

134/2021 – 2 December 2021

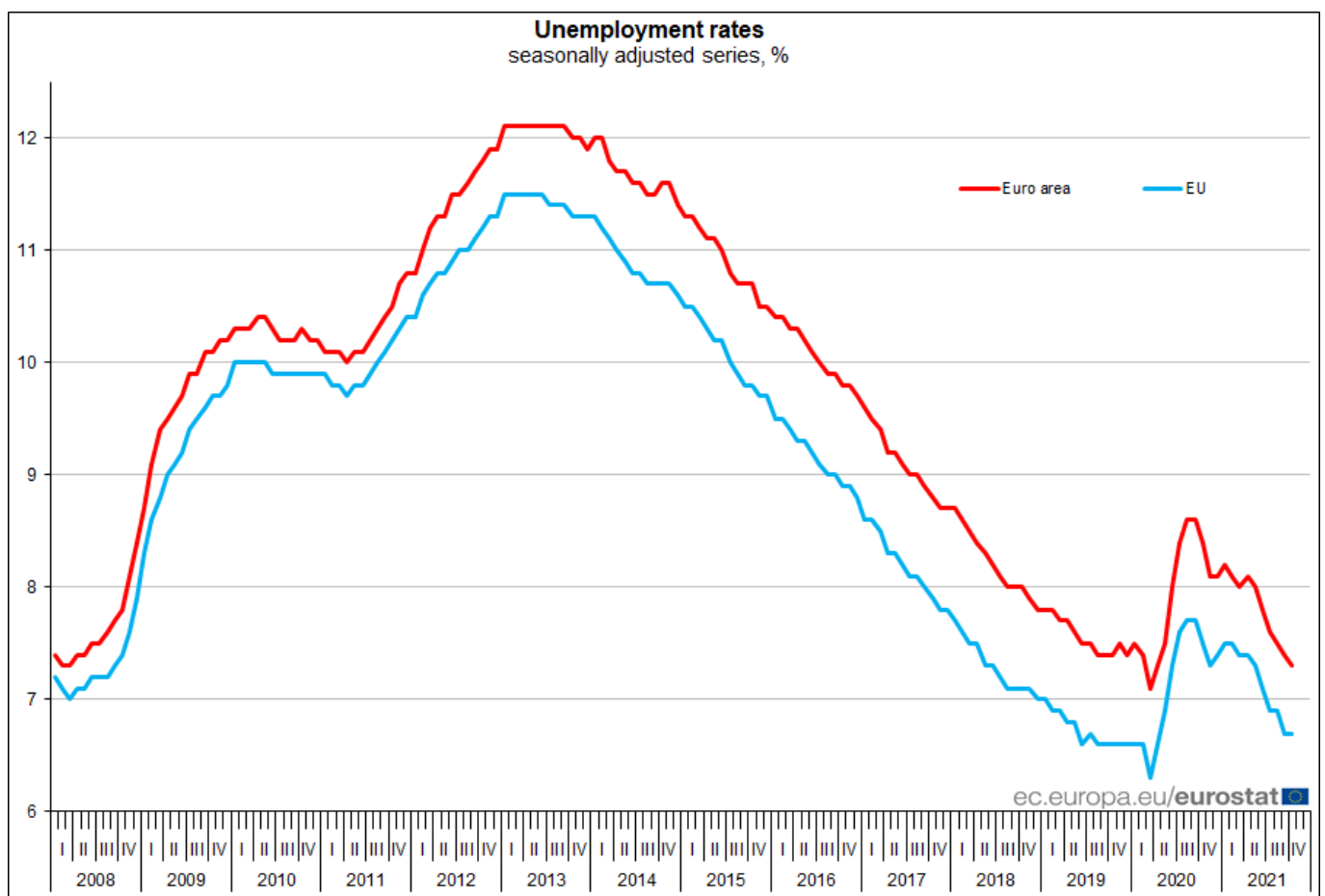
October 2021

Euro area unemployment at 7.3%

EU at 6.7%

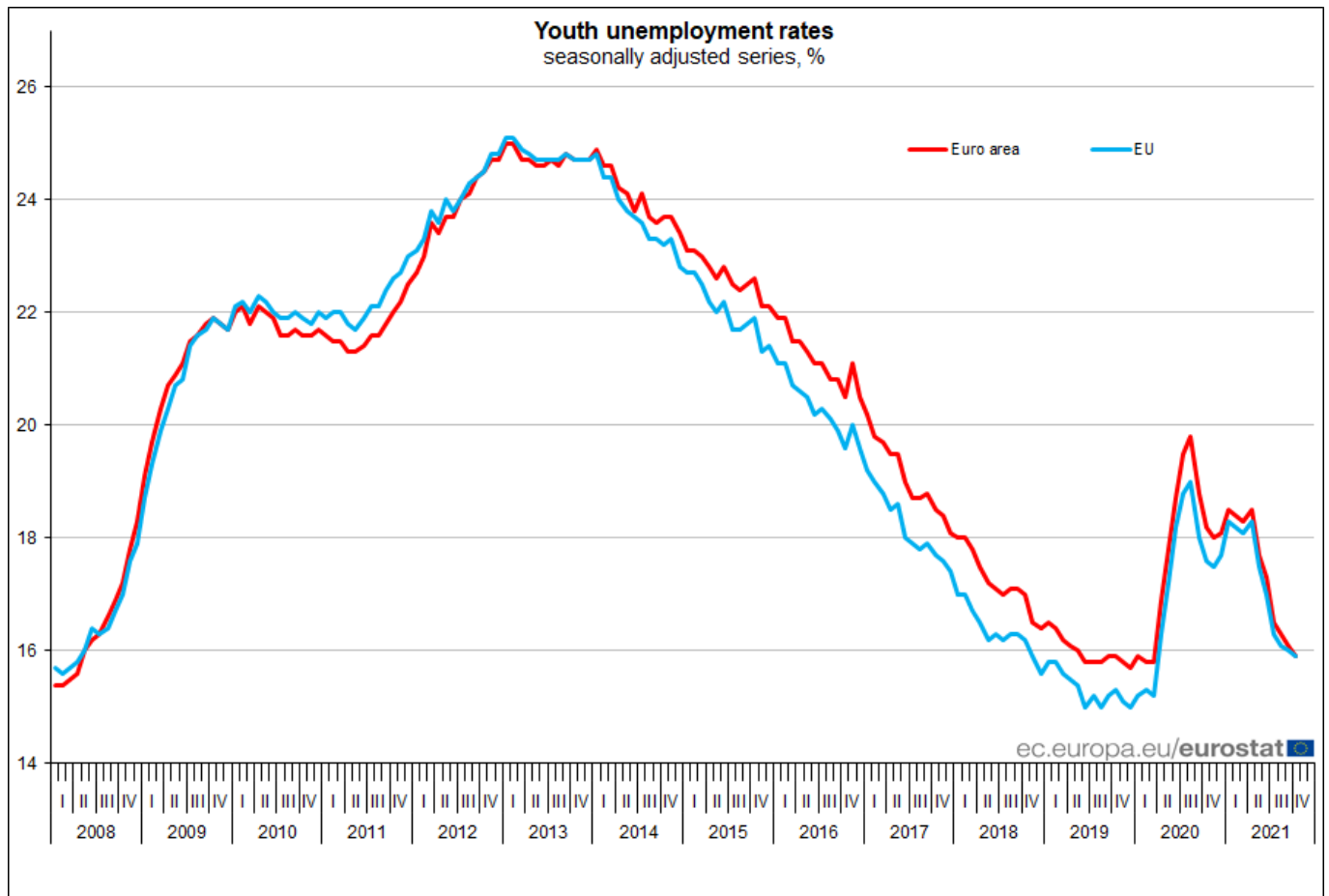
In October 2021, the **euro area** seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate was 7.3%, down from 7.4% in September 2021 and from 8.4% in October 2020. The **EU** unemployment rate was 6.7% in October 2021, stable compared with September 2021 and down from 7.5% in October 2020. These figures are published by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**.

Eurostat estimates that 14.312 million men and women in the **EU**, of whom 12.045 million in the **euro area**, were unemployed in October 2021. Compared with September 2021, the number of persons unemployed decreased by 77 000 in the **EU** and by 64 000 in the **euro area**. Compared with October 2020, unemployment decreased by 1.650 million in the **EU** and by 1.564 million in the **euro area**.



Youth unemployment

In October 2021, 2.905 million young persons (under 25) were unemployed in the **EU**, of whom 2.367 million were in the **euro area**. In October 2021, the youth unemployment rate was 15.9% in both the **EU** and the **euro area**, down from 16.0% in the **EU** and from 16.1% in the **euro area** in the previous month. Compared with September 2021, youth unemployment decreased by 2 000 in the **EU** and by 9 000 in the **euro area**. Compared with October 2020, youth unemployment decreased by 165 000 in both the **EU** and the **euro area**.



Unemployment by gender

In October 2021, the unemployment rate for women was 7.0% in the **EU**, down from 7.1% in September 2021. The unemployment rate for men was 6.4% in October 2021, down from 6.5% in September 2021. In the **euro area**, the unemployment rate for women decreased from 7.8% in September 2021 to 7.7% in October 2021, while the unemployment rate for men remained stable at 7.0%.

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 outbreak 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 were no longer actively looking for a job or no longer available for work, for instance, if they had to take care of their children. This leads 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 second quarter of 2021](#). LFS data for the third quarter of 2021 will be released on 13 January 2022.

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 and Italy: the data are provisional up to October 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 [125/2021](#) of 3 November 2021, the unemployment rate for September 2021 remained unchanged for the euro area and the EU. Among EU Member States, the rate has been revised by more than 0.1 percentage points (pp) downwards for Ireland (by 1.2 pp), Finland (by 0.3 pp), as well as Estonia and Greece (both by 0.2 pp). The rate has been revised by more than 0.1 percentage points upwards for Cyprus (by 2.6 pp), Slovenia (by 0.8 pp), Denmark (by 0.5 pp), Malta and Romania (both by 0.3 pp) as well as Latvia (by 0.2 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)				
	Oct 20	Jul 21	Aug 21	Sep 21	Oct 21	Oct 20	Jul 21	Aug 21	Sep 21	Oct 21
Euro area	8.4	7.6	7.5	7.4	7.3	13 609	12 477	12 332	12 109	12 045
EU	7.5	6.9	6.9	6.7	6.7	15 962	14 760	14 664	14 389	14 312
Belgium	5.8	6.2	6.4	6.3	6.3	295	322	328	324	321
Bulgaria	5.3	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.3	175	181	183	178	172
Czechia	3.2	2.6	2.8	2.6	2.6	169	140	152	140	139
Denmark	5.9	4.7	4.8	5.1	5.1	180	142	147	156	157
Germany	4.1	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.3	1 774	1 481	1 448	1 421	1 404
Estonia	7.9	6.4	6.0	5.7	5.7	55	45	42	40	40
Ireland	6.3	5.7	5.4	5.2	5.2	154	146	138	134	135
Greece	16.4	14.1	13.8	13.1	12.9	771	662	651	613	605
Spain	16.3	15.0	14.8	14.6	14.5	3 751	3 499	3 445	3 405	3 375
France	8.3	8.0	7.9	7.7	7.6	2 464	2 408	2 403	2 340	2 292
Croatia	8.5	7.7	7.6	7.3	7.0	154	138	136	131	125
Italy	10.0	9.2	9.3	9.2	9.4	2 512	2 322	2 331	2 321	2 373
Cyprus	10.0	7.2	6.8	6.2	6.6	46	34	32	29	31
Latvia	8.2	7.7	7.3	7.0	7.0	79	73	69	66	66
Lithuania	9.3	7.3	7.0	6.7	6.5	138	108	103	99	96
Luxembourg	6.2	5.5	5.4	5.3	5.1	20	18	17	17	16
Hungary	4.0	4.1	4.1	3.6	3.9	193	198	198	173	188
Malta	4.6	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.6	12	10	10	10	10
Netherlands	4.3	3.1	3.2	3.1	2.9	406	289	301	292	277
Austria	6.1	6.0	5.9	5.2	5.8	278	277	268	238	268
Poland	3.2	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	538	582	575	574	574
Portugal	7.6	6.6	6.3	6.4	6.4	385	340	325	328	332
Romania	5.1	5.4	5.6	5.3	5.3	461	439	453	436	438
Slovenia	5.1	4.5	4.6	4.7	4.8	53	46	48	48	50
Slovakia	7.1	6.7	6.5	6.3	6.3	193	182	177	171	170
Finland	8.1	7.9	7.7	7.6	7.5	223	218	215	212	209
Sweden	8.9	8.9	8.8	8.8	8.7	492	496	492	488	484
Iceland	6.7	5.7	5.5	5.4	5.3	14	12	12	11	11
Norway	5.1*	4.3	4.0	3.6	:	146*	124	116	104	:
Switzerland	5.1	5.1	4.9	4.9	:	256	251	245	244	:
United States	6.9	5.4	5.2	4.8	4.6	11 081	8 669	8 397	7 755	7 442

: Data not available

* September 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)				
	Oct 20	Jul 21	Aug 21	Sep 21	Oct 21	Oct 20	Jul 21	Aug 21	Sep 21	Oct 21
Euro area	18.2	16.5	16.3	16.1	15.9	2 532	2 413	2 377	2 376	2 367
EU	17.6	16.3	16.1	16.0	15.9	3 070	2 944	2 912	2 907	2 905
Belgium	16.3	20.1	20.1	20.1	:	56	77	77	77	:
Bulgaria	15.7	16.2	17.2	17.1	16.4	21	19	21	21	20
Czechia	8.9	7.7	8.3	6.6	7.8	23	21	22	18	21
Denmark	12.2	9.0	10.2	11.8	12.2	52	38	44	51	53
Germany	7.8	6.7	6.6	6.5	6.5	337	292	286	283	280
Estonia	23.0	19.1	14.5	14.9	15.3	12	10	7	7	8
Ireland	17.4	12.9	11.1	10.3	10.4	47	42	37	36	36
Greece	35.1	35.4	32.5	28.1	33.2	76	80	73	66	83
Spain	40.5	33.6	31.7	30.7	30.3	587	526	498	493	504
France	20.2	19.9	20.2	19.6	18.6	567	619	643	633	604
Croatia	22.1	20.0	20.0	20.0	:	32	28	28	28	:
Italy	30.9	27.6	27.5	29.6	28.2	427	413	403	440	426
Cyprus	19.9	15.0	15.0	15.0	:	7	6	6	6	:
Latvia	12.3	14.9	14.5	14.4	14.9	7	9	9	9	9
Lithuania	19.9	16.2	14.8	14.0	13.2	20	16	15	14	14
Luxembourg	21.5	16.2	15.3	15.5	14.7	5	4	4	4	4
Hungary	10.1	16.0	15.4	10.1	13.4	31	52	49	31	42
Malta	11.3	7.8	7.8	7.8	8.2	3	2	2	2	2
Netherlands	10.1	7.3	7.4	7.4	6.9	151	107	110	110	104
Austria	9.0	10.4	10.8	9.1	11.0	45	54	56	48	54
Poland	12.7	11.8	11.2	11.1	11.8	135	120	114	112	120
Portugal	24.6	23.4	22.9	22.7	22.8	80	79	75	73	72
Romania	16.0	19.5*	:	:	:	100	105*	:	:	:
Slovenia	15.1	12.7	12.7	12.7	:	9	10	10	10	:
Slovakia	20.0	18.8	18.0	17.1	17.5	31	25	23	22	22
Finland	20.4	18.0	17.7	17.6	17.5	64	57	56	55	55
Sweden	25.1	25.1	25.1	25.1	25.1	149	156	156	155	154
Iceland	12.2	9.7	9.2	8.9	8.9	3	3	3	3	3
Norway	11.9	10.9	10.9	9.8	:	43	43	42	37	:
Switzerland	8.0	8.8	8.2	8.4	:	46	51	47	48	:

: Data not available

* 2021 Q2 data

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 gender

	Males					Females				
	Oct 20	Jul 21	Aug 21	Sep 21	Oct 21	Oct 20	Jul 21	Aug 21	Sep 21	Oct 21
Euro area	8.0	7.2	7.2	7.0	7.0	8.8	8.1	7.9	7.8	7.7
EU	7.2	6.6	6.6	6.5	6.4	7.9	7.3	7.2	7.1	7.0
Belgium	6.0	6.0	6.2	6.1	6.0	5.6	6.5	6.6	6.5	6.5
Bulgaria	5.5	5.3	5.4	5.4	5.3	5.2	5.9	5.9	5.6	5.4
Czechia	2.4	2.2	2.2	2.3	2.3	4.1	3.1	3.5	3.0	2.9
Denmark	5.7	4.6	4.8	5.0	5.0	6.1	4.7	4.8	5.2	5.3
Germany	4.5	3.8	3.7	3.6	3.6	3.7	3.1	3.0	2.9	2.9
Estonia	7.7	7.0	7.0	7.0	6.9	8.1	5.8	4.9	4.5	4.4
Ireland	6.3	5.7	5.3	5.2	5.2	6.4	5.7	5.4	5.1	5.2
Greece	13.4	10.7	11.2	9.8	9.8	20.2	18.4	17.0	17.1	16.8
Spain	14.3	13.3	13.2	13.1	13.0	18.5	16.8	16.5	16.2	16.1
France	8.3	8.0	8.0	7.8	7.6	8.2	8.0	7.9	7.7	7.6
Croatia	8.3	7.6	7.4	7.1	6.8	8.8	7.8	7.7	7.5	7.2
Italy	9.3	8.3	8.3	8.2	8.4	11.0	10.5	10.7	10.5	10.7
Cyprus	9.9	7.0	6.8	6.4	6.6	10.1	7.4	6.8	6.0	6.5
Latvia	9.0	9.2	8.8	8.3	8.1	7.3	6.2	5.8	5.7	5.9
Lithuania	10.1	8.0	7.7	7.4	7.4	8.5	6.6	6.2	6.0	5.6
Luxembourg	5.8	5.0	4.9	4.9	4.7	6.7	6.1	5.9	5.8	5.5
Hungary	4.0	4.2	4.0	3.3	3.5	4.0	4.0	4.2	3.9	4.2
Malta	4.5	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.9	4.7	3.1	3.2	3.2	3.1
Netherlands	4.0	2.9	3.0	3.0	2.8	4.7	3.3	3.4	3.3	3.1
Austria	6.5	6.1	6.0	5.4	5.6	5.8	6.0	5.7	4.9	6.0
Poland	3.1	3.3	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.2	3.5	3.4	3.3	3.2
Portugal	7.4	6.0	5.7	6.2	6.1	7.8	7.2	6.9	6.5	6.8
Romania	5.3	5.9	6.1	5.9	5.7	4.8	4.6	4.8	4.6	4.8
Slovenia	4.5	4.6	4.9	5.1	5.2	5.9	4.4	4.2	4.1	4.4
Slovakia	6.6	6.6	6.4	6.2	6.2	7.6	6.7	6.6	6.5	6.4
Finland	8.6	8.6	8.5	8.4	8.3	7.6	7.0	6.9	6.8	6.7
Sweden	8.8	8.7	8.6	8.4	8.3	8.9	9.2	9.2	9.1	9.1
Iceland	6.7	5.6	5.5	5.5	5.5	6.8	5.9	5.5	5.3	5.2
Norway	5.5	4.6	4.4	4.0	:	4.9	4.0	3.6	3.2	:
Switzerland	4.8	5.0	4.9	4.9	:	5.5	5.2	5.0	5.0	:

: Data not available

Source dataset: une_rt_m