

July 2005

## Euro-zone and EU25 unemployment down to 8.6%

**Euro-zone**<sup>1</sup> seasonally-adjusted unemployment<sup>2</sup> stood at 8.6% in July 2005, compared to 8.7% in June<sup>3</sup>. It was 8.9% in July 2004. The **EU25**<sup>4</sup> unemployment rate was 8.6% in July 2005, compared to 8.7% in June<sup>3</sup>. It was 9.0% in July 2004.

In July 2005, the lowest rates were registered in **Ireland** (4.3%), the **United Kingdom** (4.7% in May), **Denmark** (4.8% in June), the **Netherlands** (4.8%) and **Austria** (5.1%). Unemployment rates were highest in **Poland** (17.6%), **Slovakia** (15.2%), **Greece** (9.9% in March), **France** (9.7%), **Spain** (9.4%) and **Germany**<sup>5</sup> (9.3%).

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

Amongst the Member States, fifteen recorded a decrease in their unemployment rate over a year, three remained stable and seven reported an increase. The largest relative decreases were observed in **Lithuania** (11.1% to 7.8%), **Estonia** (9.2% to 7.6%), **Slovakia** (18.1% to 15.2%), **Spain** (10.9% to 9.4%) and **Denmark** (5.4% in June 2004 to 4.8% in June 2005), while **Luxembourg** (4.8% to 5.4%), **Hungary** (5.8% to 6.4%), the **Netherlands** (4.5% to 4.8%) and **Cyprus** (5.0% to 5.3%) registered the highest relative increases.

In July 2005 compared to July 2004, the unemployment rate for males decreased from 7.5% to 7.4% in the **euro-zone** and from 8.0% to 7.8% in the **EU25**. The female unemployment rate fell from 10.6% to 10.1% in the **euro-zone** and from 10.2% to 9.7% in the **EU25**.

In July 2005, the unemployment rate for under-25s was 17.0% in the **euro-zone** and 17.7% in the **EU25**. In July 2004 it was 17.7% and 18.5% respectively. The lowest rates for under-25s were observed in **Denmark** (7.0% in June), **Ireland** (7.9%) and the **Netherlands** (8.1%) and the highest in **Poland** (35.3%), **Slovakia** (25.2%) and **Greece** (25.0% in March).

Eurostat estimates that, in July 2005, 12.5 million men and women were unemployed in the **euro-zone** and 18.7 million in the **EU25**. These are seasonally-adjusted figures in line with ILO criteria.

In July 2005, the **US** unemployment rate was 5.0% and the **Japanese** rate was 4.4%.

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

IE	UK	DK	NL	AT	CY	LU	SI	SE <sup>6</sup>	HU	MT	PT	EE	CZ
4.3	May 05 4.7	Jun 05 4.8	4.8	5.1	5.3	5.4	5.9	Mar 05 6.3	6.4	6.5	7.2	7.6	7.7
IT	LT	BE	FI	Euro-zone	EU25	LV	DE <sup>5</sup>	ES	FR	EL	SK	PL	
Mar 05 7.8	7.8	8.0	8.3	<b>8.6</b>	<b>8.6</b>	8.8	9.3	9.4	9.7	Mar 05 9.9	15.2	17.6	

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.

Further information on the methodology of the monthly unemployment rate statistics can be found on the annex to News Release 67/2002 of 4 June 2002.

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, Sweden:* 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 other Member States already comply with the definition. The remaining deviations will disappear as Member States adapt their surveys to the new definitions. The Netherlands and Sweden will adapt in 2005.
3. The unemployment rate for the EU25 for June 2005 has been revised. The rate published in News Release 97/2005 of 2 August 2005 was 8.8%. The rate previously published for the euro-zone remains the same.
4. 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).
5. Provisional data.
6. Due to the introduction of a EU-harmonised Swedish Labour Force Survey, comparable time series are not available from April 2005.

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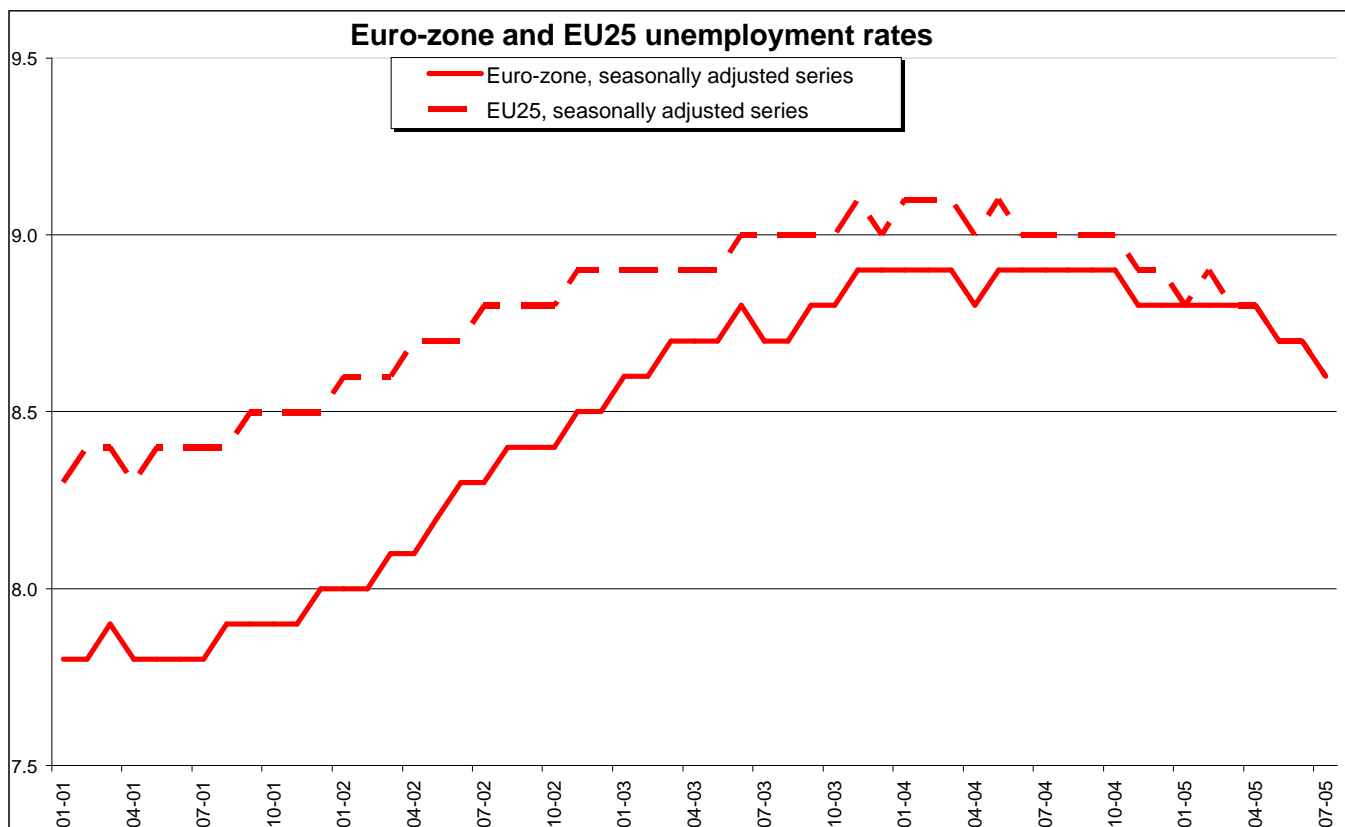
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**SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATES (%)  
TOTAL MALES AND FEMALES**

	July 2004	Jan 2005	Feb 2005	Mar 2005	Apr 2005	May 2005	June 2005	July 2005
<b>Euro-zone</b>	8.9	8.8	8.8	8.8	8.8	8.7	8.7	<b>8.6</b>
<b>EU25</b>	9.0	8.8	8.9	8.8	8.8	8.7	8.7	<b>8.6</b>
<b>BE</b>	7.7	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.1	8.1	<b>8.0</b>
<b>CZ</b>	8.3	8.1	8.0	8.0	7.9	7.8	7.8	<b>7.7</b>
<b>DK</b>	5.3	5.0	5.0	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.8	:
<b>DE<sup>b</sup></b>	9.6	9.7	9.7	9.8	9.9	9.5	9.5	<b>9.3</b>
<b>EE</b>	9.2	8.1	8.0	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.8	<b>7.6</b>
<b>EL</b>	10.5	9.9	9.9	9.9	:	:	:	:
<b>ES</b>	10.9	10.1	10.0	10.0	9.7	9.6	9.5	<b>9.4</b>
<b>FR</b>	9.7	9.7	9.8	9.8	9.7	9.7	9.7	<b>9.7</b>
<b>IE</b>	4.5	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.2	4.3	<b>4.3</b>
<b>IT</b>	7.9	7.8	7.8	7.8	:	:	:	:
<b>CY</b>	5.0	5.6	5.6	5.1	4.8	5.0	5.3	<b>5.3</b>
<b>LV</b>	9.7	9.6	9.5	9.4	9.2	9.1	9.0	<b>8.8</b>
<b>LT</b>	11.1	9.0	8.8	8.6	8.4	8.2	7.9	<b>7.8</b>
<b>LU</b>	4.8	4.9	4.9	5.0	5.2	5.4	5.4	<b>5.4</b>
<b>HU</b>	5.8	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.3	<b>6.4</b>
<b>MT</b>	7.3	6.9	6.8	6.9	6.9	6.7	6.6	<b>6.5</b>
<b>NL</b>	4.5	4.8	4.9	4.9	4.8	4.8	4.8	<b>4.8</b>
<b>AT</b>	4.9	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.1	5.1	<b>5.1</b>
<b>PL</b>	18.8	18.1	18.0	18.0	17.9	17.8	17.7	<b>17.6</b>
<b>PT</b>	6.9	7.2	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.2	<b>7.2</b>
<b>SI</b>	5.9	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.9	5.9	<b>5.9</b>
<b>SK</b>	18.1	16.4	16.1	15.8	15.6	15.5	15.4	<b>15.2</b>
<b>FI</b>	9.0	8.7	8.6	8.5	8.4	8.3	8.3	<b>8.3</b>
<b>SE<sup>b</sup></b>	6.3	6.2	6.5	6.3	:	:	:	:
<b>UK</b>	4.6	4.7	4.6	4.6	4.7	4.7	:	:
<b>US</b>	5.5	5.2	5.4	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.0	<b>5.0</b>
<b>JP</b>	4.9	4.5	4.6	4.5	4.4	4.4	4.2	<b>4.4</b>

: Data not available  
Source: Eurostat

## SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATES (%)

## MALES

	July 2004	Jan 2005	Feb 2005	Mar 2005	Apr 2005	May 2005	June 2005	July 2005
<b>Euro-zone</b>	7.5	7.6	7.5	7.6	7.6	7.5	7.5	7.4
<b>EU25</b>	8.0	8.0	7.9	8.0	8.0	7.9	7.9	7.8
<b>BE</b>	6.9	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.2	7.3	7.3	7.2
<b>CZ</b>	7.1	7.0	7.0	7.0	6.9	6.8	6.8	6.7
<b>DK</b>	5.1	4.8	4.7	4.6	4.6	4.5	4.4	:
<b>DE<sup>b</sup></b>	8.7	9.0	8.7	9.1	9.1	8.9	8.8	8.6
<b>EE</b>	10.4	9.2	9.1	8.9	8.9	8.8	8.6	8.4
<b>EL</b>	6.5	6.0	6.0	6.0	:	:	:	:
<b>ES</b>	8.1	7.7	7.6	7.6	7.5	7.4	7.4	7.3
<b>FR</b>	8.8	8.8	8.9	8.9	8.9	8.9	8.8	8.8
<b>IE</b>	4.9	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7
<b>IT</b>	6.3	6.4	6.4	6.4	:	:	:	:
<b>CY</b>	3.9	4.5	4.5	4.2	3.9	4.1	4.3	4.3
<b>LV</b>	9.2	9.0	8.9	8.7	8.5	8.4	8.2	8.1
<b>LT</b>	10.7	8.1	7.8	7.7	7.5	7.2	7.0	6.8
<b>LU</b>	3.4	3.5	3.5	3.6	3.7	3.8	3.9	3.9
<b>HU</b>	5.7	6.2	6.2	6.3	6.3	6.2	6.2	6.2
<b>MT</b>	7.1	6.6	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.3	6.1	6.0
<b>NL</b>	4.2	4.6	4.7	4.6	4.6	4.5	4.5	4.4
<b>AT</b>	4.5	4.5	4.6	4.6	4.5	4.6	4.6	4.7
<b>PL</b>	18.0	17.6	17.4	17.3	17.3	16.9	16.9	16.7
<b>PT</b>	6.0	6.3	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4
<b>SI</b>	5.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.5	5.4	5.4
<b>SK</b>	16.8	14.9	14.6	14.3	14.1	13.9	13.8	13.7
<b>FI</b>	8.9	8.6	8.5	8.4	8.3	8.2	8.2	8.1
<b>SE<sup>b</sup></b>	6.5	6.3	6.6	6.4	:	:	:	:
<b>UK</b>	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.1	5.0	:	:
<b>US</b>	5.5	5.3	5.6	5.3	5.1	5.1	5.0	4.9
<b>JP</b>	5.3	4.8	5.0	4.7	4.5	4.6	4.4	4.5

## FEMALES

	July 2004	Jan 2005	Feb 2005	Mar 2005	Apr 2005	May 2005	June 2005	July 2005
<b>Euro-zone</b>	10.6	10.3	10.5	10.4	10.3	10.2	10.2	10.1
<b>EU25</b>	10.2	9.9	10.0	9.9	9.9	9.8	9.8	9.7
<b>BE</b>	8.8	9.1	9.1	9.1	9.1	9.1	9.2	9.2
<b>CZ</b>	9.8	9.5	9.4	9.3	9.2	9.1	9.0	8.9
<b>DK</b>	5.6	5.4	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.2	:
<b>DE<sup>b</sup></b>	10.7	10.4	10.9	10.7	10.8	10.3	10.4	10.2
<b>EE</b>	8.1	7.0	6.9	6.8	6.9	6.9	6.9	6.8
<b>EL</b>	16.3	15.5	15.5	15.5	:	:	:	:
<b>ES</b>	14.9	13.6	13.5	13.4	12.8	12.6	12.5	12.4
<b>FR</b>	10.7	10.7	10.8	10.7	10.7	10.7	10.7	10.7
<b>IE</b>	3.9	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.6	3.7	3.7
<b>IT</b>	10.3	10.1	10.1	10.1	:	:	:	:
<b>CY</b>	6.3	6.9	6.9	6.3	5.9	6.2	6.5	6.6
<b>LV</b>	10.3	10.2	10.2	10.1	10.0	9.9	9.8	9.7
<b>LT</b>	11.5	10.0	9.7	9.6	9.4	9.2	8.9	8.7
<b>LU</b>	6.9	7.0	6.9	7.0	7.2	7.5	7.6	7.6
<b>HU</b>	5.9	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.5	6.5
<b>MT</b>	7.8	7.7	7.7	7.8	7.9	7.8	7.7	7.6
<b>NL</b>	4.8	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.2	5.1	5.2	5.2
<b>AT</b>	5.4	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.6	5.6	5.7	5.7
<b>PL</b>	19.7	18.7	18.7	18.7	18.7	18.9	18.6	18.5
<b>PT</b>	7.9	8.2	8.3	8.3	8.2	8.2	8.2	8.1
<b>SI</b>	6.4	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.4	6.5	6.5
<b>SK</b>	19.5	18.2	17.9	17.6	17.4	17.3	17.2	17.1
<b>FI</b>	9.2	8.8	8.7	8.6	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5
<b>SE<sup>b</sup></b>	6.0	6.1	6.4	6.3	:	:	:	:
<b>UK</b>	4.1	4.3	4.1	4.1	4.2	4.3	:	:
<b>US</b>	5.6	5.1	5.2	5.0	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.2
<b>JP</b>	4.4	4.1	4.2	4.3	4.3	4.2	3.9	4.2

: Data not available

Source: Eurostat

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

	July 2004	Jan 2005	Feb 2005	Mar 2005	Apr 2005	May 2005	June 2005	July 2005
<b>Euro-zone</b>	17.7	18.6	18.4	18.7	18.2	17.5	17.7	<b>17.0</b>
<b>EU25</b>	18.5	18.8	18.6	18.8	18.5	18.0	18.2	<b>17.7</b>
<b>BE</b>	19.8	19.3	19.3	19.3	19.4	19.4	19.4	<b>19.3</b>
<b>CZ</b>	21.4	20.8	20.6	20.5	20.5	20.3	20.1	<b>19.6</b>
<b>DK</b>	8.0	7.4	7.2	7.2	7.2	7.1	7.0	:
<b>DE<sup>b</sup></b>	14.7	17.1	16.6	17.5	16.3	13.9	14.8	<b>12.7</b>
<b>EE</b>	20.8	17.6	17.4	17.2	17.4	17.5	17.3	<b>16.7</b>
<b>EL</b>	26.3	25.0	25.0	25.0	:	:	:	:
<b>ES</b>	22.0	21.1	21.1	21.1	20.6	20.6	20.5	<b>20.5</b>
<b>FR</b>	22.0	22.1	22.2	22.2	22.2	22.3	22.3	<b>22.2</b>
<b>IE</b>	8.4	8.0	8.0	8.0	7.9	7.9	7.9	<b>7.9</b>
<b>IT</b>	23.3	24.2	24.2	24.2	:	:	:	:
<b>CY</b>	10.8	10.8	10.8	10.6	10.6	11.1	11.2	<b>10.9</b>
<b>LV</b>	19.1	18.6	18.5	18.2	18.0	17.9	17.8	<b>17.5</b>
<b>LT</b>	20.5	14.4	14.3	14.3	14.3	13.5	13.2	<b>12.5</b>
<b>LU</b>	18.4	18.1	18.1	18.5	19.1	19.7	19.9	<b>19.7</b>
<b>HU</b>	14.8	15.9	15.9	15.9	16.0	16.1	16.1	<b>16.3</b>
<b>MT</b>	16.5	15.6	15.3	15.4	15.5	15.4	15.2	<b>15.1</b>
<b>NL</b>	7.7	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.4	8.3	8.3	<b>8.1</b>
<b>AT</b>	9.1	9.4	9.5	9.6	9.7	9.8	9.9	<b>10.1</b>
<b>PL</b>	39.5	37.1	36.6	36.5	36.2	36.0	35.7	<b>35.3</b>
<b>PT</b>	16.1	15.8	15.7	15.6	15.6	15.5	15.3	<b>15.1</b>
<b>SI</b>	14.0	13.6	13.6	12.7	12.6	13.5	13.6	<b>13.4</b>
<b>SK</b>	31.5	28.7	28.0	27.4	26.8	26.2	25.7	<b>25.2</b>
<b>FI</b>	20.7	20.6	20.6	20.5	20.4	20.3	20.1	<b>20.0</b>
<b>SE<sup>b</sup></b>	16.3	16.5	18.0	16.6	:	:	:	:
<b>UK</b>	12.1	12.5	12.0	12.1	12.7	12.7	:	:
<b>US</b>	11.9	11.7	12.4	11.6	11.8	11.8	11.2	<b>10.8</b>
<b>JP</b>	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:

**25 YEARS AND OVER**

	July 2004	Jan 2005	Feb 2005	Mar 2005	Apr 2005	May 2005	June 2005	July 2005
<b>Euro-zone</b>	7.6	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.4	<b>7.4</b>
<b>EU25</b>	7.7	7.4	7.5	7.4	7.5	7.4	7.4	<b>7.4</b>
<b>BE</b>	6.4	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.9	6.9	<b>6.8</b>
<b>CZ</b>	7.0	6.8	6.8	6.7	6.7	6.6	6.5	<b>6.5</b>
<b>DK</b>	4.9	4.7	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.5	4.5	:
<b>DE<sup>b</sup></b>	8.7	8.4	8.6	8.5	8.8	8.8	8.6	<b>8.7</b>
<b>EE</b>	7.8	7.0	6.9	6.8	6.8	6.7	6.7	<b>6.5</b>
<b>EL</b>	8.9	8.4	8.4	8.4	:	:	:	:
<b>ES</b>	9.4	8.6	8.5	8.4	8.2	8.1	8.0	<b>7.9</b>
<b>FR</b>	8.2	8.2	8.3	8.3	8.2	8.2	8.2	<b>8.1</b>
<b>IE</b>	3.8	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.6	<b>3.6</b>
<b>IT</b>	6.4	6.3	6.3	6.3	:	:	:	:
<b>CY</b>	4.3	4.9	5.0	4.5	4.1	4.3	4.6	<b>4.7</b>
<b>LV</b>	8.5	8.4	8.4	8.2	8.1	8.0	7.8	<b>7.7</b>
<b>LT</b>	10.2	8.5	8.3	8.1	7.9	7.7	7.5	<b>7.4</b>
<b>LU</b>	3.8	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.1	4.3	4.4	<b>4.4</b>
<b>HU</b>	4.9	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	<b>5.4</b>
<b>MT</b>	4.4	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.1	4.0	<b>3.9</b>
<b>NL</b>	3.9	4.1	4.2	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	<b>4.1</b>
<b>AT</b>	4.2	4.2	4.3	4.3	4.2	4.3	4.3	<b>4.3</b>
<b>PL</b>	15.9	15.5	15.5	15.4	15.4	15.4	15.3	<b>15.2</b>
<b>PT</b>	5.8	6.2	6.3	6.4	6.3	6.3	6.3	<b>6.3</b>
<b>SI</b>	4.9	4.8	4.9	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	<b>5.0</b>
<b>SK</b>	16.1	14.6	14.4	14.2	14.0	13.9	13.9	<b>13.8</b>
<b>FI</b>	7.4	7.1	7.0	6.9	6.8	6.7	6.7	<b>6.7</b>
<b>SE<sup>b</sup></b>	4.9	4.8	4.9	4.9	:	:	:	:
<b>UK</b>	3.2	3.3	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	:	:
<b>US</b>	4.4	4.1	4.2	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.9	<b>4.0</b>
<b>JP</b>	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:

: Data not available  
Source: Eurostat