

76/2015 - 30 April 2015

March 2015

Euro area unemployment rate at 11.3%

EU28 at 9.8%

The **euro area**¹ (EA19) seasonally-adjusted² unemployment rate³ was 11.3% in March 2015, stable compared with February 2015⁴, but down from 11.7% in March 2014. The **EU28**¹ unemployment rate was 9.8% in March 2015, stable compared with February 2015 and down from 10.4% in March 2014. These figures are published by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**.

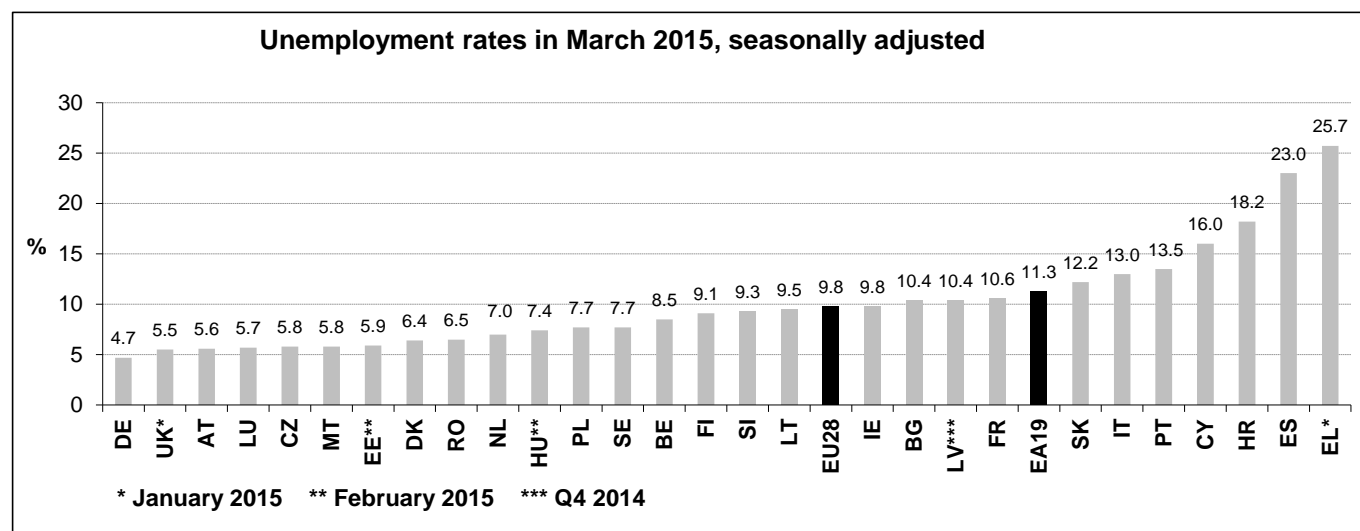
Eurostat estimates that 23.748 million men and women in the **EU28**, of whom 18.105 million in the **euro area**, were unemployed in March 2015. Compared with February 2015, the number of persons unemployed decreased by 75 000 in the **EU28** and by 36 000 in the **euro area**. Compared with March 2014, unemployment fell by 1.523 million in the **EU28** and by 679 000 in the **euro area**.

Member States

Among the Member States, the lowest unemployment rate in March 2015 was recorded in **Germany** (4.7%), and the highest in **Greece** (25.7% in January 2015) and **Spain** (23.0%).

Compared with a year ago, the unemployment rate in March 2015 fell in twenty-two Member States, increased in five and remained stable in Austria. The largest decreases were registered in **Ireland** (12.0% to 9.8%), **Spain** (25.1% to 23.0%) and **Poland** (9.6% to 7.7%). The increases were registered in **Croatia** (17.3% to 18.2%), **Finland** (8.4% to 9.1%), **Italy** (12.4% to 13.0%), **France** (10.1% to 10.6%) and **Belgium** (8.4% to 8.5%).

In March 2015, the unemployment rate in the **United States** was 5.5%, the same as in February 2015 and down from 6.6% in March 2014.



Youth unemployment

In March 2015, 4.804 million young persons (under 25) were unemployed in the **EU28**, of whom 3.215 million were in the **euro area**. Compared with March 2014, youth unemployment decreased by 520 000 in the **EU28** and by 276 000 in the **euro area**. In March 2015, the youth unemployment rate⁵ was 20.9% in the **EU28** and 22.7% in the **euro area**, compared with 22.8% and 24.2% respectively in March 2014. In March 2015, the lowest rates were observed in **Germany** (7.2%), **Austria** (10.5%), **Denmark** and the **Netherlands** (both 10.8%), and the highest in **Greece** (50.1% in January 2015), **Spain** (50.1%), **Croatia** (45.5% in the first quarter 2015) and **Italy** (43.1%).

1. 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 EU28 includes Belgium (BE), Bulgaria (BG), the Czech Republic (CZ), Denmark (DK), Germany (DE), Estonia (EE), Ireland (IE), Greece (EL), Spain (ES), France (FR), Croatia (HR), Italy (IT), Cyprus (CY), Latvia (LV), Lithuania (LT), Luxembourg (LU), Hungary (HU), Malta (MT), the Netherlands (NL), Austria (AT), Poland (PL), Portugal (PT), Romania (RO), Slovenia (SI), Slovakia (SK), Finland (FI), Sweden (SE) and the United Kingdom (UK). The tables also include Iceland, Norway and the United States.
2. Non-seasonally adjusted and trend data can be found in the statistical database on the Eurostat website. For further details please refer to the *Unemployment statistics* article in Statistics Explained: http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Unemployment_statistics
3. 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.
4. 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; inclusion of new weights in the LFS data due to the 2011 Census. Compared with the rates published in News Release 57/2015 of 31 March 2015, the February 2015 unemployment rates remain unchanged at 11.3% for the EA19 and at 9.8% for the EU28. Among Member States, rates have been revised by more than 0.1 percentage points (pp) for Cyprus (downwards by 0.2 pp), the Czech Republic (upwards by 0.3 pp) and Portugal (downwards by 0.5 pp).
5. 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. For further details please refer to the *Youth unemployment* article in Statistics Explained: http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Youth_unemployment
6. Latvia: quarterly data for all series.
Croatia, Cyprus, Romania and Slovenia: quarterly data for youth unemployment.
7. For Germany, the Netherlands, Austria, Finland, Sweden and Iceland the trend component is used instead of the more volatile seasonally adjusted data. For Sweden and Iceland, seasonally adjusted data are available in the online database on the Eurostat website: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database>
8. For Denmark, Estonia, Hungary, Portugal, the United Kingdom and Norway 3-month moving averages of LFS data are used instead of pure monthly indicators.

Issued by: **Eurostat Press Office**

Vincent BOURGAIS
Tel: +352-4301-33 444

eurostat-pressoffice@ec.europa.eu

 ec.europa.eu/eurostat/


 [@EU_Eurostat](https://twitter.com/EU_Eurostat)

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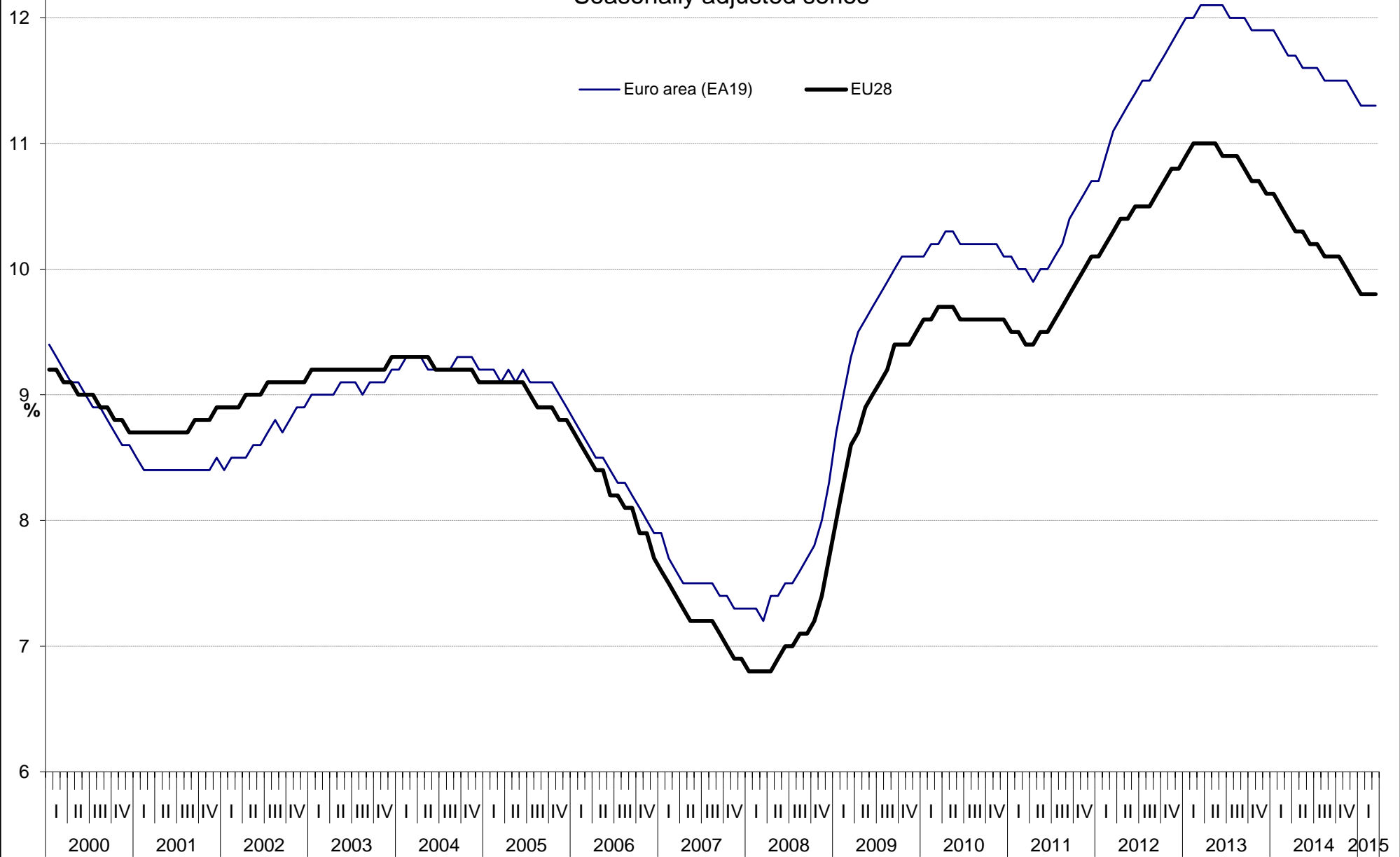
Boyan GENEV
Tel: +352-4301-36 409

Hubertus VREESWIJK
Tel: +352-4301-34 323

estat-monthly-unemployment@ec.europa.eu

 **Media requests:** Eurostat media support / Tel: +352-4301-33 408 / eurostat-mediasupport@ec.europa.eu

Euro area and EU28 unemployment rates Seasonally adjusted series



Seasonally adjusted unemployment, totals

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	Mar 14	Dec 14	Jan 15	Feb 15	Mar 15	Mar 14	Dec 14	Jan 15	Feb 15	Mar 15
EA19	11.7	11.4	11.3	11.3	11.3	18 784	18 330	18 219	18 141	18 105
EU28	10.4	9.9	9.8	9.8	9.8	25 271	24 065	23 940	23 823	23 748
Belgium	8.4	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	416	426	425	426	429
Bulgaria	12.1	10.3	10.3	10.2	10.4	407	344	345	345	350
Czech Republic	6.5	5.8	5.9	5.8	5.8	346	309	311	307	308
Denmark⁸	6.5	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.4	188	181	182	182	187
Germany⁷	5.0	4.8	4.8	4.7	4.7	2 108	2 029	2 005	1 985	1 970
Estonia⁸	7.7**	6.3	6.2	5.9	:	52**	42	42	40	:
Ireland	12.0	10.1	10.0	9.9	9.8	257	217	214	211	209
Greece	27.2*	25.9	25.7	:	:	1 308*	1 234	1 221	:	:
Spain	25.1	23.6	23.3	23.1	23.0	5 753	5 425	5 366	5 303	5 241
France	10.1	10.5	10.6	10.6	10.6	2 972	3 109	3 113	3 116	3 115
Croatia	17.3	18.3	18.5	18.4	18.2	323	345	350	351	346
Italy	12.4	12.7	12.6	12.7	13.0	3 164	3 241	3 224	3 250	3 302
Cyprus	16.2	16.3	16.1	16.1	16.0	70	72	70	71	70
Latvia⁶	11.5***	10.4	:	:	:	117***	102	:	:	:
Lithuania	11.2	10.0	9.9	10.0	9.5	165	147	145	146	139
Luxembourg	6.0	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.7	15	15	15	15	15
Hungary⁸	7.9**	7.3	7.5	7.4	:	349**	328	335	334	:
Malta	5.9	6.1	6.0	5.9	5.8	11	12	12	11	11
Netherlands⁷	7.8	7.2	7.2	7.1	7.0	692	643	645	633	626
Austria⁷	5.6	5.6	5.4	5.4	5.6	243	245	237	234	245
Poland	9.6	8.2	8.0	7.8	7.7	1 680	1 422	1 394	1 367	1 343
Portugal⁸	14.7	13.6	13.8	13.6	13.5	762	697	705	699	693
Romania	7.0	6.6	6.5	6.4	6.5	644	609	607	597	594
Slovenia	10.0	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.3	102	95	94	94	95
Slovakia	13.6	12.4	12.4	12.3	12.2	371	340	340	337	335
Finland⁷	8.4	8.9	9.0	9.1	9.1	226	240	241	244	246
Sweden⁷	8.0	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.7	414	406	406	405	404
United Kingdom⁸	6.9*	5.5	5.5	:	:	2 228*	1 800	1 787	:	:
Iceland⁷	5.2	4.4	4.4	4.3	4.2	10	8	8	8	8
Norway⁸	3.4**	3.8	3.9	:	:	94**	105	109	:	:
United States	6.6	5.6	5.7	5.5	5.5	10 359	8 703	8 887	8 680	8 551

: Data not available

* January 2014

** February 2014

*** Q4 2013

Seasonally adjusted youth (under 25s) unemployment

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	Mar 14	Dec 14	Jan 15	Feb 15	Mar 15	Mar 14	Dec 14	Jan 15	Feb 15	Mar 15
EA19	24.2	23.0	22.8	22.7	22.7	3 491	3 278	3 246	3 225	3 215
EU28	22.8	21.2	21.0	20.9	20.9	5 324	4 874	4 837	4 815	4 804
Belgium	23.4	22.7	22.7	22.6	22.6	94	92	91	91	91
Bulgaria	25.7	23.1	23.5	23.7	23.8	53	43	44	44	45
Czech Republic	16.0	14.1	14.0	14.2	14.5	57	50	51	52	53
Denmark⁸	12.9	10.3	10.5	10.0	10.8	56	46	47	45	49
Germany⁷	7.9	7.3	7.3	7.2	7.2	336	307	304	302	300
Estonia⁸	16.6	15.6	13.8	11.8	:	10	8	8	7	:
Ireland	25.9	21.6	21.8	21.6	21.1	52	42	42	41	40
Greece	56.4	50.8	50.1	:	:	168	152	149	:	:
Spain	53.7	51.3	50.6	50.2	50.1	871	818	801	787	780
France	23.7	24.7	24.7	24.6	24.4	656	672	673	670	661
Croatia⁶	44.7	46.4	45.5	45.5	45.5	73	78	80	80	80
Italy	43.5	41.3	41.4	42.8	43.1	704	640	635	647	655
Cyprus⁶	37.6	33.9	33.2	33.2	33.2	15	14	14	14	14
Latvia⁶	20.1	19.3	:	:	:	18	16	:	:	:
Lithuania	20.3	18.4	18.5	18.6	18.4	27	24	24	25	24
Luxembourg	18.7	22.3	21.7	21.6	20.9	3	3	3	3	3
Hungary⁸	20.2	18.9	18.8	19.2	:	67	64	64	64	:
Malta	12.9	10.9	11.4	11.3	11.2	4	3	3	3	3
Netherlands⁷	13.6	11.8	11.7	11.0	10.8	186	164	164	154	152
Austria⁷	10.5	9.7	8.9	9.3	10.5	60	55	49	52	59
Poland	25.1	21.3	21.0	20.7	20.5	376	301	300	298	294
Portugal⁸	36.0	34.0	34.5	33.7	33.8	138	126	129	126	123
Romania⁶	24.7	23.6	:	:	:	164	159	:	:	:
Slovenia⁶	21.2	19.1	18.0	18.0	18.0	15	14	13	13	13
Slovakia	31.6	26.4	25.7	25.0	24.8	67	56	55	54	54
Finland⁷	20.2	21.2	21.4	21.6	21.7	66	70	71	72	72
Sweden⁷	23.0	22.0	21.9	21.7	21.6	154	146	145	144	143
United Kingdom⁸	18.3	15.8	15.6	:	:	832	714	704	:	:
Iceland⁷	10.0	9.5	9.4	9.3	9.3	3	3	3	3	3
Norway⁸	7.7	7.9	8.5	:	:	29	30	32	:	:

: Data not available

Seasonally adjusted unemployment rates (%), by gender

	Males					Females				
	Mar 14	Dec 14	Jan 15	Feb 15	Mar 15	Mar 14	Dec 14	Jan 15	Feb 15	Mar 15
EA19	11.7	11.2	11.1	11.0	11.0	11.8	11.6	11.6	11.6	11.6
EU28	10.4	9.8	9.7	9.6	9.6	10.5	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
Belgium	9.2	8.8	8.9	8.9	8.9	7.5	8.2	8.1	8.1	8.1
Bulgaria	12.8	11.2	11.1	11.1	11.2	11.2	9.3	9.3	9.3	9.4
Czech Republic	5.5	5.0	5.1	5.0	5.0	7.9	6.8	6.9	6.8	6.8
Denmark ⁸	6.2	6.1	6.0	6.0	6.2	7.0	6.2	6.4	6.4	6.5
Germany ⁷	5.3	5.1	5.0	5.0	4.9	4.7	4.5	4.5	4.4	4.4
Estonia ⁸	7.9	6.7	6.8	6.3	:	7.0	5.9	5.6	5.5	:
Ireland	13.7	11.6	11.5	11.4	11.3	9.8	8.3	8.1	8.0	8.0
Greece	24.3	23.0	22.5	:	:	30.5	29.5	29.6	:	:
Spain	24.4	22.7	22.3	22.0	21.7	25.9	24.6	24.5	24.5	24.4
France	10.4	10.9	10.9	10.9	10.9	9.8	10.2	10.2	10.2	10.2
Croatia	16.1	18.1	18.4	18.3	18.0	18.7	18.5	18.6	18.6	18.4
Italy	11.7	11.7	11.8	11.7	11.9	13.4	14.0	13.8	14.1	14.3
Cyprus	17.0	17.3	16.9	17.1	16.9	15.3	15.3	15.2	15.2	15.1
Latvia ⁶	13.0	10.8	:	:	:	10.1	10.0	:	:	:
Lithuania	12.6	11.4	11.2	11.6	11.1	9.8	8.6	8.5	8.4	8.0
Luxembourg	5.9	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.6	6.1	5.9	5.9	5.9	5.9
Hungary ⁸	7.6	7.3	7.4	7.2	:	8.2	7.4	7.5	7.6	:
Malta	6.2	6.1	6.0	5.7	5.6	5.4	5.9	6.0	6.0	6.0
Netherlands ⁷	7.5	6.9	6.9	6.8	6.7	8.2	7.6	7.6	7.5	7.4
Austria ⁷	5.7	5.9	5.7	5.7	6.0	5.5	5.3	5.1	5.1	5.2
Poland	9.2	7.7	7.5	7.3	7.1	10.2	8.7	8.6	8.5	8.4
Portugal ⁸	14.9	13.3	13.4	13.0	12.9	14.6	14.0	14.1	14.3	14.1
Romania	7.6	6.9	6.8	6.7	6.7	6.2	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.2
Slovenia	9.1	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0	11.1	9.9	9.8	9.7	9.8
Slovakia	13.6	11.6	11.6	11.4	11.3	13.7	13.5	13.4	13.3	13.3
Finland ⁷	9.0	9.6	9.6	9.7	9.8	7.8	8.3	8.4	8.4	8.5
Sweden ⁷	8.2	8.0	7.9	7.9	7.8	7.8	7.6	7.6	7.6	7.6
United Kingdom ⁸	6.8	5.8	5.6	:	:	6.3	5.3	5.3	:	:
Iceland ⁷	5.2	4.4	4.3	4.2	4.1	5.1	4.5	4.5	4.4	4.3
Norway ⁸	3.4	4.0	4.1	:	:	3.3	3.6	3.7	:	:

: Data not available