October 2017

Euro area unemployment at 8.8%

EU28 at 7.4%

The **euro area** (EA19) seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate was 8.8% in October 2017, down from 8.9% in September 2017 and from 9.8% in October 2016. This is the lowest rate recorded in the **euro area** since January 2009. The **EU28** unemployment rate was 7.4% in October 2017, down from 7.5% in September 2017 and from 8.3% in October 2016. This is 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 18.243 million men and women in the **EU28**, of whom 14.344 million in the **euro area**, were unemployed in October 2017. Compared with September 2017, the number of persons unemployed decreased by 111 000 in the **EU28** and by 88 000 in the **euro area**. Compared with October 2016, unemployment fell by 2.074 million in the **EU28** and by 1.473 million in the **euro area**.

Member States

Among the Member States, the lowest unemployment rates in October 2017 were recorded in the **Czech Republic** (2.7%), **Malta** (3.5%) and **Germany** (3.6%). The highest unemployment rates were observed in **Greece** (20.6% in August 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. The largest decreases were registered in **Cyprus** (from 13.1% to 10.2%) and **Greece** (from 23.4% to 20.6% between August 2016 and August 2017).

In October 2017, the unemployment rate in the **United States** was 4.1%, down from 4.2% in September 2017 and from 4.8% in October 2016.

Unemployment rates in October 2017, seasonally adjusted

Country	Rate (%)
Czech Republic	2.7
Malta	3.5
Germany	3.6
Hungary**	4.1
UK*	4.2
Netherlands	4.5
Poland	4.6
Romania	4.9
Austria	5.4
Denmark	5.6
Luxembourg	5.7
Estonia**	5.8
Ireland	6.0
Bulgaria	6.1
Slovenia	6.2
Sweden	6.7
Belgium	6.9
Slovakia	7.0
Lithuania	7.1
EU28	7.4
Latvia	8.2
Portugal	8.5
Finland	8.7
EA19	8.8
France	9.4
Cyprus	10.2
Croatia	10.5
Italy	11.1
Spain	16.7
Greece*	20.6

* August 2017   ** September 2017
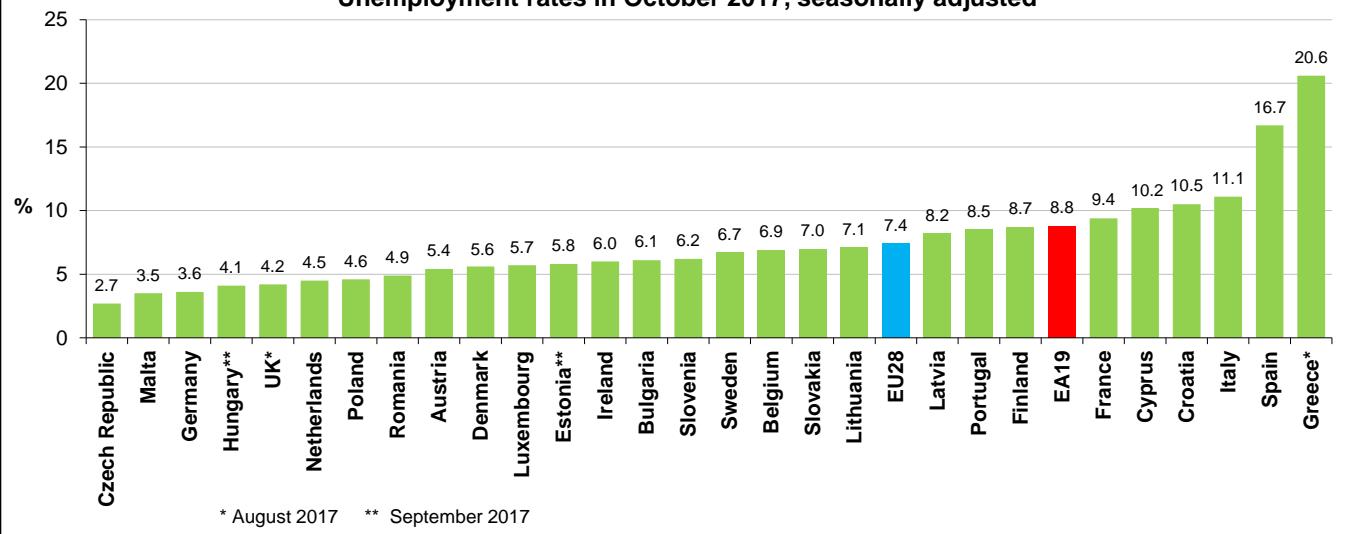
Youth unemployment

In October 2017, 3.722 million young persons (under 25) were unemployed in the **EU28**, of whom 2.657 million were in the **euro area**. Compared with October 2016, youth unemployment decreased by 380 000 in the **EU28** and by 201 000 in the **euro area**. In October 2017, the youth unemployment rate was 16.5% in the **EU28** and 18.6% in the **euro area**, compared with 18.2% and 20.3% respectively in October 2016. In October 2017, the lowest rates were observed in **Germany** (6.6%) and the **Czech Republic** (7.2%), while the highest were recorded in **Greece** (40.2% in August 2017), **Spain** (38.2%) and **Italy** (34.7%).

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 166/2017 of 31 October 2017, the September 2017 unemployment has remained unchanged for both the EU28 and the EA19. Among Member States, the rate has been revised by more than 0.1 percentage points (pp) downwards for Lithuania (by 0.7 pp), Malta (by 0.3 pp) as well as for France and Austria (both by 0.2 pp). The unemployment rate has been revised by more than 0.1 pp upwards for Latvia (by 0.5 pp) and Croatia (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 ———
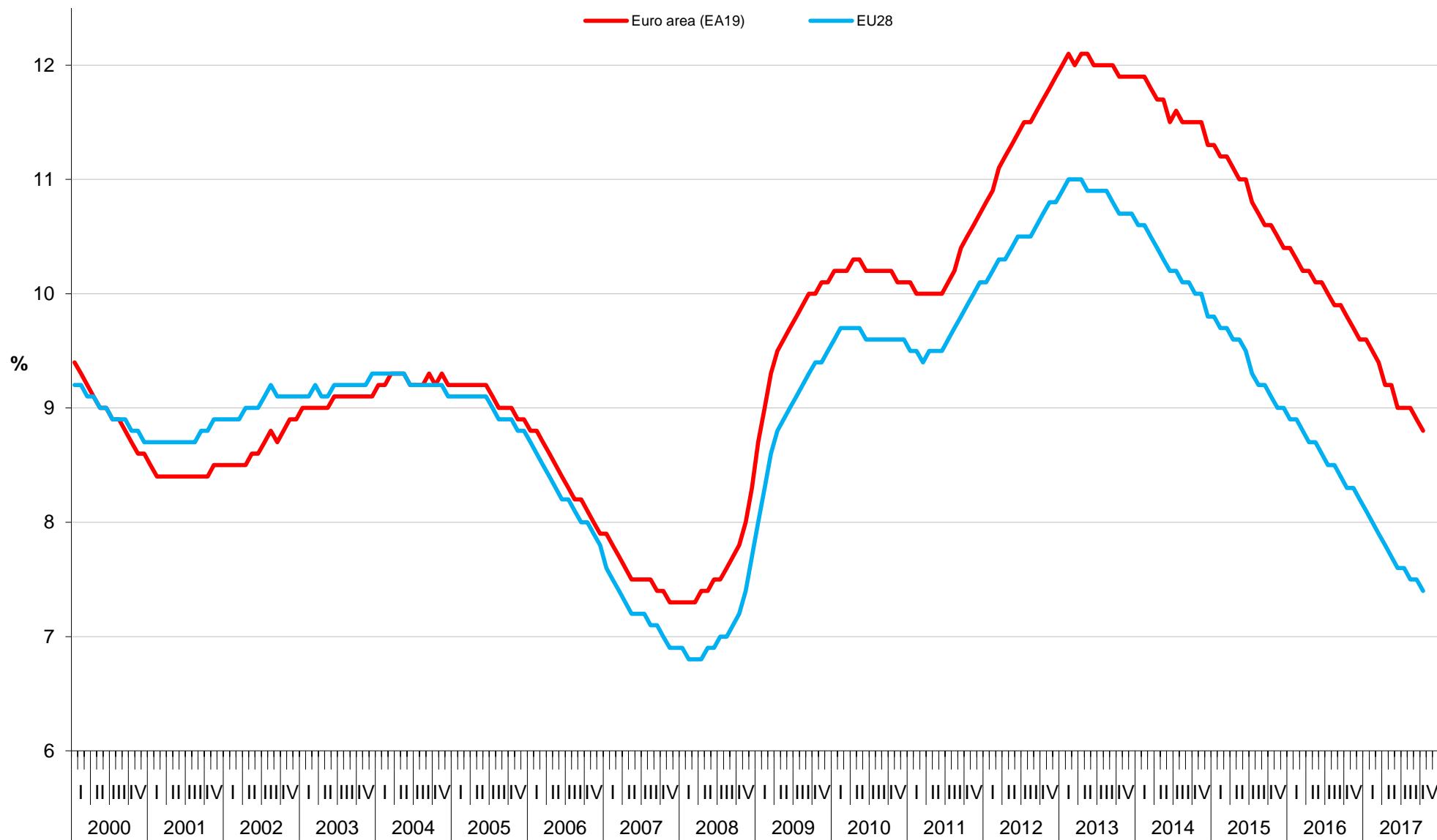
Seasonally adjusted unemployment, totals

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	Oct 16	Jul 17	Aug 17	Sep 17	Oct 17	Oct 16	Jul 17	Aug 17	Sep 17	Oct 17
EA19	9.8	9.0	9.0	8.9	**8.8**	15 817	14 688	14 562	14 432	**14 344**
EU28	8.3	7.6	7.5	7.5	**7.4**	20 317	18 707	18 513	18 354	**18 243**
Belgium	:	7.3	7.2	7.1	**6.9**	:	363	362	356	**350**
Bulgaria	7.0	6.2	6.2	6.1	**6.1**	226	206	206	203	**203**
Czech Republic	3.7	2.9	2.8	2.7	**2.7**	200	153	150	147	**145**
Denmark	6.5	5.8	5.8	5.7	**5.6**	197	174	174	171	**169**
Germany	4.0	3.7	3.7	3.6	**3.6**	1 717	1 593	1 575	1 562	**1 550**
Estonia	7.2**	6.0	5.5	5.8	**:**	50**	42	38	41	**:**
Ireland	7.2	6.2	6.1	6.1	**6.0**	158	135	133	133	**131**
Greece	23.4*	20.9	20.6	:	**:**	1 126*	1 001	984	:	**:**
Spain	18.8	16.9	16.8	16.7	**16.7**	4 265	3 834	3 826	3 809	**3 811**
France	10.0	9.7	9.7	9.5	**9.4**	2 967	2 869	2 868	2 812	**2 772**
Croatia	12.7	10.9	10.9	10.7	**10.5**	231	198	197	193	**189**
Italy	11.7	11.3	11.2	11.1	**11.1**	3 019	2 949	2 898	2 883	**2 879**
Cyprus	13.1	10.5	10.3	10.2	**10.2**	55	45	44	43	**44**
Latvia	9.5	8.9	8.7	8.4	**8.2**	93	87	85	82	**80**
Lithuania	7.4	6.8	6.8	7.0	**7.1**	109	98	98	101	**103**
Luxembourg	6.3	6.0	5.9	5.9	**5.7**	18	17	17	17	**16**
Hungary	4.9**	4.3	4.2	4.1	**:**	223**	198	192	187	**:**
Malta	4.4	4.0	3.9	3.8	**3.5**	9	8	8	8	**7**
Netherlands	5.6	4.8	4.7	4.7	**4.5**	502	436	426	422	**404**
Austria	5.9	5.4	5.5	5.4	**5.4**	266	243	246	243	**244**
Poland	5.8	4.9	4.8	4.7	**4.6**	1 002	845	832	816	**796**
Portugal	10.6	8.9	8.8	8.5	**8.5**	545	459	452	440	**437**
Romania	5.6	5.0	4.9	4.9	**4.9**	496	454	448	442	**451**
Slovenia	8.0	6.5	6.5	6.4	**6.2**	80	65	65	65	**63**
Slovakia	9.2	7.6	7.4	7.2	**7.0**	255	209	203	197	**191**
Finland	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.7	**8.7**	235	234	234	235	**235**
Sweden	6.8	6.7	6.7	6.7	**6.7**	363	361	361	361	**361**
United Kingdom	4.7*	4.2	4.2	:	**:**	1 566*	1 410	1 396	:	**:**
Iceland	2.9	3.0	3.1	3.3	**3.4**	6	6	6	7	**7**
Norway	4.8**	4.1	4.1	4.0	**:**	135**	115	113	110	**:**
United States	4.8	4.3	4.4	4.2	**4.1**	7 751	6 986	7 161	6 814	**6 509**

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

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Seasonally adjusted youth (under 25s) unemployment

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	Oct 16	Jul 17	Aug 17	Sep 17	Oct 17	Oct 16	Jul 17	Aug 17	Sep 17	Oct 17
EA19	20.3	18.9	18.8	18.7	**18.6**	2 858	2 669	2 676	2 666	**2 657**
EU28	18.2	16.8	16.7	16.6	**16.5**	4 102	3 771	3 751	3 736	**3 722**
Belgium	:	22.7	22.7	22.7	:	:	77	77	77	:
Bulgaria	16.9	13.5	12.9	12.1	**11.5**	27	22	21	19	**19**
Czech Republic	10.6	8.5	7.8	7.3	**7.2**	34	27	25	23	**23**
Denmark	12.8	11.6	11.4	10.5	**10.2**	62	54	53	49	**47**
Germany	6.9	6.7	6.6	6.6	**6.6**	293	283	283	283	**283**
Estonia	11.5	10.9	11.4	12.0	:	6	6	6	7	:
Ireland	16.7	15.7	15.2	14.7	**14.0**	34	31	29	28	**27**
Greece	44.3	41.4	40.2	:	:	116	108	105	:	:
Spain	42.8	38.1	37.7	37.6	**38.2**	617	571	573	587	**601**
France	24.2	22.6	22.3	22.1	**22.0**	663	629	625	623	**625**
Croatia	30.4	25.2	25.2	25.2	:	53	41	41	41	:
Italy	37.2	35.3	35.4	35.4	**34.7**	581	556	558	546	**530**
Cyprus	29.4	24.9	24.9	24.9	:	11	9	9	9	:
Latvia	16.7	16.4	15.7	15.1	**14.7**	12	12	11	11	**10**
Lithuania	14.1	11.7	12.0	12.9	**13.2**	17	13	13	14	**15**
Luxembourg	18.5	17.9	17.3	17.1	**16.2**	4	4	4	4	**3**
Hungary	12.0	11.1	11.0	10.8	:	41	38	37	36	:
Malta	12.8	9.7	10.1	10.1	**9.5**	3	3	3	3	**2**
Netherlands	10.5	8.8	8.9	8.5	**7.9**	148	126	127	123	**114**
Austria	11.0	9.4	10.0	9.4	**9.3**	62	49	52	49	**49**
Poland	16.7	14.6	14.4	14.3	**14.4**	226	194	190	189	**192**
Portugal	27.4	23.1	24.8	24.6	**25.6**	99	85	93	92	**97**
Romania	20.4	16.8*	:	:	:	122	111*	:	:	:
Slovenia	14.3	9.1	9.1	9.1	:	10	7	7	7	:
Slovakia	20.9	16.6	15.5	14.8	**14.0**	45	34	32	31	**29**
Finland	20.2	20.5	20.4	20.4	**20.4**	66	67	67	67	**67**
Sweden	18.3	18.0	17.5	17.5	**17.2**	116	112	111	111	**110**
United Kingdom	12.6	11.7	11.7	:	:	559	497	492	:	:
Iceland	6.5	7.3	7.5	7.5	**7.5**	2	2	2	2	**2**
Norway	10.7	10.5	10.4	10.3	:	40	38	38	38	:

The source datasets are available here (rates) and here (in 1000 persons).
: Data not available   * Q2 2017 data
Belgium, Croatia, Cyprus, Romania and Slovenia: quarterly data

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Seasonally adjusted unemployment rates (%), by gender

	Males					Females				
	Oct 16	Jul 17	Aug 17	Sep 17	Oct 17	Oct 16	Jul 17	Aug 17	Sep 17	Oct 17
EA19	9.5	8.7	8.6	8.5	**8.5**	10.1	9.4	9.3	9.2	**9.2**
EU28	8.2	7.4	7.3	7.3	**7.2**	8.5	7.9	7.8	7.7	**7.6**
Belgium	:	7.4	7.3	7.2	**7.0**	:	7.2	7.2	7.0	**6.9**
Bulgaria	7.4	6.6	6.5	6.4	**6.4**	6.5	5.7	5.7	5.7	**5.7**
Czech Republic	3.3	2.4	2.4	2.3	**2.3**	4.3	3.4	3.3	3.3	**3.2**
Denmark	6.1	5.6	5.7	5.5	**5.4**	6.9	6.0	5.9	5.9	**5.8**
Germany	4.4	4.1	4.0	4.0	**3.9**	3.5	3.3	3.3	3.2	**3.2**
Estonia	7.6	6.9	6.4	6.7	**:**	6.4	5.0	4.4	4.9	**:**
Ireland	8.1	7.1	7.0	6.8	**6.7**	6.1	5.1	5.0	5.1	**5.1**
Greece	19.5	17.4	17.2	:	**:**	27.9	25.2	24.9	:	**:**
Spain	17.3	15.3	15.2	15.2	**15.2**	20.4	18.7	18.7	18.6	**18.5**
France	10.2	9.9	9.9	9.7	**9.5**	9.9	9.4	9.4	9.3	**9.2**
Croatia	11.8	10.1	10.0	9.8	**9.6**	13.6	12.0	11.9	11.6	**11.4**
Italy	10.9	10.3	10.3	10.2	**10.3**	12.8	12.7	12.4	12.3	**12.2**
Cyprus	12.4	10.2	10.0	10.0	**10.0**	13.9	10.8	10.6	10.3	**10.5**
Latvia	11.1	9.8	9.3	9.0	**8.8**	7.9	8.0	8.1	7.8	**7.7**
Lithuania	8.7	8.2	8.1	8.3	**8.4**	6.2	5.5	5.5	5.7	**5.8**
Luxembourg	6.3	6.2	6.1	6.1	**5.9**	6.2	5.8	5.7	5.7	**5.6**
Hungary	4.6	3.9	3.8	3.6	**:**	4.7	4.8	4.6	4.6	**:**
Malta	3.9	3.7	3.7	3.6	**3.4**	5.2	4.4	4.3	4.2	**3.8**
Netherlands	5.1	4.5	4.4	4.3	**4.2**	6.1	5.2	5.1	5.1	**4.7**
Austria	6.2	5.8	5.9	5.9	**6.0**	5.6	5.0	5.0	4.9	**4.8**
Poland	5.8	4.9	4.7	4.6	**4.5**	5.9	5.0	4.9	4.9	**4.7**
Portugal	10.7	8.4	8.1	7.9	**7.9**	10.6	9.4	9.4	9.2	**9.1**
Romania	6.2	5.7	5.6	5.6	**5.7**	4.8	4.0	4.1	3.8	**3.8**
Slovenia	7.6	5.6	5.7	5.7	**5.4**	8.4	7.4	7.3	7.2	**7.2**
Slovakia	8.7	7.4	7.2	7.0	**6.8**	9.9	7.9	7.7	7.5	**7.3**
Finland	8.9	8.9	8.8	8.8	**8.8**	8.6	8.5	8.5	8.5	**8.5**
Sweden	7.2	7.0	7.0	6.9	**7.0**	6.5	6.4	6.4	6.4	**6.3**
United Kingdom	4.9	4.3	4.2	:	**:**	4.6	4.2	4.2	:	**:**
Iceland	2.8	3.4	3.6	3.8	**4.0**	2.9	2.6	2.6	2.6	**2.6**
Norway	5.3	4.6	4.5	4.4	**:**	4.2	3.7	3.6	3.5	**:**

The source dataset is available here.
: Data not available

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