit	thousands of recipients
Source	Data source: Ministry of Social Security and Labour, The Social Assistance Information System.

link	
comment	Families and single residents are entitled to Social Benefit if either single resident or one spouse works or does not work because they are full-time students or pensioners, or individuals above retirement age, or disabled, or nursing a disabled or sick family member, or registered at the local office as unemployed and receiving Unemployment Benefit or are long-term unemployed (more than 6 months), or taking care of a child under the age of 3 years or under the age of 8 years, or family is raising three or more children, etc.
Disability benefit	
Definition	All disability pensions
Unit	thousands of pensioners
Source	
link	
comment	Sum of the 2 following pensions: 1) Disability pension 2) Lost Working Capacity Pension
Early Retirement	
Definition	The number of recipients of early retirement pensions, thousand
Unit	thousands of pensioners
Source	
link	
comment	Persons are eligible for early retirement pension if: they acquired an insurance period of 30 years, they are registered as unemployed for at least 12 months, the age is less than 5 years to retirement age, have no other incomes, do not receive any other pension or benefit.
Comments:	<p>1) The reason for lowering number of disability pension recipients are restricted eligibility criteria since May 2009.</p> <p>2) The reason of so late reaction of number of recipients of early retirement pensions to crisis is a mandatory requirement to be registered as unemployed over the previous 12 months.</p>

Source: information provided by national delegate.

LUXEMBOURG

Figure 8 - Number of benefit recipients (unemployment benefits, social assistance, disability) and number of unemployed (in 1000)



Sources: data on number of unemployed from Eurostat (ILO definition; thousands of persons, seasonally adjusted); data on number of benefit recipients collected through the ISG questionnaire (national data).

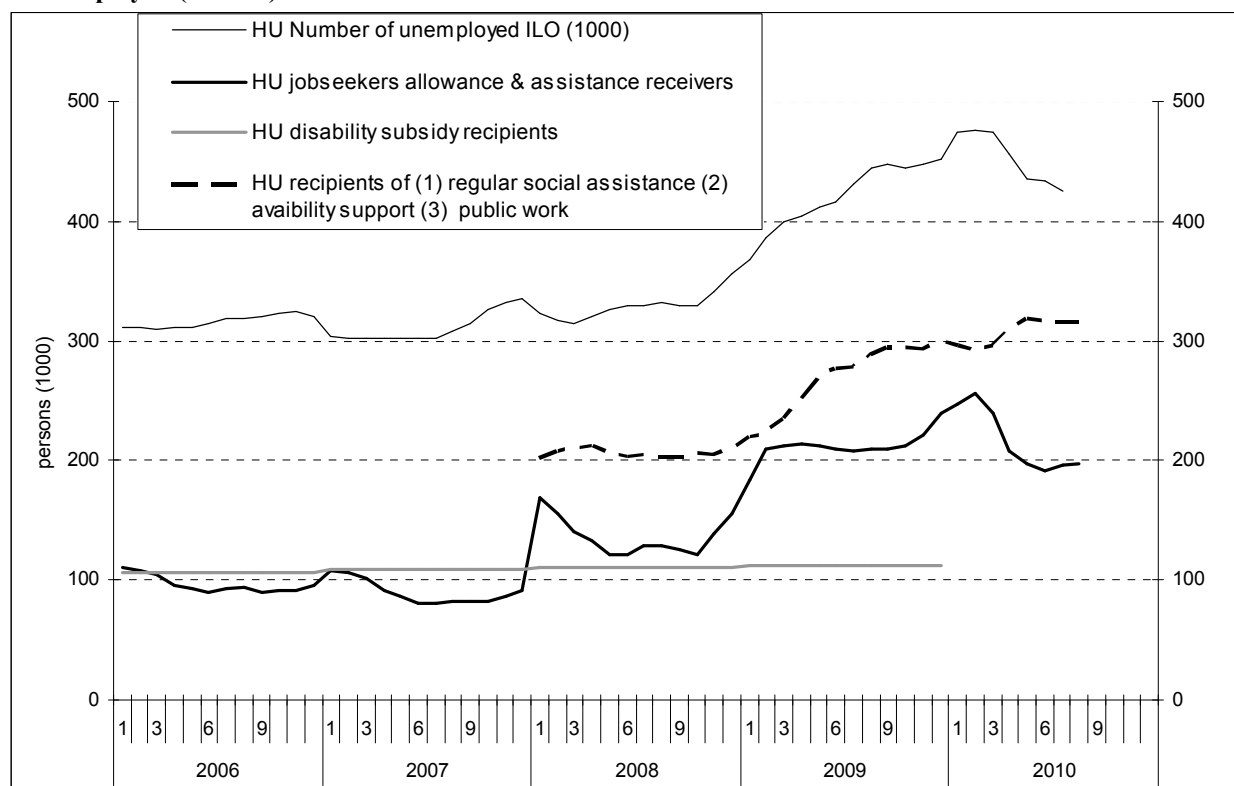
Brief description of the schemes for which data are provided in Figure 1:

Unemployment	
Definition	Unemployment according to ILO definition - Total
Unit	Thousands of persons - seasonally adjusted
Source	Source: eurostat
link	http://nui.epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=lmhu_m&lang=en
Social assistance benefit	
Definition	Total des bénéficiaires de revenu minimum garanti (allocation complémentaire).
Unit	thousands of beneficiaries
Source	SOURCE: IGSS
link	
Disability benefit	
Definition	Total des pensions d'invalidité du régime général de pension (permanente, transitoire et indemnité attente)
Unit	thousands of beneficiaries
Source	SOURCE: IGSS
link	
Early retirement	
Definition	Early retirement beneficiaries
Unit	thousands of beneficiaries
Source	SOURCE: IGSS
link	
comment	Total des pensions anticipées du régime général de pension (pension anticipée à 57 ans, pension anticipée à 60 ans)

Source: information provided by national delegate.

HUNGARY

Figure 1 - Number of benefit recipients (unemployment benefits, social assistance, disability) and number of unemployed (in 1000)



Sources: data on number of unemployed from Eurostat (ILO definition; thousands of persons, seasonally adjusted); data on number of benefit recipients collected through the ISG questionnaire (national data).

Brief description of the schemes for which data are provided in Figure 1:

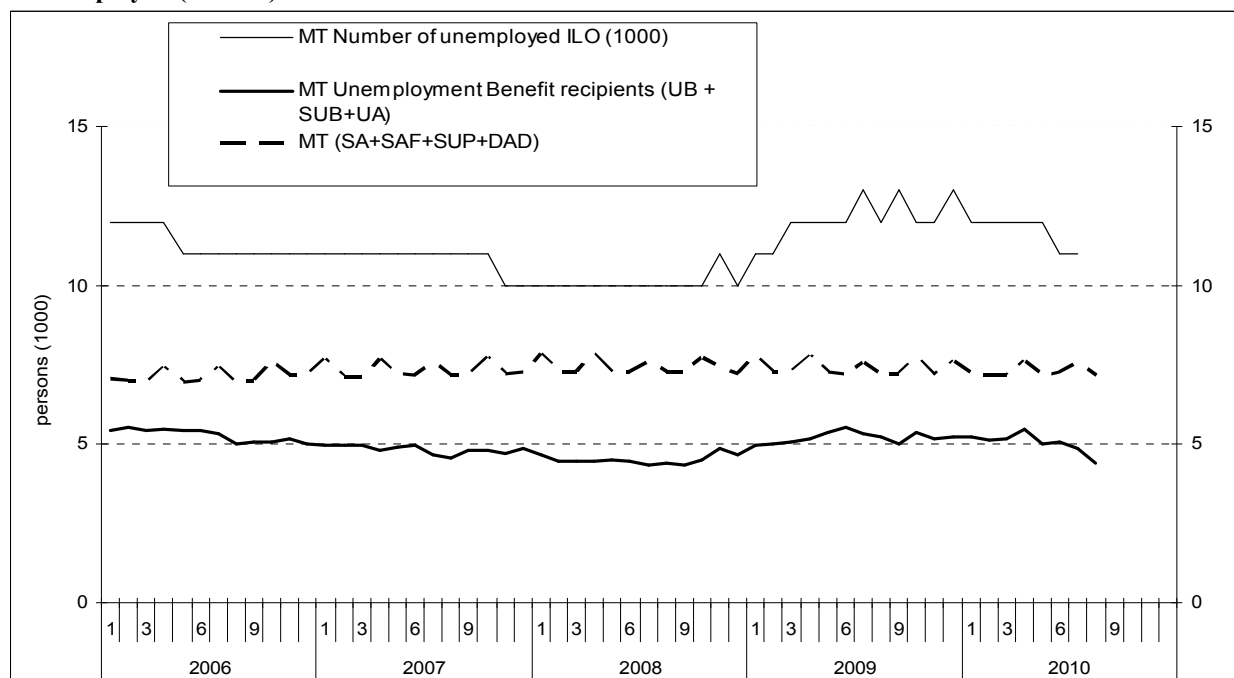
Unemployment	
Definition	Unemployment according to ILO definition - Total
Unit	Thousands of persons - seasonally adjusted
Source	Source: eurostat
link	http://nui.epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=lmhu_m&lang=en
comment	
Unemployment benefit	
Definition	Unemployment benefit = Jobseekers' allowance recipients And Recipients of jobseekers' assistance
Unit	thousands of recipients
Source	Data source: Employment and Social Office (www.afsz.hu)
link	
Social assistance benefit	
Definition	Recipients of (1) regular social assistance (2) availability support (3) public work
Unit	thousands of recipients
Source	Data source: Ministry of Local Government
link	
<p>Definition: Regular social assistance is an income supplement provision in the form of cash, provided by the local government of the settlement. Its aim to guarantee a minimal standard of living for those who have no income. From the 1 July 2006 the conditions of the provision and the way of calculation of the amount of support changed. Before that the local government awarded regular social assistance to a person who was over 18 years of age, was of active age, and had lost at least 67 per cent of his or her working ability or received blind persons' benefit, or to a person who was of active age but not in employment, in the case that their subsistence was not provided by other means.</p>	

comment	By the new terms for the support is entitled only one person in a family. The assessing of the entitlement and the amount of the assistance based on the income projected to the consumer unit instead of the previous income per capita. The consumer unit is the rate which shows the structure of consumption within a family. The first major member of the family and the disabled child's rate is 1,0 while the ratio of the companion (spouse) and a child is lower (0,9-0,7). The amount of support is variable and supplements the family's effective total income to the limit of the entitlement. The regular social assistance from 1 January 2009 was changed to benefit for active aged which consist of the regular social assistance and the „support for to be ready to work”. The change in the benefit system was built up completely until 31 March 2009.
Disability benefit	
Definition	Disability subsidy recipients
Unit	thousands of recipients
Source	Hungarian Treasury (www.allamkincstar.gov.hu)
link	
comment	Definition: Financial support for severely disabled persons over the age of 18, who are unable to care for themselves or need permanent assistance from others.
Comments:	The regulation of regular social assistance is altered from 1 January 2009. Due to change of regulation the number of recipients was decreased.

Source: information provided by national delegate.

MALTA

Figure 9 - Number of benefit recipients (unemployment benefits, social assistance, disability) and number of unemployed (in 1000)



Sources: data on number of unemployed from Eurostat (ILO definition; thousands of persons, seasonally adjusted); data on number of benefit recipients collected through the ISG questionnaire (national data).

Brief description of the schemes for which data are provided in Figure 1:

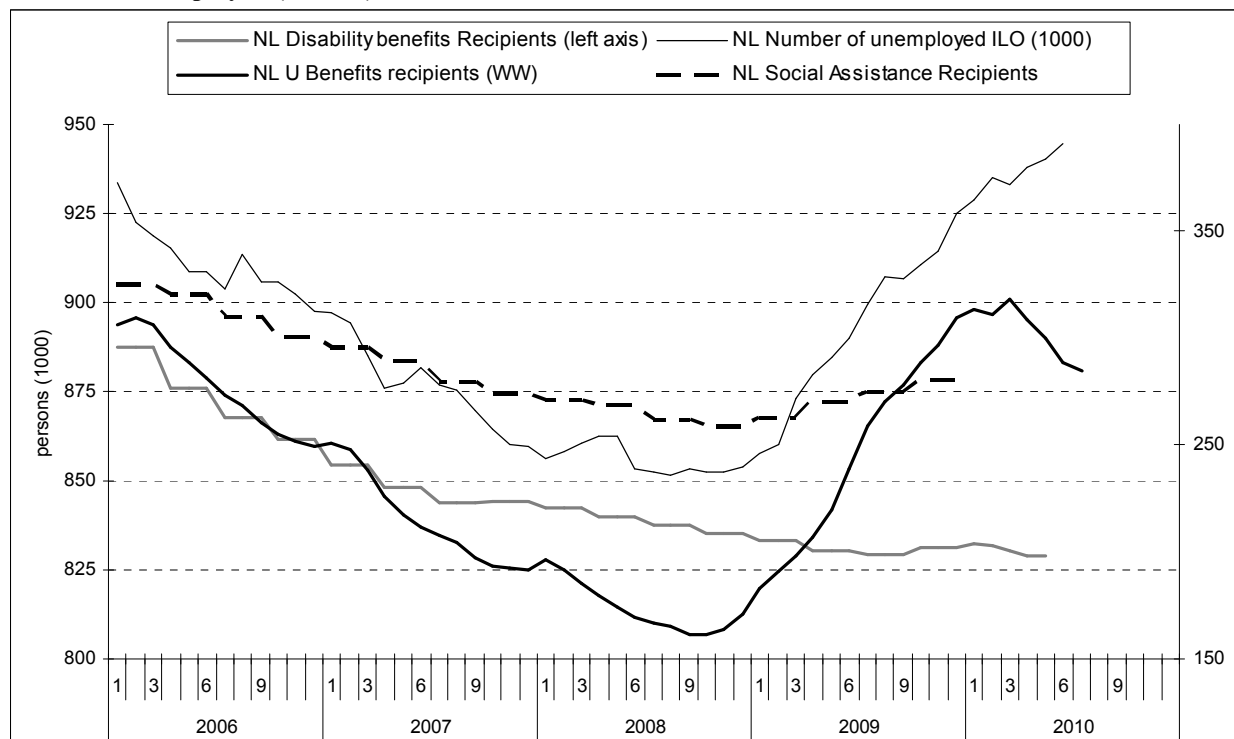
Unemployment	
Definition	Unemployment according to ILO definition - Total
Unit	Thousands of persons - seasonally adjusted
Source	Source: eurostat
link	http://nui.epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=lmhu_m&lang=en
comment	
Unemployment benefit	
Definition	1) Unemployment Benefit - UB; 2) Special Unemployment Benefit - SUB; 3) Unemployment Assistance - UA;
Unit	thousands of recipients
Source	Ministry of Education, Employment and the Family
link	http://www.msp.gov.mt/documents/dss/synopsis_dss.pdf
comment	1) Persons who used to work on a service contract basis (that is, employed) and, therefore, paid contributions, may be entitled to receive Unemployment Benefit provided they are registering for employment under the Part I register kept by the Employment and Training Corporation ; 2) Special Unemployment Benefit is paid to an insured person who qualifies for Unemployment Benefit and is head of household, and who also qualifies for Social Assistance; 3) Unemployment Assistance is one branch of social assistance which caters for persons who are unemployed and seeking employment by registering with the Employment and Training Corporation.
Social assistance benefit	
Definition	1) Social Assistance – SA; 2) Social Assistance for carers – SAF; 3) Supplementary Allowance – SPA (only low income earners are being considered as related to the crisis); 4) Social Assistance for Drug Addicts - DAD
Unit	thousands of beneficiaries
Source	Ministry of Education, Employment and the Family
link	http://www.msp.gov.mt/documents/dss/synopsis_dss.pdf

comment	1) Head of Households, who are incapable of work due to medical reasons, or are unemployed and seeking employment, given that they fulfil the means and 20/10/2010 10:39capital resources tests; 2) A single or widowed male/female, whether registered or not as an unemployed person, and who is taking care of a sick or elderly relative all by him/herself and on a fulltime basis, may become eligible to Social Assistance for Males/Females; 3) Supplementary Allowance is payable to households where the total income of the members falls below the limits outlined by the Social Security Act from time to time. In this regard, not all Supplementary Allowance beneficiaries are considered related to the crisis but only low income earners; 4) A person following a drug or alcohol rehabilitation therapeutic programme may become eligible to receive an allowance.
Disability benefit	
Definition	1) Disability Pension - SHP; 2) Pension for the visually impaired - BLD; 3) Disablement Pension – DP; 4) Invalidity Pension-IP
Unit	
Source	Ministry of Education, Employment and the Family
link	http://www.msp.gov.mt/documents/dss/synopsis_dss.pdf
comment	1) Payable to citizens of Malta over 16 years of age. Various types of disabilities are listed under the Social Security Act. 2) Payable to a citizen of Malta over 14 years of age whose visual activity has been certified by an ophthalmologist to be so low so as to render such persons unable to perform any work for which eyesight is essential. 3) Payable if injury or disease caused or contracted whilst at work is considered to cause a loss of physical or mental faculty calculated between 20% & 89%. Rates awarded according to degree of Disability. Where the degree of disablement is assessed at 90% and over, the person concerned is automatically awarded an Invalidity Pension at the full rate. 4) Payable to persons deemed permanently incapable for suitable full-time or regular part-time employment. Various rates according to different conditions.
Comments:	<p>Due to the stability of the Maltese banking system, the financial crisis did not affect Malta in the same manner and with the same dynamics as was the case in other countries. However, the effects of economic crisis and decline in the global demand have affected Malta's exports and main economic industries such as tourism and manufacturing. Malta entered its recession phase in the last quarter of year 2008, after registering a 0.5% drop in real GDP and consequently, a further drop of 1.5% in real GDP during 2009. However, as the international economy started showing signs of slow recovery, the Maltese economy responded with the first quarter 2010 real GDP growth rate of 3.4%.</p> <p>The data clearly show the increase in the number of unemployed persons as of beginning of 2009, following the relatively stable developments in the 2008. The increase in the number of Unemployment Assistance beneficiaries continued in the first six months of 2009. The number of unemployment beneficiaries was slightly lower in the second half of the year 2009 in comparison with the first six months of the year. In the period February to August 2010 a continued declining trend in the number of Unemployment Assistance beneficiaries was registered. This has not been mirrored by the similar increase in the number of beneficiaries who are relying on Social Assistance and other related benefits. Social Assistance (SA) benefits in Malta are means tested and therefore, unemployment does not lead directly to an equal increase in the SA related benefits.</p>

Source: information provided by national delegate.

NETHERLANDS

Figure 10 - Number of benefit recipients (unemployment benefits, social assistance, disability) and number of unemployed (in 1000)



Sources: data on number of unemployed from Eurostat (ILO definition; thousands of persons, seasonally adjusted); data on number of benefit recipients collected through the ISG questionnaire (national data).

Brief description of the schemes for which data are provided in Figure 1:

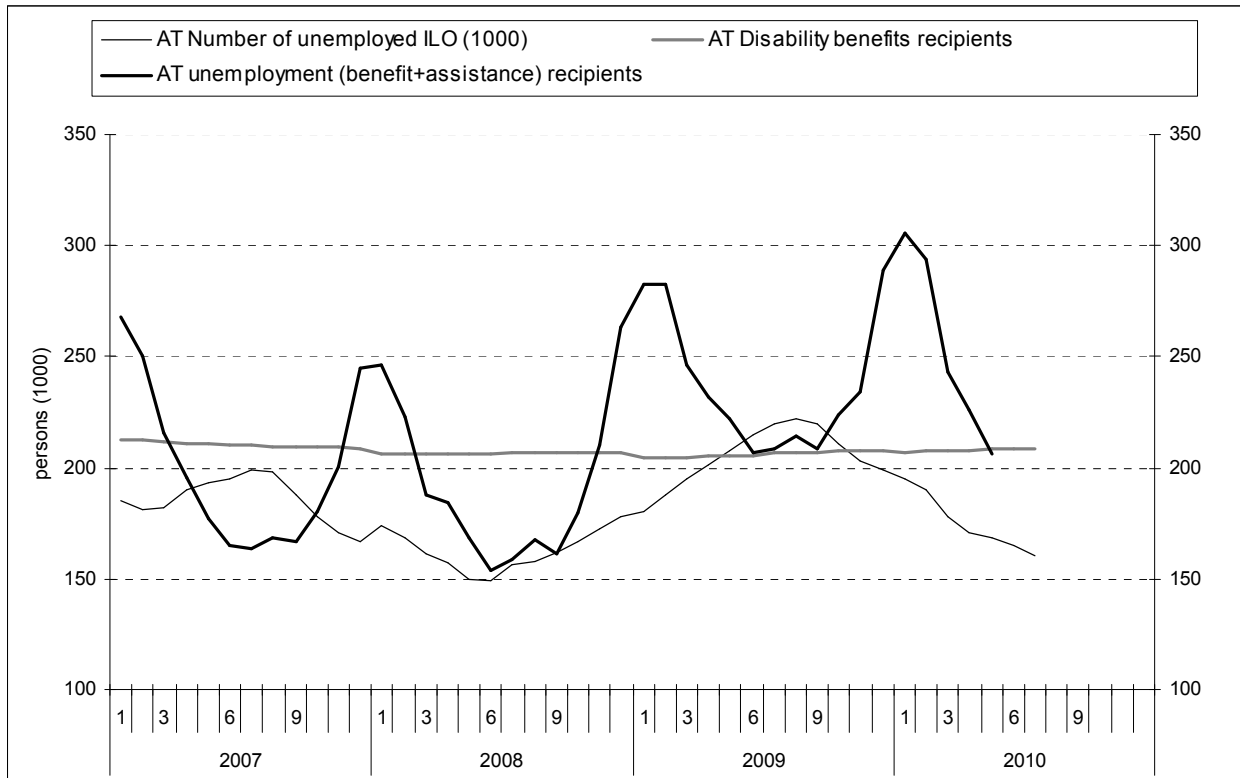
Unemployment	
Definition	Unemployment according to ILO definition - Total
Unit	Thousands of persons - seasonally adjusted
Source	Source: eurostat
link	http://nui.epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=lmhu_m&lang=en
comment	
Unemployment benefit	
Definition	Unemployment Benefit recipients (uitkeringen Werkloosheidswet - WW)
Unit	thousands of recipients, end of month
Source	Institute for Employee Benefit Schemes (<i>Uitvoeringsorganisatie werknemersverzekeringen - UWV</i>)
link	http://www.uwv.nl/overuw/kennis-publicaties/statistische-publicaties/index.aspx (publication " <i>Cijfers en trends UWV - ...</i> ")
comment	Starting April 2009 the number of WW-recipients includes " <i>deeltijd-WW</i> " recipients.
Social assistance benefit	
Definition	Social assistance recipients, younger than 65 years of age (<i>uitkeringen Wet Werk en Bijstand - WWB, jonger dan 65 jaar</i>)
Unit	thousands of recipients, end of month
Source	Statistics Netherlands (<i>Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek - CBS</i>)
link	http://statline.cbs.nl/StatWeb/publication/?DM=SLNL&PA=37470ABU&D1=0&D2=0&D3=1&D4=0&D5=104-115,117-128,130-141,143-154&VW=T
comment	

Disability benefit	
Definition	Disability benefit recipients (<i>uitkeringen Arbeidsongeschiktheidswetten - AO</i>)
Unit	thousands of recipients, end of month
Source	Institute for Employee Benefit Schemes (<i>Uitvoeringsorganisatie werknemersverzekeringen - UWV</i>)
link	http://www.uwv.nl/overuw/kennis-publicaties/statistische-publicaties/index.aspx
comment	Publication "Cijfers en trends UWV - ...table: Arbeidsongeschiktheidswetten-totaal, line: aantal uitkeringen"
Comments:	<p>In the period 2006 through to 2008 there was a steady decline in the number of recipients of both unemployment, social assistance and disability benefit recipients. This was not only due to favourable economic developments but also to reforms undertaken in all three schemes since 2004. Even when the crisis affected the Dutch economy, the steady downward trend continued up till the end of 2008. Since then unemployment has started to increase. The response of the labour market to the economic downturn has thus occurred with a time lag, which is a common phenomena. The main reasons for this moderate response are that employers hold on to their employees despite lower production (labour hoarding) and the reduction of the significant flexible shell of self-employed people and workers on temporary contracts.</p> <p>Labour hoarding occurs mainly because employers want to avoid the loss of workers who will be needed after the economic crisis. In addition, delayed effects of the crisis occur because certain projects that had already started before the crisis have a long duration, mainly in the construction sector.</p> <p>The Central Planning Bureau expects that unemployment will reach it's peak in 2010 and then stabilise until 2011 (6,5 %). In comparison with other OECD countries, the rate of unemployment remains relatively low. The number of people on social assistance and disability benefits has also started to increase in the course of 2009 although at a very slow pace.</p>

Source: information provided by national delegate.

AUSTRIA

Figure 11 - Number of benefit recipients (unemployment benefits, social assistance, disability) and number of unemployed (in 1000)



Sources: data on number of unemployed from Eurostat (ILO definition; thousands of persons, seasonally adjusted); data on number of benefit recipients collected through the ISG questionnaire (national data).

Recipients of Social Assistance Benefits			
Quarterly data (changes in % to the previous year):			
Q1 09	+4,7%	Q1 10	+9,8%
Q2 09	+7,1%	Q2 10	-
Q3 09	+10,6%	Q3 10	+ 11%
Q4 09	+8,7%		

Brief description of the schemes for which data are provided in Figure 1:

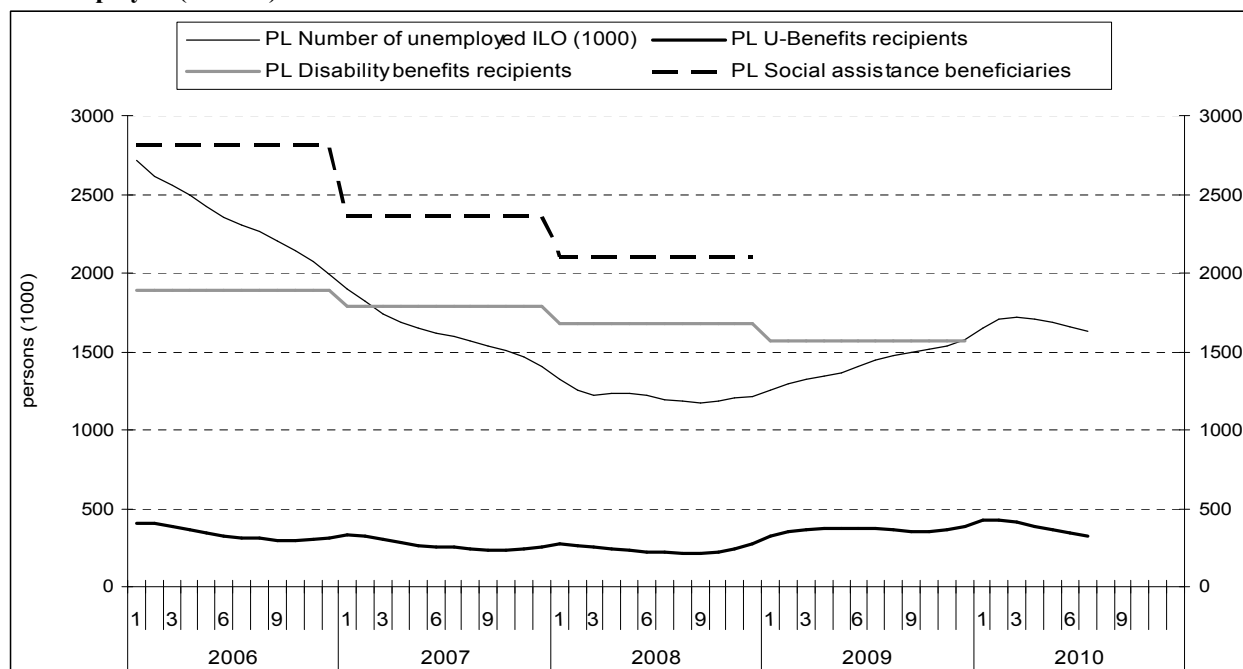
Unemployment	
Definition	Unemployment according to ILO definition - Total
Unit	Thousands of persons - seasonally adjusted
Source	Source: eurostat
link	http://nui.epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=lmhu_m&lang=en
comment	
Unemployment benefit	
Definition	Unemployment Benefit recipients ; Unemployment assistance recipients
Unit	thousands of recipients
Source	Source: Public Employment Service Austria (AMS)
link	

comment	Comment: An unemployed person is defined as someone without employment who has registered as seeking work with the public employment service (AMS) and is both willing and able to work. Claims for transfer payments can only be made by those who have made employment insurance contributions for an appropriate period. For example, those who have interrupted their working careers for a long period of time (in particular returners) and school leavers receive no unemployment insurance benefit. In order to receive benefit a person must be registered with the AMS. To be entitled to claim unemployment benefit, a person must be able and willing to work, available for work but unemployed and have been in insured employment for the appropriate qualifying period. Unemployment assistance, which is payable on expiry of entitlement to unemployment benefit, combines the principles of social insurance and welfare. Firstly, the rate of the income support is calculated on the basis of the unemployment benefit previously received. Secondly, applicants must be in serious need of financial support, after taking the income of the partner and exemption limits into account.
Social assistance benefit	
Definition	Number of recipients of Social Assistance Benefits
Unit	Quarterly data (changes in % to the previous year)
Source	Source: Social Departments of the Federal Provinces
link	
comment	Definitions: Figures include eight Federal Provinces; the data of the cities with municipal departments is missing in one of them. The Lander register very diverse trends. - Social assistance is defined, implemented and administered by the Federal Provinces (Bundesländer); according to the Austrian Constitution each province has its own Social Assistance Act, but there are some common basic principles: social assistance is granted in individual situations of need if a person's own resources and payments from third parties are not longer sufficient to allow for a decent way of life. Eligibility depends on household resources, other relatives have a duty under family law to provide financial support. All resources are considered in the means and income test (apart from family benefits). If circumstances allow, the benefit must be repaid after the recipient has left social assistance. - The introduction of a means-tested minimum income is planned for September 2010; the availability of statistical information about benefits recipients will improve in the course of this reform.
Disability benefit	
Definition	Disability benefit recipients
Unit	thousands of recipients
Source	Source: Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection
link	
comment	Figures do not include people who reached statutory retirement age due to comparability reasons; the data represent an estimation, because the calculation of the accurate share of disability pensioners only exists for one month (December).
Comments:	

Source: information provided by national delegate.

POLAND

Figure 1- Number of benefit recipients (unemployment benefits, social assistance, disability) and number of unemployed (in 1000)



Sources: data on number of unemployed from Eurostat (ILO definition; thousands of persons, seasonally adjusted); data on number of benefit recipients collected through the ISG questionnaire (national data).

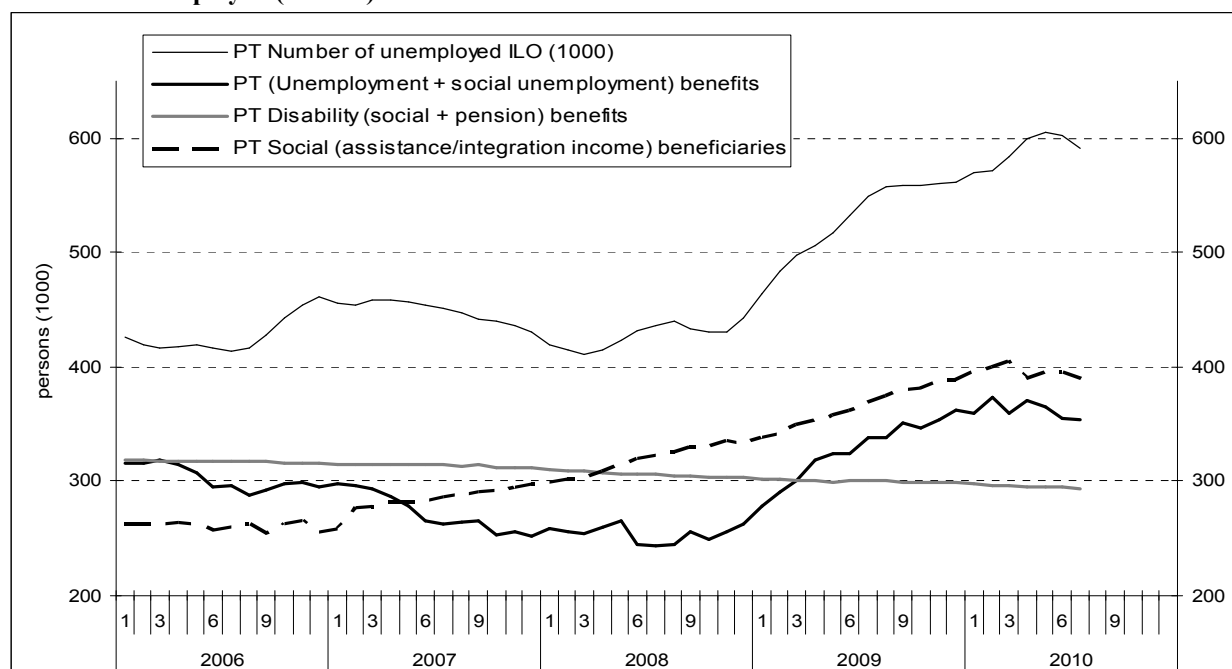
Brief description of the schemes for which data are provided in Figure 1:

Unemployment	
Definition	Unemployment according to ILO definition - Total
Unit	Thousands of persons - seasonally adjusted
Source	Source: eurostat
link	http://nui.epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=lmhu_m&lang=en
Unemployment benefit	
Definition	UB recipients - stock
Unit	thousands of recipients
Source	Source: administrative data, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
link	
Social assistance benefit	
Definition	Social assistance beneficiaries
Unit	total number of beneficiaries of monetary and non-monetary assistance
Source	Source: GUS, Statistical Yearbook 2002-2009.
link	
comment	*data on year 2009 will be available in December 2010
Disability benefit	
Definition	Disability benefits Recipients
Unit	Total number of beneficiaries of pensions resulting from an inability to work (annual averages), from both non-agricultural social security system and farmers social insurance system
Source	Source: GUS, Statistical Yearbook 2002-2009, Concise Statistical Yearbook of Poland 2010
link	
Comments:	

Source: information provided by national delegate.

PORTUGAL

Figure 12 - Number of benefit recipients (unemployment benefits, social assistance, disability) and number of unemployed (in 1000)



Sources: data on number of unemployed from Eurostat (ILO definition; thousands of persons, seasonally adjusted); data on number of benefit recipients collected through the ISG questionnaire (national data).

Brief description of the schemes for which data are provided in Figure 1:

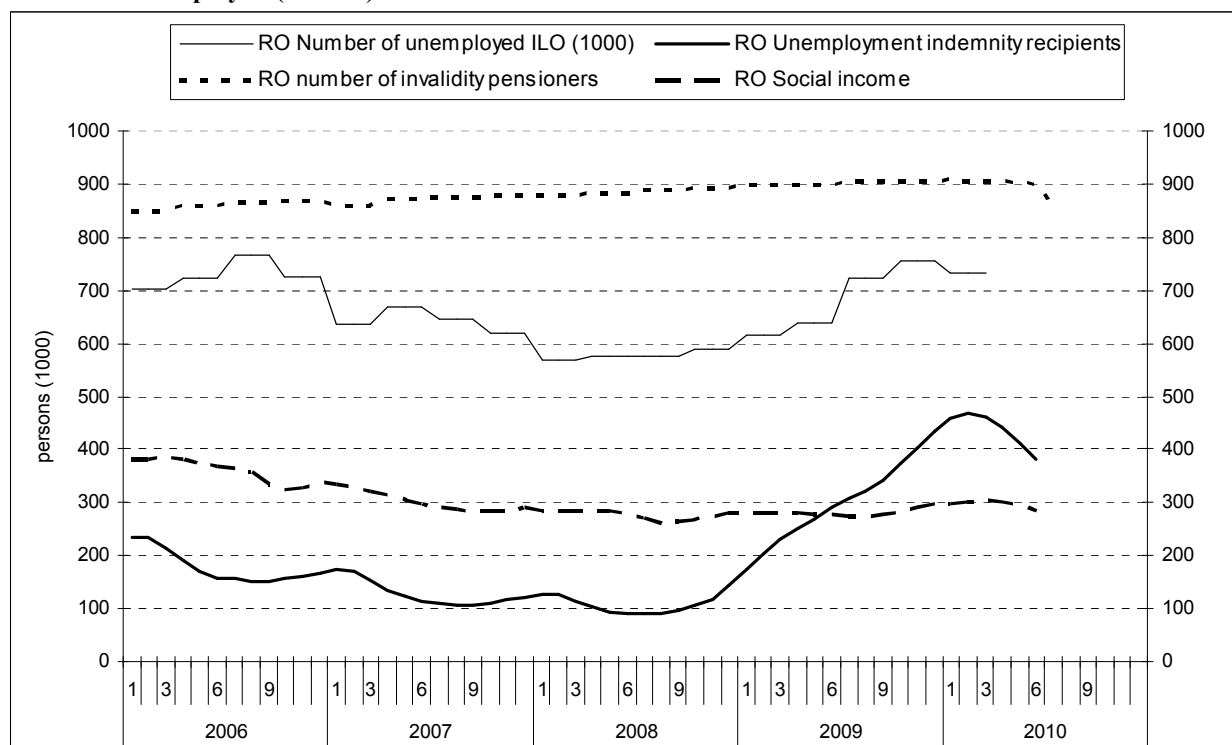
Unemployment	
Definition	Unemployment according to ILO definition - Total
Unit	Thousands of persons - seasonally adjusted
Source	Source: eurostat
link	http://nui.epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=lmhu_m&lang=en
comment	
Unemployment benefit	
Definition	"Unemployment + social unemployment" beneficiaries
Unit	thousands of recipients
Source	Source: Institute for Informatics and Statistics of Social Security
link	
comment	Entitlement to the unemployment benefit depends on the following conditions: to have been bound by a work-contract or a similar agreement; to be in the situation of a total lack of employment; to be capable of and available for work; to be involuntary unemployed; to be registered as a job seeker with the Employment Centre of their residence area; to fulfil the qualifying period - to have completed, at least 450 days with registered earnings within the 24 months immediately prior to the date of unemployment-, or the qualifying period is reduced to 365 days, between 1st January and 31st December. Unemployment Social Benefit: It is granted in case beneficiaries do not have completed the qualifying period required for unemployment benefit and fulfil the requirements to be entitled to this benefit, in the case to Initial unemployment social benefit (to have completed at least 180 days with registered earnings within the 12 months immediately prior to the date of unemployment) or to have exhausted entitlement periods for unemployment benefit, in the case of unemployment social benefit paid following the unemployment benefit.
Social assistance benefit	
Definition	"Social assistance / Social Integration Income" beneficiaries
Unit	thousands of recipients
Source	Source: Institute for Informatics and Statistics of Social Security
link	

comment	The benefit paid by Social Security corresponds to a differential between the individual's income and a minimum income threshold taken as the baseline. This minimum income is indexed to IAS, an indexation mechanism for social supports that replaces the national minimum salary as a reference for calculating and adjusting pensions, benefits and contributions. Individuals and families who want to have access to this benefit, have to fulfil a number of conditions: legal place of residency in Portugal; aged 18 or over , availability for employment, occupational training or integration activities; not having earnings of one's own or from the family superior to minimum income established by law.
Disability benefit	
Definition	"Disability pension + Disability social pension"
Unit	thousands of recipients
Source	Source: Institute for Informatics and Statistics of Social Security
link	
comment	Disability or Invalidity pension: is a monthly cash benefit designed to protect the insured persons covered by all the social security schemes against permanent incapacity for work.
Comments:	<p>The Portuguese social protection scheme aims at ensuring the maintenance of the basic rights of individual persons and households by reducing several risks, such as sickness, maternity, occupational accident, occupational sickness, disability, old-age, survival, family expenses, unemployment, housing, death and social exclusion. The social security scheme plays an increasing relevant role, amongst the assorted regimes of social protection, based on its capacity as a system intended to broadly attain across the whole population, covering both the contributory and the non contributory schemes. According to ISG questionnaire, we provide the most recent trends in benefit recipients of this scheme for some of the eventualities: unemployment, disability and social assistance.</p> <p>From 1990 to 2009, the number of disability pensioners registers a severe decrease. However, this decrease is far less accentuated in recent years. This can be explained by the increase in other pension benefits such as old age and a much more restricted and rationalized access to this benefit over the years, at the same time accompanied by new policies intended to promote the integration and rehabilitation of people with disabilities. As at December 2009, the number of pensioners of the general social security scheme was 241,881 thousand (257,361 thousand in 2006), whilst the number of pensioners of social assistance schemes was 56,903 thousand (57.747 thousand at December 2006.), about a fifth of the total of disability benefits.</p> <p>In Portugal the unemployment rate in the past few years has caught up successively with the European average: in 1998 it corresponded to around half that observed, on average, in European Union countries (whether considering 15 or 25 Member States) and in 2006 it equalled the EU(15) average and was still lower than the EU(25) average. In 2007 the unemployment rate in Portugal exceeded both the EU(15) and the EU(25) averages, by 1.0 and 0.8 p.p. respectively and since the first quarter of 2009 has been ahead of the EU27 unemployment rate.</p> <p>In 1986, unemployment achieved its higher rate (9,9%) followed by an outstanding decrease during the nineties and recording the lowest rates in 2000 (3,9%). Since then, it has been rising, except for 2008, when this indicator amounted to 7.6% - less 0.4pp then the previous year (corresponding to less 21.5 thousand unemployed persons than the previous year), comprising in 2009 over 528 thousand people. The increase in unemployment observed at least until 2007 in the Portuguese economy has been associated by some experts to a slowdown in the creation employment rates, since there had been registered the falling of the destruction employment rates. This is perhaps common in the developed economies during economic slowdown periods. However, since 2008, the restructuring of traditional manufacturing sectors have been harshly threatened, particularly by international competition, globalization and large-scale economic crisis, giving up space to new economies and causing collective dismissals of workers with low scholar qualifications and professional skills.</p> <p>And, although the beginning of 2008 indicated a slight improvement in the overall behaviour of the indicators associated with the employment market, weaknesses still persist in Portuguese society in arrears to structural factors, such as the entrepreneurial structure and professional qualifications</p>

Source: information provided by national delegate.

ROMANIA

Figure 13 - Number of benefit recipients (unemployment benefits, social assistance, disability) and number of unemployed (in 1000)



Sources: data on number of unemployed from Eurostat (ILO definition; thousands of persons, seasonally adjusted); data on number of benefit recipients collected through the ISG questionnaire (national data).

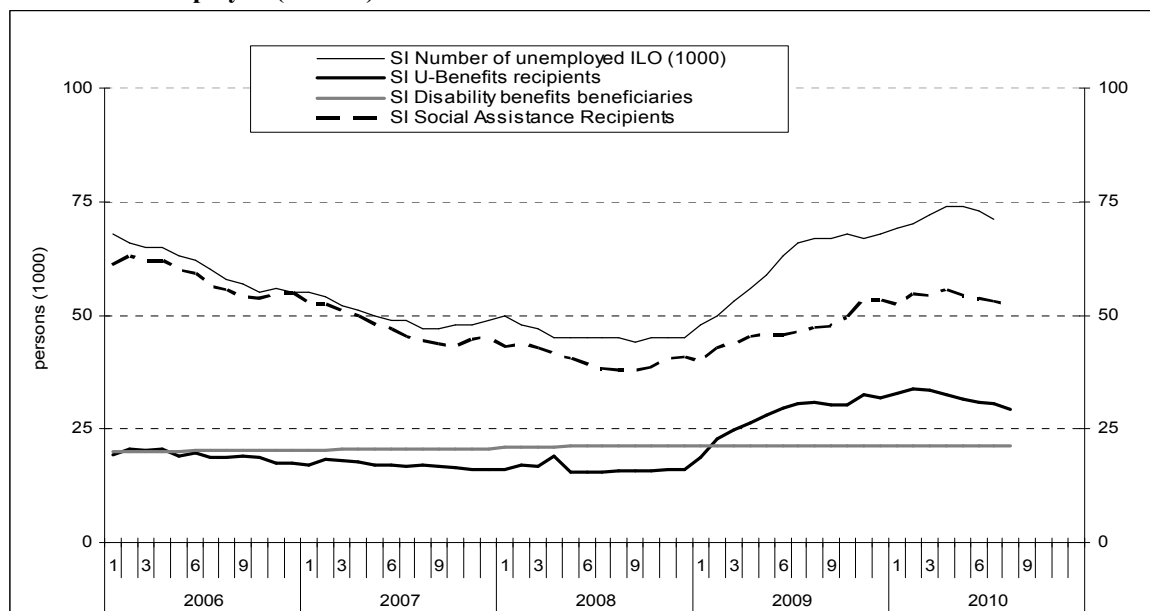
Brief description of the schemes for which data are provided in Figure 1:

Unemployment	
Definition	Unemployment according to ILO definition - Total
Unit	Thousands of persons - seasonally adjusted
Source	Source: eurostat
link	http://nui.epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=lmhu_m&lang=en
Unemployment benefit	
Definition	Number of unemployment indemnity recipients
Unit	Thousands of persons
Source	Source: Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Protection, National Agency for Social Benefits and National Agency for Employment
link	
Social assistance benefit	
Definition	Social income (minimum income guaranteed)
Unit	Thousands of persons
Source	Source: Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Protection, National Agency for Social Benefits and National Agency for Employment
link	
Disability benefit	
Definition	Average Number of pensioners (thousand)
Unit	thousands of pensioners
Source	State social insurance - ROMANIA
link	
Comments:	

Source: information provided by national delegate.

SLOVENIA

Figure 14 - Number of benefit recipients (unemployment benefits, social assistance, disability) and number of unemployed (in 1000)



Sources: data on number of unemployed from Eurostat (ILO definition; thousands of persons, seasonally adjusted); data on number of benefit recipients collected through the ISG questionnaire (national data).

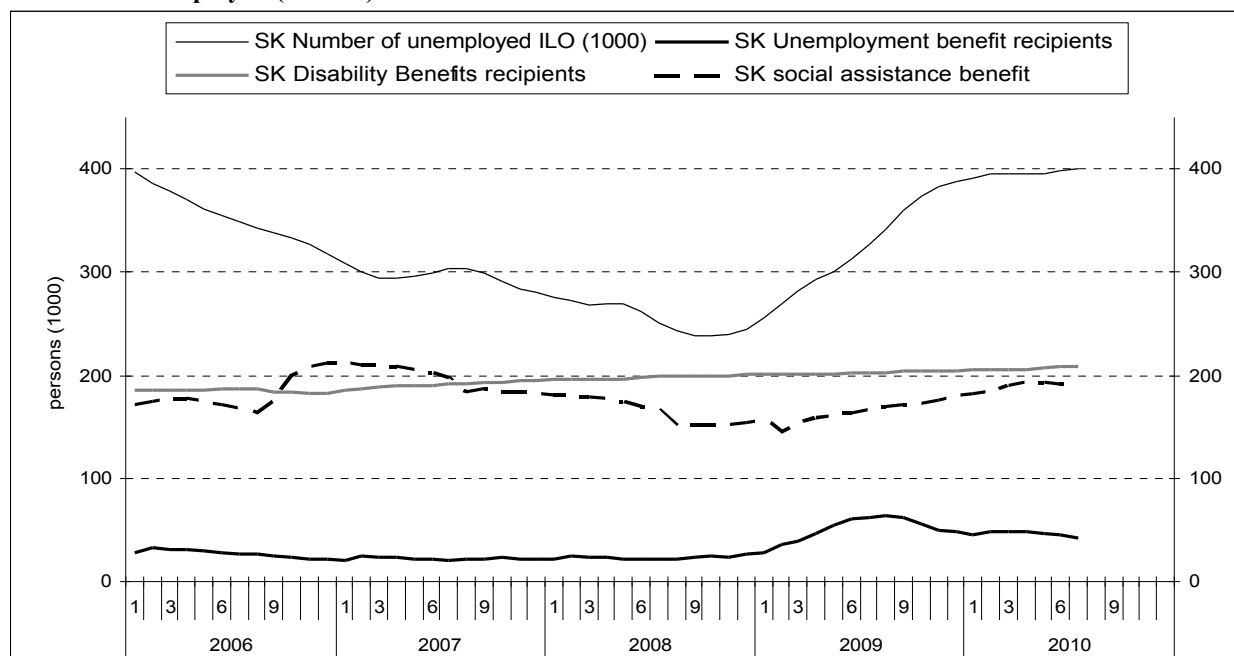
Brief description of the schemes for which data are provided in Figure 1:

Unemployment	
Definition	Unemployment according to ILO definition - Total
Unit	Thousands of persons - seasonally adjusted
Source	Source: Eurostat
link	http://nui.epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=lmhu_m&lang=en
Unemployment benefit	
Definition	Statutory basis for unemployment insurance is "Employment and Insurance in the Case of Unemployment Act" (Zakon o zaposlovanju in zavarovanju za primer brezposelnosti) (Official ga-zette RS, no. 107/2006).
Unit	thousands of recipients
Source	Source: MLFSA
link	
Social assistance benefit	
Definition	Financial social assistance is a residual social benefit which acts as a final safety-net. It is designed as a minimum needed to cover the costs of most needed issues: food, clothes, heating, hygiene & minor-basic health-care costs, etc.
Unit	thousands of recipients
Source	Source: MLFSA
link	
Disability benefit	
Definition	Disability benefits beneficiaries – Number of unemployed persons receiving disability benefits. Included are recipients of invalidity benefit, temporary benefit, partial invalidity pension, benefit for occupational rehabilitation, before retraining benefit and before employment benefit.
Unit	thousands of recipients
Source	Source: Pension and Disability Insurance Institute of the Republic of Slovenia
link	

Source: information provided by national delegate.

SLOVAKIA

Figure 15 - Number of benefit recipients (unemployment benefits, social assistance, disability) and number of unemployed (in 1000)



Sources: data on number of unemployed from Eurostat (ILO definition; thousands of persons, seasonally adjusted); data on number of benefit recipients collected through the ISG questionnaire (national data).

Brief description of the schemes for which data are provided in Figure 1:

Unemployment	
Definition	Unemployment according to ILO definition - Total
Unit	Thousands of persons - seasonally adjusted
Source	Source: eurostat
link	http://nui.epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=lmhu_m&lang=en
comment	
Unemployment benefit	
Definition	Unemployment benefit recipients
Unit	thousands of recipients
Source	Source: Social Insurance Agency
link	http://www.socpoist.sk/pocet-poberatelov-davok-v-nezamestnanosti/1662s
comment	
Social assistance benefit	
Definition	social assistance benefit
Unit	thousands of recipients
Source	Source: Centre Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family
link	http://www.upsvar.sk/statistiky/socialne-davky-statistiky.html?page_id=10826
comment	
Disability benefit	
Definition	Disability Benefits recipients
Unit	thousands of recipients
Source	Source: Social Insurance Agency
link	http://www.socpoist.sk/pocet-vyplacanych-dochodkov--v-mesiacoch/3150s
comment	
Comments:	<i>Unemployment Benefit:</i> The development in number of the recipients was stable for period 2006 to 2008, nevertheless the first higher rising occurred in December 2008. Then the number of recipients increased dramatically till the August 2009 and then follow month-to-month drop since September to the end of Year 2009. The effect of economic

crisis and recession has been the main reason (particularly growth of unemployment) of negative trend in Year 2009. In the second quarter of Year 2010 monthly drop in the number of recipients continuous. Unfortunately, in the second half of Year 2010 we are expecting another modest growth of recipients, because lighter conditions came into force since 1 September 2010 (originally 3 required years of unemployment insurance from last 4 years have been replaced by 2 years of unemployment insurance from last 3 years). Supported period of unemployment benefit is maximum 6 months or 4 months for seasonal workers. Part of recipients who have finished the supported period of disbursement of the unemployment benefit could be transfer into social assistance benefit (benefit in material need), if they are still unemployed.

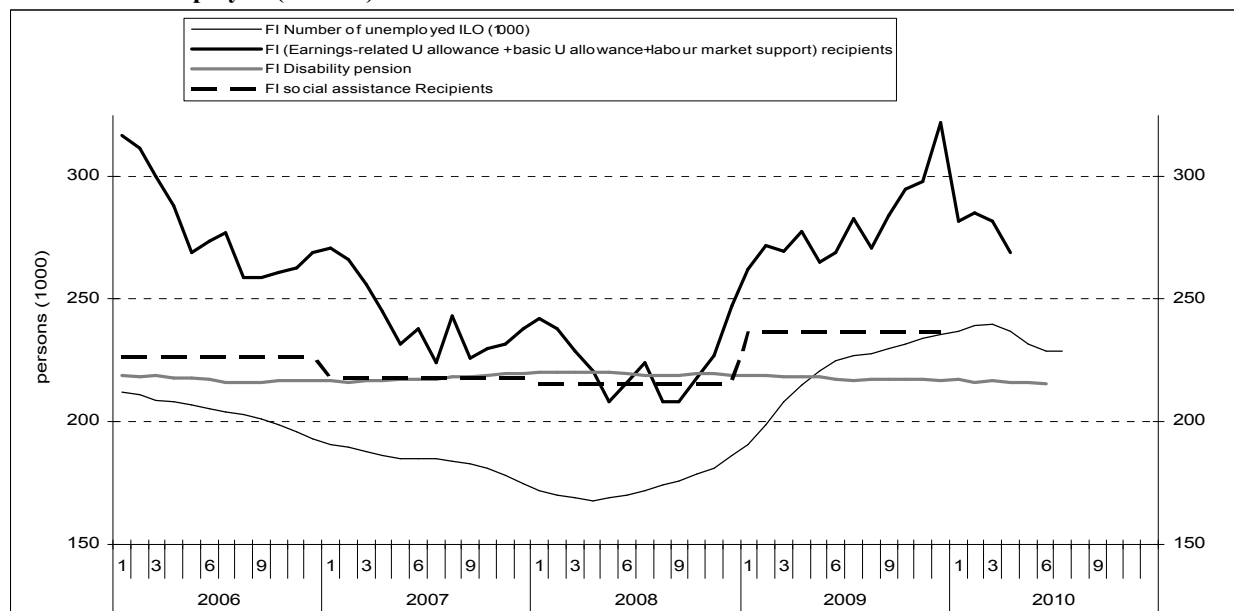
Social Assistance Benefit: Recipients are defined as recipients of benefits. In the system of assistance in material need (social assistance) we are talking about the recipient, which is the range of jointly assessed persons, i.e. individual, family with children, families without children, etc. This means that for one recipient of assistance in material need may be more of jointly assessed persons. Development of the number of recipients in 2006 was relative stable. The increase in recipients occurred since August 2006 due to changed conditions for people in retirement. In early 2007, the number of recipients has continued the downward trend and the decrease in the overall unemployment rate. This situation has changed since April 2009. Recipients are on the rise due to increased unemployment. However the move, since most of the recipients had previously been recipients of unemployment benefits and subsequently came to the assistance of material need.

Disability Benefit: The development of recipients was stable in period 2006 to 2010, but soft increased could be seen since 1 January 2007, as reaction to the Resolution of Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic. However, in the second half of Year 2010 another modest growth of recipients has occurred, because lighter conditions came into effect since 1 January 2010 (the minimum period of pension insurance required on invalidity benefit could be counted from all career, not only from last 10 years).

Source: information provided by national delegate.

FINLAND

Figure 16 - Number of benefit recipients (unemployment benefits, social assistance, disability) and number of unemployed (in 1000)



Sources: data on number of unemployed from Eurostat (ILO definition; thousands of persons, seasonally adjusted); data on number of benefit recipients collected through the ISG questionnaire (national data).

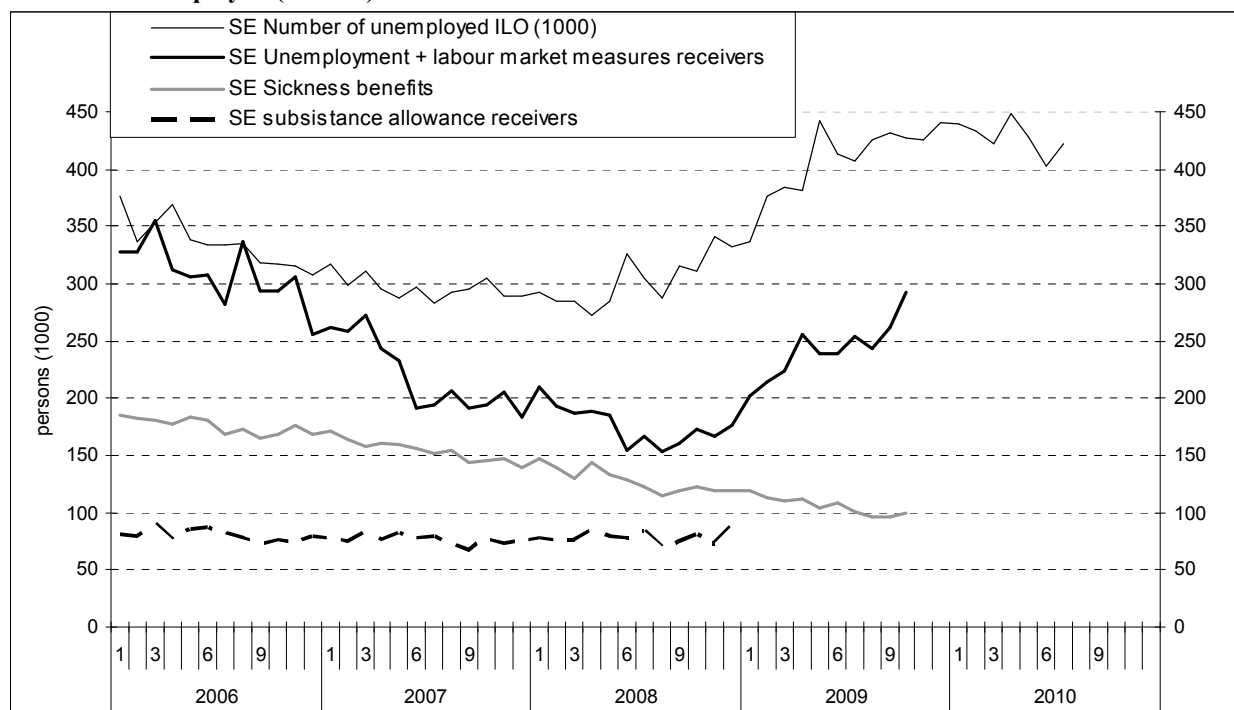
Brief description of the schemes for which data are provided in Figure 1:

Unemployment	
Definition	Unemployment according to ILO definition - Total
Unit	Thousands of persons - seasonally adjusted
Source	Source: Eurostat
link	http://nui.epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=lmhu_m&lang=en
Unemployment benefit	
Definition	Earnings-related unemployment allowance; Basic unemployment allowance; Labour market support
Unit	thousands of recipients
Source	Source: Social Insurance Institution
comment	Earnings-related unemployment allowance is paid for those who fulfill the eligibility criterias: Employment conditions and are member of an unemployment fund. This is voluntary, you have to pay an annual fee. In the case of unemployment the allowance is related to your salary. Most of the funds are managed by trade unions. Basic unemployment allowance is like earnings-related allowance, but the difference is that you are not a member of an unemployment fund. The allowance is flat rate and low. Labour market support is flat rate benefits (and low) for those who do not qualify for the eligibility rules of the benefits mentioned above. In practice they are young people and those who have received the allowances mentioned above for the maximum period. Also persons aged 18-24 are entitled to this benefit during labour-market-measures.
Social assistance benefit	
Definition	Recipients of social assistance (18 years and over)
Unit	thousands of recipients
Source	Source: the national Institute for Welfare and Health
comment	(Data estimated from 01.01.2009)
Disability benefit	
Definition	Recipients of disability pension (earnings-related schemes) in the end of the month
Unit	thousands of recipients
Source	Finnish Centre for Pensions

Source: information provided by national delegate.

SWEDEN

Figure 17 - Number of benefit recipients (unemployment benefits, social assistance, disability) and number of unemployed (in 1000)



Sources: data on number of unemployed from Eurostat (ILO definition; thousands of persons, seasonally adjusted); data on number of benefit recipients collected through the ISG questionnaire (national data).

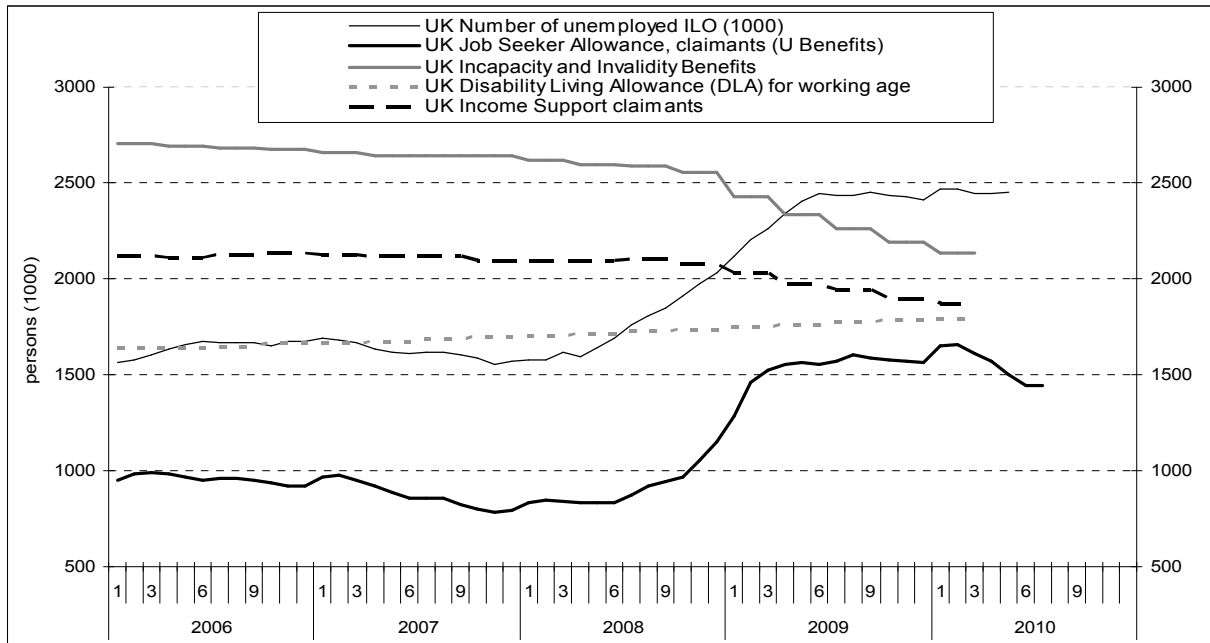
Brief description of the schemes for which data are provided in Figure 1:

Unemployment	
Definition	Unemployment according to ILO definition - Total
Unit	Thousands of persons - seasonally adjusted
Source	Source: eurostat
link	http://nui.epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=lmhu_m&lang=en
Unemployment benefit	
Definition	Unemployment benefit; labour market measures
Unit	thousands of recipients
Source	Source: Statistics Sweden
link	
Social assistance benefit	
Definition	Subsistence allowance
Unit	measured in full year equivalents (i.e. benefit for 365 days at a 100% withdraw rate).
Source	Source: Statistics Sweden
link	
Disability benefit	
Definition	Sickness benefit
Unit	thousands of recipients
Source	Source: Statistics Sweden
link	
Comments:	

Source: information provided by national delegate.

UNITED KINGDOM

Figure 18 - Number of benefit recipients (unemployment benefits, social assistance, disability) and number of unemployed (in 1000)



Sources: data on number of unemployed from Eurostat (ILO definition; thousands of persons, seasonally adjusted); data on number of benefit recipients collected through the ISG questionnaire (national data).

Brief description of the schemes for which data are provided in Figure 1:

Unemployment	
Definition	Unemployment according to ILO definition - Total
Unit	Thousands of persons - seasonally adjusted
Source	Source: eurostat
link	http://nui.epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=lmhu_m&lang=en
comment	
Unemployment benefit	
Definition	Job Seekers Allowance (claimants)
Unit	thousands of claimants
Source	Source: ONS
link	
comment	Jobseeker's Allowance is the main benefit for people of working age who are out of work or work less than 16 hours a week on average.
Social assistance benefit	
Definition	Income Support
Unit	thousands of claimants
Source	Source: DWP
link	
comment	Income Support is intended to help people on low incomes who do not have to be available for employment. It can normally be claimed by people who are: aged 16 or over; not working or working under 16 hours per week (and/or with a partner working under 24 hours); not required to be available for full-time employment; and in receipt of insufficient income to meet prescribed needs. The main types of people who receive it are lone parents, the long and short-term sick, people with disabilities and other special groups. The data here exclude claimants on Minimum Income Guarantee (MIG) part of income support for persons over 60 (MIG was replaced with Pension Credit in Oct 2003).

Disability benefit	
Serie 1	Incapacity and Invalidity Benefits
serie 2	Disability Living Allowance
Unit	thousands of recipients
Source	Source: DWP
link	
comment	<p>Disability Living Allowance (DLA) provides a non-contributory, non means-tested and tax-free contribution towards the disability-related extra costs of severely disabled people who claim help with those costs before the age of 65. It replaced and extended Attendance Allowance and Mobility Allowance for people in this age group from April 1992.</p> <p>Income related incapacity and invalidity related benefits (these include historic benefits: Sickness Benefit, Invalidity Benefit, Credits Only, and current benefits including Incapacity Benefit, Employment Support Allowance, and Severe Disability Allowance (working age)) Note: Incapacity Benefit replaced Sickness Benefit and Invalidity Benefit from 13 April 1995. It is paid to people who are assessed as being incapable of work and who meet certain contribution conditions.</p>
Comments:	<p>UK unemployment has shown a small decrease since the beginning of 2010, but the fall in JSA claimants has been more marked, from 1,657,000 to 1,440,000. Income Support claimant counts have continued to decrease since August 2009, by approximately 70,000 to 1,875,250. Part of this decline is due to higher requirements for lone parents (age of child requirement has moved from 'below 14' to 'below 12'). Another reason for the downward trend is that what used to be the income support component for those also on Incapacity Benefit has been stripped out from Income Support benefit.</p> <p>Numbers of claimants of income related incapacity benefits, which include the new Employment Support Allowance, have decreased very slightly since August 2009, by approximately 17,000 to 2,616,000. This might suggest that the new, tighter eligibility rules may be starting to have an effect on the claimant count. In the meantime, however, the claimant count for DLA continues its gently upward trend, rising by 20,000 since August 2009.</p> <p>The long term trend of Disability Living allowance claimant numbers, for both working age and total client group, appear to have been little affected by recession effects. The explanation for the consistently increasing trend is that the benefit design is such that are limited avenues to affect off-flows (people tend to stay on DLA), including for those that have reached 65 even though over 65 year-olds cannot newly apply. The fact that older people cannot apply means that the benefit has not yet reached a steady state amongst the older cohorts and can be expected to increase until that time. The benefit is also well known, which affects uptake.</p>

Source: information provided by national delegate.