

34/2018 - 1 March 2018

January 2018

Euro area unemployment at 8.6%

EU28 at 7.3%

The **euro area** (EA19) seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate was 8.6% in January 2018, stable compared to December 2017 and down from 9.6% in January 2017. This is the lowest rate recorded in the **euro area** since December 2008. The **EU28** unemployment rate was 7.3% in January 2018, stable compared to December 2017 and down from 8.1% in January 2017. This remains the lowest rate recorded in the **EU28** since October 2008. These figures are published by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**.

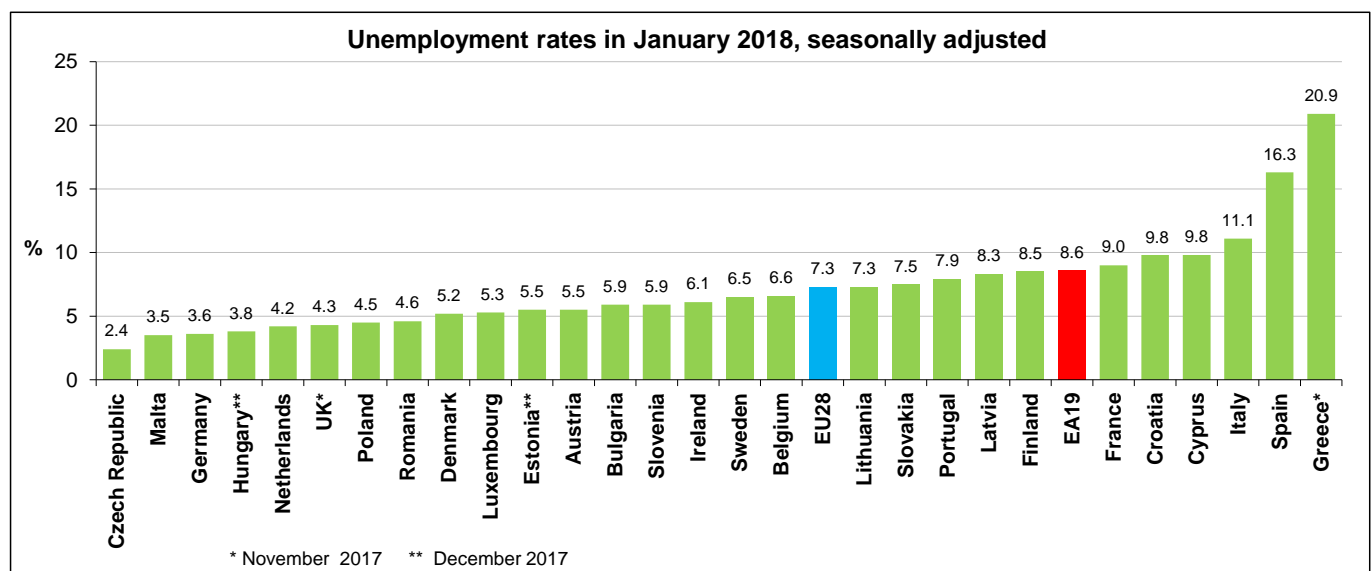
Eurostat estimates that 17.931 million men and women in the **EU28**, of whom 14.111 million in the **euro area**, were unemployed in January 2018. Compared with December 2017, the number of persons unemployed decreased by 19 000 in the **EU28** and by 10 000 in the **euro area**. Compared with January 2017, unemployment fell by 1.867 million in the **EU28** and by 1.429 million in the **euro area**.

Member States

Among the Member States, the lowest unemployment rates in January 2018 were recorded in the **Czech Republic** (2.4%), **Malta** (3.5%) and **Germany** (3.6%). The highest unemployment rates were observed in **Greece** (20.9% in November 2017) and **Spain** (16.3%).

Compared with a year ago, the unemployment rate fell in all Member States. The largest decreases were registered in **Cyprus** (from 12.6% to 9.8%), **Greece** (from 23.3% to 20.9% between November 2016 and November 2017), **Croatia** (from 12.2% to 9.8%), **Portugal** (from 10.1% to 7.9%) and **Spain** (from 18.4% to 16.3%).

In January 2018, the unemployment rate in the **United States** was 4.1%, stable compared to December 2017 and down from 4.8% in January 2017.



Youth unemployment

In January 2018, 3.646 million young persons (under 25) were unemployed in the **EU28**, of whom 2.535 million were in the **euro area**. Compared with January 2017, youth unemployment decreased by 333 000 in the **EU28** and by 280 000 in the **euro area**. In January 2018, the youth unemployment rate was 16.1% in the **EU28** and 17.7% in the **euro area**, compared with 17.6% and 19.9% respectively in January 2017. In January 2018, the lowest rates were observed in the **Czech Republic** (5.8%), **Estonia** (6.5% in December 2017) and **Germany** (6.6%) while the highest were recorded in **Greece** (43.7% in November 2017), **Spain** (36.0%) and **Italy** (31.5%).

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 22/2018 of 31 January 2018, the December 2017 unemployment has been revised from 8.7% to 8.6% for EA19 and remained unchanged for EU28. Among Member States, the rate has been revised by more than 0.1 percentage points (pp) upwards for Greece, Latvia, Austria and Portugal (all by 0.2 pp, October data for Greece). The unemployment rate has been revised by more than 0.1 pp downwards for Cyprus (by 0.8 pp), Denmark and Lithuania (both by 0.3 pp) as well as France and Luxembourg (both 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](#)

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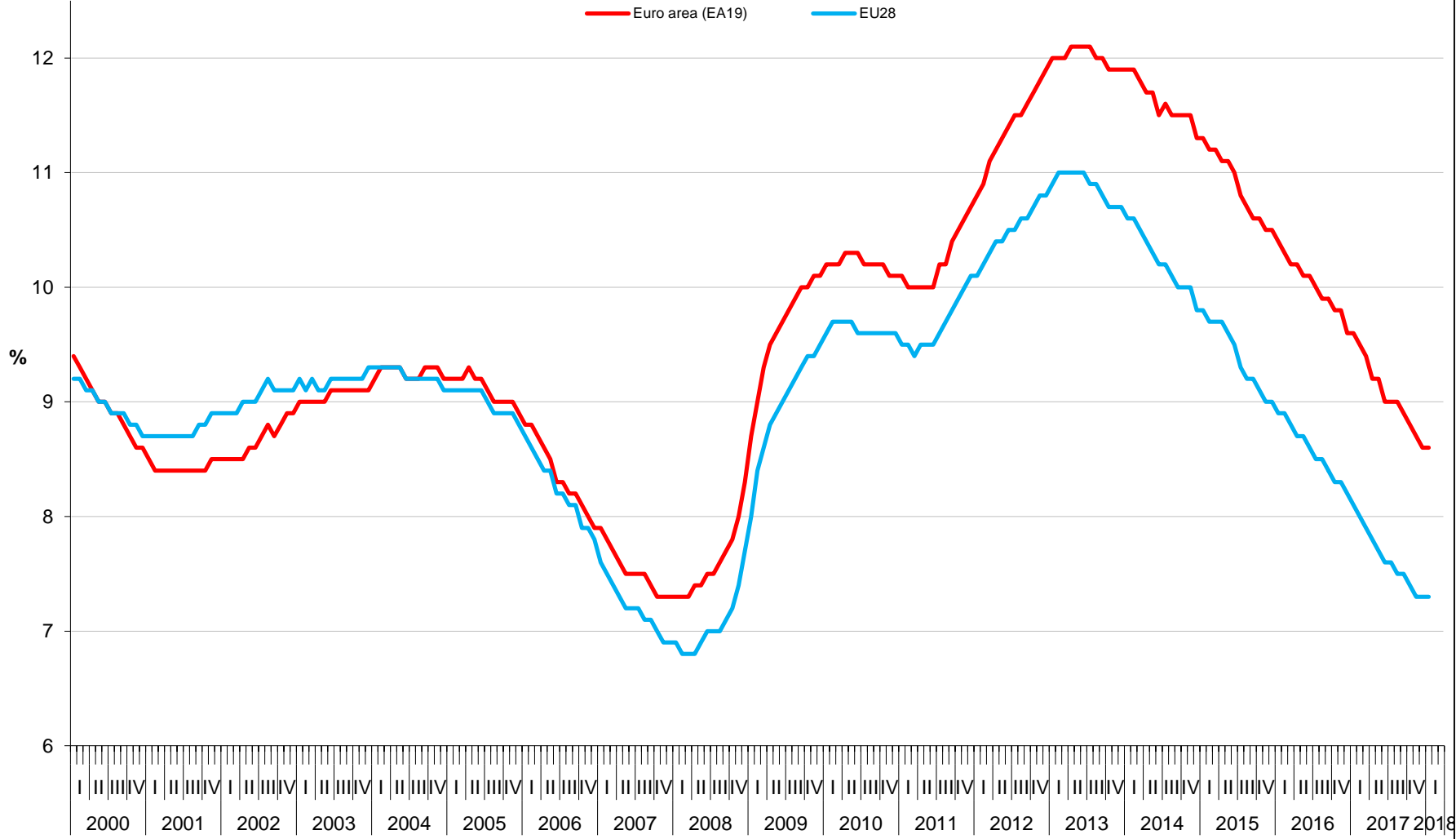
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Euro area and EU28 unemployment rates Seasonally adjusted series



Seasonally adjusted unemployment, totals

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	Jan 17	Oct 17	Nov 17	Dec 17	Jan 18	Jan 17	Oct 17	Nov 17	Dec 17	Jan 18
EA19	9.6	8.8	8.7	8.6	8.6	15 540	14 364	14 243	14 121	14 111
EU28	8.1	7.4	7.3	7.3	7.3	19 798	18 253	18 104	17 950	17 931
Belgium	7.6	6.8	6.7	6.6	6.6	376	343	334	331	329
Bulgaria	6.6	6.1	6.1	6.1	5.9	217	208	209	208	204
Czech Republic	3.4	2.5	2.4	2.3	2.4	182	136	129	126	128
Denmark	6.1	5.5	5.4	5.3	5.2	183	165	160	157	156
Germany	3.9	3.7	3.6	3.6	3.6	1 678	1 589	1 575	1 561	1 547
Estonia	6.2**	5.2	5.4	5.5	:	43**	36	38	39	:
Ireland	7.4	6.5	6.4	6.2	6.1	172	154	150	147	144
Greece	23.3*	20.9	20.9	:	:	1 115*	996	996	:	:
Spain	18.4	16.7	16.6	16.4	16.3	4 184	3 791	3 772	3 744	3 705
France	9.7	9.2	9.1	9.0	9.0	2 870	2 738	2 693	2 678	2 676
Croatia	12.2	10.4	10.2	10.0	9.8	223	189	185	180	176
Italy	11.7	11.1	11.1	10.9	11.1	3 029	2 879	2 870	2 818	2 882
Cyprus	12.6	10.1	10.3	10.3	9.8	53	43	44	44	42
Latvia	9.4	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	92	82	81	81	82
Lithuania	7.8	6.7	6.7	6.8	7.3	114	97	97	99	106
Luxembourg	6.0	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.3	17	15	15	16	15
Hungary	4.3**	4.0	3.9	3.8	:	197**	183	180	174	:
Malta	4.2	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.5	9	7	7	8	7
Netherlands	5.3	4.5	4.4	4.4	4.2	480	404	397	395	380
Austria	5.7	5.4	5.5	5.5	5.5	254	245	248	249	249
Poland	5.3	4.6	4.6	4.5	4.5	912	797	786	778	768
Portugal	10.1	8.4	8.1	8.0	7.9	518	435	418	412	411
Romania	5.1	4.7	4.8	4.6	4.6	460	434	427	419	424
Slovenia	7.6	6.5	6.4	6.2	5.9	78	67	67	65	62
Slovakia	8.7	7.7	7.6	7.5	7.5	241	212	208	207	206
Finland	8.7	8.5	8.6	8.6	8.5	235	232	233	233	234
Sweden	6.8	6.6	6.6	6.5	6.5	361	357	356	354	352
United Kingdom	4.7*	4.3	4.3	:	:	1 550*	1 416	1 436	:	:
Iceland	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	5	6	6	6	6
Norway	4.4**	4.0	4.1	4.1	:	122**	110	114	113	:
United States	4.8	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	7 575	6 510	6 642	6 577	6 661

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

: Data not available

* November 2016

** December 2016

Seasonally adjusted youth (under 25s) unemployment

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	Jan 17	Oct 17	Nov 17	Dec 17	Jan 18	Jan 17	Oct 17	Nov 17	Dec 17	Jan 18
EA19	19.9	18.3	18.1	17.9	17.7	2 815	2 621	2 581	2 554	2 535
EU28	17.6	16.5	16.4	16.3	16.1	3 979	3 730	3 693	3 672	3 646
Belgium	21.3	16.3	16.3	16.3	:	76	64	64	64	:
Bulgaria	14.0	12.4	12.2	12.1	11.8	22	23	23	24	24
Czech Republic	8.7	6.4	5.2	5.3	5.8	28	20	16	16	18
Denmark	12.2	10.0	9.7	10.1	10.4	57	46	45	46	47
Germany	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.6	283	283	282	280	278
Estonia	12.9	8.0	6.8	6.5	:	8	5	4	4	:
Ireland	14.6	14.7	14.1	13.8	13.7	42	37	36	35	34
Greece	47.5	42.0	43.7	:	:	126	111	113	:	:
Spain	41.5	37.6	37.1	36.8	36.0	609	573	561	555	546
France	23.2	21.9	21.7	21.7	21.7	641	615	614	615	618
Croatia	28.7	24.5	24.5	24.5	:	49	40	40	40	:
Italy	37.5	34.2	33.1	32.8	31.5	582	526	510	494	495
Cyprus	26.4	25.1*	:	:	:	9	9*	:	:	:
Latvia	19.1	17.2	17.9	18.0	17.9	13	12	12	12	12
Lithuania	14.5	12.9	13.0	13.4	13.8	17	14	14	15	15
Luxembourg	17.0	13.9	14.1	14.4	14.1	4	3	3	3	3
Hungary	10.9	10.6	10.5	10.7	:	37	35	35	35	:
Malta	11.2	9.5	9.5	10.0	10.0	3	2	2	3	3
Netherlands	9.8	7.9	7.8	8.0	7.4	139	114	112	116	108
Austria	10.4	9.7	10.0	9.5	9.4	57	51	53	50	49
Poland	14.6	14.8	14.7	14.5	14.1	199	195	194	192	188
Portugal	25.4	24.6	22.8	22.2	22.2	93	93	86	82	82
Romania	19.1	16.8*	:	:	:	118	107*	:	:	:
Slovenia	10.9	12.1	12.1	12.1	:	8	10	10	10	:
Slovakia	19.5	17.8	17.3	17.1	17.1	40	35	34	33	33
Finland	20.2	19.2	19.0	18.8	18.7	66	63	63	63	62
Sweden	17.8	17.2	17.5	17.2	16.9	114	110	110	109	108
United Kingdom	12.2	12.2	12.4	:	:	538	519	525	:	:
Iceland	7.0	7.6	7.4	7.3	7.1	2	2	2	2	2
Norway	9.9	10.1	9.9	9.4	:	35	37	36	34	:

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

: Data not available

* Q3 2017 data

Belgium, Croatia, Cyprus, Romania and Slovenia: quarterly data

Seasonally adjusted unemployment rates (%), by gender

	Males					Females				
	Jan 17	Oct 17	Nov 17	Dec 17	Jan 18	Jan 17	Oct 17	Nov 17	Dec 17	Jan 18
EA19	9.2	8.5	8.4	8.3	8.3	10.0	9.2	9.1	9.0	9.0
EU28	7.9	7.2	7.1	7.0	7.0	8.3	7.7	7.6	7.6	7.5
Belgium	7.4	7.2	7.0	6.9	6.8	7.7	6.4	6.3	6.3	6.3
Bulgaria	6.7	6.4	6.4	6.3	6.2	6.6	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.6
Czech Republic	2.8	2.1	2.0	1.9	1.8	4.1	3.0	3.0	2.9	3.1
Denmark	5.9	5.3	5.1	5.0	4.9	6.4	5.8	5.6	5.6	5.5
Germany	4.3	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.4	3.3	3.2	3.2	3.1
Estonia	5.7	5.3	5.4	5.4	:	5.8	5.1	5.3	5.6	:
Ireland	7.5	6.8	6.7	6.6	6.5	7.3	6.2	6.0	5.8	5.6
Greece	19.6	17.1	17.1	:	:	27.5	25.6	25.8	:	:
Spain	16.9	15.1	15.0	14.9	14.7	20.1	18.5	18.4	18.2	18.0
France	9.7	9.3	9.1	9.1	9.1	9.8	9.1	9.0	8.9	8.8
Croatia	11.3	9.6	9.4	9.0	8.8	13.4	11.3	11.2	11.0	10.9
Italy	10.7	10.2	10.2	10.0	10.2	13.0	12.3	12.2	12.1	12.3
Cyprus	12.2	10.0	10.3	10.3	9.9	13.0	10.1	10.3	10.2	9.8
Latvia	10.6	9.0	9.2	9.3	9.4	8.1	7.6	7.4	7.2	7.2
Lithuania	9.4	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.4	6.2	5.4	5.4	5.7	6.3
Luxembourg	6.2	5.4	5.4	5.5	5.3	5.8	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3
Hungary	4.2	3.6	3.4	3.3	:	4.3	4.4	4.5	4.3	:
Malta	3.8	3.6	3.5	3.6	3.4	4.8	3.6	3.6	3.7	3.5
Netherlands	4.8	4.2	4.1	4.1	4.0	5.9	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.5
Austria	6.2	5.9	5.8	5.9	5.9	5.1	4.9	5.1	5.1	5.0
Poland	5.2	4.6	4.5	4.5	4.4	5.3	4.7	4.6	4.6	4.5
Portugal	9.8	7.9	7.8	7.6	7.5	10.4	9.0	8.4	8.3	8.3
Romania	5.8	5.3	5.3	5.1	5.0	4.2	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.1
Slovenia	7.3	5.4	5.4	5.2	5.0	8.0	7.7	7.5	7.2	6.8
Slovakia	8.4	7.6	7.5	7.5	7.5	9.1	7.7	7.6	7.5	7.4
Finland	9.0	8.6	8.6	8.6	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.6
Sweden	7.1	6.8	6.7	6.6	6.6	6.4	6.4	6.5	6.5	6.4
United Kingdom	4.8	4.2	4.3	:	:	4.4	4.3	4.3	:	:
Iceland	2.8	2.7	2.6	2.5	2.5	2.7	2.9	3.0	3.1	3.2
Norway	4.6	4.4	4.5	4.5	:	3.8	3.5	3.7	3.6	:

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

: Data not available