

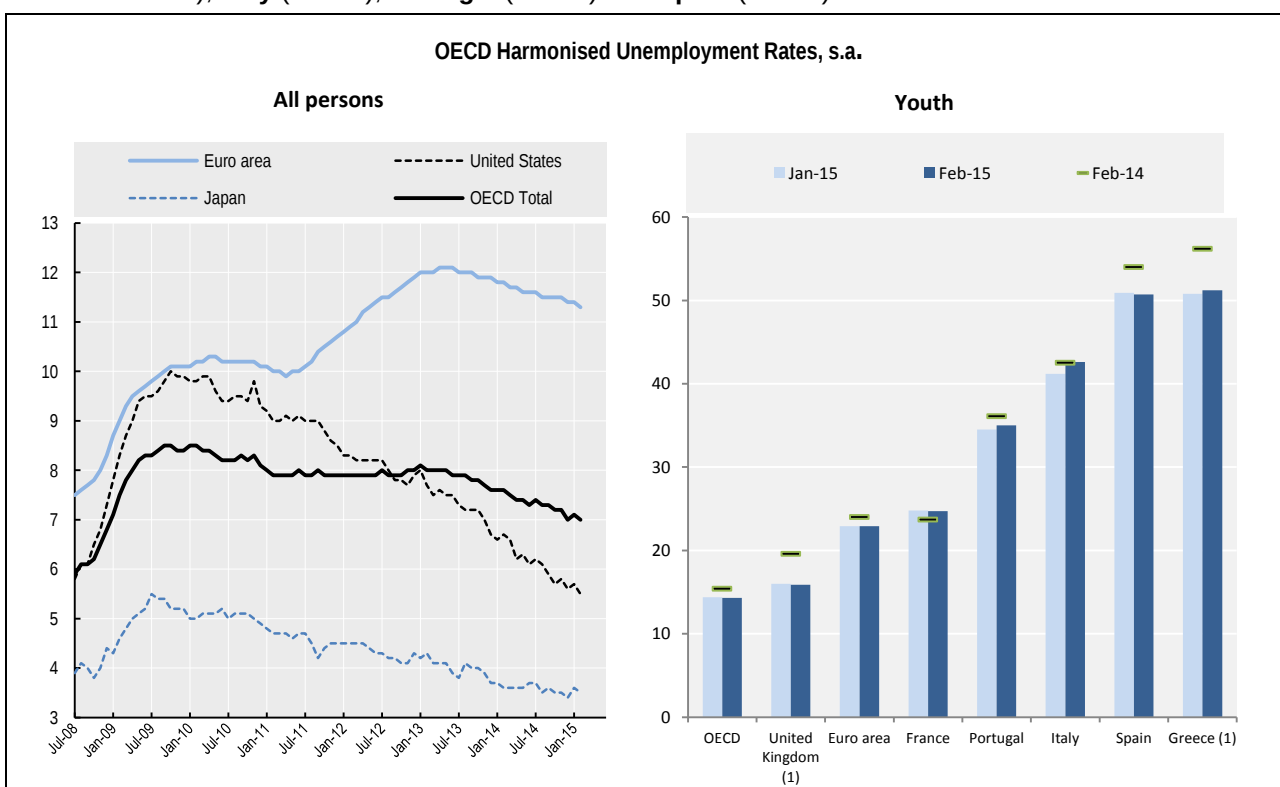
OECD unemployment rate falls to 7.0% in February 2015

The **OECD** unemployment rate fell by 0.1 percentage point to 7.0% in February 2015, with a cumulative decline of 1.1 percentage points since the peak reached in January 2013. Across the OECD area, 42.9 million people were unemployed, 6 million less than in January 2013.

In the **euro area**, the unemployment rate fell by 0.1 percentage point, to 11.3% in February, 0.8 percentage point below the peak recorded in April 2013. Increases in unemployment rates were recorded only in **Finland, Portugal and Italy**.

The unemployment rate in February also fell in the **United States** (by 0.2 percentage point, to 5.5%, its lowest level since May 2008) and in **Japan** (by 0.1 percentage point to 3.5%) but increased in **Canada** (by 0.2 percentage point, to 6.8%). More recent data referring to March 2015 show that the unemployment rate was stable in the **United States** and in **Canada**.

Since the peak of January 2013, the OECD unemployment rate has declined by 1.1 percentage points for both **women** (to 7.1%) and **men** (to 7.0%), and by 2.5 percentage points for **youth** (among 15-24 year-olds), to 14.3% in February 2015, its lowest level since November 2008. Youth unemployment remains however exceptionally high in several euro area countries such as **Greece** (51.2% in December, the latest month available), **Italy** (42.6%), **Portugal** (35.0%) and **Spain** (50.7%).



(1) Figures for the United Kingdom and Greece refer to December 2014 data compared to November 2014 and December 2013 data.

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

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

New 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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OECD Harmonised Unemployment Rates
News Release: February 2015
Table 1: OECD Unemployment Rates, s.a.
Percentage of active population

	2012	2013	2014	2014				2014				2015	
				Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
OECD - Total	7.9	7.9	7.4	7.6	7.4	7.3	7.1	7.3	7.2	7.2	7.0	7.1	7.0
Major Seven	7.4	7.1	6.4	6.6	6.4	6.4	6.1	6.3	6.2	6.2	6.1	6.1	6.0
European Union	10.5	10.9	10.2	10.5	10.3	10.1	10.0	10.1	10.1	10.0	9.9	9.9	9.8
Euro area	11.4	12.0	11.6	11.8	11.6	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.4	11.4	11.3
Australia	5.2	5.7	6.1	5.9	6.0	6.1	6.2	6.2	6.3	6.3	6.1	6.4	6.3
Austria	4.9	5.4	5.6	5.6	5.7	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.4	5.3
Belgium	7.6	8.5	8.5	8.4	8.4	8.6	8.6	8.6	8.6	8.6	8.5	8.5	8.5
Canada ⁽¹⁾	7.3	7.1	6.9	7.0	7.0	7.0	6.7	6.9	6.6	6.7	6.7	6.6	6.8
Chile	6.4	5.9	6.4	6.4	6.2	6.4	6.5	6.3	6.3	6.5	6.5	6.3	
Czech Republic	7.0	7.0	6.1	6.5	6.2	5.9	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.6	5.5
Denmark	7.5	7.0	6.5	6.8	6.4	6.5	6.3	6.5	6.4	6.4	6.2	6.2	6.2
Estonia	10.0	8.6	7.4	7.8	7.3	7.7	6.5	7.6	6.8	6.5	6.3	6.2	
Finland	7.7	8.2	8.7	8.4	8.6	8.8	9.0	8.9	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.1
France	9.8	10.3	10.3	10.1	10.1	10.4	10.5	10.4	10.4	10.5	10.5	10.6	10.6
Germany	5.4	5.2	5.0	5.1	5.0	5.0	4.9	5.0	5.0	4.9	4.9	4.8	4.8
Greece	24.5	27.5	26.5	27.2	26.9	26.2	25.9	26.0	25.9	25.9	26.0		
Hungary	11.0	10.1	7.7	7.9	8.1	7.5	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.5	
Iceland	6.0	5.4	5.0	5.2	5.0	4.8	4.6	4.8	4.7	4.6	4.5	4.5	4.4
Ireland	14.7	13.1	11.3	12.1	11.7	11.1	10.4	10.9	10.6	10.4	10.1	10.0	9.9
Israel	6.9	6.2	5.9	5.9	6.1	6.2	5.7	6.2	5.7	5.6	5.7	5.6	5.3
Italy	10.6	12.1	12.7	12.5	12.4	12.8	13.0	12.9	13.0	13.2	12.7	12.6	12.7
Japan	4.4	4.0	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.6	3.5
Korea	3.2	3.1	3.5	3.5	3.7	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.5	3.4	3.9
Luxembourg	5.1	5.9	5.9	6.0	6.0	5.9	5.9	5.9	5.9	5.8	5.9	5.8	5.8
Mexico	5.0	4.9	4.8	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.5	4.8	4.7	4.7	4.3	4.4	4.4
Netherlands	5.8	7.2	7.4	7.8	7.6	7.2	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.2	7.2	7.1
New Zealand	6.9	6.2	5.7	6.0	5.6	5.4	5.7						
Norway	3.2	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.3	3.6	3.8	3.7	3.8	3.7	3.8	3.9	
Poland	10.1	10.3	9.0	9.8	9.2	8.6	8.3	8.5	8.4	8.3	8.2	8.0	7.8
Portugal	15.8	16.5	14.1	14.9	14.4	13.7	13.6	13.4	13.6	13.5	13.6	13.8	14.1
Slovak Republic	14.0	14.2	13.2	13.8	13.4	13.1	12.5	12.9	12.7	12.5	12.4	12.4	12.3
Slovenia	8.9	10.1	9.7	10.0	9.7	9.7	9.5	9.6	9.6	9.5	9.4	9.4	9.4
Spain	24.8	26.1	24.4	25.2	24.7	24.2	23.7	24.0	23.9	23.7	23.6	23.4	23.2
Sweden	8.0	8.0	7.9	8.1	8.0	7.8	7.8	7.7	8.1	7.8	7.6	7.9	7.9
Switzerland	4.2	4.4	4.5	4.8	4.4	4.8	4.1						
Turkey ⁽²⁾	8.2	8.7	10.0	9.2	9.6	10.5	10.5	10.6	10.6	10.6	10.4		
United Kingdom	7.9	7.6	6.2	6.7	6.3	5.9	5.6	5.9	5.8	5.6	5.5		
United States ⁽³⁾	8.1	7.4	6.2	6.6	6.2	6.1	5.7	5.9	5.7	5.8	5.6	5.7	5.5

Notes:

(1) Canada: Unemployment rate for March 2015 was 6.8%.

(2) Following the changes introduced in the Labour Force Survey for Turkey, data from January 2014 are not comparable with previous data.

(3) United States: Unemployment rate for March 2015 was 5.5%.

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

	Women						Men					
	2014	2014		2014	2015		2014	2014		2014	2015	
		Q3	Q4	Dec	Jan	Feb		Q3	Q4	Dec	Jan	Feb
OECD - Total	7.5	7.5	7.3	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.3	7.2	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0
Major Seven	6.3	6.3	6.1	5.9	6.0	5.9	6.5	6.4	6.2	6.2	6.3	6.2
European Union	10.3	10.3	10.1	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.1	10.0	9.9	9.8	9.7	9.7
Euro area	11.8	11.8	11.7	11.6	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.3	11.3	11.2	11.2	11.1
Australia	6.2	6.2	6.3	6.2	6.3	6.2	6.0	6.1	6.2	6.0	6.4	6.3
Austria	5.4	5.4	5.2	5.3	5.1	5.1	5.9	5.9	6.0	5.9	5.7	5.6
Belgium	7.9	8.2	8.3	8.2	8.1	8.1	9.1	8.9	8.9	8.8	8.8	8.8
Canada	6.4	6.4	6.2	6.3	6.1	6.1	7.4	7.6	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.5
Chile	6.9	7.0	7.1	7.2	7.1		6.0	6.1	6.1	5.9	5.8	
Czech Republic	7.4	7.2	6.9	6.8	6.8	6.7	5.1	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.7	4.6
Denmark	6.7	6.6	6.4	6.2	6.5	6.5	6.4	6.5	6.3	6.1	6.0	5.9
Estonia	6.9	6.6	6.2	5.9	5.6		7.9	8.6	6.9	6.7	6.8	
Finland	8.0	8.0	8.2	8.3	8.5	8.6	9.3	9.4	9.7	9.6	9.5	9.5
France	10.0	10.2	10.2	10.2	10.2	10.2	10.5	10.5	10.8	10.9	10.9	10.9
Germany	4.6	4.7	4.6	4.5	4.5	4.4	5.3	5.3	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.1
Greece	30.2	29.9	29.3	29.3			23.6	23.3	23.3	23.4		
Hungary	8.0	7.8	7.4	7.4	7.5		7.6	7.4	7.3	7.3	7.4	
Iceland	4.8	4.8	4.7	4.6	4.6	4.6	5.1	4.8	4.5	4.4	4.4	4.3
Ireland	9.4	9.3	8.6	8.3	8.1	8.0	12.9	12.6	11.8	11.6	11.5	11.4
Israel	5.9	6.3	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.3	5.9	6.2	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.3
Italy	13.8	13.9	14.3	14.0	13.7	14.1	11.9	12.0	12.0	11.7	11.8	11.7
Japan	3.4	3.4	3.2	3.2	3.3	3.2	3.8	3.7	3.7	3.6	3.8	3.7
Korea	3.5	3.3	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.9	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.8
Luxembourg	6.0	5.9	5.9	5.9	5.9	5.9	5.9	5.9	5.8	5.9	5.8	5.7
Mexico	4.9	4.8	4.7	4.4	4.4	4.5	4.8	5.0	4.5	4.2	4.3	4.3
Netherlands	7.8	7.6	7.5	7.6	7.6	7.5	7.2	6.9	6.9	6.9	6.9	6.8
New Zealand	6.4	6.3	6.5				5.0	4.6	5.0			
Norway	3.3	3.4	3.6	3.6	3.7		3.7	3.8	4.0	4.0	4.1	
Poland	9.6	9.3	8.9	8.7	8.6	8.5	8.5	8.1	7.9	7.7	7.5	7.3
Portugal	14.5	14.4	13.9	14.0	14.1	14.3	13.8	12.9	13.3	13.3	13.5	13.8
Slovak Republic	13.6	13.7	13.5	13.4	13.4	13.3	12.8	12.6	11.8	11.6	11.5	11.4
Slovenia	10.6	10.6	10.1	9.9	9.8	9.7	9.0	8.9	9.0	9.1	9.1	9.1
Spain	25.4	25.3	24.7	24.6	24.4	24.3	23.6	23.1	22.9	22.7	22.5	22.2
Sweden	7.7	7.5	7.7	7.3	7.9	7.7	8.1	8.1	8.0	8.0	7.9	8.1
Switzerland	4.7	5.0	4.4				4.4	4.7	3.8			
Turkey ⁽¹⁾	11.9	12.3	12.6	12.4			9.1	9.7	9.6	9.5		
United Kingdom	5.9	5.6	5.4	5.3			6.4	6.2	5.9	5.8		
United States	6.1	6.1	5.6	5.3	5.6	5.4	6.3	6.1	5.8	5.8	5.9	5.7

Note:

(1) Following the changes introduced in the Labour Force Survey for Turkey, data from January 2014 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+)					
	2014	2014		2014	2015		2014	2014		2014	2015	
		Q3	Q4	Dec	Jan	Feb		Q3	Q4	Dec	Jan	Feb
OECD - Total	15.1	15.1	14.7	14.4	14.4	14.3	6.3	6.3	6.1	6.0	6.1	6.0
Major Seven	14.1	14.1	13.6	13.4	13.4	13.2	5.4	5.3	5.2	5.1	5.2	5.1
European Union	22.2	21.9	21.5	21.2	21.1	21.1	8.9	8.9	8.8	8.7	8.7	8.6
Euro area	23.7	23.6	23.2	23.0	22.9	22.9	10.4	10.4	10.4	10.3	10.2	10.2
Australia	13.3	13.6	13.8	13.1	14.2	13.9	4.6	4.6	4.7	4.7	4.8	4.7
Austria	10.3	10.0	10.2	9.6	8.8	9.0	4.9	5.0	4.9	5.0	4.9	4.8
Belgium	23.3	21.2	22.5	22.6	22.6	22.6	7.3	7.5	7.4	7.3	7.3	7.3
Canada	13.5	13.9	13.2	13.5	12.8	13.3	5.8	5.8	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.7
Chile	16.4	16.8	15.8	15.7	15.3		5.0	5.0	5.2	5.2	5.1	
Czech Republic	15.8	15.6	14.5	14.4	14.6	14.8	5.4	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.0	4.8
Denmark	12.5	12.6	11.2	10.3	10.6	10.2	5.5	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.5
Estonia	15.4	14.5	14.6	15.7	13.9		6.7	7.1	5.8	5.5	5.5	
Finland	20.4	20.4	20.9	21.1	21.2	21.4	7.0	7.1	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.3
France	24.1	24.4	24.6	24.7	24.8	24.7	8.9	8.9	9.1	9.1	9.1	9.1
Germany	7.7	7.6	7.4	7.3	7.3	7.2	4.7	4.7	4.6	4.6	4.5	4.5
Greece	52.4	50.1	50.9	51.2			24.8	24.5	24.2	24.3		
Hungary	20.5	20.5	18.9	18.9	18.8		6.7	6.5	6.4	6.4	6.5	
Iceland	10.1	9.9	9.6	9.4	9.2	9.1	3.9	3.8	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.5
Ireland	23.9	23.1	21.8	21.6	21.8	21.6	10.1	10.0	9.2	9.0	8.8	8.7
Israel	10.5	13.6	9.9	9.9	9.3	7.7	5.0	4.9	5.0	5.1	5.1	4.7
Italy	42.7	42.7	42.3	41.3	41.2	42.6	10.6	10.7	11.0	11.0		
Japan	6.2	6.0	6.1	6.3	7.0	6.3	3.4	3.4	3.2	3.2	3.3	3.3
Korea	10.0	9.8	9.9	9.9	10.3	11.6	3.1	3.0	3.0	3.1	2.9	3.3
Luxembourg	21.4	22.2	22.4	22.4	21.7	21.7	5.0	4.9	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.9
Mexico	9.5	9.4	9.2	8.8	8.3	8.9	3.8	3.9	3.5	3.3	3.5	3.4
Netherlands	12.7	12.4	11.9	11.8	11.7	11.0	6.5	6.2	6.3	6.4	6.4	6.4
New Zealand	14.6	13.9	14.8				4.0	3.9	3.9			
Norway	7.9	8.2	7.7	7.9	8.5		2.8	2.9	3.1	3.1	3.2	
Poland	23.8	23.5	21.8	21.3	21.0	20.8	7.7	7.3	7.1	7.0	6.8	6.7
Portugal	34.7	33.6	33.5	34.0	34.5	35.0	12.5	12.1	12.0	12.1	12.2	12.4
Slovak Republic	29.7	29.3	26.9	26.4	25.5	24.9	11.8	11.7	11.4	11.3	11.3	11.2
Slovenia	20.3	20.2	19.1	19.1			9.0	8.9	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.7
Spain	53.2	53.6	51.8	51.3	50.9	50.7	22.3	22.0	21.6	21.5	21.4	21.2
Sweden	22.8	22.0	22.5	21.7	21.7	22.3	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.6	5.9	5.8
Switzerland	8.6	11.0	6.3				3.9	3.9	3.8			
Turkey ⁽¹⁾	18.0	19.0	19.3	19.2			8.4	8.8	8.8	8.6		
United Kingdom	16.9	16.1	16.1	15.9			4.4	4.3	4.0	3.9		
United States	13.4	13.4	12.6	12.4	12.2	11.9	5.0	4.9	4.6	4.5	4.7	4.5

Note:

(1) Following the changes introduced in the Labour Force Survey for Turkey, data from January 2014 are not comparable with previous data.

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

	2013	2014	2014			2014		2015	
			Q2	Q3	Q4	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
OECD - Total	47,617	44,676	44,749	44,584	43,478	43,769	42,901	43,202	42,942
Major Seven	26,159	23,628	23,614	23,513	22,786	22,997	22,429	22,739	22,475
European Union	26,289	24,789	24,876	24,557	24,280	24,343	24,075	23,978	23,887
Euro area	19,228	18,619	18,612	18,550	18,467	18,532	18,345	18,253	18,203
Australia	688	746	732	757	770	776	758	793	777
Austria	231	245	245	245	245	246	245	237	232
Belgium	417	423	418	426	427	428	425	425	426
Canada	1,347	1,322	1,335	1,337	1,274	1,279	1,276	1,262	1,312
Chile	491	540	522	544	550	550	549	538	
Czech Republic	370	324	327	312	307	310	304	300	293
Denmark	203	190	186	191	186	188	181	183	182
Estonia	58	50	49	52	44	44	42	42	
Finland	219	232	229	235	242	242	242	242	244
France	3,010	3,015	2,963	3,034	3,089	3,094	3,109	3,114	3,116
Germany	2,182	2,090	2,093	2,096	2,060	2,061	2,037	2,017	2,002
Greece	1,330	1,273	1,299	1,264	1,237	1,234	1,233		
Hungary	438	344	360	335	327	325	328	336	
Iceland	10	9	9	9	9	9	9	8	8
Ireland	282	243	251	239	222	222	217	214	211
Israel	228	223	230	235	215	215	215	213	203
Italy	3,069	3,230	3,160	3,270	3,326	3,396	3,239	3,217	3,240
Japan	2,651	2,359	2,383	2,367	2,293	2,280	2,280	2,350	2,300
Korea	807	937	964	922	928	912	940	922	1,044
Luxembourg	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
Mexico	2,539	2,511	2,563	2,550	2,369	2,434	2,258	2,303	2,305
Netherlands	647	660	671	638	637	635	643	645	633
New Zealand	149	140	137	135	143				
Norway	95	96	90	99	104	102	105	109	
Poland	1,793	1,567	1,601	1,503	1,446	1,449	1,422	1,394	1,367
Portugal	855	729	744	705	695	693	698	708	720
Slovak Republic	386	359	363	356	343	342	340	339	336
Slovenia	102	98	99	97	95	95	95	95	95
Spain	6,051	5,611	5,665	5,534	5,453	5,451	5,431	5,380	5,326
Sweden	410	411	412	407	408	408	397	412	414
Switzerland	205	215	209	230	197				
Turkey ⁽¹⁾	2,438	2,860	2,746	3,034	3,078	3,105	3,038		
United Kingdom	2,441	1,996	2,043	1,925	1,829	1,816	1,800		
United States	11,460	9,616	9,637	9,484	8,914	9,071	8,688	8,979	8,705

Note:

(1) Following the changes introduced in the Labour Force Survey for Turkey, data from January 2014 are not comparable with previous data.