

55/2019 -1 April 2019

February 2019

Euro area unemployment at 7.8%

EU28 at 6.5%

The **euro area** (EA19) seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate was 7.8% in February 2019, stable compared with January 2019 and down from 8.5% in February 2018. This remains the lowest rate recorded in the **euro area** since October 2008. The **EU28** unemployment rate was 6.5% in February 2019, stable compared with January 2019 and down from 7.1% in February 2018. This remains the lowest rate recorded in the **EU28** since the start of the EU monthly unemployment series in January 2000. These figures are published by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**.

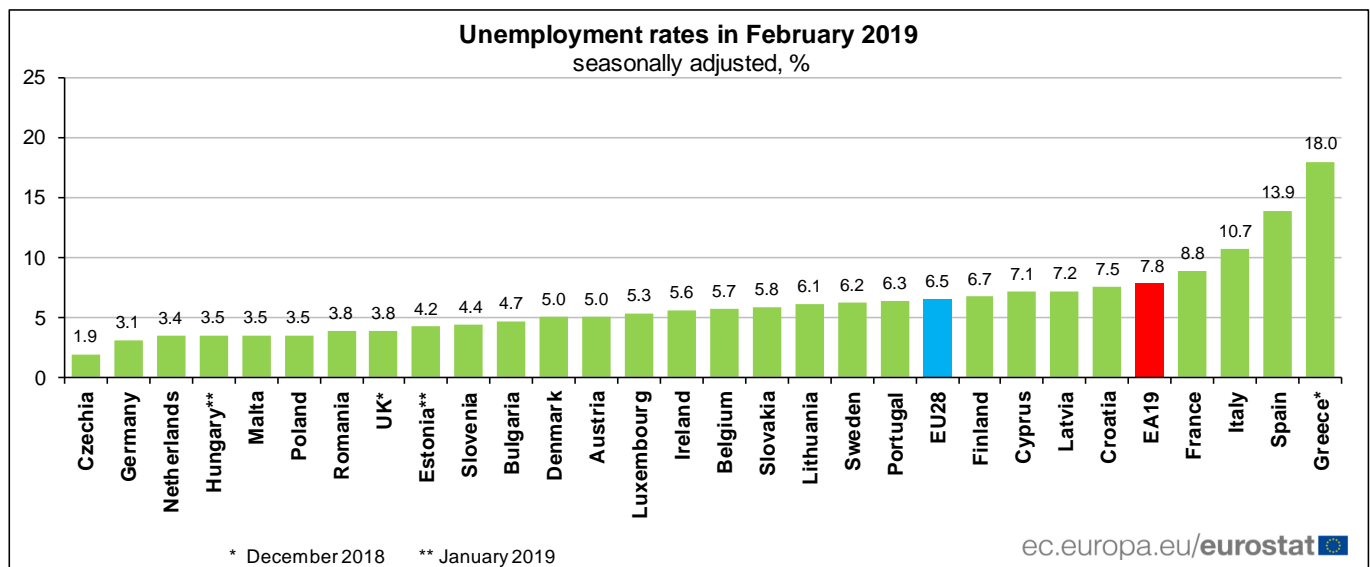
Eurostat estimates that 16.012 million men and women in the **EU28**, of whom 12.730 million in the **euro area**, were unemployed in February 2019. Compared with January 2019, the number of persons unemployed decreased by 102 000 in the **EU28** and by 77 000 in the **euro area**. Compared with February 2018, unemployment fell by 1.469 million in the **EU28** and by 1.169 million in the **euro area**.

Member States

Among the Member States, the lowest unemployment rates in February 2019 were recorded in **Czechia** (1.9%), **Germany** (3.1%) and the **Netherlands** (3.4%). The highest unemployment rates were observed in **Greece** (18.0% in December 2018), **Spain** (13.9%) and **Italy** (10.7%).

Compared with a year ago, the unemployment rate fell in all Member States except **Denmark** and **Austria** where it remained stable. The largest decreases were registered in **Greece** (from 20.8% to 18.0% between December 2017 and December 2018), **Cyprus** (from 9.4% to 7.1%), **Spain** (from 16.2% to 13.9%) and **Estonia** (from 6.4% to 4.2% between January 2018 and January 2019).

In February 2019, the unemployment rate in the **United States** was 3.8%, down from 4.0% in January 2019 and from 4.1% in February 2018.



Youth unemployment

In February 2019, 3.309 million young persons (under 25) were unemployed in the **EU28**, of whom 2.337 million were in the **euro area**. Compared with February 2018, youth unemployment decreased by 222 000 in the **EU28** and by 181 000 in the **euro area**. In February 2019, the youth unemployment rate was 14.6% in the **EU28** and 16.1% in the **euro area**, compared with 15.7% and 17.7% respectively in February 2018. In February 2019, the lowest rates were observed in **Germany** (5.6%), **Czechia** (6.0%) and the **Netherlands** (6.4%), while the highest were recorded in **Greece** (39.5% in December 2018), **Italy** (32.8%) and **Spain** (32.4%).

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, Czechia, 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 [37/2019](#) of 1 March 2019, the January 2019 unemployment rate for EA19 and the EU28 remained unchanged. Among Member States, the rate has been revised by more than 0.1 percentage points (pp) downwards for Slovenia (by 0.9 pp) as well as for Malta and Slovakia (both by 0.4 pp). The unemployment rate has been revised by more than 0.1 percentage points upwards for Ireland (by 0.4 pp) as well as for Belgium and Luxembourg (both 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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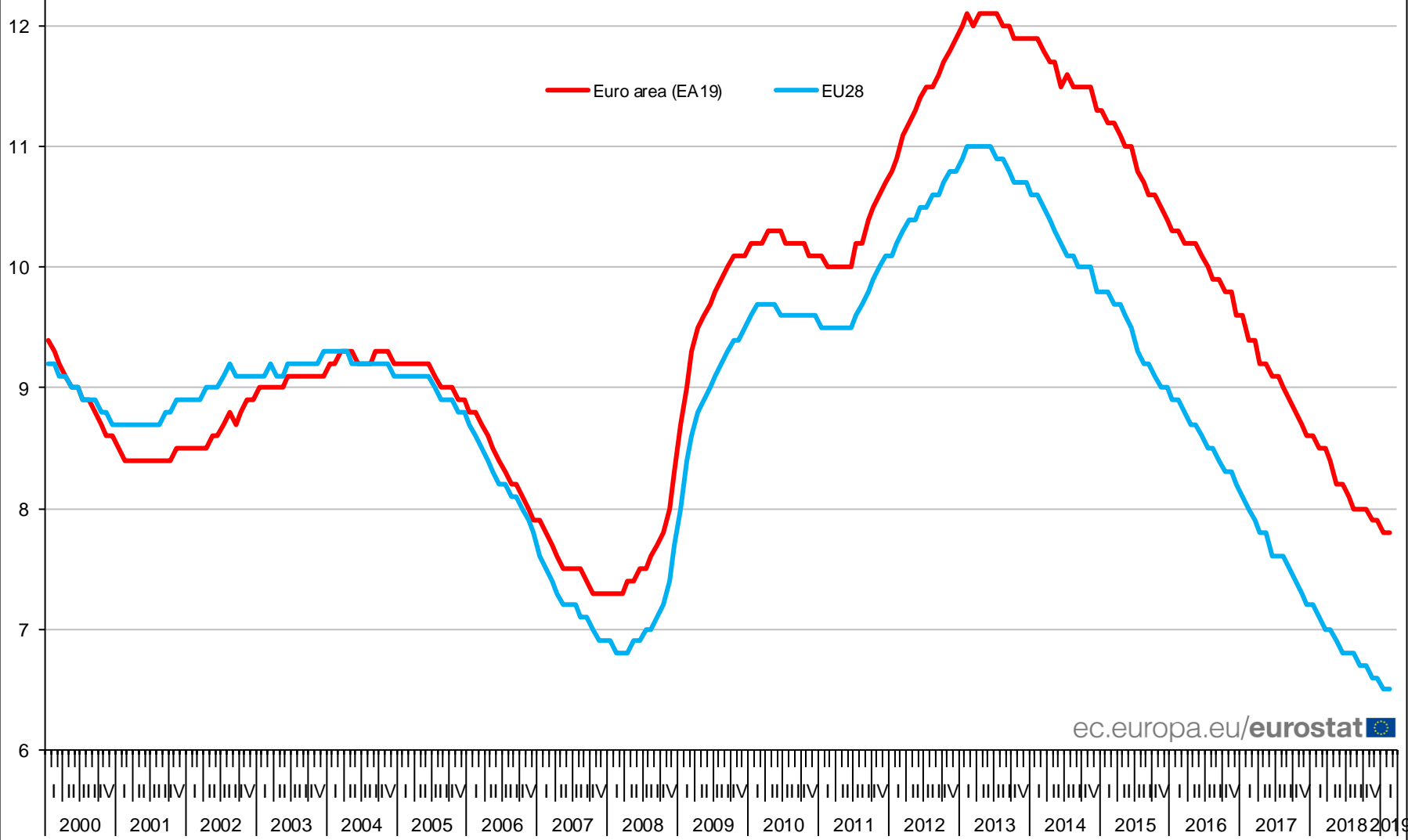
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Unemployment rates seasonally adjusted series, %



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Seasonally adjusted unemployment, totals

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	Feb 18	Nov 18	Dec 18	Jan 19	Feb 19	Feb 18	Nov 18	Dec 18	Jan 19	Feb 19
EA19	8.5	7.9	7.9	7.8	7.8	13 899	12 984	12 860	12 807	12 730
EU28	7.1	6.6	6.6	6.5	6.5	17 481	16 393	16 219	16 114	16 012
Belgium	6.1	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.7	306	293	294	295	293
Bulgaria	5.4	4.9	4.8	4.7	4.7	182	161	158	158	157
Czechia	2.3	2.0	2.1	2.1	1.9	125	107	116	112	104
Denmark	5.0	5.1	4.9	5.1	5.0	150	154	150	154	152
Germany	3.5	3.3	3.2	3.2	3.1	1 509	1 423	1 405	1 384	1 364
Estonia	6.4**	4.6	4.3	4.2	:	46**	32	30	29	:
Ireland	5.8	5.6	5.7	5.7	5.6	137	135	137	137	135
Greece	20.8*	18.3	18.0	:	:	990*	868	852	:	:
Spain	16.2	14.5	14.3	14.1	13.9	3 677	3 306	3 262	3 227	3 191
France	9.2	8.9	8.9	8.9	8.8	2 752	2 672	2 673	2 649	2 626
Croatia	9.1	7.8	7.7	7.6	7.5	166	139	137	136	133
Italy	10.8	10.6	10.5	10.5	10.7	2 810	2 763	2 724	2 737	2 771
Cyprus	9.4	7.8	7.4	7.3	7.1	41	34	33	32	32
Latvia	7.8	6.9	7.1	7.3	7.2	76	68	69	71	71
Lithuania	6.5	5.8	5.8	6.1	6.1	95	85	84	90	89
Luxembourg	5.5	5.2	5.1	5.1	5.3	16	15	15	15	16
Hungary	3.7**	3.7	3.7	3.5	:	174**	171	171	165	:
Malta	3.8	3.5	3.4	3.4	3.5	9	9	8	8	9
Netherlands	4.1	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.4	367	326	329	329	312
Austria	5.0	4.6	4.6	4.8	5.0	224	211	211	220	226
Poland	3.9	3.8	3.7	3.6	3.5	672	650	630	611	590
Portugal	7.6	6.7	6.6	6.6	6.3	392	345	343	341	327
Romania	4.4	4.1	4.0	3.9	3.8	398	374	359	354	350
Slovenia	5.6	4.4	4.3	4.3	4.4	58	45	44	45	45
Slovakia	7.1	6.0	5.9	5.8	5.8	194	166	162	161	159
Finland	8.0	6.9	6.8	6.7	6.7	220	189	186	185	184
Sweden	6.3	6.3	6.2	6.2	6.2	342	344	343	342	341
United Kingdom	4.2*	3.9	3.8	:	:	1416*	1 313	1 288	:	:
Iceland	2.9	2.7	2.7	2.8	2.8	6	6	6	6	6
Norway	4**	3.8	3.8	3.9	:	112**	106	105	108	:
United States	4.1	3.7	3.9	4.0	3.8	6 691	6 007	6 275	6 549	6 238

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

: Data not available

* December 2017

** January 2018

Seasonally adjusted youth (under 25s) unemployment

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	Feb 18	Nov 18	Dec 18	Jan 19	Feb 19	Feb 18	Nov 18	Dec 18	Jan 19	Feb 19
EA19	17.7	16.4	16.3	16.2	16.1	2 518	2 367	2 356	2 351	2 337
EU28	15.7	14.8	14.6	14.7	14.6	3 531	3 340	3 311	3 324	3 309
Belgium	17.1	12.9	12.9	:	:	63	50	50	:	:
Bulgaria	12.7	11.4	11.3	11.9	12.4	20	17	17	18	18
Czechia	7.4	5.2	6.1	6.1	6.0	22	15	18	18	18
Denmark	9.9	8.9	8.8	9.8	9.7	45	42	41	45	45
Germany	6.4	5.9	5.8	5.7	5.6	271	253	250	247	244
Estonia	10.9	12.0	9.0	7.7	:	7	7	5	4	:
Ireland	13.5	13.1	13.4	13.9	13.8	37	37	39	40	40
Greece	46.8	39.4	39.5	:	:	107	95	95	:	:
Spain	35.7	33.2	32.7	32.6	32.4	527	503	499	503	503
France	21.7	20.2	20.3	20.2	20.1	619	592	595	592	591
Croatia	25.4	22.0	22.0	:	:	39	33	33	:	:
Italy	33.5	32.7	32.7	32.9	32.8	515	497	503	502	496
Cyprus	22.4	20.2	20.2	:	:	8	8	8	:	:
Latvia	14.7	12.5	13.0	13.5	13.2	10	8	8	8	8
Lithuania	12.8	10.6	11.1	11.1	11.1	14	12	12	12	12
Luxembourg	14.2	12.3	11.9	11.9	12.9	3	3	3	3	3
Hungary	10.2	10.3	11.3	11.6	:	33	34	38	39	:
Malta	7.4	9.4	8.7	8.2	8.8	2	3	3	2	3
Netherlands	7.2	6.9	6.6	6.5	6.4	104	101	97	96	95
Austria	10.2	8.7	8.2	8.3	8.3	54	47	43	43	44
Poland	11.6	11.7	11.6	11.5	11.3	151	149	146	146	144
Portugal	21.0	19.1	18.0	17.6	16.4	77	71	68	66	61
Romania	16.3	15.4	15.4	:	:	103	96	96	:	:
Slovenia	10.2	6.6	6.6	:	:	8	5	5	:	:
Slovakia	17.6	13.0	12.2	11.9	11.6	34	24	22	22	22
Finland	18.1	17.3	17.1	16.9	16.9	59	55	55	55	55
Sweden	16.2	17.1	17.1	17.6	17.2	102	108	108	108	107
United Kingdom	11.8	11.3	11.0	:	:	507	477	466	:	:
Iceland	6.3	6.6	6.9	7.4	7.6	2	2	2	2	2
Norway	8.5	10.3	10.0	10.6	:	31	38	36	38	:

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

: Data not available * Q4 2018 data

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

Seasonally adjusted unemployment rates (%), by gender

	Males					Females				
	Feb 18	Nov 18	Dec 18	Jan 19	Feb 19	Feb 18	Nov 18	Dec 18	Jan 19	Feb 19
EA19	8.2	7.6	7.5	7.4	7.4	8.9	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.2
EU28	6.9	6.4	6.3	6.2	6.2	7.3	6.9	6.9	6.8	6.8
Belgium	6.4	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.1	5.7	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3
Bulgaria	6.0	5.4	5.3	5.2	5.1	4.8	4.3	4.2	4.2	4.2
Czechia	1.9	1.5	1.8	1.8	1.8	2.9	2.6	2.6	2.4	2.1
Denmark	4.6	5.1	4.7	4.8	4.8	5.5	5.1	5.2	5.3	5.2
Germany	3.9	3.7	3.6	3.5	3.4	3.0	2.9	2.9	2.8	2.8
Estonia	6.7	4.3	3.9	3.8	:	6.1	5.0	4.7	4.5	:
Ireland	5.9	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.6
Greece	16.5	14.3	14.1	:	:	26.0	23.5	23.1	:	:
Spain	14.7	12.9	12.7	12.5	12.3	17.9	16.3	16.1	15.9	15.8
France	9.2	8.9	8.9	8.8	8.8	9.3	9.0	9.0	8.9	8.8
Croatia	8.4	7.1	7.0	6.8	6.7	10.0	8.5	8.5	8.4	8.4
Italy	10.1	9.8	9.6	9.7	9.8	11.9	11.7	11.7	11.7	11.9
Cyprus	9.0	7.5	7.3	7.2	7.0	9.9	8.0	7.6	7.4	7.2
Latvia	8.5	7.5	7.9	8.3	8.1	7.0	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.3
Lithuania	7.6	6.4	6.2	6.8	6.7	5.4	5.3	5.3	5.5	5.4
Luxembourg	5.2	5.0	4.8	4.8	5.0	5.9	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.7
Hungary	3.3	3.6	3.7	3.5	:	4.1	3.7	3.6	3.6	:
Malta	3.9	3.6	3.6	3.7	3.8	3.6	3.4	3.1	2.9	3.1
Netherlands	3.8	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.3	4.3	3.6	3.7	3.7	3.5
Austria	5.1	4.9	4.8	5.0	5.1	4.8	4.3	4.5	4.6	4.8
Poland	3.8	3.7	3.5	3.4	3.3	4.1	4.0	3.9	3.8	3.7
Portugal	7.4	6.1	6.0	5.7	5.5	7.7	7.3	7.3	7.4	7.1
Romania	4.9	4.7	4.6	4.2	4.2	3.7	3.3	3.2	3.4	3.4
Slovenia	4.9	3.9	3.8	3.8	3.7	6.4	4.9	4.8	4.9	5.1
Slovakia	6.8	5.6	5.4	5.4	5.3	7.4	6.6	6.4	6.4	6.3
Finland	8.1	7.0	6.8	6.8	6.8	7.9	6.8	6.7	6.6	6.6
Sweden	6.4	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.1	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.2
United Kingdom	4.2	4.0	3.9	:	:	4.2	3.8	3.7	:	:
Iceland	3.0	2.9	3.0	3.1	3.2	2.8	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4
Norway	4.2	3.9	3.9	3.9	:	3.4	3.6	3.6	3.7	:

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

: Data not available