

75/2017 - 2 May 2017

March 2017

Euro area unemployment at 9.5%

EU28 at 8.0%

The **euro area** (EA19) seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate was 9.5% in March 2017, stable compared to February 2017 and down from 10.2% in March 2016. This is the lowest rate recorded in the **euro area** since April 2009. The **EU28** unemployment rate was 8.0% in March 2017, down from 8.1% in February 2017 and from 8.7% in March 2016. This remains the lowest rate recorded in the **EU28** since January 2009. These figures are published by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**.

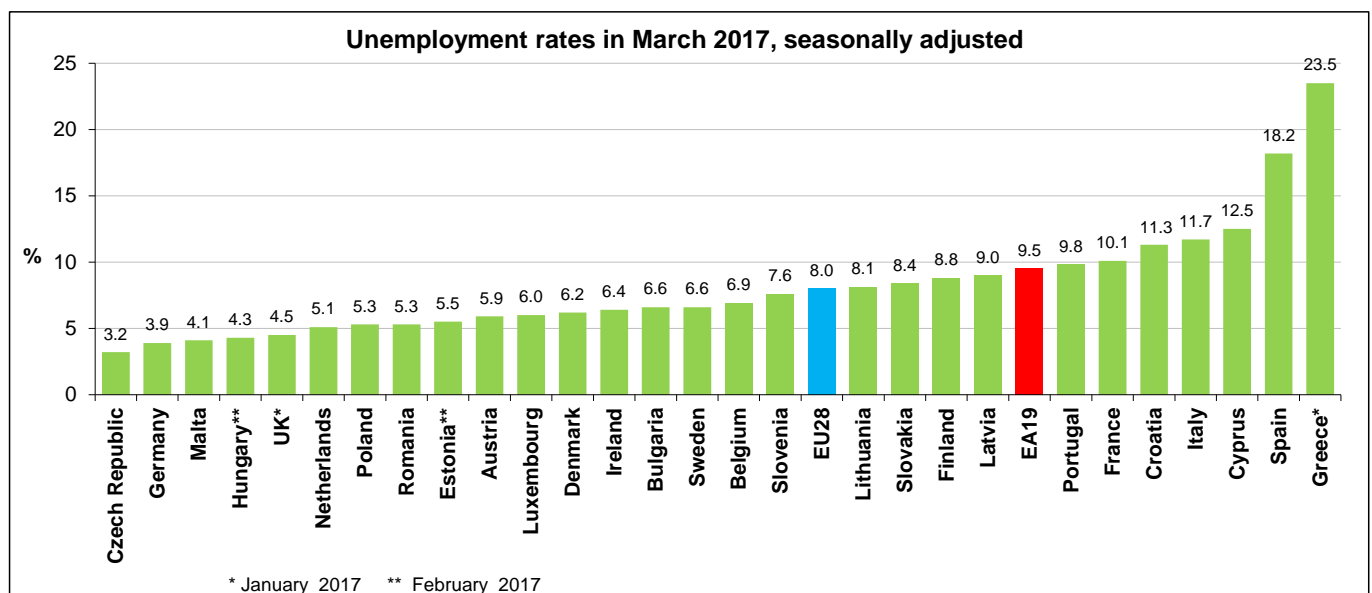
Eurostat estimates that 19.716 million men and women in the **EU28**, of whom 15.515 million in the **euro area**, were unemployed in March 2017. Compared with February 2017, the number of persons unemployed decreased by 56 000 in the **EU28** and by 5 000 in the **euro area**. Compared with March 2016, unemployment fell by 1.647 million in the **EU28** and by 991 000 in the **euro area**.

Member States

Among the Member States, the lowest unemployment rates in March 2017 were recorded in the **Czech Republic** (3.2%), **Germany** (3.9%) and **Malta** (4.1%). The highest unemployment rates were observed in **Greece** (23.5% in January 2017) and **Spain** (18.2%).

Compared with a year ago, the unemployment rate in March 2017 fell in twenty-three Member States, remained stable in **France** and **Austria**, while it increased in **Denmark** (from 6.0% to 6.2%), **Italy** (from 11.5% to 11.7%) and **Lithuania** (from 8.0% to 8.1%). The largest decreases were registered in **Croatia** (from 14.0% to 11.3%), **Portugal** (from 12.0% to 9.8%), **Spain** (from 20.3% to 18.2%) and **Ireland** (from 8.3% to 6.4%).

In March 2017, the unemployment rate in the **United States** was 4.5%, down from 4.7% in February 2017 and from 5.0% in March 2016.



Youth unemployment

In March 2017, 3.883 million young persons (under 25) were unemployed in the **EU28**, of whom 2.727 million were in the **euro area**. Compared with March 2016, youth unemployment decreased by 439 000 in the **EU28** and by 268 000 in the **euro area**. In March 2017, the youth unemployment rate was 17.2% in the **EU28** and 19.4% in the **euro area**, compared with 19.1% and 21.3% respectively in March 2016. In March 2017, the lowest rate was observed in **Germany** (6.7%), while the highest were recorded in **Greece** (48.0% in January 2017), **Spain** (40.5%) and **Italy** (34.1%).

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 [55/2017](#) of 3 April 2017, the February 2017 unemployment rate was revised by 0.1 percentage points (pp) upwards for the EU28 and remains unchanged for the EA19. Among Member States, rates have been revised by more than 0.1 pp downwards for Denmark (by 0.2 pp). The unemployment rate has been revised by more than 0.1 pp upwards for Greece (by 0.4 pp, data for December 2016) as well as for Spain (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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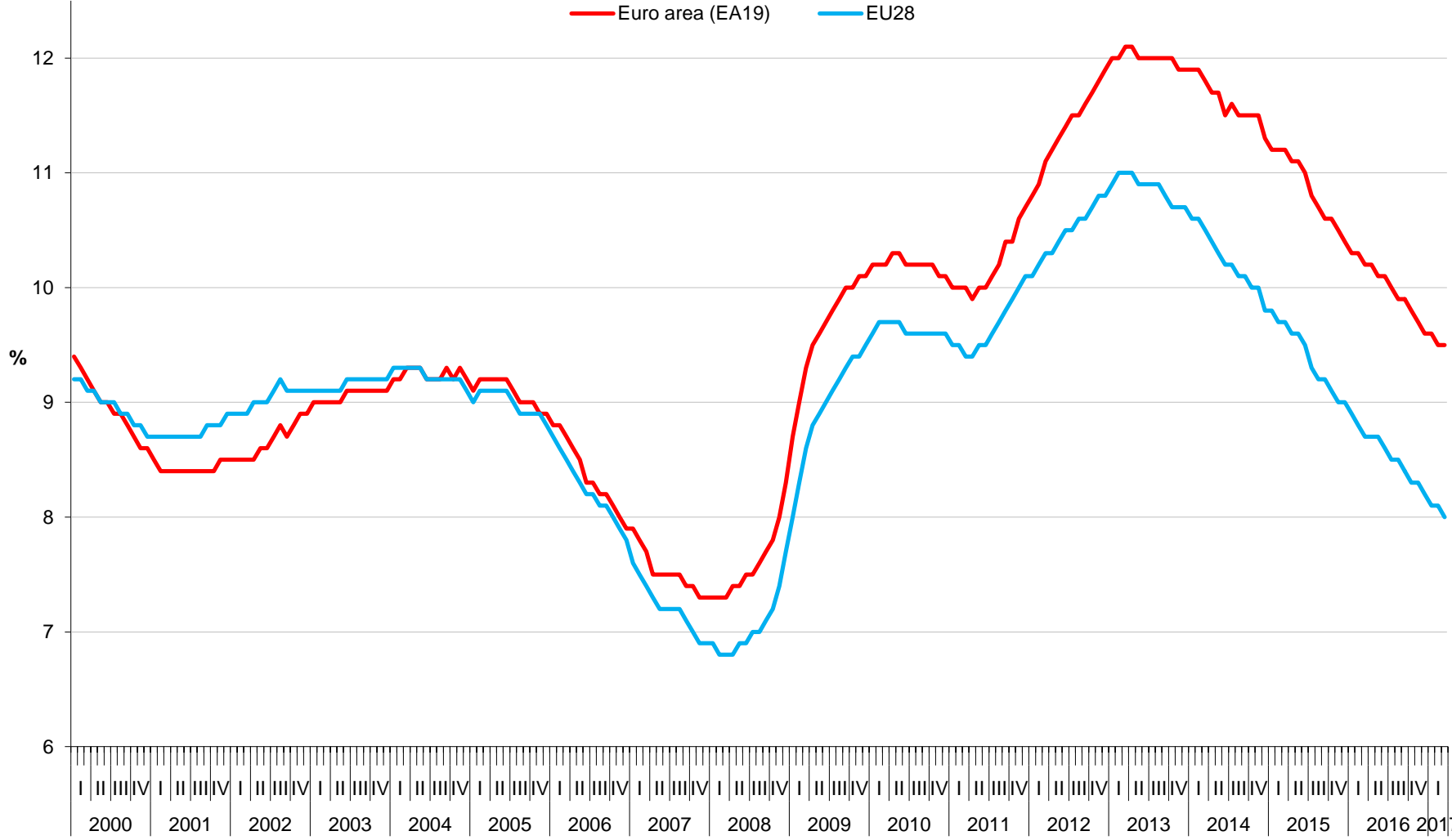
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Euro area and EU28 unemployment rates

Seasonally adjusted series

— Euro area (EA19) — EU28



Seasonally adjusted unemployment, totals

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	Mar 16	Dec 16	Jan 17	Feb 17	Mar 17	Mar 16	Dec 16	Jan 17	Feb 17	Mar 17
EA19	10.2	9.6	9.6	9.5	9.5	16 506	15 682	15 643	15 520	15 515
EU28	8.7	8.2	8.1	8.1	8.0	21 363	20 044	19 919	19 772	19 716
Belgium	8.1	7.0	7.0	7.0	6.9	403	353	353	353	350
Bulgaria	8.1	6.8	6.7	6.7	6.6	267	219	216	215	211
Czech Republic	4.0	3.5	3.4	3.3	3.2	214	190	180	176	174
Denmark	6.0	6.2	6.1	6.2	6.2	180	186	184	185	185
Germany	4.3	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	1 821	1 690	1 682	1 679	1 678
Estonia	6.2**	6.2	5.7	5.5	:	43**	43	40	38	:
Ireland	8.3	6.9	6.7	6.6	6.4	181	152	148	145	141
Greece	24.3*	23.5	23.5	:	:	1 165*	1 119	1 117	:	:
Spain	20.3	18.4	18.3	18.2	18.2	4 645	4 183	4 164	4 144	4 115
France	10.1	10.1	10.1	10.1	10.1	2 986	2 972	2 978	2 980	2 988
Croatia	14.0	12.1	11.8	11.6	11.3	258	218	213	208	202
Italy	11.5	11.8	11.8	11.5	11.7	2 936	3 067	3 060	2 981	3 022
Cyprus	13.3	13.3	13.0	12.8	12.5	55	57	56	55	53
Latvia	9.6	9.5	9.7	9.3	9.0	96	94	95	92	88
Lithuania	8.0	7.6	8.1	8.3	8.1	118	113	119	122	120
Luxembourg	6.4	6.2	6.1	6.1	6.0	18	17	17	17	17
Hungary	5.7**	4.3	4.3	4.3	:	260**	200	198	196	:
Malta	4.9	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	10	8	8	8	8
Netherlands	6.4	5.4	5.3	5.3	5.1	574	482	480	473	463
Austria	5.9	5.7	5.6	5.7	5.9	263	254	253	257	266
Poland	6.4	5.5	5.4	5.3	5.3	1 103	952	935	920	906
Portugal	12.0	10.2	10.1	9.9	9.8	612	520	518	508	504
Romania	6.2	5.5	5.4	5.4	5.3	561	493	488	489	486
Slovenia	8.3	7.9	7.9	7.8	7.6	82	80	80	78	76
Slovakia	10.1	8.9	8.7	8.6	8.4	279	244	241	237	233
Finland	9.0	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.8	242	234	234	235	237
Sweden	7.0	6.8	6.7	6.7	6.6	368	361	359	356	354
United Kingdom	5.1*	4.6	4.5	:	:	1 671*	1 538	1 501	:	:
Iceland	3.2	3.0	2.9	2.9	:	6	6	6	6	:
Norway	4.7**	4.4	4.2	4.3	:	131**	123	117	120	:
United States	5.0	4.7	4.8	4.7	4.5	7 960	7 520	7 571	7 513	7 199

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

: Data not available

* January 2016

** February 2016

Seasonally adjusted youth (under 25s) unemployment

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	Mar 16	Dec 16	Jan 17	Feb 17	Mar 17	Mar 16	Dec 16	Jan 17	Feb 17	Mar 17
EA19	21.3	20.2	19.9	19.5	19.4	2 995	2 859	2 808	2 745	2 727
EU28	19.1	17.9	17.6	17.3	17.2	4 322	4 050	3 970	3 908	3 883
Belgium	20.2	19.0	18.2	18.2	18.2	78	69	70	70	70
Bulgaria	16.7	16.1	16.4	17.0	17.5	28	26	27	28	30
Czech Republic	9.9	10.6	8.2	9.1	9.3	33	35	27	30	31
Denmark	11.2	12.8	12.4	12.6	12.6	52	60	58	58	59
Germany	7.2	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.7	297	288	286	284	282
Estonia	12.0	13.3	12.5	14.2	:	7	8	8	9	:
Ireland	17.3	15.9	15.1	14.5	13.9	34	33	32	31	30
Greece	49.9	46.7	48.0	:	:	129	123	127	:	:
Spain	46.2	42.1	41.5	41.0	40.5	688	605	603	599	591
France	24.6	23.9	23.9	23.7	23.7	684	663	661	656	655
Croatia	34.7	28.7	27.1	27.1	27.1	60	50	46	46	46
Italy	37.1	38.5	36.7	34.5	34.1	572	610	564	521	524
Cyprus	28.4	30.3	30.3	30.3	30.3	10	12	12	12	12
Latvia	15.3	17.2	18.5	17.6	16.1	12	12	13	12	11
Lithuania	14.7	15.4	15.5	15.7	15.3	18	19	19	19	19
Luxembourg	19.2	19.5	18.6	18.7	18.6	4	4	4	4	4
Hungary	14.1	11.4	11.1	10.5	:	49	39	38	36	:
Malta	9.7	12.9	12.5	12.9	13.3	3	3	3	3	4
Netherlands	11.4	10.2	9.8	9.7	9.6	159	144	139	136	135
Austria	11.0	10.2	10.4	10.4	10.6	62	56	57	57	58
Poland	18.3	15.2	14.8	14.5	14.4	259	208	204	201	201
Portugal	31.1	26.1	25.4	24.4	23.3	115	96	93	89	85
Romania	20.9	20.4	:	:	:	128	122	:	:	:
Slovenia	15.9	14.5	13.7	13.7	13.7	11	10	10	10	10
Slovakia	23.9	19.8	19.5	19.1	18.8	48	42	41	41	40
Finland	21.2	20.2	20.2	20.1	20.0	68	66	66	66	66
Sweden	18.9	18.5	17.8	17.8	17.9	123	115	114	113	113
United Kingdom	13.2	12.1	11.9	:	:	592	533	522	:	:
Iceland	7.0	7.0	7.1	7.1	:	2	2	2	2	:
Norway	11.6	10.3	9.8	10.1	:	43	37	35	36	:

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				
	Mar 16	Dec 16	Jan 17	Feb 17	Mar 17	Mar 16	Dec 16	Jan 17	Feb 17	Mar 17
EA19	9.9	9.4	9.3	9.2	9.2	10.6	10.0	10.0	9.9	9.9
EU28	8.6	8.0	7.9	7.9	7.8	9.0	8.4	8.4	8.3	8.3
Belgium	8.4	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.3	7.9	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.5
Bulgaria	8.7	7.1	7.0	6.9	6.8	7.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4
Czech Republic	3.4	3.1	2.6	2.6	2.4	4.8	4.1	4.2	4.2	4.3
Denmark	5.4	5.9	5.9	6.3	6.3	6.7	6.4	6.4	6.2	6.1
Germany	4.5	4.4	4.3	4.3	4.2	4.0	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4
Estonia	7.1	6.1	5.6	5.5	:	6.0	6.3	5.8	5.5	:
Ireland	9.8	7.5	7.3	7.1	6.9	6.6	6.1	6.0	5.9	5.8
Greece	20.0	19.9	19.9	:	:	28.5	28.0	27.9	:	:
Spain	18.8	17.0	16.8	16.7	16.5	22.2	20.1	20.0	20.0	20.0
France	10.4	10.1	10.1	10.1	10.1	9.8	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.1
Croatia	13.4	11.2	10.9	10.6	10.3	14.7	13.0	12.9	12.7	12.4
Italy	10.8	10.8	10.8	10.6	10.9	12.4	13.2	13.2	12.7	12.7
Cyprus	13.0	12.0	11.9	11.6	11.3	13.6	14.7	14.3	14.2	13.7
Latvia	10.2	11.2	11.4	10.9	10.3	9.0	7.9	8.0	7.8	7.7
Lithuania	9.4	8.9	9.6	9.8	9.8	6.7	6.3	6.7	6.8	6.6
Luxembourg	6.1	6.0	5.9	5.8	5.7	6.8	6.5	6.4	6.4	6.4
Hungary	5.4	4.4	4.2	4.1	:	5.8	4.3	4.4	4.4	:
Malta	4.6	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.4	5.2	5.1	5.0	5.0	5.0
Netherlands	6.0	4.9	4.8	4.9	4.8	6.9	6.0	5.9	5.7	5.5
Austria	6.3	6.2	6.2	6.4	6.5	5.4	5.1	5.0	5.0	5.2
Poland	6.3	5.5	5.4	5.3	5.2	6.5	5.6	5.5	5.4	5.4
Portugal	11.9	10.0	9.8	9.6	9.5	12.1	10.3	10.4	10.2	10.1
Romania	7.0	6.0	5.8	5.7	5.7	5.2	4.9	4.9	5.0	4.9
Slovenia	7.5	7.8	7.9	7.7	7.5	9.1	8.0	8.0	7.8	7.7
Slovakia	9.0	8.3	8.2	8.0	7.9	11.4	9.5	9.4	9.2	9.0
Finland	9.3	8.9	8.9	9.1	9.2	8.8	8.5	8.5	8.4	8.4
Sweden	7.4	7.2	7.1	7.0	7.0	6.6	6.4	6.3	6.3	6.2
United Kingdom	5.0	4.8	4.6	:	:	4.9	4.5	4.4	:	:
Iceland	3.3	3.0	3.0	3.0	:	3.0	2.9	2.9	2.9	:
Norway	5.3	4.9	4.7	4.8	:	3.9	3.9	3.7	3.8	:

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

: Data not available