

# *Eurostat Says EU Jobless Rate Remained High in December*

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Brussels, February 3 (RHC)-- Official figures show that the jobless rate in the Eurozone remained near record high of 12 percent in December. The jobless rate, which was released by the European Union's Statistics Office -- Eurostat -- has remained unchanged since October.

The agency also said that 26.2 million people in the EU, of which 19.01 million were in the 18-nation Eurozone, were unemployed in December. According to Eurostat estimates, unemployment increased by 130,000 in the Euro area in comparison with December 2012.

Greece (27.8 percent in October 2013) and Spain (25.8 percent) have the highest unemployment rates in which over one in four of their people are out of work. The lowest jobless rates are in Austria (4.9 percent) and Germany (5.1 percent).

EU youth unemployment is even worse. In Greece, for example, 54.8 percent of those between the ages of 15 and 24 had no job in September. The Eurozone nations continue to encounter huge challenges, among them will be to get unemployment down.

The long-drawn-out Eurozone debt crisis, which began in Greece in late 2009 and reached Italy, Spain, and France in 2011, is viewed as a threat not only to Europe but also to many of the world's other developed

economies.

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