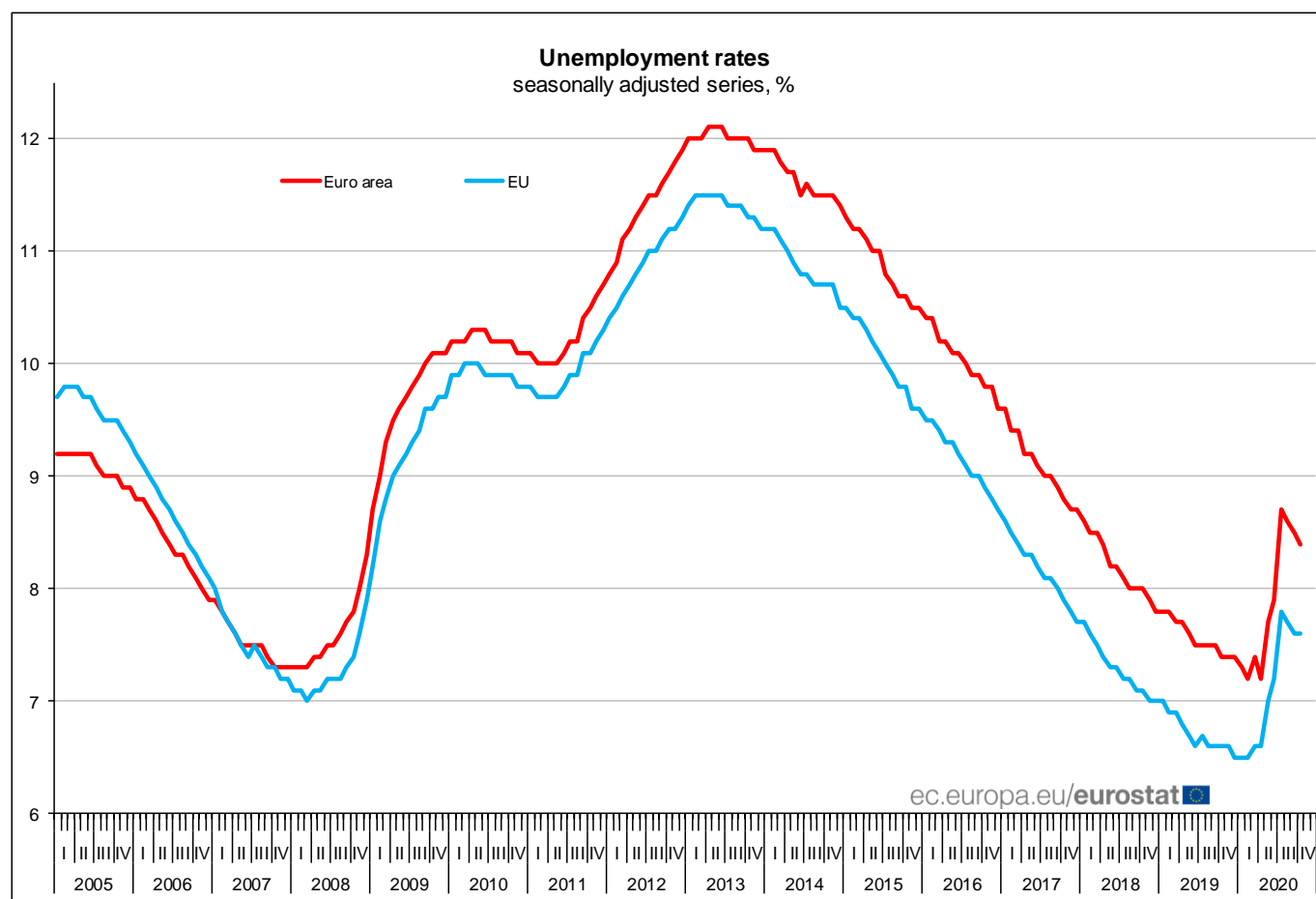October 2020

# Euro area unemployment at 8.4%
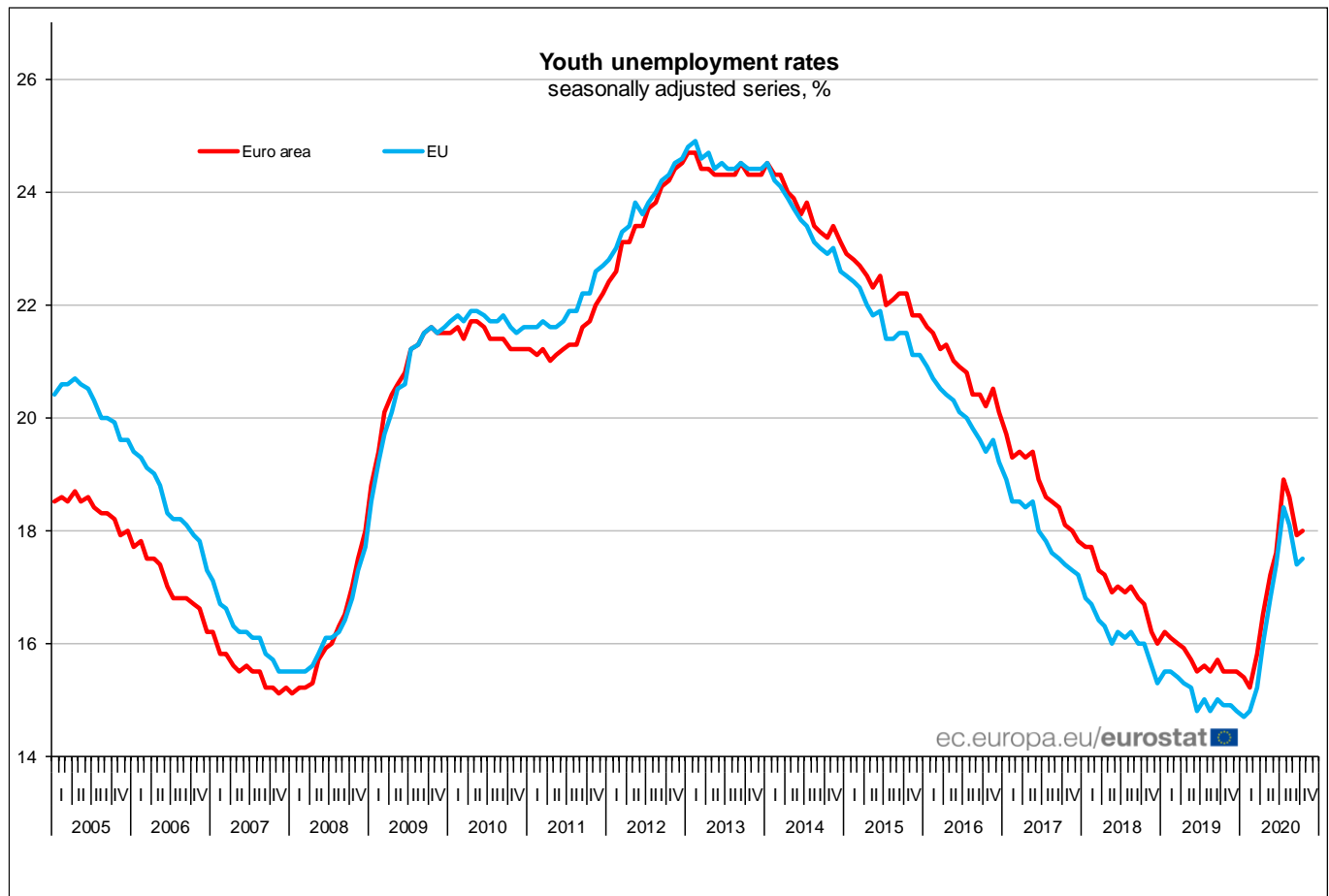
## EU at 7.6%

In October 2020, the **euro area** seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate was 8.4%, down from 8.5% in September 2020 and up from 7.4% in October 2019. The **EU** unemployment rate was 7.6% in October 2020, stable compared with September 2020 and up from 6.6% in October 2019. These figures are published by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**.

Eurostat estimates that 16.236 million men and women in the **EU**, of whom 13.825 million in the **euro area**, were unemployed in October 2020. Compared with September 2020, the number of persons unemployed decreased by 91 000 in the **EU** and by 86 000 in the **euro area**. Compared with October 2019, unemployment rose by 2.186 million in the **EU** and by 1.692 million in the **euro area**.

**Unemployment rates**
seasonally adjusted series, %

## Youth unemployment

In October 2020, 3.115 million young persons (under 25) were unemployed in the **EU**, of whom 2.551 million were in the **euro area**. In October 2020, the youth unemployment rate was 17.5% in the **EU** and 18.0% in the **euro area**, up from 17.4% and 17.9% respectively in the previous month. Compared with September 2020, youth unemployment increased by 46 000 in the **EU** and by 29 000 in the **euro area**. Compared with October 2019, youth unemployment increased by 404 000 in the **EU** and by 319 000 in the **euro area**.

**Youth unemployment rates**
seasonally adjusted series, %



## Unemployment by gender

In October 2020, the unemployment rate for women was 8.0% in the **EU**, down from 8.1% in September 2020. The unemployment rate for men was 7.2% in October 2020, stable compared with September 2020. In the **euro area**, the unemployment rate for women decreased from 9.0% in September 2020 to 8.9% in October 2020 while it remained stable at 8.0% for men.

## Additional labour market indicators

These estimates are based on the globally used International Labour Organisation 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 2020.

## 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, 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.

Germany: due to the introduction of the new German system of integrated household surveys, including the LFS, the monthly unemployment rate for October 2020 is an estimation based on the figures recorded in previous periods, taking into account current developments.

## 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 163/2020 of 30 October 2020, the September unemployment rate for the euro area has been revised upwards by 0.2 percentage points (pp) and for the EU by 0.1 pp. Among EU Member States, the rate has been revised by more than 0.1 percentage points downwards for Greece, Spain, Latvia and Sweden (all by 0.2 pp, July 2020 data for Greece). The rate has been revised by more than 0.1 percentage points (pp) upwards for Ireland (by 1.9 pp), Cyprus (by 1.3 pp), France (by 0.9 pp), Lithuania (by 0.7 pp), Poland (by 0.3 pp) and Portugal (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

## Seasonally adjusted unemployment, totals

| | Rates (%) | | | | | Number of persons (in thousands) | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Oct 19 | Jul 20 | Aug 20 | Sep 20 | Oct 20 | Oct 19 | Jul 20 | Aug 20 | Sep 20 | Oct 20 |
| **Euro area** | 7.4 | 8.7 | 8.6 | 8.5 | **8.4** | 12 133 | 14 140 | 14 029 | 13 911 | **13 825** |
| **EU** | 6.6 | 7.8 | 7.7 | 7.6 | **7.6** | 14 050 | 16 610 | 16 488 | 16 327 | **16 236** |
| **Belgium** | 5.2 | 5.0 | 5.1 | 5.2 | **5.1** | 265 | 249 | 258 | 261 | **258** |
| **Bulgaria** | 4.2 | 6.1 | 6.2 | 6.2 | **5.7** | 140 | 199 | 201 | 198 | **182** |
| **Czechia** | 2.0 | 2.7 | 2.8 | 2.8 | **2.9** | 109 | 144 | 151 | 150 | **153** |
| **Denmark** | 5.2 | 6.3 | 6.3 | 6.0 | **5.8** | 159 | 192 | 190 | 183 | **177** |
| **Germany** | 3.1 | 4.4 | 4.5 | 4.5 | **4.5** | 1 371 | 1 954 | 1 972 | 1 975 | **1 975** |
| **Estonia** | 4.3** | 7.8 | 8.0 | 8.1 | **:** | 30** | 54 | 56 | 57 | **:** |
| **Ireland** | 4.7 | 6.2 | 6.7 | 7.3 | **7.3** | 114 | 148 | 165 | 180 | **181** |
| **Greece** | 16.9* | 17.0 | 16.8 | : | **:** | 800* | 785 | 771 | : | **:** |
| **Spain** | 14.0 | 16.9 | 16.6 | 16.3 | **16.2** | 3 224 | 3 817 | 3 792 | 3 747 | **3 735** |
| **France** | 8.3 | 9.4 | 9.0 | 8.8 | **8.6** | 2 453 | 2 786 | 2 660 | 2 612 | **2 545** |
| **Croatia** | 6.4 | 8.4 | 8.4 | 8.2 | **8.0** | 114 | 153 | 152 | 149 | **144** |
| **Italy** | 9.5 | 9.9 | 9.8 | 9.7 | **9.8** | 2 437 | 2 499 | 2 488 | 2 468 | **2 479** |
| **Cyprus** | 6.6 | 7.6 | 8.5 | 9.3 | **10.5** | 29 | 34 | 38 | 42 | **48** |
| **Latvia** | 5.8 | 8.8 | 8.5 | 8.2 | **8.0** | 56 | 85 | 83 | 80 | **78** |
| **Lithuania** | 6.4 | 9.6 | 10.2 | 10.5 | **10.4** | 94 | 141 | 150 | 154 | **155** |
| **Luxembourg** | 5.5 | 7.2 | 6.8 | 6.7 | **6.5** | 17 | 23 | 21 | 21 | **20** |
| **Hungary** | 3.5** | 4.6 | 4.4 | 4.4 | **:** | 164** | 214 | 207 | 204 | **:** |
| **Malta** | 3.6 | 4.1 | 4.1 | 3.9 | **3.9** | 10 | 11 | 11 | 11 | **11** |
| **Netherlands** | 3.5 | 4.5 | 4.6 | 4.4 | **4.3** | 323 | 419 | 426 | 413 | **406** |
| **Austria** | 4.4 | 5.7 | 5.5 | 5.4 | **5.4** | 199 | 264 | 254 | 249 | **250** |
| **Poland** | 3.0 | 3.4 | 3.4 | 3.4 | **3.5** | 505 | 580 | 579 | 584 | **595** |
| **Portugal** | 6.5 | 7.9 | 8.1 | 7.9 | **7.5** | 337 | 404 | 414 | 407 | **388** |
| **Romania** | 3.9 | 5.5 | 5.4 | 5.1 | **5.3** | 350 | 488 | 476 | 455 | **477** |
| **Slovenia** | 4.4 | 4.8 | 4.7 | 4.7 | **4.9** | 45 | 49 | 48 | 48 | **50** |
| **Slovakia** | 5.7 | 6.8 | 6.9 | 6.8 | **7.0** | 156 | 183 | 187 | 185 | **191** |
| **Finland** | 6.9 | 8.1 | 8.2 | 8.2 | **8.2** | 189 | 221 | 226 | 228 | **228** |
| **Sweden** | 6.9 | 9.1 | 9.0 | 9.0 | **8.9** | 384 | 503 | 500 | 497 | **494** |
| **United Kingdom** | 3.8* | 4.3 | 4.6 | : | **:** | 1 278* | 1 452 | 1 555 | : | **:** |
| **Iceland** | 3.7 | 5.1 | 5.2 | 5.3 | **5.4** | 8 | 11 | 11 | 11 | **11** |
| **Norway** | 3.9** | 5.2 | 5.3 | 5.2 | **:** | 110** | 147 | 150 | 147 | **:** |
| **Switzerland** | 4.1 | 4.9 | 5.0 | 5.1 | **:** | 203 | 243 | 248 | 252 | **:** |
| **United States** | 3.6 | 10.2 | 8.4 | 7.9 | **6.9** | 5 831 | 16 342 | 13 551 | 12 619 | **11 037** |

: Data not available     * August 2019     ** September 2019

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 19 | Jul 20 | Aug 20 | Sep 20 | Oct 20 | Oct 19 | Jul 20 | Aug 20 | Sep 20 | Oct 20 |
| **Euro area** | 15.5 | 18.9 | 18.6 | 17.9 | **18.0** | 2 232 | 2 621 | 2 603 | 2 522 | **2 551** |
| **EU** | 14.9 | 18.4 | 18.1 | 17.4 | **17.5** | 2 711 | 3 207 | 3 176 | 3 069 | **3 115** |
| **Belgium** | 15.1 | 18.3 | 18.3 | 18.3 | : | 60 | 62 | 62 | 62 | : |
| **Bulgaria** | 8.7 | 17.2 | 18.3 | 18.3 | **17.1** | 13 | 24 | 26 | 26 | **23** |
| **Czechia** | 5.1 | 8.9 | 8.5 | 8.0 | **7.9** | 15 | 23 | 22 | 21 | **21** |
| **Denmark** | 10.4 | 12.7 | 11.9 | 12.2 | **12.3** | 47 | 56 | 52 | 53 | **53** |
| **Germany** | 5.7 | 6.2 | 6.1 | 6.1 | **6.0** | 244 | 266 | 265 | 262 | **257** |
| **Estonia** | 8.1 | 23.7 | 20.9 | 20.7 | : | 4 | 13 | 11 | 11 | : |
| **Ireland** | 10.7 | 17.8 | 18.2 | 19.8 | **19.0** | 31 | 47 | 52 | 60 | **58** |
| **Greece** | 34.5 | 36.0 | 39.3 | : | : | 83 | 79 | 79 | : | : |
| **Spain** | 31.2 | 42.6 | 41.6 | 40.2 | **40.4** | 482 | 598 | 604 | 599 | **627** |
| **France** | 19.9 | 23.6 | 21.7 | 20.7 | **20.7** | 563 | 664 | 617 | 601 | **606** |
| **Croatia** | 16.2 | 24.1 | 24.1 | 24.1 | : | 23 | 36 | 36 | 36 | : |
| **Italy** | 27.7 | 31.0 | 31.4 | 29.7 | **30.3** | 416 | 438 | 454 | 419 | **422** |
| **Cyprus** | 15.2 | 21.4 | 21.4 | 21.4 | : | 6 | 8 | 8 | 8 | : |
| **Latvia** | 10.7 | 15.4 | 13.9 | 13.4 | **13.9** | 7 | 9 | 8 | 8 | **8** |
| **Lithuania** | 14.0 | 22.5 | 23.6 | 24.9 | **27.1** | 15 | 23 | 23 | 24 | **28** |
| **Luxembourg** | 17.6 | 24.7 | 22.6 | 22.5 | **21.6** | 4 | 6 | 5 | 5 | **5** |
| **Hungary** | 12.8 | 14.1 | 12.4 | 11.5 | : | 41 | 45 | 39 | 35 | : |
| **Malta** | 9.0 | 9.2 | 10.0 | 9.7 | **10.1** | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | **3** |
| **Netherlands** | 7.3 | 11.0 | 11.3 | 10.7 | **10.1** | 109 | 159 | 164 | 157 | **151** |
| **Austria** | 9.2 | 10.6 | 10.4 | 8.9 | **8.6** | 46 | 53 | 52 | 46 | **44** |
| **Poland** | 8.4 | 11.4 | 11.7 | 11.9 | **12.9** | 105 | 121 | 125 | 129 | **142** |
| **Portugal** | 17.7 | 26.2 | 26.8 | 24.3 | **23.9** | 67 | 86 | 87 | 81 | **77** |
| **Romania** | 17.7 | 16.9* | : | : | : | 112 | 99* | : | : | : |
| **Slovenia** | 8.3 | 13.7 | 13.7 | 13.7 | : | 6 | 8 | 8 | 8 | : |
| **Slovakia** | 17.0 | 20.4 | 20.2 | 18.4 | **18.8** | 28 | 31 | 31 | 28 | **29** |
| **Finland** | 18.4 | 20.9 | 21.1 | 21.1 | **21.1** | 59 | 65 | 65 | 65 | **65** |
| **Sweden** | 19.9 | 27.1 | 26.5 | 26.0 | **25.5** | 126 | 162 | 158 | 155 | **152** |
| **United Kingdom** | 11.0 | 13.6 | 14.1 | : | : | 456 | 541 | 561 | : | : |
| **Iceland** | 9.2 | 9.9 | 10.0 | 10.1 | **10.1** | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | **3** |
| **Norway** | 10.0 | 13.3 | 12.9 | 13.1 | : | 37 | 49 | 48 | 49 | : |
| **Switzerland** | 8.4 | 8.9 | 8.8 | 8.8 | : | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 | : |

: Data not available    * Q2 2020 data
Belgium, Croatia, Cyprus, Romania and Slovenia: quarterly data

Source datasets: une_rt_m (rates) and une_rt_m (in 1 000 persons)

ec.europa.eu/**eurostat**

# Seasonally adjusted unemployment rates (%), by gender

| | Males | | | | | Females | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Oct 19 | Jul 20 | Aug 20 | Sep 20 | Oct 20 | Oct 19 | Jul 20 | Aug 20 | Sep 20 | Oct 20 |
| **Euro area** | 7.1 | 8.2 | 8.1 | 8.0 | **8.0** | 7.8 | 9.2 | 9.1 | 9.0 | **8.9** |
| **EU** | 6.3 | 7.4 | 7.3 | 7.2 | **7.2** | 6.9 | 8.3 | 8.2 | 8.1 | **8.0** |
| **Belgium** | 5.6 | 5.2 | 5.4 | 5.4 | **5.3** | 4.8 | 4.7 | 4.9 | 4.9 | **4.8** |
| **Bulgaria** | 4.5 | 6.3 | 6.5 | 6.5 | **6.1** | 3.8 | 6.0 | 6.0 | 5.8 | **5.2** |
| **Czechia** | 1.7 | 2.3 | 2.6 | 2.4 | **2.5** | 2.4 | 3.2 | 3.0 | 3.2 | **3.4** |
| **Denmark** | 4.8 | 6.0 | 6.0 | 5.7 | **5.6** | 5.6 | 6.7 | 6.5 | 6.3 | **6.1** |
| **Germany** | 3.6 | 4.4 | 4.5 | 4.5 | **4.5** | 2.6 | 4.4 | 4.5 | 4.5 | **4.5** |
| **Estonia** | 3.9 | 8.2 | 8.1 | 7.6 | **:** | 4.3 | 7.3 | 7.8 | 8.7 | **:** |
| **Ireland** | 4.8 | 6.0 | 6.4 | 6.9 | **6.9** | 4.5 | 6.4 | 7.1 | 7.8 | **7.7** |
| **Greece** | 13.8 | 14.4 | 14.1 | : | **:** | 20.4 | 20.2 | 20.2 | : | **:** |
| **Spain** | 12.3 | 15.0 | 14.7 | 14.5 | **14.5** | 15.8 | 18.9 | 18.7 | 18.4 | **18.2** |
| **France** | 8.4 | 9.4 | 9.0 | 8.9 | **8.7** | 8.2 | 9.4 | 9.0 | 8.8 | **8.5** |
| **Croatia** | 6.0 | 8.0 | 8.0 | 7.8 | **7.5** | 6.9 | 8.9 | 8.8 | 8.7 | **8.5** |
| **Italy** | 8.4 | 9.0 | 9.0 | 8.8 | **9.0** | 10.9 | 11.1 | 10.9 | 11.0 | **10.8** |
| **Cyprus** | 5.8 | 8.1 | 8.9 | 9.3 | **10.5** | 7.5 | 7.1 | 7.9 | 9.3 | **10.6** |
| **Latvia** | 6.3 | 9.9 | 9.5 | 9.1 | **8.9** | 5.4 | 7.6 | 7.6 | 7.4 | **7.2** |
| **Lithuania** | 7.4 | 10.5 | 11.0 | 11.2 | **11.2** | 5.4 | 8.7 | 9.4 | 9.8 | **9.7** |
| **Luxembourg** | 5.5 | 7.3 | 6.9 | 6.7 | **6.6** | 5.5 | 7.1 | 6.7 | 6.6 | **6.4** |
| **Hungary** | 3.4 | 4.3 | 4.4 | 4.3 | **:** | 3.8 | 4.9 | 4.5 | 4.4 | **:** |
| **Malta** | 3.3 | 3.9 | 3.9 | 3.8 | **3.8** | 4.1 | 4.4 | 4.3 | 4.1 | **4.2** |
| **Netherlands** | 3.6 | 4.2 | 4.3 | 4.2 | **4.0** | 3.3 | 4.8 | 4.9 | 4.7 | **4.7** |
| **Austria** | 4.6 | 5.9 | 5.8 | 5.5 | **5.3** | 4.2 | 5.5 | 5.2 | 5.3 | **5.6** |
| **Poland** | 2.8 | 3.1 | 3.0 | 3.0 | **3.1** | 3.2 | 3.8 | 3.8 | 3.9 | **3.9** |
| **Portugal** | 5.9 | 7.7 | 8.0 | 7.7 | **7.2** | 7.0 | 8.1 | 8.1 | 8.1 | **7.8** |
| **Romania** | 4.4 | 5.8 | 5.6 | 5.4 | **5.5** | 3.2 | 4.9 | 5.0 | 4.7 | **5.0** |
| **Slovenia** | 4.0 | 4.2 | 4.2 | 4.3 | **4.6** | 4.8 | 5.6 | 5.3 | 5.2 | **5.3** |
| **Slovakia** | 5.5 | 6.8 | 6.9 | 6.9 | **7.0** | 5.9 | 6.7 | 6.8 | 6.8 | **7.0** |
| **Finland** | 7.3 | 8.5 | 8.6 | 8.7 | **8.6** | 6.4 | 7.6 | 7.7 | 7.8 | **7.8** |
| **Sweden** | 6.9 | 9.2 | 9.1 | 9.0 | **8.9** | 7.0 | 9.1 | 9.0 | 9.0 | **8.9** |
| **United Kingdom** | 3.9 | 4.7 | 5.1 | : | **:** | 3.5 | 3.8 | 4.1 | : | **:** |
| **Iceland** | 3.8 | 5.5 | 5.7 | 5.8 | **5.9** | 3.7 | 4.6 | 4.7 | 4.7 | **4.8** |
| **Norway** | 4.1 | 5.5 | 5.6 | 5.4 | **:** | 3.4 | 4.8 | 4.9 | 4.9 | **:** |
| **Switzerland** | 4.0 | 4.8 | 4.8 | 4.9 | **:** | 4.3 | 5.1 | 5.2 | 5.3 | **:** |

: Data not available

Source dataset: une_rt_m

ec.europa.eu/**eurostat**