

4/2021 – 10 January 2022

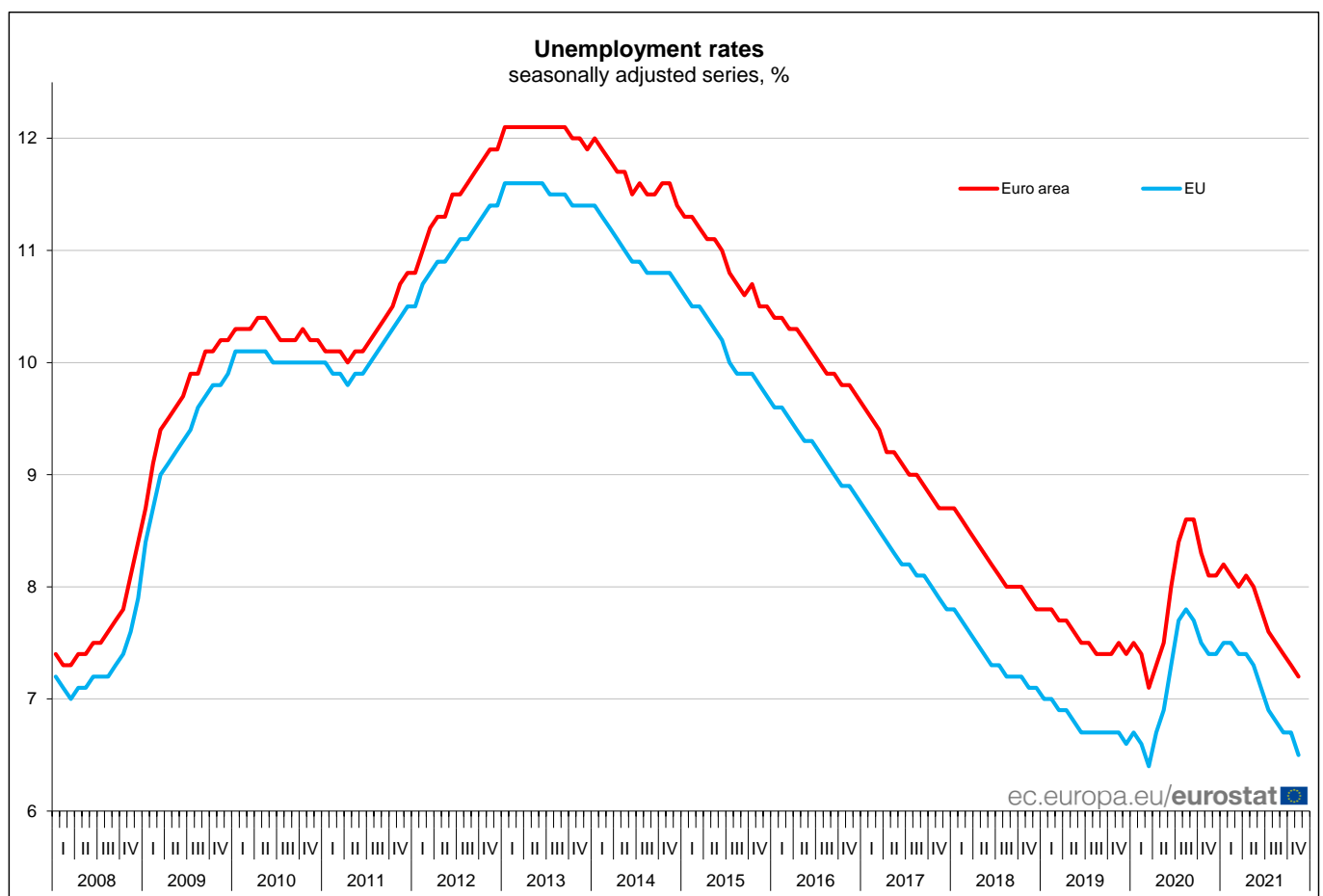
November 2021

Euro area unemployment at 7.2%

EU at 6.5%

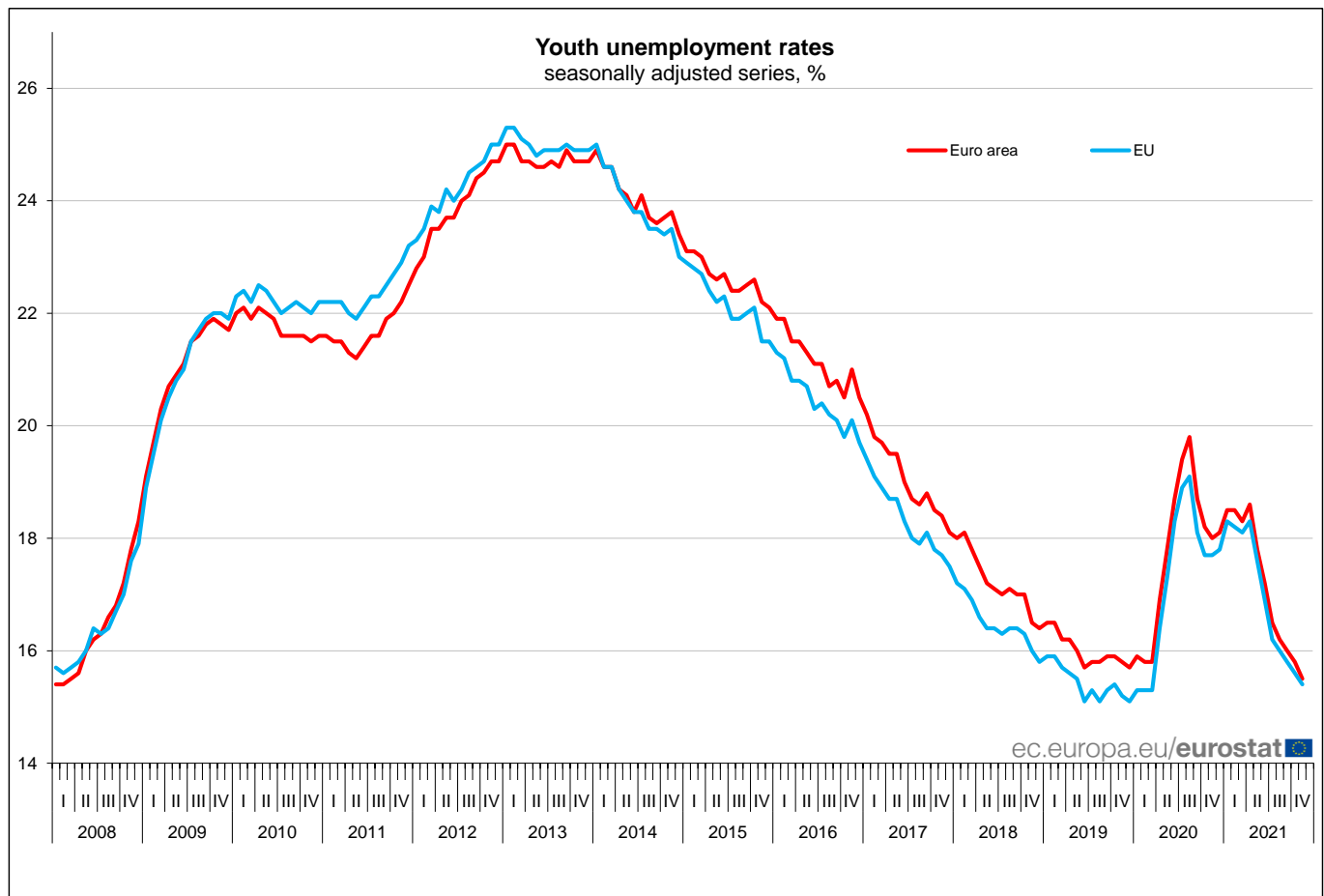
In November 2021, the **euro area** seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate was 7.2%, down from 7.3% in October 2021 and from 8.1% in November 2020. The **EU** unemployment rate was 6.5% in November 2021, down from 6.7% in October 2021 and from 7.4% in November 2020. These figures are published by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**.

Eurostat estimates that 13.984 million men and women in the **EU**, of whom 11.829 million in the **euro area**, were unemployed in November 2021. Compared with October 2021, the number of persons unemployed decreased by 247 000 in the **EU** and by 222 000 in the **euro area**. Compared with November 2020, unemployment decreased by 1.659 million in the **EU** and by 1.411 million in the **euro area**.



Youth unemployment

In November 2021, 2.842 million young persons (under 25) were unemployed in the **EU**, of whom 2.313 million were in the **euro area**. In November 2021, the youth unemployment rate was 15.4% in the **EU** and 15.5% in the **euro area**, down from 15.6% in the **EU** and from 15.8% in the **euro area** in the previous month. Compared with October 2021, youth unemployment decreased by 34 000 in the **EU** and by 37 000 in the **euro area**. Compared with November 2020, youth unemployment decreased by 225 000 in the **EU** and by 188 000 in the **euro area**.



Unemployment by gender

In November 2021, the unemployment rate for women was 6.8% in the **EU**, down from 7.0% in October 2021. The unemployment rate for men was 6.3% in November 2021, down from 6.4% in October 2021. In the **euro area**, the unemployment rate for women decreased from 7.7% in October 2021 to 7.5% in November 2021, while the unemployment rate for men decreased from 7.0% to 6.9%.

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 second quarter of 2021](#). LFS data for the third quarter of 2021 will be released on 13 January 2022.

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 November 2021 included.

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 [134/2021](#) of 2 December 2021, the unemployment rate for October 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 Estonia (by 0.5 pp), Bulgaria and Poland (both by 0.4 pp), Belgium (by 0.3 pp) and Finland (by 0.2 pp). The rate has been revised by more than 0.1 percentage points upwards for Greece (by 0.4 pp) and Croatia (by 0.3 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)				
	Nov 20	Aug 21	Sep 21	Oct 21	Nov 21	Nov 20	Aug 21	Sep 21	Oct 21	Nov 21
Euro area	8.1	7.5	7.4	7.3	7.2	13 240	12 343	12 117	12 051	11 829
EU	7.4	6.8	6.7	6.7	6.5	15 643	14 598	14 314	14 231	13 984
Belgium	5.8	6.3	6.2	6.0	5.9	291	329	324	315	304
Bulgaria	5.4	5.0	4.9	4.9	5.0	176	160	159	159	162
Czechia	3.0	2.8	2.6	2.6	2.2	159	151	139	138	121
Denmark	5.9	4.8	5.1	5.0	5.0	178	147	156	155	154
Germany	4.1	3.4	3.3	3.3	3.2	1 751	1 449	1 422	1 402	1 390
Estonia	7.4	5.9	5.6	5.2	5.0	52	41	40	36	35
Ireland	6.2	5.4	5.2	5.2	5.2	150	139	134	135	136
Greece	16.2	13.9	13.1	13.3	13.4	748	657	618	620	636
Spain	16.2	14.7	14.6	14.4	14.1	3 719	3 439	3 398	3 367	3 279
France	8.0	7.9	7.7	7.6	7.5	2 367	2 403	2 340	2 290	2 262
Croatia	8.5	7.9	7.6	7.3	7.1	153	142	137	131	127
Italy	9.6	9.3	9.2	9.4	9.2	2 392	2 334	2 325	2 381	2 338
Cyprus	8.0	6.8	6.2	6.6	6.4	36	32	29	31	30
Latvia	8.1	7.4	7.0	7.0	7.3	78	69	66	66	69
Lithuania	9.2	7.0	6.7	6.5	6.0	137	103	99	96	88
Luxembourg	6.2	5.3	5.2	5.0	5.0	20	17	17	16	16
Hungary	4.3	4.1	3.6	3.9	3.8	208	198	172	187	184
Malta	4.4	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	12	10	10	10	10
Netherlands	4.0	3.2	3.1	2.9	2.7	378	301	292	277	251
Austria	6.1	5.9	5.2	5.7	5.3	278	268	237	265	244
Poland	3.2	3.1	3.0	3.0	3.0	547	530	519	515	512
Portugal	7.2	6.3	6.4	6.4	6.3	368	325	328	330	327
Romania	6.3	5.4	5.2	5.2	5.2	517	438	423	424	432
Slovenia	5.3	4.6	4.7	4.8	4.8	55	48	49	50	51
Slovakia	7.1	6.6	6.5	6.4	6.3	192	183	179	177	176
Finland	8.1	7.7	7.5	7.3	7.2	222	214	209	204	200
Sweden	8.9	8.8	8.7	8.6	8.4	492	488	483	477	471
Iceland	6.8	5.4	5.2	5.1	5.0	14	11	11	11	11
Norway	5.2*	4.0	3.6	3.6	:	149*	116	104	105	:
Switzerland	5.1	4.9	4.9	:	:	256	245	244	:	:
United States	6.7	5.2	4.8	4.6	4.2	10 813	8 397	7 755	7 442	6 971

: Data not available

* October 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)				
	Nov 20	Aug 21	Sep 21	Oct 21	Nov 21	Nov 20	Aug 21	Sep 21	Oct 21	Nov 21
Euro area	18.0	16.2	16.0	15.8	15.5	2 501	2 376	2 370	2 350	2 313
EU	17.7	16.0	15.8	15.6	15.4	3 067	2 901	2 892	2 876	2 842
Belgium	16.4	18.4	18.4	:	:	56	78	78	:	:
Bulgaria	15.5	16.6	16.8	15.9	15.6	21	20	21	19	18
Czechia	9.2	8.3	6.5	7.7	6.5	24	22	17	21	18
Denmark	12.2	10.2	11.8	11.7	11.2	52	44	51	51	49
Germany	7.8	6.6	6.5	6.4	6.4	337	285	281	278	276
Estonia	22.6	14.5	14.9	15.8	15.4	11	7	7	8	8
Ireland	16.9	11.1	10.3	10.5	10.9	45	37	36	36	38
Greece	38.5	32.1	27.0	32.8	39.1	77	72	60	76	94
Spain	40.3	31.7	30.6	30.2	29.2	581	497	492	502	493
France	19.5	20.2	19.6	18.5	17.8	542	642	633	603	586
Croatia	22.2	20.5	20.5	:	:	32	29	29	:	:
Italy	30.7	27.4	29.6	28.2	28.0	433	399	437	422	410
Cyprus	19.9	15.0	15.0	:	:	7	6	6	:	:
Latvia	12.9	14.5	14.4	14.9	15.0	7	9	9	9	9
Lithuania	18.4	14.8	14.0	13.2	11.8	19	15	14	14	13
Luxembourg	21.6	16.1	16.3	15.4	15.5	5	4	4	4	4
Hungary	13.7	15.4	10.0	13.4	12.4	42	49	30	41	38
Malta	11.6	7.6	7.6	7.9	8.5	3	2	2	2	2
Netherlands	9.4	7.4	7.4	6.9	6.1	138	110	110	104	91
Austria	11.6	10.9	9.1	10.3	10.0	59	56	47	52	50
Poland	13.8	10.1	10.0	10.8	11.6	147	106	106	116	125
Portugal	23.2	22.9	22.7	22.1	22.4	75	75	73	71	72
Romania	21.2	20.3	20.3	:	:	116	107	107	:	:
Slovenia	15.1	12.8	12.8	:	:	9	10	10	:	:
Slovakia	20.2	19.3	18.6	19.1	19.5	31	28	26	27	28
Finland	20.3	17.7	17.5	17.4	17.3	63	55	54	54	54
Sweden	24.7	25.0	24.9	24.8	24.6	148	156	155	154	153
Iceland	12.1	8.9	8.6	8.5	8.4	3	3	3	3	3
Norway	11.5	10.8	9.7	9.9	:	42	42	36	38	:
Switzerland	7.7	8.2	8.4	:	:	45	47	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				
	Nov 20	Aug 21	Sep 21	Oct 21	Nov 21	Nov 20	Aug 21	Sep 21	Oct 21	Nov 21
Euro area	7.8	7.2	7.1	7.0	6.9	8.5	7.9	7.7	7.7	7.5
EU	7.1	6.6	6.4	6.4	6.3	7.7	7.2	7.0	7.0	6.8
Belgium	5.9	6.8	6.8	6.6	6.3	5.6	5.7	5.5	5.4	5.4
Bulgaria	5.4	5.3	5.4	5.4	5.5	5.3	4.6	4.4	4.3	4.4
Czechia	2.5	2.2	2.3	2.3	1.9	3.6	3.5	3.0	2.9	2.7
Denmark	5.7	4.8	5.0	4.8	4.6	6.1	4.8	5.2	5.3	5.4
Germany	4.4	3.7	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.0	2.9	2.9	2.9
Estonia	8.0	6.9	6.8	5.7	5.3	6.9	4.9	4.4	4.7	4.7
Ireland	6.4	5.3	5.2	5.3	5.3	6.0	5.4	5.1	5.1	5.2
Greece	13.2	11.0	9.7	9.9	9.7	20.0	17.6	17.4	17.6	17.7
Spain	14.2	13.2	13.1	13.0	12.7	18.4	16.4	16.2	16.0	15.6
France	8.1	8.0	7.8	7.6	7.5	7.9	7.9	7.7	7.5	7.4
Croatia	8.2	7.7	7.4	7.0	6.8	8.8	8.1	7.9	7.6	7.5
Italy	8.9	8.3	8.3	8.5	8.4	10.5	10.6	10.5	10.7	10.3
Cyprus	8.1	6.8	6.4	6.6	6.3	8.0	6.8	6.0	6.5	6.5
Latvia	9.0	8.8	8.3	8.1	8.3	7.2	5.9	5.7	5.9	6.3
Lithuania	9.9	7.7	7.4	7.4	6.8	8.4	6.2	6.0	5.6	5.1
Luxembourg	5.7	4.8	4.8	4.6	4.5	6.8	5.9	5.8	5.5	5.5
Hungary	4.2	4.0	3.3	3.5	3.5	4.5	4.2	3.9	4.2	4.1
Malta	4.3	3.8	3.7	3.8	3.9	4.6	3.2	3.1	3.0	3.1
Netherlands	3.9	3.0	3.0	2.8	2.6	4.2	3.4	3.3	3.1	2.7
Austria	6.5	6.0	5.4	5.5	5.3	5.7	5.7	4.9	6.0	5.3
Poland	3.3	3.0	2.9	3.0	3.0	3.1	3.2	3.1	3.0	2.9
Portugal	7.0	5.7	6.2	6.0	6.2	7.5	6.9	6.5	6.7	6.4
Romania	6.3	5.8	5.6	5.5	5.5	6.3	4.8	4.5	4.7	4.9
Slovenia	4.6	4.9	5.1	5.2	5.2	6.1	4.2	4.1	4.4	4.4
Slovakia	6.7	6.5	6.4	6.4	6.4	7.5	6.8	6.6	6.4	6.3
Finland	8.6	8.4	8.2	7.9	7.7	7.6	6.9	6.8	6.7	6.7
Sweden	8.8	8.5	8.3	8.2	8.0	8.9	9.1	9.0	9.0	8.9
Iceland	6.7	5.5	5.4	5.4	5.3	7.1	5.3	5.0	4.8	4.7
Norway	5.3	4.4	3.9	3.8	:	4.7	3.6	3.2	3.5	:
Switzerland	4.8	4.9	4.9	:	:	5.5	5.0	5.0	:	:

: Data not available

Source dataset: [une_rt_m](#)