eurostat | newsrelease
euroindicators

90/2019 – 4 June 2019

April 2019

Euro area unemployment at 7.6%

EU28 at 6.4%

The **euro area** (EA19) seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate was 7.6% in April 2019, down from 7.7% in March 2019 and from 8.4% in April 2018. This is the lowest rate recorded in the **euro area** since August 2008. The **EU28** unemployment rate was 6.4% in April 2019, stable compared with March 2019 and down from 7.0% in April 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**.

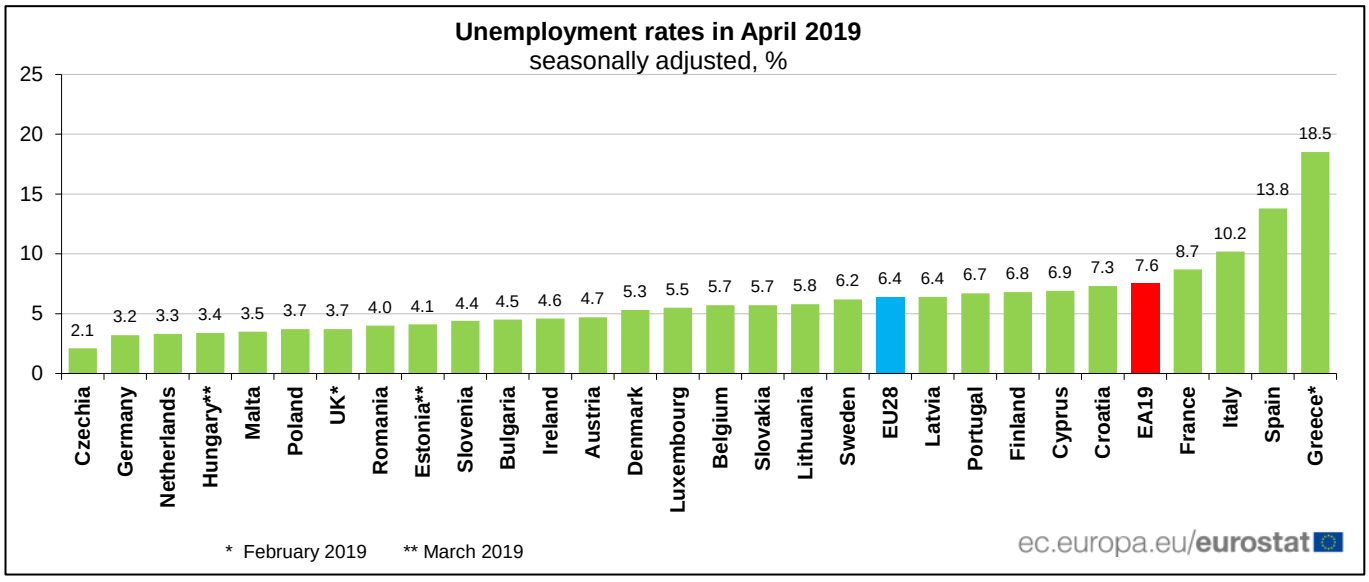
Eurostat estimates that 15.802 million men and women in the **EU28**, of whom 12.529 million in the **euro area**, were unemployed in April 2019. Compared with March 2019, the number of persons unemployed decreased by 108 000 in the **EU28** and by 64 000 in the **euro area**. Compared with April 2018, unemployment fell by 1.394 million in the **EU28** and by 1.147 million in the **euro area**.

Member States

Among the Member States, the lowest unemployment rates in April 2019 were recorded in **Czechia** (2.1%), **Germany** (3.2%) and the **Netherlands** (3.3%). The highest unemployment rates were observed in **Greece** (18.5% in February 2019), **Spain** (13.8%) and **Italy** (10.2%).

Compared with a year ago, the unemployment rate fell in all Member States except **Luxembourg** and **Poland** where it remained stable while an increase was registered in **Denmark** (from 5.2% to 5.3%). The largest decreases were registered in **Greece** (from 20.6% to 18.5% between February 2018 and February 2019), **Estonia** (from 6.0% to 4.1% between March 2018 and March 2019) and **Spain** (from 15.6% to 13.8%).

In April 2019, the unemployment rate in the **United States** was 3.6%, down from 3.8% in March 2019 and from 3.9% in April 2018.



Youth unemployment

In April 2019, 3.213 million young persons (under 25) were unemployed in the **EU28**, of whom 2.308 million were in the **euro area**. Compared with April 2018, youth unemployment decreased by 246 000 in the **EU28** and by 151 000 in the **euro area**. In April 2019, the youth unemployment rate was 14.2% in the **EU28** and 15.8% in the **euro area**, compared with 15.4% and 17.2% respectively in April 2018. In April 2019, the lowest rates were observed in **Germany** (5.3%) and the **Netherlands** (6.2%), while the highest were recorded in **Greece** (38.8% in February 2019), **Spain** (32.7%) and **Italy** (31.4%).

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 77/2019 of 30 April 2019, the March 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 Ireland and Latvia (both by 0.7 pp). The unemployment rate has been revised by more than 0.1 percentage points upwards for Poland (by 0.4 pp) as well as for Denmark, Cyprus, Lithuania and Finland (all 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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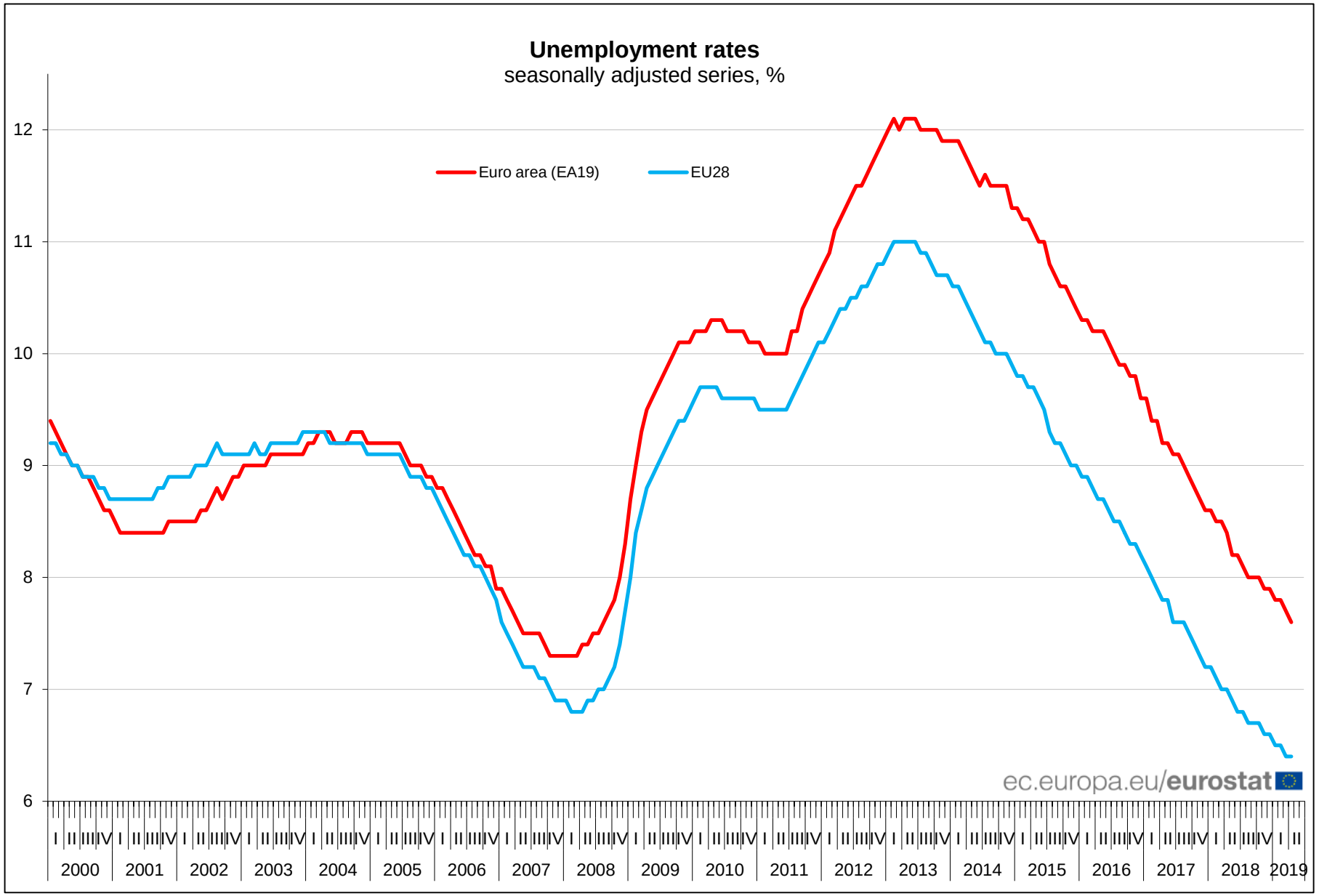
Unemployment rates
seasonally adjusted series, %
Euro area (EA19)
EU28
12
11
10
9
8
7
6
I II III IV
2000
2001
2002
2003
2004
2005
2006
2007
2008
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2012
2013
2014
2015
2016
2017
2018
2019
ec.europa.eu/eurostat

Seasonally adjusted unemployment, totals

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	Apr 18	Jan 19	Feb 19	Mar 19	Apr 19	Apr 18	Jan 19	Feb 19	Mar 19	Apr 19
EA19	8.4	7.8	7.8	7.7	**7.6**	13 676	12 829	12 750	12 593	**12 529**
EU28	7.0	6.5	6.5	6.4	**6.4**	17 196	16 171	16 049	15 910	**15 802**
Belgium	6.3	5.8	5.8	5.7	**5.7**	317	296	294	294	**294**
Bulgaria	5.3	4.8	4.7	4.6	**4.5**	177	158	157	154	**150**
Czechia	2.3	2.0	1.9	2.0	**2.1**	123	109	105	109	**112**
Denmark	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.4	**5.3**	155	158	158	164	**161**
Germany	3.4	3.2	3.2	3.2	**3.2**	1 481	1 405	1 397	1 388	**1 377**
Estonia	6.0**	4.3	4.6	4.1	**:**	42**	30	32	29	**:**
Ireland	5.9	5.2	5.0	4.7	**4.6**	142	126	120	114	**113**
Greece	20.6*	18.6	18.5	:	**:**	971*	877	872	:	**:**
Spain	15.6	14.3	14.2	14.0	**13.8**	3 561	3 270	3 243	3 208	**3 165**
France	9.1	8.8	8.7	8.7	**8.7**	2 721	2 622	2 592	2 583	**2 575**
Croatia	8.7	7.6	7.5	7.4	**7.3**	157	136	134	132	**130**
Italy	10.9	10.5	10.5	10.2	**10.2**	2 855	2 718	2 737	2 647	**2 652**
Cyprus	8.4	7.5	7.4	7.2	**6.9**	36	33	33	32	**30**
Latvia	7.7	6.8	6.6	6.4	**6.4**	76	67	65	63	**62**
Lithuania	6.1	5.9	6.0	6.0	**5.8**	89	87	88	88	**85**
Luxembourg	5.5	5.1	5.3	5.5	**5.5**	16	15	16	16	**17**
Hungary	3.7**	3.5	3.4	3.4	**:**	171**	165	158	157	**:**
Malta	4.0	3.4	3.5	3.5	**3.5**	10	9	9	9	**9**
Netherlands	3.9	3.6	3.4	3.3	**3.3**	355	329	312	307	**300**
Austria	4.8	4.7	4.7	4.8	**4.7**	218	212	214	217	**214**
Poland	3.7	3.8	3.8	3.8	**3.7**	637	641	639	639	**638**
Portugal	7.1	6.6	6.5	6.5	**6.7**	368	342	337	335	**346**
Romania	4.4	4.0	3.9	3.9	**4.0**	395	364	356	347	**354**
Slovenia	5.4	4.3	4.4	4.4	**4.4**	56	45	45	45	**45**
Slovakia	6.8	5.9	5.8	5.7	**5.7**	187	162	160	159	**158**
Finland	7.7	6.7	6.7	6.8	**6.8**	211	184	185	186	**187**
Sweden	6.3	6.3	6.2	6.2	**6.2**	341	344	343	342	**341**
United Kingdom	4.2*	3.8	3.7	:	**:**	1401*	1 280	1 248	:	**:**
Iceland	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	**:**	6	6	6	6	**:**
Norway	3.9**	3.8	3.8	3.5	**:**	109**	107	106	98	**:**
United States	3.9	4.0	3.8	3.8	**3.6**	6 368	6 549	6 238	6 202	**5 864**

The source datasets are available here (rates) and here (in 1000 persons).
: Data not available * February 2018 ** March 2018

Seasonally adjusted youth (under 25s) unemployment

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	Apr 18	Jan 19	Feb 19	Mar 19	Apr 19	Apr 18	Jan 19	Feb 19	Mar 19	Apr 19
EA19	17.2	16.2	16.1	15.9	**15.8**	2 459	2 338	2 324	2 307	**2 308**
EU28	15.4	14.5	14.4	14.3	**14.2**	3 459	3 274	3 238	3 222	**3 213**
Belgium	17.9	12.9	12.9	12.9	**:**	67	50	50	50	**:**
Bulgaria	13.7	12.1	12.7	13.3	**13.7**	21	18	19	19	**20**
Czechia	8.1	5.9	6.0	6.6	**6.9**	24	17	18	20	**21**
Denmark	10.3	9.9	9.9	10.1	**9.5**	47	46	46	47	**44**
Germany	6.4	5.6	5.4	5.3	**5.3**	269	240	236	233	**230**
Estonia	7.9	8.1	7.1	7.6	**:**	5	5	4	4	**:**
Ireland	14.4	12.6	12.0	11.2	**10.3**	40	37	35	33	**30**
Greece	40.3	39.3	38.8	:	**:**	99	93	91	:	**:**
Spain	34.6	34.1	34.3	33.8	**32.7**	523	516	520	517	**508**
France	20.9	20.1	20.1	20.1	**20.1**	593	582	578	582	**588**
Croatia	24.2	20.9	20.9	20.9	**:**	37	32	32	32	**:**
Italy	33.0	32.6	32.4	30.6	**31.4**	509	498	496	480	**492**
Cyprus	20.2	19.3*	:	:	**:**	8	7*	:	:	**:**
Latvia	12.0	14.1	13.9	12.8	**11.5**	8	9	9	9	**8**
Lithuania	11.4	10.1	10.2	10.5	**10.8**	12	11	11	12	**12**
Luxembourg	14.4	11.4	12.3	12.8	**13.0**	3	3	3	3	**3**
Hungary	9.6	11.6	11.0	11.3	**:**	32	39	36	37	**:**
Malta	8.5	8.8	9.4	9.5	**9.7**	2	3	3	3	**3**
Netherlands	6.9	6.5	6.4	6.4	**6.2**	98	96	95	94	**91**
Austria	9.7	8.0	7.6	8.0	**8.2**	52	41	41	43	**43**
Poland	11.3	10.9	10.6	10.6	**10.6**	147	136	131	130	**130**
Portugal	20.8	17.6	16.9	17.2	**17.2**	76	66	63	63	**64**
Romania	17.1	15.4*	:	:	**:**	106	96*	:	:	**:**
Slovenia	8.8	7.8	7.8	7.8	**:**	7	6	6	6	**:**
Slovakia	15.6	12.1	11.8	11.9	**12.0**	30	22	22	22	**22**
Finland	17.7	17.0	16.8	16.7	**16.7**	57	55	55	56	**55**
Sweden	16.2	17.6	17.3	17.3	**17.5**	101	108	108	107	**107**
United Kingdom	11.3	10.6	10.2	:	**:**	481	446	427	:	**:**
Iceland	6.9	7.8	7.8	7.2	**:**	2	3	3	2	**:**
Norway	9.1	10.4	10.2	9.6	**:**	33	38	37	35	**:**

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				
	Apr 18	Jan 19	Feb 19	Mar 19	Apr 19	Apr 18	Jan 19	Feb 19	Mar 19	Apr 19
EA19	8.0	7.4	7.4	7.3	**7.2**	8.8	8.3	8.2	8.1	**8.1**
EU28	6.8	6.3	6.2	6.1	**6.1**	7.2	6.9	6.8	6.8	**6.7**
Belgium	6.5	6.2	6.2	6.2	**6.2**	6.1	5.4	5.3	5.3	**5.3**
Bulgaria	5.8	5.2	5.1	4.9	**4.8**	4.7	4.2	4.2	4.2	**4.1**
Czechia	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.8	**1.8**	2.9	2.3	2.2	2.3	**2.5**
Denmark	4.9	4.9	4.8	5.1	**5.0**	5.4	5.5	5.7	5.7	**5.6**
Germany	3.9	3.5	3.5	3.5	**3.4**	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	**2.9**
Estonia	5.7	4.1	4.5	4.0	**:**	4.7	4.5	4.8	4.2	**:**
Ireland	6.0	5.4	5.3	5.1	**4.9**	5.8	4.9	4.6	4.3	**4.3**
Greece	16.1	14.8	14.8	:	**:**	24.4	23.5	23.3	:	**:**
Spain	14.1	12.6	12.5	12.3	**12.1**	17.4	16.2	16.1	16.0	**15.8**
France	9.1	8.8	8.7	8.7	**8.6**	9.2	8.8	8.7	8.7	**8.7**
Croatia	8.1	6.9	6.8	6.8	**6.8**	9.5	8.4	8.3	8.1	**7.9**
Italy	10.0	9.7	9.7	9.5	**9.4**	12.2	11.6	11.6	11.2	**11.3**
Cyprus	8.3	6.9	6.6	6.3	**6.0**	8.6	8.2	8.2	8.2	**7.9**
Latvia	8.9	7.8	7.5	7.1	**6.7**	6.5	5.8	5.7	5.7	**6.0**
Lithuania	6.9	6.3	6.4	6.3	**6.0**	5.4	5.5	5.6	5.8	**5.6**
Luxembourg	5.2	4.8	4.9	5.1	**5.2**	5.9	5.4	5.6	5.9	**5.9**
Hungary	3.4	3.5	3.3	3.4	**:**	4.0	3.6	3.4	3.3	**:**
Malta	4.0	3.7	3.8	3.7	**3.7**	4.0	3.0	3.1	3.2	**3.3**
Netherlands	3.8	3.5	3.3	3.3	**3.3**	4.0	3.7	3.5	3.4	**3.3**
Austria	5.0	4.8	4.8	4.9	**4.7**	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.7	**4.7**
Poland	3.7	3.4	3.3	3.2	**3.2**	3.7	4.3	4.4	4.4	**4.4**
Portugal	7.0	5.8	5.8	5.7	**6.0**	7.3	7.4	7.2	7.2	**7.4**
Romania	4.9	4.4	4.3	4.2	**4.3**	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.4	**3.5**
Slovenia	4.9	3.8	3.7	3.6	**3.6**	5.9	4.9	5.1	5.3	**5.3**
Slovakia	6.4	5.4	5.3	5.3	**5.2**	7.4	6.4	6.3	6.3	**6.3**
Finland	7.8	6.9	7.0	7.2	**7.2**	7.5	6.5	6.4	6.3	**6.3**
Sweden	6.4	6.2	6.3	6.3	**6.2**	6.1	6.3	6.2	6.2	**6.2**
United Kingdom	4.1	3.9	3.8	:	**:**	4.0	3.7	3.6	:	**:**
Iceland	3.2	3.2	3.3	3.3	**:**	2.8	2.6	2.7	2.7	**:**
Norway	4.1	3.9	3.8	3.5	**:**	3.4	3.7	3.7	3.4	**:**

The source dataset is available here.
: Data not available