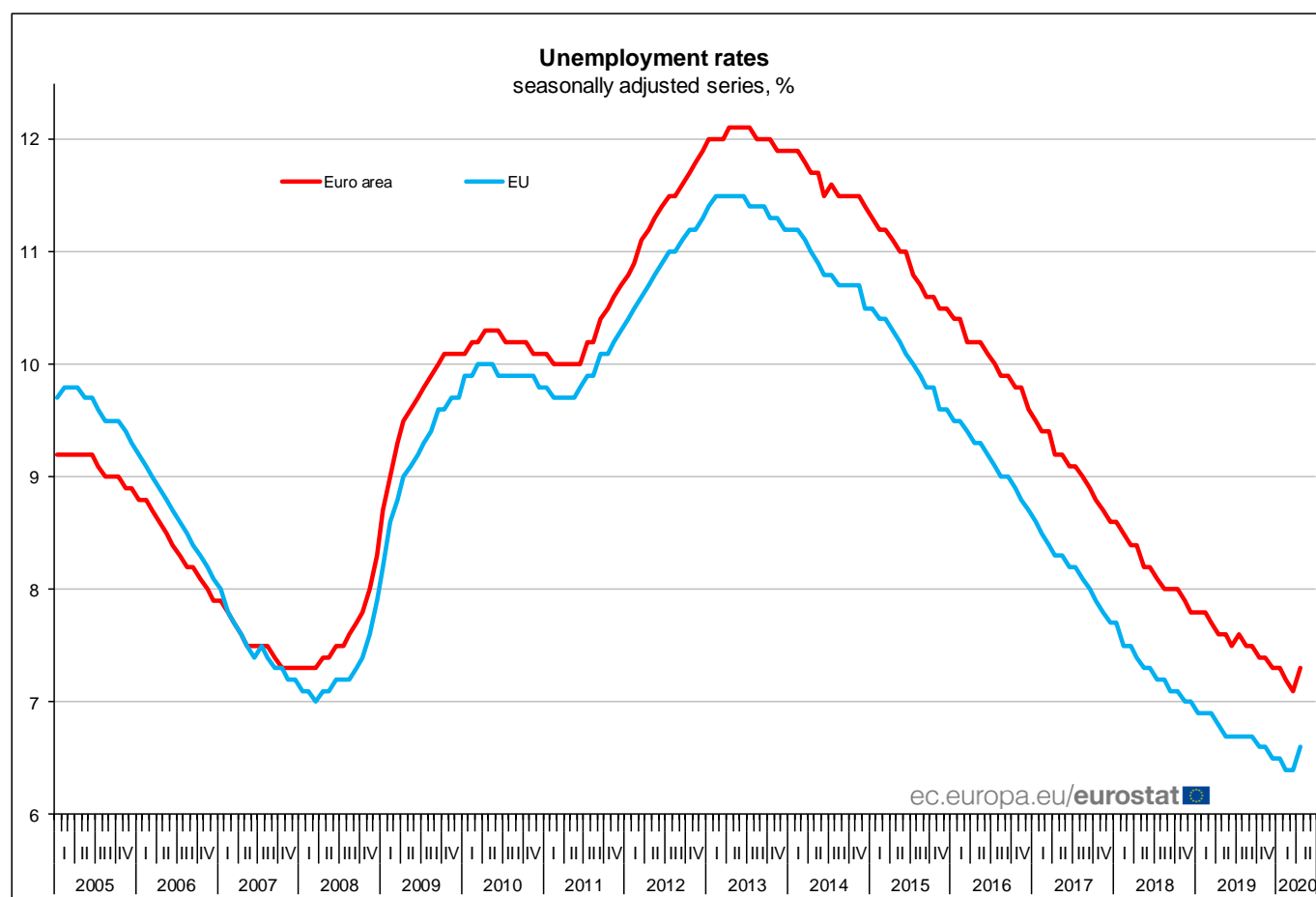## April 2020
Euro area unemployment at 7.3%
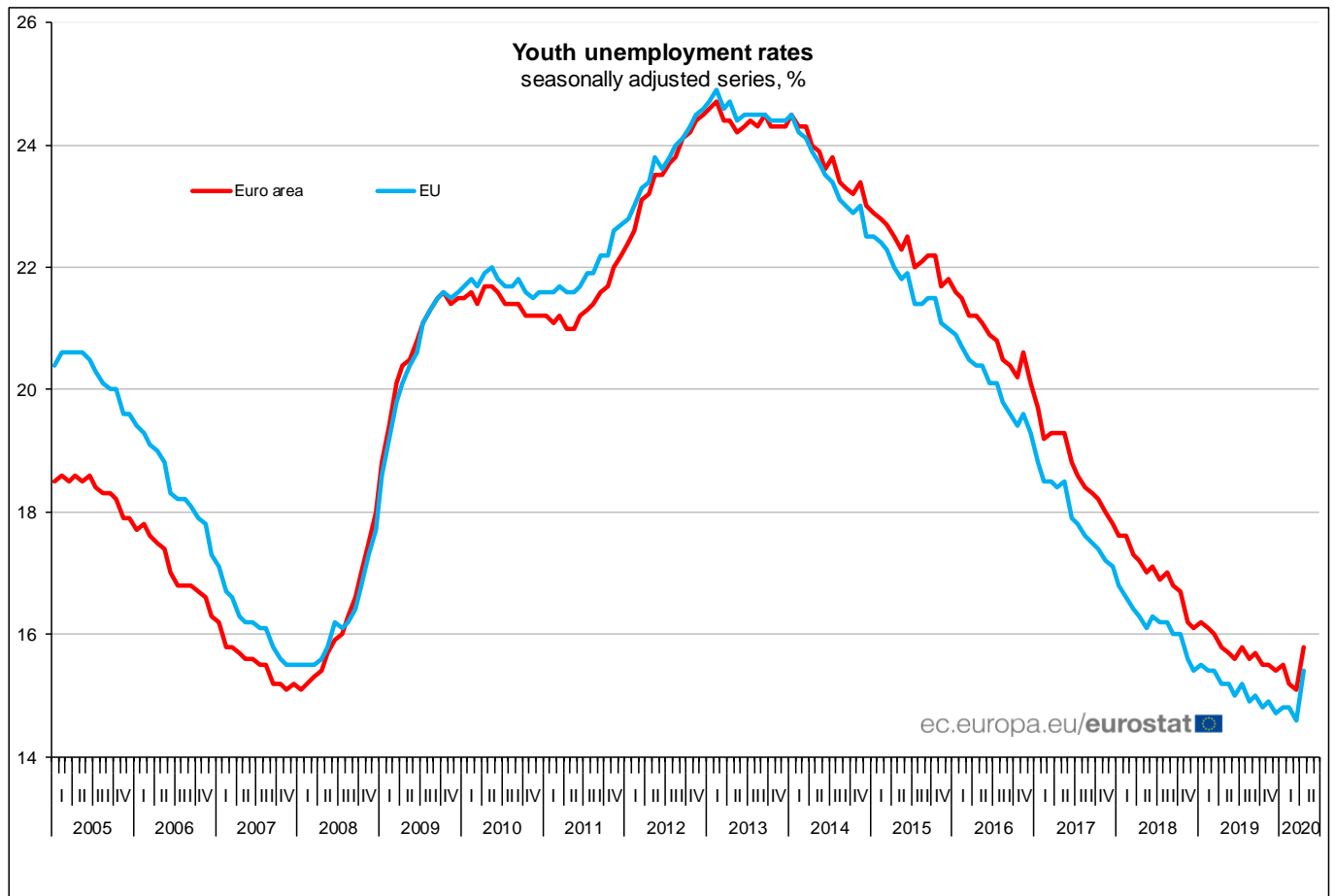## EU at 6.6%

In April 2020, the second month after COVID-19 containment measures were implemented by most Member States, the **euro area** seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate was 7.3%, up from 7.1% in March 2020. The **EU** unemployment rate was 6.6% in April 2020, up from 6.4% in March 2020. These figures are published by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**.

Eurostat estimates that 14.079 million men and women in the **EU**, of whom 11.919 million in the **euro area**, were unemployed in April 2020. Compared with March 2020, the number of persons unemployed increased by 397 000 in the **EU** and by 211 000 in the **euro area**.

Unemployment rates
seasonally adjusted series, %

Youth unemployment

In April 2020, 2.776 million young persons (under 25) were unemployed in the **EU**, of whom 2.239 million were in the **euro area**. In April 2020, the youth unemployment rate was 15.4% in the **EU** and 15.8% in the **euro area**, up from 14.6% and 15.1% respectively in the previous month. Compared with March 2020, youth unemployment increased by 159 000 in the **EU** and by 89 000 in the **euro area**.

Youth unemployment rates
seasonally adjusted series, %

Unemployment by gender

In April 2020, the unemployment rate for women was 6.8% in the **EU**, up from 6.7% in March 2020. The unemployment rate for men was 6.4% in April 2020, compared with 6.1% in March 2020. In the **euro area**, the unemployment rate remained stable for women in April 2020 compared with March 2020 (at 7.6%) while it increased from 6.8% to 7.0% for men.

These estimates are based on the globally used International Labour Organisation standard definition of unemployment, which counts as unemployed people without a job who have been actively seeking work in the last four weeks and are available to start work within the next two weeks. The COVID-19 confinement measures applied since March 2020 have triggered a sharp increase in the number of claims for unemployment benefits across the EU. At the same time, a significant part of those who had registered in unemployment agencies were no longer actively looking for a job, e.g. limited by the confinement measures or no longer available for work, for instance, if they had to take care of their children during the lockdown. This leads to descrepances in the number of registered unemployed and those measured as unemployed according to the ILO definition.

To capture in full the unprecedented labour market situation triggered by the COVID-19 outbreak, the data on unemployment will be complemented by additional indicators, e.g. on employment, underemployment and potential additional labour force participants, when the LFS quarterly data for 2020 are published.

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** (EU27) 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 and Sweden.

Methods and definitions

Eurostat publishes 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 data 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.

Examples: Mr X was employed as a technician in the manufacturing sector until March but did not work in April due to the lockdown. His employment contract has not been broken and he has been assured by his employer he could return to work within 3 months. Mr X therefore keeps an attachment to his job in the LFS meaning and is thus not recorded as unemployed.

Mrs Y was employed as an accountant until March but was dismissed in April by her employer due to the drop in activity. Mrs Y has actively searched for a new job on the internet with a view to be recruited as soon as the situation in the labour market improves. She is immediately available to start teleworking for her next employer. Mrs Y will be recorded as unemployed.

Mrs Z was unemployed, actively looking for a job until the COVID outbreak. She then interrupted her job searches in order to take care of her children until school resumes and the situation improves in the labour market. Mrs Z will be counted as inactive and not as unemployed in April.

The **unemployment rate** is the number of people unemployed as a percentage of the labour force.

Series have been **seasonally adjusted** using the seasonal factors estimated in the period up to December 2019 included. Those seasonal factors will be kept unchanged ('controlled concurrent adjustment method') until the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak can be integrated in seasonal adjustment models.

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.

Germany: due to the introduction of the new German system of integrated household surveys, including the LFS, the monthly unemployment data for April 2020 is a trend estimation based on the figures recorded in previous periods.

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 75/2020 of 30 April 2020, the March unemployment rate for the euro area has been revised downwards from 7.4% to 7.1% and for the EU from 6.6% to 6.4%. Among EU Member States, the rate has been revised by more than 0.1 percentage points (pp) downwards for: France (by 0.8 pp), Lithuania (by 0.5 pp), Italy (by 0.4 pp), Spain (by 0.3 pp) and Greece (by 0.2 pp, January data). The rate has been revised by more than 0.1 percentage points (pp) upwards for Latvia (by 0.5 pp) as well as Austria (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 unemployment and Statistics Explained article on youth unemployment

Eurostat metadata on adjusted unemployment series and methodological note regarding COVID-19 outbreak

Eurostat €-indicators release calendar

European Statistics Code of Practice

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Seasonally adjusted unemployment, totals

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	Apr 19	Jan 20	Feb 20	Mar 20	Apr 20	Apr 19	Jan 20	Feb 20	Mar 20	Apr 20
Euro area	7.6	7.3	7.2	7.1	**7.3**	12 508	12 075	11 791	11 708	**11 919**
EU	6.8	6.5	6.4	6.4	**6.6**	14 493	13 989	13 780	13 682	**14 079**
Belgium	5.5	5.2	5.2	5.3	**5.6**	282	265	265	272	**287**
Bulgaria	4.3	4.1	4.0	4.5	**6.2**	145	140	138	154	**219**
Czechia	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	**2.1**	109	105	107	110	**117**
Denmark	5.2	4.9	4.8	4.7	**4.6**	156	147	146	142	**139**
Germany	3.1	3.3	3.4	3.5	**3.5**	1 358	1 475	1 510	1 543	**1 569**
Estonia	4**	4.7	4.7	4.8	**:**	28**	34	34	34	**:**
Ireland	5.2	4.9	4.8	5.3	**5.4**	125	120	119	131	**133**
Greece	18.4*	16.2	16.1	:	**:**	871*	759	746	:	**:**
Spain	14.2	13.9	13.6	14.2	**14.8**	3 253	3 224	3 137	3 296	**3 445**
France	8.5	8.0	7.6	7.6	**8.7**	2 521	2 364	2 254	2 251	**2 604**
Croatia	6.8	6.3	6.2	6.8	**8.1**	122	113	112	122	**149**
Italy	10.2	9.4	9.1	8.0	**6.3**	2 655	2 420	2 333	2 027	**1 543**
Cyprus	7.5	6.1	6.0	6.7	**8.9**	34	28	27	30	**41**
Latvia	6.3	6.9	6.9	7.4	**9.0**	61	67	68	73	**88**
Lithuania	6.0	6.1	6.3	6.6	**8.6**	88	90	93	97	**128**
Luxembourg	5.7	5.7	5.8	6.6	**7.5**	17	18	18	20	**23**
Hungary	3.4**	3.4	3.6	3.7	**:**	158**	160	166	169	**:**
Malta	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.6	**4.0**	9	9	9	10	**11**
Netherlands	3.3	3.0	2.9	2.9	**3.4**	300	284	274	273	**314**
Austria	4.6	4.3	4.4	4.8	**4.8**	210	197	202	211	**212**
Poland	3.4	3.0	3.0	2.9	**2.9**	585	514	515	495	**503**
Portugal	6.6	6.8	6.4	6.2	**6.3**	341	352	332	317	**319**
Romania	3.9	3.7	4.3	4.6	**4.8**	355	338	386	414	**432**
Slovenia	4.3	3.7	3.6	3.8	**4.6**	45	38	37	40	**48**
Slovakia	5.8	5.4	5.5	5.6	**6.8**	157	150	151	156	**190**
Finland	6.7	6.6	6.6	6.6	**6.6**	186	182	182	182	**183**
Sweden	6.7	7.0	7.1	7.2	**7.9**	368	390	392	393	**432**
United Kingdom	3.7*	3.8	3.8	:	**:**	1 254*	1 307	1 297	:	**:**
Iceland	3.3	3.8	3.9	3.5	**3.9**	7	8	8	7	**8**
Norway	3.6**	3.7	3.5	3.6	**:**	100**	106	100	101	**:**
United States	3.6	3.6	3.5	4.4	**14.7**	5 863	5 899	5 807	7 131	**23 102**

: Data not available   * February 2019   ** March 2019

Source datasets: une_rt_m (rates) and une_rt_m (in 1000 persons)

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Seasonally adjusted youth (under 25s) unemployment

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	Apr 19	Jan 20	Feb 20	Mar 20	Apr 20	Apr 19	Jan 20	Feb 20	Mar 20	Apr 20
Euro area	15.8	15.5	15.2	15.1	**15.8**	2 278	2 227	2 180	2 150	**2 239**
EU	15.2	14.8	14.8	14.6	**15.4**	2 778	2 690	2 692	2 617	**2 776**
Belgium	13.9	14.5	14.5	14.5	:	56	59	59	59	:
Bulgaria	9.5	11.0	11.3	13.3	**20.8**	14	17	18	21	**36**
Czechia	6.7	5.7	5.7	6.2	**5.8**	20	15	15	17	**16**
Denmark	9.9	9.8	9.7	9.7	**9.4**	44	42	41	42	**40**
Germany	5.7	5.5	5.4	5.3	**5.3**	248	235	232	229	**226**
Estonia	11.8	8.6	9.6	9.9	:	7	5	5	5	:
Ireland	13.6	12.2	12.0	12.5	**12.5**	39	37	37	39	**38**
Greece	32.9	31.6	35.6	:	:	75	74	76	:	:
Spain	33.0	32.2	31.9	32.4	**33.2**	504	495	487	504	**538**
France	19.5	19.7	18.6	18.4	**21.8**	553	559	524	520	**647**
Croatia	16.9	16.2	16.2	16.2	:	25	24	24	24	:
Italy	30.4	28.1	27.8	26.5	**20.3**	479	417	418	375	**255**
Cyprus	16.2	13.4	13.4	13.4	:	6	5	5	5	:
Latvia	14.4	13.4	13.5	14.5	**17.2**	9	9	8	9	**11**
Lithuania	9.8	15.3	15.6	15.9	**17.0**	10	17	17	18	**18**
Luxembourg	17.3	18.6	18.2	20.5	**24.7**	4	4	4	5	**6**
Hungary	11.9	10.7	11.3	11.9	:	39	34	37	38	:
Malta	8.5	9.7	10.1	10.3	**10.8**	2	3	3	3	**4**
Netherlands	6.2	6.4	6.3	6.3	**8.4**	91	97	94	94	**119**
Austria	8.3	9.7	10.2	10.6	**10.5**	43	50	52	54	**53**
Poland	11.1	9.0	9.6	9.3	**9.4**	136	108	116	112	**114**
Portugal	17.1	19.5	18.9	18.3	**20.2**	63	73	69	66	**70**
Romania	16.4	17.7*	:	:	:	100	112*	:	:	:
Slovenia	7.1	7.9	7.9	7.9	:	5	6	6	6	:
Slovakia	15.4	15.3	15.3	16.1	**20.7**	26	26	26	28	**37**
Finland	16.8	17.9	18.2	18.4	**18.6**	55	57	57	57	**57**
Sweden	19.9	19.7	19.7	21.1	**24.4**	126	124	123	123	**147**
United Kingdom	11.1	11.3	11.4	:	:	461	476	480	:	:
Iceland	7.5	9.0	9.1	8.2	**10.1**	2	3	3	2	**3**
Norway	9.3	10.3	10.1	10.0	:	34	39	38	37	:

: Data not available   * 2019 Q4 data
Belgium, Croatia, Cyprus, Romania and Slovenia: quarterly data

Source datasets: une_rt_m (rates) and une_rt_m (in 1000 persons)

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Seasonally adjusted unemployment rates (%), by gender

	Males					Females				
	Apr 19	Jan 20	Feb 20	Mar 20	Apr 20	Apr 19	Jan 20	Feb 20	Mar 20	Apr 20
Euro area	7.3	7.0	6.8	6.8	**7.0**	8.0	7.7	7.6	7.6	**7.6**
EU	6.5	6.3	6.2	6.1	**6.4**	7.1	6.8	6.7	6.7	**6.8**
Belgium	5.9	5.7	5.6	5.8	**6.1**	5.0	4.6	4.7	4.8	**5.1**
Bulgaria	4.5	4.7	4.6	5.1	**7.1**	4.0	3.5	3.3	3.7	**5.3**
Czechia	1.7	1.8	1.7	1.8	**2.0**	2.4	2.2	2.3	2.3	**2.4**
Denmark	4.9	4.8	4.7	4.5	**4.4**	5.5	4.9	5.0	4.9	**4.8**
Germany	3.4	3.7	3.8	3.8	**3.9**	2.8	2.9	3.0	3.1	**3.2**
Estonia	4.6	5.0	5.2	5.2	**:**	5.2	4.4	4.2	4.4	**:**
Ireland	5.3	5.1	5.0	5.3	**5.4**	5.0	4.6	4.6	5.2	**5.3**
Greece	14.3	13.3	13.1	:	**:**	21.7	19.9	19.9	:	**:**
Spain	12.6	12.4	12.0	12.8	**13.3**	16.0	15.7	15.5	16.0	**16.5**
France	8.5	7.9	7.5	7.5	**8.5**	8.5	8.0	7.8	7.8	**8.9**
Croatia	6.2	5.9	5.8	6.3	**7.5**	7.6	6.7	6.7	7.3	**8.8**
Italy	9.4	8.5	8.3	7.1	**6.0**	11.3	10.7	10.1	9.3	**6.7**
Cyprus	7.1	6.0	6.1	6.6	**8.5**	8.0	6.3	5.9	6.7	**9.4**
Latvia	7.6	7.9	7.9	8.3	**9.5**	5.0	5.8	6.0	6.6	**8.4**
Lithuania	6.5	6.8	7.1	7.3	**9.5**	5.5	5.4	5.5	5.8	**7.7**
Luxembourg	5.7	5.7	5.8	6.8	**7.7**	5.6	5.7	5.8	6.2	**7.2**
Hungary	3.5	3.3	3.4	3.5	**:**	3.4	3.6	3.7	3.9	**:**
Malta	3.4	3.2	3.2	3.2	**3.9**	3.5	3.7	3.7	4.2	**4.2**
Netherlands	3.3	3.1	2.9	2.9	**3.6**	3.3	3.0	3.0	2.9	**3.3**
Austria	4.7	4.4	4.6	4.9	**4.8**	4.6	4.3	4.3	4.6	**4.8**
Poland	3.2	2.9	3.0	2.9	**3.0**	3.7	3.1	3.1	2.9	**2.9**
Portugal	5.9	6.4	5.9	5.5	**5.2**	7.3	7.1	6.9	6.9	**7.4**
Romania	4.3	3.8	4.9	5.3	**5.4**	3.5	3.6	3.4	3.6	**3.9**
Slovenia	3.8	3.0	3.0	3.2	**3.8**	5.0	4.4	4.4	4.5	**5.5**
Slovakia	5.6	5.2	5.3	5.5	**6.8**	5.9	5.7	5.7	5.8	**6.9**
Finland	7.1	6.9	6.9	6.9	**7.0**	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.3	**6.3**
Sweden	6.6	7.0	7.1	7.1	**8.1**	6.9	7.0	7.1	7.2	**7.6**
United Kingdom	4.0	4.1	4.0	:	**:**	3.5	3.6	3.6	:	**:**
Iceland	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.4	**3.8**	2.9	3.9	4.0	3.6	**4.0**
Norway	3.5	4.0	3.7	3.7	**:**	3.2	3.4	3.3	3.4	**:**

: Data not available

Source dataset: une_rt_m