

38/2021 – 6 April 2021

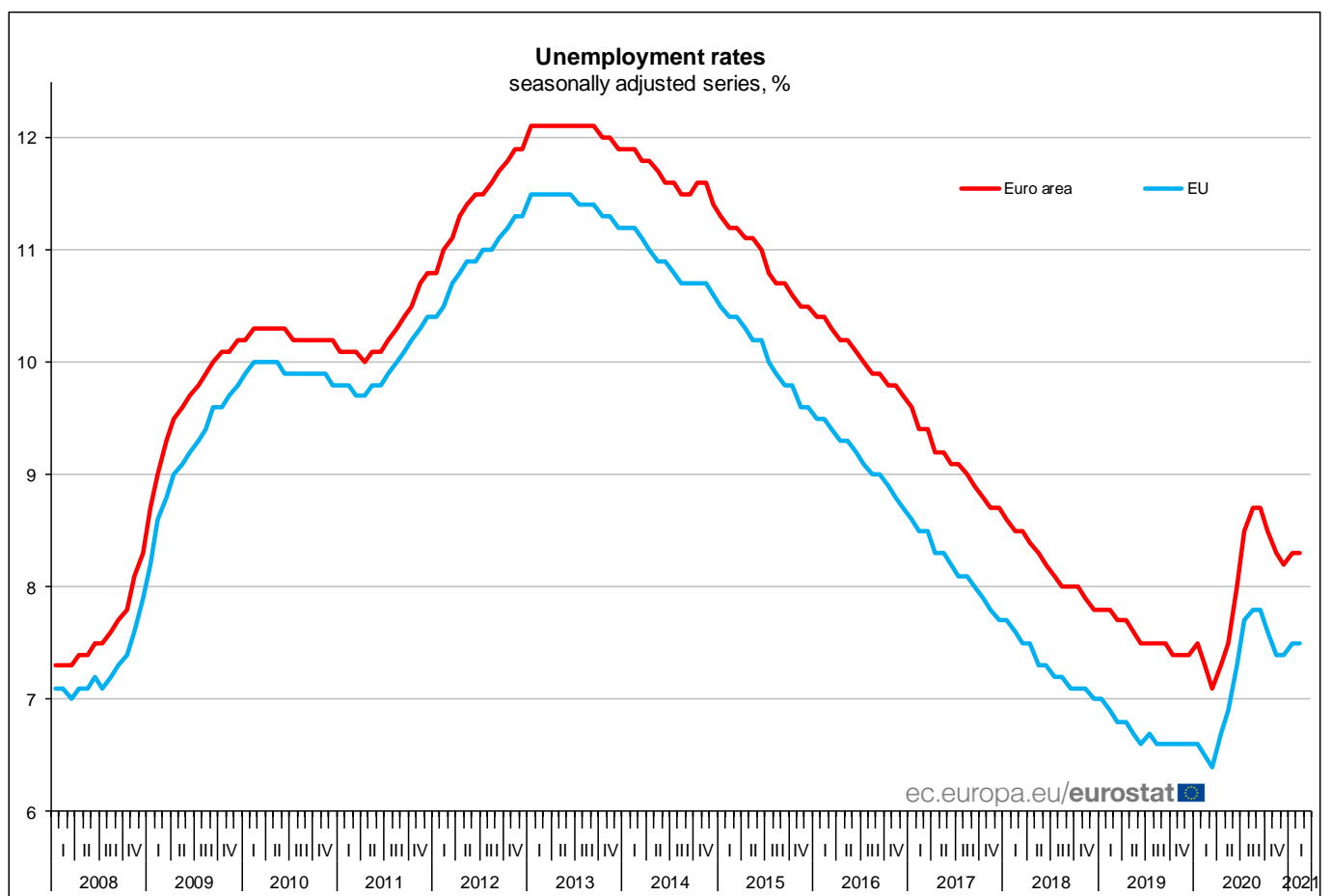
February 2021

Euro area unemployment at 8.3%

EU at 7.5%

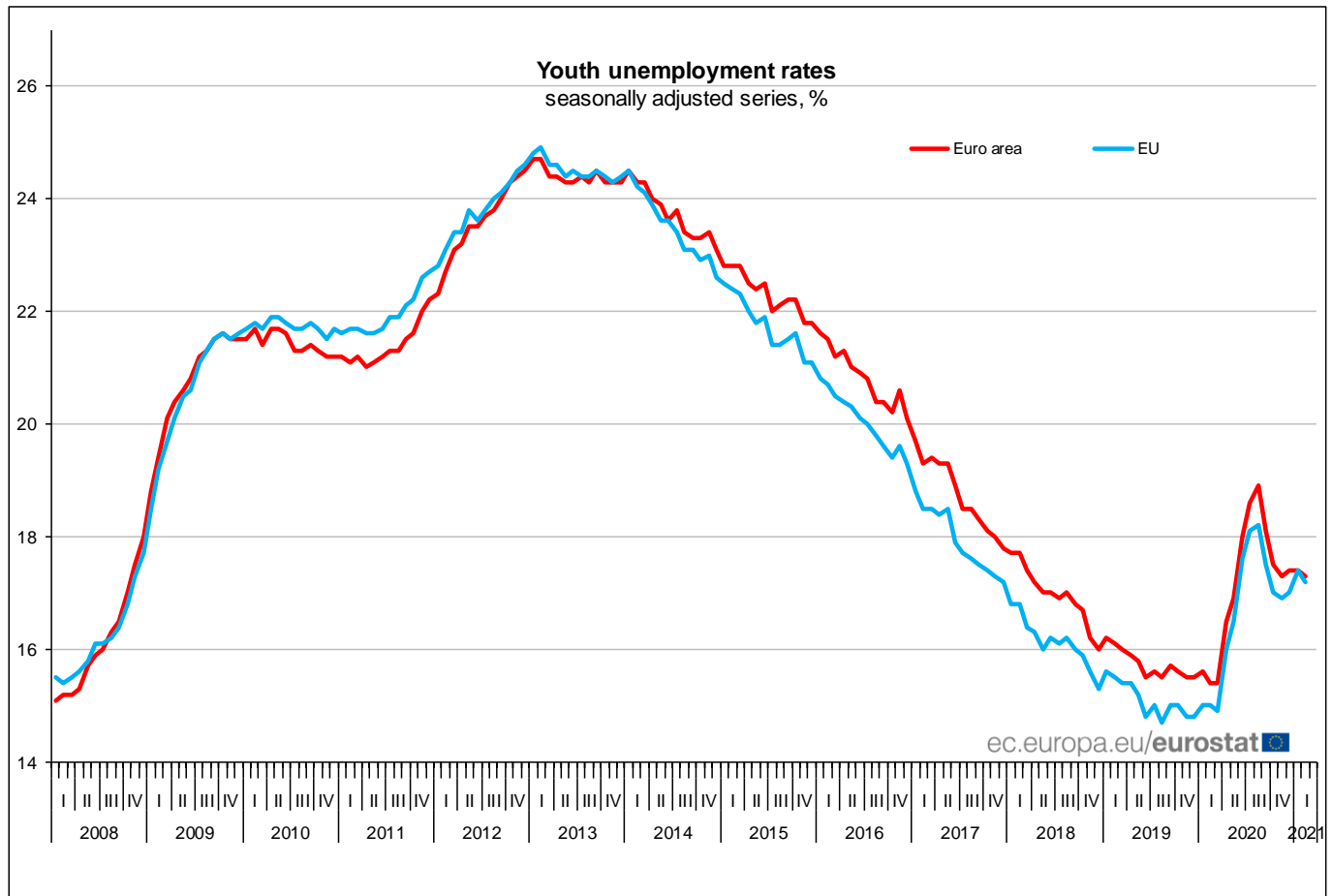
In February 2021, the **euro area** seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate was 8.3%, stable compared with January 2021 and up from 7.3% in February 2020. The **EU** unemployment rate was 7.5% in February 2021, also stable compared with January 2021 and up from 6.5% in February 2020. These figures are published by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**.

Eurostat estimates that 15.953 million men and women in the **EU**, of whom 13.571 million in the **euro area**, were unemployed in February 2021. Compared with January 2021, the number of persons unemployed increased by 34 000 in the **EU** and by 48 000 in the **euro area**. Compared with February 2020, unemployment rose by 1.922 million in the **EU** and by 1.507 million in the **euro area**.



Youth unemployment

In February 2021, 2.967 million young persons (under 25) were unemployed in the **EU**, of whom 2.394 million were in the **euro area**. In February 2021, the youth unemployment rate was 17.2% in the **EU** and 17.3% in the **euro area**, compared with 17.4% in both areas in the previous month. Compared with January 2021, youth unemployment decreased by 34 000 in the **EU** and by 9 000 in the **euro area**. Compared with February 2020, youth unemployment increased by 230 000 in the **EU** and by 177 000 in the **euro area**.



Unemployment by gender

In February 2021, the unemployment rate for women was 7.9% in the **EU**, stable compared with January 2021. The unemployment rate for men was 7.1% in February 2021, also stable compared with January 2021. In the **euro area**, the unemployment rate for women increased from 8.7% in January 2021 to 8.8% in February 2021 and the unemployment rate for men remained stable at 7.9%.

Additional labour market indicators

These estimates are based on the globally used International Labour Organisation (ILO) 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 third quarter of 2020.

Geographical information

Euro area (EA19): Belgium, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Italy, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Austria, Portugal, Slovenia, Slovakia and Finland.

European Union (EU27): 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.

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. For Austria, February 2021 data are estimated using previous series from January 2004 until December 2020.

Denmark, Estonia, Portugal and Norway: 3-month moving averages of LFS data are used instead of pure monthly indicators. Italy and Portugal: the data are provisional up to February 2021 included.

Germany: due to the introduction of the new German system of integrated household surveys, including the LFS, the monthly unemployment rate for February 2021 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 [28/2021](#) of 4 March 2021, the unemployment rate for January 2021 has been revised from 8.1% to 8.3% for the euro area, and from 7.3% to 7.5% for the EU. Among EU Member States, the rate has been revised by more than 0.1 percentage points (pp) downwards for Portugal (by 0.3 pp) and Estonia (by 0.2 pp, December 2020 data). The rate has been revised by more than 0.1 percentage points upwards for Italy (by 0.8 pp, December 2020 data) and Slovenia (by 0.4 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](#)

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Seasonally adjusted unemployment, totals

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	Feb 20	Nov 20	Dec 20	Jan 21	Feb 21	Feb 20	Nov 20	Dec 20	Jan 21	Feb 21
Euro area	7.3	8.3	8.2	8.3	8.3	12 064	13 471	13 411	13 523	13 571
EU	6.5	7.4	7.4	7.5	7.5	14 031	15 777	15 772	15 919	15 953
Belgium	5.0	5.8	5.7	5.6	5.7	257	293	286	287	292
Bulgaria	4.1	5.3	5.3	5.5	5.3	136	175	177	182	176
Czechia	1.8	2.9	3.1	3.3	3.2	97	158	164	178	173
Denmark	5.0	5.9	6.1	6.1	6.1	150	179	183	182	184
Germany	3.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.5	1 580	2 012	2 016	2 015	2 009
Estonia	5.0	7.3	6.7	7.1	7.2	35	51	47	50	50
Ireland	5.0	6.0	5.8	5.8	5.8	125	147	141	142	141
Greece	16.4*	16.2	15.8	:	:	771*	751	726	:	:
Spain	13.6	16.1	16.2	16.0	16.1	3 138	3 708	3 741	3 716	3 731
France	7.7	8.1	7.8	7.9	8.0	2 298	2 378	2 284	2 350	2 387
Croatia	5.9	7.7	7.7	7.2	7.1	105	137	137	127	125
Italy	9.8	9.7	9.8	10.3	10.2	2 497	2 394	2 435	2 527	2 518
Cyprus	6.1	7.7	7.3	6.8	6.8	27	35	33	31	31
Latvia	7.2	8.1	8.2	8.5	8.7	71	78	79	82	83
Lithuania	6.7	9.2	9.2	9.6	9.6	99	137	137	143	143
Luxembourg	5.7	6.6	6.7	6.8	6.7	18	21	21	21	21
Hungary	3.5	4.0	4.1	4.9	4.5	167	192	200	237	214
Malta	3.5	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	10	12	12	12	12
Netherlands	2.9	4.0	3.9	3.6	3.6	274	378	368	337	340
Austria	4.5	5.5	5.8	5.7	5.7	206	253	265	260	260
Poland	3.0	3.2	3.2	3.1	3.1	512	546	542	531	540
Portugal	6.5	7.2	6.9	6.9	6.9	331	365	347	345	344
Romania	4.2	5.1	5.2	5.6	5.7	381	459	468	474	478
Slovenia	4.2	5.3	5.2	5.1	4.9	44	55	54	52	51
Slovakia	6.0	6.9	6.9	7.2	7.3	165	189	188	196	200
Finland	6.8*	8.1	8.1	:	:	189*	224	224	:	:
Sweden	7.2	8.8	8.7	8.9	8.8	397	487	485	484	484
Iceland	5.0	7.1	7.0	6.9	6.8	10	14	14	14	14
Norway	4.0**	5.0	:	:	:	113**	143	:	:	:
Switzerland	4.4	5.2	5.2	:	:	214	261	258	:	:
United States	3.5	6.7	6.7	6.3	6.2	5 781	10 813	10 769	10 230	10 046

: Data not available

* December 2019

** November 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)				
	Feb 20	Nov 20	Dec 20	Jan 21	Feb 21	Feb 20	Nov 20	Dec 20	Jan 21	Feb 21
Euro area	15.4	17.3	17.4	17.4	17.3	2 217	2 388	2 381	2 403	2 394
EU	15.0	16.9	17.0	17.4	17.2	2 737	2 929	2 936	3 001	2 967
Belgium	11.9	16.4	16.4	:	:	47	56	56	:	:
Bulgaria	12.5	13.8	13.8	16.6	16.3	16	20	21	24	23
Czechia	5.5	9.0	10.5	10.9	9.3	15	23	28	29	24
Denmark	10.2	12.2	11.6	11.3	11.1	44	52	48	47	45
Germany	5.7	6.5	6.4	6.3	6.1	248	277	272	266	258
Estonia	7.9	23.7	18.3	17.2	16.8	4	11	8	8	7
Ireland	12.3	16.5	15.5	15.6	15.1	38	45	41	43	40
Greece	34.3	33.5	34.2	:	:	77	74	73	:	:
Spain	31.5	40.0	40.7	39.9	39.6	489	578	596	588	585
France	18.7	18.4	18.1	18.5	19.2	535	512	497	516	542
Croatia	17.4	21.0	21.0	:	:	24	30	30	:	:
Italy	29.0	30.7	31.0	32.7	31.6	439	423	413	446	424
Cyprus	13.4	20.1	20.1	:	:	5	8	8	:	:
Latvia	14.3	13.1	14.0	15.5	15.9	9	7	8	9	9
Lithuania	16.1	18.4	17.7	18.2	17.5	17	19	19	20	19
Luxembourg	17.6	22.3	23.1	22.0	21.4	4	5	5	5	5
Hungary	9.5	12.7	10.9	15.4	13.6	31	38	34	49	41
Malta	10.8	10.9	11.5	10.7	10.0	3	3	3	3	3
Netherlands	6.3	9.4	9.5	9.1	9.4	94	138	139	133	137
Austria	10.3	10.2	11.0	9.7	9.6	53	53	57	50	49
Poland	9.6	13.6	13.8	14.2	14.8	116	146	149	153	159
Portugal	18.7	22.9	23.5	23.0	21.6	69	74	74	72	69
Romania	18.2	16.0	16.0	:	:	115	100	100	:	:
Slovenia	10.5	14.8	14.8	:	:	7	9	9	:	:
Slovakia	16.4	20.3	20.4	20.7	20.6	27	31	32	32	33
Finland	19.2	21.5	21.6	:	:	62	67	68	:	:
Sweden	20.5	24.4	23.9	23.8	23.6	129	144	142	140	139
Iceland	11.4	12.7	12.9	13.2	13.4	3	4	4	4	4
Norway	10.1	11.5	:	:	:	38	42	:	:	:
Switzerland	8.4	8.2	8.2	:	:	49	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				
	Feb 20	Nov 20	Dec 20	Jan 21	Feb 21	Feb 20	Nov 20	Dec 20	Jan 21	Feb 21
Euro area	7.0	7.8	7.8	7.9	7.9	7.8	8.8	8.7	8.7	8.8
EU	6.3	7.0	7.0	7.1	7.1	6.9	7.8	7.8	7.9	7.9
Belgium	5.1	6.0	6.0	5.8	5.9	5.0	5.6	5.3	5.5	5.5
Bulgaria	4.4	5.5	5.6	5.9	5.8	3.7	5.1	5.0	5.0	4.8
Czechia	1.8	2.4	2.6	2.5	2.5	1.9	3.6	3.7	4.3	4.1
Denmark	4.8	5.7	5.8	5.7	5.8	5.2	6.2	6.4	6.5	6.5
Germany	3.9	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.4	3.2	4.6	4.7	4.7	4.7
Estonia	5.7	7.6	7.0	7.5	7.6	4.2	7.0	6.4	6.7	6.7
Ireland	5.1	6.1	5.9	6.0	5.9	4.9	5.9	5.7	5.6	5.7
Greece	13.0	13.3	12.8	:	:	18.4	19.7	19.5	:	:
Spain	11.9	14.1	14.2	14.1	14.1	15.5	18.3	18.4	18.1	18.3
France	7.6	8.1	7.9	8.1	8.3	7.9	8.0	7.6	7.7	7.7
Croatia	5.8	7.3	7.3	7.1	7.0	6.0	8.1	8.1	7.2	7.2
Italy	8.9	9.1	9.2	9.8	9.6	10.9	10.4	10.8	11.0	11.1
Cyprus	6.2	7.7	7.3	7.2	7.6	6.0	7.6	7.3	6.3	5.9
Latvia	8.3	8.9	9.2	9.6	9.8	6.1	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.5
Lithuania	7.5	9.9	9.8	10.2	10.3	5.9	8.4	8.5	9.0	8.9
Luxembourg	5.8	6.4	6.6	6.6	6.5	5.7	6.7	6.9	7.0	6.9
Hungary	3.2	3.8	4.1	4.6	4.3	3.8	4.2	4.2	5.2	4.7
Malta	3.7	4.3	4.2	4.4	4.5	3.2	4.6	4.6	4.3	4.2
Netherlands	2.9	3.9	3.9	3.5	3.6	3.0	4.2	4.0	3.7	3.7
Austria	4.6	5.6	5.9	5.8	5.8	4.4	5.5	5.6	5.5	5.5
Poland	3.0	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.0	3.1	3.0	2.9	2.9
Portugal	6.0	7.0	6.7	6.8	6.7	7.0	7.4	7.1	7.0	7.0
Romania	4.9	5.2	5.3	5.7	5.6	3.2	5.0	5.0	5.5	5.8
Slovenia	3.7	4.7	4.6	4.5	4.4	4.8	6.0	5.9	5.7	5.6
Slovakia	5.7	6.5	6.5	6.4	6.4	6.5	7.4	7.3	8.1	8.4
Finland	7.1	8.4	8.4	:	:	6.7	7.8	7.8	:	:
Sweden	7.1	8.6	8.5	8.6	8.5	7.2	8.9	8.9	9.1	9.2
Iceland	4.9	7.1	6.8	6.5	6.3	5.1	7.0	7.3	7.5	7.5
Norway	3.7	5.3	:	:	:	3.3	4.7	:	:	:
Switzerland	4.2	4.9	4.8	:	:	4.6	5.6	5.6	:	:

: Data not available

Source dataset: [une_rt_m](#)