

70/2014 - 2 May 2014

March 2014

Euro area unemployment rate at 11.8%

EU28 at 10.5%

The **euro area**¹ (EA18) seasonally-adjusted² unemployment rate³ was 11.8% in March 2014, stable since December 2013⁴, but down from 12.0% in March 2013. The **EU28**¹ unemployment rate was 10.5% in March 2014, stable compared with February 2014⁴, but down from 10.9% in March 2013. These figures are published by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**.

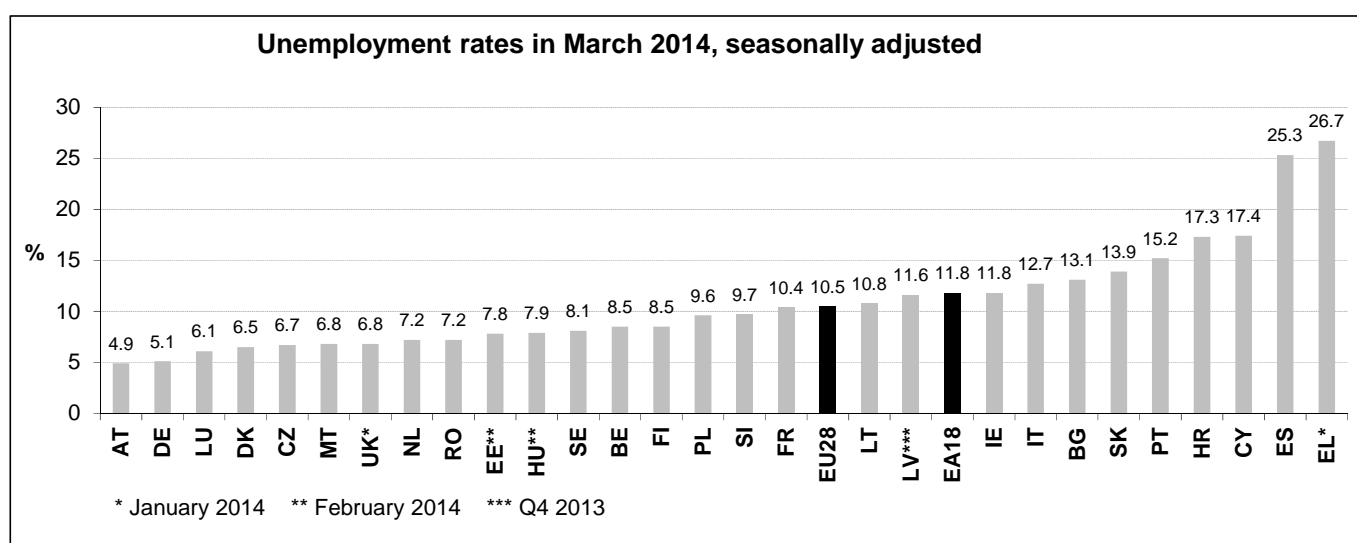
Eurostat estimates that 25.699 million men and women in the **EU28**, of whom 18.913 million were in the **euro area**, were unemployed in March 2014. Compared with February 2014, the number of persons unemployed decreased by 66 000 in the **EU28** and by 22 000 in the **euro area**. Compared with March 2013, unemployment decreased by 929 000 in the **EU28** and by 316 000 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** (6.1%), and the highest in **Greece** (26.7% in January 2014) and **Spain** (25.3%).

Compared with a year ago, the unemployment rate increased in ten Member States, remained stable in three and fell in fifteen. The highest increases were registered in **Cyprus** (14.8% to 17.4%), the **Netherlands** (6.4% to 7.2%), **Italy** (12.0% to 12.7%) and **Croatia** (16.6% to 17.3%), and the largest decreases in **Hungary** (11.2% to 7.9% between February 2013 and February 2014), **Latvia** (13.9% to 11.6% between the fourth quarters of 2012 and 2013), **Portugal** (17.4% to 15.2%) and **Ireland** (13.7% to 11.8%).

In March 2014, the unemployment rate in the **United States** was 6.7%, stable compared with February 2014, but down from 7.5% in March 2013.



Youth unemployment

In March 2014, 5.340 million young persons (under 25) were unemployed in the **EU28**, of whom 3.426 million were in the **euro area**. Compared with March 2013, youth unemployment decreased by 322 000 in the **EU28** and by 166 000 in the **euro area**. In March 2014, the youth unemployment rate⁵ was 22.8% in the **EU28** and 23.7% in the **euro area**, compared with 23.5% and 24.0% respectively in March 2013. In March 2014, the lowest rates were observed in **Germany** (7.8%), **Austria** (9.5%) and the **Netherlands** (11.3%), and the highest in **Greece** (56.8% in January 2014), **Spain** (53.9%) and **Croatia** (49.0% in the first quarter of 2014).

1. The euro area (EA18) includes Belgium, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Italy, Cyprus, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Austria, Portugal, Slovenia, Slovakia and Finland. 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). 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 52/2014 of 1 April 2014, the February 2014 unemployment rates have been revised from 11.9% to 11.8% for the EA18 and from 10.6% to 10.5% for the EU28. Among Member States, rates have been revised by between 0.3 and 0.4 percentage points for Estonia and Greece (both for December 2013), Spain and Italy. The revisions for Estonia and Spain also reflect the inclusion of the latest Census results in the weighting of the LFS.
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.
8. For Denmark, Estonia, Hungary and the United Kingdom 3-month moving averages of LFS data are used instead of pure monthly indicators.

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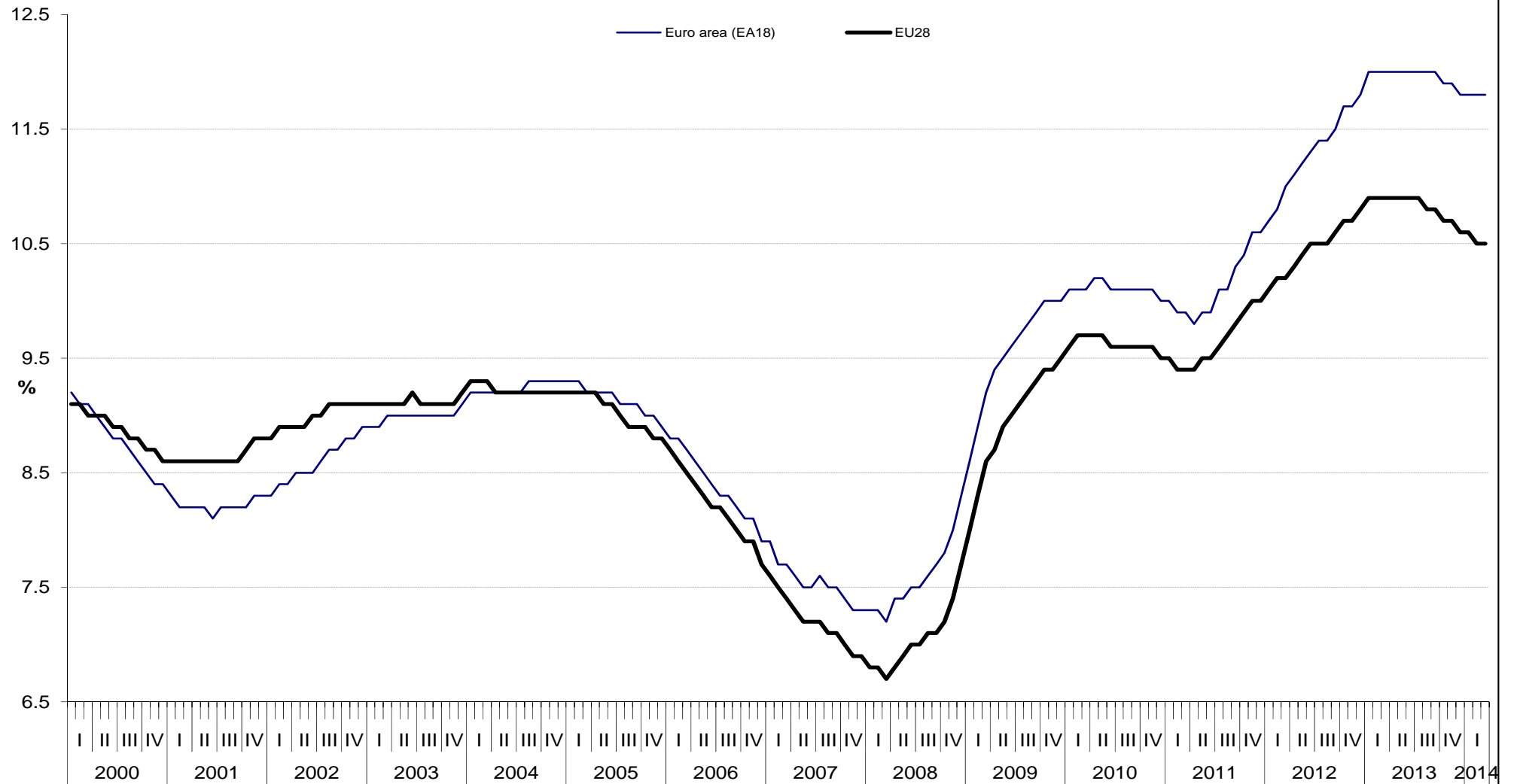
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Selected Principal European Economic Indicators: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/euroindicators>
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Euro area and EU28 unemployment rates Seasonally adjusted series



Seasonally adjusted unemployment, totals

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	Mar 13	Dec 13	Jan 14	Feb 14	Mar 14	Mar 13	Dec 13	Jan 14	Feb 14	Mar 14
EA18	12.0	11.8	11.8	11.8	11.8	19 229	18 966	18 970	18 935	18 913
EU28	10.9	10.6	10.6	10.5	10.5	26 628	25 949	25 848	25 765	25 699
Belgium	8.3	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	410	417	420	418	420
Bulgaria	13.0	13.2	13.2	13.1	13.1	440	445	445	443	443
Czech Republic	7.3	6.7	6.6	6.6	6.7	386	354	351	350	356
Denmark⁶	7.1	7.1	6.9	6.9	6.5	205	204	199	197	188
Germany⁷	5.4	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.1	2 292	2 213	2 204	2 196	2 191
Estonia⁸	9.2**	8.4	8.2	7.8	:	63**	56	55	52	:
Ireland	13.7	12.0	11.9	11.9	11.8	295	259	258	257	257
Greece	26.5*	27.2	26.7	:	:	1 311*	1 335	1 318	:	:
Spain	26.3	25.6	25.5	25.3	25.3	6 131	5 885	5 849	5 793	5 777
France	10.4	10.2	10.3	10.4	10.4	3 032	3 009	3 031	3 051	3 056
Croatia	16.6	17.3	17.5	17.5	17.3	277	289	294	295	292
Italy	12.0	12.6	12.7	12.7	12.7	3 053	3 202	3 249	3 253	3 248
Cyprus	14.8	16.9	16.5	16.8	17.4	65	76	74	75	78
Latvia⁶	13.9***	11.6	:	:	:	130***	118	:	:	:
Lithuania	12.4	10.9	11.3	11.5	10.8	182	160	167	168	158
Luxembourg	5.7	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	14	16	16	15	16
Hungary⁸	11.2**	8.7	8.2	7.9	:	486**	388	368	355	:
Malta	6.4	6.7	6.9	6.9	6.8	12	13	13	13	13
Netherlands⁷	6.4	7.0	7.1	7.3	7.2	573	628	634	649	642
Austria⁷	4.9	5.0	4.9	4.8	4.9	213	221	217	212	216
Poland	10.6	9.9	9.8	9.7	9.6	1 833	1 722	1 704	1 682	1 653
Portugal	17.4	15.3	15.2	15.2	15.2	921	815	810	810	807
Romania	7.2	7.3	7.3	7.2	7.2	718	732	730	721	724
Slovenia	10.7	9.8	9.8	9.7	9.7	108	97	97	96	95
Slovakia	14.2	14.1	14.0	13.9	13.9	386	381	380	380	380
Finland⁷	8.1	8.4	8.4	8.5	8.5	217	224	225	226	227
Sweden	8.3	8.0	8.2	8.1	8.1	426	409	421	418	417
United Kingdom⁸	7.9*	7.1	6.8	:	:	2 525*	2 280	2 201	:	:
Iceland⁷	5.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	10	10	10	10	10
Norway	3.5**	3.7	3.5	3.5	:	95**	100	96	96	:
United States	7.5	6.7	6.6	6.7	6.7	11 614	10 342	10 212	10 409	10 444

: Data not available

* January 2013

** February 2013

*** Q4 2012

Seasonally adjusted youth (under 25s) unemployment

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	Mar 13	Dec 13	Jan 14	Feb 14	Mar 14	Mar 13	Dec 13	Jan 14	Feb 14	Mar 14
EA18	24.0	23.7	23.8	23.7	23.7	3 592	3 475	3 479	3 436	3 426
EU28	23.5	23.0	23.0	22.8	22.8	5 662	5 448	5 422	5 365	5 340
Belgium	22.9	24.0	24.4	24.2	23.9	94	99	99	98	96
Bulgaria	28.3	28.1	28.3	28.3	28.3	68	61	61	61	60
Czech Republic	19.5	18.6	17.8	16.5	16.4	72	66	63	59	59
Denmark⁶	12.8	13.6	13.4	12.9	12.6	57	59	59	56	55
Germany⁷	7.8	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.8	352	350	347	344	341
Estonia⁸	19.3	18.1	19.0	15.7	:	12	11	11	9	:
Ireland	27.9	25.6	26.0	26.0	25.9	60	53	54	54	54
Greece	58.8	57.1	56.8	:	:	182	170	167	:	:
Spain	55.4	54.4	54.4	53.9	53.9	976	908	905	880	873
France	25.3	23.7	23.7	23.6	23.4	720	663	663	662	656
Croatia⁶	50.5	48.6	49.0	49.0	49.0	76	72	73	73	73
Italy	39.6	41.7	42.9	42.8	42.7	640	675	688	674	683
Cyprus⁶	35.8	40.8	43.2	43.2	43.2	15	18	19	19	19
Latvia⁶	23.0	23.9	:	:	:	22	23	:	:	:
Lithuania	22.4	20.5	21.1	21.1	20.4	28	25	27	26	26
Luxembourg	18.6	17.4	17.6	17.4	17.2	3	3	3	3	3
Hungary⁸	27.5	24.1	22.7	20.7	:	84	76	73	68	:
Malta	13.7	13.7	13.8	13.8	13.7	4	4	4	4	4
Netherlands⁷	10.5	11.3	11.1	11.5	11.3	150	160	156	162	157
Austria⁷	8.2	10.2	10.3	9.6	9.5	49	60	61	56	56
Poland	27.3	26.9	26.9	26.7	26.3	412	396	392	386	376
Portugal	40.1	34.3	34.6	35.0	35.4	158	129	131	133	135
Romania⁶	23.1	24.1	:	:	:	185	191	:	:	:
Slovenia⁶	21.9	19.9	19.8	19.8	19.8	16	14	13	13	13
Slovakia	33.6	33.4	32.6	32.4	32.5	75	69	68	68	69
Finland⁷	19.9	20.0	20.2	20.4	20.5	66	67	67	68	68
Sweden	24.8	22.7	22.9	23.6	23.5	166	150	153	160	154
United Kingdom⁸	20.3	19.5	18.9	:	:	922	879	850	:	:
Iceland⁷	11.5	10.3	10.4	10.4	10.5	4	3	3	3	3
Norway	9.5	9.6	8.8	8.0	:	37	36	33	29	:

: Data not available

Seasonally adjusted unemployment rates (%), by gender

	Males					Females				
	Mar 13	Dec 13	Jan 14	Feb 14	Mar 14	Mar 13	Dec 13	Jan 14	Feb 14	Mar 14
EA18	11.9	11.7	11.7	11.7	11.7	12.1	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0
EU28	10.9	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.4	10.9	10.7	10.7	10.6	10.6
Belgium	8.5	8.7	8.8	8.8	8.7	8.1	8.2	8.2	8.1	8.2
Bulgaria	14.2	14.1	14.1	14.0	14.0	11.7	12.1	12.1	12.1	12.1
Czech Republic	6.3	5.6	5.5	5.5	5.6	8.6	8.0	8.1	8.0	8.2
Denmark ⁶	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.4	6.1	7.5	7.6	7.3	7.4	7.0
Germany ⁷	5.7	5.5	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.0	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8
Estonia ⁸	8.9	8.7	8.5	8.3	:	8.7	8.0	7.9	7.3	:
Ireland	15.7	13.4	13.2	13.2	13.1	11.3	10.3	10.2	10.2	10.3
Greece	24.1	24.3	24.1	:	:	30.5	31.2	30.2	:	:
Spain	25.9	24.9	24.8	24.7	24.6	26.8	26.3	26.2	26.0	26.1
France	10.5	10.2	10.3	10.4	10.4	10.2	10.3	10.4	10.4	10.4
Croatia	17.5	17.3	17.6	17.7	17.6	15.6	17.2	17.3	17.3	17.0
Italy	11.2	11.9	11.9	12.1	12.0	13.0	13.5	13.8	13.6	13.6
Cyprus	15.0	18.0	17.2	17.6	18.4	14.5	15.8	15.8	16.1	16.4
Latvia ⁶	13.7	12.3	:	:	:	11.6	11.0	:	:	:
Lithuania	14.3	12.2	12.5	12.8	11.9	10.5	9.7	10.2	10.2	9.7
Luxembourg	5.2	5.7	5.6	5.5	5.5	6.2	6.7	6.9	6.8	6.9
Hungary ⁸	10.8	8.4	7.9	7.6	:	10.4	9.1	8.6	8.3	:
Malta	6.3	6.8	6.9	6.8	6.7	6.6	6.7	6.9	7.0	6.9
Netherlands ⁷	6.8	7.4	7.4	7.6	7.4	6.0	6.6	6.8	6.9	7.1
Austria ⁷	4.9	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.9	4.8	5.3	5.1	4.9	4.9
Poland	9.9	9.3	9.2	9.0	8.9	11.4	10.6	10.6	10.5	10.4
Portugal	17.6	15.0	14.9	15.0	14.9	17.1	15.7	15.6	15.5	15.5
Romania	7.7	7.9	7.8	7.7	7.8	6.6	6.5	6.5	6.6	6.4
Slovenia	10.2	9.2	9.1	9.0	8.8	11.3	10.5	10.6	10.6	10.7
Slovakia	13.7	14.3	14.3	14.3	14.2	14.7	13.8	13.6	13.5	13.5
Finland ⁷	8.8	8.9	8.9	9.0	9.0	7.3	7.8	7.8	7.9	8.0
Sweden	8.4	8.1	8.4	8.3	8.3	8.3	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.8
United Kingdom ⁸	8.1	7.4	7.1	:	:	7.2	6.7	6.5	:	:
Iceland ⁷	5.8	5.6	5.7	5.6	5.6	5.3	5.0	5.1	5.1	5.1
Norway	3.9	3.7	3.5	3.5	:	3.4	3.7	3.5	3.5	:

: Data not available