

55/2017 - 3 April 2017

February 2017

## Euro area unemployment at 9.5%

EU28 at 8.0%

The **euro area** (EA19) seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate was 9.5% in February 2017, down from 9.6% in January 2017 and from 10.3% in February 2016. This remains the lowest rate recorded in the **euro area** since May 2009. The **EU28** unemployment rate was 8.0% in February 2017, down from 8.1% in January 2017 and from 8.9% in February 2016. This remains the lowest rate recorded in the **EU28** since January 2009. These figures are published by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**.

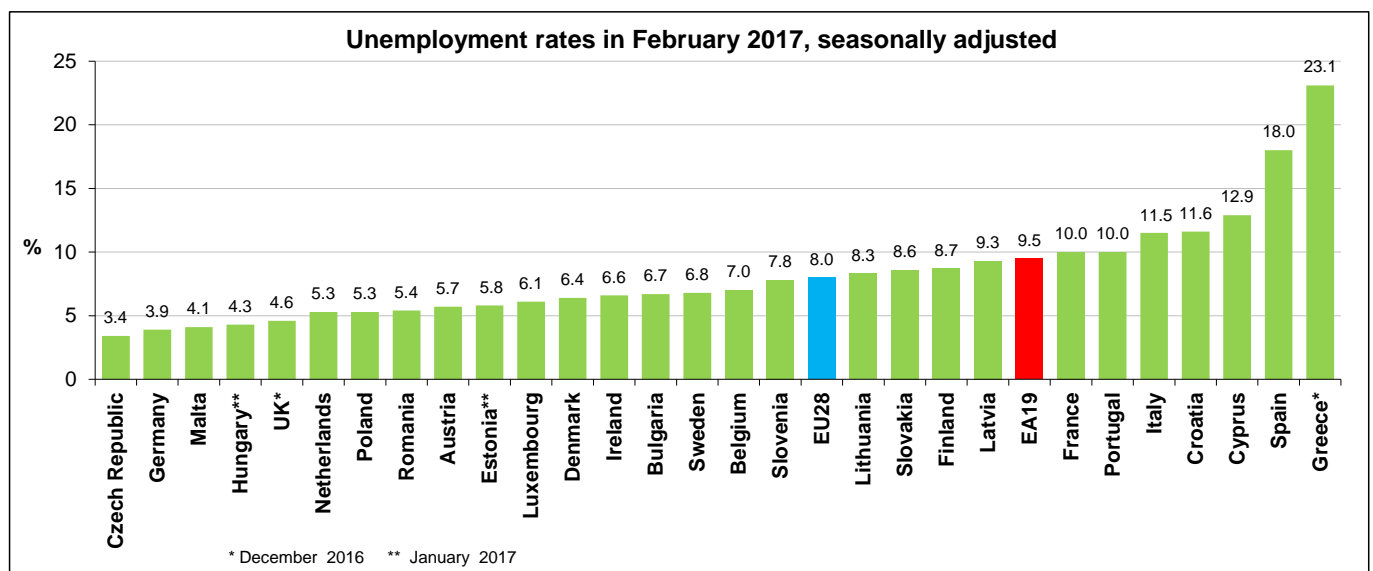
Eurostat estimates that 19.750 million men and women in the **EU28**, of whom 15.439 million were in the **euro area**, were unemployed in February 2017. Compared with January 2017, the number of persons unemployed decreased by 153 000 in the **EU28** and by 140 000 in the **euro area**. Compared with February 2016, unemployment fell by 1.852 million in the **EU28** and by 1.246 million in the **euro area**.

### Member States

Among the Member States, the lowest unemployment rates in February 2017 were recorded in the **Czech Republic** (3.4%), **Germany** (3.9%) and **Malta** (4.1%). The highest unemployment rates were observed in **Greece** (23.1% in December 2016) and **Spain** (18.0%).

Compared with a year ago, the unemployment rate in February 2017 fell in twenty-six Member States, while it increased in **Denmark** (from 6.0% to 6.4%) and **Lithuania** (from 8.0% to 8.3%). The largest decreases were registered in **Croatia** (from 14.4% to 11.6%), **Spain** (from 20.5% to 18.0%), **Portugal** (from 12.2% to 10.0%) and **Ireland** (from 8.4% to 6.6%).

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



## Youth unemployment

In February 2017, 3.905 million young persons (under 25) were unemployed in the **EU28**, of whom 2.722 million were in the **euro area**. Compared with February 2016, youth unemployment decreased by 475 000 in the **EU28** and by 309 000 in the **euro area**. In February 2017, the youth unemployment rate was 17.3% in the **EU28** and 19.4% in the **euro area**, compared with 19.3% and 21.6% respectively in February 2016. In February 2017, the lowest rate was observed in **Germany** (6.6%), while the highest were recorded in **Greece** (45.2% in December 2016), **Spain** (41.5%) and **Italy** (35.2%).

### 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 [34/2017](#) of 2 March 2017, the January 2017 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 Cyprus (by 1.0 pp), Belgium (by 0.7 pp), Bulgaria (by 0.4 pp) and Malta (by 0.3 pp). The unemployment rate has been revised by more than 0.1 pp upwards for Croatia (by 0.6 pp) and Slovenia (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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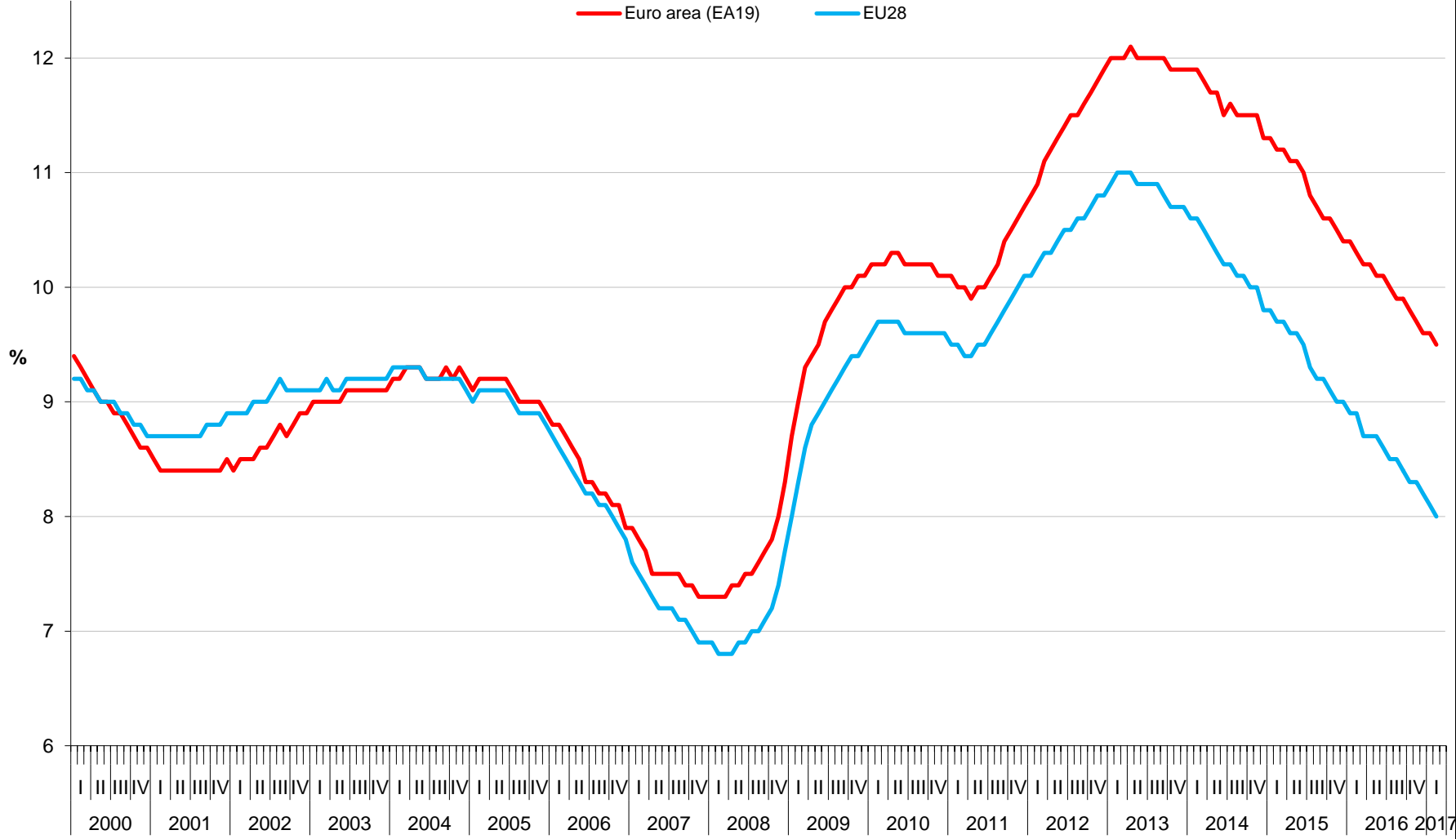
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### Euro area and EU28 unemployment rates

Seasonally adjusted series

— Euro area (EA19) — EU28



### Seasonally adjusted unemployment, totals

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	Feb 16	Nov 16	Dec 16	Jan 17	Feb 17	Feb 16	Nov 16	Dec 16	Jan 17	Feb 17
<b>EA19</b>	10.3	9.7	9.6	9.6	<b>9.5</b>	16 685	15 807	15 656	15 579	<b>15 439</b>
<b>EU28</b>	8.9	8.3	8.2	8.1	<b>8.0</b>	21 602	20 236	20 025	19 903	<b>19 750</b>
<b>Belgium</b>	8.2	7.2	7.0	7.0	<b>7.0</b>	403	360	354	354	<b>355</b>
<b>Bulgaria</b>	8.1	6.9	6.8	6.8	<b>6.7</b>	266	223	220	218	<b>216</b>
<b>Czech Republic</b>	4.2	3.7	3.5	3.3	<b>3.4</b>	223	196	189	179	<b>181</b>
<b>Denmark</b>	6.0	6.3	6.2	6.2	<b>6.4</b>	180	192	186	185	<b>190</b>
<b>Germany</b>	4.3	3.9	3.9	3.9	<b>3.9</b>	1 836	1 703	1 687	1 679	<b>1 676</b>
<b>Estonia</b>	6.3**	6.6	6.2	5.8	:	43**	46	43	40	:
<b>Ireland</b>	8.4	7.0	6.9	6.7	<b>6.6</b>	181	154	152	148	<b>145</b>
<b>Greece</b>	24.1*	23.1	23.1	:	:	1 161*	1 103	1 101	:	:
<b>Spain</b>	20.5	18.7	18.4	18.2	<b>18.0</b>	4 681	4 250	4 175	4 125	<b>4 091</b>
<b>France</b>	10.2	10.0	10.0	10.0	<b>10.0</b>	3 011	2 955	2 962	2 964	<b>2 964</b>
<b>Croatia</b>	14.4	12.3	12.1	11.9	<b>11.6</b>	266	223	220	215	<b>209</b>
<b>Italy</b>	11.7	11.9	11.9	11.8	<b>11.5</b>	3 002	3 094	3 077	3 066	<b>2 984</b>
<b>Cyprus</b>	13.4	13.5	13.3	13.1	<b>12.9</b>	55	58	57	56	<b>56</b>
<b>Latvia</b>	9.8	9.4	9.6	9.7	<b>9.3</b>	98	92	94	95	<b>92</b>
<b>Lithuania</b>	8.0	7.4	7.6	8.1	<b>8.3</b>	117	110	113	119	<b>122</b>
<b>Luxembourg</b>	6.4	6.2	6.2	6.1	<b>6.1</b>	18	17	17	17	<b>17</b>
<b>Hungary</b>	5.9**	4.5	4.3	4.3	:	268**	209	199	197	:
<b>Malta</b>	5.1	4.2	4.1	4.1	<b>4.1</b>	10	9	8	8	<b>8</b>
<b>Netherlands</b>	6.5	5.6	5.4	5.3	<b>5.3</b>	581	499	482	480	<b>473</b>
<b>Austria</b>	6.1	5.8	5.7	5.6	<b>5.7</b>	273	258	254	252	<b>255</b>
<b>Poland</b>	6.5	5.7	5.5	5.4	<b>5.3</b>	1 125	974	953	936	<b>921</b>
<b>Portugal</b>	12.2	10.5	10.2	10.1	<b>10.0</b>	622	538	520	518	<b>511</b>
<b>Romania</b>	6.3	5.5	5.5	5.4	<b>5.4</b>	568	492	493	488	<b>489</b>
<b>Slovenia</b>	8.2	8.0	7.9	7.9	<b>7.8</b>	82	80	80	80	<b>79</b>
<b>Slovakia</b>	10.2	9.0	8.9	8.7	<b>8.6</b>	282	248	245	241	<b>238</b>
<b>Finland</b>	9.1	8.8	8.8	8.7	<b>8.7</b>	244	236	235	235	<b>235</b>
<b>Sweden</b>	7.0	6.9	6.9	6.9	<b>6.8</b>	368	365	365	366	<b>366</b>
<b>United Kingdom</b>	5.0*	4.7	4.6	:	:	1 649*	1 556	1 542	:	:
<b>Iceland</b>	3.2	3.0	3.0	2.9	<b>2.9</b>	6	6	6	6	<b>6</b>
<b>Norway</b>	4.8**	4.7	4.4	4.2	:	134**	130	122	115	:
<b>United States</b>	4.9	4.6	4.7	4.8	<b>4.7</b>	7 828	7 461	7 520	7 571	<b>7 513</b>

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

: Data not available

\* December 2015

\*\* January 2016

### Seasonally adjusted youth (under 25s) unemployment

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	Feb 16	Nov 16	Dec 16	Jan 17	Feb 17	Feb 16	Nov 16	Dec 16	Jan 17	Feb 17
<b>EA19</b>	21.6	20.6	20.2	19.8	<b>19.4</b>	3 031	2 912	2 856	2 788	<b>2 722</b>
<b>EU28</b>	19.3	18.2	17.9	17.5	<b>17.3</b>	4 380	4 124	4 048	3 964	<b>3 905</b>
<b>Belgium</b>	20.3	19.1	19.1	:	:	79	69	69	:	:
<b>Bulgaria</b>	18.2	16.0	16.0	16.2	<b>16.7</b>	31	26	26	27	<b>28</b>
<b>Czech Republic</b>	9.9	10.1	10.4	8.4	<b>10.3</b>	33	33	34	28	<b>35</b>
<b>Denmark</b>	11.5	12.9	12.9	12.5	<b>12.8</b>	55	62	61	58	<b>60</b>
<b>Germany</b>	7.2	6.8	6.7	6.6	<b>6.6</b>	295	288	285	282	<b>279</b>
<b>Estonia</b>	14.0	12.9	13.4	12.4	:	8	7	8	8	:
<b>Ireland</b>	17.2	16.1	15.9	15.1	<b>14.5</b>	33	33	33	32	<b>31</b>
<b>Greece</b>	50.5	45.5	45.2	:	:	129	120	118	:	:
<b>Spain</b>	46.0	43.4	42.6	42.0	<b>41.5</b>	687	631	610	597	<b>584</b>
<b>France</b>	24.8	24.0	23.8	23.7	<b>23.6</b>	687	663	659	656	<b>651</b>
<b>Croatia</b>	34.7	28.8	28.8	:	:	60	50	50	:	:
<b>Italy</b>	38.8	39.7	38.6	36.9	<b>35.2</b>	603	631	611	566	<b>525</b>
<b>Cyprus</b>	28.4	30.4	30.4	:	:	10	12	12	:	:
<b>Latvia</b>	15.2	16.8	17.3	18.6	<b>17.8</b>	12	12	12	13	<b>12</b>
<b>Lithuania</b>	14.0	14.7	15.4	15.5	<b>15.7</b>	18	18	19	19	<b>19</b>
<b>Luxembourg</b>	19.0	18.8	19.5	18.7	<b>18.8</b>	4	4	4	4	<b>4</b>
<b>Hungary</b>	13.9	11.9	11.5	11.2	:	48	41	40	39	:
<b>Malta</b>	10.3	12.8	13.0	12.5	<b>12.9</b>	3	3	3	3	<b>3</b>
<b>Netherlands</b>	11.3	10.3	10.2	9.8	<b>9.7</b>	158	146	144	139	<b>136</b>
<b>Austria</b>	12.1	10.2	10.2	10.3	<b>10.7</b>	69	56	56	57	<b>59</b>
<b>Poland</b>	18.7	15.8	15.2	14.8	<b>14.5</b>	263	215	208	204	<b>201</b>
<b>Portugal</b>	30.1	27.1	26.3	25.6	<b>25.4</b>	110	99	96	93	<b>93</b>
<b>Romania</b>	20.9	20.4	20.4	:	:	128	122	122	:	:
<b>Slovenia</b>	15.9	14.5	14.5	:	:	11	10	10	:	:
<b>Slovakia</b>	24.5	20.3	19.8	19.5	<b>19.1</b>	50	43	42	41	<b>41</b>
<b>Finland</b>	21.4	20.2	20.3	20.3	<b>20.2</b>	68	66	66	66	<b>66</b>
<b>Sweden</b>	19.2	18.2	18.7	18.1	<b>18.2</b>	124	117	117	117	<b>117</b>
<b>United Kingdom</b>	13.4	12.4	12.1	:	:	605	548	533	:	:
<b>Iceland</b>	7.1	7.0	7.0	7.1	<b>7.1</b>	2	2	2	2	<b>2</b>
<b>Norway</b>	11.1	10.8	10.4	9.9	:	42	40	37	35	:

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				
	Feb 16	Nov 16	Dec 16	Jan 17	Feb 17	Feb 16	Nov 16	Dec 16	Jan 17	Feb 17
EA19	10.1	9.5	9.4	9.3	<b>9.2</b>	10.6	10.0	10.0	9.9	<b>9.8</b>
EU28	8.7	8.1	8.0	7.9	<b>7.9</b>	9.0	8.4	8.4	8.3	<b>8.3</b>
Belgium	8.6	7.6	7.6	7.6	<b>7.6</b>	7.6	6.6	6.4	6.4	<b>6.4</b>
Bulgaria	8.7	7.3	7.1	7.0	<b>6.9</b>	7.3	6.5	6.5	6.5	<b>6.5</b>
Czech Republic	3.5	3.1	3.0	2.7	<b>2.8</b>	5.1	4.3	4.1	4.1	<b>4.1</b>
Denmark	5.6	5.9	5.9	6.0	<b>6.2</b>	6.4	6.8	6.4	6.4	<b>6.5</b>
Germany	4.5	4.4	4.4	4.3	<b>4.3</b>	4.1	3.4	3.4	3.3	<b>3.4</b>
Estonia	6.7	7.2	6.1	5.6	:	5.7	5.9	6.4	5.9	:
Ireland	9.9	7.8	7.5	7.3	<b>7.1</b>	6.5	6.2	6.2	6.0	<b>5.9</b>
Greece	20.3	19.5	19.5	:	:	28.4	27.6	27.6	:	:
Spain	18.9	17.3	17.0	16.7	<b>16.5</b>	22.3	20.3	20.0	19.9	<b>19.8</b>
France	10.5	10.1	10.1	10.1	<b>10.1</b>	9.8	9.9	9.9	9.9	<b>9.9</b>
Croatia	13.8	11.6	11.4	11.1	<b>10.7</b>	15.1	13.1	13.0	12.9	<b>12.8</b>
Italy	11.1	11.2	10.9	10.8	<b>10.6</b>	12.6	13.0	13.3	13.2	<b>12.8</b>
Cyprus	13.1	12.3	12.1	12.0	<b>11.7</b>	13.7	14.7	14.7	14.3	<b>14.2</b>
Latvia	10.5	10.9	11.2	11.4	<b>11.0</b>	9.1	7.9	7.9	8.0	<b>7.8</b>
Lithuania	9.3	8.7	8.9	9.6	<b>9.8</b>	6.6	6.2	6.3	6.7	<b>6.8</b>
Luxembourg	6.0	5.9	6.0	5.9	<b>5.8</b>	6.9	6.5	6.5	6.4	<b>6.4</b>
Hungary	5.6	4.5	4.4	4.3	:	5.8	4.6	4.2	4.3	:
Malta	5.0	3.7	3.5	3.5	<b>3.5</b>	5.2	5.0	5.1	5.0	<b>5.0</b>
Netherlands	6.1	5.0	4.9	4.8	<b>4.9</b>	7.0	6.2	6.0	5.9	<b>5.7</b>
Austria	6.6	6.2	6.2	6.2	<b>6.3</b>	5.6	5.2	5.0	5.0	<b>4.9</b>
Poland	6.3	5.6	5.5	5.4	<b>5.3</b>	6.7	5.7	5.6	5.5	<b>5.4</b>
Portugal	12.2	10.5	10.0	9.8	<b>9.5</b>	12.2	10.5	10.3	10.4	<b>10.4</b>
Romania	7.0	6.0	6.0	5.8	<b>5.7</b>	5.3	4.7	4.9	4.9	<b>5.0</b>
Slovenia	7.6	7.8	7.9	7.9	<b>7.8</b>	8.9	8.2	8.0	8.0	<b>7.8</b>
Slovakia	9.1	8.4	8.3	8.2	<b>8.1</b>	11.6	9.7	9.5	9.4	<b>9.2</b>
Finland	9.5	8.9	8.9	8.9	<b>8.9</b>	8.7	8.6	8.6	8.6	<b>8.6</b>
Sweden	7.3	7.2	7.3	7.3	<b>7.3</b>	6.7	6.5	6.5	6.4	<b>6.3</b>
United Kingdom	5.1	4.8	4.8	:	:	4.9	4.5	4.5	:	:
Iceland	3.4	3.0	3.0	3.0	<b>3.0</b>	3.0	3.0	2.9	2.9	<b>2.9</b>
Norway	5.3	5.2	4.9	4.6	:	4.0	4.1	3.9	3.6	:

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

: Data not available