

OECD unemployment rate stable at 6.9% in April 2015

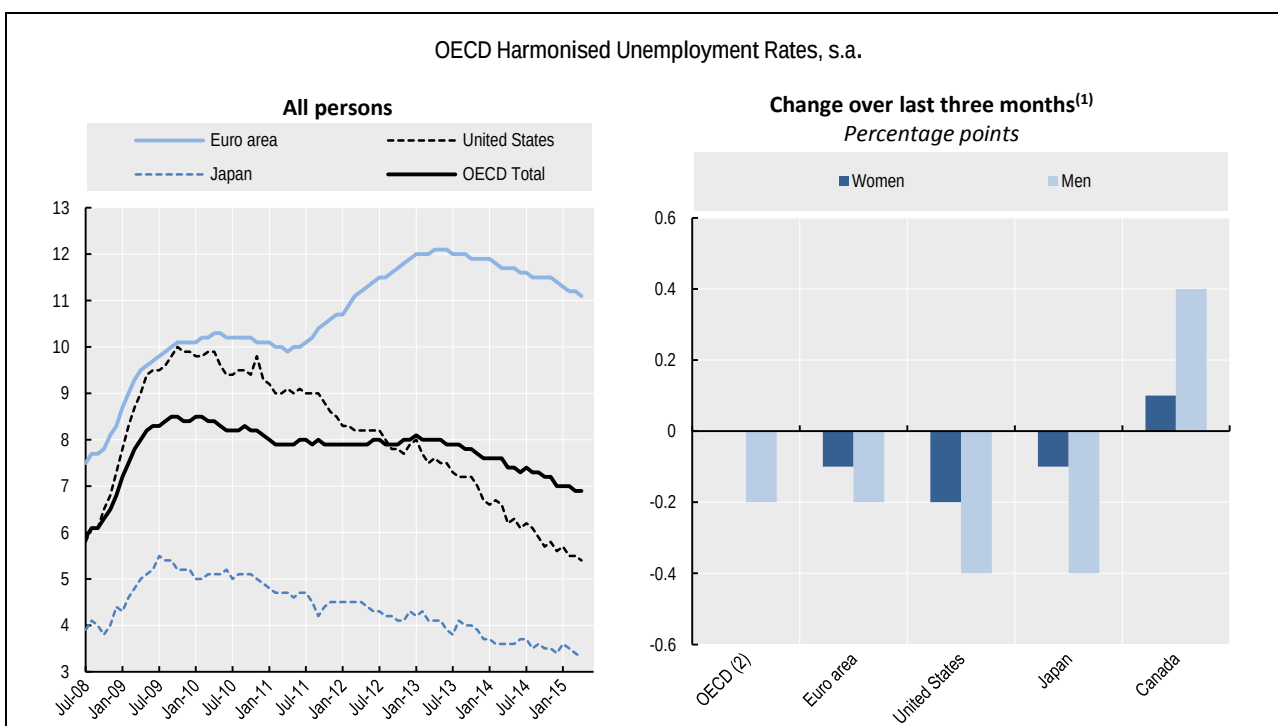
The **OECD** unemployment rate was stable at 6.9% in April 2015, but shows a cumulative decline of 1.2 percentage points since the peak reached in January 2013. Across the OECD area, 42.2 million people were unemployed, 6.8 million less than in January 2013, but still 7.7 million more than in July 2008, immediately before the crisis.

In the **euro area**, the unemployment rate fell by 0.1 percentage point, to 11.1%, with the largest falls (by 0.2 percentage point) recorded in **Italy** (to 12.4%), **Portugal** (to 13.0%) and **Spain** (to 22.7%).

The unemployment rate in April also fell by 0.1 percentage point in the **United States** (to 5.4%) and in **Japan** (to 3.3%), while it was stable in **Canada** (at 6.8%) and **Korea** (at 3.7%) and increased in **Mexico** (by 0.2 percentage point, to 4.4%) and **Australia** (by 0.1 percentage point, to 6.2%). More recent data referring to May 2015 show that the unemployment rate increased by 0.1 percentage point (to 5.5%) in the **United States**, while it remained stable in **Canada**.

In April, the OECD unemployment rate for **women** increased by 0.1 percentage point (to 7.1%), while the OECD unemployment rate for **men** was stable (at 6.8%). Over a 3-month period, a faster decline in the unemployment rate for **men**, (compared to **women**) was observed in the **euro area**, the **United States** and **Japan**.

The OECD unemployment rate for **youth** (people aged 15 to 24) fell by 0.3 percentage point in April (to 13.9%), while it increased by 0.1 percentage point, to 6.0%, for the **over 25s**.



(1) Change in unemployment rate between January and April 2015.

(2) Over last three months, change in OECD unemployment rate for women was 0 percentage point.

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: April 2015
Table 1: OECD Unemployment Rates, s.a.
Percentage of active population

	2012	2013	2014	2014			2015	2014		2015			
				Q2	Q3	Q4		Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
OECD - Total	7.9	7.9	7.4	7.4	7.3	7.1	7.0	7.2	7.0	7.0	7.0	6.9	6.9
Major Seven	7.4	7.1	6.4	6.4	6.3	6.1	6.0	6.2	6.0	6.1	6.0	6.0	5.9
European Union	10.5	10.9	10.2	10.3	10.1	10.0	9.8	10.0	9.9	9.8	9.8	9.7	9.7
Euro area	11.4	12.0	11.6	11.7	11.5	11.5	11.2	11.5	11.4	11.3	11.2	11.2	11.1
Australia	5.2	5.7	6.1	5.9	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.1	6.3	6.2	6.1	6.2
Austria	4.9	5.4	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.4	5.6	5.7
Belgium	7.6	8.5	8.5	8.4	8.6	8.6	8.5	8.6	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5
Canada ⁽¹⁾	7.3	7.1	6.9	7.0	7.0	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.6	6.8	6.8	6.8
Chile	6.4	5.9	6.4	6.2	6.4	6.5	6.1	6.5	6.5	6.3	6.1	6.2	
Czech Republic	7.0	7.0	6.1	6.2	5.9	5.8	5.8	5.9	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.9
Denmark	7.5	7.0	6.5	6.4	6.5	6.4	6.2	6.4	6.2	6.1	6.1	6.3	6.3
Estonia	10.0	8.6	7.4	7.3	7.7	6.6	6.1	6.5	6.4	6.3	6.0	6.1	
Finland	7.7	8.2	8.7	8.6	8.8	9.0	9.2	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.2	9.3	9.4
France	9.8	10.3	10.3	10.1	10.4	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5
Germany	5.4	5.2	5.0	5.0	5.0	4.9	4.8	4.9	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.7	4.7
Greece	24.5	27.5	26.6	26.9	26.2	26.0		25.9	25.9	25.6	25.4		
Hungary	11.0	10.1	7.7	8.1	7.5	7.3	7.4	7.3	7.3	7.5	7.4	7.3	
Iceland	6.0	5.4	5.0	5.0	4.8	4.6	4.3	4.6	4.5	4.4	4.3	4.3	4.3
Ireland	14.7	13.1	11.3	11.7	11.1	10.4	9.9	10.4	10.1	10.0	9.9	9.8	9.7
Israel	6.9	6.2	5.9	6.1	6.2	5.6	5.3	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.3	5.2	4.9
Italy	10.6	12.1	12.7	12.5	12.7	12.7	12.4	13.0	12.4	12.3	12.4	12.6	12.4
Japan	4.4	4.0	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.6	3.5	3.4	3.3
Korea	3.2	3.1	3.5	3.7	3.5	3.5	3.7	3.4	3.5	3.4	3.9	3.7	3.7
Luxembourg	5.1	5.9	5.9	6.0	5.9	5.8	5.7	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7
Mexico	5.0	4.9	4.8	5.0	4.9	4.5	4.3	4.7	4.3	4.4	4.4	4.2	4.4
Netherlands	5.8	7.2	7.4	7.6	7.2	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.2	7.2	7.1	7.0	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	4.0	3.7	3.8	3.9	4.1	4.1	
Poland	10.1	10.3	9.0	9.2	8.6	8.3	8.0	8.3	8.2	8.1	8.0	7.9	7.9
Portugal	15.8	16.5	14.1	14.4	13.7	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.6	13.7	13.5	13.2	13.0
Slovak Republic	14.0	14.2	13.2	13.3	13.1	12.6	12.3	12.6	12.4	12.4	12.3	12.2	12.1
Slovenia	8.9	10.1	9.7	9.7	9.7	9.5	9.3	9.5	9.4	9.4	9.3	9.3	9.3
Spain	24.8	26.1	24.5	24.7	24.2	23.7	23.1	23.7	23.6	23.3	23.1	22.9	22.7
Sweden	8.0	8.0	7.9	8.0	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.6	7.9	7.9	7.6	7.8
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	10.3	10.2	10.1		
United Kingdom	7.9	7.6	6.2	6.3	5.9	5.6		5.6	5.5	5.4	5.4		
United States ⁽³⁾	8.1	7.4	6.2	6.2	6.1	5.7	5.6	5.8	5.6	5.7	5.5	5.5	5.4

Notes:

(1) Canada: Unemployment rate for May 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 May 2015 was 5.5%.

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	Feb	Mar	Apr		Q4	Q1	Feb	Mar	Apr
OECD - Total	7.5	7.2	7.1	7.1	7.0	7.1	7.3	7.0	6.9	6.9	6.8	6.8
Major Seven	6.3	6.0	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	6.5	6.2	6.2	6.1	6.1	6.0
European Union	10.3	10.1	9.9	9.9	9.8	9.8	10.1	9.9	9.6	9.6	9.6	9.6
Euro area	11.8	11.7	11.4	11.4	11.4	11.3	11.5	11.3	11.0	11.0	11.0	10.9
Australia	6.2	6.3	6.2	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.0	6.1	6.2	6.2	6.1	6.2
Austria	5.4	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.3	5.9	6.0	5.8	5.7	5.9	6.1
Belgium	7.9	8.3	8.1	8.1	8.1	8.1	9.1	8.9	8.8	8.8	8.9	8.8
Canada	6.4	6.2	6.2	6.1	6.3	6.2	7.4	7.0	7.3	7.5	7.3	7.4
Chile	6.9	7.1	7.0	7.0	7.0		6.0	6.1	5.5	5.5	5.6	
Czech Republic	7.4	6.9	6.9	6.9	6.9	7.0	5.1	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
Denmark	6.7	6.4	6.3	6.3	6.2	6.1	6.4	6.3	6.1	6.0	6.4	6.6
Estonia	6.9	6.3	5.8	5.7	6.1		7.9	6.8	6.4	6.3	6.1	
Finland	8.0	8.3	8.6	8.6	8.7	8.8	9.3	9.7	9.7	9.7	9.8	9.9
France	10.0	10.2	10.2	10.2	10.2	10.2	10.5	10.8	10.8	10.8	10.8	10.7
Germany	4.6	4.6	4.5	4.5	4.4	4.4	5.3	5.2	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
Greece	30.2	29.6		29.1			23.7	23.1		22.4		
Hungary	8.0	7.4	7.5	7.6	7.3		7.6	7.3	7.4	7.3	7.4	
Iceland	4.8	4.7	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	5.1	4.5	4.2	4.2	4.1	4.1
Ireland	9.4	8.6	8.1	8.1	8.0	8.0	12.9	11.8	11.4	11.4	11.3	11.1
Israel	5.9	5.5	5.4	5.3	5.4	4.7	5.9	5.7	5.3	5.3	5.1	5.0
Italy	13.8	14.1	13.1	13.1	13.2	12.9	11.9	11.6	11.9	11.8	12.1	11.9
Japan	3.4	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.1	3.2	3.8	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.6	3.4
Korea	3.5	3.4	3.6	3.9	3.7	3.9	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.8	3.6	3.7
Luxembourg	6.0	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.9	5.8	5.7	5.7	5.6	5.5
Mexico	4.9	4.7	4.4	4.5	4.3	4.6	4.8	4.4	4.3	4.3	4.1	4.2
Netherlands	7.8	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.4	7.5	7.2	6.9	6.8	6.8	6.7	6.6
New Zealand	6.6	6.5	6.3				5.1	5.0	5.4			
Norway	3.3	3.6	3.9	3.9	3.9		3.7	3.9	4.2	4.2	4.3	
Poland	9.6	8.8	8.4	8.4	8.3	8.2	8.5	7.9	7.6	7.6	7.5	7.5
Portugal	14.5	13.8	13.8	14.1	13.4	13.1	13.8	13.3	13.1	12.9	13.0	12.8
Slovak Republic	13.6	13.5	13.4	13.4	13.4	13.4	12.8	11.8	11.4	11.4	11.2	11.0
Slovenia	10.6	10.1	9.8	9.7	9.8	9.8	9.0	8.9	9.0	9.0	8.9	8.8
Spain	25.4	24.7	24.5	24.5	24.4	24.3	23.6	22.8	22.0	22.0	21.7	21.3
Sweden	7.7	7.7	7.6	7.7	7.4	7.5	8.1	8.0	7.9	8.1	7.7	8.0
Switzerland	4.7	4.4					4.4	3.8				
Turkey ⁽¹⁾	11.9	12.5		12.6			9.1	9.6		9.0		
United Kingdom	5.9	5.3		5.2			6.4	5.9		5.5		
United States	6.1	5.6	5.4	5.4	5.3	5.4	6.3	5.8	5.7	5.7	5.6	5.5

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	2015	2015			2014	2014	2015	2015		
		Q4	Q1	Feb	Mar	Apr		Q4	Q1	Feb	Mar	Apr
OECD - Total	15.1	14.6	14.2	14.2	14.2	13.9	6.3	6.1	6.0	6.0	5.9	6.0
Major Seven	14.1	13.6	13.2	13.1	13.2	12.8	5.4	5.2	5.1	5.1	5.0	5.1
European Union	22.2	21.5	20.9	20.9	20.9	20.7	9.0	8.8	8.6	8.6	8.6	8.5
Euro area	23.7	23.2	22.7	22.7	22.6	22.3	10.4	10.3	10.1	10.1	10.1	10.0
Australia	13.3	13.8	13.8	13.7	13.6	13.6	4.6	4.6	4.7	4.6	4.6	4.7
Austria	10.3	10.2	9.2	9.0	9.9	10.1	4.9	4.9	5.0	4.9	4.9	5.1
Belgium	23.3	22.4	22.5	22.5	22.5	22.2	7.3	7.4	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.3
Canada	13.5	13.2	13.0	13.3	13.0	13.6	5.8	5.5	5.6	5.7	5.7	5.6
Chile	16.4	15.9	14.9	14.9	15.4		5.0	5.2	4.9	4.9	4.9	
Czech Republic	15.8	14.5	14.4	14.3	14.8	15.2	5.4	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.3
Denmark	12.5	11.2	10.5	10.4	10.5	10.1	5.5	5.5	5.4	5.4	5.6	5.7
Estonia	15.4	14.4	12.5	11.8	11.8		6.7	5.9	5.5	5.5	5.5	
Finland	20.4	21.2	21.9	21.9	22.1	22.3	7.0	7.3	7.4	7.4	7.5	7.6
France	24.1	24.6	24.5	24.5	24.3	23.7	8.9	9.1	9.1	9.1	9.2	9.2
Germany	7.7	7.4	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.2	4.7	4.6	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.4
Greece	52.5	51.2		50.1			24.8	24.3		23.7		
Hungary	20.5	18.9	19.1	19.2	19.3		6.7	6.4	6.5	6.5	6.4	
Iceland	10.1	9.7	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.4	3.9	3.5	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.2
Ireland	23.9	21.9	21.8	22.0	21.1	20.0	10.1	9.2	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.7
Israel	10.5	9.9	8.5	7.7	8.4	7.6	5.0	5.0	4.7	4.7	4.4	4.1
Italy	42.7	42.0	42.0	42.3	42.5	40.9	10.6	10.8	10.5	10.5	10.5	
Japan	6.2	6.1	6.1	6.3	5.1	5.0	3.4	3.2	3.2	3.3	3.2	3.2
Korea	10.0	9.9	10.9	11.6	10.8	10.8	3.1	3.0	3.1	3.3	3.1	3.2
Luxembourg	21.4	23.5	22.5	22.7	22.0	21.7	5.0	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.7	4.8
Mexico	9.5	9.2	8.5	8.8	8.6	8.3	3.8	3.5	3.4	3.4	3.2	3.5
Netherlands	12.7	11.9	11.2	11.0	10.8	10.9	6.5	6.3	6.4	6.4	6.3	6.3
New Zealand	15.0	15.1	14.5				4.0	3.9	4.1			
Norway	7.9	7.8	9.0	9.1	9.3		2.8	3.1	3.3	3.3	3.3	
Poland	23.8	22.0	21.8	21.9	21.8	21.7	7.7	7.1	6.8	6.8	6.7	6.7
Portugal	34.7	33.3	33.2	32.9	32.4	31.2	12.5	12.0	11.9	12.0	11.7	11.5
Slovak Republic	29.7	26.9	25.2	25.0	24.8	24.6	11.8	11.4	11.2	11.2	11.1	11.0
Slovenia	20.3	19.1	17.9	17.9	17.9		9.0	8.7	8.6	8.6	8.6	8.6
Spain	53.2	51.7	50.3	50.2	50.0	49.6	22.3	21.6	21.1	21.1	20.9	20.7
Sweden	22.8	22.5	21.4	22.1	20.7	20.6	5.7	5.7	5.8	5.8	5.6	5.9
Switzerland	8.6	6.3					3.9	3.8				
Turkey ⁽¹⁾	18.0	19.2		18.8			8.4	8.8		8.4		
United Kingdom	16.9	16.1		15.3			4.4	4.0		3.8		
United States	13.4	12.6	12.1	11.9	12.3	11.6	5.0	4.6	4.5	4.5	4.4	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		2015	2015			
			Q3	Q4		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
OECD - Total	47,614	44,677	44,565	43,373	42,607	43,006	42,639	42,197	42,167
Major Seven	26,159	23,628	23,491	22,700	22,359	22,606	22,324	22,146	22,037
European Union	26,289	24,791	24,537	24,191	23,725	23,841	23,704	23,630	23,504
Euro area	19,228	18,620	18,531	18,380	18,035	18,117	18,011	17,976	17,846
Australia	686	745	765	766	772	787	765	762	770
Austria	231	245	245	245	240	241	236	242	251
Belgium	417	423	426	427	425	424	425	427	425
Canada	1,347	1,322	1,337	1,274	1,294	1,262	1,312	1,309	1,310
Chile	491	540	543	550	520	538	520	522	
Czech Republic	370	324	312	308	310	310	308	311	315
Denmark	203	190	192	187	181	179	180	185	186
Estonia	58	50	52	45	41	42	41	41	
Finland	219	232	235	242	247	243	247	250	253
France	3,010	3,015	3,036	3,087	3,108	3,108	3,109	3,108	3,092
Germany	2,182	2,090	2,097	2,055	1,999	2,011	1,998	1,989	1,981
Greece	1,330	1,274	1,263	1,242		1,221	1,206		
Hungary	438	344	336	327	333	336	333	330	
Iceland	10	9	9	9	8	8	8	8	8
Ireland	282	243	240	223	213	216	213	210	207
Israel	228	223	236	213	203	211	201	198	187
Italy	3,069	3,230	3,245	3,249	3,158	3,128	3,146	3,201	3,161
Japan	2,651	2,359	2,367	2,293	2,287	2,350	2,300	2,210	2,190
Korea	807	937	922	928	983	922	1,044	982	1,002
Luxembourg	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
Mexico	2,539	2,511	2,546	2,364	2,265	2,296	2,297	2,202	2,313
Netherlands	647	660	638	637	635	645	633	626	625
New Zealand	148	141	135	143	146				
Norway	95	96	99	104	112	109	112	114	
Poland	1,793	1,567	1,500	1,445	1,386	1,404	1,385	1,368	1,363
Portugal	855	729	706	694	691	704	692	678	668
Slovak Republic	386	359	356	343	337	339	337	335	333
Slovenia	102	98	97	95	94	94	94	95	95
Spain	6,051	5,610	5,535	5,449	5,306	5,368	5,305	5,244	5,191
Sweden	410	411	407	407	406	410	413	394	405
Switzerland	205	215	230	197					
Turkey ⁽¹⁾	2,438	2,860	3,036	3,070		2,996	2,962		
United Kingdom	2,441	1,996	1,925	1,827		1,768	1,754		
United States	11,460	9,616	9,484	8,914	8,753	8,979	8,705	8,575	8,549

Note:

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