September 2016
Euro area unemployment at 10.0%
EU28 at 8.5%

The **euro area** (EA19) seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate was 10.0% in September 2016, stable compared to August 2016 and down from 10.6% in September 2015. This is the lowest rate recorded in the **euro area** since June 2011. The **EU28** unemployment rate was 8.5% in September 2016, stable compared to August 2016 and down from 9.2% in September 2015. This is the lowest rate recorded in the **EU28** since February 2009. These figures are published by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**.

Eurostat estimates that 20.789 million men and women in the **EU28**, of whom 16.181 million were in the **euro area**, were unemployed in September 2016. Compared with August 2016, the number of persons unemployed decreased by 150 000 in the **EU28** and by 101 000 in the **euro area**. Compared with September 2015, unemployment fell by 1.596 million in the **EU28** and by 905 000 in the **euro area**.

Member States

Among the Member States, the lowest unemployment rates in September 2016 were recorded in the **Czech Republic** (4.0%) and **Germany** (4.1%). The highest unemployment rates were observed in **Greece** (23.2% in July 2016) and **Spain** (19.3%).

Compared with a year ago, the unemployment rate in September 2016 fell in twenty-four Member States, while it increased in **Estonia** (from 5.4% to 7.6% between August 2015 and August 2016), **Austria** (from 5.7% to 6.3%), **Denmark** (from 6.0% to 6.3%) and **Italy** (from 11.4% to 11.7%). The largest decreases were registered in **Croatia** (from 16.4% to 12.6%), **Cyprus** (from 14.3% to 12.0%) and **Spain** (from 21.4% to 19.3%).

In September 2016, the unemployment rate in the **United States** was 5.0%, up from 4.9% in August 2016 but down from 5.1% in September 2015.

Unemployment rates in September 2016, seasonally adjusted

* July 2016   ** August 2016
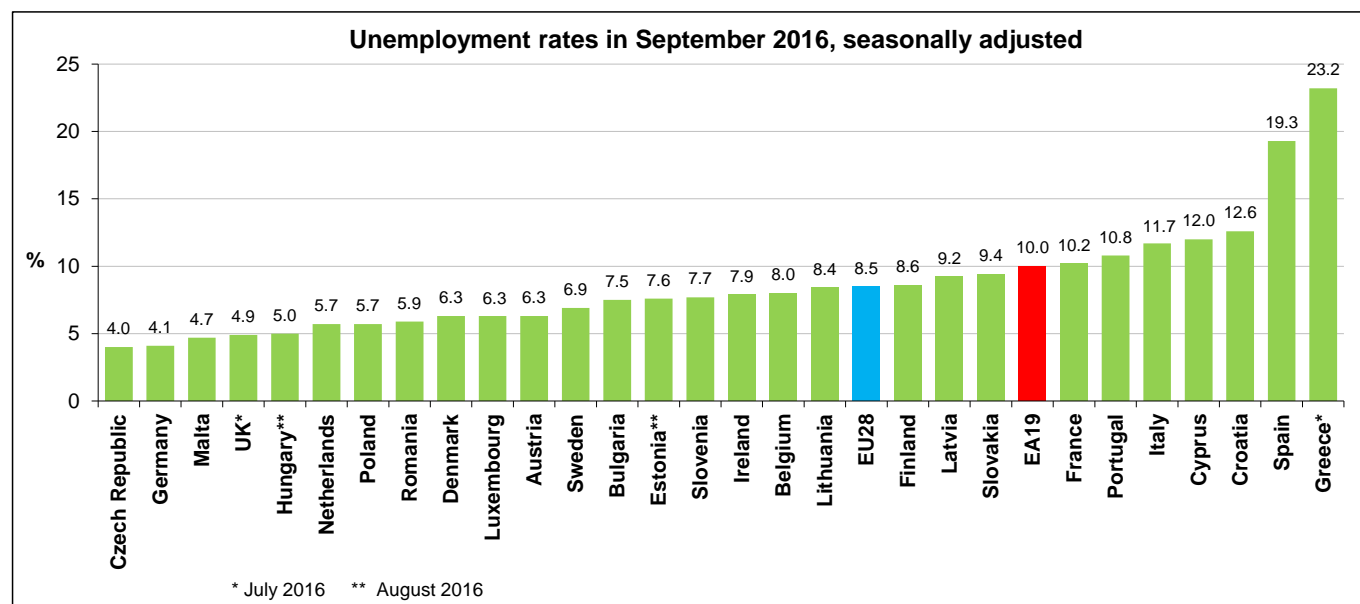
Youth unemployment

In September 2016, 4.125 million young persons (under 25) were unemployed in the **EU28**, of whom 2.875 million were in the **euro area**. Compared with September 2015, youth unemployment decreased by 425 000 in the **EU28** and by 243 000 in the **euro area**. In September 2016, the youth unemployment rate was 18.2% in the **EU28** and 20.3% in the **euro area**, compared with 20.0% and 22.2% respectively in September 2015. In September 2016, the lowest rate was observed in **Germany** (6.8%), and the highest were recorded in **Greece** (42.7% in July 2016), **Spain** (42.6%) and **Italy** (37.1%).

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 186/2016 of 30 September 2016, the August 2016 unemployment rate has been revised downwards for both the EA19 (from 10.1% to 10.0%) and the EU28 (from 8.6% to 8.5%). Among Member States, rates have been revised by more than 0.1 percentage points (pp) upwards for Estonia (by 0.2 pp, July data).

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

Euro area and EU28 unemployment rates
Seasonally adjusted series
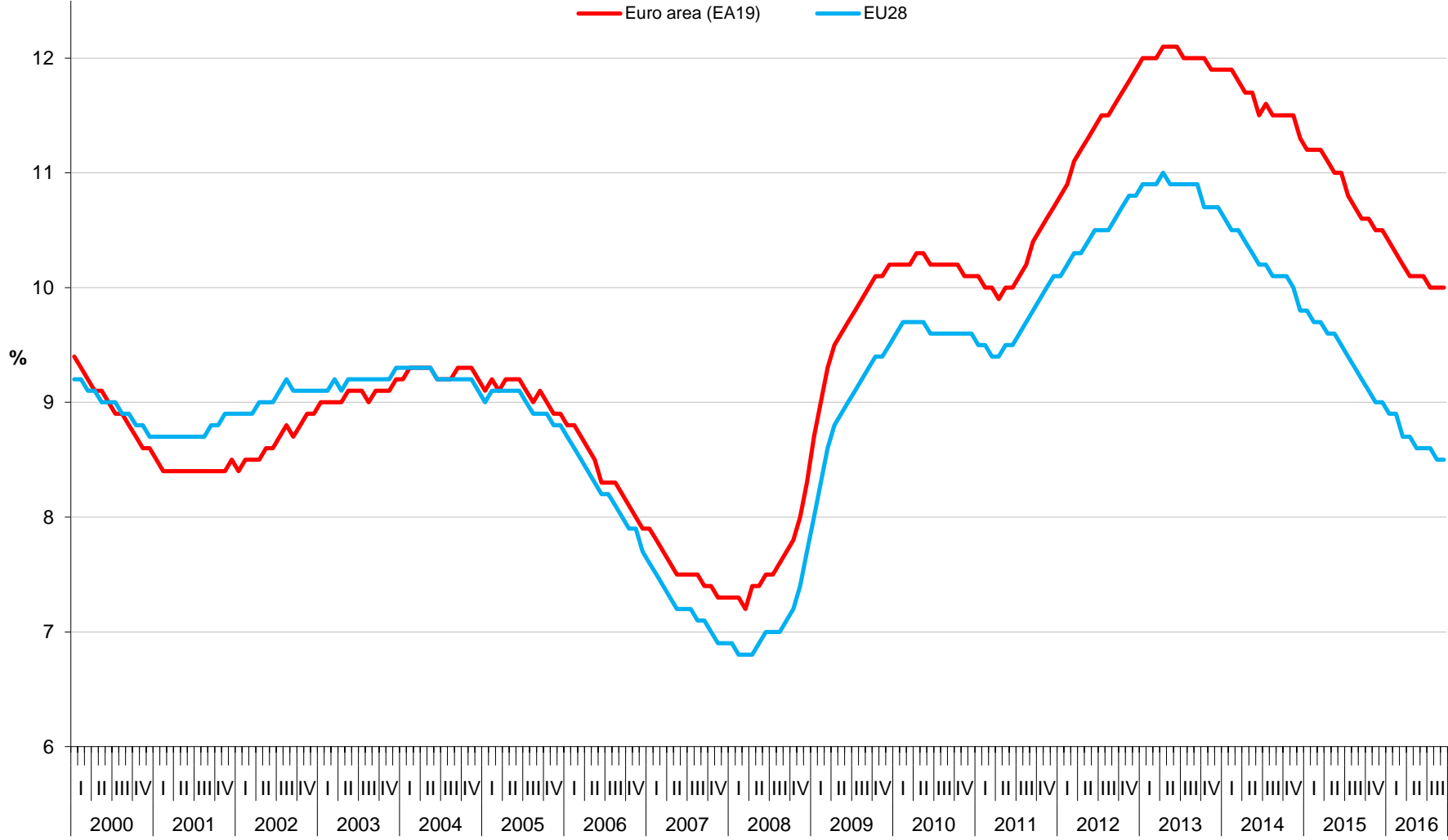
Seasonally adjusted unemployment, totals

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	Sep 15	Jun 16	Jul 16	Aug 16	Sep 16	Sep 15	Jun 16	Jul 16	Aug 16	Sep 16
EA19	10.6	10.1	10.0	10.0	**10.0**	17 086	16 350	16 289	16 282	**16 181**
EU28	9.2	8.6	8.6	8.5	**8.5**	22 385	21 052	21 009	20 939	**20 789**
Belgium	8.1	8.3	8.2	8.2	**8.0**	404	413	412	411	**401**
Bulgaria	8.4	7.9	7.8	7.7	**7.5**	280	261	258	254	**248**
Czech Republic	4.7	4.2	4.1	3.8	**4.0**	249	222	222	201	**213**
Denmark	6.0	6.1	6.3	6.3	**6.3**	177	186	191	191	**192**
Germany	4.5	4.2	4.2	4.1	**4.1**	1 899	1 809	1 798	1 785	**1 769**
Estonia	5.4**	7.0	7.0	7.6	**:**	37**	49	49	53	**:**
Ireland	9.1	8.4	8.3	8.2	**7.9**	197	183	182	180	**173**
Greece	24.8*	23.4	23.2	:	**:**	1 198*	1 126	1 121	:	**:**
Spain	21.4	19.9	19.6	19.4	**19.3**	4 900	4 533	4 465	4 436	**4 416**
France	10.4	10.0	10.3	10.5	**10.2**	3 076	2 969	3 045	3 109	**3 025**
Croatia	16.4	13.1	13.0	12.8	**12.6**	310	243	239	235	**231**
Italy	11.4	11.6	11.5	11.5	**11.7**	2 918	2 994	2 960	2 956	**3 016**
Cyprus	14.3	12.2	12.1	12.1	**12.0**	59	52	51	51	**50**
Latvia	9.9	9.6	9.5	9.3	**9.2**	98	95	94	92	**90**
Lithuania	8.9	8.4	8.8	8.6	**8.4**	129	124	130	127	**124**
Luxembourg	6.5	6.2	6.2	6.2	**6.3**	18	17	17	17	**17**
Hungary	6.6**	5.1	5.1	5.0	**:**	298**	232	232	231	**:**
Malta	5.3	4.9	4.8	4.8	**4.7**	11	10	10	10	**9**
Netherlands	6.8	6.1	6.0	5.8	**5.7**	609	550	541	521	**510**
Austria	5.7	6.1	6.1	6.2	**6.3**	249	276	276	281	**283**
Poland	7.3	6.2	6.0	5.9	**5.7**	1 269	1 064	1 034	1 010	**990**
Portugal	12.4	11.0	10.9	10.9	**10.8**	636	565	559	560	**556**
Romania	6.9	6.0	6.1	6.0	**5.9**	630	534	546	529	**520**
Slovenia	8.7	8.0	7.8	7.8	**7.7**	88	79	78	77	**76**
Slovakia	11.3	9.7	9.6	9.5	**9.4**	310	269	265	262	**258**
Finland	9.4	8.9	8.8	8.7	**8.6**	254	238	236	234	**232**
Sweden	7.2	6.9	7.0	7.0	**6.9**	376	366	365	365	**365**
United Kingdom	5.4*	4.9	4.9	:	**:**	1 759*	1 611	1 628	:	**:**
Iceland	3.8	2.9	2.9	3.0	**2.9**	7	6	6	6	**6**
Norway	4.6**	4.8	5.0	4.9	**:**	127**	134	138	137	**:**
United States	5.1	4.9	4.9	4.9	**5.0**	7 905	7 796	7 763	7 865	**7 945**

The source datasets are available here (rates) and here (in 1000 persons).
: Data not available   * July 2015   ** August 2015

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Seasonally adjusted youth (under 25s) unemployment

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	Sep 15	**Jun 16**	**Jul 16**	**Aug 16**	**Sep 16**	**Sep 15**	**Jun 16**	**Jul 16**	**Aug 16**	**Sep 16**
EA19	22.2	20.9	20.8	20.6	**20.3**	3 118	2 959	2 943	2 926	**2 875**
EU28	20.0	18.7	18.7	18.5	**18.2**	4 550	4 253	4 235	4 198	**4 125**
Belgium	21.0	21.0	21.2	21.2	**21.2**	82	79	81	81	**81**
Bulgaria	20.8	15.4	14.6	14.8	**14.9**	37	25	24	24	**24**
Czech Republic	12.0	11.7	11.3	10.9	**9.8**	40	39	38	36	**32**
Denmark	10.8	11.8	12.6	12.1	**12.0**	49	58	62	59	**59**
Germany	7.1	7.0	7.0	6.9	**6.8**	286	297	295	292	**289**
Estonia	15.6	15.2	15.2	14.6	**:**	9	9	9	9	**:**
Ireland	20.9	17.9	17.6	17.0	**15.9**	39	37	37	35	**32**
Greece	49.1	46.5	42.7	:	**:**	135	122	119	:	**:**
Spain	47.0	45.0	43.8	43.1	**42.6**	734	666	644	638	**644**
France	24.9	24.4	24.3	24.7	**23.9**	691	676	671	686	**658**
Croatia	44.4	31.7	29.4	29.4	**29.4**	72	59	54	54	**54**
Italy	39.2	37.2	39.0	38.3	**37.1**	610	588	606	593	**575**
Cyprus	32.2	26.8	26.7	26.7	**26.7**	11	10	10	10	**10**
Latvia	15.8	18.7	17.4	15.8	**15.5**	12	14	13	12	**11**
Lithuania	15.2	16.2	16.5	16.6	**16.2**	18	20	20	20	**20**
Luxembourg	17.2	17.2	17.0	17.0	**17.4**	4	4	4	4	**4**
Hungary	16.1	13.0	12.7	12.6	**:**	55	46	44	44	**:**
Malta	13.3	10.1	10.3	10.2	**9.8**	4	3	3	3	**3**
Netherlands	11.5	10.8	10.8	10.6	**10.5**	161	152	152	150	**149**
Austria	10.9	11.4	11.0	11.3	**11.7**	62	65	64	65	**66**
Poland	20.7	17.1	16.5	16.0	**15.8**	282	238	225	218	**214**
Portugal	31.9	26.7	27.2	26.7	**26.5**	118	97	100	96	**95**
Romania	21.2	20.4	:	:	**:**	145	121	:	:	**:**
Slovenia	14.8	14.8	13.5	13.5	**13.5**	11	10	8	8	**8**
Slovakia	26.8	21.0	20.1	19.4	**19.1**	56	42	39	38	**37**
Finland	21.8	20.8	20.6	20.3	**20.1**	71	67	66	66	**66**
Sweden	19.7	18.4	19.4	19.2	**18.6**	128	120	119	118	**117**
United Kingdom	13.6	13.5	13.5	:	**:**	617	602	602	:	**:**
Iceland	8.0	6.2	6.2	6.2	**6.1**	3	2	2	2	**2**
Norway	10.1	10.9	11.1	10.9	**:**	38	40	41	40	**:**

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

: Data not available

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

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Seasonally adjusted unemployment rates (%), by gender

	Males					Females				
	Sep 15	Jun 16	Jul 16	Aug 16	Sep 16	Sep 15	Jun 16	Jul 16	Aug 16	Sep 16
EA19	10.5	9.7	9.7	9.7	**9.6**	10.8	10.5	10.4	10.4	**10.3**
EU28	9.1	8.4	8.4	8.3	**8.3**	9.3	8.8	8.8	8.8	**8.7**
Belgium	8.6	8.1	8.1	8.1	**8.1**	7.6	8.6	8.5	8.3	**8.0**
Bulgaria	8.9	8.6	8.5	8.4	**8.1**	7.8	7.2	7.1	7.0	**6.9**
Czech Republic	3.9	3.5	3.5	3.3	**3.3**	5.7	5.0	5.0	4.3	**4.9**
Denmark	5.6	6.0	5.8	5.8	**5.7**	6.5	6.3	6.8	6.9	**7.0**
Germany	4.8	4.5	4.5	4.4	**4.4**	4.1	3.9	3.9	3.8	**3.8**
Estonia	5.3	7.9	7.7	7.8	**:**	6.2	6.0	6.4	7.4	**:**
Ireland	10.6	9.5	9.5	9.4	**9.2**	7.3	7.0	6.9	6.8	**6.4**
Greece	21.4	19.7	19.4	:	**:**	28.9	27.9	27.9	:	**:**
Spain	20.1	18.2	18.0	17.9	**17.8**	22.9	21.7	21.3	21.1	**21.0**
France	10.9	10.3	10.5	10.7	**10.4**	9.9	9.7	10.0	10.2	**9.9**
Croatia	15.0	12.5	12.1	11.8	**11.6**	18.0	13.8	13.9	13.9	**13.7**
Italy	10.9	10.8	10.6	10.6	**10.8**	12.2	12.7	12.7	12.7	**12.8**
Cyprus	14.2	12.1	11.9	11.8	**11.8**	14.4	12.4	12.4	12.4	**12.2**
Latvia	11.4	10.4	10.3	10.1	**10.0**	8.3	8.8	8.7	8.6	**8.3**
Lithuania	9.7	9.4	10.2	9.9	**9.7**	8.1	7.4	7.4	7.3	**7.1**
Luxembourg	5.9	5.7	5.7	5.7	**5.7**	7.1	6.8	6.8	6.8	**6.9**
Hungary	6.4	5.2	5.1	5.1	**:**	6.7	4.9	5.0	5.0	**:**
Malta	5.6	4.4	4.4	4.2	**4.2**	5.0	5.7	5.5	5.6	**5.5**
Netherlands	6.5	5.7	5.6	5.4	**5.3**	7.3	6.6	6.5	6.3	**6.1**
Austria	6.2	6.5	6.5	6.5	**6.5**	5.0	5.7	5.7	5.9	**6.1**
Poland	7.2	6.2	6.1	5.9	**5.8**	7.4	6.1	5.9	5.8	**5.7**
Portugal	12.3	10.9	10.6	10.8	**10.6**	12.6	11.2	11.2	11.0	**11.1**
Romania	7.5	6.8	6.9	6.8	**6.7**	6.0	4.9	5.0	4.9	**4.8**
Slovenia	7.7	7.3	7.2	7.1	**7.1**	10.0	8.7	8.6	8.5	**8.4**
Slovakia	10.1	8.5	8.4	8.3	**8.2**	12.8	11.2	11.0	10.9	**10.8**
Finland	9.9	9.0	8.9	8.8	**8.7**	8.8	8.7	8.7	8.6	**8.5**
Sweden	7.4	7.3	7.3	7.3	**7.2**	7.0	6.5	6.6	6.6	**6.5**
United Kingdom	5.3	5.0	5.0	:	**:**	5.0	4.7	4.9	:	**:**
Iceland	3.9	2.9	3.0	3.0	**2.9**	3.7	2.9	2.9	2.9	**2.9**
Norway	5.1	5.4	5.6	5.5	**:**	4.1	4.1	4.2	4.2	**:**

The source dataset is available here.

: Data not available