

41/2016 - 1 March 2016

January 2016

Euro area unemployment rate at 10.3%

EU28 at 8.9%

The **euro area** (EA19) seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate was 10.3% in January 2016, down from 10.4% in December 2015, and from 11.3% in January 2015. This is the lowest rate recorded in the **euro area** since August 2011. The **EU28** unemployment rate was 8.9% in January 2016, down from 9.0% in December 2015, and from 9.8% in January 2015. This is the lowest rate recorded in the **EU28** since May 2009. These figures are published by Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union.

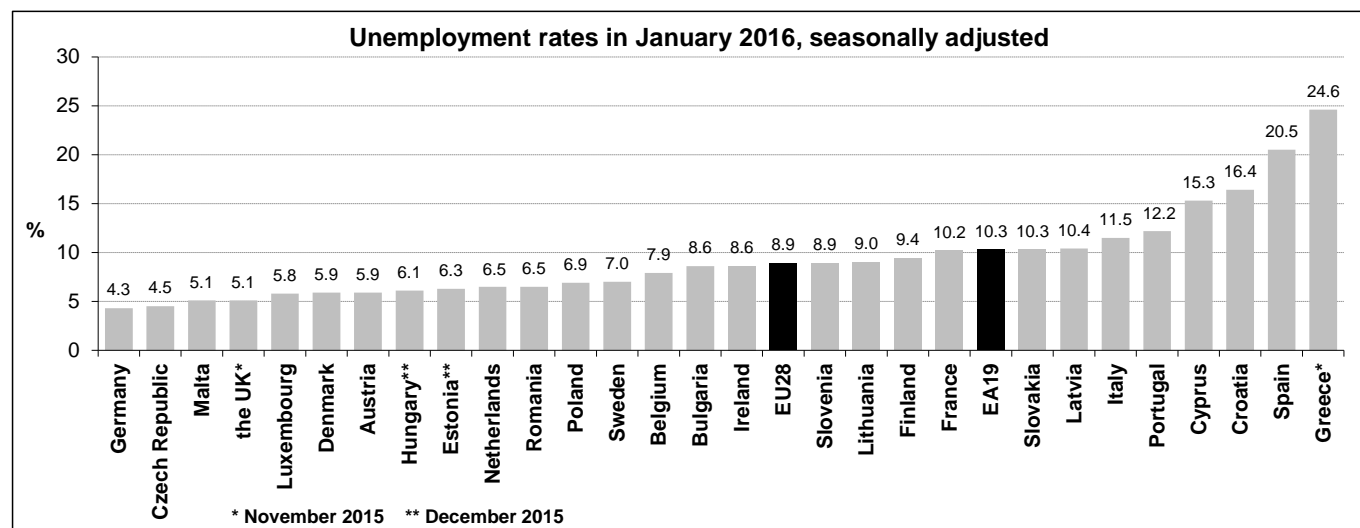
Eurostat estimates that 21.789 million men and women in the **EU28**, of whom 16.647 million were in the **euro area**, were unemployed in January 2016. Compared with December 2015, the number of persons unemployed decreased by 163 000 in the **EU28** and by 105 000 in the **euro area**. Compared with January 2015, unemployment fell by 2.034 million in the **EU28** and by 1.445 million in the **euro area**.

Member States

Among the Member States, the lowest unemployment rates in January 2016 were recorded in **Germany** (4.3%), the **Czech Republic** (4.5%), **Malta** and the **United Kingdom** (both 5.1%, November data for the UK). The highest unemployment rates were observed in **Greece** (24.6% in November 2015) and **Spain** (20.5%).

Compared with a year ago, the unemployment rate in January 2016 fell in twenty-four Member States, remained stable in **Estonia** and increased in **Latvia** (from 9.7% to 10.4%), **Austria** (from 5.5% to 5.9%) and **Finland** (from 9.1% to 9.4%). The largest decreases were registered in **Spain** (from 23.4% to 20.5%), **Slovakia** (from 12.3% to 10.3%), **Ireland** (from 10.1% to 8.6%) and **Portugal** (from 13.7% to 12.2%).

In January 2016, the unemployment rate in the **United States** was 4.9%, down from 5.0% in December 2015 and from 5.7% in January 2015.



Youth unemployment

In January 2016, 4.434 million young persons (under 25) were unemployed in the **EU28**, of whom 3.037 million were in the **euro area**. Compared with January 2015, youth unemployment decreased by 408 000 in the **EU28** and by 217 000 in the **euro area**. In January 2016, the youth unemployment rate was 19.7% in the **EU28** and 22.0% in the **euro area**, compared with 21.0% and 22.8% respectively in January 2015. In January 2016, the lowest rates were observed in **Germany** (7.1%), the **Czech Republic** (11.0%), **Denmark** (11.1%) and the **Netherlands** (11.2%) and the highest in **Greece** (48.0% in November 2015), **Spain** (45.0%), **Croatia** (44.1% in the fourth quarter 2015) and **Italy** (39.3%).

Geographical coverage

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, 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.

Methods and definition

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.

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 [24/2016](#) of 2 February 2016, the December 2015 unemployment rate remains unchanged for both EU28 and EA19. Among Member States, rates have been revised by more than 0.1 percentage points (pp) upwards for Lithuania and Portugal (both by 0.4 pp) as well as for Greece and Italy (both by 0.2 pp).

For more information

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

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

Eurostat's [Statistics Explained article](#) on unemployment

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

Eurostat's [metadata](#) on adjusted unemployment series


Eurostat's €-indicators [release calendar](#)

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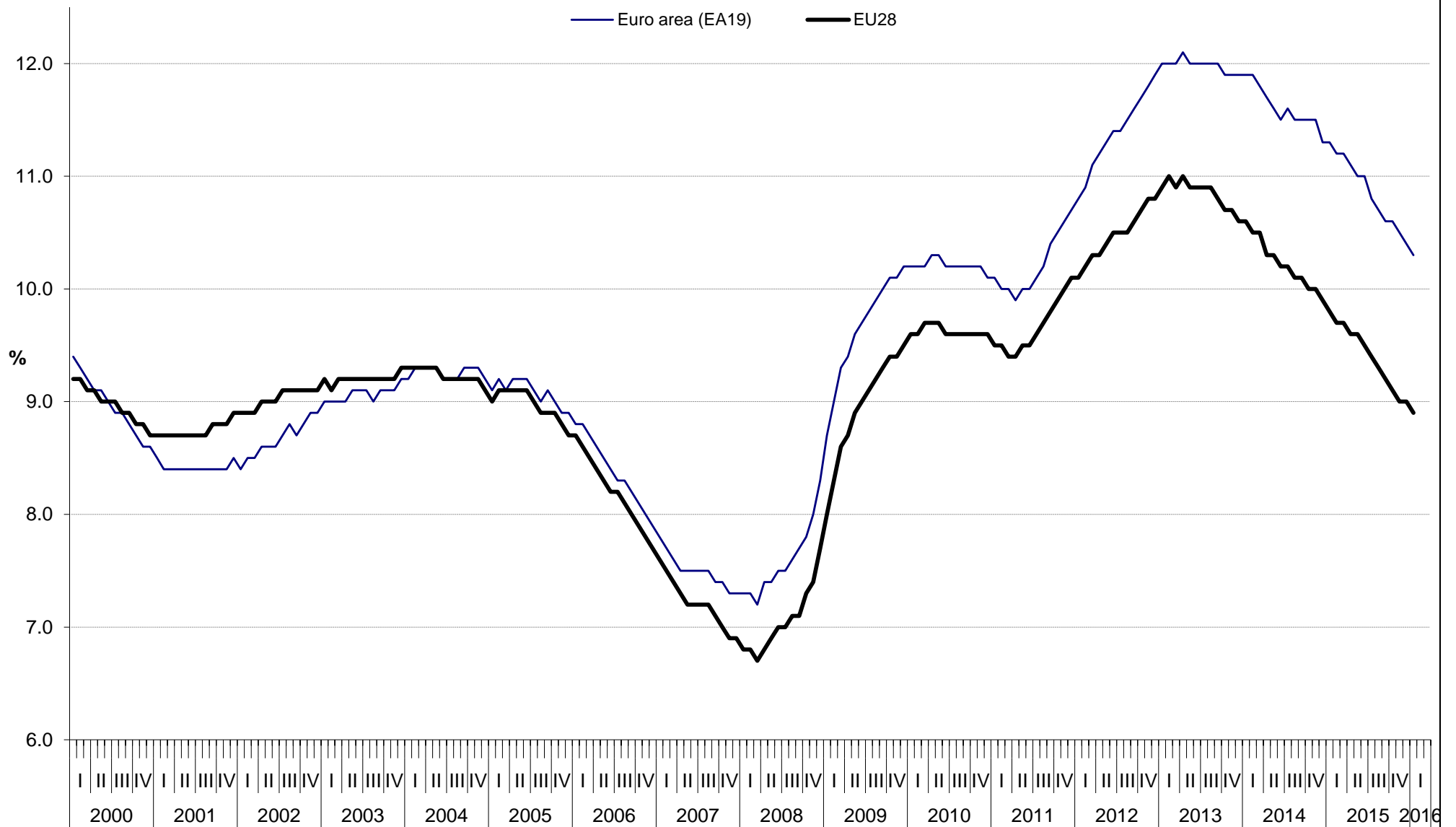
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Euro area and EU28 unemployment rates Seasonally adjusted series



Seasonally adjusted unemployment, totals

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	Jan 15	Oct 15	Nov 15	Dec 15	Jan 16	Jan 15	Oct 15	Nov 15	Dec 15	Jan 16
EA19	11.3	10.6	10.5	10.4	10.3	18 092	16 959	16 803	16 752	16 647
EU28	9.8	9.1	9.0	9.0	8.9	23 823	22 211	22 010	21 952	21 789
Belgium	8.5	7.8	7.9	7.9	7.9	426	389	390	392	391
Bulgaria	9.9	8.7	8.8	8.8	8.6	331	290	293	294	288
Czech Republic	5.9	4.6	4.5	4.5	4.5	310	243	239	238	240
Denmark	6.2	6.1	6.1	6.0	5.9	180	179	181	179	177
Germany	4.8	4.5	4.4	4.4	4.3	2 021	1 881	1 866	1 848	1 827
Estonia	6.3**	6.3	6.5	6.3	:	43**	43	44	43	:
Ireland	10.1	8.9	8.8	8.8	8.6	217	192	191	190	187
Greece	25.9*	24.7	24.6	:	:	1 236*	1 184	1 181	:	:
Spain	23.4	21.2	20.9	20.7	20.5	5 372	4 840	4 775	4 737	4 677
France	10.4	10.2	10.1	10.1	10.2	3 065	3 015	2 984	2 983	2 983
Croatia	17.5	16.4	16.5	16.5	16.4	332	308	309	308	308
Italy	12.3	11.5	11.5	11.6	11.5	3 119	2 948	2 930	2 951	2 951
Cyprus	16.3	15.3	15.6	15.7	15.3	70	64	66	66	64
Latvia	9.7	9.9	10.0	10.1	10.4	96	99	100	101	104
Lithuania	9.4	8.9	8.8	8.9	9.0	138	130	129	131	132
Luxembourg	6.3	6.0	5.9	6.0	5.8	17	17	17	17	16
Hungary	7.3**	6.4	6.3	6.1	:	328**	289	286	278	:
Malta	6.0	5.2	5.1	5.1	5.1	12	10	10	10	10
Netherlands	7.2	6.9	6.7	6.6	6.5	645	616	596	588	574
Austria	5.5	5.7	5.9	5.9	5.9	241	253	259	263	264
Poland	8.1	7.4	7.2	7.1	6.9	1 399	1 277	1 255	1 230	1 203
Portugal	13.7	12.4	12.2	12.2	12.2	703	633	628	621	619
Romania	7.2	6.6	6.6	6.7	6.5	630	613	607	616	604
Slovenia	9.2	8.8	8.8	8.9	8.9	92	89	89	90	90
Slovakia	12.3	11.1	10.8	10.6	10.3	337	302	295	289	282
Finland	9.1	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.4	244	254	254	253	252
Sweden	7.8	7.1	7.0	7.0	7.0	406	372	370	368	366
United Kingdom	5.6*	5.1	5.1	:	:	1 822*	1 678	1 678	:	:
Iceland	4.2	3.6	3.5	3.3	3.2	8	7	7	6	6
Norway	3.8**	4.6	4.6	4.5	:	105**	129	127	127	:
United States	5.7	5.0	5.0	5.0	4.9	8 880	7 932	7 963	7 905	7 736

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

: Data not available

* November 2014

** December 2014

Seasonally adjusted youth (under 25s) unemployment

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	Jan 15	Oct 15	Nov 15	Dec 15	Jan 16	Jan 15	Oct 15	Nov 15	Dec 15	Jan 16
EA19	22.8	22.3	22.1	22.1	22.0	3 254	3 121	3 070	3 063	3 037
EU28	21.0	20.0	19.8	19.8	19.7	4 842	4 535	4 461	4 460	4 434
Belgium	21.0	21.6	22.3	22.8	22.6	84	83	86	88	88
Bulgaria	22.2	20.9	21.0	21.1	21.3	43	38	38	38	39
Czech Republic	13.9	11.6	11.0	10.9	11.0	50	39	37	37	37
Denmark	10.7	10.7	10.7	10.8	11.1	48	49	49	50	51
Germany	7.2	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1	302	282	280	278	276
Estonia	13.4	15.7	17.1	18.4	:	7	8	9	10	:
Ireland	22.2	19.7	19.4	19.2	19.1	43	37	37	36	36
Greece	50.5	48.3	48.0	:	:	148	130	126	:	:
Spain	50.8	46.8	46.1	45.8	45.0	807	711	692	684	666
France	24.8	25.6	25.7	25.9	25.9	684	718	722	729	730
Croatia	44.2	44.1	44.1	44.1	:	72	71	71	71	:
Italy	41.0	39.4	38.1	38.7	39.3	637	618	591	594	591
Cyprus	35.0	31.5	31.5	31.5	:	15	11	11	11	:
Latvia	15.8	18.9	20.1	20.0	19.8	13	16	17	17	17
Lithuania	18.6	14.1	13.7	13.9	14.4	24	17	17	18	18
Luxembourg	18.7	12.5	12.0	12.1	11.7	4	4	3	3	3
Hungary	18.9	14.9	15.5	14.2	:	64	51	53	48	:
Malta	11.3	13.1	12.9	12.7	13.0	3	4	4	4	4
Netherlands	11.7	11.6	11.2	11.2	11.2	164	163	156	155	155
Austria	8.6	11.5	11.5	11.6	11.8	47	64	64	65	67
Poland	21.7	20.7	20.5	20.5	20.4	302	284	283	282	279
Portugal	34.4	32.0	31.8	30.1	29.9	129	119	119	110	108
Romania	22.4	21.2	:	:	:	156	145*	:	:	:
Slovenia	17.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	:	12	12	12	12	:
Slovakia	26.8	25.7	25.1	24.4	23.5	57	54	52	51	49
Finland	21.7	21.9	22.1	22.2	22.2	72	71	71	71	71
Sweden	21.8	19.4	19.1	19.0	18.9	144	125	124	123	122
United Kingdom	15.7	13.7	13.6	:	:	711	612	608	:	:
Iceland	9.0	8.0	7.7	7.4	7.1	3	3	2	2	2
Norway	8.8	9.3	9.7	9.8	:	33	35	36	37	:

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

: Data not available

Croatia, Cyprus, Romania and Slovenia: quarterly data

Seasonally adjusted unemployment rates (%), by gender

	Males					Females				
	Jan 15	Oct 15	Nov 15	Dec 15	Jan 16	Jan 15	Oct 15	Nov 15	Dec 15	Jan 16
EA19	11.1	10.4	10.3	10.3	10.2	11.4	10.7	10.7	10.6	10.6
EU28	9.7	9.0	8.9	8.9	8.8	9.9	9.2	9.2	9.1	9.1
Belgium	9.0	8.2	8.2	8.3	8.4	8.0	7.5	7.5	7.4	7.2
Bulgaria	10.6	9.4	9.5	9.5	9.3	9.2	7.9	8.0	8.0	7.8
Czech Republic	5.1	3.9	3.7	3.7	3.7	6.9	5.5	5.6	5.5	5.5
Denmark	5.9	5.7	5.9	6.0	5.9	6.5	6.5	6.3	6.0	5.8
Germany	5.1	4.8	4.7	4.7	4.6	4.4	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.0
Estonia	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	:	5.7	5.9	6.2	5.9	:
Ireland	11.7	10.2	10.1	10.0	9.8	8.2	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.2
Greece	22.7	21.1	20.8	:	:	29.8	29.0	29.3	:	:
Spain	22.4	19.8	19.5	19.2	19.0	24.6	22.8	22.6	22.4	22.2
France	10.8	10.8	10.8	10.8	10.8	10.0	9.6	9.4	9.4	9.4
Croatia	17.4	15.2	15.3	15.2	15.2	17.6	17.9	18.0	17.9	17.7
Italy	11.6	11.1	11.0	11.2	10.9	13.2	12.2	12.2	12.0	12.4
Cyprus	16.8	14.9	15.4	15.5	14.8	15.7	15.7	15.9	15.9	15.9
Latvia	10.0	11.2	11.3	11.6	12.1	9.4	8.6	8.6	8.6	8.6
Lithuania	10.7	9.6	9.5	9.6	9.8	8.1	8.2	8.1	8.2	8.2
Luxembourg	5.6	5.3	5.2	5.2	5.0	7.0	6.8	6.8	6.9	6.7
Hungary	7.4	6.3	6.1	5.9	:	7.5	6.4	6.6	6.3	:
Malta	6.2	5.3	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.6	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9
Netherlands	6.9	6.5	6.2	6.2	6.1	7.6	7.3	7.3	7.0	6.9
Austria	5.8	6.2	6.3	6.4	6.4	5.2	5.2	5.4	5.5	5.4
Poland	7.7	7.2	7.1	6.9	6.6	8.5	7.5	7.4	7.4	7.3
Portugal	13.4	12.1	12.1	12.1	12.1	14.0	12.6	12.3	12.2	12.2
Romania	7.9	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.1	6.2	5.8	5.7	5.9	5.8
Slovenia	8.4	7.7	7.7	7.9	7.9	10.1	10.1	10.0	10.0	10.0
Slovakia	11.5	9.9	9.6	9.4	9.2	13.3	12.5	12.2	12.0	11.7
Finland	9.6	10.0	10.0	9.9	9.8	8.5	8.9	8.9	8.9	8.9
Sweden	7.9	7.3	7.2	7.2	7.2	7.6	7.0	6.8	6.8	6.7
United Kingdom	5.7	5.2	5.2	:	:	5.3	5.0	5.0	:	:
Iceland	4.2	4.0	3.8	3.6	3.5	4.2	3.3	3.1	2.9	2.8
Norway	4.2	5.0	5.0	4.9	:	3.7	4.1	4.1	4.1	:

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

: Data not available