



May 2017

Euro area unemployment at 9.3%

EU28 at 7.8%

This News Release has been revised following an error in the transmission of data for April and May 2017 by Portugal. It has however no impact on EU and euro area aggregate unemployment rates. We apologise for any inconvenience this may have caused.

The **euro area** (EA19) seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate was 9.3% in May 2017, stable compared to April 2017 and down from 10.2% in May 2016. This remains the lowest rate recorded in the **euro area** since March 2009. The **EU28** unemployment rate was 7.8% in May 2017, stable compared to April 2017 and down from 8.7% in May 2016. This remains the lowest rate recorded in the **EU28** since December 2008. These figures are published by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**.

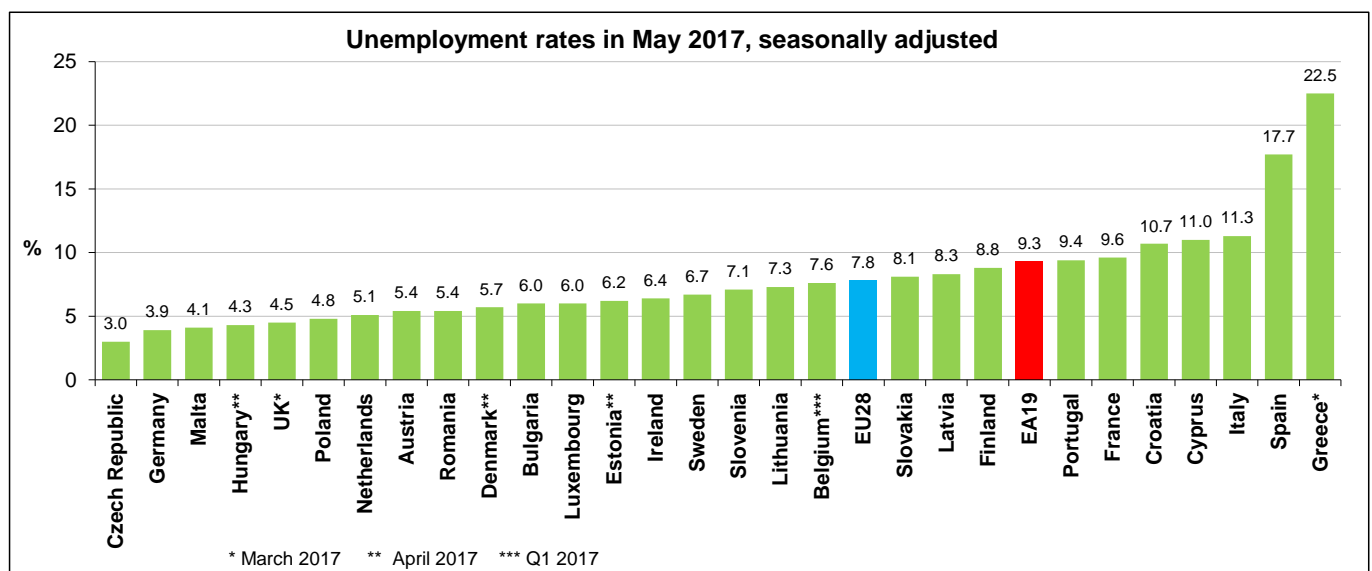
Eurostat estimates that 19.092 million men and women in the **EU28**, of whom 15.011 million in the **euro area**, were unemployed in May 2017. Compared with April 2017, the number of persons unemployed decreased by 32 000 in the **EU28** and by 16 000 in the **euro area**. Compared with May 2016, unemployment fell by 2.145 million in the **EU28** and by 1.452 million in the **euro area**.

Member States

Among the Member States, the lowest unemployment rates in May 2017 were recorded in the **Czech Republic** (3.0%), **Germany** (3.9%) and **Malta** (4.1%). The highest unemployment rates were observed in **Greece** (22.5% in March 2017) and **Spain** (17.7%).

Compared with a year ago, the unemployment rate in May 2017 fell in all Member States for which data is comparable over time. The largest decreases were registered in **Croatia** (from 13.4% to 10.7%), **Spain** (from 20.2% to 17.7%) and **Ireland** (from 8.4% to 6.4%).

In May 2017, the unemployment rate in the **United States** was 4.3%, down from 4.4% in April 2017 and from 4.7% in May 2016.



Youth unemployment

In May 2017, 3.762 million young persons (under 25) were unemployed in the **EU28**, of whom 2.621 million were in the **euro area**. Compared with May 2016, youth unemployment decreased by 585 000 in the **EU28** and by 402 000 in the **euro area**. In May 2017, the youth unemployment rate was 16.9% in the **EU28** and 18.9% in the **euro area**, compared with 19.0% and 21.3% respectively in May 2016. In May 2017, the lowest rate was observed in **Germany** (6.7%), while the highest were recorded in **Greece** (46.6% in March 2017), **Spain** (38.6%) and **Italy** (37.0%).

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, the Czech Republic, 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 definition

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

Belgium: quarterly data are shown in all tables. Due to a methodological break in the LFS data for the 1st quarter of 2017, data prior to Q1 2017 are not comparable and therefore not shown.

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 [86/2017](#) of 31 May 2017, the April 2017 unemployment rate remains unchanged for both the EU28 and the EA19. Among Member States, rates have been revised by more than 0.1 pp downwards for Slovenia (by 0.4 pp) as well as for Bulgaria, Greece, Cyprus and Portugal (all by 0.3 pp, February data for Greece). The unemployment rate has been revised by more than 0.1 pp upwards for the United Kingdom (by 0.2 pp, February data).

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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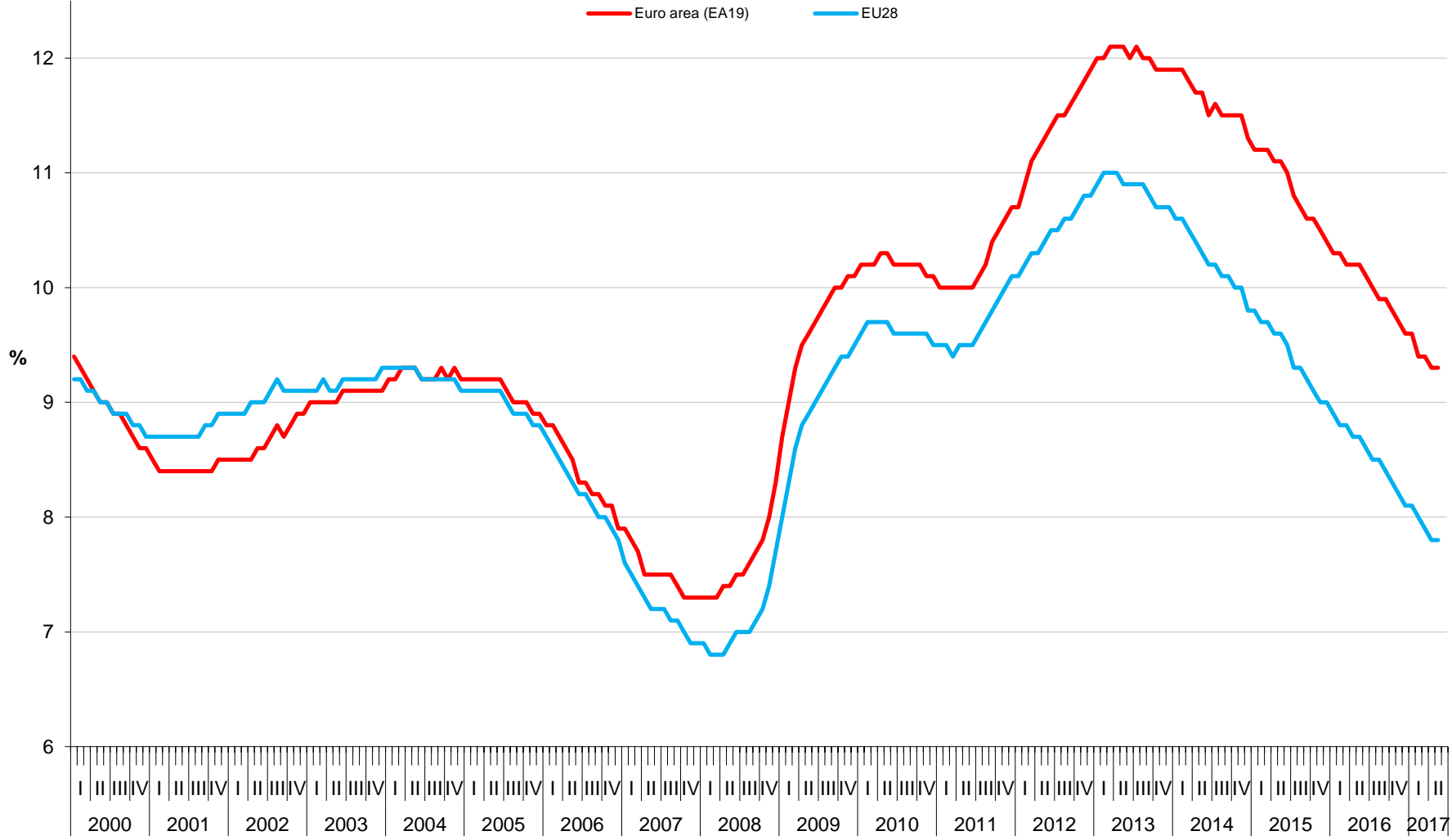
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Euro area and EU28 unemployment rates Seasonally adjusted series



Seasonally adjusted unemployment, totals

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	May 16	Feb 17	Mar 17	Apr 17	May 17	May 16	Feb 17	Mar 17	Apr 17	May 17
EA19	10.2	9.4	9.4	9.3	9.3	16 463	15 336	15 265	15 027	15 011
EU28	8.7	8.0	7.9	7.8	7.8	21 237	19 543	19 387	19 124	19 092
Belgium	:	7.6	7.6	:	:	:	375	375	:	:
Bulgaria	7.9	6.5	6.3	6.1	6.0	260	214	207	201	196
Czech Republic	4.0	3.3	3.2	3.1	3.0	216	177	171	168	160
Denmark	6.2**	6.1	5.9	5.7	:	189**	181	175	168	:
Germany	4.2	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	1 804	1 683	1 680	1 675	1 664
Estonia	6.4**	5.6	5.5	6.2	:	44**	38	38	43	:
Ireland	8.4	6.8	6.6	6.4	6.4	184	150	146	142	141
Greece	23.8*	22.9	22.5	:	:	1 143*	1 088	1 068	:	:
Spain	20.2	18.2	18.1	17.8	17.7	4 625	4 137	4 108	4 034	3 989
France	10.1	9.6	9.6	9.5	9.6	2 973	2 830	2 814	2 806	2 820
Croatia	13.4	11.6	11.3	11.1	10.7	245	209	203	198	191
Italy	11.6	11.5	11.5	11.2	11.3	2 983	2 962	2 985	2 884	2 927
Cyprus	12.8	12.5	12.1	11.3	11.0	54	53	51	48	46
Latvia	9.5	8.9	8.5	8.3	8.3	94	87	84	81	80
Lithuania	8.4	7.9	8.1	7.5	7.3	124	116	119	110	107
Luxembourg	6.3	6.1	6.0	6.0	6.0	17	17	17	17	17
Hungary	5.4**	4.3	4.3	4.3	:	247**	198	200	198	:
Malta	4.9	4.3	4.2	4.1	4.1	10	9	9	8	8
Netherlands	6.3	5.3	5.1	5.1	5.1	560	473	463	456	456
Austria	6.2	5.8	5.7	5.4	5.4	278	259	256	245	242
Poland	6.3	5.0	4.9	4.8	4.8	1 095	872	848	834	829
Portugal	11.2	9.9	9.8	9.5	9.4	573	508	503	491	485
Romania	6.1	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.4	548	477	478	471	478
Slovenia	8.1	7.3	7.1	7.1	7.1	80	74	72	72	73
Slovakia	9.9	8.6	8.4	8.3	8.1	274	237	232	229	223
Finland	9.0	8.8	8.9	8.9	8.8	240	238	240	240	239
Sweden	7.0	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	367	360	359	358	357
United Kingdom	5*	4.6	4.5	:	:	1 635*	1 515	1 499	:	:
Iceland	3.0	2.8	2.7	2.7	2.6	6	6	5	5	5
Norway	4.6**	4.3	4.5	4.6	:	129**	120	124	127	:
United States	4.7	4.7	4.5	4.4	4.3	7 462	7 513	7 199	7 040	6 872

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

: Data not available

* March 2016

** April 2016

Belgium: quarterly data

Seasonally adjusted youth (under 25s) unemployment

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	May 16	Feb 17	Mar 17	Apr 17	May 17	May 16	Feb 17	Mar 17	Apr 17	May 17
EA19	21.3	19.3	19.1	18.9	18.9	3 023	2 705	2 672	2 626	2 621
EU28	19.0	17.2	17.0	16.9	16.9	4 347	3 871	3 816	3 765	3 762
Belgium	:	21.5	21.5	:	:	:	76	76	:	:
Bulgaria	16.2	13.2	13.0	12.7	12.6	27	21	20	20	20
Czech Republic	10.6	9.1	9.1	9.1	9.2	35	30	30	30	30
Denmark	11.4	12.0	11.5	11.1	:	55	56	53	52	:
Germany	7.1	6.8	6.7	6.7	6.7	298	284	282	281	279
Estonia	13.0	14.6	15.0	18.3	:	7	9	9	11	:
Ireland	18.0	13.7	12.9	12.0	11.7	37	27	25	24	24
Greece	49.6	47.1	46.6	:	:	128	126	123	:	:
Spain	46.7	40.7	40.3	39.1	38.6	707	594	588	561	550
France	24.6	22.5	22.3	21.9	21.6	686	616	607	595	586
Croatia	31.9	28.4	28.4	:	:	56	47	47	:	:
Italy	36.6	34.9	34.3	35.2	37.0	579	531	531	528	554
Cyprus	29.2	24.8	24.8	:	:	11	9	9	:	:
Latvia	19.2	17.6	16.0	14.4	13.7	15	12	11	10	9
Lithuania	15.8	14.1	14.5	12.8	12.5	19	17	17	15	15
Luxembourg	19.2	18.0	17.9	17.8	17.6	4	4	4	4	4
Hungary	13.3	10.7	10.6	10.9	:	46	37	36	37	:
Malta	10.0	11.7	11.0	10.5	10.6	3	3	3	3	3
Netherlands	11.1	9.7	9.6	9.5	9.0	158	136	135	134	128
Austria	11.4	10.4	10.4	10.2	10.1	65	57	57	56	54
Poland	18.0	14.4	14.2	14.0	14.1	255	194	189	187	187
Portugal	28.0	24.3	22.9	23.8	24.6	102	89	83	88	89
Romania	20.8	19.9	19.9	:	:	126	122	122	:	:
Slovenia	15.3	10.5	10.5	:	:	10	8	8	:	:
Slovakia	22.6	19.2	19.1	18.9	18.6	46	40	39	39	39
Finland	20.9	20.3	20.3	20.4	20.4	67	67	67	67	67
Sweden	18.8	17.7	17.8	17.3	17.4	121	113	112	111	110
United Kingdom	13.4	12.3	12.3	:	:	594	543	541	:	:
Iceland	6.4	6.6	6.5	6.5	6.5	2	2	2	2	2
Norway	11.5	10.1	10.8	10.6	:	42	36	39	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				
	May 16	Feb 17	Mar 17	Apr 17	May 17	May 16	Feb 17	Mar 17	Apr 17	May 17
EA19	9.8	9.1	9.0	8.9	8.9	10.6	9.9	9.8	9.7	9.7
EU28	8.5	7.8	7.7	7.5	7.5	8.9	8.2	8.2	8.1	8.1
Belgium	:	7.3	7.3	:	:	:	7.9	7.9	:	:
Bulgaria	8.5	6.4	6.1	5.9	5.8	7.3	6.5	6.4	6.3	6.2
Czech Republic	3.5	2.5	2.3	2.3	2.3	4.8	4.2	4.3	4.2	3.9
Denmark	5.9	6.1	5.9	5.7	:	6.5	6.1	5.9	5.6	:
Germany	4.5	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	3.9	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4
Estonia	7.5	5.6	5.8	6.6	:	5.5	5.5	5.2	5.7	:
Ireland	9.6	7.4	7.3	7.2	7.1	6.9	6.0	5.9	5.6	5.5
Greece	19.8	19.4	19.1	:	:	28.4	27.1	26.7	:	:
Spain	18.6	16.7	16.5	16.2	16.0	22.1	20.0	20.0	19.7	19.6
France	10.3	9.4	9.3	9.2	9.3	9.8	9.8	9.9	9.9	9.9
Croatia	12.9	10.6	10.3	10.1	9.8	14.0	12.8	12.5	12.2	11.8
Italy	10.6	10.6	10.7	10.3	10.6	12.9	12.6	12.6	12.4	12.4
Cyprus	12.8	12.2	12.0	11.5	11.2	12.8	12.9	12.2	11.1	10.8
Latvia	10.4	10.1	9.5	9.0	8.9	8.6	7.7	7.6	7.6	7.6
Lithuania	9.5	9.8	10.1	9.1	8.8	7.3	6.1	6.2	6.0	5.9
Luxembourg	6.0	6.0	5.9	5.9	5.9	6.6	6.2	6.2	6.1	6.1
Hungary	5.3	4.1	4.1	4.1	:	5.1	4.5	4.6	4.6	:
Malta	4.5	4.0	4.1	3.9	3.7	5.4	4.7	4.4	4.4	4.7
Netherlands	5.9	4.9	4.8	4.6	4.6	6.7	5.7	5.5	5.6	5.6
Austria	6.6	6.4	6.3	6.0	5.9	5.7	5.1	5.0	4.9	4.8
Poland	6.4	5.0	4.8	4.7	4.7	6.3	5.1	5.1	5.0	5.0
Portugal	11.1	9.6	9.5	9.2	9.1	11.4	10.2	10.1	9.9	9.7
Romania	6.7	5.9	5.9	5.9	5.9	5.2	4.6	4.5	4.6	4.7
Slovenia	7.4	6.8	6.5	6.5	6.6	8.9	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.7
Slovakia	8.8	8.4	8.3	8.2	7.9	11.2	8.8	8.6	8.4	8.3
Finland	9.1	9.0	9.1	9.0	8.9	8.8	8.6	8.6	8.7	8.7
Sweden	7.3	7.1	7.0	7.0	7.0	6.6	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.3
United Kingdom	4.9	4.8	4.7	:	:	4.8	4.3	4.3	:	:
Iceland	3.0	3.0	2.9	3.0	3.0	3.0	2.5	2.4	2.3	2.3
Norway	5.4	4.7	4.8	4.8	:	4.0	4.0	4.1	4.2	:

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

: Data not available

Belgium: quarterly data