

54/2021 – 30 April 2021

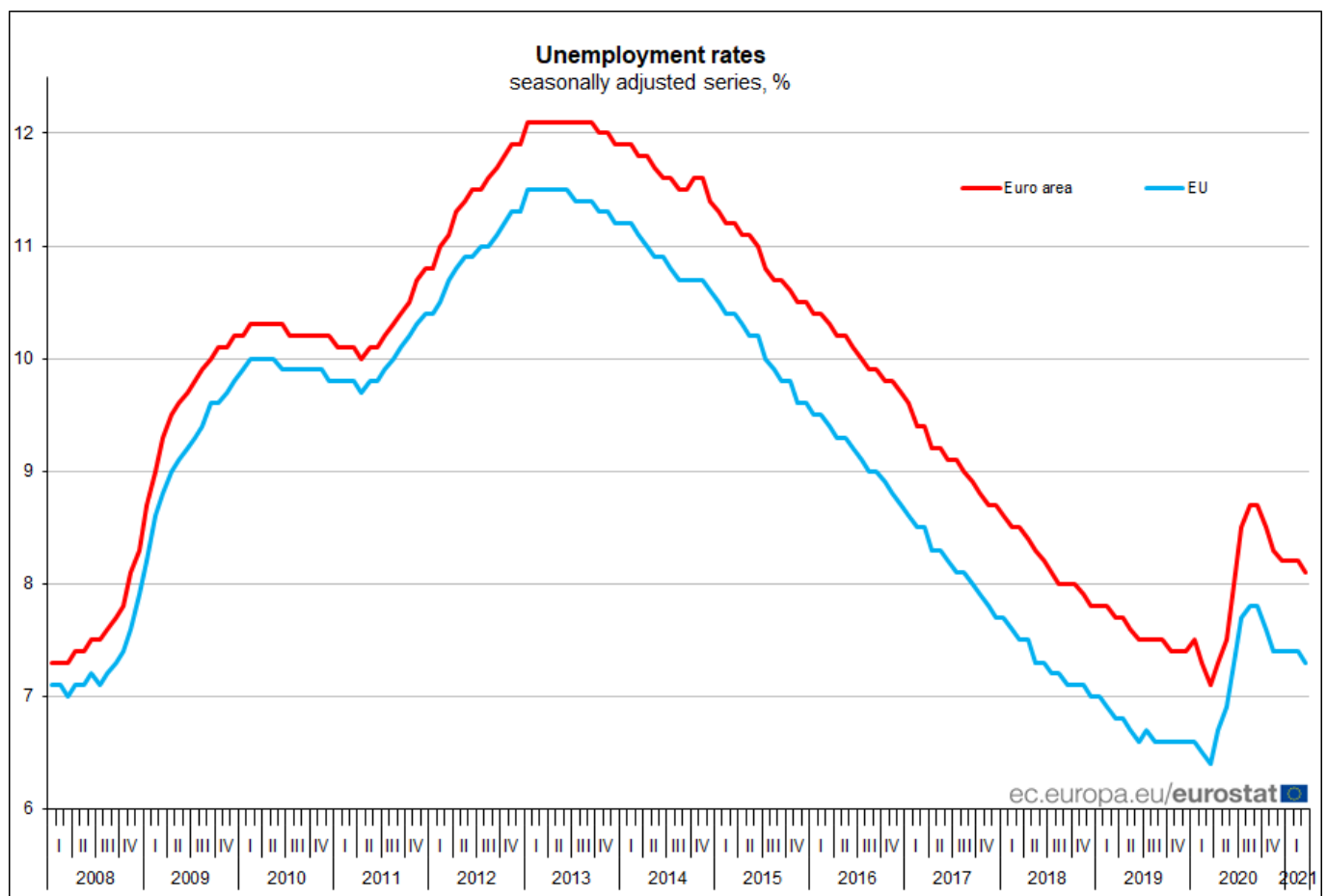
March 2021

Euro area unemployment at 8.1%

EU at 7.3%

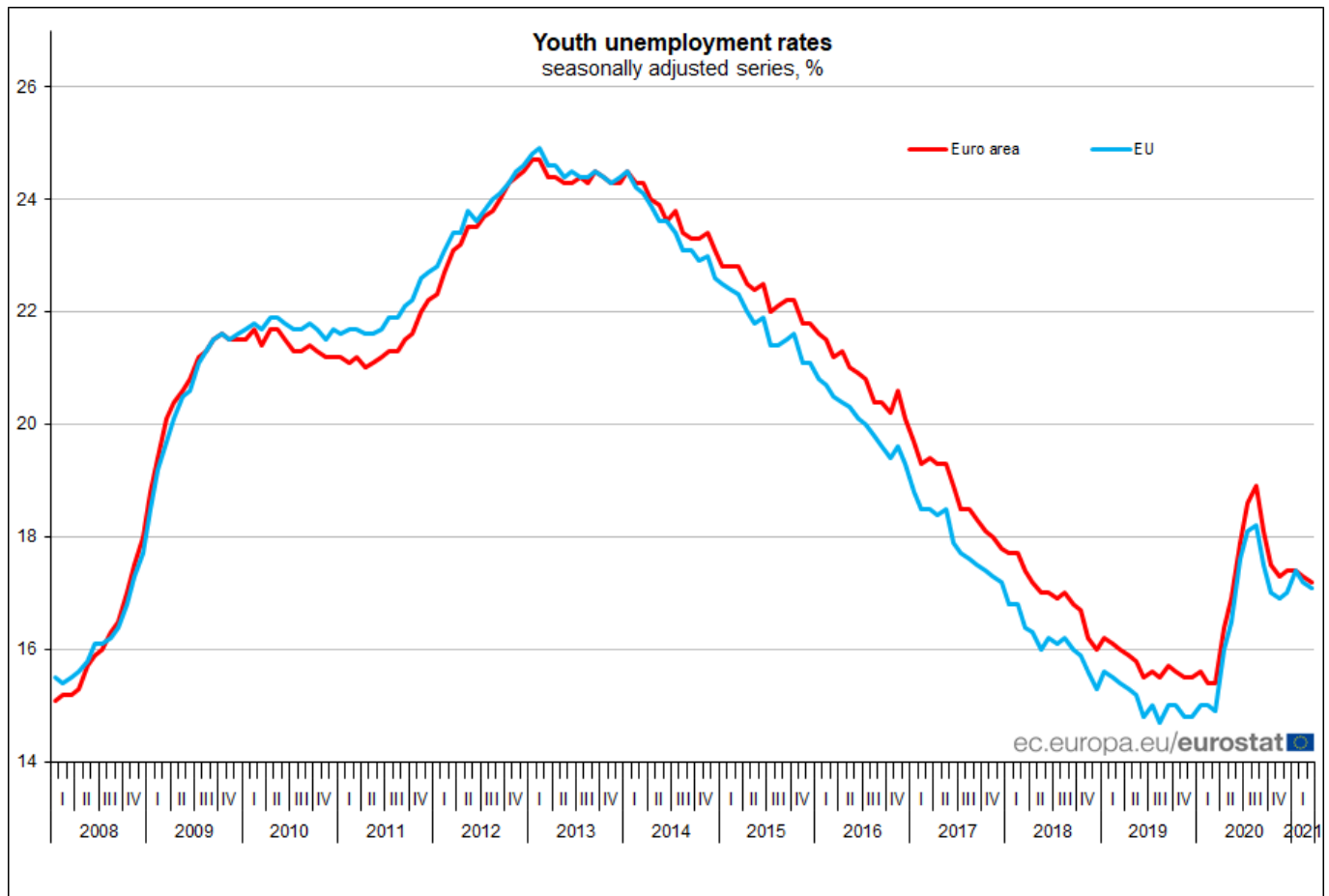
In March 2021, the **euro area** seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate was 8.1%, down from 8.2% in February 2021 and up from 7.1% in March 2020. The **EU** unemployment rate was 7.3% in March 2021, also down from 7.4% in February 2021 and up from 6.4% in March 2020. These figures are published by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**.

Eurostat estimates that 15.520 million men and women in the **EU**, of whom 13.166 million in the **euro area**, were unemployed in March 2021. Compared with February 2021, the number of persons unemployed decreased by 237 000 in the **EU** and by 209 000 in the **euro area**. Compared with March 2020, unemployment rose by 2.019 million in the **EU** and by 1.614 million in the **euro area**.



Youth unemployment

In March 2021, 2.951 million young persons (under 25) were unemployed in the **EU**, of whom 2.373 million were in the **euro area**. In March 2021, the youth unemployment rate was 17.1% in the **EU** and 17.2% in the **euro area**, compared with 17.2% and 17.3% respectively in the previous month. Compared with February 2021, youth unemployment decreased by 14 000 in the **EU** and by 17 000 in the **euro area**. Compared with March 2020, youth unemployment increased by 319 000 in the **EU** and by 208 000 in the **euro area**.



Unemployment by gender

In March 2021, the unemployment rate for women was 7.7% in the **EU**, down from 7.8% in February 2021. The unemployment rate for men was 7.0% in March 2021, also down from 7.1% in February 2021. In the **euro area**, the unemployment rate for women decreased from 8.7% in February 2021 to 8.5% in March 2021 and the unemployment rate for men decreased from 7.8% to 7.7%.

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 fourth 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, March 2021 data are estimated using previous series from January 2004 until December 2020.

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

Germany: due to the introduction of the new German system of integrated household surveys, including the LFS, the monthly unemployment rate for March 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 [38/2021](#) of 6 April 2021, the unemployment rate for February 2021 has been revised from 8.3% to 8.2% for the euro area, and from 7.5% to 7.4% for the EU. Among EU Member States, the rate has been revised by more than 0.1 percentage points (pp) downwards for Spain (by 0.6 pp), Estonia (by 0.4 pp), and Malta (by 0.2 pp). The rate has been revised by more than 0.1 percentage points upwards for Bulgaria and Sweden (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](#)

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Seasonally adjusted unemployment, totals

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	Mar 20	Dec 20	Jan 21	Feb 21	Mar 21	Mar 20	Dec 20	Jan 21	Feb 21	Mar 21
Euro area	7.1	8.2	8.2	8.2	8.1	11 552	13 380	13 402	13 375	13 166
EU	6.4	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.3	13 501	15 742	15 802	15 757	15 520
Belgium	4.9	5.7	5.6	5.7	5.8	250	286	287	292	297
Bulgaria	4.4	5.4	5.6	5.5	5.1	145	179	187	182	169
Czechia	1.9	3.0	3.2	3.2	3.2	105	163	174	169	173
Denmark	4.9	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	148	182	181	179	180
Germany	3.8	4.6	4.5	4.5	4.5	1 670	2 014	2 008	1 994	1 976
Estonia	5.1	6.7	7.1	6.8	6.8	35	47	50	48	48
Ireland	5.0	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	122	140	142	139	137
Greece	16.4*	15.8	:	:	:	771*	726	:	:	:
Spain	14.5	16.1	15.7	15.5	15.3	3 292	3 714	3 608	3 560	3 488
France	7.4	7.8	7.9	8.0	7.9	2 176	2 284	2 350	2 387	2 322
Croatia	6.5	7.7	7.2	7.1	7.1	115	137	127	125	126
Italy	7.5	9.8	10.3	10.2	10.1	1 842	2 433	2 522	2 514	2 495
Cyprus	6.3	7.3	6.8	6.8	7.1	28	33	31	31	32
Latvia	7.4	8.2	8.5	8.7	8.7	73	79	82	83	83
Lithuania	7.2	9.2	9.6	9.6	8.9	106	137	143	143	132
Luxembourg	6.5	6.7	6.8	6.7	6.6	20	21	21	21	21
Hungary	3.4	4.1	4.9	4.5	3.9	162	200	237	214	187
Malta	3.9	4.4	4.3	4.2	4.1	11	12	12	11	11
Netherlands	2.9	3.9	3.6	3.6	3.5	273	368	337	340	326
Austria	4.8	5.8	5.7	5.7	5.6	212	265	260	260	259
Poland	3.0	3.2	3.1	3.1	3.1	504	542	531	540	534
Portugal	6.3	6.9	6.9	6.8	6.5	317	347	345	343	329
Romania	4.5	5.2	5.6	5.7	5.5	410	468	474	478	464
Slovenia	4.5	5.2	5.1	4.9	4.8	46	54	52	51	50
Slovakia	6.0	6.9	7.2	7.3	7.4	162	188	196	200	202
Finland	6.8*	8.1	:	:	:	189*	224	:	:	:
Sweden	7.3	8.8	9.0	9.0	9.1	398	490	492	495	498
Iceland	5.3	7.2	7.1	7.1	7.2	11	15	15	15	15
Switzerland	4.4	5.1	:	:	:	214	254	:	:	:
United States	4.4	6.7	6.3	6.2	6.0	7 111	10 769	10 230	10 046	9 622

: Data not available

* December 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)				
	Mar 20	Dec 20	Jan 21	Feb 21	Mar 21	Mar 20	Dec 20	Jan 21	Feb 21	Mar 21
Euro area	15.4	17.4	17.4	17.3	17.2	2 165	2 395	2 407	2 390	2 373
EU	14.9	17.0	17.4	17.2	17.1	2 632	2 951	3 008	2 965	2 951
Belgium	11.9	16.4	14.4	14.4	14.4	47	56	51	51	51
Bulgaria	13.3	14.0	17.1	16.9	14.9	16	21	25	24	20
Czechia	7.1	10.6	11.3	9.1	10.5	19	27	30	23	28
Denmark	10.2	11.7	11.4	11.3	12.2	44	49	47	46	51
Germany	5.8	6.5	6.3	6.2	6.0	252	274	268	262	254
Estonia	10.5	18.3	17.2	15.1	14.9	5	8	8	7	7
Ireland	12.6	15.5	15.8	14.9	14.9	36	41	43	40	37
Greece	34.4	34.2	:	:	:	75	73	:	:	:
Spain	33.8	40.8	39.5	38.8	37.7	497	599	580	566	539
France	18.8	18.1	18.5	19.2	19.5	517	497	516	542	546
Croatia	17.4	21.0	20.5	20.5	20.5	24	30	29	29	29
Italy	27.6	31.4	33.0	31.9	33.0	385	421	454	434	461
Cyprus	13.4	20.1	18.7	18.7	18.7	5	8	7	7	7
Latvia	15.6	13.9	15.4	15.8	15.1	10	8	9	9	9
Lithuania	17.0	17.7	18.2	17.5	15.6	18	19	20	19	17
Luxembourg	20.0	23.1	22.0	21.4	21.3	4	5	5	5	5
Hungary	11.2	10.9	15.3	13.5	11.5	38	34	49	41	37
Malta	10.6	11.5	11.2	10.6	10.0	3	3	3	3	3
Netherlands	6.3	9.5	9.1	9.4	8.9	94	139	133	137	129
Austria	10.4	11.0	9.7	9.6	9.5	54	57	50	49	49
Poland	9.5	13.8	14.2	14.8	13.9	111	149	153	159	147
Portugal	18.1	23.5	23.0	22.9	23.0	66	74	72	72	71
Romania	18.2	16.0	:	:	:	115	100	:	:	:
Slovenia	10.6	14.9	13.7	13.7	13.7	7	9	8	8	8
Slovakia	16.5	20.4	20.7	20.6	20.8	26	32	32	33	33
Finland	19.6	21.6	:	:	:	62	68	:	:	:
Sweden	21.5	24.1	24.1	24.0	24.0	128	143	142	142	142
Iceland	11.7	13.0	13.2	13.4	13.5	3	4	4	4	4
Switzerland	7.8	7.6	:	:	:	45	45	:	:	:

: 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				
	Mar 20	Dec 20	Jan 21	Feb 21	Mar 21	Mar 20	Dec 20	Jan 21	Feb 21	Mar 21
Euro area	6.8	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.7	7.4	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.5
EU	6.2	7.0	7.1	7.1	7.0	6.6	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.7
Belgium	5.0	6.0	5.8	5.9	6.0	4.9	5.3	5.5	5.5	5.6
Bulgaria	4.6	5.6	6.0	6.0	5.6	4.2	5.1	5.2	4.9	4.6
Czechia	1.8	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.6	2.2	3.7	4.2	4.0	3.9
Denmark	4.7	5.8	5.7	5.7	5.8	5.2	6.3	6.4	6.2	6.2
Germany	4.0	4.5	4.5	4.4	4.4	3.5	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6
Estonia	5.3	7.0	7.5	7.5	7.5	4.9	6.4	6.7	6.1	6.1
Ireland	5.0	5.9	6.0	5.8	5.7	5.0	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.8
Greece	13.7	12.8	:	:	:	18.6	19.5	:	:	:
Spain	13.1	14.1	13.8	13.6	13.4	16.0	18.3	17.7	17.6	17.4
France	7.4	7.9	8.1	8.3	8.4	7.5	7.6	7.7	7.7	7.3
Croatia	6.3	7.3	7.1	7.0	7.0	6.6	8.1	7.2	7.2	7.2
Italy	7.0	9.1	9.6	9.4	9.2	8.2	10.9	11.1	11.3	11.4
Cyprus	6.4	7.3	7.2	7.6	7.7	6.3	7.3	6.3	5.9	6.5
Latvia	8.5	9.2	9.6	9.8	9.6	6.3	7.3	7.3	7.5	7.7
Lithuania	8.1	9.8	10.2	10.3	9.8	6.3	8.5	9.0	8.9	8.0
Luxembourg	6.7	6.6	6.6	6.5	6.4	6.3	6.9	7.0	6.9	6.9
Hungary	3.9	4.1	4.6	4.3	3.5	2.9	4.2	5.3	4.7	4.4
Malta	4.0	4.3	4.2	4.1	4.1	3.7	4.6	4.5	4.3	4.2
Netherlands	2.9	3.9	3.5	3.6	3.4	2.9	4.0	3.7	3.7	3.6
Austria	4.9	5.9	5.8	5.8	5.8	4.6	5.6	5.5	5.5	5.5
Poland	2.9	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.0	3.0	2.9	2.9	3.0
Portugal	5.6	6.7	6.8	6.6	6.3	7.0	7.1	7.0	7.1	6.7
Romania	5.3	5.3	5.7	5.6	5.7	3.5	5.0	5.5	5.8	5.2
Slovenia	4.0	4.6	4.5	4.4	4.3	5.0	5.9	5.7	5.6	5.4
Slovakia	5.7	6.5	6.4	6.4	6.5	6.3	7.3	8.1	8.4	8.5
Finland	7.2	8.4	:	:	:	6.8	7.8	:	:	:
Sweden	7.1	8.7	8.8	8.8	8.8	7.4	8.9	9.2	9.3	9.3
Iceland	5.2	6.9	6.6	6.4	6.4	5.3	7.5	7.8	8.0	8.1
Switzerland	4.2	4.7	:	:	:	4.6	5.5	:	:	:

: Data not available

Source dataset: une_rt_m