

41/2016 - 1 March 2016

January 2016

Euro area unemployment rate at 10.3%

EU28 at 8.9%

The **euro area** (EA19) seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate was 10.3% in January 2016, down from 10.4% in December 2015, and from 11.3% in January 2015. This is the lowest rate recorded in the **euro area** since August 2011. The **EU28** unemployment rate was 8.9% in January 2016, down from 9.0% in December 2015, and from 9.8% in January 2015. This is the lowest rate recorded in the **EU28** since May 2009. These figures are published by Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union.

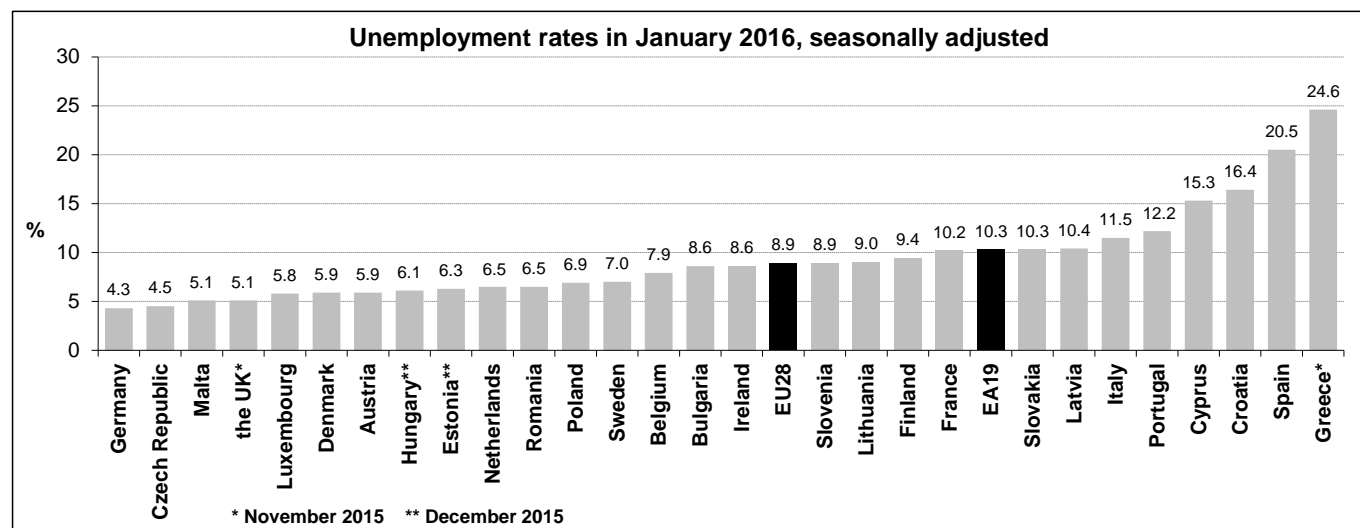
Eurostat estimates that 21.789 million men and women in the **EU28**, of whom 16.647 million were in the **euro area**, were unemployed in January 2016. Compared with December 2015, the number of persons unemployed decreased by 163 000 in the **EU28** and by 105 000 in the **euro area**. Compared with January 2015, unemployment fell by 2.034 million in the **EU28** and by 1.445 million in the **euro area**.

Member States

Among the Member States, the lowest unemployment rates in January 2016 were recorded in **Germany** (4.3%), the **Czech Republic** (4.5%), **Malta** and the **United Kingdom** (both 5.1%, November data for the UK). The highest unemployment rates were observed in **Greece** (24.6% in November 2015) and **Spain** (20.5%).

Compared with a year ago, the unemployment rate in January 2016 fell in twenty-four Member States, remained stable in **Estonia** and increased in **Latvia** (from 9.7% to 10.4%), **Austria** (from 5.5% to 5.9%) and **Finland** (from 9.1% to 9.4%). The largest decreases were registered in **Spain** (from 23.4% to 20.5%), **Slovakia** (from 12.3% to 10.3%), **Ireland** (from 10.1% to 8.6%) and **Portugal** (from 13.7% to 12.2%).

In January 2016, the unemployment rate in the **United States** was 4.9%, down from 5.0% in December 2015 and from 5.7% in January 2015.



Youth unemployment

In January 2016, 4.434 million young persons (under 25) were unemployed in the **EU28**, of whom 3.037 million were in the **euro area**. Compared with January 2015, youth unemployment decreased by 408 000 in the **EU28** and by 217 000 in the **euro area**. In January 2016, the youth unemployment rate was 19.7% in the **EU28** and 22.0% in the **euro area**, compared with 21.0% and 22.8% respectively in January 2015. In January 2016, the lowest rates were observed in **Germany** (7.1%), the **Czech Republic** (11.0%), **Denmark** (11.1%) and the **Netherlands** (11.2%) and the highest in **Greece** (48.0% in November 2015), **Spain** (45.0%), **Croatia** (44.1% in the fourth quarter 2015) and **Italy** (39.3%).

Geographical coverage

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.

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 [24/2016](#) of 2 February 2016, the December 2015 unemployment rate remains unchanged for both EU28 and EA19. Among Member States, rates have been revised by more than 0.1 percentage points (pp) upwards for Lithuania and Portugal (both by 0.4 pp) as well as for Greece and Italy (both by 0.2 pp).

For more information

Eurostat's [website section](#) on employment and unemployment

Eurostat's [database section](#) on unemployment, including non-seasonally adjusted and trend data

Eurostat's [Statistics Explained article](#) on unemployment

Eurostat's [Statistics Explained article](#) on youth unemployment

Eurostat's [metadata](#) on adjusted unemployment series


Eurostat's €-indicators [release calendar](#)

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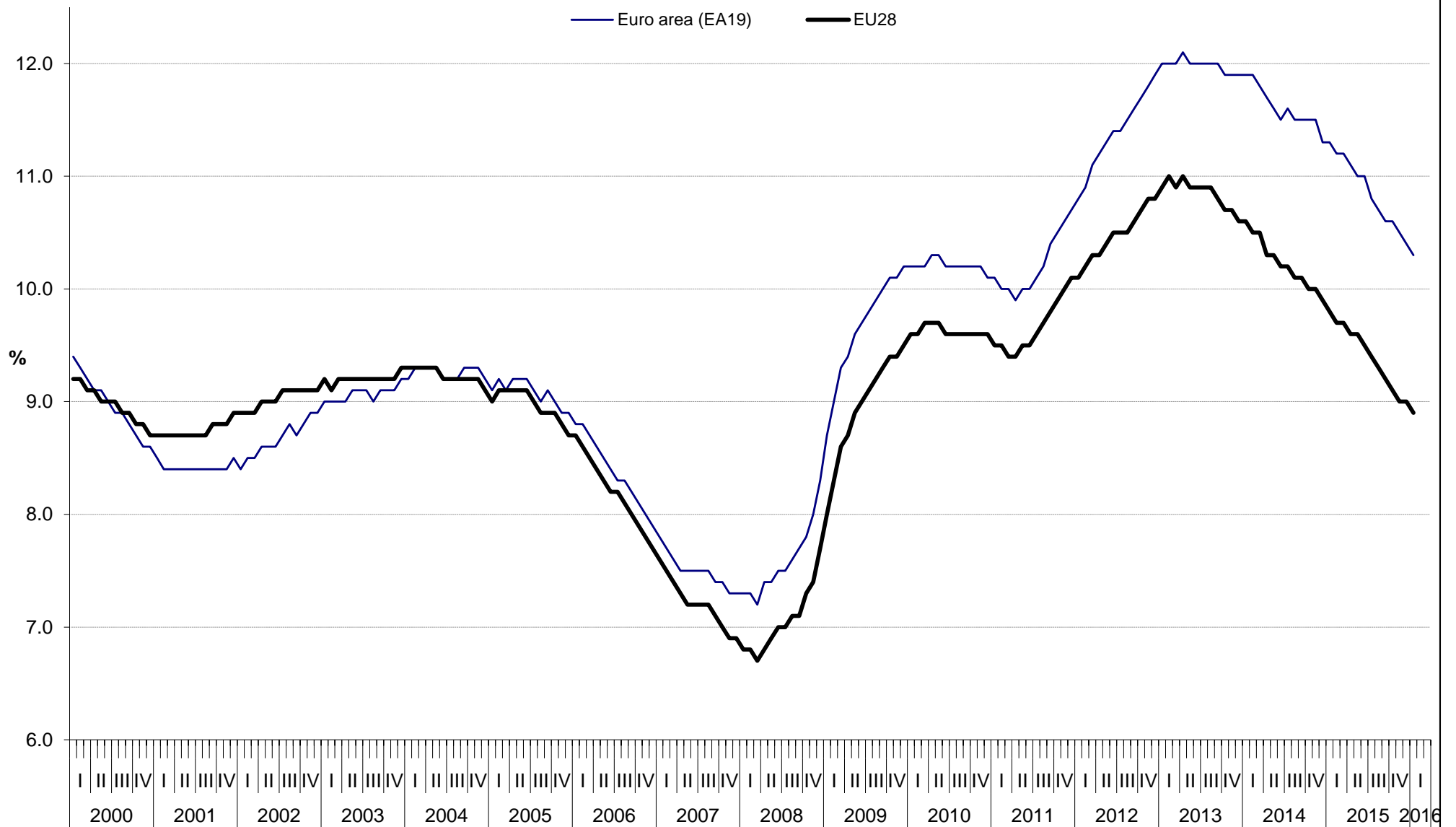
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Euro area and EU28 unemployment rates Seasonally adjusted series



Seasonally adjusted unemployment, totals

| | Rates (%) | | | | | Number of persons (in thousands) | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------|--------|--------|--------|-------------|----------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|---------------|
| | Jan 15 | Oct 15 | Nov 15 | Dec 15 | Jan 16 | Jan 15 | Oct 15 | Nov 15 | Dec 15 | Jan 16 |
| EA19 | 11.3 | 10.6 | 10.5 | 10.4 | 10.3 | 18 092 | 16 959 | 16 803 | 16 752 | 16 647 |
| EU28 | 9.8 | 9.1 | 9.0 | 9.0 | 8.9 | 23 823 | 22 211 | 22 010 | 21 952 | 21 789 |
| Belgium | 8.5 | 7.8 | 7.9 | 7.9 | 7.9 | 426 | 389 | 390 | 392 | 391 |
| Bulgaria | 9.9 | 8.7 | 8.8 | 8.8 | 8.6 | 331 | 290 | 293 | 294 | 288 |
| Czech Republic | 5.9 | 4.6 | 4.5 | 4.5 | 4.5 | 310 | 243 | 239 | 238 | 240 |
| Denmark | 6.2 | 6.1 | 6.1 | 6.0 | 5.9 | 180 | 179 | 181 | 179 | 177 |
| Germany | 4.8 | 4.5 | 4.4 | 4.4 | 4.3 | 2 021 | 1 881 | 1 866 | 1 848 | 1 827 |
| Estonia | 6.3** | 6.3 | 6.5 | 6.3 | : | 43** | 43 | 44 | 43 | : |
| Ireland | 10.1 | 8.9 | 8.8 | 8.8 | 8.6 | 217 | 192 | 191 | 190 | 187 |
| Greece | 25.9* | 24.7 | 24.6 | : | : | 1 236* | 1 184 | 1 181 | : | : |
| Spain | 23.4 | 21.2 | 20.9 | 20.7 | 20.5 | 5 372 | 4 840 | 4 775 | 4 737 | 4 677 |
| France | 10.4 | 10.2 | 10.1 | 10.1 | 10.2 | 3 065 | 3 015 | 2 984 | 2 983 | 2 983 |
| Croatia | 17.5 | 16.4 | 16.5 | 16.5 | 16.4 | 332 | 308 | 309 | 308 | 308 |
| Italy | 12.3 | 11.5 | 11.5 | 11.6 | 11.5 | 3 119 | 2 948 | 2 930 | 2 951 | 2 951 |
| Cyprus | 16.3 | 15.3 | 15.6 | 15.7 | 15.3 | 70 | 64 | 66 | 66 | 64 |
| Latvia | 9.7 | 9.9 | 10.0 | 10.1 | 10.4 | 96 | 99 | 100 | 101 | 104 |
| Lithuania | 9.4 | 8.9 | 8.8 | 8.9 | 9.0 | 138 | 130 | 129 | 131 | 132 |
| Luxembourg | 6.3 | 6.0 | 5.9 | 6.0 | 5.8 | 17 | 17 | 17 | 17 | 16 |
| Hungary | 7.3** | 6.4 | 6.3 | 6.1 | : | 328** | 289 | 286 | 278 | : |
| Malta | 6.0 | 5.2 | 5.1 | 5.1 | 5.1 | 12 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Netherlands | 7.2 | 6.9 | 6.7 | 6.6 | 6.5 | 645 | 616 | 596 | 588 | 574 |
| Austria | 5.5 | 5.7 | 5.9 | 5.9 | 5.9 | 241 | 253 | 259 | 263 | 264 |
| Poland | 8.1 | 7.4 | 7.2 | 7.1 | 6.9 | 1 399 | 1 277 | 1 255 | 1 230 | 1 203 |
| Portugal | 13.7 | 12.4 | 12.2 | 12.2 | 12.2 | 703 | 633 | 628 | 621 | 619 |
| Romania | 7.2 | 6.6 | 6.6 | 6.7 | 6.5 | 630 | 613 | 607 | 616 | 604 |
| Slovenia | 9.2 | 8.8 | 8.8 | 8.9 | 8.9 | 92 | 89 | 89 | 90 | 90 |
| Slovakia | 12.3 | 11.1 | 10.8 | 10.6 | 10.3 | 337 | 302 | 295 | 289 | 282 |
| Finland | 9.1 | 9.4 | 9.4 | 9.4 | 9.4 | 244 | 254 | 254 | 253 | 252 |
| Sweden | 7.8 | 7.1 | 7.0 | 7.0 | 7.0 | 406 | 372 | 370 | 368 | 366 |
| United Kingdom | 5.6* | 5.1 | 5.1 | : | : | 1 822* | 1 678 | 1 678 | : | : |
| Iceland | 4.2 | 3.6 | 3.5 | 3.3 | 3.2 | 8 | 7 | 7 | 6 | 6 |
| Norway | 3.8** | 4.6 | 4.6 | 4.5 | : | 105** | 129 | 127 | 127 | : |
| United States | 5.7 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 4.9 | 8 880 | 7 932 | 7 963 | 7 905 | 7 736 |

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

: Data not available

* November 2014

** December 2014

Seasonally adjusted youth (under 25s) unemployment

| | Rates (%) | | | | | Number of persons (in thousands) | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------|--------|--------|--------|-------------|----------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------------|
| | Jan 15 | Oct 15 | Nov 15 | Dec 15 | Jan 16 | Jan 15 | Oct 15 | Nov 15 | Dec 15 | Jan 16 |
| EA19 | 22.8 | 22.3 | 22.1 | 22.1 | 22.0 | 3 254 | 3 121 | 3 070 | 3 063 | 3 037 |
| EU28 | 21.0 | 20.0 | 19.8 | 19.8 | 19.7 | 4 842 | 4 535 | 4 461 | 4 460 | 4 434 |
| Belgium | 21.0 | 21.6 | 22.3 | 22.8 | 22.6 | 84 | 83 | 86 | 88 | 88 |
| Bulgaria | 22.2 | 20.9 | 21.0 | 21.1 | 21.3 | 43 | 38 | 38 | 38 | 39 |
| Czech Republic | 13.9 | 11.6 | 11.0 | 10.9 | 11.0 | 50 | 39 | 37 | 37 | 37 |
| Denmark | 10.7 | 10.7 | 10.7 | 10.8 | 11.1 | 48 | 49 | 49 | 50 | 51 |
| Germany | 7.2 | 7.1 | 7.1 | 7.1 | 7.1 | 302 | 282 | 280 | 278 | 276 |
| Estonia | 13.4 | 15.7 | 17.1 | 18.4 | : | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | : |
| Ireland | 22.2 | 19.7 | 19.4 | 19.2 | 19.1 | 43 | 37 | 37 | 36 | 36 |
| Greece | 50.5 | 48.3 | 48.0 | : | : | 148 | 130 | 126 | : | : |
| Spain | 50.8 | 46.8 | 46.1 | 45.8 | 45.0 | 807 | 711 | 692 | 684 | 666 |
| France | 24.8 | 25.6 | 25.7 | 25.9 | 25.9 | 684 | 718 | 722 | 729 | 730 |
| Croatia | 44.2 | 44.1 | 44.1 | 44.1 | : | 72 | 71 | 71 | 71 | : |
| Italy | 41.0 | 39.4 | 38.1 | 38.7 | 39.3 | 637 | 618 | 591 | 594 | 591 |
| Cyprus | 35.0 | 31.5 | 31.5 | 31.5 | : | 15 | 11 | 11 | 11 | : |
| Latvia | 15.8 | 18.9 | 20.1 | 20.0 | 19.8 | 13 | 16 | 17 | 17 | 17 |
| Lithuania | 18.6 | 14.1 | 13.7 | 13.9 | 14.4 | 24 | 17 | 17 | 18 | 18 |
| Luxembourg | 18.7 | 12.5 | 12.0 | 12.1 | 11.7 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Hungary | 18.9 | 14.9 | 15.5 | 14.2 | : | 64 | 51 | 53 | 48 | : |
| Malta | 11.3 | 13.1 | 12.9 | 12.7 | 13.0 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| Netherlands | 11.7 | 11.6 | 11.2 | 11.2 | 11.2 | 164 | 163 | 156 | 155 | 155 |
| Austria | 8.6 | 11.5 | 11.5 | 11.6 | 11.8 | 47 | 64 | 64 | 65 | 67 |
| Poland | 21.7 | 20.7 | 20.5 | 20.5 | 20.4 | 302 | 284 | 283 | 282 | 279 |
| Portugal | 34.4 | 32.0 | 31.8 | 30.1 | 29.9 | 129 | 119 | 119 | 110 | 108 |
| Romania | 22.4 | 21.2 | : | : | : | 156 | 145* | : | : | : |
| Slovenia | 17.0 | 15.0 | 15.0 | 15.0 | : | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | : |
| Slovakia | 26.8 | 25.7 | 25.1 | 24.4 | 23.5 | 57 | 54 | 52 | 51 | 49 |
| Finland | 21.7 | 21.9 | 22.1 | 22.2 | 22.2 | 72 | 71 | 71 | 71 | 71 |
| Sweden | 21.8 | 19.4 | 19.1 | 19.0 | 18.9 | 144 | 125 | 124 | 123 | 122 |
| United Kingdom | 15.7 | 13.7 | 13.6 | : | : | 711 | 612 | 608 | : | : |
| Iceland | 9.0 | 8.0 | 7.7 | 7.4 | 7.1 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Norway | 8.8 | 9.3 | 9.7 | 9.8 | : | 33 | 35 | 36 | 37 | : |

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

: Data not available

Croatia, Cyprus, Romania and Slovenia: quarterly data

Seasonally adjusted unemployment rates (%), by gender

| | Males | | | | | Females | | | | |
|----------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------------|---------|--------|--------|--------|-------------|
| | Jan 15 | Oct 15 | Nov 15 | Dec 15 | Jan 16 | Jan 15 | Oct 15 | Nov 15 | Dec 15 | Jan 16 |
| EA19 | 11.1 | 10.4 | 10.3 | 10.3 | 10.2 | 11.4 | 10.7 | 10.7 | 10.6 | 10.6 |
| EU28 | 9.7 | 9.0 | 8.9 | 8.9 | 8.8 | 9.9 | 9.2 | 9.2 | 9.1 | 9.1 |
| Belgium | 9.0 | 8.2 | 8.2 | 8.3 | 8.4 | 8.0 | 7.5 | 7.5 | 7.4 | 7.2 |
| Bulgaria | 10.6 | 9.4 | 9.5 | 9.5 | 9.3 | 9.2 | 7.9 | 8.0 | 8.0 | 7.8 |
| Czech Republic | 5.1 | 3.9 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 6.9 | 5.5 | 5.6 | 5.5 | 5.5 |
| Denmark | 5.9 | 5.7 | 5.9 | 6.0 | 5.9 | 6.5 | 6.5 | 6.3 | 6.0 | 5.8 |
| Germany | 5.1 | 4.8 | 4.7 | 4.7 | 4.6 | 4.4 | 4.1 | 4.1 | 4.1 | 4.0 |
| Estonia | 6.7 | 6.7 | 6.7 | 6.7 | : | 5.7 | 5.9 | 6.2 | 5.9 | : |
| Ireland | 11.7 | 10.2 | 10.1 | 10.0 | 9.8 | 8.2 | 7.3 | 7.3 | 7.3 | 7.2 |
| Greece | 22.7 | 21.1 | 20.8 | : | : | 29.8 | 29.0 | 29.3 | : | : |
| Spain | 22.4 | 19.8 | 19.5 | 19.2 | 19.0 | 24.6 | 22.8 | 22.6 | 22.4 | 22.2 |
| France | 10.8 | 10.8 | 10.8 | 10.8 | 10.8 | 10.0 | 9.6 | 9.4 | 9.4 | 9.4 |
| Croatia | 17.4 | 15.2 | 15.3 | 15.2 | 15.2 | 17.6 | 17.9 | 18.0 | 17.9 | 17.7 |
| Italy | 11.6 | 11.1 | 11.0 | 11.2 | 10.9 | 13.2 | 12.2 | 12.2 | 12.0 | 12.4 |
| Cyprus | 16.8 | 14.9 | 15.4 | 15.5 | 14.8 | 15.7 | 15.7 | 15.9 | 15.9 | 15.9 |
| Latvia | 10.0 | 11.2 | 11.3 | 11.6 | 12.1 | 9.4 | 8.6 | 8.6 | 8.6 | 8.6 |
| Lithuania | 10.7 | 9.6 | 9.5 | 9.6 | 9.8 | 8.1 | 8.2 | 8.1 | 8.2 | 8.2 |
| Luxembourg | 5.6 | 5.3 | 5.2 | 5.2 | 5.0 | 7.0 | 6.8 | 6.8 | 6.9 | 6.7 |
| Hungary | 7.4 | 6.3 | 6.1 | 5.9 | : | 7.5 | 6.4 | 6.6 | 6.3 | : |
| Malta | 6.2 | 5.3 | 5.2 | 5.2 | 5.2 | 5.6 | 4.9 | 4.9 | 4.9 | 4.9 |
| Netherlands | 6.9 | 6.5 | 6.2 | 6.2 | 6.1 | 7.6 | 7.3 | 7.3 | 7.0 | 6.9 |
| Austria | 5.8 | 6.2 | 6.3 | 6.4 | 6.4 | 5.2 | 5.2 | 5.4 | 5.5 | 5.4 |
| Poland | 7.7 | 7.2 | 7.1 | 6.9 | 6.6 | 8.5 | 7.5 | 7.4 | 7.4 | 7.3 |
| Portugal | 13.4 | 12.1 | 12.1 | 12.1 | 12.1 | 14.0 | 12.6 | 12.3 | 12.2 | 12.2 |
| Romania | 7.9 | 7.3 | 7.3 | 7.3 | 7.1 | 6.2 | 5.8 | 5.7 | 5.9 | 5.8 |
| Slovenia | 8.4 | 7.7 | 7.7 | 7.9 | 7.9 | 10.1 | 10.1 | 10.0 | 10.0 | 10.0 |
| Slovakia | 11.5 | 9.9 | 9.6 | 9.4 | 9.2 | 13.3 | 12.5 | 12.2 | 12.0 | 11.7 |
| Finland | 9.6 | 10.0 | 10.0 | 9.9 | 9.8 | 8.5 | 8.9 | 8.9 | 8.9 | 8.9 |
| Sweden | 7.9 | 7.3 | 7.2 | 7.2 | 7.2 | 7.6 | 7.0 | 6.8 | 6.8 | 6.7 |
| United Kingdom | 5.7 | 5.2 | 5.2 | : | : | 5.3 | 5.0 | 5.0 | : | : |
| Iceland | 4.2 | 4.0 | 3.8 | 3.6 | 3.5 | 4.2 | 3.3 | 3.1 | 2.9 | 2.8 |
| Norway | 4.2 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 4.9 | : | 3.7 | 4.1 | 4.1 | 4.1 | : |

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

: Data not available