

73/2023 – 30 June 2023

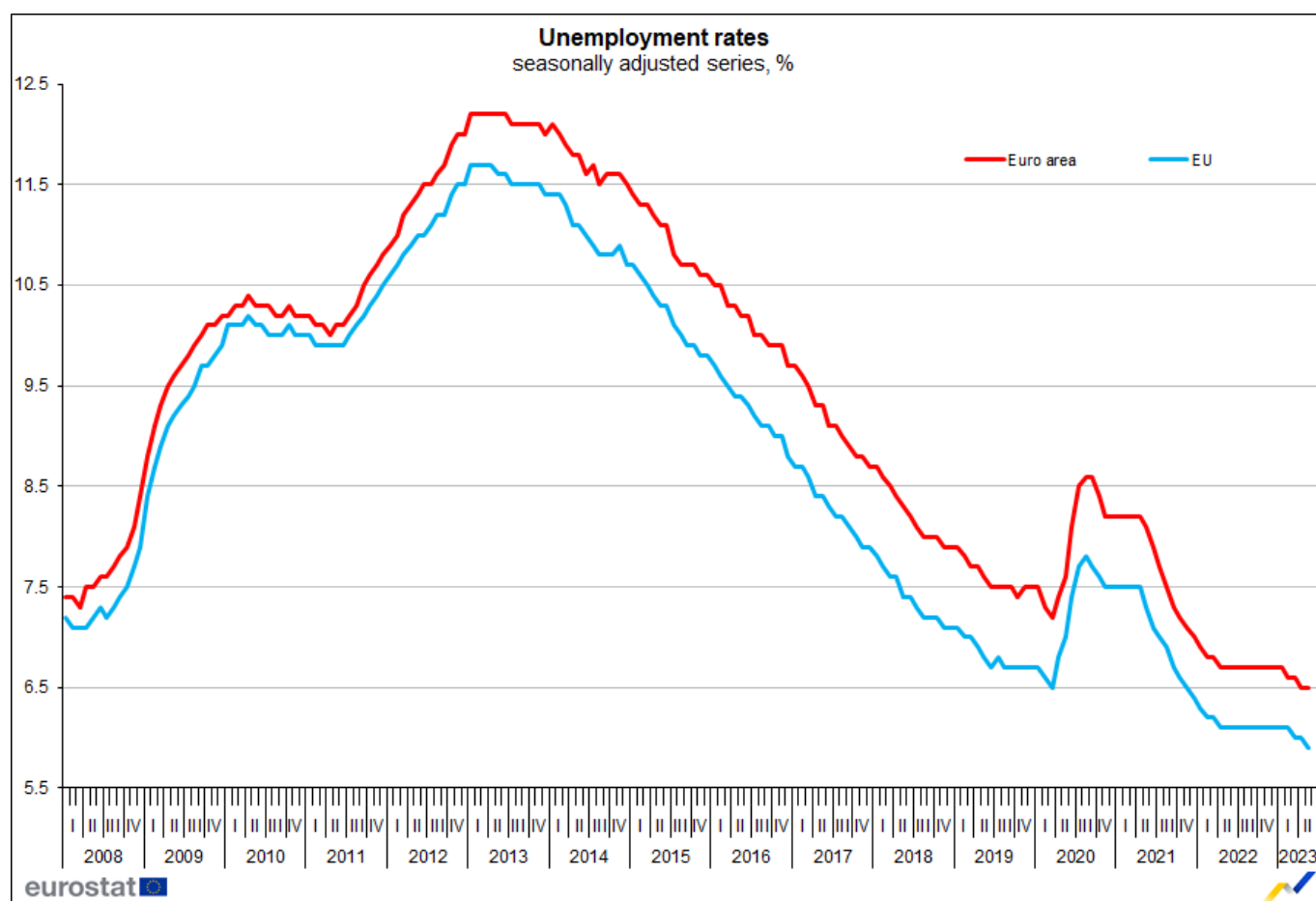
May 2023

Euro area unemployment at 6.5%

EU at 5.9%

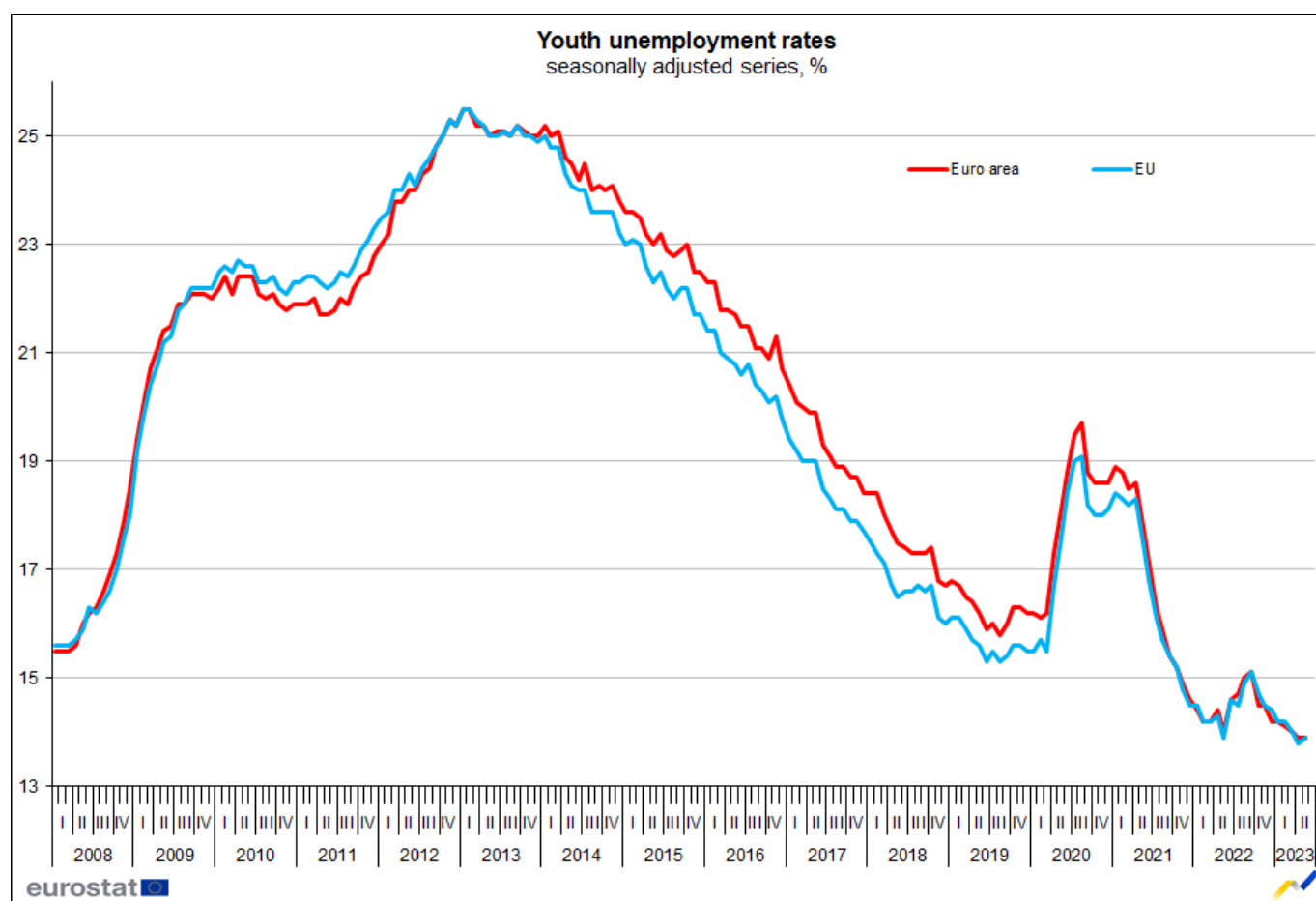
In May 2023, the **euro area** seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate was 6.5%, stable compared with April 2023 and down from 6.7% in May 2022. The **EU** unemployment rate was 5.9% in May 2023, down from 6.0% in April 2023 and from 6.1% in May 2022. These figures are published by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**.

Eurostat estimates that 12.937 million persons in the **EU**, of whom 11.014 million in the **euro area**, were unemployed in May 2023. Compared with April 2023, unemployment decreased by 75 thousand in the **EU** and by 57 thousand in the **euro area**. Compared with May 2022, unemployment decreased by 257 thousand in the **EU** and by 227 thousand in the **euro area**.



Youth unemployment

In May 2023, 2.696 million young persons (under 25) were unemployed in the **EU**, of whom 2.226 million were in the **euro area**. In May 2023, the youth unemployment rate was 13.9% both in the **EU** and in the **euro area**, respectively up from 13.8% and stable compared with the previous month. Compared with April 2023, youth unemployment increased by 21 thousand in the **EU** and by 11 thousand in the **euro area**. Compared with May 2022, youth unemployment increased by 65 thousand in the **EU** and by 46 thousand in the **euro area**.



Unemployment by sex

In May 2023, the unemployment rate for women was 6.2% in the **EU**, down from 6.3% in April 2023. The unemployment rate for men was 5.7% in May 2023, stable compared with the previous month. In the **euro area**, the unemployment rate for women was 6.8%, down from 6.9% in April 2023. The unemployment rate for men was 6.2%, 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 labour market situation, 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 first quarter of 2023](#). LFS data for the second quarter of 2023 will be released on 15 September 2023.

Geographical information

Euro area (EA20): Belgium, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Croatia, 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.

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 [62/2023](#) of 1 June 2023, the April 2023 unemployment rates for the EU and for the euro area remained unchanged. Among EU Member States, the rate has been revised by more than 0.1 percentage points (pp) downwards for Portugal (by 0.3 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

Eurostat [Euro indicators dashboard](#)

Eurostat €-indicators [release calendar](#)

European Statistics [Code of Practice](#)

For further information on data

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Seasonally adjusted unemployment, totals

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	May 22	Feb 23	Mar 23	Apr 23	May 23	May 22	Feb 23	Mar 23	Apr 23	May 23
Euro area	6.7	6.6	6.6	6.5	6.5	11 241	11 196	11 110	11 071	11 014
EU	6.1	6.1	6.0	6.0	5.9	13 194	13 145	13 037	13 012	12 937
Belgium	5.9	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.7	309	299	300	300	304
Bulgaria	4.5	4.1	4.0	3.9	3.9	147	126	123	122	122
Czechia	2.4	2.4	2.6	2.7	2.4	129	129	138	142	129
Denmark	4.1	5.3	4.7	5.0	4.9	128	169	149	156	153
Germany	3.0	3.0	3.0	2.9	2.9	1 318	1 318	1 314	1 312	1 311
Estonia	5.8	5.3	5.9	6.2	6.2	41	38	44	46	46
Ireland	4.2	4.1	4.0	3.9	3.8	112	113	109	107	103
Greece	12.7	11.5	11.2	11.3	10.8	601	535	529	530	506
Spain	12.6	12.9	12.8	12.6	12.7	2 959	3 044	3 022	2 990	3 007
France	7.5	7.1	7.0	7.0	7.0	2 301	2 165	2 154	2 151	2 163
Croatia	6.8	6.7	6.5	6.5	6.5	124	119	116	115	115
Italy	8.1	7.9	7.8	7.8	7.6	2 033	2 001	1 987	1 969	1 935
Cyprus	7.1	6.3	5.7	5.1	4.9	34	31	28	24	23
Latvia	6.5	6.1	5.9	5.7	5.7	62	58	55	54	54
Lithuania	5.5	7.3	7.6	7.5	7.2	83	111	114	115	111
Luxembourg	4.4	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	14	16	16	16	16
Hungary	3.5	3.8	3.8	3.9	3.9	173	188	189	190	190
Malta	3.1	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.8	9	9	9	9	8
Netherlands	3.3	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.5	323	356	357	343	353
Austria	4.7	4.9	4.4	5.1	4.6	217	232	207	240	216
Poland	2.8	2.6	2.7	2.7	2.7	482	459	465	469	472
Portugal	6.0	6.9	6.8	6.5	6.4	312	362	360	344	339
Romania	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.6	5.5	460	447	454	461	447
Slovenia	4.5	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	46	37	37	37	36
Slovakia	6.3	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.0	174	168	169	169	168
Finland	6.8	6.9	6.8	6.8	6.8	190	194	194	194	194
Sweden	7.5	7.3	7.3	7.2	7.2	418	413	412	412	410
Iceland	3.6	3.4	3.3	3.2	3.2	8	8	7	7	7
Norway	3.1	3.4	3.5	3.5	3.5	93	102	102	103	103
Switzerland	4.3	4.0	4.1	:	:	213	202	203	:	:
United States	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.4	3.7	5 920	6 054	5 791	5 603	6 040

: 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 22	Feb 23	Mar 23	Apr 23	May 23	May 22	Feb 23	Mar 23	Apr 23	May 23
Euro area	14.0	14.1	14.0	13.9	13.9	2 180	2 238	2 222	2 215	2 226
EU	13.9	14.2	14.0	13.8	13.9	2 631	2 732	2 701	2 675	2 696
Belgium	16.9	14.6	14.6	:	:	70	62	62	:	:
Bulgaria	11.2	9.7	9.4	9.3	9.0	15	13	13	13	13
Czechia	6.4	7.5	9.7	8.1	8.9	17	21	27	22	24
Denmark	6.6	10.6	9.2	10.7	9.0	28	48	43	48	40
Germany	5.6	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	249	283	284	283	282
Estonia	21.4	11.3	11.5	12.5	11.8	12	6	6	7	6
Ireland	9.7	9.8	8.8	7.7	6.9	35	35	31	27	24
Greece	32.7	28.9	24.0	28.3	24.0	82	73	60	69	54
Spain	27.5	29.8	29.4	28.3	28.4	454	492	490	466	472
France	17.6	16.6	16.7	17.0	17.2	588	548	557	571	583
Croatia	17.8	19.3	19.3	:	:	26	26	26	:	:
Italy	22.2	22.0	22.1	20.7	21.7	334	338	340	316	331
Cyprus	19.5	14.7	14.7	:	:	8	6	6	:	:
Latvia	14.0	13.0	11.9	11.7	11.5	9	9	8	8	8
Lithuania	11.4	14.2	15.1	14.5	14.0	11	13	14	14	14
Luxembourg	16.7	18.7	18.6	18.5	18.4	4	5	5	5	5
Hungary	10.6	11.0	10.6	11.3	11.7	32	34	33	35	36
Malta	9.6	10.0	9.5	8.7	8.3	3	3	2	2	2
Netherlands	7.2	7.8	8.0	7.9	8.2	127	140	143	143	150
Austria	7.9	10.0	7.6	10.7	10.3	40	54	39	57	56
Poland	9.7	10.6	10.5	10.4	10.3	101	115	115	112	111
Portugal	18.5	18.9	19.8	18.1	18.6	60	71	75	69	70
Romania	23.0	21.7	21.7	:	:	117	105	105	:	:
Slovenia	12.4	6.6	6.6	:	:	9	5	5	:	:
Slovakia	20.0	18.4	18.4	18.7	18.8	30	27	27	27	27
Finland	14.6	15.2	15.2	15.3	15.3	46	49	50	50	50
Sweden	21.3	21.3	21.0	20.8	20.5	141	144	143	142	140
Iceland	8.9	7.5	7.4	7.3	7.3	3	2	2	2	2
Norway	11.7	9.6	12.9	10.5	8.0	51	40	56	45	33
Switzerland	8.1	8.0	8.2	:	:	46	47	47	:	:

: 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				
	May 22	Feb 23	Mar 23	Apr 23	May 23	May 22	Feb 23	Mar 23	Apr 23	May 23
Euro area	6.3	6.3	6.2	6.2	6.2	7.1	7.0	6.9	6.9	6.8
EU	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.7	5.7	6.5	6.4	6.3	6.3	6.2
Belgium	6.1	6.2	6.3	6.3	6.4	5.6	4.9	4.8	4.8	4.8
Bulgaria	4.8	4.2	4.1	4.1	4.0	4.2	3.9	3.8	3.7	3.7
Czechia	1.8	2.1	2.3	2.1	2.0	3.2	2.9	3.0	3.4	2.9
Denmark	3.9	5.6	4.4	4.8	4.8	4.4	5.0	4.9	5.2	5.0
Germany	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.7	2.7
Estonia	6.5	5.5	6.2	6.2	6.2	5.1	5.0	5.6	6.1	6.1
Ireland	4.2	4.3	4.2	4.2	4.1	4.2	4.0	3.7	3.5	3.4
Greece	9.6	8.3	8.2	8.3	7.9	16.6	15.5	14.9	15.0	14.4
Spain	11.1	11.2	11.1	11.0	11.1	14.4	14.7	14.7	14.5	14.5
France	7.7	7.4	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.4	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.8
Croatia	6.0	6.0	6.0	5.9	6.0	7.7	7.4	7.2	7.1	7.0
Italy	7.1	7.0	6.9	7.0	6.7	9.4	9.1	9.1	8.8	8.8
Cyprus	6.4	5.6	5.1	4.6	4.3	7.9	7.1	6.3	5.6	5.5
Latvia	8.2	7.1	6.5	6.1	5.9	4.8	5.1	5.3	5.4	5.5
Lithuania	6.2	7.3	7.4	7.5	7.3	5.0	7.4	7.8	7.5	7.0
Luxembourg	4.3	4.7	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.5	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.1
Hungary	3.6	3.9	3.8	3.9	3.9	3.5	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.8
Malta	3.1	3.2	3.2	3.1	3.0	3.0	2.6	2.4	2.6	2.5
Netherlands	3.0	3.3	3.3	3.1	3.2	3.6	3.8	3.9	3.7	3.8
Austria	5.0	5.0	4.9	5.2	4.6	4.3	4.9	4.0	5.0	4.5
Poland	2.5	2.7	2.7	2.8	2.8	3.2	2.5	2.6	2.6	2.7
Portugal	5.7	6.5	6.5	6.2	6.1	6.3	7.2	7.1	6.8	6.8
Romania	6.0	5.7	5.9	6.1	5.9	4.9	5.2	5.0	5.0	5.0
Slovenia	4.2	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.5	4.8	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6
Slovakia	6.0	6.1	6.1	6.2	6.2	6.5	6.1	6.1	6.0	5.9
Finland	7.0	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.4	6.5	6.3	6.3	6.2	6.2
Sweden	7.0	7.1	7.1	7.2	7.2	8.0	7.4	7.4	7.3	7.2
Iceland	4.0	4.1	4.1	4.0	4.0	3.0	2.5	2.4	2.3	2.3
Norway	4.0	3.9	3.8	3.7	3.1	3.5	3.8	3.7	3.5	2.9
Switzerland	4.0	3.8	3.8	:	:	4.7	4.3	4.3	:	:

: Data not available

Source dataset: [une_rt_m](#)