October 2018

Euro area unemployment at 8.1%

EU28 at 6.7%

The **euro area** (EA19) seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate was 8.1% in October 2018, stable compared with September 2018 and down from 8.8% in October 2017. This remains the lowest rate recorded in the **euro area** since November 2008. The **EU28** unemployment rate was 6.7% in October 2018, stable compared with September 2018 and down from 7.4% in October 2017. This remains the lowest rate recorded in the **EU28** since the start of the EU monthly unemployment series in January 2000. These figures are published by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**.

Eurostat estimates that 16.626 million men and women in the **EU28**, of whom 13.172 million in the **euro area**, were unemployed in October 2018. Compared with September 2018, the number of persons unemployed decreased by 4 000 in the **EU28** and increased by 12 000 in the **euro area**. Compared with October 2017, unemployment fell by 1.523 million in the **EU28** and by 1.121 million in the **euro area**.

Member States

Among the Member States, the lowest unemployment rates in October 2018 were recorded in **Czechia** (2.2%) and **Germany** (3.3%). The highest unemployment rates were observed in **Greece** (18.9% in August 2018) and **Spain** (14.8%).

Compared with a year ago, the unemployment rate fell in all Member States. The largest decreases were registered in **Croatia** (from 10.2% to 8.1%), **Greece** (from 20.8% to 18.9% between August 2017 and August 2018) **Spain** (from 16.6% to 14.8%) and **Portugal** (from 8.4% to 6.7%).

In October 2018, the unemployment rate in the **United States** was 3.7%, stable compared with August 2018 and down from 4.1% in October 2017.
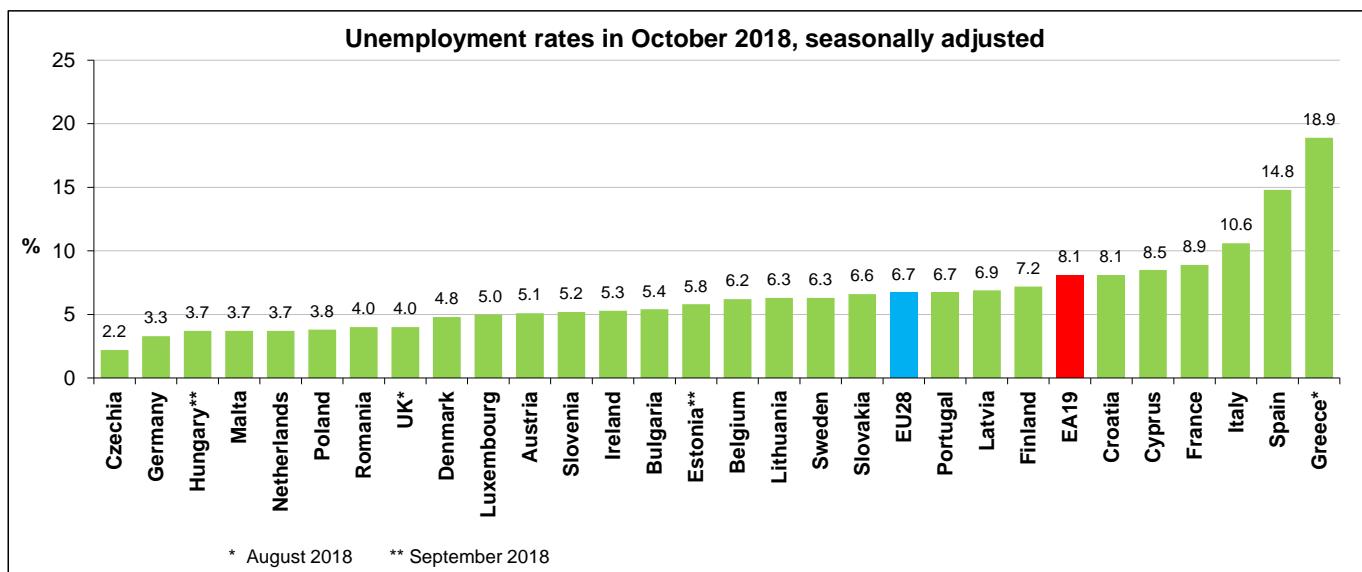
Youth unemployment

In October 2018, 3.468 million young persons (under 25) were unemployed in the **EU28**, of whom 2.503 million were in the **euro area**. Compared with October 2017, youth unemployment decreased by 215 000 in the **EU28** and by 78 000 in the **euro area**. In October 2018, the youth unemployment rate was 15.3% in the **EU28** and 17.3% in the **euro area**, compared with 16.3% and 18.1% respectively in October 2017. In October 2018, the lowest rates were observed in **Czechia** (5.2%), **Germany** (6.2%) and the **Netherlands** (7.2%), while the highest were recorded in **Greece** (36.8% in August 2018), **Spain** (34.9%) and **Italy** (32.5%).

Geographical information

The **euro area (EA19)** includes Belgium, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Italy, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Austria, Portugal, Slovenia, Slovakia and Finland.

The **European Union (EU28)** includes Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechia, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Croatia, Italy, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Hungary, Malta, the Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Finland, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

Methods and definitions

Eurostat produces harmonised unemployment rates for individual EU Member States, the euro area and the EU. These unemployment rates are based on the definition recommended by the International Labour Organisation (ILO). The measurement is based on a harmonised source, the European Union Labour Force Survey (LFS).

Based on the ILO definition, Eurostat defines **unemployed persons** as persons aged 15 to 74 who:
- 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 plus unemployed. In this news release unemployment rates are based on employment and unemployment data covering persons aged 15 to 74.

The **youth unemployment rate** is the number of people aged 15 to 24 unemployed as a percentage of the labour force of the same age. Therefore, the youth unemployment rate should not be interpreted as the share of jobless people in the overall youth population.

When data for the most recent month are not available for a Member State, EU and EA aggregates are calculated using the latest data available for that Member State.

Country notes
Germany, the Netherlands, Austria, Finland, Sweden and Iceland: the trend component is used instead of the more volatile seasonally adjusted data.
Denmark, Estonia, Hungary, Portugal, the United Kingdom and Norway: 3-month moving averages of LFS data are used instead of pure monthly indicators.

Revisions and timetable

The data in this News Release can be subject to revisions, caused by updates to the seasonally adjusted series whenever new monthly data are added; the inclusion of the most recent LFS data in the calculation process; update of seasonal adjustment models with complete annual data.

Compared with the rates published in News Release 170/2018 of 31 October 2018, the September 2018 unemployment rate for EA19 and the EU28 remained unchanged. Among Member States, the rate has been revised by more than 0.1 percentage points (pp) downwards for France and Latvia (both by 0.3 pp) as well as for Romania and Sweden (both by 0.2 pp). The unemployment rate has been revised by more than 0.1 percentage points (pp) upwards for Cyprus (by 1.0 pp), Lithuania and Poland (both by 0.4 pp) as well as for Italy (by 0.2 pp).

For more information

Eurostat website section on employment and unemployment
Eurostat database section on unemployment, including non-seasonally adjusted and trend data
Eurostat Statistics Explained article on unemployment
Eurostat Statistics Explained article on youth unemployment
Eurostat metadata on adjusted unemployment series
Eurostat €-indicators release calendar

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Euro area and EU28 unemployment rates
Seasonally adjusted series

— Euro area (EA19) — EU28

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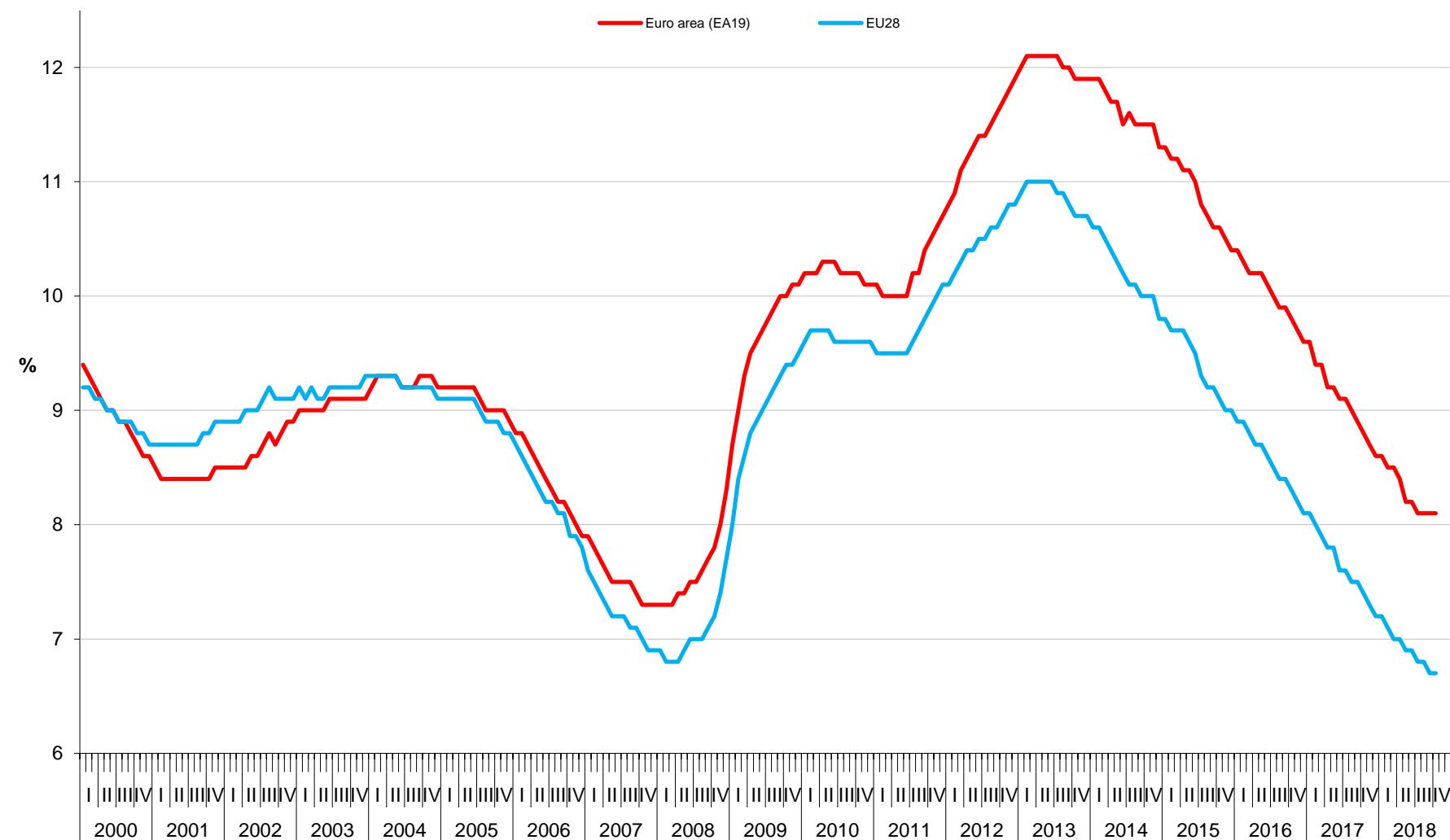
Seasonally adjusted unemployment, totals

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	Oct 17	Jul 18	Aug 18	Sep 18	Oct 18	Oct 17	Jul 18	Aug 18	Sep 18	Oct 18
EA19	8.8	8.1	8.1	8.1	**8.1**	14 293	13 269	13 164	13 160	**13 172**
EU28	7.4	6.8	6.8	6.7	**6.7**	18 149	16 765	16 664	16 630	**16 626**
Belgium	6.6	6.6	6.5	6.3	**6.2**	331	331	327	319	**313**
Bulgaria	5.9	5.3	5.3	5.3	**5.4**	197	175	174	175	**177**
Czechia	2.5	2.4	2.3	2.2	**2.2**	136	129	122	119	**116**
Denmark	5.5	4.9	4.8	4.8	**4.8**	165	150	145	146	**145**
Germany	3.6	3.4	3.4	3.4	**3.3**	1 572	1 466	1 458	1 450	**1 441**
Estonia	5.9**	5.3	5.5	5.8	**:**	41**	37	38	41	**:**
Ireland	6.6	5.8	5.6	5.4	**5.3**	156	140	135	130	**126**
Greece	20.8*	19.1	18.9	:	**:**	992*	904	897	:	**:**
Spain	16.6	15.1	15.0	14.9	**14.8**	3 771	3 430	3 419	3 396	**3 383**
France	9.2	9.0	9.0	9.0	**8.9**	2 736	2 688	2 690	2 677	**2 658**
Croatia	10.2	8.6	8.4	8.2	**8.1**	187	156	153	149	**146**
Italy	11.0	10.4	10.1	10.3	**10.6**	2 864	2 683	2 607	2 682	**2 746**
Cyprus	10.0	8.2	8.2	8.4	**8.5**	42	36	36	37	**37**
Latvia	8.3	7.4	7.1	6.9	**6.9**	82	72	70	68	**68**
Lithuania	6.7	6.3	6.3	6.6	**6.3**	97	91	91	97	**92**
Luxembourg	5.4	5.2	5.2	5.0	**5.0**	16	15	15	15	**15**
Hungary	4**	3.7	3.8	3.7	**:**	185**	173	177	174	**:**
Malta	4.0	3.9	3.8	3.8	**3.7**	9	10	9	9	**9**
Netherlands	4.5	3.8	3.9	3.7	**3.7**	404	348	353	343	**337**
Austria	5.3	5.0	4.9	5.0	**5.1**	240	225	222	226	**231**
Poland	4.5	3.8	3.8	3.8	**3.8**	777	655	656	654	**653**
Portugal	8.4	6.8	6.9	6.6	**6.7**	434	350	359	341	**347**
Romania	4.7	4.1	4.1	3.9	**4.0**	434	375	371	355	**370**
Slovenia	6.0	5.3	5.3	5.2	**5.2**	62	55	55	54	**54**
Slovakia	7.7	6.7	6.6	6.6	**6.6**	211	183	181	181	**180**
Finland	8.4	7.5	7.4	7.2	**7.2**	230	205	202	198	**197**
Sweden	6.5	6.3	6.4	6.3	**6.3**	353	345	346	347	**347**
United Kingdom	4.2*	4.0	4.0	:	**:**	1 410*	1 331	1 343	:	**:**
Iceland	2.9	2.7	2.7	2.6	**2.6**	6	6	5	5	**5**
Norway	4**	4.0	4.0	4.0	**:**	112**	112	113	113	**:**
United States	4.1	3.9	3.9	3.7	**3.7**	6 510	6 283	6 208	5 990	**6 057**

The source datasets are available here (rates) and here (in 1000 persons).
: Data not available   * August 2017   ** September 2017

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Seasonally adjusted youth (under 25s) unemployment

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	Oct 17	Jul 18	Aug 18	Sep 18	Oct 18	Oct 17	Jul 18	Aug 18	Sep 18	Oct 18
EA19	18.1	17.0	17.0	17.1	**17.3**	2 581	2 423	2 443	2 471	**2 503**
EU28	16.3	15.1	15.2	15.3	**15.3**	3 683	3 388	3 410	3 434	**3 468**
Belgium	16.5	19.0	19.0	19.0	:	60	75	75	75	:
Bulgaria	12.0	14.3	13.4	12.4	**11.9**	21	21	19	18	**17**
Czechia	6.5	6.5	6.0	5.9	**5.2**	20	19	18	17	**15**
Denmark	9.9	9.1	9.4	9.1	**9.0**	46	42	42	41	**41**
Germany	6.5	6.3	6.3	6.2	**6.2**	276	267	267	266	**264**
Estonia	9.2	13.2	16.8	18.6	:	5	8	10	11	:
Ireland	13.9	14.4	13.9	12.9	**12.0**	38	39	37	35	**33**
Greece	41.4	37.6	36.8	:	:	110	91	89	:	:
Spain	37.2	34.4	34.6	34.5	**34.9**	565	515	521	531	**540**
France	21.4	21.1	21.1	21.2	**21.5**	595	602	608	622	**639**
Croatia	25.7	23.7	23.7	23.7	:	41	34	34	34	:
Italy	34.1	31.5	32.0	32.4	**32.5**	525	475	480	491	**497**
Cyprus	23.1	19.4*	:	:	:	8	7*	:	:	:
Latvia	17.1	10.4	9.6	9.5	**10.3**	11	7	7	7	**7**
Lithuania	12.9	9.9	10.1	10.7	**10.6**	14	11	12	13	**13**
Luxembourg	14.0	13.1	13.2	12.1	**11.9**	3	3	3	3	**3**
Hungary	10.3	9.7	10.0	9.9	:	35	32	33	33	:
Malta	10.9	9.2	9.0	9.4	**9.5**	3	3	3	3	**3**
Netherlands	7.9	7.3	7.7	7.5	**7.2**	114	106	112	109	**105**
Austria	9.6	9.3	8.8	9.3	**9.8**	51	49	47	49	**52**
Poland	14.5	12.0	12.2	12.4	**12.7**	192	154	156	159	**163**
Portugal	24.5	19.7	20.4	19.9	**21.4**	92	74	78	75	**81**
Romania	19.7	16.6*	:	:	:	126	103*	:	:	:
Slovenia	11.0	8.6	8.6	8.6	:	8	7	7	7	:
Slovakia	18.5	14.4	14.1	14.4	**14.2**	37	27	27	27	**27**
Finland	19.3	17.5	17.6	17.8	**17.8**	63	56	56	56	**56**
Sweden	16.8	16.8	17.0	16.8	**17.2**	107	104	105	105	**105**
United Kingdom	12.0	10.7	10.9	:	:	517	450	458	:	:
Iceland	7.4	6.8	6.7	6.5	**6.4**	2	2	2	2	**2**
Norway	10.3	10.2	9.8	10.1	:	38	37	36	37	:

The source datasets are available here (rates) and here (in 1000 persons).
: Data not available   * Q2 2018 data
Belgium, Croatia, Cyprus, Romania and Slovenia: quarterly data

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Seasonally adjusted unemployment rates (%), by gender

	Males					Females				
	Oct 17	Jul 18	Aug 18	Sep 18	Oct 18	Oct 17	Jul 18	Aug 18	Sep 18	Oct 18
EA19	8.4	7.8	7.8	7.8	**7.7**	9.2	8.5	8.4	8.4	**8.4**
EU28	7.1	6.6	6.6	6.6	**6.5**	7.6	7.0	7.0	7.0	**6.9**
Belgium	6.7	6.7	6.6	6.4	**6.2**	6.6	6.4	6.4	6.3	**6.2**
Bulgaria	6.0	5.8	5.8	5.9	**6.0**	5.8	4.7	4.6	4.6	**4.6**
Czechia	2.1	2.1	1.8	1.8	**1.7**	3.0	2.8	2.9	2.7	**2.7**
Denmark	5.2	4.8	4.8	4.8	**4.8**	5.8	5.1	4.8	4.8	**4.7**
Germany	4.0	3.8	3.8	3.8	**3.8**	3.3	2.9	2.9	2.9	**2.9**
Estonia	5.6	5.4	5.6	6.1	**:**	5.1	5.2	5.4	5.6	**:**
Ireland	6.9	5.9	5.8	5.7	**5.5**	6.2	5.7	5.4	5.1	**4.9**
Greece	17.2	15.2	15.0	:	**:**	25.8	23.9	23.7	:	**:**
Spain	15.0	13.6	13.6	13.5	**13.5**	18.4	16.8	16.7	16.5	**16.4**
France	9.3	9.2	9.2	9.1	**8.9**	9.2	8.9	8.9	8.9	**8.9**
Croatia	9.6	8.2	8.0	7.9	**7.7**	10.9	9.0	8.8	8.6	**8.5**
Italy	10.2	9.5	9.2	9.5	**9.6**	12.2	11.5	11.2	11.5	**11.8**
Cyprus	10.1	7.7	7.7	7.9	**8.1**	10.0	8.8	8.9	8.9	**8.9**
Latvia	9.1	8.6	8.2	7.9	**7.7**	7.6	6.1	6.0	5.9	**6.1**
Lithuania	8.0	6.8	6.7	7.1	**6.9**	5.4	5.7	5.8	6.1	**5.8**
Luxembourg	5.1	4.8	4.8	4.7	**4.7**	5.6	5.5	5.6	5.4	**5.3**
Hungary	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.4	**:**	4.4	4.1	4.3	4.1	**:**
Malta	3.9	4.1	3.9	3.8	**3.6**	4.0	3.8	3.7	3.8	**3.9**
Netherlands	4.2	3.8	3.8	3.7	**3.6**	4.7	3.9	3.9	3.8	**3.7**
Austria	5.8	5.0	4.8	5.2	**5.6**	4.9	4.9	5.0	4.8	**4.5**
Poland	4.4	3.9	4.0	4.0	**3.9**	4.7	3.7	3.6	3.6	**3.7**
Portugal	7.9	6.4	6.5	6.1	**6.2**	9.0	7.2	7.4	7.1	**7.2**
Romania	5.3	4.7	4.7	4.5	**4.6**	4.0	3.4	3.3	3.2	**3.2**
Slovenia	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	**5.0**	7.0	5.5	5.4	5.3	**5.4**
Slovakia	7.4	6.0	5.9	5.9	**5.8**	8.1	7.5	7.5	7.5	**7.5**
Finland	8.7	7.6	7.4	7.2	**7.1**	8.1	7.4	7.3	7.3	**7.3**
Sweden	6.8	6.3	6.4	6.3	**6.3**	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.3	**6.3**
United Kingdom	4.3	4.0	4.1	:	**:**	4.2	3.9	3.9	:	**:**
Iceland	2.9	2.7	2.6	2.4	**2.3**	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	**2.8**
Norway	4.4	4.3	4.3	4.3	**:**	3.5	3.6	3.7	3.7	**:**

The source dataset is available here.

: Data not available

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