

106/2019 – 1 July 2019

May 2019

Euro area unemployment at 7.5%

EU28 at 6.3%

The **euro area** (EA19) seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate was 7.5% in May 2019, down from 7.6% in April 2019 and from 8.3% in May 2018. This is the lowest rate recorded in the **euro area** since July 2008. The **EU28** unemployment rate was 6.3% in May 2019, down from 6.4% in April 2019 and from 6.9% in May 2018. This is 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**.

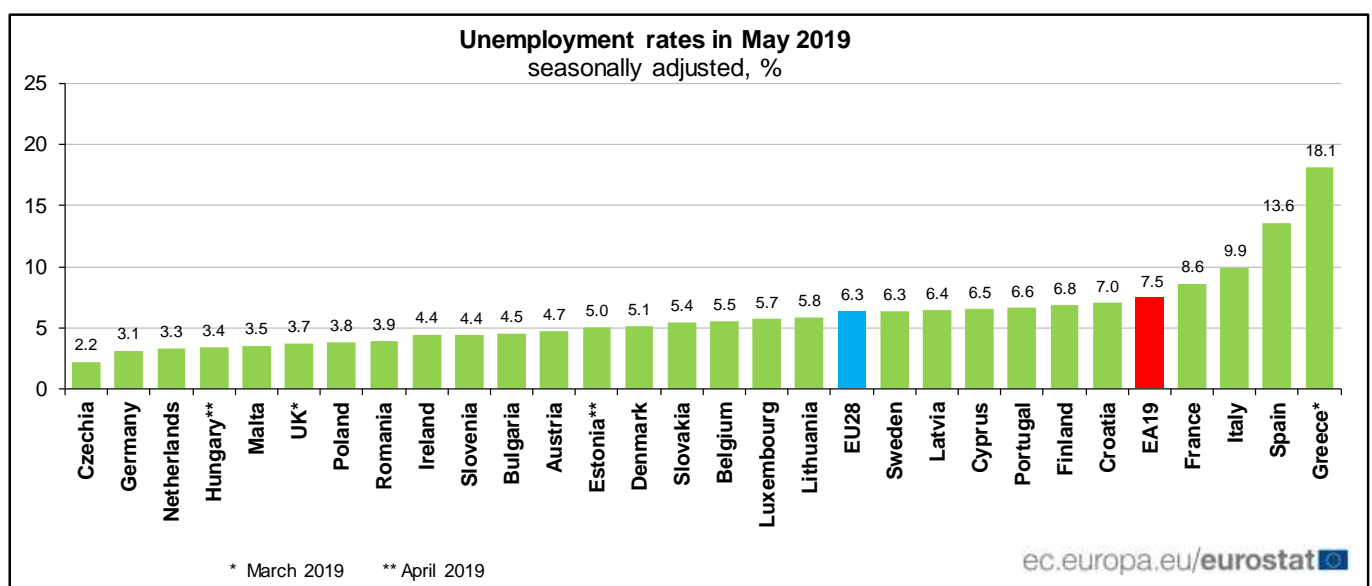
Eurostat estimates that 15.653 million men and women in the **EU28**, of whom 12.348 million in the **euro area**, were unemployed in May 2019. Compared with April 2019, the number of persons unemployed decreased by 71 000 in the **EU28** and by 103 000 in the **euro area**. Compared with May 2018, unemployment fell by 1.277 million in the **EU28** and by 1.133 million in the **euro area**.

Member States

Among the Member States, the lowest unemployment rates in May 2019 were recorded in **Czechia** (2.2%), **Germany** (3.1%) and the **Netherlands** (3.3%). The highest unemployment rates were observed in **Greece** (18.1% in March 2019), **Spain** (13.6%) and **Italy** (9.9%).

Compared with a year ago, the unemployment rate fell in 23 Member States, remained stable in **Austria** and increased in **Denmark** (from 5.0% to 5.1%), **Luxembourg** (from 5.6% to 5.7%), **Poland** (from 3.7% to 3.8%) and **Sweden** (from 6.2% to 6.3%). The largest decreases were registered in **Greece** (from 20.2% to 18.1% between March 2018 and March 2019), **Spain** (from 15.4% to 13.6%) and **Cyprus** (from 8.3% to 6.5%).

In May 2019, the unemployment rate in the **United States** was 3.6%, stable compared with April 2019 and down from 3.8% in May 2018.



Youth unemployment

In May 2019, 3.217 million young persons (under 25) were unemployed in the **EU28**, of whom 2.295 million were in the **euro area**. Compared with May 2018, youth unemployment decreased by 176 000 in the **EU28** and by 133 000 in the **euro area**. In May 2019, the youth unemployment rate was 14.3% in the **EU28** and 15.7% in the **euro area**, compared with 15.1% and 17.0% respectively in May 2018. In May 2019, the lowest rates were observed in **Germany** (5.1%) and the **Netherlands** (6.3%), while the highest were recorded in **Greece** (40.4% in March 2019), **Spain** (31.7%) and **Italy** (30.5%).

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 [90/2019](#) of 4 June 2019, the April 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 Belgium, Croatia and Slovakia (all by 0.2 pp). The unemployment rate has been revised by more than 0.1 percentage points upwards for Luxembourg (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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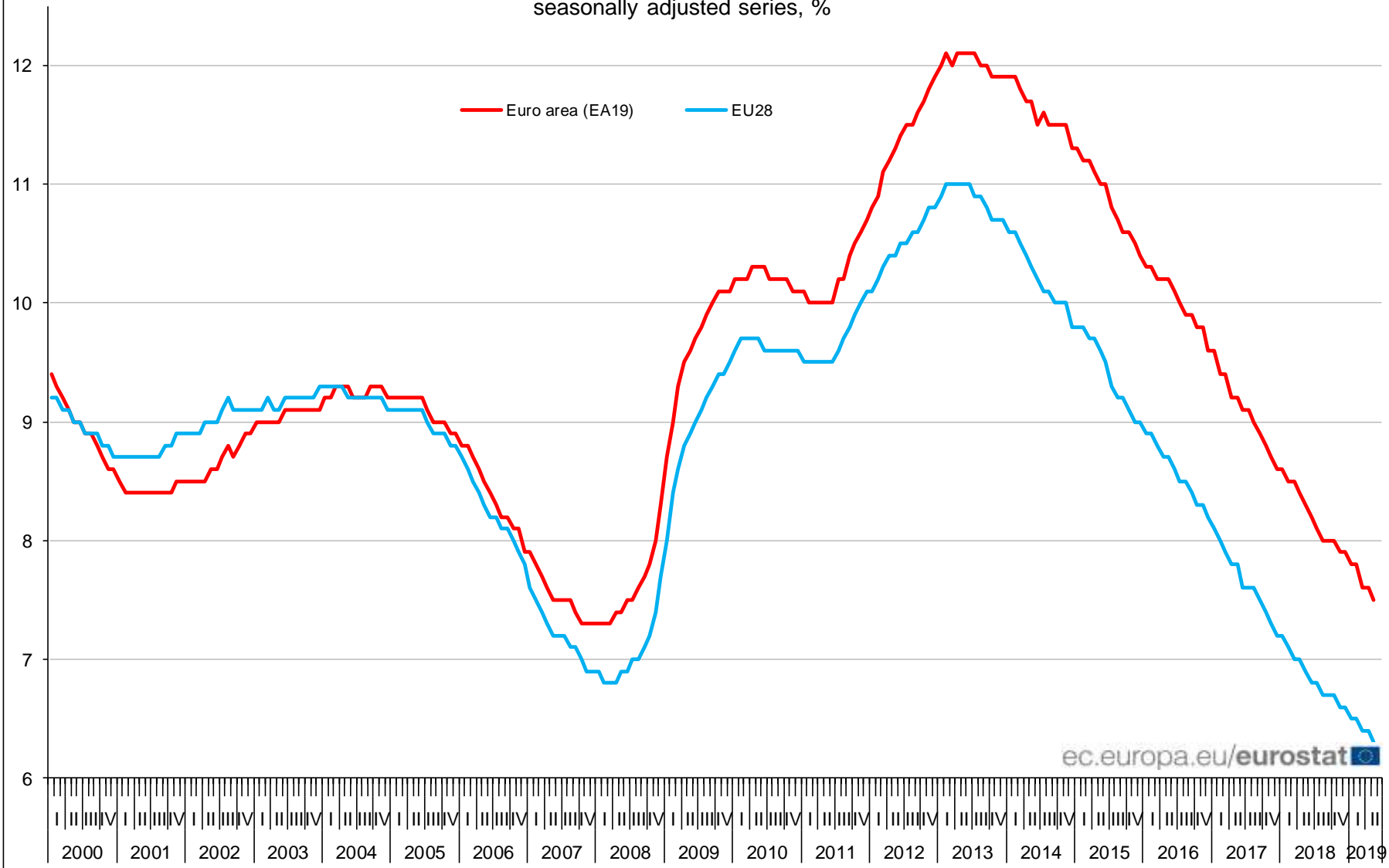
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Unemployment rates seasonally adjusted series, %



ec.europa.eu/eurostat 

Seasonally adjusted unemployment, totals

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	May 18	Feb 19	Mar 19	Apr 19	May 19	May 18	Feb 19	Mar 19	Apr 19	May 19
EA19	8.3	7.8	7.6	7.6	7.5	13 481	12 712	12 523	12 451	12 348
EU28	6.9	6.5	6.4	6.4	6.3	16 930	16 005	15 831	15 724	15 653
Belgium	6.3	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	316	280	276	276	279
Bulgaria	5.3	4.7	4.6	4.5	4.5	177	160	156	152	150
Czechia	2.3	1.9	2.0	2.2	2.2	123	104	111	116	119
Denmark	5.0	5.2	5.4	5.2	5.1	153	158	163	159	157
Germany	3.4	3.2	3.2	3.1	3.1	1 475	1 390	1 378	1 363	1 346
Estonia	5.2**	4.6	4.1	5.0	:	36**	32	29	35	:
Ireland	5.9	5.0	4.7	4.6	4.4	141	120	114	111	108
Greece	20.2*	18.4	18.1	:	:	953*	865	850	:	:
Spain	15.4	14.2	14.0	13.8	13.6	3 513	3 246	3 212	3 170	3 131
France	9.1	8.7	8.7	8.6	8.6	2 701	2 591	2 583	2 574	2 578
Croatia	8.6	7.3	7.2	7.1	7.0	154	131	129	128	126
Italy	10.6	10.5	10.1	10.1	9.9	2 771	2 726	2 628	2 630	2 580
Cyprus	8.3	7.3	7.2	6.8	6.5	36	32	32	30	29
Latvia	7.7	6.6	6.5	6.4	6.4	76	65	63	62	62
Lithuania	6.0	6.0	6.0	5.8	5.8	87	88	88	85	85
Luxembourg	5.6	5.4	5.7	5.7	5.7	16	16	17	17	17
Hungary	3.7**	3.4	3.4	3.4	:	170**	159	157	160	:
Malta	3.9	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	9	9	9	9	9
Netherlands	3.9	3.4	3.3	3.3	3.3	352	312	307	300	302
Austria	4.7	4.7	4.8	4.7	4.7	214	215	217	214	215
Poland	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.8	635	630	630	634	643
Portugal	7.1	6.5	6.5	6.6	6.6	365	337	334	340	341
Romania	4.3	3.9	3.9	4.0	3.9	390	356	347	354	351
Slovenia	5.3	4.6	4.5	4.5	4.4	55	47	46	47	46
Slovakia	6.8	5.7	5.6	5.5	5.4	186	157	153	151	150
Finland	7.6	6.7	6.8	6.8	6.8	207	185	186	187	186
Sweden	6.2	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.3	342	345	346	346	347
United Kingdom	4.1*	3.7	3.7	:	:	1 389*	1 253	1 247	:	:
Iceland	2.9	3.1	3.2	3.4	3.5	6	6	7	7	7
Norway	3.8**	3.7	3.5	3.2	:	105**	106	98	91	:
United States	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.6	3.6	6 101	6 238	6 202	5 864	5 864

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

: Data not available

* March 2018

** April 2018

Seasonally adjusted youth (under 25s) unemployment

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	May 18	Feb 19	Mar 19	Apr 19	May 19	May 18	Feb 19	Mar 19	Apr 19	May 19
EA19	17.0	16.1	15.9	15.9	15.7	2 428	2 330	2 309	2 306	2 295
EU28	15.1	14.4	14.3	14.3	14.3	3 393	3 234	3 218	3 211	3 217
Belgium	18.1	15.1	15.1	:	:	68	58	58	:	:
Bulgaria	13.8	10.8	10.8	10.8	11.1	21	15	15	15	15
Czechia	8.1	6.0	6.6	7.0	7.1	24	18	20	21	21
Denmark	9.3	9.9	10.0	8.9	8.7	44	46	46	41	40
Germany	6.3	5.4	5.3	5.2	5.1	268	232	228	225	223
Estonia	8.9	7.1	7.6	12.4	:	5	4	4	7	:
Ireland	14.7	12.0	11.3	10.3	10.0	41	35	33	30	29
Greece	38.8	39.4	40.4	:	:	97	92	93	:	:
Spain	34.3	34.3	33.8	32.7	31.7	521	520	518	508	500
France	20.6	20.1	20.1	20.1	20.2	583	578	582	588	595
Croatia	24.2	20.6	20.6	:	:	37	32	32	:	:
Italy	32.1	32.3	30.3	31.1	30.5	490	493	475	486	471
Cyprus	20.3	16.4	16.4	:	:	8	6	6	:	:
Latvia	11.4	13.9	12.9	11.5	10.7	7	9	9	8	7
Lithuania	11.0	10.2	10.5	10.8	10.7	12	11	12	12	12
Luxembourg	14.8	13.8	14.3	14.5	14.2	3	3	3	3	3
Hungary	10.2	11.1	11.3	11.9	:	34	36	37	39	:
Malta	8.9	10.3	10.2	10.1	10.3	3	3	3	3	3
Netherlands	6.9	6.4	6.4	6.2	6.3	100	95	94	91	92
Austria	9.6	7.6	8.0	8.1	8.5	52	41	43	42	44
Poland	11.4	9.9	10.0	10.4	10.7	146	122	122	127	132
Portugal	20.7	17.0	17.2	17.1	18.7	76	63	63	63	70
Romania	17.1	15.4	15.4	:	:	106	93	93	:	:
Slovenia	8.8	9.1	9.1	:	:	7	7	7	:	:
Slovakia	15.2	14.0	13.7	13.2	12.7	30	24	23	22	22
Finland	17.4	16.8	16.7	16.7	16.7	56	55	55	55	55
Sweden	16.1	17.5	17.6	17.9	18.3	102	109	109	109	109
United Kingdom	10.9	10.3	10.4	:	:	461	430	434	:	:
Iceland	6.7	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.5	2	2	2	2	2
Norway	9.8	10.2	9.6	9.2	:	36	38	35	33	:

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 18	Feb 19	Mar 19	Apr 19	May 19	May 18	Feb 19	Mar 19	Apr 19	May 19
EA19	7.9	7.4	7.3	7.2	7.1	8.7	8.2	8.1	8.0	8.0
EU28	6.6	6.2	6.1	6.1	6.1	7.1	6.8	6.7	6.7	6.6
Belgium	6.4	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.1	5.0	4.9	4.8	4.9
Bulgaria	5.8	5.1	4.9	4.8	4.7	4.8	4.3	4.3	4.2	4.1
Czechia	1.8	1.7	1.8	1.8	1.8	2.8	2.1	2.3	2.6	2.7
Denmark	4.8	4.8	5.1	4.9	5.0	5.3	5.7	5.7	5.5	5.3
Germany	3.9	3.5	3.4	3.4	3.3	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.8
Estonia	5.3	4.5	4.0	4.8	:	4.8	4.8	4.2	5.2	:
Ireland	6.1	5.3	5.1	4.9	4.7	5.8	4.6	4.3	4.3	4.2
Greece	15.6	14.6	14.4	:	:	24.1	23.1	22.8	:	:
Spain	13.8	12.5	12.3	12.1	11.9	17.2	16.1	16.0	15.8	15.6
France	9.0	8.7	8.7	8.6	8.6	9.1	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.7
Croatia	8.0	6.5	6.4	6.5	6.6	9.2	8.3	8.1	7.8	7.6
Italy	9.7	9.7	9.4	9.4	9.2	11.8	11.5	11.1	11.2	10.9
Cyprus	8.2	6.6	6.3	6.0	5.6	8.5	8.2	8.1	7.8	7.5
Latvia	9.2	7.5	7.2	6.7	6.7	6.3	5.7	5.7	6.0	6.1
Lithuania	6.6	6.4	6.3	6.0	5.9	5.4	5.6	5.8	5.6	5.6
Luxembourg	5.3	5.2	5.4	5.5	5.5	5.9	5.7	6.0	6.0	6.0
Hungary	3.5	3.3	3.4	3.5	:	3.9	3.5	3.3	3.4	:
Malta	4.0	3.5	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.8	3.6	3.7	3.8	3.8
Netherlands	3.7	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	4.0	3.5	3.4	3.3	3.3
Austria	5.0	4.8	4.9	4.7	4.7	4.5	4.6	4.7	4.7	4.7
Poland	3.7	3.2	3.1	3.2	3.3	3.7	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.3
Portugal	6.6	5.8	5.7	5.9	5.9	7.5	7.2	7.2	7.3	7.3
Romania	4.9	4.3	4.2	4.3	4.3	3.6	3.5	3.4	3.5	3.4
Slovenia	5.0	3.9	3.7	3.7	3.6	5.8	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Slovakia	6.3	5.5	5.4	5.3	5.2	7.4	6.0	5.8	5.8	5.7
Finland	7.7	7.0	7.1	7.2	7.1	7.4	6.4	6.4	6.3	6.3
Sweden	6.4	6.3	6.4	6.4	6.5	6.1	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.2
United Kingdom	3.9	3.8	3.8	:	:	4.0	3.6	3.5	:	:
Iceland	3.1	3.5	3.8	4.0	4.2	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.7	2.7
Norway	4.2	3.9	3.6	3.3	:	3.5	3.6	3.4	3.1	:

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

: Data not available