

54/2018 - 4 April 2018

February 2018

Euro area unemployment at 8.5%

EU28 at 7.1%

The **euro area** (EA19) seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate was 8.5% in February 2018, down from 8.6% in January 2018 and from 9.5% in February 2017. This is the lowest rate recorded in the **euro area** since December 2008. The **EU28** unemployment rate was 7.1% in February 2018, down from 7.2% in January 2018 and from 8.0% in February 2017. This is the lowest rate recorded in the **EU28** since September 2008. These figures are published by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**.

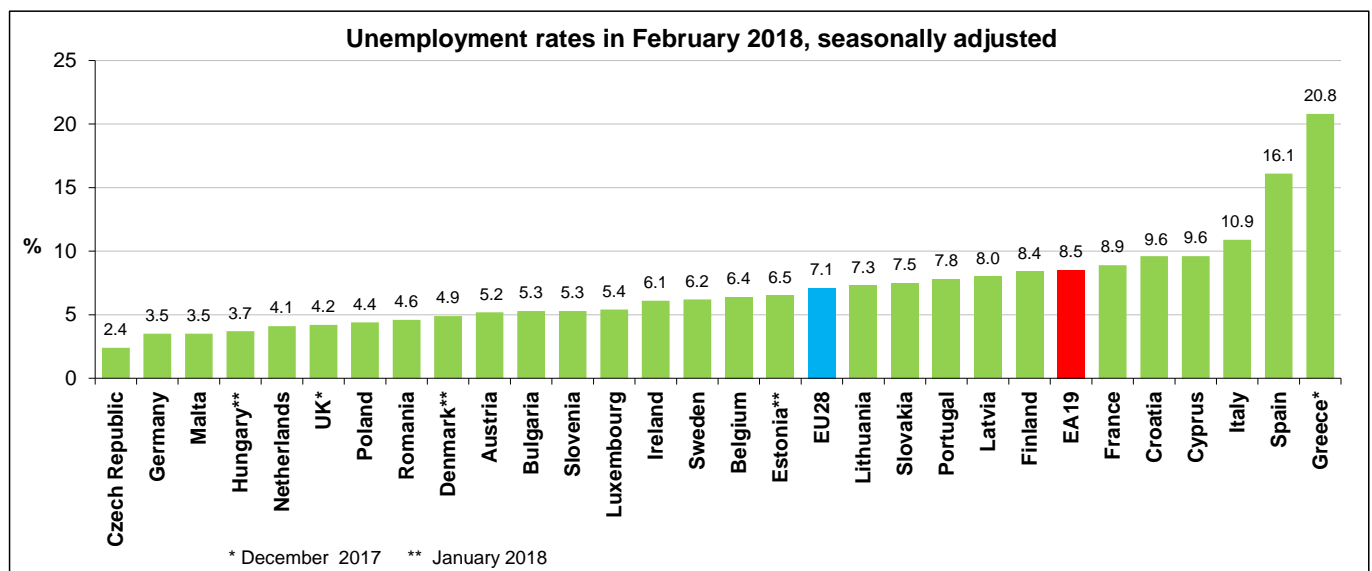
Eurostat estimates that 17.632 million men and women in the **EU28**, of whom 13.916 million in the **euro area**, were unemployed in February 2018. Compared with January 2018, the number of persons unemployed decreased by 201 000 in the **EU28** and by 141 000 in the **euro area**. Compared with February 2017, unemployment fell by 1.968 million in the **EU28** and by 1.436 million in the **euro area**.

Member States

Among the Member States, the lowest unemployment rates in February 2018 were recorded in the **Czech Republic** (2.4%), **Germany** and **Malta** (both 3.5%) as well as **Hungary** (3.7% in January 2018). The highest unemployment rates were observed in **Greece** (20.8% in December 2017) and **Spain** (16.1%).

Compared with a year ago, the unemployment rate fell in all Member States except **Estonia** where it increased (from 5.8% to 6.5% between January 2017 and January 2018). The largest decreases were registered in **Cyprus** (from 12.6% to 9.6%), **Greece** (from 23.4% to 20.8% between December 2016 and December 2017) and **Croatia** (from 12.0% to 9.6%).

In February 2018, the unemployment rate in the **United States** was 4.1%, stable compared to January 2018 and down from 4.7% in February 2017.



Youth unemployment

In February 2018, 3.589 million young persons (under 25) were unemployed in the **EU28**, of whom 2.520 million were in the **euro area**. Compared with February 2017, youth unemployment decreased by 314 000 in the **EU28** and by 213 000 in the **euro area**. In February 2018, the youth unemployment rate was 15.9% in the **EU28** and 17.7% in the **euro area**, compared with 17.3% and 19.4% respectively in February 2017. In February 2018, the lowest rates were observed in **Germany** (6.2%), the **Netherlands** (7.2%) and the **Czech Republic** (7.5%), while the highest were recorded in **Greece** (45.0% in December 2017), **Spain** (35.5%) and **Italy** (32.8%).

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.

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, 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 34/2018 of 1 March 2018, the January 2018 unemployment has been revised from 7.3% to 7.2% for EU28 and remained unchanged for EA19. Among Member States, the rate has been revised by more than 0.1 percentage points (pp) upwards for Estonia and Cyprus (both by 0.2 pp, December data for Estonia). The unemployment rate has been revised by more than 0.1 pp downwards for Slovenia (by 0.5 pp), Bulgaria (by 0.4 pp), Belgium and Denmark (both by 0.3 pp), as well as Austria (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 article](#) on unemployment

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

Eurostat [metadata](#) on adjusted unemployment series

Eurostat €-indicators [release calendar](#)

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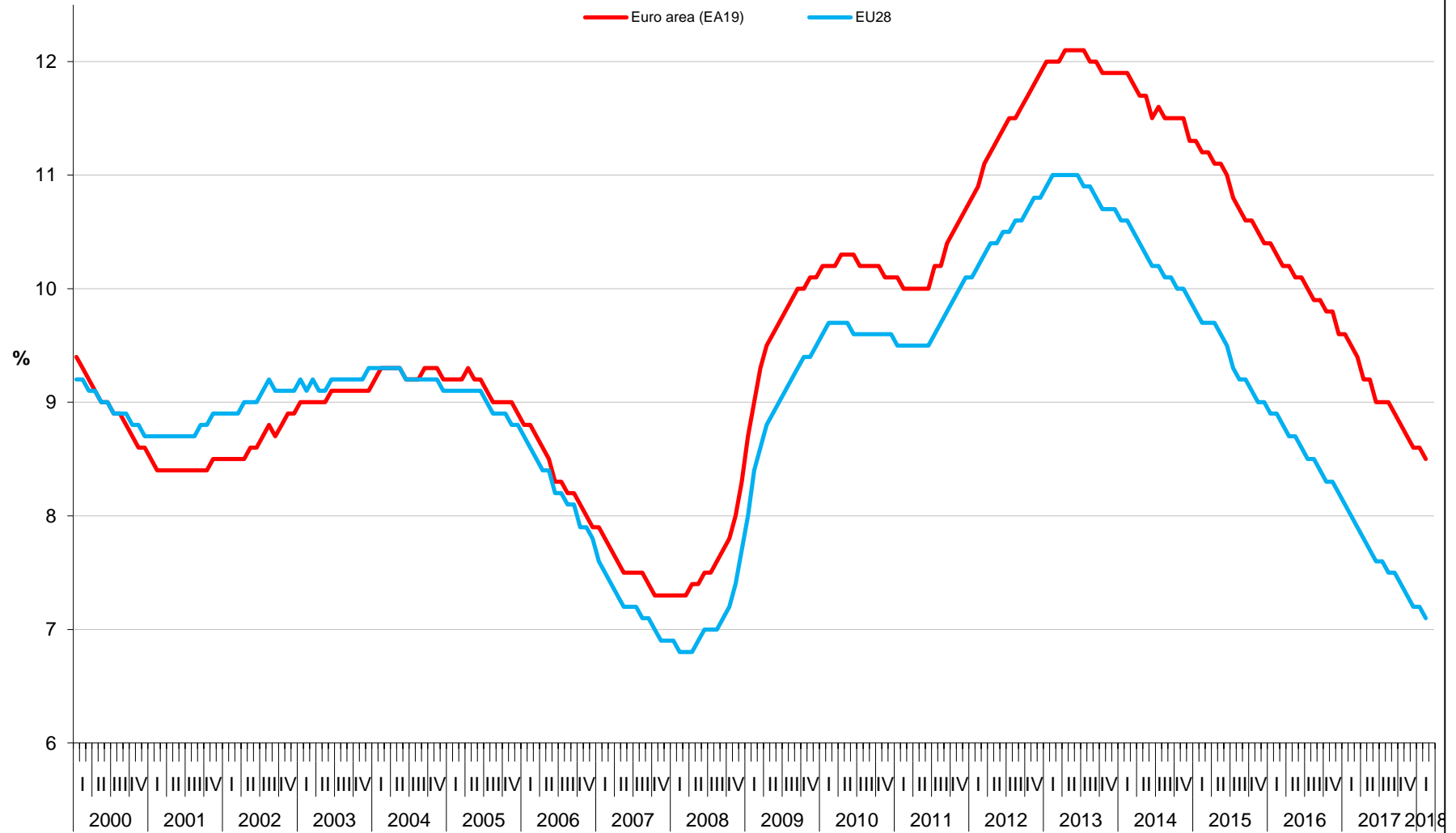
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Euro area and EU28 unemployment rates Seasonally adjusted series



Seasonally adjusted unemployment, totals

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	Feb 17	Nov 17	Dec 17	Jan 18	Feb 18	Feb 17	Nov 17	Dec 17	Jan 18	Feb 18
EA19	9.5	8.7	8.6	8.6	8.5	15 352	14 186	14 059	14 057	13 916
EU28	8.0	7.3	7.2	7.2	7.1	19 600	18 029	17 853	17 833	17 632
Belgium	7.7	6.3	6.2	6.3	6.4	385	317	312	314	316
Bulgaria	6.5	5.8	5.7	5.5	5.3	216	196	193	188	183
Czech Republic	3.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	181	129	127	130	130
Denmark	6.2**	5.3	5.2	4.9	:	184**	159	155	146	:
Germany	3.9	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.5	1 676	1 553	1 536	1 522	1 511
Estonia	5.8**	5.6	5.7	6.5	:	40**	39	40	46	:
Ireland	7.2	6.4	6.3	6.2	6.1	169	151	150	148	146
Greece	23.4*	21.0	20.8	:	:	1 117*	996	989	:	:
Spain	18.2	16.6	16.4	16.2	16.1	4 146	3 773	3 743	3 703	3 665
France	9.6	9.0	9.0	9.0	8.9	2 819	2 677	2 668	2 672	2 655
Croatia	12.0	10.3	10.0	9.8	9.6	219	188	182	178	173
Italy	11.5	11.1	10.9	11.1	10.9	2 978	2 868	2 819	2 883	2 835
Cyprus	12.6	10.4	10.5	10.0	9.6	54	44	45	43	41
Latvia	9.0	8.3	8.2	8.3	8.0	88	81	81	81	79
Lithuania	7.7	6.7	6.8	7.3	7.3	112	97	99	106	106
Luxembourg	5.9	5.4	5.4	5.3	5.4	17	15	16	15	16
Hungary	4.3**	3.9	3.8	3.7	:	197**	179	174	174	:
Malta	4.2	3.8	3.8	3.6	3.5	9	8	8	8	7
Netherlands	5.3	4.4	4.4	4.2	4.1	473	397	395	380	367
Austria	5.8	5.5	5.4	5.3	5.2	259	247	245	240	237
Poland	5.2	4.6	4.5	4.5	4.4	896	786	777	767	754
Portugal	9.9	8.1	8.0	7.9	7.8	507	418	412	409	407
Romania	5.3	4.8	4.6	4.6	4.6	472	427	419	424	419
Slovenia	7.4	5.7	5.6	5.4	5.3	75	59	57	56	55
Slovakia	8.6	7.7	7.6	7.6	7.5	237	212	210	209	207
Finland	8.8	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.4	236	232	232	231	231
Sweden	6.8	6.5	6.4	6.4	6.2	361	352	348	344	340
United Kingdom	4.6*	4.3	4.2	:	:	1 533*	1 433	1 418	:	:
Iceland	2.7	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.7	5	6	6	6	6
Norway	4.2**	4.1	4.1	4.0	:	117**	114	112	111	:
United States	4.7	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	7 474	6 642	6 577	6 661	6 703

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

: Data not available

* December 2016

** January 2017

Seasonally adjusted youth (under 25s) unemployment

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	Feb 17	Nov 17	Dec 17	Jan 18	Feb 18	Feb 17	Nov 17	Dec 17	Jan 18	Feb 18
EA19	19.4	17.9	17.8	17.7	17.7	2 733	2 560	2 539	2 528	2 520
EU28	17.3	16.2	16.1	16.0	15.9	3 903	3 660	3 636	3 616	3 589
Belgium	21.6	16.4	16.4	:	:	76	59	59	:	:
Bulgaria	13.2	10.9	10.8	10.6	10.5	21	19	19	19	18
Czech Republic	9.1	5.0	5.6	6.5	7.5	30	15	17	20	24
Denmark	12.1	9.6	10.0	9.5	:	56	44	45	43	:
Germany	6.7	6.4	6.3	6.3	6.2	282	270	267	264	262
Estonia	13.6	7.7	6.4	8.9	:	8	5	4	6	:
Ireland	13.8	12.9	12.8	12.9	12.6	39	36	36	37	36
Greece	46.7	45.4	45.0	:	:	123	113	114	:	:
Spain	40.8	36.9	36.6	35.9	35.5	600	561	555	544	542
France	22.6	21.4	21.5	21.7	21.6	620	604	609	615	614
Croatia	28.9	25.0	25.0	:	:	49	40	40	:	:
Italy	35.2	33.4	32.8	32.5	32.8	545	514	500	505	507
Cyprus	26.8	23.1	23.1	:	:	10	9	9	:	:
Latvia	18.4	17.8	17.8	17.6	16.5	13	12	11	11	11
Lithuania	14.0	13.0	13.4	13.8	13.6	17	14	15	15	15
Luxembourg	16.8	14.1	14.4	14.1	13.8	4	3	3	3	3
Hungary	10.3	10.4	10.8	11.0	:	35	35	36	36	:
Malta	11.2	10.2	10.6	10.6	9.4	3	3	3	3	3
Netherlands	9.7	7.8	8.0	7.4	7.2	136	112	116	108	104
Austria	10.2	10.0	9.5	9.5	9.8	55	54	51	50	52
Poland	14.5	14.6	14.4	14.1	13.7	195	193	190	186	181
Portugal	24.2	22.8	22.1	21.5	21.4	89	86	82	79	78
Romania	19.1	19.7	19.7	:	:	118	126	126	:	:
Slovenia	11.0	11.2	11.2	:	:	8	8	8	:	:
Slovakia	19.0	18.6	18.5	18.6	18.5	39	38	37	37	36
Finland	20.2	19.0	18.8	18.7	18.6	66	63	63	62	62
Sweden	17.9	17.1	16.7	16.3	16.1	114	107	105	103	101
United Kingdom	12.2	12.2	12.0	:	:	539	521	512	:	:
Iceland	7.1	7.2	7.0	6.8	6.7	2	2	2	2	2
Norway	10.3	9.9	9.4	9.1	:	37	36	34	32	:

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				
	Feb 17	Nov 17	Dec 17	Jan 18	Feb 18	Feb 17	Nov 17	Dec 17	Jan 18	Feb 18
EA19	9.1	8.4	8.3	8.3	8.3	9.9	9.1	9.0	9.0	8.9
EU28	7.8	7.1	7.0	7.0	6.9	8.3	7.6	7.5	7.5	7.4
Belgium	7.5	6.3	6.2	6.3	6.4	8.0	6.4	6.3	6.4	6.4
Bulgaria	6.6	5.9	5.8	5.7	5.5	6.5	5.7	5.5	5.3	5.1
Czech Republic	2.7	2.0	1.9	1.9	2.0	4.2	3.0	2.9	3.0	2.9
Denmark	6.1	5.1	4.9	4.5	:	6.2	5.6	5.6	5.3	:
Germany	4.3	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.5	3.2	3.1	3.0	2.9
Estonia	5.4	5.9	5.8	6.6	:	5.2	5.3	5.6	6.4	:
Ireland	7.3	6.8	6.7	6.6	6.5	7.1	6.0	5.9	5.8	5.6
Greece	18.9	17.1	16.9	:	:	27.0	25.8	25.8	:	:
Spain	16.7	15.0	14.9	14.7	14.5	20.0	18.4	18.2	18.0	17.9
France	9.5	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.7	9.0	8.9	8.9	8.8
Croatia	11.1	9.7	9.3	9.1	8.8	13.2	11.1	10.9	10.7	10.5
Italy	10.5	10.2	10.1	10.3	10.3	12.9	12.2	11.9	12.3	11.9
Cyprus	12.6	10.7	11.0	10.2	9.6	12.7	10.1	10.0	9.8	9.5
Latvia	10.1	9.1	9.3	9.4	9.1	7.9	7.4	7.2	7.2	7.0
Lithuania	9.3	8.0	8.0	8.4	8.5	6.2	5.4	5.7	6.3	6.2
Luxembourg	6.0	5.4	5.5	5.4	5.5	5.7	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3
Hungary	4.1	3.4	3.3	3.3	:	4.5	4.5	4.3	4.3	:
Malta	4.0	3.9	3.8	3.6	3.6	4.7	3.7	3.7	3.5	3.3
Netherlands	4.9	4.1	4.1	4.0	3.8	5.7	4.7	4.7	4.5	4.3
Austria	6.4	5.8	5.7	5.5	5.4	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.0	5.0
Poland	5.1	4.5	4.5	4.4	4.3	5.3	4.7	4.6	4.5	4.4
Portugal	9.5	7.8	7.6	7.5	7.7	10.2	8.4	8.3	8.3	8.0
Romania	5.9	5.3	5.1	5.0	4.9	4.4	4.0	4.0	4.1	4.1
Slovenia	6.9	5.0	5.0	4.9	4.8	8.0	6.6	6.3	6.0	5.8
Slovakia	8.4	7.3	7.2	7.1	7.0	8.9	8.2	8.2	8.2	8.1
Finland	9.0	8.6	8.5	8.4	8.3	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5
Sweden	7.1	6.7	6.5	6.5	6.4	6.4	6.3	6.3	6.2	6.1
United Kingdom	4.8	4.3	4.2	:	:	4.3	4.3	4.3	:	:
Iceland	2.7	2.6	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.7	3.0	3.1	3.1	3.1
Norway	4.8	4.5	4.5	4.4	:	3.9	3.6	3.6	3.6	:

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

: Data not available