

22/2018 - 31 January 2018

December 2017

## Euro area unemployment at 8.7%

EU28 at 7.3%

The **euro area** (EA19) seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate was 8.7% in December 2017, stable compared to November 2017 and down from 9.7% in December 2016. This remains the lowest rate recorded in the **euro area** since January 2009. The **EU28** unemployment rate was 7.3% in December 2017, stable compared to November 2017 and down from 8.2% in December 2016. This remains the lowest rate recorded in the **EU28** since October 2008. These figures are published by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**.

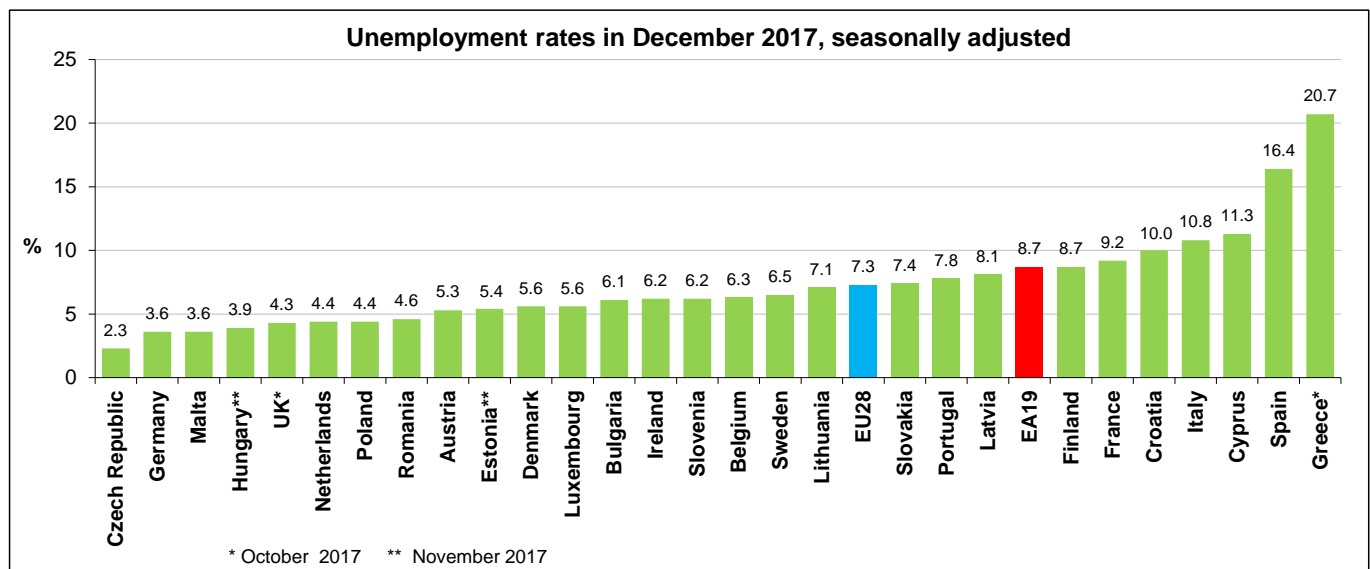
Eurostat estimates that 17.961 million men and women in the **EU28**, of whom 14.137 million in the **euro area**, were unemployed in December 2017. Compared with November 2017, the number of persons unemployed decreased by 165 000 in the **EU28** and by 134 000 in the **euro area**. Compared with December 2016, unemployment fell by 2.066 million in the **EU28** and by 1.536 million in the **euro area**.

### Member States

Among the Member States, the lowest unemployment rates in December 2017 were recorded in the **Czech Republic** (2.3%), **Malta** and **Germany** (both 3.6%). The highest unemployment rates were observed in **Greece** (20.7% in October 2017) and **Spain** (16.4%).

Compared with a year ago, the unemployment rate fell in all Member States for which data is comparable over time except in **Finland** where it remained stable. The largest decreases were registered in **Greece** (from 23.3% to 20.7% between October 2016 and October 2017), **Croatia** (from 12.5% to 10.0%), **Portugal** (from 10.2% to 7.8%) and **Spain** (from 18.5% to 16.4%).

In December 2017, the unemployment rate in the **United States** was 4.1%, stable compared to November 2017 and down from 4.7% in December 2016.



## Youth unemployment

In December 2017, 3.654 million young persons (under 25) were unemployed in the **EU28**, of whom 2.574 million were in the **euro area**. Compared with December 2016, youth unemployment decreased by 411 000 in the **EU28** and by 301 000 in the **euro area**. In December 2017, the youth unemployment rate was 16.1% in the **EU28** and 17.9% in the **euro area**, compared with 18.0% and 20.3% respectively in December 2016. In December 2017, the lowest rates were observed in the **Czech Republic** (4.9%), **Germany** (6.6%) and **Estonia** (6.8% in November 2017), while the highest were recorded in **Greece** (40.8% in October 2017), **Spain** (36.8%) and **Italy** (32.2%).

### 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, 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.

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**

Belgium: Due to a methodological break in the LFS data for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2017, data prior to Q1 2017 are not comparable and therefore not shown.

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 [4/2018](#) of 9 January 2018, the November 2017 unemployment has remained unchanged for both the EU28 and the EA19. Among Member States, the rate has been revised by more than 0.1 percentage points (pp) upwards for Ireland, Greece and Finland (all by 0.3 pp, September data for Greece).

### 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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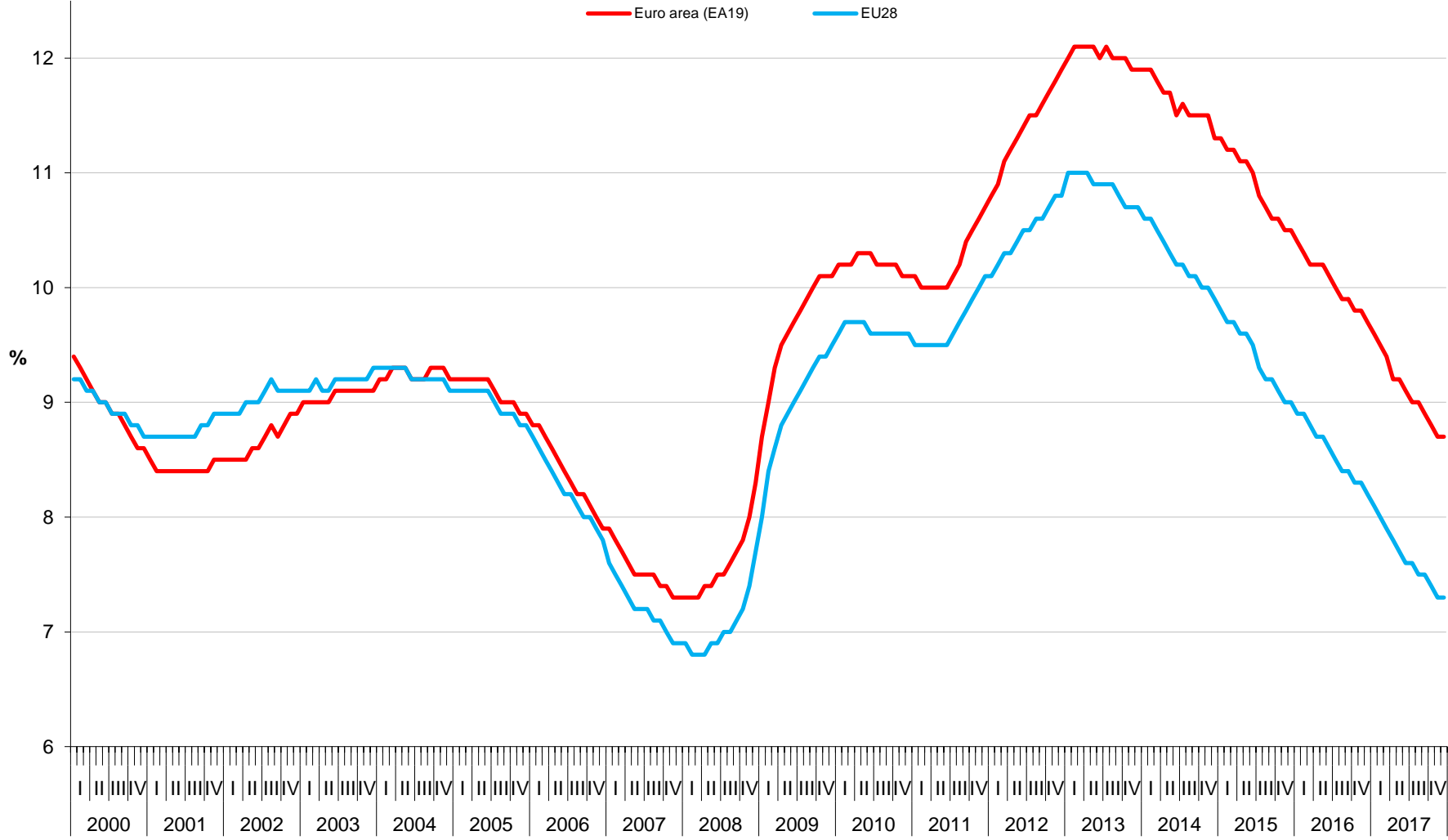
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### Euro area and EU28 unemployment rates Seasonally adjusted series



### Seasonally adjusted unemployment, totals

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	Dec 16	Sep 17	Oct 17	Nov 17	Dec 17	Dec 16	Sep 17	Oct 17	Nov 17	Dec 17
<b>EA19</b>	9.7	8.9	8.8	8.7	<b>8.7</b>	15 673	14 516	14 404	14 271	<b>14 137</b>
<b>EU28</b>	8.2	7.5	7.4	7.3	<b>7.3</b>	20 027	18 441	18 318	18 126	<b>17 961</b>
<b>Belgium</b>	:	7.0	6.8	6.6	<b>6.3</b>	:	348	341	333	<b>313</b>
<b>Bulgaria</b>	6.7	6.2	6.2	6.2	<b>6.1</b>	217	208	209	210	<b>209</b>
<b>Czech Republic</b>	3.5	2.7	2.6	2.4	<b>2.3</b>	191	147	142	129	<b>125</b>
<b>Denmark</b>	6.1	5.7	5.6	5.5	<b>5.6</b>	185	170	168	164	<b>166</b>
<b>Germany</b>	3.9	3.7	3.7	3.7	<b>3.6</b>	1 677	1 611	1 603	1 594	<b>1 581</b>
<b>Estonia</b>	6.7**	5.8	5.2	5.4	:	46**	40	36	38	:
<b>Ireland</b>	7.5	6.7	6.5	6.4	<b>6.2</b>	174	156	154	150	<b>147</b>
<b>Greece</b>	23.3*	20.8	20.7	:	:	1 113*	995	990	:	:
<b>Spain</b>	18.5	16.7	16.7	16.6	<b>16.4</b>	4 202	3 802	3 792	3 773	<b>3 745</b>
<b>France</b>	9.9	9.5	9.4	9.3	<b>9.2</b>	2 929	2 816	2 779	2 738	<b>2 733</b>
<b>Croatia</b>	12.5	10.7	10.5	10.3	<b>10.0</b>	226	192	189	185	<b>179</b>
<b>Italy</b>	11.8	11.1	11.0	10.9	<b>10.8</b>	3 064	2 876	2 863	2 838	<b>2 791</b>
<b>Cyprus</b>	12.8	10.4	10.5	11.1	<b>11.3</b>	54	44	45	48	<b>49</b>
<b>Latvia</b>	9.4	8.4	8.2	8.1	<b>8.1</b>	92	82	80	79	<b>79</b>
<b>Lithuania</b>	7.6	7.0	7.1	7.0	<b>7.1</b>	113	101	103	100	<b>102</b>
<b>Luxembourg</b>	6.2	5.7	5.6	5.5	<b>5.6</b>	18	16	16	16	<b>16</b>
<b>Hungary</b>	4.6**	4.1	4.0	3.9	:	210**	188	183	179	:
<b>Malta</b>	4.2	3.9	3.6	3.6	<b>3.6</b>	9	8	8	7	<b>8</b>
<b>Netherlands</b>	5.4	4.7	4.5	4.4	<b>4.4</b>	482	422	404	397	<b>395</b>
<b>Austria</b>	5.7	5.4	5.4	5.4	<b>5.3</b>	256	242	243	243	<b>241</b>
<b>Poland</b>	5.5	4.7	4.6	4.5	<b>4.4</b>	941	808	794	779	<b>763</b>
<b>Portugal</b>	10.2	8.5	8.4	8.1	<b>7.8</b>	521	439	434	417	<b>401</b>
<b>Romania</b>	5.5	4.9	4.9	4.7	<b>4.6</b>	493	442	451	443	<b>435</b>
<b>Slovenia</b>	7.9	6.7	6.5	6.4	<b>6.2</b>	80	69	68	67	<b>65</b>
<b>Slovakia</b>	8.9	7.8	7.7	7.5	<b>7.4</b>	245	216	211	207	<b>205</b>
<b>Finland</b>	8.7	8.6	8.6	8.7	<b>8.7</b>	235	233	234	235	<b>237</b>
<b>Sweden</b>	6.8	6.6	6.6	6.6	<b>6.5</b>	362	358	357	355	<b>353</b>
<b>United Kingdom</b>	4.7*	4.2	4.3	:	:	1 568*	1 405	1 419	:	:
<b>Iceland</b>	2.9	3.0	2.9	2.9	<b>2.9</b>	6	6	6	6	<b>6</b>
<b>Norway</b>	4.7**	4.0	4.0	4.1	:	131**	111	111	115	:
<b>United States</b>	4.7	4.2	4.1	4.1	<b>4.1</b>	7 520	6 814	6 509	6 645	<b>6 577</b>

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

: Data not available

\* October 2016

\*\* November 2016

### Seasonally adjusted youth (under 25s) unemployment

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	Dec 16	Sep 17	Oct 17	Nov 17	Dec 17	Dec 16	Sep 17	Oct 17	Nov 17	Dec 17
<b>EA19</b>	20.3	18.6	18.4	18.1	<b>17.9</b>	2 875	2 670	2 637	2 595	<b>2 574</b>
<b>EU28</b>	18.0	16.6	16.4	16.2	<b>16.1</b>	4 065	3 763	3 730	3 678	<b>3 654</b>
<b>Belgium</b>	:	18.2	16.2	16.2	<b>16.2</b>	:	70	64	64	<b>64</b>
<b>Bulgaria</b>	14.9	12.9	12.6	12.4	<b>12.3</b>	24	24	24	24	<b>24</b>
<b>Czech Republic</b>	10.5	7.5	7.4	4.9	<b>4.9</b>	34	23	23	15	<b>15</b>
<b>Denmark</b>	12.7	10.5	9.8	9.5	<b>10.0</b>	60	48	45	44	<b>46</b>
<b>Germany</b>	6.8	6.6	6.6	6.6	<b>6.6</b>	285	281	281	279	<b>278</b>
<b>Estonia</b>	14.1	11.5	8.1	6.8	:	8	7	5	4	:
<b>Ireland</b>	15.2	15.2	14.7	14.0	<b>13.7</b>	44	39	37	36	<b>34</b>
<b>Greece</b>	46.6	40.3	40.8	:	:	123	108	110	:	:
<b>Spain</b>	42.2	37.7	37.6	37.1	<b>36.8</b>	614	576	574	562	<b>556</b>
<b>France</b>	23.4	22.3	22.4	22.3	<b>22.3</b>	646	632	638	642	<b>648</b>
<b>Croatia</b>	30.4	25.3	24.5	24.5	<b>24.5</b>	53	41	39	39	<b>39</b>
<b>Italy</b>	39.1	35.0	33.8	32.4	<b>32.2</b>	624	541	515	496	<b>481</b>
<b>Cyprus</b>	29.1	25.0	:	:	:	11	9	:	:	:
<b>Latvia</b>	17.0	15.1	14.7	14.5	<b>14.2</b>	12	11	10	10	<b>10</b>
<b>Lithuania</b>	15.4	12.9	13.2	13.0	<b>13.1</b>	19	14	15	15	<b>15</b>
<b>Luxembourg</b>	18.4	15.1	14.3	14.5	<b>14.8</b>	4	3	3	3	<b>3</b>
<b>Hungary</b>	11.1	10.8	10.4	10.3	:	38	36	35	34	:
<b>Malta</b>	12.3	10.0	9.5	9.5	<b>10.1</b>	3	3	2	2	<b>3</b>
<b>Netherlands</b>	10.2	8.5	7.9	7.8	<b>8.0</b>	144	123	114	112	<b>116</b>
<b>Austria</b>	10.5	9.3	9.5	9.8	<b>9.3</b>	57	49	50	52	<b>49</b>
<b>Poland</b>	15.3	14.2	14.3	13.9	<b>13.5</b>	207	188	190	187	<b>180</b>
<b>Portugal</b>	26.2	24.4	24.5	22.8	<b>22.1</b>	96	92	93	86	<b>82</b>
<b>Romania</b>	20.4	16.8	:	:	:	122	107	:	:	:
<b>Slovenia</b>	14.0	12.0	12.5	12.5	<b>12.5</b>	10	10	11	11	<b>11</b>
<b>Slovakia</b>	19.8	18.5	17.8	17.3	<b>17.0</b>	42	36	35	34	<b>33</b>
<b>Finland</b>	20.3	20.2	20.1	20.0	<b>19.9</b>	66	67	66	66	<b>66</b>
<b>Sweden</b>	18.4	17.5	17.2	17.4	<b>17.2</b>	114	111	110	110	<b>109</b>
<b>United Kingdom</b>	12.2	12.0	12.2	:	:	534	511	521	:	:
<b>Iceland</b>	6.9	8.1	8.1	8.1	<b>8.1</b>	2	3	3	3	<b>3</b>
<b>Norway</b>	10.3	10.2	10.3	10.2	:	37	38	38	37	:

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				
	Dec 16	Sep 17	Oct 17	Nov 17	Dec 17	Dec 16	Sep 17	Oct 17	Nov 17	Dec 17
EA19	9.3	8.6	8.5	8.4	<b>8.4</b>	10.0	9.3	9.2	9.1	<b>9.0</b>
EU28	8.0	7.3	7.2	7.1	<b>7.1</b>	8.4	7.7	7.7	7.6	<b>7.5</b>
Belgium	:	7.4	7.2	7.0	<b>6.5</b>	:	6.5	6.4	6.2	<b>6.0</b>
Bulgaria	6.9	6.4	6.4	6.5	<b>6.4</b>	6.4	5.9	5.9	5.9	<b>5.8</b>
Czech Republic	3.1	2.3	2.3	2.0	<b>2.0</b>	4.2	3.3	3.1	2.9	<b>2.8</b>
Denmark	5.9	5.4	5.4	5.3	<b>5.4</b>	6.4	5.9	5.8	5.6	<b>5.7</b>
Germany	4.3	4.0	4.0	4.0	<b>4.0</b>	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.3	<b>3.2</b>
Estonia	6.2	6.6	5.3	5.5	:	6.4	4.9	5.0	5.2	:
Ireland	7.6	6.9	6.8	6.7	<b>6.6</b>	7.2	6.3	6.2	6.0	<b>5.8</b>
Greece	19.8	17.1	17.0	:	:	27.9	25.5	25.4	:	:
Spain	17.1	15.1	15.1	15.0	<b>14.9</b>	20.1	18.5	18.5	18.4	<b>18.2</b>
France	10.0	9.7	9.5	9.4	<b>9.4</b>	9.8	9.3	9.2	9.1	<b>9.1</b>
Croatia	11.6	9.8	9.6	9.5	<b>9.1</b>	13.5	11.6	11.4	11.3	<b>11.1</b>
Italy	10.8	10.2	10.2	10.1	<b>10.0</b>	13.2	12.3	12.1	12.1	<b>11.8</b>
Cyprus	11.9	10.4	10.5	10.9	<b>11.1</b>	13.9	10.4	10.6	11.2	<b>11.4</b>
Latvia	11.0	9.0	8.8	8.8	<b>9.0</b>	7.9	7.8	7.6	7.4	<b>7.2</b>
Lithuania	8.9	8.3	8.4	8.4	<b>8.5</b>	6.3	5.7	5.8	5.6	<b>5.7</b>
Luxembourg	6.4	5.9	5.7	5.7	<b>5.8</b>	6.0	5.5	5.3	5.3	<b>5.4</b>
Hungary	4.4	3.6	3.6	3.4	:	4.2	4.6	4.4	4.5	:
Malta	3.6	3.8	3.6	3.6	<b>3.6</b>	5.1	4.0	3.6	3.6	<b>3.7</b>
Netherlands	4.9	4.3	4.2	4.1	<b>4.1</b>	6.0	5.1	4.7	4.7	<b>4.7</b>
Austria	6.2	5.8	5.9	5.8	<b>5.6</b>	5.1	4.9	4.8	4.9	<b>5.0</b>
Poland	5.4	4.6	4.5	4.4	<b>4.3</b>	5.5	4.7	4.7	4.6	<b>4.5</b>
Portugal	10.0	7.9	7.8	7.8	<b>7.4</b>	10.3	9.1	9.0	8.4	<b>8.1</b>
Romania	6.0	5.6	5.7	5.6	<b>5.4</b>	4.9	3.8	3.8	3.7	<b>3.6</b>
Slovenia	7.6	5.7	5.4	5.4	<b>5.2</b>	8.2	7.8	7.8	7.6	<b>7.3</b>
Slovakia	8.5	7.8	7.6	7.5	<b>7.4</b>	9.4	7.9	7.7	7.6	<b>7.4</b>
Finland	8.9	8.8	8.8	8.9	<b>9.0</b>	8.5	8.4	8.4	8.4	<b>8.4</b>
Sweden	7.2	6.8	6.8	6.7	<b>6.6</b>	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	<b>6.4</b>
United Kingdom	4.8	4.3	4.3	:	:	4.5	4.1	4.2	:	:
Iceland	2.9	3.1	3.1	3.0	<b>2.9</b>	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.9	<b>2.9</b>
Norway	4.9	4.4	4.5	4.6	:	3.9	3.5	3.5	3.6	:

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

: Data not available