

[Print this Page](#)[Close Window](#)**French unemployment rate at lowest in 25 years**

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Paris - Unemployment on the French mainland dropped to 7.5 per cent in the fourth quarter of 2007, the lowest point since 1983, the government's statistical office INSEE reported on Thursday. That figure represents a drop of 0.3 per cent over the third quarter of last year, INSEE said. At the end of 2007, some 2.1 million adults of working age were unemployed in France, 0.9 per cent fewer than at the same time one year earlier.

Counting France's overseas departments, the jobless rate stood at 7.8 per cent at the end of last year, compared to 8.8 per cent at the end of 2006.

The report is good news for President Nicolas Sarkozy and his government, coming three days before the first round of municipal elections which the opposition Socialists seem poised to win.

Polls show that a majority of the French people do not have confidence in Sarkozy to effectively fight unemployment.

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