April 2017

Euro area unemployment at 9.3%

EU28 at 7.8%

The **euro area** (EA19) seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate was 9.3% in April 2017, down from 9.4% in March 2017 and down from 10.2% in April 2016. This is the lowest rate recorded in the **euro area** since March 2009. The **EU28** unemployment rate was 7.8% in April 2017, down from 7.9% in March 2017 and from 8.7% in April 2016. This is the lowest rate recorded in the **EU28** since December 2008. These figures are published by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**.

Eurostat estimates that 19.121 million men and women in the **EU28**, of whom 15.040 million in the **euro area**, were unemployed in April 2017. Compared with March 2017, the number of persons unemployed decreased by 253 000 in the **EU28** and by 233 000 in the **euro area**. Compared with April 2016, unemployment fell by 2.225 million in the **EU28** and by 1.529 million in the **euro area**.

Member States

Among the Member States, the lowest unemployment rates in April 2017 were recorded in the **Czech Republic** (3.2%), **Germany** (3.9%) and **Malta** (4.1%). The highest unemployment rates were observed in **Greece** (23.2% in February 2017) and **Spain** (17.8%).

Compared with a year ago, the unemployment rate in April 2017 fell in twenty-seven Member States and remained stable in **Finland**. The largest decreases were registered in **Croatia** (from 13.7% to 11.0%), **Spain** (from 20.4% to 17.8%) and **Ireland** (from 8.4% to 6.4%).

In April 2017, the unemployment rate in the **United States** was 4.4%, down from 4.5% in March 2017 and from 5.0% in April 2016.

Unemployment rates in April 2017, seasonally adjusted
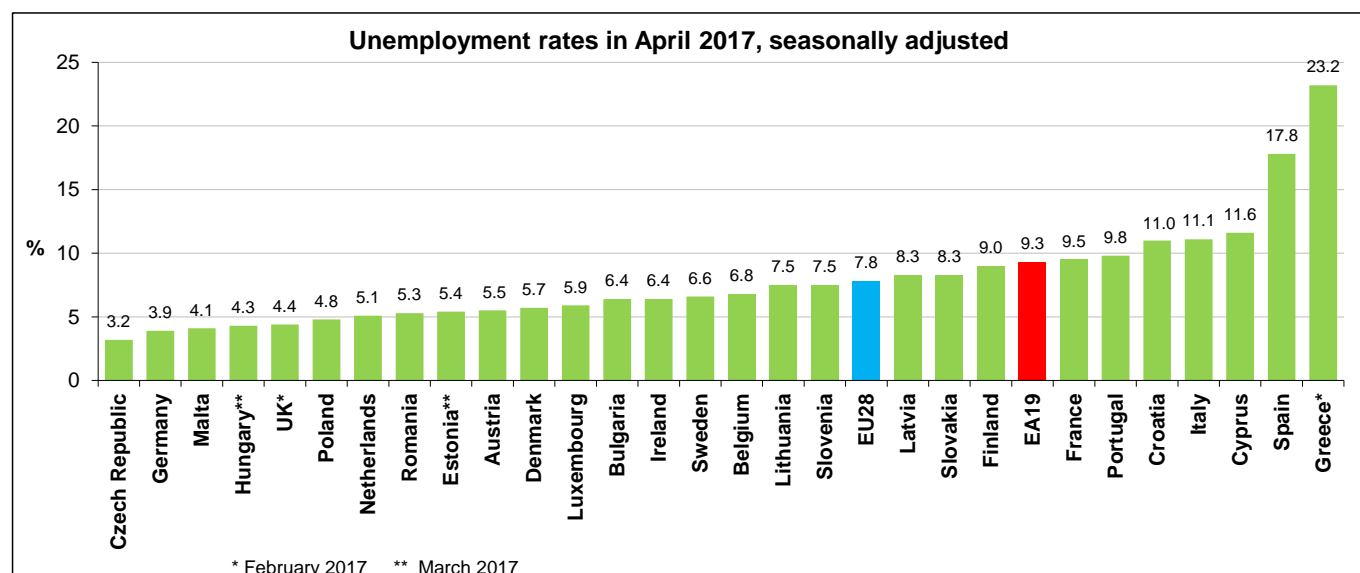
Youth unemployment

In April 2017, 3.746 million young persons (under 25) were unemployed in the **EU28**, of whom 2.617 million were in the **euro area**. Compared with April 2016, youth unemployment decreased by 600 000 in the **EU28** and by 419 000 in the **euro area**. In April 2017, the youth unemployment rate was 16.7% in the **EU28** and 18.7% in the **euro area**, compared with 19.0% and 21.4% respectively in April 2016. In April 2017, the lowest rate was observed in **Germany** (6.8%), while the highest were recorded in **Greece** (47.9% in February 2017), **Spain** (39.3%) and **Italy** (34.0%).

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 75/2017 of 2 May 2017, the March 2017 unemployment rate was revised by 0.1 percentage points (pp) downwards for both the EU28 and the EA19. Among Member States, rates have been revised by more than 0.1 pp downwards for France (by 0.6 pp), Latvia (by 0.5 pp), Poland (by 0.4 pp), Denmark (by 0.3 pp), as well as for Greece, Italy, Cyprus and Austria (all by 0.2 pp, January data for Greece). The unemployment rate has been revised by more than 0.1 pp upwards for Ireland (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

Euro area and EU28 unemployment rates
Seasonally adjusted series

Euro area (EA19) — EU28

ec.europa.eu/**eurostat**
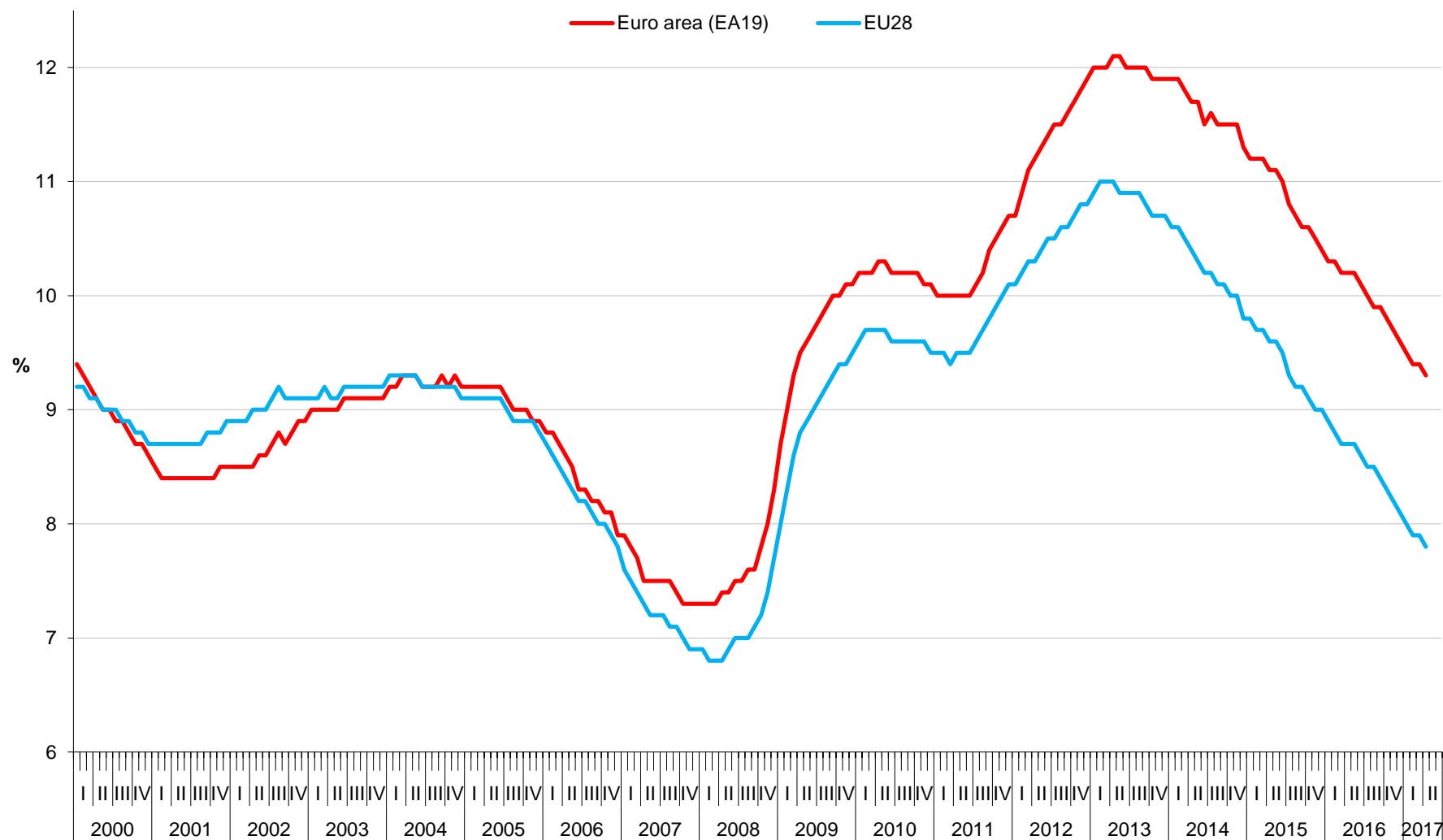
Seasonally adjusted unemployment, totals

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	Apr 16	Jan 17	Feb 17	Mar 17	Apr 17	Apr 16	Jan 17	Feb 17	Mar 17	Apr 17
EA19	10.2	9.5	9.4	9.4	**9.3**	16 569	15 514	15 331	15 273	**15 040**
EU28	8.7	8.0	7.9	7.9	**7.8**	21 346	19 731	19 495	19 374	**19 121**
Belgium	8.3	7.0	7.0	6.9	**6.8**	410	353	353	349	**345**
Bulgaria	8.0	6.7	6.7	6.6	**6.4**	264	215	215	211	**206**
Czech Republic	4.0	3.4	3.3	3.2	**3.2**	212	181	176	173	**172**
Denmark	6.2	6.1	6.1	5.9	**5.7**	189	181	181	175	**168**
Germany	4.2	3.9	3.9	3.9	**3.9**	1 809	1 685	1 686	1 687	**1 685**
Estonia	6.6**	5.8	5.5	5.4	**:**	45**	40	38	38	**:**
Ireland	8.4	6.9	6.8	6.6	**6.4**	183	151	150	146	**141**
Greece	23.9*	23.3	23.2	:	**:**	1 148*	1 112	1 105	:	**:**
Spain	20.4	18.3	18.2	18.1	**17.8**	4 656	4 156	4 137	4 108	**4 032**
France	10.1	9.7	9.6	9.5	**9.5**	2 983	2 859	2 820	2 802	**2 793**
Croatia	13.7	11.9	11.6	11.3	**11.0**	251	215	208	202	**197**
Italy	11.8	11.8	11.5	11.5	**11.1**	3 026	3 062	2 966	2 986	**2 880**
Cyprus	12.9	12.9	12.7	12.3	**11.6**	54	55	54	53	**50**
Latvia	9.5	9.3	8.9	8.5	**8.3**	94	92	87	84	**80**
Lithuania	8.3	7.7	7.9	8.1	**7.5**	122	113	116	119	**110**
Luxembourg	6.4	6.1	6.0	6.0	**5.9**	18	17	17	17	**17**
Hungary	5.6**	4.3	4.3	4.3	**:**	254**	199	197	199	**:**
Malta	4.9	4.1	4.0	4.0	**4.1**	10	8	8	8	**8**
Netherlands	6.4	5.3	5.3	5.1	**5.1**	572	480	473	463	**456**
Austria	6.0	5.7	5.8	5.7	**5.5**	267	255	259	257	**249**
Poland	6.4	5.2	5.0	4.9	**4.8**	1 102	900	869	847	**832**
Portugal	11.6	10.1	9.9	9.8	**9.8**	592	518	508	504	**504**
Romania	6.1	5.3	5.3	5.3	**5.3**	549	475	477	478	**471**
Slovenia	8.1	7.9	7.8	7.6	**7.5**	80	80	78	76	**76**
Slovakia	10.0	8.7	8.6	8.4	**8.3**	277	241	237	233	**230**
Finland	9.0	8.8	8.8	8.9	**9.0**	241	237	239	241	**242**
Sweden	7.0	6.8	6.7	6.7	**6.6**	367	360	359	357	**356**
United Kingdom	5.0*	4.5	4.4	:	**:**	1 662*	1 490	1 476	:	**:**
Iceland	3.1	2.7	2.6	2.5	**2.4**	6	5	5	5	**5**
Norway	4.7**	4.2	4.3	4.5	**:**	130**	117	120	124	**:**
United States	5.0	4.8	4.7	4.5	**4.4**	7 897	7 571	7 513	7 199	**7 040**

The source datasets are available here (rates) and here (in 1000 persons).
: Data not available   * February 2016   ** March 2016

ec.europa.eu/**eurostat**

Seasonally adjusted youth (under 25s) unemployment

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	Apr 16	Jan 17	Feb 17	Mar 17	Apr 17	Apr 16	Jan 17	Feb 17	Mar 17	Apr 17
EA19	21.4	19.7	19.3	19.0	**18.7**	3 036	2 776	2 705	2 669	**2 617**
EU28	19.0	17.4	17.1	16.9	**16.7**	4 346	3 934	3 858	3 805	**3 746**
Belgium	20.8	18.0	18.0	18.0	:	79	69	69	69	:
Bulgaria	15.4	16.2	16.4	16.6	**16.1**	27	27	28	29	**29**
Czech Republic	10.2	8.4	9.1	9.1	**9.1**	34	27	30	30	**30**
Denmark	12.0	12.1	12.0	11.5	**11.1**	58	56	56	53	**52**
Germany	7.1	6.8	6.8	6.8	**6.8**	297	289	288	287	**286**
Estonia	12.0	12.5	14.3	14.7	:	7	8	9	9	:
Ireland	17.8	14.5	13.7	12.9	**12.0**	36	29	27	25	**24**
Greece	49.8	47.9	47.9	:	:	131	128	128	:	:
Spain	47.1	41.2	40.8	40.4	**39.3**	712	596	594	588	**561**
France	24.7	22.8	22.4	22.2	**21.7**	689	626	613	603	**591**
Croatia	31.7	26.3	26.3	26.3	:	55	46	46	46	:
Italy	37.0	37.0	34.8	34.0	**34.0**	585	574	530	525	**516**
Cyprus	28.5	29.6	29.6	29.6	:	10	12	12	12	:
Latvia	17.8	18.6	17.6	16.0	**14.4**	14	13	12	11	**10**
Lithuania	15.6	14.2	14.1	14.5	**12.8**	19	17	17	17	**15**
Luxembourg	19.3	18.6	18.7	18.5	**18.5**	4	4	4	4	**4**
Hungary	13.9	11.1	10.4	10.4	:	48	38	36	36	:
Malta	9.8	12.3	12.9	13.3	**13.5**	3	3	3	4	**4**
Netherlands	11.2	9.8	9.7	9.6	**9.5**	159	139	136	135	**134**
Austria	10.6	10.5	10.5	10.3	**10.5**	60	58	57	56	**58**
Poland	17.9	14.7	14.2	14.1	**13.9**	255	199	192	189	**186**
Portugal	29.6	25.3	24.3	22.9	**23.7**	109	93	89	83	**88**
Romania	20.8	20.4*	:	:	:	126	122*	:	:	:
Slovenia	15.2	13.7	13.7	13.7	:	10	10	10	10	:
Slovakia	23.3	19.5	19.0	18.6	**18.2**	48	41	40	40	**39**
Finland	21.0	20.3	20.2	20.2	**20.2**	67	66	66	66	**66**
Sweden	19.0	17.7	17.7	17.7	**17.2**	122	114	113	111	**110**
United Kingdom	13.1	11.9	11.9	:	:	585	526	527	:	:
Iceland	6.5	6.4	6.4	6.2	**6.1**	2	2	2	2	**2**
Norway	11.5	9.8	10.1	10.8	:	42	35	36	39	:

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 16	Jan 17	Feb 17	Mar 17	Apr 17	Apr 16	Jan 17	Feb 17	Mar 17	Apr 17
EA19	9.9	9.2	9.1	9.0	**8.9**	10.6	9.9	9.8	9.8	**9.7**
EU28	8.5	7.8	7.7	7.7	**7.5**	9.0	8.3	8.2	8.2	**8.1**
Belgium	8.2	7.5	7.5	7.3	**7.1**	8.4	6.4	6.4	6.5	**6.5**
Bulgaria	8.6	7.0	6.9	6.7	**6.6**	7.3	6.4	6.4	6.4	**6.2**
Czech Republic	3.5	2.7	2.5	2.3	**2.3**	4.7	4.2	4.2	4.3	**4.3**
Denmark	5.7	5.8	6.1	5.9	**5.7**	6.8	6.4	6.1	5.9	**5.6**
Germany	4.5	4.3	4.3	4.3	**4.3**	3.9	3.4	3.4	3.4	**3.5**
Estonia	7.1	5.7	5.5	5.7	**:**	5.7	5.8	5.4	5.1	**:**
Ireland	9.7	7.5	7.4	7.3	**7.2**	6.8	6.1	6.0	5.9	**5.5**
Greece	19.7	19.8	19.7	:	**:**	28.2	27.7	27.5	:	**:**
Spain	18.7	16.8	16.7	16.5	**16.2**	22.2	20.0	20.0	20.0	**19.7**
France	10.4	9.6	9.4	9.2	**9.2**	9.8	9.8	9.8	9.8	**9.8**
Croatia	13.1	11.0	10.6	10.3	**10.1**	14.3	12.9	12.7	12.4	**12.1**
Italy	10.9	10.8	10.6	10.7	**10.2**	12.9	13.2	12.7	12.7	**12.4**
Cyprus	12.9	11.6	11.3	11.0	**10.5**	12.9	14.2	14.1	13.7	**12.7**
Latvia	10.2	10.8	10.1	9.5	**8.9**	8.8	7.9	7.7	7.6	**7.6**
Lithuania	9.5	9.5	9.8	10.1	**9.1**	7.1	6.1	6.1	6.2	**6.0**
Luxembourg	6.0	5.8	5.7	5.7	**5.6**	6.7	6.3	6.3	6.3	**6.3**
Hungary	5.3	4.2	4.1	4.1	**:**	5.5	4.4	4.5	4.5	**:**
Malta	4.6	3.4	3.4	3.4	**3.3**	5.4	5.0	5.0	5.1	**5.3**
Netherlands	6.0	4.8	4.9	4.8	**4.6**	6.9	5.9	5.7	5.5	**5.6**
Austria	6.4	6.2	6.3	6.3	**6.1**	5.5	5.1	5.1	5.0	**4.9**
Poland	6.4	5.2	4.9	4.8	**4.7**	6.4	5.3	5.1	5.1	**5.0**
Portugal	11.6	9.8	9.6	9.5	**9.3**	11.6	10.4	10.2	10.1	**10.3**
Romania	6.8	6.0	5.9	5.9	**5.9**	5.1	4.4	4.6	4.5	**4.6**
Slovenia	7.4	7.9	7.7	7.5	**7.3**	8.9	8.0	7.8	7.7	**7.7**
Slovakia	8.9	8.2	8.0	7.8	**7.7**	11.3	9.4	9.2	9.1	**8.9**
Finland	9.2	9.0	9.1	9.2	**9.2**	8.8	8.6	8.6	8.6	**8.6**
Sweden	7.3	7.1	7.1	7.1	**7.0**	6.6	6.3	6.3	6.2	**6.2**
United Kingdom	5.0	4.6	4.6	:	**:**	4.8	4.3	4.2	:	**:**
Iceland	3.0	2.7	2.7	2.6	**2.5**	3.1	2.6	2.5	2.4	**2.4**
Norway	5.2	4.6	4.7	4.8	**:**	3.9	3.8	3.9	4.1	**:**

The source dataset is available here.

: Data not available

ec.europa.eu/**eurostat**