

150/2018 - 1 October 2018

August 2018

## Euro area unemployment at 8.1%

EU28 at 6.8%

The **euro area** (EA19) seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate was 8.1% in August 2018, down from 8.2% in July 2018 and from 9.0% in August 2017. This is the lowest rate recorded in the **euro area** since November 2008. The **EU28** unemployment rate was 6.8% in August 2018, stable compared with July 2018 and down from 7.5% in August 2017. This remains the lowest rate recorded in the **EU28** since April 2008. These figures are published by Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union.

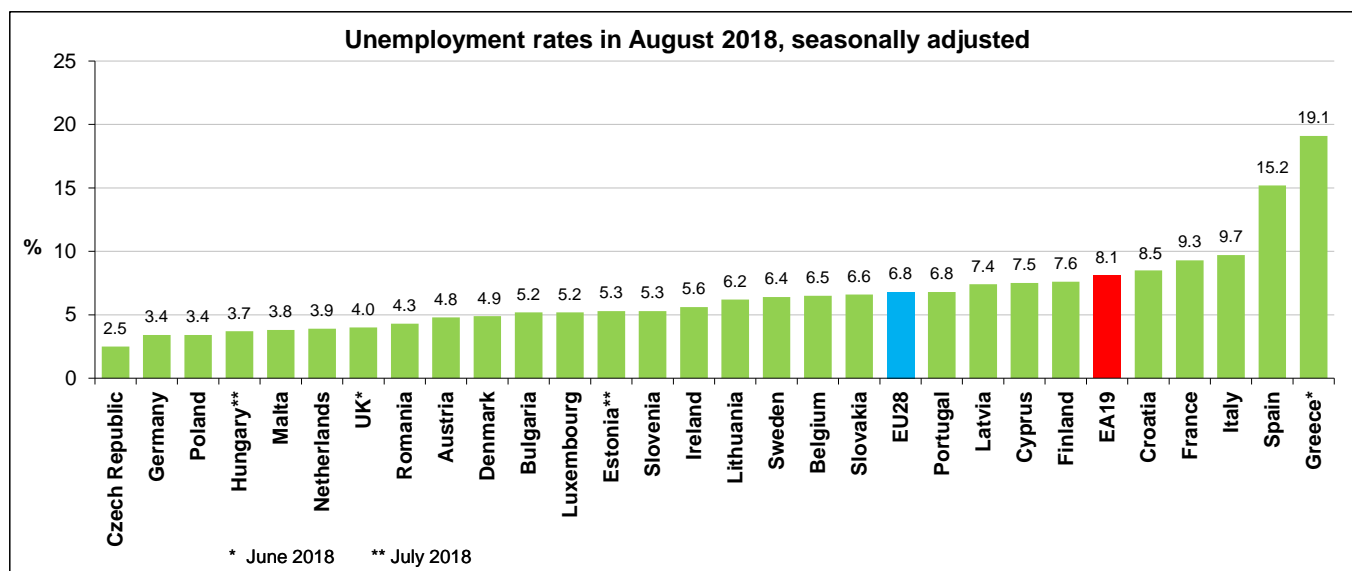
Eurostat estimates that 16.657 million men and women in the **EU28**, of whom 13.220 million in the **euro area**, were unemployed in August 2018. Compared with July 2018, the number of persons unemployed decreased by 114 000 in the **EU28** and by 102 000 in the **euro area**. Compared with August 2017, unemployment fell by 1.921 million in the **EU28** and by 1.419 million in the **euro area**.

### Member States

Among the Member States, the lowest unemployment rates in August 2018 were recorded in the **Czech Republic** (2.5%), **Germany** and **Poland** (both 3.4%). The highest unemployment rates were observed in **Greece** (19.1% in June 2018) and **Spain** (15.2%).

Compared with a year ago, the unemployment rate fell in all Member States. The largest decreases were registered in **Cyprus** (from 10.5% to 7.5%), **Croatia** (from 10.9% to 8.5%), **Greece** (from 21.3% to 19.1% between June 2017 and June 2018) and **Portugal** (from 8.8% to 6.8%).

In August 2018, the unemployment rate in the **United States** was 3.9%, stable compared with July 2018 and down from 4.4% in August 2017.



## Youth unemployment

In August 2018, 3.315 million young persons (under 25) were unemployed in the **EU28**, of whom 2.367 million were in the **euro area**. Compared with August 2017, youth unemployment decreased by 431 000 in the **EU28** and by 275 000 in the **euro area**. In August 2018, the youth unemployment rate was 14.8% in the **EU28** and 16.6% in the **euro area**, compared with 16.6% and 18.5% respectively in August 2017. In August 2018, the lowest rates were observed in **Germany** (6.2%), the **Czech Republic** (6.3%) and the **Netherlands** (7.7%), while the highest were recorded in **Greece** (39.1% in June 2018), **Spain** (33.6%) and **Italy** (31.0%).

### 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 135/2018 of 31 August 2018, the July 2018 unemployment rate for EA19 and for EU28 has remained unchanged. Among Member States, the rate has been revised by more than 0.1 percentage points (pp) downwards for Slovenia (by 0.5 pp), Greece and Italy (both by 0.2 pp, May data for Greece). The rate has been revised by more than 0.1 percentage points upwards for Bulgaria (by 0.5 pp) and Belgium (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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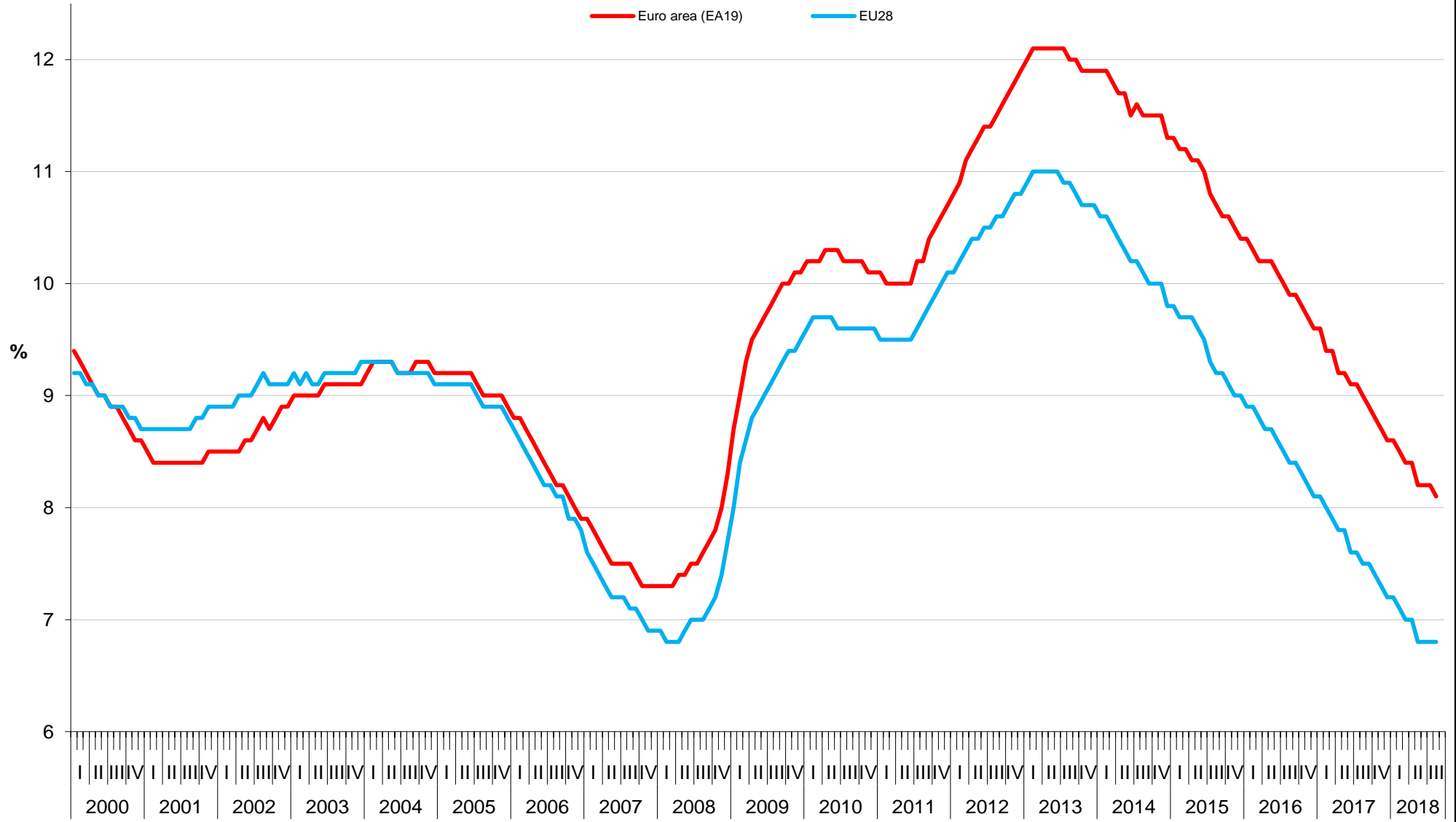
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### Euro area and EU28 unemployment rates Seasonally adjusted series



### Seasonally adjusted unemployment, totals

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	Aug 17	May 18	Jun 18	Jul 18	Aug 18	Aug 17	May 18	Jun 18	Jul 18	Aug 18
<b>EA19</b>	9.0	8.2	8.2	8.2	<b>8.1</b>	14 639	13 427	13 414	13 322	<b>13 220</b>
<b>EU28</b>	7.5	6.8	6.8	6.8	<b>6.8</b>	18 578	16 879	16 866	16 771	<b>16 657</b>
<b>Belgium</b>	7.1	6.3	6.4	6.6	<b>6.5</b>	355	317	321	331	<b>327</b>
<b>Bulgaria</b>	6.2	5.4	5.3	5.3	<b>5.2</b>	207	179	175	174	<b>173</b>
<b>Czech Republic</b>	2.7	2.3	2.4	2.4	<b>2.5</b>	147	124	129	129	<b>133</b>
<b>Denmark</b>	5.7	5.1	4.9	5.0	<b>4.9</b>	173	153	150	151	<b>148</b>
<b>Germany</b>	3.7	3.4	3.4	3.4	<b>3.4</b>	1 602	1 480	1 472	1 463	<b>1 455</b>
<b>Estonia</b>	6.1**	5.1	5.0	5.3	:	43**	36	35	37	:
<b>Ireland</b>	6.6	5.8	5.8	5.8	<b>5.6</b>	155	139	139	139	<b>134</b>
<b>Greece</b>	21.3*	19.3	19.1	:	:	1 022*	922	909	:	:
<b>Spain</b>	16.8	15.4	15.3	15.2	<b>15.2</b>	3 822	3 519	3 478	3 471	<b>3 484</b>
<b>France</b>	9.5	9.1	9.1	9.2	<b>9.3</b>	2 823	2 697	2 704	2 742	<b>2 767</b>
<b>Croatia</b>	10.9	8.8	8.8	8.7	<b>8.5</b>	199	159	160	157	<b>154</b>
<b>Italy</b>	11.4	10.4	10.6	10.2	<b>9.7</b>	2 960	2 721	2 768	2 641	<b>2 522</b>
<b>Cyprus</b>	10.5	8.1	7.9	7.6	<b>7.5</b>	45	35	34	33	<b>33</b>
<b>Latvia</b>	8.7	7.7	7.7	7.6	<b>7.4</b>	85	76	76	74	<b>72</b>
<b>Lithuania</b>	6.8	5.8	5.8	6.3	<b>6.2</b>	98	84	84	91	<b>90</b>
<b>Luxembourg</b>	5.5	5.2	5.2	5.2	<b>5.2</b>	16	15	15	15	<b>15</b>
<b>Hungary</b>	4.2**	3.6	3.7	3.7	:	196**	169	169	173	:
<b>Malta</b>	4.7	3.8	3.8	3.9	<b>3.8</b>	10	9	9	9	<b>9</b>
<b>Netherlands</b>	4.7	3.9	3.9	3.8	<b>3.9</b>	426	352	354	348	<b>353</b>
<b>Austria</b>	5.5	4.6	4.7	4.9	<b>4.8</b>	245	210	214	221	<b>218</b>
<b>Poland</b>	4.8	3.7	3.6	3.5	<b>3.4</b>	818	639	622	603	<b>585</b>
<b>Portugal</b>	8.8	7.1	6.8	6.8	<b>6.8</b>	452	363	353	351	<b>353</b>
<b>Romania</b>	4.9	4.2	4.2	4.2	<b>4.3</b>	448	381	377	386	<b>386</b>
<b>Slovenia</b>	6.6	5.4	5.3	5.3	<b>5.3</b>	68	55	55	55	<b>55</b>
<b>Slovakia</b>	7.9	6.8	6.7	6.7	<b>6.6</b>	218	187	185	182	<b>180</b>
<b>Finland</b>	8.4	7.6	7.6	7.6	<b>7.6</b>	229	210	209	208	<b>208</b>
<b>Sweden</b>	6.6	6.3	6.3	6.3	<b>6.4</b>	358	342	344	346	<b>349</b>
<b>United Kingdom</b>	4.3*	3.9	4.0	:	:	1 446*	1 315	1 325	:	:
<b>Iceland</b>	3.0	2.9	2.9	2.9	<b>2.9</b>	6	6	6	6	<b>6</b>
<b>Norway</b>	4.2**	3.8	3.9	4.0	:	116**	107	108	113	:
<b>United States</b>	4.4	3.8	4.0	3.9	<b>3.9</b>	7 087	6 078	6 532	6 283	<b>6 208</b>

The source datasets are available [here](#) (rates) and [here](#) (in 1000 persons).  
: Data not available \* June 2017 \*\* July 2017

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

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	Aug 17	May 18	Jun 18	Jul 18	Aug 18	Aug 17	May 18	Jun 18	Jul 18	Aug 18
<b>EA19</b>	18.5	16.9	16.9	16.7	<b>16.6</b>	2 642	2 405	2 402	2 370	<b>2 367</b>
<b>EU28</b>	16.6	15.0	15.1	14.9	<b>14.8</b>	3 746	3 365	3 373	3 327	<b>3 315</b>
<b>Belgium</b>	18.3	19.1	19.1	:	:	70	72	72	:	:
<b>Bulgaria</b>	13.6	15.1	14.9	14.6	<b>13.8</b>	24	23	22	21	<b>20</b>
<b>Czech Republic</b>	7.7	8.2	7.7	6.4	<b>6.3</b>	24	24	23	19	<b>19</b>
<b>Denmark</b>	11.4	9.3	9.3	9.4	<b>9.9</b>	53	44	43	43	<b>45</b>
<b>Germany</b>	6.5	6.3	6.3	6.3	<b>6.2</b>	278	267	267	266	<b>265</b>
<b>Estonia</b>	11.6	8.1	9.9	12.7	:	7	5	6	8	:
<b>Ireland</b>	15.1	14.2	14.2	14.4	<b>13.9</b>	39	40	39	39	<b>38</b>
<b>Greece</b>	40.4	39.3	39.1	:	:	105	98	98	:	:
<b>Spain</b>	37.4	34.3	34.2	33.7	<b>33.6</b>	566	521	513	507	<b>509</b>
<b>France</b>	22.1	20.5	20.4	20.3	<b>20.2</b>	613	580	571	571	<b>569</b>
<b>Croatia</b>	26.4	23.9	23.9	:	:	43	36	36	:	:
<b>Italy</b>	34.5	31.3	31.7	30.8	<b>31.0</b>	540	471	482	458	<b>456</b>
<b>Cyprus</b>	25.1	19.0	19.0	:	:	9	7	7	:	:
<b>Latvia</b>	15.9	11.2	10.4	9.4	<b>8.4</b>	12	7	7	6	<b>5</b>
<b>Lithuania</b>	12.7	10.8	11.2	12.4	<b>12.2</b>	14	11	12	13	<b>13</b>
<b>Luxembourg</b>	15.1	13.9	13.8	13.4	<b>13.5</b>	3	3	3	3	<b>3</b>
<b>Hungary</b>	10.7	10.0	10.2	9.7	:	36	33	33	32	:
<b>Malta</b>	9.9	7.4	8.5	9.1	<b>8.8</b>	3	2	2	3	<b>2</b>
<b>Netherlands</b>	8.9	6.9	7.2	7.3	<b>7.7</b>	127	100	104	106	<b>112</b>
<b>Austria</b>	10.2	9.7	9.6	8.9	<b>8.4</b>	54	52	52	47	<b>44</b>
<b>Poland</b>	14.3	11.2	10.8	10.2	<b>9.7</b>	189	144	139	131	<b>124</b>
<b>Portugal</b>	24.7	20.5	19.6	19.7	<b>19.5</b>	92	75	73	74	<b>74</b>
<b>Romania</b>	17.8	16.6	16.6	:	:	112	103	103	:	:
<b>Slovenia</b>	11.9	8.9	8.9	:	:	9	7	7	:	:
<b>Slovakia</b>	18.9	15.2	14.6	14.1	<b>13.9</b>	37	29	28	27	<b>26</b>
<b>Finland</b>	19.5	17.5	17.3	17.4	<b>17.4</b>	63	57	56	56	<b>56</b>
<b>Sweden</b>	17.4	16.3	16.8	16.9	<b>17.2</b>	110	103	104	105	<b>106</b>
<b>United Kingdom</b>	12.1	10.9	11.0	:	:	515	461	467	:	:
<b>Iceland</b>	7.4	7.0	7.1	7.2	<b>7.2</b>	2	2	2	2	<b>2</b>
<b>Norway</b>	10.7	9.8	9.9	10.2	:	39	36	36	37	:

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				
	Aug 17	May 18	Jun 18	Jul 18	Aug 18	Aug 17	May 18	Jun 18	Jul 18	Aug 18
EA19	8.7	7.9	7.9	7.8	<b>7.8</b>	9.3	8.6	8.6	8.5	<b>8.5</b>
EU28	7.3	6.6	6.6	6.6	<b>6.6</b>	7.8	7.1	7.1	7.1	<b>7.0</b>
Belgium	7.5	6.5	6.6	6.7	<b>6.6</b>	6.6	6.1	6.2	6.4	<b>6.4</b>
Bulgaria	6.4	5.9	5.8	5.8	<b>5.8</b>	5.8	4.8	4.7	4.7	<b>4.6</b>
Czech Republic	2.3	1.8	1.9	2.0	<b>1.9</b>	3.3	2.9	3.0	2.9	<b>3.1</b>
Denmark	5.6	4.8	4.7	4.8	<b>4.8</b>	5.9	5.3	5.2	5.2	<b>5.0</b>
Germany	4.0	3.8	3.8	3.8	<b>3.8</b>	3.3	3.0	3.0	2.9	<b>2.9</b>
Estonia	6.3	5.2	5.0	5.3	:	4.5	5.0	5.1	5.2	:
Ireland	6.9	6.0	6.0	5.9	<b>5.8</b>	6.2	5.6	5.6	5.7	<b>5.3</b>
Greece	17.4	15.7	15.3	:	:	25.1	24.0	23.8	:	:
Spain	15.2	13.9	13.7	13.6	<b>13.6</b>	18.7	17.2	17.1	17.0	<b>17.1</b>
France	9.7	9.0	9.1	9.3	<b>9.5</b>	9.3	9.1	9.1	9.1	<b>9.1</b>
Croatia	10.2	8.3	8.4	8.3	<b>8.1</b>	11.6	9.3	9.3	9.1	<b>9.0</b>
Italy	10.5	9.6	9.8	9.4	<b>9.0</b>	12.6	11.5	11.7	11.2	<b>10.7</b>
Cyprus	10.1	7.9	7.6	7.2	<b>7.0</b>	10.9	8.3	8.2	8.1	<b>7.9</b>
Latvia	9.4	9.1	9.1	8.8	<b>8.5</b>	8.0	6.3	6.3	6.3	<b>6.3</b>
Lithuania	8.1	6.2	6.1	6.8	<b>6.8</b>	5.5	5.4	5.6	5.7	<b>5.5</b>
Luxembourg	5.4	4.9	4.9	4.9	<b>4.9</b>	5.7	5.7	5.6	5.6	<b>5.6</b>
Hungary	3.7	3.5	3.5	3.5	:	4.6	3.8	3.9	4.1	:
Malta	4.8	3.9	4.0	3.9	<b>3.8</b>	4.5	3.5	3.5	3.8	<b>3.7</b>
Netherlands	4.4	3.7	3.8	3.8	<b>3.8</b>	5.1	4.0	4.0	3.9	<b>3.9</b>
Austria	6.0	4.8	4.9	5.0	<b>4.7</b>	4.9	4.5	4.5	4.8	<b>5.0</b>
Poland	4.7	3.7	3.7	3.6	<b>3.6</b>	4.8	3.7	3.6	3.4	<b>3.2</b>
Portugal	8.1	6.7	6.4	6.4	<b>6.5</b>	9.4	7.5	7.2	7.2	<b>7.2</b>
Romania	5.5	4.7	4.6	4.8	<b>4.9</b>	4.1	3.5	3.6	3.5	<b>3.5</b>
Slovenia	5.5	5.0	5.0	5.1	<b>5.1</b>	7.8	5.8	5.6	5.5	<b>5.4</b>
Slovakia	7.8	6.3	6.2	6.0	<b>5.9</b>	8.1	7.5	7.5	7.4	<b>7.4</b>
Finland	8.6	7.7	7.7	7.7	<b>7.7</b>	8.2	7.6	7.5	7.5	<b>7.5</b>
Sweden	6.9	6.4	6.4	6.4	<b>6.4</b>	6.4	6.1	6.3	6.3	<b>6.4</b>
United Kingdom	4.3	3.9	3.9	:	:	4.2	4.0	4.0	:	:
Iceland	3.2	3.0	3.0	3.0	<b>3.0</b>	2.7	2.8	2.7	2.7	<b>2.7</b>
Norway	4.5	4.2	4.3	4.4	:	3.6	3.4	3.4	3.5	:

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

: Data not available