August 2019
Euro area unemployment at 7.4%
EU28 at 6.2%

The **euro area** (EA19) seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate was 7.4% in August 2019, down from 7.5% in July 2019 and from 8.0% in August 2018. This is the lowest rate recorded in the **euro area** since May 2008. The **EU28** unemployment rate was 6.2% in August 2019, down from 6.3% in July 2019 and from 6.7% in August 2018. This is the lowest rate recorded in the **EU28** since the start of the EU monthly unemployment series in January 2000. These figures are published by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**.

Eurostat estimates that 15.432 million men and women in the **EU28**, of whom 12.169 million in the **euro area**, were unemployed in August 2019. Compared with July 2019, the number of persons unemployed decreased by 111 000 in the **EU28** and by 115 000 in the **euro area**. Compared with August 2018, unemployment fell by 1.189 million in the **EU28** and by 960 000 in the **euro area**.

Member States

Among the Member States, the lowest unemployment rates in August 2019 were recorded in **Czechia** (2.0%) and **Germany** (3.1%). The highest unemployment rates were observed in **Greece** (17.0% in June 2019) and **Spain** (13.8%).

Compared with a year ago, the unemployment rate fell in 24 Member States, remained stable in **Luxembourg** while it increased in **Denmark** (from 4.9% to 5.0%), **Lithuania** (from 6.1% to 6.6%) and **Sweden** (from 6.3% to 7.1%). The largest decreases were registered in **Greece** (from 19.2% to 17.0% between June 2018 and June 2019), **Cyprus** (from 8.2% to 6.8%), **Bulgaria** (from 5.2% to 4.0%), **Spain** (from 15.0% to 13.8%) and **Croatia** (from 8.1% to 6.9%).

In August 2019, the unemployment rate in the **United States** was 3.7%, stable compared with July 2019 and down from 3.8% in August 2018.

Unemployment rates in August 2019
seasonally adjusted, %
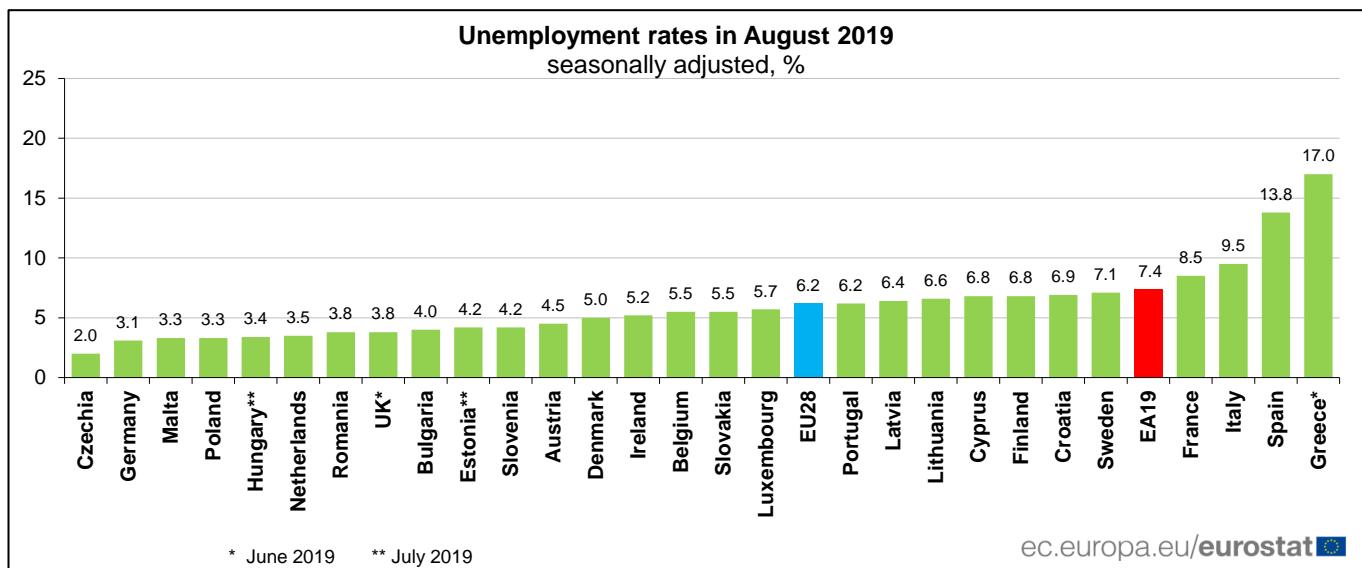
Youth unemployment

In August 2019, 3.138 million young persons (under 25) were unemployed in the **EU28**, of whom 2.202 million were in the **euro area**. Compared with August 2018, youth unemployment decreased by 239 000 in the **EU28** and by 205 000 in the **euro area**. In August 2019, the youth unemployment rate was 14.2% in the **EU28** and 15.4% in the **euro area**, compared with 15.1% and 16.8% respectively in August 2018. In August 2019, the lowest rates were observed in **Czechia** (5.1%), **Germany** (5.7%) and the **Netherlands** (6.9%), while the highest were recorded in **Greece** (33.0% in the second quarter of 2019), **Spain** (32.2%) and **Italy** (27.1%).

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, Czechia, 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 133/2019 of 30 August 2019, the July 2019 unemployment rate for EA19 and the EU28 remained unchanged. Among Member States, the rate has been revised by more than 0.1 percentage points (pp) downwards for Bulgaria (by 0.5 pp), Slovenia (by 0.3 pp) and Belgium (by 0.2 pp). The unemployment rate has been revised by more than 0.1 percentage points upwards for Denmark and Slovakia (both by 0.3 pp) as well as for Sweden (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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Unemployment rates
seasonally adjusted series, %

Legend: Euro area (EA19) — EU28

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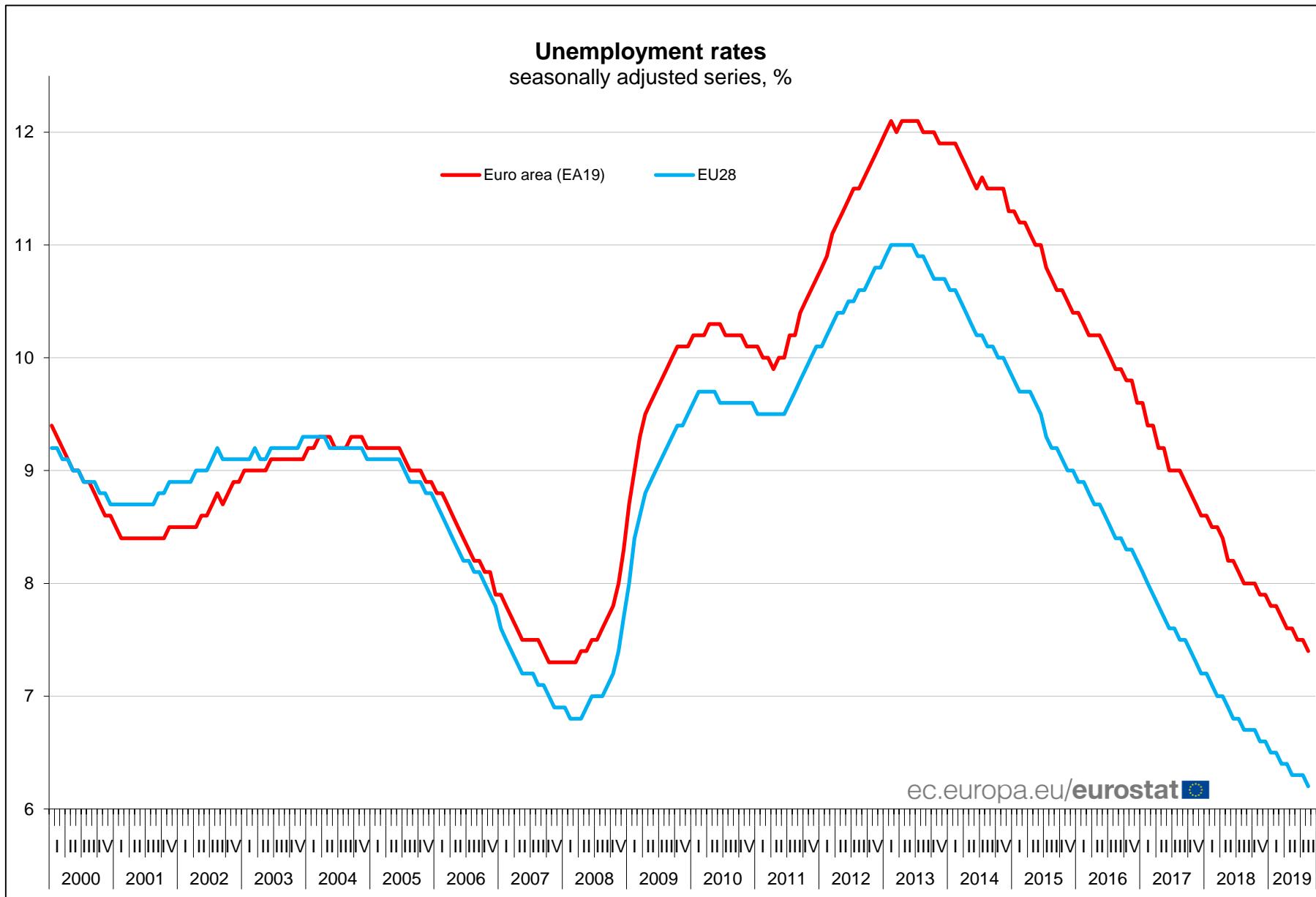
Seasonally adjusted unemployment, totals

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	Aug 18	May 19	Jun 19	Jul 19	Aug 19	Aug 18	May 19	Jun 19	Jul 19	Aug 19
EA19	8.0	7.6	7.5	7.5	**7.4**	13 129	12 401	12 308	12 284	**12 169**
EU28	6.7	6.3	6.3	6.3	**6.2**	16 621	15 676	15 530	15 543	**15 432**
Belgium	5.7	5.5	5.5	5.5	**5.5**	288	281	283	283	**283**
Bulgaria	5.2	4.1	4.0	4.0	**4.0**	173	140	136	134	**134**
Czechia	2.3	2.1	1.9	2.1	**2.0**	126	116	102	112	**109**
Denmark	4.9	4.9	4.7	4.9	**5.0**	145	149	142	148	**152**
Germany	3.4	3.1	3.1	3.1	**3.1**	1 458	1 360	1 347	1 335	**1 328**
Estonia	5.1**	5.0	4.6	4.2	**:**	36**	35	32	29	**:**
Ireland	5.5	5.2	5.3	5.3	**5.2**	132	125	127	128	**126**
Greece	19.2*	17.1	17.0	:	**:**	915*	811	805	:	**:**
Spain	15.0	14.1	14.0	13.9	**13.8**	3 408	3 246	3 221	3 193	**3 181**
France	9.0	8.5	8.5	8.5	**8.5**	2 690	2 528	2 534	2 531	**2 530**
Croatia	8.1	7.0	7.0	7.0	**6.9**	146	125	125	125	**123**
Italy	10.2	9.9	9.7	9.8	**9.5**	2 637	2 567	2 513	2 539	**2 452**
Cyprus	8.2	7.3	7.2	7.0	**6.8**	36	32	32	31	**31**
Latvia	7.1	6.4	6.5	6.5	**6.4**	70	62	63	62	**62**
Lithuania	6.1	6.1	6.2	6.4	**6.6**	89	89	91	93	**96**
Luxembourg	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	**5.7**	17	17	17	17	**17**
Hungary	3.7**	3.4	3.5	3.4	**:**	173**	161	162	157	**:**
Malta	3.6	3.5	3.4	3.4	**3.3**	9	9	9	9	**9**
Netherlands	3.9	3.3	3.4	3.4	**3.5**	353	302	313	313	**321**
Austria	4.9	4.6	4.5	4.4	**4.5**	221	210	203	201	**202**
Poland	3.8	3.4	3.3	3.3	**3.3**	649	578	568	562	**564**
Portugal	7.0	6.6	6.5	6.4	**6.2**	361	341	338	333	**319**
Romania	4.0	3.9	3.8	3.9	**3.8**	367	351	341	352	**343**
Slovenia	5.2	4.3	4.2	4.2	**4.2**	53	44	43	43	**43**
Slovakia	6.3	5.8	5.7	5.6	**5.5**	174	157	155	153	**151**
Finland	7.2	6.7	6.7	6.7	**6.8**	198	183	183	184	**185**
Sweden	6.3	6.7	6.8	7.0	**7.1**	343	365	373	382	**390**
United Kingdom	3.9*	3.8	3.8	:	**:**	1 321*	1 297	1 276	:	**:**
Iceland	2.7	3.4	3.4	3.4	**3.4**	6	7	7	7	**7**
Norway	3.9**	3.4	3.6	3.8	**:**	111**	95	103	109	**:**
United States	3.8	3.6	3.7	3.7	**3.7**	6 177	5 864	5 988	6 070	**6 018**

The source datasets are available here (rates) and here (in 1000 persons).
: Data not available   * June 2018   ** July 2018

Seasonally adjusted youth (under 25s) unemployment

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	Aug 18	May 19	Jun 19	Jul 19	Aug 19	Aug 18	May 19	Jun 19	Jul 19	Aug 19
EA19	16.8	15.7	15.5	15.6	**15.4**	2 407	2 258	2 228	2 244	**2 202**
EU28	15.1	14.4	14.2	14.3	**14.2**	3 377	3 230	3 165	3 180	**3 138**
Belgium	15.3	14.1	14.1	:	:	61	56	56		:
Bulgaria	13.0	9.0	8.9	8.6	**8.2**	19	13	13	12	**11**
Czechia	6.3	7.4	6.4	6.4	**5.1**	19	21	19	19	**15**
Denmark	10.3	9.3	8.7	9.5	**9.7**	45	41	38	41	**43**
Germany	6.1	5.7	5.7	5.7	**5.7**	258	248	248	248	**248**
Estonia	16.8	13.5	17.0	13.6	:	10	8	10	8	:
Ireland	13.5	14.2	14.7	14.7	**14.7**	39	41	42	43	**43**
Greece	37.7	33.0	33.0	:	:	90	76	76		:
Spain	34.3	32.7	32.4	32.1	**32.2**	517	503	498	489	**492**
France	20.6	19.4	19.4	19.3	**19.2**	592	547	545	541	**534**
Croatia	22.5	19.3	19.3	:	:	34	29	29		:
Italy	32.1	29.3	27.6	28.4	**27.1**	486	452	419	442	**405**
Cyprus	18.3	16.6	16.6	:	:	7	6	6		:
Latvia	9.8	15.0	14.9	13.3	**12.1**	7	8	8	7	**6**
Lithuania	9.9	9.7	10.3	11.8	**12.3**	11	10	11	12	**12**
Luxembourg	14.7	14.5	14.9	14.6	**14.1**	3	4	4	4	**4**
Hungary	10.0	11.4	11.2	9.9	:	33	37	36	32	:
Malta	10.4	9.4	8.8	8.6	**8.4**	3	3	3	2	**2**
Netherlands	7.7	6.3	6.5	6.7	**6.9**	112	92	97	100	**103**
Austria	8.3	8.9	9.2	9.8	**9.9**	44	46	48	50	**50**
Poland	12.2	11.2	11.1	10.7	**10.4**	155	138	137	130	**126**
Portugal	20.4	19.3	18.6	19.3	**17.6**	78	72	69	72	**66**
Romania	16.1	16.2	16.2	:	:	98	99	99		:
Slovenia	9.6	7.3	7.3	:	:	7	5	5		:
Slovakia	14.2	15.8	15.7	15.3	**15.1**	27	26	26	26	**25**
Finland	17.3	16.8	16.9	17.0	**17.1**	55	54	54	53	**53**
Sweden	16.9	18.7	18.6	19.4	**19.7**	105	111	113	114	**115**
United Kingdom	11.1	11.3	11.2	:	:	464	476	469		:
Iceland	6.8	7.6	7.6	7.6	**8.0**	2	2	2	2	**3**
Norway	9.7	9.4	10.2	10.3	:	36	34	37	38	:

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

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Seasonally adjusted unemployment rates (%), by gender

	Males					Females				
	Aug 18	May 19	Jun 19	Jul 19	Aug 19	Aug 18	May 19	Jun 19	Jul 19	Aug 19
EA19	7.7	7.3	7.2	7.2	**7.1**	8.4	7.9	7.9	7.9	**7.8**
EU28	6.6	6.2	6.1	6.1	**6.0**	6.9	6.5	6.5	6.5	**6.5**
Belgium	6.2	5.8	5.8	5.8	**5.8**	5.1	5.1	5.2	5.2	**5.2**
Bulgaria	5.6	4.4	4.3	4.2	**4.2**	4.8	3.8	3.7	3.7	**3.7**
Czechia	1.9	1.8	1.5	1.8	**1.6**	2.9	2.6	2.4	2.5	**2.5**
Denmark	4.8	4.8	4.6	4.6	**4.7**	4.9	5.0	4.8	5.2	**5.4**
Germany	3.8	3.4	3.4	3.4	**3.4**	2.9	2.8	2.8	2.7	**2.7**
Estonia	5.1	4.6	4.2	3.5	**:**	5.5	5.5	5.1	5.0	**:**
Ireland	5.6	5.3	5.3	5.4	**5.4**	5.5	5.0	5.2	5.2	**5.1**
Greece	15.1	14.0	13.9	:	**:**	23.7	21.1	20.9	:	**:**
Spain	13.5	12.6	12.5	12.4	**12.3**	16.6	15.9	15.7	15.6	**15.6**
France	9.1	8.5	8.5	8.5	**8.5**	9.0	8.5	8.6	8.6	**8.6**
Croatia	7.3	6.3	6.3	6.3	**6.3**	8.9	7.8	7.7	7.7	**7.6**
Italy	9.4	9.2	9.0	9.0	**8.7**	11.3	10.8	10.7	10.8	**10.5**
Cyprus	7.7	6.9	6.9	6.6	**6.4**	8.7	7.6	7.5	7.5	**7.3**
Latvia	8.2	7.8	8.0	7.8	**7.7**	6.0	5.0	5.0	5.1	**5.2**
Lithuania	6.7	6.8	6.8	7.0	**7.3**	5.4	5.4	5.6	5.8	**5.8**
Luxembourg	5.6	5.6	5.7	5.6	**5.6**	5.9	5.8	5.8	5.9	**5.9**
Hungary	3.4	3.5	3.5	3.3	**:**	4.2	3.4	3.5	3.5	**:**
Malta	3.7	3.3	3.2	3.3	**3.2**	3.4	3.6	3.6	3.4	**3.5**
Netherlands	3.8	3.3	3.4	3.4	**3.5**	3.9	3.3	3.3	3.4	**3.5**
Austria	4.7	4.6	4.5	4.5	**4.6**	5.0	4.6	4.4	4.4	**4.3**
Poland	3.8	3.3	3.3	3.2	**3.2**	3.7	3.5	3.4	3.4	**3.5**
Portugal	6.5	6.0	5.8	5.6	**5.2**	7.4	7.1	7.3	7.2	**7.1**
Romania	4.6	4.2	4.1	4.4	**4.3**	3.3	3.4	3.4	3.3	**3.2**
Slovenia	4.6	3.9	3.8	3.9	**4.0**	5.8	4.9	4.6	4.5	**4.5**
Slovakia	5.9	5.7	5.7	5.6	**5.5**	6.8	5.8	5.7	5.6	**5.5**
Finland	7.4	7.1	7.2	7.3	**7.4**	7.1	6.2	6.2	6.1	**6.1**
Sweden	6.3	6.8	6.9	7.2	**7.4**	6.3	6.5	6.6	6.8	**6.9**
United Kingdom	4.2	4.1	4.0	:	**:**	3.9	3.5	3.5	:	**:**
Iceland	2.8	3.8	3.7	3.6	**3.8**	2.5	3.0	3.1	3.1	**3.0**
Norway	4.2	3.5	3.8	4.1	**:**	3.7	3.2	3.4	3.6	**:**

The source dataset is available here.

: Data not available

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