

129/2016 - 1 July 2016

May 2016

## Euro area unemployment at 10.1%

EU28 at 8.6%

The **euro area** (EA19) seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate was 10.1% in May 2016, down from 10.2% in April 2016 and from 11.0% in May 2015. This is the lowest rate recorded in the **euro area** since July 2011. The **EU28** unemployment rate was 8.6% in May 2016, down from 8.7% in April 2016 and from 9.6% in May 2015. This is the lowest rate recorded in the **EU28** since March 2009. These figures are published by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**.

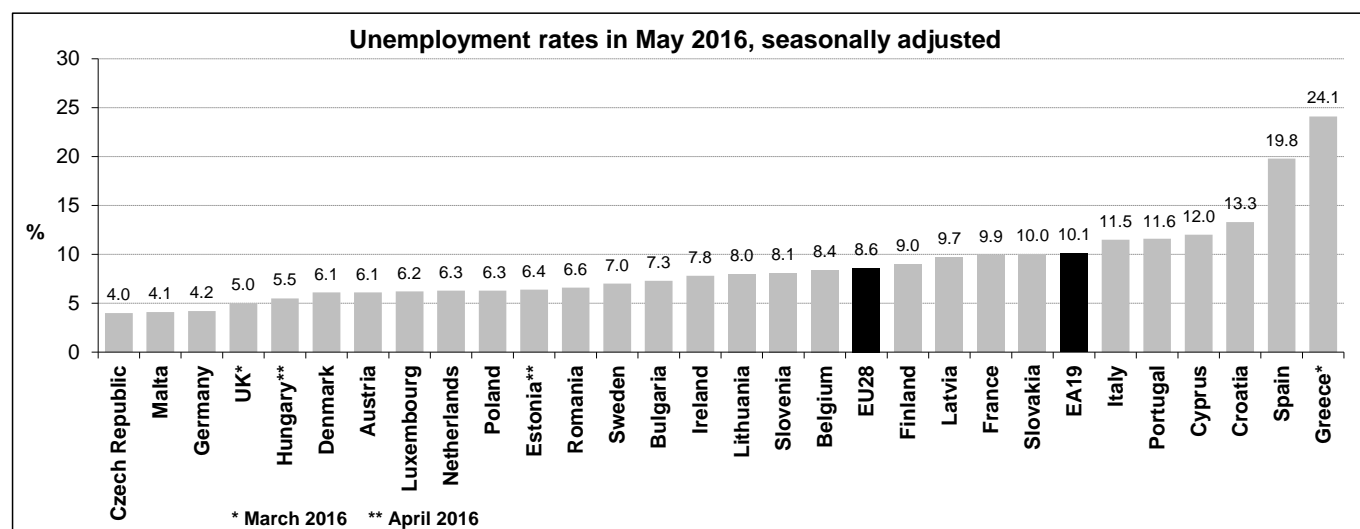
Eurostat estimates that 21.084 million men and women in the **EU28**, of whom 16.267 million were in the **euro area**, were unemployed in May 2016. Compared with April 2016, the number of persons unemployed decreased by 96 000 in the **EU28** and by 112 000 in the **euro area**. Compared with May 2015, unemployment fell by 2.166 million in the **EU28** and by 1.440 million in the **euro area**.

### Member States

Among the Member States, the lowest unemployment rates in May 2016 were recorded in the **Czech Republic** (4.0%), **Malta** (4.1%) and **Germany** (4.2%). The highest unemployment rates were observed in **Greece** (24.1% in March 2016) and **Spain** (19.8%).

Compared with a year ago, the unemployment rate in May 2016 fell in twenty-six Member States, remained stable in **Latvia** and increased in **Austria** (from 5.9% to 6.1%). The largest decreases were registered in **Cyprus** (from 15.3% to 12.0%), **Croatia** (from 16.2% to 13.3%), **Bulgaria** (from 10.0% to 7.3%) and **Spain** (from 22.5% to 19.8%).

In May 2016, the unemployment rate in the **United States** was 4.7%, down from 5.0% in April 2016 and from 5.5% in May 2015.



## Youth unemployment

In May 2016, 4.197 million young persons (under 25) were unemployed in the **EU28**, of whom 2.885 million were in the **euro area**. Compared with May 2015, youth unemployment decreased by 503 000 in the **EU28** and by 270 000 in the **euro area**. In May 2016, the youth unemployment rate was 18.6% in the **EU28** and 20.7% in the **euro area**, compared with 20.6% and 22.4% respectively in May 2015. In May 2016, the lowest rates were observed in **Malta** (6.9%), **Germany** (7.2%) and the **Czech Republic** (10.1%), and the highest in **Greece** (50.4% in March 2016), **Spain** (43.9%), **Italy** (36.9%) and **Croatia** (31.4% in the first quarter 2016).

### Geographical information

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.

Compared with the rates published in News Release [105/2016](#) of 31 May 2016, the April 2016 unemployment rate remains unchanged for both the EA19 and the EU28. Among Member States, rates have been revised by more than 0.1 percentage points (pp) downwards for Croatia (by 1.0 pp), Ireland (by 0.5 pp), Belgium and Portugal (both by 0.4 pp) and Estonia (by 0.2 pp). The unemployment rate has been revised by more than 0.1 pp upwards for Cyprus (by 0.6 pp), Bulgaria (by 0.5 pp) and Slovenia (by 0.3 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 article](#) on unemployment

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

Eurostat [metadata](#) on adjusted unemployment series

Eurostat €-indicators [release calendar](#)

Issued by: **Eurostat Press Office**

**Tim ALLEN**  
Tel: +352-4301-33 444  
[eurostat-pressoffice@ec.europa.eu](mailto:eurostat-pressoffice@ec.europa.eu)

 [ec.europa.eu/eurostat/](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/)


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For further information on data:

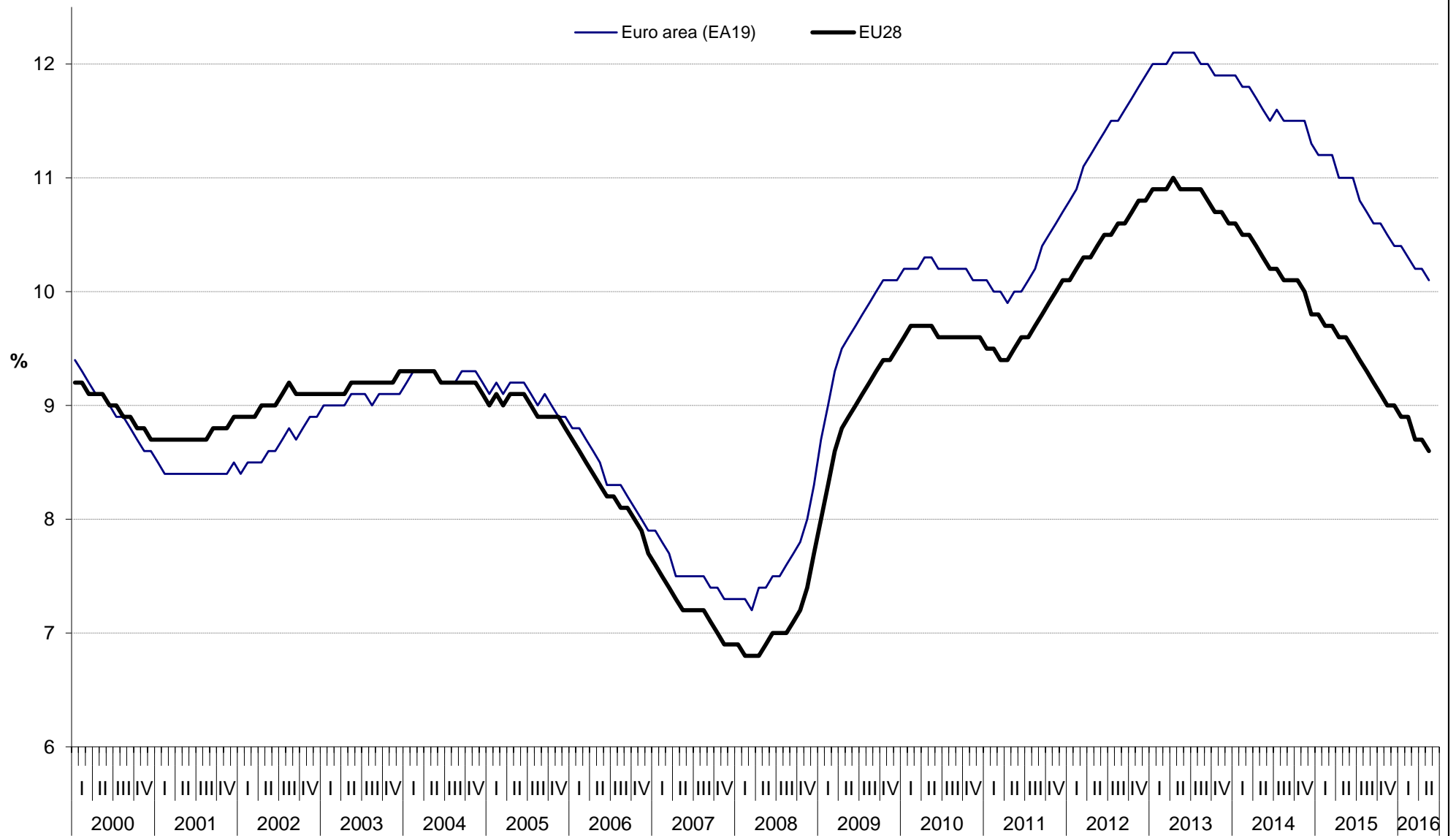
**Boyan GENEV**  
Tel: +352-4301-36 409

**Hubertus VREESWIJK**  
Tel: +352-4301-34 323

[estat-monthly-unemployment@ec.europa.eu](mailto:estat-monthly-unemployment@ec.europa.eu)

 **Media requests:** Eurostat media support / Tel: +352-4301-33 408 / [eurostat-mediasupport@ec.europa.eu](mailto:eurostat-mediasupport@ec.europa.eu)

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



### Seasonally adjusted unemployment, totals

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	May 15	Feb 16	Mar 16	Apr 16	May 16	May 15	Feb 16	Mar 16	Apr 16	May 16
<b>EA19</b>	11.0	10.3	10.2	10.2	<b>10.1</b>	17 707	16 673	16 454	16 379	<b>16 267</b>
<b>EU28</b>	9.6	8.9	8.7	8.7	<b>8.6</b>	23 250	21 598	21 310	21 180	<b>21 084</b>
<b>Belgium</b>	8.7	8.2	8.1	8.3	<b>8.4</b>	428	403	400	406	<b>411</b>
<b>Bulgaria</b>	10.0	8.0	7.9	7.6	<b>7.3</b>	332	264	259	248	<b>239</b>
<b>Czech Republic</b>	5.1	4.2	4.1	4.1	<b>4.0</b>	269	225	219	219	<b>216</b>
<b>Denmark</b>	6.2	5.9	5.9	6.1	<b>6.1</b>	181	178	177	183	<b>184</b>
<b>Germany</b>	4.7	4.3	4.3	4.3	<b>4.2</b>	1 965	1 841	1 826	1 815	<b>1 807</b>
<b>Estonia</b>	6.9**	6.1	6.6	6.4	:	47**	42	45	44	:
<b>Ireland</b>	9.6	8.3	8.1	7.9	<b>7.8</b>	208	180	175	171	<b>170</b>
<b>Greece</b>	25.7*	24.2	24.1	:	:	1 221*	1 158	1 153	:	:
<b>Spain</b>	22.5	20.4	20.3	20.1	<b>19.8</b>	5 181	4 661	4 613	4 585	<b>4 525</b>
<b>France</b>	10.4	10.2	10.0	9.9	<b>9.9</b>	3 064	3 021	2 963	2 909	<b>2 903</b>
<b>Croatia</b>	16.2	14.3	14.0	13.6	<b>13.3</b>	309	265	257	251	<b>245</b>
<b>Italy</b>	12.3	11.7	11.5	11.6	<b>11.5</b>	3 124	2 984	2 929	2 974	<b>2 950</b>
<b>Cyprus</b>	15.3	13.0	12.7	12.2	<b>12.0</b>	65	53	51	50	<b>48</b>
<b>Latvia</b>	9.7	9.8	9.7	9.6	<b>9.7</b>	97	98	96	96	<b>96</b>
<b>Lithuania</b>	9.2	8.5	8.4	8.2	<b>8.0</b>	135	124	124	121	<b>118</b>
<b>Luxembourg</b>	6.6	6.3	6.3	6.3	<b>6.2</b>	18	17	17	17	<b>17</b>
<b>Hungary</b>	7.1**	5.7	5.6	5.5	:	318**	262	258	250	:
<b>Malta</b>	5.5	5.0	4.6	4.3	<b>4.1</b>	11	10	9	8	<b>8</b>
<b>Netherlands</b>	6.9	6.5	6.4	6.4	<b>6.3</b>	617	581	574	572	<b>560</b>
<b>Austria</b>	5.9	6.1	5.9	5.9	<b>6.1</b>	257	271	263	265	<b>273</b>
<b>Poland</b>	7.5	6.5	6.4	6.3	<b>6.3</b>	1 306	1 121	1 097	1 088	<b>1 087</b>
<b>Portugal</b>	12.4	12.2	12.0	11.6	<b>11.6</b>	634	621	611	593	<b>587</b>
<b>Romania</b>	6.8	6.4	6.4	6.4	<b>6.6</b>	622	577	573	573	<b>581</b>
<b>Slovenia</b>	9.5	8.3	8.3	8.1	<b>8.1</b>	97	82	82	80	<b>80</b>
<b>Slovakia</b>	11.5	10.2	10.1	10.1	<b>10.0</b>	314	282	279	278	<b>276</b>
<b>Finland</b>	9.3	9.1	9.1	9.0	<b>9.0</b>	249	245	244	242	<b>242</b>
<b>Sweden</b>	7.5	7.0	7.1	7.0	<b>7.0</b>	391	371	371	371	<b>371</b>
<b>United Kingdom</b>	5.4*	5.0	5.0	:	:	1 774*	1 659	1 635	:	:
<b>Iceland</b>	4.1	3.3	3.3	3.2	<b>3.1</b>	8	6	6	6	<b>6</b>
<b>Norway</b>	4.2**	4.6	4.6	4.6	:	117**	130	129	128	:
<b>United States</b>	5.5	4.9	5.0	5.0	<b>4.7</b>	8 638	7 818	7 945	7 916	<b>7 467</b>

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

: Data not available

\* March 2015

\*\* April 2015

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

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	May 15	Feb 16	Mar 16	Apr 16	May 16	May 15	Feb 16	Mar 16	Apr 16	May 16
<b>EA19</b>	22.4	21.6	21.1	20.9	<b>20.7</b>	3 155	3 021	2 945	2 914	<b>2 885</b>
<b>EU28</b>	20.6	19.2	18.8	18.7	<b>18.6</b>	4 700	4 358	4 257	4 213	<b>4 197</b>
<b>Belgium</b>	22.1	20.3	20.3	:	:	86	78	78	:	:
<b>Bulgaria</b>	22.9	17.6	15.4	14.4	<b>13.8</b>	43	30	26	23	<b>22</b>
<b>Czech Republic</b>	12.8	9.7	9.9	9.8	<b>10.1</b>	45	33	34	34	<b>35</b>
<b>Denmark</b>	10.4	11.3	11.0	11.7	<b>11.2</b>	47	54	51	56	<b>54</b>
<b>Germany</b>	7.1	7.2	7.3	7.3	<b>7.2</b>	288	295	296	296	<b>295</b>
<b>Estonia</b>	11.9	14.1	12.6	12.5	:	7	8	7	7	:
<b>Ireland</b>	20.8	17.3	16.1	15.3	<b>15.0</b>	39	32	30	28	<b>28</b>
<b>Greece</b>	50.0	51.2	50.4	:	:	139	130	128	:	:
<b>Spain</b>	49.3	45.7	45.3	44.8	<b>43.9</b>	772	681	669	658	<b>643</b>
<b>France</b>	24.4	24.8	24.2	23.5	<b>23.3</b>	675	690	669	647	<b>639</b>
<b>Croatia</b>	43.7	31.4	31.4	:	:	69	54	54	:	:
<b>Italy</b>	41.2	38.4	36.7	36.9	<b>36.9</b>	626	596	567	578	<b>576</b>
<b>Cyprus</b>	32.9	27.9	27.9	:	:	13	10	10	:	:
<b>Latvia</b>	15.4	15.7	14.3	14.2	<b>14.2</b>	13	13	11	11	<b>11</b>
<b>Lithuania</b>	17.0	13.9	14.2	13.8	<b>13.4</b>	22	17	18	17	<b>17</b>
<b>Luxembourg</b>	17.0	17.1	17.2	16.9	<b>16.7</b>	4	4	4	4	<b>4</b>
<b>Hungary</b>	18.1	14.1	14.4	14.4	:	62	49	50	50	:
<b>Malta</b>	13.0	9.6	8.1	7.4	<b>6.9</b>	4	3	2	2	<b>2</b>
<b>Netherlands</b>	11.1	11.3	11.4	11.2	<b>11.1</b>	156	158	159	159	<b>158</b>
<b>Austria</b>	10.7	12.0	10.7	10.5	<b>11.3</b>	60	68	60	60	<b>65</b>
<b>Poland</b>	21.0	18.2	17.9	17.4	<b>17.3</b>	291	260	255	248	<b>248</b>
<b>Portugal</b>	30.9	30.1	31.2	29.8	<b>28.6</b>	113	110	114	108	<b>101</b>
<b>Romania</b>	21.8	21.0	21.0	:	:	150	128	128	:	:
<b>Slovenia</b>	16.3	16.1	16.1	:	:	12	11	11	:	:
<b>Slovakia</b>	26.5	24.9	24.8	25.1	<b>25.3</b>	55	51	51	51	<b>51</b>
<b>Finland</b>	22.4	21.6	21.5	21.4	<b>21.3</b>	73	69	69	68	<b>68</b>
<b>Sweden</b>	20.5	19.3	19.2	19.3	<b>19.3</b>	134	126	126	126	<b>126</b>
<b>United Kingdom</b>	15.6	13.4	13.2	:	:	705	604	592	:	:
<b>Iceland</b>	8.4	6.7	6.5	6.2	<b>6.0</b>	3	2	2	2	<b>2</b>
<b>Norway</b>	10.4	11.1	11.7	11.6	:	40	42	44	43	:

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

: Data not available

Belgium, Croatia, Cyprus, Romania and Slovenia: quarterly data

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

	Males					Females				
	May 15	Feb 16	Mar 16	Apr 16	May 16	May 15	Feb 16	Mar 16	Apr 16	May 16
EA19	10.9	10.1	9.9	9.8	<b>9.8</b>	11.2	10.6	10.5	10.5	<b>10.5</b>
EU28	9.5	8.7	8.6	8.5	<b>8.4</b>	9.6	9.0	8.9	8.9	<b>8.9</b>
Belgium	9.6	8.6	8.5	8.7	<b>8.8</b>	7.6	7.6	7.7	7.8	<b>7.9</b>
Bulgaria	10.8	8.7	8.5	8.1	<b>7.7</b>	9.0	7.2	7.2	7.0	<b>6.9</b>
Czech Republic	4.2	3.6	3.5	3.5	<b>3.4</b>	6.1	5.1	4.9	4.8	<b>4.8</b>
Denmark	6.0	5.5	5.3	5.6	<b>5.8</b>	6.4	6.4	6.6	6.5	<b>6.4</b>
Germany	5.0	4.6	4.5	4.5	<b>4.5</b>	4.3	4.0	4.0	4.0	<b>3.9</b>
Estonia	6.7	6.7	7.0	7.2	:	6.5	5.5	6.1	5.6	:
Ireland	10.9	9.9	9.6	9.4	<b>9.2</b>	8.1	6.4	6.3	6.2	<b>6.2</b>
Greece	22.1	20.5	20.4	:	:	28.7	28.8	28.8	:	:
Spain	21.1	18.8	18.7	18.4	<b>18.1</b>	24.2	22.2	22.1	22.1	<b>21.8</b>
France	11.0	10.6	10.4	10.2	<b>10.2</b>	9.8	9.8	9.7	9.5	<b>9.5</b>
Croatia	16.2	14.9	14.7	14.3	<b>13.9</b>	16.2	13.7	13.1	12.8	<b>12.7</b>
Italy	11.8	11.1	10.9	10.8	<b>10.7</b>	12.9	12.5	12.3	12.7	<b>12.7</b>
Cyprus	15.4	12.8	12.4	11.8	<b>11.5</b>	15.1	13.1	13.1	12.7	<b>12.4</b>
Latvia	11.3	10.5	10.1	10.0	<b>10.0</b>	8.1	9.2	9.2	9.3	<b>9.3</b>
Lithuania	10.5	9.5	9.7	9.5	<b>9.1</b>	8.0	7.4	7.3	7.0	<b>6.9</b>
Luxembourg	5.9	5.7	5.8	5.7	<b>5.7</b>	7.4	7.0	7.0	6.9	<b>6.8</b>
Hungary	6.7	5.6	5.4	5.3	:	7.2	5.9	5.9	5.6	:
Malta	5.6	4.9	4.4	4.1	<b>3.8</b>	5.4	5.1	4.8	4.5	<b>4.4</b>
Netherlands	6.6	6.1	6.0	6.0	<b>5.9</b>	7.3	7.0	6.9	6.9	<b>6.7</b>
Austria	6.2	6.6	6.3	6.3	<b>6.6</b>	5.6	5.5	5.4	5.4	<b>5.5</b>
Poland	7.4	6.3	6.2	6.1	<b>6.1</b>	7.7	6.7	6.6	6.6	<b>6.6</b>
Portugal	12.4	12.2	11.9	11.6	<b>11.6</b>	12.3	12.2	12.1	11.6	<b>11.6</b>
Romania	7.5	7.2	7.2	7.2	<b>7.3</b>	5.8	5.3	5.3	5.3	<b>5.6</b>
Slovenia	8.6	7.7	7.5	7.4	<b>7.4</b>	10.6	9.0	9.2	8.9	<b>8.8</b>
Slovakia	10.3	9.1	9.0	9.0	<b>8.8</b>	13.0	11.6	11.5	11.4	<b>11.3</b>
Finland	9.8	9.5	9.4	9.3	<b>9.3</b>	8.8	8.8	8.7	8.7	<b>8.7</b>
Sweden	7.6	7.4	7.4	7.3	<b>7.3</b>	7.3	6.7	6.7	6.7	<b>6.7</b>
United Kingdom	5.8	5.1	5.0	:	:	5.3	4.9	4.9	:	:
Iceland	4.0	3.5	3.5	3.3	<b>3.2</b>	4.2	3.0	3.1	3.1	<b>3.1</b>
Norway	4.6	5.3	5.3	5.3	:	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.8	:

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

: Data not available