

125/2021 – 3 November 2021

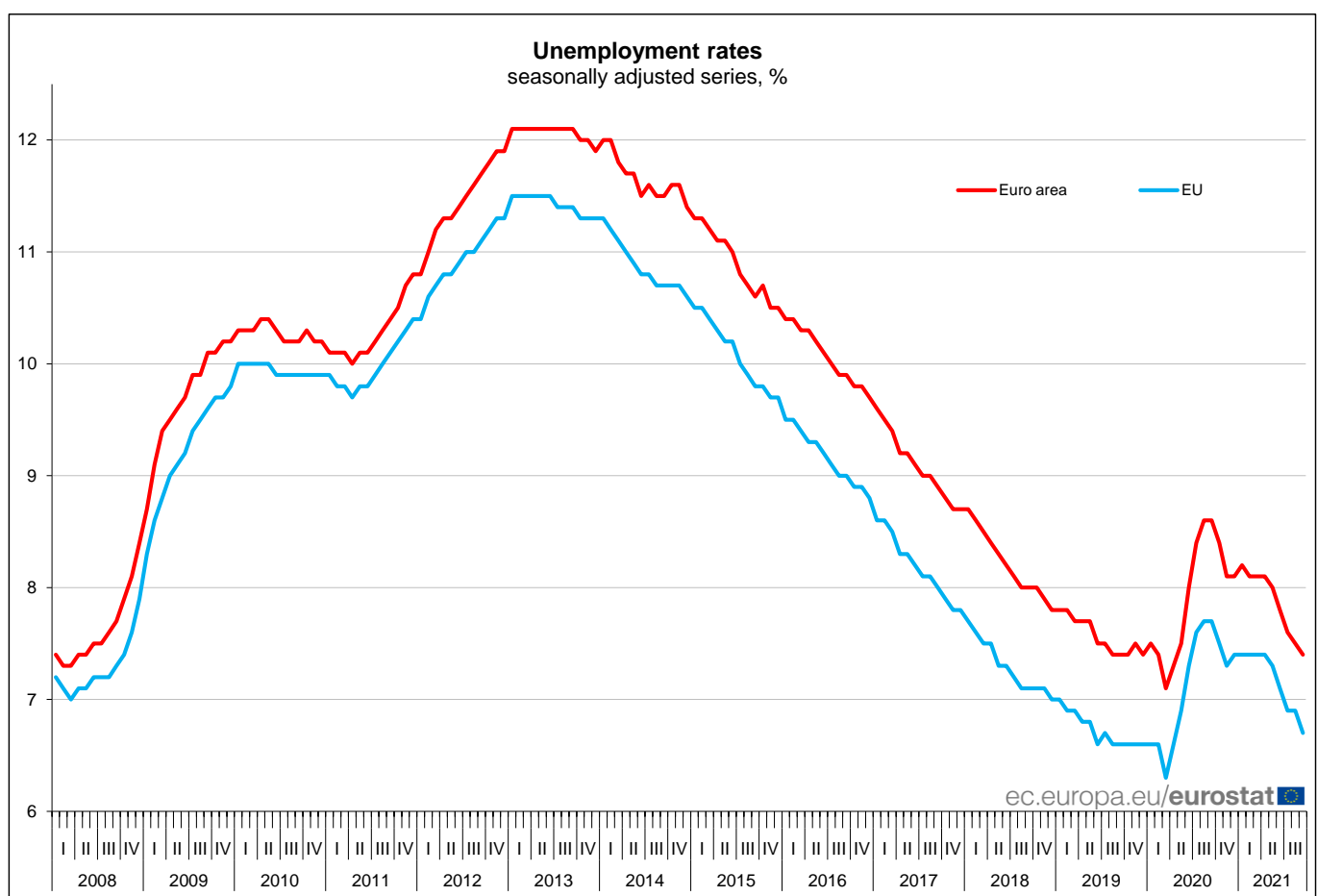
September 2021

Euro area unemployment at 7.4%

EU at 6.7%

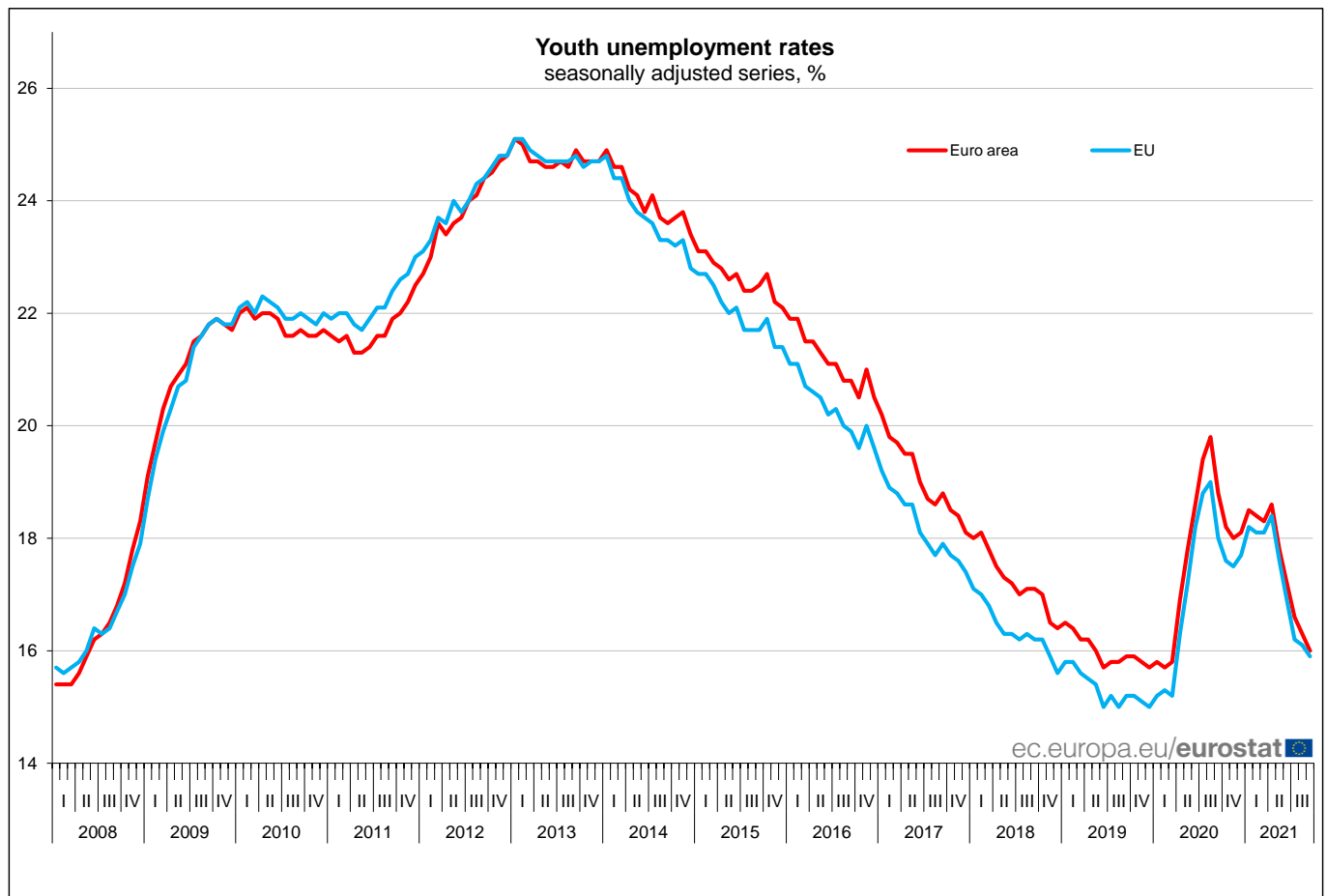
In September 2021, the **euro area** seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate was 7.4%, down from 7.5% in August 2021 and from 8.6% in September 2020. The **EU** unemployment rate was 6.7% in September 2021, down from 6.9% in August 2021 and from 7.7% in September 2020. These figures are published by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**.

Eurostat estimates that 14.324 million men and women in the **EU**, of whom 12.079 million in the **euro area**, were unemployed in September 2021. Compared with August 2021, the number of persons unemployed decreased by 306 000 in the **EU** and by 255 000 in the **euro area**. Compared with September 2020, unemployment decreased by 2.054 million in the **EU** and by 1.919 million in the **euro area**.



Youth unemployment

In September 2021, 2.815 million young persons (under 25) were unemployed in the **EU**, of whom 2.307 million were in the **euro area**. In September 2021, the youth unemployment rate was 15.9% in the **EU** and 16.0% in the **euro area**, down from 16.1% and 16.3% respectively in the previous month. Compared with August 2021, youth unemployment decreased by 45 000 in the **EU** and by 38 000 in the **euro area**. Compared with September 2020, youth unemployment decreased by 375 000 in the **EU** and by 348 000 in the **euro area**.



Unemployment by gender

In September 2021, the unemployment rate for women was 7.0% in the **EU**, down from 7.2% in August 2021. The unemployment rate for men was 6.5% in September 2021, down from 6.6% in August 2021. In the **euro area**, the unemployment rate for women decreased from 7.9% in August 2021 to 7.7% in September 2021, while the unemployment rate for men decreased from 7.2% to 7.1%.

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 second quarter of 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 September 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 [108/2021](#) of 30 September 2021, the unemployment rate for August 2021 remained unchanged for the euro area and has been revised from 6.8% to 6.9% for the EU. Among EU Member States, the rate has been revised by more than 0.1 percentage points (pp) downwards for Germany, Estonia and Austria (all by 0.2 pp). The rate has been revised by more than 0.1 percentage points upwards for Greece (by 0.6 pp) and Spain (by 0.8 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

María Guadalupe MORENO CABANILLAS

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/](https://www.whatsapp.com/channel/00299a60000000000000/ec.europa.eu/eurostat/)

Seasonally adjusted unemployment, totals

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	Sep 20	Jun 21	Jul 21	Aug 21	Sep 21	Sep 20	Jun 21	Jul 21	Aug 21	Sep 21
Euro area	8.6	7.8	7.6	7.5	7.4	13 998	12 716	12 492	12 334	12 079
EU	7.7	7.1	6.9	6.9	6.7	16 378	15 055	14 750	14 630	14 324
Belgium	6.3	6.2	6.2	6.4	6.3	322	323	322	328	323
Bulgaria	5.3	5.5	5.6	5.6	5.5	173	177	181	183	178
Czechia	2.8	2.8	2.6	2.8	2.6	152	150	140	151	140
Denmark	6.1	4.6	4.4	4.5	4.6	185	141	134	135	140
Germany	4.1	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.4	1 787	1 513	1 482	1 458	1 442
Estonia	8.3	6.5	6.4	6.0	5.9	58	46	45	42	41
Ireland	7.2	6.8	6.5	6.5	6.4	175	171	171	172	174
Greece	16.3	14.8	14.1	13.8	13.3	765	692	658	656	625
Spain	16.5	15.3	15.0	14.8	14.6	3 802	3 573	3 500	3 447	3 406
France	9.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	7.7	2 683	2 414	2 416	2 385	2 284
Croatia	8.6	7.9	7.7	7.6	7.3	156	142	138	136	131
Italy	10.1	9.3	9.2	9.3	9.2	2 522	2 354	2 322	2 320	2 293
Cyprus	9.1	8.1	5.1	4.4	3.6	41	38	23	19	16
Latvia	8.3	7.8	7.5	7.1	6.8	81	73	70	66	63
Lithuania	9.9	7.8	7.5	7.2	6.7	146	113	111	106	99
Luxembourg	6.5	5.8	5.6	5.5	5.4	20	18	18	17	17
Hungary	4.3	4.1	4.1	4.1	3.6	207	198	198	198	173
Malta	4.7	3.4	3.3	3.3	3.2	13	9	9	9	9
Netherlands	4.4	3.2	3.1	3.2	3.1	413	297	289	301	292
Austria	6.4	6.2	6.1	5.9	5.2	293	287	277	268	240
Poland	3.3	3.5	3.4	3.4	3.4	554	598	582	575	574
Portugal	8.0	6.8	6.6	6.3	6.4	405	353	340	325	331
Romania	5.2	5.0	5.1	5.2	5.0	461	408	420	428	416
Slovenia	5.2	4.2	4.0	3.9	3.9	53	43	41	40	40
Slovakia	7.1	6.8	6.7	6.5	6.3	192	186	182	177	171
Finland	8.1	8.0	8.0	7.9	7.9	223	222	221	220	219
Sweden	8.9	9.0	8.9	8.9	8.8	493	499	497	495	492
Iceland	6.6	6.0	5.6	5.4	5.3	13	12	12	11	11
Norway	5.3**	4.9	4.3	4.0	:	150**	141	123	115	:
Switzerland	5.1	5.1	:	:	:	254	253	:	:	:
United States	7.8	5.9	5.4	5.2	4.8	12 574	9 442	8 669	8 397	7 755

: Data not available

* August 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)				
	Sep 20	Jun 21	Jul 21	Aug 21	Sep 21	Sep 20	Jun 21	Jul 21	Aug 21	Sep 21
Euro area	18.8	17.2	16.6	16.3	16.0	2 655	2 494	2 383	2 345	2 307
EU	18.0	16.9	16.2	16.1	15.9	3 190	3 030	2 900	2 860	2 815
Belgium	16.9	19.3	20.0	20.0	20.0	64	76	77	77	77
Bulgaria	16.1	15.3	16.2	17.2	17.1	21	18	19	21	21
Czechia	8.3	7.2	7.7	8.2	6.3	22	19	21	22	17
Denmark	12.1	8.6	8.1	8.8	9.6	52	36	34	38	41
Germany	7.8	7.0	6.8	6.7	6.6	338	305	297	291	287
Estonia	23.1	18.4	18.7	14.2	14.5	11	10	10	7	7
Ireland	19.6	18.6	17.3	17.0	17.4	56	57	59	62	65
Greece	33.3	31.3	34.0	32.8	24.5	80	72	76	75	61
Spain	41.0	36.4	33.5	31.7	30.6	603	581	525	497	492
France	22.5	18.9	19.6	20.0	19.2	652	565	580	582	547
Croatia	24.4	23.7	20.1	20.1	20.1	36	35	28	28	28
Italy	29.8	29.5	27.9	28.0	29.8	421	437	404	402	428
Cyprus	20.9	19.9	6.8	6.8	6.8	7	8	2	2	2
Latvia	13.3	15.1	13.7	12.9	12.9	7	9	7	7	7
Lithuania	23.6	20.8	19.2	19.5	19.1	23	20	18	18	18
Luxembourg	23.4	17.6	17.3	16.4	16.5	6	4	4	4	4
Hungary	11.6	13.4	16.1	15.3	10.0	38	42	52	48	30
Malta	10.6	10.0	10.6	11.1	10.9	3	3	3	3	3
Netherlands	10.7	7.6	7.3	7.4	7.4	157	112	107	110	110
Austria	9.4	11.1	11.2	11.3	9.4	49	58	58	58	49
Poland	11.4	12.9	11.8	11.2	11.1	122	133	120	114	112
Portugal	24.2	25.4	23.4	22.9	23.7	80	88	79	75	75
Romania	18.0	19.5	:	:	:	105	105	:	:	:
Slovenia	15.9	14.6	13.3	13.3	13.3	10	9	8	8	8
Slovakia	19.8	20.1	18.7	17.9	17.0	31	27	25	23	22
Finland	20.7	18.4	18.1	17.9	17.7	64	58	57	56	56
Sweden	25.6	25.0	25.1	25.1	25.1	152	157	157	157	157
Iceland	12.3	10.9	9.6	8.7	8.6	3	3	3	3	3
Norway	12.9	12.3	10.8	10.8	:	48	49	42	41	:
Switzerland	8.9	9.1	:	:	:	51	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				
	Sep 20	Jun 21	Jul 21	Aug 21	Sep 21	Sep 20	Jun 21	Jul 21	Aug 21	Sep 21
Euro area	8.2	7.3	7.2	7.2	7.1	9.0	8.2	8.1	7.9	7.7
EU	7.4	6.7	6.6	6.6	6.5	8.1	7.5	7.3	7.2	7.0
Belgium	6.5	6.0	6.0	6.2	6.1	6.1	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5
Bulgaria	5.7	5.3	5.3	5.5	5.4	4.8	5.7	5.9	5.9	5.6
Czechia	2.4	2.3	2.2	2.2	2.3	3.3	3.5	3.1	3.5	3.0
Denmark	5.8	4.5	4.3	4.3	4.5	6.4	4.8	4.6	4.6	4.7
Germany	4.5	3.9	3.9	3.8	3.8	3.7	3.1	3.0	2.9	2.8
Estonia	8.2	6.8	6.9	7.0	6.9	8.3	6.2	5.8	5.0	4.9
Ireland	6.9	6.9	6.6	6.5	6.6	7.5	6.6	6.5	6.4	6.3
Greece	13.5	11.5	10.7	11.2	10.2	19.9	18.8	18.3	17.2	17.3
Spain	14.6	13.4	13.3	13.2	13.1	18.7	17.4	16.8	16.5	16.3
France	9.0	7.9	8.1	8.1	7.8	8.9	8.1	8.0	7.8	7.5
Croatia	8.4	7.8	7.6	7.4	7.1	8.9	8.0	7.8	7.8	7.5
Italy	9.2	8.4	8.3	8.3	8.1	11.3	10.6	10.6	10.6	10.5
Cyprus	9.2	6.7	4.5	3.8	3.2	9.0	9.7	5.9	5.0	4.1
Latvia	9.1	9.1	9.0	8.5	8.0	7.5	6.5	6.1	5.7	5.5
Lithuania	10.8	8.0	7.9	7.6	7.0	9.0	7.5	7.2	6.9	6.5
Luxembourg	6.1	5.3	5.1	5.0	4.9	6.9	6.3	6.2	6.0	5.9
Hungary	4.3	3.9	4.2	4.0	3.3	4.2	4.2	4.0	4.2	3.9
Malta	4.6	3.9	3.8	3.9	3.7	4.9	2.6	2.4	2.4	2.4
Netherlands	4.2	3.0	2.9	3.0	3.0	4.7	3.3	3.3	3.4	3.3
Austria	6.7	6.5	6.1	6.0	5.4	6.1	5.9	6.1	5.8	5.0
Poland	3.0	3.3	3.3	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.7	3.5	3.4	3.3
Portugal	7.8	6.3	6.0	5.7	6.2	8.2	7.4	7.2	6.9	6.7
Romania	5.4	5.1	5.4	5.5	5.3	4.9	4.9	4.7	4.8	4.7
Slovenia	4.6	3.5	3.3	3.3	3.2	5.8	5.1	4.8	4.7	4.7
Slovakia	6.6	6.8	6.6	6.4	6.2	7.6	6.8	6.7	6.6	6.5
Finland	8.6	8.7	8.7	8.6	8.7	7.7	7.2	7.2	7.1	7.0
Sweden	8.9	8.8	8.8	8.7	8.6	8.9	9.2	9.1	9.1	9.0
Iceland	6.6	5.6	5.4	5.3	5.3	6.6	6.4	5.9	5.5	5.2
Norway	5.3	5.2	4.6	4.4	:	4.9	4.5	3.9	3.5	:
Switzerland	4.8	5.1	:	:	:	5.5	5.2	:	:	:

: Data not available

Source dataset: [une_rt_m](#)

