

108/2018 - 2 July 2018

May 2018

Euro area unemployment at 8.4%

EU28 at 7.0%

The **euro area** (EA19) seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate was 8.4% in May 2018, stable compared with April 2018 and down from 9.2% in May 2017. This remains the lowest rate recorded in the **euro area** since December 2008. The **EU28** unemployment rate was 7.0% in May 2018, stable compared with April 2018 and down from 7.7% in May 2017. This is the lowest rate recorded in the **EU28** since August 2008. These figures are published by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**.

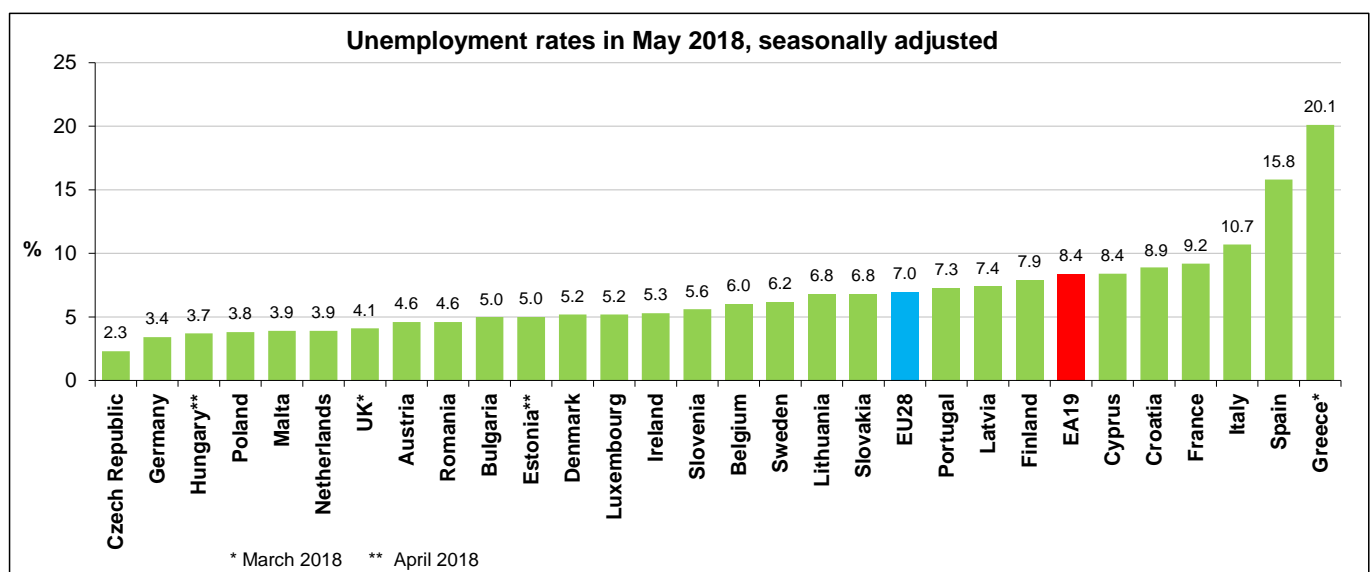
Eurostat estimates that 17.207 million men and women in the **EU28**, of whom 13.656 million in the **euro area**, were unemployed in May 2018. Compared with April 2018, the number of persons unemployed decreased by 154 000 in the **EU28** and by 125 000 in the **euro area**. Compared with May 2017, unemployment fell by 1.828 million in the **EU28** and by 1.252 million in the **euro area**.

Member States

Among the Member States, the lowest unemployment rates in May 2018 were recorded in the **Czech Republic** (2.3%) and **Germany** (3.4%). The highest unemployment rates were observed in **Greece** (20.1% in March 2018) and **Spain** (15.8%).

Compared with a year ago, the unemployment rate fell in all Member States. The largest decreases were registered in **Cyprus** (from 11.4% to 8.4%), **Croatia** (from 11.3% to 8.9%), **Greece** (from 22.1% to 20.1% between March 2017 and March 2018) and **Portugal** (from 9.2% to 7.3%).

In May 2018, the unemployment rate in the **United States** was 3.8%, down from 3.9% in April 2018 and from 4.3% in May 2017.



Youth unemployment

In May 2018, 3.377 million young persons (under 25) were unemployed in the **EU28**, of whom 2.390 million were in the **euro area**. Compared with May 2017, youth unemployment decreased by 519 000 in the **EU28** and by 353 000 in the **euro area**. In May 2018, the youth unemployment rate was 15.1% in the **EU28** and 16.8% in the **euro area**, compared with 17.2% and 19.3% respectively in May 2017. In May 2018, the lowest rates were observed in **Malta** (4.8%), **Germany** (6.1%), **Estonia** (6.8% in April 2018) and the **Netherlands** (6.9%), while the highest were recorded in **Greece** (43.2% in March 2018), **Spain** (33.8%) and **Italy** (31.9%).

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 definitions

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 89/2018 of 31 May 2018, the April 2018 unemployment rate for EA19 has been revised from 8.5% to 8.4% while the unemployment rate for EU28 has been revised from 7.1% to 7.0%. Among Member States, the rate has been revised by more than 0.1 percentage points (pp) downwards for Ireland and Slovakia (both by 0.5 pp), Belgium (by 0.3 pp) as well as Italy, Portugal and Finland (all by 0.2 pp). The rates have been revised by more than 0.1 percentage points upwards for Malta (by 1.1 pp) and Slovenia (by 0.4 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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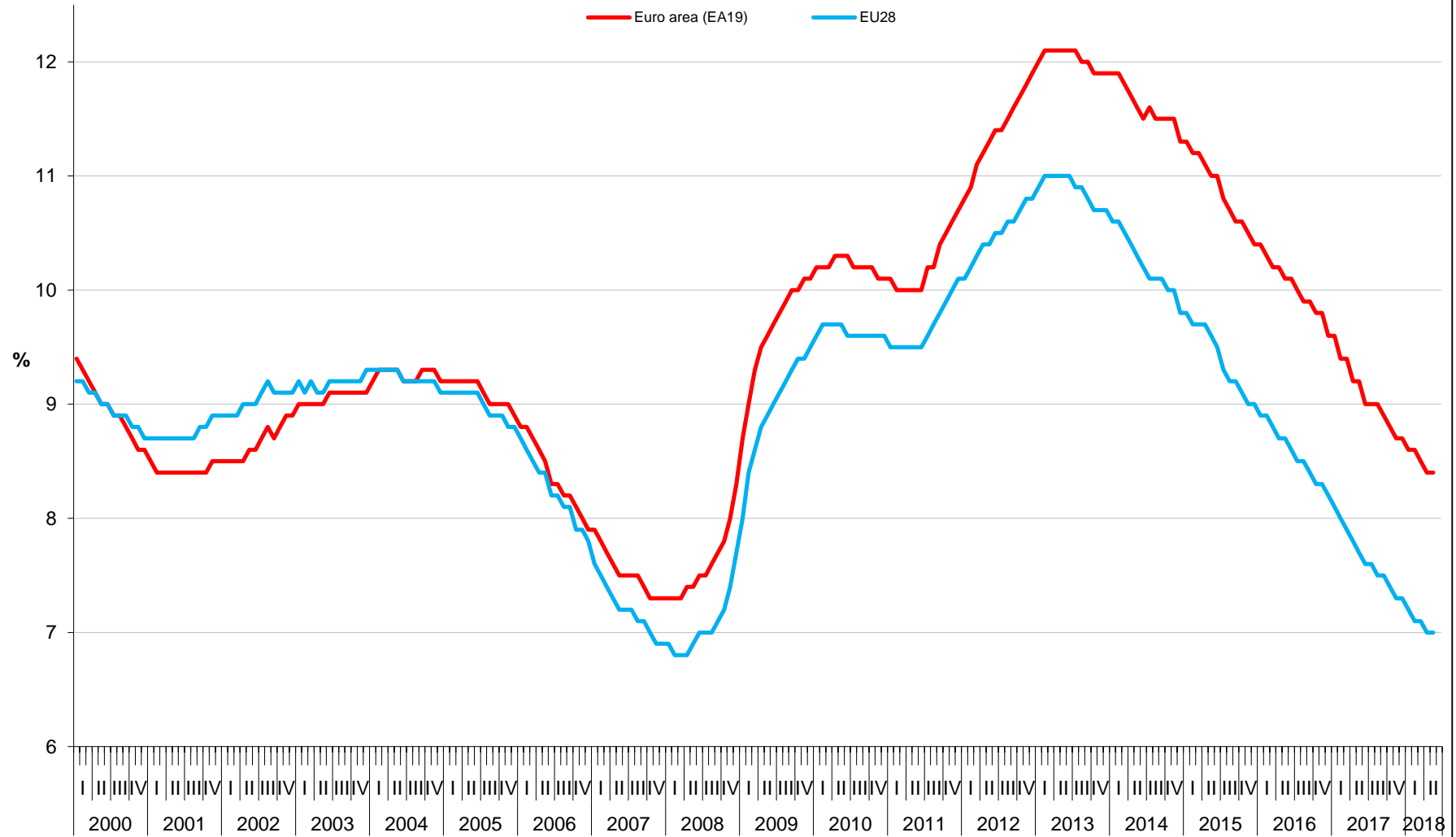
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Euro area and EU28 unemployment rates Seasonally adjusted series



Seasonally adjusted unemployment, totals

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	May 17	Feb 18	Mar 18	Apr 18	May 18	May 17	Feb 18	Mar 18	Apr 18	May 18
EA19	9.2	8.6	8.5	8.4	8.4	14 908	13 971	13 866	13 781	13 656
EU28	7.7	7.1	7.1	7.0	7.0	19 035	17 588	17 448	17 361	17 207
Belgium	7.3	6.1	6.0	6.0	6.0	364	307	303	302	302
Bulgaria	6.2	5.4	5.2	5.1	5.0	210	181	174	169	166
Czech Republic	3.1	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	166	125	122	123	123
Denmark	5.7	5.0	4.9	5.2	5.2	171	150	147	156	155
Germany	3.8	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.4	1 640	1 509	1 498	1 487	1 479
Estonia	6.1**	6.2	5.6	5.0	:	43**	44	39	35	:
Ireland	6.7	5.8	5.6	5.4	5.3	156	137	132	127	124
Greece	22.1*	20.6	20.1	:	:	1 058*	971	956	:	:
Spain	17.3	16.2	16.1	16.0	15.8	3 926	3 697	3 657	3 619	3 589
France	9.5	9.2	9.2	9.2	9.2	2 818	2 756	2 748	2 739	2 749
Croatia	11.3	9.5	9.2	9.1	8.9	205	172	168	164	162
Italy	11.4	11.0	11.0	11.0	10.7	2 947	2 853	2 864	2 878	2 793
Cyprus	11.4	9.4	9.0	8.6	8.4	48	41	39	37	36
Latvia	8.9	7.8	7.6	7.4	7.4	87	77	75	73	72
Lithuania	7.1	6.3	6.5	6.9	6.8	103	91	94	100	98
Luxembourg	5.6	5.3	5.3	5.2	5.2	16	15	15	15	15
Hungary	4.4**	3.7	3.7	3.7	:	202**	171	172	170	:
Malta	4.6	4.4	4.3	4.1	3.9	10	10	10	9	9
Netherlands	5.1	4.1	3.9	3.9	3.9	456	367	357	355	352
Austria	5.5	5.0	4.9	4.8	4.6	247	224	223	215	208
Poland	5.1	4.0	3.9	3.8	3.8	887	690	672	657	644
Portugal	9.2	7.6	7.5	7.2	7.3	474	395	386	369	376
Romania	5.1	4.5	4.4	4.6	4.6	470	408	404	411	413
Slovenia	6.6	5.6	5.5	5.6	5.6	67	58	57	57	58
Slovakia	8.3	7.1	7.0	6.9	6.8	230	195	192	189	187
Finland	8.7	8.1	8.0	7.9	7.9	235	223	220	218	217
Sweden	6.8	6.3	6.2	6.2	6.2	362	340	338	336	335
United Kingdom	4.5*	4.2	4.1	:	:	1 491*	1 400	1 388	:	:
Iceland	2.6	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	5	6	6	6	6
Norway	4.5**	3.8	3.9	3.7	:	123**	107	108	104	:
United States	4.3	4.1	4.1	3.9	3.8	6 875	6 703	6 590	6 383	6 078

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

: Data not available

* March 2017

** April 2017

Seasonally adjusted youth (under 25s) unemployment

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	May 17	Feb 18	Mar 18	Apr 18	May 18	May 17	Feb 18	Mar 18	Apr 18	May 18
EA19	19.3	17.6	17.3	17.1	16.8	2 743	2 510	2 451	2 427	2 390
EU28	17.2	15.6	15.3	15.2	15.1	3 896	3 526	3 445	3 421	3 377
Belgium	21.5	17.0	17.0	:	:	75	62	62	:	:
Bulgaria	14.0	12.2	12.2	11.5	11.2	24	19	18	17	17
Czech Republic	10.0	7.3	7.0	7.4	7.6	32	22	21	23	23
Denmark	11.0	10.0	9.4	10.3	10.1	51	45	42	47	47
Germany	6.6	6.3	6.2	6.2	6.1	280	266	264	262	260
Estonia	14.9	10.3	8.1	6.8	:	9	6	5	4	:
Ireland	15.4	13.6	13.1	12.3	12.0	43	37	35	32	31
Greece	43.8	45.5	43.2	:	:	118	109	110	:	:
Spain	39.2	35.6	34.9	34.3	33.8	583	525	510	502	496
France	23.3	21.6	21.2	20.7	20.4	651	614	601	586	578
Croatia	27.3	23.6	23.6	:	:	45	37	37	:	:
Italy	36.5	33.2	32.0	32.8	31.9	559	515	493	511	487
Cyprus	26.5	22.4	22.4	:	:	10	8	8	:	:
Latvia	16.6	14.8	13.5	11.7	10.7	13	10	9	7	7
Lithuania	13.3	12.2	12.6	11.9	12.2	16	13	14	13	14
Luxembourg	15.6	13.9	13.9	14.0	14.2	3	3	3	3	3
Hungary	11.5	10.4	10.0	9.4	:	40	34	33	31	:
Malta	11.2	8.1	7.1	5.3	4.8	3	2	2	1	1
Netherlands	9.0	7.2	7.0	6.9	6.9	128	104	100	98	100
Austria	9.6	9.9	10.1	9.9	10.2	51	53	53	52	55
Poland	15.9	11.3	11.0	11.0	10.9	214	149	143	143	142
Portugal	23.8	21.1	21.8	20.6	20.8	87	77	80	75	76
Romania	17.3	16.8	16.8	:	:	114	106	106	:	:
Slovenia	10.8	10.1	10.1	:	:	9	8	8	:	:
Slovakia	19.3	17.8	17.8	17.6	17.9	40	34	33	33	34
Finland	20.2	18.5	18.5	18.5	18.4	65	61	61	60	60
Sweden	17.9	16.0	16.2	15.8	15.5	113	101	99	98	97
United Kingdom	12.0	11.8	11.5	:	:	519	510	497	:	:
Iceland	7.0	6.4	6.3	6.3	6.4	2	2	2	2	2
Norway	11.4	8.5	8.9	8.9	:	41	30	32	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				
	May 17	Feb 18	Mar 18	Apr 18	May 18	May 17	Feb 18	Mar 18	Apr 18	May 18
EA19	8.8	8.2	8.1	8.1	8.0	9.6	9.0	8.9	8.9	8.8
EU28	7.5	6.9	6.8	6.8	6.7	8.0	7.4	7.4	7.3	7.3
Belgium	7.3	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.3	7.4	5.7	5.6	5.6	5.6
Bulgaria	6.6	6.0	5.8	5.5	5.4	5.9	4.8	4.6	4.5	4.5
Czech Republic	2.5	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.8	3.9	2.8	2.8	2.9	2.9
Denmark	5.4	4.6	4.6	4.9	4.9	6.1	5.5	5.2	5.5	5.4
Germany	4.2	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.8	3.4	3.0	3.0	3.0	2.9
Estonia	7.4	6.4	5.8	5.3	:	6.2	6.0	5.2	4.7	:
Ireland	7.4	5.9	5.7	5.4	5.3	5.9	5.7	5.5	5.3	5.2
Greece	18.1	16.5	16.3	:	:	26.0	25.8	25.0	:	:
Spain	15.7	14.7	14.6	14.3	14.2	19.1	18.0	17.9	17.8	17.7
France	9.5	9.1	9.1	9.0	9.0	9.5	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.4
Croatia	10.5	8.8	8.7	8.6	8.6	12.2	10.2	9.9	9.6	9.4
Italy	10.5	10.2	9.9	10.0	9.8	12.6	12.0	12.4	12.3	11.9
Cyprus	10.8	9.0	8.6	8.1	7.9	12.1	9.8	9.5	9.1	8.9
Latvia	10.4	8.6	8.3	7.9	7.8	7.5	7.0	7.0	6.9	7.0
Lithuania	8.7	7.3	7.5	7.9	7.8	5.6	5.3	5.5	5.8	5.8
Luxembourg	5.7	5.2	5.1	5.1	5.0	5.5	5.4	5.5	5.4	5.4
Hungary	4.0	3.3	3.3	3.4	:	4.7	4.1	4.2	4.0	:
Malta	4.7	4.5	4.4	4.2	4.1	4.4	4.2	4.2	3.9	3.7
Netherlands	4.6	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.7	5.6	4.3	4.1	4.0	4.0
Austria	5.9	5.1	5.1	4.9	4.8	5.1	4.8	4.8	4.5	4.4
Poland	5.2	3.9	3.8	3.6	3.5	5.1	4.2	4.1	4.1	4.1
Portugal	8.7	7.5	7.4	7.1	7.0	9.7	7.8	7.6	7.3	7.6
Romania	5.9	5.0	4.8	5.1	5.0	4.0	3.8	3.9	4.0	4.1
Slovenia	5.6	5.0	4.9	4.8	4.9	7.6	6.4	6.3	6.4	6.5
Slovakia	8.2	6.7	6.6	6.5	6.4	8.5	7.6	7.5	7.4	7.4
Finland	8.9	8.1	8.0	7.9	7.9	8.4	8.1	8.0	8.0	8.0
Sweden	7.0	6.4	6.4	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.0	6.0	5.9	5.8
United Kingdom	4.5	4.2	4.2	:	:	4.2	4.1	4.0	:	:
Iceland	2.7	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.6	2.9	2.8	2.8	2.8
Norway	4.9	4.2	4.2	4.1	:	4.0	3.5	3.5	3.3	:

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

: Data not available