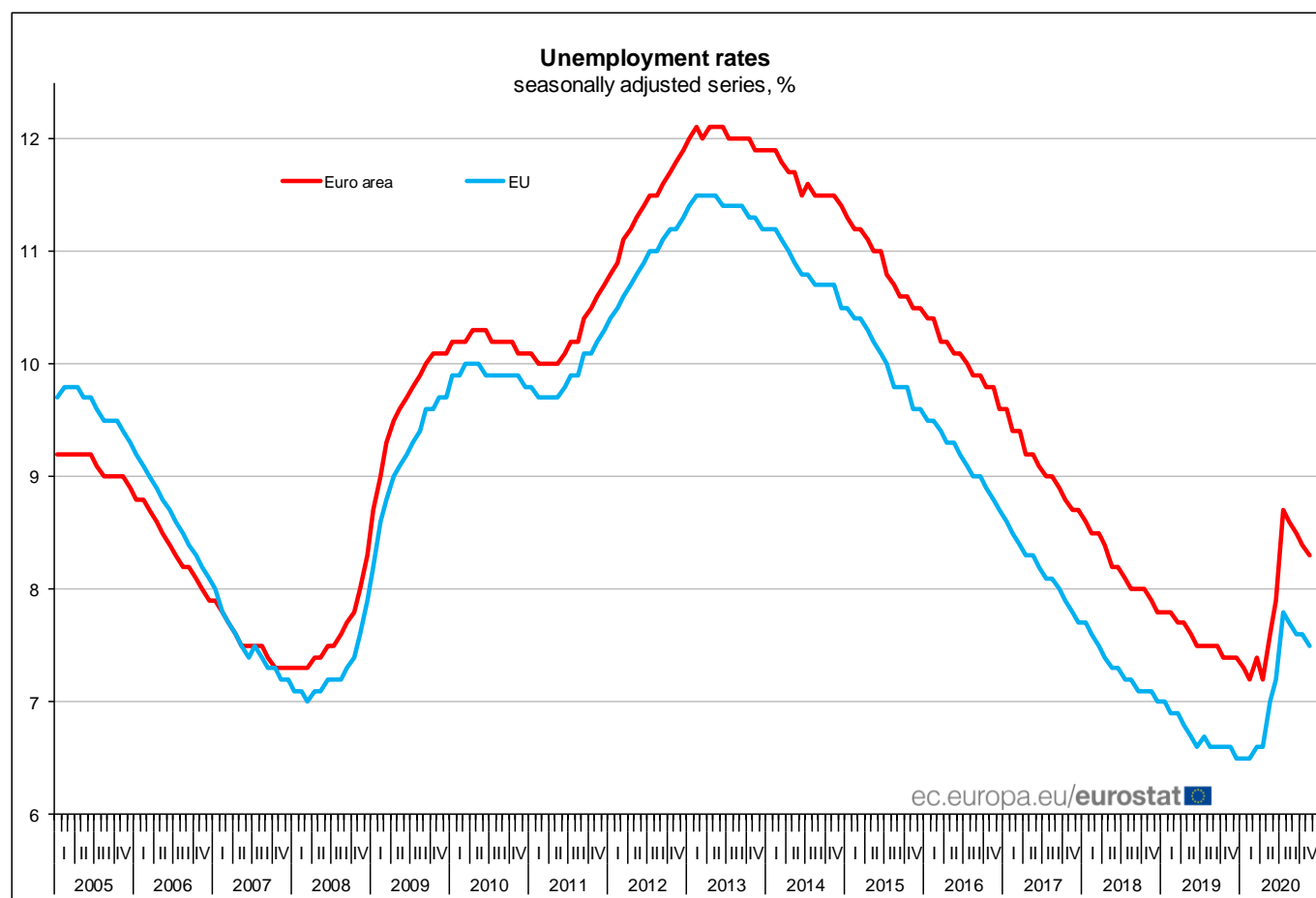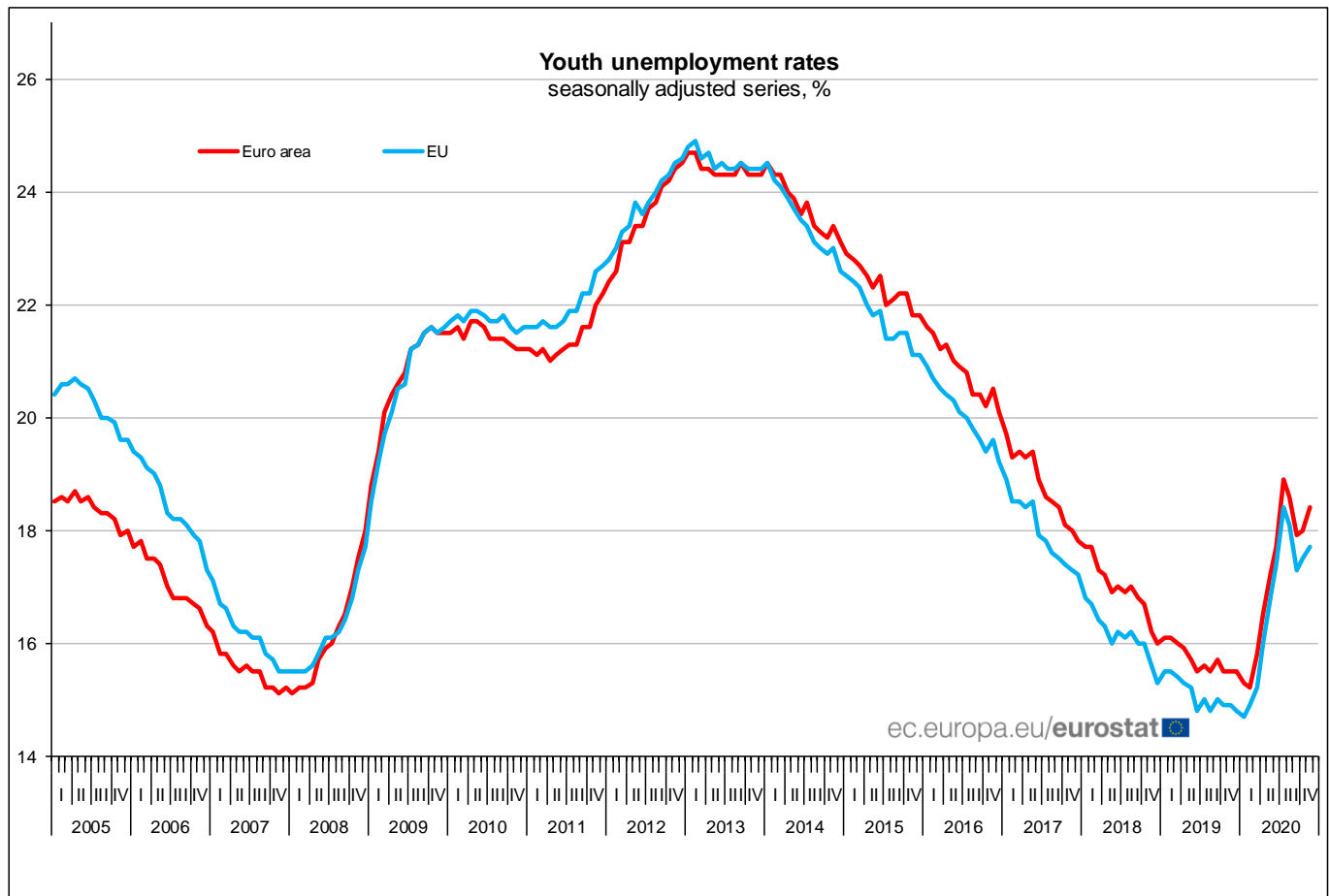November 2020

Euro area unemployment at 8.3%

EU at 7.5%

In November 2020, the **euro area** seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate was 8.3%, down from 8.4% in October 2020 and up from 7.4% in November 2019. The **EU** unemployment rate was 7.5% in November 2020, down from 7.6% in October 2020 and up from 6.6% in November 2019. These figures are published by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**.

Eurostat estimates that 15.933 million men and women in the **EU**, of whom 13.609 million in the **euro area**, were unemployed in November 2020. Compared with October 2020, the number of persons unemployed decreased by 222 000 in the **EU** and by 172 000 in the **euro area**. Compared with November 2019, unemployment rose by 1.795 million in the **EU** and by 1.425 million in the **euro area**.

Youth unemployment

In November 2020, 3.171 million young persons (under 25) were unemployed in the **EU**, of whom 2.629 million were in the **euro area**. In November 2020, the youth unemployment rate was 17.7% in the **EU** and 18.4% in the **euro area**, up from 17.5% and 18.0% respectively in the previous month. Compared with October 2020, youth unemployment increased by 51 000 in the **EU** and by 64 000 in the **euro area**. Compared with November 2019, youth unemployment increased by 456 000 in the **EU** and by 398 000 in the **euro area**.

Youth unemployment rates
seasonally adjusted series, %

Unemployment by gender

In November 2020, the unemployment rate for women was 7.9% in the **EU**, down from 8.0% in October 2020. The unemployment rate for men was 7.1% in November 2020, down from 7.2% in October 2020. In the **euro area**, the unemployment rate for women decreased from 8.9% in October 2020 to 8.8% in November 2020 and from 8.0% to 7.9% for men.

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 second quarter of 2020. The LFS data for the third quarter 2020 will be released on 11 January 2021.

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.

Denmark, Estonia, Hungary, Portugal, the United Kingdom and Norway: 3-month moving averages of LFS data are used instead of pure monthly indicators.

Germany: due to the introduction of the new German system of integrated household surveys, including the LFS, the monthly unemployment rate for November 2020 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 175/2020 of 2 December 2020, the October unemployment rate for the euro area and the EU has remained unchanged. Among EU Member States, the rate has been revised by more than 0.1 percentage points downwards for Bulgaria (by 0.6 pp), Greece, Italy and Austria (all by 0.3 pp, August 2020 data for Greece) as well as for Croatia and Sweden (both by 0.2 pp). The rate has been revised by more than 0.1 percentage points (pp) upwards for Belgium (by 1.2 pp) and Malta (by 0.8 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)				
	Nov 19	Aug 20	Sep 20	Oct 20	Nov 20	Nov 19	Aug 20	Sep 20	Oct 20	Nov 20
Euro area	7.4	8.6	8.5	8.4	**8.3**	12 184	14 049	13 910	13 781	**13 609**
EU	6.6	7.7	7.6	7.6	**7.5**	14 138	16 452	16 271	16 155	**15 933**
Belgium	5.2	6.5	6.6	6.3	**6.1**	264	332	339	323	**310**
Bulgaria	4.2	5.2	5.2	5.1	**4.9**	142	169	171	168	**162**
Czechia	2.1	2.8	2.8	2.9	**2.9**	113	151	150	155	**155**
Denmark	5.1	6.3	6.0	5.9	**5.8**	155	190	183	179	**177**
Germany	3.2	4.5	4.5	4.5	**4.5**	1 405	1 975	1 980	1 979	**1 977**
Estonia	4.1**	8.0	8.1	8.1	**:**	29**	56	57	58	**:**
Ireland	4.7	6.7	7.2	7.2	**7.5**	115	164	179	180	**187**
Greece	16.9*	16.5	16.1	:	**:**	797*	757	747	:	**:**
Spain	13.8	16.6	16.3	16.2	**16.4**	3 196	3 792	3 747	3 735	**3 764**
France	8.2	9.0	8.8	8.6	**8.8**	2 437	2 660	2 612	2 545	**2 583**
Croatia	6.4	8.2	8.0	7.8	**7.5**	114	147	145	140	**135**
Italy	9.6	9.7	9.5	9.5	**8.9**	2 492	2 447	2 409	2 404	**2 236**
Cyprus	6.5	8.5	9.3	10.5	**7.8**	29	38	42	48	**35**
Latvia	6.0	8.6	8.3	8.1	**8.1**	58	83	80	78	**79**
Lithuania	6.5	10.2	10.5	10.4	**10.4**	96	150	154	155	**154**
Luxembourg	5.6	6.8	6.7	6.5	**6.5**	17	21	21	20	**20**
Hungary	3.6**	4.4	4.4	4.5	**:**	166**	207	204	208	**:**
Malta	3.6	4.5	4.6	4.7	**4.8**	10	12	13	13	**13**
Netherlands	3.5	4.6	4.4	4.3	**4.0**	324	426	413	406	**378**
Austria	4.3	5.2	5.1	5.1	**5.2**	196	239	236	235	**236**
Poland	2.9	3.3	3.3	3.4	**3.3**	494	560	562	573	**568**
Portugal	6.7	8.1	7.9	7.5	**7.2**	347	414	407	387	**375**
Romania	4.0	5.4	5.1	5.3	**5.1**	361	476	455	477	**462**
Slovenia	4.1	5.2	5.0	4.9	**4.9**	42	53	51	50	**50**
Slovakia	5.6	7.2	7.0	7.1	**7.1**	154	195	191	194	**192**
Finland	6.9	8.2	8.2	8.1	**8.0**	189	225	226	224	**222**
Sweden	7.0	9.0	8.8	8.7	**8.6**	388	494	488	482	**476**
Iceland	3.8	5.6	5.8	6.0	**6.1**	8	12	12	12	**13**
Norway	3.8**	5.3	5.2	5.2	**:**	108**	150	147	149	**:**
Switzerland	4.0	5.0	5.1	:	**:**	198	248	252	:	**:**
United Kingdom	3.7*	4.7	4.9	:	**:**	1 267*	1 594	1 669	:	**:**
United States	3.5	8.4	7.9	6.9	**6.7**	5 819	13 551	12 619	11 037	**10 725**

: Data not available   * September 2019   ** October 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)				
	Nov 19	Aug 20	Sep 20	Oct 20	Nov 20	Nov 19	Aug 20	Sep 20	Oct 20	Nov 20
Euro area	15.5	18.6	17.9	18.0	**18.4**	2 231	2 618	2 533	2 565	**2 629**
EU	14.9	18.1	17.3	17.5	**17.7**	2 715	3 178	3 068	3 120	**3 171**
Belgium	15.1	17.5	17.5	:	:	60	67	67	:	:
Bulgaria	9.0	14.7	14.7	14.0	**13.9**	14	20	19	18	**17**
Czechia	5.5	8.4	8.1	8.1	**8.4**	14	22	21	22	**22**
Denmark	10.2	12.0	12.3	12.8	**12.9**	46	52	53	56	**56**
Germany	5.7	6.3	6.2	6.2	**6.1**	245	270	268	265	**260**
Estonia	9.2	20.9	20.7	22.9	:	5	11	11	12	:
Ireland	10.7	18.2	19.9	19.2	**20.2**	32	52	60	58	**63**
Greece	35.3	38.4	33.0	:	:	81	80	79	:	:
Spain	30.5	41.6	40.2	40.4	**40.9**	470	604	599	627	**657**
France	20.1	21.7	20.7	20.7	**22.1**	571	617	601	606	**650**
Croatia	16.2	24.8	24.8	:	:	23	37	37	:	:
Italy	28.3	31.3	29.4	29.9	**29.5**	422	452	415	417	**414**
Cyprus	15.2	21.4	21.4	:	:	6	8	8	:	:
Latvia	10.9	13.9	13.5	14.0	**14.8**	7	8	8	8	**9**
Lithuania	14.5	23.6	24.9	27.1	**28.4**	16	23	24	28	**30**
Luxembourg	18.0	22.6	22.5	21.6	**21.5**	4	5	5	5	**5**
Hungary	12.3	12.4	11.5	11.9	:	40	39	35	36	:
Malta	9.7	10.6	11.1	10.9	**11.4**	3	3	3	3	**3**
Netherlands	7.3	11.3	10.7	10.1	**9.4**	110	164	157	151	**138**
Austria	9.0	10.4	8.9	8.8	**10.2**	45	53	46	45	**52**
Poland	8.0	11.2	11.3	12.3	**12.5**	99	119	122	134	**138**
Portugal	18.6	26.8	24.3	24.7	**23.3**	70	87	81	81	**78**
Romania	17.7	19.0	19.0	:	:	112	111	111	:	:
Slovenia	8.3	15.7	15.7	:	:	6	10	10	:	:
Slovakia	16.5	20.8	19.2	19.9	**20.4**	27	33	30	31	**32**
Finland	18.4	21.1	21.0	20.9	**20.8**	60	65	65	65	**65**
Sweden	20.2	26.4	25.7	25.0	**24.4**	127	156	151	147	**143**
Iceland	9.4	9.9	10.0	10.0	**10.0**	3	3	3	3	**3**
Norway	10.3	12.9	13.0	12.0	:	39	48	48	44	:
Switzerland	8.3	8.8	8.8	:	:	50	50	50	:	:
United Kingdom	10.9	14.6	14.5	:	:	451	582	581	:	:

: Data not available
Belgium, Croatia, Cyprus, Romania and Slovenia: quarterly data

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

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Seasonally adjusted unemployment rates (%), by gender

	Males					Females				
	Nov 19	Aug 20	Sep 20	Oct 20	Nov 20	Nov 19	Aug 20	Sep 20	Oct 20	Nov 20
Euro area	7.1	8.1	8.0	8.0	**7.9**	7.8	9.1	9.0	8.9	**8.8**
EU	6.3	7.3	7.2	7.2	**7.1**	6.9	8.2	8.1	8.0	**7.9**
Belgium	5.7	6.7	6.8	6.4	**6.3**	4.7	6.2	6.4	6.2	**5.8**
Bulgaria	4.6	5.8	5.9	5.9	**5.7**	3.8	4.4	4.4	4.2	**4.1**
Czechia	2.0	2.6	2.4	2.4	**2.3**	2.3	3.0	3.3	3.4	**3.6**
Denmark	4.8	6.0	5.7	5.6	**5.5**	5.4	6.5	6.4	6.2	**6.2**
Germany	3.6	4.4	4.5	4.5	**4.4**	2.7	4.5	4.5	4.5	**4.5**
Estonia	4.0	8.1	7.6	7.7	**:**	4.5	7.8	8.7	8.6	**:**
Ireland	4.8	6.4	6.9	6.9	**7.2**	4.6	7.0	7.6	7.6	**7.8**
Greece	13.7	13.5	13.3	:	**:**	20.4	20.3	19.7	:	**:**
Spain	12.3	14.7	14.5	14.5	**14.6**	15.6	18.7	18.4	18.2	**18.3**
France	8.3	9.0	8.9	8.7	**8.9**	8.1	9.0	8.8	8.5	**8.6**
Croatia	6.0	7.8	7.7	7.4	**7.1**	6.9	8.6	8.4	8.2	**8.0**
Italy	8.6	9.0	8.6	8.8	**8.2**	11.0	10.6	10.7	10.5	**9.7**
Cyprus	5.8	8.9	9.3	10.5	**7.6**	7.3	7.9	9.3	10.6	**8.0**
Latvia	6.5	9.5	9.1	8.9	**9.0**	5.4	7.6	7.4	7.2	**7.2**
Lithuania	7.5	11.0	11.2	11.2	**11.1**	5.4	9.4	9.8	9.7	**9.7**
Luxembourg	5.6	6.9	6.7	6.6	**6.6**	5.5	6.7	6.6	6.4	**6.5**
Hungary	3.3	4.4	4.3	4.4	**:**	3.6	4.5	4.4	4.5	**:**
Malta	3.3	4.5	4.6	4.8	**4.8**	4.1	4.6	4.7	4.6	**4.7**
Netherlands	3.7	4.3	4.2	4.0	**3.9**	3.3	4.9	4.7	4.7	**4.2**
Austria	4.5	5.8	5.5	5.3	**5.4**	4.1	4.5	4.7	4.9	**4.9**
Poland	2.7	3.0	3.0	3.1	**3.1**	3.2	3.7	3.7	3.7	**3.6**
Portugal	5.9	8.0	7.7	7.2	**7.0**	7.4	8.1	8.1	7.7	**7.4**
Romania	4.5	5.6	5.4	5.5	**5.3**	3.2	5.0	4.7	5.0	**4.8**
Slovenia	3.6	4.8	4.4	4.1	**3.9**	4.7	5.6	5.7	5.8	**6.1**
Slovakia	5.5	6.7	6.5	6.7	**6.8**	5.8	7.8	7.6	7.6	**7.4**
Finland	7.2	8.6	8.5	8.4	**8.2**	6.5	7.7	7.8	7.8	**7.8**
Sweden	7.0	9.0	8.9	8.8	**8.6**	7.1	8.9	8.8	8.7	**8.6**
Iceland	3.7	6.1	6.3	6.5	**6.7**	3.9	5.0	5.1	5.3	**5.5**
Norway	4.3	5.6	5.4	5.5	**:**	3.6	4.9	4.9	4.9	**:**
Switzerland	3.9	4.8	4.9	:	**:**	4.1	5.2	5.3	:	**:**
United Kingdom	3.8	5.2	5.3	:	**:**	3.5	4.2	4.5	:	**:**

: Data not available

Source dataset: une_rt_m