

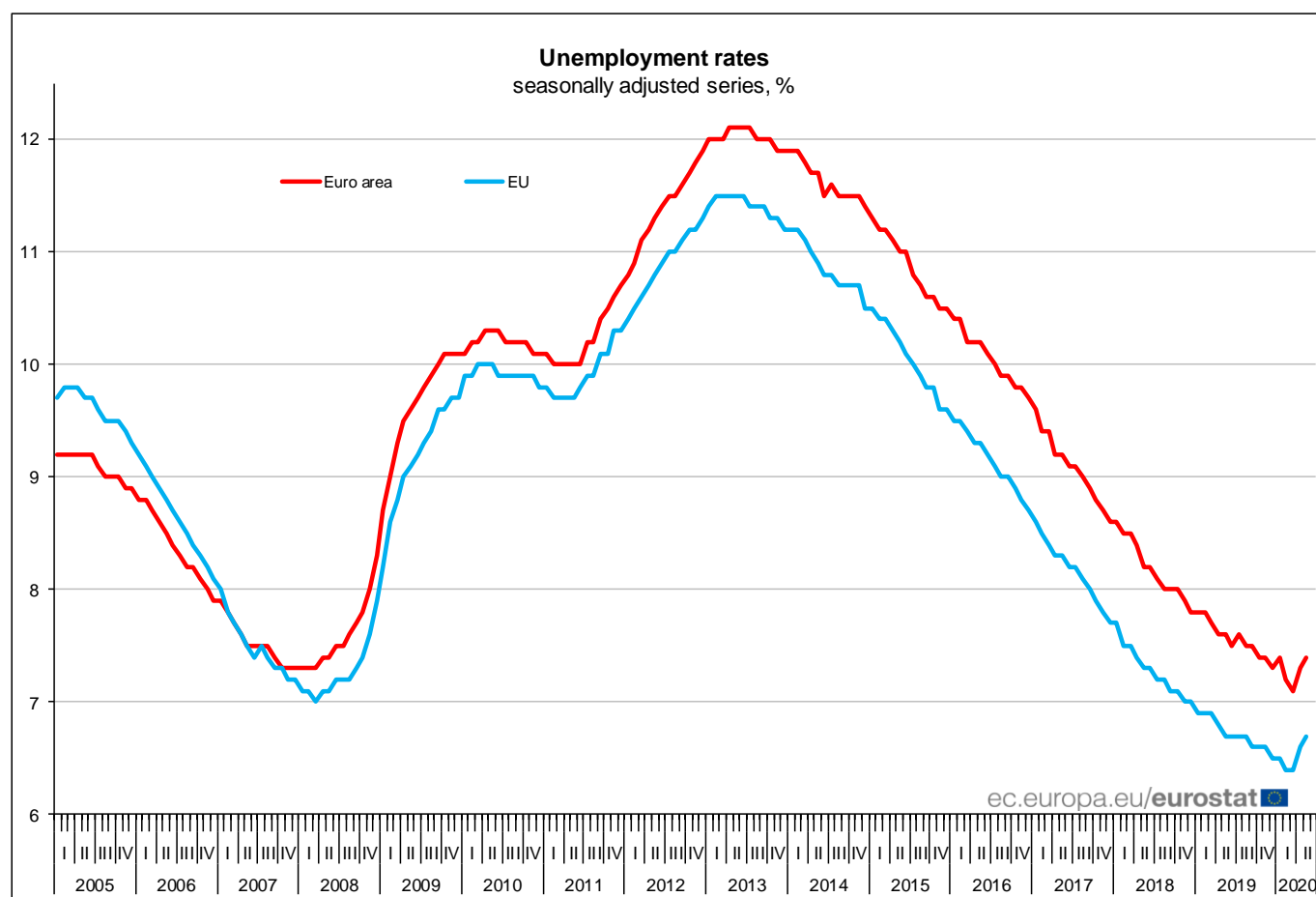
May 2020

Euro area unemployment at 7.4%

EU at 6.7%

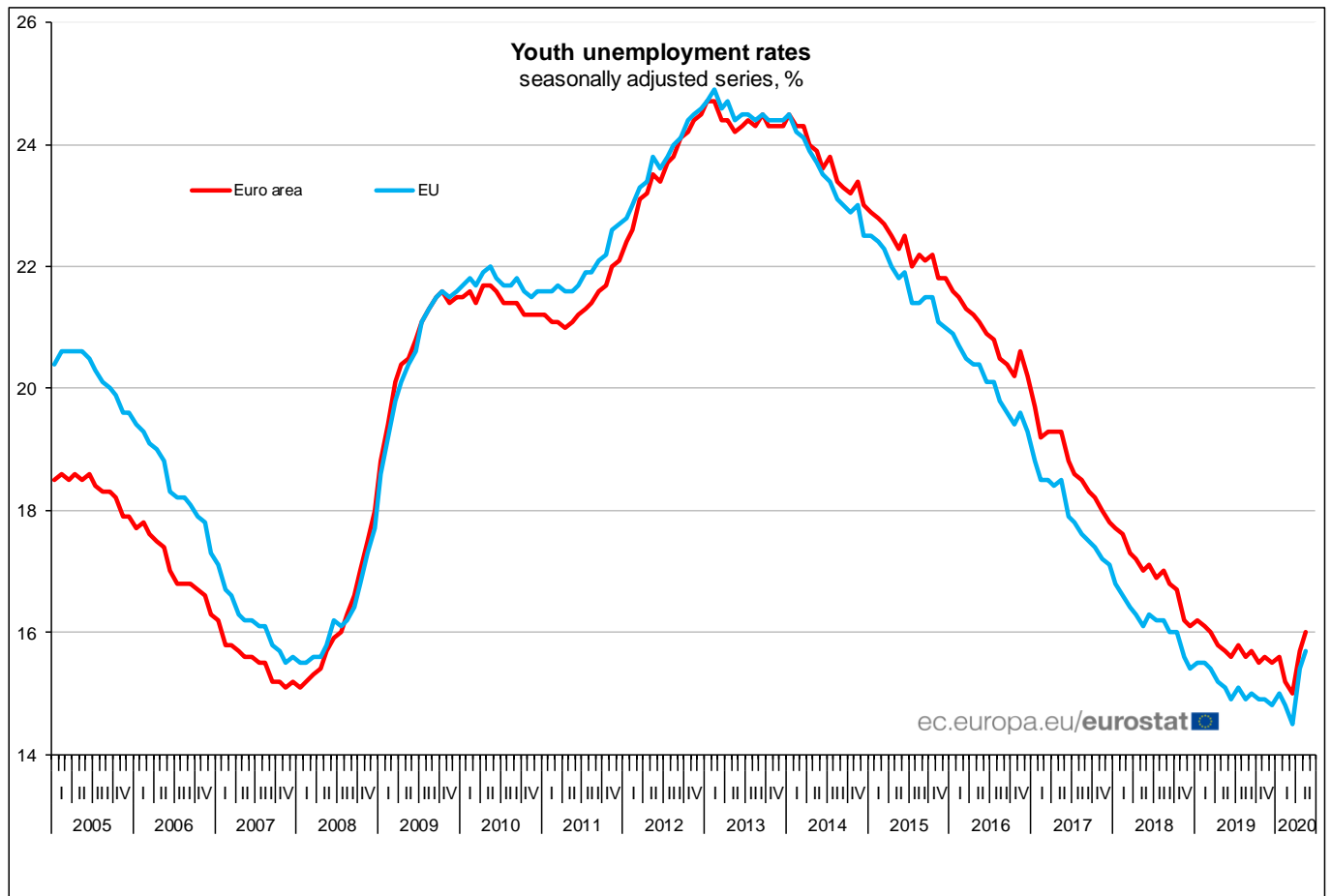
In May 2020, a third month marked by COVID-19 containment measures in most Member States, the **euro area** seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate was 7.4%, up from 7.3% in April 2020. The **EU** unemployment rate was 6.7% in May 2020, up from 6.6% in April 2020. These figures are published by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**.

Eurostat estimates that 14.366 million men and women in the **EU**, of whom 12.146 million in the **euro area**, were unemployed in May 2020. Compared with April 2020, the number of persons unemployed increased by 253 000 in the **EU** and by 159 000 in the **euro area**.



Youth unemployment

In May 2020, 2.815 million young persons (under 25) were unemployed in the **EU**, of whom 2.267 million were in the **euro area**. In May 2020, the youth unemployment rate was 15.7% in the **EU** and 16.0% in the **euro area**, up from 15.4% and 15.7% respectively in the previous month. Compared with April 2020, youth unemployment increased by 64 000 in the **EU** and by 42 000 in the **euro area**.



Unemployment by gender

In May 2020, the unemployment rate for women was 7.2% in the **EU**, up from 6.9% in April 2020. The unemployment rate for men was 6.4% in May 2020, stable compared with April 2020. In the **euro area**, the unemployment rate for women increased from 7.7% in April 2020 to 7.9% in May 2020 while it remained stable at 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 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 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 and May 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 May.

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 May 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 [88/2020](#) of 3 June 2020, the April unemployment rate for the euro area and the EU has remained unchanged. Among the EU Member States, the rate has been revised by more than 0.1 percentage points (pp) downwards for: Bulgaria (by 1.4 pp), Slovakia (by 0.4 pp), Belgium (by 0.3 pp) as well as for Spain and Greece (both by 0.2 pp, February data for Greece). The rate has been revised by more than 0.1 percentage points (pp) upwards for Austria (by 0.4 pp), Denmark, Germany, Italy and Finland (all by 0.3 pp) as well as for Slovenia (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 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](#)

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



[@EU_Eurostat](https://twitter.com/EU_Eurostat)



[EurostatStatistics](https://www.facebook.com/EurostatStatistics)



[EU_Eurostat](https://www.instagram.com/EU_Eurostat)



ec.europa.eu/eurostat

Seasonally adjusted unemployment, totals

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	May 19	Feb 20	Mar 20	Apr 20	May 20	May 19	Feb 20	Mar 20	Apr 20	May 20
Euro area	7.6	7.2	7.1	7.3	7.4	12 405	11 830	11 719	11 987	12 146
EU	6.7	6.4	6.4	6.6	6.7	14 359	13 821	13 674	14 113	14 366
Belgium	5.5	5.0	5.1	5.3	5.4	281	254	259	273	277
Bulgaria	4.1	4.2	4.1	4.8	4.6	140	139	135	160	154
Czechia	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.2	2.4	110	105	111	120	127
Denmark	4.9	4.9	4.8	4.9	5.0	149	147	143	145	150
Germany	3.1	3.5	3.7	3.8	3.9	1 338	1 556	1 621	1 682	1 731
Estonia	4.9**	4.7	4.8	6.0	:	35**	34	34	42	:
Ireland	5.2	4.8	5.3	5.4	5.6	125	118	130	134	139
Greece	18.1*	15.9	14.4	:	:	857*	733	654	:	:
Spain	14.2	13.7	14.2	14.6	14.5	3 255	3 142	3 280	3 398	3 374
France	8.5	7.6	7.6	8.7	8.1	2 507	2 253	2 252	2 606	2 415
Croatia	6.7	6.2	6.8	8.1	8.9	120	111	121	148	164
Italy	10.0	9.0	8.2	6.6	7.8	2 602	2 318	2 066	1 626	1 933
Cyprus	7.3	6.0	6.7	8.9	10.2	33	27	30	41	47
Latvia	6.3	6.9	7.4	9.0	9.8	61	68	73	88	95
Lithuania	6.1	6.3	6.6	8.6	9.3	89	93	97	128	138
Luxembourg	5.7	5.8	6.6	7.5	7.7	17	18	20	23	24
Hungary	3.4**	3.6	3.7	4.1	:	161**	166	169	191	:
Malta	3.4	3.4	3.4	4.1	4.2	9	9	9	11	11
Netherlands	3.3	2.9	2.9	3.4	3.6	302	274	273	314	330
Austria	4.5	4.5	4.7	5.2	5.4	203	206	214	232	243
Poland	3.3	3.0	2.9	2.9	3.0	564	515	491	496	505
Portugal	6.6	6.4	6.2	6.3	5.5	343	332	317	319	268
Romania	3.9	4.3	4.6	4.8	5.2	352	386	414	432	463
Slovenia	4.3	4.2	4.3	4.8	4.8	44	44	44	49	49
Slovakia	5.7	6.1	5.8	6.4	6.5	157	165	159	176	180
Finland	6.7	6.7	6.8	6.9	7.0	185	185	188	191	194
Sweden	6.7	7.1	7.3	8.0	8.0	371	395	398	439	441
United Kingdom	3.7*	3.9	3.8	:	:	1 250*	1 318	1 297	:	:
Iceland	3.4	3.9	3.5	3.9	4.5	7	8	7	8	9
Norway	3.3**	3.5	3.6	4.1	:	93**	100	101	118	:
Switzerland	4.4	4.2	4.3	:	:	216	208	213	:	:
United States	3.6	3.5	4.4	14.7	13.3	5 909	5 807	7 131	23 102	20 995

: Data not available

* March 2019

** April 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)				
	May 19	Feb 20	Mar 20	Apr 20	May 20	May 19	Feb 20	Mar 20	Apr 20	May 20
Euro area	15.7	15.2	15.0	15.7	16.0	2 261	2 177	2 138	2 225	2 267
EU	15.1	14.8	14.5	15.4	15.7	2 759	2 689	2 598	2 751	2 815
Belgium	13.9	11.9	11.9	:	:	56	47	47	:	:
Bulgaria	9.3	12.9	12.0	14.0	12.1	13	16	15	20	18
Czechia	6.5	5.6	6.4	6.4	7.2	19	15	17	17	19
Denmark	9.3	9.8	9.9	10.1	10.5	41	42	42	43	45
Germany	5.7	5.5	5.5	5.4	5.4	249	237	235	233	232
Estonia	13.6	9.6	9.9	13.2	:	8	5	5	7	:
Ireland	13.8	11.7	12.5	12.6	13.5	40	36	39	38	41
Greece	33.4	32.7	32.4	:	:	80	69	67	:	:
Spain	32.7	32.0	32.2	32.7	32.9	502	488	500	530	549
France	19.3	18.7	18.4	21.7	21.2	546	525	519	645	626
Croatia	16.9	16.4	16.4	:	:	25	24	24	:	:
Italy	29.2	28.0	27.1	21.5	23.5	454	423	384	270	300
Cyprus	16.2	13.4	13.4	:	:	6	5	5	:	:
Latvia	14.6	13.5	14.5	17.2	18.4	8	8	9	11	12
Lithuania	9.9	15.6	15.9	17.0	18.5	10	17	18	18	20
Luxembourg	17.1	18.2	20.5	24.7	26.1	4	4	5	6	7
Hungary	11.5	11.3	11.9	13.5	:	38	37	38	42	:
Malta	9.0	10.4	10.1	12.2	11.9	3	3	3	4	4
Netherlands	6.3	6.3	6.3	8.4	9.5	92	94	94	119	132
Austria	8.5	10.5	10.9	11.5	11.8	44	53	54	57	58
Poland	11.0	9.7	9.3	9.2	9.1	136	116	111	112	112
Portugal	19.6	18.9	18.3	20.6	19.5	73	69	66	70	59
Romania	16.4	17.4	17.4	:	:	100	110	110	:	:
Slovenia	7.1	10.3	10.3	:	:	5	7	7	:	:
Slovakia	15.9	16.6	15.7	17.8	17.8	27	27	26	30	29
Finland	17.1	18.4	18.7	18.9	19.1	55	59	59	59	59
Sweden	19.9	19.9	21.4	24.9	24.9	126	125	125	150	150
United Kingdom	11.3	11.5	11.8	:	:	478	486	494	:	:
Iceland	7.6	9.1	8.2	10.1	11.3	2	3	2	3	3
Norway	9.4	10.1	10.0	10.4	:	34	38	37	38	:
Switzerland	7.2	7.8	8.2	:	:	43	46	48	:	:

: Data not available

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				
	May 19	Feb 20	Mar 20	Apr 20	May 20	May 19	Feb 20	Mar 20	Apr 20	May 20
Euro area	7.3	6.8	6.8	7.0	7.0	7.9	7.6	7.5	7.7	7.9
EU	6.5	6.2	6.1	6.4	6.4	7.0	6.8	6.7	6.9	7.2
Belgium	5.8	5.0	5.1	5.4	5.6	5.1	4.9	5.0	5.2	5.2
Bulgaria	4.4	4.5	4.3	5.0	4.8	3.8	3.8	3.9	4.6	4.4
Czechia	1.7	1.7	1.8	2.0	2.2	2.5	2.3	2.4	2.5	2.6
Denmark	4.9	4.7	4.5	4.5	4.5	5.0	5.1	5.0	5.2	5.6
Germany	3.4	3.8	3.9	4.0	4.1	2.7	3.2	3.4	3.6	3.7
Estonia	4.5	5.2	5.2	6.0	:	5.5	4.2	4.4	6.1	:
Ireland	5.3	5.0	5.3	5.4	5.5	5.1	4.5	5.2	5.4	5.7
Greece	14.0	12.9	12.6	:	:	21.5	19.6	16.8	:	:
Spain	12.6	12.0	12.7	13.1	12.7	15.9	15.5	15.9	16.3	16.5
France	8.5	7.5	7.5	8.5	7.7	8.4	7.8	7.8	8.9	8.5
Croatia	6.1	6.0	6.4	7.7	8.3	7.4	6.6	7.2	8.7	9.6
Italy	9.2	8.2	7.4	6.4	6.9	11.0	10.1	9.3	7.0	9.0
Cyprus	6.9	6.1	6.6	8.5	9.7	7.8	5.9	6.7	9.4	10.8
Latvia	7.8	7.9	8.3	9.5	10.3	4.9	6.0	6.6	8.4	9.2
Lithuania	6.7	7.1	7.3	9.5	10.2	5.5	5.5	5.8	7.7	8.4
Luxembourg	5.7	5.8	6.8	7.7	7.9	5.6	5.8	6.2	7.2	7.5
Hungary	3.5	3.4	3.5	4.0	:	3.4	3.7	3.9	4.3	:
Malta	3.4	3.5	3.5	3.9	3.9	3.4	3.2	3.3	4.4	4.7
Netherlands	3.3	2.9	2.9	3.6	3.6	3.3	3.0	2.9	3.3	3.6
Austria	4.5	4.7	4.9	5.4	5.7	4.4	4.3	4.5	4.9	5.1
Poland	3.1	3.0	2.8	2.9	2.9	3.5	3.1	2.9	2.9	3.0
Portugal	6.1	5.9	5.5	5.2	5.4	7.1	6.9	6.9	7.4	5.5
Romania	4.2	4.9	5.3	5.4	6.1	3.5	3.4	3.6	3.9	4.0
Slovenia	3.8	3.7	3.8	4.2	4.1	4.9	4.8	4.8	5.4	5.6
Slovakia	5.7	5.8	5.5	6.0	6.3	5.8	6.5	6.3	6.9	6.8
Finland	7.1	7.0	7.1	7.3	7.4	6.3	6.4	6.5	6.6	6.7
Sweden	6.6	7.0	7.1	8.1	8.1	6.9	7.2	7.5	7.8	7.9
United Kingdom	4.1	4.1	4.0	:	:	3.5	3.6	3.6	:	:
Iceland	3.8	3.7	3.4	3.8	4.4	3.0	4.0	3.6	4.0	4.6
Norway	3.6	3.7	3.7	4.2	:	3.2	3.3	3.5	4.1	:
Switzerland	4.2	4.1	4.0	:	:	4.6	4.4	4.7	:	:

: Data not available

Source dataset: [une_rt_m](#)