

145/2017 - 2 October 2017

August 2017

Euro area unemployment at 9.1%

EU28 at 7.6%

The **euro area** (EA19) seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate was 9.1% in August 2017, stable compared to July 2017 and down from 9.9% in August 2016. This remains the lowest rate recorded in the **euro area** since February 2009. The **EU28** unemployment rate was 7.6% in August 2017, down from 7.7% in July 2017 and from 8.5% in August 2016. This is the lowest rate recorded in the **EU28** since November 2008. These figures are published by Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union.

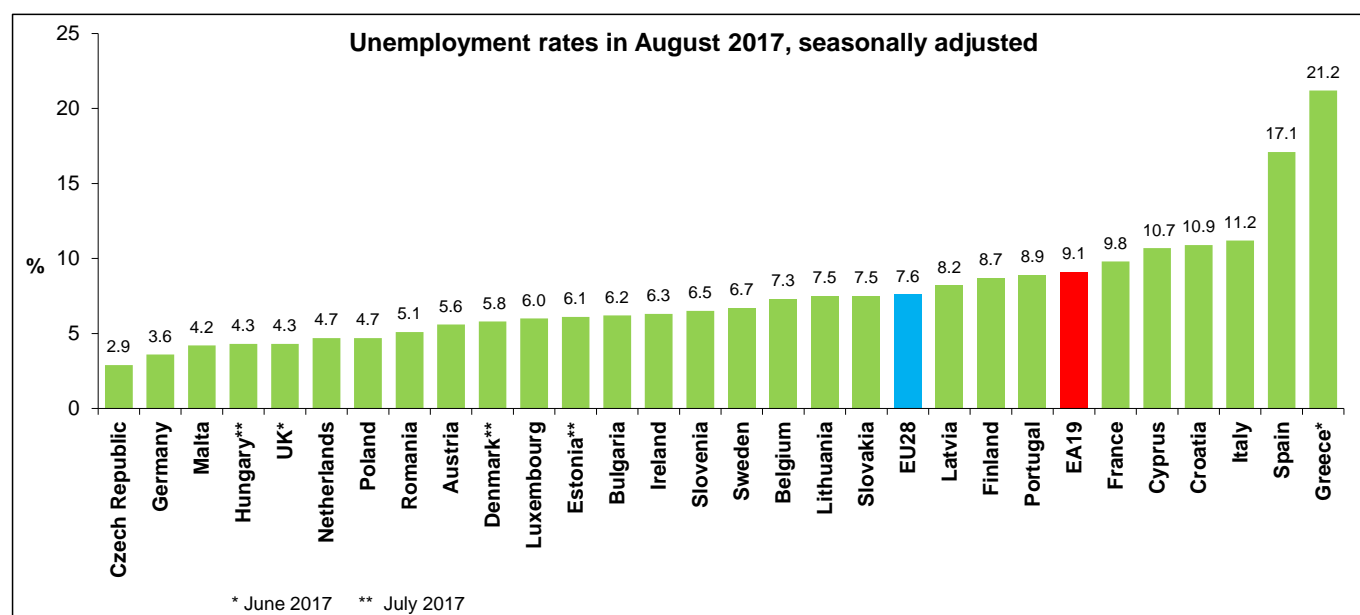
Eurostat estimates that 18.747 million men and women in the **EU28**, of whom 14.751 million in the **euro area**, were unemployed in August 2017. Compared with July 2017, the number of persons unemployed decreased by 104 000 in the **EU28** and by 42 000 in the **euro area**. Compared with August 2016, unemployment fell by 1.923 million in the **EU28** and by 1.319 million in the **euro area**.

Member States

Among the Member States, the lowest unemployment rates in August 2017 were recorded in the **Czech Republic** (2.9%), **Germany** (3.6%) and **Malta** (4.2%). The highest unemployment rates were observed in **Greece** (21.2% in June 2017) and **Spain** (17.1%).

Compared with a year ago, the unemployment rate fell in all Member States for which data is comparable over time, except **Finland** where it remained stable. The largest decreases were registered in **Cyprus** (from 13.1% to 10.7%), **Greece** (from 23.5% to 21.2% between June 2016 and June 2017) and **Spain** (from 19.3% to 17.1%).

In August 2017, the unemployment rate in the **United States** was 4.4%, up from 4.3% in July 2017 but down from 4.9% in August 2016.



Youth unemployment

In August 2017, 3.754 million young persons (under 25) were unemployed in the **EU28**, of whom 2.668 million were in the **euro area**. Compared with August 2016, youth unemployment decreased by 426 000 in the **EU28** and by 240 000 in the **euro area**. In August 2017, the youth unemployment rate was 16.7% in the **EU28** and 18.9% in the **euro area**, compared with 18.5% and 20.6% respectively in August 2016. In August 2017, the lowest rate was observed in **Germany** (6.4%), while the highest were recorded in **Greece** (43.3% in June 2017), **Spain** (38.7%) and **Italy** (35.1%).

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

Belgium: Due to a methodological break in the LFS data for the 1st quarter of 2017, data prior to Q1 2017 are not comparable and therefore not shown.

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 [131/2017](#) of 31 August 2017, the July 2017 unemployment rate remains unchanged for both the EU28 and the EA19. Among Member States, the rate has been revised by more than 0.1 pp downwards for Slovenia (by 0.5 pp) as well as for Greece and Portugal (both by 0.2 pp). The unemployment rate has been revised by more than 0.1 pp upwards for Slovakia (by 0.4 pp) as well as for Bulgaria and Croatia (both by 0.3 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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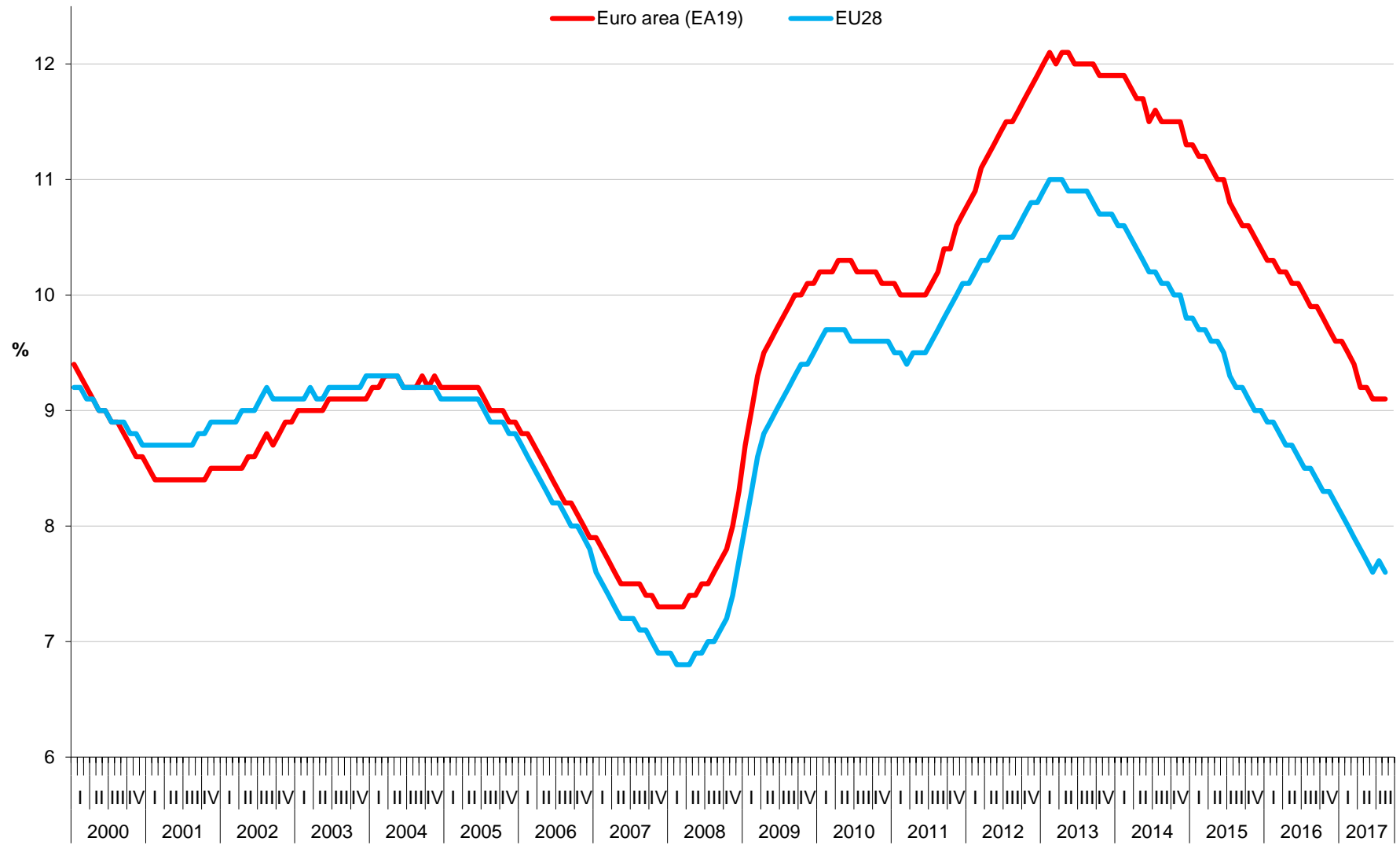
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Euro area and EU28 unemployment rates Seasonally adjusted series



Seasonally adjusted unemployment, totals

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	Aug 16	May 17	Jun 17	Jul 17	Aug 17	Aug 16	May 17	Jun 17	Jul 17	Aug 17
EA19	9.9	9.2	9.1	9.1	9.1	16 070	14 878	14 731	14 793	14 751
EU28	8.5	7.7	7.6	7.7	7.6	20 670	18 981	18 762	18 851	18 747
Belgium	:	7.3	7.2	7.3	7.3	:	364	361	363	363
Bulgaria	7.4	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.2	240	209	209	209	209
Czech Republic	3.9	3.0	2.9	2.9	2.9	208	158	157	154	154
Denmark	6.3**	5.7	5.7	5.8	:	190**	171	170	173	:
Germany	4.2	3.8	3.8	3.7	3.6	1 781	1 634	1 612	1 589	1 571
Estonia	7**	6.8	6.5	6.1	:	49**	48	45	42	:
Ireland	7.9	6.4	6.3	6.4	6.3	173	140	140	141	139
Greece	23.5*	21.5	21.2	:	:	1133*	1 031	1 017	:	:
Spain	19.3	17.3	17.1	17.1	17.1	4 412	3 926	3 878	3 882	3 901
France	10.0	9.5	9.6	9.7	9.8	2 948	2 834	2 861	2 899	2 914
Croatia	13.0	11.0	10.9	10.9	10.9	237	198	195	195	195
Italy	11.5	11.3	11.1	11.3	11.2	2 964	2 937	2 883	2 946	2 903
Cyprus	13.1	11.3	10.9	10.7	10.7	55	48	46	45	45
Latvia	9.8	8.9	8.9	8.5	8.2	97	87	86	83	79
Lithuania	7.7	7.0	7.0	7.6	7.5	113	101	102	111	109
Luxembourg	6.3	6.0	6.0	6.1	6.0	18	17	17	17	17
Hungary	5**	4.3	4.2	4.3	:	230**	197	196	197	:
Malta	4.7	4.1	4.0	4.1	4.2	9	8	8	8	9
Netherlands	5.8	5.1	4.9	4.8	4.7	521	456	446	436	426
Austria	6.3	5.4	5.3	5.4	5.6	281	242	239	243	250
Poland	6.1	5.0	5.0	4.8	4.7	1 040	874	856	834	812
Portugal	10.9	9.2	9.1	8.9	8.9	559	474	468	460	461
Romania	5.7	5.2	5.0	5.2	5.1	510	476	461	478	465
Slovenia	7.7	6.7	6.6	6.5	6.5	76	68	67	66	66
Slovakia	9.6	8.3	7.9	7.7	7.5	266	228	218	210	204
Finland	8.7	8.8	8.7	8.7	8.7	235	237	236	235	234
Sweden	6.9	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	365	360	360	360	360
United Kingdom	4.9*	4.4	4.3	:	:	1607*	1 457	1 438	:	:
Iceland	3.0	2.7	2.8	2.8	2.8	6	5	5	5	5
Norway	5**	4.3	4.3	4.2	:	138**	120	119	116	:
United States	4.9	4.3	4.4	4.3	4.4	7 869	6 872	7 010	6 986	7 161

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

: Data not available

* June 2016

** July 2016

Seasonally adjusted youth (under 25s) unemployment

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	Aug 16	May 17	Jun 17	Jul 17	Aug 17	Aug 16	May 17	Jun 17	Jul 17	Aug 17
EA19	20.6	19.2	18.9	18.9	18.9	2 908	2 696	2 662	2 664	2 668
EU28	18.5	17.0	16.8	16.8	16.7	4 180	3 830	3 765	3 774	3 754
Belgium	:	21.7	21.7	:	:	:	76	76	:	:
Bulgaria	18.6	14.2	14.1	13.9	13.5	29	24	23	22	21
Czech Republic	11.2	9.3	8.5	8.3	8.0	36	30	27	27	27
Denmark	12.0	11.1	11.2	11.7	:	58	52	52	54	:
Germany	7.0	6.6	6.5	6.4	6.4	296	277	274	272	270
Estonia	13.3	15.6	13.8	10.8	:	8	9	8	6	:
Ireland	17.2	11.9	12.0	12.3	12.7	35	24	24	25	26
Greece	45.2	43.6	43.3	:	:	120	117	116	:	:
Spain	43.1	39.1	39.1	38.7	38.7	629	580	571	568	572
France	24.9	23.1	23.0	23.1	23.0	685	637	632	630	624
Croatia	31.3	26.1	26.1	:	:	55	43	43	:	:
Italy	37.3	36.2	35.2	35.4	35.1	579	552	546	559	557
Cyprus	30.1	26.3	26.3	:	:	11	9	9	:	:
Latvia	17.9	16.0	15.1	12.5	10.9	13	12	12	9	8
Lithuania	13.3	12.3	13.0	14.2	14.4	16	14	15	17	17
Luxembourg	18.5	17.8	17.8	17.8	17.3	4	4	4	4	4
Hungary	12.3	10.6	10.5	10.7	:	43	37	36	37	:
Malta	11.4	10.6	10.8	11.2	11.9	3	3	3	3	3
Netherlands	10.6	9.0	8.9	8.8	8.9	150	128	126	126	127
Austria	11.4	9.7	8.8	9.6	10.2	65	52	46	50	53
Poland	17.9	15.3	14.9	14.4	13.9	243	204	197	188	180
Portugal	26.6	23.8	23.7	23.0	24.6	96	87	88	85	92
Romania	20.3	16.8	16.8	:	:	125	111	111	:	:
Slovenia	15.3	11.1	11.1	:	:	10	9	9	:	:
Slovakia	22.2	19.1	18.2	16.7	15.5	46	39	37	34	32
Finland	20.4	20.7	20.8	20.7	20.6	66	67	67	67	68
Sweden	19.3	17.8	18.2	18.1	17.7	118	112	112	112	112
United Kingdom	12.8	12.0	11.8	:	:	563	522	510	:	:
Iceland	6.6	7.2	7.3	7.5	7.6	2	2	2	2	3
Norway	10.9	10.7	10.8	10.6	:	40	39	39	38	:

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				
	Aug 16	May 17	Jun 17	Jul 17	Aug 17	Aug 16	May 17	Jun 17	Jul 17	Aug 17
EA19	9.6	8.8	8.8	8.7	8.7	10.3	9.6	9.4	9.5	9.4
EU28	8.3	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	8.7	8.0	7.8	7.9	7.8
Belgium	:	7.3	7.3	7.4	7.3	:	7.3	7.2	7.2	7.2
Bulgaria	7.8	6.6	6.7	6.7	6.7	7.0	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7
Czech Republic	3.4	2.4	2.5	2.4	2.4	4.6	3.7	3.5	3.5	3.4
Denmark	5.7	5.5	5.5	5.6	:	6.9	6.0	5.9	5.9	:
Germany	4.6	4.2	4.1	4.1	4.1	3.7	3.4	3.3	3.2	3.2
Estonia	8.1	7.3	7.4	7.0	:	7.2	6.3	5.5	5.0	:
Ireland	9.0	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1	6.5	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.2
Greece	19.7	18.0	17.9	:	:	27.8	25.8	25.3	:	:
Spain	17.9	15.7	15.5	15.4	15.4	21.1	19.1	19.0	19.0	19.0
France	10.0	9.5	9.7	9.9	10.0	9.9	9.6	9.5	9.6	9.5
Croatia	12.3	10.0	9.8	9.8	9.8	13.8	12.3	12.1	12.1	12.1
Italy	10.7	10.5	10.3	10.2	10.2	12.7	12.5	12.3	12.8	12.4
Cyprus	13.0	10.8	10.3	9.9	9.7	13.2	11.9	11.6	11.6	11.6
Latvia	11.6	10.3	10.2	9.7	9.3	8.0	7.4	7.5	7.3	7.1
Lithuania	8.9	8.6	8.7	9.1	9.1	6.5	5.4	5.4	6.2	5.9
Luxembourg	6.2	6.1	6.2	6.2	6.1	6.5	5.8	5.8	5.9	5.9
Hungary	5.0	3.9	3.9	3.9	:	5.0	4.7	4.6	4.7	:
Malta	4.4	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	5.1	4.1	4.0	4.3	4.4
Netherlands	5.4	4.6	4.6	4.5	4.4	6.3	5.6	5.4	5.2	5.1
Austria	6.5	5.8	5.7	5.9	6.1	5.9	5.0	4.9	4.8	5.0
Poland	6.0	5.1	5.1	5.0	4.8	6.1	5.0	4.8	4.7	4.6
Portugal	10.8	8.7	8.6	8.4	8.5	11.0	9.7	9.6	9.4	9.4
Romania	6.4	6.1	5.9	6.2	6.1	4.8	3.9	3.7	3.9	3.7
Slovenia	7.3	5.8	5.7	5.7	5.7	8.3	7.7	7.7	7.4	7.4
Slovakia	8.9	8.2	7.8	7.5	7.2	10.5	8.4	8.2	7.9	7.8
Finland	8.9	9.0	8.9	8.8	8.7	8.6	8.5	8.5	8.6	8.6
Sweden	7.3	7.0	6.9	7.0	6.9	6.6	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4
United Kingdom	4.9	4.5	4.4	:	:	4.6	4.2	4.2	:	:
Iceland	3.0	2.9	2.9	3.0	3.0	3.0	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5
Norway	5.5	4.7	4.7	4.6	:	4.2	3.9	3.9	3.8	:

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

: Data not available