

72/2022 – 30 June 2022

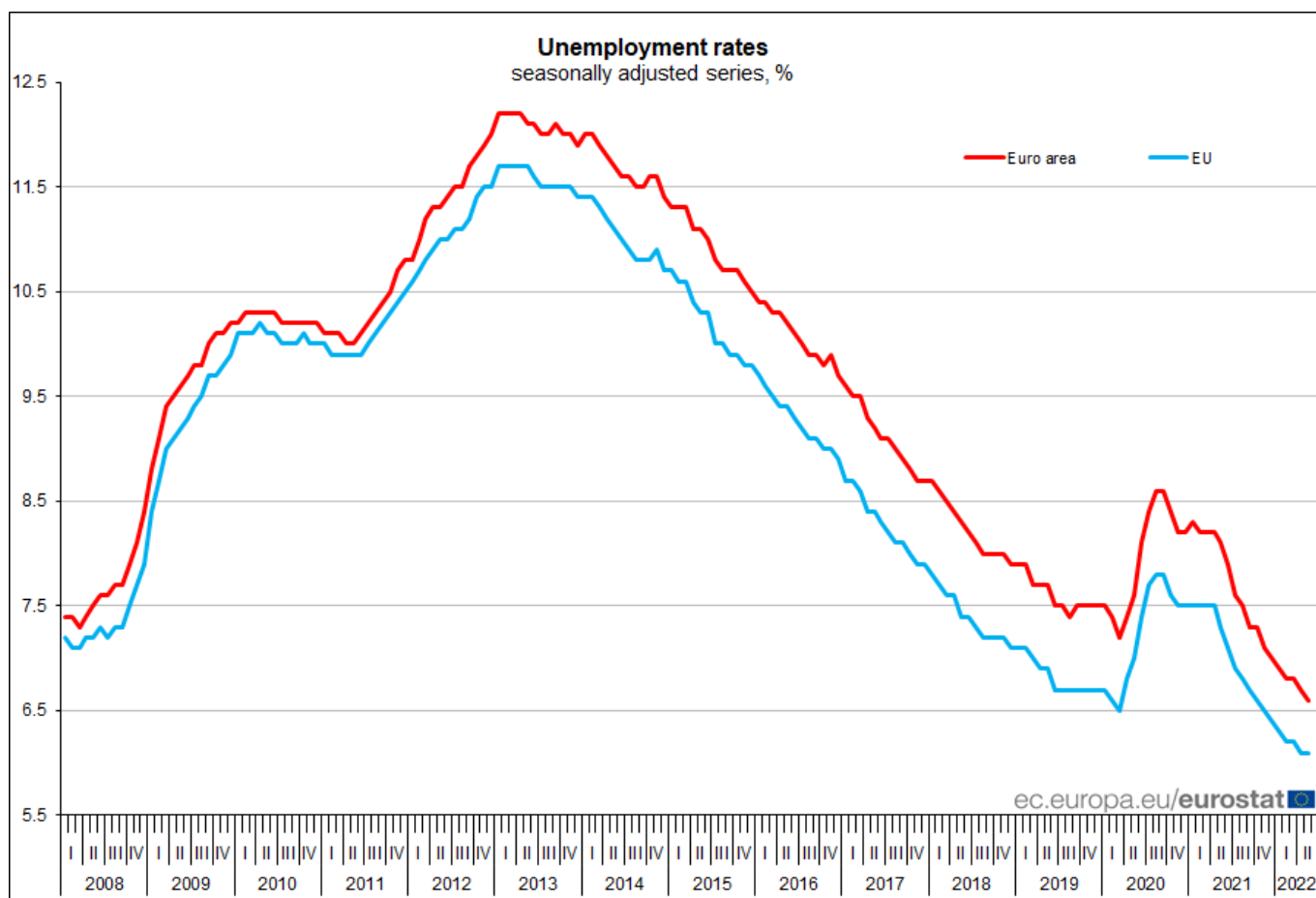
May 2022

Euro area unemployment at 6.6%

EU at 6.1%

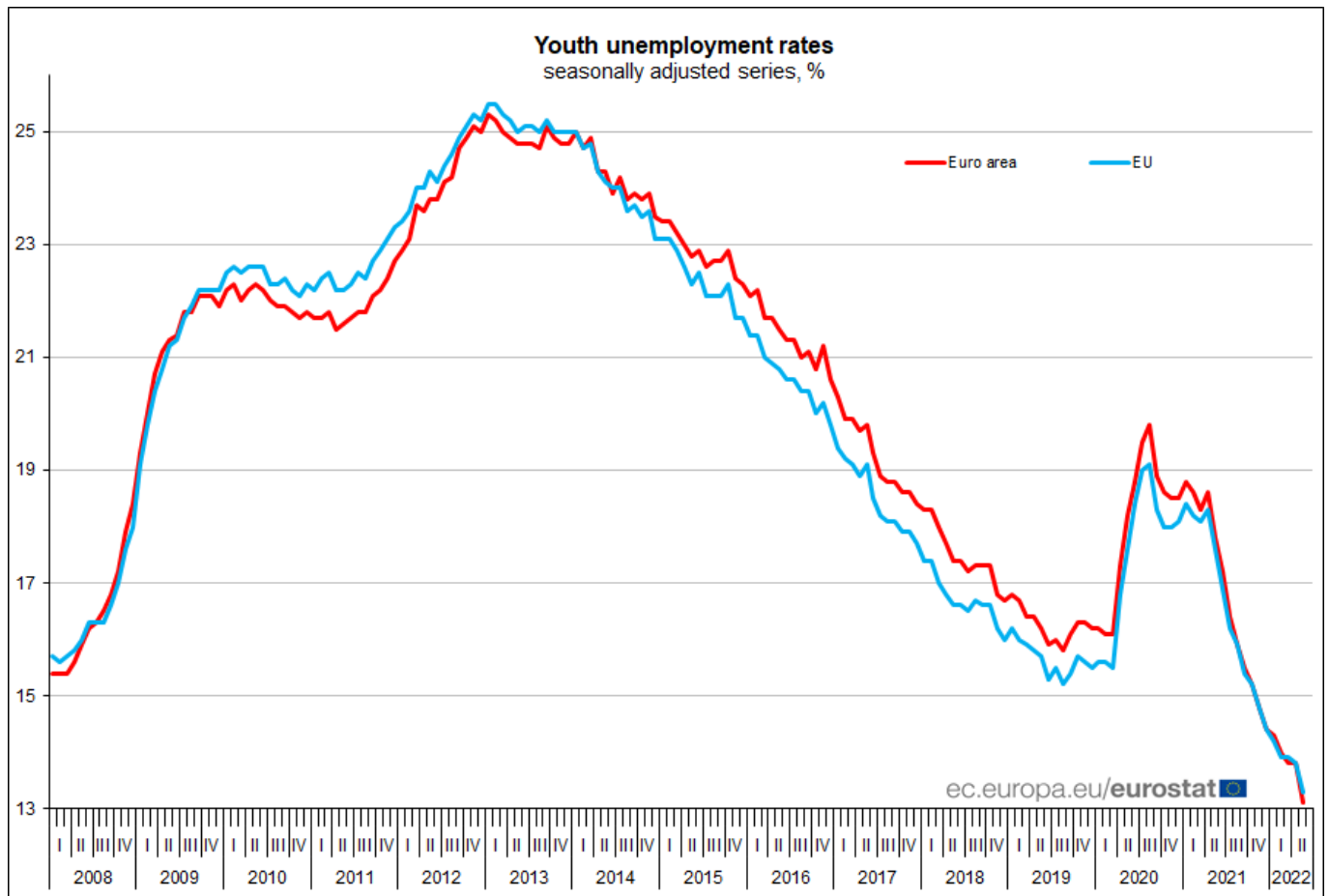
In May 2022, the **euro area** seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate was 6.6%, down from 6.7% in April 2022 and down from 8.1% in May 2021. The **EU** unemployment rate was 6.1% in May 2022, stable compared with April 2022 and down from 7.3% in May 2021. These figures are published by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**.

Eurostat estimates that 13.066 million men and women in the **EU**, of whom 11.004 million in the **euro area**, were unemployed in May 2022. Compared with May 2021, unemployment decreased by 2.515 million in the **EU** and by 2.165 million in the **euro area**.



Youth unemployment

In May 2022, 2.467 million young persons (under 25) were unemployed in the **EU**, of whom 1.988 million were in the **euro area**. In May 2022, the youth unemployment rate was 13.3% in the **EU** and 13.1% in the **euro area**, down from 13.8% in both areas in the previous month. Compared with April 2022, youth unemployment decreased by 95 thousand in the **EU** and by 89 thousand in the **euro area**. Compared with May 2021, youth unemployment decreased by 708 thousand in the **EU** and by 608 thousand in the **euro area**.



Unemployment by sex

In May 2022, the unemployment rate for women was 6.5% in the **EU**, stable compared with April 2022. The unemployment rate for men was 5.7% in May 2022, also stable compared with the previous month. In the **euro area**, the unemployment rate for women decreased from 7.2% in April 2022 to 7.1% in May 2022, while the unemployment rate for men decreased from 6.3% to 6.2%.

Additional labour market indicators

The estimates in this News Release 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.

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 2021. LFS data for the first quarter of 2022 will be released on 5 July 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 published before 31 March 2022 have been **seasonally adjusted** using the seasonal factors estimated in the period up to December 2019 included. Series published as of 31 March 2022 are seasonally adjusted using seasonal models estimated in the period up to December 2021 included.

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 as well as Iceland and Norway: 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.

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 [62/2022](#) of 1 June 2022, the unemployment rate for April 2022 has been revised for the euro area from 6.8% to 6.7% and for the EU from 6.2% to 6.1%. Among EU Member States, the rate has been revised by more than 0.1 percentage points (pp) downwards for Belgium (by 0.4 pp), Cyprus and Poland (both by 0.3 pp). The rate has been revised by more than 0.1 percentage points upwards for Bulgaria (by 0.3 pp), Denmark 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)				
	May 21	Feb 22	Mar 22	Apr 22	May 22	May 21	Feb 22	Mar 22	Apr 22	May 22
Euro area	8.1	6.8	6.8	6.7	6.6	13 169	11 252	11 189	11 085	11 004
EU	7.3	6.2	6.2	6.1	6.1	15 581	13 328	13 231	13 139	13 066
Belgium	6.3	5.3	5.2	5.3	5.5	324	278	276	281	290
Bulgaria	5.4	4.6	4.5	4.3	4.3	175	150	148	140	140
Czechia	3.1	2.5	2.3	2.4	2.5	165	133	122	126	130
Denmark	5.1	4.4	4.5	4.5	4.8	154	134	140	141	150
Germany	3.7	3.0	2.9	2.9	2.8	1 593	1 303	1 274	1 252	1 239
Estonia	6.8	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	47	39	39	39	40
Ireland	6.9	4.8	5.1	4.8	4.7	174	126	135	130	128
Greece	16.9*	12.5	12.2	12.7	:	768*	599	586	600	:
Spain	15.4	13.3	13.4	13.3	13.1	3 580	3 094	3 141	3 107	3 046
France	8.2	7.3	7.3	7.2	7.2	2 477	2 216	2 220	2 193	2 197
Croatia	8.0	6.3	6.3	6.2	6.1	145	115	114	112	110
Italy	9.8	8.5	8.3	8.3	8.1	2 445	2 130	2 088	2 072	2 028
Cyprus	9.0	6.0	5.5	5.1	4.8	42	28	26	24	22
Latvia	7.8	6.9	6.7	6.6	6.5	73	65	64	62	61
Lithuania	7.6	6.2	6.1	6.2	6.0	112	91	89	91	88
Luxembourg	5.5	4.5	4.3	4.2	4.2	18	14	14	14	14
Hungary	4.2	3.7	3.2	3.4	3.6	205	179	155	167	175
Malta	3.4	3.4	3.2	3.1	3.1	9	10	9	9	9
Netherlands	4.4	3.4	3.3	3.2	3.3	419	336	327	316	323
Austria	6.7	4.8	4.3	4.3	4.8	306	222	199	201	222
Poland	3.6	2.8	2.7	2.7	2.7	612	476	474	473	468
Portugal	6.9	5.8	5.9	5.9	6.1	357	301	307	308	314
Romania	5.5	5.7	5.6	5.5	5.4	452	477	461	458	451
Slovenia	4.5	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.9	46	41	41	41	40
Slovakia	7.0	6.4	6.3	6.3	6.2	191	177	176	175	172
Finland	8.0	6.6	6.5	6.4	6.3	220	186	182	179	177
Sweden	9.1	7.8	7.7	7.7	7.7	502	438	434	431	430
Iceland	6.2	4.0	3.8	3.6	3.5	13	9	8	8	8
Norway	5.0	3.3	3.2	3.2	3.2	146	97	95	93	94
Switzerland	5.3	4.3	4.3	:	:	261	212	212	:	:
United States	5.8	3.8	3.6	3.6	3.6	9 188	6 407	5 880	5 886	5 893

: Data not available

* April 2021

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)				
	May 21	Feb 22	Mar 22	Apr 22	May 22	May 21	Feb 22	Mar 22	Apr 22	May 22
Euro area	17.8	14.0	13.8	13.8	13.1	2 596	2 087	2 084	2 077	1 988
EU	17.6	13.9	13.9	13.8	13.3	3 175	2 571	2 572	2 562	2 467
Belgium	18.7	14.6	14.6	:	:	74	58	58	:	:
Bulgaria	15.4	12.5	12.0	11.4	11.7	18	17	16	15	15
Czechia	7.6	7.4	7.1	7.7	6.4	20	20	19	21	17
Denmark	10.2	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.8	43	36	37	37	40
Germany	7.3	5.5	5.4	5.4	5.3	313	240	236	233	231
Estonia	18.2	18.5	17.2	15.0	14.4	9	10	9	8	7
Ireland	18.0	8.4	7.1	5.6	4.9	56	30	25	20	19
Greece	36.9	31.6	26.0	36.8	:	73	68	57	81	:
Spain	37.6	29.5	29.4	28.6	27.1	592	466	476	466	440
France	19.2	16.5	16.6	16.3	15.9	582	526	539	532	520
Croatia	22.3	16.0	16.0	:	:	32	23	23	:	:
Italy	30.4	23.7	24.1	22.6	20.5	439	346	355	333	303
Cyprus	18.3	16.0	16.0	:	:	7	6	6	:	:
Latvia	16.1	11.5	11.1	10.7	10.4	9	7	7	6	6
Lithuania	19.1	13.6	14.3	12.9	11.4	18	14	14	13	12
Luxembourg	18.0	15.0	14.5	14.0	13.7	5	4	3	3	3
Hungary	13.8	10.6	9.3	12.4	10.8	43	32	28	38	32
Malta	9.2	8.6	7.7	6.8	6.4	2	2	2	2	2
Netherlands	10.1	7.3	7.1	6.9	7.2	167	126	124	121	127
Austria	12.7	8.5	7.2	11.4	8.4	62	43	36	58	44
Poland	13.7	9.8	9.6	9.2	8.8	145	104	101	97	93
Portugal	25.0	20.0	20.3	20.6	19.8	86	65	66	68	65
Romania	20.7	22.7	22.7	:	:	113	116	116	:	:
Slovenia	14.6	9.4	9.4	:	:	10	7	7	:	:
Slovakia	21.3	20.7	20.9	20.8	20.3	30	28	28	28	27
Finland	18.4	13.6	13.1	12.8	12.5	58	42	41	39	39
Sweden	25.0	22.7	22.4	22.1	21.9	155	144	144	143	143
Iceland	12.6	9.7	9.5	9.0	8.7	4	3	3	3	3
Norway	15.0	9.5	10.0	7.0	11.5	59	39	41	28	50
Switzerland	9.7	7.2	7.4	:	:	56	42	42	:	:

: 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 sex

	Males					Females				
	May 21	Feb 22	Mar 22	Apr 22	May 22	May 21	Feb 22	Mar 22	Apr 22	May 22
Euro area	7.7	6.4	6.4	6.3	6.2	8.5	7.3	7.2	7.2	7.1
EU	7.0	5.9	5.8	5.7	5.7	7.7	6.6	6.6	6.5	6.5
Belgium	6.2	5.4	5.2	5.4	5.7	6.4	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.3
Bulgaria	5.4	4.6	4.5	4.3	4.3	5.5	4.6	4.6	4.3	4.2
Czechia	2.5	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.8	3.8	3.2	2.8	3.0	3.2
Denmark	5.1	4.1	4.2	4.2	4.4	5.1	4.6	4.9	5.0	5.3
Germany	4.1	3.2	3.1	3.0	3.0	3.3	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7
Estonia	7.3	5.8	6.3	6.4	6.5	6.3	5.1	4.7	4.5	4.5
Ireland	7.0	4.7	5.1	4.9	4.7	6.8	4.8	5.0	4.7	4.6
Greece	12.2	9.5	9.1	9.9	:	20.0	16.2	16.1	16.2	:
Spain	13.4	11.7	11.9	11.7	11.4	17.6	15.0	15.2	15.2	15.0
France	8.2	7.3	7.3	7.2	7.3	8.2	7.3	7.3	7.2	7.2
Croatia	7.8	5.9	5.8	5.7	5.6	8.2	6.9	6.8	6.8	6.7
Italy	9.1	7.4	7.5	7.2	7.0	10.8	10.0	9.4	9.7	9.7
Cyprus	8.0	5.3	5.0	4.6	4.3	10.1	6.7	6.2	5.7	5.4
Latvia	8.9	8.0	7.7	7.4	7.2	6.7	5.8	5.7	5.8	5.7
Lithuania	7.9	6.4	6.0	6.1	5.9	7.4	6.0	6.2	6.3	6.0
Luxembourg	5.0	4.3	4.2	4.0	4.0	6.1	4.7	4.6	4.5	4.5
Hungary	3.9	3.7	3.6	3.6	3.5	4.6	3.6	2.7	3.2	3.7
Malta	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.5	3.4	2.7	2.7	2.4	2.6	2.6
Netherlands	4.1	3.3	3.1	3.0	3.0	4.7	3.6	3.6	3.4	3.6
Austria	6.9	4.8	4.4	4.4	5.2	6.6	4.8	4.2	4.3	4.2
Poland	3.5	2.8	2.7	2.6	2.6	3.7	2.7	2.8	2.9	2.9
Portugal	6.6	5.4	5.3	5.5	5.8	7.3	6.2	6.5	6.4	6.3
Romania	5.8	6.0	5.8	5.6	6.0	5.1	5.3	5.3	5.3	4.6
Slovenia	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.8	3.7	5.5	4.4	4.2	4.2	4.2
Slovakia	6.8	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.3	7.2	6.3	6.2	6.1	6.0
Finland	8.6	7.1	6.9	6.9	6.8	7.2	6.2	6.0	5.9	5.8
Sweden	8.9	7.4	7.3	7.3	7.3	9.2	8.3	8.2	8.1	8.0
Iceland	5.7	3.8	3.7	3.6	3.5	6.9	4.2	3.9	3.6	3.5
Norway	6.0	3.5	3.6	3.0	4.3	4.8	3.5	2.6	2.3	3.0
Switzerland	5.2	4.1	4.1	:	:	5.4	4.5	4.5	:	:

: Data not available

Source dataset: [une_rt_m](#)