

28/2021 – 4 March 2021

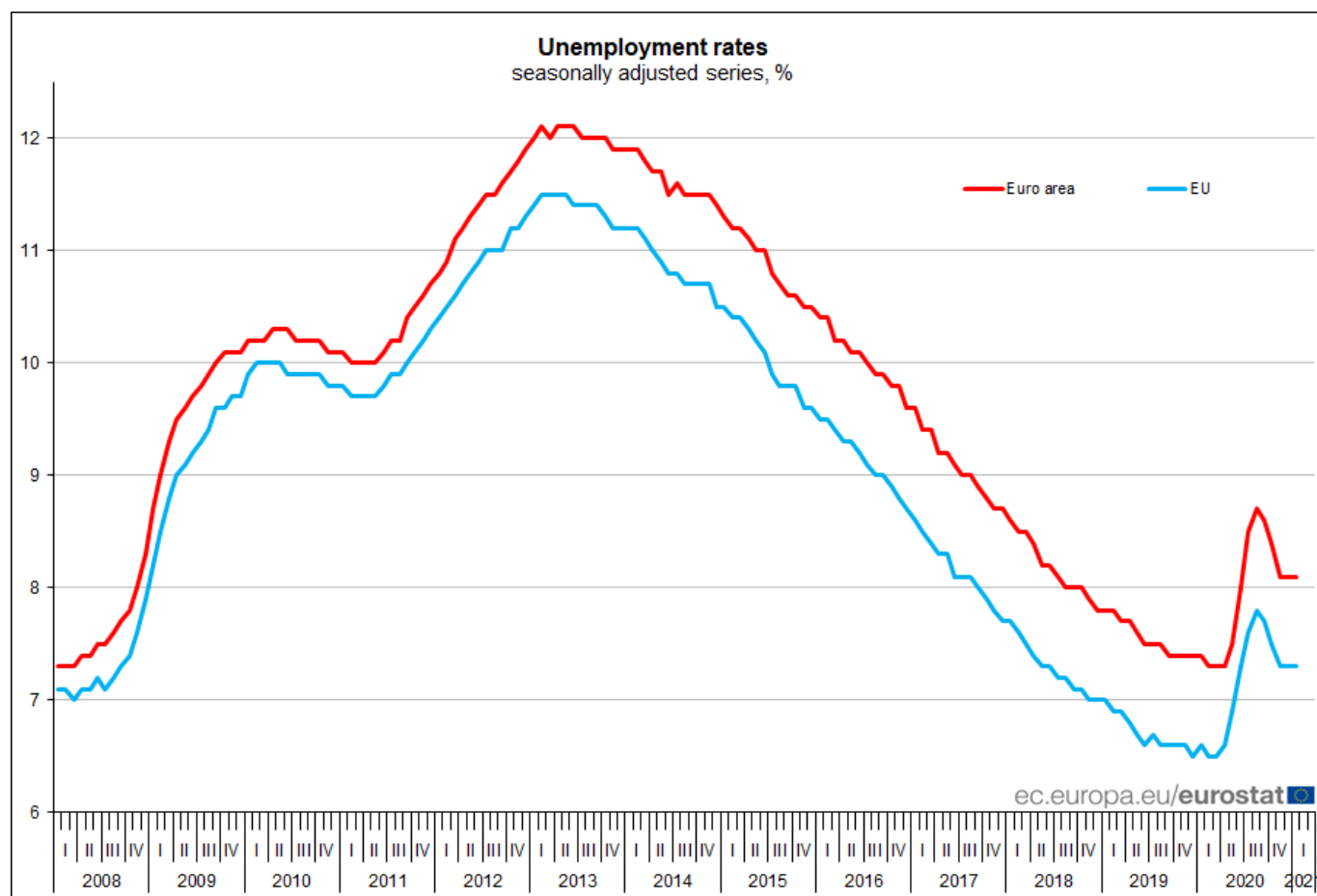
January 2021

Euro area unemployment at 8.1%

EU at 7.3%

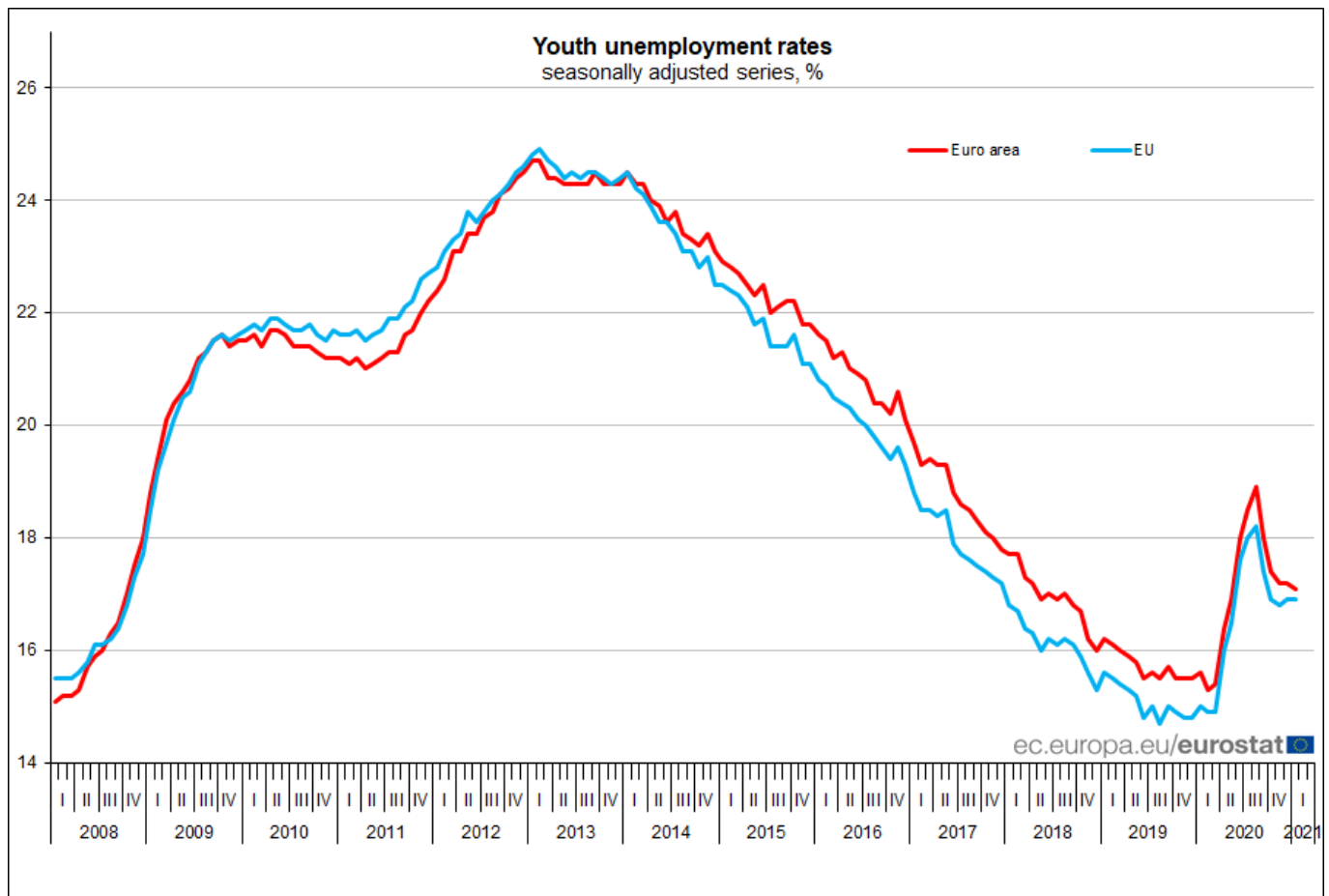
In January 2021, the **euro area** seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate was 8.1%, stable compared with December 2020 and up from 7.4% in January 2020. The **EU** unemployment rate was 7.3% in January 2021, also stable compared with December 2020 and up from 6.6% in January 2020. These figures are published by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**.

Eurostat estimates that 15.663 million men and women in the **EU**, of whom 13.282 million in the **euro area**, were unemployed in January 2021. Compared with December 2020, the number of persons unemployed increased by 29 000 in the **EU** and by 8 000 in the **euro area**. Compared with January 2020, unemployment rose by 1.465 million in the **EU** and by 1.010 million in the **euro area**.



Youth unemployment

In January 2021, 2.929 million young persons (under 25) were unemployed in the **EU**, of whom 2.356 million were in the **euro area**. In January 2021, the youth unemployment rate was 16.9% in the **EU** and 17.1% in the **euro area**, compared with 16.9% and 17.2% respectively in the previous month. Compared with December 2020, youth unemployment increased by 3 000 in the **EU** and decreased by 15 000 in the **euro area**. Compared with January 2020, youth unemployment increased by 184 000 in the **EU** and by 89 000 in the **euro area**.



Unemployment by gender

In January 2021, the unemployment rate for women was 7.7% in the **EU**, stable compared with December 2020. The unemployment rate for men was 7.0% in January 2021, also stable compared with December 2020. In the **euro area**, the unemployment rate for women remained stable at 8.6% in January 2021 and the unemployment rate for men remained stable at 7.7%.

Additional labour market indicators

These estimates are based on the globally used International Labour Organisation standard definition of unemployment, which counts as unemployed people without a job who have been actively seeking work in the last four weeks and are available to start work within the next two weeks. The COVID-19 outbreak and the measures applied to combat it have triggered a sharp increase in the number of claims for unemployment benefits across the EU. At the same time, a significant part of those who had registered in unemployment agencies were no longer actively looking for a job or no longer available for work, for instance, if they had to take care of their children. This leads to discrepancies in the number of registered unemployed and those measured as unemployed according to the ILO definition.

To capture in full the unprecedented labour market situation triggered by the COVID-19 outbreak, the data on unemployment have been complemented by additional indicators, e.g. underemployed part-time workers, persons seeking work but not immediately available and persons available to work but not seeking, released together with LFS data for the third quarter of 2020.

Geographical information

Euro area (EA19): Belgium, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Italy, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Austria, Portugal, Slovenia, Slovakia and Finland.

European Union (EU27): 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 and Sweden.

Methods and definitions

Eurostat publishes 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 data 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.

Series have been **seasonally adjusted** using the seasonal factors estimated in the period up to December 2019 included. Those seasonal factors will be kept unchanged ('controlled concurrent adjustment method') until the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak can be integrated in seasonal adjustment models.

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. For Austria, January 2021 data are estimated using previous series from January 2004 until December 2020.

Denmark, Estonia, Hungary, Portugal and Norway: 3-month moving averages of LFS data are used instead of pure monthly indicators. For Portugal, December 2020 and January 2021 data are provisional.

Germany: due to the introduction of the new German system of integrated household surveys, including the LFS, the monthly unemployment rate for January 2021 is an estimation based on the figures recorded in previous periods, taking into account current developments.

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 [16/2021](#) of 1 February 2021, the unemployment rate for December 2020 has been revised from 8.3% to 8.1% for the euro area, and from 7.5% to 7.3% for the EU. Among EU Member States, the rate has been revised by more than 0.1 percentage points (pp) downwards for Ireland (by 1.4 pp), France (by 1.1 pp), Lithuania (by 0.9 pp) as well as for Greece and Hungary (both by 0.3 pp, October data for Greece, November data for Hungary). The rate has been revised by more than 0.1 percentage points upwards for Bulgaria (by 0.5 pp), Portugal and Romania (both by 0.3 pp) as well as for Denmark (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 articles on [unemployment](#) and on [youth unemployment](#)

Eurostat [metadata](#) on adjusted unemployment series and [methodological note](#) regarding COVID-19 outbreak

Eurostat €-indicators [release calendar](#)

European Statistics [Code of Practice](#)

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Seasonally adjusted unemployment, totals

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	Jan 20	Oct 20	Nov 20	Dec 20	Jan 21	Jan 20	Oct 20	Nov 20	Dec 20	Jan 21
Euro area	7.4	8.4	8.1	8.1	8.1	12 272	13 745	13 332	13 274	13 282
EU	6.6	7.5	7.3	7.3	7.3	14 198	16 113	15 636	15 634	15 663
Belgium	5.1	6.3	6.1	5.8	5.6	263	323	310	295	287
Bulgaria	4.2	5.4	5.3	5.3	5.5	142	177	175	177	182
Czechia	2.0	3.1	2.9	3.1	3.2	106	167	158	168	172
Denmark	5.0	6.0	5.9	6.0	6.1	152	182	179	183	182
Germany	3.4	4.5	4.6	4.6	4.6	1 507	2 005	2 013	2 018	2 021
Estonia	4.4**	8.1	7.8	6.9	:	31**	58	55	49	:
Ireland	5.1	6.2	6.0	5.8	5.8	126	152	147	141	142
Greece	16.6*	16.4	16.2	:	:	781*	769	753	:	:
Spain	13.8	16.3	16.1	16.2	16.0	3 228	3 745	3 708	3 741	3 716
France	8.1	8.5	8.1	7.8	7.9	2 425	2 497	2 382	2 290	2 335
Croatia	6.0	7.8	7.6	7.6	7.1	107	140	135	135	126
Italy	9.6**	9.5	8.8	9.0	:	2 479**	2 391	2 223	2 257	:
Cyprus	6.4	10.3	7.7	7.3	6.8	29	48	35	33	31
Latvia	7.2	8.0	8.1	8.2	8.5	70	77	78	79	82
Lithuania	6.2	9.3	9.2	9.2	9.6	91	138	137	137	143
Luxembourg	5.7	6.5	6.6	6.7	6.8	17	21	21	21	21
Hungary	3.8	4.4	4.0	4.1	4.9	183	214	192	200	237
Malta	3.7	4.5	4.4	4.4	4.4	10	12	12	12	12
Netherlands	3.0	4.3	4.0	3.9	3.6	284	406	378	368	337
Austria	4.4	5.4	5.5	5.8	5.7	200	246	253	265	260
Poland	3.0	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.1	508	553	547	542	531
Portugal	6.8	7.5	7.1	6.8	7.2	352	387	369	347	361
Romania	3.9**	5.1	5.1	5.2	:	358**	461	459	468	:
Slovenia	4.1	4.9	4.9	4.7	4.7	42	50	50	47	48
Slovakia	6.0	7.1	7.1	7.0	7.2	163	194	192	190	195
Finland	6.8**	8.2	8.1	8.1	:	189**	225	224	224	:
Sweden	7.1	8.8	8.7	8.6	8.8	395	487	483	479	477
Iceland	4.7	6.9	7.1	7.2	7.2	10	14	14	15	15
Norway	4.0*	5.2	5.0	:	:	113*	149	143	:	:
Switzerland	4.3	5.2	5.2	5.2	:	211	259	261	258	:
United States	3.5	6.9	6.7	6.7	6.3	5 878	11 081	10 813	10 769	10 230

: Data not available

* November 2019

** December 2019

Source datasets: une_rt_m (rates) and une_rt_m (in 1 000 persons)

Seasonally adjusted youth (under 25s) unemployment

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	Jan 20	Oct 20	Nov 20	Dec 20	Jan 21	Jan 20	Oct 20	Nov 20	Dec 20	Jan 21
Euro area	15.6	17.4	17.2	17.2	17.1	2 267	2 433	2 379	2 371	2 356
EU	15.0	16.9	16.8	16.9	16.9	2 745	2 967	2 923	2 926	2 929
Belgium	11.9	16.6	16.6	16.6	:	47	65	65	65	:
Bulgaria	12.1	14.2	13.8	13.8	16.5	17	20	20	21	24
Czechia	5.6	8.6	9.4	10.5	10.8	15	22	24	27	28
Denmark	10.5	12.3	12.3	11.6	11.3	45	53	53	49	47
Germany	5.7	6.5	6.4	6.3	6.2	245	277	273	267	261
Estonia	8.6	22.9	23.3	18.9	:	5	12	13	10	:
Ireland	12.4	16.5	16.4	15.5	15.7	40	46	45	42	43
Greece	31.7	32.9	34.0	:	:	76	75	72	:	:
Spain	31.3	40.2	40.0	40.7	39.9	501	585	578	596	588
France	19.5	19.1	18.5	18.1	18.4	566	535	510	496	510
Croatia	17.4	22.2	22.2	22.2	:	24	31	31	31	:
Italy	28.9	29.8	29.4	29.7	:	430	410	407	397	:
Cyprus	13.4	20.1	20.1	20.1	:	5	8	8	8	:
Latvia	14.0	12.6	13.1	14.1	15.5	9	7	7	8	9
Lithuania	15.6	19.9	18.4	17.7	18.2	17	20	19	19	20
Luxembourg	18.1	22.3	22.3	23.1	22.0	4	5	5	5	5
Hungary	12.6	10.3	12.7	10.9	15.3	41	31	38	34	49
Malta	10.6	10.7	11.1	11.6	11.5	3	3	3	3	3
Netherlands	6.4	10.1	9.4	9.5	9.1	97	151	138	139	133
Austria	9.7	8.7	10.2	11.0	9.7	50	45	53	57	50
Poland	8.9	12.7	13.6	13.8	14.3	110	135	146	149	153
Portugal	19.5	24.7	23.4	23.7	24.6	73	81	76	74	75
Romania	18.2	18.0*	:	:	:	115	105*	:	:	:
Slovenia	10.3	14.6	14.6	14.6	:	7	9	9	9	:
Slovakia	16.4	19.9	20.4	20.5	20.8	27	31	32	32	32
Finland	18.8	21.4	21.5	21.6	:	61	67	67	68	:
Sweden	20.5	25.0	24.4	24.0	24.1	129	148	145	142	141
Iceland	10.8	11.9	12.0	12.2	12.3	3	3	3	3	3
Norway	10.3	11.9	11.5	:	:	39	43	42	:	:
Switzerland	8.3	8.3	8.2	8.2	:	49	48	48	48	:

: Data not available

* 2020 Q3 data

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

Source datasets: [une_rt_m](#) (rates) and [une_rt_m](#) (in 1 000 persons)

Seasonally adjusted unemployment rates (%), by gender

	Males					Females				
	Jan 20	Oct 20	Nov 20	Dec 20	Jan 21	Jan 20	Oct 20	Nov 20	Dec 20	Jan 21
Euro area	7.0	7.9	7.7	7.7	7.7	7.9	9.0	8.7	8.6	8.6
EU	6.3	7.1	6.9	7.0	7.0	7.0	8.0	7.8	7.7	7.7
Belgium	5.3	6.4	6.3	6.3	6.0	4.9	6.2	5.8	5.3	5.2
Bulgaria	4.6	5.6	5.5	5.6	5.9	3.8	5.1	5.1	5.0	5.0
Czechia	1.9	2.4	2.4	2.7	2.4	2.1	4.0	3.6	3.7	4.2
Denmark	4.9	5.7	5.7	5.8	5.8	5.1	6.3	6.2	6.4	6.4
Germany	3.8	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	3.0	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.7
Estonia	5.0	7.7	8.4	7.1	:	4.4	8.6	7.1	6.7	:
Ireland	5.2	6.2	6.1	5.9	6.0	4.9	6.2	5.9	5.7	5.6
Greece	13.4	13.4	13.2	:	:	20.2	20.2	20.0	:	:
Spain	12.2	14.3	14.1	14.2	14.1	15.7	18.5	18.3	18.4	18.1
France	8.0	8.5	8.1	8.0	8.1	8.3	8.5	8.1	7.6	7.7
Croatia	5.9	7.4	7.1	7.1	6.9	6.2	8.3	8.1	8.1	7.3
Italy	8.6	8.7	8.2	8.3	:	11.0	10.4	9.7	10.0	:
Cyprus	6.2	10.3	7.7	7.3	7.2	6.6	10.3	7.6	7.3	6.3
Latvia	8.2	8.8	8.9	9.2	9.6	6.1	7.2	7.3	7.3	7.3
Lithuania	6.8	10.1	9.9	9.8	10.2	5.6	8.5	8.4	8.5	9.0
Luxembourg	5.7	6.4	6.4	6.6	6.6	5.6	6.7	6.7	6.9	7.0
Hungary	3.7	4.8	3.8	4.1	4.6	3.9	4.0	4.2	4.2	5.2
Malta	3.7	4.5	4.4	4.4	4.4	3.7	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5
Netherlands	3.1	4.0	3.9	3.9	3.5	3.0	4.7	4.2	4.0	3.7
Austria	4.4	5.4	5.6	5.9	5.8	4.4	5.4	5.5	5.6	5.5
Poland	2.9	3.2	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.1	3.3	3.1	3.0	2.9
Portugal	6.4	7.2	6.9	6.6	7.1	7.1	7.7	7.4	7.0	7.3
Romania	3.8	5.3	5.2	5.3	:	3.5	4.8	5.0	5.0	:
Slovenia	3.5	4.1	3.9	3.6	3.8	4.7	5.8	6.0	5.9	5.9
Slovakia	5.6	6.7	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.3	7.6	7.4	7.2	7.7
Finland	7.0	8.5	8.4	8.4	:	6.6	7.8	7.8	7.8	:
Sweden	7.1	8.7	8.6	8.5	8.7	7.2	8.8	8.8	8.7	8.8
Iceland	4.6	7.0	7.1	7.1	7.0	4.9	6.7	7.0	7.3	7.5
Norway	4.0	5.5	5.3	:	:	3.4	4.9	4.7	:	:
Switzerland	4.1	4.9	4.9	4.8	:	4.5	5.5	5.6	5.6	:

: Data not available

Source dataset: [une_rt_m](#)