

May 2015

Euro area unemployment rate at 11.1%

EU28 at 9.6%

The **euro area**¹ (EA19) seasonally-adjusted² unemployment rate³ was 11.1% in May 2015, stable compared with April 2015⁴, and down from 11.6% in May 2014. This is the lowest rate recorded in the **euro area** since March 2012. The **EU28**¹ unemployment rate was 9.6% in May 2015, also stable compared with April 2015 and down from 10.3% in May 2014. This is the lowest rate recorded in the **EU28** since July 2011. These figures are published by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**.

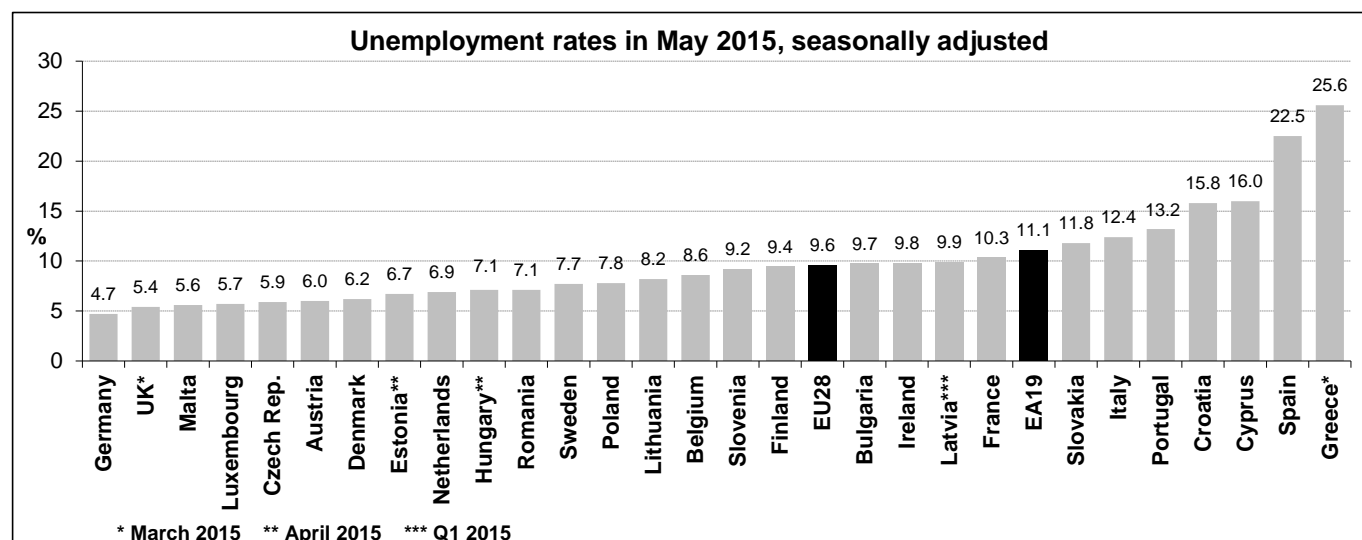
Eurostat estimates that 23.348 million men and women in the **EU28**, of whom 17.726 million in the **euro area**, were unemployed in May 2015. Compared with April 2015, the number of persons unemployed decreased by 38 000 in the **EU28** and by 35 000 in the **euro area**. Compared with May 2014, unemployment fell by 1.575 million in the **EU28** and by 939 000 in the **euro area**.

Member States

Among the Member States, the lowest unemployment rate in May 2015 was recorded in **Germany** (4.7%), and the highest in **Greece** (25.6% in March 2015) and **Spain** (22.5%).

Compared with a year ago, the unemployment rate in May 2015 fell in twenty-two Member States, increased in five and remained stable in Cyprus. The largest decreases were registered in **Lithuania** (11.0% to 8.2%), **Spain** (24.7% to 22.5%) and **Ireland** (11.7% to 9.8%). The increases were registered in **Belgium** (8.4% to 8.6%), **France** (10.1% to 10.3%), **Romania** (6.8% to 7.1%), **Austria** (5.6% to 6.0%) and **Finland** (8.6% to 9.4%).

In May 2015, the unemployment rate in the **United States** was 5.5%, up from 5.4% in April 2015 and down from 6.3% in May 2014.




Youth unemployment

In May 2015, 4.707 million young persons (under 25) were unemployed in the **EU28**, of whom 3.136 million were in the **euro area**. Compared with May 2014, youth unemployment decreased by 450 000 in the **EU28** and by 300 000 in the **euro area**. In May 2015, the youth unemployment rate⁵ was 20.6% in the **EU28** and 22.1% in the **euro area**, compared with 22.2% and 23.8% respectively in May 2014. In May 2015, the lowest rates were observed in **Germany** (7.1%), **Denmark** (10.0%) and **Austria** (10.1%), and the highest in **Greece** (49.7% in March 2015), **Spain** (49.3%), **Croatia** (43.6% in the first quarter 2015) and **Italy** (41.5%).

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, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, 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. 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 98/2015 of 3 June 2015, the April 2015 unemployment rates were revised downwards from 9.7% to 9.6% for the EU28 and remained unchanged at 11.1% for the EA19. Among Member States, rates have been revised by more than 0.1 percentage points (pp) downwards for Croatia (by 1.3 pp), Bulgaria (by 0.3 pp), France (by 0.3 pp), Portugal and Slovakia (both by 0.2 pp). Revisions of more than 0.1 percentage points upwards have been observed for Cyprus (by 0.4 pp), Belgium, Greece and Latvia (all three by 0.2 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.

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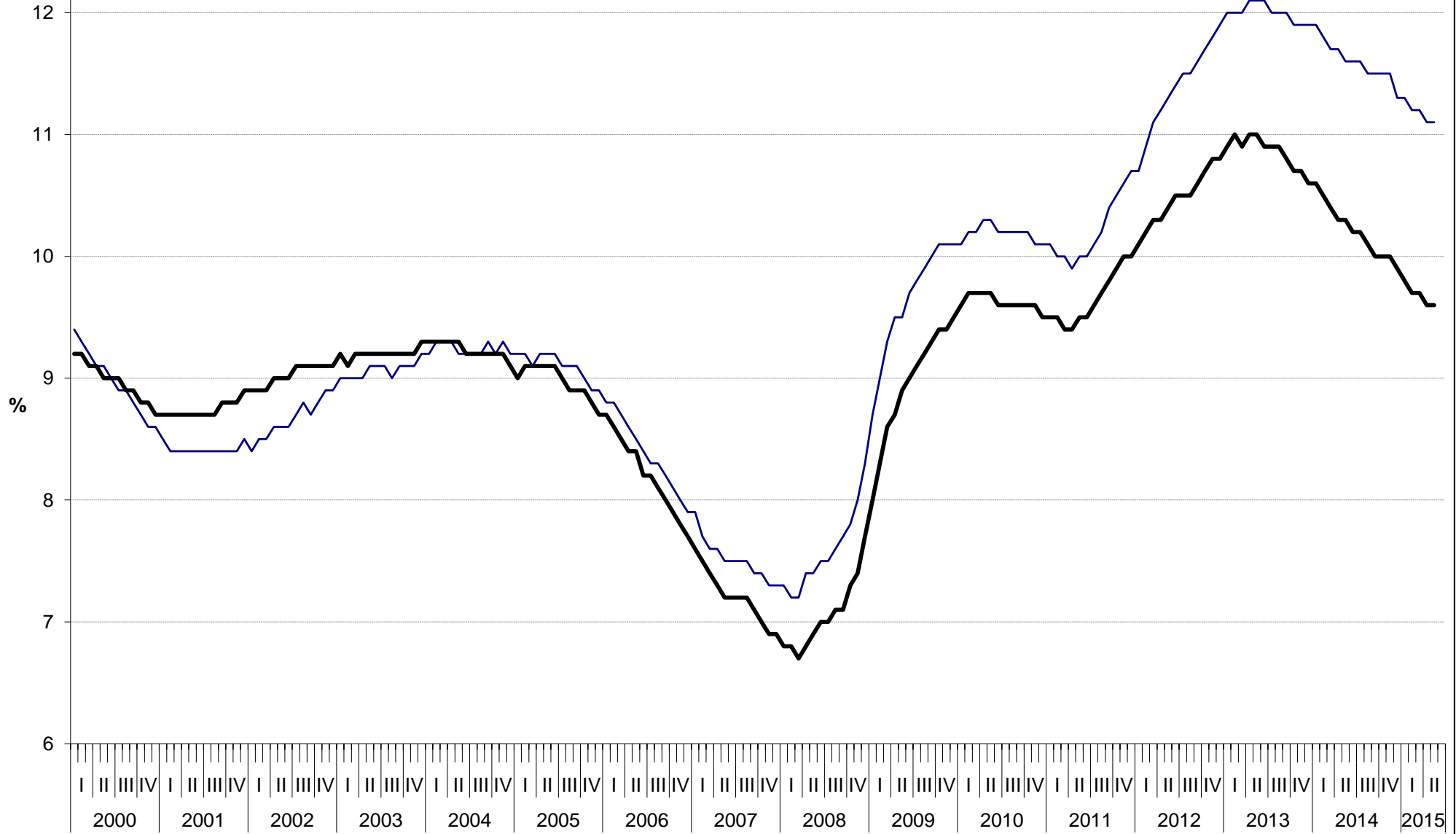
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Euro area and EU28 unemployment rates

Seasonally adjusted series

— Euro area (EA19) — EU28



Seasonally adjusted unemployment, totals

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	May 14	Feb 15	Mar 15	Apr 15	May 15	May 14	Feb 15	Mar 15	Apr 15	May 15
EA19	11.6	11.2	11.2	11.1	11.1	18 665	17 954	17 902	17 761	17 726
EU28	10.3	9.7	9.7	9.6	9.6	24 923	23 646	23 532	23 386	23 348
Belgium	8.4	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.6	417	432	435	432	431
Bulgaria	11.5	9.9	9.9	9.8	9.7	387	330	331	328	326
Czech Republic	6.1	5.8	5.9	6.0	5.9	323	310	313	320	315
Denmark⁸	6.5	6.1	6.3	6.2	6.2	187	180	184	182	183
Germany⁷	5.0	4.8	4.8	4.7	4.7	2 093	2 001	1 992	1 983	1 973
Estonia⁸	7.4**	6.1	6.2	6.7	:	50**	41	42	45	:
Ireland	11.7	10.0	9.8	9.8	9.8	250	215	211	210	210
Greece	26.9*	25.6	25.6	:	:	1 291*	1 216	1 212	:	:
Spain	24.7	23.1	22.9	22.7	22.5	5 676	5 304	5 244	5 195	5 148
France	10.1	10.3	10.3	10.2	10.3	2 953	3 032	3 019	2 996	3 012
Croatia	17.0	17.1	16.7	16.2	15.8	322	323	315	307	300
Italy	12.6	12.4	12.6	12.4	12.4	3 216	3 146	3 200	3 159	3 157
Cyprus	16.0	16.4	16.3	16.0	16.0	69	71	70	69	68
Latvia⁶	11.6***	9.9	9.9	:	:	107***	98	98	:	:
Lithuania	11.0	9.2	9.0	8.9	8.2	162	136	133	131	122
Luxembourg	6.0	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.7	16	15	15	15	15
Hungary⁸	8.0**	7.4	7.3	7.1	:	355**	333	330	319	:
Malta	6.0	5.9	5.8	5.7	5.6	11	11	11	11	11
Netherlands⁷	7.6	7.1	7.0	7.0	6.9	672	633	626	625	617
Austria⁷	5.6	5.5	5.6	5.8	6.0	241	238	243	256	264
Poland	9.2	8.0	7.9	7.8	7.8	1 599	1 383	1 366	1 359	1 350
Portugal⁸	14.4	13.5	13.2	12.8	13.2	742	693	680	658	677
Romania	6.8	6.9	6.8	6.9	7.1	630	631	623	628	646
Slovenia	9.7	9.2	9.3	9.2	9.2	99	92	93	93	93
Slovakia	13.3	12.1	12.0	11.9	11.8	363	331	329	327	324
Finland⁷	8.6	9.2	9.3	9.4	9.4	229	248	251	252	252
Sweden⁷	8.0	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.7	413	406	406	406	406
United Kingdom⁸	6.6*	5.5	5.4	:	:	2 131*	1 788	1 775	:	:
Iceland⁷	5.0	4.3	4.3	4.2	4.2	9	8	8	8	8
Norway⁸	3.3**	4.1	4.2	4.2	:	90**	113	115	117	:
United States	6.3	5.5	5.5	5.4	5.5	9 801	8 680	8 551	8 505	8 681

: Data not available

* March 2014

** April 2014

*** Q1 2014

Seasonally adjusted youth (under 25s) unemployment

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	May 14	Feb 15	Mar 15	Apr 15	May 15	May 14	Feb 15	Mar 15	Apr 15	May 15
EA19	23.8	22.6	22.6	22.3	22.1	3 436	3 231	3 218	3 169	3 136
EU28	22.2	20.9	20.9	20.7	20.6	5 157	4 823	4 801	4 743	4 707
Belgium	22.6	21.0	20.8	20.3	19.9	92	86	85	83	82
Bulgaria	24.4	21.5	21.4	20.5	19.7	50	42	42	40	38
Czech Republic	16.2	14.5	14.9	15.4	14.8	58	53	55	56	54
Denmark⁸	12.9	10.3	10.5	10.0	10.0	56	46	47	45	45
Germany⁷	7.8	7.2	7.2	7.1	7.1	331	303	301	299	297
Estonia⁸	15.8	11.9	11.9	11.3	:	9	7	7	7	:
Ireland	25.0	22.2	21.3	20.7	20.2	49	43	40	38	37
Greece	53.0	49.9	49.7	:	:	162	148	147	:	:
Spain	53.1	50.1	49.9	49.6	49.3	853	785	778	772	761
France	23.6	24.7	24.5	23.8	23.7	650	683	673	647	641
Croatia⁶	45.0	43.6	43.6	:	:	73	71	71	:	:
Italy	42.4	42.1	42.4	41.5	41.5	706	652	662	653	632
Cyprus⁶	37.1	34.4	34.4	:	:	16	14	14	:	:
Latvia⁶	21.0	15.7	15.7	:	:	18	13	13	:	:
Lithuania	20.1	17.2	16.9	16.6	16.1	26	22	22	22	21
Luxembourg	21.5	20.6	20.0	19.7	19.5	3	4	3	3	3
Hungary⁸	21.5	19.2	19.3	18.7	:	72	64	65	63	:
Malta	12.0	10.8	10.7	10.6	10.6	3	3	3	3	3
Netherlands⁷	13.0	11.0	10.8	10.9	11.1	178	154	152	154	156
Austria⁷	9.9	8.9	9.9	10.1	10.1	56	49	55	57	57
Poland	24.1	21.7	21.6	21.5	21.1	356	302	297	293	285
Portugal⁸	36.5	33.2	32.6	31.7	33.3	137	124	121	116	123
Romania⁶	24.6	23.3	23.3	:	:	161	163	163	:	:
Slovenia⁶	20.4	17.0	17.0	:	:	15	12	12	:	:
Slovakia	30.3	26.1	26.2	26.1	25.9	64	55	56	56	55
Finland⁷	20.1	22.1	22.5	22.8	23.0	66	73	75	76	76
Sweden⁷	23.0	21.5	21.3	21.1	21.0	153	142	141	140	138
United Kingdom⁸	16.7	15.6	15.7	:	:	750	704	707	:	:
Iceland⁷	9.8	8.8	8.6	8.3	8.0	3	3	3	3	3
Norway⁸	7.1	9.2	9.3	9.7	:	26	35	35	37	:

: Data not available

Seasonally adjusted unemployment rates (%), by gender

	Males					Females				
	May 14	Feb 15	Mar 15	Apr 15	May 15	May 14	Feb 15	Mar 15	Apr 15	May 15
EA19	11.5	11.0	11.0	10.9	10.9	11.8	11.4	11.3	11.3	11.2
EU28	10.2	9.6	9.6	9.5	9.5	10.4	9.9	9.8	9.8	9.7
Belgium	9.3	9.2	9.3	9.2	9.1	7.4	8.1	8.1	8.1	8.0
Bulgaria	12.5	10.5	10.5	10.3	10.3	10.3	9.2	9.2	9.2	9.2
Czech Republic	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.2	5.1	7.6	6.9	6.9	7.1	6.9
Denmark ⁸	6.1	6.0	6.3	6.2	6.1	6.9	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.5
Germany ⁷	5.3	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	4.7	4.5	4.4	4.4	4.4
Estonia ⁸	7.7	6.3	6.1	6.4	:	6.4	5.9	6.3	6.9	:
Ireland	13.4	11.5	11.3	11.1	11.0	9.5	8.2	8.0	8.2	8.3
Greece	23.9	22.7	22.7	:	:	30.9	29.2	29.3	:	:
Spain	23.9	22.0	21.7	21.3	21.0	25.6	24.5	24.4	24.3	24.2
France	10.3	10.7	10.7	10.6	10.6	9.9	10.0	9.9	9.9	9.9
Croatia	15.9	17.2	16.8	16.3	15.8	18.3	16.8	16.5	16.1	15.7
Italy	11.6	11.8	12.1	11.9	12.1	14.0	13.1	13.2	13.0	12.7
Cyprus	17.2	16.8	16.6	15.9	15.8	14.8	16.0	16.0	16.1	16.2
Latvia ⁶	12.0	10.3	10.3	:	:	9.5	9.4	9.4	:	:
Lithuania	12.5	10.2	9.8	9.5	8.6	9.5	8.3	8.3	8.2	7.8
Luxembourg	6.0	5.5	5.4	5.3	5.3	6.0	6.3	6.2	6.3	6.3
Hungary ⁸	8.1	7.2	7.3	7.1	:	8.4	7.6	7.3	7.1	:
Malta	6.3	6.1	5.9	5.8	5.7	5.4	5.6	5.5	5.5	5.4
Netherlands ⁷	7.3	6.8	6.7	6.6	6.6	7.9	7.5	7.4	7.5	7.3
Austria ⁷	5.7	5.7	5.9	6.1	6.1	5.4	5.2	5.2	5.6	5.9
Poland	8.7	7.6	7.5	7.5	7.5	9.8	8.4	8.3	8.2	8.2
Portugal ⁸	13.9	12.9	13.0	12.5	13.2	14.8	14.1	13.4	13.2	13.3
Romania	7.4	7.5	7.4	7.6	7.8	6.1	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.2
Slovenia	8.8	8.4	8.3	8.2	8.1	10.8	10.2	10.4	10.5	10.6
Slovakia	13.1	11.3	11.2	11.0	10.8	13.6	13.1	13.1	13.1	13.1
Finland ⁷	9.2	9.7	9.8	9.8	9.7	7.9	8.7	8.8	8.9	9.0
Sweden ⁷	8.2	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.8	7.7	7.6	7.6	7.6	7.6
United Kingdom ⁸	6.5	5.6	5.6	:	:	6.0	5.3	5.2	:	:
Iceland ⁷	5.0	3.9	3.8	3.6	3.5	5.0	4.7	4.8	4.9	5.1
Norway ⁸	3.3	4.3	4.4	4.5	:	3.1	3.9	3.9	4.0	:

: Data not available