

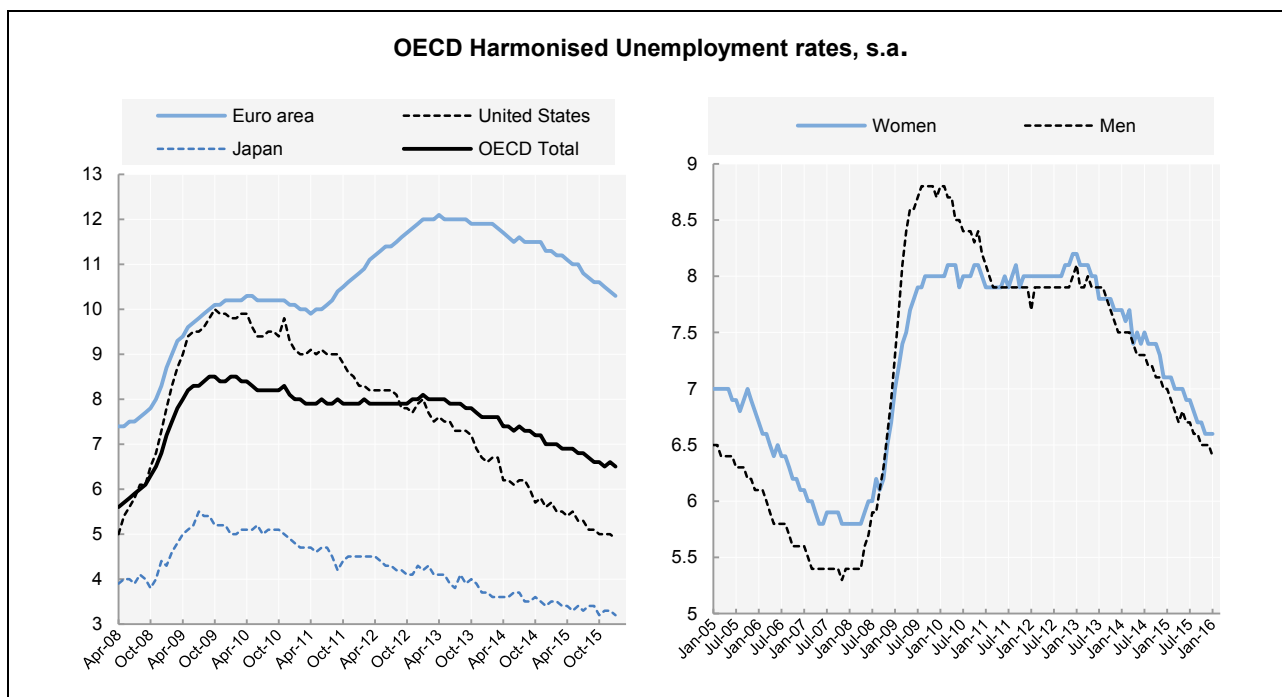
OECD unemployment rate down to 6.5% in January 2016

The **OECD** unemployment rate fell by 0.1 percentage point to 6.5% in January 2016, 1.6 percentage points below the January 2013 peak. Across the OECD area, 39.9 million people were unemployed, 9 million less than in January 2013, but still 7.4 million more than in April 2008, before the crisis.

In January 2016, the **euro area** unemployment rate declined by 0.1 percentage point, to 10.3%, continuing its downward trend. Within the euro area, the largest falls were observed in the **Slovak Republic** (down 0.3 percentage point, to 10.3%), **Ireland** (down 0.2 percentage point, to 8.6%), **Luxembourg** (down 0.2 percentage point, to 5.8%) and **Spain** (down 0.2 percentage point, to 20.5%).

The unemployment rate in January 2016 also decreased by 0.1 percentage point in the **United States** (to 4.9%) and **Japan** (to 3.2%), while it increased by 0.1 percentage point in **Canada**, to 7.2%. More recent data show that in February 2016, the unemployment rate was stable in the **United States**.

In January 2016, the OECD unemployment rate for **women** was stable (at 6.6%), while the OECD unemployment rate for **men** declined by 0.1 percentage point (to 6.4%). While, in the pre-crisis period, the unemployment rate of **women** had exceeded that of **men**, both the crisis and the subsequent recovery disproportionately affected **men**. In the following period, between early 2011 and 2013, the unemployment rate for both groups remained stable at around 8%, with slightly higher rates for **women**; since then, the unemployment rates of both **men** and **women** have declined in tandem, with **women's** unemployment remaining slightly above that of men.



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.

Contacts: For further information readers are invited to contact the OECD's Media Relations Division on

(33) 1 45 24 97 00 or e-mail news.contact@oecd.org

For technical questions contact stat.contact@oecd.org

Next release: Tuesday, 12 April 2016

OECD Harmonised Unemployment Rates
News Release: January 2016
Table 1: OECD Unemployment Rates, s.a.
Percentage of active population

	2013	2014	2015	2015				2015					2016
				Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
OECD - Total	7.9	7.4	6.8	7.0	6.9	6.7	6.6	6.7	6.6	6.6	6.5	6.6	6.5
Major Seven	7.1	6.4	5.8	6.0	5.9	5.7	5.6	5.7	5.7	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.5
European Union	10.9	10.2	9.4	9.7	9.6	9.3	9.0	9.3	9.2	9.1	9.0	9.0	8.9
Euro area	12.0	11.6	10.9	11.2	11.0	10.7	10.5	10.7	10.6	10.6	10.5	10.4	10.3
Australia	5.7	6.1	6.1	6.2	6.0	6.2	5.8	6.2	6.2	5.9	5.8	5.8	6.0
Austria	5.4	5.6	5.7	5.5	5.9	5.7	5.8	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.9	5.9	5.9
Belgium	8.5	8.5	8.3	8.6	8.7	8.1	7.9	8.1	7.9	7.8	7.9	7.9	7.9
Canada	7.1	6.9	6.9	6.8	6.8	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.1	7.0	7.0	7.1	7.2
Chile	5.9	6.4	6.2	6.1	6.3	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.3	6.2	6.1	
Czech Republic	7.0	6.1	5.1	5.7	5.1	4.8	4.5	4.8	4.7	4.6	4.5	4.5	4.5
Denmark	7.0	6.5	6.2	6.3	6.2	6.1	6.1	6.2	6.0	6.1	6.1	6.0	5.9
Estonia	8.6	7.4	6.2	6.1	6.4	5.9	6.4	5.8	6.0	6.3	6.5	6.3	
Finland	8.2	8.7	9.4	9.1	9.3	9.5	9.4	9.5	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.4
France	10.3	10.3	10.4	10.4	10.4	10.5	10.1	10.6	10.4	10.2	10.1	10.1	10.2
Germany	5.2	5.0	4.6	4.8	4.7	4.6	4.4	4.6	4.5	4.5	4.4	4.4	4.3
Greece	27.5	26.6		25.9	25.0	24.7		24.6	24.7	24.7	24.6		
Hungary	10.1	7.7	6.8	7.4	7.0	6.6	6.3	6.5	6.5	6.4	6.3	6.1	
Iceland	5.4	5.0	4.0	4.1	3.9	3.8	3.5	3.8	3.8	3.6	3.5	3.3	3.2
Ireland	13.1	11.3	9.4	10.0	9.6	9.1	8.8	9.1	9.0	8.9	8.8	8.8	8.6
Israel	6.2	5.9	5.2	5.4	5.1	5.2	5.2	5.3	5.1	5.2	5.4	5.1	5.1
Italy	12.1	12.7	11.9	12.3	12.2	11.5	11.5	11.4	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.6	11.5
Japan	4.0	3.6	3.4	3.5	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.4	3.4	3.2	3.3	3.3	3.2
Korea	3.1	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.8	3.6	3.5	3.6	3.5	3.4	3.5	3.5	3.5
Luxembourg	5.9	6.1	6.1	6.3	6.2	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	5.9	6.0	5.8
Mexico	4.9	4.8	4.4	4.3	4.4	4.3	4.3	4.4	4.3	4.4	4.1	4.5	4.1
Netherlands	7.2	7.4	6.9	7.1	6.9	6.8	6.7	6.8	6.8	6.9	6.7	6.6	6.5
New Zealand	6.2	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.9	6.0	5.3						
Norway	3.5	3.5	4.4	4.1	4.3	4.5	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.5	
Poland	10.3	9.0	7.6	7.9	7.6	7.5	7.2	7.5	7.4	7.4	7.2	7.1	6.9
Portugal	16.5	14.1	12.7	13.5	12.5	12.3	12.3	12.3	12.4	12.4	12.2	12.2	12.2
Slovak Republic	14.2	13.2	11.5	12.1	11.5	11.4	10.8	11.4	11.3	11.1	10.8	10.6	10.3
Slovenia	10.1	9.7	9.1	9.2	9.4	9.0	8.8	9.0	8.9	8.8	8.8	8.9	8.9
Spain	26.1	24.5	22.1	23.1	22.5	21.7	20.9	21.7	21.4	21.2	20.9	20.7	20.5
Sweden	8.0	7.9	7.4	7.7	7.6	7.2	7.1	7.0	7.3	7.2	6.8	7.2	7.0
Switzerland	4.4	4.5	4.5	4.4	4.2	4.9	4.7						
Turkey ⁽¹⁾	8.7	10.0		10.1	10.2	10.4		10.4	10.4	10.6	10.4		
United Kingdom	7.6	6.2		5.5	5.6	5.3		5.3	5.2	5.1	5.1		
United States ⁽²⁾	7.4	6.2	5.3	5.6	5.4	5.2	5.0	5.1	5.1	5.0	5.0	5.0	4.9

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 February 2016 was 4.9%.

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

	Women						Men					
	2015	2015		2015		2016	2015	2015		2015		2016
		Q3	Q4	Nov	Dec			Q3	Q4	Nov	Dec	
OECD - Total	6.9	6.8	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.7	6.6	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.4
Major Seven	5.6	5.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	6.0	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.7
European Union	9.5	9.4	9.2	9.2	9.1	9.1	9.4	9.2	8.9	8.9	8.9	8.8
Euro area	11.0	10.9	10.7	10.7	10.6	10.6	10.7	10.5	10.3	10.3	10.3	10.2
Australia	6.1	6.3	5.9	6.0	5.8	6.0	6.1	6.2	5.8	5.7	5.7	6.0
Austria	5.3	5.2	5.4	5.4	5.5	5.4	6.1	6.1	6.3	6.3	6.4	6.4
Belgium	7.6	7.7	7.5	7.5	7.4	7.2	8.8	8.4	8.2	8.2	8.3	8.4
Canada	6.3	6.3	6.4	6.5	6.4	6.4	7.5	7.5	7.6	7.6	7.8	7.9
Chile	6.8	6.8	6.3	6.3	6.7		5.8	5.8	6.1	6.1	5.8	
Czech Republic	6.1	5.9	5.5	5.6	5.5	5.5	4.3	4.0	3.8	3.7	3.7	3.7
Denmark	6.4	6.6	6.3	6.3	6.0	5.8	6.0	5.8	5.9	5.9	6.0	5.9
Estonia	6.1	5.8	6.0	6.2	5.9		6.3	5.9	6.7	6.7	6.7	
Finland	8.8	8.8	8.9	8.9	8.9	8.9	9.9	10.0	10.0	10.0	9.9	9.8
France	9.8	10.0	9.5	9.4	9.4	9.4	10.9	11.0	10.8	10.8	10.8	10.8
Germany	4.2	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.0	5.0	4.9	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.6
Greece		28.7		29.3				21.5		20.8		
Hungary	7.0	6.9	6.4	6.6	6.3		6.7	6.4	6.1	6.1	5.9	
Iceland	4.1	3.6	3.1	3.1	2.9	2.8	3.9	4.0	3.8	3.8	3.6	3.5
Ireland	7.7	7.4	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.2	10.7	10.5	10.1	10.1	10.0	9.8
Israel	5.4	5.4	5.6	6.0	5.5	5.5	5.1	5.1	4.9	4.8	4.8	4.8
Italy	12.7	12.4	12.1	12.2	12.0	12.4	11.3	10.9	11.1	11.0	11.2	10.9
Japan	3.1	3.1	2.9	3.1	2.9	2.9	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.6	3.4
Korea	3.6	3.5	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.7	3.7	3.5	3.6	3.5	3.6
Luxembourg	7.0	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.9	6.7	5.4	5.3	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.0
Mexico	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.3	4.6	4.3	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.0	4.5	4.0
Netherlands	7.3	7.2	7.2	7.3	7.0	6.9	6.6	6.5	6.3	6.2	6.2	6.1
New Zealand	6.3	6.5	5.7				5.2	5.5	5.0			
Norway	4.0	4.0	4.1	4.1	4.1		4.7	4.9	5.0	5.0	4.9	
Poland	7.8	7.6	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.1	7.1	6.9	6.6
Portugal	12.9	12.5	12.4	12.3	12.2	12.2	12.4	12.1	12.1	12.1	12.1	12.1
Slovak Republic	12.8	12.8	12.2	12.2	12.0	11.7	10.4	10.2	9.6	9.6	9.4	9.2
Slovenia	10.3	10.5	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	8.0	7.7	7.8	7.7	7.9	7.9
Spain	23.6	23.1	22.6	22.6	22.4	22.2	20.8	20.4	19.5	19.5	19.2	19.0
Sweden	7.2	6.9	6.9	6.7	6.9	6.7	7.5	7.4	7.2	7.0	7.5	7.2
Switzerland	4.6	5.2	4.8				4.5	4.7	4.6			
Turkey ⁽¹⁾		12.7		12.6				9.4		9.4		
United Kingdom		5.1		5.0				5.4		5.2		
United States	5.2	5.1	4.9	4.9	4.8	4.9	5.4	5.1	5.2	5.2	5.2	4.9

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+)					
	2015	2015		2015		2016	2015	2015		2015		2016
		Q3	Q4	Nov	Dec			Q3	Q4	Nov	Dec	
OECD - Total	13.9	13.7	13.5	13.4	13.6	13.1	5.8	5.8	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6
Major Seven	12.8	12.5	12.4	12.4	12.4	11.9	4.9	4.9	4.7	4.8	4.7	4.7
European Union	20.4	20.1	19.9	19.8	19.8	19.7	8.3	8.2	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.8
Euro area	22.5	22.3	22.2	22.1	22.1	22.0	9.7	9.6	9.4	9.4	9.3	9.3
Australia	13.1	13.4	12.3	12.5	12.1	12.7	4.6	4.8	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.7
Austria	10.6	10.9	11.5	11.5	11.6	11.8	5.0	4.9	5.0	5.1	5.1	5.1
Belgium	21.1	21.3	22.2	22.3	22.8	22.6	7.2	7.0	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6
Canada	13.2	13.2	12.9	12.6	13.0	13.0	5.8	5.9	6.1	6.1	6.2	6.2
Chile	15.5	15.6	15.1	15.1	14.7		5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	
Czech Republic	12.6	12.2	11.2	11.0	10.9	11.0	4.5	4.3	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1
Denmark	10.8	11.2	10.7	10.7	10.8	11.1	5.3	5.2	5.2	5.3	5.1	5.0
Estonia	13.4	13.8	17.1	17.1	18.4		5.6	5.2	5.5	5.6	5.3	
Finland	22.0	22.2	22.1	22.1	22.2	22.2	7.6	7.7	7.7	7.7	7.7	7.7
France	25.1	25.2	25.7	25.7	25.9	25.9	8.8	9.0	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5
Germany	7.3	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1	4.4	4.3	4.2	4.2	4.1	4.0
Greece		48.5		48.0				23.3		23.2		
Hungary	17.2	16.3	14.9	15.5	14.2		6.0	5.8	5.6	5.6	5.5	
Iceland	8.8	8.2	7.7	7.7	7.4	7.1	3.0	2.9	2.6	2.6	2.5	2.4
Ireland	20.6	20.5	19.4	19.4	19.2	19.1	8.3	8.0	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.6
Israel	9.2	10.9	9.0	9.2	9.2	7.3	4.5	4.4	4.6	4.5	4.5	4.5
Italy	40.4	39.5	38.7	38.1	38.7	39.3		9.7				
Japan	5.6	5.7	5.3	5.1	5.2	5.0	3.2	3.2	3.1	3.1	3.2	3.0
Korea	10.5	10.2	10.0	10.5	9.4	9.9	3.1	3.1	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
Luxembourg	14.3	12.4	12.2	12.0	12.1	11.7	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.1
Mexico	8.7	8.4	8.6	7.9	9.4	7.9	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.4	3.3
Netherlands	11.3	11.3	11.3	11.2	11.2	11.2	6.1	5.9	5.9	5.9	5.8	5.6
New Zealand	14.7	15.8	13.9				4.0	4.1	3.7			
Norway	9.9	10.3	9.6	9.7	9.8		3.5	3.6	3.8	3.8	3.7	
Poland	20.8	20.6	20.6	20.5	20.5	20.4	6.4	6.4	6.1	6.1	5.9	5.8
Portugal	32.0	31.4	31.3	31.8	30.1	29.9	11.2	10.8	10.8	10.7	10.8	10.8
Slovak Republic	26.4	26.5	25.1	25.1	24.4	23.5	10.2	10.1	9.6	9.6	9.4	9.2
Slovenia	15.9	14.5	15.0	15.0	15.0		8.5	8.6	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3
Spain	48.4	47.5	46.2	46.1	45.8	45.0	20.2	19.8	19.2	19.1	19.0	18.8
Sweden	20.2	20.1	18.9	17.4	19.4	19.6	5.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.5	5.2
Switzerland		10.6	9.8				4.0	4.1	3.9			
Turkey ⁽¹⁾		18.6		18.5				8.8		8.8		
United Kingdom		14.1		13.6				3.9		3.8		
United States	11.6	11.2	11.2	11.2	11.2	10.3	4.3	4.2	4.1	4.1	4.0	4.1

Note:

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

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

	2014	2015	2015			2015			2016
			Q2	Q3	Q4	Oct	Nov	Dec	
OECD - Total	44,688	41,491	41,932	41,084	40,361	40,479	40,242	40,366	39,852
Major Seven	23,639	21,632	21,925	21,310	20,918	20,876	20,916	20,960	20,740
European Union	24,802	22,895	23,234	22,563	22,058	22,211	22,010	21,952	21,789
Euro area	18,631	17,441	17,685	17,202	16,838	16,959	16,803	16,752	16,647
Australia	744	760	752	781	738	743	739	731	761
Austria	245	252	256	250	258	253	259	263	264
Belgium	423	409	432	401	390	389	390	392	391
Canada	1,322	1,331	1,311	1,345	1,369	1,355	1,364	1,386	1,390
Chile	540	532	537	537	533	540	533	529	
Czech Republic	324	268	271	257	240	243	239	238	240
Denmark	190	181	183	180	180	179	181	179	177
Estonia	50	42	43	40	43	43	44	43	
Finland	232	252	249	254	254	254	254	253	252
France	3,026	3,051	3,054	3,098	2,994	3,015	2,984	2,983	2,983
Germany	2,090	1,950	1,968	1,908	1,865	1,881	1,866	1,848	1,827
Greece	1,274		1,201	1,190		1,184	1,181		
Hungary	344	308	315	299	284	289	286	278	
Iceland	9	8	7	7	7	7	7	6	6
Ireland	243	202	207	197	191	192	191	190	187
Israel	223	202	195	202	203	201	209	199	201
Italy	3,230	3,033	3,114	2,944	2,943	2,948	2,930	2,951	2,951
Japan	2,359	2,218	2,203	2,227	2,160	2,100	2,170	2,210	2,120
Korea	937	976	1,013	976	937	926	944	940	941
Luxembourg	16	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	16
Mexico	2,511	2,306	2,316	2,292	2,332	2,339	2,239	2,418	2,216
Netherlands	660	614	618	605	600	616	596	588	574
New Zealand	141	144	148	150	133				
Norway	96	121	119	125	128	129	127	127	
Poland	1,567	1,308	1,309	1,292	1,254	1,277	1,255	1,230	1,203
Portugal	729	648	640	630	627	633	628	621	619
Slovak Republic	359	314	316	311	295	302	295	289	282
Slovenia	98	92	95	91	89	89	89	90	90
Spain	5,611	5,056	5,164	4,958	4,784	4,840	4,775	4,737	4,677
Sweden	411	387	396	375	371	376	359	378	367
Switzerland	215	219	200	237	229				
Turkey ⁽¹⁾	2,860		3,006	3,117		3,179	3,127		
United Kingdom	1,996		1,807	1,724		1,678	1,678		
United States	9,616	8,296	8,468	8,064	7,909	7,899	7,924	7,904	7,791

Note:

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