

35/2020 – 3 March 2020

January 2020

Euro area unemployment at 7.4%

EU27 at 6.6%

The **euro area** (EA19) seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate was 7.4% in January 2020, stable compared with December 2019 and down from 7.8% in January 2019. This remains the lowest rate recorded in the **euro area** since May 2008. The **EU27** unemployment rate was 6.6% in January 2020, stable compared with December 2019 and down from 6.9% in January 2019. This is the lowest rate recorded in the **EU27** 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**.

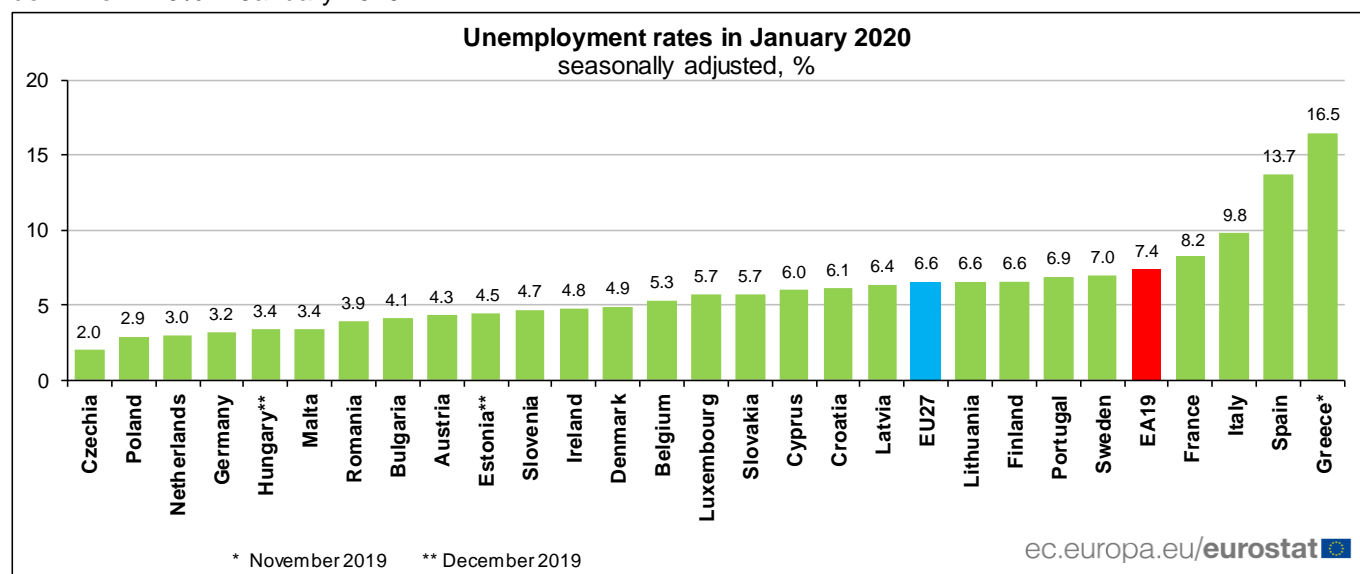
Eurostat estimates that 14.086 million men and women in the **EU27**, of whom 12.179 million in the **euro area**, were unemployed in January 2020. Compared with December 2019, the number of persons unemployed increased by 16 000 in the **EU27** and by 1 000 in the **euro area**. Compared with January 2019, unemployment fell by 746 000 in the **EU27** and by 593 000 in the **euro area**.

Member States

Among the Member States, the lowest unemployment rates in January 2020 were recorded in **Czechia** (2.0%), **Poland** (2.9%) and the **Netherlands** (3.0%). The highest unemployment rates were observed in **Greece** (16.5% in November 2019) and **Spain** (13.7%).

Compared with a year ago, the unemployment rate fell in 19 Member States, remained stable in **Germany** and **Romania**, while it increased in **Estonia** (from 4.3% to 4.5% between December 2018 and December 2019), **Slovenia** (from 4.5% to 4.7%), **Portugal** (from 6.6% to 6.9%), **Lithuania** (from 6.1% to 6.6%), **Luxembourg** (from 5.2% to 5.7%) and **Sweden** (from 6.5% to 7.0%). The largest decreases were registered in **Greece** (from 18.6% to 16.5% between November 2018 and November 2019), **Cyprus** (from 7.6% to 6.0%) and **Croatia** (from 7.2% to 6.1%).

In January 2020, the unemployment rate in the **United States** was 3.6%, up from 3.5% in December 2019 and down from 4.0% in January 2019.



Youth unemployment

In January 2020, 2.719 million young persons (under 25) were unemployed in the **EU27**, of whom 2.249 million were in the **euro area**. Compared with January 2019, youth unemployment decreased by 110 000 in the **EU27** and by 75 000 in the **euro area**. In January 2020, the youth unemployment rate was 14.9% in the **EU27** and 15.6% in the **euro area**, compared with 15.5% and 16.1% respectively in January 2019. In January 2020, the lowest rates were observed in **Czechia** (5.3%), **Germany** (5.6%) and the **Netherlands** (6.4%), while the highest were recorded in **Greece** (36.1% in November 2019), **Spain** (30.6%) and **Italy** (29.3%).

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.

As of 1 February 2020, the United Kingdom is no longer part of the European Union. Information on dissemination of European statistics after Brexit can be found on the [Eurostat website](#).

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 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 rate for January 2020 is an 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 [21/2020](#) of 30 January 2020, the December 2019 unemployment rate for EA19 remained unchanged. Among EU Member States, the rate has been revised by more than 0.1 percentage points (pp) downwards for: Cyprus (by 1.3 pp), Latvia and Poland (both by 0.4 pp) as well as for Denmark, France, Croatia and Portugal (all by 0.2 pp). The rate has been revised by more than 0.1 percentage points (pp) upwards for: Bulgaria (by 0.5 pp) and Lithuania (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](#)

European Statistics [Code of Practice](#)

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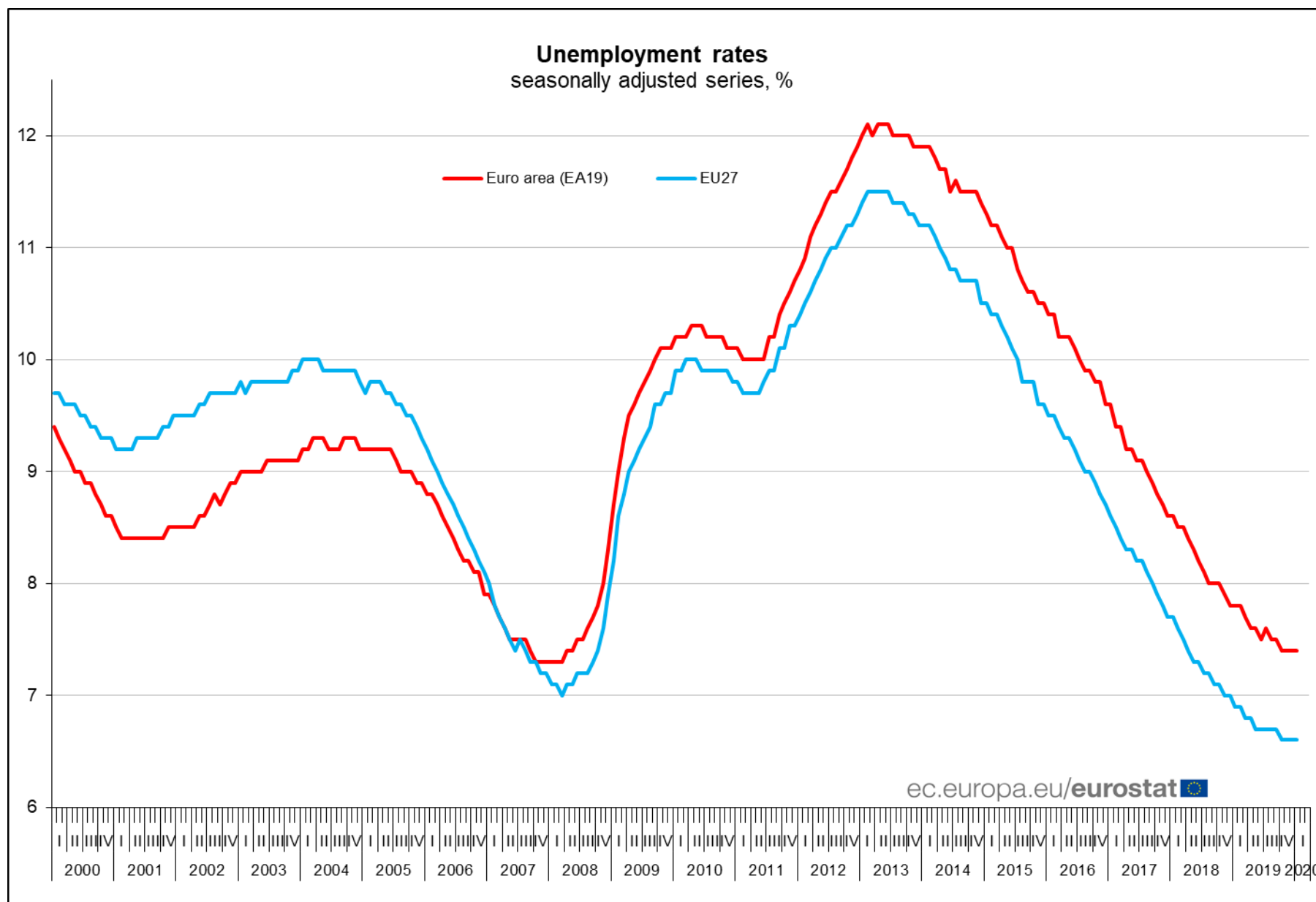


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Seasonally adjusted unemployment, totals

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	Jan 19	Oct 19	Nov 19	Dec 19	Jan 20	Jan 19	Oct 19	Nov 19	Dec 19	Jan 20
EA19	7.8	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.4	12 772	12 233	12 209	12 178	12 179
EU27	6.9	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	14 832	14 141	14 154	14 070	14 086
EU28	6.5	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.2	16 119	15 422	15 417	15 333	15 349
Belgium	5.6	5.1	5.2	5.3	5.3	284	261	262	269	272
Bulgaria	4.8	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.1	159	140	142	141	141
Czechia	2.1	2.0	2.1	2.0	2.0	112	109	114	106	110
Denmark	5.3	5.2	5.1	4.9	4.9	159	158	155	148	147
Germany	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	1 399	1 392	1 408	1 415	1 412
Estonia	4.3**	4.2	4.3	4.5	:	30**	29	30	32	:
Ireland	5.1	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.8	124	116	115	117	120
Greece	18.6*	16.6	16.5	:	:	877*	781	773	:	:
Spain	14.3	14.0	13.8	13.7	13.7	3 277	3 230	3 194	3 176	3 178
France	8.7	8.3	8.2	8.2	8.2	2 594	2 457	2 441	2 433	2 428
Croatia	7.2	6.4	6.3	6.2	6.1	129	114	113	112	110
Italy	10.4	9.7	9.7	9.8	9.8	2 694	2 512	2 525	2 523	2 528
Cyprus	7.6	6.4	6.5	6.3	6.0	34	29	29	28	27
Latvia	6.7	5.8	5.9	6.3	6.4	66	57	57	61	63
Lithuania	6.1	6.4	6.5	6.4	6.6	89	94	96	95	98
Luxembourg	5.2	5.5	5.6	5.6	5.7	16	17	17	17	17
Hungary	3.6**	3.6	3.4	3.4	:	170**	166	159	161	:
Malta	3.6	3.3	3.4	3.3	3.4	9	9	9	9	9
Netherlands	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.2	3.0	329	323	324	302	284
Austria	4.7	4.3	4.2	4.2	4.3	215	196	192	192	194
Poland	3.8	3.0	2.9	2.9	2.9	649	505	495	493	495
Portugal	6.6	6.5	6.7	6.7	6.9	340	338	348	349	359
Romania	3.9	3.9	4.0	4.0	3.9	353	350	361	366	350
Slovenia	4.5	4.7	4.6	4.6	4.7	47	48	47	47	48
Slovakia	5.9	5.8	5.7	5.7	5.7	162	158	158	157	156
Finland	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.6	6.6	184	186	185	183	182
Sweden	6.5	6.9	6.9	6.9	7.0	359	382	383	385	387
United Kingdom	3.9*	3.8	3.7	:	:	1 312*	1 282	1 263	:	:
Iceland	3.0	3.5	3.6	3.5	:	6	7	7	7	:
Norway	3.7**	3.8	4.0	3.9	:	104**	109	113	110	:
United States	4.0	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.6	6 506	5 831	5 819	5 755	5 899

: Data not available

* November 2019

** December 2019

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

Seasonally adjusted youth (under 25s) unemployment

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	Jan 19	Oct 19	Nov 19	Dec 19	Jan 20	Jan 19	Oct 19	Nov 19	Dec 19	Jan 20
EA19	16.1	15.6	15.6	15.6	15.6	2 324	2 241	2 245	2 241	2 249
EU27	15.5	14.9	15.0	14.8	14.9	2 829	2 716	2 725	2 704	2 719
EU28	14.6	14.3	14.3	14.2	14.2	3 282	3 187	3 190	3 170	3 185
Belgium	14.9	13.6	13.6	13.6	:	58	58	58	58	:
Bulgaria	10.2	8.6	9.0	9.3	9.7	14	13	14	14	15
Czechia	6.0	5.1	5.5	4.8	5.3	18	15	14	14	15
Denmark	11.0	10.5	10.3	10.1	10.1	49	47	46	44	44
Germany	5.7	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.6	247	248	246	243	239
Estonia	8.0	9.2	10.0	9.5	:	4	5	5	5	:
Ireland	12.4	11.0	10.9	11.1	11.8	36	32	32	33	36
Greece	39.6	36.0	36.1	:	:	93	85	83	:	:
Spain	34.2	31.3	30.4	30.1	30.6	519	484	468	466	479
France	19.6	19.9	20.1	20.2	19.9	561	563	571	576	572
Croatia	18.2	15.5	15.5	15.5	:	27	23	23	23	:
Italy	31.6	28.0	28.6	28.7	29.3	484	424	433	435	437
Cyprus	18.0	14.8	14.8	14.8	:	7	5	5	5	:
Latvia	13.5	10.4	10.6	11.0	11.5	9	7	7	7	7
Lithuania	11.1	14.0	14.5	14.9	14.3	12	15	16	16	15
Luxembourg	14.2	16.9	17.3	18.2	18.2	3	4	4	4	4
Hungary	11.6	12.9	12.4	10.9	:	39	41	40	35	:
Malta	10.4	8.8	9.2	8.8	9.5	3	3	3	3	3
Netherlands	6.5	7.3	7.3	6.7	6.4	96	109	110	101	97
Austria	8.0	8.3	8.6	8.6	8.7	42	42	44	44	45
Poland	11.2	8.5	8.1	7.9	7.8	140	105	100	97	97
Portugal	17.5	17.7	18.6	18.6	19.3	66	67	70	69	72
Romania	15.4	17.5*	:	:	:	93	106*	:	:	:
Slovenia	8.7	7.9	7.9	7.9	:	6	6	6	6	:
Slovakia	14.1	16.9	16.8	16.8	16.7	25	28	28	28	28
Finland	17.0	17.5	17.5	17.4	17.4	55	56	56	57	57
Sweden	20.0	20.0	19.5	20.3	20.6	123	125	125	126	126
United Kingdom	10.7	11.4	11.3	:	:	454	472	466	:	:
Iceland	7.3	9.6	9.9	9.2	:	2	3	3	3	:
Norway	10.4	10.0	10.3	10.1	:	38	37	39	38	:

: Data not available

* Q3 2019 data

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

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

Seasonally adjusted unemployment rates (%), by gender

	Males					Females				
	Jan 19	Oct 19	Nov 19	Dec 19	Jan 20	Jan 19	Oct 19	Nov 19	Dec 19	Jan 20
EA19	7.4	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1	8.3	7.8	7.8	7.7	7.7
EU27	6.6	6.3	6.4	6.3	6.3	7.4	6.9	6.9	6.8	6.8
EU28	6.2	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.9	6.5	6.4	6.4	6.4
Belgium	6.1	5.4	5.4	5.5	5.5	5.1	4.9	4.9	5.0	5.1
Bulgaria	5.1	4.5	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.3	3.8	3.8	3.7	3.6
Czechia	1.8	1.7	2.0	1.7	1.9	2.5	2.4	2.3	2.2	2.2
Denmark	5.0	4.8	4.8	4.6	4.7	5.6	5.6	5.4	5.2	5.0
Germany	3.5	3.6	3.7	3.7	3.7	2.9	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7
Estonia	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.7	:	4.5	4.3	4.5	4.2	:
Ireland	5.4	4.9	4.9	4.9	5.0	4.8	4.5	4.5	4.6	4.6
Greece	14.6	13.7	13.7	:	:	23.6	20.3	20.0	:	:
Spain	12.6	12.4	12.3	12.2	12.1	16.3	15.9	15.6	15.4	15.5
France	8.7	8.4	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.8	8.2	8.1	8.1	8.1
Croatia	6.3	6.0	5.8	5.7	5.5	8.3	6.8	6.9	6.9	6.9
Italy	9.6	8.6	8.7	8.9	8.7	11.4	11.2	11.1	10.9	11.2
Cyprus	6.9	5.6	5.8	5.6	5.4	8.4	7.4	7.3	7.0	6.6
Latvia	7.6	6.3	6.5	7.2	7.5	5.9	5.4	5.3	5.4	5.4
Lithuania	6.5	7.4	7.5	7.4	7.8	5.6	5.4	5.4	5.5	5.5
Luxembourg	5.2	5.5	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.1	5.5	5.5	5.7	5.7
Hungary	3.5	3.3	3.3	3.3	:	3.6	3.8	3.6	3.6	:
Malta	3.6	3.1	3.2	3.1	3.2	3.7	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.6
Netherlands	3.5	3.6	3.7	3.4	3.1	3.7	3.3	3.3	3.1	3.0
Austria	4.9	4.4	4.3	4.3	4.2	4.5	4.2	4.1	4.2	4.3
Poland	3.4	2.8	2.7	2.8	2.8	4.3	3.2	3.1	3.1	3.1
Portugal	5.7	5.9	6.0	6.3	6.5	7.4	7.0	7.4	7.2	7.2
Romania	4.3	4.4	4.5	4.7	4.3	3.4	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.3
Slovenia	4.0	4.7	4.6	4.5	4.6	5.2	4.8	4.7	4.7	4.7
Slovakia	5.6	5.6	5.7	5.7	5.7	6.2	5.9	5.8	5.7	5.7
Finland	6.9	7.2	7.1	7.0	6.9	6.5	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.2
Sweden	6.5	6.9	7.0	7.0	7.1	6.6	6.9	6.9	6.9	6.9
United Kingdom	3.9	4.0	3.9	:	:	3.7	3.5	3.5	:	:
Iceland	3.3	3.7	3.8	3.7	:	2.6	3.3	3.3	3.3	:
Norway	3.9	4.1	4.3	4.2	:	3.7	3.5	3.6	3.5	:

: Data not available

Source dataset: une_rt_m