

November 2006

Euro area unemployment down to 7.6%

EU25 down to 7.7%

Euro area (EA12)¹ seasonally-adjusted unemployment² stood at 7.6% in November 2006, compared to 7.7% in October³. It was 8.4% in November 2005. The **EU25**¹ unemployment rate was 7.7% in November 2006, compared to 7.8% in October³. It was 8.6% in November 2005.

In November 2006, the lowest rates were registered in **Denmark** (3.3% in October), the **Netherlands** (3.8%), **Ireland** (4.2%), **Estonia** (4.5%) and **Austria** (4.6%). Unemployment rates were highest in **Poland** (13.6%), **Slovakia** (12.3%), **Greece** (8.7% in the third quarter of 2006), **France** (8.6%) and **Spain** (8.4%).

These figures come from **Eurostat, the Statistical Office of the European Communities**.

Amongst the EU25 Member States for which data are available, twenty recorded a fall in their unemployment rate over a year, three reported an increase, while the rate remained stable in **Malta**. The largest relative falls were observed in **Estonia** (7.4% to 4.5%), **Denmark** (4.3% in October 2005 to 3.3% in October 2006), **Slovakia** (15.7% to 12.3%) and **Poland** (17.1% to 13.6%). The only increases were registered in the **United Kingdom** (4.9% in September 2005 to 5.5% in September 2006), **Luxembourg** (4.5% to 4.8%) and **Hungary** (7.4% to 7.7%).

The unemployment rate for males fell from 7.2% to 6.3% between November 2005 and November 2006 in the **euro area** and from 7.7% to 6.7% in the **EU25**. The female unemployment rate declined from 9.9% to 9.2% in the **euro area** and from 9.7% to 8.9% in the **EU25**.

In November 2006, the unemployment rate for under-25s was 16.1% in the **euro area** and 16.7% in the **EU25**. In November 2005 it was 17.4% and 18.3% respectively. The lowest rates for under-25s were observed in **Denmark** (6.5% in October 2006), the **Netherlands** (6.5%), **Ireland** (8.6%) and **Austria** (9.0%); the highest in **Poland** (27.4%), **Greece** (24.7% in the third quarter of 2006), **Slovakia** (24.3%) and **France** (21.4%).

Eurostat estimates that 11.2 million men and women in the **euro area**, and 16.9 million in the **EU25**, were unemployed in November 2006. These are seasonally-adjusted figures in line with ILO criteria.

In November 2006, the **US** unemployment rate was 4.5% and the **Japanese** rate was 4.0%.

Unemployment (%) in November 2006 - in ascending order

DK	NL	IE	EE	AT	LU	CY	UK	LT	SI	LV	CZ	IT	PT
Oct 06 3.3	3.8	4.2	4.5	4.6	4.8	5.0	Sept 06 5.5	5.6	5.6	6.2	6.8	2006 Q2 6.9	7.1
MT	FI	EA12 ¹	EU25 ¹	HU	RO	BG	DE ⁴	BE	ES	FR	EL	SK	PL
7.4	7.5	7.6	7.7	7.7	Oct 06 7.9	8.0	8.0	8.2	8.4	8.6	2006 Q3 8.7	12.3	13.6

1. The euro area (EA12) consisted of 12 Member States up to 31 December 2006: Belgium, Germany, Greece, Spain, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Austria, Portugal and Finland. From 1 January 2007 the euro area (EA13) also includes Slovenia.

Up to 31 December 2006 the European Union (EU25) included: Belgium (BE), the Czech Republic (CZ), Denmark (DK), Germany (DE), Estonia (EE), Greece (EL), Spain (ES), France (FR), Ireland (IE), Italy (IT), Cyprus (CY), Latvia (LV), Lithuania (LT), Luxembourg (LU), Hungary (HU), Malta (MT), the Netherlands (NL), Austria (AT), Poland (PL), Portugal (PT), Slovenia (SI), Slovakia (SK), Finland (FI), Sweden (SE) and the United Kingdom (UK). From 1 January 2007 the European Union (EU27) also includes Bulgaria (BG) and Romania (RO).

As part of Eurostat's guidelines for the dissemination of data when the EU or euro area is enlarged, the aggregate data series commented on in this News Release refer to the official composition of the EU and euro area in the most recent month for which data is available. **Thus News Releases with data for months up to December 2006 will comment on EA12/EU25 series, while Releases with data for January 2007 onwards will comment on EA13/EU27 series.**

Eurostat's guidelines can be found on the Eurostat website:

http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_PUBLIC/GUIDE_ENLARG_2007/EN/GUIDE_ENLARG_2007-EN.PDF

2. *Eurostat's unemployment rates*

Eurostat calculates harmonised unemployment rates for Member States. These unemployment rates are based on definitions recommended by the International Labour Organisation (ILO). Harmonised means that the national micro data concerning the individuals and households are treated by Eurostat in the same fashion throughout the EU so as to allow comparability between the Member States.

The Eurostat definition of unemployed people are those aged 15 to 74 and who, following the International Labour Organisation (ILO) definition:

- 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 and unemployed.

The numbers of unemployed and the monthly unemployment rate are estimates based on results of the European Union Labour Force Survey which is a household survey carried out in all countries on the basis of agreed definitions. These results are interpolated/ extrapolated to monthly data using national survey data and national monthly series on registered unemployment. The most recent figures are therefore provisional; first results from the Labour Force Survey are available 90 days after the end of the reference period for most Member States.

Monthly unemployment and employment series are calculated first at the level of four categories for each Member State (males and females 15-24 years, males and females 25-74 years). These series are then seasonally adjusted and all the national and European aggregates are calculated. Before the aggregation, missing national data are estimated using the most recent trends of the series.

Registered unemployed data are national administrative data compiled on a purely national basis and purposes. There are no European-wide rules on definition and coverage. Therefore the ensuing unemployment rates cannot be compared from one country to another. National legislation on the definition of unemployment and therefore its calculation can change in individual states. The conditions to receive unemployment benefits and assistance vary from one country to another. This affects the willingness of people to register themselves and the published unemployment rates.

Member States may also publish other rates than register based unemployment rates, for example based on national Labour Force or corresponding surveys. Although still internationally comparable, these rates may vary to a minor extent from those published by Eurostat due to different methodological choices.

Current deviations from definition of unemployment in the EU Labour Force Survey

Spain, United Kingdom: Unemployment is restricted to persons aged 16-74. In Spain the legal age limit for working is 16.

Netherlands: Persons without a job, who are available for work and looking for a job are only included in unemployment if they express that they would like to work.

3. The October 2006 unemployment rate published in News Release 156/2006 of 1 December 2006 for the EA12 remains unchanged, while the rate for the EU25 has been revised. The rate previously published was 7.9%. As a regular update of the calculation process, the most recent EU Labour Force Survey data have been included for several Member States and seasonal adjustment models have been updated for all Member States. Revisions of more than 0.1 percentage point for Estonia, Greece, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Slovenia and also Bulgaria are primarily due to the inclusion of new LFS data.
4. Provisional data. German seasonally adjusted data are based on the German statistical office's telephone survey. Due to the relative shortness of the time series offered by the survey, it is not possible to fully extract the seasonal component. Hence, European aggregates have been compiled using smoothed German seasonally adjusted data. This method is applied for the data from 2003 onwards.
5. Quarterly data.
6. Due to the introduction of an EU-harmonised Swedish Labour Force Survey in April 2005, seasonally adjusted time series are not yet available.

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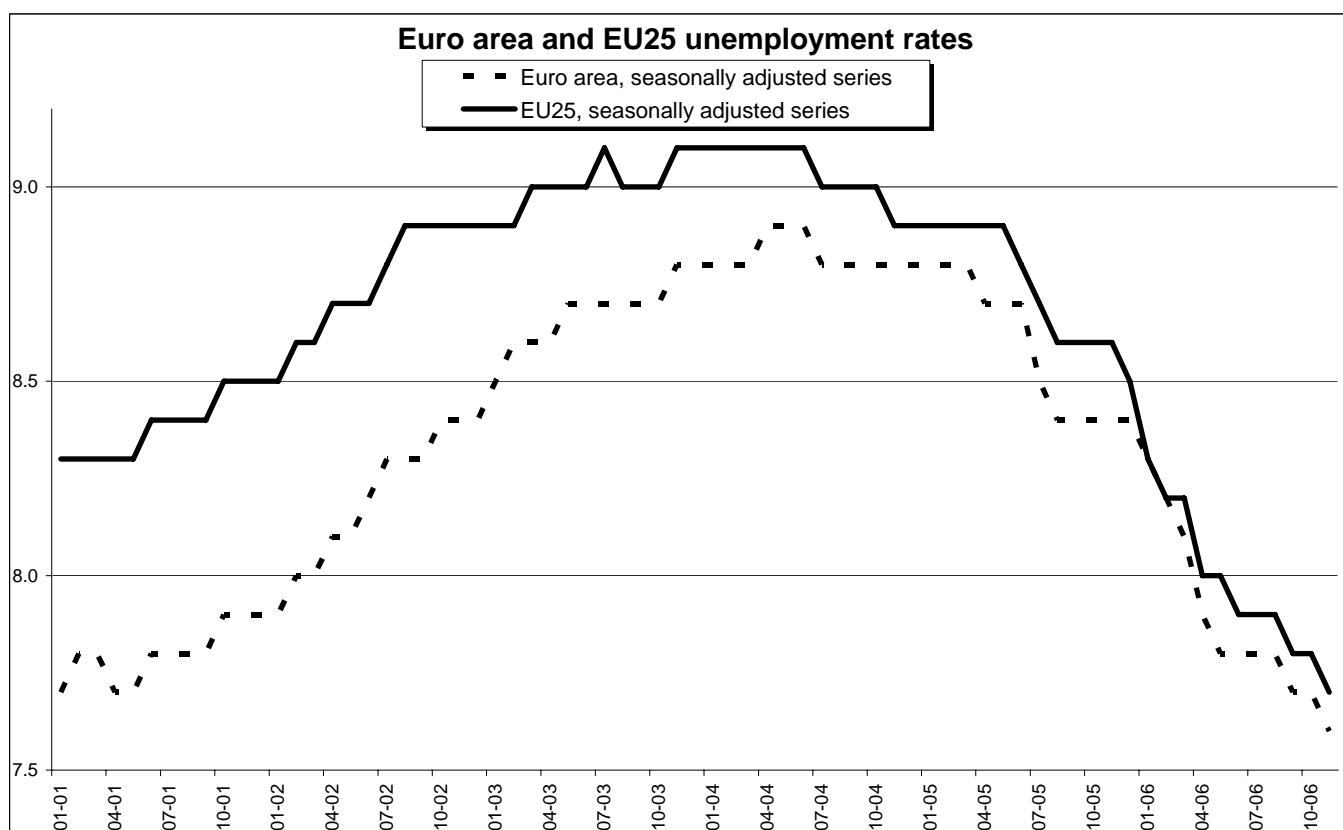
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**SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATES (%)
TOTAL MALES AND FEMALES**

	Nov 2005	May 2006	Jun 2006	Jul 2006	Aug 2006	Sep 2006	Oct 2006	Nov 2006
EA12¹	8.4	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.7	7.7	7.6
EU25¹	8.6	8.0	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.8	7.8	7.7
EA13¹	8.4	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.7	7.7	7.6	7.6
EU27¹	8.5	8.0	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.8	7.8	7.7
BE	8.4	8.7	8.7	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.2	8.2
BG	9.7	9.1	8.9	9.5	9.2	9.0	8.0	8.0
CZ	7.8	7.3	7.2	7.1	7.1	7.1	6.9	6.8
DK	4.2	4.1	4.1	3.7	3.7	3.5	3.3	:
DE⁴	9.3	8.4	8.3	8.3	8.5	8.5	8.1	8.0
EE	7.4	6.0	5.6	5.8	5.7	5.5	4.8	4.5
IE	4.4	4.5	4.5	4.4	4.4	4.2	4.2	4.2
EL⁵	9.6	9.0	9.0	8.7	8.7	8.7	:	:
ES	8.8	8.5	8.4	8.3	8.3	8.2	8.4	8.4
FR	9.6	9.2	9.1	9.0	8.9	8.8	8.7	8.6
IT⁵	7.5	6.9	6.9	:	:	:	:	:
CY	5.3	5.2	5.3	5.3	5.2	5.1	5.1	5.0
LV	7.7	7.1	6.9	6.8	6.7	6.5	6.3	6.2
LT	6.7	5.9	5.8	5.8	6.0	6.2	5.7	5.6
LU	4.5	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.8	4.8	4.8
HU	7.4	7.3	7.4	7.5	7.6	7.6	7.6	7.7
MT	7.4	7.6	7.6	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.4	7.4
NL	4.5	3.9	3.9	3.8	4.0	3.8	3.8	3.8
AT	5.2	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.7	4.7	4.6	4.6
PL	17.1	14.4	14.1	14.3	14.1	13.9	13.8	13.6
PT	7.8	7.5	7.4	7.2	7.2	7.2	7.1	7.1
RO	6.9	7.2	7.4	7.5	7.6	7.7	7.9	:
SI	6.9	6.2	6.1	6.0	5.9	5.7	5.6	5.6
SK	15.7	13.6	13.4	13.2	13.0	12.8	12.6	12.3
FI	8.3	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.7	7.5
SE⁶	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
UK	5.1	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.5	:	:
US	5.0	4.6	4.6	4.8	4.7	4.6	4.4	4.5
JP	4.6	4.0	4.2	4.1	4.2	4.2	4.1	4.0

: Data not available

Source: Eurostat

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATES (%)
MALES

	Nov 2005	May 2006	Jun 2006	Jul 2006	Aug 2006	Sep 2006	Oct 2006	Nov 2006
EA12 ¹	7.2	6.8	6.7	6.7	6.6	6.5	6.4	6.3
EU25 ¹	7.7	7.2	7.1	7.0	7.0	6.9	6.8	6.7
EA13 ¹	7.2	6.8	6.7	6.6	6.6	6.5	6.4	6.3
EU27 ¹	7.7	7.3	7.2	7.1	7.1	7.0	6.9	6.8
BE	7.6	8.2	8.1	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.5	7.5
BG	9.7	8.8	8.6	9.0	8.8	8.5	7.5	7.5
CZ	6.2	6.0	5.9	5.9	5.8	5.8	5.6	5.5
DK	4.0	3.7	3.7	3.0	3.0	3.0	2.7	:
DE ⁴	8.5	8.0	7.9	7.6	7.9	7.5	7.1	7.1
EE	7.7	5.8	5.7	6.0	5.8	5.7	4.9	4.6
IE	4.6	4.6	4.5	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.3
EL ⁵	5.9	5.8	5.8	5.4	5.4	5.4	:	:
ES	6.6	6.4	6.4	6.2	6.2	6.1	6.1	6.0
FR	8.7	8.3	8.2	8.1	8.1	8.0	7.9	7.8
IT ⁵	5.9	5.4	5.4	:	:	:	:	:
CY	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.5	4.5	4.4	4.4	4.3
LV	8.3	7.7	7.5	7.4	7.3	7.2	6.9	6.8
LT	6.9	5.5	5.7	5.9	6.3	6.7	5.9	5.9
LU	3.7	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.7	3.7
HU	7.2	7.0	7.1	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.3
MT	6.5	6.7	6.7	6.6	6.6	6.5	6.4	6.4
NL	4.2	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.7	3.4	3.3	3.3
AT	4.9	4.5	4.4	4.4	4.3	4.3	4.2	4.2
PL	15.9	13.6	13.3	13.1	12.9	12.6	12.5	12.2
PT	6.9	6.4	6.4	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.1	6.1
RO	7.5	8.3	8.5	8.7	8.9	8.9	8.9	:
SI	6.3	5.2	5.1	5.1	5.0	4.9	4.8	4.8
SK	14.8	12.4	12.2	12.0	11.8	11.7	11.4	11.1
FI	7.9	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.3	7.1
SE ⁵	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
UK	5.5	5.8	5.7	5.8	5.8	5.9	:	:
US	4.9	4.8	4.6	4.8	4.7	4.4	4.4	4.4
JP	4.6	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.2

FEMALES

	Nov 2005	May 2006	Jun 2006	Jul 2006	Aug 2006	Sep 2006	Oct 2006	Nov 2006
EA12 ¹	9.9	9.2	9.2	9.2	9.2	9.2	9.2	9.2
EU25 ¹	9.7	9.0	8.9	9.0	9.0	8.9	8.9	8.9
EA13 ¹	9.9	9.2	9.2	9.2	9.2	9.2	9.2	9.1
EU27 ¹	9.6	8.8	8.8	8.9	8.9	8.8	8.8	8.8
BE	9.5	9.4	9.4	9.3	9.3	9.2	9.2	9.1
BG	9.6	9.4	9.1	10.0	9.7	9.4	8.6	8.6
CZ	9.8	8.9	8.8	8.8	8.7	8.7	8.6	8.5
DK	4.5	4.7	4.6	4.4	4.3	4.2	4.0	:
DE ⁴	10.3	8.8	8.7	9.1	9.2	9.7	9.3	9.1
EE	7.1	6.2	5.6	5.7	5.6	5.3	4.7	4.4
IE	4.2	4.3	4.5	4.5	4.5	3.9	3.9	3.9
EL ⁵	14.8	13.7	13.7	13.3	13.3	13.3	:	:
ES	11.7	11.4	11.3	11.3	11.2	11.1	11.7	11.6
FR	10.7	10.2	10.1	10.0	9.9	9.7	9.7	9.5
IT ⁵	9.9	9.0	9.0	:	:	:	:	:
CY	6.2	6.0	6.1	6.1	6.1	5.9	6.0	6.0
LV	7.1	6.4	6.3	6.2	6.0	5.9	5.7	5.5
LT	6.5	6.2	5.8	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.5	5.2
LU	5.6	6.4	6.4	6.3	6.2	6.3	6.2	6.2
HU	7.6	7.7	7.7	7.9	7.9	8.0	8.0	8.1
MT	9.2	9.5	9.5	9.4	9.5	9.5	9.4	9.4
NL	4.9	4.3	4.4	4.3	4.4	4.4	4.3	4.3
AT	5.5	5.3	5.3	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.1	5.1
PL	18.5	15.4	15.2	15.7	15.6	15.5	15.4	15.3
PT	8.9	8.7	8.6	8.4	8.4	8.4	8.3	8.3
RO	6.2	6.0	6.0	6.1	6.2	6.2	6.6	:
SI	7.7	7.3	7.2	7.1	6.9	6.7	6.6	6.6
SK	16.8	15.1	14.9	14.7	14.5	14.3	14.1	13.7
FI	8.7	8.1	8.2	8.2	8.2	8.1	8.1	8.0
SE ⁵	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
UK	4.6	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	:	:
US	5.1	4.5	4.6	4.8	4.7	4.7	4.4	4.5
JP	4.6	3.8	4.3	3.9	3.9	4.1	3.8	3.7

**SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATES (%)
UNDER 25 YEARS**

	Nov 2005	May 2006	Jun 2006	Jul 2006	Aug 2006	Sep 2006	Oct 2006	Nov 2006
EA12¹	17.4	16.4	16.4	16.4	16.6	16.5	16.3	16.1
EU25¹	18.3	17.2	17.0	17.1	17.2	17.1	16.9	16.7
EA13¹	17.4	16.4	16.3	16.4	16.6	16.4	16.2	16.1
EU27¹	18.4	17.4	17.2	17.4	17.4	17.3	17.1	17.0
BE	21.3	21.4	21.4	21.1	21.0	20.8	19.4	19.4
BG	21.7	20.2	19.6	20.6	19.9	19.3	16.7	16.5
CZ	18.9	18.8	17.9	17.9	17.7	18.1	16.4	16.0
DK	9.2	8.2	8.1	6.8	6.8	6.7	6.5	:
DE⁴	15.0	13.2	13.6	14.4	15.5	15.2	14.2	14.0
EE⁵	14.1	11.8	11.8	11.1	11.1	11.1	:	:
IE	8.8	8.9	8.6	8.5	8.5	8.6	8.7	8.6
EL⁵	26.1	25.3	25.3	24.7	24.7	24.7	:	:
ES	18.4	18.2	17.9	17.5	17.4	17.1	17.1	16.9
FR	23.0	22.6	22.5	22.2	22.1	21.9	21.7	21.4
IT⁵	23.6	20.9	20.9	:	:	:	:	:
CY⁵	12.9	12.5	12.5	12.1	12.1	12.1	:	:
LV⁵	11.8	14.2	14.2	11.9	11.9	11.9	:	:
LT⁵	12.5	9.9	9.9	10.8	10.8	10.8	:	:
LU	14.3	13.7	13.7	13.8	14.3	14.2	14.4	14.5
HU	19.9	17.9	17.9	19.4	19.5	19.4	18.7	18.6
MT	17.1	17.7	17.6	17.2	17.4	17.2	16.6	16.3
NL	7.5	6.1	6.2	6.3	6.6	6.7	6.5	6.5
AT	10.4	9.3	9.3	9.3	9.2	9.0	9.0	9.0
PL	34.7	30.3	29.2	29.2	28.7	28.0	27.9	27.4
PT	15.7	15.3	15.1	14.9	14.9	14.7	14.8	14.8
RO	20.1	21.2	21.3	22.5	22.6	22.7	22.7	:
SI⁵	15.6	15.2	15.2	13.2	13.2	13.2	:	:
SK	29.2	27.2	26.8	26.3	25.8	25.2	24.8	24.3
FI	19.7	18.8	18.8	18.9	18.9	18.9	18.9	18.8
SE⁵	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
UK	13.8	14.3	14.1	14.4	14.6	14.8	:	:
US	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
JP	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:

25 YEARS AND OVER

	Nov 2005	May 2006	Jun 2006	Jul 2006	Aug 2006	Sep 2006	Oct 2006	Nov 2006
EA12¹	7.2	6.7	6.7	6.6	6.6	6.5	6.5	6.5
EU25¹	7.2	6.7	6.7	6.6	6.6	6.5	6.5	6.5
EA13¹	7.2	6.7	6.7	6.6	6.6	6.5	6.5	6.5
EU27¹	7.2	6.7	6.7	6.6	6.6	6.5	6.5	6.5
BE	7.1	7.4	7.4	7.2	7.2	7.2	7.1	7.1
BG	8.5	8.0	7.8	8.4	8.2	7.9	7.2	7.2
CZ	6.7	6.2	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.0	6.0	5.9
DK	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.1	3.1	3.0	2.8	:
DE⁴	8.4	7.6	7.4	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.1	7.0
EE	6.6	5.3	5.0	5.2	5.1	4.9	4.2	3.9
IE	3.6	3.6	3.7	3.6	3.6	3.3	3.3	3.3
EL⁵	8.1	7.6	7.6	7.3	7.3	7.3	:	:
ES	7.5	7.3	7.2	7.2	7.1	7.1	7.3	7.3
FR	8.1	7.7	7.6	7.5	7.4	7.3	7.3	7.2
IT⁵	6.1	5.7	5.7	:	:	:	:	:
CY	4.4	4.3	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.2	4.3	4.2
LV	7.1	6.1	6.0	6.0	5.9	5.8	5.7	5.6
LT	6.2	5.5	5.3	5.5	5.6	5.6	5.1	5.0
LU	3.7	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.9	4.0	4.0	4.0
HU	6.3	6.4	6.5	6.5	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.7
MT	4.9	5.0	5.1	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.1	5.2
NL	3.9	3.4	3.5	3.3	3.5	3.3	3.2	3.2
AT	4.3	4.1	4.1	4.0	4.0	3.9	3.9	3.9
PL	14.7	12.3	12.1	12.3	12.2	12.0	11.9	11.7
PT	6.9	6.6	6.6	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.3	6.3
RO	5.4	5.7	5.9	5.9	6.0	6.0	6.3	:
SI	5.9	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.0	5.0	4.9	4.9
SK	13.9	11.8	11.7	11.5	11.4	11.3	11.1	10.7
FI	6.6	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.0	5.9
SE⁵	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
UK	3.5	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.8	3.8	:	:
US	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
JP	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:

: Data not available Source: Eurostat