

31. How likely are young people to be unemployed?

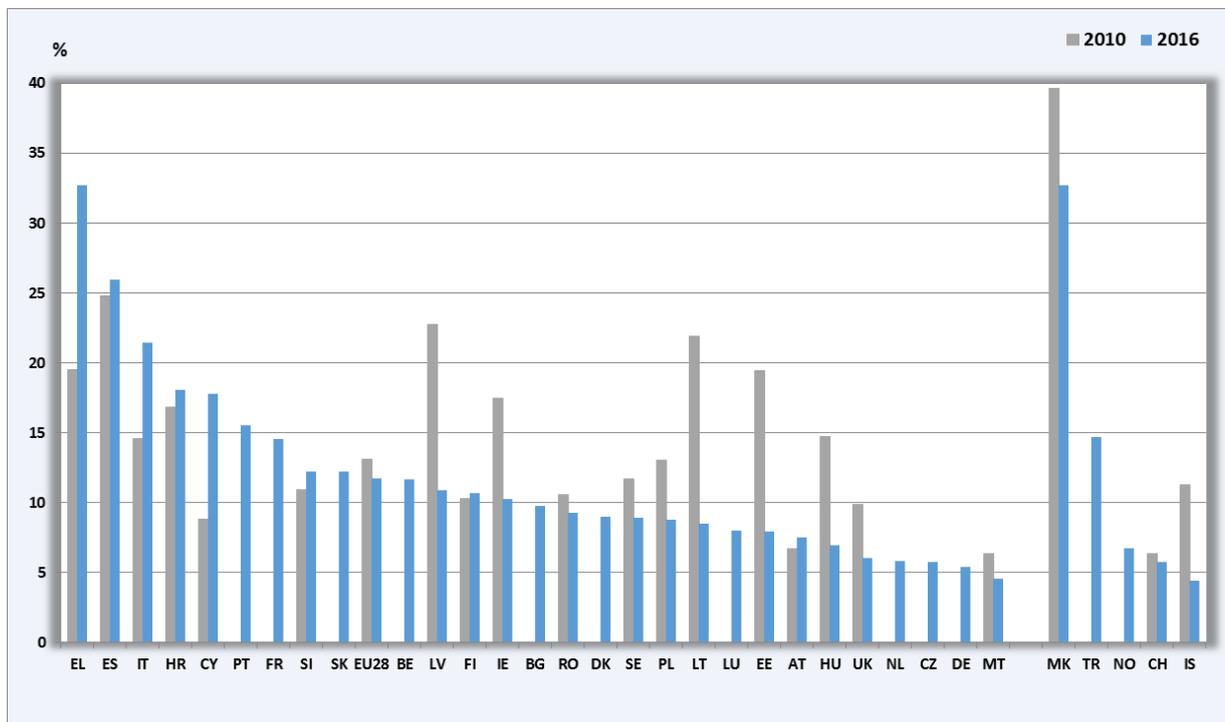
Indicator 3040: unemployment rate for 20-34 year-olds

An important EU policy today is bringing about successful transition between school and work for young people. Where young people struggle to make the transition for whatever reason, long-term consequences can be felt affecting their progression through the labour market over the lifecycle.

The youth unemployment rate is one measure which reflects the difficulties some young people face in making the transition from school to work. While it is generally calculated for those aged 15-24, the indicator below focuses on the 20-34 age group. This is to offer a more comprehensive view on young people, also considering later entry into the labour market due to young people staying longer in initial education and training; and to exclude the age group 15-19, where active participation in the labour market is relatively small (with many individuals being in education and training).

The indicator is defined as the percentage of the active population who are unemployed: these are individuals without a job, actively looking for one, and readily available to start work. The active population is defined as the population either employed or unemployed. It therefore excludes the economically inactive people (those not working and not looking for a job).

Figure 31 Unemployment rate for 20-34 year-olds (%)



Source: Cedefop calculations based on Eurostat, EU labour force survey.

Key points

In 2016 the EU average unemployment rate for 20-34 year-olds was 11.8%. The highest rate was reported by Greece (32.7%), followed by Spain (26.0%), Italy (21.5%), Croatia (18.1%), and

Cyprus (17.8%). In contrast, Malta (4.6%), Germany (5.4%), the Czech Republic (5.8%), the Netherlands (5.8%), and the United Kingdom (6.1%) had the lowest rates in 2016.

The EU average unemployment rate for 20-34 year-olds dropped by 1.3 percentage points between 2010 and 2016. This limited average change covers quite large differences between Member States. Over the same period, Lithuania reported the largest drop (by 13.4 percentage points) in the unemployment rate for 20-34 year-olds, while Greece experienced the sharpest rise (by 13.2 percentage points).

Among the non-EU countries considered, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia had a high unemployment rate for 30-34 year-olds in 2016, at 32.7% (equal to the rate in Greece). Iceland had the lowest unemployment rate for 20-34 year-olds (at 4.4%).

Table 31 Unemployment rate for 20-34 year-olds (%)

Country code	Country	2010		2016		Recent change		
		Value	Flag	Value	Flag	Range	Country	EU28
EU28	European Union (28)	13.1		11.8		'10-'16	↘	-1.3
BE	Belgium			11.7	b	'11-'16	↗	1.0
BG	Bulgaria			9.8	b	'11-'16	↘	-5.5
CZ	Czech Republic			5.8	b	'11-'16	↘	-2.8
DK	Denmark			9.0	b			
DE	Germany			5.4	b	'11-'16	↘	-1.5
EE	Estonia	19.5		7.9		'10-'16	↘	-11.5
IE	Ireland	17.5		10.3		'10-'16	↘	-7.2
EL	Greece	19.5		32.7		'10-'16	↗	13.2
ES	Spain	24.8		26.0		'10-'16	↗	1.2
FR	France			14.6	b	'14-'16	↘	-0.3
HR	Croatia	16.8		18.1		'10-'16	↗	1.2
IT	Italy	14.6		21.5		'10-'16	↗	6.9
CY	Cyprus	8.8		17.8		'10-'16	↗	9.0
LV	Latvia	22.8		10.9		'10-'16	↘	-11.9
LT	Lithuania	21.9		8.5		'10-'16	↘	-13.4
LU	Luxembourg			8.0	b	'15-'16	↘	-0.6
HU	Hungary	14.7		7.0		'10-'16	↘	-7.7
MT	Malta	6.4		4.6		'10-'16	↘	-1.8
NL	Netherlands			5.8	b	'11-'16	↗	0.6
AT	Austria	6.7		7.5		'10-'16	↗	0.8
PL	Poland	13.1		8.8		'10-'16	↘	-4.3
PT	Portugal			15.6	b	'11-'16	↘	-1.2
RO	Romania	10.6		9.3		'10-'16	↘	-1.3
SI	Slovenia	10.9		12.3		'10-'16	↗	1.3
SK	Slovakia			12.3	b	'11-'16	↘	-5.8
FI	Finland	10.3		10.7		'10-'16	↗	0.4
SE	Sweden	11.7		8.9		'10-'16	↘	-2.8
UK	United Kingdom	9.9		6.1		'10-'16	↘	-3.8
MK	The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	39.7		32.7		'10-'16	↘	-7.0
IS	Iceland	11.3		4.4		'10-'16	↘	-6.9
NO	Norway			6.8	b	'13-'16	↗	1.7
CH	Switzerland	6.4		5.8		'10-'16	↘	-0.6
TR	Turkey			14.7	b	'14-'16	↗	1.8

Arrows ↗ or ↘ signal a positive or negative change. Arrow → indicates: no change.

(b) Break after 2010. Therefore baseline data not included.

Source: Eurostat, EU labour force survey.

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