

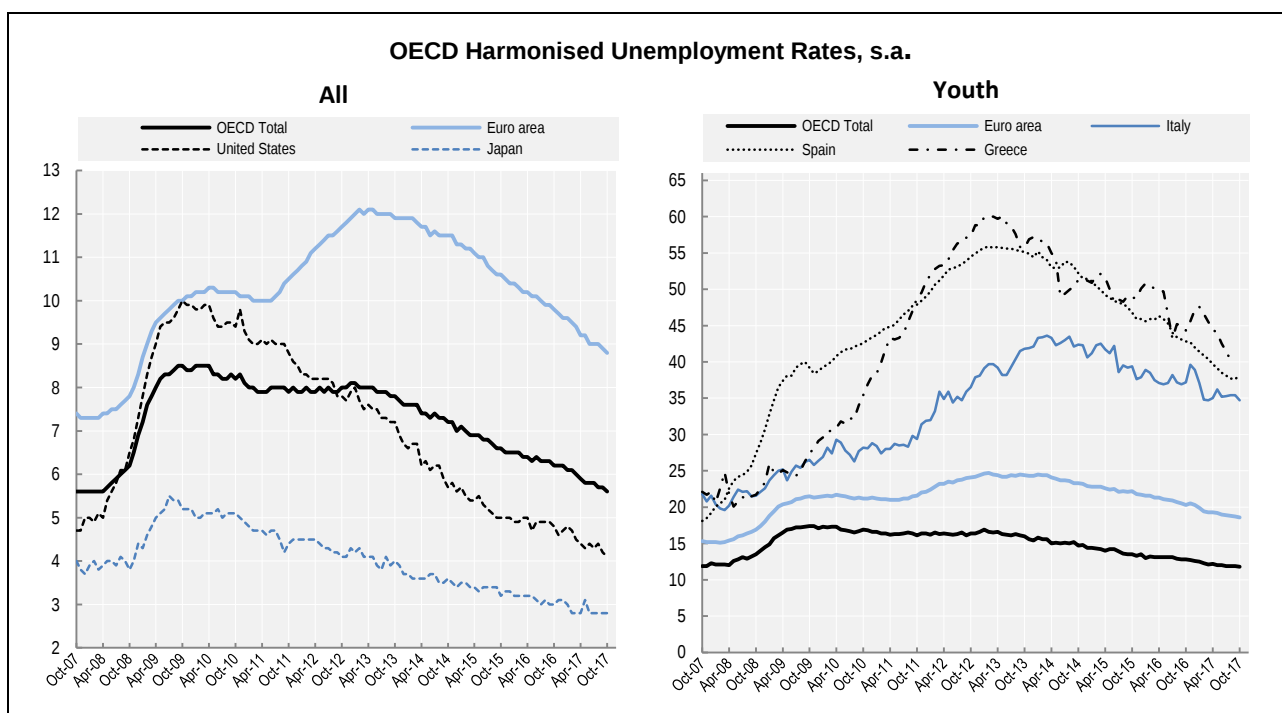
OECD unemployment rate back to pre-crisis level in October 2017

The **OECD** unemployment rate fell by 0.1 percentage point in October 2017, to 5.6%, returning to its April 2008 pre-crisis rate. However, at 35.1 million, the total number of unemployed remains 2.5 million above April 2008 levels.

Within the **euro area**, the unemployment rate decreased by 0.1 percentage point, to 8.8% in October, with the largest declines (by 0.2 percentage point) in **Belgium** (to 6.9%), **Latvia** (8.2%), **Luxembourg** (5.7%), the **Netherlands** (4.5%), the **Slovak Republic** (7.0%) and **Slovenia** (6.2%). The unemployment rate declined marginally in **France** (to 9.4%) and was stable in **Germany** (3.6%), **Italy** (11.1%), **Portugal** (8.5%) and **Spain** (16.7%).

The unemployment rate also fell marginally in the **United States** (to 4.1%) and **Korea** (3.6%) and was stable in **Japan** (2.8%) and **Mexico** (3.4%). The unemployment rate rose by 0.1 percentage point in **Canada** (to 6.3%), although more recent data for November show that it subsequently declined by 0.4 percentage point (to 5.9%). For the **United States**, more recent data show that the unemployment rate was stable in November.

In October, the **OECD** unemployment rate for **youth** (people aged 15 to 24) fell by 0.1 percentage point, to 11.8%. The **youth** unemployment rate continued to fall in the **euro area** (by 0.1 percentage point, to 18.6%), and is now 6.1 percentage points below its February 2013 peak. However, the **youth** unemployment rate remains above 30% in **Greece** (40.2% in August, the latest month available), **Spain** (38.2%) and **Italy** (34.7%).



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

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

In this News Release, April 2008 is considered as the month preceding the start of the global financial crisis.

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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Next release: Tuesday, 16 January 2018

OECD Harmonised Unemployment Rates
News Release: October 2017
Table 1: OECD Unemployment Rates, s.a.
Percentage of active population

	2014	2015	2016	2016 Q4	2017				2017					
					Q1	Q2	Q3		May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
OECD - Total	7.4	6.8	6.3	6.2	6.0	5.8	5.7		5.8	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.7	5.6
Major Seven	6.4	5.8	5.5	5.3	5.2	5.0	5.0		5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	4.9	4.8
European Union	10.2	9.4	8.6	8.3	8.0	7.7	7.5		7.7	7.6	7.6	7.5	7.5	7.4
Euro area	11.6	10.9	10.0	9.7	9.5	9.1	9.0		9.2	9.0	9.0	9.0	8.9	8.8
Australia	6.1	6.1	5.7	5.7	5.8	5.6	5.5		5.5	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.4
Austria	5.6	5.7	6.0	5.8	5.7	5.5	5.4		5.4	5.4	5.4	5.5	5.4	5.4
Belgium ⁽¹⁾	8.5	8.5	7.9	7.2	7.6 ^(b)	7.3	7.2		7.3	7.2	7.3	7.2	7.1	6.9
Canada ⁽²⁾	6.9	6.9	7.0	6.9	6.7	6.5	6.2		6.6	6.5	6.3	6.2	6.2	6.3
Chile	6.4	6.2	6.5	6.5	6.6	6.7	6.5		6.7	6.6	6.4	6.5	6.7	
Czech Republic	6.1	5.1	4.0	3.6	3.3	3.1	2.8		3.0	2.9	2.9	2.8	2.7	2.7
Denmark	6.5	6.2	6.2	6.3	6.0	5.7	5.8		5.7	5.7	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.6
Estonia	7.4	6.2	6.8	6.6	5.7	6.5	5.8		6.8	6.5	6.0	5.5	5.8	
Finland	8.7	9.4	8.8	8.7	8.8	8.8	8.7		8.8	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.7
France	10.3	10.4	10.1	10.0	9.6	9.5	9.6		9.5	9.5	9.7	9.7	9.5	9.4
Germany	5.0	4.6	4.1	3.9	3.9	3.8	3.7		3.8	3.8	3.7	3.7	3.6	3.6
Greece	26.6	25.0	23.6	23.4	22.6	21.5			21.6	21.2	20.9	20.6		
Hungary	7.7	6.8	5.1	4.5	4.3	4.3	4.2		4.3	4.3	4.3	4.2	4.1	
Iceland	5.0	4.0	3.0	2.8	2.7	2.9	3.1		2.9	2.9	3.0	3.1	3.3	3.4
Ireland	11.3	9.5	7.9	7.0	6.8	6.2	6.1		6.2	6.1	6.2	6.1	6.1	6.0
Israel	5.9	5.2	4.8	4.4	4.3	4.4	4.1		4.4	4.3	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.2
Italy	12.7	11.9	11.7	11.8	11.6	11.2	11.2		11.3	11.1	11.3	11.2	11.1	11.1
Japan	3.6	3.4	3.1	3.1	2.9	2.9	2.8		3.1	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8
Korea	3.5	3.6	3.7	3.6	3.8	3.8	3.7		3.6	3.8	3.6	3.8	3.7	3.6
Latvia	10.9	9.9	9.6	9.4	9.0	8.9	8.7		8.9	9.0	8.9	8.7	8.4	8.2
Luxembourg	6.1	6.5	6.3	6.3	6.1	5.9	5.9		5.9	5.9	6.0	5.9	5.9	5.7
Mexico	4.8	4.4	3.9	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.3		3.5	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.4	3.4
Netherlands	7.4	6.9	6.0	5.5	5.2	5.0	4.7		5.1	4.9	4.8	4.7	4.7	4.5
New Zealand	5.4	5.4	5.1	5.3	4.9	4.8	4.6							
Norway	3.5	4.4	4.7	4.6	4.3	4.4	4.1		4.3	4.3	4.1	4.1	4.0	
Poland	9.0	7.5	6.2	5.6	5.2	5.1	4.8		5.1	5.0	4.9	4.8	4.7	4.6
Portugal	14.1	12.7	11.2	10.4	9.9	9.3	8.7		9.2	9.1	8.9	8.8	8.5	8.5
Slovak Republic	13.2	11.5	9.7	9.0	8.6	8.2	7.4		8.3	7.9	7.6	7.4	7.2	7.0
Slovenia	9.7	9.0	8.0	8.0	7.2	6.7	6.5		6.7	6.6	6.5	6.5	6.4	6.2
Spain	24.5	22.1	19.7	18.7	18.2	17.3	16.8		17.3	17.0	16.9	16.8	16.7	16.7
Sweden	7.9	7.4	7.0	6.9	6.7	6.7	6.8		6.8	6.5	7.1	6.6	6.8	6.7
Switzerland	4.8	4.8	4.9	4.6	5.3	4.4	5.0							
Turkey	10.0	10.3	10.9	11.8	11.5	11.1			11.2	11.0	11.2	10.9		
United Kingdom	6.1	5.3	4.8	4.7	4.5	4.4			4.4	4.3	4.2	4.2		
United States ⁽³⁾	6.2	5.3	4.9	4.7	4.7	4.4	4.3		4.3	4.4	4.3	4.4	4.2	4.1

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 November 2017 was 5.9 %.

(3) United States: Unemployment rate for November 2017 was 4.1 %.

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

	Women						Men					
	2016	2017		2017			2016	2017		2017		
		Q2	Q3	Aug	Sep	Oct		Q2	Q3	Aug	Sep	Oct
OECD - Total	6.4	6.0	5.9	5.9	5.8	5.8	6.2	5.7	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.5
Major Seven	5.3	5.0	4.9	4.9	4.8	4.7	5.6	5.1	5.0	5.1	4.9	4.9
European Union	8.8	7.9	7.8	7.8	7.7	7.6	8.4	7.5	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.2
Euro area	10.4	9.5	9.3	9.3	9.2	9.2	9.7	8.8	8.6	8.6	8.5	8.5
Australia	5.8	5.7	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.6	5.7	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.4	5.2
Austria	5.6	5.0	5.0	5.0	4.9	4.8	6.5	5.9	5.9	5.9	5.9	6.0
Belgium ⁽¹⁾	7.6	7.4	7.1	7.2	7.0	6.9	8.1	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.2	7.0
Canada	6.2	5.9	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.8	7.7	7.0	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6
Chile	7.0	7.3	6.9	6.9	7.4		6.1	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.2	
Czech Republic	4.7	3.8	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.3
Denmark	6.7	5.9	5.9	5.9	5.9	5.8	5.8	5.5	5.6	5.7	5.5	5.4
Estonia	6.1	5.8	4.8	4.4	4.9		7.4	7.2	6.7	6.4	6.7	
Finland	8.6	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	9.0	9.0	8.8	8.8	8.8	8.8
France	9.9	9.5	9.4	9.4	9.3	9.2	10.3	9.5	9.8	9.9	9.7	9.5
Germany	3.7	3.4	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.2	4.5	4.2	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.9
Greece	28.1	25.9		24.9			19.9	18.0		17.2		
Hungary	5.2	4.7	4.7	4.6	4.6		5.1	3.9	3.8	3.8	3.6	
Iceland	3.1	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.9	3.1	3.6	3.6	3.8	4.0
Ireland	6.5	5.1	5.1	5.0	5.1	5.1	9.1	7.2	7.0	7.0	6.8	6.7
Israel	4.9	4.4	4.2	4.2	4.3	4.2	4.7	4.3	4.0	4.1	3.9	4.1
Italy	12.8	12.4	12.5	12.4	12.3	12.2	10.9	10.4	10.3	10.3	10.2	10.3
Japan	2.8	2.7	2.6	2.5	2.7	2.6	3.3	3.0	3.0	2.9	2.9	2.9
Korea	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.6	3.4	3.4	3.8	4.0	3.8	3.9	3.9	3.8
Latvia	8.4	7.5	8.0	8.1	7.8	7.7	10.9	10.2	9.4	9.3	9.0	8.8
Luxembourg	6.6	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.6	6.2	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	5.9
Mexico	4.0	3.6	3.4	3.5	3.4	3.6	3.8	3.3	3.2	3.2	3.4	3.2
Netherlands	6.5	5.5	5.1	5.1	5.1	4.7	5.6	4.6	4.4	4.4	4.3	4.2
New Zealand	5.5	4.9	5.3				4.8	4.7	4.1			
Norway	4.0	3.9	3.6	3.6	3.5		5.4	4.8	4.5	4.5	4.4	
Poland	6.2	5.0	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.7	6.1	5.1	4.7	4.7	4.6	4.5
Portugal	11.2	9.7	9.3	9.4	9.2	9.1	11.1	8.8	8.1	8.1	7.9	7.9
Slovak Republic	10.8	8.4	7.7	7.7	7.5	7.3	8.8	8.1	7.2	7.2	7.0	6.8
Slovenia	8.6	7.7	7.3	7.3	7.2	7.2	7.5	5.8	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.4
Spain	21.4	19.1	18.7	18.7	18.6	18.5	18.1	15.7	15.2	15.2	15.2	15.2
Sweden	6.6	6.3	6.6	6.2	6.6	6.2	7.3	7.0	7.0	6.9	6.9	7.1
Switzerland	5.0	4.8	5.4				4.8	4.0	4.6			
Turkey ⁽²⁾	13.7	14.5		14.5			9.6	9.5		9.2		
United Kingdom	4.7	4.2		4.2			5.0	4.5		4.2		
United States	4.8	4.4	4.3	4.4	4.2	3.9	4.9	4.3	4.4	4.5	4.3	4.2

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 changes introduced in the Labour Force Survey, data by gender from January 2014 onwards 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		
		Q2	Q3	Aug	Sep	Oct		Q2	Q3	Aug	Sep	Oct
OECD - Total	13.0	12.1	11.9	11.9	11.9	11.8	5.5	5.0	4.9	4.9	4.8	4.8
Major Seven	11.8	10.7	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.4	4.7	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.2	4.1
European Union	18.7	17.0	16.7	16.7	16.6	16.5	7.5	6.8	6.6	6.6	6.5	6.5
Euro area	21.0	19.2	18.8	18.8	18.7	18.6	9.0	8.2	8.0	8.0	7.9	7.9
Australia	12.7	12.9	12.7	12.7	12.6	12.1	4.3	4.2	4.1	4.1	4.0	4.1
Austria	11.2	9.7	9.6	10.0	9.4	9.3	5.3	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9
Belgium ⁽¹⁾	20.1	21.6	22.7	22.7	22.7		6.8	6.2	6.1	6.1	5.9	5.8
Canada	13.1	11.9	11.0	11.5	10.3	11.1	6.0	5.6	5.5	5.4	5.5	5.5
Chile	15.7	16.6	17.4	17.4	17.7		5.3	5.5	5.3	5.3	5.4	
Czech Republic	10.5	9.0	7.9	7.8	7.3	7.2	3.5	2.7	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.4
Denmark	12.0	11.0	11.2	11.4	10.5	10.2	5.1	4.7	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8
Estonia	13.5	16.1	11.4	11.4	12.0		6.2	5.6	5.3	4.9	5.3	
Finland	20.0	20.6	20.4	20.4	20.4	20.4	7.3	7.1	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.1
France	24.6	22.8	22.3	22.3	22.1	22.0	8.6	8.1	8.3	8.3	8.2	8.0
Germany	7.1	6.7	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	3.8	3.5	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3
Greece	47.4	43.6		40.2			22.2	20.3		19.5		
Hungary	12.9	10.9	11.0	11.0	10.8		4.5	3.8	3.6	3.6	3.5	
Iceland	6.5	7.0	7.4	7.5	7.5	7.5	2.3	2.0	2.3	2.3	2.4	2.5
Ireland	17.2	15.3	15.2	15.2	14.7	14.0	7.0	5.3	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2
Israel	8.6	7.1	8.0	9.0	7.1	7.5	4.1	3.7	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.8
Italy	37.8	35.5	35.4	35.4	35.4	34.7	10.0	9.7				
Japan	5.2	4.9	4.9	4.8	5.1	4.5	2.9	2.7	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6
Korea	10.7	10.8	10.2	10.7	10.4	10.6	3.2	3.3	3.2	3.3	3.2	3.1
Latvia	17.2	16.5	15.7	15.7	15.1	14.7	9.0	8.2	8.1	8.1	7.8	7.7
Luxembourg	19.1	18.0	17.4	17.3	17.1	16.2	5.3	5.0	5.1	5.1	5.0	4.9
Mexico	7.7	6.8	6.8	6.6	6.8	6.8	3.1	2.7	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.7
Netherlands	10.8	9.1	8.7	8.9	8.5	7.9	5.1	4.2	4.0	3.9	3.9	3.8
New Zealand	13.2	12.8	13.1				3.6	3.3	3.0			
Norway	10.9	10.6	10.4	10.4	10.3		3.8	3.4	3.1	3.1	3.0	
Poland	17.6	15.3	14.4	14.4	14.3	14.4	5.2	4.2	4.0	4.0	3.9	3.8
Portugal	28.2	23.8	24.2	24.8	24.6	25.6	9.9	8.2	7.5	7.5	7.3	7.1
Slovak Republic	22.2	18.8	15.6	15.5	14.8	14.0	8.7	7.4	6.8	6.8	6.6	6.4
Slovenia	15.3	11.0	9.1	9.1	9.1		7.5	6.3	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.0
Spain	44.5	39.1	37.8	37.7	37.6	38.2	17.9	15.8	15.3	15.3	15.2	15.1
Sweden	18.8	17.4	18.2	17.5	18.0	16.7	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.1	5.3	5.4
Switzerland	8.6	6.9	10.4				4.4	4.0	4.2			
Turkey	19.6	21.6		21.6			9.2	9.1		8.8		
United Kingdom	13.0	12.0		11.7			3.6	3.2		3.1		
United States	10.4	9.1	9.0	8.9	9.1	9.0	4.0	3.6	3.6	3.8	3.5	3.3

Note:

(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.

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

	2015	2016	2017			2017			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
OECD - Total	41,606	39,318	37,719	36,451	35,858	36,065	35,982	35,532	35,141
Major Seven	21,630	20,546	19,707	18,991	18,818	18,949	18,956	18,548	18,222
European Union	22,879	20,917	19,609	18,929	18,525	18,707	18,513	18,354	18,243
Euro area	17,451	16,233	15,385	14,845	14,561	14,688	14,562	14,432	14,344
Australia	759	726	742	724	720	727	722	710	701
Austria	252	270	257	244	244	243	246	243	244
Belgium ⁽¹⁾	422	390	379 ^(b)	365	360	363	362	356	350
Canada	1,331	1,361	1,308	1,275	1,229	1,247	1,227	1,214	1,235
Chile	532	563	581	593	581	569	581	598	
Czech Republic	268	212	177	162	150	153	150	147	145
Denmark	181	187	179	171	173	174	174	171	169
Estonia	42	47	39	45	40	42	38	41	
Finland	252	237	237	236	234	234	234	235	235
France	3,054	2,972	2,846	2,824	2,850	2,869	2,868	2,812	2,772
Germany	1,950	1,774	1,674	1,636	1,577	1,593	1,575	1,562	1,550
Greece	1,197	1,131	1,078	1,034		1,001	984		
Hungary	308	234	198	198	192	198	192	187	
Iceland	8	6	5	6	6	6	6	7	7
Ireland	204	173	149	137	134	135	133	133	131
Israel	202	188	170	175	164	164	165	164	167
Italy	3,033	3,009	3,006	2,906	2,910	2,949	2,898	2,883	2,879
Japan	2,219	2,080	1,907	1,933	1,880	1,900	1,860	1,880	1,870
Korea	976	1,012	1,037	1,050	1,014	978	1,043	1,022	997
Latvia	98	95	89	87	85	87	85	82	80
Luxembourg	18	18	17	17	17	17	17	17	16
Mexico	2,306	2,085	1,879	1,864	1,788	1,767	1,779	1,819	1,849
Netherlands	614	539	472	453	428	436	426	422	404
New Zealand	134	133	130	128	126				
Norway	121	132	120	121	113	115	113	110	
Poland	1,304	1,063	891	872	831	845	832	816	796
Portugal	648	572	509	477	450	459	452	440	437
Slovak Republic	314	267	236	226	203	209	203	197	191
Slovenia	90	79	74	68	65	65	65	65	63
Spain	5,056	4,481	4,146	3,932	3,823	3,834	3,826	3,809	3,811
Sweden	387	366	357	358	367	381	355	366	362
Switzerland	229	238	256	213	243				
Turkey	3,054	3,330	3,607	3,505		3,546	3,474		
United Kingdom	1,746	1,599	1,511	1,452		1,410	1,396		
United States	8,296	7,751	7,455	6,965	6,971	6,981	7,132	6,801	6,520

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.