

Unemployment rate by gender; Total

%

geo	time	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
EU (27 countries)		:	:	:	8.7	8.5	8.9	9.0	9.0	8.9	8.2	7.1	7.0
EU (25 countries)		:	9.4	9.1	8.6	8.4	8.8	9.0	9.0	8.9	8.2	7.2	7.1
EU (15 countries)		9.8	9.3	8.5	7.7	7.2	7.6	7.9	8.1	8.1	7.7	7.0	7.1
Euro area		10.6	10.0	9.1	8.2	7.8	8.3	8.7	8.8	8.9	8.3	7.4	7.5
Euro area (15 countries)		10.5	10.0	9.2	8.3	7.8	8.2	8.6	8.8	8.9	8.3	7.4	7.5
Euro area (13 countries)		10.5	10.0	9.2	8.3	7.8	8.2	8.7	8.8	8.9	8.3	7.4	7.5
Euro area (12 countries)		10.6	10.1	9.2	8.3	7.8	8.3	8.7	8.8	8.9	8.3	7.4	7.5
Belgium		9.2	9.3	8.5	6.9	6.6	7.5	8.2	8.4	8.5	8.3	7.5	7.0
Bulgaria		:	:	:	16.4	19.5	18.2	13.7	12.1	10.1	9.0	6.9	5.6
Czech Republic		:	6.4	8.6	8.7	8.0	7.3	7.8	8.3	7.9	7.2	5.3	4.4
Denmark		5.2	4.9	5.2	4.3	4.5	4.6	5.4	5.5	4.8	3.9	3.8	3.3
Germany		9.4	9.1	8.2	7.5	7.6	8.4	9.3	9.8	10.7	9.8	8.4	7.3
Estonia		9.6	9.2	11.3	12.8	12.4	10.3	10.0	9.7	7.9	5.9	4.7	5.5
Ireland		9.9	7.5	5.7	4.3	4.0	4.5	4.7	4.5	4.4	4.5	4.6	6.3
Greece		:	10.8	12.0	11.2	10.7	10.3	9.7	10.5	9.9	8.9	8.3	7.7
Spain		16.7	15.0	12.5	11.1	10.3	11.1	11.1	10.6	9.2	8.5	8.3	11.3
France		11.5	11.0	10.4	9.0	8.3	8.6	9.0	9.3	9.2	9.2	8.3	7.8
Italy		11.3	11.4	11.0	10.1	9.1	8.6	8.5	8.1	7.7	6.8	6.1	6.8
Cyprus		:	:	:	4.9	3.8	3.6	4.1	4.7	5.3	4.6	4.0	3.8
Latvia		:	14.3	14.0	13.7	12.9	12.2	10.5	10.4	8.9	6.8	6.0	7.5
Lithuania		:	13.2	13.7	16.4	16.5	13.5	12.5	11.4	8.3	5.6	4.3	5.8
Luxembourg		2.7	2.7	2.4	2.2	1.9	2.6	3.8	5.0	4.6	4.6	4.2	4.9
Hungary		9.0	8.4	6.9	6.4	5.7	5.8	5.9	6.1	7.2	7.5	7.4	7.8
Malta		:	:	:	6.7	7.6	7.5	7.6	7.4	7.2	7.1	6.4	5.9
Netherlands		4.9	3.8	3.2	2.8	2.2	2.8	3.7	4.6	4.7	3.9	3.2	2.8
Austria		4.4	4.5	3.9	3.6	3.6	4.2	4.3	4.9	5.2	4.8	4.4	3.8
Poland		10.9	10.2	13.4	16.1	18.3	20.0	19.7	19.0	17.8	13.9	9.6	7.1
Portugal		6.7	5.0	4.5	4.0	4.1	5.1	6.4	6.7	7.7	7.8	8.1	7.7
Romania		:	:	7.1	7.3	6.8	8.6	7.0	8.1	7.2	7.3	6.4	5.8
Slovenia		6.9	7.4	7.3	6.7	6.2	6.3	6.7	6.3	6.5	6.0	4.9	4.4
Slovakia		:	12.6	16.4	18.8	19.3	18.7	17.6	18.2	16.3	13.4	11.1	9.5
Finland		12.7	11.4	10.2	9.8	9.1	9.1	9.0	8.8	8.4	7.7	6.9	6.4
Sweden		9.9	8.2	6.7	5.6	4.9	4.9	5.6	6.3	7.4 (b)	7.0	6.1	6.2
United Kingdom		6.8	6.1	5.9	5.4	5.0	5.1	5.0	4.7	4.8	5.4	5.3	5.6
Croatia		:	:	:	:	:	14.8	14.2	13.7	12.7	11.2	9.6	8.4
Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of		:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Turkey		:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	8.4	8.5	9.4
Iceland		:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Norway		4.0	3.2	3.2	3.4	3.6	3.9	4.5	4.4	4.6	3.5	2.6	2.6
Switzerland		:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
United States		4.9	4.5	4.2	4.0	4.8	5.8	6.0	5.5	5.1	4.6	4.6	5.8
Japan		3.4	4.1	4.7	4.7	5.0	5.4	5.3	4.7	4.4	4.1	3.9	4.0

:=Not available b=Break in series

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Short Description: Unemployment rates represent unemployed persons as a percentage of the labour force. The labour force is the total number of people employed and unemployed. Unemployed persons comprise persons aged 15 to 74 who were: a. without work during the reference week, b. currently available for work, i.e. were available for paid employment or self-employment before the end of the two weeks following the reference week, c. actively seeking work, i.e. had taken specific steps in the four weeks period ending with the reference week to seek paid employment or self-employment or who found a job to start later, i.e. within a period of, at most, three months.