

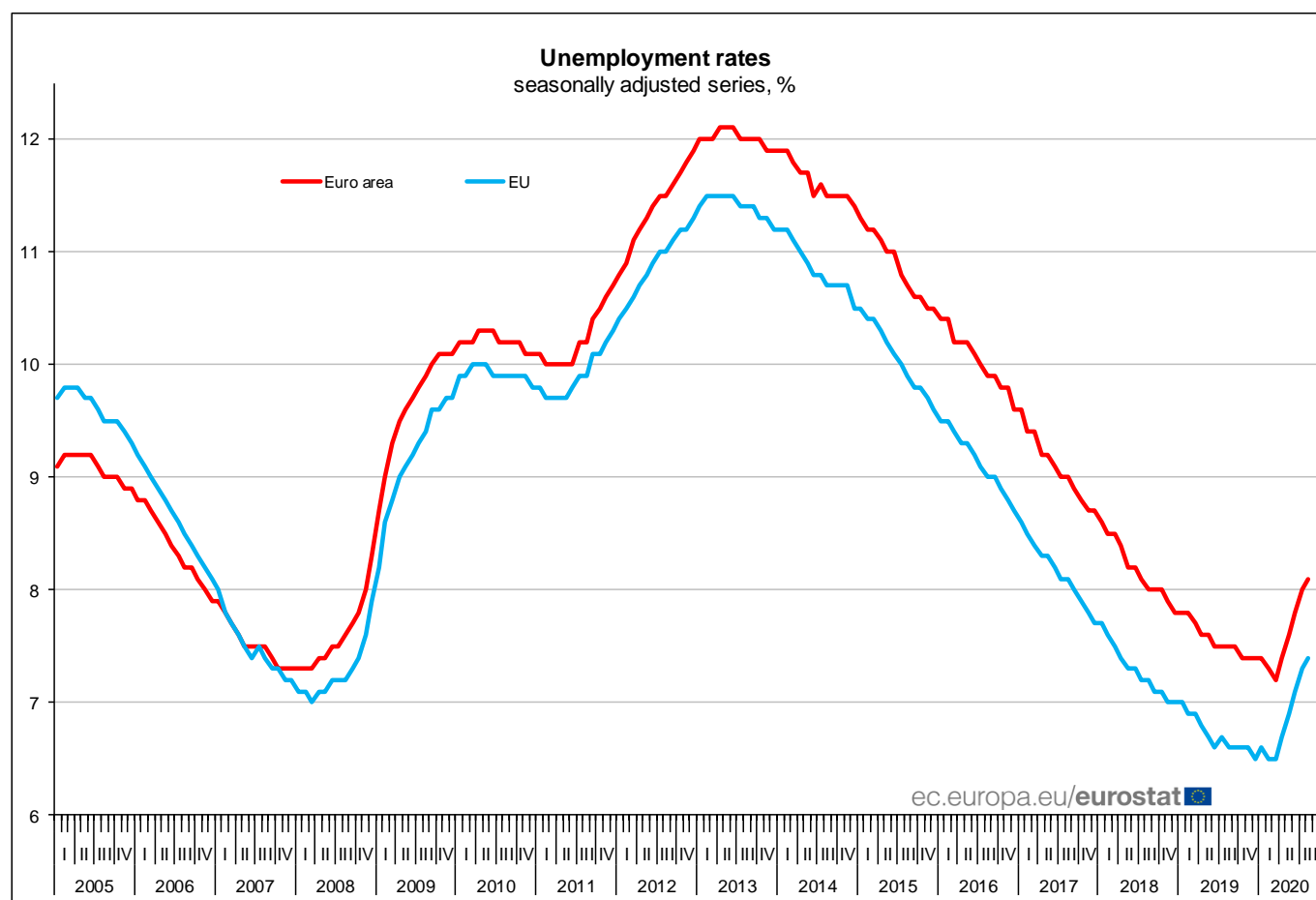
August 2020

Euro area unemployment at 8.1%

EU at 7.4%

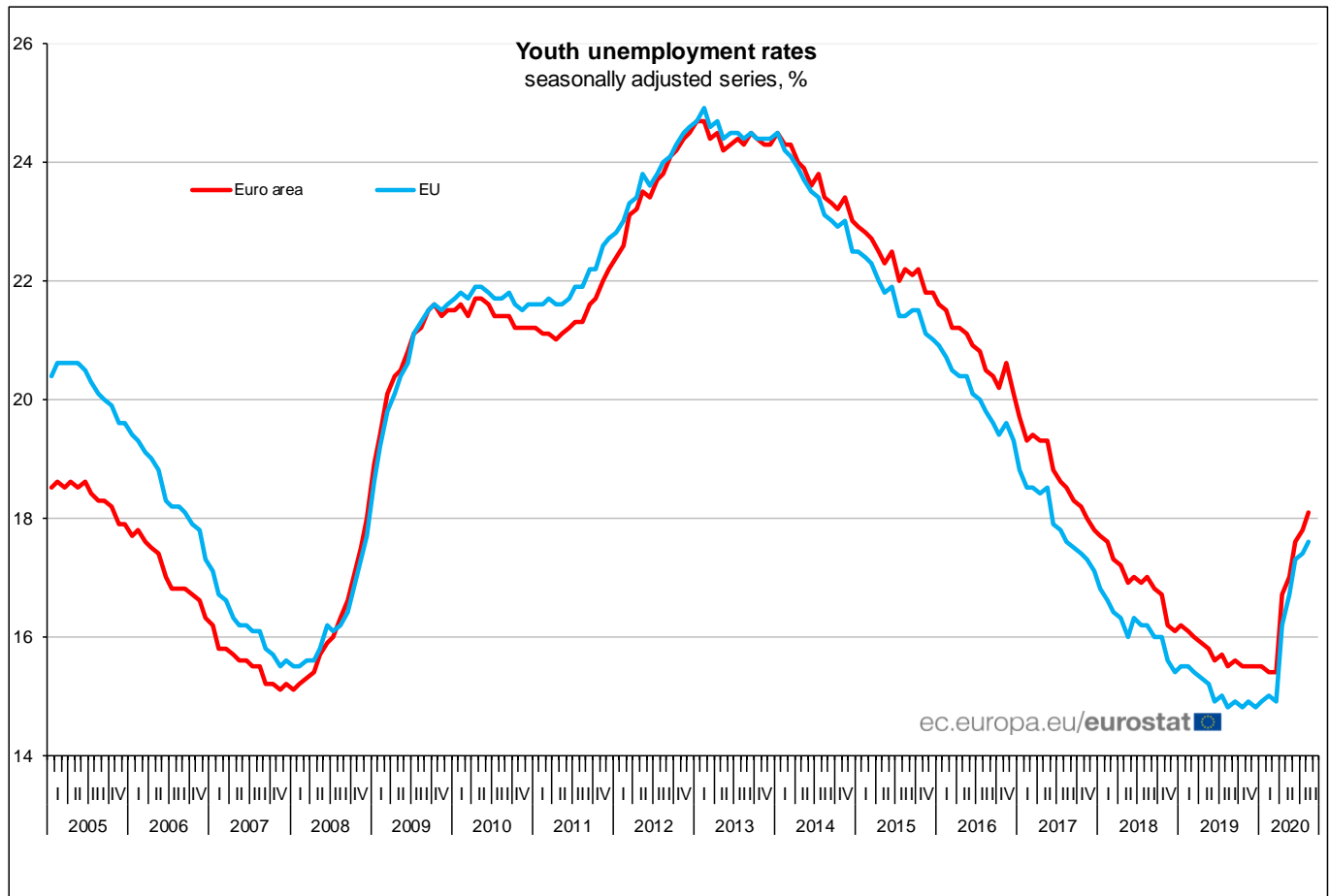
In August 2020, the **euro area** seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate has continued to rise for 5 consecutive months, reaching 8.1%. The same trend has applied to the **EU** unemployment rate that reached 7.4% in August 2020. These figures are published by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**.

Eurostat estimates that 15.603 million men and women in the **EU**, of whom 13.188 million in the **euro area**, were unemployed in August 2020. Compared with July 2020, the number of persons unemployed increased by 238 000 in the **EU** and by 251 000 in the **euro area**.



Youth unemployment

In August 2020, 3.032 million young persons (under 25) were unemployed in the **EU**, of whom 2.460 million were in the **euro area**. In August 2020, the youth unemployment rate was 17.6% in the **EU** and 18.1% in the **euro area**, up from 17.4% and 17.8% respectively in the previous month. Compared with July 2020, youth unemployment increased by 64 000 in the **EU** and by 69 000 in the **euro area**.



Unemployment by gender

In August 2020, the unemployment rate for women was 7.6% in the **EU**, up from 7.5% in July 2020. The unemployment rate for men was 7.1% in August 2020, stable compared with July 2020. In the **euro area**, the unemployment rate for women increased from 8.3% in July 2020 to 8.4% in August 2020 while it increased from 7.8% to 7.9% for men.

Additional labour market indicators

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 outbreak and the measures applied to combat it 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 or no longer available for work, for instance, if they had to take care of their children. This leads to discrepancies 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 have been complemented by additional indicators, e.g. underemployed part-time workers, persons seeking work but not immediately available and persons available to work but not seeking, released together with LFS data for the first quarter of 2020. The LFS data for the second quarter will be released on 8 October 2020.

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 from April until August due to the COVID crisis. His employment contract has not been broken and he has been assured by his employer he could return to work in September. 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 schools reopen full-time and the situation in the labour market improves. Mrs Z will be counted as inactive and not as unemployed in August.

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 rate for August 2020 is an estimation based on the figures recorded in previous periods, taking into account current developments.

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 [130/2020](#) of 1 September 2020, the July unemployment rate for the euro area and the EU has been revised by 0.1 percentage points (pp) upwards. Among EU Member States, the rate has been revised by more than 0.1 percentage points downwards for Belgium (by 0.5 pp), Croatia and Portugal (both by 0.2 pp). The rate has been revised by more than 0.1 percentage points (pp) upwards for Bulgaria (by 1.7 pp), Denmark and Greece (both by 0.3 pp, May data for Greece), as well as France and Finland (both 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 articles on [unemployment](#) and 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](#)

Eurostat Press Office

Romina BRONDINO

Tel: +352-4301-33 408

eurostat-pressoffice@ec.europa.eu

For further information on data


Boyan GENEV

Tel: +352-4301-36 409

Thibaut HENRION

Tel: +352-4301-31 686

estat-monthly-unemployment@ec.europa.eu

 **Media requests:** eurostat-mediasupport@ec.europa.eu / Tel: +352-4301-33 408



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Seasonally adjusted unemployment, totals

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	Aug 19	May 20	Jun 20	Jul 20	Aug 20	Aug 19	May 20	Jun 20	Jul 20	Aug 20
Euro area	7.5	7.6	7.8	8.0	8.1	12 233	12 146	12 574	12 937	13 188
EU	6.6	6.9	7.1	7.3	7.4	14 170	14 491	15 013	15 365	15 603
Belgium	5.2	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.1	267	252	251	249	258
Bulgaria	3.9	5.9	6.0	6.1	6.2	133	193	193	197	199
Czechia	1.9	2.4	2.7	2.6	2.7	103	129	143	142	147
Denmark	4.9	5.5	6.0	6.3	6.1	147	164	180	190	186
Germany	3.0	4.2	4.3	4.4	4.4	1 318	1 855	1 917	1 952	1 964
Estonia	4.3**	7.0	8.0	7.8	:	30**	48	56	54	:
Ireland	4.9	4.8	5.0	5.1	5.2	120	112	114	119	121
Greece	17.1*	17.3	18.3	:	:	810*	778	837	:	:
Spain	14.3	15.4	15.8	15.9	16.2	3 282	3 367	3 408	3 403	3 479
France	8.5	6.9	6.6	7.1	7.5	2 513	1 971	1 884	2 040	2 187
Croatia	6.5	8.7	8.6	8.4	8.3	117	159	156	153	152
Italy	9.5	8.7	9.4	9.8	9.7	2 439	2 163	2 356	2 491	2 467
Cyprus	6.8	8.1	7.4	6.9	7.4	30	37	33	31	33
Latvia	6.2	8.7	8.9	9.0	8.8	60	85	87	88	86
Lithuania	6.6	8.5	8.8	9.0	9.6	96	125	129	132	141
Luxembourg	5.7	7.6	7.6	7.2	6.8	17	24	24	23	21
Hungary	3.4**	4.8	4.9	4.6	:	157**	222	230	214	:
Malta	3.6	4.5	4.3	4.2	4.1	9	12	12	11	11
Netherlands	3.5	3.6	4.3	4.5	4.6	321	330	404	419	426
Austria	4.5	5.5	5.4	5.2	5.0	205	253	249	237	231
Poland	3.1	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.1	533	551	557	544	530
Portugal	6.4	5.9	7.3	7.9	8.1	332	290	370	404	417
Romania	3.8	5.1	5.3	5.4	5.3	347	460	474	484	479
Slovenia	4.9	5.5	5.3	4.8	4.7	50	56	53	49	48
Slovakia	5.8	6.8	6.7	6.7	6.8	158	182	179	181	184
Finland	6.9	7.5	7.8	8.0	8.1	190	207	214	219	222
Sweden	6.9	8.0	9.3	9.3	9.2	378	439	510	511	511
United Kingdom	3.8*	3.7	3.9	:	:	1 278*	1 261	1 321	:	:
Iceland	3.5	4.5	4.5	5.0	5.0	7	9	9	10	10
Norway	3.8**	4.6	5.2	5.2	:	109**	131	149	148	:
Switzerland	4.4	4.7	4.8	:	:	214	229	233	:	:
United States	3.7	13.3	11.1	10.2	8.4	5 994	20 995	17 704	16 342	13 551

: Data not available

* June 2019

** July 2019

Source datasets: [une_rt_m](#) (rates) and [une_rt_m](#) (in 1 000 persons)

Seasonally adjusted youth (under 25s) unemployment

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	Aug 19	May 20	Jun 20	Jul 20	Aug 20	Aug 19	May 20	Jun 20	Jul 20	Aug 20
Euro area	15.5	17.0	17.6	17.8	18.1	2 215	2 265	2 355	2 391	2 460
EU	14.8	16.7	17.3	17.4	17.6	2 695	2 808	2 922	2 968	3 032
Belgium	13.0	15.7	15.7	:	:	53	56	56	:	:
Bulgaria	8.2	17.1	16.2	16.8	17.8	12	22	22	23	25
Czechia	4.8	8.1	8.6	8.9	8.8	14	21	22	23	23
Denmark	9.5	11.9	12.5	12.8	12.2	41	51	54	56	53
Germany	5.6	5.9	5.9	5.9	5.8	243	257	257	256	253
Estonia	13.1	17.9	23.2	23.7	:	8	9	13	13	:
Ireland	12.4	14.1	15.7	17.0	17.5	36	34	36	39	41
Greece	34.8	38.1	39.3	:	:	81	78	80	:	:
Spain	32.8	38.9	41.6	41.7	43.9	512	492	521	517	555
France	19.2	20.9	20.5	20.2	19.8	541	535	518	526	532
Croatia	16.4	24.5	24.5	:	:	24	38	38	:	:
Italy	26.8	28.9	30.4	31.8	32.1	398	391	419	453	469
Cyprus	16.4	19.8	19.8	:	:	6	7	7	:	:
Latvia	10.3	17.9	18.0	17.6	16.3	6	12	11	11	10
Lithuania	12.3	21.2	21.8	23.1	25.4	13	22	23	23	25
Luxembourg	17.4	26.4	27.0	25.3	23.2	4	6	7	6	5
Hungary	10.6	15.9	15.2	14.1	:	34	49	49	45	:
Malta	8.8	10.9	9.7	9.4	9.5	3	3	3	3	3
Netherlands	6.9	9.5	10.7	11.0	11.3	103	132	156	159	164
Austria	9.5	12.1	11.0	10.4	10.6	48	60	55	52	53
Poland	9.7	10.1	10.1	9.6	9.1	123	107	106	104	101
Portugal	18.1	21.4	27.4	26.2	26.3	68	66	88	86	86
Romania	17.5	16.9	16.9	:	:	106	99	99	:	:
Slovenia	8.2	16.9	16.9	:	:	6	9	9	:	:
Slovakia	16.7	20.5	19.7	19.8	19.4	28	31	29	30	29
Finland	18.4	20.5	20.9	21.4	21.6	59	64	65	66	66
Sweden	19.8	24.7	28.5	28.4	28.4	126	147	170	170	169
United Kingdom	11.9	12.3	12.9	:	:	490	509	524	:	:
Iceland	9.0	11.3	11.0	9.9	10.5	3	3	3	3	3
Norway	9.7	11.8	12.8	13.3	:	37	44	48	50	:
Switzerland	8.3	8.6	8.6	:	:	48	48	48	:	:

: Data not available

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

Source datasets: [une_rt_m](#) (rates) and [une_rt_m](#) (in 1 000 persons)

Seasonally adjusted unemployment rates (%), by gender

	Males					Females				
	Aug 19	May 20	Jun 20	Jul 20	Aug 20	Aug 19	May 20	Jun 20	Jul 20	Aug 20
Euro area	7.2	7.3	7.6	7.8	7.9	7.8	7.9	8.1	8.3	8.4
EU	6.3	6.6	6.9	7.1	7.1	7.0	7.2	7.4	7.5	7.6
Belgium	5.4	5.3	5.3	5.2	5.4	5.0	4.8	4.7	4.7	4.9
Bulgaria	4.2	6.0	6.1	6.3	6.4	3.6	5.8	5.8	5.9	5.9
Czechia	1.5	2.1	2.5	2.4	2.7	2.4	2.8	2.8	3.0	2.8
Denmark	4.6	5.0	5.7	6.0	6.0	5.1	6.1	6.3	6.5	6.3
Germany	3.4	4.2	4.3	4.4	4.4	2.5	4.1	4.3	4.4	4.5
Estonia	3.4	6.6	8.7	8.2	:	4.6	7.5	7.2	7.3	:
Ireland	5.3	4.9	4.9	5.0	5.1	4.5	4.7	5.0	5.3	5.3
Greece	13.7	13.4	16.1	:	:	21.0	22.1	21.1	:	:
Spain	12.5	14.1	14.6	14.9	15.3	16.3	16.9	17.1	16.9	17.2
France	8.6	7.3	6.9	7.2	7.5	8.4	6.5	6.3	6.9	7.5
Croatia	6.0	8.3	8.2	8.0	8.0	7.1	9.2	9.0	8.8	8.8
Italy	8.6	7.7	8.6	9.0	9.1	10.6	10.0	10.5	10.9	10.6
Cyprus	5.8	7.9	7.5	7.4	8.2	7.8	8.4	7.2	6.3	6.5
Latvia	6.9	10.0	10.4	10.5	10.2	5.5	7.4	7.5	7.5	7.4
Lithuania	7.6	9.6	9.9	10.3	10.9	5.6	7.4	7.7	7.7	8.2
Luxembourg	5.7	7.9	7.9	7.4	7.0	5.7	7.3	7.4	7.0	6.6
Hungary	3.4	4.4	4.7	4.3	:	3.6	5.3	5.3	4.9	:
Malta	3.2	4.2	3.9	4.0	3.8	4.2	4.8	4.8	4.5	4.4
Netherlands	3.5	3.6	4.2	4.2	4.3	3.5	3.6	4.5	4.8	4.9
Austria	4.7	6.1	6.0	5.8	5.7	4.3	4.9	4.8	4.4	4.3
Poland	2.9	3.2	3.2	3.1	3.0	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.5	3.4
Portugal	5.7	5.7	7.1	7.7	8.1	7.1	6.0	7.6	8.1	8.2
Romania	4.2	5.6	5.6	6.1	5.9	3.4	4.5	5.0	4.5	4.5
Slovenia	4.8	4.8	4.5	4.2	4.2	4.9	6.3	6.1	5.6	5.3
Slovakia	5.6	6.8	6.7	6.8	6.8	6.0	6.8	6.6	6.7	6.8
Finland	7.4	7.8	8.1	8.4	8.5	6.4	7.2	7.4	7.5	7.6
Sweden	6.8	8.0	9.3	9.2	9.2	7.0	7.9	9.2	9.3	9.3
United Kingdom	4.0	3.8	4.1	:	:	3.5	3.6	3.7	:	:
Iceland	3.7	4.4	4.6	5.4	5.4	3.2	4.6	4.4	4.4	4.5
Norway	4.0	4.8	5.6	5.5	:	3.4	4.5	4.9	4.9	:
Switzerland	4.2	4.9	5.0	:	:	4.6	4.5	4.6	:	:

: Data not available

Source dataset: [une_rt_m](#)