

75/2018 - 2 May 2018

March 2018

## Euro area unemployment at 8.5%

EU28 at 7.1%

The **euro area** (EA19) seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate was 8.5% in March 2018, stable compared with February 2018 and down from 9.4% in March 2017. This is the lowest rate recorded in the **euro area** since December 2008. The **EU28** unemployment rate was 7.1% in March 2018, stable compared with February 2018 and down from 7.9% in March 2017. This is the lowest rate recorded in the **EU28** since September 2008. These figures are published by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**.

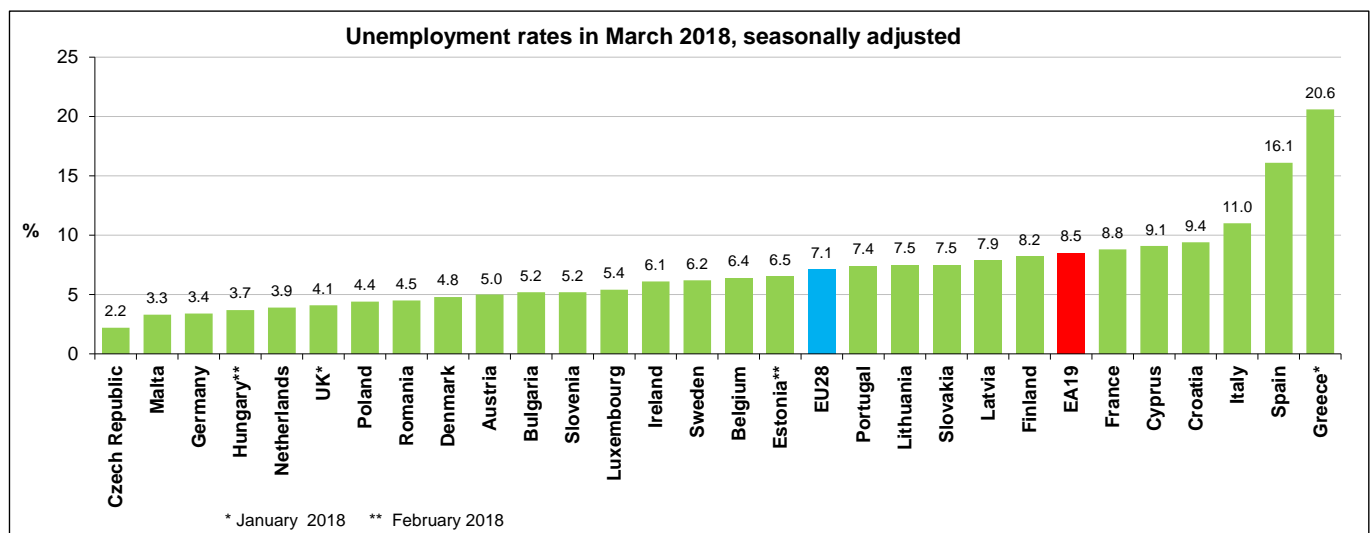
Eurostat estimates that 17.481 million men and women in the **EU28**, of whom 13.824 million in the **euro area**, were unemployed in March 2018. Compared with February 2018, the number of persons unemployed decreased by 94 000 in the **EU28** and by 83 000 in the **euro area**. Compared with March 2017, unemployment fell by 1.930 million in the **EU28** and by 1.414 million in the **euro area**.

### Member States

Among the Member States, the lowest unemployment rates in March 2018 were recorded in the **Czech Republic** (2.2%), **Malta** (3.3%) and **Germany** (3.4%). The highest unemployment rates were observed in **Greece** (20.6% in January 2018) and **Spain** (16.1%).

Compared with a year ago, the unemployment rate fell in all Member States except **Lithuania** where it remained stable and **Estonia** where it increased (from 5.3% to 6.5% between February 2017 and February 2018). The largest decreases were registered in **Cyprus** (from 12.3% to 9.1%), **Greece** (from 23.2% to 20.6% between January 2017 and January 2018), **Croatia** (from 11.8% to 9.4%) and **Portugal** (from 9.7% to 7.4%).

In March 2018, the unemployment rate in the **United States** was 4.1%, stable compared to February 2018 and down from 4.5% in March 2017.



## Youth unemployment

In March 2018, 3.500 million young persons (under 25) were unemployed in the **EU28**, of whom 2.449 million were in the **euro area**. Compared with March 2017, youth unemployment decreased by 409 000 in the **EU28** and by 305 000 in the **euro area**. In March 2018, the youth unemployment rate was 15.6% in the **EU28** and 17.3% in the **euro area**, compared with 17.3% and 19.4% respectively in March 2017. In March 2018, the lowest rates were observed in **Germany** (6.1%), the **Czech Republic** (6.8%) and the **Netherlands** (7.0%), while the highest were recorded in **Greece** (42.3% in January 2018), **Spain** (35.0%) and **Italy** (31.7%).

### 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 definitions

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 [54/2018](#) of 4 April 2018, the February 2018 unemployment rate remains unchanged for EU28 and EA19. Among Member States, the rate has been revised by more than 0.1 percentage points (pp) downwards for Austria and Portugal (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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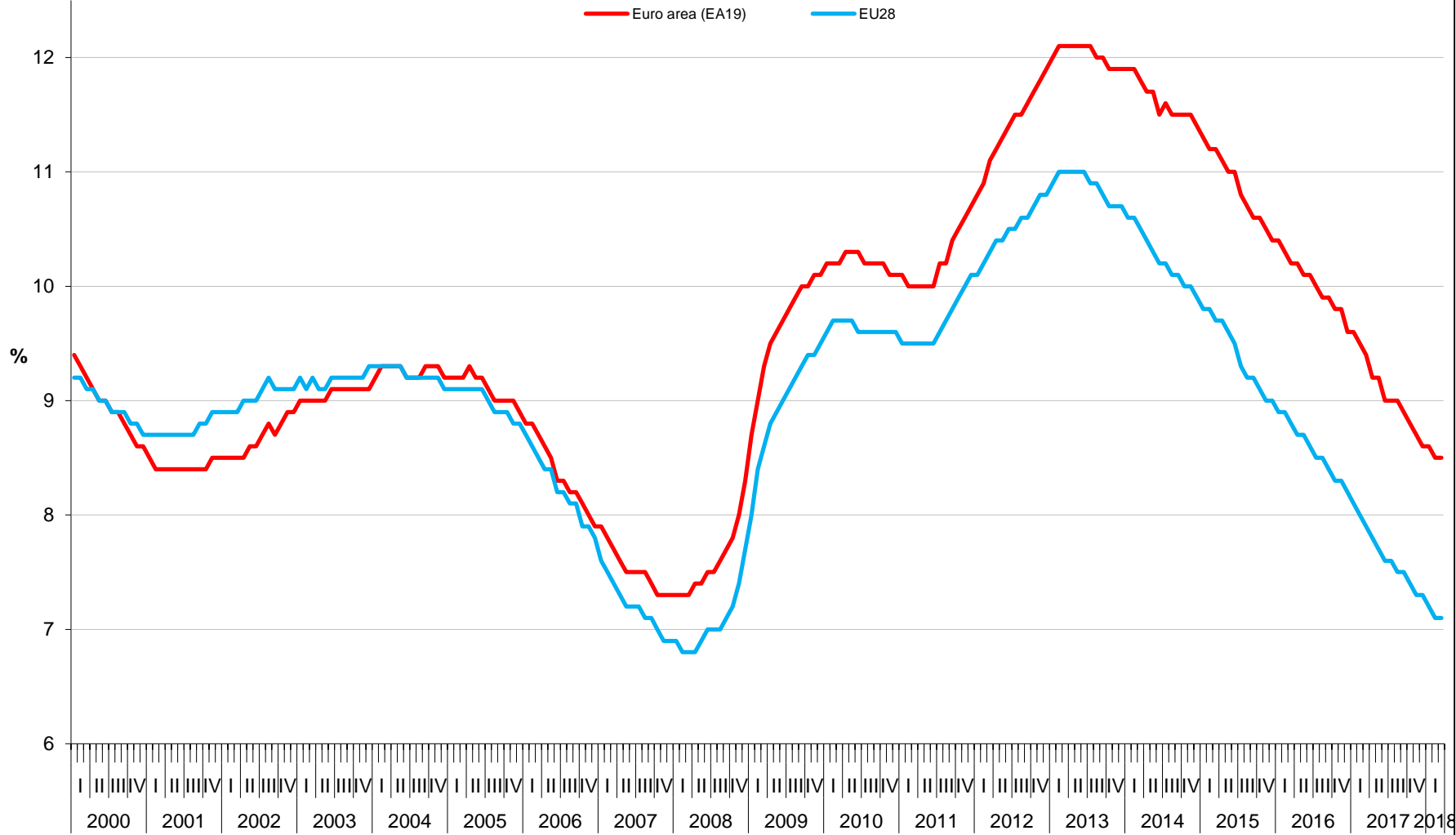
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### Euro area and EU28 unemployment rates Seasonally adjusted series



### Seasonally adjusted unemployment, totals

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	Mar 17	Dec 17	Jan 18	Feb 18	Mar 18	Mar 17	Dec 17	Jan 18	Feb 18	Mar 18
<b>EA19</b>	9.4	8.6	8.6	8.5	<b>8.5</b>	15 238	14 072	14 064	13 907	<b>13 824</b>
<b>EU28</b>	7.9	7.3	7.2	7.1	<b>7.1</b>	19 411	17 860	17 794	17 575	<b>17 481</b>
<b>Belgium</b>	7.6	6.2	6.3	6.4	<b>6.4</b>	380	312	314	316	<b>315</b>
<b>Bulgaria</b>	6.4	5.7	5.5	5.3	<b>5.2</b>	212	193	188	183	<b>179</b>
<b>Czech Republic</b>	3.2	2.4	2.4	2.3	<b>2.2</b>	170	126	128	125	<b>120</b>
<b>Denmark</b>	6.0	5.2	4.9	4.9	<b>4.8</b>	178	155	146	146	<b>144</b>
<b>Germany</b>	3.9	3.5	3.5	3.5	<b>3.4</b>	1 664	1 529	1 510	1 493	<b>1 477</b>
<b>Estonia</b>	5.3**	5.7	6.5	6.5	:	37**	40	46	46	:
<b>Ireland</b>	7.0	6.3	6.2	6.1	<b>6.1</b>	163	150	149	146	<b>144</b>
<b>Greece</b>	23.2*	20.8	20.6	:	:	1 104*	987	977	:	:
<b>Spain</b>	18.0	16.5	16.4	16.2	<b>16.1</b>	4 098	3 750	3 727	3 696	<b>3 655</b>
<b>France</b>	9.5	9.0	9.0	8.9	<b>8.8</b>	2 817	2 671	2 676	2 660	<b>2 645</b>
<b>Croatia</b>	11.8	10.0	9.8	9.6	<b>9.4</b>	214	182	178	173	<b>169</b>
<b>Italy</b>	11.5	11.0	11.2	11.0	<b>11.0</b>	2 983	2 835	2 895	2 846	<b>2 865</b>
<b>Cyprus</b>	12.3	10.5	9.9	9.5	<b>9.1</b>	52	45	42	40	<b>39</b>
<b>Latvia</b>	8.8	8.2	8.3	8.0	<b>7.9</b>	86	81	81	79	<b>77</b>
<b>Lithuania</b>	7.5	6.8	7.3	7.3	<b>7.5</b>	109	99	106	106	<b>108</b>
<b>Luxembourg</b>	5.8	5.4	5.3	5.4	<b>5.4</b>	16	16	15	16	<b>15</b>
<b>Hungary</b>	4.3**	3.8	3.7	3.7	:	198**	174	173	171	:
<b>Malta</b>	4.2	3.8	3.6	3.5	<b>3.3</b>	9	8	8	7	<b>7</b>
<b>Netherlands</b>	5.1	4.4	4.2	4.1	<b>3.9</b>	463	395	380	367	<b>357</b>
<b>Austria</b>	5.8	5.4	5.2	5.0	<b>5.0</b>	259	244	235	228	<b>229</b>
<b>Poland</b>	5.1	4.5	4.5	4.4	<b>4.4</b>	885	779	771	760	<b>754</b>
<b>Portugal</b>	9.7	7.9	7.9	7.6	<b>7.4</b>	502	411	408	395	<b>381</b>
<b>Romania</b>	5.2	4.6	4.6	4.6	<b>4.5</b>	472	419	424	419	<b>415</b>
<b>Slovenia</b>	6.9	5.6	5.4	5.3	<b>5.2</b>	71	57	56	55	<b>54</b>
<b>Slovakia</b>	8.5	7.6	7.6	7.5	<b>7.5</b>	234	210	209	207	<b>205</b>
<b>Finland</b>	8.8	8.4	8.3	8.3	<b>8.2</b>	237	231	229	227	<b>226</b>
<b>Sweden</b>	6.7	6.4	6.3	6.2	<b>6.2</b>	361	347	342	338	<b>333</b>
<b>United Kingdom</b>	4.6*	4.2	4.1	:	:	1 524*	1 412	1 372	:	:
<b>Iceland</b>	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.6	<b>2.6</b>	5	5	5	5	<b>5</b>
<b>Norway</b>	4.3**	4.0	4.0	3.9	:	118**	112	111	108	:
<b>United States</b>	4.5	4.1	4.1	4.1	<b>4.1</b>	7 175	6 577	6 661	6 703	<b>6 590</b>

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

: Data not available

\* January 2017

\*\* February 2017

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

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	Mar 17	Dec 17	Jan 18	Feb 18	Mar 18	Mar 17	Dec 17	Jan 18	Feb 18	Mar 18
EA19	19.4	17.7	17.6	17.5	<b>17.3</b>	2 754	2 522	2 504	2 491	<b>2 449</b>
EU28	17.3	16.1	15.8	15.7	<b>15.6</b>	3 909	3 614	3 567	3 533	<b>3 500</b>
Belgium	21.6	16.4	17.7	17.7	<b>17.7</b>	76	59	61	61	<b>61</b>
Bulgaria	13.5	10.8	10.6	10.5	<b>10.4</b>	22	19	19	18	<b>19</b>
Czech Republic	9.4	5.6	6.6	7.4	<b>6.8</b>	31	17	20	22	<b>20</b>
Denmark	11.6	10.0	9.6	9.7	<b>9.5</b>	54	45	43	44	<b>43</b>
Germany	6.7	6.3	6.2	6.2	<b>6.1</b>	281	266	263	259	<b>256</b>
Estonia	14.0	6.4	8.9	10.5	:	8	4	6	7	:
Ireland	14.3	12.8	12.9	12.7	<b>12.5</b>	40	36	37	36	<b>35</b>
Greece	45.3	43.5	42.3	:	:	120	109	108	:	:
Spain	40.5	36.6	36.1	35.7	<b>35.0</b>	601	548	535	526	<b>511</b>
France	22.8	21.5	21.6	21.6	<b>21.5</b>	630	607	613	612	<b>609</b>
Croatia	28.8	24.9	23.3	23.3	<b>23.3</b>	49	40	36	36	<b>36</b>
Italy	36.0	32.7	32.2	32.5	<b>31.7</b>	567	496	498	501	<b>485</b>
Cyprus	26.8	22.8	:	:	:	10	8	:	:	:
Latvia	17.3	17.7	17.6	16.4	<b>15.2</b>	13	11	11	10	<b>10</b>
Lithuania	13.4	13.4	13.8	13.6	<b>14.0</b>	16	15	15	15	<b>15</b>
Luxembourg	16.4	14.4	14.1	13.8	<b>13.9</b>	3	3	3	3	<b>3</b>
Hungary	10.6	10.7	10.9	10.4	:	36	35	36	34	:
Malta	11.0	10.6	10.6	9.4	<b>8.8</b>	3	3	3	3	<b>2</b>
Netherlands	9.6	8.0	7.4	7.2	<b>7.0</b>	135	116	108	104	<b>100</b>
Austria	10.3	9.5	9.4	10.2	<b>10.1</b>	56	51	50	54	<b>54</b>
Poland	14.9	14.4	14.1	13.8	<b>13.8</b>	200	191	186	182	<b>181</b>
Portugal	22.9	22.1	21.5	21.2	<b>21.3</b>	83	82	79	78	<b>80</b>
Romania	19.1	19.7	:	:	:	118	126	:	:	:
Slovenia	10.9	11.2	9.6	9.6	<b>9.6</b>	8	8	8	8	<b>8</b>
Slovakia	19.0	18.5	18.7	18.6	<b>18.4</b>	39	37	37	36	<b>36</b>
Finland	20.1	18.9	18.8	18.8	<b>18.9</b>	66	63	63	62	<b>63</b>
Sweden	17.9	16.8	16.3	16.2	<b>16.4</b>	113	105	104	102	<b>100</b>
United Kingdom	12.2	11.9	11.5	:	:	538	508	487	:	:
Iceland	7.0	6.7	6.5	6.4	<b>6.4</b>	2	2	2	2	<b>2</b>
Norway	11.4	9.7	9.2	8.4	:	41	35	33	30	:

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				
	Mar 17	Dec 17	Jan 18	Feb 18	Mar 18	Mar 17	Dec 17	Jan 18	Feb 18	Mar 18
EA19	9.0	8.3	8.3	8.2	<b>8.1</b>	9.8	9.0	9.0	8.9	<b>8.9</b>
EU28	7.7	7.0	7.0	6.9	<b>6.8</b>	8.2	7.5	7.5	7.4	<b>7.4</b>
Belgium	7.3	6.2	6.3	6.4	<b>6.4</b>	8.0	6.3	6.3	6.4	<b>6.3</b>
Bulgaria	6.5	5.8	5.6	5.5	<b>5.3</b>	6.2	5.5	5.3	5.1	<b>5.0</b>
Czech Republic	2.3	1.9	1.8	1.9	<b>1.8</b>	4.3	2.9	3.0	2.9	<b>2.8</b>
Denmark	5.9	4.9	4.5	4.4	<b>4.4</b>	6.0	5.6	5.3	5.4	<b>5.2</b>
Germany	4.2	3.9	3.9	3.9	<b>3.9</b>	3.5	3.1	3.0	2.9	<b>2.9</b>
Estonia	5.6	5.8	6.6	6.8	:	5.2	5.6	6.4	6.1	:
Ireland	7.3	6.7	6.6	6.5	<b>6.4</b>	6.6	5.9	5.8	5.7	<b>5.6</b>
Greece	18.5	16.8	16.7	:	:	26.8	25.8	25.6	:	:
Spain	16.4	14.9	14.8	14.7	<b>14.6</b>	19.8	18.3	18.1	18.0	<b>17.9</b>
France	9.4	9.0	9.0	9.0	<b>8.9</b>	9.6	8.9	8.9	8.8	<b>8.7</b>
Croatia	10.9	9.3	9.1	8.9	<b>8.7</b>	12.9	10.8	10.7	10.5	<b>10.2</b>
Italy	10.7	10.1	10.2	10.2	<b>9.9</b>	12.6	12.1	12.4	12.0	<b>12.5</b>
Cyprus	12.1	11.0	10.2	9.5	<b>9.1</b>	12.5	9.8	9.6	9.4	<b>9.0</b>
Latvia	9.9	9.3	9.3	9.0	<b>8.7</b>	7.7	7.2	7.2	7.0	<b>7.0</b>
Lithuania	9.1	8.0	8.4	8.5	<b>8.8</b>	6.0	5.7	6.3	6.2	<b>6.3</b>
Luxembourg	5.9	5.5	5.3	5.5	<b>5.5</b>	5.6	5.3	5.3	5.3	<b>5.3</b>
Hungary	4.1	3.3	3.3	3.3	:	4.8	4.3	4.3	4.2	:
Malta	4.1	3.8	3.6	3.6	<b>3.5</b>	4.4	3.7	3.5	3.3	<b>3.1</b>
Netherlands	4.8	4.1	4.0	3.8	<b>3.8</b>	5.5	4.7	4.5	4.3	<b>4.1</b>
Austria	6.4	5.7	5.4	5.1	<b>5.1</b>	5.1	5.1	5.0	4.9	<b>4.9</b>
Poland	5.1	4.5	4.4	4.4	<b>4.3</b>	5.2	4.6	4.5	4.5	<b>4.5</b>
Portugal	9.4	7.6	7.5	7.4	<b>7.2</b>	10.1	8.3	8.2	7.8	<b>7.6</b>
Romania	5.9	5.1	5.0	4.9	<b>4.9</b>	4.3	4.0	4.1	4.1	<b>4.1</b>
Slovenia	6.2	4.9	4.9	4.8	<b>4.7</b>	7.7	6.2	6.0	5.8	<b>5.7</b>
Slovakia	8.3	7.2	7.1	7.0	<b>6.9</b>	8.7	8.2	8.2	8.1	<b>8.1</b>
Finland	9.1	8.5	8.4	8.2	<b>8.1</b>	8.4	8.3	8.3	8.3	<b>8.3</b>
Sweden	7.1	6.5	6.5	6.3	<b>6.2</b>	6.3	6.3	6.2	6.1	<b>6.1</b>
United Kingdom	4.7	4.2	4.1	:	:	4.3	4.3	4.1	:	:
Iceland	2.7	2.5	2.5	2.4	<b>2.4</b>	2.6	2.9	2.9	2.9	<b>2.8</b>
Norway	4.9	4.4	4.4	4.2	:	3.9	3.6	3.6	3.5	:

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

: Data not available