

16/2022 – 1 February 2022

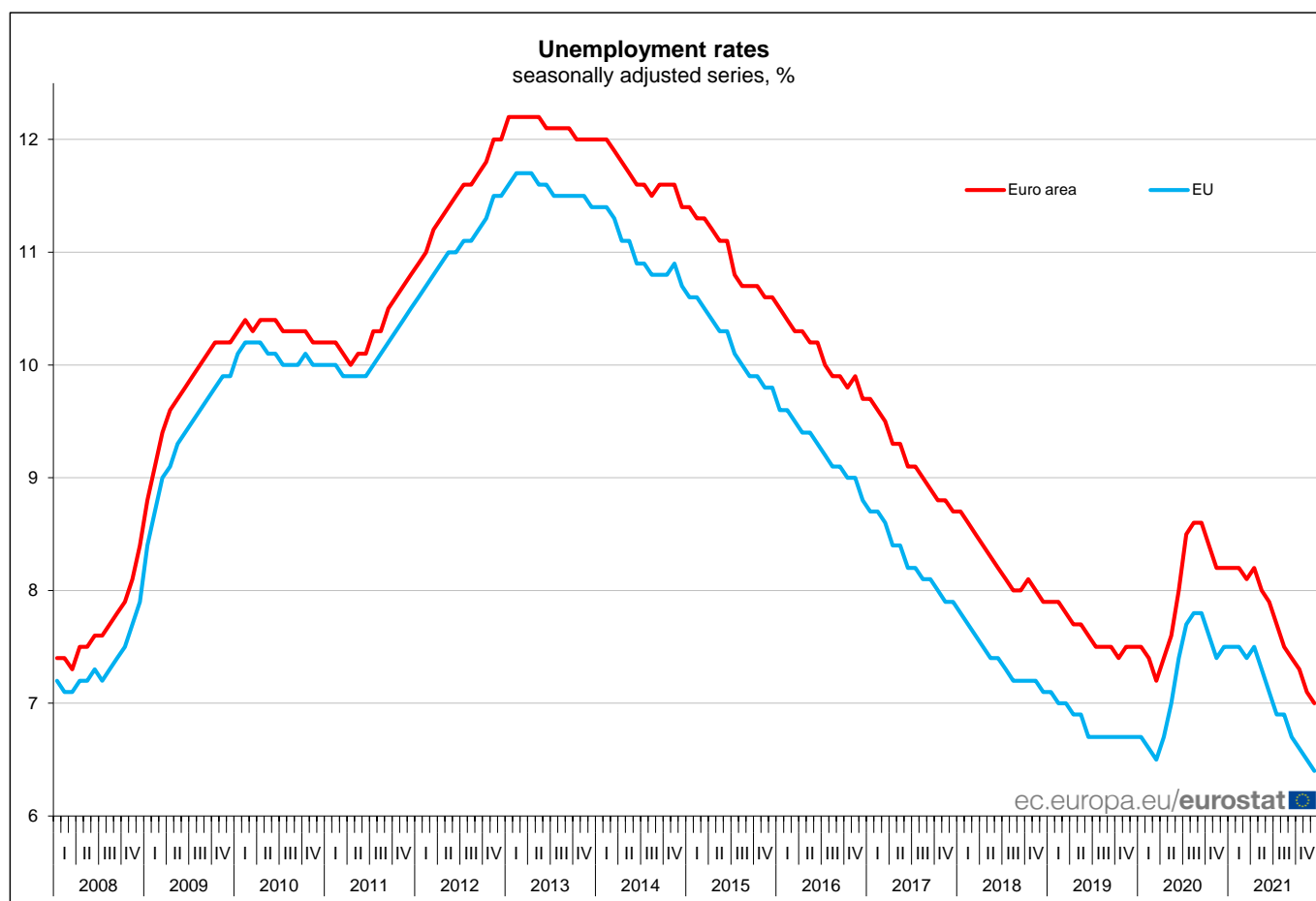
December 2021

Euro area unemployment at 7.0%

EU at 6.4%

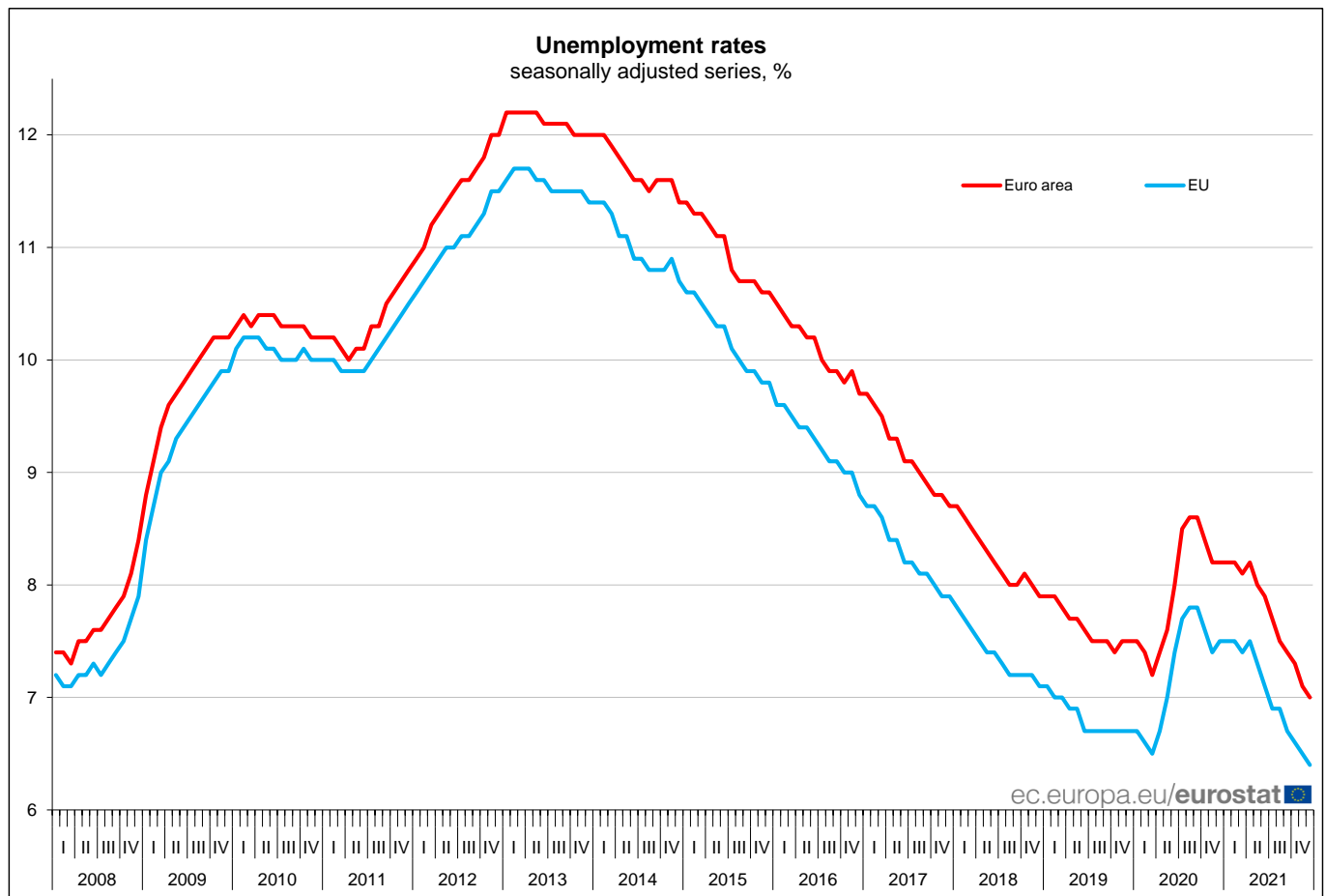
In December 2021, the **euro area** seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate was 7.0%, down from 7.1% in November 2021 and from 8.2% in December 2020. The **EU** unemployment rate was 6.4% in December 2021, down from 6.5% in November 2021 and from 7.5% in December 2020. These figures are published by **Eurostat**, the statistical office of the European Union.

Eurostat estimates that 13.612 million men and women in the **EU**, of whom 11.481 million in the **euro area**, were unemployed in December 2021. Compared with November 2021, the number of persons unemployed decreased by 210 000 in the **EU** and by 185 000 in the **euro area**. Compared with December 2020, unemployment decreased by 2.196 million in the **EU** and by 1.828 million in the **euro area**.



Youth unemployment

In December 2021, 2.748 million young persons (under 25) were unemployed in the **EU**, of whom 2.222 million were in the **euro area**. In December 2021, the youth unemployment rate was 14.9% in both the **EU** and the **euro area**, down from 15.3% in the **EU** and from 15.4% in the **euro area** in the previous month. Compared with November 2021, youth unemployment decreased by 81 000 in the **EU** and by 78 000 in the **euro area**. Compared with December 2020, youth unemployment decreased by 385 000 in the **EU** and by 323 000 in the **euro area**.



Unemployment by sex

In December 2021, the unemployment rate for women was 6.6% in the **EU**, down from 6.8% in November 2021. The unemployment rate for men was 6.1% in December 2021, down from 6.2% in November 2021. In the **euro area**, the unemployment rate for women decreased from 7.5% in November 2021 to 7.3% in December 2021, while the unemployment rate for men decreased from 6.8% to 6.7%.

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 third 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 have been **seasonally adjusted** using the seasonal factors estimated in the period up to December 2019 included. Those seasonal factors will be kept unchanged ('controlled concurrent adjustment method') until the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak can be integrated in seasonal adjustment models.

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. Austria: the data are provisional up to December 2021 included.

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 [4/2022](#) of 10 January 2022, the unemployment rate for November 2021 has been revised from 7.2% to 7.1% for the euro area and remained unchanged for the EU. Among EU Member States, the rate has been revised by more than 0.1 percentage points (pp) downwards for Spain (by 0.7 pp). The rate has been revised by more than 0.1 percentage points upwards for Estonia (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 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) | | | | |
|----------------------|-----------|--------|--------|--------|-------------|----------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|---------------|
| | Dec 20 | Sep 21 | Oct 21 | Nov 21 | Dec 21 | Dec 20 | Sep 21 | Oct 21 | Nov 21 | Dec 21 |
| Euro area | 8.2 | 7.4 | 7.3 | 7.1 | 7.0 | 13 309 | 12 102 | 11 953 | 11 666 | 11 481 |
| EU | 7.5 | 6.7 | 6.6 | 6.5 | 6.4 | 15 808 | 14 295 | 14 125 | 13 822 | 13 612 |
| Belgium | 6.0 | 6.2 | 6.0 | 5.9 | 5.7 | 303 | 324 | 315 | 304 | 296 |
| Bulgaria | 5.6 | 4.9 | 4.9 | 5.0 | 4.9 | 184 | 159 | 159 | 162 | 159 |
| Czechia | 3.2 | 2.6 | 2.4 | 2.2 | 2.1 | 169 | 139 | 130 | 117 | 115 |
| Denmark | 6.0 | 5.1 | 5.0 | 5.1 | 5.1 | 182 | 157 | 155 | 158 | 156 |
| Germany | 4.0 | 3.3 | 3.3 | 3.2 | 3.2 | 1 728 | 1 421 | 1 399 | 1 384 | 1 372 |
| Estonia | 7.2 | 5.6 | 5.2 | 5.3 | 5.2 | 51 | 39 | 36 | 37 | 36 |
| Ireland | 6.2 | 5.2 | 5.2 | 5.2 | 5.1 | 149 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 132 |
| Greece | 15.6 | 13.2 | 13.5 | 13.3 | 12.7 | 718 | 619 | 629 | 629 | 593 |
| Spain | 16.3 | 14.3 | 13.9 | 13.4 | 13.0 | 3 747 | 3 339 | 3 224 | 3 104 | 3 030 |
| France | 7.8 | 7.7 | 7.6 | 7.5 | 7.4 | 2 310 | 2 340 | 2 289 | 2 261 | 2 251 |
| Croatia | 8.6 | 7.6 | 7.3 | 7.1 | 7.0 | 155 | 137 | 131 | 127 | 124 |
| Italy | 9.8 | 9.1 | 9.3 | 9.1 | 9.0 | 2 414 | 2 262 | 2 320 | 2 259 | 2 230 |
| Cyprus | 8.0 | 6.2 | 6.6 | 6.4 | 6.4 | 36 | 29 | 31 | 30 | 30 |
| Latvia | 7.9 | 7.0 | 7.0 | 7.3 | 7.5 | 76 | 66 | 66 | 69 | 71 |
| Lithuania | 9.2 | 6.7 | 6.5 | 6.0 | 5.6 | 137 | 99 | 96 | 88 | 84 |
| Luxembourg | 6.4 | 5.2 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 20 | 17 | 16 | 16 | 16 |
| Hungary | 4.2 | 3.6 | 3.9 | 3.8 | 3.7 | 202 | 172 | 188 | 185 | 181 |
| Malta | 4.3 | 3.5 | 3.4 | 3.4 | 3.4 | 12 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Netherlands | 4.9 | 4.1 | 3.9 | 3.7 | 3.8 | 476 | 399 | 382 | 359 | 369 |
| Austria | 6.9 | 5.1 | 5.7 | 5.2 | 4.9 | 312 | 237 | 264 | 241 | 228 |
| Poland | 3.4 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 2.9 | 583 | 517 | 515 | 515 | 504 |
| Portugal | 6.9 | 6.4 | 6.4 | 6.3 | 5.9 | 346 | 328 | 330 | 325 | 304 |
| Romania | 6.4 | 5.2 | 5.2 | 5.2 | 5.4 | 528 | 423 | 424 | 432 | 443 |
| Slovenia | 5.3 | 4.6 | 4.7 | 4.8 | 4.6 | 55 | 48 | 50 | 50 | 49 |
| Slovakia | 7.1 | 6.5 | 6.4 | 6.4 | 6.4 | 194 | 179 | 177 | 176 | 177 |
| Finland | 8.1 | 7.5 | 7.3 | 7.2 | 7.1 | 222 | 208 | 204 | 200 | 199 |
| Sweden | 8.9 | 8.6 | 8.5 | 8.3 | 8.2 | 494 | 478 | 470 | 463 | 456 |
| Iceland | 6.9 | 5.0 | 4.9 | 4.9 | 4.9 | 14 | 11 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Norway | 5.0* | 3.6 | 3.6 | 3.5 | : | 144* | 104 | 105 | 100 | : |
| Switzerland | 5.2 | 4.9 | : | : | : | 259 | 244 | : | : | : |
| United States | 6.7 | 4.7 | 4.6 | 4.2 | 3.9 | 10 840 | 7 648 | 7 348 | 6 818 | 6 368 |

: Data not available

* November 2020

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

Seasonally adjusted youth (under 25s) unemployment

| | Rates (%) | | | | | Number of persons (in thousands) | | | | |
|--------------------|-----------|--------|--------|--------|-------------|----------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------------|
| | Dec 20 | Sep 21 | Oct 21 | Nov 21 | Dec 21 | Dec 20 | Sep 21 | Oct 21 | Nov 21 | Dec 21 |
| Euro area | 18.2 | 15.9 | 15.6 | 15.4 | 14.9 | 2 545 | 2 378 | 2 340 | 2 300 | 2 222 |
| EU | 17.9 | 15.8 | 15.5 | 15.3 | 14.9 | 3 133 | 2 899 | 2 863 | 2 829 | 2 748 |
| Belgium | 16.3 | 18.3 | 16.4 | 16.4 | 16.4 | 56 | 78 | 70 | 70 | 70 |
| Bulgaria | 15.9 | 16.8 | 15.9 | 15.7 | 14.8 | 22 | 21 | 19 | 18 | 17 |
| Czechia | 10.5 | 6.3 | 7.3 | 6.5 | 7.6 | 27 | 17 | 19 | 17 | 20 |
| Denmark | 12.3 | 11.8 | 11.6 | 11.1 | 10.8 | 52 | 51 | 51 | 50 | 49 |
| Germany | 7.9 | 6.4 | 6.3 | 6.2 | 6.1 | 337 | 276 | 271 | 268 | 265 |
| Estonia | 18.9 | 15.1 | 16.1 | 18.2 | 17.8 | 9 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 9 |
| Ireland | 15.4 | 10.3 | 10.5 | 10.7 | 10.6 | 40 | 36 | 36 | 37 | 36 |
| Greece | 33.3 | 27.3 | 32.5 | 37.0 | 30.5 | 72 | 61 | 75 | 85 | 62 |
| Spain | 41.0 | 30.8 | 31.4 | 31.2 | 30.6 | 599 | 478 | 478 | 466 | 450 |
| France | 19.4 | 19.6 | 18.5 | 17.8 | 17.6 | 538 | 634 | 603 | 586 | 581 |
| Croatia | 22.2 | 20.5 | 16.6 | 16.6 | 16.6 | 32 | 29 | 22 | 22 | 22 |
| Italy | 31.3 | 28.9 | 27.6 | 27.5 | 26.8 | 418 | 421 | 405 | 399 | 391 |
| Cyprus | 19.9 | 15.0 | 15.1 | 15.1 | 15.1 | 7 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| Latvia | 14.0 | 14.4 | 14.9 | 15.0 | 15.0 | 8 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 |
| Lithuania | 17.7 | 14.0 | 13.2 | 11.8 | 10.7 | 19 | 14 | 14 | 13 | 11 |
| Luxembourg | 22.5 | 16.3 | 15.4 | 15.5 | 16.2 | 6 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| Hungary | 11.4 | 10.1 | 13.3 | 12.3 | 12.4 | 36 | 31 | 41 | 38 | 39 |
| Malta | 11.1 | 7.8 | 7.9 | 8.5 | 8.7 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| Netherlands | 10.9 | 9.0 | 8.5 | 7.8 | 7.8 | 181 | 153 | 145 | 133 | 134 |
| Austria | 12.1 | 9.1 | 10.4 | 10.0 | 8.3 | 63 | 46 | 52 | 50 | 40 |
| Poland | 14.6 | 10.0 | 10.8 | 11.7 | 11.9 | 156 | 106 | 116 | 125 | 127 |
| Portugal | 23.5 | 22.7 | 22.1 | 22.3 | 21.1 | 74 | 73 | 71 | 73 | 69 |
| Romania | 21.2 | 20.3 | : | : | : | 116 | 107 | : | : | : |
| Slovenia | 15.0 | 12.7 | 12.9 | 12.9 | 12.9 | 9 | 10 | 13 | 13 | 13 |
| Slovakia | 21.7 | 18.6 | 19.1 | 19.6 | 20.5 | 33 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| Finland | 20.2 | 16.9 | 16.7 | 16.4 | 16.1 | 63 | 53 | 52 | 51 | 50 |
| Sweden | 24.4 | 24.7 | 24.4 | 24.2 | 24.0 | 147 | 154 | 152 | 150 | 149 |
| Iceland | 12.7 | 8.3 | 8.5 | 8.9 | 9.4 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Norway | 10.3 | 9.7 | 9.8 | 9.5 | : | 37 | 36 | 37 | 36 | : |
| Switzerland | 8.0 | 8.4 | : | : | : | 46 | 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)

Seasonally adjusted unemployment rates (%), by sex

| | Males | | | | | Females | | | | |
|--------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------------|---------|--------|--------|--------|-------------|
| | Dec 20 | Sep 21 | Oct 21 | Nov 21 | Dec 21 | Dec 20 | Sep 21 | Oct 21 | Nov 21 | Dec 21 |
| Euro area | 7.9 | 7.1 | 7.0 | 6.8 | 6.7 | 8.6 | 7.7 | 7.6 | 7.5 | 7.3 |
| EU | 7.2 | 6.4 | 6.3 | 6.2 | 6.1 | 7.8 | 7.0 | 6.9 | 6.8 | 6.6 |
| Belgium | 6.2 | 6.8 | 6.6 | 6.2 | 6.0 | 5.8 | 5.5 | 5.4 | 5.4 | 5.4 |
| Bulgaria | 5.6 | 5.4 | 5.4 | 5.5 | 5.4 | 5.5 | 4.4 | 4.3 | 4.4 | 4.4 |
| Czechia | 2.7 | 2.2 | 2.1 | 1.8 | 1.9 | 3.7 | 3.0 | 2.8 | 2.7 | 2.4 |
| Denmark | 5.8 | 5.1 | 4.9 | 4.8 | 5.0 | 6.3 | 5.2 | 5.2 | 5.4 | 5.1 |
| Germany | 4.4 | 3.6 | 3.5 | 3.5 | 3.5 | 3.6 | 3.0 | 2.9 | 2.9 | 2.9 |
| Estonia | 7.3 | 6.7 | 5.6 | 6.0 | 5.7 | 7.1 | 4.6 | 4.8 | 4.6 | 4.5 |
| Ireland | 6.4 | 5.3 | 5.3 | 5.3 | 5.2 | 6.1 | 5.1 | 5.1 | 5.1 | 5.1 |
| Greece | 12.6 | 9.8 | 10.3 | 9.7 | 9.5 | 19.3 | 17.5 | 17.6 | 17.7 | 16.6 |
| Spain | 14.3 | 12.8 | 12.3 | 11.8 | 11.5 | 18.5 | 16.0 | 15.6 | 15.1 | 14.7 |
| France | 8.0 | 7.8 | 7.6 | 7.5 | 7.5 | 7.6 | 7.7 | 7.5 | 7.4 | 7.4 |
| Croatia | 8.3 | 7.4 | 7.0 | 6.8 | 6.6 | 8.9 | 7.9 | 7.6 | 7.5 | 7.4 |
| Italy | 8.9 | 8.3 | 8.5 | 8.4 | 8.5 | 11.1 | 10.2 | 10.3 | 10.0 | 9.6 |
| Cyprus | 8.2 | 6.4 | 6.6 | 6.3 | 6.0 | 7.9 | 6.0 | 6.5 | 6.5 | 6.8 |
| Latvia | 8.7 | 8.3 | 8.2 | 8.4 | 8.7 | 7.1 | 5.7 | 5.9 | 6.3 | 6.3 |
| Lithuania | 9.8 | 7.4 | 7.4 | 6.8 | 6.5 | 8.5 | 6.0 | 5.6 | 5.1 | 4.7 |
| Luxembourg | 5.8 | 4.8 | 4.6 | 4.5 | 4.6 | 7.0 | 5.8 | 5.5 | 5.5 | 5.5 |
| Hungary | 4.0 | 3.3 | 3.6 | 3.6 | 3.6 | 4.4 | 3.9 | 4.2 | 4.1 | 3.8 |
| Malta | 4.2 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 4.5 | 3.2 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 3.0 |
| Netherlands | 4.8 | 3.8 | 3.6 | 3.5 | 3.6 | 5.1 | 4.4 | 4.3 | 3.9 | 4.0 |
| Austria | 7.0 | 5.4 | 5.5 | 5.2 | 5.1 | 6.7 | 4.9 | 6.0 | 5.2 | 4.7 |
| Poland | 3.5 | 2.9 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 3.3 | 3.1 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 2.9 |
| Portugal | 6.7 | 6.2 | 6.0 | 6.1 | 5.9 | 7.0 | 6.5 | 6.7 | 6.4 | 5.9 |
| Romania | 6.4 | 5.6 | 5.5 | 5.5 | 5.6 | 6.4 | 4.5 | 4.7 | 4.9 | 5.1 |
| Slovenia | 4.6 | 5.1 | 5.1 | 5.1 | 5.0 | 6.3 | 4.1 | 4.3 | 4.3 | 4.2 |
| Slovakia | 6.7 | 6.4 | 6.4 | 6.4 | 6.5 | 7.7 | 6.6 | 6.4 | 6.3 | 6.3 |
| Finland | 8.6 | 8.1 | 7.8 | 7.6 | 7.5 | 7.5 | 6.9 | 6.8 | 6.7 | 6.7 |
| Sweden | 8.8 | 8.3 | 8.1 | 7.9 | 7.7 | 8.9 | 9.0 | 8.9 | 8.8 | 8.7 |
| Iceland | 6.5 | 5.4 | 5.4 | 5.3 | 5.3 | 7.5 | 4.6 | 4.4 | 4.4 | 4.4 |
| Norway | 5.3 | 3.9 | 3.7 | 3.6 | : | 4.4 | 3.2 | 3.5 | 3.2 | : |
| Switzerland | 4.8 | 4.9 | : | : | : | 5.7 | 5.0 | : | : | : |

: Data not available

Source dataset: [une_rt_m](#)