

17/2014 - 31 January 2014

December 2013

Euro area unemployment rate at 12.0%

EU28 at 10.7%

The **euro area**¹ (EA17) seasonally-adjusted² unemployment rate³ was 12.0% in December 2013, stable since October⁴. It was 11.9% in December 2012. The **EU28**¹ unemployment rate was 10.7% in December 2013, down from 10.8% in November⁴. It was 10.8% in December 2012. These figures are published by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**.

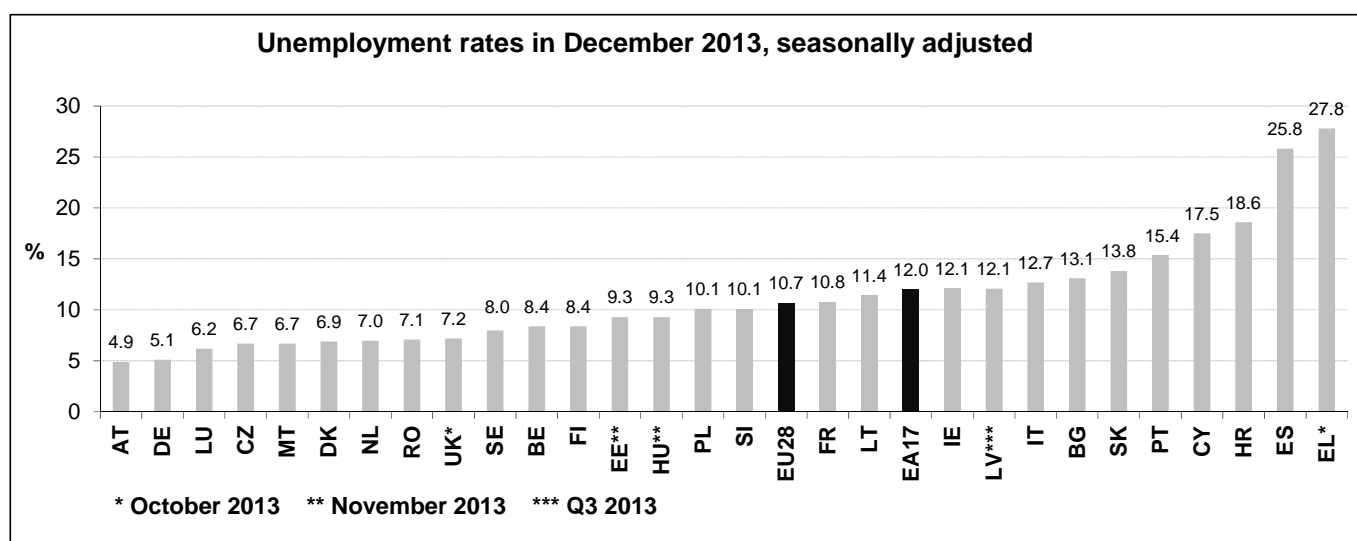
Eurostat estimates that 26.200 million men and women in the **EU28**, of whom 19.010 million were in the **euro area**, were unemployed in December 2013. Compared with November 2013, the number of persons unemployed decreased by 162 000 in the **EU28** and by 129 000 in the **euro area**. Compared with December 2012, unemployment decreased by 173 000 in the **EU28**, but increased by 130 000 in the **euro area**.

Member States

Among the Member States, the lowest unemployment rates were recorded in **Austria** (4.9%), **Germany** (5.1%) and **Luxembourg** (6.2%), and the highest in **Greece** (27.8% in October 2013) and **Spain** (25.8%).

Compared with a year ago, the unemployment rate increased in fourteen Member States, fell in thirteen and remained stable in **Sweden**. The highest increases were registered in **Cyprus** (13.9% to 17.5%), **Greece** (26.1% to 27.8% between October 2012 and October 2013), the **Netherlands** (5.8% to 7.0%) and **Italy** (11.5% to 12.7%). The largest decreases were observed in **Ireland** (14.0% to 12.1%), **Latvia** (14.0% to 12.1% between the third quarters of 2012 and 2013), **Portugal** (17.3% to 15.4%), **Hungary** (11.0% to 9.3% between November 2012 and November 2013) and **Lithuania** (13.0% to 11.4%).

In December 2013, the unemployment rate in the **United States** was 6.7%, down from 7.0% in November 2013 and from 7.9% in December 2012.



Youth unemployment

In December 2013, 5.544 million young persons (under 25) were unemployed in the **EU28**, of whom 3.500 million were in the **euro area**. Compared with December 2012, youth unemployment decreased by 184 000 in the **EU28** and by 77 000 in the **euro area**. In December 2013, the youth unemployment rate⁵ was 23.2% in the **EU28** and 23.8% in the **euro area**, compared with 23.6% and 23.9% respectively in December 2012. In December 2013, the lowest rates were observed in **Germany** (7.4%) and **Austria** (8.9%), and the highest in **Greece** (59.2% in October 2013), **Spain** (54.3%) and **Croatia** (49.2% in the fourth quarter of 2013).

1. Up to 31 December 2013, the euro area (EA17) included Belgium, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Italy, Cyprus, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Austria, Portugal, Slovenia, Slovakia and Finland. From 1 January 2014 the euro area (EA18) also includes Latvia.
The EU28 includes Belgium (BE), Bulgaria (BG), the Czech Republic (CZ), Denmark (DK), Germany (DE), Estonia (EE), Ireland (IE), Greece (EL), Spain (ES), France (FR), Croatia (HR), Italy (IT), Cyprus (CY), Latvia (LV), Lithuania (LT), Luxembourg (LU), Hungary (HU), Malta (MT), the Netherlands (NL), Austria (AT), Poland (PL), Portugal (PT), Romania (RO), Slovenia (SI), Slovakia (SK), Finland (FI), Sweden (SE) and the United Kingdom (UK).
As part of Eurostat's guidelines for the dissemination of data when the euro area is enlarged, the aggregate data series commented on in this News Release refer to the official composition of the euro area in the most recent month for which data is available. **Thus News Releases with data for months up to December 2013 comment on EA17 series, while Releases with data for January 2014 onwards will comment on EA18 series.**
Eurostat's guidelines can be found on the Eurostat website:
http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_PUBLIC/GUIDE_ENLARG_2007/EN/GUIDE_ENLARG_2007-EN.PDF
The tables also include Iceland, Norway and the United States.
2. Non-seasonally adjusted and trend data can be found in the statistical database on the Eurostat website. For further details please refer to the *Unemployment statistics* article in Statistics Explained:
http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/statistics_explained/index.php/Unemployment_statistics
3. 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.
4. The data in this News Release are normally subject to small revisions, caused by the updates to the seasonally adjusted series whenever new monthly data are added. Larger revisions can occur when the most recent LFS data are included in the calculation process. Compared with the rates published in News Release 4/2014 of 8 January 2014, the November 2013 unemployment rates were revised from 12.1% to 12.0% for the EA17 and from 10.9% to 10.8% for the EU28. Among Member States, the rate has been revised by between 0.2 and 0.4 percentage points for Greece and Lithuania. The rate has been revised downwards by 0.6 percentage points for Spain.
5. 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. For further details please refer to the *Youth unemployment* article in Statistics Explained:
http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/statistics_explained/index.php/Youth_unemployment
6. Latvia: quarterly data for all series.
Croatia, Cyprus, Romania and Slovenia: quarterly data for youth unemployment.
7. For Germany, the Netherlands, Austria, Finland and Iceland the trend component is used instead of the more volatile seasonally adjusted data.

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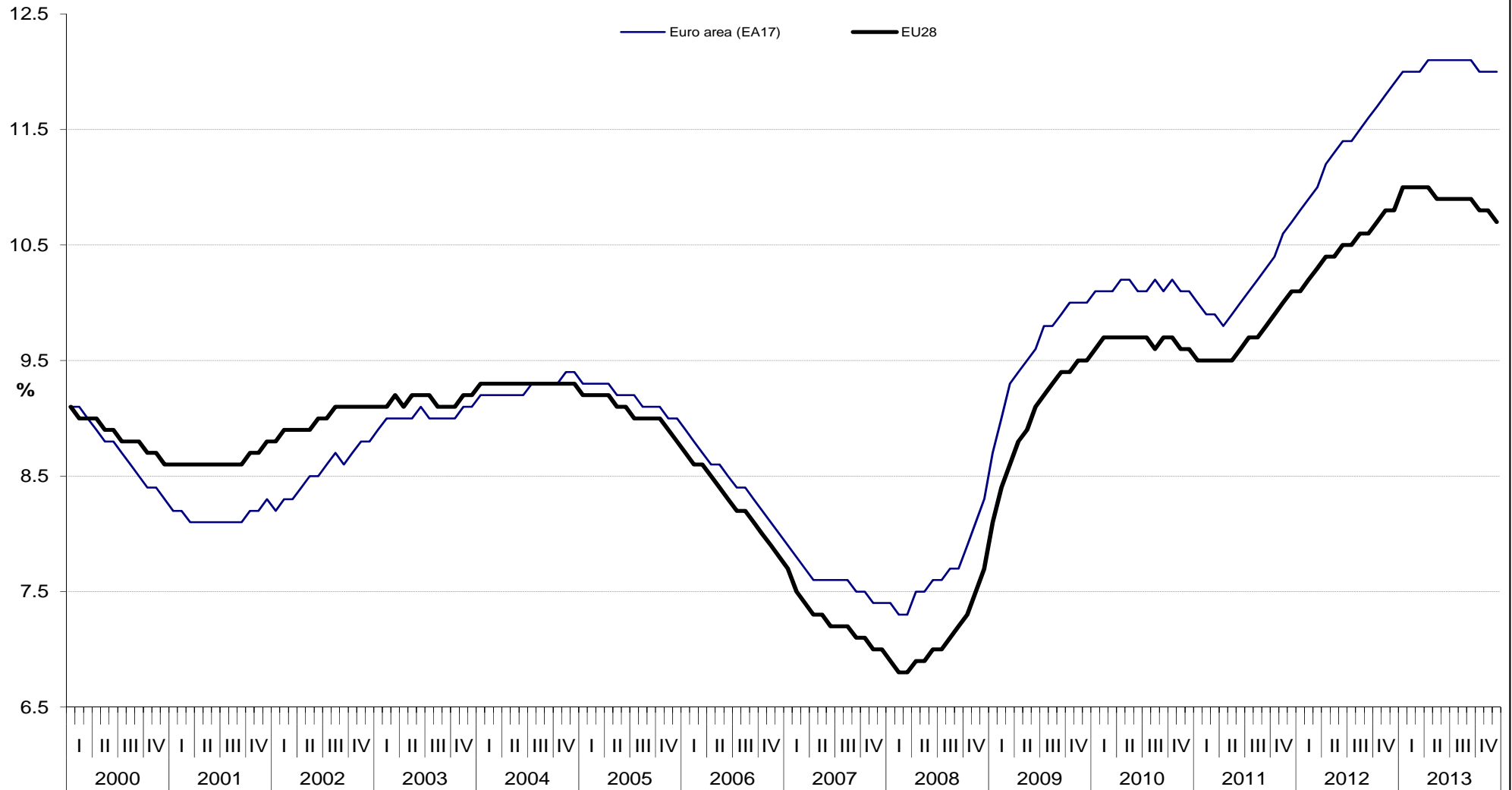
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Euro area and EU28 unemployment rates Seasonally adjusted series



Seasonally adjusted unemployment, Totals

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	Dec 12	Sep 13	Oct 13	Nov 13	Dec 13	Dec 12	Sep 13	Oct 13	Nov 13	Dec 13
EA17	11.9	12.1	12.0	12.0	12.0	18 880	19 251	19 155	19 139	19 010
EA18	11.9	12.1	12.0	12.0	12.0	19 024	19 374	19 275	19 259	19 130
EU28	10.8	10.9	10.8	10.8	10.7	26 373	26 566	26 383	26 362	26 200
Belgium	8.1	8.4	8.4	8.4	8.4	399	418	415	415	414
Bulgaria	12.6	12.8	12.9	13.0	13.1	423	431	435	437	441
Czech Republic	7.2	6.9	6.8	6.8	6.7	377	368	358	360	356
Denmark	7.3	6.9	6.9	6.8	6.9	212	199	201	196	199
Germany⁷	5.4	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.1	2 294	2 228	2 208	2 183	2 156
Estonia	9.7**	8.9	9.1	9.3	:	67**	62	63	65	:
Ireland	14.0	12.6	12.4	12.3	12.1	300	271	269	266	261
Greece	26.1*	27.7	27.8	:	:	1 302*	1 389	1 388	:	:
Spain	26.3	26.4	26.3	26.1	25.8	6 010	5 983	5 962	5 919	5 838
France	10.7	10.9	10.8	10.8	10.8	3 138	3 220	3 181	3 185	3 196
Croatia	17.7	17.9	18.4	18.6	18.6	295	299	301	301	298
Italy	11.5	12.5	12.5	12.8	12.7	2 937	3 187	3 192	3 261	3 229
Cyprus	13.9	16.9	17.2	17.3	17.5	62	76	77	77	78
Latvia⁶	14.0***	12.1	:	:	:	147***	123	:	:	:
Lithuania	13.0	11.5	11.2	11.1	11.4	192	169	165	164	168
Luxembourg	5.4	6.0	6.0	6.1	6.2	14	15	15	15	16
Hungary	11.0**	10.0	9.5	9.3	:	478**	440	419	412	:
Malta	6.4	6.6	6.7	6.5	6.7	12	13	13	13	13
Netherlands⁷	5.8	7.0	7.0	6.9	7.0	520	630	631	621	628
Austria⁷	4.7	4.9	4.8	4.8	4.9	206	217	211	211	212
Poland	10.4	10.2	10.2	10.2	10.1	1 803	1 774	1 774	1 771	1 756
Portugal	17.3	15.8	15.6	15.5	15.4	928	838	831	824	819
Romania	6.7	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.1	671	733	736	740	719
Slovenia	9.7	9.7	9.7	9.9	10.1	98	97	98	100	102
Slovakia	14.4	14.3	14.1	14.0	13.8	389	387	380	374	370
Finland⁷	7.9	8.2	8.3	8.4	8.4	213	219	221	223	225
Sweden	8.0	8.0	7.9	8.0	8.0	409	409	406	411	408
United Kingdom	7.7*	7.3	7.2	:	:	2 473*	2 369	2 312	:	:
Iceland⁷	5.5	5.4	5.3	5.2	5.2	10	10	10	10	10
Norway	3.3*	3.4	3.3	:	:	88*	93	90	:	:
United States	7.9	7.2	7.2	7.0	6.7	12 281	11 188	11 238	10 838	10 342

: Data not available

* October 2012

** November 2012

*** Q3 2012

Seasonally adjusted youth (under 25s) unemployment

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	Dec 12	Sep 13	Oct 13	Nov 13	Dec 13	Dec 12	Sep 13	Oct 13	Nov 13	Dec 13
EA17	23.9	24.0	24.0	24.0	23.8	3 577	3 527	3 526	3 523	3 500
EA18	23.9	24.0	24.0	24.0	23.9	3 599	3 552	3 551	3 550	3 527
EU28	23.6	23.4	23.3	23.4	23.2	5 728	5 590	5 566	5 585	5 544
Belgium	22.1	23.0	22.7	22.8	23.1	93	96	95	95	96
Bulgaria	28.2	28.1	28.6	28.8	29.4	69	63	64	64	66
Czech Republic	19.2	18.8	18.6	18.9	18.8	71	67	65	68	67
Denmark	13.4	12.8	13.1	12.8	12.9	60	56	57	56	57
Germany ⁷	7.9	7.8	7.7	7.5	7.4	360	349	343	337	331
Estonia	18.4	17.6	18.3	22.7	:	12	12	12	16	:
Ireland	28.7	25.5	25.1	24.8	24.6	62	54	53	52	52
Greece	58.1	56.8	59.2	:	:	181	175	174	:	:
Spain	55.6	56.2	55.7	55.2	54.3	962	919	917	912	892
France	26.2	25.2	25.2	25.5	25.6	749	716	716	727	731
Croatia ⁶	49.6	49.8	49.2	49.2	49.2	77	73	71	71	71
Italy	37.4	41.0	41.6	41.7	41.6	624	665	673	669	671
Cyprus ⁶	32.4	40.2	40.8	40.8	40.8	14	17	17	17	17
Latvia ⁶	24.3	25.3	:	:	:	24	24	:	:	:
Lithuania	24.2	21.6	21.6	21.5	21.8	30	28	29	29	29
Luxembourg	18.5	19.6	20.0	19.9	20.3	3	3	3	3	3
Hungary	28.8	26.4	24.7	24.6	:	90	82	76	75	:
Malta	13.7	14.0	14.4	14.4	15.0	4	4	4	4	4
Netherlands ⁷	10.0	11.7	11.6	11.4	11.3	144	167	166	163	160
Austria ⁷	9.1	9.3	9.2	9.1	8.9	54	54	53	52	52
Poland	27.6	27.4	27.6	27.6	27.4	427	409	411	410	404
Portugal	39.0	36.0	36.4	36.6	36.3	157	146	149	150	150
Romania ⁶	22.2	23.3	:	:	:	181	187	:	:	:
Slovenia ⁶	23.0	20.7	23.3	23.3	23.3	17	16	18	18	18
Slovakia	35.1	33.0	33.3	33.2	32.6	77	70	69	68	67
Finland ⁷	19.6	19.8	19.6	19.5	19.4	65	65	65	65	65
Sweden	24.3	22.7	21.4	24.0	22.6	158	150	145	162	149
United Kingdom	21.1	20.4	20.1	:	:	965	924	906	:	:
Iceland ⁷	11.5	10.6	10.3	9.9	9.7	4	3	3	3	3
Norway	9.6	8.8	8.2	:	:	37	34	31	:	:

: Data not available

Seasonally adjusted unemployment rates (%), by gender

	Males					Females				
	Dec 12	Sep 13	Oct 13	Nov 13	Dec 13	Dec 12	Sep 13	Oct 13	Nov 13	Dec 13
EA17	11.7	12.0	11.9	11.9	11.8	12.0	12.2	12.2	12.2	12.1
EA18	11.8	12.0	11.9	11.9	11.8	12.0	12.2	12.2	12.2	12.1
EU28	10.8	10.8	10.8	10.7	10.7	10.9	10.9	10.9	10.9	10.8
Belgium	8.6	8.8	8.8	8.8	8.8	7.6	8.0	7.9	7.9	7.9
Bulgaria	13.6	13.6	13.6	13.5	13.5	11.5	11.9	12.1	12.3	12.5
Czech Republic	6.2	5.9	5.6	5.8	5.7	8.4	8.3	8.2	8.1	8.1
Denmark	7.2	6.6	6.3	6.2	6.4	7.4	7.2	7.6	7.4	7.3
Germany ⁷	5.6	5.5	5.5	5.4	5.3	5.1	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8
Estonia	10.7	9.5	9.8	9.8	:	8.4	8.3	8.5	8.9	:
Ireland	16.5	14.6	14.4	14.2	14.0	10.9	10.1	10.0	10.0	9.8
Greece	23.5	24.7	24.7	:	:	29.8	31.9	32.1	:	:
Spain	25.8	25.9	25.7	25.4	25.0	26.8	26.9	27.0	27.0	26.7
France	10.6	10.9	10.8	10.9	10.9	10.8	10.9	10.8	10.7	10.7
Croatia	17.7	18.8	19.2	19.5	19.8	17.7	16.9	17.5	17.5	17.2
Italy	10.7	11.8	11.8	12.1	12.0	12.5	13.4	13.4	13.6	13.6
Cyprus	14.3	17.7	18.2	18.1	18.4	13.5	16.0	16.2	16.4	16.6
Latvia ⁶	15.9	12.8	:	:	:	12.6	11.3	:	:	:
Lithuania	14.4	12.1	12.4	12.2	12.8	11.6	11.0	10.1	10.0	10.0
Luxembourg	5.0	5.4	5.4	5.6	5.6	6.0	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.8
Hungary	11.4	10.1	9.6	9.2	:	10.7	9.9	9.5	9.5	:
Malta	6.3	6.7	6.9	6.7	6.9	6.6	6.5	6.4	6.2	6.4
Netherlands ⁷	6.1	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.4	5.5	6.6	6.7	6.5	6.6
Austria ⁷	5.0	4.9	4.6	4.6	4.7	4.3	5.0	5.1	5.1	5.0
Poland	9.7	9.6	9.6	9.5	9.4	11.3	11.0	11.0	11.0	11.0
Portugal	17.3	15.6	15.5	15.4	15.3	17.4	15.9	15.8	15.6	15.5
Romania	7.0	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.7	6.2	6.6	6.5	6.5	6.4
Slovenia	9.4	8.6	8.6	8.7	8.9	10.0	10.9	11.0	11.3	11.6
Slovakia	14.0	14.1	14.0	13.9	13.8	15.0	14.5	14.3	14.1	13.8
Finland ⁷	8.6	8.8	8.8	8.9	8.9	7.2	7.6	7.7	7.8	7.9
Sweden	8.2	7.7	8.0	8.3	8.1	7.8	8.3	7.8	7.7	7.8
United Kingdom	8.2	7.7	7.5	:	:	7.2	6.9	6.7	:	:
Iceland ⁷	5.8	5.9	5.7	5.5	5.3	5.2	4.9	4.9	5.0	5.0
Norway	3.8	3.6	3.4	:	:	3.3	3.3	3.2	:	:

: Data not available