

108/2021 – 30 September 2021

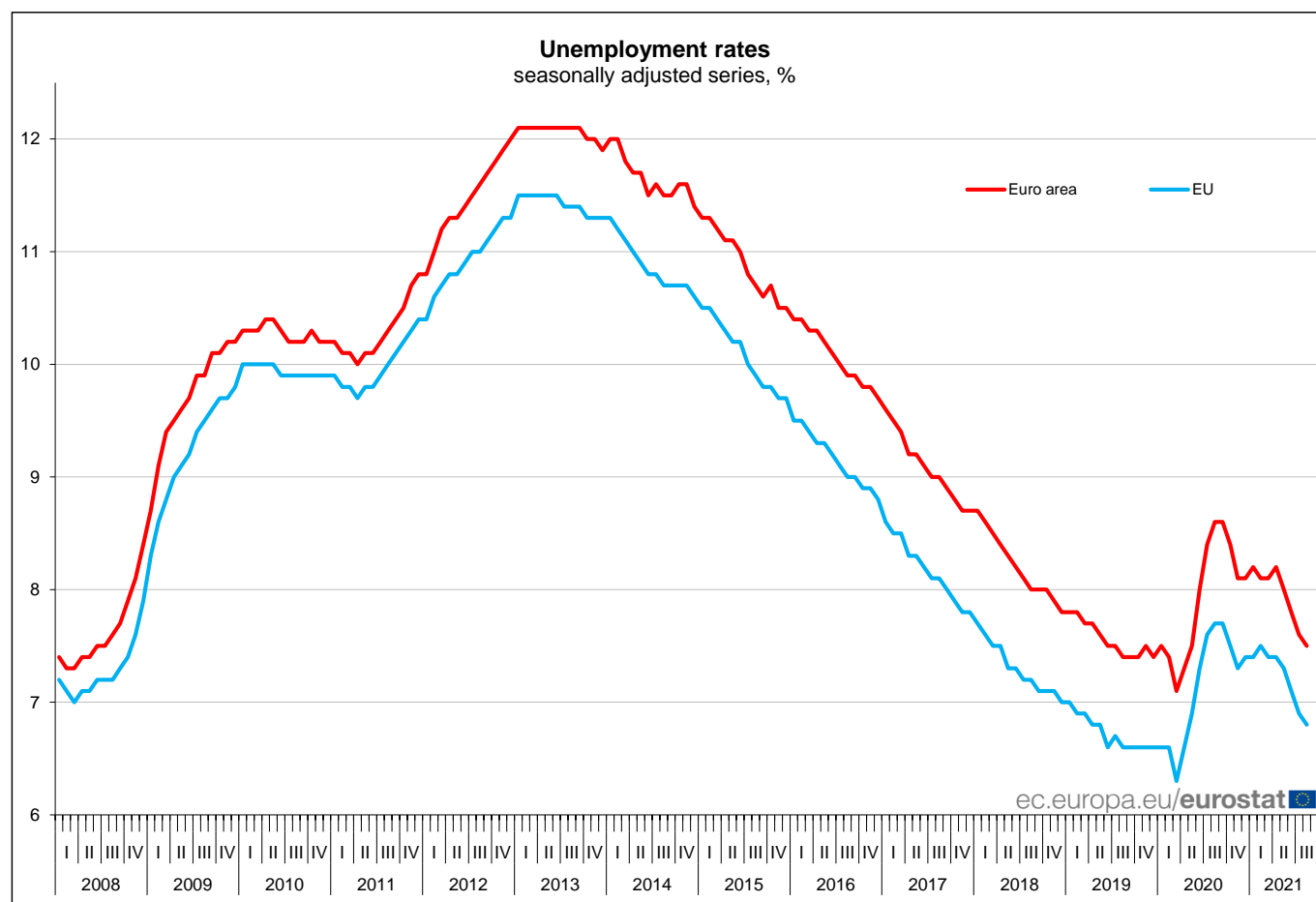
August 2021

## Euro area unemployment at 7.5%

EU at 6.8%

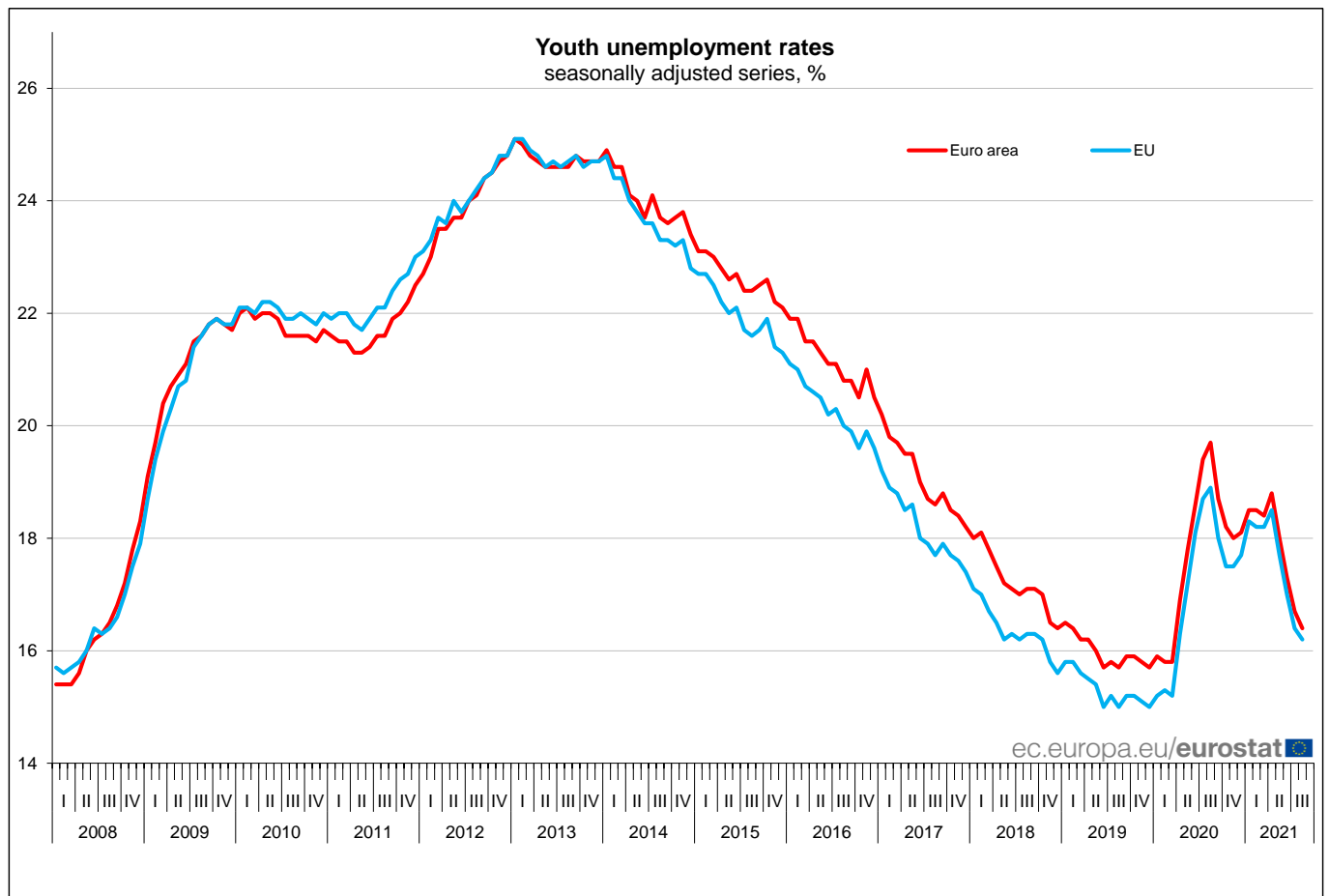
In August 2021, the **euro area** seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate was 7.5%, down from 7.6% in July 2021 and from 8.6% in August 2020. The **EU** unemployment rate was 6.8% in August 2021, down from 6.9% in July 2021 and from 7.7% in August 2020. These figures are published by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**.

Eurostat estimates that 14.469 million men and women in the **EU**, of whom 12.162 million in the **euro area**, were unemployed in August 2021. Compared with July 2021, the number of persons unemployed decreased by 224 000 in the **EU** and by 261 000 in the **euro area**. Compared with August 2020, unemployment decreased by 1.965 million in the **EU** and by 1.861 million in the **euro area**.



## Youth unemployment

In August 2021, 2.833 million young persons (under 25) were unemployed in the **EU**, of whom 2.317 million were in the **euro area**. In August 2021, the youth unemployment rate was 16.2% in the **EU** and 16.4% in the **euro area**, down from 16.4% and 16.7% respectively in the previous month. Compared with July 2021, youth unemployment decreased by 66 000 in the **EU** and by 63 000 in the **euro area**. Compared with August 2020, youth unemployment decreased by 508 000 in the **EU** and by 471 000 in the **euro area**.



## Unemployment by gender

In August 2021, the unemployment rate for women was 7.2% in the **EU**, down from 7.4% in July 2021. The unemployment rate for men was 6.5% in August 2021, stable compared with July 2021. In the **euro area**, the unemployment rate for women decreased from 8.1% in July 2021 to 7.9% in August 2021, while the unemployment rate for men remained stable at 7.1% in August 2021.

## 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 first quarter of 2021. LFS data for the second quarter of 2021 will be released on 14 October 2021.

## 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, Finland, Sweden and Iceland: the trend component is used instead of the more volatile seasonally adjusted data.

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

Germany: Starting from May 2021 the monthly unemployment rate is calculated on the basis of the labour force survey. The estimated results from January 2020 to April 2021 had been revised on this basis.

## 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 [98/2021](#) of 1 September 2021, the unemployment rate for July 2021 remained unchanged for the euro area and the EU. Among EU Member States, the rate has been revised by more than 0.1 percentage points (pp) downwards for Greece (by 0.4 pp), Bulgaria (by 0.3 pp), as well as for Estonia and Finland (both by 0.2 pp). The rate has been revised by more than 0.1 percentage points upwards for Croatia (by 0.4 pp), Belgium (by 0.3 pp) and Spain (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)				
	Aug 20	May 21	Jun 21	Jul 21	Aug 21	Aug 20	May 21	Jun 21	Jul 21	Aug 21
<b>Euro area</b>	8.6	8.0	7.8	7.6	<b>7.5</b>	14 023	13 156	12 712	12 423	<b>12 162</b>
<b>EU</b>	7.7	7.3	7.1	6.9	<b>6.8</b>	16 434	15 571	15 050	14 693	<b>14 469</b>
<b>Belgium</b>	6.4	6.3	6.2	6.2	<b>6.4</b>	328	327	323	322	<b>328</b>
<b>Bulgaria</b>	5.1	5.5	5.5	5.6	<b>5.6</b>	169	178	177	181	<b>182</b>
<b>Czechia</b>	2.7	3.1	2.8	2.8	<b>2.9</b>	144	167	151	148	<b>158</b>
<b>Denmark</b>	6.3	5.0	4.6	4.4	<b>4.4</b>	192	153	140	133	<b>133</b>
<b>Germany</b>	4.1	3.7	3.7	3.6	<b>3.6</b>	1 765	1 599	1 577	1 556	<b>1 540</b>
<b>Estonia</b>	7.7	6.7	6.5	6.3	<b>6.2</b>	54	47	46	44	<b>43</b>
<b>Ireland</b>	7.1	7.0	6.7	6.5	<b>6.4</b>	169	176	171	170	<b>171</b>
<b>Greece</b>	16.7	15.8	14.9	14.2	<b>13.2</b>	771	742	699	665	<b>627</b>
<b>Spain</b>	16.7	15.4	15.0	14.5	<b>14.0</b>	3 821	3 579	3 488	3 338	<b>3 207</b>
<b>France</b>	9.0	8.3	8.0	8.0	<b>8.0</b>	2 689	2 504	2 418	2 417	<b>2 385</b>
<b>Croatia</b>	8.6	8.4	7.9	7.7	<b>7.6</b>	154	152	142	138	<b>136</b>
<b>Italy</b>	10.0	9.9	9.4	9.3	<b>9.3</b>	2 507	2 478	2 361	2 331	<b>2 327</b>
<b>Cyprus</b>	8.6	10.4	8.2	5.2	<b>4.4</b>	39	49	38	23	<b>20</b>
<b>Latvia</b>	8.6	7.8	7.8	7.5	<b>7.1</b>	83	73	73	70	<b>66</b>
<b>Lithuania</b>	9.8	7.7	7.8	7.5	<b>7.2</b>	144	113	113	111	<b>106</b>
<b>Luxembourg</b>	6.7	6.0	5.8	5.6	<b>5.5</b>	21	19	18	18	<b>17</b>
<b>Hungary</b>	4.3	4.3	4.1	4.2	<b>4.2</b>	205	206	198	202	<b>204</b>
<b>Malta</b>	4.9	3.4	3.4	3.2	<b>3.2</b>	13	9	9	9	<b>9</b>
<b>Netherlands</b>	4.6	3.3	3.2	3.1	<b>3.2</b>	426	309	297	289	<b>301</b>
<b>Austria</b>	6.4	6.7	6.2	6.1	<b>6.1</b>	293	305	286	281	<b>276</b>
<b>Poland</b>	3.3	3.6	3.5	3.4	<b>3.4</b>	567	622	598	582	<b>575</b>
<b>Portugal</b>	8.2	7.0	6.8	6.6	<b>6.4</b>	412	362	353	340	<b>326</b>
<b>Romania</b>	5.3	5.3	5.0	5.1	<b>5.2</b>	474	431	408	420	<b>428</b>
<b>Slovenia</b>	5.3	4.5	4.2	4.0	<b>3.9</b>	54	46	43	41	<b>40</b>
<b>Slovakia</b>	7.1	7.0	6.8	6.6	<b>6.5</b>	194	191	186	181	<b>176</b>
<b>Finland</b>	8.1	8.0	7.9	7.8	<b>7.8</b>	222	221	219	217	<b>216</b>
<b>Sweden</b>	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0	<b>8.9</b>	495	501	501	500	<b>498</b>
<b>Iceland</b>	6.7	6.6	6.3	6.1	<b>6.0</b>	14	14	13	13	<b>13</b>
<b>Norway</b>	5.2*	4.9	4.8	4.2	:	148*	141	139	121	:
<b>Switzerland</b>	5.1	5.3	5.1	:	:	253	262	253	:	:
<b>United States</b>	8.4	5.8	5.9	5.4	<b>5.2</b>	13 526	9 224	9 442	8 669	<b>8 397</b>

: Data not available

\* July 2020

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 20	May 21	Jun 21	Jul 21	Aug 21	Aug 20	May 21	Jun 21	Jul 21	Aug 21
<b>Euro area</b>	19.7	18.0	17.3	16.7	<b>16.4</b>	2 788	2 594	2 505	2 380	<b>2 317</b>
<b>EU</b>	18.9	17.7	17.0	16.4	<b>16.2</b>	3 341	3 171	3 040	2 899	<b>2 833</b>
<b>Belgium</b>	16.9	19.3	19.3	:	:	64	76	76	:	:
<b>Bulgaria</b>	14.4	14.8	15.3	15.9	<b>16.7</b>	19	17	18	19	<b>20</b>
<b>Czechia</b>	7.6	7.9	7.2	8.1	<b>8.8</b>	19	21	19	22	<b>24</b>
<b>Denmark</b>	12.2	10.0	8.6	8.0	<b>8.4</b>	53	42	36	34	<b>36</b>
<b>Germany</b>	7.6	7.9	7.8	7.6	<b>7.5</b>	328	342	338	333	<b>329</b>
<b>Estonia</b>	22.8	18.3	18.3	18.7	<b>19.2</b>	11	9	10	10	<b>10</b>
<b>Ireland</b>	19.1	18.5	18.5	17.2	<b>16.9</b>	53	57	57	59	<b>61</b>
<b>Greece</b>	39.6	38.2	30.4	33.1	<b>30.8</b>	84	74	71	72	<b>66</b>
<b>Spain</b>	42.0	37.3	36.9	34.7	<b>33.0</b>	621	588	568	498	<b>451</b>
<b>France</b>	23.6	19.6	18.9	19.6	<b>19.9</b>	682	598	568	580	<b>580</b>
<b>Croatia</b>	24.4	23.7	23.7	:	:	36	35	35	:	:
<b>Italy</b>	32.1	29.4	28.9	27.3	<b>27.3</b>	469	430	428	395	<b>392</b>
<b>Cyprus</b>	22.0	20.1	20.1	:	:	8	8	8	:	:
<b>Latvia</b>	14.3	15.2	15.0	13.6	<b>12.8</b>	8	9	8	7	<b>7</b>
<b>Lithuania</b>	22.8	19.7	20.8	19.2	<b>19.5</b>	23	19	20	18	<b>18</b>
<b>Luxembourg</b>	23.4	18.6	17.6	17.3	<b>16.4</b>	5	5	4	4	<b>4</b>
<b>Hungary</b>	12.5	14.2	13.3	16.4	<b>15.8</b>	39	43	42	54	<b>51</b>
<b>Malta</b>	11.3	9.6	10.0	10.4	<b>10.8</b>	3	3	3	3	<b>3</b>
<b>Netherlands</b>	11.3	8.7	7.6	7.3	<b>7.4</b>	164	126	112	107	<b>110</b>
<b>Austria</b>	12.3	12.6	11.1	11.3	<b>11.6</b>	62	62	57	59	<b>59</b>
<b>Poland</b>	11.2	13.9	12.8	11.8	<b>11.2</b>	120	147	133	121	<b>114</b>
<b>Portugal</b>	26.7	25.6	25.4	23.4	<b>22.6</b>	86	89	88	79	<b>75</b>
<b>Romania</b>	18.0	19.5	19.5	:	:	105	105	105	:	:
<b>Slovenia</b>	16.0	14.7	14.7	:	:	10	9	9	:	:
<b>Slovakia</b>	20.3	21.5	19.9	18.1	<b>17.2</b>	32	30	27	24	<b>22</b>
<b>Finland</b>	21.0	18.5	18.0	17.6	<b>17.4</b>	65	58	56	55	<b>54</b>
<b>Sweden</b>	26.3	24.7	24.6	24.5	<b>24.4</b>	155	154	154	154	<b>154</b>
<b>Iceland</b>	12.3	12.6	11.2	10.0	<b>9.3</b>	4	4	3	3	<b>3</b>
<b>Norway</b>	12.9	11.6	11.9	10.5	:	48	46	49	42	:
<b>Switzerland</b>	9.6	9.9	9.1	:	:	55	57	51	:	:

: 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 20	May 21	Jun 21	Jul 21	Aug 21	Aug 20	May 21	Jun 21	Jul 21	Aug 21
<b>Euro area</b>	8.3	7.6	7.3	7.1	<b>7.1</b>	9.0	8.5	8.3	8.1	<b>7.9</b>
<b>EU</b>	7.4	6.9	6.7	6.5	<b>6.5</b>	8.1	7.8	7.5	7.4	<b>7.2</b>
<b>Belgium</b>	6.6	6.2	6.0	6.1	<b>6.2</b>	6.2	6.5	6.5	6.4	<b>6.5</b>
<b>Bulgaria</b>	5.7	5.4	5.3	5.3	<b>5.4</b>	4.4	5.6	5.7	5.9	<b>5.9</b>
<b>Czechia</b>	2.7	2.5	2.3	2.4	<b>2.3</b>	2.7	3.9	3.5	3.2	<b>3.7</b>
<b>Denmark</b>	6.1	4.9	4.5	4.2	<b>4.1</b>	6.6	5.2	4.8	4.6	<b>4.7</b>
<b>Germany</b>	4.5	4.0	4.0	3.9	<b>3.9</b>	3.6	3.4	3.3	3.3	<b>3.2</b>
<b>Estonia</b>	8.0	7.3	6.9	6.7	<b>6.6</b>	7.3	6.2	6.2	5.8	<b>5.8</b>
<b>Ireland</b>	6.7	7.1	6.8	6.5	<b>6.4</b>	7.5	6.9	6.6	6.4	<b>6.4</b>
<b>Greece</b>	13.7	12.6	11.5	10.7	<b>11.7</b>	20.4	19.8	19.1	18.6	<b>15.1</b>
<b>Spain</b>	14.8	13.4	13.1	12.5	<b>11.9</b>	18.8	17.5	17.2	16.7	<b>16.2</b>
<b>France</b>	9.1	8.2	7.9	8.1	<b>8.1</b>	8.9	8.4	8.1	8.0	<b>7.8</b>
<b>Croatia</b>	8.4	8.4	7.8	7.6	<b>7.4</b>	8.8	8.4	8.0	7.8	<b>7.8</b>
<b>Italy</b>	9.3	9.1	8.5	8.3	<b>8.3</b>	11.0	11.0	10.6	10.6	<b>10.7</b>
<b>Cyprus</b>	9.3	8.3	6.8	4.6	<b>3.9</b>	7.9	12.8	9.7	5.8	<b>5.0</b>
<b>Latvia</b>	9.4	8.8	9.1	9.0	<b>8.5</b>	7.8	6.7	6.5	6.1	<b>5.7</b>
<b>Lithuania</b>	10.5	8.0	8.0	7.9	<b>7.6</b>	9.0	7.4	7.5	7.2	<b>6.9</b>
<b>Luxembourg</b>	6.4	5.5	5.3	5.1	<b>5.0</b>	7.0	6.6	6.3	6.2	<b>6.0</b>
<b>Hungary</b>	4.1	3.9	4.0	4.3	<b>4.2</b>	4.4	4.6	4.2	4.0	<b>4.3</b>
<b>Malta</b>	4.7	3.9	3.9	3.8	<b>3.8</b>	5.3	2.7	2.6	2.4	<b>2.4</b>
<b>Netherlands</b>	4.3	3.2	3.0	2.9	<b>3.0</b>	4.9	3.5	3.3	3.3	<b>3.4</b>
<b>Austria</b>	6.8	6.8	6.5	6.2	<b>6.3</b>	6.0	6.6	6.0	6.1	<b>5.8</b>
<b>Poland</b>	3.1	3.5	3.3	3.3	<b>3.4</b>	3.7	3.8	3.7	3.5	<b>3.4</b>
<b>Portugal</b>	8.1	6.7	6.3	6.0	<b>5.6</b>	8.2	7.4	7.4	7.2	<b>7.1</b>
<b>Romania</b>	5.5	5.4	5.1	5.4	<b>5.5</b>	5.1	5.1	4.9	4.7	<b>4.8</b>
<b>Slovenia</b>	4.8	3.7	3.5	3.3	<b>3.3</b>	5.9	5.4	5.1	4.8	<b>4.7</b>
<b>Slovakia</b>	6.7	6.9	6.8	6.6	<b>6.4</b>	7.6	7.1	6.8	6.7	<b>6.5</b>
<b>Finland</b>	8.5	8.6	8.5	8.5	<b>8.4</b>	7.7	7.3	7.2	7.2	<b>7.1</b>
<b>Sweden</b>	9.0	8.9	8.9	8.9	<b>8.9</b>	9.0	9.1	9.1	9.1	<b>9.0</b>
<b>Iceland</b>	6.9	5.9	5.8	5.7	<b>5.7</b>	6.4	7.5	6.9	6.5	<b>6.4</b>
<b>Norway</b>	5.6	4.9	5.0	4.4	:	4.9	4.8	4.5	3.9	:
<b>Switzerland</b>	4.8	5.2	5.1	:	:	5.5	5.4	5.2	:	:

: Data not available

Source dataset: [une\\_rt\\_m](#)