

89/2018 - 31 May 2018

April 2018

Euro area unemployment at 8.5%

EU28 at 7.1%

The **euro area** (EA19) seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate was 8.5% in April 2018, down from 8.6% in March 2018 and from 9.2% in April 2017. This is the lowest rate recorded in the **euro area** since December 2008. The **EU28** unemployment rate was 7.1% in April 2018, stable compared with March 2018 and down from 7.8% in April 2017. This remains the lowest rate recorded in the **EU28** since September 2008. These figures are published by Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union.

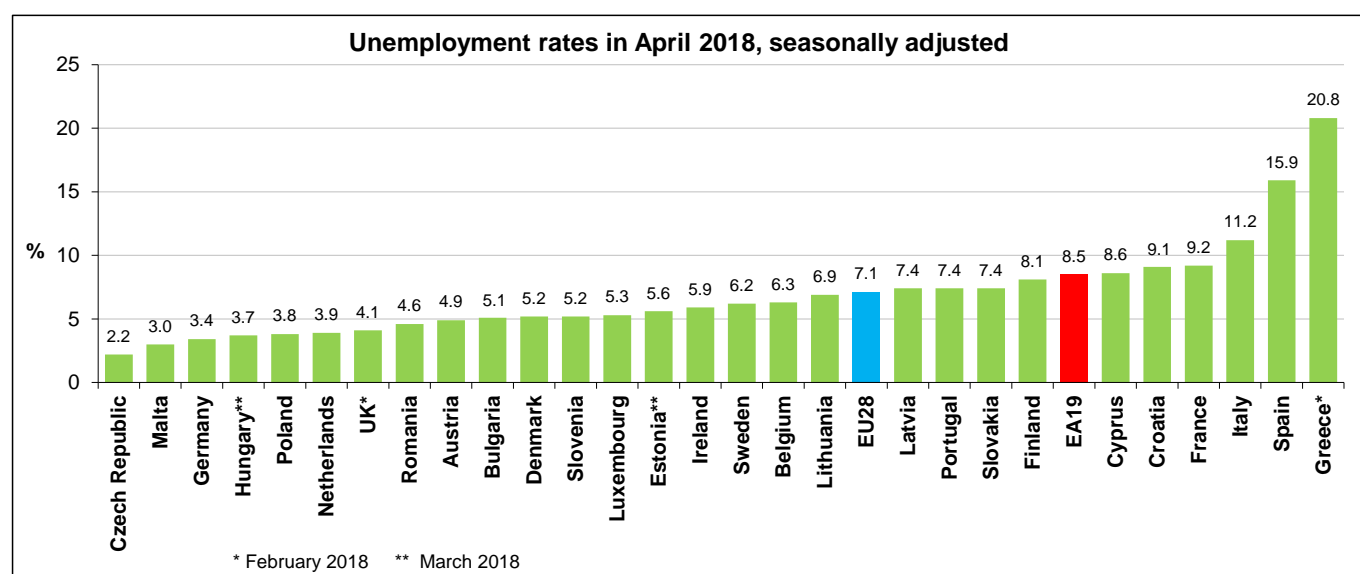
Eurostat estimates that 17.462 million men and women in the **EU28**, of whom 13.880 million in the **euro area**, were unemployed in April 2018. Compared with March 2018, the number of persons unemployed decreased by 53 000 in the **EU28** and by 56 000 in the **euro area**. Compared with April 2017, unemployment fell by 1.633 million in the **EU28** and by 1.088 million in the **euro area**.

Member States

Among the Member States, the lowest unemployment rates in April 2018 were recorded in the **Czech Republic** (2.2%), **Malta** (3.0%) and **Germany** (3.4%). The highest unemployment rates were observed in **Greece** (20.8% in February 2018) and **Spain** (15.9%).

Compared with a year ago, the unemployment rate fell in all Member States except **Italy** where it remained stable and **Estonia** where it increased (from 5.3% to 5.6% between March 2017 and March 2018). The largest decreases were registered in **Cyprus** (from 11.7% to 8.6%), **Croatia** (from 11.5% to 9.1%) and **Portugal** (from 9.5% to 7.4%).

In April 2018, the unemployment rate in the **United States** was 3.9%, down from 4.1% in March 2018 and from 4.4% in April 2017.



Youth unemployment

In April 2018, 3.426 million young persons (under 25) were unemployed in the **EU28**, of whom 2.433 million were in the **euro area**. Compared with April 2017, youth unemployment decreased by 464 000 in the **EU28** and by 306 000 in the **euro area**. In April 2018, the youth unemployment rate was 15.3% in the **EU28** and 17.2% in the **euro area**, compared with 17.2% and 19.3% respectively in April 2017. In April 2018, the lowest rates were observed in **Germany** (6.0%), **Malta** (6.8%) and the **Netherlands** (6.9%), while the highest were recorded in **Greece** (45.4% in February 2018), **Spain** (34.4%) and **Italy** (33.1%).

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 [75/2018](#) of 2 May 2018, the March 2018 unemployment rate for EA19 has been revised from 8.5% to 8.6% while it remains unchanged for EU28. Among Member States, the rate has been revised by more than 0.1 percentage points (pp) downwards for Lithuania (by 1.0 pp), Poland (by 0.5 pp), Latvia (by 0.3 pp) and Estonia (by 0.2 pp for February data). The rates have been revised by more than 0.1 percentage points upwards for France (by 0.4 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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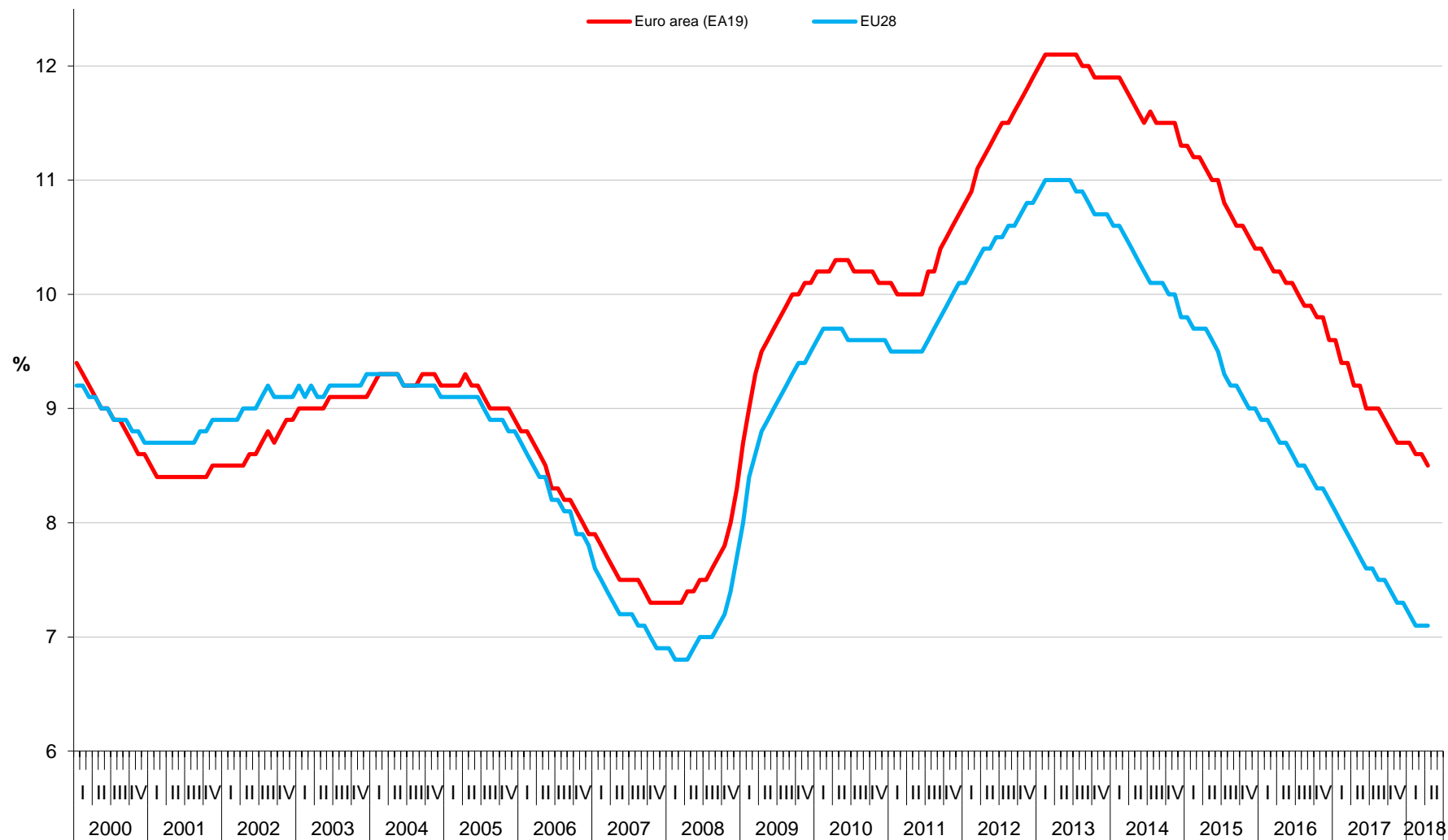
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Euro area and EU28 unemployment rates Seasonally adjusted series



Seasonally adjusted unemployment, totals

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	Apr 17	Jan 18	Feb 18	Mar 18	Apr 18	Apr 17	Jan 18	Feb 18	Mar 18	Apr 18
EA19	9.2	8.7	8.6	8.6	8.5	14 968	14 138	14 010	13 936	13 880
EU28	7.8	7.2	7.1	7.1	7.1	19 095	17 810	17 611	17 515	17 462
Belgium	7.5	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.3	370	314	315	315	314
Bulgaria	6.3	5.5	5.3	5.2	5.1	211	188	183	180	177
Czech Republic	3.3	2.4	2.3	2.2	2.2	177	127	126	121	121
Denmark	5.7	5.0	5.0	4.9	5.2	169	150	150	148	157
Germany	3.8	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.4	1 653	1 511	1 498	1 486	1 475
Estonia	5.3**	6.4	6.3	5.6	:	37**	45	45	40	:
Ireland	6.8	6.2	6.1	6.0	5.9	157	148	146	143	140
Greece	22.6*	20.7	20.8	:	:	1 080*	980	978	:	:
Spain	17.6	16.4	16.2	16.1	15.9	3 999	3 728	3 697	3 656	3 618
France	9.5	9.2	9.2	9.2	9.2	2 809	2 750	2 752	2 744	2 734
Croatia	11.5	9.7	9.5	9.3	9.1	211	177	173	168	164
Italy	11.2	11.2	11.1	11.1	11.2	2 888	2 908	2 873	2 895	2 912
Cyprus	11.7	9.9	9.4	9.0	8.6	50	43	41	39	37
Latvia	8.8	8.1	7.8	7.6	7.4	86	80	77	75	73
Lithuania	7.5	6.4	6.3	6.5	6.9	108	92	91	94	100
Luxembourg	5.7	5.3	5.4	5.3	5.3	16	15	16	15	15
Hungary	4.4**	3.7	3.7	3.7	:	203**	174	172	172	:
Malta	4.2	3.6	3.4	3.3	3.0	9	8	7	7	6
Netherlands	5.1	4.2	4.1	3.9	3.9	456	380	367	357	355
Austria	5.7	5.2	5.0	4.9	4.9	256	236	225	223	222
Poland	5.2	4.2	4.0	3.9	3.8	896	716	689	671	657
Portugal	9.5	7.9	7.6	7.5	7.4	490	408	396	386	381
Romania	4.8	4.5	4.5	4.4	4.6	445	413	408	404	411
Slovenia	6.7	5.4	5.3	5.2	5.2	68	56	55	54	55
Slovakia	8.4	7.6	7.5	7.4	7.4	231	209	207	205	203
Finland	8.7	8.3	8.2	8.1	8.1	236	228	225	223	222
Sweden	6.7	6.4	6.2	6.2	6.2	362	343	339	336	333
United Kingdom	4.5*	4.1	4.1	:	:	1 512*	1 376	1 382	:	:
Iceland	2.6	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	5	6	6	6	6
Norway	4.4**	4.0	3.9	3.9	:	123**	110	108	109	:
United States	4.4	4.1	4.1	4.1	3.9	7 031	6 661	6 703	6 590	6 383

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

: Data not available

* February 2017

** March 2017

Seasonally adjusted youth (under 25s) unemployment

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	Apr 17	Jan 18	Feb 18	Mar 18	Apr 18	Apr 17	Jan 18	Feb 18	Mar 18	Apr 18
EA19	19.3	17.6	17.6	17.3	17.2	2 739	2 516	2 506	2 453	2 433
EU28	17.2	15.7	15.6	15.4	15.3	3 890	3 536	3 504	3 442	3 426
Belgium	21.5	17.7	17.7	17.7	:	75	61	61	61	:
Bulgaria	13.9	10.6	10.5	10.4	10.1	23	19	19	19	18
Czech Republic	9.9	6.5	7.4	6.9	7.2	32	20	23	21	22
Denmark	10.9	9.7	10.0	9.3	10.1	51	44	45	42	46
Germany	6.7	6.2	6.1	6.0	6.0	280	261	257	253	250
Estonia	18.0	8.6	10.2	8.0	:	11	5	6	5	:
Ireland	14.9	12.9	12.7	12.5	12.0	42	37	36	35	33
Greece	44.2	42.7	45.4	:	:	118	108	109	:	:
Spain	39.8	36.1	35.6	35.0	34.4	590	535	526	510	502
France	23.1	21.6	21.5	21.2	20.7	644	616	614	601	586
Croatia	27.2	23.5	23.5	23.5	:	45	36	36	36	:
Italy	35.6	32.8	33.5	32.5	33.1	540	513	521	504	521
Cyprus	26.4	23.1*	:	:	:	10	8*	:	:	:
Latvia	16.7	16.5	14.9	13.5	11.8	13	11	10	9	7
Lithuania	13.3	12.4	12.2	12.6	11.9	16	13	13	14	13
Luxembourg	16.0	14.1	13.8	13.8	13.9	3	3	3	3	3
Hungary	11.4	10.9	10.4	10.0	:	39	36	34	33	:
Malta	10.8	10.4	9.3	8.6	6.8	3	3	3	2	2
Netherlands	9.5	7.4	7.2	7.0	6.9	134	108	104	100	98
Austria	10.9	9.3	9.9	10.1	9.9	59	49	53	53	52
Poland	15.8	12.2	11.3	11.0	11.0	212	161	149	144	144
Portugal	23.6	21.5	21.2	21.9	22.1	88	79	78	80	80
Romania	17.3	19.7*	:	:	:	114	126*	:	:	:
Slovenia	10.9	9.6	9.6	9.6	:	9	8	8	8	:
Slovakia	19.0	18.7	18.6	18.4	18.2	39	37	36	36	36
Finland	20.2	18.7	18.7	18.8	18.9	65	62	62	62	61
Sweden	17.7	16.3	16.1	16.3	15.9	113	103	101	99	98
United Kingdom	12.0	11.5	11.5	:	:	523	489	493	:	:
Iceland	7.0	6.3	6.2	6.0	5.9	2	2	2	2	2
Norway	11.0	9.2	8.5	8.9	:	40	33	30	32	:

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

: Data not available

* Q4 2017 data

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

Seasonally adjusted unemployment rates (%), by gender

	Males					Females				
	Apr 17	Jan 18	Feb 18	Mar 18	Apr 18	Apr 17	Jan 18	Feb 18	Mar 18	Apr 18
EA19	8.8	8.3	8.2	8.2	8.1	9.6	9.1	9.0	9.0	9.0
EU28	7.6	7.0	6.9	6.8	6.8	8.0	7.5	7.4	7.4	7.4
Belgium	7.2	6.3	6.4	6.4	6.4	7.7	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.2
Bulgaria	6.6	5.6	5.5	5.3	5.2	5.9	5.4	5.2	5.0	5.0
Czech Republic	2.6	1.8	1.9	1.8	1.8	4.2	3.0	2.9	2.8	2.8
Denmark	5.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.8	5.8	5.4	5.5	5.3	5.6
Germany	4.2	4.0	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.4	3.0	2.9	2.9	2.9
Estonia	6.5	6.4	6.6	6.0	:	5.7	6.3	6.0	5.2	:
Ireland	7.3	6.6	6.5	6.4	6.2	6.1	5.8	5.6	5.6	5.5
Greece	18.2	16.7	16.4	:	:	26.1	25.8	26.2	:	:
Spain	16.0	14.8	14.7	14.6	14.3	19.4	18.2	18.0	17.9	17.8
France	9.4	9.1	9.1	9.1	8.9	9.5	9.3	9.4	9.4	9.4
Croatia	10.7	9.0	8.8	8.6	8.5	12.5	10.5	10.3	10.0	9.8
Italy	10.2	10.3	10.3	10.0	10.1	12.5	12.4	12.1	12.6	12.5
Cyprus	11.3	9.8	9.1	8.6	8.1	12.2	10.0	9.8	9.4	9.0
Latvia	10.1	9.0	8.6	8.3	7.9	7.4	7.2	7.0	7.0	6.9
Lithuania	9.2	7.4	7.3	7.5	7.9	5.8	5.3	5.3	5.5	5.8
Luxembourg	5.8	5.3	5.4	5.4	5.3	5.5	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.2
Hungary	4.1	3.3	3.3	3.3	:	4.7	4.3	4.2	4.2	:
Malta	4.1	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.2	4.3	3.5	3.3	3.1	2.7
Netherlands	4.6	4.0	3.8	3.8	3.8	5.6	4.5	4.3	4.1	4.0
Austria	6.2	5.5	5.1	5.0	5.2	5.1	4.9	4.8	4.8	4.6
Poland	5.2	4.1	3.9	3.7	3.6	5.1	4.3	4.2	4.1	4.1
Portugal	9.1	7.5	7.5	7.4	7.3	9.9	8.2	7.8	7.6	7.5
Romania	5.5	5.0	5.0	4.8	5.1	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.9	4.0
Slovenia	5.9	4.9	4.8	4.7	4.7	7.7	6.0	5.9	5.8	5.8
Slovakia	8.2	7.1	7.0	6.9	6.8	8.6	8.2	8.1	8.1	8.0
Finland	9.0	8.3	8.2	8.1	8.1	8.4	8.2	8.2	8.2	8.1
Sweden	7.0	6.5	6.4	6.3	6.3	6.4	6.2	6.1	6.1	6.0
United Kingdom	4.6	4.1	4.1	:	:	4.2	4.1	4.1	:	:
Iceland	2.7	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.7	2.6	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1
Norway	4.9	4.4	4.2	4.2	:	4.0	3.6	3.5	3.5	:

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

: Data not available