

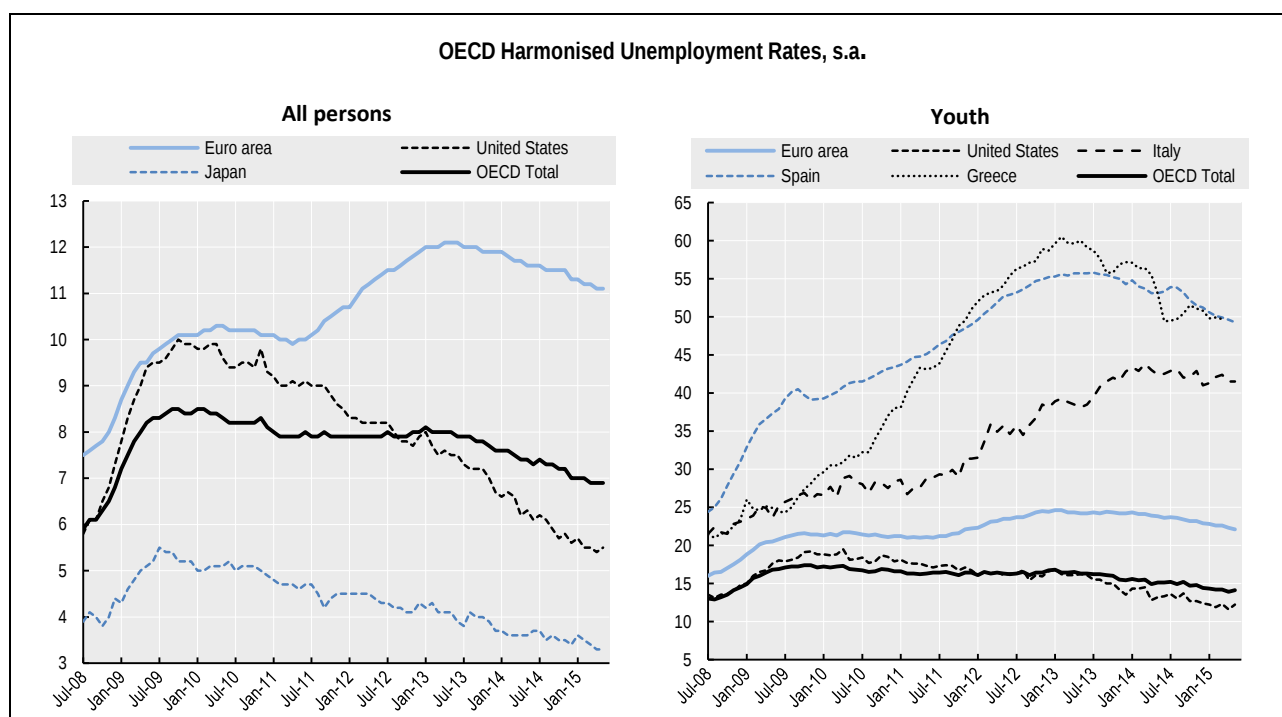
OECD unemployment rate remains stable at 6.9% in May 2015

The **OECD** unemployment rate was stable in May 2015, at 6.9% for the 3rd consecutive month. It 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, 6.7 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 was stable at 11.1%. The largest increases in May were observed in **Portugal** (by 0.4 percentage point to 13.2%) and in **Austria** (by 0.2 percentage point to 6.0%, the 3rd consecutive month of increase), while the largest fall was observed in **Spain** (down 0.2 percentage point to 22.5%, having decreased every month for more than one year).

The unemployment rate in May was also stable in **Canada** (at 6.8%) and **Japan** (at 3.3%), while it rose by 0.1 percentage point in **Mexico** (to 4.5%) and the **United States** (to 5.5%). More recent data referring to June 2015 show that the unemployment rate decreased by 0.2 percentage point in the **United States** (to 5.3%).

In May, the OECD unemployment rate for **youth** (people aged 15 to 24) rose by 0.2 percentage point, to 14.1%. Since the peak of January 2013, however, it shows a cumulative decline of 2.7 percentage points. Compared to the previous month, the youth unemployment rate continued to decrease in May in the **euro area** (by 0.2 percentage point, to 22.1%) but remained exceptionally high in several euro area countries such as **Greece** (49.7% in March, the latest month available), **Italy** (41.5%), **Portugal** (33.3%, with an increase of 1.6 percentage points) and **Spain** (49.3%).



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

	2012	2013	2014	2014			2015	2014	2015				
				Q2	Q3	Q4			Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
OECD - Total	7.9	7.9	7.4	7.4	7.3	7.1	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	6.9	6.9	6.9
Major Seven	7.4	7.1	6.4	6.4	6.3	6.1	6.0	6.0	6.1	6.0	6.0	5.9	5.9
European Union	10.5	10.9	10.2	10.3	10.1	10.0	9.7	9.9	9.8	9.7	9.7	9.6	9.6
Euro area	11.4	12.0	11.6	11.6	11.5	11.4	11.2	11.3	11.3	11.2	11.2	11.1	11.1
Australia	5.2	5.7	6.1	5.9	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.1	6.3	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.0
Austria	4.9	5.4	5.6	5.6	5.7	5.6	5.5	5.6	5.5	5.5	5.6	5.8	6.0
Belgium	7.6	8.5	8.5	8.4	8.6	8.6	8.7	8.6	8.6	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.6
Canada	7.3	7.1	6.9	7.0	7.0	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.6	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8
Chile	6.4	5.9	6.4	6.2	6.4	6.5	6.2	6.5	6.4	6.2	6.2	6.4	
Czech Republic	7.0	7.0	6.1	6.2	5.9	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.9	6.0	5.9
Denmark	7.5	7.0	6.5	6.5	6.6	6.3	6.2	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.3	6.2	6.2
Estonia	10.0	8.6	7.4	7.2	7.7	6.6	6.2	6.4	6.3	6.1	6.2	6.7	
Finland	7.7	8.2	8.7	8.6	8.8	9.0	9.2	9.0	9.1	9.2	9.3	9.4	9.4
France	9.8	10.2	10.2	10.1	10.3	10.4	10.3	10.4	10.4	10.3	10.3	10.2	10.3
Germany	5.4	5.2	5.0	5.0	5.0	4.9	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.7	4.7
Greece	24.5	27.5	26.6	26.9	26.2	26.0	25.6	25.9	25.7	25.6	25.6		
Hungary	11.0	10.1	7.7	8.1	7.6	7.3	7.4	7.3	7.5	7.4	7.3	7.1	
Iceland	6.0	5.4	5.0	4.8	4.8	4.5	4.2	4.4	4.1	4.7	3.9	4.5	4.1
Ireland	14.7	13.1	11.3	11.6	11.1	10.4	10.0	10.2	10.1	10.0	9.8	9.8	9.8
Israel	6.9	6.2	5.9	6.1	6.2	5.6	5.3	5.6	5.5	5.3	5.2	4.8	5.0
Italy	10.6	12.1	12.7	12.5	12.7	12.7	12.4	12.4	12.3	12.4	12.6	12.4	12.4
Japan	4.4	4.0	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.6	3.5	3.4	3.3	3.3
Korea	3.2	3.1	3.5	3.7	3.5	3.5	3.7	3.5	3.4	3.9	3.7	3.7	3.9
Luxembourg	5.1	5.9	6.0	6.0	6.0	5.9	5.8	5.9	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.7
Mexico	5.0	4.9	4.8	4.9	4.9	4.5	4.3	4.3	4.4	4.4	4.2	4.4	4.5
Netherlands	5.8	7.2	7.4	7.6	7.2	7.1	7.1	7.2	7.2	7.1	7.0	7.0	6.9
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	4.1	3.8	4.0	4.1	4.2	4.2	
Poland	10.1	10.3	9.0	9.2	8.6	8.3	8.0	8.2	8.1	8.0	7.9	7.8	7.8
Portugal	15.8	16.5	14.1	14.4	13.7	13.5	13.5	13.6	13.7	13.5	13.2	12.8	13.2
Slovak Republic	14.0	14.2	13.2	13.3	13.1	12.6	12.1	12.4	12.3	12.1	12.0	11.9	11.8
Slovenia	8.9	10.1	9.7	9.7	9.6	9.4	9.2	9.3	9.2	9.2	9.3	9.2	9.2
Spain	24.8	26.1	24.5	24.7	24.2	23.7	23.1	23.6	23.3	23.1	22.9	22.7	22.5
Sweden	8.0	8.0	7.9	8.0	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.6	7.9	7.9	7.6	7.8	7.8
Switzerland	4.2	4.4	4.5	4.4	4.8	4.1	4.4						
Turkey ⁽¹⁾	8.2	8.7	10.0	9.6	10.5	10.5	10.1	10.3	10.2	10.1	10.0		
United Kingdom	7.9	7.6	6.2	6.3	5.9	5.6	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.4		
United States ⁽²⁾	8.1	7.4	6.2	6.2	6.1	5.7	5.6	5.6	5.7	5.5	5.5	5.4	5.5

Notes:

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

(2) United States: Unemployment rate for June 2015 was 5.3%.

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	Mar	Apr	May		Q4	Q1	Mar	Apr	May
OECD - Total	7.5	7.2	7.1	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.3	7.0	6.9	6.8	6.8	6.8
Major Seven	6.3	6.0	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.7	6.5	6.2	6.2	6.1	6.0	6.1
European Union	10.3	10.1	9.9	9.8	9.8	9.7	10.1	9.8	9.6	9.6	9.5	9.5
Euro area	11.8	11.6	11.4	11.3	11.3	11.2	11.5	11.3	11.0	11.0	10.9	10.9
Australia	6.2	6.3	6.2	6.1	6.1	5.9	6.0	6.1	6.2	6.1	6.2	6.0
Austria	5.4	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.6	5.9	5.9	6.0	5.8	5.9	6.1	6.1
Belgium	7.9	8.3	8.1	8.1	8.1	8.0	9.1	8.9	9.2	9.3	9.2	9.1
Canada	6.4	6.2	6.2	6.3	6.2	6.1	7.4	7.0	7.3	7.3	7.4	7.4
Chile	6.9	7.1	7.0	7.0	7.4		6.0	6.1	5.6	5.6	5.7	
Czech Republic	7.4	6.9	6.9	6.9	7.1	6.9	5.1	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.2	5.1
Denmark	6.7	6.4	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.5	6.4	6.3	6.1	6.3	6.2	6.1
Estonia	6.9	6.4	6.0	6.3	6.9		7.9	6.9	6.4	6.1	6.4	
Finland	8.0	8.3	8.7	8.8	8.9	9.0	9.3	9.7	9.7	9.8	9.8	9.7
France	10.0	10.1	10.0	9.9	9.9	9.9	10.5	10.7	10.7	10.7	10.6	10.6
Germany	4.6	4.5	4.5	4.4	4.4	4.4	5.3	5.2	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
Greece	30.2	29.5	29.3	29.3			23.7	23.1	22.7	22.7		
Hungary	8.0	7.4	7.5	7.3	7.1		7.6	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.1	
Iceland	4.8	4.4	4.7	4.2	5.2	6.2	5.1	4.6	3.8	3.6	3.9	2.2
Ireland	9.4	8.6	8.2	8.0	8.2	8.3	12.9	11.9	11.5	11.3	11.1	11.0
Israel	5.9	5.6	5.4	5.4	4.6	4.9	5.9	5.7	5.3	5.1	5.0	5.0
Italy	13.8	14.1	13.1	13.2	13.0	12.7	11.9	11.6	11.9	12.1	11.9	12.1
Japan	3.4	3.2	3.2	3.1	3.2	3.0	3.8	3.7	3.7	3.6	3.4	3.6
Korea	3.5	3.4	3.6	3.7	3.9	3.9	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.7	3.8
Luxembourg	6.2	6.3	6.2	6.2	6.3	6.3	5.8	5.6	5.5	5.4	5.3	5.3
Mexico	4.9	4.7	4.4	4.3	4.6	4.6	4.8	4.5	4.3	4.1	4.3	4.4
Netherlands	7.8	7.5	7.5	7.4	7.5	7.3	7.2	6.9	6.8	6.7	6.6	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	4.0		3.7	4.0	4.3	4.4	4.5	
Poland	9.6	8.8	8.4	8.3	8.2	8.2	8.5	7.9	7.6	7.5	7.5	7.5
Portugal	14.5	13.8	13.8	13.4	13.2	13.3	13.8	13.3	13.1	13.0	12.5	13.2
Slovak Republic	13.6	13.5	13.2	13.1	13.1	13.1	12.8	11.8	11.3	11.2	11.0	10.8
Slovenia	10.6	10.1	10.2	10.4	10.5	10.6	9.0	8.8	8.4	8.3	8.2	8.1
Spain	25.4	24.7	24.5	24.4	24.3	24.2	23.6	22.8	22.0	21.7	21.3	21.0
Sweden	7.7	7.7	7.7	7.4	7.5	7.7	8.1	7.9	7.9	7.7	8.0	7.8
Switzerland	4.7	4.4	4.2				4.4	3.8	4.6			
Turkey ⁽¹⁾	11.9	12.5	12.6	12.5			9.1	9.6	9.0	8.9		
United Kingdom	5.9	5.4	5.3	5.2			6.4	5.9	5.6	5.6		
United States	6.1	5.6	5.4	5.3	5.4	5.4	6.3	5.8	5.7	5.6	5.5	5.6

Note:

(1) Following the changes introduced in the Labour Force Survey for Turkey, data from January 2014 onwards 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	Mar	Apr	May		Q4	Q1	Mar	Apr	May
OECD - Total	15.1	14.6	14.2	14.2	13.9	14.1	6.3	6.1	6.0	5.9	5.9	5.9
Major Seven	14.1	13.6	13.3	13.2	12.8	13.1	5.4	5.2	5.1	5.0	5.0	5.0
European Union	22.2	21.4	20.9	20.9	20.7	20.6	8.9	8.8	8.6	8.5	8.5	8.5
Euro area	23.7	23.1	22.7	22.6	22.3	22.1	10.4	10.3	10.1	10.1	10.0	10.0
Australia	13.3	13.8	13.8	13.6	13.5	13.4	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.7	4.5
Austria	10.3	10.1	9.1	9.9	10.1	10.1	4.9	5.0	5.0	4.9	5.2	5.4
Belgium	23.3	22.3	21.1	20.8	20.3	19.9	7.3	7.4	7.6	7.6	7.6	7.6
Canada	13.5	13.2	13.0	13.0	13.6	13.2	5.8	5.5	5.6	5.7	5.6	5.7
Chile	16.4	15.9	14.9	15.5	16.0		5.0	5.2	4.9	4.9	5.0	
Czech Republic	15.8	14.5	14.4	14.9	15.4	14.8	5.4	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.3	5.3
Denmark	12.5	11.2	10.4	10.5	10.0	10.0	5.5	5.5	5.4	5.5	5.5	5.6
Estonia	15.4	14.5	12.5	11.9	11.3		6.7	5.9	5.7	5.7	6.2	
Finland	20.4	21.2	22.1	22.5	22.8	23.0	7.0	7.3	7.4	7.5	7.5	7.4
France	24.0	24.5	24.7	24.5	23.8	23.7	8.8	9.0	8.8	8.8	8.9	8.9
Germany	7.7	7.4	7.2	7.2	7.1	7.1	4.7	4.6	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.4
Greece	52.5	51.1	49.8	49.7			24.8	24.3	24.0	24.0		
Hungary	20.5	18.9	19.1	19.3	18.7		6.7	6.4	6.5	6.4	6.1	
Iceland	10.1	9.1	9.4	10.2	9.6	5.2	3.9	3.6	3.1	2.5	3.5	3.9
Ireland	23.9	21.8	22.0	21.3	20.7	20.2	10.1	9.3	8.8	8.7	8.8	8.8
Israel	10.5	9.9	8.5	8.4	7.6	7.5	5.0	5.0	4.7	4.4	4.1	4.3
Italy	42.7	42.0	41.9	42.4	41.5	41.5	10.6	10.8	10.5	10.5		
Japan	6.2	6.1	6.1	5.1	5.0	5.5	3.4	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.1
Korea	10.0	9.9	10.9	10.8	10.8	10.5	3.1	3.0	3.1	3.1	3.2	3.4
Luxembourg	22.2	21.3	20.4	20.0	19.7	19.5	5.0	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8
Mexico	9.5	9.2	8.6	8.6	8.4	9.1	3.8	3.5	3.4	3.2	3.5	3.5
Netherlands	12.7	11.9	11.2	10.8	10.9	11.1	6.5	6.3	6.4	6.3	6.3	6.1
New Zealand	15.0	15.1	14.5				4.0	3.9	4.1			
Norway	7.9	7.8	9.1	9.3	9.7		2.8	3.1	3.3	3.4	3.3	
Poland	23.8	22.0	21.7	21.6	21.5	21.1	7.7	7.1	6.8	6.7	6.7	6.7
Portugal	34.7	33.4	33.4	32.6	31.7	33.3	12.5	12.0	11.9	11.7	11.4	11.6
Slovak Republic	29.7	27.2	26.2	26.2	26.1	25.9	11.8	11.3	10.9	10.8	10.7	10.7
Slovenia	20.3	19.0	17.0	17.0			9.0	8.6	8.6	8.7	8.7	8.7
Spain	53.2	51.6	50.2	49.9	49.6	49.3	22.3	21.6	21.1	21.0	20.7	20.6
Sweden	22.8	22.5	21.4	20.7	20.6	21.0	5.7	5.7	5.8	5.7	5.9	5.9
Switzerland	8.6	6.3	7.5				3.9	3.8	4.0			
Turkey ⁽¹⁾	18.0	19.2	18.5	18.2			8.4	8.8	8.5	8.4		
United Kingdom	16.9	16.1	15.7	15.7			4.4	4.0	3.9	3.8		
United States	13.4	12.6	12.1	12.3	11.6	12.2	5.0	4.6	4.5	4.4	4.5	4.4

Note:

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

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

	2013	2014	2014		2015	2015			
			Q3	Q4		Feb	Mar	Apr	May
OECD - Total	47,606	44,664	44,548	43,356	42,574	42,624	42,123	42,092	42,224
Major Seven	26,151	23,615	23,470	22,683	22,314	22,284	22,080	21,962	22,079
European Union	26,281	24,777	24,507	24,162	23,657	23,646	23,532	23,386	23,348
Euro area	19,221	18,607	18,502	18,357	17,974	17,954	17,902	17,761	17,726
Australia	686	745	766	766	770	764	760	767	745
Austria	231	245	245	246	241	238	243	256	264
Belgium	417	423	426	429	432	432	435	432	431
Canada	1,347	1,322	1,337	1,274	1,294	1,312	1,309	1,310	1,308
Chile	491	540	542	551	521	521	525	543	
Czech Republic	370	324	312	309	311	310	313	320	315
Denmark	203	190	192	186	181	180	184	182	183
Estonia	58	50	52	45	42	41	42	45	
Finland	219	232	235	242	248	248	251	252	252
France	3,003	3,001	3,014	3,064	3,032	3,032	3,019	2,996	3,012
Germany	2,182	2,090	2,097	2,057	2,002	2,001	1,992	1,983	1,973
Greece	1,330	1,274	1,263	1,241	1,218	1,216	1,212		
Hungary	438	344	335	326	333	333	330	319	
Iceland	10	9	9	8	8	9	7	9	8
Ireland	282	243	237	223	215	215	211	210	210
Israel	228	223	236	214	203	201	198	185	190
Italy	3,069	3,230	3,245	3,249	3,158	3,146	3,200	3,159	3,157
Japan	2,651	2,359	2,367	2,293	2,287	2,300	2,210	2,190	2,180
Korea	807	937	922	928	983	1,044	982	1,002	1,042
Luxembourg	15	16	16	16	15	15	15	15	15
Mexico	2,539	2,511	2,546	2,366	2,268	2,300	2,205	2,316	2,352
Netherlands	647	660	638	637	635	633	626	625	617
New Zealand	148	141	135	143	146				
Norway	95	96	99	104	113	113	115	117	
Poland	1,793	1,567	1,501	1,445	1,384	1,383	1,366	1,359	1,350
Portugal	855	729	705	694	692	693	680	658	677
Slovak Republic	386	359	356	342	332	331	329	327	324
Slovenia	102	98	96	93	92	92	93	93	93
Spain	6,051	5,610	5,534	5,446	5,305	5,304	5,244	5,195	5,148
Sweden	410	411	407	407	406	413	394	406	409
Switzerland	205	215	230	197	212				
Turkey ⁽¹⁾	2,438	2,860	3,041	3,068	2,956	2,953	2,926		
United Kingdom	2,441	1,996	1,926	1,831	1,788	1,788	1,775		
United States	11,460	9,616	9,484	8,914	8,753	8,705	8,575	8,549	8,674

Note:

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