

167/2015 – 30 September 2015

August 2015

Euro area unemployment rate at 11.0%

EU28 at 9.5%

The **euro area** (EA19) seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate was 11.0% in August 2015, stable compared to July 2015, and down from 11.5% in August 2014. The **EU28** unemployment rate was 9.5% in August 2015, also stable compared to July 2015, and down from 10.1% in August 2014. These figures are published by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**.

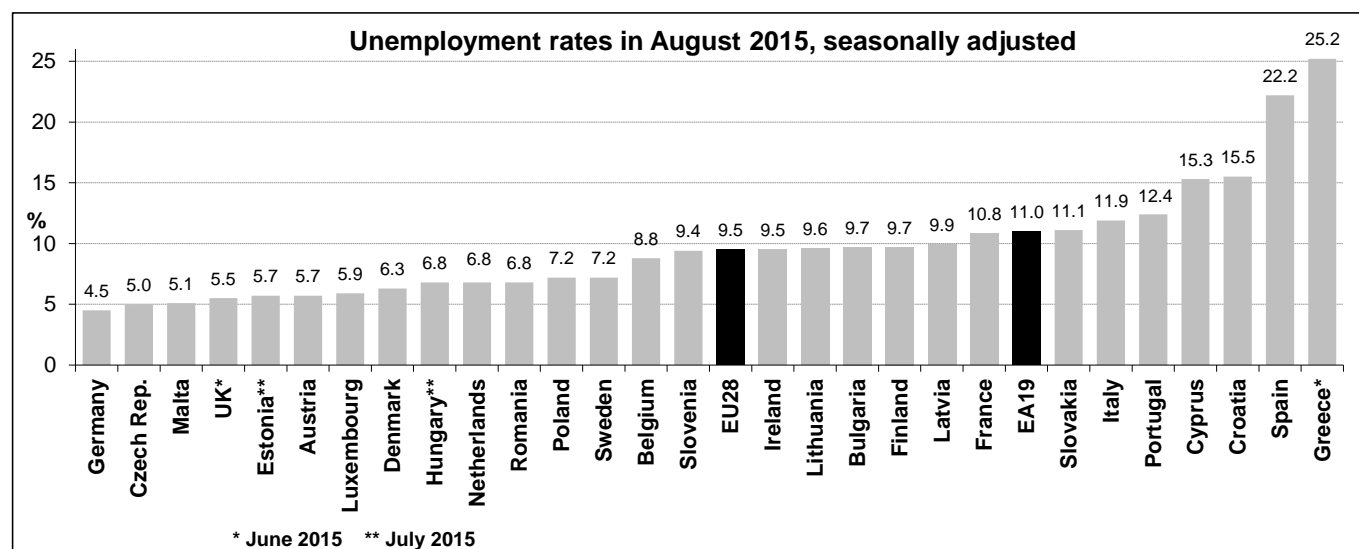
Eurostat estimates that 23.022 million men and women in the **EU28**, of whom 17.603 million were in the **euro area**, were unemployed in August 2015. Compared with July 2015, the number of persons unemployed decreased by 33 000 in the **EU28** and by 1 000 in the **euro area**. Compared with August 2014, unemployment fell by 1.490 million in the **EU28** and by 892 000 in the **euro area**.

Member States

Among the Member States, the lowest unemployment rates in August 2015 were recorded in **Germany** (4.5%), the **Czech Republic** (5.0%) and **Malta** (5.1%), and the highest in **Greece** (25.2% in June 2015) and **Spain** (22.2%).

Compared with a year ago, the unemployment rate in August 2015 fell in twenty-three Member States, increased in four and remained stable in **Romania**. The largest decreases were registered in **Estonia** (8.0% to 5.7% between July 2014 and July 2015), **Slovakia** (from 13.2% to 11.1%), **Spain** (24.2% to 22.2%), **Bulgaria** (11.4% to 9.7%), **Ireland** (11.1% to 9.5%) and **Poland** (8.7% to 7.2%). The increases were registered in **Austria** (5.6% to 5.7%), **Belgium** (8.6% to 8.8%), **France** (10.4% to 10.8%) and **Finland** (8.8% to 9.7%).

In August 2015, the unemployment rate in the **United States** was 5.1%, down from 5.3% in July 2015 and from 6.1% in August 2014.



Youth unemployment

In August 2015, 4.610 million young persons (under 25) were unemployed in the **EU28**, of whom 3.131 million were in the **euro area**. Compared with August 2014, youth unemployment decreased by 448 000 in the **EU28** and by 262 000 in the **euro area**. In August 2015, the youth unemployment rate was 20.4% in the **EU28** and 22.3% in the **euro area**, compared with 21.9% and 23.6% respectively in August 2014. In August 2015, the lowest rates were observed in **Germany** (7.0%), **Austria** (10.8%), the **Netherlands** (11.2%), **Denmark** (11.4%) and **Estonia** (11.5% in July 2015), and the highest in **Spain** (48.8%), **Greece** (48.3% in June 2015), **Croatia** (43.5% in the second quarter 2015) and **Italy** (40.7%).

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; inclusion of new weights in the LFS data due to the 2011 Census.

Compared with the rates published in News Release [147/2015](#) of 1 September 2015, the July 2015 unemployment rate remains unchanged at 9.5% for the EU28 and has been revised upwards from 10.9% to 11.0% for the EA19. Among Member States, rates have been revised by more than 0.1 percentage points (pp) downwards for Cyprus (by 1.1 pp), Slovakia (by 0.5 pp) and Poland (by 0.3 pp). Revisions of more than 0.1 percentage points upwards have been observed for Croatia (by 0.5 pp), Bulgaria and Slovenia (both by 0.4 pp), Belgium and France (both by 0.3 pp), Luxembourg and Portugal (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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For further information on data:

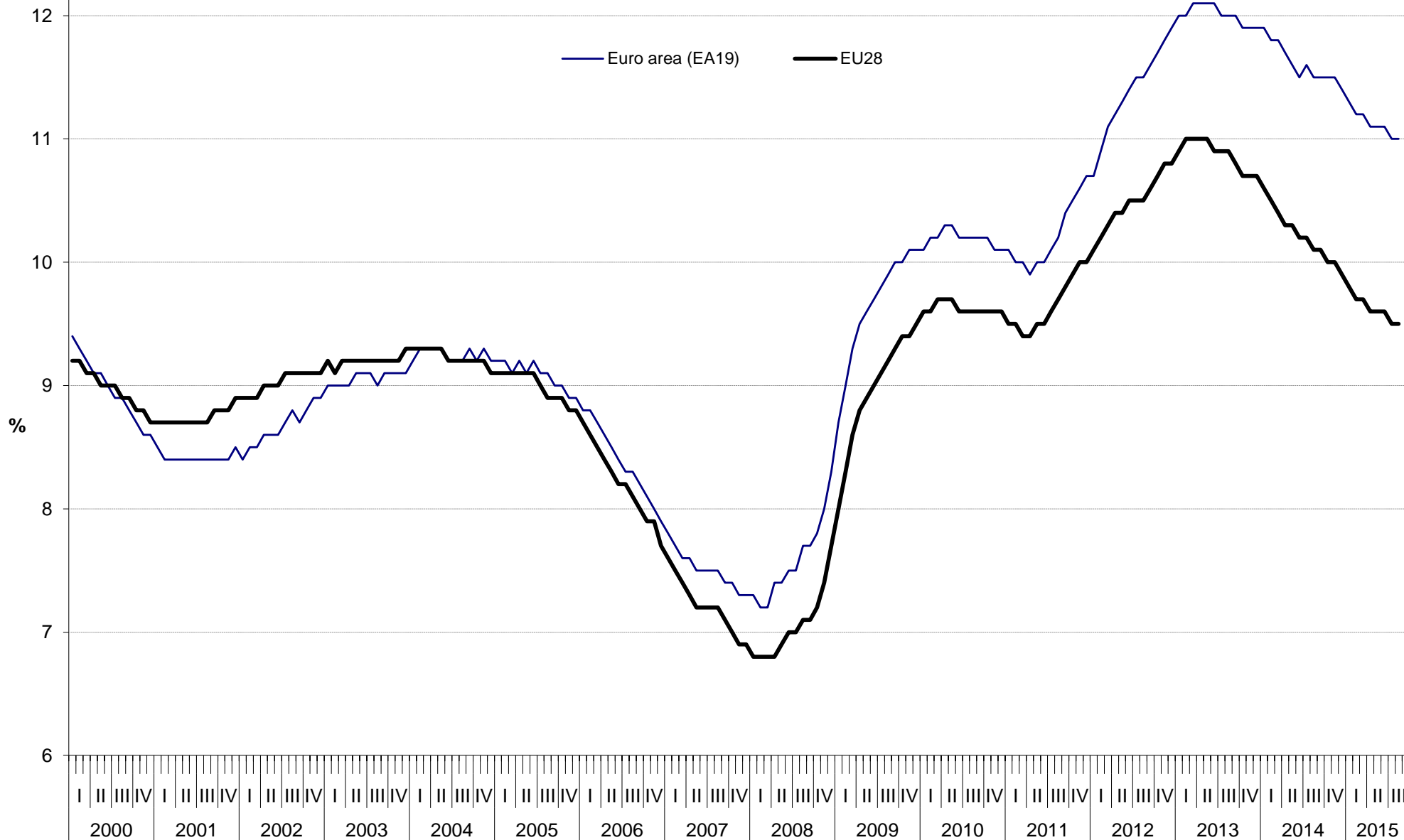
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Euro area and EU28 unemployment rates Seasonally adjusted series



Seasonally adjusted unemployment, totals

| | Rates (%) | | | | | Number of persons (in thousands) | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------|--------|--------|--------|-------------|----------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|---------------|
| | Aug 14 | May 15 | Jun 15 | Jul 15 | Aug 15 | Aug 14 | May 15 | Jun 15 | Jul 15 | Aug 15 |
| EA19 | 11.5 | 11.1 | 11.1 | 11.0 | 11.0 | 18 495 | 17 766 | 17 797 | 17 604 | 17 603 |
| EU28 | 10.1 | 9.6 | 9.6 | 9.5 | 9.5 | 24 512 | 23 334 | 23 272 | 23 055 | 23 022 |
| Belgium | 8.6 | 8.8 | 8.9 | 8.8 | 8.8 | 427 | 434 | 439 | 435 | 435 |
| Bulgaria | 11.4 | 10.0 | 9.9 | 9.8 | 9.7 | 384 | 334 | 330 | 324 | 321 |
| Czech Republic | 6.0 | 5.1 | 5.0 | 5.1 | 5.0 | 316 | 269 | 267 | 272 | 269 |
| Denmark | 6.6 | 6.3 | 6.2 | 6.3 | 6.3 | 192 | 183 | 182 | 184 | 186 |
| Germany | 5.0 | 4.7 | 4.7 | 4.6 | 4.5 | 2 091 | 1 969 | 1 947 | 1 921 | 1 896 |
| Estonia | 8.0** | 6.4 | 6.1 | 5.7 | : | 51** | 44 | 42 | 39 | : |
| Ireland | 11.1 | 9.6 | 9.5 | 9.5 | 9.5 | 239 | 207 | 206 | 206 | 206 |
| Greece | 26.2* | 25.0 | 25.2 | : | : | 1 286* | 1 207 | 1 205 | : | : |
| Spain | 24.2 | 22.6 | 22.5 | 22.3 | 22.2 | 5 531 | 5 187 | 5 164 | 5 112 | 5 094 |
| France | 10.4 | 10.4 | 10.5 | 10.7 | 10.8 | 3 042 | 3 044 | 3 088 | 3 139 | 3 190 |
| Croatia | 16.8 | 16.1 | 15.9 | 15.6 | 15.5 | 323 | 308 | 302 | 298 | 295 |
| Italy | 12.7 | 12.4 | 12.5 | 12.0 | 11.9 | 3 223 | 3 171 | 3 216 | 3 072 | 3 061 |
| Cyprus | 16.5 | 15.4 | 15.3 | 15.2 | 15.3 | 71 | 66 | 65 | 65 | 66 |
| Latvia | 10.9 | 9.7 | 10.0 | 10.1 | 9.9 | 107 | 97 | 100 | 100 | 98 |
| Lithuania | 10.5 | 9.5 | 9.5 | 9.6 | 9.6 | 154 | 139 | 139 | 140 | 141 |
| Luxembourg | 6.0 | 5.9 | 5.9 | 5.9 | 5.9 | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 |
| Hungary | 7.5** | 7.0 | 6.9 | 6.8 | : | 349** | 315 | 311 | 309 | : |
| Malta | 5.8 | 5.4 | 5.3 | 5.2 | 5.1 | 11 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Netherlands | 7.2 | 6.9 | 6.9 | 6.8 | 6.8 | 637 | 617 | 611 | 603 | 604 |
| Austria | 5.6 | 6.0 | 5.9 | 5.8 | 5.7 | 243 | 261 | 257 | 253 | 251 |
| Poland | 8.7 | 7.5 | 7.4 | 7.3 | 7.2 | 1 504 | 1 299 | 1 270 | 1 253 | 1 241 |
| Portugal | 13.6 | 12.4 | 12.3 | 12.3 | 12.4 | 700 | 634 | 630 | 628 | 633 |
| Romania | 6.8 | 6.8 | 6.8 | 6.8 | 6.8 | 627 | 632 | 627 | 630 | 626 |
| Slovenia | 9.7 | 9.6 | 9.6 | 9.5 | 9.4 | 97 | 97 | 97 | 95 | 94 |
| Slovakia | 13.2 | 11.4 | 11.3 | 11.2 | 11.1 | 359 | 312 | 309 | 306 | 303 |
| Finland | 8.8 | 9.4 | 9.5 | 9.6 | 9.7 | 234 | 253 | 256 | 258 | 260 |
| Sweden | 7.9 | 7.5 | 7.4 | 7.3 | 7.2 | 411 | 391 | 385 | 380 | 375 |
| United Kingdom | 5.9* | 5.6 | 5.5 | : | : | 1 997* | 1 824 | 1 804 | : | : |
| Iceland | 4.8 | 4.4 | 4.3 | 4.3 | 4.3 | 9 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 |
| Norway | 3.7** | 4.3 | 4.4 | 4.3 | : | 89** | 118 | 122 | 120 | : |
| United States | 6.1 | 5.5 | 5.3 | 5.3 | 5.1 | 9 629 | 8 681 | 8 288 | 8 292 | 8 080 |

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

: Data not available

* June 2014

** July 2014

Seasonally adjusted youth (under 25s) unemployment

| | Rates (%) | | | | | Number of persons (in thousands) | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------|--------|--------|--------|-------------|----------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------------|
| | Aug 14 | May 15 | Jun 15 | Jul 15 | Aug 15 | Aug 14 | May 15 | Jun 15 | Jul 15 | Aug 15 |
| EA19 | 23.6 | 22.5 | 22.6 | 22.2 | 22.3 | 3 393 | 3 183 | 3 190 | 3 116 | 3 131 |
| EU28 | 21.9 | 20.7 | 20.6 | 20.4 | 20.4 | 5 058 | 4 736 | 4 701 | 4 613 | 4 610 |
| Belgium | 20.3 | 22.3 | 23.1 | 22.5 | 22.6 | 83 | 93 | 96 | 93 | 94 |
| Bulgaria | 22.6 | 22.2 | 22.0 | 21.5 | 21.3 | 46 | 42 | 40 | 39 | 38 |
| Czech Republic | 15.5 | 12.9 | 12.8 | 13.1 | 12.4 | 55 | 45 | 45 | 47 | 45 |
| Denmark | 12.1 | 10.4 | 11.4 | 11.4 | 11.4 | 54 | 47 | 52 | 51 | 51 |
| Germany | 7.6 | 7.1 | 7.1 | 7.0 | 7.0 | 321 | 293 | 290 | 288 | 286 |
| Estonia | 15.4 | 10.4 | 9.8 | 11.5 | : | 9 | 6 | 6 | 7 | : |
| Ireland | 23.0 | 20.4 | 20.7 | 20.7 | 20.7 | 45 | 38 | 38 | 39 | 39 |
| Greece | 49.7 | 51.4 | 48.3 | : | : | 154 | 146 | 147 | : | : |
| Spain | 53.8 | 49.2 | 49.0 | 48.7 | 48.8 | 847 | 773 | 757 | 735 | 735 |
| France | 24.4 | 24.2 | 24.2 | 24.3 | 24.5 | 673 | 666 | 657 | 657 | 663 |
| Croatia | 45.5 | 43.5 | 43.5 | : | : | 76 | 68 | 68 | : | : |
| Italy | 43.0 | 42.0 | 43.0 | 40.4 | 40.7 | 702 | 640 | 668 | 618 | 631 |
| Cyprus | 35.1 | 32.6 | 32.6 | : | : | 15 | 14 | 14 | : | : |
| Latvia | 19.5 | 15.1 | 15.3 | 15.1 | 14.1 | 16 | 13 | 13 | 12 | 11 |
| Lithuania | 18.7 | 18.4 | 18.6 | 19.4 | 18.9 | 25 | 23 | 23 | 24 | 23 |
| Luxembourg | 22.3 | 18.3 | 18.0 | 18.3 | 18.5 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 4 |
| Hungary | 20.8 | 18.6 | 17.9 | 17.7 | : | 69 | 64 | 61 | 61 | : |
| Malta | 11.9 | 12.4 | 12.7 | 12.9 | 13.1 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Netherlands | 12.4 | 11.1 | 11.1 | 11.3 | 11.2 | 169 | 156 | 157 | 159 | 158 |
| Austria | 9.7 | 10.7 | 10.6 | 10.9 | 10.8 | 54 | 60 | 60 | 61 | 60 |
| Poland | 23.8 | 20.7 | 19.8 | 19.3 | 19.0 | 342 | 283 | 266 | 255 | 250 |
| Portugal | 33.2 | 31.0 | 31.7 | 31.2 | 31.8 | 128 | 112 | 114 | 113 | 116 |
| Romania | 23.4 | 22.3 | 22.3 | : | : | 160 | 153 | 153 | : | : |
| Slovenia | 20.2 | 16.8 | 16.8 | : | : | 14 | 13 | 13 | : | : |
| Slovakia | 29.8 | 26.4 | 26.2 | 25.2 | 24.6 | 64 | 55 | 54 | 52 | 50 |
| Finland | 20.4 | 23.3 | 23.6 | 23.7 | 23.7 | 67 | 76 | 77 | 77 | 77 |
| Sweden | 22.6 | 20.8 | 20.7 | 20.5 | 20.4 | 151 | 135 | 134 | 132 | 131 |
| United Kingdom | 16.0 | 15.8 | 15.4 | : | : | 715 | 714 | 697 | : | : |
| Iceland | 9.9 | 8.7 | 8.7 | 8.8 | 8.7 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Norway | 8.4 | 10.5 | 10.9 | 10.5 | : | 31 | 41 | 42 | 41 | : |

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 | | | | |
|----------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------------|---------|--------|--------|--------|-------------|
| | Aug 14 | May 15 | Jun 15 | Jul 15 | Aug 15 | Aug 14 | May 15 | Jun 15 | Jul 15 | Aug 15 |
| EA19 | 11.3 | 11.0 | 10.9 | 10.8 | 10.8 | 11.8 | 11.2 | 11.3 | 11.2 | 11.2 |
| EU28 | 10.0 | 9.6 | 9.5 | 9.4 | 9.4 | 10.3 | 9.6 | 9.7 | 9.6 | 9.6 |
| Belgium | 8.8 | 9.5 | 9.6 | 9.6 | 9.6 | 8.3 | 7.9 | 7.9 | 7.9 | 7.9 |
| Bulgaria | 12.3 | 10.9 | 10.9 | 10.7 | 10.6 | 10.3 | 9.0 | 8.8 | 8.6 | 8.6 |
| Czech Republic | 4.9 | 4.3 | 4.2 | 4.2 | 4.2 | 7.3 | 6.1 | 6.1 | 6.2 | 6.1 |
| Denmark | 6.5 | 6.1 | 5.8 | 6.1 | 6.2 | 6.6 | 6.4 | 6.6 | 6.5 | 6.5 |
| Germany | 5.3 | 5.1 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 4.9 | 4.6 | 4.3 | 4.2 | 4.1 | 4.1 |
| Estonia | 9.2 | 6.4 | 6.1 | 5.8 | : | 6.8 | 6.4 | 6.0 | 5.6 | : |
| Ireland | 12.5 | 10.8 | 10.7 | 10.7 | 10.6 | 9.4 | 8.1 | 8.1 | 8.1 | 8.1 |
| Greece | 23.5 | 22.2 | 21.7 | : | : | 29.6 | 28.3 | 29.5 | : | : |
| Spain | 23.1 | 21.2 | 21.0 | 20.7 | 20.6 | 25.4 | 24.2 | 24.1 | 24.0 | 24.0 |
| France | 10.5 | 10.9 | 11.0 | 11.1 | 11.2 | 10.2 | 9.8 | 9.9 | 10.2 | 10.4 |
| Croatia | 16.2 | 16.1 | 15.8 | 15.4 | 15.3 | 17.6 | 16.1 | 16.0 | 15.8 | 15.7 |
| Italy | 11.8 | 11.9 | 11.9 | 11.5 | 11.3 | 13.8 | 13.0 | 13.3 | 12.7 | 12.8 |
| Cyprus | 17.6 | 15.1 | 15.0 | 15.0 | 15.2 | 15.2 | 15.6 | 15.5 | 15.4 | 15.3 |
| Latvia | 11.5 | 11.3 | 11.5 | 11.4 | 11.2 | 10.2 | 8.1 | 8.5 | 8.8 | 8.7 |
| Lithuania | 12.0 | 10.7 | 10.8 | 10.8 | 10.9 | 9.0 | 8.2 | 8.3 | 8.3 | 8.3 |
| Luxembourg | 5.7 | 5.2 | 5.1 | 5.2 | 5.2 | 6.3 | 6.8 | 6.7 | 6.8 | 6.7 |
| Hungary | 7.4 | 6.8 | 6.6 | 6.5 | : | 7.7 | 7.2 | 7.2 | 7.2 | : |
| Malta | 6.0 | 5.5 | 5.4 | 5.3 | 5.2 | 5.4 | 5.1 | 5.0 | 4.9 | 4.9 |
| Netherlands | 6.8 | 6.6 | 6.6 | 6.4 | 6.5 | 7.6 | 7.3 | 7.2 | 7.1 | 7.1 |
| Austria | 5.7 | 6.3 | 6.1 | 6.1 | 6.1 | 5.5 | 5.7 | 5.5 | 5.4 | 5.3 |
| Poland | 8.1 | 7.3 | 7.2 | 7.2 | 7.1 | 9.3 | 7.7 | 7.5 | 7.4 | 7.3 |
| Portugal | 12.8 | 12.4 | 12.1 | 12.2 | 12.2 | 14.4 | 12.3 | 12.5 | 12.4 | 12.7 |
| Romania | 7.3 | 7.6 | 7.6 | 7.8 | 7.8 | 6.1 | 5.8 | 5.7 | 5.6 | 5.6 |
| Slovenia | 8.8 | 8.6 | 8.5 | 8.4 | 8.4 | 10.7 | 10.7 | 10.7 | 10.6 | 10.6 |
| Slovakia | 12.7 | 10.3 | 10.1 | 9.9 | 9.8 | 13.7 | 12.9 | 12.8 | 12.8 | 12.7 |
| Finland | 9.4 | 10.0 | 10.1 | 10.3 | 10.4 | 8.0 | 8.9 | 8.9 | 8.9 | 9.0 |
| Sweden | 8.1 | 7.6 | 7.5 | 7.4 | 7.3 | 7.7 | 7.4 | 7.3 | 7.1 | 7.0 |
| United Kingdom | 6.1 | 5.8 | 5.7 | : | : | 5.6 | 5.4 | 5.3 | : | : |
| Iceland | 4.7 | 4.0 | 4.0 | 4.0 | 4.0 | 4.9 | 4.8 | 4.7 | 4.7 | 4.7 |
| Norway | 3.9 | 4.6 | 4.7 | 4.7 | : | 3.5 | 3.9 | 4.0 | 3.9 | : |

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

: Data not available