

21/2020 – 30 January 2020

December 2019

Euro area unemployment at 7.4%

EU28 at 6.2%

The **euro area** (EA19) seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate was 7.4% in December 2019, down from 7.5% in November 2019 and from 7.8% in December 2018. This is the lowest rate recorded in the **euro area** since May 2008. The **EU28** unemployment rate was 6.2% in December 2019, down from 6.3% in November 2019 and from 6.6% in December 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**.

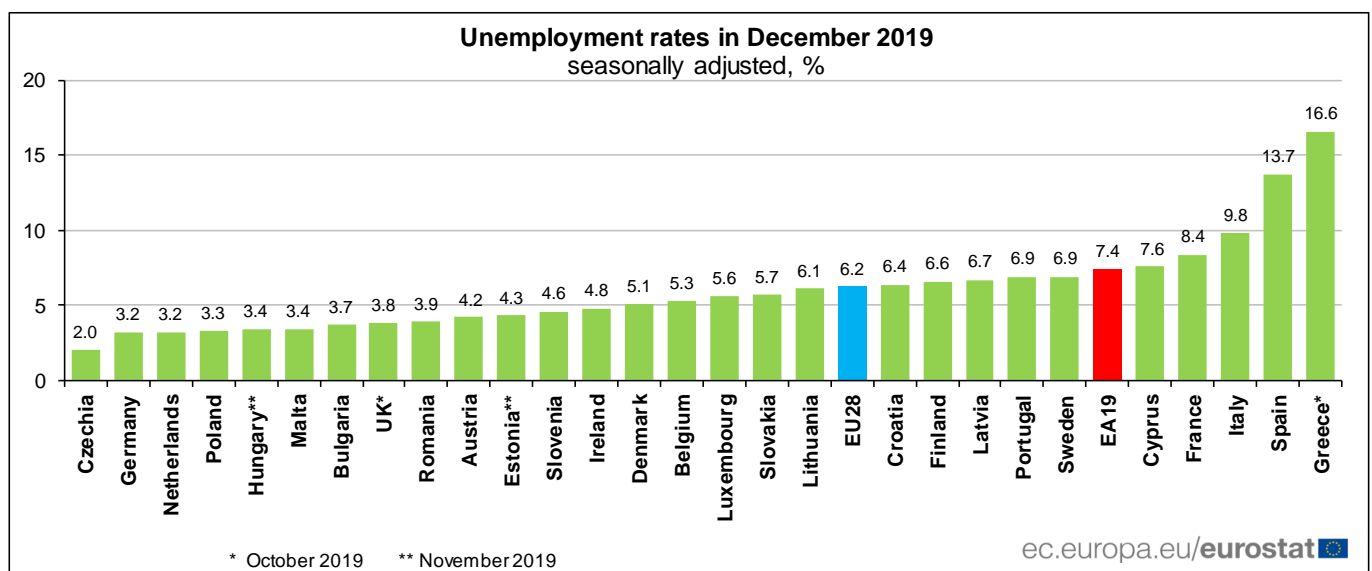
Eurostat estimates that 15.475 million men and women in the **EU28**, of whom 12.251 million in the **euro area**, were unemployed in December 2019. Compared with November 2019, the number of persons unemployed decreased by 80 000 in the **EU28** and by 34 000 in the **euro area**. Compared with December 2018, unemployment fell by 747 000 in the **EU28** and by 592 000 in the **euro area**.

Member States

Among the Member States, the lowest unemployment rates in December 2019 were recorded in **Czechia** (2.0%) as well as in **Germany** and the **Netherlands** (both 3.2%). The highest unemployment rates were observed in **Greece** (16.6% in October 2019) and **Spain** (13.7%).

Compared with a year ago, the unemployment rate fell in 21 Member States, remained stable in **Denmark**, while it increased in **Cyprus** (from 7.4% to 7.6%), **Slovenia** (from 4.4% to 4.6%), **Lithuania** (from 5.8% to 6.1%), **Portugal** (from 6.6% to 6.9%), **Luxembourg** (from 5.2% to 5.6%) and **Sweden** (from 6.5% to 6.9%). The largest decreases were registered in **Greece** (from 18.5% to 16.6% between October 2018 and October 2019), **Bulgaria** (from 4.7% to 3.7%) and **Croatia** (from 7.3% to 6.4%).

In December 2019, the unemployment rate in the **United States** was 3.5%, stable compared with November 2019 and down from 3.9% in December 2018.



Youth unemployment

In December 2019, 3.155 million young persons (under 25) were unemployed in the **EU28**, of whom 2.213 million were in the **euro area**. Compared with December 2018, youth unemployment decreased by 143 000 in the **EU28** and by 129 000 in the **euro area**. In December 2019, the youth unemployment rate was 14.1% in the **EU28** and 15.3% in the **euro area**, compared with 14.6% and 16.2% respectively in December 2018. In December 2019, the lowest rates were observed in **Czechia** (4.3%), **Germany** (5.8%) and the **Netherlands** (6.7%), while the highest were recorded in **Greece** (35.6% in October 2019), **Spain** (30.0%) and **Italy** (28.9%).

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 [4/2020](#) of 9 January 2020, the November 2019 unemployment rate for EA19 and EU28 remained unchanged. Among Member States, the rate has been revised by more than 0.1 percentage points (pp) downwards for Spain (by 0.3 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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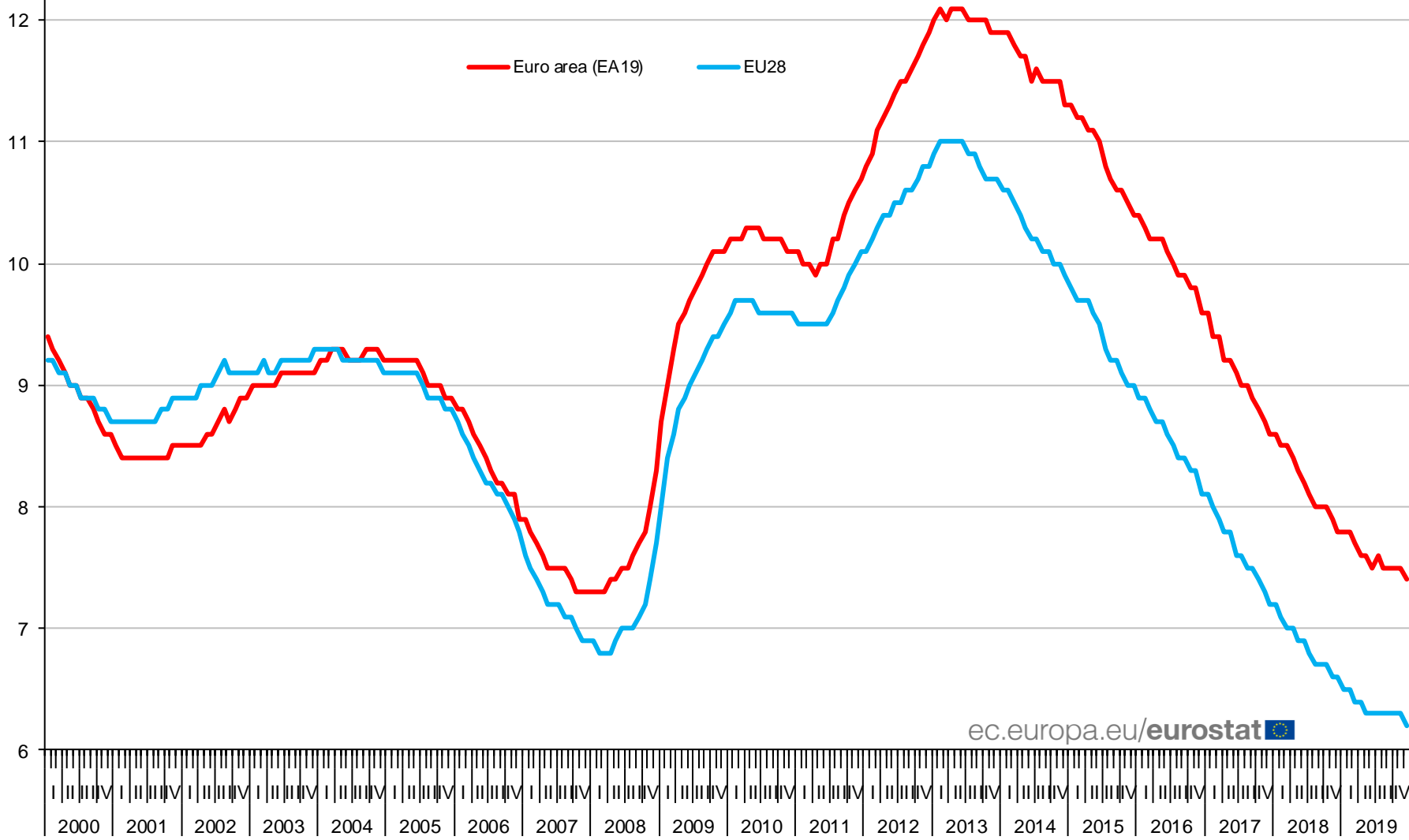
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Unemployment rates seasonally adjusted series, %



ec.europa.eu/eurostat 

Seasonally adjusted unemployment, totals

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	Dec 18	Sep 19	Oct 19	Nov 19	Dec 19	Dec 18	Sep 19	Oct 19	Nov 19	Dec 19
EA19	7.8	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.4	12 843	12 377	12 295	12 285	12 251
EU28	6.6	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.2	16 222	15 595	15 527	15 555	15 475
Belgium	5.8	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.3	291	264	262	263	270
Bulgaria	4.7	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.7	157	128	127	126	126
Czechia	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.0	114	114	114	110	107
Denmark	5.1	5.3	5.3	5.2	5.1	154	161	161	159	155
Germany	3.3	3.1	3.2	3.2	3.2	1 411	1 365	1 378	1 387	1 389
Estonia	4.5**	4.3	4.2	4.3	:	32**	30	29	30	:
Ireland	5.5	4.9	4.8	4.8	4.8	132	118	118	118	119
Greece	18.5*	16.8	16.6	:	:	879*	793	781	:	:
Spain	14.4	14.1	14.0	13.8	13.7	3 287	3 251	3 228	3 193	3 176
France	8.9	8.5	8.5	8.4	8.4	2 645	2 516	2 507	2 496	2 486
Croatia	7.3	6.7	6.5	6.5	6.4	132	119	117	116	115
Italy	10.4	9.9	9.7	9.8	9.8	2 690	2 565	2 527	2 545	2 547
Cyprus	7.4	7.2	7.3	7.7	7.6	32	32	33	35	34
Latvia	6.9	6.1	6.2	6.3	6.7	67	59	60	62	66
Lithuania	5.8	6.6	6.4	6.4	6.1	84	96	94	95	90
Luxembourg	5.2	5.4	5.5	5.5	5.6	16	17	17	17	17
Hungary	3.7**	3.5	3.5	3.4	:	171**	163	164	158	:
Malta	3.6	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.4	9	9	9	9	9
Netherlands	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.2	329	323	323	324	302
Austria	4.7	4.5	4.4	4.2	4.2	211	204	198	192	191
Poland	3.8	3.1	3.2	3.2	3.3	645	528	536	547	562
Portugal	6.6	6.6	6.5	6.7	6.9	343	342	339	349	358
Romania	4.0	4.1	4.0	4.0	3.9	359	370	365	366	354
Slovenia	4.4	4.9	4.7	4.6	4.6	45	50	48	47	46
Slovakia	5.9	5.8	5.7	5.7	5.7	163	159	158	157	156
Finland	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.6	6.6	185	185	184	183	182
Sweden	6.5	6.8	6.9	6.9	6.9	356	378	379	379	379
United Kingdom	3.9*	3.7	3.8	:	:	1 325*	1 267	1 284	:	:
Iceland	2.9	3.5	3.5	3.6	3.5	6	7	7	7	7
Norway	3.7**	3.9	3.8	4.0	:	104**	110	109	113	:
United States	3.9	3.5	3.6	3.5	3.5	6 276	5 772	5 831	5 819	5 755

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

: Data not available

* October 2018

** November 2018

Seasonally adjusted youth (under 25s) unemployment

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	Dec 18	Sep 19	Oct 19	Nov 19	Dec 19	Dec 18	Sep 19	Oct 19	Nov 19	Dec 19
EA19	16.2	15.7	15.5	15.4	15.3	2 342	2 254	2 227	2 221	2 213
EU28	14.6	14.4	14.2	14.2	14.1	3 298	3 210	3 176	3 175	3 155
Belgium	13.2	13.0	13.8	13.8	13.8	51	53	58	58	58
Bulgaria	10.3	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	15	11	11	10	10
Czechia	6.0	4.7	4.9	4.9	4.3	18	13	14	13	12
Denmark	10.0	10.3	10.7	10.5	10.3	44	46	48	48	46
Germany	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	248	250	249	247	244
Estonia	9.0	10.2	9.1	9.9	:	5	6	5	5	:
Ireland	12.8	12.1	12.2	12.5	12.6	37	36	36	37	38
Greece	39.3	34.6	35.6	:	:	94	82	86	:	:
Spain	33.5	32.2	31.3	30.3	30.0	511	501	483	467	463
France	20.0	19.0	19.0	18.9	18.8	580	536	539	538	537
Croatia	20.3	17.1	16.1	16.1	16.1	31	26	24	24	24
Italy	31.9	28.9	28.4	28.9	28.9	491	445	433	439	441
Cyprus	18.9	17.2	:	:	:	7	6	:	:	:
Latvia	13.2	9.9	10.3	10.6	11.0	8	6	7	7	7
Lithuania	11.1	12.3	11.0	10.7	10.4	12	13	13	12	12
Luxembourg	14.0	14.9	15.4	15.7	16.6	3	4	4	4	4
Hungary	11.3	12.4	13.0	12.4	:	38	40	41	40	:
Malta	9.7	9.5	10.0	10.9	10.5	3	3	3	4	3
Netherlands	6.6	7.2	7.3	7.3	6.7	97	106	109	110	101
Austria	8.2	8.8	8.3	8.3	8.3	43	45	43	43	43
Poland	11.3	9.5	9.3	9.2	9.2	142	119	117	115	114
Portugal	18.0	18.9	17.9	18.7	19.3	68	72	68	70	73
Romania	15.4	17.5	:	:	:	96	105	:	:	:
Slovenia	6.7	8.1	7.9	7.9	7.9	5	6	6	6	6
Slovakia	13.3	16.9	16.8	16.7	16.6	24	28	28	28	28
Finland	17.1	17.3	17.3	17.2	17.1	55	55	55	55	55
Sweden	18.7	19.7	20.0	19.4	20.2	122	125	125	125	125
United Kingdom	11.0	11.4	11.2	:	:	467	469	463	:	:
Iceland	7.2	9.4	9.6	9.9	9.2	2	3	3	3	3
Norway	9.8	10.1	10.0	10.3	:	36	38	37	39	:

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

: Data not available

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

Seasonally adjusted unemployment rates (%), by gender

	Males					Females				
	Dec 18	Sep 19	Oct 19	Nov 19	Dec 19	Dec 18	Sep 19	Oct 19	Nov 19	Dec 19
EA19	7.5	7.3	7.2	7.2	7.2	8.3	7.9	7.8	7.8	7.7
EU28	6.3	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.9	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.4
Belgium	6.2	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.5	5.3	5.0	4.9	4.9	5.0
Bulgaria	5.2	4.0	4.0	3.9	3.9	4.2	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.5
Czechia	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.7	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.3	2.3
Denmark	4.8	5.0	4.9	4.9	4.9	5.5	5.5	5.7	5.5	5.3
Germany	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	2.9	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7
Estonia	3.9	3.6	4.0	4.0	:	4.6	4.9	4.3	4.5	:
Ireland	5.5	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.4	5.5	4.4	4.3	4.2	4.2
Greece	14.5	13.8	13.7	:	:	23.6	20.6	20.2	:	:
Spain	12.7	12.3	12.3	12.2	12.2	16.3	16.1	15.8	15.6	15.4
France	8.8	8.7	8.6	8.6	8.6	9.0	8.4	8.3	8.3	8.2
Croatia	6.4	6.1	6.0	5.8	5.7	8.4	7.3	7.2	7.2	7.3
Italy	9.5	9.0	8.7	8.9	9.1	11.5	11.0	11.1	11.0	10.8
Cyprus	7.0	6.0	6.1	6.5	6.4	7.8	8.5	8.7	9.1	9.0
Latvia	7.7	6.7	6.9	7.2	7.9	6.1	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.6
Lithuania	6.2	7.6	7.3	7.4	7.0	5.3	5.7	5.4	5.5	5.2
Luxembourg	5.2	5.3	5.4	5.5	5.5	5.2	5.5	5.6	5.6	5.8
Hungary	3.7	3.4	3.3	3.3	:	3.6	3.7	3.8	3.5	:
Malta	3.6	3.2	3.3	3.3	3.4	3.6	3.8	3.7	3.7	3.5
Netherlands	3.5	3.5	3.6	3.7	3.4	3.7	3.4	3.3	3.3	3.1
Austria	4.8	4.8	4.4	4.3	4.3	4.5	4.2	4.3	4.2	4.1
Poland	3.5	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.7	4.1	3.5	3.7	3.9	4.1
Portugal	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.3	7.3	7.1	7.1	7.4	7.4
Romania	4.6	4.5	4.4	4.4	4.2	3.2	3.5	3.4	3.5	3.4
Slovenia	3.8	4.9	4.7	4.5	4.5	5.0	4.8	4.7	4.6	4.6
Slovakia	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	6.4	6.0	5.9	5.8	5.7
Finland	6.9	7.2	7.2	7.1	7.0	6.6	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.1
Sweden	6.5	6.7	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.5	7.0	7.0	6.9	6.9
United Kingdom	3.9	4.0	4.0	:	:	3.7	3.5	3.5	:	:
Iceland	3.1	3.6	3.7	3.8	3.7	2.6	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3
Norway	3.7	4.2	4.2	4.4	:	3.6	3.5	3.4	3.5	:

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

: Data not available