

34/2017 - 2 March 2017

January 2017

Euro area unemployment at 9.6%

EU28 at 8.1%

The **euro area** (EA19) seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate was 9.6% in January 2017, stable compared to December 2016 and down from 10.4% in January 2016. This remains the lowest rate recorded in the **euro area** since May 2009. The **EU28** unemployment rate was 8.1% in January 2017, down from 8.2% in December 2016 and from 8.9% in January 2016. This is the lowest rate recorded in the **EU28** since January 2009. These figures are published by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**.

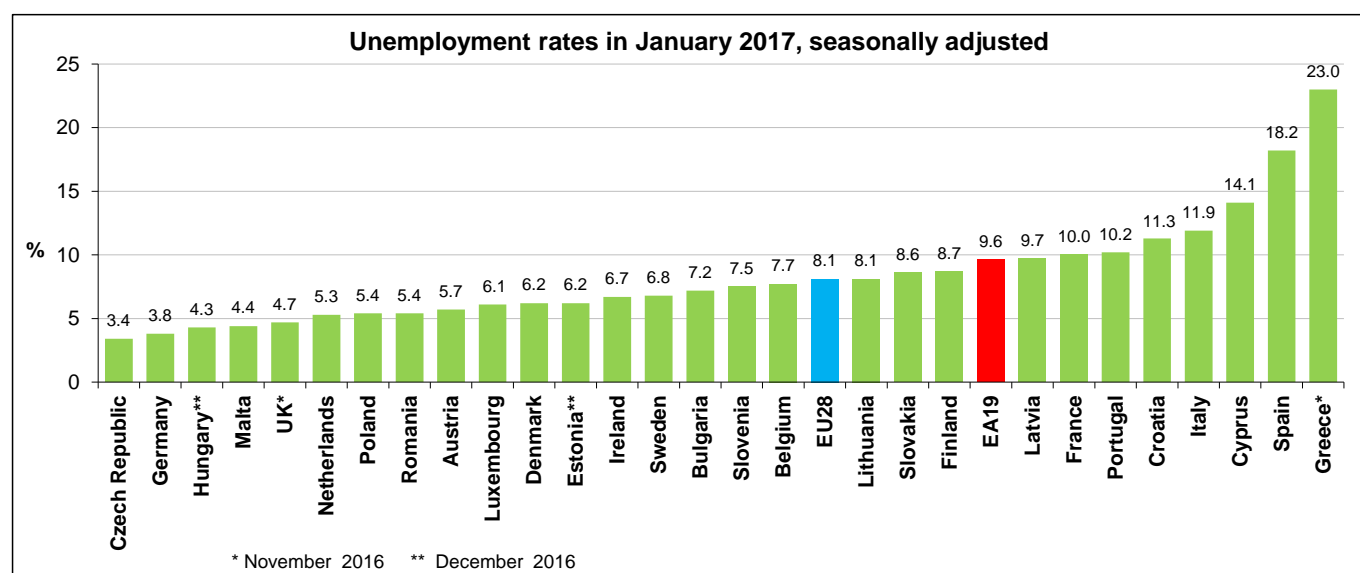
Eurostat estimates that 19.969 million men and women in the **EU28**, of whom 15.620 million were in the **euro area**, were unemployed in January 2017. Compared with December 2016, the number of persons unemployed decreased by 96 000 in the **EU28** and by 56 000 in the **euro area**. Compared with January 2016, unemployment fell by 1.733 million in the **EU28** and by 1.101 million in the **euro area**.

Member States

Among the Member States, the lowest unemployment rates in January 2017 were recorded in the **Czech Republic** (3.4%) and **Germany** (3.8%). The highest unemployment rates were observed in **Greece** (23.0% in November 2016) and **Spain** (18.2%).

Compared with a year ago, the unemployment rate in January 2017 fell in twenty-five Member States, while it increased in **Cyprus** (from 13.1% to 14.1%), **Italy** (from 11.6% to 11.9%) and **Denmark** (from 6.0% to 6.2%). The largest decreases were registered in **Croatia** (from 14.8% to 11.3%), **Spain** (from 20.6% to 18.2%), **Hungary** (from 6.2% to 4.3% between December 2015 and December 2016), **Portugal** (from 12.1% to 10.2%), **Slovakia** (from 10.4% to 8.6%) and **Ireland** (from 8.5% to 6.7%).

In January 2017, the unemployment rate in the **United States** was 4.8%, up from 4.7% in December 2016 but down from 4.9% in January 2016.



Youth unemployment

In January 2017, 4.017 million young persons (under 25) were unemployed in the **EU28**, of whom 2.826 million were in the **euro area**. Compared with January 2016, youth unemployment decreased by 357 000 in the **EU28** and by 198 000 in the **euro area**. In January 2017, the youth unemployment rate was 17.7% in the **EU28** and 20.0% in the **euro area**, compared with 19.3% and 21.7% respectively in January 2016. In January 2017, the lowest rate was observed in **Germany** (6.5%), while the highest were recorded in **Greece** (45.7% in November 2016), **Spain** (42.2%) and **Italy** (37.9%).

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.

When data for the most recent month are not available for a Member State, EU and EA aggregates are calculated using the latest data available for that Member State.

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 [22/2017](#) of 31 January 2017, the December 2016 unemployment rate remains unchanged for both the EU28 and the EA19. Among Member States, rates have been revised by more than 0.1 percentage points (pp) downwards for Lithuania (by 0.5 pp), Poland (by 0.4 pp), Ireland (by 0.3 pp), Cyprus and Latvia (both by 0.2 pp). The unemployment rate has been revised by more than 0.1 pp upwards for France (by 0.4 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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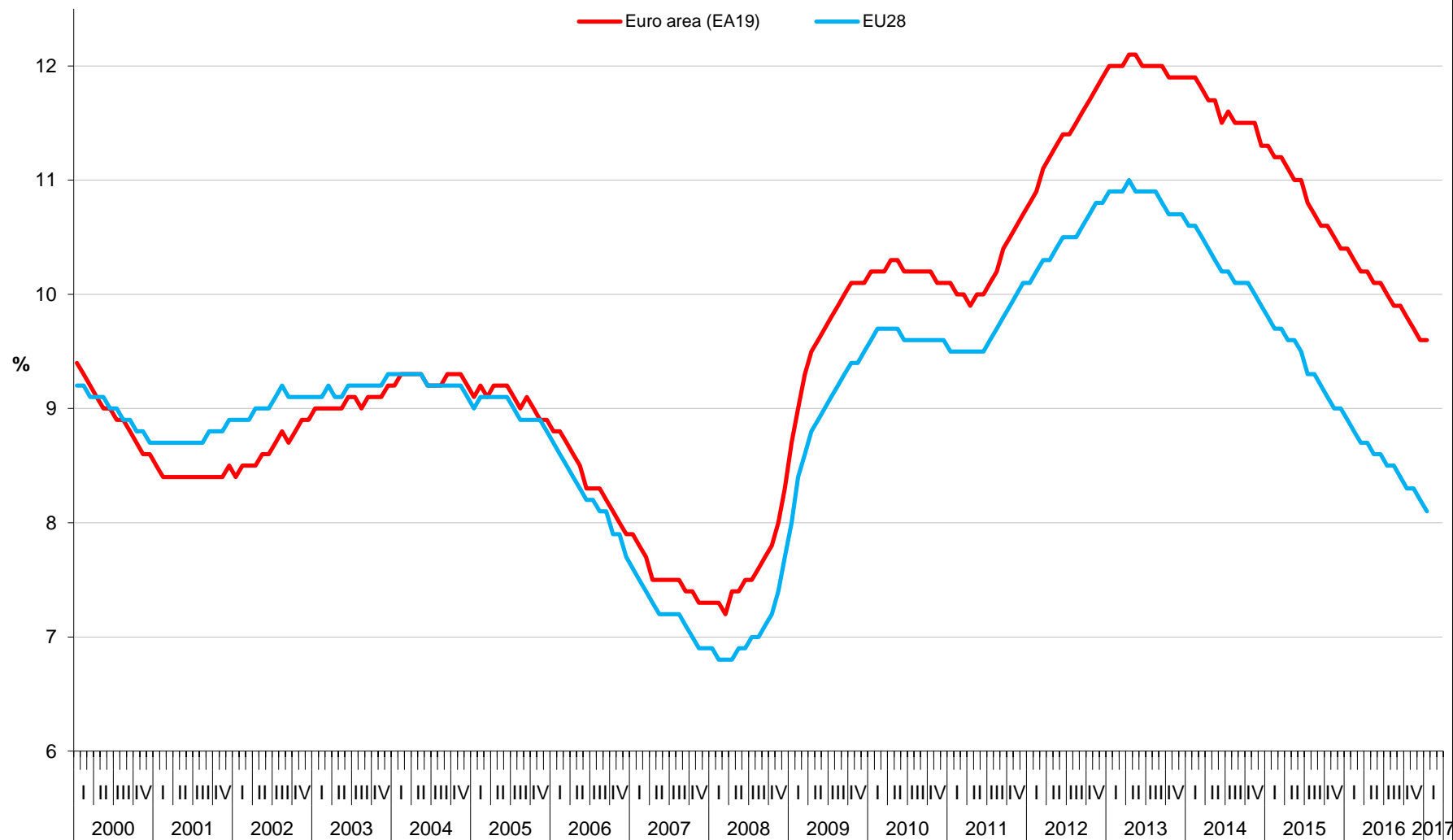
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Euro area and EU28 unemployment rates Seasonally adjusted series



Seasonally adjusted unemployment, totals

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	Jan 16	Oct 16	Nov 16	Dec 16	Jan 17	Jan 16	Oct 16	Nov 16	Dec 16	Jan 17
EA19	10.4	9.8	9.7	9.6	9.6	16 721	15 860	15 802	15 676	15 620
EU28	8.9	8.3	8.3	8.2	8.1	21 702	20 361	20 235	20 065	19 969
Belgium	8.3	7.6	7.6	7.7	7.7	410	375	376	377	378
Bulgaria	7.9	7.2	7.1	7.1	7.2	262	234	231	231	232
Czech Republic	4.3	3.7	3.6	3.5	3.4	229	200	195	188	183
Denmark	6.0	6.5	6.4	6.2	6.2	178	198	194	186	184
Germany	4.4	4.0	3.9	3.9	3.8	1 868	1 740	1 709	1 682	1 661
Estonia	6.4**	7.1	6.7	6.2	:	44**	49	46	43	:
Ireland	8.5	7.3	7.0	6.9	6.7	185	159	154	152	148
Greece	24.5*	23.0	23.0	:	:	1 177*	1 102	1 100	:	:
Spain	20.6	18.9	18.7	18.4	18.2	4 697	4 291	4 251	4 181	4 129
France	10.2	10.0	9.9	10.0	10.0	3 002	2 949	2 928	2 947	2 961
Croatia	14.8	11.4	11.4	11.4	11.3	272	208	208	207	202
Italy	11.6	11.7	11.9	11.9	11.9	2 971	3 036	3 097	3 095	3 097
Cyprus	13.1	13.7	14.1	14.1	14.1	54	59	61	61	61
Latvia	10.1	9.4	9.4	9.6	9.7	100	92	92	94	96
Lithuania	8.2	7.4	7.4	7.6	8.1	120	109	110	113	119
Luxembourg	6.4	6.2	6.2	6.3	6.1	18	17	17	17	17
Hungary	6.2**	4.6	4.5	4.3	:	280**	213	209	198	:
Malta	5.1	4.7	4.6	4.5	4.4	10	10	9	9	9
Netherlands	6.5	5.6	5.6	5.4	5.3	574	502	499	482	480
Austria	6.1	5.9	5.8	5.7	5.7	272	264	258	253	256
Poland	6.7	5.9	5.7	5.5	5.4	1 152	1 006	972	949	930
Portugal	12.1	10.6	10.5	10.2	10.2	617	545	538	521	522
Romania	6.4	5.6	5.5	5.5	5.4	582	496	492	493	488
Slovenia	8.4	7.6	7.6	7.5	7.5	83	74	74	73	72
Slovakia	10.4	9.2	8.9	8.8	8.6	286	252	246	242	238
Finland	9.2	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.7	247	235	235	235	234
Sweden	7.0	6.9	6.9	6.9	6.8	369	364	364	364	364
United Kingdom	5.0*	4.8	4.7	:	:	1 655*	1 581	1 568	:	:
Iceland	3.2	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	6	6	6	6	6
Norway	4.6**	4.7	4.7	4.4	:	128**	132	130	122	:
United States	4.9	4.8	4.6	4.7	4.8	7 763	7 751	7 461	7 520	7 571

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

: Data not available

* November 2015

** December 2015

Seasonally adjusted youth (under 25s) unemployment

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	Jan 16	Oct 16	Nov 16	Dec 16	Jan 17	Jan 16	Oct 16	Nov 16	Dec 16	Jan 17
EA19	21.7	20.4	20.5	20.3	20.0	3 024	2 870	2 903	2 874	2 826
EU28	19.3	18.2	18.2	18.1	17.7	4 374	4 113	4 119	4 082	4 017
Belgium	20.0	20.7	20.7	20.7	:	77	72	72	72	:
Bulgaria	18.9	21.9	22.2	22.6	23.0	32	33	33	34	35
Czech Republic	10.6	10.6	9.9	10.0	8.9	35	34	33	33	30
Denmark	11.2	12.6	13.1	12.9	12.5	52	62	63	61	58
Germany	7.2	6.7	6.7	6.6	6.5	293	287	283	279	276
Estonia	17.5	10.2	12.3	13.5	:	10	6	7	8	:
Ireland	17.6	16.5	16.1	15.9	15.1	33	34	33	33	32
Greece	50.9	44.6	45.7	:	:	129	117	120	:	:
Spain	45.7	43.0	43.4	42.8	42.2	680	627	633	617	604
France	24.8	24.1	23.6	23.5	23.6	689	664	652	651	654
Croatia	31.2	28.1	28.1	28.1	:	55	54	54	54	:
Italy	38.7	37.8	39.7	39.2	37.9	597	587	631	626	593
Cyprus	29.2	32.8	32.8	32.8	:	10	13	13	13	:
Latvia	16.9	17.0	17.0	17.5	19.0	14	12	12	12	13
Lithuania	13.6	14.1	14.7	15.4	15.5	17	17	18	19	19
Luxembourg	18.4	20.1	19.9	20.6	19.7	4	4	4	4	4
Hungary	14.4	12.2	12.0	11.5	:	49	42	41	40	:
Malta	10.6	13.2	13.1	12.9	11.9	3	4	4	4	3
Netherlands	11.2	10.5	10.3	10.2	9.8	155	148	146	144	139
Austria	12.2	10.9	10.2	10.2	10.5	69	61	56	56	59
Poland	18.8	17.0	15.8	15.1	14.3	264	226	211	201	195
Portugal	29.9	27.5	27.0	26.2	25.7	109	100	99	96	94
Romania	20.9	20.3*	:	:	:	128	125*	:	:	:
Slovenia	16.1	16.9	16.9	16.9	:	11	12	12	12	:
Slovakia	24.8	21.1	20.8	20.4	20.1	51	43	43	42	41
Finland	21.5	20.1	20.2	20.2	20.3	69	66	66	66	66
Sweden	19.3	18.3	18.0	18.5	17.9	125	116	116	115	115
United Kingdom	13.4	12.5	12.4	:	:	606	552	545	:	:
Iceland	7.0	6.5	6.5	6.6	6.6	2	2	2	2	2
Norway	11.2	10.6	10.8	10.3	:	43	39	39	37	:

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				
	Jan 16	Oct 16	Nov 16	Dec 16	Jan 17	Jan 16	Oct 16	Nov 16	Dec 16	Jan 17
EA19	10.1	9.5	9.5	9.3	9.3	10.7	10.1	10.0	10.0	10.0
EU28	8.7	8.2	8.1	8.0	7.9	9.1	8.5	8.4	8.4	8.4
Belgium	8.9	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.6	7.3	7.5	7.5	7.6
Bulgaria	8.4	7.7	7.6	7.6	7.7	7.3	6.6	6.5	6.5	6.5
Czech Republic	3.6	3.3	3.1	3.0	2.8	5.2	4.3	4.3	4.1	4.1
Denmark	5.7	6.0	6.0	5.9	6.0	6.4	6.9	6.8	6.5	6.5
Germany	4.6	4.5	4.4	4.3	4.3	4.2	3.5	3.4	3.3	3.3
Estonia	6.9	7.6	7.2	6.1	:	5.6	6.7	6.1	6.4	:
Ireland	10.2	8.1	7.8	7.5	7.3	6.5	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.0
Greece	20.8	19.3	19.4	:	:	28.6	27.6	27.5	:	:
Spain	19.1	17.5	17.3	17.0	16.8	22.3	20.5	20.3	20.0	19.9
France	10.5	10.1	10.1	10.1	10.1	9.8	9.9	9.8	9.8	9.9
Croatia	15.0	10.3	10.4	10.6	10.8	14.5	12.8	12.6	12.4	11.8
Italy	10.9	10.9	11.2	10.9	10.9	12.5	12.8	13.0	13.3	13.3
Cyprus	13.0	13.5	13.9	13.9	14.0	13.3	13.9	14.3	14.4	14.3
Latvia	11.0	11.0	10.9	11.3	11.4	9.1	7.9	7.9	7.9	8.0
Lithuania	9.4	8.7	8.7	8.9	9.6	7.0	6.2	6.2	6.3	6.7
Luxembourg	5.9	5.9	5.9	6.0	5.8	6.9	6.6	6.5	6.6	6.5
Hungary	5.7	4.6	4.5	4.4	:	6.1	4.7	4.5	4.2	:
Malta	5.1	4.6	4.5	4.4	4.3	5.2	4.9	4.7	4.7	4.5
Netherlands	6.1	5.1	5.0	4.9	4.8	6.9	6.1	6.2	6.0	5.9
Austria	6.6	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.2	5.6	5.6	5.2	5.1	5.2
Poland	6.5	5.8	5.6	5.5	5.3	6.8	5.9	5.7	5.6	5.5
Portugal	12.1	10.7	10.5	10.0	9.9	12.1	10.6	10.5	10.3	10.5
Romania	7.2	6.2	6.0	6.0	5.8	5.4	4.8	4.7	4.9	4.9
Slovenia	7.9	7.0	7.0	6.9	6.9	8.9	8.2	8.2	8.1	8.0
Slovakia	9.2	8.4	8.2	8.1	7.9	11.9	10.1	9.8	9.6	9.4
Finland	9.6	8.9	8.9	8.9	8.8	8.8	8.6	8.6	8.6	8.6
Sweden	7.3	7.2	7.2	7.2	7.2	6.7	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5
United Kingdom	5.2	4.9	4.9	:	:	4.9	4.6	4.6	:	:
Iceland	3.4	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	3.0	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1
Norway	5.4	5.3	5.3	5.0	:	4.1	4.1	4.0	3.8	:

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

: Data not available