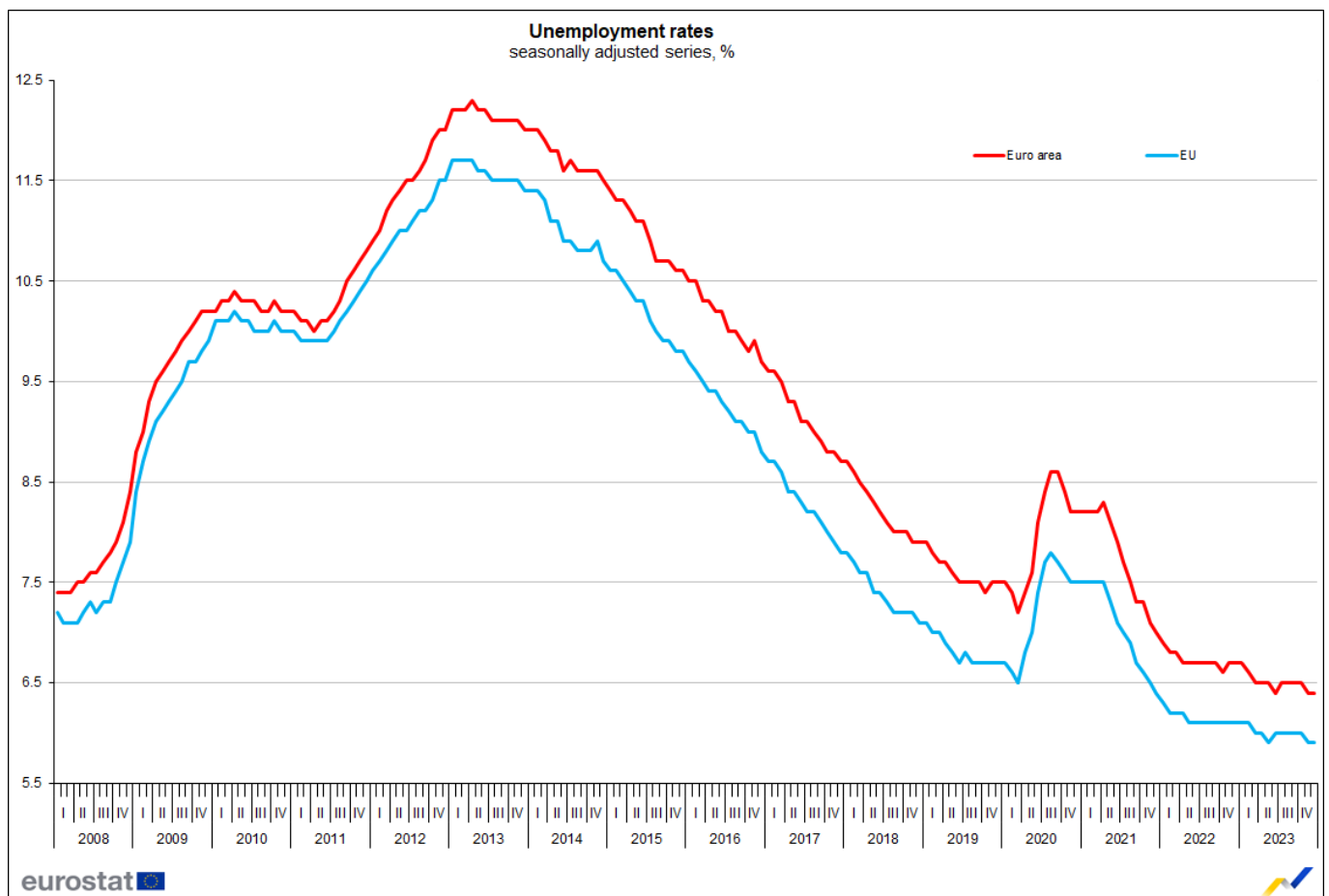## December 2023
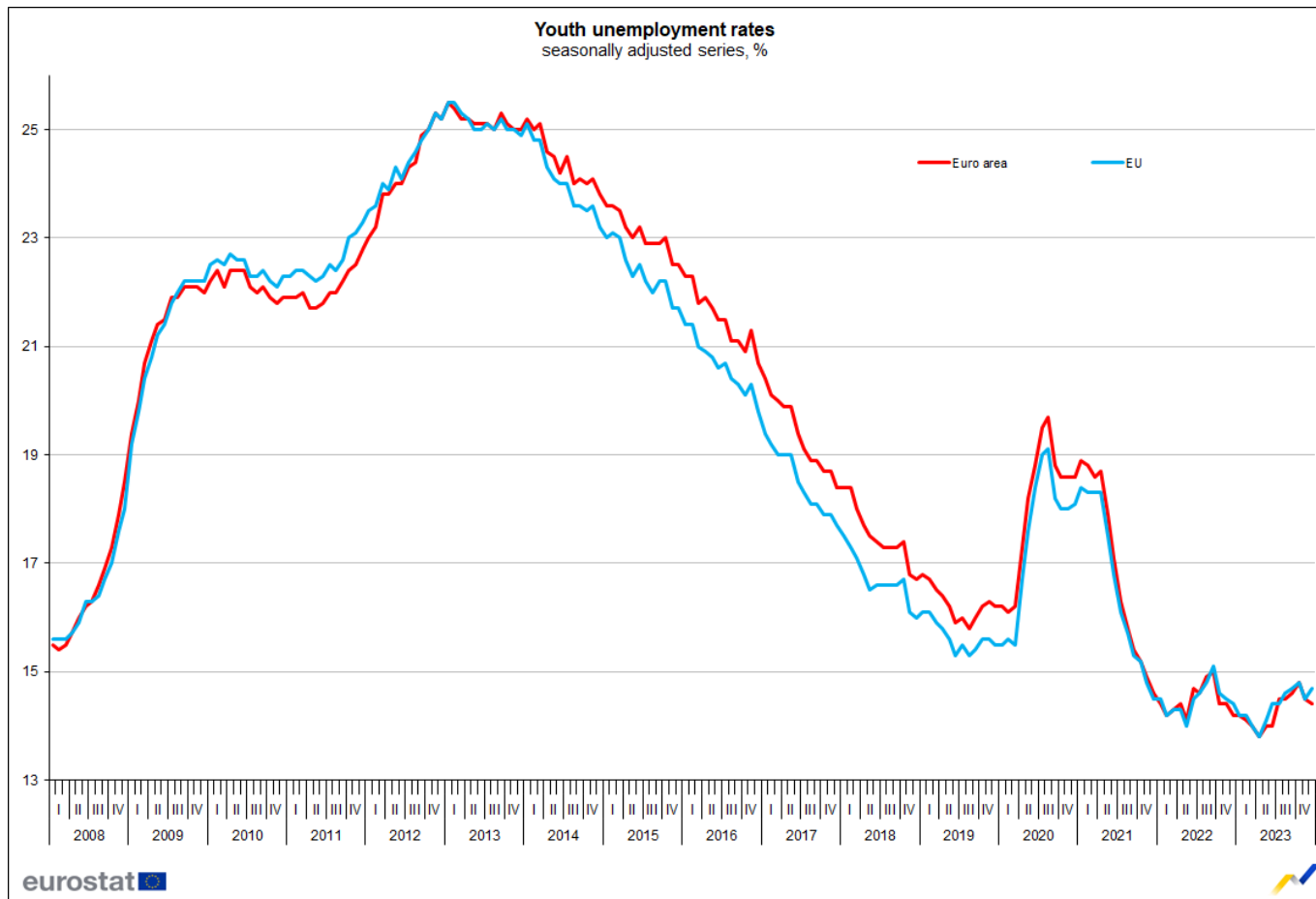# Euro area unemployment at 6.4%
## EU at 5.9%

In December 2023, the **euro area** seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate was 6.4%, stable compared with November 2023 and down from 6.7% in December 2022. The **EU** unemployment rate was 5.9% in December 2023, also stable compared to November 2023 and down from 6.1% in December 2022. These figures are published by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**.

Eurostat estimates that 12.936 million persons in the **EU**, of whom 10.909 million in the **euro area**, were unemployed in December 2023. Compared with November 2023, unemployment decreased by 17 thousand in the **euro area**, staying at a record low level. Compared with December 2022, unemployment decreased by 299 thousand in the **EU** and by 369 thousand in the **euro area**.

## Youth unemployment

In December 2023, 2.863 million young persons (under 25) were unemployed in the **EU**, of whom 2.325 million were in the **euro area**. In December 2023, the youth unemployment rate was 14.7% in the **EU** and 14.4% in the **euro area**, respectively up and down from 14.5% in both regions in the previous month. Compared with November 2023, youth unemployment increased by 54 thousand in the **EU** and by 13 thousand in the **euro area**. Compared with December 2022, youth unemployment increased by 102 thousand in the **EU** and by 84 thousand in the **euro area**.

**Youth unemployment rates**
seasonally adjusted series, %



eurostat

## Unemployment by sex

In December 2023, the unemployment rate for women was 6.2% in the **EU**, stable compared with November 2023. The unemployment rate for men was 5.7% in December 2023, also stable compared with the previous month. In the **euro area**, the unemployment rate for women was 6.8% and the unemployment rate for men was 6.1%, both stable compared with November 2023.

## 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 third quarter of 2023. LFS data for the fourth quarter of 2023 will be released on 15 March 2024.

## 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.

Denmark: change of estimation method for December 2023 unemployment levels only, using register data as auxiliary information.

## 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 004/2024 of 9 January 2024, the November 2023 unemployment rate for the EU and 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) | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Dec 22 | Sept 23 | Oct 23 | Nov 23 | Dec 23 | Dec 22 | Sept 23 | Oct 23 | Nov 23 | Dec 23 |
| **Euro area** | 6.7 | 6.5 | 6.5 | 6.4 | **6.4** | 11 278 | 11 040 | 11 025 | 10 926 | **10 909** |
| **EU** | 6.1 | 6.0 | 6.0 | 5.9 | **5.9** | 13 235 | 13 055 | 13 060 | 12 919 | **12 936** |
| **Belgium** | 5.7 | 5.4 | 5.6 | 5.6 | **5.7** | 305 | 285 | 295 | 295 | **299** |
| **Bulgaria** | 4.0 | 4.4 | 4.4 | 4.3 | **4.3** | 124 | 134 | 133 | 131 | **130** |
| **Czechia** | 2.3 | 2.7 | 2.9 | 2.5 | **2.8** | 121 | 139 | 149 | 129 | **143** |
| **Denmark** | 4.8 | 4.7 | 5.3 | 4.9 | **5.0** | 151 | 150 | 170 | 157 | **160** |
| **Germany** | 3.0 | 3.1 | 3.1 | 3.1 | **3.1** | 1 324 | 1 351 | 1 360 | 1 367 | **1 372** |
| **Estonia** | 5.3 | 6.5 | 6.2 | 6.3 | **6.3** | 38 | 48 | 46 | 47 | **47** |
| **Ireland** | 4.3 | 4.7 | 4.8 | 4.8 | **4.9** | 117 | 131 | 133 | 135 | **136** |
| **Greece** | 12.2 | 10.2 | 9.3 | 9.4 | **9.2** | 577 | 476 | 437 | 431 | **430** |
| **Spain** | 13.0 | 11.9 | 11.9 | 11.8 | **11.7** | 3 056 | 2 864 | 2 860 | 2 838 | **2 821** |
| **France** | 7.2 | 7.3 | 7.3 | 7.3 | **7.3** | 2 195 | 2 244 | 2 243 | 2 245 | **2 256** |
| **Croatia** | 6.7 | 6.5 | 6.5 | 6.4 | **6.4** | 115 | 112 | 111 | 109 | **109** |
| **Italy** | 7.9 | 7.5 | 7.6 | 7.4 | **7.2** | 2 000 | 1 912 | 1 950 | 1 880 | **1 829** |
| **Cyprus** | 7.0 | 5.9 | 5.9 | 5.9 | **6.1** | 34 | 29 | 29 | 29 | **30** |
| **Latvia** | 6.6 | 6.5 | 6.5 | 6.6 | **6.6** | 63 | 62 | 62 | 63 | **64** |
| **Lithuania** | 6.1 | 6.9 | 6.5 | 6.5 | **6.3** | 91 | 107 | 103 | 104 | **100** |
| **Luxembourg** | 4.8 | 5.5 | 5.5 | 5.7 | **5.5** | 16 | 19 | 19 | 19 | **19** |
| **Hungary** | 3.7 | 4.0 | 4.1 | 4.1 | **4.2** | 183 | 195 | 202 | 205 | **207** |
| **Malta** | 3.0 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.4 | **2.4** | 9 | 8 | 8 | 8 | **8** |
| **Netherlands** | 3.5 | 3.7 | 3.6 | 3.5 | **3.6** | 352 | 371 | 361 | 357 | **361** |
| **Austria** | 4.9 | 5.5 | 5.1 | 4.9 | **5.6** | 227 | 259 | 240 | 231 | **264** |
| **Poland** | 2.8 | 2.8 | 2.8 | 2.8 | **2.7** | 489 | 481 | 483 | 479 | **476** |
| **Portugal** | 6.7 | 6.6 | 6.7 | 6.6 | **6.6** | 352 | 348 | 353 | 348 | **347** |
| **Romania** | 5.6 | 5.5 | 5.4 | 5.4 | **5.4** | 468 | 449 | 446 | 442 | **444** |
| **Slovenia** | 3.5 | 3.9 | 4.1 | 4.2 | **4.2** | 35 | 40 | 43 | 44 | **44** |
| **Slovakia** | 6.0 | 5.9 | 5.8 | 5.8 | **5.8** | 167 | 161 | 161 | 160 | **160** |
| **Finland** | 6.9 | 7.3 | 7.4 | 7.4 | **7.4** | 195 | 208 | 209 | 210 | **211** |
| **Sweden** | 7.3 | 7.8 | 7.9 | 8.0 | **8.0** | 413 | 449 | 453 | 456 | **459** |
| **Iceland** | 3.1 | 4.1 | 3.1 | 2.8 | **3.8** | 7 | 9 | 7 | 6 | **8** |
| **Norway** | 3.4 | 3.6 | 3.6 | 3.7 | **3.7** | 100 | 108 | 109 | 110 | **111** |
| **Switzerland** | 4.3 | 4.2 | : | : | **:** | 212 | 211 | : | : | **:** |
| **United States** | 3.5 | 3.8 | 3.8 | 3.7 | **3.7** | 5 774 | 6 279 | 6 446 | 6 289 | **6 339** |

: Data not available

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

eurostat

## Seasonally adjusted youth (under 25s) unemployment

| | Rates (%) | | | | | Number of persons (in thousands) | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Dec 22 | Sept 23 | Oct 23 | Nov 23 | Dec 23 | Dec 22 | Sept 23 | Oct 23 | Nov 23 | Dec 23 |
| **Euro area** | 14.2 | 14.6 | 14.8 | 14.5 | **14.4** | 2 241 | 2 330 | 2 372 | 2 312 | **2 325** |
| **EU** | 14.4 | 14.7 | 14.8 | 14.5 | **14.7** | 2 761 | 2 841 | 2 873 | 2 809 | **2 863** |
| **Belgium** | 15.7 | 17.5 | 20.0 | 20.0 | **20.0** | 66 | 74 | 89 | 89 | **89** |
| **Bulgaria** | 9.2 | 12.9 | 12.7 | 12.2 | **12.5** | 12 | 16 | 16 | 15 | **15** |
| **Czechia** | 9.6 | 9.2 | 7.0 | 6.2 | **8.4** | 26 | 25 | 21 | 17 | **23** |
| **Denmark** | 11.5 | 12.6 | 13.9 | 11.8 | **12.4** | 54 | 58 | 65 | 58 | **60** |
| **Germany** | 5.9 | 5.5 | 5.5 | 5.6 | **5.6** | 271 | 251 | 250 | 250 | **250** |
| **Estonia** | 17.2 | 20.3 | 19.4 | 20.4 | **20.4** | 10 | 12 | 11 | 11 | **11** |
| **Ireland** | 10.0 | 12.6 | 12.8 | 13.0 | **13.4** | 34 | 47 | 48 | 50 | **52** |
| **Greece** | 30.4 | 24.8 | 23.7 | 27.0 | **22.3** | 75 | 67 | 67 | 65 | **62** |
| **Spain** | 29.3 | 28.1 | 28.7 | 28.7 | **28.6** | 479 | 489 | 498 | 498 | **499** |
| **France** | 16.7 | 17.5 | 17.6 | 17.5 | **17.4** | 558 | 591 | 598 | 593 | **591** |
| **Croatia** | 18.9 | 19.0 | 18.8 | 18.8 | **18.8** | 24 | 23 | 22 | 22 | **22** |
| **Italy** | 22.6 | 22.0 | 23.3 | 20.5 | **20.1** | 341 | 331 | 361 | 310 | **315** |
| **Cyprus** | 17.9 | 17.9 | 19.9 | 19.9 | **19.9** | 7 | 8 | 9 | 9 | **9** |
| **Latvia** | 16.4 | 13.4 | 14.0 | 14.5 | **14.4** | 11 | 9 | 10 | 11 | **11** |
| **Lithuania** | 12.8 | 14.1 | 13.3 | 13.3 | **12.9** | 12 | 13 | 15 | 15 | **14** |
| **Luxembourg** | 17.3 | 19.3 | 19.3 | 19.9 | **19.4** | 4 | 5 | 5 | 5 | **5** |
| **Hungary** | 11.3 | 12.2 | 13.6 | 13.7 | **13.9** | 34 | 37 | 42 | 42 | **44** |
| **Malta** | 9.9 | 6.8 | 6.9 | 7.3 | **6.9** | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | **2** |
| **Netherlands** | 7.5 | 8.8 | 8.4 | 8.2 | **8.1** | 135 | 160 | 151 | 148 | **148** |
| **Austria** | 8.8 | 12.0 | 10.5 | 9.7 | **11.4** | 47 | 65 | 55 | 50 | **63** |
| **Poland** | 11.7 | 10.5 | 10.6 | 10.7 | **10.7** | 124 | 111 | 113 | 115 | **116** |
| **Portugal** | 19.1 | 21.2 | 21.2 | 23.0 | **23.1** | 71 | 82 | 82 | 89 | **89** |
| **Romania** | 22.2 | 21.1 | : | : | **:** | 116 | 102 | : | : | **:** |
| **Slovenia** | 8.9 | 11.8 | 12.5 | 12.5 | **12.5** | 6 | 9 | 12 | 12 | **12** |
| **Slovakia** | 19.9 | 20.9 | 20.7 | 20.7 | **20.8** | 28 | 29 | 29 | 29 | **29** |
| **Finland** | 15.5 | 16.6 | 16.6 | 16.5 | **16.4** | 51 | 54 | 54 | 54 | **53** |
| **Sweden** | 21.5 | 22.1 | 22.3 | 22.5 | **22.7** | 146 | 150 | 152 | 153 | **154** |
| **Iceland** | 4.4 | 14.5 | 11.4 | 5.9 | **9.8** | 1 | 5 | 3 | 2 | **3** |
| **Norway** | 11.2 | 10.5 | 11.5 | 11.3 | **11.2** | 48 | 45 | 49 | 49 | **46** |
| **Switzerland** | 7.5 | 9.2 | : | : | **:** | 43 | 54 | : | : | **:** |

: 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 | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Dec 22 | Sept 23 | Oct 23 | Nov 23 | Dec 23 | Dec 22 | Sept 23 | Oct 23 | Nov 23 | Dec 23 |
| **Euro area** | 6.3 | 6.2 | 6.1 | 6.1 | **6.1** | 7.1 | 6.9 | 6.9 | 6.8 | **6.8** |
| **EU** | 5.8 | 5.7 | 5.7 | 5.7 | **5.7** | 6.4 | 6.3 | 6.3 | 6.2 | **6.2** |
| **Belgium** | 6.1 | 5.7 | 5.9 | 5.9 | **6.0** | 5.3 | 5.0 | 5.2 | 5.3 | **5.3** |
| **Bulgaria** | 4.1 | 4.6 | 4.6 | 4.6 | **4.6** | 3.8 | 4.2 | 4.1 | 4.1 | **4.0** |
| **Czechia** | 2.1 | 2.5 | 2.3 | 2.1 | **2.4** | 2.5 | 3.0 | 3.6 | 3.0 | **3.2** |
| **Denmark** | 5.2 | 4.5 | 4.9 | 4.1 | **4.4** | 4.4 | 5.0 | 5.8 | 5.7 | **5.7** |
| **Germany** | 3.1 | 3.3 | 3.3 | 3.3 | **3.3** | 2.8 | 2.8 | 2.8 | 2.8 | **2.8** |
| **Estonia** | 6.0 | 5.9 | 6.0 | 6.0 | **5.9** | 4.6 | 7.2 | 6.4 | 6.7 | **6.7** |
| **Ireland** | 4.3 | 4.9 | 5.0 | 5.0 | **5.1** | 4.5 | 4.6 | 4.6 | 4.6 | **4.6** |
| **Greece** | 8.9 | 7.9 | 7.3 | 7.6 | **7.1** | 16.2 | 13.0 | 11.7 | 11.6 | **11.7** |
| **Spain** | 11.4 | 10.5 | 10.4 | 10.3 | **10.2** | 14.7 | 13.6 | 13.6 | 13.4 | **13.3** |
| **France** | 7.4 | 7.3 | 7.3 | 7.3 | **7.2** | 6.9 | 7.3 | 7.3 | 7.3 | **7.4** |
| **Croatia** | 5.9 | 5.8 | 5.7 | 5.6 | **5.6** | 7.5 | 7.3 | 7.3 | 7.2 | **7.2** |
| **Italy** | 7.0 | 6.6 | 6.7 | 6.5 | **6.4** | 9.2 | 8.7 | 8.8 | 8.4 | **8.2** |
| **Cyprus** | 6.0 | 6.3 | 6.3 | 6.5 | **6.7** | 8.1 | 5.6 | 5.5 | 5.3 | **5.4** |
| **Latvia** | 8.5 | 7.8 | 7.7 | 7.8 | **8.0** | 4.7 | 5.3 | 5.4 | 5.4 | **5.3** |
| **Lithuania** | 6.7 | 7.8 | 7.4 | 7.5 | **7.3** | 5.5 | 6.0 | 5.5 | 5.6 | **5.3** |
| **Luxembourg** | 4.8 | 5.4 | 5.5 | 5.7 | **5.5** | 4.9 | 5.6 | 5.6 | 5.7 | **5.6** |
| **Hungary** | 3.8 | 3.9 | 4.1 | 4.1 | **4.1** | 3.6 | 4.0 | 4.1 | 4.2 | **4.3** |
| **Malta** | 3.1 | 2.5 | 2.4 | 2.3 | **2.3** | 2.8 | 2.6 | 2.6 | 2.7 | **2.6** |
| **Netherlands** | 3.2 | 3.6 | 3.5 | 3.5 | **3.5** | 3.9 | 3.8 | 3.6 | 3.6 | **3.6** |
| **Austria** | 5.2 | 5.9 | 5.5 | 5.4 | **6.0** | 4.4 | 5.0 | 4.6 | 4.4 | **5.2** |
| **Poland** | 2.9 | 2.8 | 2.8 | 2.8 | **2.7** | 2.7 | 2.8 | 2.8 | 2.8 | **2.7** |
| **Portugal** | 6.2 | 6.2 | 6.2 | 6.3 | **6.2** | 7.3 | 7.0 | 7.1 | 6.8 | **6.9** |
| **Romania** | 5.9 | 5.8 | 5.7 | 5.8 | **5.9** | 5.3 | 5.1 | 5.1 | 4.9 | **4.7** |
| **Slovenia** | 3.2 | 3.7 | 4.0 | 4.1 | **4.2** | 3.8 | 4.2 | 4.3 | 4.3 | **4.2** |
| **Slovakia** | 5.9 | 5.8 | 5.7 | 5.7 | **5.7** | 6.2 | 5.9 | 6.0 | 6.0 | **5.9** |
| **Finland** | 7.3 | 8.1 | 8.1 | 8.2 | **8.2** | 6.4 | 6.6 | 6.6 | 6.6 | **6.6** |
| **Sweden** | 7.1 | 7.6 | 7.7 | 7.7 | **7.8** | 7.5 | 8.1 | 8.2 | 8.2 | **8.3** |
| **Iceland** | 4.0 | 4.1 | 3.5 | 2.9 | **3.2** | 2.0 | 4.1 | 2.7 | 2.7 | **4.5** |
| **Norway** | 3.4 | 3.6 | 3.9 | 3.9 | **3.7** | 3.4 | 3.4 | 3.5 | 3.6 | **3.3** |
| **Switzerland** | 4.1 | 3.9 | : | : | **:** | 4.5 | 4.5 | : | : | **:** |

: Data not available

Source dataset: une_rt_m

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