

167/2015 – 30 September 2015

August 2015

Euro area unemployment rate at 11.0%

EU28 at 9.5%

This News Release has been revised to correct an error in the previous year's unemployment rates for Estonia, Greece, Hungary, the UK and Norway. The rates shown in the first table for these countries were for August 2014, not June/July 2014. We apologise for any inconvenience this may have caused.

The **euro area** (EA19) seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate was 11.0% in August 2015, stable compared to July 2015, and down from 11.5% in August 2014. The **EU28** unemployment rate was 9.5% in August 2015, also stable compared to July 2015, and down from 10.1% in August 2014. These figures are published by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**.

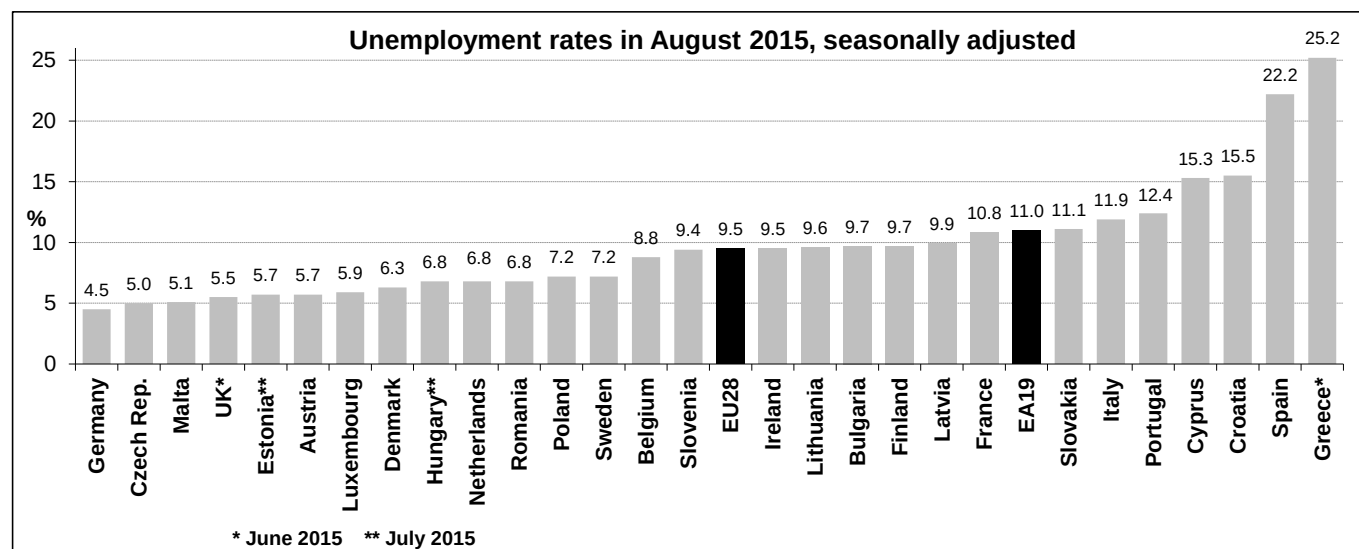
Eurostat estimates that 23.022 million men and women in the **EU28**, of whom 17.603 million were in the **euro area**, were unemployed in August 2015. Compared with July 2015, the number of persons unemployed decreased by 33 000 in the **EU28** and by 1 000 in the **euro area**. Compared with August 2014, unemployment fell by 1.490 million in the **EU28** and by 892 000 in the **euro area**.

Member States

Among the Member States, the lowest unemployment rates in August 2015 were recorded in **Germany** (4.5%), the **Czech Republic** (5.0%) and **Malta** (5.1%), and the highest in **Greece** (25.2% in June 2015) and **Spain** (22.2%).

Compared with a year ago, the unemployment rate in August 2015 fell in twenty-three Member States, increased in four and remained stable in **Romania**. The largest decreases were registered in **Slovakia** (from 13.2% to 11.1%), **Spain** (24.2% to 22.2%), **Estonia** (7.6% to 5.7% between July 2014 and July 2015), **Bulgaria** (11.4% to 9.7%), **Ireland** (11.1% to 9.5%) and **Poland** (8.7% to 7.2%). The increases were registered in **Austria** (5.6% to 5.7%), **Belgium** (8.6% to 8.8%), **France** (10.4% to 10.8%) and **Finland** (8.8% to 9.7%).

In August 2015, the unemployment rate in the **United States** was 5.1%, down from 5.3% in July 2015 and from 6.1% in August 2014.



Youth unemployment

In August 2015, 4.610 million young persons (under 25) were unemployed in the **EU28**, of whom 3.131 million were in the **euro area**. Compared with August 2014, youth unemployment decreased by 448 000 in the **EU28** and by 262 000 in the **euro area**. In August 2015, the youth unemployment rate was 20.4% in the **EU28** and 22.3% in the **euro area**, compared with 21.9% and 23.6% respectively in August 2014. In August 2015, the lowest rates were observed in **Germany** (7.0%), **Austria** (10.8%), the **Netherlands** (11.2%), **Denmark** (11.4%) and **Estonia** (11.5% in July 2015), and the highest in **Spain** (48.8%), **Greece** (48.3% in June 2015), **Croatia** (43.5% in the second quarter 2015) and **Italy** (40.7%).

Geographical coverage

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, the Czech Republic, 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 definition

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.

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; inclusion of new weights in the LFS data due to the 2011 Census.

Compared with the rates published in News Release [147/2015](#) of 1 September 2015, the July 2015 unemployment rate remains unchanged at 9.5% for the EU28 and has been revised upwards from 10.9% to 11.0% for the EA19. Among Member States, rates have been revised by more than 0.1 percentage points (pp) downwards for Cyprus (by 1.1 pp), Slovakia (by 0.5 pp) and Poland (by 0.3 pp). Revisions of more than 0.1 percentage points upwards have been observed for Croatia (by 0.5 pp), Bulgaria and Slovenia (both by 0.4 pp), Belgium and France (both by 0.3 pp), Luxembourg and Portugal (both by 0.2 pp).

For more information

Eurostat's [website section](#) on employment and unemployment

Eurostat's [database section](#) on unemployment, including non-seasonally adjusted and trend data

Eurostat's [Statistics Explained article](#) on unemployment

Eurostat's [Statistics Explained article](#) on youth unemployment

Eurostat's [metadata](#) on adjusted unemployment series

Eurostat's €-indicators [release calendar](#)

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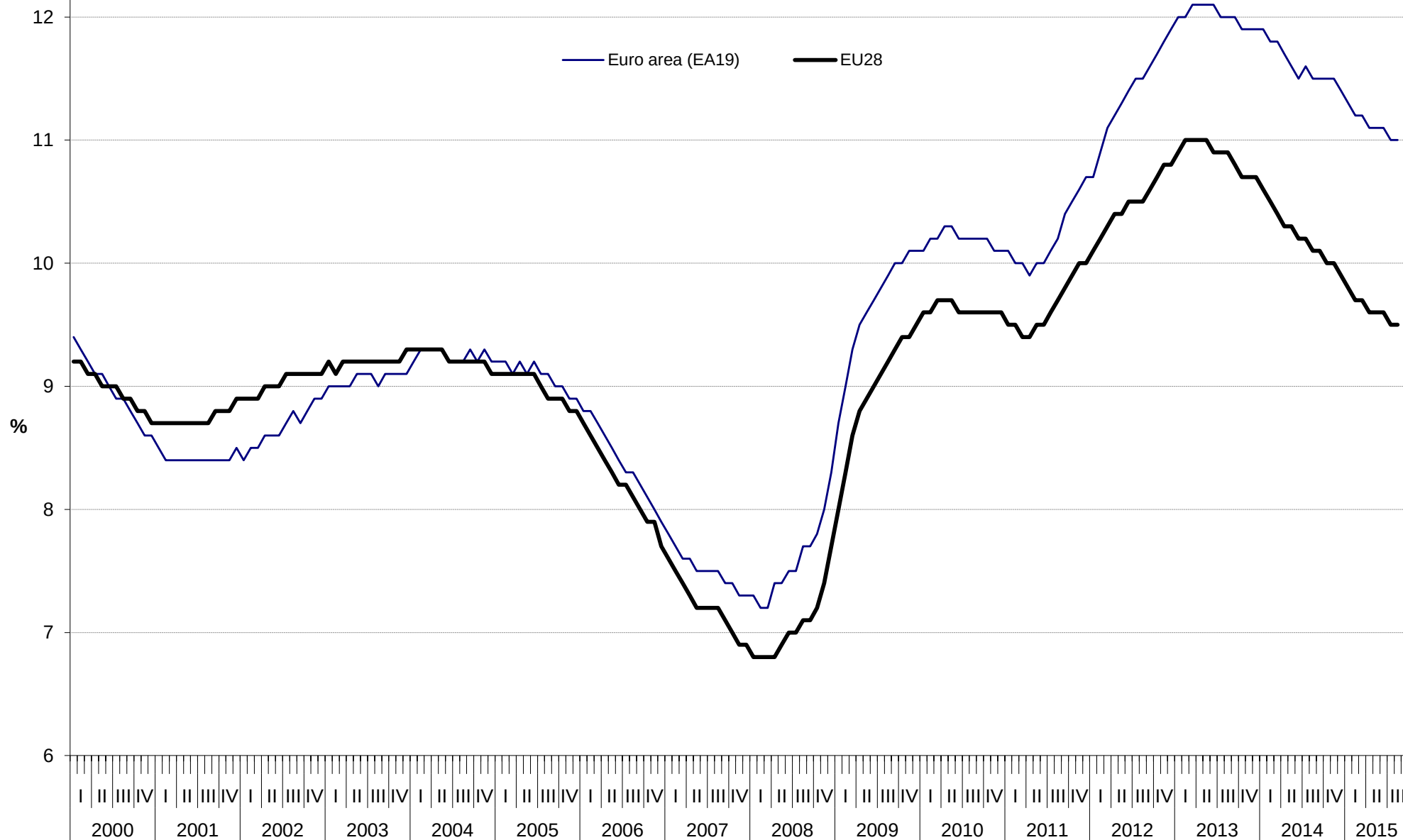
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Euro area and EU28 unemployment rates

Seasonally adjusted series



Seasonally adjusted unemployment, totals

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	Aug 14	May 15	Jun 15	Jul 15	Aug 15	Aug 14	May 15	Jun 15	Jul 15	Aug 15
EA19	11.5	11.1	11.1	11.0	11.0	18 495	17 766	17 797	17 604	17 603
EU28	10.1	9.6	9.6	9.5	9.5	24 512	23 334	23 272	23 055	23 022
Belgium	8.6	8.8	8.9	8.8	8.8	427	434	439	435	435
Bulgaria	11.4	10.0	9.9	9.8	9.7	384	334	330	324	321
Czech Republic	6.0	5.1	5.0	5.1	5.0	316	269	267	272	269
Denmark	6.6	6.3	6.2	6.3	6.3	192	183	182	184	186
Germany	5.0	4.7	4.7	4.6	4.5	2 091	1 969	1 947	1 921	1 896
Estonia	7.6**	6.4	6.1	5.7	:	51**	44	42	39	:
Ireland	11.1	9.6	9.5	9.5	9.5	239	207	206	206	206
Greece	26.6*	25.0	25.2	:	:	1 286*	1 207	1 205	:	:
Spain	24.2	22.6	22.5	22.3	22.2	5 531	5 187	5 164	5 112	5 094
France	10.4	10.4	10.5	10.7	10.8	3 042	3 044	3 088	3 139	3 190
Croatia	16.8	16.1	15.9	15.6	15.5	323	308	302	298	295
Italy	12.7	12.4	12.5	12.0	11.9	3 223	3 171	3 216	3 072	3 061
Cyprus	16.5	15.4	15.3	15.2	15.3	71	66	65	65	66
Latvia	10.9	9.7	10.0	10.1	9.9	107	97	100	100	98
Lithuania	10.5	9.5	9.5	9.6	9.6	154	139	139	140	141
Luxembourg	6.0	5.9	5.9	5.9	5.9	16	16	16	16	16
Hungary	7.9**	7.0	6.9	6.8	:	349**	315	311	309	:
Malta	5.8	5.4	5.3	5.2	5.1	11	10	10	10	10
Netherlands	7.2	6.9	6.9	6.8	6.8	637	617	611	603	604
Austria	5.6	6.0	5.9	5.8	5.7	243	261	257	253	251
Poland	8.7	7.5	7.4	7.3	7.2	1 504	1 299	1 270	1 253	1 241
Portugal	13.6	12.4	12.3	12.3	12.4	700	634	630	628	633
Romania	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	627	632	627	630	626
Slovenia	9.7	9.6	9.6	9.5	9.4	97	97	97	95	94
Slovakia	13.2	11.4	11.3	11.2	11.1	359	312	309	306	303
Finland	8.8	9.4	9.5	9.6	9.7	234	253	256	258	260
Sweden	7.9	7.5	7.4	7.3	7.2	411	391	385	380	375
United Kingdom	6.2*	5.6	5.5	:	:	1 997*	1 824	1 804	:	:
Iceland	4.8	4.4	4.3	4.3	4.3	9	8	8	8	8
Norway	3.4**	4.3	4.4	4.3	:	89**	118	122	120	:
United States	6.1	5.5	5.3	5.3	5.1	9 629	8 681	8 288	8 292	8 080

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

: Data not available

* June 2014

** July 2014

Seasonally adjusted youth (under 25s) unemployment

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	Aug 14	May 15	Jun 15	Jul 15	Aug 15	Aug 14	May 15	Jun 15	Jul 15	Aug 15
EA19	23.6	22.5	22.6	22.2	22.3	3 393	3 183	3 190	3 116	3 131
EU28	21.9	20.7	20.6	20.4	20.4	5 058	4 736	4 701	4 613	4 610
Belgium	20.3	22.3	23.1	22.5	22.6	83	93	96	93	94
Bulgaria	22.6	22.2	22.0	21.5	21.3	46	42	40	39	38
Czech Republic	15.5	12.9	12.8	13.1	12.4	55	45	45	47	45
Denmark	12.1	10.4	11.4	11.4	11.4	54	47	52	51	51
Germany	7.6	7.1	7.1	7.0	7.0	321	293	290	288	286
Estonia	15.4	10.4	9.8	11.5	:	9	6	6	7	:
Ireland	23.0	20.4	20.7	20.7	20.7	45	38	38	39	39
Greece	49.7	51.4	48.3	:	:	154	146	147	:	:
Spain	53.8	49.2	49.0	48.7	48.8	847	773	757	735	735
France	24.4	24.2	24.2	24.3	24.5	673	666	657	657	663
Croatia	45.5	43.5	43.5	:	:	76	68	68	:	:
Italy	43.0	42.0	43.0	40.4	40.7	702	640	668	618	631
Cyprus	35.1	32.6	32.6	:	:	15	14	14	:	:
Latvia	19.5	15.1	15.3	15.1	14.1	16	13	13	12	11
Lithuania	18.7	18.4	18.6	19.4	18.9	25	23	23	24	23
Luxembourg	22.3	18.3	18.0	18.3	18.5	4	4	3	4	4
Hungary	20.8	18.6	17.9	17.7	:	69	64	61	61	:
Malta	11.9	12.4	12.7	12.9	13.1	3	3	3	3	3
Netherlands	12.4	11.1	11.1	11.3	11.2	169	156	157	159	158
Austria	9.7	10.7	10.6	10.9	10.8	54	60	60	61	60
Poland	23.8	20.7	19.8	19.3	19.0	342	283	266	255	250
Portugal	33.2	31.0	31.7	31.2	31.8	128	112	114	113	116
Romania	23.4	22.3	22.3	:	:	160	153	153	:	:
Slovenia	20.2	16.8	16.8	:	:	14	13	13	:	:
Slovakia	29.8	26.4	26.2	25.2	24.6	64	55	54	52	50
Finland	20.4	23.3	23.6	23.7	23.7	67	76	77	77	77
Sweden	22.6	20.8	20.7	20.5	20.4	151	135	134	132	131
United Kingdom	16.0	15.8	15.4	:	:	715	714	697	:	:
Iceland	9.9	8.7	8.7	8.8	8.7	3	3	3	3	3
Norway	8.4	10.5	10.9	10.5	:	31	41	42	41	:

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

: Data not available

Croatia, Cyprus, Romania and Slovenia: quarterly data

Seasonally adjusted unemployment rates (%), by gender

	Males					Females				
	Aug 14	May 15	Jun 15	Jul 15	Aug 15	Aug 14	May 15	Jun 15	Jul 15	Aug 15
EA19	11.3	11.0	10.9	10.8	10.8	11.8	11.2	11.3	11.2	11.2
EU28	10.0	9.6	9.5	9.4	9.4	10.3	9.6	9.7	9.6	9.6
Belgium	8.8	9.5	9.6	9.6	9.6	8.3	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.9
Bulgaria	12.3	10.9	10.9	10.7	10.6	10.3	9.0	8.8	8.6	8.6
Czech Republic	4.9	4.3	4.2	4.2	4.2	7.3	6.1	6.1	6.2	6.1
Denmark	6.5	6.1	5.8	6.1	6.2	6.6	6.4	6.6	6.5	6.5
Germany	5.3	5.1	5.0	5.0	4.9	4.6	4.3	4.2	4.1	4.1
Estonia	9.2	6.4	6.1	5.8	:	6.8	6.4	6.0	5.6	:
Ireland	12.5	10.8	10.7	10.7	10.6	9.4	8.1	8.1	8.1	8.1
Greece	23.5	22.2	21.7	:	:	29.6	28.3	29.5	:	:
Spain	23.1	21.2	21.0	20.7	20.6	25.4	24.2	24.1	24.0	24.0
France	10.5	10.9	11.0	11.1	11.2	10.2	9.8	9.9	10.2	10.4
Croatia	16.2	16.1	15.8	15.4	15.3	17.6	16.1	16.0	15.8	15.7
Italy	11.8	11.9	11.9	11.5	11.3	13.8	13.0	13.3	12.7	12.8
Cyprus	17.6	15.1	15.0	15.0	15.2	15.2	15.6	15.5	15.4	15.3
Latvia	11.5	11.3	11.5	11.4	11.2	10.2	8.1	8.5	8.8	8.7
Lithuania	12.0	10.7	10.8	10.8	10.9	9.0	8.2	8.3	8.3	8.3
Luxembourg	5.7	5.2	5.1	5.2	5.2	6.3	6.8	6.7	6.8	6.7
Hungary	7.4	6.8	6.6	6.5	:	7.7	7.2	7.2	7.2	:
Malta	6.0	5.5	5.4	5.3	5.2	5.4	5.1	5.0	4.9	4.9
Netherlands	6.8	6.6	6.6	6.4	6.5	7.6	7.3	7.2	7.1	7.1
Austria	5.7	6.3	6.1	6.1	6.1	5.5	5.7	5.5	5.4	5.3
Poland	8.1	7.3	7.2	7.2	7.1	9.3	7.7	7.5	7.4	7.3
Portugal	12.8	12.4	12.1	12.2	12.2	14.4	12.3	12.5	12.4	12.7
Romania	7.3	7.6	7.6	7.8	7.8	6.1	5.8	5.7	5.6	5.6
Slovenia	8.8	8.6	8.5	8.4	8.4	10.7	10.7	10.7	10.6	10.6
Slovakia	12.7	10.3	10.1	9.9	9.8	13.7	12.9	12.8	12.8	12.7
Finland	9.4	10.0	10.1	10.3	10.4	8.0	8.9	8.9	8.9	9.0
Sweden	8.1	7.6	7.5	7.4	7.3	7.7	7.4	7.3	7.1	7.0
United Kingdom	6.1	5.8	5.7	:	:	5.6	5.4	5.3	:	:
Iceland	4.7	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.9	4.8	4.7	4.7	4.7
Norway	3.9	4.6	4.7	4.7	:	3.5	3.9	4.0	3.9	:

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

: Data not available