

105/2016 - 31 May 2016

April 2016

Euro area unemployment at 10.2%

EU28 at 8.7%

The **euro area** (EA19) seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate was 10.2% in April 2016, stable compared with March 2016, and down from 11.0% in April 2015. This is the lowest rate recorded in the **euro area** since August 2011. The **EU28** unemployment rate was 8.7% in April 2016, down from 8.8% in March 2016, and from 9.6% in April 2015. This is the lowest rate recorded in the **EU28** since April 2009. These figures are published by **Eurostat**, the statistical office of the European Union.

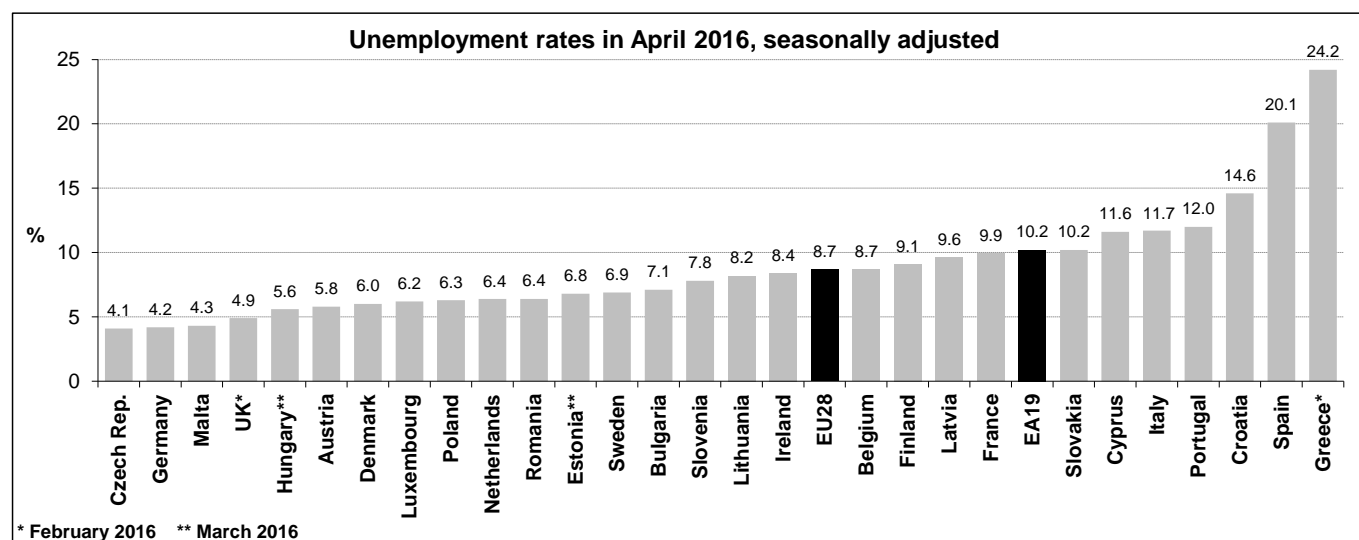
Eurostat estimates that 21.224 million men and women in the **EU28**, of whom 16.420 million were in the **euro area**, were unemployed in April 2016. Compared with March 2016, the number of persons unemployed decreased by 106 000 in the **EU28** and by 63 000 in the **euro area**. Compared with April 2015, unemployment fell by 2.096 million in the **EU28** and by 1.309 million in the **euro area**.

Member States

Among the Member States, the lowest unemployment rates in April 2016 were recorded in the **Czech Republic** (4.1%), **Germany** (4.2%) and **Malta** (4.3%). The highest unemployment rates were observed in **Greece** (24.2% in February 2016) and **Spain** (20.1%).

Compared with a year ago, the unemployment rate in April 2016 fell in twenty-five Member States, remained stable in **Belgium** and increased in **Estonia** (from 6.7% in March 2015 to 6.8% in March 2016) and **Latvia** (from 9.5% to 9.6%). The largest decreases were registered in **Cyprus** (from 15.7% to 11.6%), **Bulgaria** (from 10.0% to 7.1%) and **Spain** (from 22.7% to 20.1%).

In April 2016, the unemployment rate in the **United States** was 5.0%, stable compared with March 2016, and down from 5.4% in April 2015.



Youth unemployment

In April 2016, 4.235 million young persons (under 25) were unemployed in the **EU28**, of whom 2.932 million were in the **euro area**. Compared with April 2015, youth unemployment decreased by 495 000 in the **EU28** and by 261 000 in the **euro area**. In April 2016, the youth unemployment rate was 18.8% in the **EU28** and 21.1% in the **euro area**, compared with 20.7% and 22.5% respectively in April 2015. In April 2016, the lowest rates were observed in **Germany** (7.0%), **Malta** (8.9%) and the **Czech Republic** (9.5%), and the highest in **Greece** (51.4% in February 2016), **Spain** (45.0%), **Croatia** (38.9% in the first quarter 2016) and **Italy** (36.9%).

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 [84/2016](#) of 29 April 2016, the March 2016 unemployment rate remains unchanged for both the EA19 and the EU28. Among Member States, rates have been revised by more than 0.1 percentage points (pp) downwards for Poland (by 0.5 pp), Latvia (by 0.3 pp) and Finland (by 0.2 pp).

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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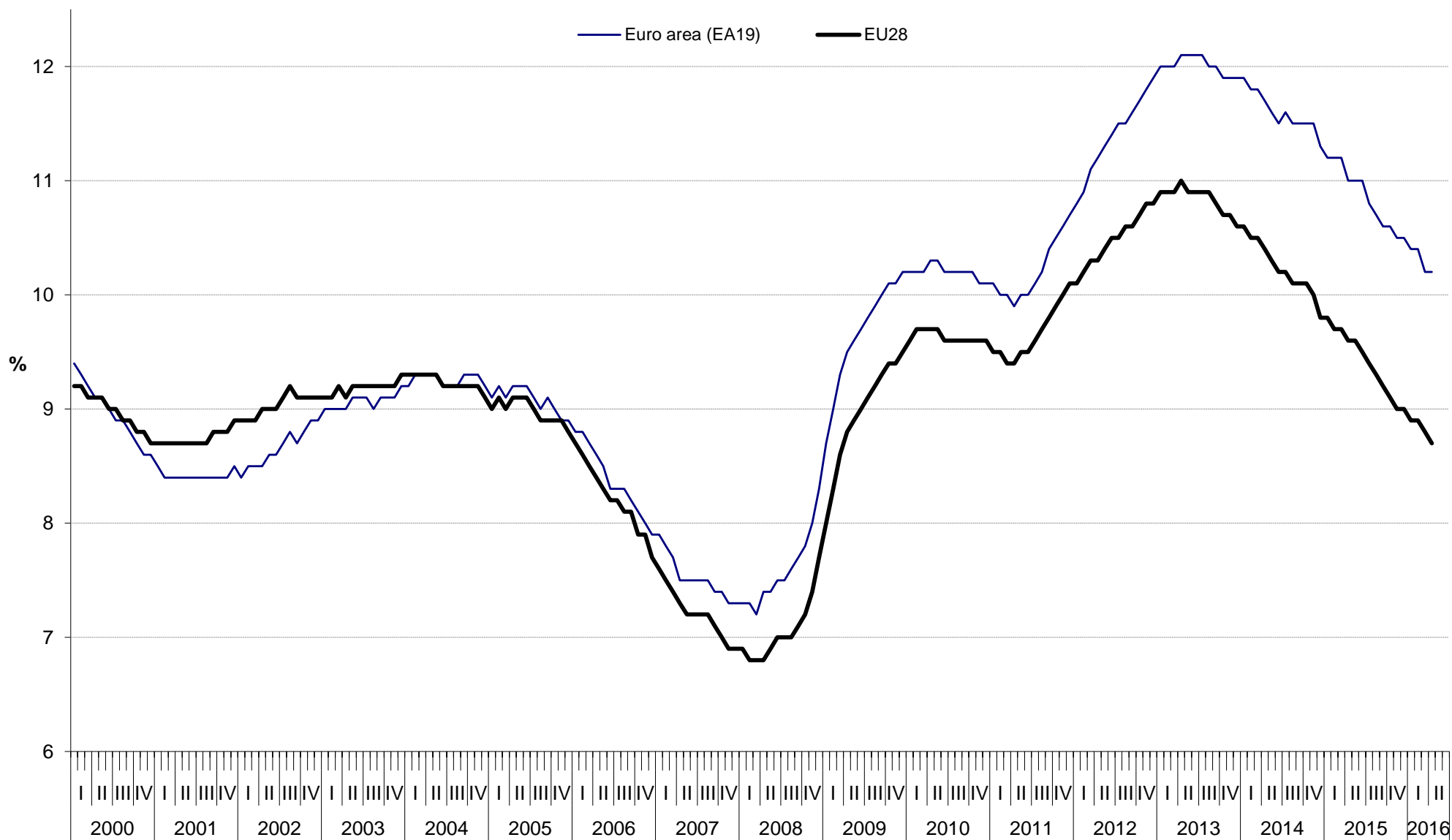
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Euro area and EU28 unemployment rates Seasonally adjusted series



Seasonally adjusted unemployment, totals

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	Apr 15	Jan 16	Feb 16	Mar 16	Apr 16	Apr 15	Jan 16	Feb 16	Mar 16	Apr 16
EA19	11.0	10.4	10.4	10.2	10.2	17 729	16 741	16 695	16 483	16 420
EU28	9.6	8.9	8.9	8.8	8.7	23 320	21 693	21 581	21 330	21 224
Belgium	8.7	8.7	8.6	8.6	8.7	432	433	426	423	429
Bulgaria	10.0	7.5	7.4	7.3	7.1	335	251	247	242	235
Czech Republic	5.3	4.3	4.2	4.1	4.1	280	229	225	219	220
Denmark	6.3	5.9	5.9	5.9	6.0	184	177	177	178	180
Germany	4.7	4.3	4.3	4.2	4.2	1 984	1 837	1 815	1 794	1 778
Estonia	6.7**	6.3	6.3	6.8	:	45**	43	43	46	:
Ireland	9.7	8.9	8.8	8.6	8.4	209	192	190	187	184
Greece	25.8*	24.4	24.2	:	:	1 229*	1 166	1 159	:	:
Spain	22.7	20.5	20.4	20.3	20.1	5 219	4 697	4 667	4 621	4 596
France	10.3	10.1	10.2	10.1	9.9	3 023	2 995	3 022	2 964	2 910
Croatia	16.3	15.2	15.1	14.9	14.6	310	288	287	285	282
Italy	12.1	11.7	11.7	11.5	11.7	3 079	2 993	2 988	2 936	2 986
Cyprus	15.7	12.5	12.3	12.0	11.6	68	52	50	49	47
Latvia	9.5	10.0	9.8	9.6	9.6	95	100	98	96	96
Lithuania	9.4	8.6	8.5	8.4	8.2	138	127	124	124	121
Luxembourg	6.5	6.3	6.2	6.3	6.2	18	17	17	17	17
Hungary	7.3**	5.9	5.7	5.6	:	329**	269	262	258	:
Malta	5.5	5.2	5.0	4.6	4.3	11	10	10	9	9
Netherlands	7.0	6.5	6.5	6.4	6.4	625	574	581	574	572
Austria	5.9	6.0	6.1	5.9	5.8	256	268	269	262	258
Poland	7.6	6.6	6.5	6.3	6.3	1 324	1 149	1 119	1 094	1 083
Portugal	12.8	12.1	12.2	12.0	12.0	657	616	622	612	610
Romania	6.8	6.5	6.4	6.4	6.4	633	590	577	573	573
Slovenia	9.4	8.3	8.2	8.1	7.8	95	82	81	80	78
Slovakia	11.7	10.5	10.4	10.3	10.2	320	288	285	283	282
Finland	9.2	9.3	9.2	9.1	9.1	247	249	247	245	244
Sweden	7.6	7.0	7.0	7.0	6.9	395	369	368	367	366
United Kingdom	5.5*	5.0	4.9	:	:	1 791*	1 631	1 620	:	:
Iceland	4.1	3.2	3.2	3.1	:	8	6	6	6	:
Norway	4.2**	4.7	4.7	4.7	:	115**	133	130	130	:
United States	5.4	4.9	4.9	5.0	5.0	8 485	7 736	7 818	7 945	7 916

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

: Data not available

* February 2015

** March 2015

Seasonally adjusted youth (under 25s) unemployment

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	Apr 15	Jan 16	Feb 16	Mar 16	Apr 16	Apr 15	Jan 16	Feb 16	Mar 16	Apr 16
EA19	22.5	21.9	21.8	21.4	21.1	3 193	3 048	3 040	2 966	2 932
EU28	20.7	19.5	19.3	19.0	18.8	4 730	4 395	4 375	4 288	4 235
Belgium	21.8	24.6	24.6	24.6	:	86	99	99	99	:
Bulgaria	22.6	21.1	20.5	18.6	17.4	43	36	34	30	27
Czech Republic	13.5	10.3	9.8	9.7	9.5	48	34	33	33	32
Denmark	10.4	11.0	11.2	11.2	11.6	46	52	53	52	54
Germany	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.0	7.0	292	284	283	282	280
Estonia	12.5	14.6	12.8	11.6	:	7	8	7	6	:
Ireland	21.0	20.2	19.9	19.1	18.0	40	37	36	34	32
Greece	51.6	51.9	51.4	:	:	145	130	130	:	:
Spain	49.7	46.0	46.0	45.6	45.0	778	686	684	673	663
France	24.3	24.7	24.8	24.3	23.5	671	688	691	670	647
Croatia	43.2	38.9	38.9	38.9	:	68	67	67	67	:
Italy	41.4	39.0	38.4	36.7	36.9	646	601	595	567	578
Cyprus	32.6	27.7	27.7	27.7	:	13	10	10	10	:
Latvia	14.7	17.6	15.7	14.4	14.3	13	14	13	11	11
Lithuania	17.4	13.6	13.9	14.2	13.8	22	17	17	18	17
Luxembourg	16.8	13.8	14.0	14.2	13.8	4	4	4	4	3
Hungary	18.1	14.5	14.1	14.2	:	61	49	49	49	:
Malta	11.6	10.8	10.4	9.4	8.9	3	3	3	2	2
Netherlands	10.9	11.2	11.3	11.4	11.2	154	155	158	159	159
Austria	10.9	11.9	11.9	10.6	10.4	61	68	67	59	58
Poland	21.0	18.6	18.1	17.7	17.1	291	263	258	252	243
Portugal	31.7	29.9	30.1	31.1	29.9	117	109	110	115	109
Romania	21.8	20.9*	:	:	:	150	140*	:	:	:
Slovenia	16.6	16.3	16.3	16.3	:	13	11	11	11	:
Slovakia	26.6	24.5	24.2	24.0	24.2	56	50	50	49	49
Finland	22.1	22.1	22.1	22.1	22.2	72	71	71	71	71
Sweden	20.9	19.1	19.1	18.9	19.0	137	124	124	123	123
United Kingdom	15.5	13.1	13.0	:	:	694	589	587	:	:
Iceland	8.5	7.3	7.2	7.2	:	3	2	2	2	:
Norway	10.0	11.2	11.2	11.8	:	38	42	42	44	:

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				
	Apr 15	Jan 16	Feb 16	Mar 16	Apr 16	Apr 15	Jan 16	Feb 16	Mar 16	Apr 16
EA19	10.9	10.1	10.1	10.0	9.8	11.2	10.7	10.7	10.6	10.6
EU28	9.5	8.7	8.7	8.6	8.5	9.7	9.1	9.0	9.0	9.0
Belgium	9.6	9.4	9.2	9.2	9.3	7.7	7.9	7.8	7.9	8.0
Bulgaria	10.9	7.8	7.7	7.5	7.3	9.1	7.2	7.1	7.0	6.8
Czech Republic	4.4	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.5	6.4	5.2	5.1	4.9	4.8
Denmark	6.3	5.6	5.5	5.3	5.4	6.3	6.3	6.4	6.6	6.7
Germany	5.1	4.5	4.5	4.4	4.3	4.3	4.1	4.1	4.0	4.0
Estonia	6.8	6.7	7.0	7.4	:	7.1	6.0	5.5	6.2	:
Ireland	11.0	10.6	10.4	10.2	9.9	8.1	6.8	6.8	6.7	6.6
Greece	22.2	20.9	20.6	:	:	29.0	28.8	28.7	:	:
Spain	21.4	19.0	18.9	18.7	18.4	24.3	22.3	22.2	22.1	22.1
France	10.8	10.5	10.6	10.4	10.2	9.8	9.7	9.8	9.7	9.5
Croatia	16.5	14.2	14.2	14.1	14.0	16.0	16.4	16.1	15.8	15.3
Italy	11.5	11.0	11.1	10.9	10.8	12.9	12.6	12.5	12.3	12.8
Cyprus	16.0	13.0	12.7	12.3	11.8	15.5	12.0	11.9	11.6	11.3
Latvia	10.9	11.0	10.4	10.0	10.0	8.2	9.1	9.2	9.2	9.3
Lithuania	10.4	9.5	9.5	9.7	9.5	8.4	7.8	7.4	7.3	7.0
Luxembourg	5.8	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	7.3	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0
Hungary	7.0	5.7	5.6	5.4	:	7.1	6.1	5.9	5.9	:
Malta	5.6	5.1	4.9	4.4	4.1	5.4	5.3	5.2	5.0	4.8
Netherlands	6.6	6.1	6.1	6.0	6.0	7.5	6.9	7.0	6.9	6.9
Austria	6.2	6.6	6.6	6.3	6.2	5.5	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.3
Poland	7.5	6.5	6.3	6.1	6.1	7.8	6.8	6.7	6.6	6.5
Portugal	12.4	12.1	12.2	11.9	11.9	13.2	12.1	12.2	12.1	12.0
Romania	7.5	7.3	7.2	7.2	7.2	5.9	5.5	5.3	5.3	5.3
Slovenia	8.5	8.0	7.8	7.6	7.5	10.5	8.6	8.6	8.6	8.2
Slovakia	10.6	9.1	9.0	8.9	8.8	13.1	12.2	12.0	11.9	11.9
Finland	9.6	9.7	9.6	9.5	9.4	8.8	8.8	8.8	8.8	8.8
Sweden	7.7	7.3	7.4	7.4	7.3	7.5	6.7	6.6	6.5	6.5
United Kingdom	5.7	5.1	5.0	:	:	5.3	4.8	4.8	:	:
Iceland	4.0	3.6	3.6	3.6	:	4.3	2.8	2.7	2.6	:
Norway	4.5	5.3	5.2	5.2	:	3.9	4.1	4.0	4.0	:

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

: Data not available