

November 2005

## Euro-zone unemployment unchanged at 8.3%

EU25 unchanged at 8.5%

**Euro-zone**<sup>1</sup> seasonally-adjusted unemployment<sup>2</sup> stood at 8.3% in November 2005, the same as in October. It was 8.8% in November 2004. The **EU25**<sup>3</sup> unemployment rate was 8.5% in November 2005, unchanged compared to October. It was 9.0% in November 2004.

In November 2005, the lowest rates were registered in **Ireland** (4.3%), **Denmark** (4.5%), the **Netherlands** (4.7%), the **United Kingdom** (4.8% in September) and **Austria** (5.2%). Unemployment rates were highest in **Poland** (17.4%), **Slovakia** (16.0%), **Greece** (10.1% in third quarter 2005), **Germany**<sup>4</sup> (9.3%), **France** (9.2%) and **Latvia** (8.6%).

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

Amongst the Member States, sixteen recorded a decrease in their unemployment rate over a year and eight reported an increase. The largest relative falls were observed in **Lithuania** (9.8% to 7.0%), **Estonia** (8.4% to 6.6%), **Spain** (10.5% to 8.5%), **Denmark** (5.3% to 4.5%) and **Latvia** (9.7% to 8.6%). The highest relative increases were registered in **Luxembourg** (4.9% to 5.6%), **Hungary** (6.5% to 7.3%), **Portugal** (7.0% to 7.5%), **Cyprus** (5.9% to 6.3%) and the **United Kingdom** (4.6% in September 2004 to 4.8% in September 2005).

In November 2005 compared to November 2004, the unemployment rate for males fell from 7.7% to 7.2% in the **euro-zone** and from 8.1% to 7.6% in the **EU25**. The female unemployment rate declined from 10.3% to 9.7% in the **euro-zone** and from 10.0% to 9.6% in the **EU25**.

In November 2005, the unemployment rate for under-25s was 17.4% in the **euro-zone** and 18.4% in the **EU25**. In November 2004 it was 17.9% and 18.8% respectively. The lowest rates for under-25s were observed in **Denmark** (7.2%), the **Netherlands** (8.2%), and **Ireland** (8.6%), and the highest in **Poland** (37.7%), **Slovakia** (30.0%) and **Greece** (26.8% in third quarter 2005).

Eurostat estimates that, in November 2005, 12.1 million men and women were unemployed in the **euro-zone** and 18.4 million in the **EU25**. These are seasonally-adjusted figures in line with ILO criteria.

In November 2005, the **US** unemployment rate was 5.0% and the **Japanese** rate was 4.6%.

### Unemployment (%) in November 2005 - in ascending order

IE	DK	NL	UK	AT	LU	SI	CY	EE	LT	HU	IT	PT
4.3	4.5	4.7	Sep 05 4.8	5.2	5.6	5.9	6.3	6.6	7.0	7.3	2005 Q3 7.5	7.5
MT	CZ	Euro-zone	FI	BE	ES	EU25	LV	FR	DE <sup>4</sup>	EL	SK	PL
7.7	7.9	8.3	8.3	8.4	8.5	8.5	8.6	9.2	9.3	2005 Q3 10.1	16.0	17.4

1. Euro-zone: Belgium, Germany, Greece, Spain, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Austria, Portugal and Finland.
2. *Eurostat's unemployment rates*

Eurostat compiles "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.

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.

The remaining deviations will disappear as Member States adapt their surveys to the new definitions. The other Member States already comply with the definition.
3. EU25: 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).
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. Due to the introduction of a EU-harmonised Swedish Labour Force Survey in April 2005, seasonally adjusted time series are not yet available.

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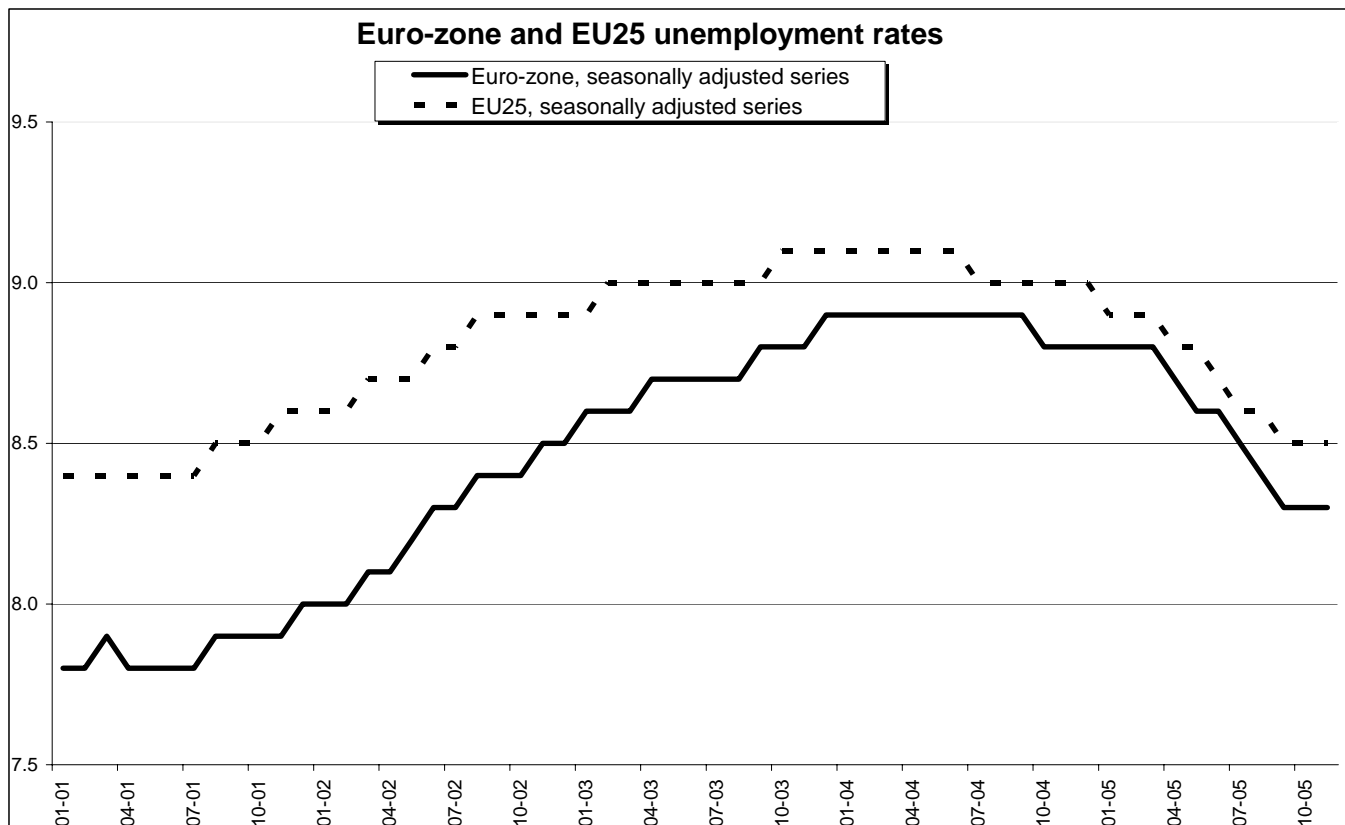
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**SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATES (%)  
TOTAL MALES AND FEMALES**

	Nov 2004	May 2005	Jun 2005	Jul 2005	Aug 2005	Sep 2005	Oct 2005	Nov 2005
<b>Euro-zone<sup>4</sup></b>	8.8	8.6	8.6	8.5	8.4	8.3	8.3	<b>8.3</b>
<b>EU25<sup>4</sup></b>	9.0	8.8	8.7	8.6	8.6	8.5	8.5	<b>8.5</b>
<b>BE</b>	8.2	8.4	8.4	8.4	8.4	8.4	8.4	<b>8.4</b>
<b>CZ</b>	8.2	8.0	7.9	7.8	7.8	7.9	7.9	<b>7.9</b>
<b>DK</b>	5.3	5.0	4.9	4.9	4.8	4.7	4.6	<b>4.5</b>
<b>DE<sup>4</sup></b>	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.3	9.8	8.6	9.1	<b>9.3</b>
<b>EE</b>	8.4	7.9	7.7	7.5	7.3	7.1	6.8	<b>6.6</b>
<b>EL</b>	10.2	9.9	9.9	10.1	10.1	10.1	:	:
<b>ES</b>	10.5	9.4	9.2	8.9	8.7	8.7	8.6	<b>8.5</b>
<b>FR</b>	9.5	9.6	9.6	9.5	9.4	9.4	9.3	<b>9.2</b>
<b>IE</b>	4.4	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.4	4.3	4.3	<b>4.3</b>
<b>IT</b>	8.0	7.6	7.6	7.5	7.5	7.5	:	:
<b>CY</b>	5.9	5.8	6.0	6.0	6.1	6.3	6.2	<b>6.3</b>
<b>LV</b>	9.7	9.1	9.0	8.9	8.8	8.8	8.7	<b>8.6</b>
<b>LT</b>	9.8	8.6	8.3	8.1	7.9	7.6	7.3	<b>7.0</b>
<b>LU</b>	4.9	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.5	5.6	5.6	<b>5.6</b>
<b>HU</b>	6.5	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.2	7.2	7.2	<b>7.3</b>
<b>MT</b>	7.8	8.2	8.0	7.9	7.8	7.8	7.7	<b>7.7</b>
<b>NL</b>	4.8	4.7	4.7	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.7	<b>4.7</b>
<b>AT</b>	5.0	5.1	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.3	<b>5.2</b>
<b>PL</b>	18.5	17.9	17.9	17.8	17.7	17.7	17.6	<b>17.4</b>
<b>PT</b>	7.0	7.4	7.4	7.5	7.6	7.6	7.5	<b>7.5</b>
<b>SI</b>	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	<b>5.9</b>
<b>SK</b>	17.6	16.5	16.4	16.3	16.2	16.2	16.2	<b>16.0</b>
<b>FI</b>	8.8	8.3	8.3	8.2	8.2	8.3	8.3	<b>8.3</b>
<b>SE<sup>5</sup></b>	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
<b>UK</b>	4.6	4.7	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.8	:	:
<b>US</b>	5.4	5.1	5.0	5.0	4.9	5.1	5.0	<b>5.0</b>
<b>JP</b>	4.5	4.4	4.2	4.4	4.3	4.2	4.5	<b>4.6</b>

: Data not available  
Source: Eurostat

## SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATES (%)

### MALES

	Nov 2004	May 2005	Jun 2005	Jul 2005	Aug 2005	Sep 2005	Oct 2005	Nov 2005
<b>Euro-zone<sup>4</sup></b>	7.7	7.5	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.3	7.2	7.2
<b>EU25<sup>4</sup></b>	8.1	7.9	7.9	7.8	7.8	7.7	7.7	7.6
<b>BE</b>	7.3	7.6	7.7	7.7	7.7	7.7	7.7	7.7
<b>CZ</b>	6.9	6.4	6.4	6.3	6.2	6.3	6.3	6.2
<b>DK</b>	4.8	4.3	4.2	4.2	4.1	4.0	3.9	3.8
<b>DE<sup>4</sup></b>	9.3	8.9	8.8	8.6	9.5	8.3	8.6	8.5
<b>EE</b>	9.9	9.5	9.3	8.9	8.6	8.4	8.1	7.8
<b>EL</b>	6.3	6.1	6.1	6.4	6.4	6.4	:	:
<b>ES</b>	7.8	7.2	7.1	6.8	6.7	6.6	6.6	6.5
<b>FR</b>	8.8	8.8	8.8	8.7	8.6	8.6	8.5	8.4
<b>IE</b>	4.7	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6
<b>IT</b>	6.4	6.2	6.2	6.0	6.0	6.0	:	:
<b>CY</b>	4.7	4.7	4.9	4.8	4.8	5.0	5.0	5.1
<b>LV</b>	9.7	9.5	9.4	9.3	9.2	9.2	9.1	9.0
<b>LT</b>	9.5	8.5	8.3	8.1	7.8	7.5	7.1	6.6
<b>LU</b>	3.4	3.8	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9
<b>HU</b>	6.3	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.9	6.9	6.9	6.9
<b>MT</b>	7.3	7.3	7.1	7.0	7.0	6.9	6.8	6.7
<b>NL</b>	4.6	4.5	4.5	4.3	4.3	4.4	4.5	4.4
<b>AT</b>	4.6	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.9	4.8	4.9	4.8
<b>PL</b>	17.7	16.8	16.7	16.6	16.5	16.5	16.4	16.2
<b>PT</b>	6.3	6.5	6.5	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6
<b>SI</b>	5.4	5.5	5.5	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.5
<b>SK</b>	16.6	15.7	15.7	15.6	15.5	15.5	15.4	15.2
<b>FI</b>	8.7	8.2	8.1	8.1	8.1	8.1	8.2	8.2
<b>SE<sup>5</sup></b>	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
<b>UK</b>	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.1	5.3	:	:
<b>US</b>	5.5	5.1	5.0	4.9	4.9	5.1	4.8	4.9
<b>JP</b>	4.7	4.6	4.4	4.5	4.5	4.3	4.5	4.6

### FEMALES

	Nov 2004	May 2005	Jun 2005	Jul 2005	Aug 2005	Sep 2005	Oct 2005	Nov 2005
<b>Euro-zone<sup>4</sup></b>	10.3	10.1	10.0	9.9	9.8	9.7	9.7	9.7
<b>EU25<sup>4</sup></b>	10.0	9.9	9.8	9.7	9.6	9.5	9.5	9.6
<b>BE</b>	9.3	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.4
<b>CZ</b>	9.8	10.0	9.9	9.8	9.8	9.9	9.9	9.9
<b>DK</b>	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.6	5.5	5.4	5.3
<b>DE<sup>4</sup></b>	9.7	10.3	10.4	10.1	10.1	9.0	9.7	10.2
<b>EE</b>	6.9	6.3	6.2	6.1	5.9	5.8	5.6	5.4
<b>EL</b>	15.9	15.5	15.5	15.5	15.5	15.5	:	:
<b>ES</b>	14.3	12.5	12.1	11.7	11.6	11.5	11.4	11.3
<b>FR</b>	10.4	10.5	10.5	10.4	10.3	10.3	10.2	10.2
<b>IE</b>	4.0	3.9	3.9	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.9	3.9
<b>IT</b>	10.3	9.8	9.8	9.7	9.7	9.7	:	:
<b>CY</b>	7.5	7.2	7.5	7.6	7.8	7.9	7.8	7.8
<b>LV</b>	9.7	8.7	8.6	8.5	8.5	8.4	8.3	8.3
<b>LT</b>	10.1	8.7	8.4	8.2	8.0	7.7	7.5	7.3
<b>LU</b>	7.1	7.5	7.6	7.6	7.7	7.9	7.9	7.9
<b>HU</b>	6.7	7.4	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.6	7.6	7.6
<b>MT</b>	9.1	10.0	9.9	9.8	9.6	9.7	9.8	9.7
<b>NL</b>	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	4.9	5.0	5.0
<b>AT</b>	5.4	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7
<b>PL</b>	19.6	19.3	19.2	19.2	19.2	19.1	19.0	19.0
<b>PT</b>	7.9	8.3	8.4	8.6	8.8	8.7	8.6	8.6
<b>SI</b>	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.3
<b>SK</b>	18.8	17.4	17.3	17.2	17.1	17.1	17.1	17.0
<b>FI</b>	8.9	8.4	8.4	8.4	8.4	8.4	8.4	8.5
<b>SE<sup>5</sup></b>	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
<b>UK</b>	4.2	4.3	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.3	:	:
<b>US</b>	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.2	4.9	5.1	5.1	5.2
<b>JP</b>	4.3	4.2	3.9	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.5	4.6

: Data not available

Source: Eurostat

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

	Nov 2004	May 2005	Jun 2005	Jul 2005	Aug 2005	Sep 2005	Oct 2005	Nov 2005
<b>Euro-zone<sup>4</sup></b>	17.9	17.6	17.3	17.1	17.1	17.2	17.4	17.4
<b>EU25<sup>4</sup></b>	18.8	18.6	18.3	18.2	18.2	18.3	18.3	18.4
<b>BE</b>	21.1	22.3	22.2	22.3	22.4	22.3	22.3	22.3
<b>CZ</b>	21.2	19.6	19.4	18.7	18.4	18.9	19.2	19.1
<b>DK</b>	8.3	8.2	8.2	8.2	7.9	7.5	7.3	7.2
<b>DE<sup>4</sup></b>	13.6	13.7	14.6	13.0	14.1	13.8	14.6	15.1
<b>EE</b>	19.2	19.2	18.9	18.2	17.6	16.9	16.0	15.4
<b>EL</b>	26.1	25.8	25.8	26.8	26.8	26.8	:	:
<b>ES</b>	21.7	20.2	19.6	18.5	18.6	18.7	18.8	18.8
<b>FR</b>	21.8	22.0	22.0	21.8	21.7	21.6	21.5	21.4
<b>IE</b>	8.3	8.4	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.6
<b>IT</b>	24.3	23.2	23.2	24.1	24.1	24.1	:	:
<b>CY</b>	12.7	14.5	14.7	14.3	14.3	14.0	13.3	13.0
<b>LV</b>	19.4	19.0	18.9	18.8	18.7	18.9	19.0	19.0
<b>LT</b>	17.6	17.8	17.8	17.3	16.1	14.8	13.5	12.8
<b>LU</b>	18.5	19.7	19.9	19.7	19.7	19.8	19.9	20.3
<b>HU</b>	17.3	19.8	19.9	20.2	20.4	20.5	20.5	20.7
<b>MT</b>	18.5	18.6	18.5	18.4	18.2	18.0	17.8	17.8
<b>NL</b>	8.5	8.4	8.4	8.1	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.2
<b>AT</b>	9.6	10.2	10.4	10.4	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.4
<b>PL</b>	39.7	38.7	38.5	38.3	38.2	38.0	37.8	37.7
<b>PT</b>	15.6	16.0	15.9	16.1	16.2	16.2	16.3	16.4
<b>SI</b>	14.0	13.8	14.0	13.8	13.4	13.2	13.4	13.5
<b>SK</b>	31.1	29.5	29.3	29.3	29.5	29.8	30.0	30.0
<b>FI</b>	20.8	20.3	20.2	20.1	19.9	19.7	19.6	19.5
<b>SE<sup>5</sup></b>	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
<b>UK</b>	12.5	12.7	12.4	12.6	12.7	13.7	:	:
<b>US</b>	11.5	11.8	11.2	10.8	11.4	11.0	10.9	11.2
<b>JP</b>	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:

**25 YEARS AND OVER**

	Nov 2004	May 2005	Jun 2005	Jul 2005	Aug 2005	Sep 2005	Oct 2005	Nov 2005
<b>Euro-zone<sup>4</sup></b>	7.6	7.4	7.4	7.3	7.3	7.1	7.1	7.1
<b>EU25<sup>4</sup></b>	7.6	7.4	7.4	7.3	7.3	7.2	7.2	7.1
<b>BE</b>	6.8	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0
<b>CZ</b>	6.9	6.9	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8
<b>DK</b>	4.8	4.5	4.4	4.4	4.3	4.2	4.1	4.1
<b>DE<sup>4</sup></b>	8.8	8.9	8.6	8.7	9.1	7.7	8.2	8.4
<b>EE</b>	7.0	6.4	6.3	6.1	6.0	5.8	5.7	5.5
<b>EL</b>	8.6	8.4	8.4	8.5	8.5	8.5	:	:
<b>ES</b>	9.0	7.9	7.8	7.5	7.4	7.3	7.2	7.0
<b>FR</b>	8.1	8.1	8.1	8.0	8.0	7.9	7.8	7.8
<b>IE</b>	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.5
<b>IT</b>	6.4	6.2	6.2	6.1	6.1	6.1	:	:
<b>CY</b>	5.1	4.7	5.0	5.0	5.1	5.3	5.4	5.5
<b>LV</b>	8.4	7.8	7.7	7.6	7.5	7.4	7.3	7.2
<b>LT</b>	9.1	7.8	7.5	7.3	7.2	6.9	6.7	6.4
<b>LU</b>	3.9	4.3	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.5	4.5	4.4
<b>HU</b>	5.5	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.1	6.0
<b>MT</b>	5.0	5.4	5.2	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.0
<b>NL</b>	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.9	3.9	3.9	4.0	4.0
<b>AT</b>	4.2	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.4	4.4
<b>PL</b>	15.6	15.1	15.0	14.9	14.9	14.9	14.8	14.7
<b>PT</b>	6.0	6.4	6.4	6.5	6.7	6.6	6.5	6.5
<b>SI</b>	4.8	5.0	4.9	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
<b>SK</b>	15.6	14.6	14.6	14.5	14.4	14.3	14.3	14.1
<b>FI</b>	7.1	6.7	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.7	6.7	6.8
<b>SE<sup>5</sup></b>	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
<b>UK</b>	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	:	:
<b>US</b>	4.3	4.0	3.9	4.0	3.8	4.1	3.9	4.0
<b>JP</b>	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:

: Data not available  
Source: Eurostat