

17/2023 – 1 February 2023

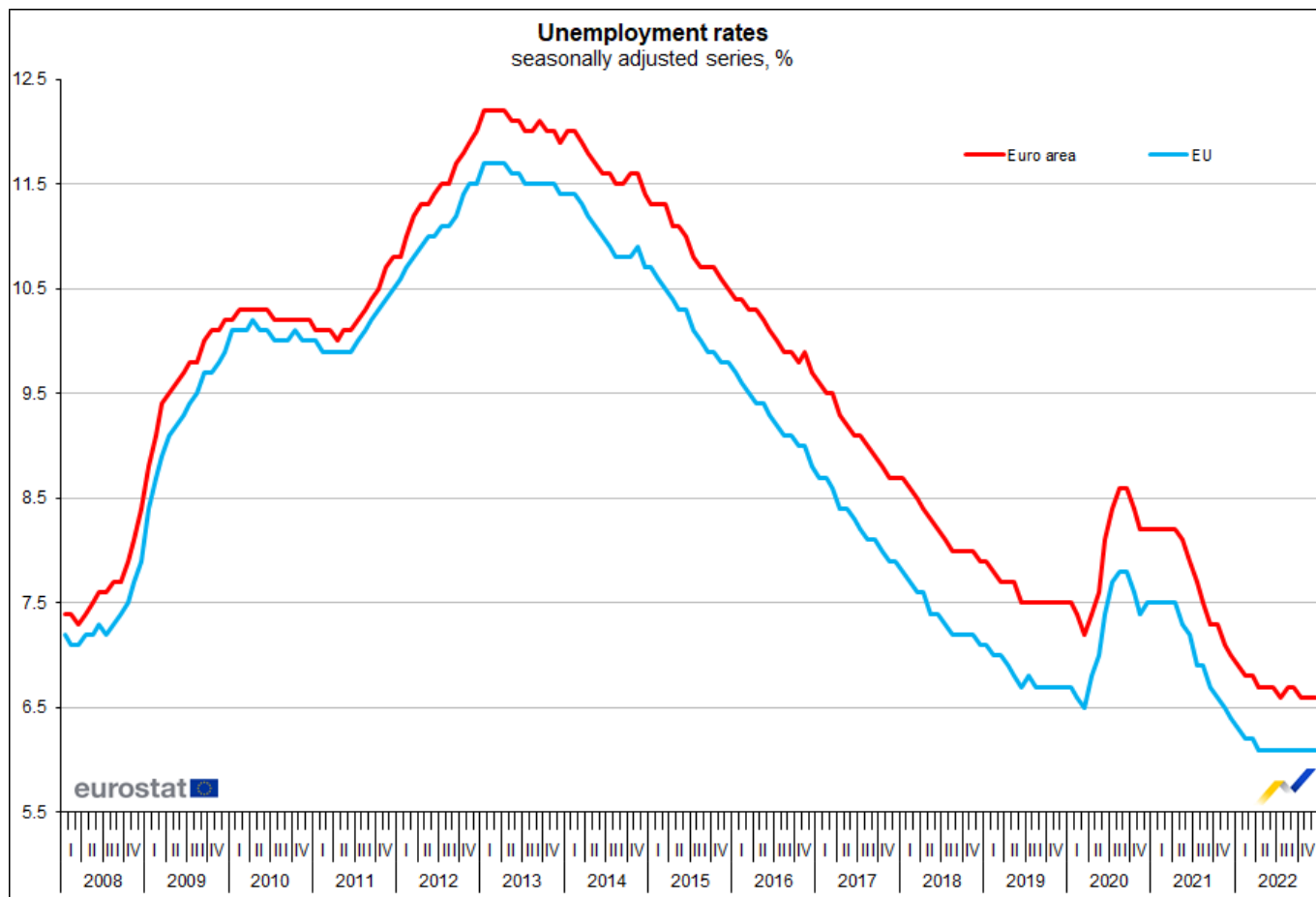
December 2022

Euro area unemployment at 6.6%

EU at 6.1%

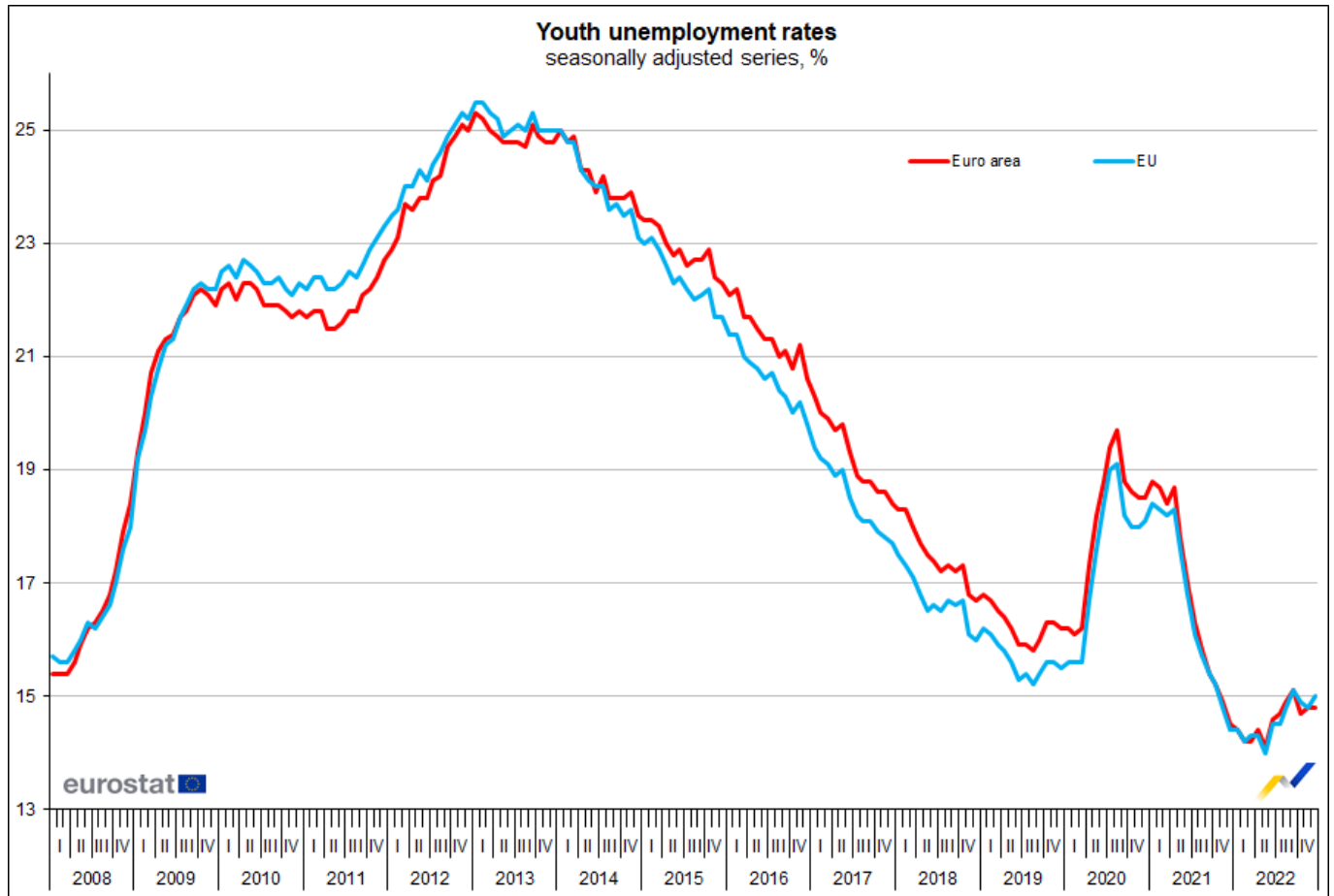
In December 2022, the **euro area** seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate was 6.6%, stable compared with November 2022 and down from 7.0% in December 2021. The **EU** unemployment rate was 6.1% in December 2022, also stable compared with November 2022 and down from 6.4% in December 2021. These figures are published by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**.

Eurostat estimates that 13.148 million persons in the **EU**, of whom 11.048 million in the **euro area**, were unemployed in December 2022. Compared with November 2022, unemployment increased by 28 thousand in the **EU** and by 23 thousand in the **euro area**. Compared with December 2021, unemployment decreased by 518 thousand in the **EU** and by 494 thousand in the **euro area**.



Youth unemployment

In December 2022, 2.862 million young persons (under 25) were unemployed in the **EU**, of whom 2.311 million were in the **euro area**. In December 2022, the youth unemployment rate was 15.0% in the **EU** and 14.8% in the **euro area**, respectively up from 14.8% and stable compared with the previous month. Compared with November 2022, youth unemployment increased by 30 thousand in the **EU** and by 3 thousand in the **euro area**. Compared with December 2021, youth unemployment increased by 209 thousand in the **EU** and by 156 thousand in the **euro area**.



Unemployment by sex

In December 2022, the unemployment rate for women was 6.4% in the **EU**, stable compared with November 2022. The unemployment rate for men was 5.8% in December 2022, also stable compared with the previous month. In the **euro area**, the unemployment rate for women was 7.0% and the unemployment rate for men was 6.3%, both stable compared with the previous month.

Additional labour market indicators

The estimates in this News Release 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.

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 2022](#). LFS data for the fourth quarter of 2022 will be released on 17 March 2023.

Geographical information

Up to 31 December 2022, the **euro area** (EA19) included Belgium, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Italy, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Austria, Portugal, Slovenia, Slovakia and Finland. From 1 January 2023 the euro area (EA20) also includes Croatia.

As part of Eurostat's guidelines for the dissemination of data when the euro area is enlarged, the aggregate data series commented on in this News Release refer to the official composition of the euro area in the most recent month for which data is available. **Thus News Releases with data for months up to December 2022 comment on EA19 series, while Releases with data for January 2023 onwards will comment on EA20 series.**

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.

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 as well as Iceland and Norway: the trend component is used instead of the more volatile seasonally adjusted data.

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 [4/2023](#) of 9 January 2023, the November 2022 unemployment rate for the EU has been revised from 6.0% to 6.1% and the unemployment rate for the euro area from 6.5% to 6.6%. Among EU Member States, the rate has been revised by more than 0.1 percentage points (pp) upwards for Spain (by 0.6 pp) as well as for Greece and Finland (by 0.2 pp each).

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 [Euro indicators dashboard](#)

Eurostat €-indicators [release calendar](#)

European Statistics [Code of Practice](#)

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Seasonally adjusted unemployment, totals

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	Dec 21	Sept 22	Oct 22	Nov 22	Dec 22	Dec 21	Sept 22	Oct 22	Nov 22	Dec 22
Euro area (EA19)	7.0	6.7	6.6	6.6	6.6	11 542	11 067	10 966	11 025	11 048
Euro area (EA20)	7.0	6.7	6.6	6.6	6.6	11 664	11 186	11 084	11 142	11 165
EU	6.4	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	13 666	13 116	13 055	13 120	13 148
Belgium	5.6	5.4	5.4	5.5	5.5	294	282	285	288	288
Bulgaria	4.6	4.0	4.0	3.9	4.0	149	132	130	129	132
Czechia	2.2	2.3	2.2	2.6	2.3	116	118	115	139	120
Denmark	4.5	4.6	4.6	4.7	4.8	138	143	144	149	150
Germany	3.2	3.0	3.0	3.0	2.9	1 392	1 328	1 319	1 309	1 298
Estonia	5.5	5.2	5.4	5.6	5.7	38	38	39	41	41
Ireland	5.1	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.3	133	115	117	117	114
Greece	12.9	11.9	11.6	11.6	11.6	603	563	540	539	545
Spain	13.3	12.9	12.9	13.0	13.1	3 090	3 024	3 028	3 056	3 080
France	7.4	7.1	7.1	7.0	7.1	2 247	2 166	2 164	2 142	2 161
Croatia	6.7	6.6	6.5	6.5	6.4	121	119	118	118	116
Italy	8.8	7.9	7.9	7.8	7.8	2 202	1 986	1 972	1 958	1 960
Cyprus	6.4	6.9	6.9	7.5	7.7	30	33	33	36	38
Latvia	7.3	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1	68	68	69	69	69
Lithuania	6.6	6.0	6.1	5.9	5.8	97	91	93	89	89
Luxembourg	4.8	4.5	4.6	4.6	4.6	15	15	15	15	15
Hungary	3.7	3.7	3.7	4.1	4.0	178	179	180	198	197
Malta	3.0	3.0	3.1	3.2	3.2	9	9	9	9	10
Netherlands	3.8	3.8	3.7	3.6	3.5	369	382	365	364	352
Austria	4.8	5.1	4.6	5.5	5.0	222	237	215	260	232
Poland	2.9	3.0	3.0	3.0	2.9	509	516	514	508	503
Portugal	5.9	6.1	6.1	6.5	6.7	305	318	317	337	348
Romania	5.7	5.4	5.5	5.4	5.6	472	446	453	448	462
Slovenia	4.4	4.0	4.1	4.1	4.0	45	41	43	43	42
Slovakia	6.5	6.0	5.9	5.9	5.8	180	165	163	162	162
Finland	7.0	7.0	6.9	6.8	6.8	197	197	195	193	194
Sweden	8.1	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.3	450	411	411	411	411
Iceland	4.3	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	9	8	8	8	8
Norway	3.5	3.3	3.3	3.4	3.4	103	97	98	100	101
Switzerland	4.5	4.3	:	:	:	225	212	:	:	:
United States	3.9	3.5	3.7	3.6	3.5	6 377	5 726	6 006	5 991	5 773

: 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)				
	Dec 21	Sept 22	Oct 22	Nov 22	Dec 22	Dec 21	Sept 22	Oct 22	Nov 22	Dec 22
Euro area (EA19)	14.5	15.1	14.7	14.8	14.8	2 155	2 330	2 276	2 308	2 311
Euro area (EA20)	14.5	15.1	14.7	14.9	14.8	2 181	2 355	2 301	2 333	2 336
EU	14.4	15.1	14.9	14.8	15.0	2 653	2 872	2 826	2 832	2 862
Belgium	15.7	17.7	18.8	18.8	18.8	63	74	83	83	83
Bulgaria	14.4	10.7	10.6	10.9	11.2	18	14	14	14	15
Czechia	7.5	8.4	6.0	9.4	9.9	20	23	16	25	26
Denmark	8.3	13.6	13.7	10.5	11.9	36	62	62	48	55
Germany	5.8	5.9	5.9	5.9	5.8	254	261	261	261	259
Estonia	18.1	14.3	13.0	17.4	17.3	9	8	7	10	10
Ireland	10.7	12.2	12.0	11.9	11.5	37	41	40	39	38
Greece	29.7	32.9	27.9	31.4	28.9	65	83	64	74	67
Spain	31.2	31.6	30.3	29.7	29.6	473	509	488	483	486
France	16.5	17.7	18.2	18.4	18.7	519	595	615	626	640
Croatia	17.9	17.5	17.3	17.3	17.3	26	25	25	25	25
Italy	26.3	23.7	23.3	22.6	22.1	390	356	349	340	335
Cyprus	16.6	20.7	22.6	22.6	22.6	6	8	9	9	9
Latvia	11.6	18.3	19.0	19.2	18.7	6	13	13	14	14
Lithuania	10.6	11.1	12.4	11.4	10.9	11	11	13	12	11
Luxembourg	17.8	18.6	19.4	19.0	18.7	4	4	4	4	4
Hungary	12.2	10.3	10.3	11.6	11.8	38	31	31	35	35
Malta	10.3	8.1	8.1	8.7	9.1	3	2	2	2	3
Netherlands	7.8	8.4	7.8	7.8	7.5	134	147	138	139	135
Austria	8.1	10.7	10.0	10.7	9.1	41	55	52	58	48
Poland	9.7	11.5	11.3	11.3	11.3	102	121	120	120	119
Portugal	20.7	18.8	17.9	19.0	18.5	67	65	63	69	69
Romania	22.0	22.9	:	:	:	118	118	:	:	:
Slovenia	10.1	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.4	8	7	9	9	9
Slovakia	19.6	18.8	18.8	18.8	18.9	27	27	27	26	27
Finland	15.2	15.1	15.3	15.6	15.8	48	49	50	51	52
Sweden	23.2	21.4	21.6	21.7	21.9	146	145	146	147	148
Iceland	9.1	7.8	7.6	7.5	7.5	3	3	3	3	2
Norway	11.8	10.5	12.6	8.5	11.1	48	44	53	36	48
Switzerland	8.2	8.6	:	:	:	48	49	:	:	:

: 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				
	Dec 21	Sept 22	Oct 22	Nov 22	Dec 22	Dec 21	Sept 22	Oct 22	Nov 22	Dec 22
Euro area (EA19)	6.7	6.3	6.2	6.3	6.3	7.3	7.1	7.0	7.0	7.0
Euro area (EA20)	6.7	6.3	6.2	6.3	6.3	7.3	7.1	7.0	7.0	7.0
EU	6.2	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	6.6	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4
Belgium	6.4	5.8	5.7	5.8	5.8	4.8	4.9	5.0	5.1	5.1
Bulgaria	4.9	4.3	4.2	4.3	4.4	4.3	3.8	3.6	3.6	3.6
Czechia	1.9	2.0	1.9	2.2	2.1	2.5	2.6	2.6	3.2	2.5
Denmark	4.9	4.8	4.4	4.9	4.8	3.9	4.4	4.7	4.5	4.7
Germany	3.5	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.1	2.9	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.7
Estonia	5.6	5.6	6.0	6.4	6.3	5.3	4.8	4.8	4.8	5.0
Ireland	5.1	4.2	4.2	4.3	4.1	5.1	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.5
Greece	9.6	9.4	8.4	8.7	8.3	17.0	15.1	15.6	15.1	15.6
Spain	11.7	11.1	11.3	11.5	11.6	15.1	14.9	14.8	14.8	14.8
France	7.5	7.4	7.4	7.3	7.3	7.3	6.8	6.7	6.7	6.8
Croatia	6.1	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	7.3	7.4	7.3	7.3	7.2
Italy	8.2	7.0	6.9	6.9	6.8	9.7	9.2	9.2	9.1	9.1
Cyprus	5.7	6.3	6.5	7.3	7.7	7.3	7.5	7.4	7.7	7.8
Latvia	8.0	7.7	7.8	8.0	8.1	6.6	6.5	6.4	6.3	6.1
Lithuania	7.4	6.3	6.3	6.4	6.4	5.9	5.7	5.9	5.3	5.3
Luxembourg	4.5	4.4	4.5	4.5	4.4	5.0	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.8
Hungary	3.6	3.7	3.8	4.1	4.2	3.7	3.6	3.6	4.0	3.9
Malta	3.1	3.2	3.2	3.3	3.3	2.9	2.6	2.8	3.0	3.2
Netherlands	3.6	3.6	3.4	3.3	3.2	4.0	4.1	4.0	4.0	3.9
Austria	4.9	5.0	4.6	6.1	5.3	4.7	5.2	4.6	4.9	4.5
Poland	2.9	3.1	3.2	3.2	3.1	3.0	2.9	2.8	2.8	2.7
Portugal	5.8	5.6	5.7	6.0	6.2	5.9	6.6	6.4	6.9	7.1
Romania	6.1	6.0	6.1	5.8	5.9	5.1	4.7	4.7	4.9	5.2
Slovenia	3.9	3.9	4.0	4.1	4.0	5.0	4.1	4.2	4.2	4.1
Slovakia	6.6	5.5	5.4	5.3	5.3	6.4	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5
Finland	7.4	7.4	7.3	7.2	7.3	6.6	6.5	6.5	6.4	6.4
Sweden	7.6	6.9	7.0	7.0	7.0	8.6	7.7	7.7	7.7	7.6
Iceland	4.4	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3
Norway	3.4	3.5	3.3	3.3	3.5	2.9	3.2	3.0	3.0	3.2
Switzerland	4.5	4.1	:	:	:	4.6	4.5	:	:	:

: Data not available

Source dataset: [une_rt_m](#)