

# 04 Ways to understand

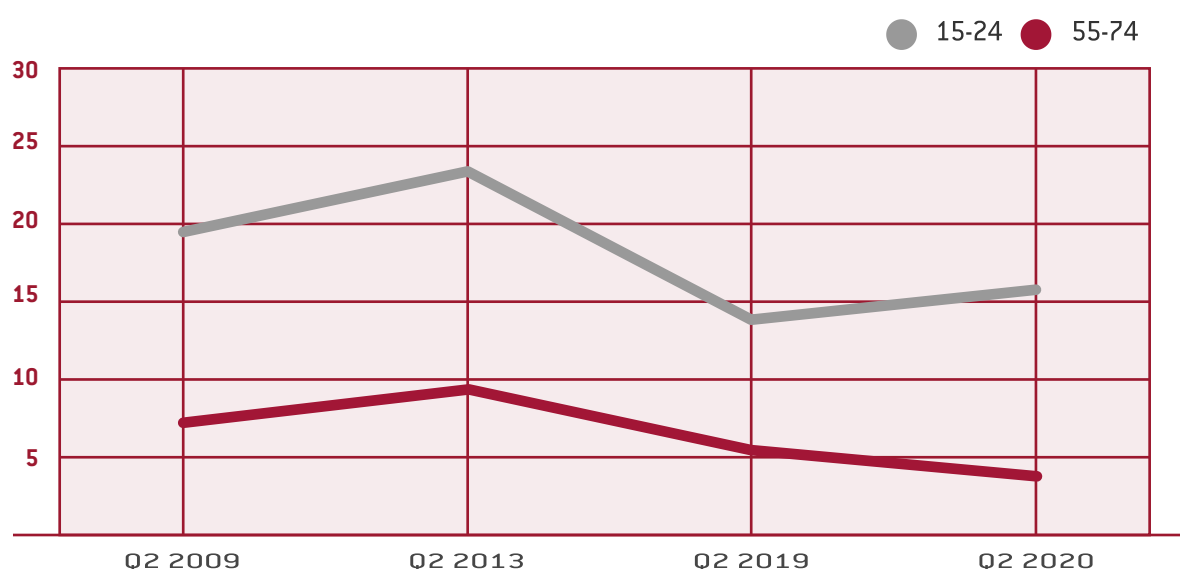
## The scarring effect of COVID-19: youth unemployment in Europe

Even before the pandemic, youth unemployment in the European Union was three times higher than among the over-55s. COVID-19 threatens to undo the last decade of progress: policymakers must act to avoid Europe's youth suffering the scarring effect.

Grzegorzczuk, M. and G. Wolff (2020) 'The scarring effect of COVID-19: youth unemployment in Europe', Bruegel Blog.

### 01 Europe unemployment rates (% labour force)

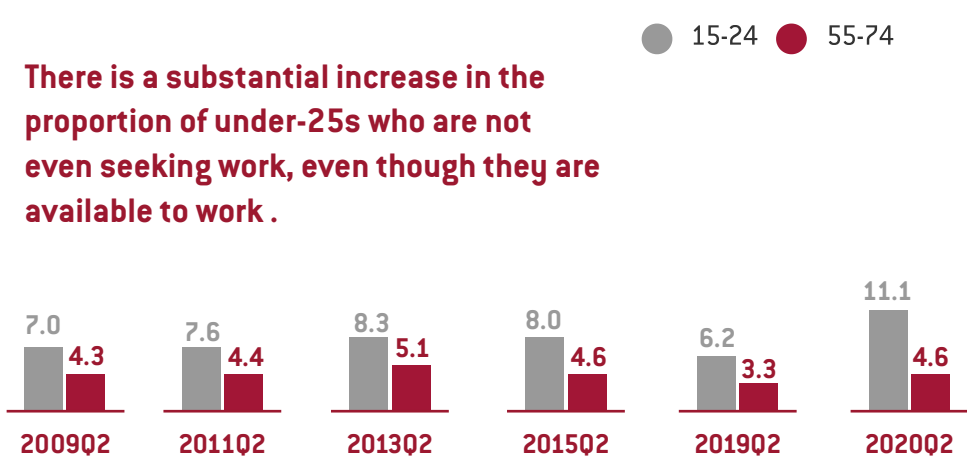
Unemployment in EU countries for workers aged 15-24 and those aged 55-64. Youth unemployment increased during the second quarter of 2020, while unemployment remained almost unchanged compare to the year before for the older cohort.



Source: Bruegel based on Eurostat

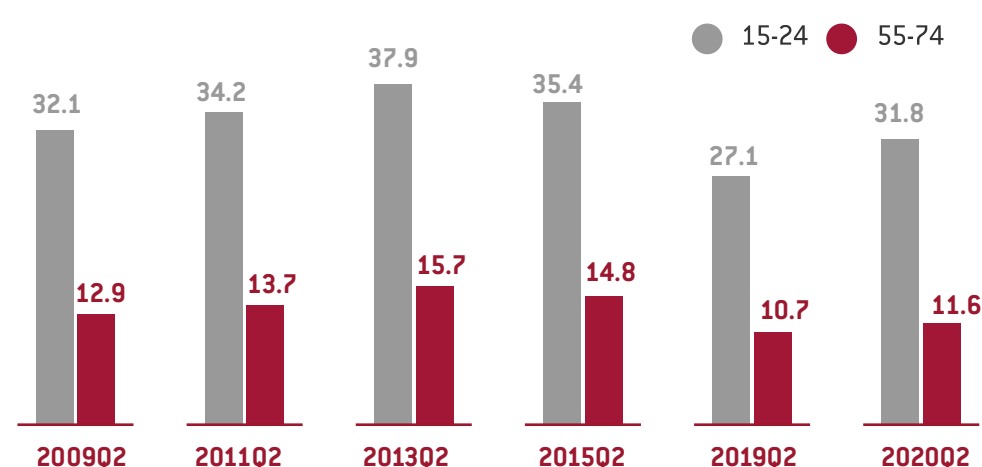
### 02 Persons available to work but not seeking work, Europe (% of the extended labour force)

There is a substantial increase in the proportion of under-25s who are not even seeking work, even though they are available to work.

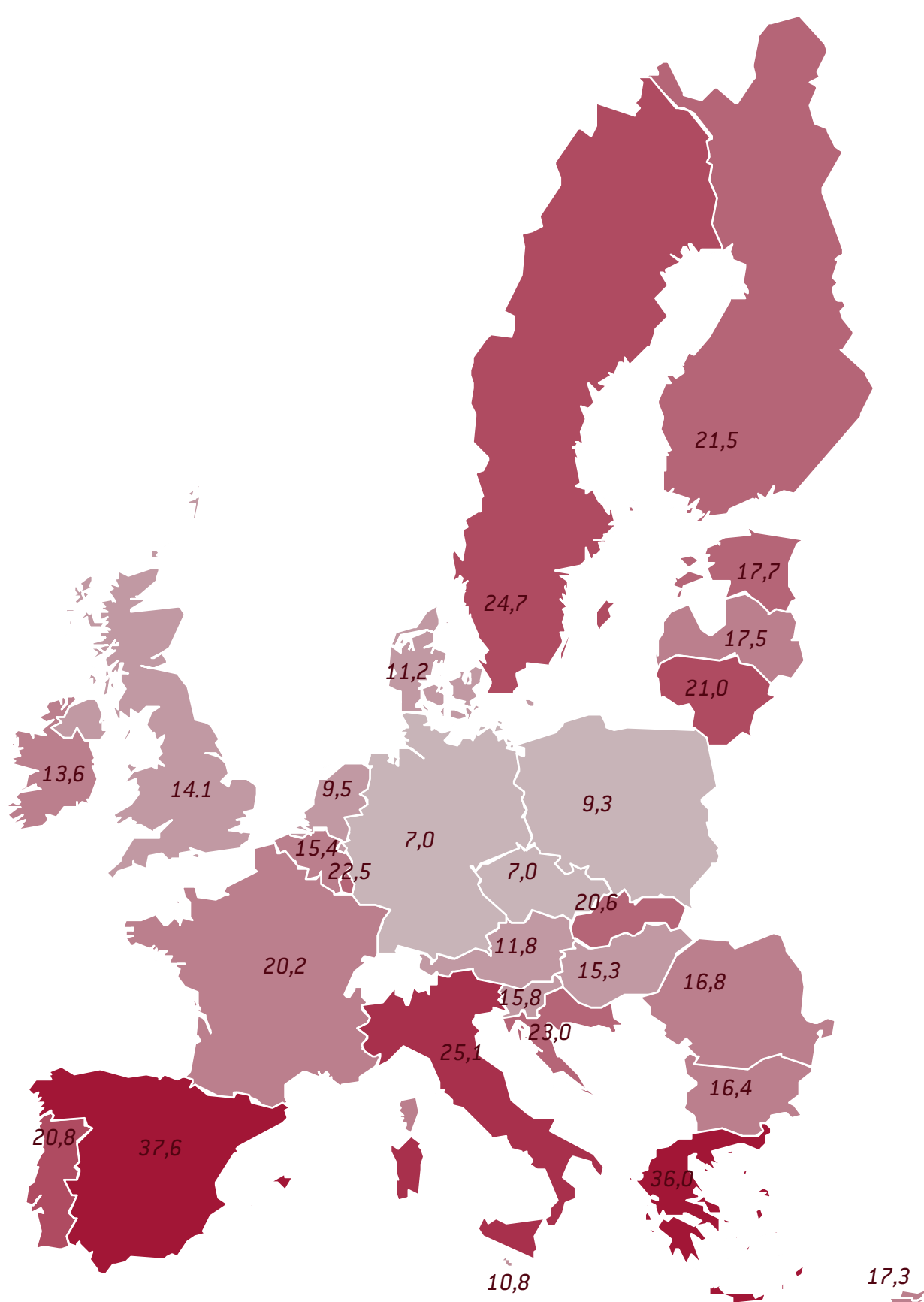


Source: Bruegel based on Eurostat lfsi\_sla\_q database

### 03 Labour market slack in Europe (% of the extended labour force)



### 04 The geography of youth unemployment in Europe (aged 15-24, % labour force, as of August 2020\*)



Source: Bruegel based on Eurostat

\*Romania: the latest available data is for June 2020