

SDG Goal 8	Decent work and economic growth
SDG Target 8.5	By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value
SDG Indicator 8.5.2	Unemployment rate, by sex, age and persons with disabilities
Time series	Unemployment rate

1. General information on the time series

- Date of national metadata: 23 January 2023
- National data: <http://sdg-indicators.de/8-5-2/>
- Definition: The time series measures the percentage of persons aged 15-74 years in the labour force who are unemployed according to the ILO concept. The labour force corresponds to the sum of persons in employment and in unemployment.
- Disaggregation: age group; sex

2. Comparability with the UN metadata

- Date of UN metadata: March 2025
- UN metadata: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/files/Metadata-08-05-02.pdf>
- The time series is compliant with the UN metadata.

3. Data description

- The data is derived from the European labour force survey (EU-LFS) conducted by the Federal Statistical Office. The statistics is integrated in the microcensus and is harmonised in all EU member states.

The data for the indicator refer to employment, i.e. work performed for pay, while activities that are not primarily performed for payment (i.e. own-account production, volunteer work, and unpaid internships) are not included. The microcensus is an inquiry directed to households, designed to obtain information with a sample of 1 % on the population, labor market, housing situation, education, health and various topics related to the economic and social situation of households.

The survey population includes: persons in private households and collective households at their main and secondary place of residence.

The survey population does not include: members of foreign armed forces as well as foreign diplomatic representations with their family members. Persons without a place of residence (homeless people) have no chance of being covered in the microcensus.

The microcensus was re-designed in 2020. In addition to the already integrated European labour force survey (EU-LFS), the European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC) have also been integrated in the survey since 2020. This entails several changes. These changes concern adjustments in survey design, the order of questions as well as the introduction of an online questionnaire as an additional mode of data collection. Furthermore, the corresponding IT infrastructure entirely changed, which lead to further issues during the implementation of the survey. This situation was exacerbated due to the pandemic in 2020 and the social restrictions going along. During the Corona crisis computer-assisted personal interviews, which thus far constituted the main way of collecting data in the microcensus, became almost impossible. Moreover, dunning letters were widely suspended. Overall, these factors lead to considerably lower response rates. These issues have been addressed by

statistical model calculations. As a consequence, the comparability with previous years is limited and the usual level of detail for further analyses or detailed data processing is restricted. In 2021 however already the effects were much less strong than in 2020.

4. Access to data source

- Unemployment rate – GENESIS online 13231-0003:
<https://www-genesis.destatis.de/genesis//online?operation=table&code=13231-0003&bypass=true&language=en>
- Unemployment rates – Eurostat table [lfsa_urgan]:
https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/lfsa_urgan/default/table?lang=en

5. Metadata on source data

- Quality Report – Monthly Unemployment Statistics According to the ILO Concept 11/2015 - 10/2016:
<https://www.destatis.de/EN/Methods/Quality/QualityReports/Labour-Market/monthly-unemployment-ilo-concept.pdf>

6. Timeliness and frequency

- Timeliness: t + 4 months
- Frequency: Annual

7. Calculation method

- Unit of measurement: Percentage
- Calculation:

$$\text{Unemployment rate} = \frac{\text{Unemployed persons [number]}}{\text{Labour force (persons in employment + unemployed persons) [number]}} \cdot 100 [\%]$$