

166/2017 - 31 October 2017

September 2017

Euro area unemployment at 8.9%

EU28 at 7.5%

The **euro area** (EA19) seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate was 8.9% in September 2017, down from 9.0% in August 2017 and from 9.9% in September 2016. This is the lowest rate recorded in the **euro area** since January 2009. The **EU28** unemployment rate was 7.5% in September 2017, stable compared to August 2017 and down from 8.4% in September 2016. This remains the lowest rate recorded in the **EU28** since November 2008. These figures are published by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**.

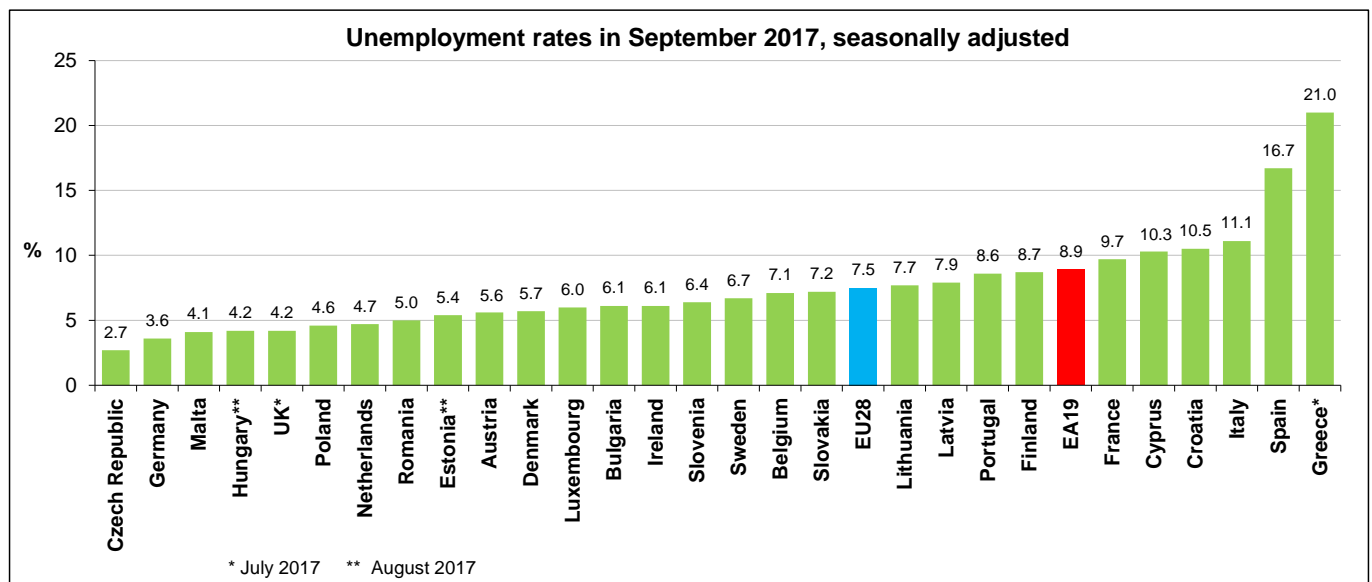
Eurostat estimates that 18.446 million men and women in the **EU28**, of whom 14.513 million in the **euro area**, were unemployed in September 2017. Compared with August 2017, the number of persons unemployed decreased by 116 000 in the **EU28** and by 96 000 in the **euro area**. Compared with September 2016, unemployment fell by 2.076 million in the **EU28** and by 1.463 million in the **euro area**.

Member States

Among the Member States, the lowest unemployment rates in September 2017 were recorded in the **Czech Republic** (2.7%), **Germany** (3.6%) and **Malta** (4.1%). The highest unemployment rates were observed in **Greece** (21.0% in July 2017) and **Spain** (16.7%).

Compared with a year ago, the unemployment rate fell in all Member States for which data is comparable over time, except **Finland** where it remained stable and **Lithuania** where it increased (from 7.6% to 7.7%). The largest decreases were registered in **Cyprus** (from 13.0% to 10.3%), **Spain** (from 19.1% to 16.7%) and **Greece** (from 23.4% to 21.0% between July 2016 and July 2017).

In September 2017, the unemployment rate in the **United States** was 4.2%, down from 4.4% in August 2017 and from 4.9% in September 2016.



Youth unemployment

In September 2017, 3.735 million young persons (under 25) were unemployed in the **EU28**, of whom 2.656 million were in the **euro area**. Compared with September 2016, youth unemployment decreased by 396 000 in the **EU28** and by 229 000 in the **euro area**. In September 2017, the youth unemployment rate was 16.6% in the **EU28** and 18.7% in the **euro area**, compared with 18.3% and 20.4% respectively in September 2016. In September 2017, the lowest rate was observed in **Germany** (6.4%), while the highest were recorded in **Greece** (42.8% in July 2017), **Spain** (37.2%) and **Italy** (35.7%).

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

Belgium: Due to a methodological break in the LFS data for the 1st quarter of 2017, data prior to Q1 2017 are not comparable and therefore not shown.

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 [145/2017](#) of 2 October 2017, the August 2017 unemployment has been revised downwards for both the EU28 (from 7.6% to 7.5%) and the EA19 (from 9.1% to 9.0%). Among Member States, the rate has been revised by more than 0.1 percentage points (pp) downwards for Spain (by 0.3 pp) as well as for Estonia, Ireland and Croatia (all by 0.2 pp, July data for Estonia).

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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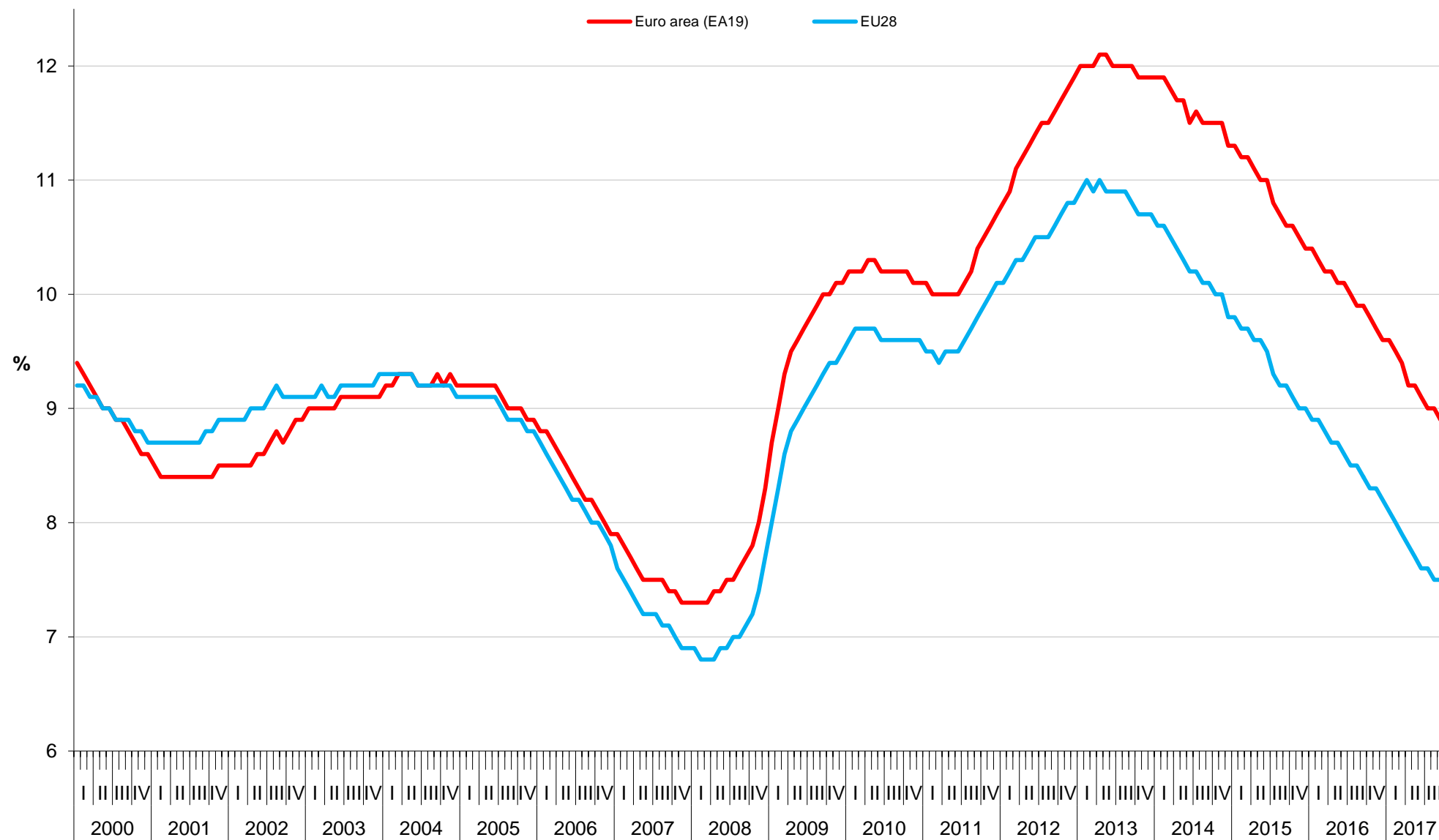
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Euro area and EU28 unemployment rates Seasonally adjusted series



Seasonally adjusted unemployment, totals

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	Sep 16	Jun 17	Jul 17	Aug 17	Sep 17	Sep 16	Jun 17	Jul 17	Aug 17	Sep 17
EA19	9.9	9.1	9.0	9.0	8.9	15 976	14 700	14 704	14 609	14 513
EU28	8.4	7.6	7.6	7.5	7.5	20 522	18 724	18 729	18 562	18 446
Belgium	:	7.2	7.3	7.3	7.1	:	361	363	362	356
Bulgaria	7.2	6.1	6.1	6.2	6.1	231	206	206	206	202
Czech Republic	3.9	2.9	2.8	2.8	2.7	209	153	153	150	147
Denmark	6.5	5.7	5.8	5.7	5.7	196	170	172	170	172
Germany	4.1	3.7	3.7	3.6	3.6	1 741	1 609	1 583	1 561	1 543
Estonia	7.7**	6.4	5.9	5.4	:	54**	44	41	37	:
Ireland	7.5	6.1	6.2	6.1	6.1	165	134	135	133	133
Greece	23.4*	21.3	21.0	:	:	1 129*	1 022	1 010	:	:
Spain	19.1	17.0	16.9	16.8	16.7	4 353	3 859	3 827	3 818	3 795
France	9.9	9.6	9.7	9.7	9.7	2 932	2 855	2 890	2 903	2 880
Croatia	12.8	10.9	10.8	10.7	10.5	232	195	194	192	188
Italy	11.8	11.1	11.3	11.1	11.1	3 045	2 882	2 941	2 896	2 891
Cyprus	13.0	10.9	10.7	10.6	10.3	55	46	45	45	44
Latvia	9.7	8.8	8.5	8.2	7.9	95	86	83	79	76
Lithuania	7.6	7.0	7.6	7.5	7.7	111	102	111	109	112
Luxembourg	6.3	6.0	6.1	6.0	6.0	18	17	17	17	17
Hungary	5.0**	4.3	4.3	4.2	:	230**	197	198	192	:
Malta	4.5	4.0	4.1	4.1	4.1	9	8	8	8	8
Netherlands	5.7	4.9	4.8	4.7	4.7	510	446	436	426	422
Austria	6.1	5.3	5.4	5.5	5.6	274	240	243	248	250
Poland	5.9	5.0	4.8	4.7	4.6	1 020	856	833	811	791
Portugal	10.9	9.1	8.9	8.8	8.6	557	468	459	452	442
Romania	5.7	5.0	5.2	5.1	5.0	510	461	478	465	462
Slovenia	7.8	6.6	6.5	6.5	6.4	78	67	66	66	65
Slovakia	9.5	7.9	7.7	7.4	7.2	262	217	210	203	198
Finland	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.7	234	236	235	235	235
Sweden	6.9	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	364	361	362	363	363
United Kingdom	4.8*	4.3	4.2	:	:	1 606*	1 437	1 411	:	:
Iceland	3.0	2.8	2.9	2.9	2.9	5 839	5 645	5 660	5 693	5 741
Norway	4.9**	4.3	4.2	4.1	:	137**	119	115	114	:
United States	4.9	4.4	4.3	4.4	4.2	7 933	7 010	6 986	7 161	6 814

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

: Data not available

* July 2016

** August 2016

Seasonally adjusted youth (under 25s) unemployment

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	Sep 16	Jun 17	Jul 17	Aug 17	Sep 17	Sep 16	Jun 17	Jul 17	Aug 17	Sep 17
EA19	20.4	18.9	18.8	18.8	18.7	2 885	2 666	2 660	2 660	2 656
EU28	18.3	16.8	16.8	16.7	16.6	4 131	3 769	3 770	3 742	3 735
Belgium	:	21.6	22.7	22.7	22.7	:	76	78	78	78
Bulgaria	18.5	13.9	13.7	13.2	12.4	28	23	22	21	19
Czech Republic	9.9	7.8	8.5	7.9	7.5	32	25	27	25	24
Denmark	12.3	11.2	12.0	11.7	11.7	60	52	55	54	54
Germany	6.9	6.6	6.5	6.5	6.4	293	277	276	276	275
Estonia	12.0	13.9	10.9	11.4	:	7	8	6	6	:
Ireland	16.8	15.7	15.7	15.3	14.8	34	31	31	30	29
Greece	44.8	43.0	42.8	:	:	117	115	112	:	:
Spain	43.0	38.3	37.8	37.4	37.2	623	570	566	567	576
France	24.5	22.9	22.9	22.7	22.5	669	627	624	617	610
Croatia	31.3	26.1	25.0	25.0	25.0	55	43	41	41	41
Italy	36.9	35.1	35.2	35.1	35.7	581	546	556	554	555
Cyprus	29.8	26.4	25.5	25.5	25.5	11	9	9	9	9
Latvia	17.4	15.0	12.5	10.9	10.3	13	12	9	8	8
Lithuania	13.4	13.0	14.2	14.4	15.3	16	15	17	17	17
Luxembourg	18.9	17.8	17.8	17.3	17.1	4	4	4	4	4
Hungary	12.2	10.7	11.1	11.0	:	42	37	38	37	:
Malta	11.3	10.8	11.1	11.8	11.9	3	3	3	3	3
Netherlands	10.5	8.9	8.8	8.9	8.5	149	126	126	127	123
Austria	11.4	8.8	9.5	10.0	9.6	65	46	50	52	50
Poland	17.5	15.0	14.5	14.1	13.8	238	199	190	182	178
Portugal	28.3	23.8	23.2	24.8	25.7	103	88	85	93	96
Romania	20.3	16.8	:	:	:	125	111	:	:	:
Slovenia	15.4	11.0	9.2	9.2	9.2	10	9	7	7	7
Slovakia	21.7	18.2	16.7	15.5	14.9	46	37	34	32	31
Finland	20.2	20.7	20.6	20.6	20.5	66	67	67	68	68
Sweden	18.6	18.3	18.2	17.8	17.9	117	113	113	113	113
United Kingdom	12.8	11.8	11.8	:	:	561	511	506	:	:
Iceland	6.6	7.4	7.7	7.9	8.0	2 163	2 435	2 479	2 533	2 576
Norway	10.2	10.7	10.6	10.5	:	38	39	38	38	:

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				
	Sep 16	Jun 17	Jul 17	Aug 17	Sep 17	Sep 16	Jun 17	Jul 17	Aug 17	Sep 17
EA19	9.6	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.6	10.2	9.4	9.4	9.3	9.3
EU28	8.2	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.3	8.6	7.8	7.8	7.7	7.7
Belgium	:	7.3	7.4	7.3	7.2	:	7.2	7.2	7.2	7.0
Bulgaria	7.6	6.5	6.6	6.5	6.4	6.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7
Czech Republic	3.3	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.3	4.6	3.5	3.4	3.3	3.3
Denmark	5.8	5.5	5.6	5.5	5.5	7.3	5.9	6.0	5.9	6.0
Germany	4.5	4.1	4.1	4.0	4.0	3.6	3.3	3.2	3.2	3.1
Estonia	7.8	7.3	6.8	6.3	:	6.6	5.4	5.0	4.4	:
Ireland	8.6	7.2	7.1	7.0	6.8	6.2	4.9	5.0	5.0	5.1
Greece	19.6	17.8	17.5	:	:	27.5	25.5	25.3	:	:
Spain	17.6	15.4	15.3	15.2	15.1	20.8	18.9	18.7	18.6	18.5
France	10.0	9.7	9.8	9.9	9.8	9.9	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5
Croatia	12.1	9.9	9.9	9.8	9.7	13.6	12.0	12.0	11.9	11.6
Italy	11.0	10.3	10.2	10.2	10.1	12.9	12.2	12.7	12.4	12.5
Cyprus	12.8	10.3	9.9	9.7	9.5	13.3	11.6	11.5	11.5	11.2
Latvia	11.6	10.2	9.7	9.3	8.9	7.8	7.5	7.3	7.1	6.9
Lithuania	8.8	8.7	9.1	9.1	9.5	6.4	5.4	6.2	5.9	6.0
Luxembourg	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.5	5.8	5.9	5.9	5.8
Hungary	4.7	3.9	3.9	3.8	:	5.0	4.6	4.7	4.6	:
Malta	4.2	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.9	5.1	4.0	4.3	4.4	4.4
Netherlands	5.3	4.6	4.5	4.4	4.3	6.1	5.4	5.2	5.1	5.1
Austria	6.3	5.7	5.9	6.1	6.1	5.8	4.9	4.8	4.9	5.0
Poland	5.9	5.0	4.9	4.8	4.7	6.0	4.8	4.7	4.6	4.5
Portugal	10.7	8.6	8.4	8.1	7.8	11.0	9.6	9.4	9.4	9.3
Romania	6.4	5.9	6.2	6.1	6.0	4.8	3.7	3.9	3.7	3.7
Slovenia	7.4	5.7	5.7	5.8	5.8	8.3	7.6	7.4	7.3	7.2
Slovakia	8.9	7.8	7.5	7.2	7.0	10.2	8.1	7.9	7.7	7.5
Finland	8.8	8.9	8.9	8.8	8.8	8.6	8.5	8.6	8.6	8.6
Sweden	7.2	7.0	7.0	6.9	6.9	6.5	6.4	6.5	6.5	6.5
United Kingdom	4.9	4.4	4.3	:	:	4.6	4.2	4.1	:	:
Iceland	2.9	3.1	3.2	3.2	3.3	3.0	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.4
Norway	5.4	4.6	4.5	4.5	:	4.2	3.9	3.8	3.7	:

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

: Data not available