

September 2015

## Euro area unemployment rate at 10.8%

EU28 at 9.3%

The **euro area** (EA19) seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate was 10.8% in September 2015, down from 10.9% in August 2015, and from 11.5% in September 2014. This is the lowest rate recorded in the **euro area** since January 2012. The **EU28** unemployment rate was 9.3% in September 2015, down from 9.4% in August 2015, and from 10.1% in September 2014. This is the lowest rate recorded in the **EU28** since September 2009. These figures are published by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**.

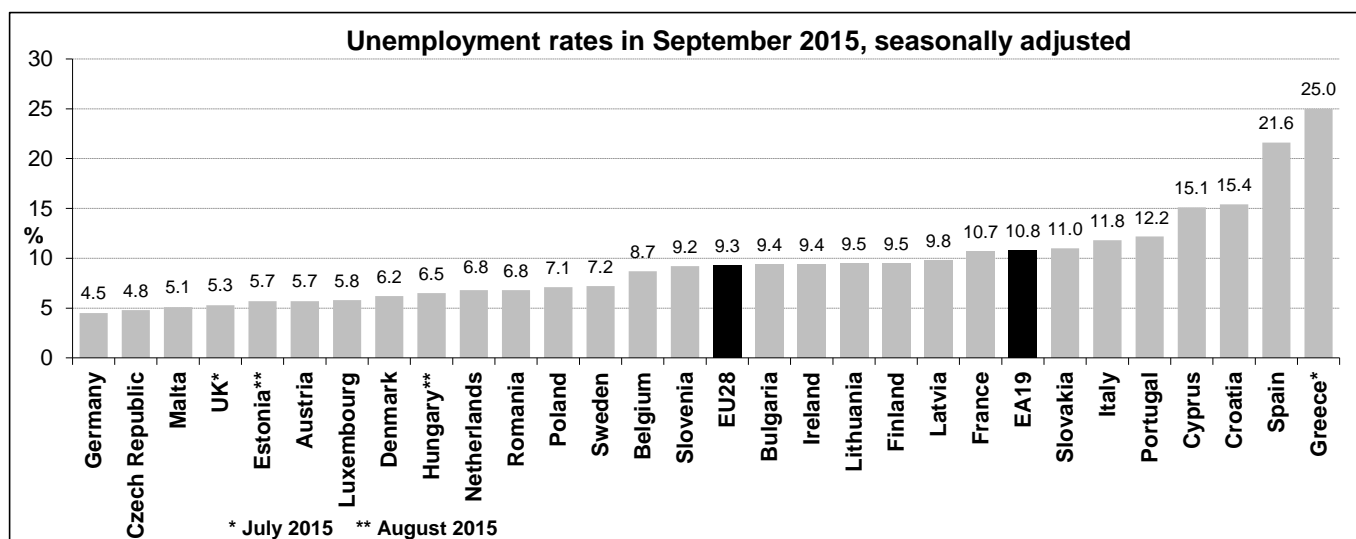
Eurostat estimates that 22.631 million men and women in the **EU28**, of whom 17.323 million were in the **euro area**, were unemployed in September 2015. Compared with August 2015, the number of persons unemployed decreased by 147 000 in the **EU28** and by 131 000 in the **euro area**. Compared with September 2014, unemployment fell by 1.832 million in the **EU28** and by 1.194 million in the **euro area**.

### Member States

Among the Member States, the lowest unemployment rates in September 2015 were recorded in **Germany** (4.5%), the **Czech Republic** (4.8%), **Malta** (5.1%) and the **United Kingdom** (5.3% in July 2015), and the highest in **Greece** (25.0% in July 2015) and **Spain** (21.6%).

Compared with a year ago, the unemployment rate in September 2015 fell in twenty-three Member States, increased in four and remained stable in **Austria**. The largest decreases were registered in **Spain** (from 24.0% to 21.6%), **Estonia** (from 8.0% to 5.7% between August 2014 and August 2015), **Bulgaria** (11.3% to 9.4%) and **Slovakia** (12.9% to 11.0%). The increases were registered in **Finland** (8.9% to 9.5%), **France** (10.4% to 10.7%), **Romania** (6.7% to 6.8%) and **Belgium** (8.6% to 8.7%).

In September 2015, the unemployment rate in the **United States** was 5.1%, stable compared to August 2015 and down from 5.9% in September 2014.



## Youth unemployment

In September 2015, 4.540 million young persons (under 25) were unemployed in the **EU28**, of whom 3.113 million were in the **euro area**. Compared with September 2014, youth unemployment decreased by 500 000 in the **EU28** and by 251 000 in the **euro area**. In September 2015, the youth unemployment rate was 20.1% in the **EU28** and 22.1% in the **euro area**, compared with 21.8% and 23.4% respectively in September 2014. In September 2015, the lowest rates were observed in **Germany** (7.0%), **Austria** (11.0%), **Denmark** (11.2%) and the **Netherlands** (11.5%), and the highest in **Greece** (48.6% in July 2015), **Spain** (46.7%), **Croatia** (43.1% in the third quarter 2015) and **Italy** (40.5%).

### Geographical coverage

The **euro area (EA19)** includes Belgium, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Italy, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Austria, Portugal, Slovenia, Slovakia and Finland.

The **European Union (EU28)** includes Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Croatia, Italy, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Hungary, Malta, the Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Finland, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

### Methods and definition

Eurostat produces 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 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.

### **Country notes:**

Germany, the Netherlands, Austria, Finland, Sweden and Iceland: the trend component is used instead of the more volatile seasonally adjusted data.

Denmark, Estonia, Hungary, Portugal, the United Kingdom and Norway: 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; inclusion of new weights in the LFS data due to the 2011 Census.

Compared with the rates published in News Release [167/2015](#) of 30 September 2015, the August 2015 unemployment rates have been revised downwards from 9.5% to 9.4% for the EU28 and from 11.0% to 10.9% for the EA19. Among Member States, rates have been revised by more than 0.1 percentage points (pp) downwards for Spain (by 0.4 pp), the Czech Republic, Greece (for June 2015) and Finland (all by 0.2 pp).

### For more information

Eurostat's [website section](#) on employment and unemployment

Eurostat's [database section](#) on unemployment, including non-seasonally adjusted and trend data

Eurostat's [Statistics Explained article](#) on unemployment

Eurostat's [Statistics Explained article](#) on youth unemployment

Eurostat's [metadata](#) on adjusted unemployment series

Eurostat's €-indicators [release calendar](#)

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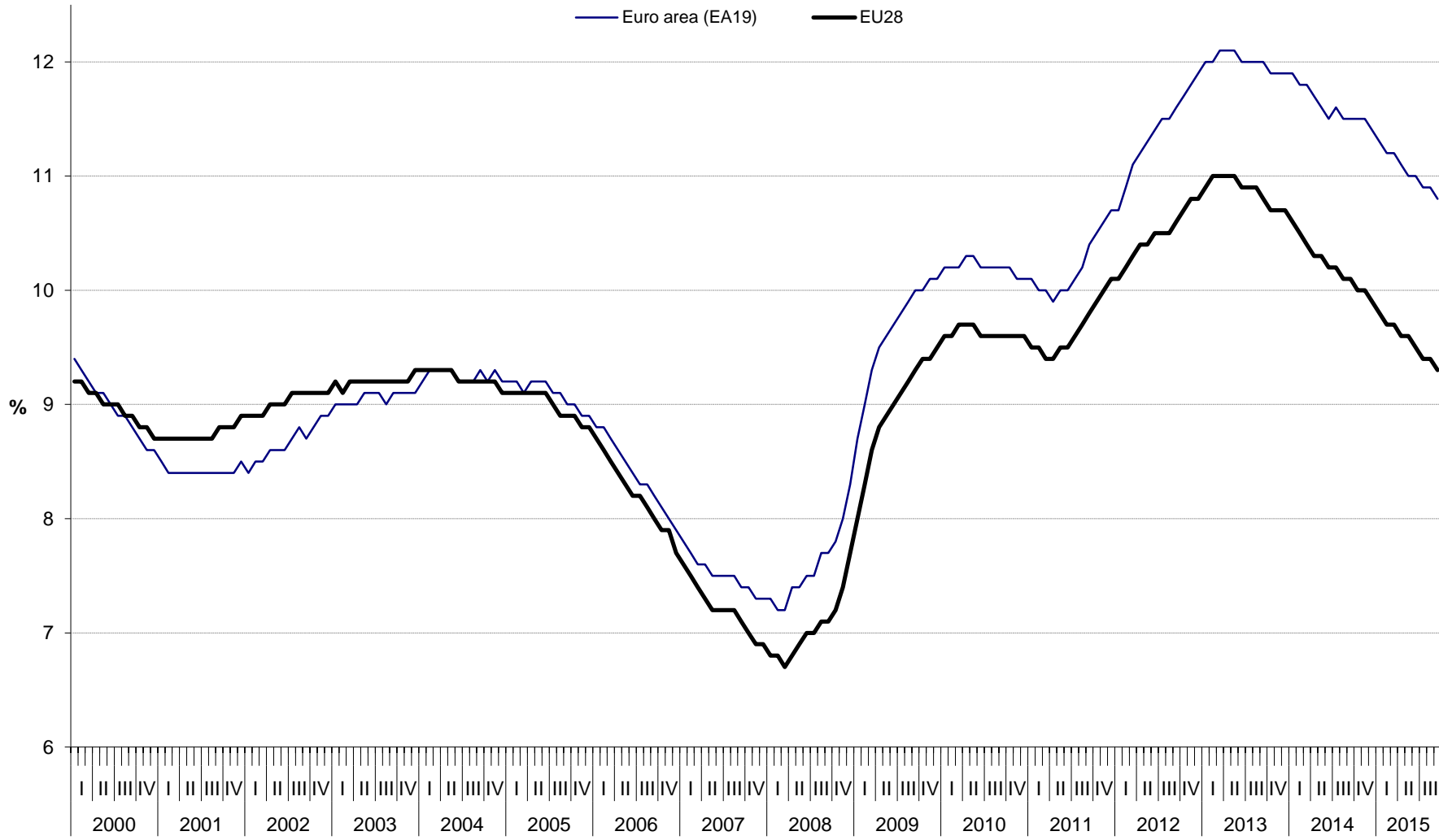
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### Euro area and EU28 unemployment rates Seasonally adjusted series



### Seasonally adjusted unemployment, totals

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	Sep 14	Jun 15	Jul 15	Aug 15	Sep 15	Sep 14	Jun 15	Jul 15	Aug 15	Sep 15
<b>EA19</b>	11.5	11.0	10.9	10.9	<b>10.8</b>	18 517	17 737	17 497	17 454	<b>17 323</b>
<b>EU28</b>	10.1	9.5	9.4	9.4	<b>9.3</b>	24 463	23 196	22 871	22 778	<b>22 631</b>
<b>Belgium</b>	8.6	8.9	8.8	8.8	<b>8.7</b>	429	438	435	435	<b>432</b>
<b>Bulgaria</b>	11.3	9.9	9.7	9.6	<b>9.4</b>	381	329	323	319	<b>313</b>
<b>Czech Republic</b>	5.8	5.0	5.0	4.8	<b>4.8</b>	307	264	263	256	<b>252</b>
<b>Denmark</b>	6.5	6.2	6.3	6.3	<b>6.2</b>	190	182	184	185	<b>181</b>
<b>Germany</b>	5.0	4.6	4.6	4.5	<b>4.5</b>	2 092	1 946	1 917	1 891	<b>1 869</b>
<b>Estonia</b>	8.0**	6.1	5.8	5.7	:	54**	42	39	40	:
<b>Ireland</b>	10.9	9.5	9.5	9.5	<b>9.4</b>	233	206	206	206	<b>205</b>
<b>Greece</b>	26.3*	25.0	25.0	:	:	1 268*	1 199	1 197	:	:
<b>Spain</b>	24.0	22.3	22.0	21.8	<b>21.6</b>	5 503	5 121	5 032	4 988	<b>4 947</b>
<b>France</b>	10.4	10.5	10.6	10.8	<b>10.7</b>	3 067	3 083	3 132	3 179	<b>3 160</b>
<b>Croatia</b>	17.0	15.8	15.5	15.4	<b>15.4</b>	324	301	296	294	<b>291</b>
<b>Italy</b>	12.8	12.5	12.0	11.9	<b>11.8</b>	3 281	3 214	3 067	3 051	<b>3 016</b>
<b>Cyprus</b>	16.3	15.2	15.2	15.2	<b>15.1</b>	71	65	65	65	<b>64</b>
<b>Latvia</b>	10.8	10.1	10.1	9.9	<b>9.8</b>	105	100	100	98	<b>97</b>
<b>Lithuania</b>	10.3	9.5	9.6	9.6	<b>9.5</b>	152	139	140	141	<b>141</b>
<b>Luxembourg</b>	6.1	5.9	5.9	5.9	<b>5.8</b>	16	16	16	16	<b>16</b>
<b>Hungary</b>	7.5**	6.9	6.8	6.5	:	336**	310	308	296	:
<b>Malta</b>	5.8	5.3	5.2	5.1	<b>5.1</b>	11	10	10	10	<b>10</b>
<b>Netherlands</b>	7.1	6.9	6.8	6.8	<b>6.8</b>	630	611	603	604	<b>609</b>
<b>Austria</b>	5.7	5.8	5.8	5.7	<b>5.7</b>	246	256	253	252	<b>252</b>
<b>Poland</b>	8.5	7.4	7.3	7.2	<b>7.1</b>	1 480	1 269	1 252	1 240	<b>1 230</b>
<b>Portugal</b>	13.4	12.3	12.2	12.3	<b>12.2</b>	688	630	628	629	<b>622</b>
<b>Romania</b>	6.7	6.8	6.8	6.8	<b>6.8</b>	619	627	630	626	<b>627</b>
<b>Slovenia</b>	9.6	9.5	9.4	9.3	<b>9.2</b>	96	96	95	93	<b>92</b>
<b>Slovakia</b>	12.9	11.3	11.2	11.1	<b>11.0</b>	352	309	306	303	<b>300</b>
<b>Finland</b>	8.9	9.5	9.5	9.5	<b>9.5</b>	239	255	256	256	<b>256</b>
<b>Sweden</b>	7.9	7.4	7.3	7.2	<b>7.2</b>	410	387	382	378	<b>374</b>
<b>United Kingdom</b>	6.0*	5.5	5.3	:	:	1 948*	1 795	1 739	:	:
<b>Iceland</b>	4.7	4.3	4.3	4.3	<b>4.3</b>	9	8	8	8	<b>8</b>
<b>Norway</b>	3.7**	4.4	4.4	4.6	:	102**	123	121	128	:
<b>United States</b>	5.9	5.3	5.3	5.1	<b>5.1</b>	9 182	8 288	8 292	8 080	<b>7 887</b>

The source datasets are available [here](#) (rates) and [here](#) (in 1000 persons).

: Data not available

\* July 2014

\*\* August 2014

### Seasonally adjusted youth (under 25s) unemployment

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	Sep 14	Jun 15	Jul 15	Aug 15	Sep 15	Sep 14	Jun 15	Jul 15	Aug 15	Sep 15
<b>EA19</b>	23.4	22.5	22.1	22.2	<b>22.1</b>	3 364	3 187	3 112	3 132	<b>3 113</b>
<b>EU28</b>	21.8	20.6	20.2	20.1	<b>20.1</b>	5 040	4 692	4 564	4 560	<b>4 540</b>
<b>Belgium</b>	21.1	23.3	22.7	22.9	<b>23.3</b>	86	96	94	95	<b>97</b>
<b>Bulgaria</b>	23.0	21.8	21.3	21.1	<b>20.7</b>	46	40	38	37	<b>36</b>
<b>Czech Republic</b>	15.0	12.7	12.8	12.0	<b>12.2</b>	53	44	44	41	<b>41</b>
<b>Denmark</b>	12.6	11.4	11.4	11.7	<b>11.2</b>	57	52	52	52	<b>50</b>
<b>Germany</b>	7.5	7.1	7.1	7.1	<b>7.0</b>	317	292	290	288	<b>286</b>
<b>Estonia</b>	14.1	10.1	11.8	13.3	:	8	6	7	8	:
<b>Ireland</b>	22.5	20.7	20.7	20.7	<b>20.6</b>	44	38	39	39	<b>39</b>
<b>Greece</b>	50.4	48.1	48.6	:	:	157	139	139	:	:
<b>Spain</b>	53.1	48.5	47.7	47.4	<b>46.7</b>	832	761	739	740	<b>740</b>
<b>France</b>	24.7	24.2	24.2	24.4	<b>24.4</b>	681	657	657	663	<b>660</b>
<b>Croatia</b>	45.4	43.5	43.1	43.1	<b>43.1</b>	76	68	65	65	<b>65</b>
<b>Italy</b>	41.8	43.1	40.3	40.8	<b>40.5</b>	690	668	618	630	<b>616</b>
<b>Cyprus</b>	35.1	32.5	32.6	32.6	<b>32.6</b>	15	13	14	14	<b>14</b>
<b>Latvia</b>	19.0	15.4	15.3	14.3	<b>14.6</b>	16	13	12	11	<b>12</b>
<b>Lithuania</b>	18.3	18.6	19.4	18.9	<b>18.8</b>	24	23	24	23	<b>23</b>
<b>Luxembourg</b>	22.7	18.0	18.3	18.5	<b>18.4</b>	4	3	4	4	<b>4</b>
<b>Hungary</b>	19.4	17.7	17.5	15.8	:	64	61	60	54	:
<b>Malta</b>	11.8	12.6	12.9	13.1	<b>13.3</b>	3	3	3	3	<b>3</b>
<b>Netherlands</b>	12.0	11.1	11.3	11.2	<b>11.5</b>	164	157	159	158	<b>161</b>
<b>Austria</b>	9.9	10.6	10.9	11.3	<b>11.0</b>	56	60	61	64	<b>63</b>
<b>Poland</b>	23.3	19.9	19.4	19.2	<b>19.3</b>	332	267	257	253	<b>253</b>
<b>Portugal</b>	32.8	31.6	31.1	31.6	<b>31.2</b>	124	114	113	117	<b>114</b>
<b>Romania</b>	23.4	22.3	:	:	:	160	153	:	:	:
<b>Slovenia</b>	20.1	16.8	16.2	16.2	<b>16.2</b>	14	13	11	11	<b>11</b>
<b>Slovakia</b>	28.3	26.2	25.1	24.5	<b>23.7</b>	60	54	51	50	<b>48</b>
<b>Finland</b>	20.7	23.3	23.2	22.9	<b>22.7</b>	69	76	76	76	<b>75</b>
<b>Sweden</b>	22.5	20.6	20.4	20.2	<b>20.1</b>	150	133	132	131	<b>130</b>
<b>United Kingdom</b>	16.4	15.3	14.5	:	:	733	692	655	:	:
<b>Iceland</b>	9.7	8.6	8.6	8.5	<b>8.5</b>	3	3	3	3	<b>3</b>
<b>Norway</b>	8.2	11.0	10.6	10.4	:	30	43	41	40	:

The source datasets are available [here](#) (rates) and [here](#) (in 1000 persons).

: Data not available

Croatia, Cyprus, Romania and Slovenia: quarterly data

### Seasonally adjusted unemployment rates (%), by gender

	Males					Females				
	Sep 14	Jun 15	Jul 15	Aug 15	Sep 15	Sep 14	Jun 15	Jul 15	Aug 15	Sep 15
EA19	11.3	10.9	10.8	10.7	<b>10.7</b>	11.8	11.2	11.0	11.0	<b>10.9</b>
EU28	9.9	9.5	9.4	9.3	<b>9.3</b>	10.2	9.6	9.5	9.4	<b>9.4</b>
Belgium	8.9	9.6	9.6	9.6	<b>9.6</b>	8.3	7.9	7.9	7.9	<b>7.7</b>
Bulgaria	12.2	10.8	10.7	10.6	<b>10.4</b>	10.2	8.8	8.6	8.5	<b>8.4</b>
Czech Republic	4.8	4.2	4.2	4.0	<b>3.9</b>	7.0	6.0	6.0	5.8	<b>5.9</b>
Denmark	6.7	5.8	6.0	5.9	<b>5.6</b>	6.2	6.7	6.6	6.8	<b>6.9</b>
Germany	5.3	5.0	5.0	4.9	<b>4.9</b>	4.6	4.2	4.1	4.0	<b>4.0</b>
Estonia	8.6	6.1	5.9	5.7	:	6.7	6.1	5.7	5.8	:
Ireland	12.3	10.7	10.6	10.6	<b>10.5</b>	9.2	8.1	8.1	8.1	<b>8.1</b>
Greece	23.2	21.7	21.5	:	:	29.8	29.2	29.4	:	:
Spain	22.9	21.0	20.7	20.6	<b>20.4</b>	25.3	23.8	23.4	23.2	<b>23.0</b>
France	10.6	11.0	11.1	11.2	<b>11.1</b>	10.3	9.9	10.2	10.3	<b>10.3</b>
Croatia	16.5	15.8	15.4	15.3	<b>15.2</b>	17.5	15.9	15.7	15.5	<b>15.5</b>
Italy	11.9	11.9	11.5	11.3	<b>11.3</b>	14.0	13.3	12.7	12.7	<b>12.5</b>
Cyprus	17.4	15.0	15.0	15.1	<b>15.0</b>	15.2	15.4	15.3	15.2	<b>15.1</b>
Latvia	11.2	11.6	11.4	11.2	<b>11.2</b>	10.3	8.5	8.7	8.7	<b>8.5</b>
Lithuania	11.8	10.8	10.8	10.9	<b>10.8</b>	8.8	8.3	8.3	8.3	<b>8.3</b>
Luxembourg	5.6	5.1	5.2	5.2	<b>5.0</b>	6.6	6.7	6.8	6.7	<b>6.7</b>
Hungary	7.0	6.6	6.5	6.4	:	7.6	7.2	7.2	6.8	:
Malta	6.0	5.4	5.3	5.3	<b>5.2</b>	5.5	5.0	4.9	4.9	<b>4.9</b>
Netherlands	6.8	6.6	6.4	6.5	<b>6.5</b>	7.5	7.2	7.1	7.1	<b>7.3</b>
Austria	6.0	6.2	6.1	6.2	<b>6.2</b>	5.3	5.5	5.4	5.2	<b>5.1</b>
Poland	8.0	7.3	7.2	7.1	<b>7.1</b>	9.1	7.5	7.4	7.3	<b>7.2</b>
Portugal	12.7	12.1	12.1	12.0	<b>11.8</b>	14.1	12.5	12.3	12.6	<b>12.6</b>
Romania	7.1	7.6	7.8	7.8	<b>7.9</b>	6.1	5.7	5.6	5.6	<b>5.4</b>
Slovenia	8.8	8.5	8.4	8.3	<b>8.2</b>	10.5	10.7	10.6	10.6	<b>10.3</b>
Slovakia	12.4	10.1	9.9	9.8	<b>9.6</b>	13.6	12.8	12.8	12.7	<b>12.7</b>
Finland	9.7	10.0	10.1	10.0	<b>9.9</b>	8.1	8.9	9.0	9.0	<b>9.0</b>
Sweden	8.1	7.6	7.5	7.4	<b>7.4</b>	7.7	7.3	7.1	7.0	<b>6.9</b>
United Kingdom	6.2	5.7	5.5	:	:	5.6	5.3	5.1	:	:
Iceland	4.6	4.0	4.0	4.0	<b>4.0</b>	4.8	4.6	4.6	4.6	<b>4.6</b>
Norway	3.9	4.8	4.7	5.0	:	3.6	4.0	3.9	4.2	:

The source dataset is available [here](#).

: Data not available