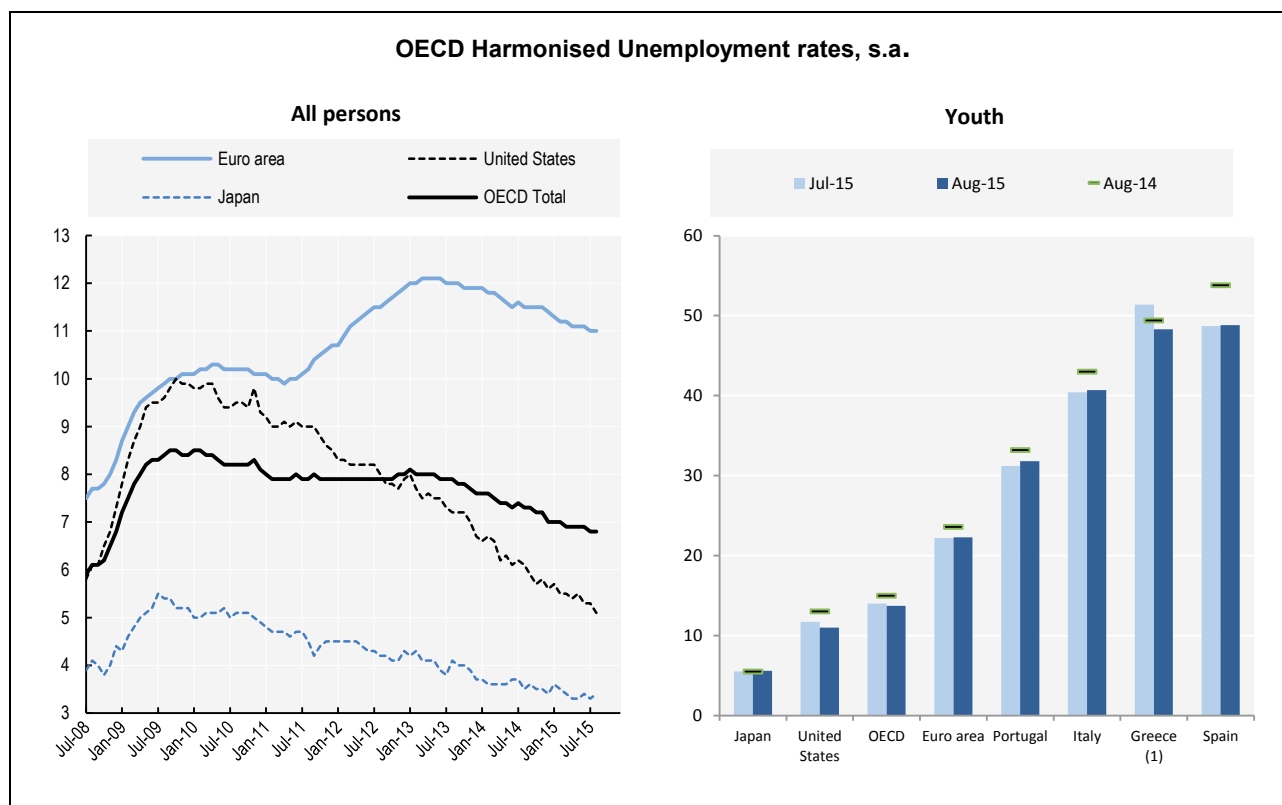


OECD unemployment rate stable at 6.8% in August 2015

The **OECD** unemployment rate was stable at 6.8% in August 2015, 1.3 percentage point below the January 2013 high. Across the OECD area, 41.5 million people were unemployed, 7.5 million less than in January 2013, but still 6.9 million more than in July 2008, immediately before the crisis.

The unemployment rate was stable in August in the **euro area** (at 11.0%) and decreased by 0.2 percentage point in the **United States** to 5.1%. It increased in **Japan** (by 0.1 percentage point, to 3.4%) and **Canada** (by 0.2 percentage point, to 7.0%). More recent data show that the unemployment rate in the **United States** was stable in September 2015, while it continued to increase in **Canada** (by 0.1 percentage point, to 7.1%).

The **OECD youth** (15-24 year-old) unemployment rate fell for the second consecutive month by 0.3 percentage point, to 13.7% in August, its lowest level since October 2008. However, levels and developments are quite divergent across countries: the youth unemployment rate decreased by 0.7 percentage point in the **United States** (to 11.0%) but increased by 0.1 percentage point in the **euro area** (to 22.3%) and **Japan** (to 5.6%). Almost 10 million people aged 15-24 were unemployed in the OECD in August 2015, representing 23.9% of all OECD unemployed persons.



(1) For Greece, data refer to June 2015, compared to May 2015 and June 2014

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, 10 November 2015

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

	2012	2013	2014	2014		2015		2015					
				Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
OECD - Total	7.9	7.9	7.4	7.3	7.1	7.0	6.9	6.9	6.9	6.9	6.9	6.8	6.8
Major Seven	7.4	7.1	6.4	6.3	6.1	6.0	5.9	6.0	5.9	6.0	5.9	5.8	5.8
European Union	10.5	10.9	10.2	10.1	10.0	9.7	9.6	9.7	9.6	9.6	9.6	9.5	9.5
Euro area	11.4	12.0	11.6	11.5	11.5	11.2	11.1	11.2	11.1	11.1	11.1	11.0	11.0
Australia	5.2	5.7	6.1	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.1	6.1	6.2	6.0	6.1	6.3	6.2
Austria	4.9	5.4	5.6	5.7	5.7	5.6	5.9	5.6	5.9	6.0	5.9	5.8	5.7
Belgium	7.6	8.5	8.5	8.6	8.6	8.6	8.8	8.7	8.7	8.8	8.9	8.8	8.8
Canada ⁽¹⁾	7.3	7.1	6.9	7.0	6.7	6.7	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	7.0
Chile	6.4	5.9	6.4	6.4	6.5	6.1	6.3	6.2	6.4	6.3	6.3	6.2	
Czech Republic	7.0	7.0	6.1	5.9	5.8	5.8	5.1	5.6	5.3	5.1	5.0	5.1	5.0
Denmark	7.5	7.0	6.5	6.6	6.3	6.2	6.3	6.4	6.3	6.3	6.2	6.3	6.3
Estonia	10.0	8.6	7.4	7.8	6.7	6.1	6.3	6.1	6.5	6.4	6.1	5.7	
Finland	7.7	8.2	8.7	8.8	9.0	9.2	9.4	9.3	9.4	9.4	9.5	9.6	9.7
France	9.8	10.3	10.3	10.4	10.5	10.4	10.4	10.3	10.3	10.4	10.5	10.7	10.8
Germany	5.4	5.2	5.0	5.0	4.9	4.8	4.7	4.8	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.6	4.5
Greece	24.5	27.5	26.6	26.2	26.0	25.9	25.2	26.0	25.5	25.0	25.2		
Hungary	11.0	10.1	7.7	7.6	7.3	7.4	7.0	7.3	7.1	7.0	6.9	6.8	
Iceland	6.0	5.4	5.0	4.8	4.6	4.5	4.4	4.5	4.4	4.4	4.3	4.3	4.3
Ireland	14.7	13.1	11.3	11.1	10.4	10.0	9.6	9.8	9.7	9.6	9.5	9.5	9.5
Israel	6.9	6.2	5.9	6.2	5.6	5.4	5.1	5.3	4.9	5.0	5.3	5.3	5.3
Italy	10.6	12.1	12.7	12.8	12.8	12.4	12.4	12.5	12.3	12.4	12.5	12.0	11.9
Japan	4.4	4.0	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.3	3.4	3.3	3.3	3.4	3.3	3.4
Korea	3.2	3.1	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.7	3.8	3.7	3.7	3.9	3.9	3.7	3.6
Luxembourg	5.1	5.9	6.0	6.0	6.1	6.0	5.9	5.9	5.9	5.9	5.9	5.9	5.9
Mexico	5.0	4.9	4.8	4.9	4.5	4.3	4.4	4.2	4.4	4.5	4.4	4.4	4.4
Netherlands	5.8	7.2	7.4	7.2	7.1	7.1	6.9	7.0	7.0	6.9	6.9	6.8	6.8
New Zealand	6.9	6.2	5.8	5.5	5.7	5.8	5.9						
Norway	3.2	3.5	3.5	3.6	3.8	4.1	4.3	4.2	4.2	4.3	4.4	4.3	
Poland	10.1	10.3	9.0	8.7	8.3	7.9	7.5	7.7	7.6	7.5	7.4	7.3	7.2
Portugal	15.8	16.5	14.1	13.7	13.5	13.5	12.5	13.2	12.8	12.4	12.3	12.3	12.4
Slovak Republic	14.0	14.2	13.2	13.1	12.5	12.1	11.4	11.9	11.6	11.4	11.3	11.2	11.1
Slovenia	8.9	10.1	9.7	9.6	9.4	9.2	9.6	9.3	9.5	9.6	9.6	9.5	9.4
Spain	24.8	26.1	24.5	24.2	23.7	23.1	22.6	22.9	22.7	22.6	22.5	22.3	22.2
Sweden	8.0	8.0	7.9	7.9	7.8	7.7	7.6	7.5	7.7	7.7	7.3	7.3	7.0
Switzerland	4.2	4.4	4.5	4.8	4.1	4.4	4.2						
Turkey ⁽²⁾	8.2	8.7	10.0	10.4	10.5	10.1	10.2	10.0	9.9	10.2	10.5		
United Kingdom	7.9	7.6	6.2	5.9	5.6	5.5	5.6	5.5	5.6	5.6	5.5		
United States ⁽³⁾	8.1	7.4	6.2	6.1	5.7	5.6	5.4	5.5	5.4	5.5	5.3	5.3	5.1

Notes:

(1) Canada: Unemployment rate for September 2015 was 7.1%.

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

(3) United States: Unemployment rate for September 2015 was 5.1%.

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

	Women						Men					
	2014	2015		2015			2014	2015		2015		
		Q1	Q2	Jun	Jul	Aug		Q1	Q2	Jun	Jul	Aug
OECD - Total	7.5	7.1	7.0	7.0	7.0	6.9	7.3	6.9	6.8	6.8	6.7	6.7
Major Seven	6.3	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.7	5.7	6.5	6.2	6.1	6.0	5.9	5.9
European Union	10.3	9.8	9.7	9.7	9.6	9.6	10.1	9.6	9.6	9.5	9.4	9.4
Euro area	11.8	11.4	11.3	11.3	11.2	11.2	11.5	11.0	10.9	10.9	10.8	10.8
Australia	6.2	6.2	6.0	6.1	6.6	6.3	6.0	6.2	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.2
Austria	5.4	5.2	5.6	5.5	5.4	5.3	5.9	5.8	6.2	6.1	6.1	6.1
Belgium	7.9	8.0	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.9	9.0	9.2	9.5	9.6	9.6	9.6
Canada	6.4	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.1	6.4	7.4	7.3	7.4	7.3	7.4	7.5
Chile	6.9	7.0	7.2	7.2	6.8		6.0	5.5	5.6	5.7	5.7	
Czech Republic	7.4	6.8	6.2	6.1	6.2	6.1	5.1	4.9	4.3	4.2	4.2	4.2
Denmark	6.7	6.3	6.4	6.6	6.5	6.5	6.4	6.1	6.1	5.8	6.1	6.2
Estonia	6.9	5.8	6.3	6.0	5.6		7.9	6.4	6.3	6.1	5.8	
Finland	8.0	8.6	8.9	8.9	8.9	9.0	9.3	9.7	10.0	10.1	10.3	10.4
France	10.0	10.0	9.8	9.9	10.2	10.4	10.5	10.7	10.9	11.0	11.1	11.2
Germany	4.6	4.4	4.3	4.2	4.1	4.1	5.3	5.1	5.1	5.0	5.0	4.9
Greece	30.2	29.8	29.1	29.5			23.7	22.8	22.1	21.7		
Hungary	8.0	7.5	7.2	7.2	7.2		7.6	7.3	6.8	6.6	6.5	
Iceland	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.7	4.7	4.7	5.1	4.2	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
Ireland	9.4	8.2	8.1	8.1	8.1	8.1	12.9	11.5	10.8	10.7	10.6	10.6
Israel	5.9	5.4	5.0	5.4	5.4	5.5	5.9	5.4	5.1	5.2	5.3	5.1
Italy	13.8	13.1	13.1	13.3	12.7	12.8	11.9	11.8	11.8	11.9	11.5	11.3
Japan	3.4	3.2	3.1	3.1	3.2	3.2	3.8	3.7	3.5	3.6	3.5	3.5
Korea	3.5	3.6	3.8	3.7	3.6	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.8	4.0	3.8	3.6
Luxembourg	6.4	6.8	6.8	6.7	6.8	6.7	5.8	5.3	5.2	5.1	5.2	5.2
Mexico	4.9	4.4	4.7	4.8	4.6	4.4	4.8	4.3	4.3	4.2	4.2	4.3
Netherlands	7.8	7.5	7.3	7.2	7.1	7.1	7.2	6.8	6.6	6.6	6.4	6.5
New Zealand	6.6	6.3	6.7				5.1	5.4	5.2			
Norway	3.3	3.9	3.9	4.0	3.9		3.7	4.3	4.6	4.7	4.7	
Poland	9.6	8.3	7.7	7.5	7.4	7.3	8.5	7.6	7.3	7.2	7.2	7.1
Portugal	14.5	13.8	12.7	12.5	12.4	12.7	13.8	13.1	12.3	12.1	12.2	12.2
Slovak Republic	13.6	13.1	12.9	12.8	12.8	12.7	12.8	11.2	10.3	10.1	9.9	9.8
Slovenia	10.6	10.2	10.7	10.7	10.6	10.6	9.0	8.5	8.6	8.5	8.4	8.4
Spain	25.4	24.5	24.2	24.1	24.0	24.0	23.6	22.0	21.2	21.0	20.7	20.6
Sweden	7.7	7.6	7.5	7.4	7.2	6.7	8.1	7.8	7.7	7.3	7.3	7.3
Switzerland	4.7	4.2	4.3				4.4	4.6	4.0			
Turkey ⁽¹⁾	11.9	12.6	12.7	13.1			9.1	9.0	9.1	9.4		
United Kingdom	5.9	5.3	5.4	5.3			6.4	5.6	5.7	5.7		
United States	6.1	5.4	5.3	5.2	5.3	5.1	6.3	5.7	5.5	5.4	5.2	5.1

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	2015		2015			2014	2015		2015		
		Q1	Q2	Jun	Jul	Aug		Q1	Q2	Jun	Jul	Aug
OECD - Total	15.1	14.3	14.2	14.3	14.0	13.7	6.3	6.0	5.9	5.8	5.9	5.8
Major Seven	14.1	13.3	13.1	13.1	12.8	12.5	5.4	5.1	5.0	4.9	5.0	4.9
European Union	22.2	20.9	20.7	20.6	20.4	20.4	9.0	8.6	8.4	8.4	8.4	8.4
Euro area	23.8	22.7	22.5	22.6	22.2	22.3	10.4	10.1	10.0	10.0	9.9	9.9
Australia	13.3	13.8	13.5	13.4	13.8	13.7	4.6	4.7	4.6	4.6	4.8	4.7
Austria	10.3	9.4	10.6	10.6	10.9	10.8	4.9	5.0	5.2	5.1	5.0	5.0
Belgium	23.3	21.0	22.4	23.1	22.5	22.6	7.3	7.5	7.6	7.6	7.5	7.5
Canada	13.5	13.0	13.2	12.9	13.2	13.1	5.8	5.6	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.9
Chile	16.4	14.9	16.2	16.1	15.8		5.0	4.9	4.9	5.0	4.9	
Czech Republic	15.8	14.1	13.1	12.8	13.1	12.4	5.4	5.2	4.6	4.5	4.5	4.5
Denmark	12.5	10.6	10.7	11.4	11.4	11.4	5.5	5.4	5.5	5.3	5.4	5.4
Estonia	15.4	12.5	10.5	9.8	11.5		6.7	5.5	5.9	5.7	5.2	
Finland	20.4	22.1	23.3	23.6	23.7	23.7	7.0	7.4	7.5	7.6	7.7	7.8
France	24.2	24.8	24.2	24.2	24.3	24.5	8.9	8.9	8.9	9.1	9.3	9.4
Germany	7.7	7.2	7.1	7.1	7.0	7.0	4.7	4.5	4.4	4.4	4.3	4.3
Greece	52.5	51.8	50.7	48.3			24.8	24.2	23.6	23.6		
Hungary	20.5	19.1	18.4	17.9	17.7		6.7	6.5	6.0	6.0	5.9	
Iceland	10.1	9.0	8.7	8.7	8.8	8.7	3.9	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.4
Ireland	23.9	22.1	20.5	20.7	20.7	20.7	10.1	8.8	8.6	8.5	8.4	8.4
Israel	10.5	8.5	8.6	10.6	12.7	11.0	5.0	4.7	4.2	4.2	4.4	4.2
Italy	42.7	41.9	42.2	43.0	40.4	40.7	10.6	10.4				
Japan	6.2	6.1	5.4	5.6	5.5	5.6	3.4	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2
Korea	10.0	10.9	11.1	11.8	10.4	9.8	3.1	3.1	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.1
Luxembourg	22.5	19.1	18.3	18.0	18.3	18.5	5.0	5.0	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9
Mexico	9.5	8.6	9.1	9.7	8.9	8.4	3.8	3.4	3.4	3.2	3.4	3.5
Netherlands	12.7	11.2	11.0	11.1	11.3	11.2	6.5	6.4	6.2	6.1	5.9	5.9
New Zealand	15.0	14.5	14.4				4.0	4.2	4.3			
Norway	7.9	9.3	10.5	10.9	10.5		2.8	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	
Poland	23.8	21.6	20.6	19.8	19.3	19.0	7.7	6.7	6.4	6.3	6.3	6.2
Portugal	34.7	33.3	31.4	31.7	31.2	31.8	12.5	11.9	11.0	10.8	10.8	10.9
Slovak Republic	29.7	26.4	26.4	26.2	25.2	24.6	11.8	10.9	10.2	10.1	10.1	10.0
Slovenia	20.3	17.2	16.8	16.8			9.0	8.6	9.0	9.0	8.9	8.9
Spain	53.2	50.2	49.2	49.0	48.7	48.8	22.3	21.1	20.6	20.5	20.4	20.3
Sweden	22.8	21.4	20.7	20.7	21.2	19.6	5.7	5.8	5.7	5.5	5.4	5.2
Switzerland	8.6	7.5	6.4				3.9	4.0	3.8			
Turkey ⁽¹⁾	18.0	18.5	18.6	19.1			8.4	8.5	8.5	8.7		
United Kingdom	16.9	15.7	15.6	15.4			4.4	3.9	3.9	3.9		
United States	13.4	12.1	12.0	12.1	11.7	11.0	5.0	4.5	4.4	4.2	4.3	4.2

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			
			Q4	Q1	Q2	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
OECD - Total	47,617	44,688	43,393	42,594	42,094	42,259	41,975	41,683	41,460
Major Seven	26,162	23,639	22,727	22,322	22,020	22,170	21,878	21,708	21,566
European Union	26,292	24,802	24,207	23,662	23,338	23,334	23,272	23,055	23,022
Euro area	19,232	18,631	18,403	17,989	17,789	17,766	17,797	17,604	17,603
Australia	686	744	764	770	756	743	757	796	781
Austria	231	245	246	242	258	261	257	253	251
Belgium	417	423	428	431	436	434	439	435	435
Canada	1,347	1,322	1,274	1,294	1,307	1,308	1,304	1,306	1,346
Chile	491	540	550	520	536	536	543	531	
Czech Republic	370	324	308	306	272	269	267	272	269
Denmark	203	190	186	182	184	183	182	184	186
Estonia	58	50	45	41	43	44	42	39	
Finland	219	232	242	247	253	253	256	258	260
France	3,014	3,026	3,086	3,045	3,047	3,044	3,088	3,139	3,190
Germany	2,182	2,090	2,057	2,004	1,967	1,969	1,947	1,921	1,896
Greece	1,330	1,274	1,243	1,233	1,210	1,207	1,205		
Hungary	438	344	326	333	315	315	311	309	
Iceland	10	9	9	9	8	8	8	8	8
Ireland	282	243	223	215	207	207	206	206	206
Israel	228	223	214	205	195	193	205	205	204
Italy	3,069	3,230	3,269	3,145	3,181	3,171	3,216	3,072	3,061
Japan	2,651	2,359	2,293	2,287	2,197	2,180	2,220	2,200	2,240
Korea	807	937	928	983	1,029	1,042	1,042	999	962
Luxembourg	15	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16
Mexico	2,539	2,511	2,367	2,271	2,329	2,348	2,325	2,312	2,322
Netherlands	647	660	637	635	618	617	611	603	604
New Zealand	148	141	143	146	148				
Norway	95	96	104	113	119	118	122	120	
Poland	1,793	1,567	1,441	1,371	1,297	1,299	1,270	1,253	1,241
Portugal	855	729	694	691	640	634	630	628	633
Slovak Republic	386	359	342	330	313	312	309	306	303
Slovenia	102	98	94	93	97	97	97	95	94
Spain	6,051	5,611	5,445	5,309	5,191	5,187	5,164	5,112	5,094
Sweden	410	411	408	404	395	404	380	377	368
Switzerland	205	215	197	212	200				
Turkey ⁽¹⁾	2,438	2,860	3,066	2,967	3,010	3,014	3,105		
United Kingdom	2,441	1,996	1,832	1,794	1,815	1,824	1,804		
United States	11,460	9,616	8,914	8,753	8,507	8,674	8,299	8,266	8,029

Note:

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