

January 2015

Euro area unemployment rate at 11.2%

EU28 at 9.8%

The **euro area**¹ (EA19) seasonally-adjusted² unemployment rate³ was 11.2% in January 2015, down from 11.3% in December 2014⁴, and from 11.8% in January 2014. This is the lowest rate recorded in the **euro area** since April 2012. The **EU28**¹ unemployment rate was 9.8% in January 2015, down from 9.9% in December 2014 and from 10.6% in January 2014. These figures are published by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**.

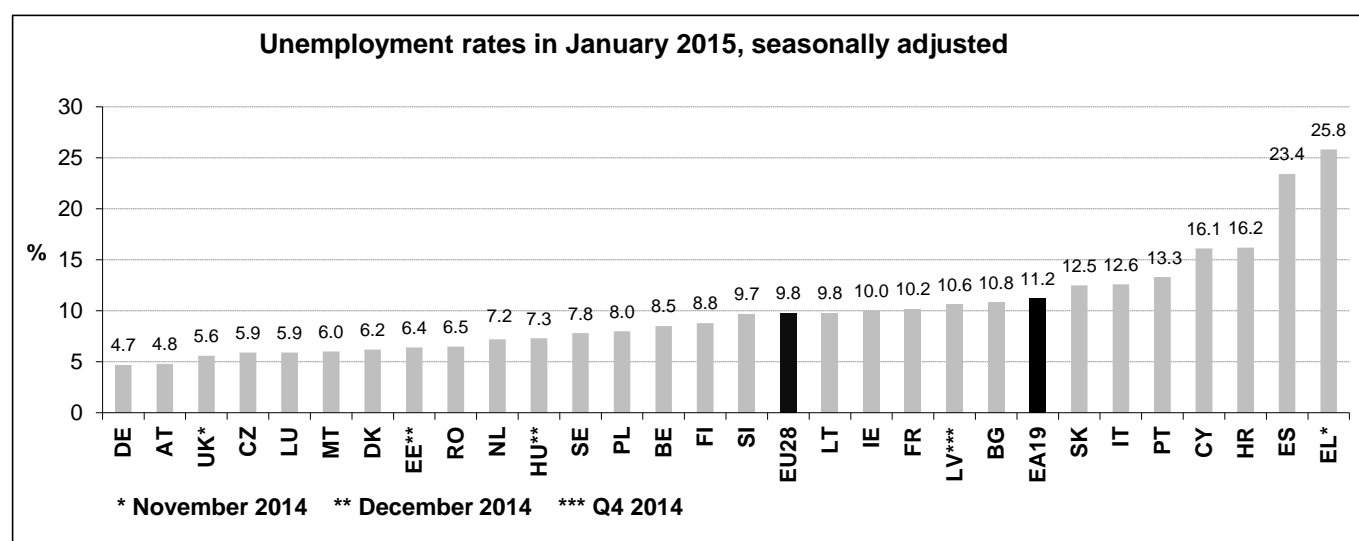
Eurostat estimates that 23.815 million men and women in the **EU28**, of whom 18.059 million were in the **euro area**, were unemployed in January 2015. Compared with December 2014, the number of persons unemployed decreased by 156 000 in the **EU28** and by 140 000 in the **euro area**. Compared with January 2014, unemployment fell by 1.820 million in the **EU28** and by 896 000 in the **euro area**.

Member States

Among the Member States, the lowest unemployment rates in January 2015 were recorded in **Germany** (4.7%) and **Austria** (4.8%), and the highest in **Greece** (25.8% in November 2014) and **Spain** (23.4%).

Compared with a year ago, the unemployment rate in January 2015 fell in twenty-four Member States, remained stable in **Belgium** and increased in **Cyprus** (15.7% to 16.1%), **Finland** (8.4% to 8.8%) and **France** (10.1% to 10.2%). The largest decreases were registered in **Spain** (25.5% to 23.4%), **Estonia** (8.5% to 6.4% between December 2013 and December 2014), and **Ireland** (12.1% to 10.0%).

In January 2015, the unemployment rate in the **United States** was 5.7%, up from 5.6% in December 2014, but down from 6.6% in January 2014.



Youth unemployment

In January 2015, 4.889 million young persons (under 25) were unemployed in the **EU28**, of whom 3.281 million were in the **euro area**. Compared with January 2014, youth unemployment decreased by 562 000 in the **EU28** and by 259 000 in the **euro area**. In January 2015, the youth unemployment rate⁵ was 21.2% in the **EU28** and 22.9% in the **euro area**, compared with 23.3% and 24.3% respectively in January 2014. In January 2015, the lowest rates were observed in **Germany** (7.1%), **Austria** (8.2%) and **Denmark** (10.8%), and the highest in **Spain** (50.9%), **Greece** (50.6% in November 2014), **Croatia** (44.1% in the fourth quarter 2014) and **Italy** (41.2%).

1. 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 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://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/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 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 20/2015 of 30 January 2015, the December 2014 unemployment rates remain unchanged at 11.3% for the EA19 and at 9.9% for the EU28. Among Member States, rates have been revised between 0.2 and 0.4 percentage points for Denmark, Ireland, Italy, Poland, Portugal and Romania. The rate has been revised upwards by 0.6 percentage points for Lithuania. For the Netherlands, the rate has been revised upwards by 0.5 percentage points due to changes in the questionnaire and mode of data collection. The absolute average revision for the complete Dutch time-series is 0.6 percentage points.
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://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/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, Sweden and Iceland the trend component is used instead of the more volatile seasonally adjusted data. For Sweden and Iceland, seasonally adjusted data are available in the online data base on the Eurostat website: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database>
8. For Denmark, Estonia, Hungary, the United Kingdom and Norway 3-month moving averages of LFS data are used instead of pure monthly indicators.

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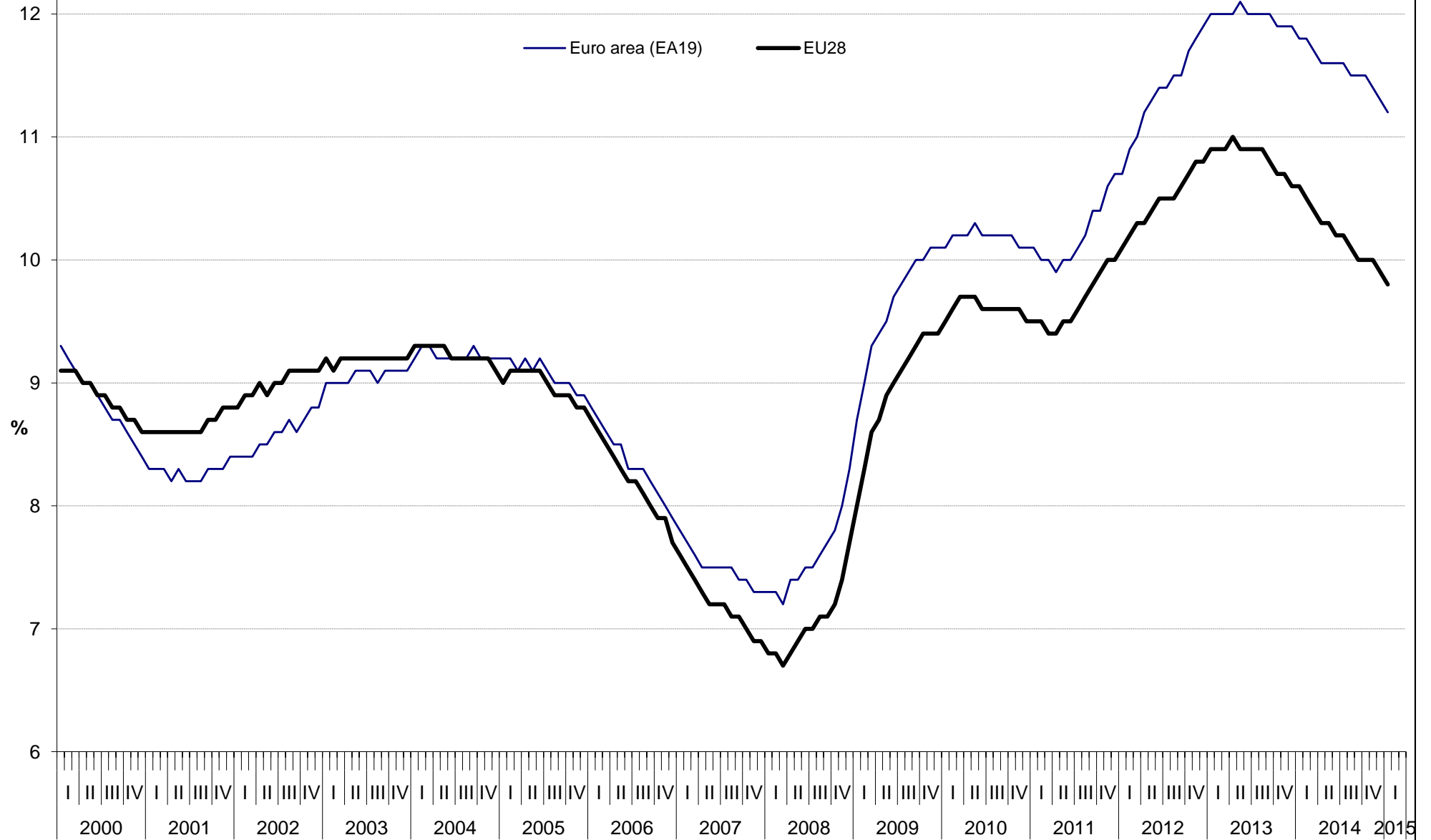
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Euro area and EU28 unemployment rates Seasonally adjusted series



Seasonally adjusted unemployment, totals

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	Jan 14	Oct 14	Nov 14	Dec 14	Jan 15	Jan 14	Oct 14	Nov 14	Dec 14	Jan 15
EA19	11.8	11.5	11.4	11.3	11.2	18 955	18 419	18 408	18 199	18 059
EA18	11.8	11.5	11.5	11.3	11.2	18 787	18 269	18 260	18 052	17 915
EU28	10.6	10.0	10.0	9.9	9.8	25 635	24 341	24 241	23 971	23 815
Belgium	8.5	8.6	8.6	8.5	8.5	420	429	429	426	426
Bulgaria	12.6	11.3	11.1	10.9	10.8	424	383	376	368	367
Czech Republic	6.6	5.8	5.9	5.9	5.9	351	305	310	311	314
Denmark⁸	7.0	6.4	6.4	6.2	6.2	201	188	187	182	181
Germany⁷	5.1	4.9	4.9	4.8	4.7	2 126	2 071	2 042	2 011	1 985
Estonia⁸	8.5**	6.9	6.5	6.4	:	57**	47	44	43	:
Ireland	12.1	10.7	10.4	10.2	10.0	261	229	224	219	214
Greece	27.7*	25.8	25.8	:	:	1337*	1 243	1 229	:	:
Spain	25.5	23.9	23.7	23.6	23.4	5 843	5 478	5 453	5 436	5 391
France	10.1	10.2	10.3	10.3	10.2	2 969	2 995	3 019	3 016	2 989
Croatia	17.2	16.7	16.5	16.3	16.2	318	322	319	316	315
Italy	12.7	13.0	13.2	12.7	12.6	3 214	3 344	3 394	3 242	3 221
Cyprus	15.7	16.3	16.6	16.4	16.1	67	71	72	71	70
Latvia⁶	11.6***	10.6	10.6	10.6	:	114***	104	104	104	:
Lithuania	11.4	10.3	10.1	10.0	9.8	167	151	149	147	144
Luxembourg	6.0	5.9	5.9	5.9	5.9	16	15	15	15	15
Hungary⁸	8.7**	7.3	7.3	7.3	:	381**	327	324	327	:
Malta	6.2	5.9	5.9	5.8	6.0	12	12	12	12	12
Netherlands⁷	7.8	7.1	7.1	7.2	7.2	691	632	635	643	645
Austria⁷	5.1	5.1	4.9	4.9	4.8	223	224	219	217	215
Poland	9.9	8.5	8.3	8.2	8.0	1 733	1 468	1 452	1 426	1 398
Portugal	15.0	13.5	13.5	13.6	13.3	772	694	692	694	683
Romania	7.0	6.7	6.7	6.6	6.5	648	618	620	609	607
Slovenia	10.2	9.7	9.7	9.7	9.7	103	97	96	97	96
Slovakia	13.9	12.8	12.6	12.5	12.5	378	347	342	340	339
Finland⁷	8.4	8.9	8.9	8.8	8.8	224	239	238	237	236
Sweden⁷	8.0	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8	413	407	407	406	405
United Kingdom⁸	7.1*	5.8	5.6	:	:	2312*	1 893	1 837	:	:
Iceland⁷	5.3	4.7	4.6	4.5	4.5	9 748	8 799	8 669	8 578	8 516
Norway⁸	3.6**	3.8	3.7	3.7	:	94**	103	101	102	:
United States	6.6	5.7	5.8	5.6	5.7	10 197	9 061	9 109	8 703	8 887

: Data not available

* November 2013

** December 2013

*** Q4 2013

Seasonally adjusted youth (under 25s) unemployment

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	Jan 14	Oct 14	Nov 14	Dec 14	Jan 15	Jan 14	Oct 14	Nov 14	Dec 14	Jan 15
EA19	24.3	23.4	23.4	23.1	22.9	3 540	3 370	3 383	3 316	3 281
EA18	24.3	23.5	23.5	23.1	22.9	3 514	3 345	3 359	3 292	3 257
EU28	23.3	21.8	21.6	21.3	21.2	5 451	5 031	5 020	4 923	4 889
Belgium	24.0	22.4	22.9	22.8	22.7	97	91	93	93	92
Bulgaria	26.6	22.3	22.2	22.3	22.6	55	46	45	45	45
Czech Republic	17.9	14.2	14.9	14.3	14.3	64	51	53	50	49
Denmark⁸	14.1	11.8	11.5	10.4	10.8	62	54	53	47	49
Germany⁷	7.9	7.4	7.3	7.2	7.1	335	309	305	302	299
Estonia⁸	19.1	14.3	14.2	16.0	:	11	8	8	9	:
Ireland	26.1	22.5	22.3	22.1	22.1	53	44	43	43	43
Greece	56.2	50.6	50.6	:	:	172	155	154	:	:
Spain	54.9	52.4	51.6	51.3	50.9	912	828	820	819	806
France	23.8	25.1	25.3	25.1	24.9	659	704	712	706	699
Croatia⁶	45.0	44.1	44.1	44.1	:	74	77	77	77	:
Italy	43.2	42.6	42.9	41.4	41.2	700	683	698	643	636
Cyprus⁶	37.7	32.8	32.8	32.8	:	16	14	14	14	:
Latvia⁶	19.4	19.4	19.4	19.4	:	17	17	17	17	:
Lithuania	20.7	18.6	18.5	18.4	18.2	27	25	24	24	24
Luxembourg	17.6	19.0	19.1	18.9	18.2	3	3	3	3	3
Hungary⁸	22.2	19.2	18.6	18.9	:	73	64	62	64	:
Malta	13.6	13.1	13.6	13.4	14.2	4	4	4	4	4
Netherlands⁷	13.5	12.0	11.9	11.8	11.7	188	165	165	164	164
Austria⁷	10.7	9.7	9.6	8.9	8.2	63	56	56	52	48
Poland	26.3	22.4	21.9	21.3	21.1	395	317	309	302	301
Portugal	35.2	32.9	33.4	33.8	33.6	135	122	123	125	127
Romania⁶	24.7	23.4*	:	:	:	164	160*	:	:	:
Slovenia⁶	22.3	24.2	24.2	24.2	:	15	17	17	17	:
Slovakia	32.2	29.0	28.8	28.5	27.8	68	61	60	60	58
Finland⁷	20.0	20.6	20.7	20.7	20.7	66	68	69	69	69
Sweden⁷	23.0	22.3	22.2	22.1	22.0	154	148	147	146	146
United Kingdom⁸	19.2	16.7	16.1	:	:	867	740	724	:	:
Iceland⁷	10.0	9.5	9.4	9.3	9.1	3 273	3 037	2 993	2 941	2 901
Norway⁸	8.5	7.8	7.4	7.5	:	32	28	28	28	:

: Data not available

* Q3 2014

Seasonally adjusted unemployment rates (%), by gender

	Males					Females				
	Jan 14	Oct 14	Nov 14	Dec 14	Jan 15	Jan 14	Oct 14	Nov 14	Dec 14	Jan 15
EA19	11.7	11.3	11.2	11.1	11.1	12.0	11.7	11.7	11.6	11.4
EA18	11.7	11.3	11.2	11.1	11.1	12.0	11.7	11.7	11.6	11.5
EU28	10.5	9.9	9.8	9.7	9.7	10.7	10.2	10.1	10.0	9.9
Belgium	9.0	8.9	8.9	8.8	8.9	7.9	8.3	8.3	8.2	8.1
Bulgaria	13.3	12.2	12.0	11.7	11.6	11.7	10.3	10.1	10.0	10.0
Czech Republic	5.5	4.9	5.0	5.0	5.0	8.1	6.9	7.0	6.9	6.9
Denmark ⁸	6.7	6.4	6.4	6.2	6.2	7.3	6.4	6.3	6.2	6.1
Germany ⁷	5.3	5.2	5.1	5.1	5.0	4.8	4.6	4.5	4.4	4.4
Estonia ⁸	8.6	7.2	6.7	6.7	:	8.0	6.5	6.3	6.0	:
Ireland	13.7	12.1	11.8	11.6	11.5	10.2	9.0	8.7	8.4	8.2
Greece	24.4	23.1	23.0	:	:	30.8	29.3	29.3	:	:
Spain	24.8	23.0	22.9	22.8	22.6	26.3	24.9	24.7	24.6	24.5
France	10.3	10.4	10.4	10.4	10.4	9.9	10.0	10.2	10.2	10.0
Croatia	16.5	16.1	16.1	16.0	15.9	18.0	17.3	16.9	16.6	16.6
Italy	11.9	12.1	12.1	11.7	11.8	13.6	14.3	14.7	14.0	13.7
Cyprus	16.2	17.8	18.3	18.0	17.3	15.3	14.8	14.9	14.8	14.7
Latvia ⁶	12.5	11.1	11.1	11.1	:	10.0	10.1	10.1	10.1	:
Lithuania	12.7	11.7	11.5	11.4	11.2	10.0	8.8	8.7	8.6	8.5
Luxembourg	5.9	5.8	5.8	5.9	5.8	6.1	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0
Hungary ⁸	7.8	7.2	7.3	7.2	:	8.5	7.5	7.3	7.4	:
Malta	6.5	6.1	6.2	6.0	6.1	5.8	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.7
Netherlands ⁷	7.6	6.8	6.9	6.9	6.9	7.9	7.5	7.4	7.6	7.6
Austria ⁷	5.0	5.7	5.3	5.3	5.2	5.2	4.4	4.5	4.4	4.4
Poland	9.4	8.0	7.9	7.7	7.5	10.5	9.0	8.9	8.8	8.7
Portugal	15.0	13.2	13.3	13.3	12.8	15.0	13.9	13.7	13.9	13.9
Romania	7.7	7.1	7.1	6.9	6.8	6.2	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1
Slovenia	9.4	8.9	9.0	9.2	9.1	11.1	10.5	10.4	10.4	10.3
Slovakia	14.0	12.2	12.1	12.0	12.0	13.8	13.4	13.3	13.2	13.1
Finland ⁷	8.9	9.7	9.6	9.5	9.4	7.8	8.0	8.1	8.1	8.1
Sweden ⁷	8.2	8.0	8.0	7.9	7.9	7.8	7.6	7.6	7.6	7.6
United Kingdom ⁸	7.2	6.1	5.9	:	:	6.5	5.6	5.4	:	:
Iceland ⁷	5.5	4.6	4.5	4.4	4.4	5.1	4.7	4.7	4.6	4.6
Norway ⁸	3.5	4.0	3.9	3.9	:	3.4	3.6	3.5	3.5	:

: Data not available