

182/2019 – 29 November 2019

October 2019

## Euro area unemployment at 7.5%

EU28 at 6.3%

The **euro area** (EA19) seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate was 7.5% in October 2019, down from 7.6% in September 2019 and from 8.0% in October 2018. This is the lowest rate recorded in the **euro area** since July 2008. The **EU28** unemployment rate was 6.3% in October 2019, stable compared with September 2019 and down from 6.7% in October 2018. This remains the lowest rate recorded in the **EU28** since the start of the EU monthly unemployment series in January 2000. These figures are published by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**.

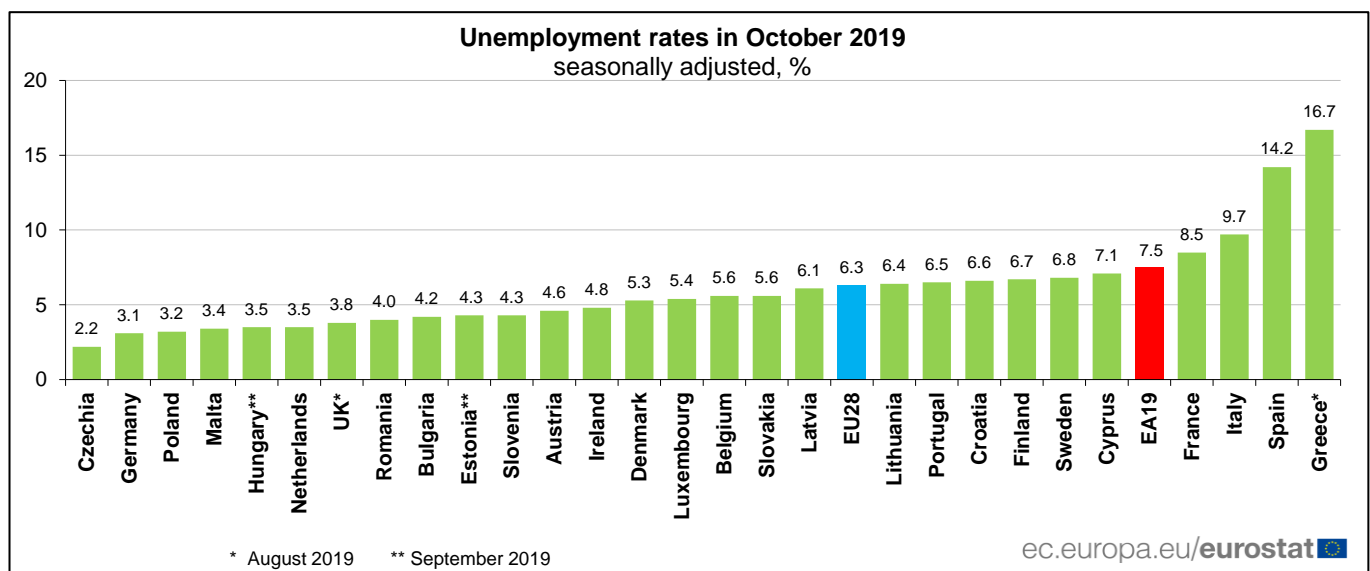
Eurostat estimates that 15.583 million men and women in the **EU28**, of whom 12.334 million in the **euro area**, were unemployed in October 2019. Compared with September 2019, the number of persons unemployed decreased by 29 000 in the **EU28** and by 31 000 in the **euro area**. Compared with October 2018, unemployment fell by 939 000 in the **EU28** and by 761 000 in the **euro area**.

### Member States

Among the Member States, the lowest unemployment rates in October 2019 were recorded in **Czechia** (2.2%), **Germany** (3.1%) and **Poland** (3.2%). The highest unemployment rates were observed in **Greece** (16.7% in August 2019) and **Spain** (14.2%).

Compared with a year ago, the unemployment rate fell in 24 Member States, while it increased in **Czechia** (from 2.1% to 2.2%), **Lithuania** (from 6.1% to 6.4%), **Denmark** (from 4.9% to 5.3%) and **Sweden** (from 6.4% to 6.8%). The largest decreases were registered in **Greece** (from 18.9% to 16.7% between August 2018 and August 2019) and **Estonia** (from 5.7% to 4.3% between September 2018 and September 2019).

In October 2019, the unemployment rate in the **United States** was 3.6%, up from 3.5% in September 2019 and down from 3.8% in October 2018.



## Youth unemployment

In October 2019, 3.240 million young persons (under 25) were unemployed in the **EU28**, of whom 2.261 million were in the **euro area**. Compared with October 2018, youth unemployment decreased by 160 000 in the **EU28** and by 147 000 in the **euro area**. In October 2019, the youth unemployment rate was 14.4% in the **EU28** and 15.6% in the **euro area**, compared with 15.1% and 16.7% respectively in October 2018. In October 2019, the lowest rates were observed in **Czechia** (5.5%), **Germany** (5.8%) and the **Netherlands** (7.3%), while the highest were recorded in **Greece** (33.1% in the second quarter of 2019), **Spain** (32.8%) and **Italy** (27.8%).

### Geographical information

The **euro area (EA19)** includes Belgium, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Italy, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Austria, Portugal, Slovenia, Slovakia and Finland.

The **European Union (EU28)** includes Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechia, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Croatia, Italy, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Hungary, Malta, the Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Finland, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

### Methods and definitions

Eurostat produces harmonised unemployment rates for individual EU Member States, the euro area and the EU. These unemployment rates are based on the definition recommended by the International Labour Organisation (ILO). The measurement is based on a harmonised source, the European Union Labour Force Survey (LFS).

Based on the ILO definition, Eurostat defines **unemployed persons** as persons aged 15 to 74 who:

- are without work;
- are available to start work within the next two weeks;
- and have actively sought employment at some time during the previous four weeks.

The **unemployment rate** is the number of people unemployed as a percentage of the labour force.

The **labour force** is the total number of people employed plus unemployed. In this news release unemployment rates are based on employment and unemployment data covering persons aged 15 to 74.

The **youth unemployment rate** is the number of people aged 15 to 24 unemployed as a percentage of the labour force of the same age. Therefore, the youth unemployment rate should not be interpreted as the share of jobless people in the overall youth population.

When data for the most recent month are not available for a Member State, EU and EA aggregates are calculated using the latest data available for that Member State.

### **Country notes**

Germany, the Netherlands, Austria, Finland, Sweden and Iceland: the trend component is used instead of the more volatile seasonally adjusted data.

Denmark, Estonia, Hungary, Portugal, the United Kingdom and Norway: 3-month moving averages of LFS data are used instead of pure monthly indicators.

### Revisions and timetable

The data in this News Release can be subject to revisions, caused by updates to the seasonally adjusted series whenever new monthly data are added; the inclusion of the most recent LFS data in the calculation process; update of seasonal adjustment models with complete annual data.

Compared with the rates published in News Release [169/2019](#) of 31 October 2019, the September 2019 unemployment rate has been revised for EA19 from 7.5% to 7.6%, while for the EU28 it remained unchanged. Among Member States, the rate has been revised by more than 0.1 percentage points (pp) upwards for Cyprus (by 0.4 pp), as well as France and Romania (both by 0.2 pp). The unemployment rate has been revised by more than 0.1 percentage points downwards for Sweden (by 0.5 pp), Ireland (by 0.4 pp) and Latvia (by 0.2 pp).

Due to quality issues concerning the Labour Force Survey, Statistics Sweden has revised the series for the period from July 2018 to September 2019. For more information, please visit the [website](#) of Statistics Sweden.

### For more information

Eurostat [website section](#) on employment and unemployment

Eurostat [database section](#) on unemployment, including non-seasonally adjusted and trend data

Eurostat [Statistics Explained article](#) on unemployment

Eurostat [Statistics Explained article](#) on youth unemployment

Eurostat [metadata](#) on adjusted unemployment series


Eurostat €-indicators [release calendar](#)

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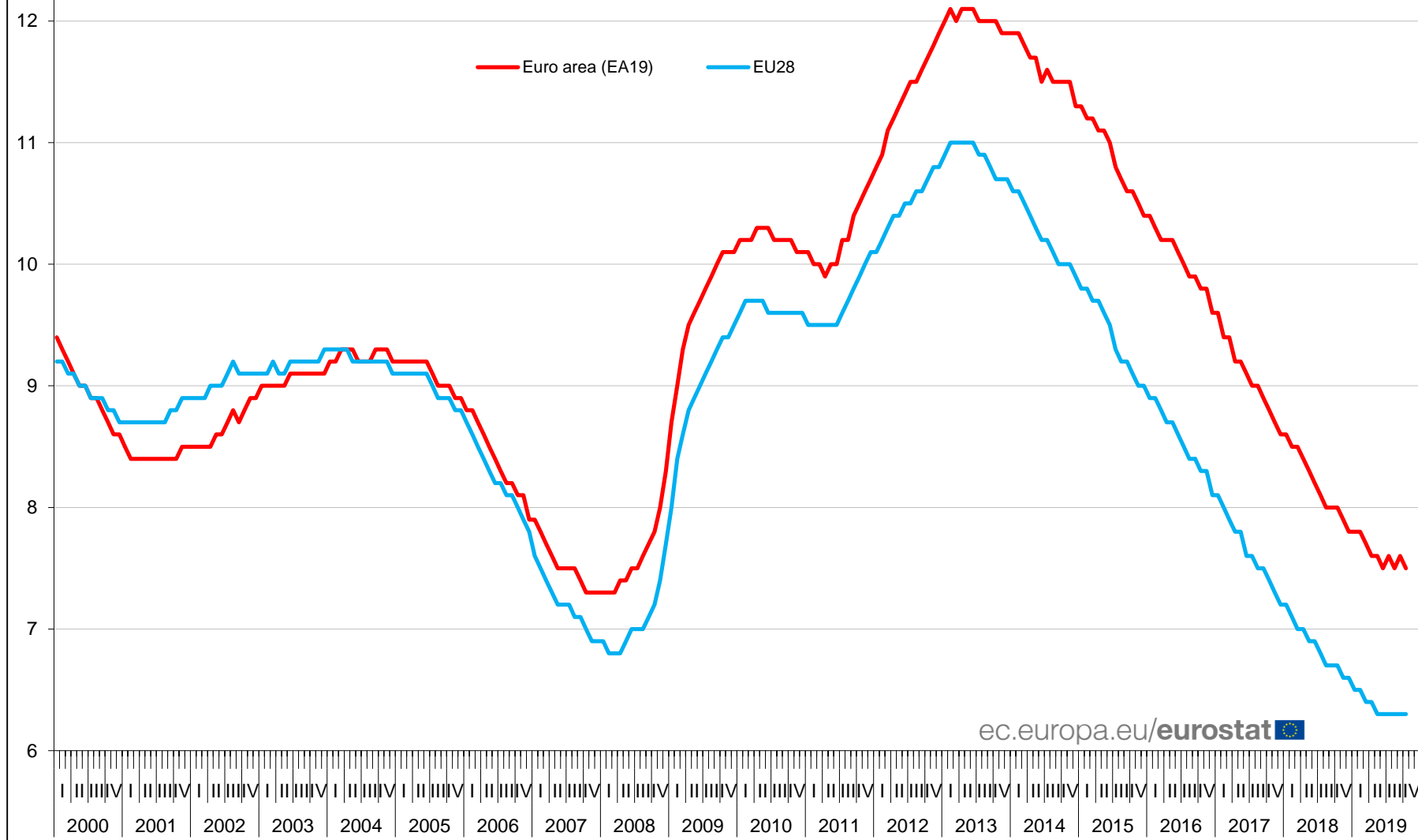
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### Unemployment rates seasonally adjusted series, %



[ec.europa.eu/eurostat](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat) 

### Seasonally adjusted unemployment, totals

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	Oct 18	Jul 19	Aug 19	Sep 19	Oct 19	Oct 18	Jul 19	Aug 19	Sep 19	Oct 19
<b>EA19</b>	8.0	7.6	7.5	7.6	<b>7.5</b>	13 095	12 404	12 330	12 365	<b>12 334</b>
<b>EU28</b>	6.7	6.3	6.3	6.3	<b>6.3</b>	16 522	15 656	15 570	15 612	<b>15 583</b>
<b>Belgium</b>	5.8	5.5	5.6	5.6	<b>5.6</b>	292	283	284	284	<b>282</b>
<b>Bulgaria</b>	4.9	4.1	4.1	4.1	<b>4.2</b>	163	137	137	138	<b>142</b>
<b>Czechia</b>	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	<b>2.2</b>	112	112	111	113	<b>117</b>
<b>Denmark</b>	4.9	4.8	5.0	5.3	<b>5.3</b>	146	145	151	161	<b>161</b>
<b>Germany</b>	3.3	3.1	3.1	3.1	<b>3.1</b>	1 434	1 333	1 330	1 332	<b>1 336</b>
<b>Estonia</b>	5.7**	4.2	3.9	4.3	:	40**	29	28	30	:
<b>Ireland</b>	5.7	5.1	4.9	4.9	<b>4.8</b>	137	123	119	118	<b>117</b>
<b>Greece</b>	18.9*	16.9	16.7	:	:	898*	798	788	:	:
<b>Spain</b>	14.6	14.3	14.3	14.2	<b>14.2</b>	3 342	3 284	3 299	3 269	<b>3 283</b>
<b>France</b>	9.0	8.6	8.6	8.6	<b>8.5</b>	2 672	2 534	2 543	2 526	<b>2 518</b>
<b>Croatia</b>	7.7	6.9	6.9	6.7	<b>6.6</b>	138	124	123	120	<b>118</b>
<b>Italy</b>	10.7	9.9	9.6	9.9	<b>9.7</b>	2 783	2 574	2 487	2 558	<b>2 514</b>
<b>Cyprus</b>	7.5	7.1	7.0	7.0	<b>7.1</b>	32	32	31	31	<b>31</b>
<b>Latvia</b>	7.0	6.3	6.2	6.1	<b>6.1</b>	68	61	60	59	<b>60</b>
<b>Lithuania</b>	6.1	6.5	6.7	6.6	<b>6.4</b>	90	95	97	96	<b>94</b>
<b>Luxembourg</b>	5.5	5.6	5.6	5.4	<b>5.4</b>	16	17	17	17	<b>17</b>
<b>Hungary</b>	3.7**	3.4	3.4	3.5	:	173**	157	160	163	:
<b>Malta</b>	3.6	3.3	3.3	3.4	<b>3.4</b>	9	9	9	9	<b>9</b>
<b>Netherlands</b>	3.7	3.4	3.5	3.5	<b>3.5</b>	337	313	321	323	<b>323</b>
<b>Austria</b>	4.8	4.5	4.5	4.5	<b>4.6</b>	217	204	204	205	<b>211</b>
<b>Poland</b>	3.9	3.2	3.2	3.2	<b>3.2</b>	656	538	539	537	<b>542</b>
<b>Portugal</b>	6.6	6.5	6.4	6.5	<b>6.5</b>	342	334	331	341	<b>340</b>
<b>Romania</b>	4.1	4.0	3.9	4.1	<b>4.0</b>	373	364	348	370	<b>365</b>
<b>Slovenia</b>	4.6	4.2	4.2	4.3	<b>4.3</b>	47	43	43	44	<b>44</b>
<b>Slovakia</b>	6.2	5.6	5.6	5.6	<b>5.6</b>	169	154	152	152	<b>152</b>
<b>Finland</b>	7.0	6.7	6.7	6.7	<b>6.7</b>	191	185	185	185	<b>184</b>
<b>Sweden</b>	6.4	6.8	6.8	6.8	<b>6.8</b>	350	375	376	376	<b>376</b>
<b>United Kingdom</b>	4*	3.8	3.8	:	:	1 356*	1 285	1 277	:	:
<b>Iceland</b>	2.7	3.4	3.5	3.5	<b>3.5</b>	6	7	7	7	<b>7</b>
<b>Norway</b>	4**	3.8	3.7	3.9	:	111**	108	106	110	:
<b>United States</b>	3.8	3.7	3.7	3.5	<b>3.6</b>	6 088	6 070	6 018	5 755	<b>5 830</b>

The source datasets are available [here](#) (rates) and [here](#) (in 1000 persons).

: Data not available

\* August 2018

\*\* September 2018

### Seasonally adjusted youth (under 25s) unemployment

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	Oct 18	Jul 19	Aug 19	Sep 19	Oct 19	Oct 18	Jul 19	Aug 19	Sep 19	Oct 19
<b>EA19</b>	16.7	15.8	15.6	15.7	<b>15.6</b>	2 408	2 270	2 244	2 267	<b>2 261</b>
<b>EU28</b>	15.1	14.5	14.4	14.5	<b>14.4</b>	3 400	3 246	3 219	3 249	<b>3 240</b>
<b>Belgium</b>	13.1	15.5	15.5	15.5	:	51	59	59	59	:
<b>Bulgaria</b>	11.3	9.0	8.7	8.8	<b>9.1</b>	16	13	12	12	<b>13</b>
<b>Czechia</b>	5.1	5.4	4.8	4.9	<b>5.5</b>	15	15	13	14	<b>16</b>
<b>Denmark</b>	9.8	9.6	9.7	10.3	<b>10.5</b>	43	42	43	46	<b>47</b>
<b>Germany</b>	5.9	5.8	5.8	5.8	<b>5.8</b>	253	253	253	253	<b>253</b>
<b>Estonia</b>	16.9	13.6	13.6	10.2	:	10	8	8	6	:
<b>Ireland</b>	13.7	12.9	12.4	12.2	<b>12.3</b>	39	37	36	35	<b>36</b>
<b>Greece</b>	39.6	33.1*	:	:	:	94	78*	:	:	:
<b>Spain</b>	33.8	32.7	33.0	32.8	<b>32.8</b>	516	507	516	516	<b>522</b>
<b>France</b>	20.3	19.3	19.2	19.1	<b>19.0</b>	590	544	540	538	<b>541</b>
<b>Croatia</b>	20.6	18.4	18.4	18.4	:	31	28	28	28	:
<b>Italy</b>	32.7	28.7	27.7	28.6	<b>27.8</b>	508	450	418	439	<b>423</b>
<b>Cyprus</b>	19.1	16.9	16.9	16.9	:	7	6	6	6	:
<b>Latvia</b>	11.8	11.7	10.2	9.8	<b>10.2</b>	7	7	6	6	<b>7</b>
<b>Lithuania</b>	10.3	11.0	11.8	12.3	<b>11.0</b>	11	12	13	13	<b>13</b>
<b>Luxembourg</b>	13.8	13.9	13.4	12.5	<b>12.9</b>	3	4	4	3	<b>3</b>
<b>Hungary</b>	10.0	10.0	10.7	12.4	:	33	32	35	40	:
<b>Malta</b>	9.6	8.1	8.2	9.0	<b>9.7</b>	3	2	2	3	<b>3</b>
<b>Netherlands</b>	7.2	6.7	6.9	7.2	<b>7.3</b>	105	100	103	106	<b>109</b>
<b>Austria</b>	9.3	9.7	9.6	8.7	<b>8.4</b>	49	49	49	45	<b>43</b>
<b>Poland</b>	12.4	10.6	10.5	10.2	<b>10.0</b>	156	134	134	130	<b>126</b>
<b>Portugal</b>	20.5	19.3	18.2	18.9	<b>18.3</b>	77	72	68	72	<b>70</b>
<b>Romania</b>	15.4	16.2*	:	:	:	96	99*	:	:	:
<b>Slovenia</b>	6.6	7.8	7.8	7.8	:	5	5	5	5	:
<b>Slovakia</b>	13.3	15.4	15.2	15.7	<b>16.1</b>	25	26	26	27	<b>27</b>
<b>Finland</b>	17.4	17.3	17.3	17.2	<b>17.1</b>	55	55	55	55	<b>55</b>
<b>Sweden</b>	19.3	19.8	19.6	19.7	<b>20.0</b>	118	125	125	125	<b>125</b>
<b>United Kingdom</b>	11.3	11.6	11.7	:	:	478	477	481	:	:
<b>Iceland</b>	6.9	7.6	9.0	9.4	<b>9.6</b>	2	2	3	3	<b>3</b>
<b>Norway</b>	10.2	10.1	9.7	10.2	:	38	38	37	38	:

The source datasets are available [here](#) (rates) and [here](#) (in 1000 persons).

: Data not available

\* Q2\_2019 data

Belgium, Croatia, Greece, Cyprus, Romania and Slovenia: quarterly data

### Seasonally adjusted unemployment rates (%), by gender

	Males					Females				
	Oct 18	Jul 19	Aug 19	Sep 19	Oct 19	Oct 18	Jul 19	Aug 19	Sep 19	Oct 19
<b>EA19</b>	7.7	7.2	7.2	7.2	<b>7.2</b>	8.4	8.0	7.9	7.9	<b>7.9</b>
<b>EU28</b>	6.5	6.1	6.1	6.1	<b>6.1</b>	6.9	6.6	6.5	6.5	<b>6.6</b>
<b>Belgium</b>	6.2	5.8	5.9	5.9	<b>5.8</b>	5.3	5.2	5.2	5.2	<b>5.2</b>
<b>Bulgaria</b>	5.4	4.3	4.3	4.3	<b>4.4</b>	4.4	3.8	3.8	3.9	<b>4.0</b>
<b>Czechia</b>	1.6	1.8	1.7	1.7	<b>1.8</b>	2.7	2.5	2.5	2.5	<b>2.7</b>
<b>Denmark</b>	4.9	4.6	4.8	5.0	<b>5.1</b>	4.9	5.0	5.1	5.6	<b>5.5</b>
<b>Germany</b>	3.7	3.5	3.5	3.5	<b>3.5</b>	2.9	2.6	2.6	2.6	<b>2.6</b>
<b>Estonia</b>	4.9	3.4	3.3	3.6	:	5.7	5.0	4.6	4.9	:
<b>Ireland</b>	5.6	5.3	5.2	5.3	<b>5.2</b>	5.9	4.8	4.6	4.4	<b>4.4</b>
<b>Greece</b>	14.7	13.7	13.6	:	:	23.5	21.0	20.7	:	:
<b>Spain</b>	13.1	12.6	12.6	12.3	<b>12.3</b>	16.4	16.2	16.4	16.3	<b>16.4</b>
<b>France</b>	8.9	8.7	8.7	8.7	<b>8.6</b>	9.0	8.5	8.5	8.4	<b>8.4</b>
<b>Croatia</b>	6.8	6.3	6.2	6.1	<b>5.9</b>	8.6	7.8	7.6	7.5	<b>7.4</b>
<b>Italy</b>	9.9	9.0	8.8	9.0	<b>8.7</b>	11.8	11.1	10.7	11.0	<b>11.1</b>
<b>Cyprus</b>	7.3	6.1	5.8	5.7	<b>5.8</b>	7.6	8.2	8.3	8.4	<b>8.4</b>
<b>Latvia</b>	7.8	7.2	6.9	6.7	<b>6.8</b>	6.1	5.4	5.5	5.5	<b>5.4</b>
<b>Lithuania</b>	6.7	7.6	7.9	7.6	<b>7.3</b>	5.5	5.4	5.6	5.7	<b>5.4</b>
<b>Luxembourg</b>	5.4	5.5	5.4	5.2	<b>5.2</b>	5.5	5.8	5.8	5.6	<b>5.6</b>
<b>Hungary</b>	3.5	3.3	3.4	3.4	:	3.9	3.5	3.5	3.7	:
<b>Malta</b>	3.7	3.3	3.2	3.3	<b>3.3</b>	3.4	3.3	3.4	3.5	<b>3.5</b>
<b>Netherlands</b>	3.6	3.4	3.5	3.5	<b>3.6</b>	3.7	3.4	3.5	3.4	<b>3.3</b>
<b>Austria</b>	5.1	4.5	4.7	4.8	<b>4.8</b>	4.4	4.4	4.3	4.2	<b>4.5</b>
<b>Poland</b>	3.9	3.0	3.0	2.9	<b>2.8</b>	3.8	3.3	3.4	3.5	<b>3.7</b>
<b>Portugal</b>	6.1	5.7	5.7	6.0	<b>5.9</b>	7.1	7.2	7.1	7.1	<b>7.2</b>
<b>Romania</b>	4.7	4.4	4.2	4.5	<b>4.4</b>	3.4	3.5	3.4	3.5	<b>3.4</b>
<b>Slovenia</b>	4.1	3.9	4.0	4.0	<b>4.0</b>	5.1	4.5	4.5	4.5	<b>4.6</b>
<b>Slovakia</b>	5.7	5.6	5.6	5.6	<b>5.7</b>	6.7	5.6	5.5	5.5	<b>5.5</b>
<b>Finland</b>	7.1	7.3	7.3	7.3	<b>7.3</b>	6.8	6.2	6.1	6.1	<b>6.1</b>
<b>Sweden</b>	6.5	6.7	6.7	6.7	<b>6.7</b>	6.4	7.0	7.0	6.9	<b>6.9</b>
<b>United Kingdom</b>	4.0	4.0	4.0	:	:	3.9	3.5	3.5	:	:
<b>Iceland</b>	2.9	3.6	3.7	3.6	<b>3.7</b>	2.5	3.1	3.2	3.3	<b>3.3</b>
<b>Norway</b>	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.3	:	3.8	3.4	3.3	3.4	:

The source dataset is available [here](#).

: Data not available