

77/2019 – 30 April 2019

March 2019

## Euro area unemployment at 7.7%

EU28 at 6.4%

The **euro area** (EA19) seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate was 7.7% in March 2019, down from 7.8% in February 2019 and from 8.5% in March 2018. This is the lowest rate recorded in the **euro area** since September 2008. The **EU28** unemployment rate was 6.4% in March 2019, down from 6.5% in February 2019 and from 7.0% in March 2018. 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**.

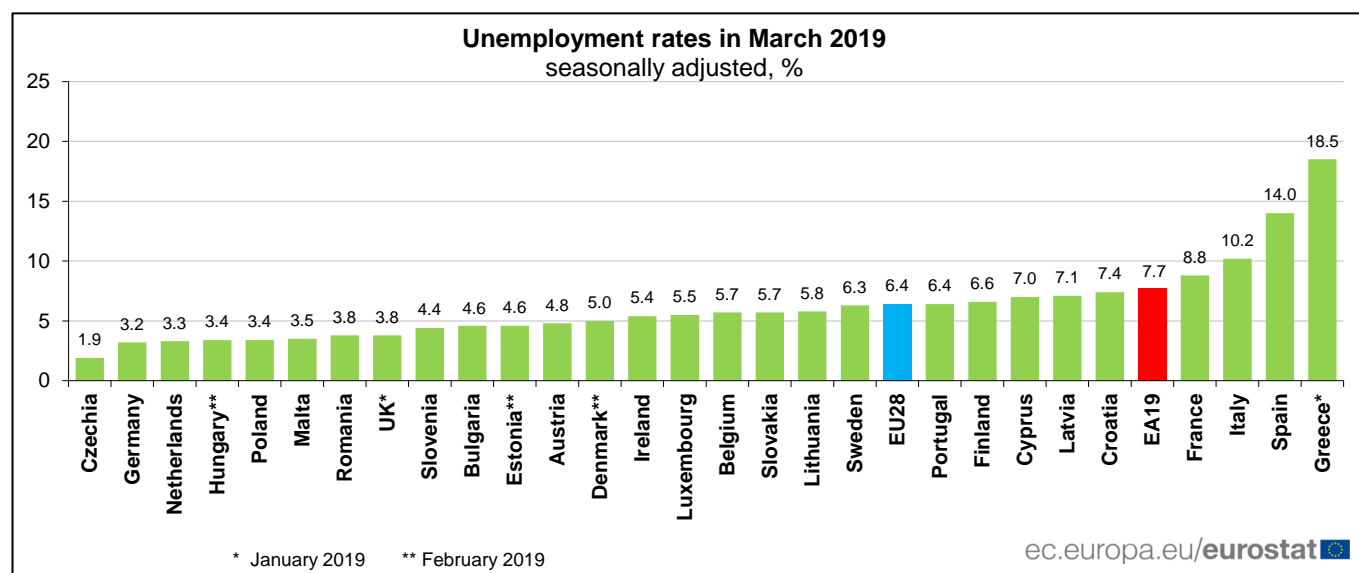
Eurostat estimates that 15.907 million men and women in the **EU28**, of whom 12.630 million in the **euro area**, were unemployed in March 2019. Compared with February 2019, the number of persons unemployed decreased by 172 000 in the **EU28** and by 174 000 in the **euro area**. Compared with March 2018, unemployment fell by 1.430 million in the **EU28** and by 1.172 million in the **euro area**.

### Member States

Among the Member States, the lowest unemployment rates in March 2019 were recorded in **Czechia** (1.9%), **Germany** (3.2%) and the **Netherlands** (3.3%). The highest unemployment rates were observed in **Greece** (18.5% in January 2019), **Spain** (14.0%) and **Italy** (10.2%).

Compared with a year ago, the unemployment rate fell in all Member States except **Denmark** (between February 2018 and February 2019) and **Sweden** where it remained stable. The largest decreases were registered in **Greece** (from 20.6% to 18.5% between January 2018 and January 2019), **Estonia** (from 6.7% to 4.6% between February 2018 and February 2019) and **Cyprus** (from 9.0% to 7.0%).

In March 2019, the unemployment rate in the **United States** was 3.8%, stable compared with February 2019 and down from 4.0% in March 2018.



## Youth unemployment

In March 2019, 3.282 million young persons (under 25) were unemployed in the **EU28**, of whom 2.325 million were in the **euro area**. Compared with March 2018, youth unemployment decreased by 189 000 in the **EU28** and by 150 000 in the **euro area**. In March 2019, the youth unemployment rate was 14.5% in the **EU28** and 16.0% in the **euro area**, compared with 15.5% and 17.4% respectively in March 2018. In March 2019, the lowest rates were observed in **Germany** (5.6%), **Czechia** (6.3%) and the **Netherlands** (6.4%), while the highest were recorded in **Greece** (39.7% in January 2019), **Spain** (33.7%) and **Italy** (30.2%).

### 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 [55/2019](#) of 1 April 2019, the February 2019 unemployment rate for EA19 and the EU28 remained unchanged. Among Member States, the rate has been revised by more than 0.1 percentage points (pp) downwards for Italy (by 0.2 pp). The unemployment rate has been revised by more than 0.1 percentage points upwards for Greece (by 0.4 pp, December 2018 data), Spain (by 0.3 pp) and Portugal (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](#)

Issued by: **Eurostat Press Office**

**Baiba GRANDOVSKA**

**Tel: +352-4301-33 444**

**[eurostat-pressoffice@ec.europa.eu](mailto:eurostat-pressoffice@ec.europa.eu)**

 [ec.europa.eu/eurostat/](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/)

 [EurostatStatistics](https://www.facebook.com/EurostatStatistics)

For further information on data:

**Boyan GENEV**


**Tel: +352-4301-36 409**

**Thibaut HENRION**

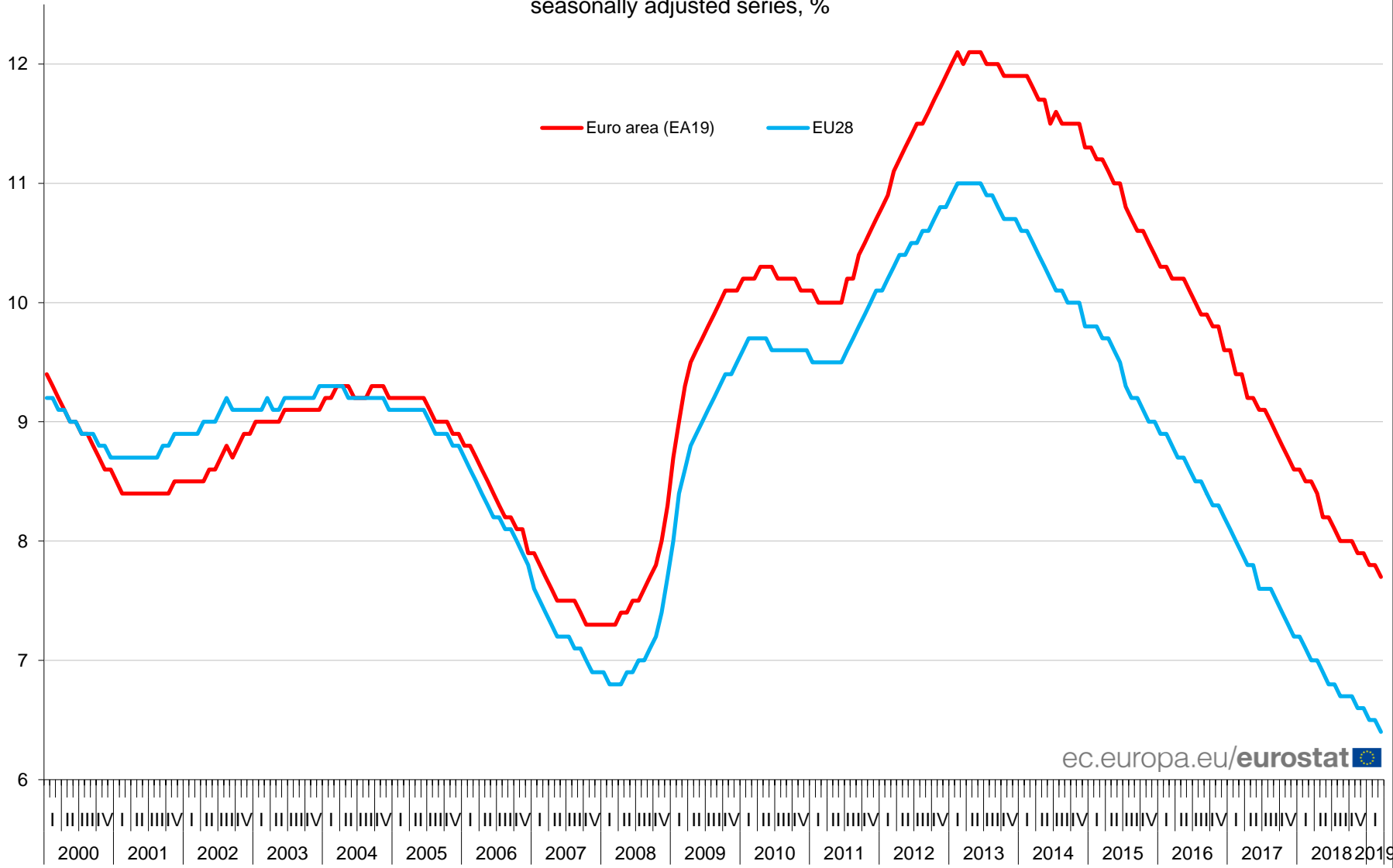
**Tel: +352-4301-31 686**

**[estat-monthly-unemployment@ec.europa.eu](mailto:estat-monthly-unemployment@ec.europa.eu)**

 [@EU\\_Eurostat](https://twitter.com/EU_Eurostat)

 **Media requests:** Eurostat media support / Tel: +352-4301-33 408 / [eurostat-mediasupport@ec.europa.eu](mailto:eurostat-mediasupport@ec.europa.eu)

### Unemployment rates seasonally adjusted series, %



[ec.europa.eu/eurostat](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat) 

## Seasonally adjusted unemployment, totals

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	Mar 18	Dec 18	Jan 19	Feb 19	Mar 19	Mar 18	Dec 18	Jan 19	Feb 19	Mar 19
<b>EA19</b>	8.5	7.9	7.8	7.8	<b>7.7</b>	13 802	12 893	12 862	12 804	<b>12 630</b>
<b>EU28</b>	7.0	6.6	6.5	6.5	<b>6.4</b>	17 337	16 253	16 166	16 079	<b>15 907</b>
<b>Belgium</b>	6.1	5.8	5.8	5.8	<b>5.7</b>	309	294	296	294	<b>294</b>
<b>Bulgaria</b>	5.3	4.8	4.8	4.7	<b>4.6</b>	178	158	159	158	<b>154</b>
<b>Czechia</b>	2.2	2.1	2.0	1.9	<b>1.9</b>	120	114	110	103	<b>105</b>
<b>Denmark</b>	5.0**	4.9	5.1	5.0	:	150**	150	154	152	:
<b>Germany</b>	3.5	3.3	3.2	3.2	<b>3.2</b>	1 495	1 417	1 404	1 391	<b>1 378</b>
<b>Estonia</b>	6.7**	4.2	4.3	4.6	:	47**	29	30	32	:
<b>Ireland</b>	5.8	5.7	5.7	5.6	<b>5.4</b>	137	137	137	135	<b>131</b>
<b>Greece</b>	20.6*	18.4	18.5	:	:	975*	869	873	:	:
<b>Spain</b>	15.9	14.4	14.3	14.2	<b>14.0</b>	3 615	3 282	3 271	3 243	<b>3 207</b>
<b>France</b>	9.2	8.9	8.9	8.8	<b>8.8</b>	2 740	2 672	2 648	2 625	<b>2 616</b>
<b>Croatia</b>	8.9	7.7	7.6	7.5	<b>7.4</b>	161	137	136	134	<b>131</b>
<b>Italy</b>	10.9	10.5	10.4	10.5	<b>10.2</b>	2 849	2 709	2 708	2 737	<b>2 641</b>
<b>Cyprus</b>	9.0	7.4	7.3	7.1	<b>7.0</b>	39	33	32	31	<b>31</b>
<b>Latvia</b>	7.7	7.1	7.3	7.2	<b>7.1</b>	76	69	71	71	<b>69</b>
<b>Lithuania</b>	6.6	5.8	6.1	6.1	<b>5.8</b>	95	84	90	89	<b>85</b>
<b>Luxembourg</b>	5.6	5.1	5.1	5.3	<b>5.5</b>	16	15	15	16	<b>16</b>
<b>Hungary</b>	3.7**	3.7	3.5	3.4	:	170**	170	165	158	:
<b>Malta</b>	4.0	3.5	3.5	3.6	<b>3.5</b>	9	9	9	9	<b>9</b>
<b>Netherlands</b>	3.9	3.6	3.6	3.4	<b>3.3</b>	357	329	329	312	<b>307</b>
<b>Austria</b>	4.9	4.6	4.8	4.9	<b>4.8</b>	223	210	219	222	<b>220</b>
<b>Poland</b>	3.8	3.7	3.6	3.5	<b>3.4</b>	652	631	613	593	<b>580</b>
<b>Portugal</b>	7.4	6.6	6.6	6.5	<b>6.4</b>	384	344	342	336	<b>333</b>
<b>Romania</b>	4.3	4.0	3.9	3.8	<b>3.8</b>	388	359	354	350	<b>345</b>
<b>Slovenia</b>	5.5	4.3	4.3	4.4	<b>4.4</b>	56	44	45	45	<b>45</b>
<b>Slovakia</b>	6.9	5.9	5.9	5.8	<b>5.7</b>	190	163	162	160	<b>159</b>
<b>Finland</b>	7.8	6.7	6.6	6.6	<b>6.6</b>	215	184	183	182	<b>182</b>
<b>Sweden</b>	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.3	<b>6.3</b>	341	347	347	348	<b>349</b>
<b>United Kingdom</b>	4.2*	3.8	3.8	:	:	1 393*	1 288	1 283	:	:
<b>Iceland</b>	3.1	2.8	3.0	3.0	<b>3.0</b>	6	6	6	6	<b>6</b>
<b>Norway</b>	4.0*	3.8	3.9	:	:	112*	105	108	:	:
<b>United States</b>	4.0	3.9	4.0	3.8	<b>3.8</b>	6 515	6 275	6 549	6 238	<b>6 202</b>

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

: Data not available

\* January 2018

\*\* February 2018

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

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	Mar 18	Dec 18	Jan 19	Feb 19	Mar 19	Mar 18	Dec 18	Jan 19	Feb 19	Mar 19
<b>EA19</b>	17.4	16.3	16.3	16.2	<b>16.0</b>	2 475	2 362	2 361	2 349	<b>2 325</b>
<b>EU28</b>	15.5	14.7	14.7	14.6	<b>14.5</b>	3 471	3 315	3 317	3 302	<b>3 282</b>
<b>Belgium</b>	17.2	12.9	12.8	12.8	<b>12.8</b>	63	50	50	50	<b>50</b>
<b>Bulgaria</b>	13.1	11.6	12.2	12.8	<b>13.4</b>	20	17	18	19	<b>20</b>
<b>Czechia</b>	7.1	5.9	6.0	5.9	<b>6.3</b>	21	17	18	17	<b>19</b>
<b>Denmark</b>	9.2	8.8	9.8	9.7	:	42	41	45	45	:
<b>Germany</b>	6.4	5.8	5.7	5.7	<b>5.6</b>	270	251	248	246	<b>244</b>
<b>Estonia</b>	9.6	8.2	8.1	7.1	:	6	5	5	4	:
<b>Ireland</b>	13.9	13.4	13.9	13.8	<b>13.4</b>	39	39	40	40	<b>38</b>
<b>Greece</b>	42.1	39.8	39.7	:	:	104	95	94	:	:
<b>Spain</b>	34.9	33.4	34.2	34.4	<b>33.7</b>	517	506	518	520	<b>514</b>
<b>France</b>	21.3	20.3	20.3	20.2	<b>20.2</b>	607	597	594	593	<b>594</b>
<b>Croatia</b>	25.4	22.0	21.3	21.3	<b>21.3</b>	39	33	32	32	<b>32</b>
<b>Italy</b>	32.7	32.4	32.3	31.8	<b>30.2</b>	501	499	494	487	<b>473</b>
<b>Cyprus</b>	22.3	20.0	:	:	:	8	8	:	:	:
<b>Latvia</b>	13.8	12.9	13.4	13.1	<b>12.3</b>	9	8	8	8	<b>7</b>
<b>Lithuania</b>	12.2	11.1	11.1	11.1	<b>10.6</b>	13	12	12	12	<b>11</b>
<b>Luxembourg</b>	14.5	11.9	12.0	13.0	<b>13.5</b>	3	3	3	3	<b>3</b>
<b>Hungary</b>	10.1	11.3	11.6	11.0	:	33	38	39	36	:
<b>Malta</b>	8.4	9.6	9.4	9.8	<b>9.5</b>	2	3	3	3	<b>3</b>
<b>Netherlands</b>	7.0	6.6	6.5	6.4	<b>6.4</b>	100	97	96	95	<b>94</b>
<b>Austria</b>	10.1	8.2	8.2	8.0	<b>8.0</b>	53	43	43	43	<b>43</b>
<b>Poland</b>	11.3	11.6	11.5	11.4	<b>11.4</b>	147	147	147	145	<b>145</b>
<b>Portugal</b>	21.9	18.0	17.6	16.9	<b>16.5</b>	81	68	66	62	<b>59</b>
<b>Romania</b>	16.3	15.4	:	:	:	103	96	:	:	:
<b>Slovenia</b>	10.1	6.6	7.8	7.8	<b>7.8</b>	8	5	6	6	<b>6</b>
<b>Slovakia</b>	16.8	12.3	12.1	11.8	<b>11.8</b>	32	22	22	22	<b>22</b>
<b>Finland</b>	18.0	17.0	16.8	16.7	<b>16.5</b>	58	55	55	55	<b>55</b>
<b>Sweden</b>	16.5	17.3	17.8	17.6	<b>17.7</b>	101	109	110	110	<b>110</b>
<b>United Kingdom</b>	11.6	11.0	10.6	:	:	496	463	448	:	:
<b>Iceland</b>	6.8	7.4	7.8	7.8	<b>7.2</b>	2	2	3	3	<b>2</b>
<b>Norway</b>	9.0	10.0	10.6	:	:	32	36	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				
	Mar 18	Dec 18	Jan 19	Feb 19	Mar 19	Mar 18	Dec 18	Jan 19	Feb 19	Mar 19
EA19	8.1	7.5	7.5	7.4	7.3	8.9	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.2
EU28	6.8	6.3	6.3	6.2	6.1	7.3	6.9	6.8	6.8	6.7
Belgium	6.4	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.2	5.8	5.4	5.4	5.3	5.3
Bulgaria	5.9	5.3	5.2	5.1	5.0	4.7	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2
Czechia	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.8	2.8	2.5	2.4	2.1	2.1
Denmark	4.6	4.7	4.8	4.8	:	5.2	5.2	5.3	5.2	:
Germany	3.9	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.0	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9
Estonia	6.7	3.8	4.1	4.5	:	5.2	4.6	4.5	4.8	:
Ireland	5.9	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.4	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.6	5.5
Greece	16.4	14.5	14.5	:	:	25.0	23.5	23.6	:	:
Spain	14.4	12.7	12.6	12.4	12.3	17.6	16.2	16.2	16.1	16.0
France	9.1	8.9	8.8	8.8	8.8	9.3	9.0	8.9	8.8	8.8
Croatia	8.2	7.0	6.9	6.8	6.7	9.7	8.5	8.4	8.3	8.1
Italy	9.9	9.6	9.6	9.7	9.4	12.4	11.6	11.6	11.7	11.3
Cyprus	8.6	7.3	7.2	7.0	6.9	9.3	7.6	7.3	7.2	7.0
Latvia	8.6	7.9	8.2	8.1	7.8	6.8	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.3
Lithuania	7.8	6.2	6.8	6.7	6.3	5.4	5.3	5.5	5.4	5.4
Luxembourg	5.3	4.8	4.8	5.0	5.1	5.9	5.4	5.4	5.7	6.0
Hungary	3.3	3.7	3.5	3.3	:	4.1	3.6	3.6	3.5	:
Malta	4.1	3.7	3.7	3.8	3.7	3.8	3.4	3.2	3.2	3.1
Netherlands	3.8	3.5	3.5	3.3	3.3	4.1	3.7	3.7	3.5	3.4
Austria	5.0	4.8	5.0	5.0	5.0	4.8	4.4	4.6	4.7	4.7
Poland	3.7	3.5	3.4	3.3	3.2	3.9	3.9	3.8	3.7	3.7
Portugal	7.3	6.0	5.8	5.8	5.7	7.6	7.3	7.4	7.2	7.3
Romania	4.6	4.6	4.2	4.2	4.0	3.8	3.2	3.4	3.4	3.4
Slovenia	4.9	3.8	3.8	3.7	3.6	6.1	4.8	4.9	5.1	5.3
Slovakia	6.6	5.4	5.4	5.3	5.3	7.3	6.5	6.4	6.3	6.3
Finland	8.0	6.9	6.9	7.0	7.0	7.7	6.5	6.4	6.3	6.2
Sweden	6.4	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.4	6.2	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.3
United Kingdom	4.2	3.9	3.9	:	:	4.0	3.7	3.7	:	:
Iceland	3.3	3.0	3.2	3.3	3.3	2.9	2.6	2.6	2.7	2.7
Norway	4.2	3.9	3.9	:	:	3.5	3.6	3.7	:	:

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

: Data not available