

74/2021 – 1 July 2021

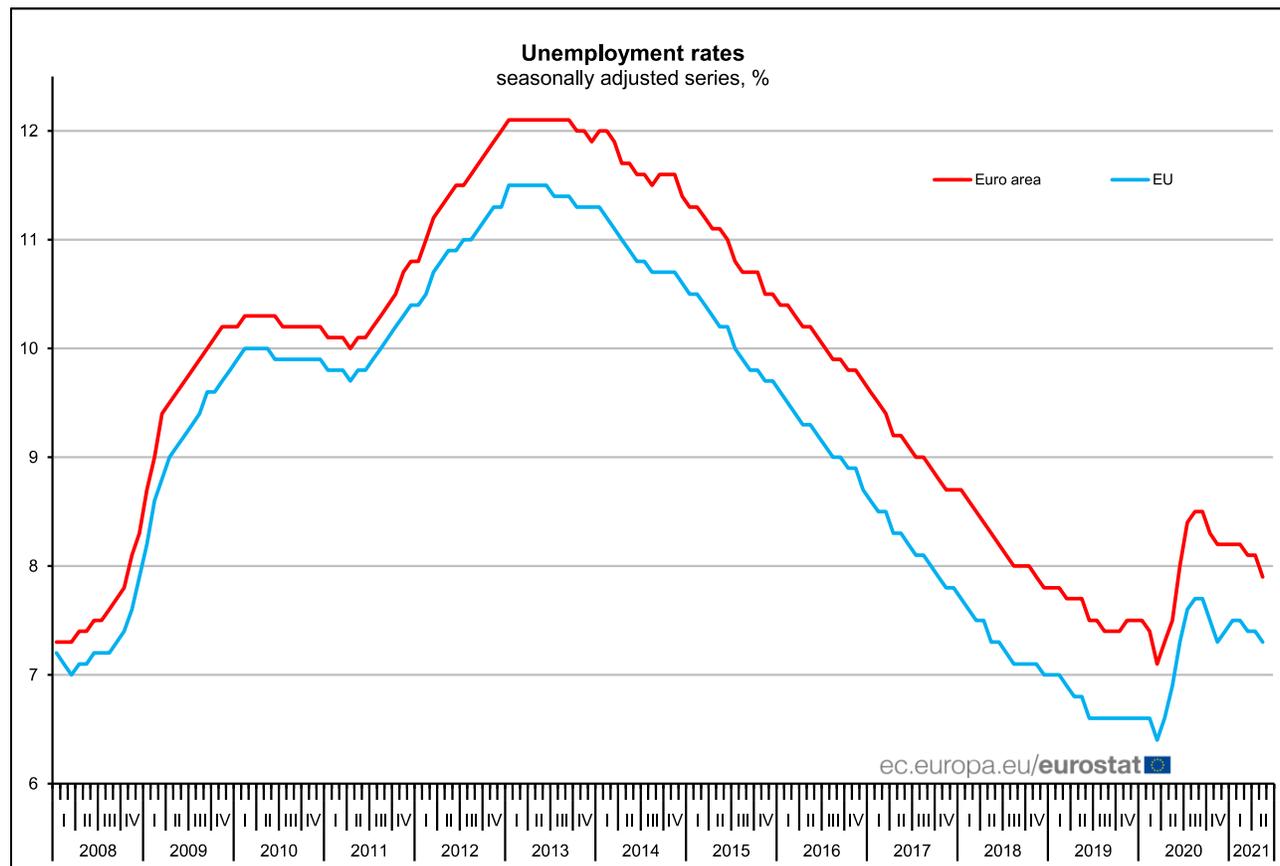
May 2021

Euro area unemployment at 7.9%

EU at 7.3%

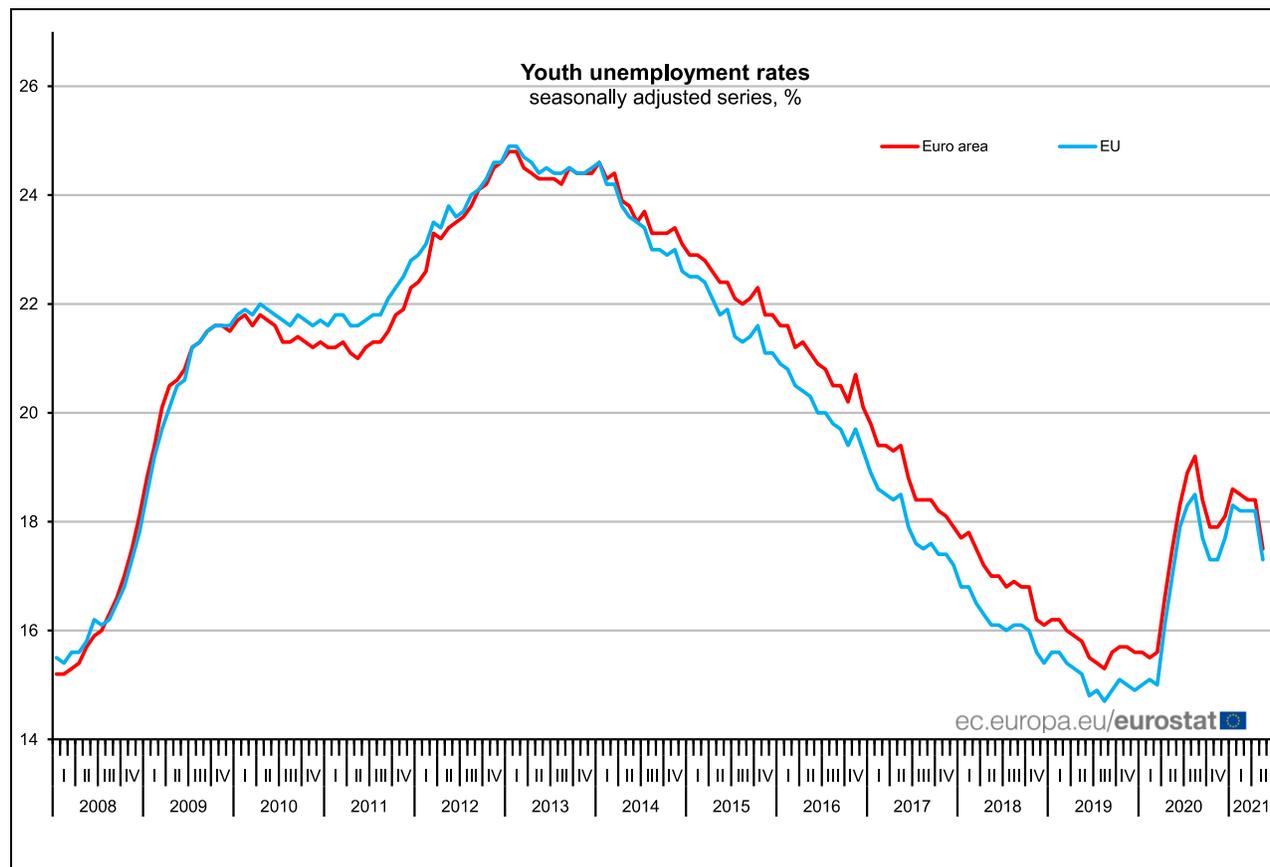
In May 2021, the **euro area** seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate was 7.9%, down from 8.1% in April 2021 and up from 7.5% in May 2020. The **EU** unemployment rate was 7.3% in May 2021, down from 7.4% in April 2021 and up from 6.9% in May 2020. These figures are published by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**.

Eurostat estimates that 15.278 million men and women in the **EU**, of whom 12.792 million in the **euro area**, were unemployed in May 2021. Compared with April 2021, the number of persons unemployed decreased by 382 000 in the **EU** and by 306 000 in the **euro area**. Compared with May 2020, unemployment rose by 949 000 in the **EU** and by 803 000 million in the **euro area**.



Youth unemployment

In May 2021, 2.979 million young persons (under 25) were unemployed in the **EU**, of whom 2.403 million were in the **euro area**. In May 2021, the youth unemployment rate was 17.3% in the **EU** and 17.5% in the **euro area**, down from 18.2% and 18.4% respectively in the previous month. Compared with April 2021, youth unemployment decreased by 174 000 in the **EU** and by 138 000 in the **euro area**. Compared with May 2020, youth unemployment increased by 119 000 in the **EU** and by 70 000 in the **euro area**.



Unemployment by gender

In May 2021, the unemployment rate for women was 7.6% in the **EU**, down from 7.8% in April 2021. The unemployment rate for men was 7.0% in May 2021, down from 7.1% in April 2021. In the **euro area**, the unemployment rate for women decreased from 8.5% in April 2021 to 8.3% in May 2021 while the unemployment rate for men decreased from 7.8% in April 2021 to 7.6% in May 2021.

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 fourth quarter of 2020](#).

LFS data for the first quarter of 2021 will be released on 15 July 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, Italy and Portugal: the data are provisional up to May 2021 included.

Germany: Starting from May 2021 the monthly unemployment rate is calculated on the basis of the labour force survey. The estimated results from January 2020 to April 2021 are revised on this basis.

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 [63/2021](#) of 1 June 2021, the unemployment rate for April 2021 has been revised from 8.0% to 8.1% for the euro area and from 7.3% to 7.4% for the EU. Among EU Member States, the rate has been revised by more than 0.1 percentage points (pp) downwards for Germany (by 0.6 pp), Estonia and Slovakia (both by 0.3 pp) as well as Cyprus and Luxembourg (both by 0.2 pp). The rate has been revised by more than 0.1 percentage points upwards for Ireland (by 2.1 pp), Austria (by 1.7 pp), Bulgaria (by 1.5 pp), Belgium (by 1.4 pp), Poland (by 0.8 pp), France (by 0.5 pp) as well as Croatia and Hungary (both 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)				
	May 20	Feb 21	Mar 21	Apr 21	May 21	May 20	Feb 21	Mar 21	Apr 21	May 21
Euro area	7.5	8.2	8.1	8.1	7.9	11 989	13 253	13 100	13 098	12 792
EU	6.9	7.5	7.4	7.4	7.3	14 329	15 800	15 674	15 660	15 278
Belgium	5.0	6.7	6.8	6.7	6.5	250	341	346	342	330
Bulgaria	5.8	6.0	6.2	6.2	6.2	188	197	204	203	205
Czechia	2.5	3.2	3.4	3.4	3.3	131	169	182	181	176
Denmark	5.6	6.1	5.8	5.6	5.6	167	183	175	171	169
Germany	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.8	3.7	1 667	1 666	1 638	1 615	1 597
Estonia	7.0	6.8	6.8	6.5	6.4	49	48	47	45	45
Ireland	5.1	7.5	7.6	7.9	7.8	113	181	184	181	175
Greece	16.9	16.7	16.4	17.2	15.4	765	736	722	764	699
Spain	15.4	15.7	15.4	15.5	15.3	3 369	3 598	3 511	3 491	3 447
France	7.0	8.1	8.2	7.8	7.5	1 996	2 405	2 426	2 302	2 195
Croatia	8.6	7.3	7.4	7.7	7.9	156	130	131	137	142
Italy	8.5	10.4	10.4	10.7	10.5	2 095	2 583	2 575	2 657	2 620
Cyprus	7.8	7.4	8.0	9.2	9.9	35	34	36	42	45
Latvia	8.6	7.7	7.7	7.8	7.9	84	72	71	72	73
Lithuania	8.6	6.8	6.5	7.0	6.9	126	100	94	101	100
Luxembourg	7.7	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.2	24	20	20	20	20
Hungary	4.4	4.5	3.9	4.5	3.9	208	214	187	216	187
Malta	4.5	3.9	3.8	3.7	3.7	12	11	10	10	10
Netherlands	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.4	3.3	330	340	326	316	309
Austria	7.2	7.0	6.8	7.3	6.9	319	321	310	330	315
Poland	3.2	3.9	4.0	3.9	3.8	537	670	689	676	650
Portugal	6.0	6.8	6.6	7.0	7.2	291	343	332	354	365
Romania	5.5	5.9	5.8	5.7	5.5	491	489	485	474	449
Slovenia	5.4	5.3	5.2	5.2	5.1	55	52	51	51	49
Slovakia	6.7	7.1	7.2	7.0	6.9	180	191	194	188	185
Finland	7.8	7.9	7.8	7.8	7.8	212	216	214	215	216
Sweden	7.9	9.0	9.0	9.1	9.1	433	496	499	503	506
Iceland	5.9	7.2	7.3	7.3	7.3	12	15	15	15	15
United States	13.3	6.2	6.0	6.1	5.8	20 874	10 046	9 622	9 766	9 224

: Data not available

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)				
	May 20	Feb 21	Mar 21	Apr 21	May 21	May 20	Feb 21	Mar 21	Apr 21	May 21
Euro area	17.5	18.5	18.4	18.4	17.5	2 333	2 570	2 566	2 541	2 403
EU	17.0	18.2	18.2	18.2	17.3	2 860	3 170	3 179	3 153	2 979
Belgium	15.8	19.0	19.0	:	:	57	68	68	:	:
Bulgaria	16.4	17.3	16.8	14.4	13.7	22	24	23	19	18
Czechia	7.9	9.1	10.2	8.1	7.5	20	24	28	22	20
Denmark	12.1	13.2	13.3	12.0	11.6	52	54	57	51	50
Germany	6.9	7.9	7.8	7.7	7.5	303	340	335	328	321
Estonia	17.2	14.9	14.8	15.1	14.7	8	7	7	7	7
Ireland	16.1	17.7	16.8	18.1	18.1	36	48	46	41	38
Greece	40.2	37.7	41.8	49.8	38.2	80	72	90	96	66
Spain	39.0	39.2	38.1	38.1	36.9	496	568	544	533	500
France	20.5	21.0	21.1	20.4	19.2	531	602	606	576	532
Croatia	25.2	20.8	20.8	:	:	38	29	29	:	:
Italy	29.1	32.9	33.2	32.8	31.7	383	458	476	485	483
Cyprus	19.9	18.5	18.5	:	:	7	7	7	:	:
Latvia	17.8	16.3	15.6	14.4	14.1	11	9	8	8	7
Lithuania	21.1	11.2	10.5	11.5	10.8	21	11	10	11	11
Luxembourg	26.4	20.7	20.6	20.8	19.9	6	5	5	5	5
Hungary	13.4	13.5	11.5	14.0	13.9	42	41	37	46	43
Malta	10.9	9.6	9.0	8.1	7.4	3	3	2	2	2
Netherlands	9.5	9.4	8.9	8.8	8.7	132	137	129	128	126
Austria	15.3	12.4	12.6	12.7	12.6	75	62	63	63	61
Poland	9.9	15.3	15.1	14.3	13.5	104	165	161	148	137
Portugal	21.8	22.9	22.2	24.9	24.4	68	72	70	82	85
Romania	17.0	21.3	21.3	:	:	100	123	123	:	:
Slovenia	16.6	14.3	14.3	:	:	10	8	8	:	:
Slovakia	19.9	22.2	23.3	23.4	23.4	30	33	34	34	34
Finland	20.3	19.5	19.2	18.9	18.7	63	60	59	59	58
Sweden	23.2	24.8	25.1	25.3	25.6	138	151	154	157	160
Iceland	12.0	14.2	14.5	14.7	14.8	3	4	4	4	4

: 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 gender

	Males						Females					
	May 20	Feb 21	Mar 21	Apr 21	May 21	May 20	Feb 21	Mar 21	Apr 21	May 21		
	Euro area	7.4	7.9	7.7	7.8	7.6	7.7	8.6	8.6	8.5	8.3	
EU	6.7	7.2	7.1	7.1	7.0	7.1	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.6		
Belgium	5.2	6.7	6.8	6.8	6.6	4.7	6.7	6.8	6.7	6.4		
Bulgaria	5.9	6.3	6.6	6.7	6.9	5.7	5.7	5.8	5.6	5.5		
Czechia	2.1	2.5	2.9	2.7	2.7	2.9	4.0	3.9	4.2	3.9		
Denmark	5.0	5.8	5.6	5.4	5.2	6.2	6.3	6.0	5.8	6.0		
Germany	4.2	4.2	4.1	4.0	4.0	3.4	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.4		
Estonia	6.8	7.4	7.4	7.3	7.3	7.2	6.1	6.1	5.6	5.5		
Ireland	5.2	7.5	7.7	7.9	7.9	5.0	7.6	7.6	7.9	7.8		
Greece	13.9	13.4	12.3	13.7	12.3	20.8	20.9	21.7	21.7	19.1		
Spain	14.1	13.9	13.5	13.6	13.5	16.9	17.8	17.6	17.6	17.4		
France	7.3	8.4	8.5	8.1	7.8	6.6	7.7	7.8	7.4	7.1		
Croatia	8.3	7.4	7.4	7.7	7.9	8.9	7.3	7.4	7.7	8.0		
Italy	7.8	9.7	9.4	9.7	9.8	9.5	11.5	11.6	11.9	11.5		
Cyprus	7.5	8.1	8.3	8.8	9.1	8.1	6.7	7.6	9.8	10.7		
Latvia	9.9	8.2	8.1	7.9	8.0	7.2	7.2	7.4	7.7	7.8		
Lithuania	9.4	6.6	6.2	6.9	6.7	7.7	7.0	6.8	7.0	7.0		
Luxembourg	7.7	6.0	6.0	6.0	5.9	7.7	6.9	6.8	6.9	6.6		
Hungary	4.0	4.3	3.5	4.7	3.2	4.8	4.7	4.4	4.2	4.7		
Malta	4.2	3.8	3.7	3.8	3.7	4.8	4.0	3.8	3.7	3.6		
Netherlands	3.6	3.6	3.4	3.2	3.2	3.6	3.7	3.6	3.5	3.5		
Austria	7.5	7.0	6.7	7.2	7.1	6.9	7.1	6.9	7.5	6.7		
Poland	3.1	4.0	4.1	3.9	3.7	3.3	3.7	3.9	4.0	3.9		
Portugal	5.9	6.6	6.4	6.7	6.8	6.0	7.1	6.8	7.2	7.5		
Romania	5.8	6.1	6.1	6.0	5.6	5.2	5.7	5.5	5.4	5.3		
Slovenia	4.7	4.2	4.1	4.0	3.9	6.2	6.5	6.5	6.6	6.4		
Slovakia	6.7	6.5	6.5	6.4	6.4	6.7	7.8	7.9	7.7	7.5		
Finland	7.7	8.4	8.3	8.4	8.5	7.8	7.3	7.3	7.2	7.1		
Sweden	8.0	8.9	8.9	9.0	9.0	7.8	9.2	9.2	9.2	9.2		
Iceland	5.9	6.4	6.3	6.3	6.3	5.8	8.3	8.5	8.5	8.5		

: Data not available

Source dataset: [une_rt_m](#)