

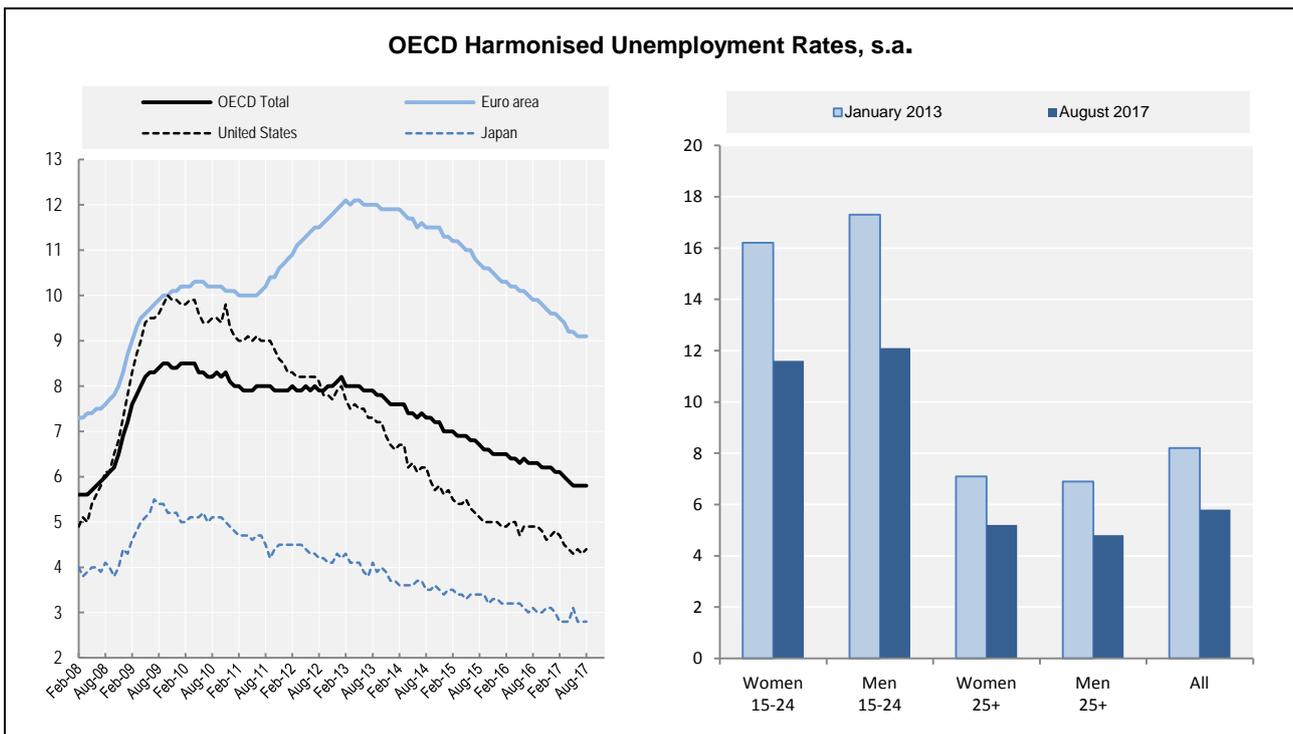
OECD unemployment rate stable at 5.8% in August 2017

The **OECD** unemployment rate was stable at 5.8% in August 2017, unchanged since May. Across the **OECD** area, 36.1 million people were unemployed, 3.5 million more than in April 2008.

The unemployment rate remained stable in the **euro area** in August, at 9.1% for the third consecutive month. The largest declines in the area were observed in **Latvia** (down 0.3 percentage point, to 8.2%) and the **Slovak Republic** (down 0.2 percentage point, to 7.5%), while the largest increase was recorded in **Austria** (up 0.2 percentage point, to 5.6%).

The unemployment rate decreased by 0.1 percentage point in **Canada** (to 6.2%, the third consecutive monthly decline), while it increased by 0.2 percentage point in **Korea** (to 3.8%), and by 0.1 percentage point in **Mexico** (to 3.3%) and the **United States** (to 4.4%). It remained stable in **Japan**, at 2.8%. More recent data for the **United States** indicate that the unemployment rate decreased by 0.2 percentage point, to 4.2% in September, while it was stable in **Canada**.

The **OECD** unemployment rate was stable for both **women** and **men** and across age-groups in August. Although the **youth** (people aged 15 to 24) unemployment rate remains at twice the overall unemployment rate, it has decreased more rapidly since the peak in January 2013 (down 4.6 percentage points, to 11.6%, for young **women** and 5.2 percentage points, to 12.1%, for young **men**) than for people aged **25 and above** (whose unemployment rate declined by 1.9 percentage points for **women**, to 5.2% and by 2.1 percentage points for **men**, to 4.8%).



Methodological Notes: <http://www.oecd.org/std/labourstatistics/44743407.pdf>

All rates and levels quoted are seasonally adjusted (s.a.).

Labour Market Statistics: <http://stats.oecd.org/index.aspx?queryid=36324>

Country Note: The statistical data for Israel are supplied by and under the responsibility of the relevant Israeli authorities. The use of such data by the OECD is without prejudice to the status of the Golan Heights, East Jerusalem and Israeli settlements in the West Bank under the terms of international law.

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Table 1: OECD Unemployment Rates, s.a.
Percentage of active population

	2014	2015	2016	2016		2017		2017					
				Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
OECD - Total	7.4	6.8	6.3	6.3	6.2	6.0	5.8	6.0	5.9	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8
Major Seven	6.4	5.8	5.5	5.4	5.3	5.2	5.0	5.1	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
European Union	10.2	9.4	8.6	8.5	8.3	8.0	7.7	7.9	7.8	7.7	7.6	7.7	7.6
Euro area	11.6	10.9	10.0	9.9	9.7	9.5	9.2	9.4	9.2	9.2	9.1	9.1	9.1
Australia	6.1	6.1	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.8	5.6	5.9	5.7	5.5	5.6	5.6	5.6
Austria	5.6	5.7	6.0	6.2	5.8	5.7	5.4	5.7	5.6	5.4	5.3	5.4	5.6
Belgium ⁽¹⁾	8.5	8.5	7.9	7.7	7.2	7.6 ^(b)	7.3	7.6	7.4	7.3	7.2	7.3	7.3
Canada ⁽²⁾	6.9	6.9	7.0	7.0	6.9	6.7	6.5	6.7	6.5	6.6	6.5	6.3	6.2
Chile	6.4	6.2	6.5	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.5	6.4	
Czech Republic	6.1	5.1	4.0	4.0	3.6	3.3	3.1	3.2	3.3	3.0	2.9	2.9	2.9
Denmark	6.5	6.2	6.2	6.4	6.3	6.0	5.7	5.9	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.8	
Estonia	7.4	6.2	6.8	7.2	6.6	5.7	6.5	5.6	6.3	6.8	6.5	6.1	
Finland	8.7	9.4	8.8	8.7	8.8	8.8	8.8	8.8	8.8	8.8	8.7	8.7	8.7
France	10.3	10.4	10.1	9.9	10.0	9.6	9.5	9.6	9.5	9.5	9.6	9.7	9.8
Germany	5.0	4.6	4.1	4.2	4.0	3.9	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.7	3.6
Greece	26.6	25.0	23.6	23.3	23.4	22.6	21.6	22.1	21.8	21.6	21.3	21.0	
Hungary	7.7	6.8	5.1	4.9	4.5	4.3	4.3	4.4	4.3	4.3	4.2	4.3	
Iceland	5.0	4.0	3.0	3.0	2.9	2.8	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.8	2.8	2.8
Ireland	11.3	9.5	7.9	7.8	7.0	6.8	6.4	6.6	6.4	6.4	6.3	6.4	6.3
Israel	5.9	5.2	4.8	4.7	4.4	4.3	4.4	4.3	4.4	4.4	4.3	4.1	4.1
Italy	12.7	11.9	11.7	11.6	11.8	11.6	11.2	11.5	11.2	11.3	11.1	11.3	11.2
Japan	3.6	3.4	3.1	3.0	3.1	2.9	2.9	2.8	2.8	3.1	2.8	2.8	2.8
Korea	3.5	3.6	3.7	3.8	3.6	3.8	3.8	3.7	4.0	3.6	3.8	3.6	3.8
Latvia	10.9	9.9	9.6	9.8	9.4	9.0	8.9	8.7	8.8	8.9	8.9	8.5	8.2
Luxembourg	6.1	6.5	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.1	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.1	6.0
Mexico	4.8	4.4	3.9	3.8	3.7	3.5	3.4	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.3	3.2	3.3
Netherlands	7.4	6.9	6.0	5.8	5.5	5.2	5.0	5.1	5.1	5.1	4.9	4.8	4.7
New Zealand	5.4	5.4	5.1	4.9	5.2	4.9	4.8						
Norway	3.5	4.4	4.7	4.9	4.6	4.3	4.4	4.5	4.5	4.3	4.3	4.2	
Poland	9.0	7.5	6.2	6.0	5.6	5.2	5.0	5.1	5.1	5.0	5.0	4.8	4.7
Portugal	14.1	12.7	11.2	10.9	10.4	9.9	9.3	9.7	9.5	9.2	9.1	8.9	8.9
Slovak Republic	13.2	11.5	9.7	9.6	9.0	8.6	8.2	8.5	8.5	8.3	7.9	7.7	7.5
Slovenia	9.7	9.0	8.0	7.8	7.9	7.2	6.7	6.9	6.8	6.7	6.6	6.5	6.5
Spain	24.5	22.1	19.7	19.3	18.7	18.2	17.3	18.0	17.6	17.3	17.1	17.1	17.1
Sweden	7.9	7.4	7.0	6.9	6.9	6.7	6.7	6.4	6.7	6.8	6.5	7.1	6.6
Switzerland	4.8	4.8	4.9	5.1	4.6	5.3	4.4						
Turkey ⁽³⁾	10.0	10.3	10.9	11.4	11.7	11.5	11.2	11.4	11.2	11.2	11.1		
United Kingdom	6.1	5.3	4.8	4.8	4.7	4.5	4.4	4.5	4.4	4.4	4.3		
United States ⁽⁴⁾	6.2	5.3	4.9	4.9	4.7	4.7	4.4	4.5	4.4	4.3	4.4	4.3	4.4

b: Break in time series

Notes:

(1) Belgium: Due to a methodological break in the Labour Force Survey, data from the 1st quarter of 2017 onwards are not comparable with previous data.

(2) Canada: Unemployment rate for September 2017 was 6.2 %.

(3) Turkey: Due to the changes introduced in the Labour Force Survey, data from January 2014 onwards are not comparable with previous data.

(4) United States: Unemployment rate for September 2017 was 4.2 %.

Table 2: Unemployment Rates by Gender, s.a.
Percentage of corresponding active population

	Women						Men					
	2016	2017		2017			2016	2017		2017		
		Q1	Q2	Jun	Jul	Aug		Q1	Q2	Jun	Jul	Aug
OECD - Total	6.4	6.2	6.0	6.0	5.9	5.9	6.2	5.9	5.7	5.6	5.6	5.6
Major Seven	5.3	5.1	5.0	5.0	4.9	4.9	5.6	5.3	5.0	5.0	5.1	5.1
European Union	8.8	8.2	7.9	7.8	7.9	7.8	8.4	7.8	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5
Euro area	10.4	9.9	9.6	9.4	9.5	9.4	9.7	9.1	8.8	8.8	8.7	8.7
Australia	5.8	6.0	5.7	5.7	5.6	5.7	5.7	5.5	5.6	5.6	5.5	
Austria	5.6	5.1	5.0	4.9	4.8	5.0	6.5	6.3	5.9	5.7	5.9	6.1
Belgium ⁽¹⁾	7.6	7.9 ^(b)	7.4	7.2	7.2	7.2	8.1	7.4 ^(b)	7.3	7.3	7.4	7.3
Canada	6.2	6.1	5.9	6.0	6.0	5.8	7.7	7.2	7.0	6.8	6.7	6.6
Chile	7.0	7.2	7.3	7.2	6.7		6.1	6.2	6.3	6.1	6.1	
Czech Republic	4.7	4.3	3.8	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.4	2.5	2.4	2.5	2.4	2.4
Denmark	6.7	6.2	5.9	5.9	5.9		5.8	5.9	5.5	5.5	5.6	
Estonia	6.1	5.5	5.9	5.5	5.0		7.4	5.8	7.1	7.4	7.0	
Finland	8.6	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.6	8.6	9.0	9.1	9.0	8.9	8.8	8.7
France	9.9	9.7	9.6	9.5	9.6	9.5	10.3	9.5	9.5	9.7	9.9	10.0
Germany	3.7	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.2	3.2	4.5	4.3	4.2	4.1	4.1	4.1
Greece	28.1	27.0	25.9	25.5	25.3		19.9	19.0	18.1	17.8	17.5	
Hungary	5.2	4.5	4.7	4.6	4.7		5.1	4.1	3.9	3.9	3.9	
Iceland	3.1	2.7	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	3.0	3.0
Ireland	6.5	6.0	5.5	5.4	5.4	5.2	9.1	7.4	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1
Israel	4.9	4.4	4.4	4.5	4.1	4.2	4.7	4.2	4.3	4.2	4.0	4.1
Italy	12.8	12.9	12.4	12.3	12.8	12.4	10.9	10.7	10.3	10.3	10.2	10.2
Japan	2.8	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.5	2.5	3.3	3.0	3.0	2.9	3.1	2.9
Korea	3.6	3.8	3.6	3.7	3.5	3.6	3.8	3.8	4.0	4.0	3.6	3.9
Latvia	8.4	7.8	7.5	7.5	7.3	7.1	10.9	10.2	10.2	10.2	9.7	9.3
Luxembourg	6.6	5.9	5.8	5.8	5.9	5.9	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.1
Mexico	4.0	3.7	3.6	3.4	3.3	3.5	3.8	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.2	3.1
Netherlands	6.5	5.7	5.5	5.4	5.2	5.1	5.6	4.8	4.6	4.6	4.5	4.4
New Zealand	5.5	5.7	4.9				4.8	4.2	4.7			
Norway	4.0	3.9	4.0	3.9	3.8		5.4	4.7	4.8	4.7	4.6	
Poland	6.2	5.2	5.0	4.8	4.7	4.6	6.1	5.2	5.1	5.1	5.0	4.8
Portugal	11.2	10.2	9.7	9.6	9.4	9.4	11.1	9.6	8.8	8.6	8.4	8.5
Slovak Republic	10.8	8.9	8.4	8.2	7.9	7.8	8.8	8.3	8.1	7.8	7.5	7.2
Slovenia	8.6	7.8	7.7	7.7	7.4	7.4	7.5	6.7	5.8	5.7	5.7	5.7
Spain	21.4	20.0	19.2	19.0	19.0	19.0	18.1	16.7	15.7	15.5	15.4	15.4
Sweden	6.6	6.3	6.3	6.2	6.9	6.2	7.3	7.0	7.0	6.7	7.2	6.9
Switzerland	5.0	5.2	4.8				4.8	5.4	4.0			
Turkey ⁽²⁾	13.7	14.4	14.7	14.6			9.6	10.1	9.5	9.5		
United Kingdom	4.7	4.3	4.2	4.2			5.0	4.8	4.5	4.4		
United States	4.8	4.6	4.4	4.4	4.3	4.4	4.9	4.7	4.3	4.4	4.4	4.5

b: Break in time series

Notes:

(1) Belgium: Due to a methodological break in the Labour Force Survey, data from the 1st quarter of 2017 onwards are not comparable with previous data.

(2) Turkey: Due to the changes introduced in the Labour Force Survey, data from January 2014 onwards are not comparable with previous data. From this date, data by gender are OECD estimates.

Table 3: Unemployment Rates by Age, s.a.
Percentage of corresponding active population

	Youth (15-24)						Prime-age and Older Workers (25+)					
	2016	2017		2017			2016	2017		2017		
		Q1	Q2	Jun	Jul	Aug		Q1	Q2	Jun	Jul	Aug
OECD - Total	13.0	12.3	12.0	11.9	11.9	11.9	5.5	5.2	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
Major Seven	11.8	11.0	10.7	10.6	10.5	10.5	4.7	4.5	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3
European Union	18.7	17.4	17.0	16.8	16.8	16.7	7.5	7.0	6.8	6.7	6.7	6.7
Euro area	21.0	19.5	19.1	18.9	18.9	18.9	9.0	8.5	8.2	8.1	8.2	8.1
Australia	12.7	12.9	12.9	13.1	12.9	12.7	4.3	4.4	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2
Austria	11.2	10.4	9.8	8.8	9.6	10.2	5.3	5.1	4.9	4.9	4.9	5.0
Belgium ⁽¹⁾	20.1	21.4 ^(b)	21.7	21.7			6.8	6.6 ^(b)	6.3	6.2	6.2	6.1
Canada	13.1	12.8	11.9	12.0	11.1	11.5	6.0	5.7	5.6	5.5	5.5	5.4
Chile	15.7	16.2	16.5	16.5	16.4		5.3	5.5	5.5	5.4	5.2	
Czech Republic	10.5	8.9	9.0	8.5	8.3	8.0	3.5	2.9	2.7	2.6	2.5	2.5
Denmark	12.0	11.9	11.1	11.2	11.7		5.1	5.0	4.7	4.7	4.7	
Estonia	13.5	14.1	16.0	13.8	10.8		6.2	4.9	5.6	5.8	5.6	
Finland	20.0	20.4	20.7	20.8	20.7	20.6	7.3	7.2	7.1	7.1	7.0	7.0
France	24.6	23.2	23.1	23.0	23.1	23.0	8.6	8.2	8.2	8.3	8.4	8.4
Germany	7.1	6.7	6.6	6.5	6.4	6.4	3.8	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.4
Greece	47.4	46.6	43.7	43.0	42.8		22.2	21.2	20.3	20.0	19.8	
Hungary	12.9	10.8	10.6	10.5	10.7		4.5	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.7	
Iceland	6.5	7.0	7.2	7.3	7.5	7.6	2.3	2.0	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8
Ireland	17.2	13.8	12.0	12.0	12.3	12.7	7.0	6.1	5.8	5.7	5.8	5.6
Israel	8.6	6.7	7.1	7.1	8.0	9.0	4.1	3.7	3.7	3.6	3.4	3.5
Italy	37.8	35.5	35.4	35.2	35.4	35.1	10.0	10.1	9.7	9.7		
Japan	5.2	4.4	4.9	4.6	4.9	4.8	2.9	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.6
Korea	10.7	10.0	10.8	10.4	9.4	10.7	3.2	3.3	3.3	3.4	3.1	3.3
Latvia	17.2	18.3	15.9	15.1	12.5	10.9	9.0	8.3	8.2	8.3	8.2	8.0
Luxembourg	19.1	18.1	17.9	17.8	17.8	17.3	5.3	5.1	5.0	5.0	5.1	5.1
Mexico	7.7	6.8	6.8	6.6	6.9	6.6	3.1	2.8	2.7	2.6	2.5	2.6
Netherlands	10.8	9.7	9.1	8.9	8.8	8.9	5.1	4.4	4.2	4.2	4.1	3.9
New Zealand	13.2	12.5	12.9				3.6	3.5	3.3			
Norway	10.9	10.2	10.7	10.8	10.6		3.8	3.5	3.4	3.3	3.2	
Poland	17.6	14.9	15.1	14.9	14.4	13.9	5.2	4.4	4.2	4.1	4.0	4.0
Portugal	28.2	24.1	23.7	23.7	23.0	24.6	9.9	8.8	8.2	8.0	7.8	7.7
Slovak Republic	22.2	19.0	18.8	18.2	16.7	15.5	8.7	7.7	7.4	7.1	7.0	6.8
Slovenia	15.3	10.6	11.1	11.1			7.5	7.0	6.4	6.3	6.3	6.3
Spain	44.5	40.8	39.2	39.1	38.7	38.7	17.9	16.7	15.8	15.6	15.6	15.6
Sweden	18.8	17.9	17.4	17.3	19.3	17.7	5.3	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.4	5.1
Switzerland	8.6	7.9	6.9				4.4	4.9	4.0			
Turkey ⁽²⁾	19.6	21.8	21.6	21.6			9.2	9.5	9.1	9.0		
United Kingdom	13.0	12.2	12.0	11.8			3.6	3.4	3.2	3.2		
United States	10.4	9.7	9.1	9.1	9.0	8.9	4.0	3.9	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.8

b: Break in time series

Notes:

(1) Belgium: Quarterly data are shown for youth unemployment. Due to a methodological break in the Labour Force Survey, data from the 1st quarter of 2017 onwards are not comparable with previous data.

(2) Turkey: Due to the changes introduced in the Labour Force Survey, data from January 2014 onwards are not comparable with previous data.

Table 4: Unemployment Levels, s.a.
Thousands of persons

	2015	2016	2016	2017		2017			
				Q4	Q1	Q2	May	Jun	Jul
OECD - Total	41,606	39,318	38,563	37,724	36,467	36,501	36,154	36,071	36,148
Major Seven	21,630	20,546	20,194	19,703	19,004	19,062	18,931	19,000	19,045
European Union	22,879	20,917	20,179	19,610	18,940	18,981	18,762	18,851	18,747
Euro area	17,451	16,233	15,755	15,378	14,858	14,878	14,731	14,793	14,751
Australia	759	726	726	742	725	714	728	729	727
Austria	252	270	258	257	244	242	239	243	250
Belgium ⁽¹⁾	422	390	360	379 ^(b)	365	364	361	363	363
Canada	1,331	1,361	1,344	1,308	1,275	1,289	1,270	1,247	1,227
Chile	532	563	572	582	592	592	580	566	
Czech Republic	268	212	195	177	164	158	157	154	154
Denmark	181	187	190	179	170	171	170	173	
Estonia	42	47	46	40	46	48	45	42	
Finland	252	237	235	237	237	237	236	235	234
France	3,054	2,972	2,939	2,845	2,839	2,834	2,861	2,899	2,914
Germany	1,950	1,774	1,704	1,670	1,632	1,634	1,612	1,589	1,571
Greece	1,197	1,131	1,116	1,079	1,035	1,036	1,022	1,010	
Hungary	308	234	208	199	197	197	196	197	
Iceland	8	6	6	6	5	5	5	5	5
Ireland	204	173	155	149	141	140	140	141	139
Israel	202	188	175	170	175	177	173	163	165
Italy	3,033	3,009	3,055	3,006	2,907	2,937	2,883	2,946	2,903
Japan	2,219	2,080	2,037	1,907	1,933	2,050	1,890	1,900	1,860
Korea	976	1,012	989	1,037	1,050	999	1,054	978	1,043
Latvia	98	95	92	89	86	87	86	83	79
Luxembourg	18	18	18	17	17	17	17	17	17
Mexico	2,306	2,085	1,971	1,879	1,860	1,886	1,784	1,762	1,772
Netherlands	614	539	494	472	453	456	446	436	426
New Zealand	134	133	138	131	128				
Norway	121	132	128	120	121	120	119	116	
Poland	1,304	1,063	970	903	871	874	856	834	812
Portugal	648	572	534	509	477	474	468	460	461
Slovak Republic	314	267	250	236	226	228	218	210	204
Slovenia	90	79	79	74	68	68	67	66	66
Spain	5,056	4,481	4,245	4,143	3,932	3,926	3,878	3,882	3,901
Sweden	387	366	365	356	357	362	349	380	354
Switzerland	229	238	224	256	213				
Turkey ⁽²⁾	3,054	3,330	3,629	3,604	3,507	3,520	3,486		
United Kingdom	1,746	1,599	1,556	1,512	1,453	1,457	1,438		
United States	8,296	7,751	7,559	7,455	6,965	6,861	6,977	6,981	7,132

b: Break in time series

Note:

(1) Belgium: Due to a methodological break in the Labour Force Survey, data from the 1st quarter of 2017 onwards are not comparable with previous data.

(2) Turkey: Due to the changes introduced in the Labour Force Survey, data from January 2014 onwards are not comparable with previous data.