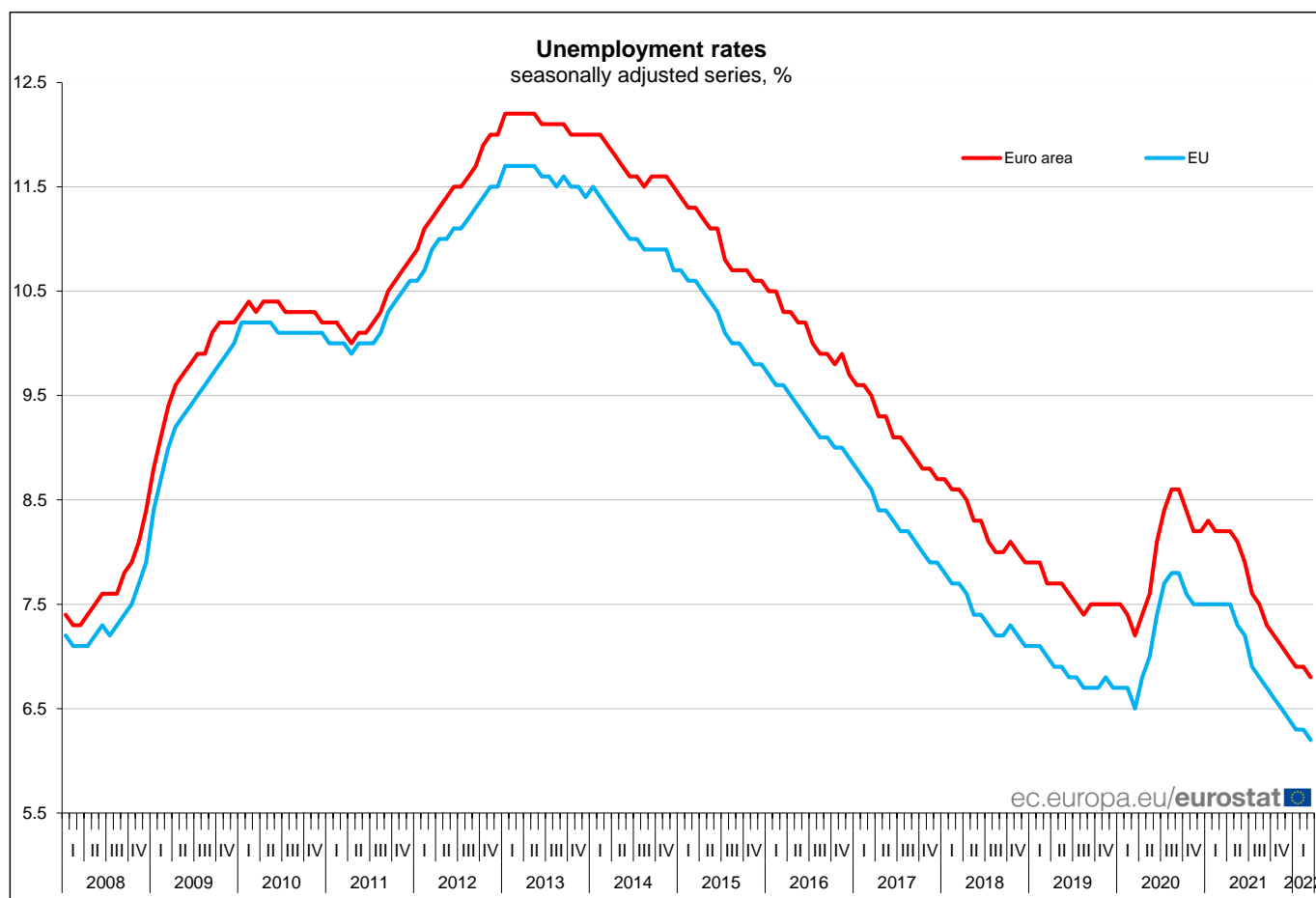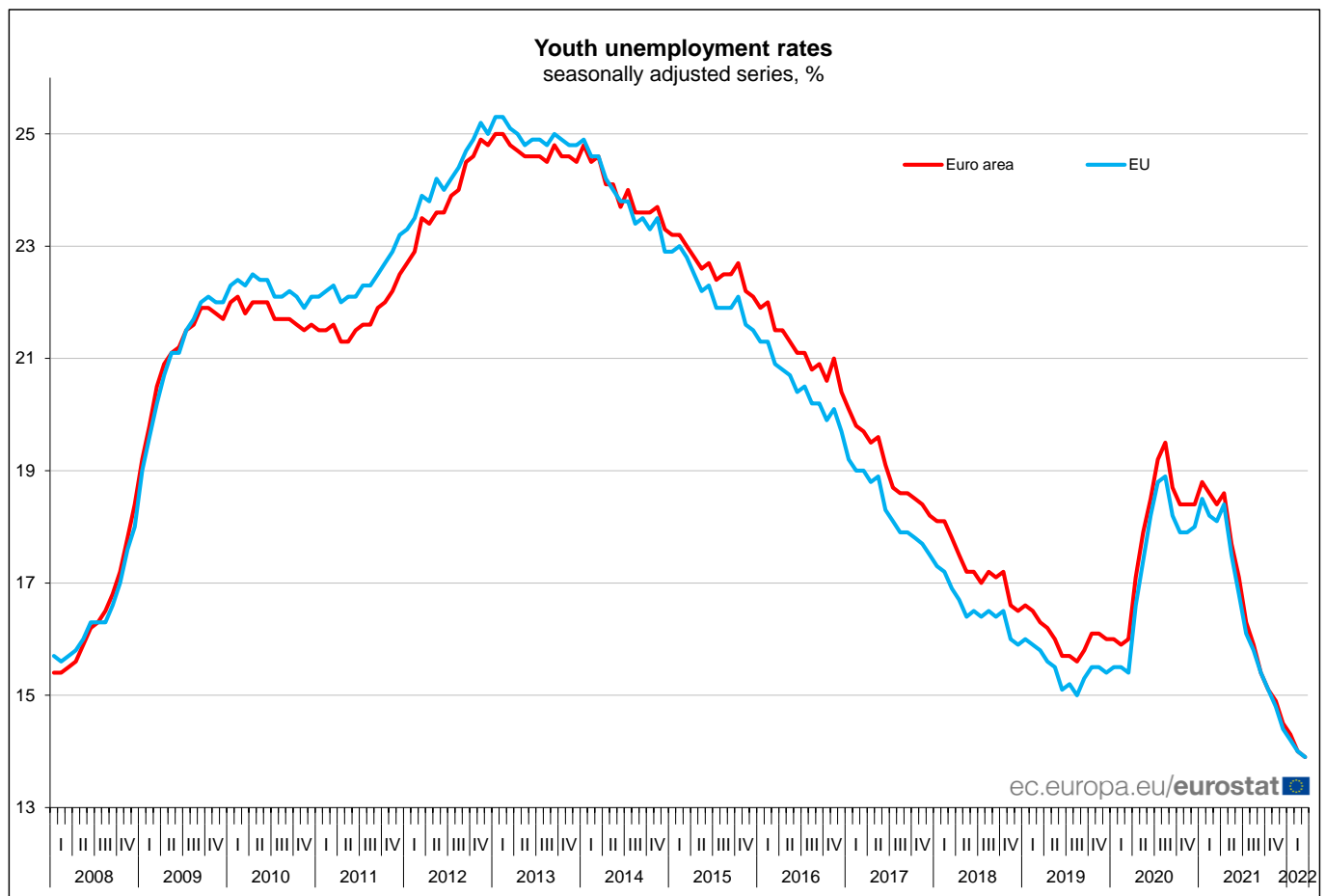March 2022

Euro area unemployment at 6.8%

EU at 6.2%

In March 2022, the **euro area** seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate was 6.8%, down from 6.9% in February 2022 and from 8.2% in March 2021. The **EU** unemployment rate was 6.2% in March 2022, down from 6.3% in February 2022 and from 7.5% in March 2021. These figures are published by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**.

Eurostat estimates that 13.374 million men and women in the **EU**, of whom 11.274 million in the **euro area**, were unemployed in March 2022. Compared with February 2022, the number of persons unemployed decreased by 85 000 in the **EU** and by 76 000 in the **euro area**. Compared with March 2021, unemployment decreased by 2.359 million in the **EU** and by 1.931 million in the **euro area**.

Unemployment rates
seasonally adjusted series, %

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Youth unemployment

In March 2022, 2.579 million young persons (under 25) were unemployed in the **EU**, of whom 2.098 million were in the **euro area**. In March 2022, the youth unemployment rate was 13.9% in both the **EU** and in the **euro area**, down from 14.0% in both areas in the previous month. Compared with March 2021, youth unemployment decreased by 623 000 in the **EU** and by 507 000 in the **euro area**.

Youth unemployment rates
seasonally adjusted series, %

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Unemployment by sex

In March 2022, the unemployment rate for women was 6.6% in the **EU**, stable compared with February 2022. The unemployment rate for men was 5.9% in March 2022, down from 6.0% in February 2022. In the **euro area**, the unemployment rate for women decreased from 7.3% in February 2022 to 7.2% in March 2022, while the unemployment rate for men remained stable at 6.5% in March 2022.

Additional labour market indicators

These estimates are based on the globally used International Labour Organisation (ILO) standard definition of unemployment, which counts as unemployed people without a job who have been actively seeking work in the last four weeks and are available to start work within the next two weeks. The COVID-19 crisis and the measures applied to combat it have triggered a sharp increase in the number of claims for unemployment benefits across the EU. At the same time, a significant part of those who had registered in unemployment agencies might be no longer actively looking for a job or no longer available for work. This may still lead to discrepancies in the number of registered unemployed and those measured as unemployed according to the ILO definition.

To capture in full the unprecedented labour market situation triggered by the COVID-19 outbreak, the data on unemployment have been complemented by additional indicators, e.g. underemployed part-time workers, persons seeking work but not immediately available and persons available to work but not seeking, released together with LFS data for the fourth quarter of 2021.

Geographical information

Euro area (EA19): Belgium, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Italy, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Austria, Portugal, Slovenia, Slovakia and Finland.

European Union (EU27): 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 and Sweden.

Methods and definitions

Eurostat publishes 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 data 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.

Series published before 31 March 2022 have been **seasonally adjusted** using the seasonal factors estimated in the period up to December 2019 included. Series published as of 31 March 2022 are seasonally adjusted using seasonal models estimated in the period up to December 2021 included.

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, Finland, Sweden and Iceland: the trend component is used instead of the more volatile seasonally adjusted data.

Denmark, Estonia and Portugal: 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 36/2022 of 31 March 2022, the unemployment rate for February 2022 has been revised for the euro area from 6.8% to 6.9% and for the EU from 6.2% to 6.3%. Among EU Member States, the rate has been revised by more than 0.1 percentage points (pp) downwards for Estonia (by 0.5 pp) as well as for Denmark, Portugal and Finland (all by 0.2 pp). The rate has been revised by more than 0.1 percentage points upwards for Greece (by 0.9 pp) and Spain (by 0.8 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 articles on unemployment and on youth unemployment

Eurostat metadata on adjusted unemployment series and methodological note regarding COVID-19 outbreak

Eurostat €-indicators release calendar

European Statistics Code of Practice

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Seasonally adjusted unemployment, totals

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	Mar 21	Dec 21	Jan 22	Feb 22	Mar 22	Mar 21	Dec 21	Jan 22	Feb 22	Mar 22
Euro area	8.2	7.0	6.9	6.9	**6.8**	13 205	11 571	11 441	11 350	**11 274**
EU	7.5	6.4	6.3	6.3	**6.2**	15 733	13 719	13 594	13 459	**13 374**
Belgium	6.7	5.7	5.6	5.6	**5.6**	342	299	295	294	**296**
Bulgaria	5.8	4.6	4.5	4.4	**4.3**	190	148	145	143	**138**
Czechia	3.3	2.2	2.3	2.5	**2.3**	174	115	122	133	**123**
Denmark	5.7	4.5	4.6	4.4	**4.5**	173	139	141	136	**139**
Germany	3.9	3.2	3.1	3.0	**2.9**	1 654	1 365	1 335	1 306	**1 280**
Estonia	6.7	5.4	5.8	5.4	**5.4**	46	38	41	39	**39**
Ireland	7.7	5.1	5.2	5.2	**5.5**	189	135	137	135	**146**
Greece	16.8	12.8	13.0	12.8	**12.9**	736	597	598	608	**609**
Spain	15.4	13.4	13.3	13.4	**13.5**	3 541	3 113	3 107	3 120	**3 164**
France	8.2	7.5	7.4	7.4	**7.4**	2 438	2 270	2 255	2 248	**2 228**
Croatia	8.4	6.8	6.7	6.6	**6.5**	152	122	120	119	**118**
Italy	10.1	8.8	8.6	8.5	**8.3**	2 486	2 209	2 151	2 122	**2 074**
Cyprus	8.2	6.6	6.5	6.3	**5.9**	37	31	31	30	**28**
Latvia	7.7	7.4	7.3	7.2	**7.0**	71	69	68	67	**66**
Lithuania	7.4	6.6	7.0	7.0	**6.9**	108	97	102	103	**103**
Luxembourg	6.1	4.9	4.7	4.6	**4.5**	20	16	15	15	**14**
Hungary	4.0	3.6	3.8	3.7	**3.2**	193	177	184	180	**157**
Malta	3.8	3.2	3.1	3.1	**3.0**	10	9	9	9	**9**
Netherlands	4.6	3.8	3.6	3.4	**3.3**	439	369	354	336	**327**
Austria	6.6	4.8	4.8	4.8	**4.2**	301	222	223	221	**195**
Poland	3.7	3.1	3.0	3.0	**3.0**	638	532	524	522	**526**
Portugal	6.6	5.8	5.8	5.6	**5.7**	334	302	298	292	**296**
Romania	5.9	5.7	5.7	5.7	**5.7**	486	472	469	468	**475**
Slovenia	5.1	4.4	4.2	4.1	**4.0**	50	46	43	42	**41**
Slovakia	7.1	6.6	6.6	6.5	**6.5**	194	182	182	180	**178**
Finland	8.0	6.9	6.8	6.7	**6.6**	220	192	190	187	**185**
Sweden	9.1	8.0	7.9	7.7	**7.6**	503	448	439	432	**425**
Iceland	6.6	4.5	4.4	4.4	**4.3**	13	10	9	9	**9**
Norway	4.7*	3.3	3.1	3.1	**:**	134*	96	91	90	**:**
Switzerland	5.5	4.5	:	:	**:**	269	223	:	:	**:**
United States	6.0	3.9	4.0	3.8	**3.6**	9 560	6 368	6 607	6 407	**5 880**

: Data not available   * February 2021

Source datasets: une_rt_m (rates) and une_rt_m (in 1 000 persons)

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Seasonally adjusted youth (under 25s) unemployment

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	Mar 21	Dec 21	Jan 22	Feb 22	Mar 22	Mar 21	Dec 21	Jan 22	Feb 22	Mar 22
Euro area	18.4	14.5	14.3	14.0	**13.9**	2 605	2 156	2 130	2 115	**2 098**
EU	18.1	14.4	14.2	14.0	**13.9**	3 202	2 658	2 621	2 594	**2 579**
Belgium	19.4	15.5	13.5	13.5	**13.5**	71	62	54	54	**54**
Bulgaria	15.9	15.3	14.9	14.8	**14.4**	21	18	18	18	**17**
Czechia	10.1	7.7	6.4	7.3	**6.9**	27	21	17	20	**19**
Denmark	13.0	10.0	10.0	10.1	**10.3**	55	44	44	43	**45**
Germany	7.7	5.7	5.6	5.5	**5.5**	326	253	250	247	**244**
Estonia	16.2	18.2	19.5	18.4	**18.4**	8	9	10	10	**9**
Ireland	18.7	12.4	13.0	12.7	**12.3**	54	44	47	46	**46**
Greece	41.9	28.8	35.6	30.8	**27.2**	90	59	73	72	**60**
Spain	38.2	31.2	30.4	29.8	**29.6**	560	472	471	471	**479**
France	20.7	16.7	16.2	16.4	**16.3**	604	523	508	519	**522**
Croatia	23.6	18.4	17.0	17.0	**17.0**	35	25	23	23	**23**
Italy	32.2	26.2	24.8	24.2	**24.5**	446	387	363	354	**359**
Cyprus	18.4	16.4	16.0	16.0	**16.0**	7	6	6	6	**6**
Latvia	16.2	11.4	10.8	10.3	**9.8**	9	6	6	6	**5**
Lithuania	15.2	10.6	11.5	11.5	**11.5**	15	11	13	13	**13**
Luxembourg	20.1	15.7	14.6	14.4	**14.0**	5	4	4	3	**3**
Hungary	12.0	11.5	11.7	10.6	**9.2**	38	36	36	32	**28**
Malta	9.9	11.7	10.8	10.5	**10.0**	3	3	3	3	**3**
Netherlands	10.4	7.8	7.6	7.3	**7.1**	172	134	131	126	**124**
Austria	12.7	8.1	9.1	8.7	**6.9**	63	40	44	44	**34**
Poland	14.1	9.5	9.3	9.1	**9.1**	148	100	97	95	**95**
Portugal	22.7	20.9	20.6	20.2	**21.6**	71	68	66	65	**70**
Romania	20.9	22.0	:	:	**:**	115	118	:	:	**:**
Slovenia	14.8	10.1	8.0	8.0	**8.0**	8	8	6	6	**6**
Slovakia	22.4	19.1	19.0	18.9	**18.8**	32	27	27	27	**27**
Finland	19.5	14.3	14.1	13.9	**13.8**	61	44	44	43	**43**
Sweden	24.7	23.3	22.9	22.6	**22.3**	151	146	144	142	**141**
Iceland	12.3	9.3	9.3	9.4	**9.4**	3	3	3	3	**3**
Norway	11.8	9.1	8.8	8.1	**:**	42	35	34	32	**:**
Switzerland	9.2	8.1	:	:	**:**	53	48	:	:	**:**

: Data not available

Belgium, Croatia, Cyprus, Romania and Slovenia: quarterly data

Source datasets: une_rt_m (rates) and une_rt_m (in 1 000 persons)

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Seasonally adjusted unemployment rates (%), by sex

	Males					Females				
	Mar 21	**Dec 21**	**Jan 22**	**Feb 22**	**Mar 22**	**Mar 21**	**Dec 21**	**Jan 22**	**Feb 22**	**Mar 22**
Euro area	7.7	6.8	6.6	6.5	**6.5**	8.6	7.3	7.3	7.3	**7.2**
EU	7.1	6.2	6.1	6.0	**5.9**	7.9	6.6	6.7	6.6	**6.6**
Belgium	6.6	6.7	6.7	6.6	**6.6**	6.8	4.6	4.5	4.5	**4.6**
Bulgaria	6.0	5.0	4.8	4.7	**4.6**	5.7	4.1	4.1	4.0	**3.9**
Czechia	2.7	1.9	1.9	2.0	**2.0**	3.9	2.5	2.9	3.2	**2.8**
Denmark	5.6	4.6	4.7	4.4	**4.3**	5.8	4.4	4.5	4.5	**4.7**
Germany	4.2	3.5	3.4	3.3	**3.2**	3.5	2.8	2.7	2.7	**2.7**
Estonia	7.4	5.6	6.4	5.7	**5.7**	5.9	5.3	5.1	5.1	**5.1**
Ireland	7.6	5.1	5.1	5.0	**5.3**	7.8	5.2	5.4	5.4	**5.8**
Greece	12.2	9.7	9.7	10.0	**10.2**	22.6	16.6	17.2	16.3	**16.3**
Spain	13.5	11.8	11.8	11.8	**11.9**	17.6	15.1	15.0	15.1	**15.3**
France	8.4	7.6	7.4	7.3	**7.2**	7.9	7.5	7.5	7.5	**7.5**
Croatia	8.4	6.5	6.4	6.3	**6.2**	8.4	7.1	7.0	7.0	**6.9**
Italy	9.2	8.2	7.8	7.5	**7.6**	11.3	9.6	9.7	9.8	**9.2**
Cyprus	8.0	5.9	5.7	5.6	**5.3**	8.5	7.3	7.2	7.0	**6.5**
Latvia	8.3	8.0	8.0	7.8	**7.5**	7.0	6.8	6.7	6.6	**6.6**
Lithuania	7.5	7.4	8.0	8.0	**8.0**	7.3	5.9	6.0	5.9	**5.8**
Luxembourg	5.5	4.5	4.4	4.3	**4.2**	6.8	5.2	5.0	4.9	**4.8**
Hungary	3.7	3.6	3.7	3.8	**3.7**	4.5	3.6	3.9	3.6	**2.7**
Malta	3.9	3.2	3.1	3.2	**3.2**	3.7	3.1	3.0	3.0	**2.8**
Netherlands	4.3	3.6	3.4	3.3	**3.1**	4.8	4.0	3.9	3.6	**3.6**
Austria	6.2	4.9	5.3	4.8	**4.4**	7.0	4.7	4.3	4.7	**4.1**
Poland	3.7	3.1	3.1	3.0	**3.0**	3.8	3.0	2.9	3.0	**3.1**
Portugal	6.4	5.7	5.5	5.1	**5.0**	6.9	5.9	6.0	6.2	**6.4**
Romania	6.2	6.1	5.6	6.1	**5.7**	5.5	5.1	5.8	5.1	**5.8**
Slovenia	4.1	3.9	3.7	3.6	**3.7**	6.3	5.1	4.8	4.6	**4.4**
Slovakia	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	**6.6**	7.6	6.4	6.4	6.4	**6.3**
Finland	8.6	7.2	7.1	7.0	**6.9**	7.4	6.6	6.5	6.4	**6.4**
Sweden	9.0	7.5	7.3	7.2	**7.0**	9.2	8.6	8.5	8.4	**8.3**
Iceland	5.9	4.4	4.3	4.2	**4.2**	7.4	4.6	4.5	4.5	**4.5**
Norway	5.0	3.6	3.4	3.4	**:**	4.6	3.0	2.9	2.8	**:**
Switzerland	5.0	4.5	:	:	**:**	6.1	4.5	:	:	**:**

: Data not available

Source dataset: une_rt_m