

170/2018 - 31 October 2018

September 2018

Euro area unemployment at 8.1%

EU28 at 6.7%

The **euro area** (EA19) seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate was 8.1% in September 2018, stable compared with August 2018 and down from 8.9% in September 2017. This remains the lowest rate recorded in the **euro area** since November 2008. The **EU28** unemployment rate was 6.7% in September 2018, stable compared with August 2018 and down from 7.5% in September 2017. This is the lowest rate recorded in the **EU28** since the start of the EU monthly unemployment series in January 2000. These figures are published by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**.

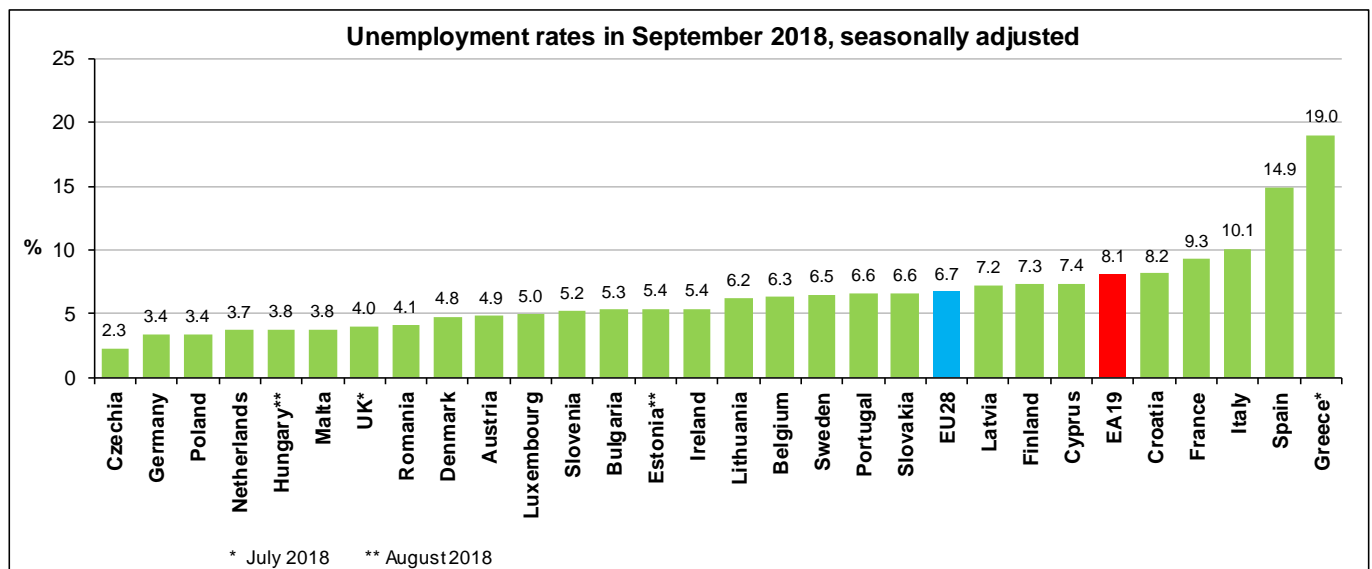
Eurostat estimates that 16.574 million men and women in the **EU28**, of whom 13.153 million in the **euro area**, were unemployed in September 2018. Compared with August 2018, the number of persons unemployed decreased by 35 000 in the **EU28** and increased by 2 000 in the **euro area**. Compared with September 2017, unemployment fell by 1.793 million in the **EU28** and by 1.309 million in the **euro area**.

Member States

Among the Member States, the lowest unemployment rates in September 2018 were recorded in **Czechia** (2.3%), **Germany** and **Poland** (both 3.4%). The highest unemployment rates were observed in **Greece** (19.0% in July 2018) and **Spain** (14.9%).

Compared with a year ago, the unemployment rate fell in 27 Member States and remained stable in **Estonia**. The largest decreases were registered in **Cyprus** (from 10.2% to 7.4%), **Croatia** (from 10.5% to 8.2%), **Greece** (from 20.9% to 19.0% between July 2017 and July 2018), **Portugal** (from 8.5% to 6.6%) and **Spain** (from 16.7% to 14.9%).

In September 2018, the unemployment rate in the **United States** was 3.7%, down from 3.9% in August 2018 and from 4.2% in September 2017.



Youth unemployment

In September 2018, 3.333 million young persons (under 25) were unemployed in the **EU28**, of whom 2.403 million were in the **euro area**. Compared with September 2017, youth unemployment decreased by 385 000 in the **EU28** and by 212 000 in the **euro area**. In September 2018, the youth unemployment rate was 14.9% in the **EU28** and 16.8% in the **euro area**, compared with 16.5% and 18.3% respectively in September 2017. In September 2018, the lowest rates were observed in **Czechia** and **Germany** (both 6.3%) as well as the **Netherlands** (7.5%), while the highest were recorded in **Greece** (37.9% in July 2018), **Spain** (34.3%) and **Italy** (31.6%).

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, Czechia, 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 definitions

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 150/2018 of 1 October 2018, the August 2018 unemployment rate for EA19 has remained unchanged while the unemployment rate for EU28 has been revised downwards from 6.8% to 6.7%. Among Member States, the rate has been revised by more than 0.1 percentage points (pp) downwards for Czechia, Spain and Finland (all 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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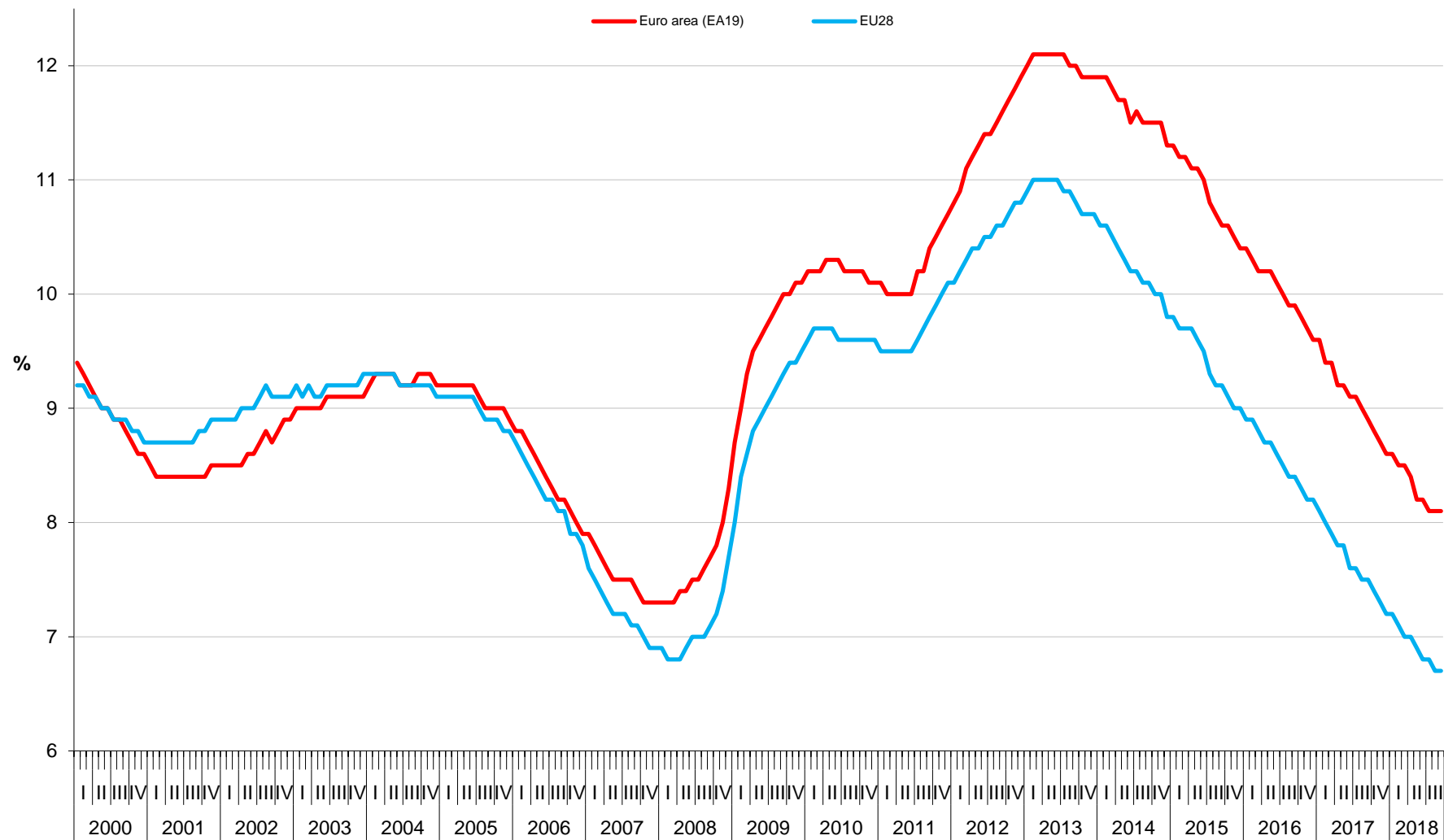
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Euro area and EU28 unemployment rates Seasonally adjusted series



Seasonally adjusted unemployment, totals

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	Sep 17	Jun 18	Jul 18	Aug 18	Sep 18	Sep 17	Jun 18	Jul 18	Aug 18	Sep 18
EA19	8.9	8.2	8.1	8.1	8.1	14 462	13 401	13 270	13 151	13 153
EU28	7.5	6.8	6.8	6.7	6.7	18 367	16 855	16 741	16 609	16 574
Belgium	6.9	6.4	6.6	6.5	6.3	343	321	331	327	319
Bulgaria	6.0	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	202	176	175	174	174
Czechia	2.6	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.3	142	128	123	125	122
Denmark	5.6	4.9	5.0	4.8	4.8	168	149	150	144	145
Germany	3.7	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	1 588	1 474	1 467	1 459	1 451
Estonia	5.4**	5.0	5.3	5.4	:	38**	35	37	38	:
Ireland	6.6	5.8	5.8	5.6	5.4	156	139	139	134	129
Greece	20.9*	19.1	19.0	:	:	1 002*	911	898	:	:
Spain	16.7	15.2	15.0	15.0	14.9	3 794	3 460	3 424	3 412	3 386
France	9.4	9.1	9.2	9.3	9.3	2 775	2 705	2 740	2 763	2 761
Croatia	10.5	8.8	8.6	8.4	8.2	192	159	156	152	147
Italy	11.2	10.6	10.2	9.8	10.1	2 901	2 769	2 648	2 532	2 613
Cyprus	10.2	7.9	7.6	7.5	7.4	44	34	33	33	32
Latvia	8.4	7.7	7.6	7.4	7.2	83	76	74	72	70
Lithuania	6.9	5.8	6.3	6.2	6.2	100	84	91	90	90
Luxembourg	5.5	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.0	16	15	15	15	15
Hungary	4.1**	3.7	3.7	3.8	:	189**	170	174	178	:
Malta	4.2	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.8	10	9	10	9	9
Netherlands	4.7	3.9	3.8	3.9	3.7	422	354	348	353	343
Austria	5.4	4.8	4.9	4.9	4.9	241	215	222	220	223
Poland	4.7	3.7	3.5	3.5	3.4	803	624	606	590	577
Portugal	8.5	6.8	6.8	6.9	6.6	441	352	350	359	340
Romania	4.8	4.2	4.2	4.3	4.1	440	377	386	386	370
Slovenia	6.4	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.2	66	55	55	55	54
Slovakia	7.8	6.8	6.7	6.6	6.6	215	185	182	181	180
Finland	8.4	7.6	7.5	7.4	7.3	229	208	206	203	201
Sweden	6.6	6.3	6.4	6.4	6.5	356	345	348	351	354
United Kingdom	4.3*	4.0	4.0	:	:	1 423*	1 327	1 350	:	:
Iceland	3.0	2.8	2.7	2.7	2.6	6	6	6	5	5
Norway	4.1**	3.8	4.0	4.0	:	113**	108	113	113	:
United States	4.2	4.0	3.9	3.9	3.7	6 790	6 532	6 283	6 208	5 990

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

: Data not available

* July 2017

** August 2017

Seasonally adjusted youth (under 25s) unemployment

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	Sep 17	Jun 18	Jul 18	Aug 18	Sep 18	Sep 17	Jun 18	Jul 18	Aug 18	Sep 18
EA19	18.3	16.9	16.8	16.8	16.8	2 615	2 410	2 383	2 390	2 403
EU28	16.5	15.1	14.9	14.9	14.9	3 718	3 381	3 337	3 335	3 333
Belgium	18.3	19.1	18.9	18.9	18.9	70	72	75	75	75
Bulgaria	12.8	14.6	14.2	13.4	12.4	22	22	21	19	18
Czechia	7.0	7.7	6.4	6.2	6.3	22	23	19	18	18
Denmark	10.5	9.2	9.3	9.5	9.5	49	43	42	43	43
Germany	6.5	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.3	277	268	267	267	266
Estonia	12.1	10.3	13.1	16.7	:	7	6	8	10	:
Ireland	14.7	14.2	14.4	13.9	12.9	39	39	39	37	35
Greece	40.5	38.4	37.9	:	:	108	95	93	:	:
Spain	37.3	34.3	34.3	34.4	34.3	569	518	513	518	525
France	21.6	20.5	20.4	20.3	20.4	601	574	575	574	580
Croatia	26.4	23.8	23.0	23.0	23.0	43	36	34	34	34
Italy	34.6	31.7	31.1	31.3	31.6	534	484	463	462	470
Cyprus	25.2	19.0	:	:	:	9	7	:	:	:
Latvia	16.3	10.5	9.6	8.6	8.6	11	7	6	5	5
Lithuania	12.6	11.2	12.4	12.2	12.6	14	12	13	13	13
Luxembourg	15.0	13.7	13.3	13.4	12.2	3	3	3	3	3
Hungary	10.6	10.2	9.7	10.0	:	35	34	32	33	:
Malta	11.0	8.4	9.2	9.1	9.5	3	2	3	3	3
Netherlands	8.5	7.2	7.3	7.7	7.5	123	104	106	112	109
Austria	9.6	9.7	8.9	8.6	9.1	50	52	47	45	48
Poland	14.3	10.8	10.3	9.9	9.6	189	140	132	126	123
Portugal	24.5	19.7	19.7	20.3	19.6	92	73	74	78	74
Romania	17.8	16.6	:	:	:	112	103	:	:	:
Slovenia	11.9	8.9	8.5	8.5	8.5	9	7	7	7	7
Slovakia	19.0	14.8	14.3	14.1	14.5	38	28	27	27	27
Finland	19.2	17.3	17.3	17.5	17.5	63	56	56	56	55
Sweden	17.3	16.8	16.9	17.1	16.8	109	103	104	105	106
United Kingdom	12.1	11.0	11.0	:	:	517	467	465	:	:
Iceland	7.4	6.8	6.8	6.7	6.5	2	2	2	2	2
Norway	10.4	9.9	10.1	9.7	:	38	36	37	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				
	Sep 17	Jun 18	Jul 18	Aug 18	Sep 18	Sep 17	Jun 18	Jul 18	Aug 18	Sep 18
EA19	8.5	7.9	7.8	7.8	7.8	9.3	8.6	8.5	8.4	8.4
EU28	7.2	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	7.7	7.1	7.0	6.9	6.9
Belgium	7.2	6.6	6.7	6.6	6.4	6.5	6.2	6.4	6.4	6.3
Bulgaria	6.2	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.9	5.8	4.7	4.7	4.6	4.6
Czechia	2.2	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	3.2	2.9	2.7	2.9	2.7
Denmark	5.3	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	5.9	5.2	5.2	4.9	4.9
Germany	4.0	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.3	3.0	2.9	2.9	2.9
Estonia	6.8	5.0	5.4	5.5	:	5.0	5.1	5.2	5.3	:
Ireland	6.9	6.0	5.9	5.8	5.7	6.3	5.6	5.7	5.4	5.1
Greece	17.1	15.1	15.1	:	:	25.6	24.0	23.7	:	:
Spain	15.1	13.7	13.5	13.5	13.5	18.5	16.9	16.8	16.6	16.5
France	9.5	9.1	9.3	9.4	9.4	9.2	9.1	9.1	9.1	9.1
Croatia	10.0	8.4	8.2	8.0	7.9	11.2	9.2	9.0	8.8	8.5
Italy	10.3	9.8	9.4	9.1	9.3	12.4	11.7	11.3	10.8	11.1
Cyprus	10.0	7.6	7.2	7.1	7.1	10.4	8.1	8.1	7.9	7.8
Latvia	9.1	9.1	8.8	8.5	8.3	7.8	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.2
Lithuania	8.2	6.1	6.8	6.8	6.9	5.6	5.6	5.7	5.5	5.6
Luxembourg	5.4	4.9	4.8	4.9	4.7	5.7	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.4
Hungary	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.5	:	4.5	3.9	4.1	4.3	:
Malta	4.1	4.0	4.1	3.9	3.8	4.3	3.6	3.8	3.7	3.8
Netherlands	4.3	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.7	5.1	4.0	3.9	3.9	3.8
Austria	5.9	5.0	5.0	4.7	4.9	4.8	4.5	4.8	5.0	5.0
Poland	4.6	3.7	3.7	3.6	3.6	4.8	3.6	3.4	3.3	3.1
Portugal	8.0	6.4	6.4	6.5	6.1	9.1	7.2	7.2	7.4	7.1
Romania	5.5	4.6	4.8	4.9	4.7	4.0	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.2
Slovenia	5.5	5.0	5.1	5.1	5.1	7.5	5.6	5.5	5.4	5.3
Slovakia	7.6	6.1	6.0	5.9	5.9	8.1	7.5	7.4	7.4	7.4
Finland	8.6	7.6	7.5	7.3	7.1	8.2	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5
Sweden	6.8	6.4	6.4	6.5	6.4	6.4	6.3	6.4	6.4	6.5
United Kingdom	4.3	4.0	4.1	:	:	4.1	4.0	3.9	:	:
Iceland	3.2	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.8	2.7	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.3
Norway	4.4	4.2	4.4	4.4	:	3.6	3.4	3.6	3.5	:

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

: Data not available