

52/2014 - 1 April 2014

February 2014

## Euro area unemployment rate at 11.9%

EU28 at 10.6%

The **euro area**<sup>1</sup> (EA18) seasonally-adjusted<sup>2</sup> unemployment rate<sup>3</sup> was 11.9% in February 2014, stable since October 2013<sup>4</sup>. It was 12.0% in February 2013. The **EU28**<sup>1</sup> unemployment rate was 10.6% in February 2014, down from 10.7% in January 2014<sup>4</sup>. It was 10.9% in February 2013. These figures are published by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**.

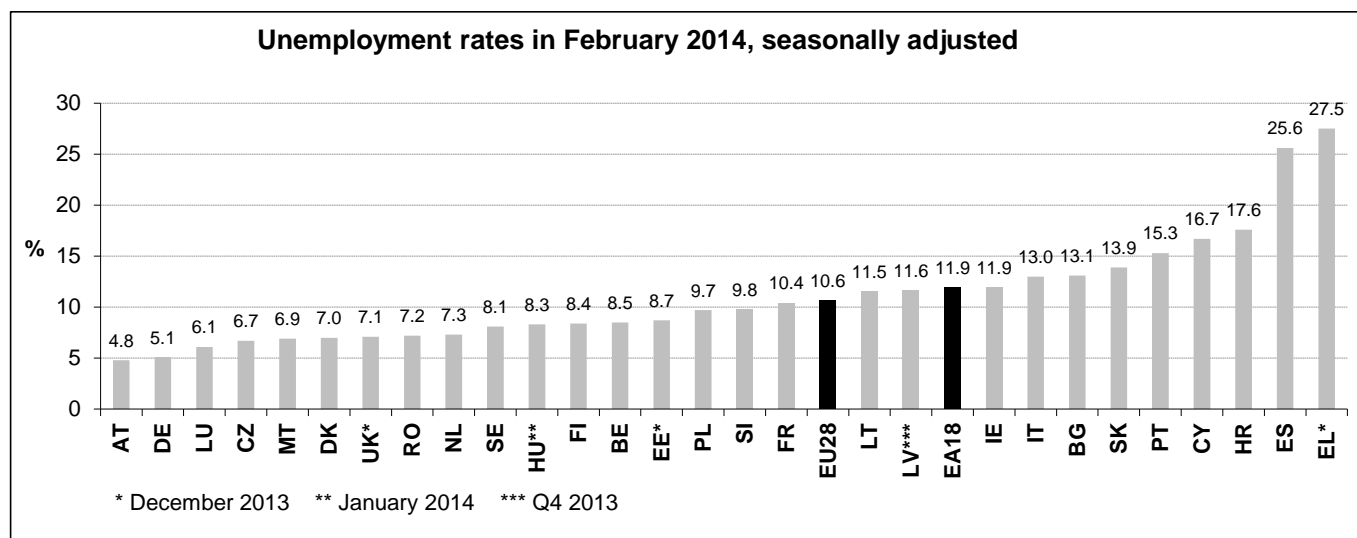
Eurostat estimates that 25.920 million men and women in the **EU28**, of whom 18.965 million were in the **euro area**, were unemployed in February 2014. Compared with January 2014, the number of persons unemployed decreased by 65 000 in the **EU28** and by 35 000 in the **euro area**. Compared with February 2013, unemployment decreased by 619 000 in the **EU28**, and by 166 000 in the **euro area**.

### Member States

Among the Member States, the lowest unemployment rates were recorded in **Austria** (4.8%), **Germany** (5.1%) and **Luxembourg** (6.1%), and the highest in **Greece** (27.5% in December 2013) and **Spain** (25.6%).

Compared with a year ago, the unemployment rate increased in eleven Member States, fell in fifteen and remained stable in **Romania** and **Sweden**. The highest increases were registered in **Cyprus** (14.7% to 16.7%), **Greece** (26.3% to 27.5% between December 2012 and December 2013), **Italy** (11.8% to 13.0%) and the **Netherlands** (6.2% to 7.3%). The largest decreases were observed in **Hungary** (11.2% to 8.3% between January 2013 and January 2014), **Latvia** (13.8% to 11.6% between the fourth quarters of 2012 and 2013), **Portugal** (17.5% to 15.3%), and **Ireland** (13.7% to 11.9%).

In February 2014, the unemployment rate in the **United States** was 6.7%, up from 6.6% in January 2014, but down from 7.7% in February 2013.



## Youth unemployment

In February 2014, 5.392 million young persons (under 25) were unemployed in the **EU28**, of whom 3.415 million were in the **euro area**. Compared with February 2013, youth unemployment decreased by 295 000 in the **EU28** and by 194 000 in the **euro area**. In February 2014, the youth unemployment rate<sup>5</sup> was 22.9% in the **EU28** and 23.5% in the **euro area**, compared with 23.6% and 24.0% respectively in February 2013. In February 2014, the lowest rates were observed in **Germany** (7.7%), **Austria** (9.4%) and the **Netherlands** (11.5%), and the highest in **Greece** (58.3% in December 2013), **Spain** (53.6%) and **Croatia** (48.8% in the fourth quarter of 2013).

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](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 30/2014 of 28 February 2014, the January 2014 unemployment rate has been revised from 12.0% to 11.9% for the EA18 and from 10.8% to 10.7% for the EU28. Among Member States, the rate has been revised by between 0.3 and 0.4 percentage points for Estonia (for December 2013), Greece (for December 2013), Cyprus, Slovenia and Slovakia. The rate has been revised downwards by 0.6 pp for France and by 1.2 pp for Croatia. The revision for France is mainly due to methodological changes to the LFS, which over the period January 2003 - January 2014 caused a general downwards revision of 0.4 pp on average.
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](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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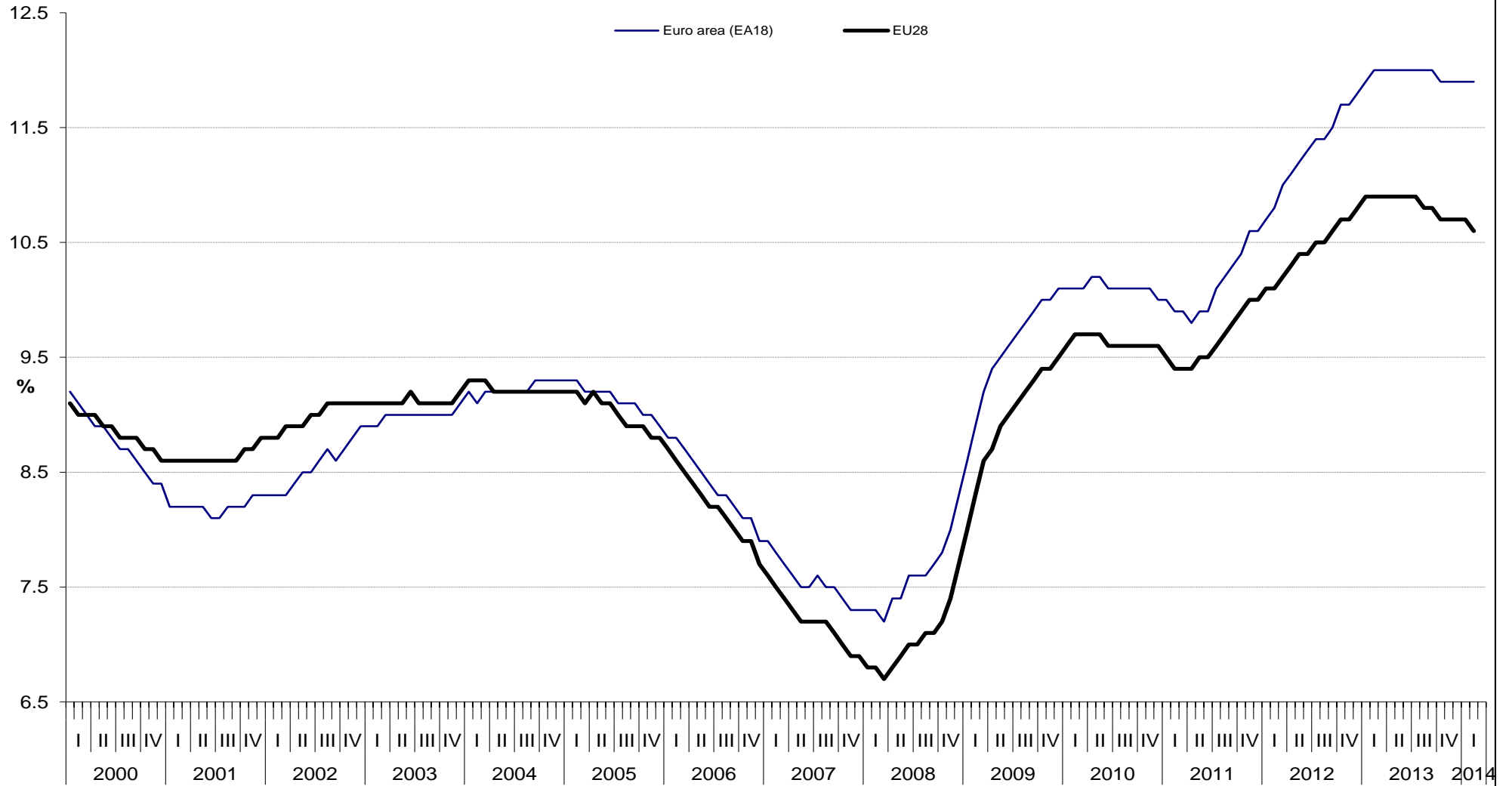
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Selected Principal European Economic Indicators: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/euroindicators>

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

— Euro area (EA18)      — EU28



### Seasonally adjusted unemployment, Totals

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	Feb 13	Nov 13	Dec 13	Jan 14	Feb 14	Feb 13	Nov 13	Dec 13	Jan 14	Feb 14
<b>EA18</b>	12.0	11.9	11.9	11.9	<b>11.9</b>	19 131	19 065	18 961	19 000	<b>18 965</b>
<b>EU28</b>	10.9	10.7	10.7	10.7	<b>10.6</b>	26 539	26 121	25 967	25 985	<b>25 920</b>
<b>Belgium</b>	8.3	8.4	8.4	8.5	<b>8.5</b>	407	416	416	419	<b>417</b>
<b>Bulgaria</b>	12.9	13.1	13.2	13.2	<b>13.1</b>	434	442	445	445	<b>443</b>
<b>Czech Republic</b>	7.3	6.8	6.7	6.7	<b>6.7</b>	384	359	357	356	<b>355</b>
<b>Denmark</b>	7.2	6.8	7.1	7.0	<b>7.0</b>	209	197	205	201	<b>202</b>
<b>Germany<sup>7</sup></b>	5.4	5.2	5.2	5.1	<b>5.1</b>	2 299	2 219	2 204	2 188	<b>2 174</b>
<b>Estonia</b>	9.4*	8.9	8.7	:	:	63*	60	59	:	:
<b>Ireland</b>	13.7	12.2	12.0	11.9	<b>11.9</b>	293	264	260	258	<b>258</b>
<b>Greece</b>	26.3*	27.6	27.5	:	:	1 301*	1 360	1 349	:	:
<b>Spain</b>	26.6	26.1	25.8	25.8	<b>25.6</b>	6 070	5 915	5 841	5 811	<b>5 755</b>
<b>France</b>	10.3	10.2	10.2	10.3	<b>10.4</b>	3 026	2 991	3 009	3 031	<b>3 051</b>
<b>Croatia</b>	16.9	17.5	17.3	17.6	<b>17.6</b>	280	292	290	296	<b>297</b>
<b>Italy</b>	11.8	12.8	12.7	12.9	<b>13.0</b>	3 034	3 262	3 236	3 299	<b>3 307</b>
<b>Cyprus</b>	14.7	16.7	16.9	16.5	<b>16.7</b>	65	75	76	73	<b>74</b>
<b>Latvia<sup>6</sup></b>	13.8***	11.6	11.6	:	:	130***	118	118	:	:
<b>Lithuania</b>	12.6	10.9	10.9	11.3	<b>11.5</b>	186	159	160	167	<b>168</b>
<b>Luxembourg</b>	5.6	6.0	6.1	6.1	<b>6.1</b>	14	15	16	16	<b>15</b>
<b>Hungary</b>	11.2**	9.3	8.8	8.3	:	485**	411	389	369	:
<b>Malta</b>	6.3	6.6	6.8	6.9	<b>6.9</b>	12	13	13	13	<b>13</b>
<b>Netherlands<sup>7</sup></b>	6.2	6.9	7.0	7.1	<b>7.3</b>	550	621	628	634	<b>649</b>
<b>Austria<sup>7</sup></b>	5.0	5.0	5.0	4.9	<b>4.8</b>	220	219	221	217	<b>210</b>
<b>Poland</b>	10.6	10.0	9.9	9.8	<b>9.7</b>	1 833	1 743	1 726	1 709	<b>1 689</b>
<b>Portugal</b>	17.5	15.4	15.3	15.3	<b>15.3</b>	928	819	816	812	<b>812</b>
<b>Romania</b>	7.2	7.4	7.3	7.3	<b>7.2</b>	714	737	732	730	<b>721</b>
<b>Slovenia</b>	10.6	9.7	9.8	9.8	<b>9.8</b>	106	96	98	97	<b>97</b>
<b>Slovakia</b>	14.2	14.1	14.1	14.0	<b>13.9</b>	388	382	381	380	<b>380</b>
<b>Finland<sup>7</sup></b>	8.1	8.3	8.3	8.4	<b>8.4</b>	217	222	223	224	<b>226</b>
<b>Sweden</b>	8.1	8.0	8.0	8.2	<b>8.1</b>	414	412	410	420	<b>419</b>
<b>United Kingdom</b>	7.7*	7.1	7.1	:	:	2 478*	2 305	2 292	:	:
<b>Iceland<sup>7</sup></b>	5.6	5.5	5.5	5.5	:	10	10	10	10	:
<b>Norway</b>	3.6*	3.5	3.6	:	:	96*	96	99	:	:
<b>United States</b>	7.7	7.0	6.7	6.6	<b>6.7</b>	11 990	10 838	10 342	10 212	<b>10 409</b>

: Data not available

\* December 2012

\*\* January 2013

\*\*\* Q4 2012

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

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	Feb 13	Nov 13	Dec 13	Jan 14	Feb 14	Feb 13	Nov 13	Dec 13	Jan 14	Feb 14
<b>EA18</b>	24.0	23.7	23.5	23.6	<b>23.5</b>	3 609	3 469	3 445	3 453	<b>3 415</b>
<b>EU28</b>	23.6	23.1	23.0	23.0	<b>22.9</b>	5 687	5 477	5 428	5 437	<b>5 392</b>
<b>Belgium</b>	22.5	23.7	23.8	24.2	<b>24.1</b>	93	97	98	99	<b>97</b>
<b>Bulgaria</b>	27.8	28.1	28.2	28.4	<b>28.4</b>	68	60	61	62	<b>61</b>
<b>Czech Republic</b>	19.6	19.3	18.7	18.2	<b>17.1</b>	73	68	66	64	<b>60</b>
<b>Denmark</b>	13.0	12.9	13.6	13.6	<b>13.4</b>	58	56	59	59	<b>58</b>
<b>Germany<sup>7</sup></b>	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.7	<b>7.7</b>	352	349	346	342	<b>338</b>
<b>Estonia</b>	21.1	21.9	19.1	:	:	13	13	12	:	:
<b>Ireland</b>	28.1	25.4	25.6	26.0	<b>26.0</b>	61	52	53	54	<b>54</b>
<b>Greece</b>	60.8	58.3	58.3	:	:	182	171	169	:	:
<b>Spain</b>	55.8	55.1	54.2	54.2	<b>53.6</b>	966	908	887	883	<b>861</b>
<b>France</b>	25.5	23.6	23.7	23.6	<b>23.6</b>	727	661	663	663	<b>662</b>
<b>Croatia<sup>6</sup></b>	50.5	48.8	48.8	:	:	77	72	72	:	:
<b>Italy</b>	38.7	41.8	41.7	42.4	<b>42.3</b>	651	670	673	689	<b>678</b>
<b>Cyprus<sup>6</sup></b>	35.7	40.5	40.5	:	:	15	18	18	:	:
<b>Latvia<sup>6</sup></b>	22.9	23.8	23.8	:	:	22	23	23	:	:
<b>Lithuania</b>	22.6	20.4	20.5	21.1	<b>21.1</b>	28	25	25	27	<b>26</b>
<b>Luxembourg</b>	18.6	17.1	17.4	17.7	<b>17.4</b>	3	3	3	3	<b>3</b>
<b>Hungary</b>	29.3	25.1	24.4	23.0	:	89	78	77	74	:
<b>Malta</b>	13.8	13.4	13.9	14.0	<b>13.9</b>	4	4	4	4	<b>4</b>
<b>Netherlands<sup>7</sup></b>	10.4	11.4	11.3	11.1	<b>11.5</b>	148	163	160	156	<b>162</b>
<b>Austria<sup>7</sup></b>	8.9	9.6	10.1	10.3	<b>9.4</b>	53	56	60	61	<b>54</b>
<b>Poland</b>	27.5	27.3	27.0	27.0	<b>26.9</b>	417	401	397	395	<b>389</b>
<b>Portugal</b>	40.6	34.8	34.3	34.6	<b>35.0</b>	162	132	129	130	<b>132</b>
<b>Romania<sup>6</sup></b>	23.1	24.1	24.1	:	:	185	191	191	:	:
<b>Slovenia<sup>6</sup></b>	21.9	20.0	20.0	:	:	16	14	14	:	:
<b>Slovakia</b>	34.0	33.5	33.3	32.5	<b>32.3</b>	76	69	68	68	<b>68</b>
<b>Finland<sup>7</sup></b>	19.9	19.9	19.9	20.1	<b>20.2</b>	66	66	66	67	<b>67</b>
<b>Sweden</b>	24.2	24.1	22.6	22.9	<b>23.6</b>	157	163	149	154	<b>160</b>
<b>United Kingdom</b>	20.5	19.8	19.7	:	:	927	893	885	:	:
<b>Iceland<sup>7</sup></b>	11.4	10.6	10.6	10.8	:	4	4	4	4	:
<b>Norway</b>	9.6	9.2	9.6	:	:	37	35	37	:	:

: Data not available

### Seasonally adjusted unemployment rates (%), by gender

	Males					Females				
	Feb 13	Nov 13	Dec 13	Jan 14	Feb 14	Feb 13	Nov 13	Dec 13	Jan 14	Feb 14
EA18	11.9	11.8	11.7	11.7	<b>11.8</b>	12.1	12.1	12.0	12.1	<b>12.0</b>
EU28	10.9	10.7	10.6	10.6	<b>10.6</b>	10.9	10.8	10.8	10.8	<b>10.7</b>
Belgium	8.5	8.7	8.7	8.8	<b>8.7</b>	8.0	8.2	8.1	8.2	<b>8.1</b>
Bulgaria	14.1	14.1	14.2	14.1	<b>14.0</b>	11.6	12.1	12.1	12.1	<b>12.1</b>
Czech Republic	6.3	5.7	5.7	5.7	<b>5.7</b>	8.5	8.1	8.1	8.1	<b>8.0</b>
Denmark	7.1	6.3	6.6	6.6	<b>6.5</b>	7.4	7.4	7.6	7.4	<b>7.6</b>
Germany <sup>7</sup>	5.7	5.5	5.5	5.4	<b>5.4</b>	5.1	4.8	4.8	4.8	<b>4.7</b>
Estonia	9.6	9.4	9.2	:	:	8.7	8.4	8.2	:	:
Ireland	15.8	13.6	13.4	13.2	<b>13.2</b>	11.1	10.4	10.3	10.3	<b>10.3</b>
Greece	23.9	24.6	24.5	:	:	30.3	31.7	31.6	:	:
Spain	26.1	25.4	25.1	25.0	<b>24.8</b>	27.1	26.9	26.7	26.7	<b>26.6</b>
France	10.4	10.2	10.2	10.3	<b>10.4</b>	10.2	10.2	10.3	10.4	<b>10.4</b>
Croatia	17.5	17.6	17.4	17.8	<b>17.9</b>	16.1	17.5	17.3	17.4	<b>17.4</b>
Italy	11.1	12.1	12.1	12.3	<b>12.5</b>	12.9	13.6	13.6	13.8	<b>13.6</b>
Cyprus	15.0	17.8	18.0	17.2	<b>17.5</b>	14.4	15.6	15.7	15.7	<b>15.9</b>
Latvia <sup>6</sup>	13.7	12.2	12.2	:	:	11.6	11.0	11.0	:	:
Lithuania	14.6	12.1	12.2	12.5	<b>12.8</b>	10.7	9.8	9.7	10.2	<b>10.2</b>
Luxembourg	5.1	5.6	5.7	5.6	<b>5.5</b>	6.1	6.6	6.7	6.9	<b>6.8</b>
Hungary	11.6	9.1	8.4	7.9	:	10.6	9.5	9.2	8.7	:
Malta	6.2	6.6	6.8	6.9	<b>6.8</b>	6.5	6.5	6.8	7.0	<b>7.0</b>
Netherlands <sup>7</sup>	6.6	7.3	7.4	7.4	<b>7.6</b>	5.7	6.5	6.6	6.8	<b>6.9</b>
Austria <sup>7</sup>	5.2	4.8	4.8	4.8	<b>4.8</b>	4.8	5.2	5.3	5.1	<b>4.8</b>
Poland	9.9	9.5	9.3	9.2	<b>9.1</b>	11.5	10.8	10.6	10.6	<b>10.6</b>
Portugal	17.8	15.0	15.0	14.9	<b>15.0</b>	17.2	15.9	15.8	15.6	<b>15.6</b>
Romania	7.7	8.0	7.9	7.8	<b>7.7</b>	6.5	6.6	6.5	6.5	<b>6.6</b>
Slovenia	10.1	9.0	9.2	9.2	<b>9.1</b>	11.2	10.5	10.5	10.6	<b>10.6</b>
Slovakia	13.7	14.2	14.3	14.3	<b>14.3</b>	14.9	14.0	13.8	13.6	<b>13.5</b>
Finland <sup>7</sup>	8.8	8.9	9.0	9.0	<b>9.1</b>	7.3	7.7	7.7	7.7	<b>7.7</b>
Sweden	8.4	8.3	8.1	8.4	<b>8.4</b>	7.8	7.7	7.9	7.9	<b>7.9</b>
United Kingdom	8.2	7.5	7.4	:	:	7.2	6.7	6.8	:	:
Iceland <sup>7</sup>	5.9	5.8	5.8	5.8	:	5.3	5.1	5.1	5.2	:
Norway	3.8	3.6	3.8	:	:	3.2	3.4	3.5	:	:

: Data not available