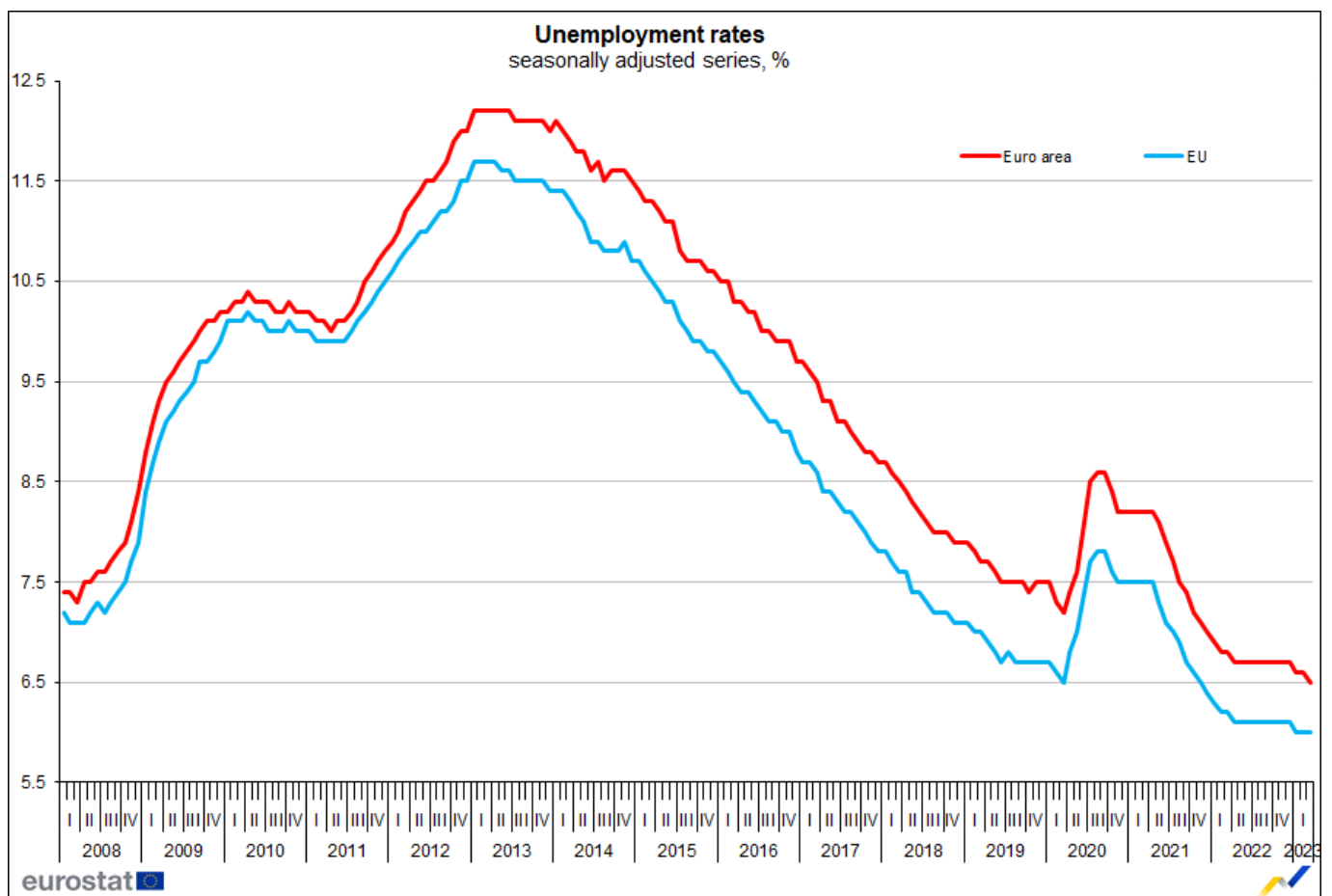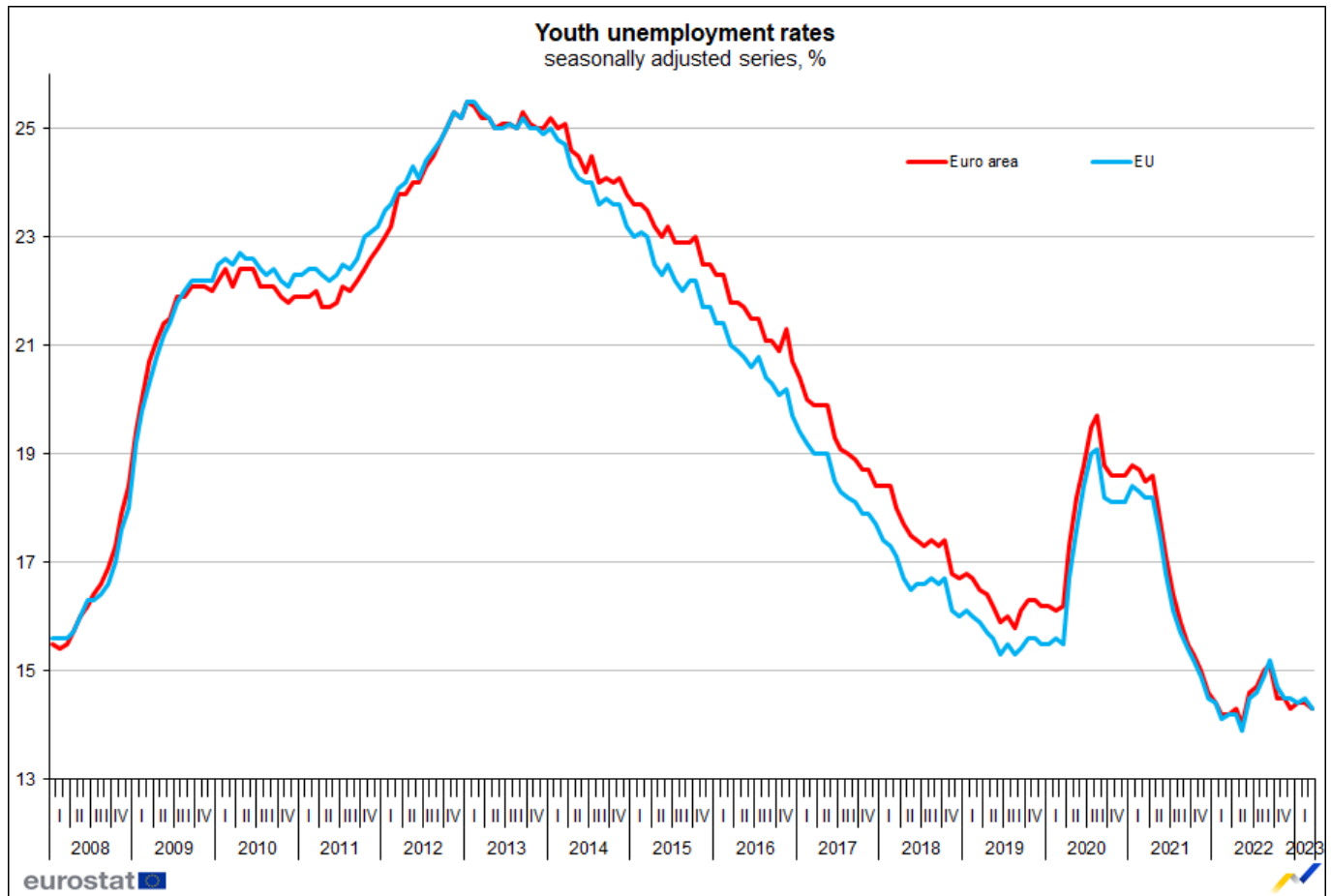March 2023

Euro area unemployment at 6.5%

EU at 6.0%

In March 2023, the **euro area** seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate was 6.5%, down from 6.6% in February 2023 and from 6.8% in March 2022. The **EU** unemployment rate was 6.0% in March 2023, stable compared with February 2023 and down from 6.2% in March 2022. These figures are published by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**.

Eurostat estimates that 12.960 million persons in the **EU**, of whom 11.010 million in the **euro area**, were unemployed in March 2023. Compared with February 2023, unemployment decreased by 155 thousand in the **EU** and by 121 thousand in the **euro area**. Compared with March 2022, unemployment decreased by 353 thousand in the **EU** and by 365 thousand in the **euro area**.

Youth unemployment

In March 2023, 2.763 million young persons (under 25) were unemployed in the **EU**, of whom 2.264 million were in the **euro area**. In March 2023, the youth unemployment rate was 14.3% both in the **EU** and in the **euro area**, down from respectively 14.5% and 14.4% in the previous month. Compared with February 2023, youth unemployment decreased by 33 thousand in the **EU** and by 14 thousand in the **euro area**. Compared with March 2022, youth unemployment increased by 105 thousand in the **EU** and by 91 thousand in the **euro area**.

Unemployment by sex

In March 2023, the unemployment rate for women was 6.3% in the **EU**, down from 6.4% in February 2023. The unemployment rate for men was 5.6% in March 2023, down from 5.7% in the previous month. In the **euro area**, the unemployment rate for women was 7.0%, down from 7.1% in February 2023. The unemployment rate for men was 6.1%, 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 37/2023 of 31 March 2023, the February 2023 unemployment rate for the EU and the unemployment rate for the euro area remained unchanged. Among EU Member States, the rate has been revised by more than 0.1 percentage points (pp) upwards for Estonia (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)				
	Mar 22	Dec 22	Jan 23	Feb 23	Mar 23	Mar 22	Dec 22	Jan 23	Feb 23	Mar 23
Euro area	6.8	6.7	6.6	6.6	**6.5**	11 375	11 246	11 176	11 131	**11 010**
EU	6.2	6.1	6.0	6.0	**6.0**	13 313	13 220	13 122	13 115	**12 960**
Belgium	5.4	5.8	5.8	5.8	**5.9**	284	309	312	313	**316**
Bulgaria	4.5	4.0	3.8	3.8	**3.7**	149	133	129	126	**123**
Czechia	2.3	2.3	2.5	2.4	**2.6**	119	122	130	129	**138**
Denmark	4.0	4.8	4.3	5.2	**4.6**	123	149	138	166	**145**
Germany	3.0	3.0	2.9	2.9	**2.8**	1 327	1 316	1 297	1 278	**1 260**
Estonia	5.5	5.3	5.2	5.3	**5.4**	39	38	37	38	**39**
Ireland	5.0	4.4	4.4	4.3	**4.3**	132	119	119	117	**117**
Greece	12.7	11.8	10.2	11.3	**10.9**	609	557	471	523	**509**
Spain	13.2	13.0	12.9	12.9	**12.8**	3 090	3 062	3 050	3 042	**3 026**
France	7.4	7.1	7.1	7.0	**6.9**	2 257	2 186	2 168	2 146	**2 128**
Croatia	6.7	6.6	6.5	6.3	**6.2**	122	121	118	115	**112**
Italy	8.3	7.9	8.0	7.9	**7.8**	2 086	1 984	2 015	2 001	**1 980**
Cyprus	6.4	7.3	7.3	7.2	**6.8**	31	36	36	36	**33**
Latvia	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.7	**6.5**	64	65	65	64	**62**
Lithuania	5.7	6.1	6.4	6.5	**6.4**	88	91	97	97	**96**
Luxembourg	4.4	4.7	4.8	4.7	**4.7**	14	15	16	16	**16**
Hungary	3.6	3.8	3.8	3.9	**3.9**	174	185	189	190	**190**
Malta	3.0	2.9	3.0	3.0	**2.9**	9	9	9	9	**9**
Netherlands	3.3	3.5	3.6	3.5	**3.5**	327	352	360	356	**357**
Austria	4.2	4.9	5.1	5.0	**4.5**	196	228	238	234	**207**
Poland	2.8	2.9	2.8	2.8	**2.8**	481	497	482	483	**491**
Portugal	5.8	6.7	7.0	6.9	**6.9**	299	350	368	364	**363**
Romania	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.5	**5.4**	464	468	465	459	**453**
Slovenia	4.2	3.4	3.3	3.2	**3.2**	43	34	33	32	**32**
Slovakia	6.3	6.1	6.0	6.0	**6.0**	175	168	167	167	**166**
Finland	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	**6.7**	189	192	192	192	**191**
Sweden	7.6	7.3	7.3	7.3	**7.3**	428	414	414	415	**415**
Iceland	3.8	3.6	3.6	3.6	**3.6**	8	8	8	8	**8**
Norway	3.2	3.4	3.5	3.5	**3.6**	93	102	103	104	**105**
Switzerland	4.3	4.3	:	:	**:**	212	212	:	:	**:**
United States	3.6	3.5	3.4	3.6	**3.5**	5 904	5 773	5 795	6 054	**5 791**

: 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)				
	Mar 22	Dec 22	Jan 23	Feb 23	Mar 23	Mar 22	Dec 22	Jan 23	Feb 23	Mar 23
Euro area	14.2	14.3	14.4	14.4	**14.3**	2 173	2 257	2 276	2 278	**2 264**
EU	14.2	14.5	14.4	14.5	**14.3**	2 658	2 786	2 774	2 796	**2 763**
Belgium	14.9	16.1	15.2	15.2	**15.2**	59	67	64	64	**64**
Bulgaria	11.8	9.3	9.5	9.4	**9.3**	16	14	15	15	**15**
Czechia	6.8	9.7	7.0	7.5	**9.5**	18	26	19	20	**27**
Denmark	10.2	11.4	11.2	10.5	**9.1**	45	53	51	48	**43**
Germany	5.6	5.8	5.8	5.7	**5.6**	248	262	259	255	**252**
Estonia	17.5	17.3	16.0	11.3	**11.0**	9	10	9	6	**6**
Ireland	8.6	10.1	10.3	10.2	**10.0**	30	35	37	36	**36**
Greece	28.9	29.5	25.8	28.5	**24.2**	67	73	63	67	**56**
Spain	29.4	29.6	29.8	29.9	**29.5**	480	485	488	494	**492**
France	16.9	17.0	17.4	17.7	**17.9**	550	576	596	610	**621**
Croatia	17.5	17.9	17.4	17.4	**17.4**	26	27	26	26	**26**
Italy	25.2	22.3	22.8	22.4	**22.3**	372	338	344	341	**341**
Cyprus	17.0	18.5	18.7	18.7	**18.7**	7	8	8	8	**8**
Latvia	12.1	17.7	17.3	16.7	**15.7**	7	12	11	11	**10**
Lithuania	11.2	12.8	13.7	13.3	**12.6**	12	12	14	13	**12**
Luxembourg	17.1	18.1	18.8	18.8	**18.7**	4	4	5	5	**5**
Hungary	10.9	11.3	11.1	10.9	**10.4**	33	35	34	33	**32**
Malta	8.4	9.4	9.7	9.6	**9.2**	2	3	3	3	**3**
Netherlands	7.1	7.5	7.8	7.8	**8.0**	124	135	140	140	**143**
Austria	6.5	8.8	8.6	9.8	**7.6**	33	46	46	53	**39**
Poland	9.9	12.2	12.1	12.1	**12.4**	105	128	128	128	**131**
Portugal	20.4	19.3	20.9	19.2	**19.5**	66	71	78	72	**74**
Romania	23.1	22.2	:	:	**:**	122	116	:	:	**:**
Slovenia	9.6	9.2	7.9	7.9	**7.9**	7	7	5	5	**5**
Slovakia	20.4	21.0	20.4	19.8	**19.4**	28	30	29	28	**27**
Finland	14.5	15.1	14.9	14.7	**14.6**	46	49	48	48	**47**
Sweden	21.8	21.8	21.9	21.9	**21.9**	141	148	149	149	**149**
Iceland	9.2	7.9	7.9	8.0	**7.9**	3	3	3	3	**3**
Norway	9.9	11.3	12.4	9.5	**13.0**	40	48	53	39	**57**
Switzerland	7.5	7.3	:	:	**:**	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				
	Mar 22	**Dec 22**	**Jan 23**	**Feb 23**	**Mar 23**	**Mar 22**	**Dec 22**	**Jan 23**	**Feb 23**	**Mar 23**
Euro area	6.4	6.2	6.2	6.1	**6.1**	7.2	7.1	7.1	7.1	**7.0**
EU	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.7	**5.6**	6.6	6.5	6.4	6.4	**6.3**
Belgium	5.4	6.1	6.2	6.2	**6.2**	5.3	5.5	5.4	5.4	**5.5**
Bulgaria	4.6	4.2	4.0	3.9	**3.8**	4.5	3.8	3.7	3.6	**3.5**
Czechia	1.9	2.2	2.0	2.1	**2.3**	2.7	2.5	3.1	2.9	**3.0**
Denmark	3.5	5.2	4.5	5.8	**4.7**	4.5	4.3	4.1	4.6	**4.5**
Germany	3.3	3.1	3.0	3.0	**2.9**	2.8	2.9	2.8	2.8	**2.7**
Estonia	6.3	6.0	5.3	5.6	**5.7**	4.7	4.6	5.1	5.0	**5.0**
Ireland	5.0	4.2	4.1	4.1	**4.1**	5.0	4.7	4.7	4.7	**4.6**
Greece	9.4	8.4	8.0	7.9	**7.8**	16.8	15.9	13.0	15.4	**14.5**
Spain	11.6	11.4	11.3	11.2	**11.1**	15.0	14.8	14.7	14.7	**14.7**
France	7.4	7.4	7.3	7.3	**7.2**	7.4	6.9	6.8	6.7	**6.6**
Croatia	5.9	5.9	5.7	5.6	**5.6**	7.6	7.5	7.3	7.1	**6.9**
Italy	7.5	6.9	6.8	6.9	**6.8**	9.4	9.2	9.5	9.4	**9.3**
Cyprus	5.7	6.1	6.0	5.9	**5.6**	7.2	8.6	8.6	8.5	**8.0**
Latvia	8.0	9.0	8.9	8.7	**8.3**	5.5	4.6	4.6	4.7	**4.7**
Lithuania	5.9	6.7	7.0	7.3	**7.2**	5.4	5.5	5.9	5.6	**5.6**
Luxembourg	4.3	4.5	4.6	4.6	**4.7**	4.6	4.8	4.9	4.9	**4.8**
Hungary	3.6	3.8	3.9	3.9	**3.9**	3.5	3.7	3.8	3.8	**3.9**
Malta	3.4	3.0	3.1	3.1	**3.0**	2.4	2.9	2.9	2.9	**2.8**
Netherlands	3.1	3.2	3.2	3.3	**3.3**	3.6	3.9	3.9	3.8	**3.9**
Austria	4.3	5.3	5.1	4.9	**4.9**	4.2	4.4	5.1	5.0	**4.0**
Poland	2.7	2.9	2.8	2.8	**2.9**	2.9	2.8	2.7	2.7	**2.8**
Portugal	5.0	6.1	6.5	6.6	**6.6**	6.5	7.3	7.5	7.2	**7.1**
Romania	5.8	5.9	5.8	5.7	**5.8**	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	**5.0**
Slovenia	3.9	3.1	3.0	3.0	**3.0**	4.5	3.7	3.6	3.4	**3.3**
Slovakia	6.2	5.8	5.7	5.6	**5.5**	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	**6.5**
Finland	7.0	7.3	7.4	7.4	**7.4**	6.5	6.3	6.2	6.1	**6.1**
Sweden	7.1	7.0	7.1	7.1	**7.1**	8.2	7.6	7.6	7.6	**7.5**
Iceland	4.0	4.3	4.3	4.4	**4.4**	3.5	2.8	2.8	2.7	**2.6**
Norway	3.4	3.4	3.6	3.8	**3.7**	2.9	3.4	3.6	3.9	**3.8**
Switzerland	4.1	4.1	:	:	**:**	4.6	4.5	:	:	**:**

: Data not available

Source dataset: une_rt_m

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