

Unemployment statistics

Data up to March 2019
Planned article update: 4 June 2019

Highlights

Euro area unemployment at 7.7% in March 2019.

EU-28 unemployment at 6.4% in March 2019, lowest since the start of the EU monthly unemployment series in January 2000.

Unemployment rates, seasonally adjusted, March 2019 (%)

EU-

28EACZDENLHUPLMTROUKSIEEBGATDKIELUBESKLTSEPTFICYLVHRFRITESSELISNO%0246810
1214161820

- January 2019 data: UK, EL, NO
- February 2019 data: HU, ES, DK
- Source: Eurostat (online data code: *une_rt_m*)

This article presents the very latest [unemployment](#) figures for the [European Union \(EU\)](#), the [euro area](#) and individual Member States, complemented by an overview of long-term developments since the year 2000.

Full article

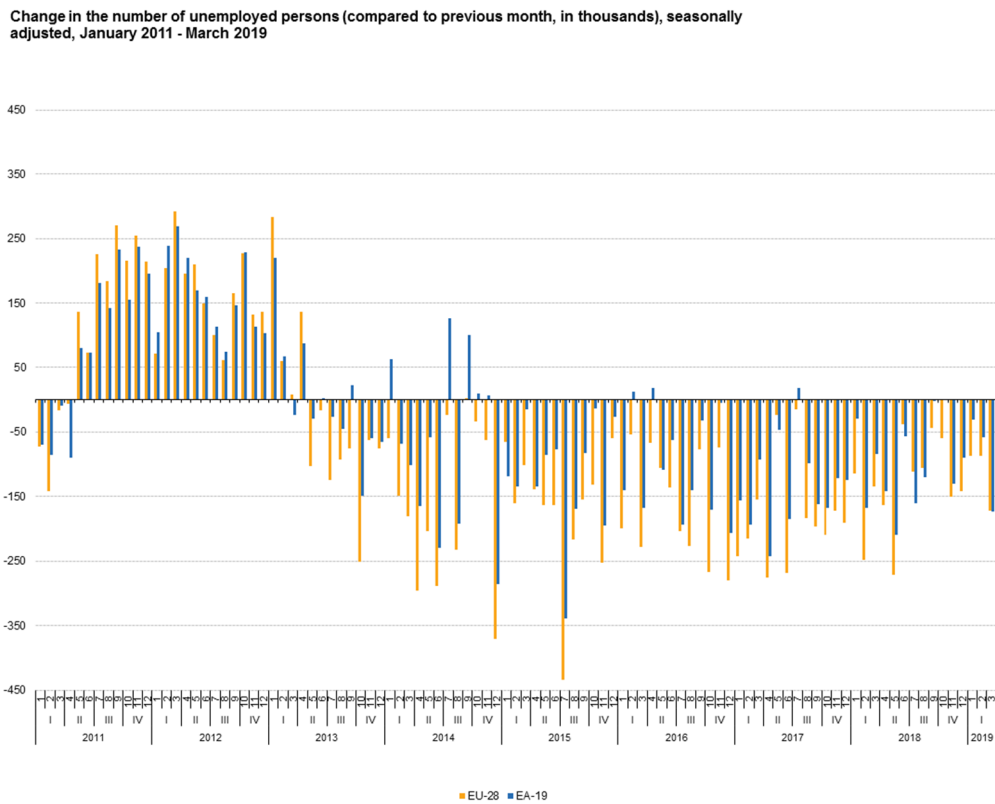
Recent developments

Recent developments

Unemployment in the EU and the euro area

[Eurostat](#) estimates that 15.907 million men and women in the [EU-28](#)^[1], of whom 12.630 million were in the euro area ([EA-19](#))^[2], were unemployed in March 2019. Compared with February 2019, the number

of persons unemployed decreased by 172 000 in the EU-28 and by 174 000 the euro area. Compared with March 2018, unemployment fell by 1.430 million in the EU-28 and by 1.172 million in the euro area.



Source: Eurostat (online data code: une_ft_m)

eurostat



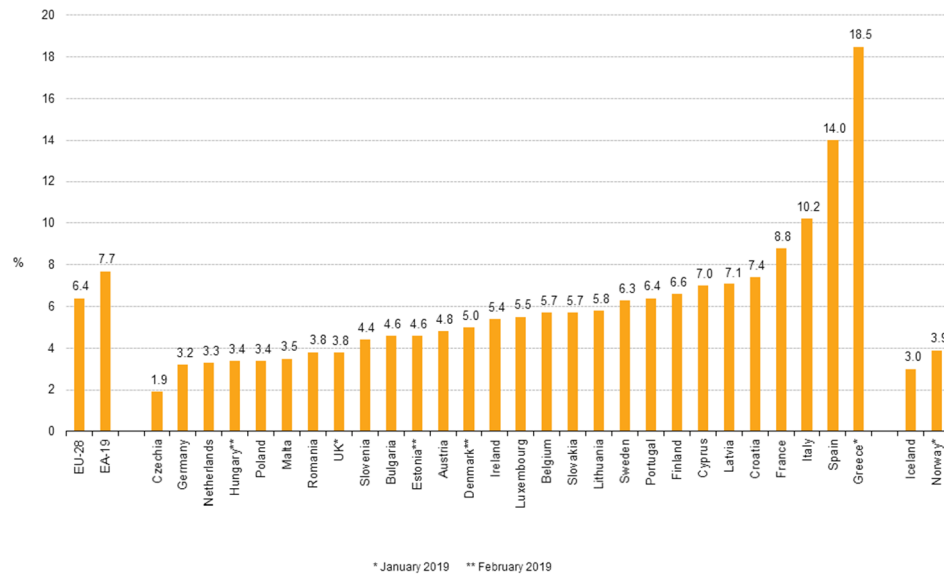
Figure 1: Change in the number of unemployed persons (compared to previous month, in thousands), seasonally adjusted, January 2011 - March 2019

The euro area [seasonally-adjusted](#) unemployment rate was 7.7 % in March 2019, down from 7.8 % in February 2019 and from 8.5 % in March 2018. The EU-28 unemployment rate was 6.4 % in March 2019, down from 6.5 % in February 2019 and from 7.0 % in March 2018.

Unemployment in the 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 %).

Unemployment rates, seasonally adjusted, March 2019



Source: Eurostat (online data code: une_rt_m)



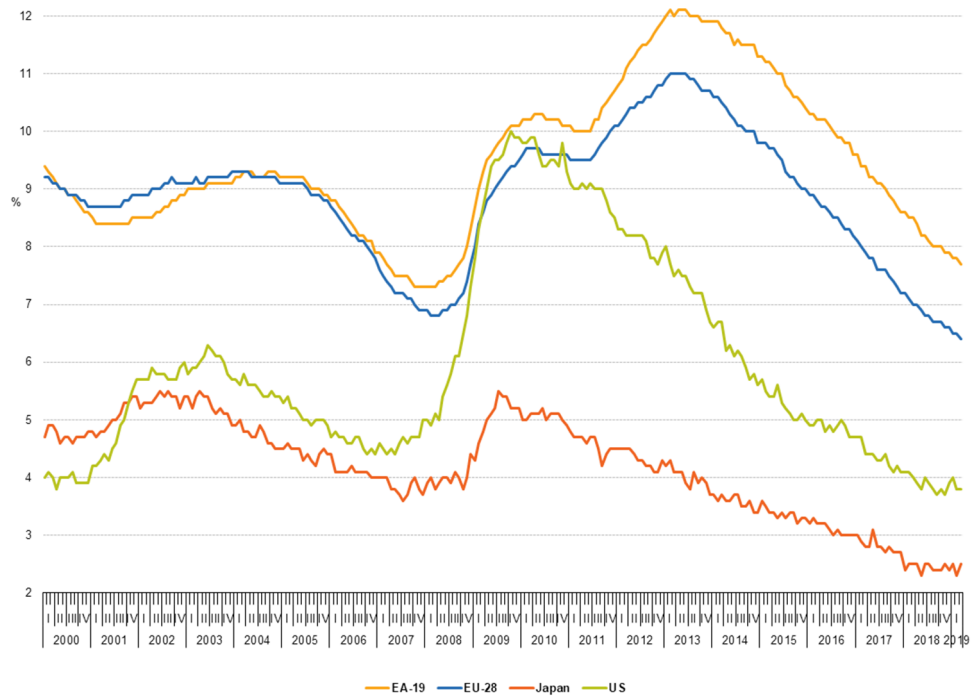
Figure 2: Unemployment rates, seasonally adjusted, March 2019(%)

Source: Eurostat ([une_rt_m](#))

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.

Unemployment rates EU-28, EA-19, US and Japan, seasonally adjusted, January 2000 - March 2019



Source: Eurostat (online data code: une_rt_m)

eurostat



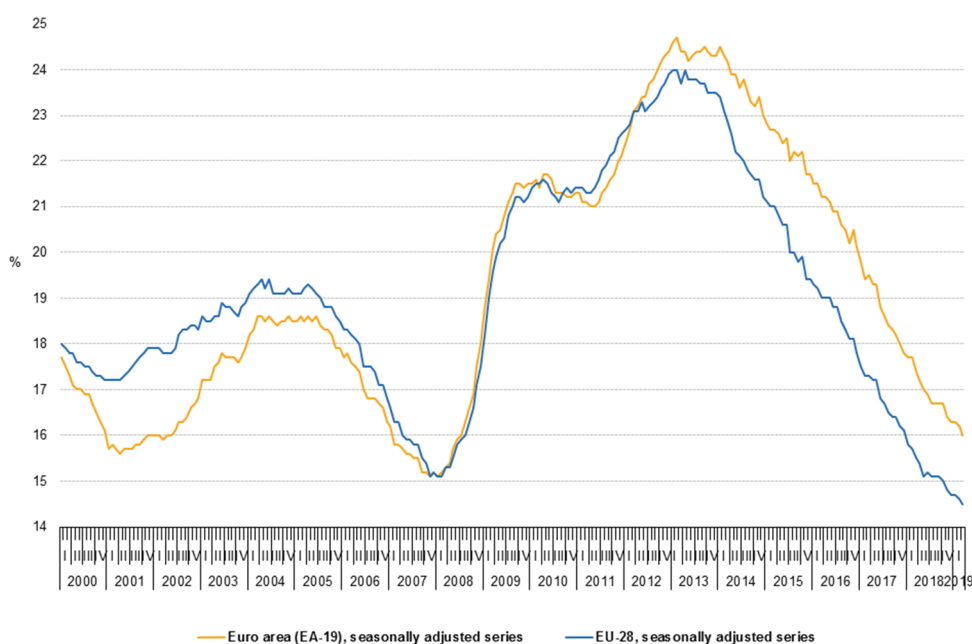
Figure 3: Unemployment rates EU-28, EA-19, US and Japan, seasonally adjusted, January 2000 - March 2019 (%)

Source: Eurostat ([une_rt_m](#))

Youth unemployment

In March 2019, 3.282 million young persons (under 25) were unemployed in the EU-28, of whom 2.325 million were in the euro area. Compared with March 2018, youth unemployment decreased by 189 000 in the EU-28 and by 150 000 in the euro area. In March 2019, the youth unemployment rate was 14.5 % in the EU-28 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 %).

Youth unemployment rates, EU-28 and EA-19, seasonally adjusted, January 2000 - March 2019



Source: Eurostat (online data code: une_rt_m)

eurostat 



Figure 4: Youth unemployment rates, EU-28 and EA-19, seasonally adjusted, January 2000 - March 2019 (%)

Source: Eurostat ([une_rt_m](#))

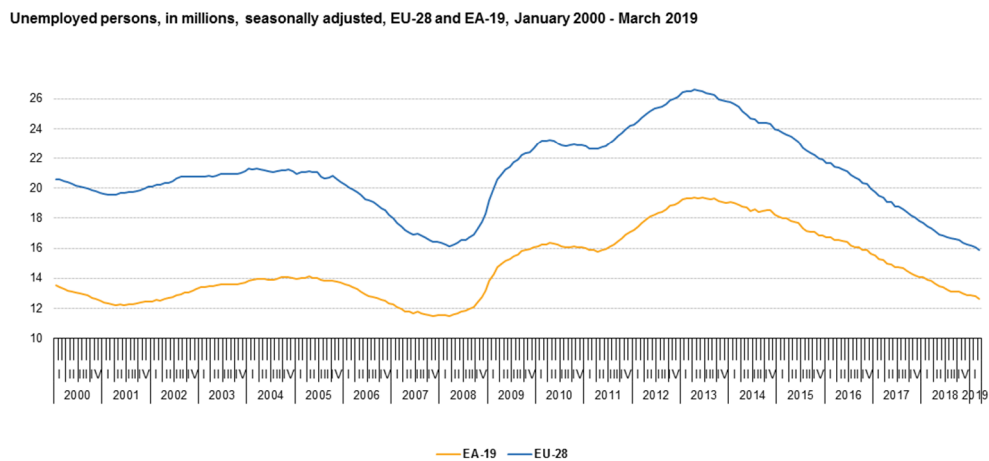
Unemployment levels and rates move in a cyclical manner, largely related to the general [business cycle](#). However, other factors such as [labour market](#) policies and demographic developments may also influence the short and [long-term evolution](#).

Longer-term unemployment trends

Trends in the EU: Unemployment rate almost back to pre-crisis level

At the beginning of 2000, above 20.5 million persons were unemployed in the EU-28, corresponding to 9.2 % of the total [labour force](#). The unemployment trend at that moment was downwards. In the second quarter of 2001 the number of unemployment persons had dropped to 19.6 million and the unemployment rate to 8.7 %. A long period of increasing unemployment followed. At the end of 2004 the number of jobseekers available for work reached 21.2 million, while the unemployment rate was 9.2 %.

At the beginning of 2005 a period of steadily declining unemployment started, lasting until the first quarter 2008. At that time, EU-28 unemployment hit a low of 16.2 million persons (equivalent to a rate of 6.8 %) before rising sharply in the wake of the economic crisis. Between the second quarter 2008 and mid-2010 the unemployment level went up by more than 6.7 million, taking the rate up to 9.7 %, at that time the highest value recorded since the start of the series in 2000. The decline of unemployment in the following three quarters was a deceptive sign of an end of the crisis and of a stable improvement in labour market conditions in the EU-28. In fact, since the second quarter 2011 and until the second quarter of 2013 unemployment steadily and markedly increased taking it to the record level of 26.5 million, corresponding to a record rate of 11 %. Since then the rate has started to decrease, reaching 7.3 % at the end of 2017.



eurostat



Figure 5: Unemployed persons, in millions, seasonally adjusted, EU-28 and EA-19, January 2000 - March 2019 (%)

Source: Eurostat ([une_nb_m](#))

Trends in the euro area

The unemployment rate in the euro area (EA-19) followed roughly the same trend as in the EU-28. However, between 2000 and the beginning of 2004 the unemployment rate in the euro area was below that recorded in the EU-28. This pattern was subsequently reversed as, between 2005 and the beginning of 2008, unemployment declined more rapidly in the Member States [which do not yet have](#)

[the euro](#). As in the EU-28, during the economic crisis unemployment increased at a considerable pace, with the exception of the period between mid-2010 and mid-2011 where it temporarily declined. The unemployment level peaked at 19.3 million in the second quarter of 2013, before going down since the second part of 2013 and reaching 14 million at the end of 2017.

Trends in the United States and Japan

In 2000, the unemployment rate in the United States was around 4 %, considerably lower than in the EU. It remained much lower until early 2008, when unemployment started to increase rapidly. By the beginning of 2009 the unemployment rate in the United States had reached the same level as in the EU-28, and stayed above the EU-28 rate until the beginning of 2010. Since then the US unemployment rate has followed a downwards path which has taken it to 4.1 % at the end of 2017. In Japan, between 2000 and 2017, unemployment rates were much lower than in the EU, ranging between 5.4 % in the third quarter 2009 and 2.7 % in the fourth quarter of 2017.

Unemployment rate 2007-2017 (%)

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
EU-28	7.2	7.0	9.0	9.6	9.7	10.5	10.9	10.2	9.4	8.6	7.6
Euro area	7.5	7.6	9.6	10.2	10.2	11.4	12.0	11.6	10.9	10.0	9.1
Belgium	7.5	7.0	7.9	8.3	7.2	7.6	8.4	8.5	8.5	7.8	7.1
Bulgaria	6.9	5.6	6.8	10.3	11.3	12.3	13.0	11.4	9.2	7.6	6.2
Czech Republic	5.3	4.4	6.7	7.3	6.7	7.0	7.0	6.1	5.1	4.0	2.9
Denmark	3.8	3.4	6.0	7.5	7.6	7.5	7.0	6.6	6.2	6.2	5.7
Germany	8.5	7.4	7.6	7.0	5.8	5.4	5.2	5.0	4.6	4.1	3.8
Estonia	4.6	5.5	13.5	16.7	12.3	10.0	8.6	7.4	6.2	6.8	5.8
Ireland	5.0	6.8	12.7	14.6	15.4	15.5	13.8	11.9	10.0	8.4	6.7
Greece	8.4	7.8	9.6	12.7	17.9	24.5	27.5	26.5	24.9	23.6	21.5
Spain	8.2	11.3	17.9	19.9	21.4	24.8	26.1	24.5	22.1	19.6	17.2
France	8.0	7.4	9.1	9.3	9.2	9.8	10.3	10.3	10.4	10.1	9.4
Croatia	9.9	8.6	9.3	11.8	13.7	15.8	17.4	17.2	16.1	13.4	11.1
Italy	6.1	6.7	7.7	8.4	8.4	10.7	12.1	12.7	11.9	11.7	11.2
Cyprus	3.9	3.7	5.4	6.3	7.9	11.9	15.9	16.1	15.0	13.0	11.1
Latvia	6.1	7.7	17.5	19.5	16.2	15.0	11.9	10.8	9.9	9.6	8.7
Lithuania	4.3	5.8	13.8	17.8	15.4	13.4	11.8	10.7	9.1	7.9	7.1
Luxembourg	4.2	4.9	5.1	4.6	4.8	5.1	5.9	6.0	6.5	6.3	5.6
Hungary	7.4	7.8	10.0	11.2	11.0	11.0	10.2	7.7	6.8	5.1	4.2
Malta	6.5	6.0	6.9	6.9	6.4	6.3	6.4	5.8	5.4	4.7	4.0
Netherlands	4.2	3.7	4.4	5.0	5.0	5.8	7.3	7.4	6.9	6.0	4.9
Austria	4.9	4.1	5.3	4.8	4.6	4.9	5.4	5.6	5.7	6.0	5.5
Poland	9.6	7.1	8.1	9.7	9.7	10.1	10.3	9.0	7.5	6.2	4.9
Portugal	9.1	8.8	10.7	12.0	12.9	15.8	16.4	14.1	12.6	11.2	9.0
Romania	6.4	5.6	6.5	7.0	7.2	6.8	7.1	6.8	6.8	5.9	4.9
Slovenia	4.9	4.4	5.9	7.3	8.2	8.9	10.1	9.7	9.0	8.0	6.6
Slovakia	11.2	9.6	12.1	14.5	13.7	14.0	14.2	13.2	11.5	9.7	8.1
Finland	6.9	6.4	8.2	8.4	7.8	7.7	8.2	8.7	9.4	8.8	8.6
Sweden	6.1	6.2	8.3	8.6	7.8	8.0	8.0	7.9	7.4	6.9	6.7
United Kingdom	5.3	5.6	7.6	7.8	8.1	7.9	7.5	6.1	5.3	4.8	4.4
Iceland	2.3	3.0	7.2	7.6	7.1	6.0	5.4	5.0	4.0	3.0	2.8
Norway	2.5	2.7	3.3	3.7	3.4	3.3	3.8	3.6	4.5	4.8	4.2
Turkey	9.1	10.0	13.0	11.1	9.1	8.4	9.0	9.9	10.3	10.9	10.9
United States	4.6	5.8	9.3	9.6	8.9	8.1	7.4	6.2	5.3	4.9	4.4
Japan	3.8	4.0	5.1	5.0	4.6	4.3	4.0	3.6	3.4	3.1	2.8

: Data not available

Source: Eurostat (online data code: une_rt_a)



Table 1: Unemployment rate 2007-2017 (%)

Source: Eurostat ([une_rt_a](#))

Youth unemployment

Higher youth unemployment in the euro area than in the EU since mid-2012

[Youth unemployment rates](#) are generally much higher, even double or more than double, than unemployment rates for all ages. As for the rate for the total population, the youth unemployment rate in the EU-28 sharply declined between 2005 and 2007, reaching its minimum value (15.1 %) in the first quarter 2008. The economic crisis, however, severely hit the young. From the second quarter of 2008, the youth unemployment rate has taken an upward trend peaking in 23.9 % in the first quarter 2013, before receding to 16.2 % at the end of 2017. The EU-28 youth unemployment rate was systematically higher than in the euro area between 2000 and mid-2007. Since then and until the third quarter 2010 these two rates were very close. Afterwards the indicator moved more sharply in the EA-19 than in the EU-28, first downwards until mid-2011, then upwards until the end of 2012 (see also Figure 4). In the middle of 2012 the euro area youth unemployment rate overtook the EU-28 rate, and the gap increased until the end of the year. The gap became even larger in the second part of 2013 and during 2014 and 2015, when the rate for the euro area went down less than the rate for the EU-28. The gap remained at relatively high level during 2017.

Difference between rate and ratio

High youth unemployment rates do reflect the difficulties faced by young people in finding jobs.

However, this does not necessarily mean that the group of unemployed persons aged between 15 and 24 is large, as many young people are studying full-time and are therefore neither working nor looking for a job (so they are not part of the labour force which is used as the denominator for calculating the unemployment rate). For this reason, youth unemployment ratios are also calculated, according to a somewhat different concept: the unemployment ratio calculates the share of unemployed for the whole population. Table 2 shows that youth unemployment ratios in the EU are much lower than youth unemployment rates; they have however also risen since 2008 due to the effects of the crisis on the labour market.

Youth unemployment figures, 2007-2017 (%)

	Youth unemployment rate				Youth unemployment ratio			
	2007	2015	2016	2017	2007	2015	2016	2017
EU-28	15.8	20.3	18.7	16.8	6.9	8.4	7.8	7.0
Euro area	15.6	22.3	20.9	18.8	6.7	8.8	8.3	7.4
Belgium	18.8	22.1	20.1	19.3	6.4	6.6	5.7	5.4
Bulgaria	14.1	21.6	17.2	12.9	4.2	5.6	4.1	3.4
Czech Republic	10.7	12.6	10.5	7.9	3.4	4.1	3.4	2.5
Denmark	7.5	10.8	12.0	11.0	5.3	6.7	7.9	7.0
Germany	11.8	7.2	7.1	6.8	6.1	3.5	3.5	3.4
Estonia	10.1	13.1	13.4	12.1	3.8	5.5	5.8	5.6
Ireland	9.3	20.5	17.0	14.5	6.4	9.6	8.5	6.7
Greece	22.7	49.8	47.3	43.6	7.0	12.9	11.7	10.9
Spain	18.1	48.3	44.4	38.6	8.7	16.8	14.7	12.9
France	19.5	24.7	24.6	22.3	7.2	9.0	9.0	8.0
Croatia	25.4	42.3	31.8	27.0	9.2	14.0	11.6	9.8
Italy	20.4	40.3	37.8	34.7	6.3	10.6	10.0	9.1
Cyprus	10.2	32.8	29.1	24.7	4.2	12.4	10.8	9.0
Latvia	10.6	16.3	17.3	17.0	4.5	6.7	6.9	6.8
Lithuania	8.4	16.3	14.5	13.3	2.3	5.5	5.1	4.6
Luxembourg	15.6	16.6	19.1	15.3	4.0	6.1	5.8	4.7
Hungary	18.1	17.3	12.9	10.7	4.6	5.4	4.2	3.5
Malta	13.5	11.8	11.0	10.4	7.3	6.1	5.7	5.5
Netherlands	9.4	11.3	10.8	8.9	4.3	7.7	7.4	6.1
Austria	9.4	10.6	11.2	9.8	5.6	6.1	6.5	5.5
Poland	21.6	20.8	17.7	14.8	7.1	6.8	6.1	5.2
Portugal	21.4	32.0	28.2	23.8	8.6	10.7	9.3	8.1
Romania	19.3	21.7	20.6	18.3	6.1	6.8	5.8	5.5
Slovenia	10.1	16.3	15.2	11.2	4.2	5.8	5.1	4.4
Slovakia	20.6	26.5	22.2	18.9	7.1	8.4	7.2	6.3
Finland	16.5	22.4	20.1	20.1	8.8	11.7	10.5	10.7
Sweden	19.2	20.4	18.9	17.8	10.1	11.2	10.4	9.8
United Kingdom	14.3	14.6	13.0	12.1	8.8	8.6	7.6	7.0
Iceland	7.1	8.8	6.5	8.2	5.6	7.1	5.4	6.5
Norway	7.3	10.5	11.3	10.7	4.4	5.5	6.1	5.6
Switzerland	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Turkey	17.2	18.6	19.6	20.7	6.3	7.7	8.2	8.9
United States	10.5	11.6	10.4	9.2	:	:	:	:
Japan	7.7	5.5	5.1	4.7	:	:	:	:

: data not available

* The quarterly youth unemployment rate is seasonally adjusted.

Source: Eurostat (une_rt_a)

eurostat 

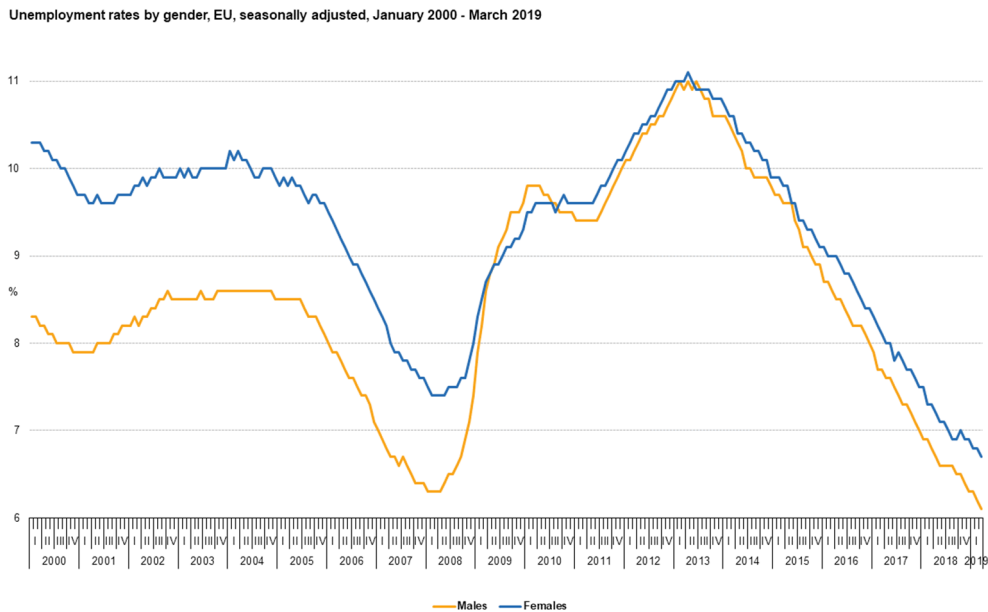


Table 2: Youth unemployment figures, 2007-2017 (%)

Source: Eurostat ([une_rt_q](#)) and ([lfsi_act_a](#))

Male and female unemployment

Similar developments in male and female unemployment since mid-2013



eurostat



Figure 6: Unemployment rates by gender, EU, seasonally adjusted, January 2000 - March 2019 (%)

Source: Eurostat ([une_rt_m](#))

Historically, women have been more affected by unemployment than men. In 2000, the unemployment rate for women in the EU-28 was around 10 %, while the rate for men was below 8 %. By the end of 2002, this [gender gap](#) had narrowed to around 1.4 percentage points and between 2002 and mid-2007 this gap remained more or less constant. Since the first quarter of 2008, when they were at their lowest levels of 6.3 % and 7.4 % respectively, the male and female unemployment rates in the EU-28 converged, and by the third quarter of 2009 the male unemployment rate was higher. The decline of the men's rate during 2010 and the first half of 2011 and the corresponding stability in the women's rate over the same period brought the male rate below the female one once again. Since then the two rates have risen at the same pace until mid-2013, when they reached their highest value of 10.9 % for men and 11 % for women. Starting end-2013 both the male and the female rates began to decline and reached respectively 7.1 % and 7.6 % at the end of 2017.

Unemployment rates, EU-28, 2007-2017 (%)

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Male	6.6	6.6	9.0	9.7	9.6	10.4	10.8	10.1	9.3	8.4	7.4
Female	7.9	7.5	8.9	9.6	9.8	10.6	10.9	10.3	9.5	8.8	7.9
Less than 25 years	15.8	15.9	20.3	21.4	21.8	23.3	23.8	22.2	20.3	18.7	16.8
Between 25 and 74 years	6.1	5.9	7.6	8.3	8.3	9.1	9.5	9.0	8.3	7.5	6.7
Long-term unemployment rate	3.0	2.6	2.9	3.8	4.1	4.6	5.1	5.0	4.5	4.0	3.4
Male	2.8	2.4	2.8	3.9	4.1	4.6	5.1	5.0	4.5	3.9	3.3
Female	3.3	2.8	3.1	3.7	4.1	4.6	5.1	5.0	4.5	4.0	3.5
Very long-term unemployment rate	1.8	1.5	1.5	1.8	2.2	2.5	2.9	3.0	2.8	2.5	2.1

(.) data not available

Source: Eurostat (une_rt_a, une_ltu_a)

eurostat 



Table 3: Unemployment rates, EU-28, 2007-2017 (%)

Source: Eurostat ([une_rt_a](#)) and - ([une_ltu_a](#))

Data sources

An unemployed person is defined by Eurostat, according to the guidelines of the International Labour Organization, as someone aged 15 to 74 without work during the reference week who is available to start work within the next two weeks and who has actively sought employment at some time during the last four weeks. The unemployment rate is the number of people unemployed as a percentage of the labour force.

In addition to the unemployment measures covered here, Eurostat also publishes statistics for persons who fulfil only partially the definition of unemployment. These persons are not included in the official ILO unemployment concept and have a varying degree of attachment to the labour market. The indicators on [underemployment and potential additional labour force participants](#) supplement the unemployment rate to provide a more complete picture of the labour market.

There is currently no specific legal basis for producing and disseminating monthly unemployment data. However, these monthly data are estimates based on results of the [European Union Labour force survey \(EU LFS\)](#), which is a continuous [household](#) survey carried out in all Member States in accordance with European legislation and on the basis of harmonised definitions. These results are interpolated/extrapolated to monthly data using national survey data and/or national monthly series on registered unemployment. The quarterly LFS results are always used as a benchmark to ensure international comparability. As for most Member States the results from the LFS for a full quarter are available 90 days after the end of the reference period, the most recent figures are usually provisional.

For many countries monthly unemployment data are calculated by Eurostat, while several countries actually supply those figures directly from the LFS.


The following LFS data are used in the calculations of the monthly unemployment rates published in this article:

- For Czechia, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Austria, Romania, Finland and Sweden: monthly LFS data up to and including March 2019.
- For Greece: monthly data up to and including January 2019.
- For Denmark: monthly data (3 month moving average) up to and including January, February and March 2019.
- For Portugal: monthly data (3 month moving average) up to and including February, March and April 2019.
- For Estonia and Hungary: monthly data (3 month moving average) up to and including January, February and March 2019.
- For the United Kingdom: monthly data (3 month moving average) up to and including December 2018 as well as January and February 2019.
- For Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Ireland, France, Croatia, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Poland, Slovenia and Slovakia: quarterly data up and including Q4 2018.
- For Spain: quarterly data up and including Q1 2019.

Monthly unemployment and employment series are calculated first at the level of four categories for each Member State (males and females 15-24 years, males and females 25-74 years). These series are then seasonally adjusted and all the national and European aggregates are calculated. Monthly unemployment figures are published by Eurostat as rates (as a percentage of the labour force) or levels (in thousands), by gender and for two age groups (persons aged 15-24, and those aged 25-74). The figures are available as unadjusted, [seasonally adjusted](#) and [trend](#) series. There are monthly estimates for all EU-28 Member States. Data for the EU-28 aggregate start in 2000 and for the euro area (EA-18) in April 1998; the starting point for individual Member States varies.

Member States may publish other rates such as register-based unemployment rates, or rates based on the national LFS or corresponding surveys. These rates may vary from those published by Eurostat due to a different definition or methodological choices.

Source data for tables and graphs

The detailed tables  are available [here](#).

Context

The unemployment rate is an important indicator with both social and economic dimensions. Rising unemployment results in a loss of income for individuals, increased pressure with respect to government spending on [social benefits](#) and a reduction in tax revenue. From an economic perspective, unemployment may be viewed as unused labour capacity.

The [International Labour Organization](#) definition of the unemployment rate is the most widely used labour market indicator because of its international comparability and relatively timely availability. Besides the unemployment rate, indicators such as [employment](#) and [job vacancies](#) also give useful insights into labour market developments.

The [time series](#) on unemployment are used by the European Commission, other public institutions, and the media as an [economic indicator](#); banks may use the data for [business cycle](#) analysis. Finally, the general public might also be interested in changes in unemployment.

The unemployment rate is considered to be a [lagging indicator](#). When there is an economic downturn, it usually takes several months before the unemployment rate begins to rise. Once the economy starts to pick up again, employers usually remain cautious about hiring new staff and it may take several months before unemployment rates start to fall.

Male, youth and long-term unemployment appear to be more susceptible to cyclical economic changes than overall unemployment. Indeed, social policymakers often face the challenge of remedying these situations by designing ways to increase employment opportunities for various groups of society, those working in particular economic activities, or those living in specific regions.

Globalisation and technological progress have an ever-increasing effect on daily life, and the demand for different types of labour and skills is evolving at a rapid pace. While enterprises try to

improve their productivity and become more competitive and innovative, they may well seek to pass on risk to the labour force through greater flexibility - both in relation to those already in employment, as well as those searching for a new job. Within the context of the [European employment strategy \(EES\)](#), there are a number of measures that are designed to help encourage people to remain in work or find a new job, including: the promotion of a life-cycle approach to work, encouraging lifelong learning, improving support to those seeking a job, as well as ensuring equal opportunities. The [integrated employment guidelines for 2008-2010](#) encouraged Member States, among others, to:

- work with renewed endeavour to build employment pathways for young people and reduce youth unemployment, in particular, through adapting education and training systems in order to raise quality, broaden supply, diversify access, ensure flexibility, respond to new occupational needs and skills requirements, and;
- take action to increase female participation and reduce gender gaps in employment, unemployment and pay, through better reconciliation of work and private life and the provision of accessible and affordable childcare facilities and care for other dependants.

The guidelines also set a number of additional benchmarks, whereby Member States were encouraged:

- to ensure that by 2010 every unemployed person is offered a job, apprenticeship, additional training or another employability measure (for young persons leaving school within four months, and for adults within no more than 12 months), and;
- to work towards 25 % of the long-term unemployed participating in training, retraining, work practice, or other employability measures by 2010.

The current economic crisis has however reversed much of the progress achieved in Europe since 2000. The [Europe 2020 strategy](#) put forward by the European Commission sets out a vision of Europe's social market economy for the 21st century. As part of the flagship initiatives, '[An agenda for new skills and jobs](#)' and '[Youth on the move](#)', (youth) unemployment rates will be targeted via by a range of policies, including proposals aimed at education and training institutions, or measures for

the creation of a (work) environment conducive to higher activity rates and higher labour productivity. There are also initiatives aimed at improving the entry rate of young people into the labour market.

Notes

1. [Jump up↑](#) In line with Eurostat's guidelines for disseminating data when the EU is enlarged, aggregate data series in this article refer to the official composition of the EU in the most recent month for which data are available; from July 2013 onwards this is the EU with 28 Member States, [EU-28](#).
2. [Jump up↑](#) In line with Eurostat's guidelines for disseminating data when the euro area is enlarged, aggregate data series in this article refer to the official composition of the euro area in the most recent month for which data are available; from the reference month of January 2015 onwards this will be the euro area with 19 Member States, [EA-19](#).