

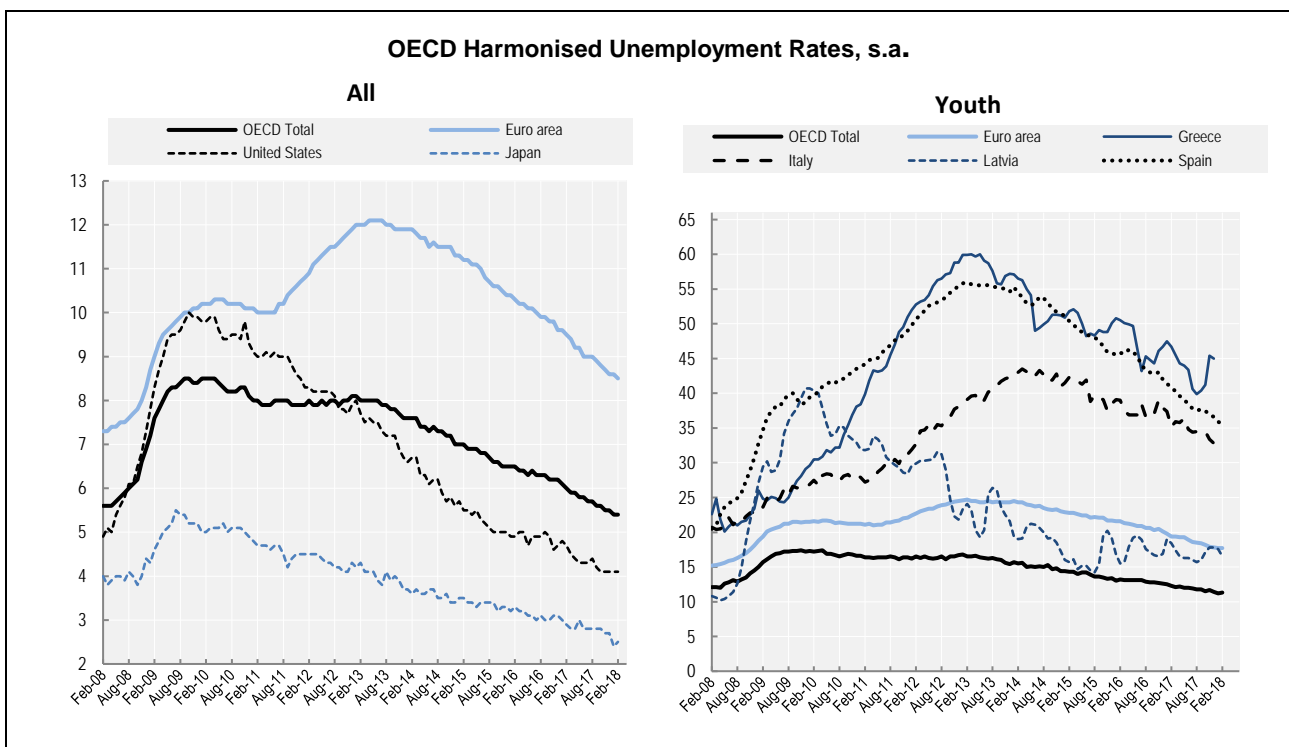
OECD unemployment rate stable at 5.4% in February 2018

The **OECD** unemployment rate was stable at 5.4% in February 2018. Across the **OECD** area, 34.2 million people were unemployed, 1.5 million more than in April 2008, but 14.9 million below the January 2013 peak.

In the **euro area**, the unemployment rate decreased by 0.1 percentage point, to 8.5% in February, with declines of 0.2 percentage point or more in **Latvia** (down 0.3 percentage point, to 8.0%) and **Italy** (down 0.2 percentage point, to 10.9%).

The unemployment rate declined by 0.1 percentage point in **Canada** (to 5.8%), and was stable in **Korea** (at 3.6%) and **Mexico** (at 3.3%) but increased by 0.1 percentage point in **Japan** (to 2.5%). More recent data for March show that the unemployment rate was stable in **Canada** and remained at 4.1% in the **United States** (for the sixth straight month).

The **OECD** unemployment rate for **youth** (people aged 15 to 24) increased slightly (by 0.1 percentage point, to 11.3%) in February. In the euro area, the largest increases (by 0.3 percentage point) were registered in **Austria** (to 9.8%) and **Italy** (to 32.8%), while the largest falls were recorded in **Latvia** (down 1.1 percentage points, to 16.5%), **Spain** (down 0.4 percentage point, to 35.5%) and **Luxembourg** (down 0.3 percentage point, to 13.8%). The **youth** unemployment rate remained highest in **Greece** (at 45.0% in December 2017, the latest month available), followed by **Spain** and **Italy** (with rates above 30%).



Methodological Notes: <http://www.oecd.org/sdd/labour-stats/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, 15 May 2018

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

	2015	2016	2017	2017				2017				2018	
				Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
OECD - Total	6.8	6.3	5.8	6.0	5.8	5.7	5.5	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.5	5.4	5.4
Major Seven	5.8	5.5	5.0	5.2	5.0	4.9	4.8	4.9	4.8	4.8	4.7	4.7	4.7
European Union	9.4	8.6	7.6	8.0	7.7	7.5	7.3	7.5	7.4	7.3	7.2	7.2	7.1
Euro area	10.9	10.0	9.1	9.5	9.1	9.0	8.7	8.9	8.8	8.7	8.6	8.6	8.5
Australia	6.1	5.7	5.6	5.8	5.6	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.4	5.4	5.6	5.5	5.6
Austria	5.7	6.0	5.5	5.7	5.5	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.5	5.4	5.3	5.2
Belgium ⁽¹⁾	8.5	7.9	7.1	7.6	7.3	7.1	6.4	6.9	6.6	6.3	6.2	6.3	6.4
Canada ⁽²⁾	6.9	7.0	6.3	6.6	6.5	6.2	6.0	6.2	6.2	5.9	5.8	5.9	5.8
Chile	6.2	6.5	6.7	6.6	6.7	6.5	6.8	6.7	6.7	6.8	6.9	6.9	
Czech Republic	5.1	4.0	2.9	3.3	3.1	2.7	2.4	2.6	2.5	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4
Denmark	6.2	6.2	5.7	6.1	5.7	5.7	5.3	5.6	5.5	5.3	5.2	4.9	4.8
Estonia	6.2	6.8	5.8	5.5	6.4	5.9	5.6	6.0	5.5	5.6	5.7	6.5	
Finland	9.4	8.8	8.6	8.8	8.7	8.6	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.4
France	10.4	10.1	9.4	9.6	9.5	9.5	9.1	9.4	9.2	9.0	9.0	9.0	8.9
Germany	4.6	4.1	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.7	3.6	3.7	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.5
Greece	25.0	23.6	21.5	22.6	21.6	20.9	20.9	20.9	20.9	21.0	20.8		
Hungary	6.8	5.1	4.2	4.3	4.3	4.1	3.9	4.0	3.9	3.9	3.8	3.7	
Iceland	4.0	3.0	2.8	2.7	2.6	2.7	2.8	2.7	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.7
Ireland	10.0	8.4	6.7	7.2	6.7	6.7	6.4	6.6	6.5	6.4	6.3	6.2	6.1
Israel	5.2	4.8	4.2	4.3	4.4	4.1	4.2	4.1	4.1	4.3	4.0	3.7	3.8
Italy	11.9	11.7	11.2	11.6	11.2	11.2	11.0	11.1	11.1	11.1	10.9	11.1	10.9
Japan	3.4	3.1	2.8	2.9	2.9	2.8	2.7	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.7	2.4	2.5
Korea	3.6	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.8	3.6	3.7	3.7	3.6	3.7	3.7	3.6	3.6
Latvia	9.9	9.6	8.7	9.0	8.9	8.6	8.3	8.4	8.3	8.3	8.2	8.3	8.0
Luxembourg	6.5	6.3	5.6	5.9	5.6	5.6	5.4	5.5	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.3	5.4
Mexico	4.4	3.9	3.4	3.5	3.5	3.3	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.4	3.3	3.3
Netherlands	6.9	6.0	4.9	5.2	5.0	4.7	4.4	4.7	4.5	4.4	4.4	4.2	4.1
New Zealand	5.4	5.1	4.7	4.9	4.8	4.6	4.5						
Norway	4.4	4.7	4.2	4.4	4.4	4.1	4.1	4.0	4.0	4.1	4.1	4.0	
Poland	7.5	6.2	4.9	5.2	5.1	4.8	4.6	4.7	4.6	4.6	4.5	4.5	4.4
Portugal	12.7	11.2	9.0	9.9	9.3	8.7	8.2	8.5	8.4	8.1	8.0	7.9	7.8
Slovak Republic	11.5	9.7	8.1	8.6	8.3	7.9	7.7	7.9	7.8	7.7	7.6	7.6	7.5
Slovenia	9.0	8.0	6.6	7.3	6.6	6.5	5.8	6.4	6.0	5.7	5.6	5.4	5.3
Spain	22.1	19.7	17.2	18.2	17.3	16.8	16.6	16.7	16.7	16.6	16.4	16.2	16.1
Sweden	7.4	7.0	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.8	6.5	6.7	6.7	6.4	6.5	6.5	5.9
Switzerland	4.8	4.9	4.8	5.0	4.7	4.8	4.7						
Turkey	10.3	10.9	10.9	11.7	11.1	10.8	10.1	10.6	10.3	10.1	9.9		
United Kingdom	5.3	4.8	4.4	4.5	4.4	4.2	4.3	4.2	4.3	4.3	4.2		
United States ⁽³⁾	5.3	4.9	4.4	4.7	4.3	4.3	4.1	4.2	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1

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 March 2018 was 5.8%.

(3) United States: Unemployment rate for March 2018 was 4.1%.

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

	Women						Men					
	2017	2017		2017	2018		2017	2017		2017	2018	
		Q3	Q4	Dec	Jan	Feb		Q3	Q4	Dec	Jan	Feb
OECD - Total	5.9	5.9	5.7	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.4	5.4	5.3	5.3
Major Seven	4.9	4.9	4.7	4.7	4.6	4.6	5.0	5.0	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8
European Union	7.9	7.8	7.6	7.5	7.5	7.4	7.4	7.3	7.1	7.0	7.0	6.9
Euro area	9.4	9.3	9.1	9.0	9.0	8.9	8.7	8.6	8.4	8.3	8.3	8.3
Australia	5.7	5.6	5.5	5.4	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.5	5.4	5.7	5.4	5.5
Austria	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.1	5.0	5.0	5.9	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.5	5.4
Belgium ⁽¹⁾	7.1	6.6	6.4	6.3	6.4	6.4	7.1	7.4	6.4	6.2	6.3	6.4
Canada	5.9	5.8	5.5	5.3	5.5	5.4	6.8	6.6	6.3	6.1	6.2	6.1
Chile	7.2	6.9	7.5	7.3	7.5		6.3	6.2	6.4	6.6	6.5	
Czech Republic	3.6	3.3	3.0	2.9	3.0	2.9	2.4	2.3	2.0	1.9	1.9	2.0
Denmark	5.9	5.9	5.6	5.6	5.3	5.4	5.5	5.5	5.1	4.9	4.5	4.3
Estonia	5.4	4.9	5.3	5.6	6.4		6.2	6.7	5.8	5.8	6.6	
Finland	8.4	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.9	8.6	8.6	8.5	8.4	8.3
France	9.4	9.2	9.0	8.9	8.9	8.8	9.5	9.7	9.1	9.0	9.0	9.0
Germany	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.1	3.0	2.9	4.1	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
Greece	26.1	25.4	25.7	25.8			17.8	17.3	17.0	16.9		
Hungary	4.6	4.6	4.4	4.3	4.3		3.8	3.7	3.4	3.3	3.3	
Iceland	2.9	2.7	3.0	3.1	3.1	3.1	2.8	2.7	2.6	2.5	2.5	2.4
Ireland	6.3	6.3	6.0	5.9	5.8	5.7	7.1	7.0	6.8	6.7	6.6	6.5
Israel	4.3	4.2	4.2	4.2	3.9	3.5	4.1	4.0	4.1	3.9	3.5	4.0
Italy	12.4	12.4	12.1	11.9	12.3	11.9	10.4	10.3	10.2	10.1	10.3	10.3
Japan	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.7	2.2	2.3	3.0	3.0	2.9	2.8	2.5	2.6
Korea	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.3	3.6	3.7	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.9	3.6	3.5
Latvia	7.7	7.9	7.4	7.2	7.2	7.0	9.8	9.4	9.1	9.3	9.4	9.1
Luxembourg	5.5	5.5	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.7	5.6	5.5	5.5	5.4	5.5
Mexico	3.6	3.4	3.7	3.4	3.4	3.6	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.4	3.2	3.1
Netherlands	5.3	5.1	4.7	4.7	4.5	4.3	4.5	4.4	4.1	4.1	4.0	3.8
New Zealand	5.2	5.3	5.0				4.2	4.0	4.0			
Norway	3.8	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6		4.6	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.4	
Poland	4.9	4.8	4.7	4.6	4.5	4.4	4.9	4.8	4.5	4.5	4.4	4.3
Portugal	9.5	9.3	8.6	8.3	8.3	8.0	8.6	8.1	7.8	7.6	7.5	7.7
Slovak Republic	8.4	8.2	8.2	8.2	8.2	8.1	7.9	7.7	7.3	7.2	7.1	7.0
Slovenia	7.5	7.6	6.6	6.3	6.0	5.8	5.8	5.5	5.1	5.0	4.9	4.8
Spain	19.0	18.7	18.4	18.2	18.0	17.9	15.7	15.2	15.0	14.9	14.7	14.5
Sweden	6.4	6.6	6.3	6.6	6.4	5.6	6.9	7.0	6.7	6.3	6.6	6.2
Switzerland	5.1	5.1	5.0				4.6	4.6	4.5			
Turkey ⁽²⁾	14.0	14.2	12.8	12.6			9.5	9.2	8.8	8.6		
United Kingdom	4.2	4.2	4.3	4.3			4.5	4.3	4.3	4.2		
United States	4.3	4.3	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.1	4.4	4.4	4.2	4.1	4.3	4.2

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 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+)					
	2017	2017		2017	2018		2017	2017		2017	2018	
		Q3	Q4		Jan	Feb		Q3	Q4		Dec	Jan
OECD - Total	11.9	11.8	11.5	11.4	11.2	11.3	5.0	4.9	4.8	4.7	4.7	4.6
Major Seven	10.6	10.5	10.4	10.2	10.2	10.2	4.3	4.3	4.1	4.1	4.0	4.0
European Union	16.9	16.6	16.2	16.1	16.0	15.9	6.7	6.6	6.4	6.4	6.3	6.3
Euro area	18.8	18.5	18.0	17.8	17.7	17.7	8.1	8.0	7.8	7.7	7.7	7.7
Australia	12.6	12.6	12.3	12.3	12.4	13.3	4.2	4.1	4.1	4.2	4.1	4.0
Austria	9.8	9.6	9.8	9.5	9.5	9.8	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.7	4.6
Belgium ⁽¹⁾	19.3	18.1	16.4	16.4			6.2	6.1	5.6	5.5	5.5	5.5
Canada	11.6	10.9	10.9	10.5	10.9	11.1	5.5	5.4	5.2	5.0	5.0	4.9
Chile	16.9	17.4	16.9	17.2	16.9		5.5	5.3	5.7	5.7	5.8	
Czech Republic	7.9	7.6	5.7	5.6	6.5	7.5	2.6	2.4	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.1
Denmark	11.0	11.2	9.8	10.0	9.5	9.5	4.8	4.7	4.5	4.3	4.0	4.0
Estonia	12.2	12.1	7.9	6.4	8.9		5.2	5.3	5.4	5.7	6.3	
Finland	19.9	19.7	19.0	18.8	18.7	18.6	7.1	7.0	7.1	7.1	7.0	7.0
France	22.3	22.1	21.5	21.5	21.7	21.6	8.1	8.2	7.7	7.6	7.6	7.6
Germany	6.8	6.5	6.4	6.3	6.3	6.2	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.2
Greece	43.7	40.3	43.9	45.0			20.2	19.8	19.6	19.5		
Hungary	10.8	10.7	10.5	10.8	11.0		3.6	3.6	3.3	3.2	3.2	
Iceland	8.2	7.5	7.2	7.0	6.8	6.7	1.8	1.8	1.9	2.0	2.0	2.0
Ireland	14.5	15.3	13.1	12.8	12.9	12.7	5.7	5.6	5.5	5.4	5.3	5.3
Israel	7.3	8.0	7.2	6.4	5.8	6.5	3.6	3.5	3.7	3.5	3.3	3.2
Italy	34.9	34.5	33.6	32.8	32.5	32.8	9.8	9.7	9.6	9.6		
Japan	4.7	4.8	4.5	4.6	3.3	4.2	2.7	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.3	2.3
Korea	10.3	10.1	10.4	9.9	9.4	9.9	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.3	3.2	3.2
Latvia	17.0	15.9	17.6	17.8	17.6	16.5	8.1	8.1	7.6	7.6	7.6	7.5
Luxembourg	15.4	15.0	14.1	14.4	14.1	13.8	4.8	4.8	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.8
Mexico	6.9	6.8	7.0	7.2	6.5	6.8	2.7	2.6	2.7	2.6	2.6	2.5
Netherlands	8.9	8.7	7.9	8.0	7.4	7.2	4.1	4.0	3.7	3.7	3.6	3.5
New Zealand	12.7	13.1	12.4				3.2	3.1	3.0			
Norway	10.3	10.3	9.8	9.4	9.1		3.3	3.1	3.2	3.3	3.2	
Poland	14.8	14.6	14.6	14.4	14.1	13.7	4.1	4.0	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.6
Portugal	23.8	24.1	23.2	22.1	21.5	21.4	7.9	7.5	7.0	6.9	6.9	6.8
Slovak Republic	18.9	18.7	18.6	18.5	18.6	18.5	7.3	7.1	6.8	6.8	6.7	6.7
Slovenia ⁽²⁾	11.3	11.3	11.2	11.2			6.2	6.1	5.3	5.1	5.0	4.9
Spain	38.7	37.7	37.0	36.6	35.9	35.5	15.7	15.3	15.1	15.0	14.8	14.7
Sweden	17.7	18.2	17.0	17.4	16.6	14.4	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.0	5.2	4.8
Switzerland	8.1	8.5	7.5				4.3	4.3	4.4			
Turkey	20.7	20.6	18.6	18.2			9.0	8.9	8.5	8.3		
United Kingdom	12.1	12.2	12.1	12.0			3.2	3.1	3.1	3.1		
United States	9.2	9.0	9.2	8.9	9.2	9.0	3.6	3.6	3.3	3.4	3.4	3.4

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.

(2) Slovenia: Quarterly data are shown for youth unemployment.

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

	2016	2017	2017			2017		2018	
			Q2	Q3	Q4	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
OECD - Total	39,338	36,181	36,455	35,788	34,739	34,811	34,487	34,280	34,183
Major Seven	20,546	18,891	18,963	18,798	18,113	18,155	17,986	17,932	17,959
European Union	20,939	18,778	18,958	18,557	18,026	18,029	17,853	17,833	17,632
Euro area	16,254	14,749	14,864	14,587	14,187	14,186	14,059	14,057	13,916
Australia	726	726	725	721	716	711	732	725	734
Austria	270	248	245	244	245	247	245	240	237
Belgium ⁽¹⁾	390	354	364	352	319	317	312	314	316
Canada	1,361	1,247	1,273	1,222	1,176	1,168	1,139	1,153	1,144
Chile	563	592	592	580	613	613	618	624	
Czech Republic	212	155	167	147	131	129	127	130	130
Denmark	187	171	171	172	159	159	155	146	145
Estonia	47	41	45	41	39	39	40	46	
Finland	237	234	235	231	232	232	232	231	231
France	2,972	2,788	2,823	2,818	2,689	2,677	2,668	2,672	2,655
Germany	1,774	1,621	1,643	1,602	1,553	1,553	1,536	1,522	1,511
Greece	1,131	1,026	1,036	998	994	996	989		
Hungary	234	192	199	191	178	179	174	174	
Iceland	6	6	5	5	6	6	6	6	6
Ireland	195	158	155	157	151	151	150	149	146
Israel	188	168	175	164	167	173	162	147	154
Italy	3,009	2,909	2,904	2,910	2,856	2,868	2,819	2,883	2,835
Japan	2,080	1,896	1,930	1,883	1,843	1,840	1,830	1,600	1,690
Korea	1,009	1,023	1,036	1,014	1,017	1,018	1,022	1,009	997
Latvia	95	85	87	85	81	81	81	81	79
Luxembourg	18	16	16	16	16	15	16	15	16
Mexico	2,085	1,854	1,872	1,794	1,873	1,894	1,865	1,816	1,796
Netherlands	539	438	453	428	399	397	395	380	367
New Zealand	133	127	128	126	122				
Norway	132	117	121	113	112	114	112	111	
Poland	1,063	844	876	826	786	786	777	767	754
Portugal	572	465	477	450	422	418	412	409	407
Slovak Republic	267	224	228	219	212	212	210	209	207
Slovenia	80	68	67	67	59	59	57	56	55
Spain	4,481	3,917	3,928	3,818	3,769	3,773	3,743	3,703	3,665
Sweden	366	359	358	367	352	347	349	352	320
Switzerland	238	234	228	234	232				
Turkey	3,330	3,451	3,504	3,432	3,224	3,237	3,165		
United Kingdom	1,599	1,448	1,450	1,416	1,423	1,433	1,418		
United States	7,751	6,982	6,941	6,947	6,572	6,616	6,576	6,684	6,706

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.