

36/2022 – 31 March 2022

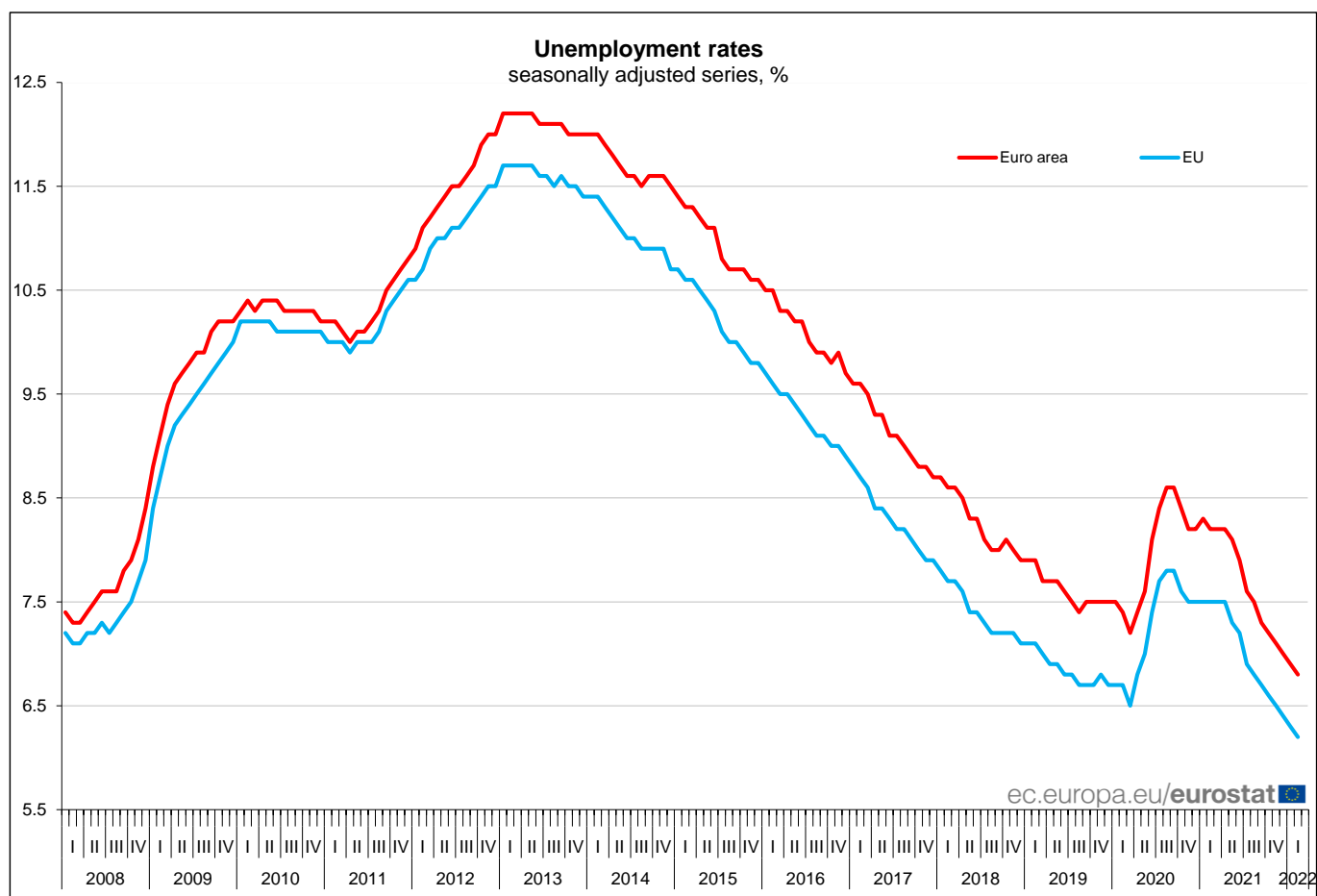
February 2022

Euro area unemployment at 6.8%

EU at 6.2%

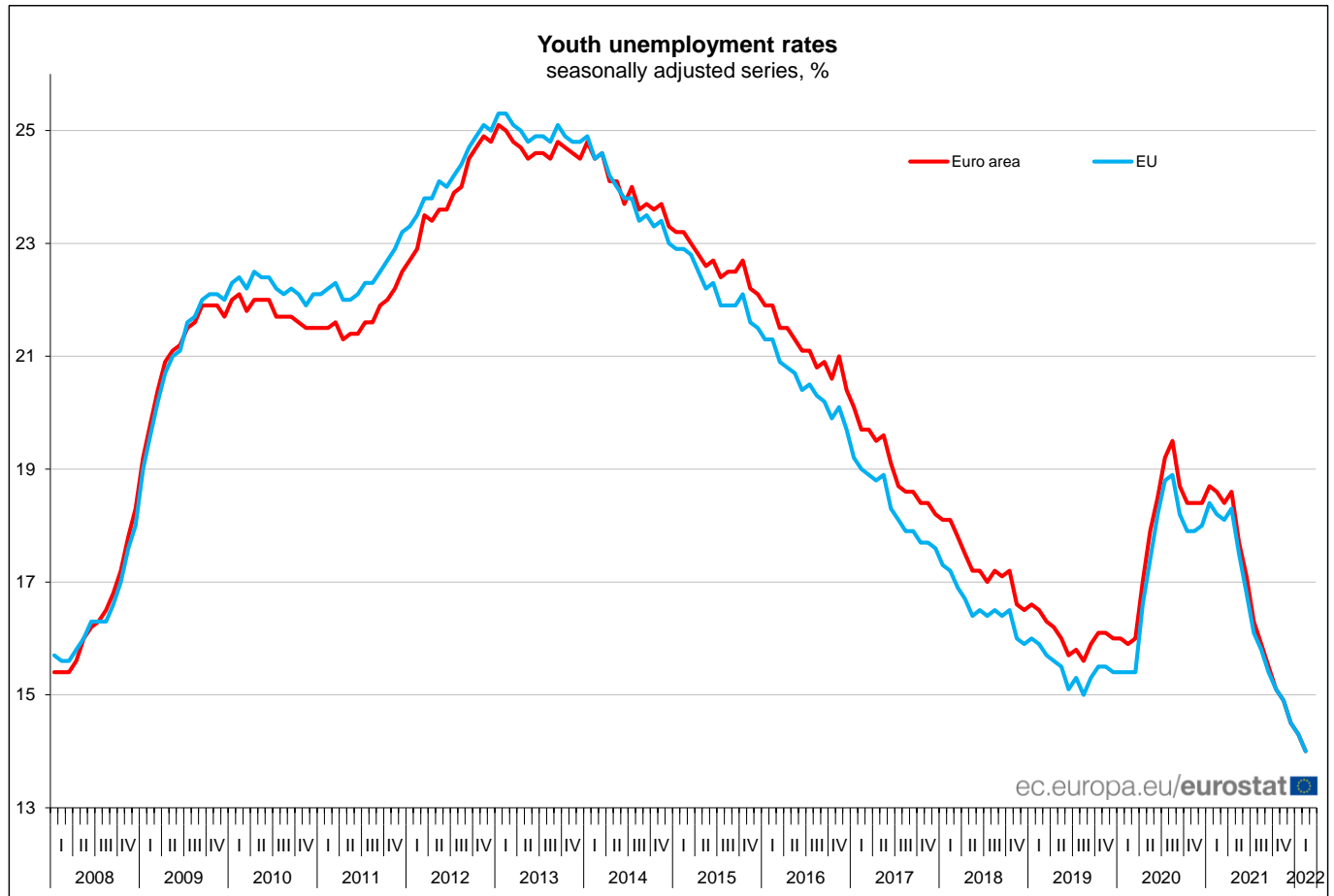
In February 2022, the **euro area** seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate was 6.8%, down from 6.9% in January 2022 and from 8.2% in February 2021. The **EU** unemployment rate was 6.2% in February 2022, down from 6.3% in January 2022 and from 7.5% in February 2021. These figures are published by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**.

Eurostat estimates that 13.267 million men and women in the **EU**, of whom 11.155 million in the **euro area**, were unemployed in February 2022. Compared with January 2022, the number of persons unemployed decreased by 221 000 in the **EU** and by 181 000 in the **euro area**. Compared with February 2021, unemployment decreased by 2.568 million in the **EU** and by 2.150 million in the **euro area**.



Youth unemployment

In February 2022, 2.581 million young persons (under 25) were unemployed in the **EU**, of whom 2.101 million were in the **euro area**. In February 2022, the youth unemployment rate was 14.0% in both the **EU** and in the **euro area**, down from 14.3% in both areas in the previous month. Compared with January 2022, youth unemployment decreased by 38 000 in the **EU** and by 26 000 in the **euro area**. Compared with February 2021, youth unemployment decreased by 602 000 in the **EU** and by 512 000 in the **euro area**.



Unemployment by sex

In February 2022, the unemployment rate for women was 6.5% in the **EU**, down from 6.6% in January 2022. The unemployment rate for men was 5.9% in February 2022, down from 6.0% in January 2022. In the **euro area**, the unemployment rate for women remained stable at 7.2% in February 2022, while the unemployment rate for men decreased from 6.6% in January 2022 to 6.4% February 2022.

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 crisis 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 might be no longer actively looking for a job or no longer available for work. This may still lead 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 third quarter of 2021. LFS data for the fourth quarter of 2021 will be released on 13 April 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 published before 31 March 2022 have been **seasonally adjusted** using the seasonal factors estimated in the period up to December 2019 included. Series published as of 31 March 2022 are seasonally adjusted using seasonal models estimated in the period up to December 2021 included.

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.

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 [27/2022](#) of 3 March 2022, the unemployment rate for January 2022 has been revised for the euro area from 6.8% to 6.9% and for the EU from 6.2% to 6.3%. Among EU Member States, the rate has been revised by more than 0.1 percentage points (pp) downwards for Greece (by 0.5 pp) as well as for Bulgaria, Italy and Portugal (all by 0.2 pp). The rate has been revised by more than 0.1 percentage points upwards for France and Cyprus (both by 0.5 pp), Estonia (by 0.4 pp), as well as for Croatia, Poland and Slovakia (all 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)				
	Feb 21	Nov 21	Dec 21	Jan 22	Feb 22	Feb 21	Nov 21	Dec 21	Jan 22	Feb 22
Euro area	8.2	7.1	7.0	6.9	6.8	13 305	11 685	11 530	11 336	11 155
EU	7.5	6.5	6.4	6.3	6.2	15 835	13 851	13 679	13 488	13 267
Belgium	6.8	5.8	5.7	5.6	5.6	343	301	299	295	294
Bulgaria	6.0	4.7	4.6	4.5	4.4	197	152	149	146	144
Czechia	3.2	2.2	2.1	2.2	2.4	170	116	115	119	130
Denmark	6.0	4.6	4.5	4.6	4.6	181	140	139	142	141
Germany	3.9	3.3	3.2	3.1	3.1	1 676	1 405	1 383	1 361	1 341
Estonia	6.9	5.3	5.5	5.7	5.9	48	37	38	41	42
Ireland	7.5	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	180	137	136	137	135
Greece	16.2	13.4	12.8	12.8	11.9	707	632	596	589	556
Spain	15.7	13.4	13.1	12.8	12.6	3 610	3 112	3 046	2 975	2 924
France	8.1	7.4	7.5	7.5	7.4	2 412	2 237	2 271	2 257	2 251
Croatia	8.5	7.0	6.8	6.7	6.6	155	126	122	120	119
Italy	10.2	9.0	8.9	8.6	8.5	2 500	2 260	2 213	2 155	2 125
Cyprus	8.0	6.7	6.6	6.6	6.4	36	31	31	31	31
Latvia	7.7	7.3	7.4	7.3	7.2	71	68	69	68	67
Lithuania	7.5	6.7	6.6	7.0	7.0	110	99	97	102	103
Luxembourg	6.3	4.9	4.9	4.7	4.6	20	16	16	15	15
Hungary	4.4	3.9	3.7	3.8	3.7	213	187	178	184	179
Malta	4.1	3.2	3.2	3.1	3.1	11	9	9	9	9
Netherlands	4.7	3.7	3.8	3.6	3.4	450	359	369	354	336
Austria	7.0	5.2	4.8	4.9	4.8	321	241	223	225	224
Poland	3.7	3.1	3.1	3.0	3.0	630	536	532	524	522
Portugal	6.8	6.2	5.8	5.8	5.8	343	323	302	298	297
Romania	5.9	5.5	5.7	5.7	5.7	481	451	472	469	468
Slovenia	5.3	4.6	4.4	4.2	4.1	53	47	45	43	42
Slovakia	7.1	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.5	193	182	183	182	181
Finland	8.0	7.1	7.0	7.0	6.9	220	199	197	195	194
Sweden	9.1	8.2	8.0	7.9	7.7	502	457	447	438	430
Iceland	6.9	4.6	4.5	4.4	4.4	14	10	10	10	10
Norway	4.9*	3.5	3.3	3.2	:	138*	101	96	92	:
Switzerland	5.5	4.7	4.5	:	:	271	233	223	:	:
United States	6.2	4.2	3.9	4.0	3.8	10 066	6 818	6 368	6 607	6 407

: Data not available

* January 2021

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)				
	Feb 21	Nov 21	Dec 21	Jan 22	Feb 22	Feb 21	Nov 21	Dec 21	Jan 22	Feb 22
Euro area	18.6	14.9	14.5	14.3	14.0	2 613	2 211	2 162	2 127	2 101
EU	18.2	14.9	14.5	14.3	14.0	3 183	2 725	2 662	2 619	2 581
Belgium	19.4	15.5	15.5	:	:	71	62	62	:	:
Bulgaria	16.4	15.6	15.4	15.0	14.9	23	19	19	18	18
Czechia	9.8	6.5	7.5	7.2	7.8	25	17	20	19	21
Denmark	13.0	9.9	10.0	10.1	10.2	54	43	44	44	44
Germany	7.8	5.9	5.8	5.8	5.7	331	263	259	256	254
Estonia	15.9	18.1	18.4	19.7	19.3	8	9	9	10	10
Ireland	17.2	12.4	12.7	13.0	12.6	48	43	45	47	46
Greece	40.2	36.5	28.9	33.1	31.1	80	83	58	67	63
Spain	39.1	31.4	31.3	30.6	29.8	567	470	469	463	455
France	21.2	16.3	16.7	16.3	16.4	610	506	524	510	521
Croatia	23.6	18.3	18.3	:	:	35	25	25	:	:
Italy	32.6	27.5	26.2	24.8	24.2	443	405	388	363	353
Cyprus	18.6	16.8	16.8	:	:	7	7	7	:	:
Latvia	15.9	12.3	11.5	10.9	10.3	8	7	6	6	6
Lithuania	14.8	10.4	10.6	11.5	11.5	14	11	11	13	13
Luxembourg	20.9	15.4	15.7	14.7	14.5	5	4	4	4	3
Hungary	13.6	12.3	11.6	11.8	10.7	42	38	36	37	33
Malta	9.8	11.2	11.7	10.8	10.5	3	3	3	3	3
Netherlands	10.8	7.8	7.8	7.6	7.3	178	133	134	131	126
Austria	12.4	9.8	8.2	9.2	9.0	62	49	41	45	45
Poland	14.0	9.6	9.4	9.2	9.1	147	101	99	97	95
Portugal	23.3	22.4	20.7	20.4	19.9	72	73	67	66	64
Romania	20.9	22.0	22.0	:	:	115	118	118	:	:
Slovenia	14.8	10.1	10.1	:	:	8	8	8	:	:
Slovakia	22.3	19.0	19.1	18.9	18.8	33	27	27	27	27
Finland	19.6	16.1	15.7	15.4	15.2	61	50	49	48	48
Sweden	24.5	23.6	23.2	22.8	22.4	149	147	145	142	140
Iceland	13.5	8.7	9.0	9.1	9.1	4	3	3	3	3
Norway	11.0	9.5	9.2	8.8	:	39	36	35	34	:
Switzerland	9.1	8.6	8.1	:	:	52	50	48	:	:

: 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 sex

	Males					Females				
	Feb 21	Nov 21	Dec 21	Jan 22	Feb 22	Feb 21	Nov 21	Dec 21	Jan 22	Feb 22
Euro area	7.9	6.8	6.7	6.6	6.4	8.6	7.4	7.3	7.2	7.2
EU	7.2	6.2	6.2	6.0	5.9	7.9	6.7	6.6	6.6	6.5
Belgium	6.8	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.6	6.8	4.7	4.6	4.5	4.5
Bulgaria	6.2	5.1	5.0	4.8	4.8	5.7	4.3	4.2	4.1	4.1
Czechia	2.5	1.8	1.9	1.9	1.8	4.0	2.7	2.5	2.6	3.1
Denmark	5.8	4.6	4.7	4.7	4.7	6.3	4.5	4.4	4.5	4.5
Germany	4.3	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.5	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8
Estonia	7.4	6.0	5.6	6.4	6.6	6.3	4.6	5.3	5.1	5.2
Ireland	7.4	5.3	5.1	5.1	4.9	7.6	5.2	5.2	5.4	5.4
Greece	13.5	9.8	9.7	9.5	8.6	19.7	17.8	16.6	17.0	15.9
Spain	13.9	11.9	11.6	11.4	11.2	17.8	15.1	14.8	14.4	14.1
France	8.4	7.6	7.6	7.4	7.3	7.8	7.3	7.5	7.5	7.5
Croatia	8.6	6.7	6.5	6.4	6.3	8.5	7.3	7.1	7.0	7.0
Italy	9.4	8.2	8.2	7.7	7.4	11.2	10.2	9.8	9.9	10.0
Cyprus	8.2	6.0	5.9	5.8	5.7	7.8	7.4	7.5	7.4	7.2
Latvia	8.2	7.9	8.0	8.0	7.8	7.1	6.8	6.8	6.6	6.6
Lithuania	7.7	7.7	7.4	8.0	8.0	7.3	5.7	5.9	6.0	5.9
Luxembourg	5.7	4.6	4.6	4.4	4.3	7.0	5.2	5.3	5.0	5.0
Hungary	4.3	3.6	3.7	3.6	3.7	4.6	4.1	3.6	3.9	3.6
Malta	4.0	3.3	3.2	3.1	3.2	4.2	3.1	3.2	3.0	3.0
Netherlands	4.5	3.5	3.6	3.4	3.3	4.9	3.9	4.0	3.9	3.6
Austria	7.0	5.3	4.9	5.4	4.9	7.1	5.2	4.8	4.3	4.7
Poland	3.7	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.0	3.7	3.1	3.0	2.9	3.0
Portugal	6.6	6.1	5.7	5.5	5.2	7.1	6.4	5.9	6.0	6.3
Romania	6.0	5.9	6.1	5.6	6.1	5.8	4.8	5.1	5.8	5.1
Slovenia	4.4	4.2	3.9	3.7	3.6	6.5	5.2	5.1	4.8	4.6
Slovakia	6.6	6.7	6.8	6.8	6.7	7.7	6.5	6.4	6.4	6.3
Finland	8.6	7.6	7.4	7.4	7.3	7.4	6.7	6.6	6.5	6.5
Sweden	9.0	7.8	7.6	7.4	7.2	9.2	8.7	8.5	8.4	8.3
Iceland	6.0	4.5	4.3	4.1	4.0	8.0	4.7	4.7	4.8	4.9
Norway	5.1	3.7	3.6	3.4	:	4.3	3.3	3.0	2.9	:
Switzerland	4.9	4.7	4.5	:	:	6.2	4.7	4.5	:	:

: Data not available

Source dataset: une_rt_m