

22/2017 - 31 January 2017

December 2016

## Euro area unemployment at 9.6%

EU28 at 8.2%

The **euro area** (EA19) seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate was 9.6% in December 2016, down from 9.7% in November 2016 and down from 10.5% in December 2015. This is the lowest rate recorded in the **euro area** since May 2009. The **EU28** unemployment rate was 8.2% in December 2016, stable compared to November 2016 and down from 9.0% in December 2015. This remains the lowest rate recorded in the **EU28** since February 2009. These figures are published by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**.

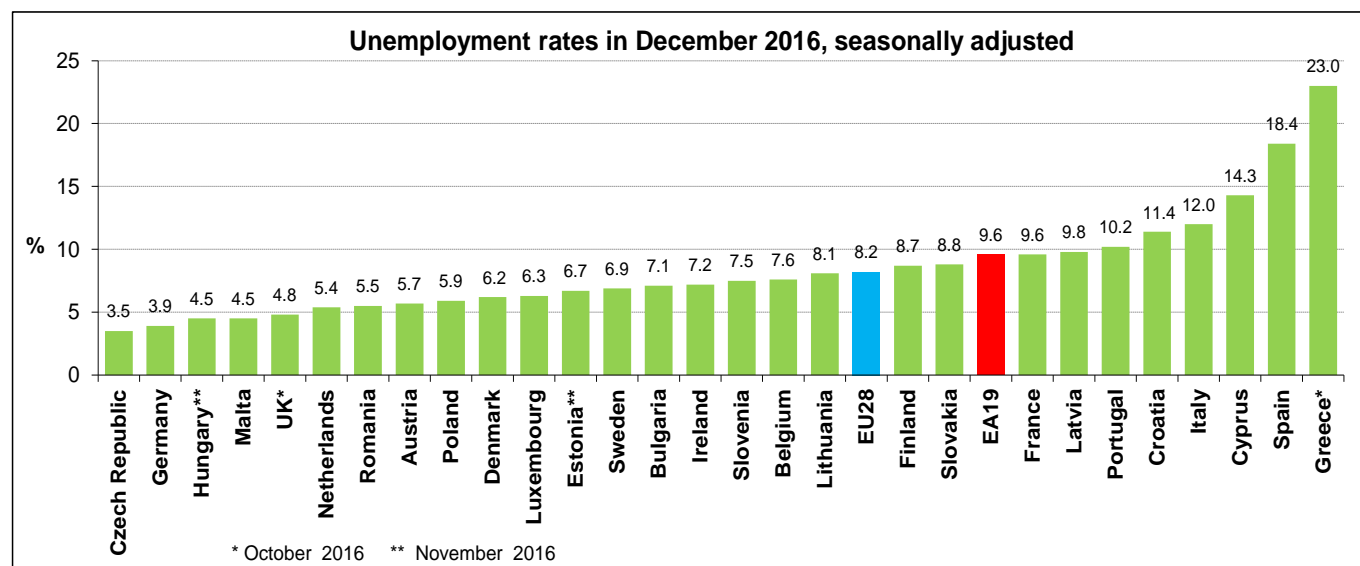
Eurostat estimates that 20.065 million men and women in the **EU28**, of whom 15.571 million were in the **euro area**, were unemployed in December 2016. Compared with November 2016, the number of persons unemployed decreased by 159 000 in the **EU28** and by 121 000 in the **euro area**. Compared with December 2015, unemployment fell by 1.839 million in the **EU28** and by 1.256 million in the **euro area**.

### Member States

Among the Member States, the lowest unemployment rates in December 2016 were recorded in the **Czech Republic** (3.5%) and **Germany** (3.9%). The highest unemployment rates were observed in **Greece** (23.0% in October 2016) and **Spain** (18.4%).

Compared with a year ago, the unemployment rate in December 2016 fell in twenty-four Member States, while it increased in **Cyprus** (from 13.1% to 14.3%), **Italy** (from 11.6% to 12.0%), **Estonia** (from 6.6% to 6.7% between November 2015 and November 2016) and **Denmark** (from 6.1% to 6.2%). The largest decreases were registered in **Croatia** (from 15.0% to 11.4%), **Spain** (from 20.7% to 18.4%) and **Portugal** (from 12.2% to 10.2%).

In December 2016, the unemployment rate in the **United States** was 4.7%, up from 4.6% in November 2016 but down from 5.0% in December 2015.



## Youth unemployment

In December 2016, 4.219 million young persons (under 25) were unemployed in the **EU28**, of whom 2.957 million were in the **euro area**. Compared with December 2015, youth unemployment decreased by 196 000 in the **EU28** and by 88 000 in the **euro area**. In December 2016, the youth unemployment rate was 18.6% in the **EU28** and 20.9% in the **euro area**, compared with 19.5% and 21.8% respectively in December 2015. In December 2016, the lowest rate was observed in **Germany** (6.5%), while the highest were recorded in **Greece** (44.2% in October 2016), **Spain** (42.9%) and **Italy** (40.1%).

### 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

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 [4/2017](#) of 9 January 2017, the November 2016 unemployment rate has been revised downwards for both the EU28 (from 8.3% to 8.2%) and the EA19 (from 9.8% to 9.7%). Among Member States, rates have been revised by more than 0.1 percentage points (pp) downwards for Spain (by 0.5 pp), Denmark, Germany, Estonia (October data) and Malta (all four by 0.2 pp).

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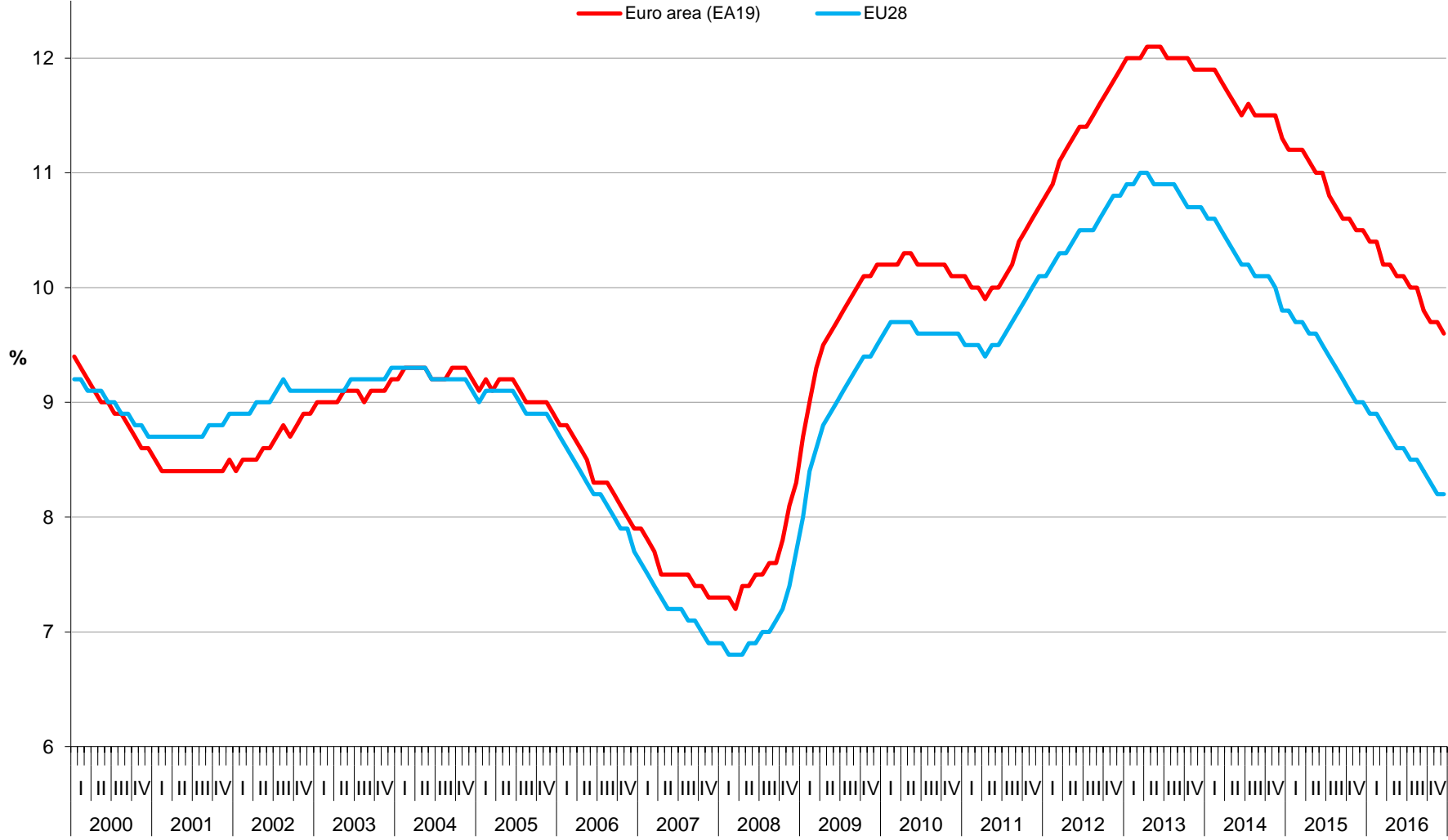
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### Euro area and EU28 unemployment rates Seasonally adjusted series



## Seasonally adjusted unemployment, totals

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	Dec 15	Sep 16	Oct 16	Nov 16	Dec 16	Dec 15	Sep 16	Oct 16	Nov 16	Dec 16
<b>EA19</b>	10.5	9.8	9.7	9.7	<b>9.6</b>	16 827	16 000	15 766	15 692	<b>15 571</b>
<b>EU28</b>	9.0	8.4	8.3	8.2	<b>8.2</b>	21 904	20 577	20 333	20 224	<b>20 065</b>
<b>Belgium</b>	8.6	7.6	7.6	7.6	<b>7.6</b>	428	378	375	376	<b>377</b>
<b>Bulgaria</b>	7.9	7.3	7.2	7.1	<b>7.1</b>	263	237	234	231	<b>231</b>
<b>Czech Republic</b>	4.5	3.9	3.7	3.6	<b>3.5</b>	236	206	198	194	<b>189</b>
<b>Denmark</b>	6.1	6.5	6.5	6.3	<b>6.2</b>	181	198	197	192	<b>187</b>
<b>Germany</b>	4.4	4.1	4.0	3.9	<b>3.9</b>	1 882	1 767	1 738	1 707	<b>1 679</b>
<b>Estonia</b>	6.6**	7.2	7.2	6.7	:	45**	50	50	46	:
<b>Ireland</b>	8.9	7.7	7.5	7.3	<b>7.2</b>	193	167	164	161	<b>158</b>
<b>Greece</b>	24.5*	23.1	23.0	:	:	1 183*	1 110	1 102	:	:
<b>Spain</b>	20.7	19.1	18.9	18.7	<b>18.4</b>	4 737	4 360	4 291	4 251	<b>4 179</b>
<b>France</b>	10.2	9.9	9.7	9.5	<b>9.6</b>	3 005	2 921	2 853	2 809	<b>2 817</b>
<b>Croatia</b>	15.0	11.5	11.5	11.4	<b>11.4</b>	281	209	209	208	<b>206</b>
<b>Italy</b>	11.6	11.8	11.8	12.0	<b>12.0</b>	2 959	3 051	3 033	3 094	<b>3 103</b>
<b>Cyprus</b>	13.1	13.4	13.8	14.2	<b>14.3</b>	54	57	59	62	<b>62</b>
<b>Latvia</b>	10.0	9.7	9.6	9.6	<b>9.8</b>	99	95	94	95	<b>96</b>
<b>Lithuania</b>	8.9	7.6	7.6	7.9	<b>8.1</b>	131	111	112	117	<b>119</b>
<b>Luxembourg</b>	6.5	6.3	6.3	6.2	<b>6.3</b>	18	17	17	17	<b>18</b>
<b>Hungary</b>	6.3**	4.8	4.6	4.5	:	285**	222	212	208	:
<b>Malta</b>	5.1	4.7	4.8	4.6	<b>4.5</b>	10	9	10	9	<b>9</b>
<b>Netherlands</b>	6.6	5.7	5.6	5.6	<b>5.4</b>	588	510	502	499	<b>482</b>
<b>Austria</b>	6.0	6.0	5.8	5.7	<b>5.7</b>	268	271	261	255	<b>254</b>
<b>Poland</b>	6.9	6.2	6.1	6.0	<b>5.9</b>	1 196	1 054	1 045	1 028	<b>1 012</b>
<b>Portugal</b>	12.2	10.9	10.6	10.5	<b>10.2</b>	622	557	545	538	<b>520</b>
<b>Romania</b>	6.7	5.8	5.8	5.7	<b>5.5</b>	616	522	522	521	<b>507</b>
<b>Slovenia</b>	8.4	7.7	7.6	7.6	<b>7.5</b>	83	75	74	74	<b>73</b>
<b>Slovakia</b>	10.7	9.4	9.2	9.0	<b>8.8</b>	293	259	252	247	<b>243</b>
<b>Finland</b>	9.3	8.7	8.7	8.7	<b>8.7</b>	250	233	233	234	<b>234</b>
<b>Sweden</b>	7.1	6.9	6.9	6.9	<b>6.9</b>	370	365	364	365	<b>365</b>
<b>United Kingdom</b>	5*	4.8	4.8	:	:	1 657*	1 576	1 586	:	:
<b>Iceland</b>	3.3	2.9	2.9	2.8	<b>2.8</b>	6	6	6	6	<b>6</b>
<b>Norway</b>	4.6**	4.8	4.8	4.7	:	128**	135	132	130	:
<b>United States</b>	5.0	4.9	4.8	4.6	<b>4.7</b>	7 918	7 933	7 751	7 461	<b>7 520</b>

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

: Data not available

\* October 2015

\*\* November 2015

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

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	Dec 15	Sep 16	Oct 16	Nov 16	Dec 16	Dec 15	Sep 16	Oct 16	Nov 16	Dec 16
<b>EA19</b>	21.8	20.6	20.6	21.0	<b>20.9</b>	3 045	2 918	2 915	2 966	<b>2 957</b>
<b>EU28</b>	19.5	18.5	18.5	18.6	<b>18.6</b>	4 415	4 185	4 186	4 229	<b>4 219</b>
<b>Belgium</b>	24.4	20.7	20.4	20.4	<b>20.4</b>	96	76	71	71	<b>71</b>
<b>Bulgaria</b>	19.5	21.2	21.7	22.0	<b>22.4</b>	33	33	33	33	<b>33</b>
<b>Czech Republic</b>	10.7	9.9	10.5	10.3	<b>10.7</b>	36	32	34	34	<b>34</b>
<b>Denmark</b>	11.1	12.5	12.7	13.0	<b>12.8</b>	52	61	62	63	<b>62</b>
<b>Germany</b>	7.2	6.7	6.7	6.6	<b>6.5</b>	290	287	283	278	<b>273</b>
<b>Estonia</b>	18.0	11.5	10.2	12.2	:	10	7	6	7	:
<b>Ireland</b>	19.5	16.7	16.2	15.4	<b>14.5</b>	36	35	33	31	<b>29</b>
<b>Greece</b>	50.1	44.4	44.2	:	:	132	116	114	:	:
<b>Spain</b>	46.3	42.8	43.1	43.5	<b>42.9</b>	694	628	628	634	<b>619</b>
<b>France</b>	24.4	25.4	25.8	25.9	<b>26.2</b>	679	700	714	721	<b>731</b>
<b>Croatia</b>	39.8	30.0	28.0	28.0	<b>28.0</b>	67	55	54	54	<b>54</b>
<b>Italy</b>	38.3	37.4	37.8	40.0	<b>40.1</b>	595	586	589	639	<b>644</b>
<b>Cyprus</b>	30.3	29.9	32.8	32.8	<b>32.8</b>	10	12	13	13	<b>13</b>
<b>Latvia</b>	18.8	17.7	17.7	17.9	<b>18.3</b>	16	13	13	13	<b>13</b>
<b>Lithuania</b>	13.9	13.7	12.7	12.8	<b>13.1</b>	18	17	16	16	<b>17</b>
<b>Luxembourg</b>	17.8	19.6	19.4	19.2	<b>19.9</b>	4	4	4	4	<b>4</b>
<b>Hungary</b>	14.5	12.4	12.1	11.9	:	49	43	41	41	:
<b>Malta</b>	10.6	12.0	13.3	13.2	<b>13.0</b>	3	3	4	4	<b>4</b>
<b>Netherlands</b>	11.2	10.5	10.5	10.3	<b>10.2</b>	155	149	148	146	<b>144</b>
<b>Austria</b>	11.6	11.4	10.9	10.4	<b>10.5</b>	65	64	61	57	<b>58</b>
<b>Poland</b>	19.6	18.7	18.7	18.1	<b>17.5</b>	272	251	250	244	<b>238</b>
<b>Portugal</b>	30.3	28.6	27.7	27.2	<b>26.4</b>	110	104	100	99	<b>96</b>
<b>Romania</b>	20.9	20.3	:	:	:	140	127	:	:	:
<b>Slovenia</b>	16.8	15.4	16.8	16.8	<b>16.8</b>	12	10	12	12	<b>12</b>
<b>Slovakia</b>	25.2	21.4	21.1	20.8	<b>20.4</b>	52	44	43	43	<b>42</b>
<b>Finland</b>	21.7	20.0	19.9	19.9	<b>19.8</b>	69	65	65	65	<b>65</b>
<b>Sweden</b>	19.2	18.6	18.3	18.1	<b>18.5</b>	125	117	116	116	<b>115</b>
<b>United Kingdom</b>	13.4	12.8	12.6	:	:	603	560	553	:	:
<b>Iceland</b>	7.3	6.2	6.1	6.0	<b>5.9</b>	2	2	2	2	<b>2</b>
<b>Norway</b>	10.0	10.2	10.6	10.7	:	38	38	39	39	:

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 15	Sep 16	Oct 16	Nov 16	Dec 16	Dec 15	Sep 16	Oct 16	Nov 16	Dec 16
EA19	10.3	9.5	9.4	9.4	<b>9.3</b>	10.7	10.2	10.0	10.0	<b>9.9</b>
EU28	8.9	8.2	8.1	8.1	<b>8.0</b>	9.1	8.6	8.5	8.4	<b>8.4</b>
Belgium	9.2	7.9	7.8	7.8	<b>7.7</b>	7.9	7.3	7.3	7.5	<b>7.5</b>
Bulgaria	8.2	7.9	7.7	7.6	<b>7.7</b>	7.5	6.7	6.6	6.5	<b>6.5</b>
Czech Republic	3.7	3.3	3.2	3.1	<b>3.1</b>	5.5	4.6	4.3	4.3	<b>4.1</b>
Denmark	5.9	5.7	5.9	5.8	<b>5.8</b>	6.2	7.4	7.1	6.9	<b>6.6</b>
Germany	4.6	4.5	4.5	4.4	<b>4.3</b>	4.2	3.6	3.5	3.4	<b>3.3</b>
Estonia	6.9	7.6	7.7	7.3	:	5.8	6.8	6.7	6.1	:
Ireland	10.6	8.8	8.6	8.4	<b>8.1</b>	6.9	6.3	6.1	6.1	<b>6.1</b>
Greece	20.9	19.5	19.2	:	:	28.2	27.6	27.7	:	:
Spain	19.3	17.7	17.5	17.3	<b>17.0</b>	22.4	20.8	20.5	20.3	<b>20.0</b>
France	10.6	9.8	9.6	9.5	<b>9.5</b>	9.8	10.0	9.8	9.6	<b>9.7</b>
Croatia	14.2	10.4	10.3	10.4	<b>10.4</b>	16.0	12.8	12.9	12.7	<b>12.5</b>
Italy	11.2	11.0	11.1	11.3	<b>11.1</b>	12.1	12.9	12.6	12.8	<b>13.2</b>
Cyprus	13.4	13.2	13.6	14.0	<b>14.1</b>	12.8	13.7	14.0	14.4	<b>14.5</b>
Latvia	11.2	11.6	11.3	11.3	<b>11.7</b>	8.7	7.8	7.9	7.9	<b>8.0</b>
Lithuania	9.6	8.8	8.8	9.3	<b>9.5</b>	8.2	6.4	6.5	6.5	<b>6.7</b>
Luxembourg	6.1	5.9	6.0	5.9	<b>6.1</b>	7.1	6.8	6.7	6.6	<b>6.7</b>
Hungary	6.0	4.8	4.6	4.5	:	6.4	4.9	4.6	4.5	:
Malta	5.0	4.6	4.6	4.6	<b>4.5</b>	5.2	4.9	4.9	4.7	<b>4.7</b>
Netherlands	6.2	5.3	5.1	5.0	<b>4.9</b>	7.0	6.1	6.1	6.2	<b>6.0</b>
Austria	6.4	6.2	6.1	6.2	<b>6.3</b>	5.6	5.8	5.5	5.2	<b>5.0</b>
Poland	6.8	6.1	6.0	5.9	<b>5.8</b>	7.0	6.3	6.2	6.1	<b>6.0</b>
Portugal	12.1	10.7	10.7	10.5	<b>10.0</b>	12.3	11.0	10.6	10.5	<b>10.3</b>
Romania	7.3	6.6	6.6	6.5	<b>6.3</b>	5.9	4.8	4.8	4.7	<b>4.5</b>
Slovenia	8.0	7.1	7.0	7.0	<b>6.9</b>	8.8	8.3	8.2	8.2	<b>8.1</b>
Slovakia	9.4	8.7	8.4	8.2	<b>8.1</b>	12.3	10.3	10.1	9.9	<b>9.7</b>
Finland	9.8	8.8	8.9	9.0	<b>9.0</b>	8.8	8.5	8.5	8.4	<b>8.4</b>
Sweden	7.3	7.2	7.2	7.2	<b>7.2</b>	6.8	6.5	6.5	6.5	<b>6.5</b>
United Kingdom	5.1	4.9	4.9	:	:	4.8	4.6	4.6	:	:
Iceland	3.5	2.8	2.7	2.7	<b>2.7</b>	3.1	3.0	3.0	3.0	<b>3.0</b>
Norway	5.1	5.4	5.3	5.3	:	4.0	4.1	4.1	4.1	:

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

: Data not available