

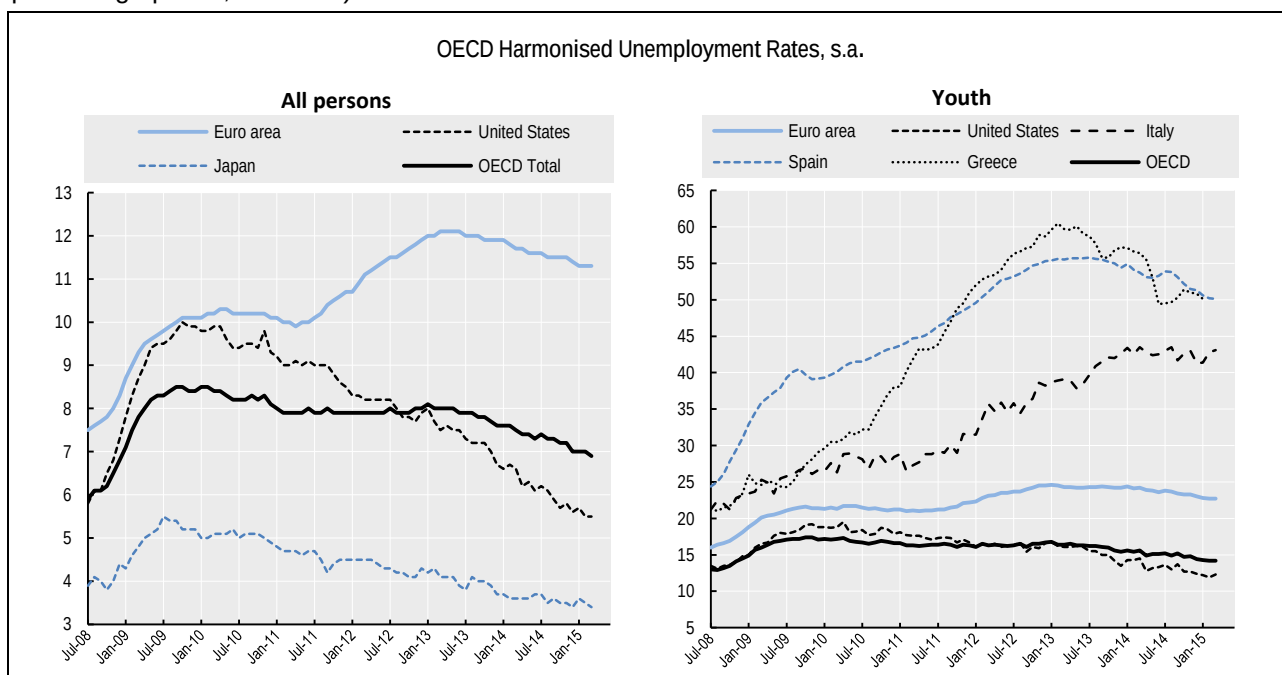
OECD unemployment rate nudges down to 6.9% in March 2015

The **OECD** unemployment rate fell by 0.1 percentage point to 6.9% in March 2015, with a cumulative decline of 1.2 percentage points since the peak reached in January 2013. Across the OECD area, 42.4 million people were unemployed, 6.6 million less than in January 2013.

The **euro area** unemployment rate was stable in March, at 11.3%. It was stable in **France** (at 10.6%) and **Germany** (at 4.7%), while it increased in **Italy** (by 0.3 percentage point, to 13.0%) and **Austria** (by 0.2 percentage point, to 5.6%) and showed small declines (0.1 percentage point) in **Ireland** (to 9.8%), **Luxembourg** (to 5.7%), the **Netherlands** (to 7.0%), **Portugal** (to 13.5%), the **Slovak Republic** (to 12.2%), **Slovenia** (to 9.3%) and **Spain** (to 23.0%).

The unemployment rate in March was also stable in the **United States** (at 5.5%) and in **Canada** (at 6.8%), while it decreased in **Japan** (by 0.1 percentage point, to 3.4%), **Korea** (by 0.2 percentage point, to 3.7%) and **Mexico** (by 0.2 percentage point, to 4.2%). More recent data referring to April 2015 show that the unemployment rate fell by 0.1 percentage point in the **United States** (to 5.4%) while it remained stable in **Canada**.

Although stable in March, since the peak of January 2013, the OECD unemployment rate for **youth** (people aged 15 to 24) has fallen by 2.6 percentage points, to 14.2%. Over the same period, the youth unemployment rate for the **euro area** declined by 1.9 percentage points, to 22.7% in March, with falls particularly significant in several euro area countries with high youth unemployment rates such as the **Slovak Republic** (down 9.7 percentage points, to 24.8%), **Greece** (down 9.5 percentage points, to 50.1% in January, the latest month available), **Portugal** (down 6.5 percentage points, to 33.8%) and **Spain** (down 5.3 percentage points, to 50.1%). However, in **Italy**, the youth unemployment rate rose over the period (up 4.4 percentage points, to 43.1%).



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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Next release: Tuesday, 9 June 2015

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

	2012	2013	2014	2014			2015	2014			2015		
				Q2	Q3	Q4		Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
OECD - Total	7.9	7.9	7.4	7.4	7.3	7.1	7.0	7.2	7.2	7.0	7.0	7.0	6.9
Major Seven	7.4	7.1	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.1	6.0	6.2	6.2	6.0	6.1	6.0	6.0
European Union	10.5	10.9	10.2	10.3	10.1	10.0	9.8	10.1	10.0	9.9	9.8	9.8	9.8
Euro area	11.4	12.0	11.6	11.6	11.5	11.5	11.3	11.5	11.5	11.4	11.3	11.3	11.3
Australia	5.2	5.7	6.1	5.9	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.3	6.2	6.1	6.3	6.2	6.1
Austria	4.9	5.4	5.6	5.6	5.7	5.7	5.5	5.7	5.7	5.6	5.4	5.4	5.6
Belgium	7.6	8.5	8.5	8.4	8.6	8.6	8.5	8.6	8.6	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5
Canada ⁽¹⁾	7.3	7.1	6.9	7.0	7.0	6.7	6.7	6.6	6.7	6.7	6.6	6.8	6.8
Chile	6.4	5.9	6.4	6.2	6.5	6.5	6.1	6.3	6.5	6.4	6.3	6.1	
Czech Republic	7.0	7.0	6.1	6.2	5.9	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.9	5.8	5.9	5.8	5.8
Denmark	7.5	7.0	6.5	6.4	6.5	6.3	6.3	6.4	6.4	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.4
Estonia	10.0	8.6	7.4	7.3	7.7	6.5		6.8	6.4	6.3	6.2	5.9	
Finland	7.7	8.2	8.7	8.6	8.8	9.0	9.1	9.0	9.0	8.9	9.0	9.1	9.1
France	9.8	10.3	10.3	10.1	10.4	10.5	10.6	10.4	10.5	10.5	10.6	10.6	10.6
Germany	5.4	5.2	5.0	5.0	5.0	4.9	4.7	5.0	4.9	4.8	4.8	4.7	4.7
Greece	24.5	27.5	26.6	26.9	26.2	26.0		26.1	25.9	25.9	25.7		
Hungary	11.0	10.1	7.7	8.1	7.5	7.3		7.3	7.3	7.3	7.5	7.4	
Iceland	6.0	5.4	5.0	5.0	4.8	4.5	4.3	4.7	4.5	4.4	4.4	4.3	4.2
Ireland	14.7	13.1	11.3	11.7	11.1	10.4	9.9	10.6	10.4	10.1	10.0	9.9	9.8
Israel	6.9	6.2	5.9	6.1	6.2	5.7	5.4	5.7	5.6	5.7	5.6	5.3	5.3
Italy	10.6	12.1	12.7	12.4	12.8	13.0	12.8	13.0	13.2	12.7	12.6	12.7	13.0
Japan	4.4	4.0	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.6	3.5	3.4
Korea	3.2	3.1	3.5	3.7	3.5	3.5	3.7	3.5	3.4	3.5	3.4	3.9	3.7
Luxembourg	5.1	5.9	5.9	6.0	5.9	5.8	5.8	5.9	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.7
Mexico	5.0	4.9	4.8	5.0	4.9	4.5	4.3	4.6	4.7	4.3	4.3	4.4	4.2
Netherlands	5.8	7.2	7.4	7.6	7.2	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.2	7.2	7.1	7.0
New Zealand	6.9	6.2	5.8	5.7	5.5	5.8	5.8						
Norway	3.2	3.5	3.5	3.3	3.6	3.8		3.8	3.7	3.8	3.9		
Poland	10.1	10.3	9.0	9.2	8.6	8.3	7.8	8.4	8.3	8.2	8.0	7.8	7.7
Portugal	15.8	16.5	14.1	14.4	13.7	13.5	13.6	13.5	13.5	13.6	13.8	13.6	13.5
Slovak Republic	14.0	14.2	13.2	13.3	13.1	12.6	12.3	12.7	12.6	12.4	12.4	12.3	12.2
Slovenia	8.9	10.1	9.7	9.7	9.7	9.5	9.4	9.5	9.5	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.3
Spain	24.8	26.1	24.5	24.7	24.1	23.7	23.1	23.9	23.7	23.6	23.3	23.1	23.0
Sweden	8.0	8.0	7.9	8.0	7.8	7.8	7.8	8.0	7.8	7.6	7.9	7.9	7.6
Switzerland	4.2	4.4	4.5	4.4	4.8	4.1							
Turkey ⁽²⁾	8.2	8.7	10.0	9.6	10.5	10.5		10.6	10.6	10.4	10.2		
United Kingdom	7.9	7.6	6.2	6.3	5.9	5.6		5.8	5.6	5.5	5.5		
United States ⁽³⁾	8.1	7.4	6.2	6.2	6.1	5.7	5.6	5.7	5.8	5.6	5.7	5.5	5.5

Notes:

(1) Canada: Unemployment rate for April 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 April 2015 was 5.4%.

OECD Harmonised Unemployment Rates
News Release: March 2015
Table 2: Unemployment Rates by Gender, s.a.
Percentage of corresponding active population

	Women						Men					
	2014	2014	2015	2015			2014	2014	2015	2015		
		Q4	Q1	Jan	Feb	Mar		Q4	Q1	Jan	Feb	Mar
OECD - Total	7.5	7.3	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.3	7.0	6.9	7.0	6.9	6.8
Major Seven	6.3	6.1	5.9	6.0	5.9	5.9	6.5	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.1
European Union	10.3	10.1	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.1	9.9	9.6	9.7	9.6	9.6
Euro area	11.8	11.7	11.6	11.6	11.6	11.6	11.5	11.3	11.0	11.1	11.0	11.0
Australia	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.3	6.1	6.1	6.0	6.1	6.2	6.4	6.2	6.1
Austria	5.4	5.2	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.2	5.9	6.0	5.8	5.7	5.7	6.0
Belgium	7.9	8.3	8.1	8.1	8.1	8.1	9.1	8.9	8.9	8.9	8.9	8.9
Canada	6.4	6.2	6.2	6.1	6.1	6.3	7.4	7.0	7.3	7.0	7.5	7.3
Chile	6.9	7.1	7.0	7.1	7.0		6.0	6.0	5.5	5.8	5.5	
Czech Republic	7.4	6.9	6.8	6.9	6.8	6.8	5.1	5.0	5.0	5.1	5.0	5.0
Denmark	6.7	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.5	6.4	6.3	6.1	6.0	6.0	6.2
Estonia	6.9	6.2		5.6	5.5		7.9	6.8		6.8	6.3	
Finland	8.0	8.2	8.4	8.4	8.4	8.5	9.3	9.7	9.7	9.6	9.7	9.8
France	10.0	10.2	10.2	10.2	10.2	10.2	10.5	10.8	10.9	10.9	10.9	10.9
Germany	4.6	4.6	4.4	4.5	4.4	4.4	5.3	5.2	5.0	5.0	5.0	4.9
Greece	30.2	29.5		29.6			23.7	23.1		22.5		
Hungary	8.0	7.4		7.5	7.6		7.6	7.3		7.4	7.2	
Iceland	4.8	4.6	4.4	4.5	4.4	4.3	5.1	4.5	4.2	4.3	4.2	4.1
Ireland	9.4	8.6	8.0	8.1	8.0	8.0	12.9	11.8	11.4	11.5	11.4	11.3
Israel	5.9	5.6	5.4	5.5	5.3	5.5	5.9	5.7	5.4	5.7	5.3	5.1
Italy	13.8	14.3	14.1	13.8	14.1	14.3	11.9	12.0	11.8	11.8	11.7	11.9
Japan	3.4	3.2	3.2	3.3	3.2	3.1	3.8	3.7	3.7	3.8	3.7	3.6
Korea	3.5	3.4	3.6	3.3	3.9	3.7	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.8	3.6
Luxembourg	6.0	5.9	5.9	5.9	5.9	5.9	5.9	5.8	5.7	5.8	5.7	5.6
Mexico	4.9	4.7	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.3	4.8	4.5	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.1
Netherlands	7.8	7.5	7.5	7.6	7.5	7.4	7.2	6.9	6.8	6.9	6.8	6.7
New Zealand	6.6	6.5	6.3				5.1	5.0	5.4			
Norway	3.3	3.6		3.7			3.7	4.0		4.1		
Poland	9.6	8.9	8.5	8.6	8.5	8.4	8.5	7.9	7.3	7.5	7.3	7.1
Portugal	14.5	13.9	14.2	14.1	14.3	14.1	13.8	13.3	13.1	13.4	13.0	12.9
Slovak Republic	13.6	13.5	13.3	13.4	13.3	13.3	12.8	11.8	11.4	11.6	11.4	11.3
Slovenia	10.6	10.1	9.8	9.8	9.7	9.8	9.0	8.9	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0
Spain	25.4	24.7	24.5	24.5	24.5	24.4	23.6	22.8	22.0	22.3	22.0	21.7
Sweden	7.7	7.7	7.7	7.9	7.7	7.4	8.1	7.9	7.9	7.9	8.0	7.7
Switzerland	4.7	4.4					4.4	3.8				
Turkey ⁽¹⁾	11.9	12.6		12.2			9.1	9.6		9.3		
United Kingdom	5.9	5.4		5.3			6.4	5.9		5.6		
United States	6.1	5.6	5.4	5.6	5.4	5.3	6.3	5.8	5.7	5.9	5.7	5.6

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.

OECD Harmonised Unemployment Rates
News Release: March 2015

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

	Youth (15-24)						Prime-age and Older Workers (25+)					
	2014	2014	2015	2015			2014	2014	2015	2015		
		Q4	Q1	Jan	Feb	Mar		Q4	Q1	Jan	Feb	Mar
OECD - Total	15.1	14.6	14.2	14.3	14.2	14.2	6.3	6.1	6.0	6.1	6.0	6.0
Major Seven	14.1	13.6	13.2	13.4	13.2	13.2	5.4	5.2	5.1	5.2	5.1	5.1
European Union	22.2	21.5	20.9	21.0	20.9	20.9	9.0	8.8	8.6	8.7	8.6	8.6
Euro area	23.7	23.2	22.7	22.8	22.7	22.7	10.4	10.4	10.2	10.2	10.2	10.2
Australia	13.3	13.8	13.8	14.1	13.7	13.7	4.6	4.6	4.7	4.8	4.6	4.6
Austria	10.3	10.2	9.6	8.9	9.3	10.5	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.8	4.9
Belgium	23.3	22.6	22.6	22.7	22.6	22.6	7.3	7.4	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.3
Canada	13.5	13.2	13.0	12.8	13.3	13.0	5.8	5.5	5.6	5.5	5.7	5.7
Chile	16.4	15.8	14.8	15.4	14.8		5.0	5.2	4.9	5.1	4.9	
Czech Republic	15.8	14.4	14.2	14.0	14.2	14.5	5.4	5.2	5.2	5.3	5.2	5.1
Denmark	12.5	11.2	10.4	10.5	10.0	10.8	5.5	5.4	5.5	5.4	5.5	5.5
Estonia	15.4	14.5		13.8	11.8		6.7	5.8		5.5	5.4	
Finland	20.4	21.0	21.6	21.4	21.6	21.7	7.0	7.3	7.3	7.2	7.3	7.4
France	24.1	24.6	24.6	24.7	24.6	24.4	8.9	9.1	9.1	9.1	9.1	9.2
Germany	7.7	7.4	7.2	7.3	7.2	7.2	4.7	4.6	4.4	4.5	4.4	4.4
Greece	52.5	51.1		50.1			24.8	24.3		24.0		
Hungary	20.5	18.9		18.8	19.2		6.7	6.4		6.5	6.5	
Iceland	10.1	9.7	9.3	9.4	9.3	9.3	3.9	3.5	3.2	3.3	3.2	3.2
Ireland	23.9	21.8	21.5	21.8	21.6	21.1	10.1	9.2	8.7	8.8	8.7	8.7
Israel	10.5	9.9	8.5	9.3	7.7	8.4	5.0	5.0	4.7	5.1	4.7	4.4
Italy	42.7	42.3	42.4	41.4	42.8	43.1	10.6	11.0				
Japan	6.2	6.1	6.1	7.0	6.3	5.1	3.4	3.2	3.2	3.3	3.3	3.2
Korea	10.0	9.9	10.9	10.3	11.6	10.8	3.1	3.0	3.1	2.9	3.3	3.1
Luxembourg	21.4	22.4	21.4	21.7	21.6	20.9	5.0	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8
Mexico	9.5	9.2	8.6	8.3	8.8	8.6	3.8	3.5	3.4	3.5	3.4	3.2
Netherlands	12.7	11.9	11.2	11.7	11.0	10.8	6.5	6.3	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.3
New Zealand	15.0	15.1	14.5				4.0	3.9	4.1			
Norway	7.9	7.7		8.5			2.8	3.1		3.2		
Poland	23.8	21.8	20.7	21.0	20.7	20.5	7.7	7.1	6.7	6.8	6.7	6.6
Portugal	34.7	33.5	34.0	34.5	33.7	33.8	12.5	12.0	12.0	12.1	12.1	11.9
Slovak Republic	29.7	26.9	25.2	25.7	25.0	24.8	11.8	11.4	11.2	11.3	11.2	11.1
Slovenia	20.3	19.1	18.0	18.0	18.0	18.0	9.0	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.6
Spain	53.2	51.7	50.3	50.6	50.2	50.1	22.3	21.6	21.2	21.3	21.2	21.0
Sweden	22.8	22.5	21.5	21.5	22.2	20.8	5.7	5.7	5.8	5.9	5.8	5.6
Switzerland	8.6	6.3					3.9	3.8				
Turkey ⁽¹⁾	18.0	19.2		18.6			8.4	8.8		8.6		
United Kingdom	16.9	16.1		15.6			4.4	4.0		3.9		
United States	13.4	12.6	12.1	12.2	11.9	12.3	5.0	4.6	4.5	4.7	4.5	4.4

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		2015	2014	2015		
			Q3	Q4	Q1	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
OECD - Total	47,614	44,677	44,597	43,455	42,746	42,867	43,108	42,799	42,350
Major Seven	26,159	23,628	23,516	22,781	22,481	22,423	22,720	22,455	22,268
European Union	26,289	24,791	24,558	24,272	23,837	24,065	23,940	23,823	23,748
Euro area	19,228	18,620	18,551	18,458	18,155	18,330	18,219	18,141	18,105
Australia	686	745	764	765	773	751	788	766	765
Austria	231	245	245	246	239	245	237	234	245
Belgium	417	423	425	428	427	426	425	426	429
Canada	1,347	1,322	1,337	1,274	1,294	1,276	1,262	1,312	1,309
Chile	491	540	546	549	515	546	534	515	
Czech Republic	370	324	312	308	309	309	311	307	308
Denmark	203	190	191	186	184	181	182	182	187
Estonia	58	50	52	44		42	42	40	
Finland	219	232	235	241	244	240	241	244	246
France	3,010	3,015	3,034	3,089	3,115	3,109	3,113	3,116	3,115
Germany	2,182	2,090	2,099	2,055	1,987	2,029	2,005	1,985	1,970
Greece	1,330	1,274	1,263	1,240		1,234	1,221		
Hungary	438	344	335	327		328	335	334	
Iceland	10	9	9	9	8	8	8	8	8
Ireland	282	243	239	222	211	217	214	211	209
Israel	228	223	235	215	206	215	213	203	201
Italy	3,069	3,230	3,269	3,327	3,259	3,241	3,224	3,250	3,302
Japan	2,651	2,359	2,367	2,293	2,287	2,280	2,350	2,300	2,210
Korea	807	937	922	928	983	940	922	1,044	982
Luxembourg	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
Mexico	2,539	2,511	2,548	2,363	2,261	2,251	2,294	2,294	2,197
Netherlands	647	660	638	637	635	643	645	633	626
New Zealand	148	141	135	143	146				
Norway	95	96	99	104		105	109		
Poland	1,793	1,567	1,503	1,446	1,368	1,422	1,394	1,367	1,343
Portugal	855	729	705	695	699	697	705	699	693
Slovak Republic	386	359	356	343	337	340	340	337	335
Slovenia	102	98	97	95	94	95	94	94	95
Spain	6,051	5,610	5,536	5,449	5,303	5,425	5,366	5,303	5,241
Sweden	410	411	407	407	406	396	410	413	394
Switzerland	205	215	230	197					
Turkey ⁽¹⁾	2,438	2,860	3,038	3,074		3,031	3,001		
United Kingdom	2,441	1,996	1,926	1,829		1,800	1,787		
United States	11,460	9,616	9,484	8,914	8,753	8,688	8,979	8,705	8,575

Note:

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