February 2023

Euro area unemployment at 6.6%

EU at 6.0%

In February 2023, the **euro area** seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate was 6.6%, stable compared with January 2023 and down from 6.8% in February 2022. The **EU** unemployment rate was 6.0% in February 2023, down from 6.1% in January 2023 and from 6.2% in February 2022. These figures are published by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**.

Eurostat estimates that 13.120 million persons in the **EU**, of whom 11.142 million in the **euro area**, were unemployed in February 2023. Compared with January 2023, unemployment decreased by 24 thousand in the **EU** and by 59 thousand in the **euro area**. Compared with February 2022, unemployment decreased by 247 thousand in the **EU** and by 257 thousand in the **euro area**.
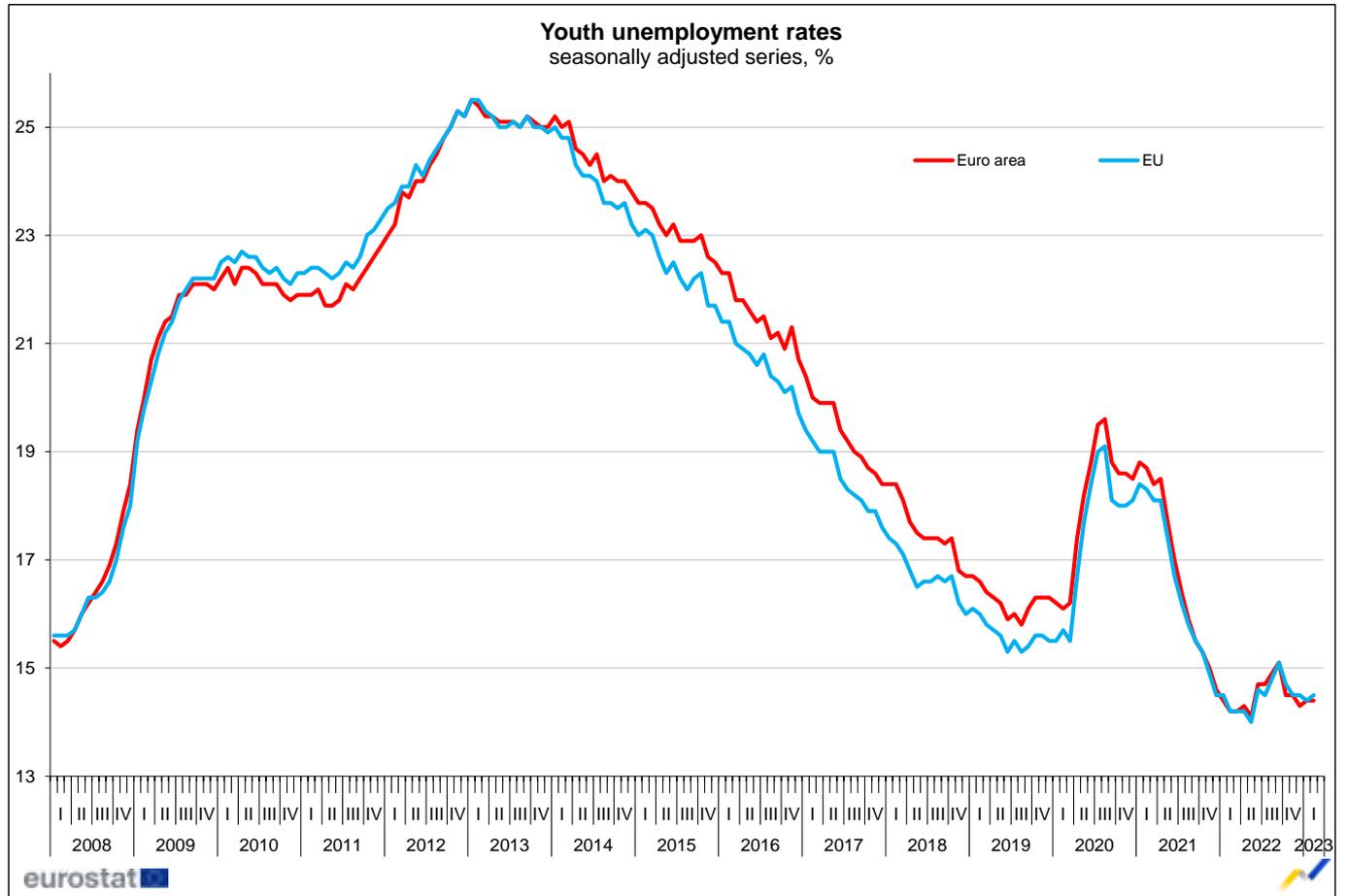

Unemployment rates
seasonally adjusted series, %

Youth unemployment

In February 2023, 2.799 million young persons (under 25) were unemployed in the **EU**, of whom 2.283 million were in the **euro area**. In February 2023, the youth unemployment rate was 14.5% in the **EU** and 14.4% in the **euro area**, respectively up from 14.4% and stable compared with the previous month. Compared with January 2023, youth unemployment increased by 22 thousand in the **EU** and by 2 thousand in the **euro area**. Compared with February 2022, youth unemployment increased by 173 thousand in the **EU** and by 125 thousand in the **euro area**.

Youth unemployment rates
seasonally adjusted series, %

Unemployment by sex

In February 2023, the unemployment rate for women was 6.4% in the **EU**, stable compared with January 2023. The unemployment rate for men was 5.7% in February 2023, also stable compared with the previous month. In the **euro area**, the unemployment rate for women was 7.0%, down from 7.1% in January 2023. The unemployment rate for men was 6.2%, stable compared with the previous month.

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 labour market situation, 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 2022. LFS data for the first quarter of 2023 will be released on 16 June 2023.

Geographical information

Euro area (EA20): Belgium, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Croatia, 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.

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.

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 26/2023 of 2 March 2023, the January 2023 unemployment rate for the EU remained unchanged, while the unemployment rate for the euro area has been revised from 6.7% to 6.6%. Among EU Member States, the rate has been revised by more than 0.1 percentage points (pp) upwards for Sweden (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

Eurostat Euro indicators dashboard

Eurostat €-indicators release calendar

European Statistics Code of Practice

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Seasonally adjusted unemployment, totals

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	Feb 22	Nov 22	Dec 22	Jan 23	Feb 23	Feb 22	Nov 22	Dec 22	Jan 23	Feb 23
Euro area	6.8	6.7	6.7	6.6	**6.6**	11 399	11 264	11 255	11 201	**11 142**
EU	6.2	6.1	6.1	6.1	**6.0**	13 367	13 266	13 228	13 144	**13 120**
Belgium	5.3	5.7	5.8	5.8	**5.8**	277	306	309	312	**312**
Bulgaria	4.6	4.0	4.0	3.9	**3.8**	150	131	134	129	**127**
Czechia	2.5	2.7	2.3	2.5	**2.4**	133	139	122	130	**126**
Denmark	4.3	4.7	4.8	4.3	**5.2**	134	149	149	137	**165**
Germany	3.1	3.0	3.0	2.9	**2.9**	1 339	1 335	1 321	1 305	**1 290**
Estonia	5.5	5.4	5.3	5.2	**5.1**	39	39	38	38	**37**
Ireland	4.6	4.5	4.4	4.4	**4.3**	122	120	119	118	**117**
Greece	13.0	11.8	11.8	10.3	**11.4**	621	553	556	473	**527**
Spain	13.2	13.0	13.0	13.0	**12.8**	3 090	3 056	3 061	3 054	**3 027**
France	7.3	7.2	7.2	7.1	**7.0**	2 226	2 188	2 191	2 174	**2 153**
Croatia	6.6	6.7	6.6	6.5	**6.3**	120	123	121	118	**114**
Italy	8.4	7.9	7.9	8.0	**8.0**	2 102	1 977	1 985	2 020	**2 008**
Cyprus	6.1	7.3	7.4	7.4	**7.3**	29	36	36	36	**36**
Latvia	6.9	6.9	6.8	6.8	**6.7**	65	66	65	65	**64**
Lithuania	6.2	6.1	6.1	6.4	**6.5**	91	92	91	97	**97**
Luxembourg	4.5	4.7	4.7	4.8	**4.8**	15	15	15	16	**16**
Hungary	3.6	3.8	3.8	3.8	**3.9**	175	184	184	189	**189**
Malta	3.1	2.9	2.9	3.0	**3.0**	9	9	9	9	**9**
Netherlands	3.4	3.6	3.5	3.6	**3.5**	336	364	352	360	**356**
Austria	4.8	5.5	4.9	5.1	**5.0**	223	258	229	238	**235**
Poland	2.8	2.9	2.9	2.8	**2.8**	484	509	495	479	**479**
Portugal	5.6	6.5	6.7	7.0	**6.8**	292	336	350	368	**360**
Romania	5.8	5.7	5.6	5.6	**5.5**	487	482	468	465	**459**
Slovenia	4.1	3.6	3.4	3.3	**3.2**	42	36	35	33	**32**
Slovakia	6.4	6.1	6.1	6.1	**6.0**	176	168	168	168	**167**
Finland	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.9	**6.9**	191	192	193	194	**194**
Sweden	7.8	7.3	7.3	7.4	**7.4**	435	414	415	416	**417**
Iceland	4.0	3.9	3.9	3.9	**3.9**	9	9	9	9	**9**
Norway	3.2	3.4	3.4	3.5	**3.6**	95	100	102	103	**105**
Switzerland	4.3	4.4	4.3	:	**:**	213	218	212	:	**:**
United States	3.8	3.6	3.5	3.4	**3.6**	6 391	5 991	5 773	5 795	**6 054**

: Data not available

Source datasets: une_rt_m (rates) and une_rt_m (in 1 000 persons)

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Seasonally adjusted youth (under 25s) unemployment

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	Feb 22	Nov 22	Dec 22	Jan 23	Feb 23	Feb 22	Nov 22	Dec 22	Jan 23	Feb 23
Euro area	14.2	14.5	14.3	14.4	**14.4**	2 158	2 282	2 257	2 281	**2 283**
EU	14.2	14.5	14.5	14.4	**14.5**	2 626	2 788	2 786	2 777	**2 799**
Belgium	14.9	16.1	16.1	:	**:**	59	67	67	:	**:**
Bulgaria	12.8	8.8	9.3	9.5	**9.4**	17	13	14	15	**15**
Czechia	7.5	9.4	9.7	6.9	**7.2**	20	25	26	18	**20**
Denmark	8.7	10.1	11.4	11.2	**10.5**	38	47	54	51	**48**
Germany	5.6	5.9	5.8	5.8	**5.7**	248	265	264	261	**258**
Estonia	18.7	17.4	17.4	16.2	**15.9**	10	10	10	9	**9**
Ireland	8.1	10.4	10.1	10.3	**10.2**	28	36	35	37	**37**
Greece	34.2	31.9	29.2	26.5	**29.7**	76	79	72	65	**71**
Spain	30.0	29.9	29.6	29.4	**29.3**	477	489	487	491	**493**
France	16.5	17.0	16.9	17.4	**17.6**	529	574	574	595	**608**
Croatia	17.6	18.0	18.0	:	**:**	26	27	27	:	**:**
Italy	24.5	23.3	22.2	22.8	**22.4**	360	349	335	343	**340**
Cyprus	17.0	18.6	18.6	:	**:**	7	8	8	:	**:**
Latvia	11.5	18.3	17.9	17.4	**16.8**	7	12	12	12	**11**
Lithuania	12.5	12.6	12.8	13.7	**13.3**	12	12	12	14	**13**
Luxembourg	17.3	18.4	18.1	18.8	**18.8**	4	4	4	5	**5**
Hungary	11.1	11.1	11.3	11.1	**10.9**	34	34	35	34	**33**
Malta	7.9	9.0	9.4	9.8	**9.7**	2	2	3	3	**3**
Netherlands	7.3	7.8	7.5	7.8	**7.8**	126	139	135	140	**140**
Austria	8.5	10.3	8.8	8.6	**9.8**	43	56	46	46	**53**
Poland	10.0	12.3	12.1	12.0	**12.0**	107	129	127	126	**127**
Portugal	19.9	19.1	19.3	20.9	**18.8**	64	69	71	78	**70**
Romania	23.1	22.2	22.2	:	**:**	122	116	116	:	**:**
Slovenia	9.6	9.3	9.3	:	**:**	7	7	7	:	**:**
Slovakia	20.5	20.9	21.0	20.5	**19.9**	28	30	30	29	**28**
Finland	14.7	15.1	15.1	14.9	**14.7**	46	49	49	49	**48**
Sweden	22.2	21.8	21.9	22.1	**22.2**	143	147	149	150	**150**
Iceland	9.3	8.3	8.4	8.6	**8.7**	3	3	3	3	**3**
Norway	9.6	8.5	11.2	12.5	**9.5**	39	36	48	53	**39**
Switzerland	7.3	7.5	7.3	:	**:**	42	43	43	:	**:**

: 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)

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Seasonally adjusted unemployment rates (%), by sex

	Males					Females				
	Feb 22	Nov 22	Dec 22	Jan 23	Feb 23	Feb 22	Nov 22	Dec 22	Jan 23	Feb 23
Euro area	6.4	6.3	6.3	6.2	**6.2**	7.3	7.1	7.1	7.1	**7.0**
EU	5.9	5.8	5.8	5.7	**5.7**	6.6	6.5	6.5	6.4	**6.4**
Belgium	5.4	6.0	6.1	6.2	**6.2**	5.2	5.5	5.5	5.4	**5.4**
Bulgaria	4.6	4.1	4.2	4.0	**4.0**	4.6	3.8	3.8	3.7	**3.6**
Czechia	1.9	2.2	2.2	2.0	**2.0**	3.2	3.2	2.5	3.0	**2.8**
Denmark	4.3	5.2	5.2	4.5	**5.8**	4.4	4.2	4.3	4.1	**4.6**
Germany	3.4	3.1	3.1	3.0	**3.0**	2.8	2.9	2.9	2.8	**2.8**
Estonia	5.9	6.2	6.0	5.3	**5.1**	5.1	4.7	4.6	5.2	**5.1**
Ireland	4.5	4.3	4.2	4.1	**4.0**	4.8	4.7	4.7	4.7	**4.7**
Greece	9.9	9.0	8.4	7.9	**7.8**	16.8	15.4	15.9	13.2	**15.8**
Spain	11.6	11.5	11.5	11.5	**11.3**	15.1	14.8	14.7	14.6	**14.5**
France	7.3	7.4	7.4	7.4	**7.3**	7.3	6.9	6.9	6.8	**6.7**
Croatia	5.8	6.0	5.9	5.7	**5.6**	7.5	7.6	7.5	7.3	**7.0**
Italy	7.3	6.8	6.9	6.8	**6.9**	9.9	9.3	9.2	9.5	**9.4**
Cyprus	5.4	6.2	6.2	6.1	**6.1**	6.9	8.5	8.7	8.7	**8.7**
Latvia	8.0	8.8	9.1	9.0	**8.8**	5.9	4.9	4.6	4.6	**4.6**
Lithuania	6.4	6.7	6.7	7.0	**7.3**	6.0	5.5	5.5	5.9	**5.6**
Luxembourg	4.3	4.6	4.5	4.6	**4.6**	4.7	4.7	4.8	4.9	**4.9**
Hungary	3.6	3.8	3.9	3.9	**3.9**	3.6	3.7	3.7	3.8	**3.8**
Malta	3.6	3.0	3.0	3.1	**3.1**	2.4	2.7	2.9	2.9	**2.9**
Netherlands	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.2	**3.3**	3.6	4.0	3.9	3.9	**3.8**
Austria	4.8	6.0	5.3	5.1	**4.9**	4.8	4.9	4.4	5.1	**5.0**
Poland	2.9	3.0	2.9	2.8	**2.8**	2.8	2.9	2.8	2.7	**2.7**
Portugal	5.1	6.0	6.1	6.5	**6.5**	6.2	6.9	7.3	7.5	**7.2**
Romania	6.1	6.1	5.9	5.8	**5.7**	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	**5.3**
Slovenia	3.7	3.3	3.1	3.0	**3.0**	4.5	3.9	3.8	3.6	**3.5**
Slovakia	6.3	5.8	5.8	5.7	**5.6**	6.4	6.3	6.4	6.4	**6.4**
Finland	7.1	7.2	7.3	7.4	**7.4**	6.5	6.4	6.4	6.3	**6.3**
Sweden	7.3	7.0	7.1	7.1	**7.1**	8.3	7.7	7.7	7.7	**7.7**
Iceland	4.0	4.4	4.4	4.4	**4.4**	3.9	3.3	3.3	3.2	**3.2**
Norway	3.6	3.2	3.4	3.6	**3.9**	3.3	3.1	3.4	3.6	**3.9**
Switzerland	4.2	4.2	4.1	:	**:**	4.5	4.6	4.5	:	**:**

: Data not available

Source dataset: une_rt_m

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