



84/2016 - 29 April 2016

March 2016

Euro area unemployment down to 10.2%

EU28 at 8.8%

The **euro area** (EA19) seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate was 10.2% in March 2016, down from 10.4% in February 2016, and from 11.2% in March 2015. This is the lowest rate recorded in the **euro area** since August 2011. The **EU28** unemployment rate was 8.8% in March 2016, down from 8.9% in February 2016, and from 9.7% in March 2015. This is the lowest rate recorded in the **EU28** for seven years, since April 2009. These figures are published by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**.

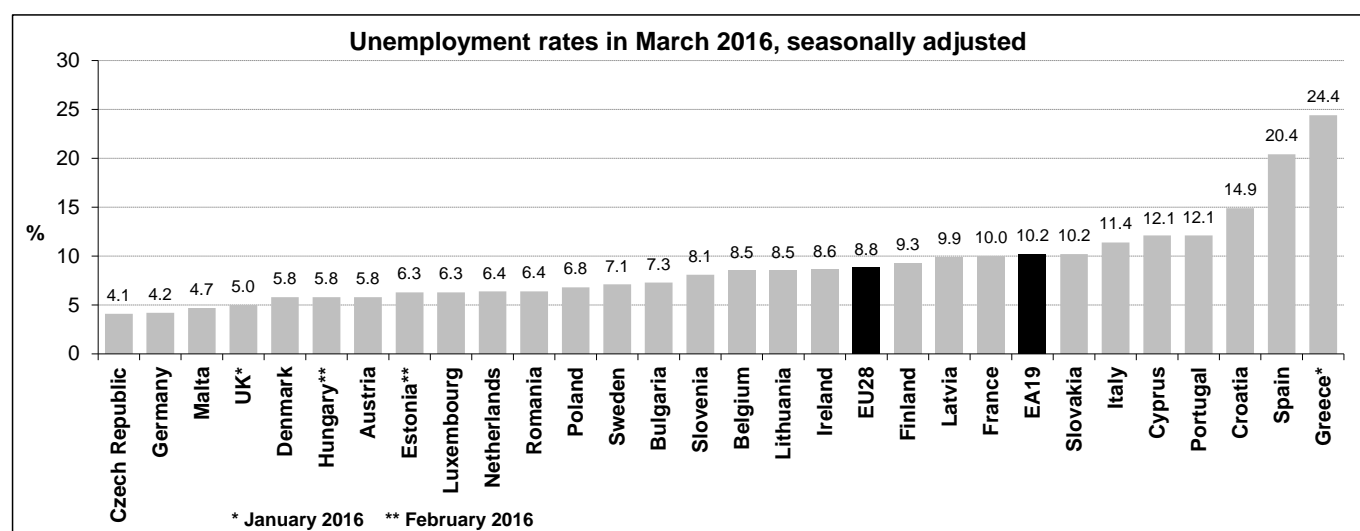
Eurostat estimates that 21.419 million men and women in the **EU28**, of whom 16.437 million were in the **euro area**, were unemployed in March 2016. Compared with February 2016, the number of persons unemployed decreased by 250 000 in the **EU28** and by 226 000 in the **euro area**. Compared with March 2015, unemployment fell by 2.091 million in the **EU28** and by 1.477 million in the **euro area**.

Member States

Among the Member States, the lowest unemployment rates in March 2016 were recorded in the **Czech Republic** (4.1%) and **Germany** (4.2%). The highest unemployment rates were observed in **Greece** (24.4% in January 2016) and **Spain** (20.4%).

Compared with a year ago, the unemployment rate in March 2016 fell in twenty-five Member States and increased in **Austria** (from 5.6% to 5.8%), **Latvia** (from 9.8% to 9.9%) and **Finland** (from 9.2% to 9.3%). The largest decreases were registered in **Cyprus** (from 16.2% to 12.1%), **Bulgaria** (from 10.0% to 7.3%) and **Spain** (from 23.0% to 20.4%).

In March 2016, the unemployment rate in the **United States** was 5.0%, up from 4.9% in February 2016, and down from 5.5% in March 2015.



Youth unemployment

In March 2016, 4.287 million young persons (under 25) were unemployed in the **EU28**, of whom 2.936 million were in the **euro area**. Compared with March 2015, youth unemployment decreased by 498 000 in the **EU28** and by 286 000 in the **euro area**. In March 2016, the youth unemployment rate was 19.1% in the **EU28** and 21.2% in the **euro area**, compared with 20.9% and 22.7% respectively in March 2015. In March 2016, the lowest rates were observed in **Germany** (6.9%), the **Czech Republic** and **Malta** (both 9.8%), and the highest in **Greece** (51.9% in January 2016), **Spain** (45.5%), **Croatia** (39.0% in the first quarter 2016) and **Italy** (36.7%).

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, 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 [63/2016](#) of 4 April 2016, the February 2016 unemployment rate remains unchanged for the EU28 and has been revised from 10.3% to 10.4% for the EA19. Among Member States, rates have been revised by more than 0.1 percentage points (pp) upwards for Greece (by 0.3 pp for December 2015). The rates have been revised by more than 0.1 percentage points (pp) downwards for Czech Republic (by 0.3 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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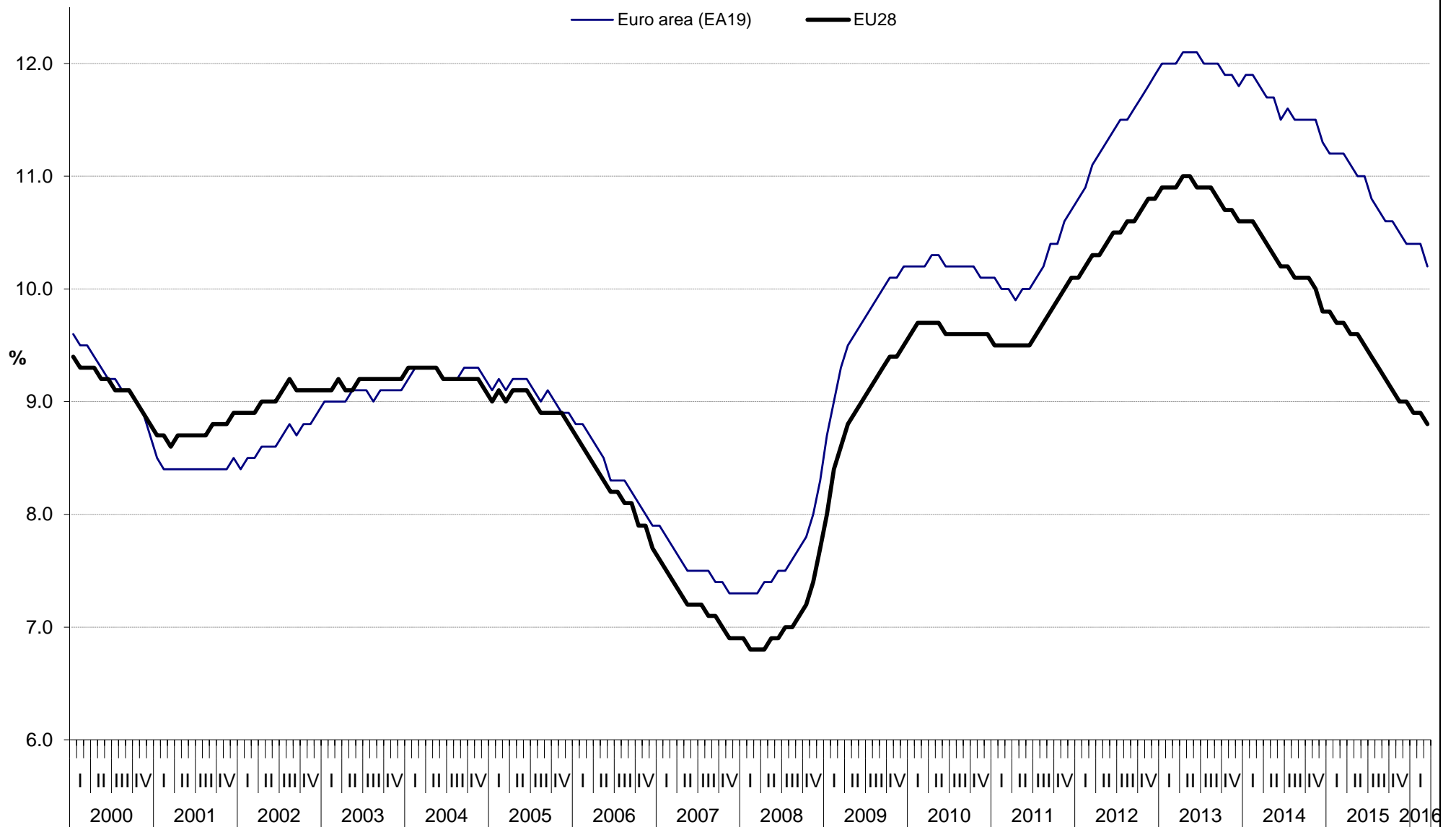
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Euro area and EU28 unemployment rates Seasonally adjusted series



Seasonally adjusted unemployment, totals

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	Mar 15	Dec 15	Jan 16	Feb 16	Mar 16	Mar 15	Dec 15	Jan 16	Feb 16	Mar 16
EA19	11.2	10.4	10.4	10.4	10.2	17 914	16 803	16 702	16 663	16 437
EU28	9.7	9.0	8.9	8.9	8.8	23 510	21 892	21 737	21 669	21 419
Belgium	8.7	8.8	8.7	8.6	8.5	432	438	432	425	422
Bulgaria	10.0	7.7	7.5	7.4	7.3	335	258	252	248	244
Czech Republic	5.6	4.4	4.3	4.2	4.1	299	235	229	224	218
Denmark	6.4	6.0	5.9	5.8	5.8	187	179	176	175	173
Germany	4.8	4.4	4.3	4.3	4.2	1 994	1 858	1 839	1 819	1 801
Estonia	6.5**	6.2	6.3	6.3	:	44**	43	43	43	:
Ireland	9.8	9.0	8.9	8.8	8.6	211	196	193	191	188
Greece	25.7*	24.3	24.4	:	:	1 232*	1 166	1 169	:	:
Spain	23.0	20.7	20.5	20.5	20.4	5 265	4 730	4 699	4 682	4 640
France	10.3	10.2	10.1	10.2	10.0	3 029	2 996	2 978	2 985	2 918
Croatia	16.6	15.3	15.2	15.1	14.9	315	289	288	287	285
Italy	12.4	11.6	11.6	11.6	11.4	3 169	2 961	2 958	2 958	2 895
Cyprus	16.2	13.0	12.7	12.5	12.1	70	54	52	51	50
Latvia	9.8	10.1	10.4	10.1	9.9	98	101	104	102	100
Lithuania	9.3	8.9	9.0	8.8	8.5	136	131	132	130	126
Luxembourg	6.4	6.4	6.3	6.2	6.3	17	18	17	17	17
Hungary	7.4**	6.1	5.9	5.8	:	334**	279	268	262	:
Malta	5.7	5.2	5.2	5.1	4.7	11	10	10	10	9
Netherlands	7.0	6.6	6.5	6.5	6.4	626	588	574	581	574
Austria	5.6	5.9	5.9	5.9	5.8	245	263	264	263	258
Poland	7.8	7.0	6.9	6.8	6.8	1 356	1 214	1 200	1 191	1 180
Portugal	13.2	12.2	12.1	12.2	12.1	679	622	616	622	615
Romania	6.7	6.7	6.5	6.5	6.4	613	616	604	597	592
Slovenia	9.2	8.3	8.3	8.2	8.1	92	83	83	81	81
Slovakia	11.9	10.7	10.5	10.3	10.2	327	294	288	284	281
Finland	9.2	9.4	9.3	9.3	9.3	247	252	250	249	249
Sweden	7.7	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1	399	372	372	372	373
United Kingdom	5.5*	5.0	5.0	:	:	1 800*	1 640	1 648	:	:
Iceland	4.2	3.4	3.2	3.2	3.1	8	6	6	6	6
Norway	4.1**	4.5	4.7	4.6	:	113**	127	133	130	:
United States	5.5	5.0	4.9	4.9	5.0	8 530	7 905	7 736	7 818	7 945

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

: Data not available

* January 2015

** February 2015

Seasonally adjusted youth (under 25s) unemployment

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	Mar 15	Dec 15	Jan 16	Feb 16	Mar 16	Mar 15	Dec 15	Jan 16	Feb 16	Mar 16
EA19	22.7	21.8	21.7	21.7	21.2	3 222	3 041	3 016	3 010	2 936
EU28	20.9	19.6	19.5	19.4	19.1	4 785	4 415	4 382	4 370	4 287
Belgium	20.2	25.1	24.5	24.5	24.5	83	98	99	99	99
Bulgaria	22.3	20.8	21.1	20.5	18.5	43	35	36	34	30
Czech Republic	14.3	10.7	10.3	9.8	9.8	52	36	34	33	33
Denmark	10.8	10.9	10.8	10.9	11.0	48	51	50	52	51
Germany	7.2	7.0	7.0	7.0	6.9	296	283	282	280	278
Estonia	12.6	15.4	14.7	13.5	:	7	8	8	7	:
Ireland	21.5	20.2	20.2	20.0	19.0	41	37	37	37	34
Greece	52.2	49.3	51.9	:	:	148	131	130	:	:
Spain	50.1	46.3	45.9	45.9	45.5	779	692	683	683	670
France	24.8	24.4	24.4	24.4	24.0	685	675	674	677	661
Croatia	44.2	40.5	39.0	39.0	39.0	70	69	67	67	67
Italy	42.1	38.6	38.8	38.2	36.7	656	595	584	580	551
Cyprus	34.4	30.2	28.2	28.2	28.2	14	11	10	10	10
Latvia	15.3	20.0	19.8	18.0	16.5	13	17	17	16	14
Lithuania	18.1	13.9	14.4	14.5	14.1	23	18	18	19	18
Luxembourg	18.4	15.4	15.0	15.2	15.3	4	4	4	4	4
Hungary	19.0	14.7	14.4	14.1	:	64	50	49	49	:
Malta	10.8	11.1	11.2	10.8	9.8	3	3	3	3	3
Netherlands	10.8	11.2	11.2	11.3	11.4	152	155	155	158	159
Austria	10.3	11.6	12.2	12.0	10.9	57	65	69	68	61
Poland	21.5	19.9	19.8	19.8	19.5	298	272	271	269	265
Portugal	32.4	30.4	30.0	30.2	30.7	120	110	109	110	110
Romania	22.4	20.9	:	:	:	156	140	:	:	:
Slovenia	17.3	16.9	16.6	16.6	16.6	12	12	11	11	11
Slovakia	26.5	25.2	24.4	24.1	23.9	56	52	50	49	49
Finland	22.0	22.0	22.0	21.9	21.9	73	70	70	70	70
Sweden	21.0	19.3	19.3	19.2	19.1	139	125	125	125	125
United Kingdom	15.5	13.4	13.2	:	:	700	599	594	:	:
Iceland	8.7	7.5	7.3	7.2	7.2	3	2	2	2	2
Norway	9.4	10.0	11.0	11.0	:	35	38	42	42	:

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

: Data not available

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

Seasonally adjusted unemployment rates (%), by gender

	Males					Females				
	Mar 15	Dec 15	Jan 16	Feb 16	Mar 16	Mar 15	Dec 15	Jan 16	Feb 16	Mar 16
EA19	11.0	10.3	10.1	10.1	10.0	11.4	10.6	10.6	10.6	10.5
EU28	9.6	8.9	8.8	8.7	8.6	9.8	9.1	9.1	9.0	9.0
Belgium	9.4	9.4	9.3	9.2	9.1	7.9	8.1	7.9	7.8	7.9
Bulgaria	10.8	8.0	7.8	7.7	7.5	9.1	7.5	7.2	7.1	7.1
Czech Republic	4.8	3.7	3.6	3.5	3.5	6.7	5.5	5.2	5.0	4.8
Denmark	6.4	5.8	5.5	5.4	5.2	6.4	6.1	6.2	6.3	6.4
Germany	5.1	4.6	4.5	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1
Estonia	7.1	6.7	6.6	7.1	:	6.3	5.8	6.0	5.5	:
Ireland	11.2	10.8	10.6	10.4	10.2	8.1	6.9	6.8	6.8	6.7
Greece	23.0	21.1	21.1	:	:	29.6	28.2	28.7	:	:
Spain	21.7	19.3	19.0	18.9	18.7	24.4	22.4	22.3	22.3	22.2
France	10.7	10.6	10.6	10.6	10.5	9.9	9.8	9.7	9.7	9.4
Croatia	16.8	14.2	14.2	14.2	14.1	16.3	16.6	16.4	16.1	15.8
Italy	11.7	11.3	11.0	11.2	10.9	13.4	12.1	12.4	12.2	11.9
Cyprus	16.5	13.5	13.2	13.0	12.5	16.0	12.4	12.1	12.0	11.7
Latvia	10.6	11.6	12.1	11.7	11.3	9.0	8.6	8.6	8.6	8.5
Lithuania	10.4	9.6	9.8	9.6	9.3	8.2	8.2	8.2	8.0	7.8
Luxembourg	5.7	5.8	5.6	5.6	5.7	7.2	7.2	7.0	7.0	7.0
Hungary	7.3	6.0	5.8	5.6	:	7.4	6.3	6.1	5.9	:
Malta	5.8	5.1	5.1	4.9	4.4	5.5	5.3	5.4	5.3	5.1
Netherlands	6.7	6.2	6.1	6.1	6.0	7.4	7.0	6.9	7.0	6.9
Austria	6.0	6.3	6.4	6.4	6.1	5.2	5.5	5.4	5.4	5.4
Poland	7.6	6.9	6.8	6.7	6.6	8.1	7.0	7.0	6.9	6.9
Portugal	13.0	12.1	12.1	12.2	11.8	13.4	12.3	12.1	12.2	12.3
Romania	7.4	7.3	7.1	7.0	6.9	5.7	5.9	5.8	5.8	5.8
Slovenia	8.2	8.0	8.0	7.8	7.6	10.4	8.7	8.7	8.6	8.7
Slovakia	11.0	9.3	9.1	9.0	8.8	13.1	12.4	12.1	12.0	11.8
Finland	9.7	9.8	9.7	9.6	9.6	8.7	8.9	8.9	8.9	9.0
Sweden	7.8	7.4	7.4	7.5	7.6	7.5	6.8	6.7	6.6	6.6
United Kingdom	5.6	5.1	5.1	:	:	5.2	4.8	4.9	:	:
Iceland	4.0	3.7	3.6	3.6	3.6	4.3	3.0	2.8	2.7	2.6
Norway	4.5	5.0	5.2	5.1	:	3.8	4.0	4.2	4.1	:

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

: Data not available