

OECD unemployment rate stable at 8.2% in November 2011, but national rates diverge

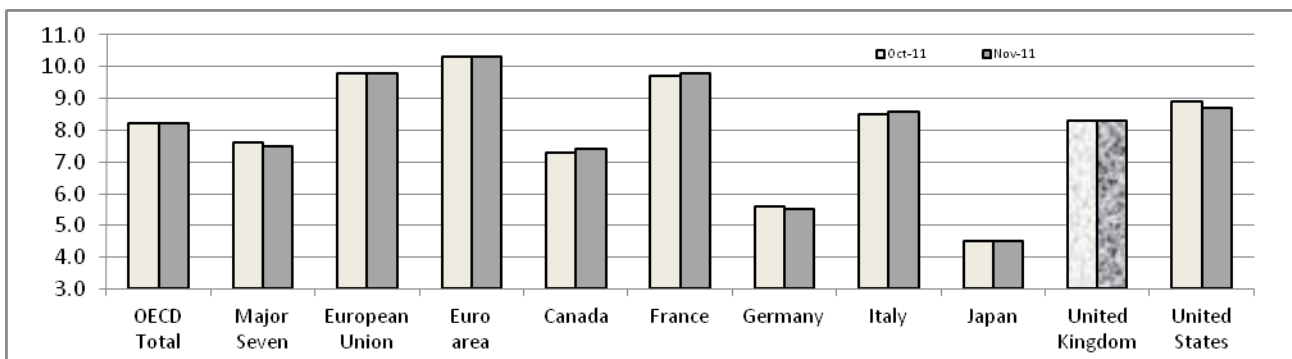
The **OECD area** unemployment rate was stable at 8.2% in November 2011, unchanged since August. The rate has hovered at this level since January 2011. However, stability at the aggregate level masks different national situations.

The **Euro area's** unemployment rate remained at 10.3% in November – the highest rate recorded since the start of the global financial crisis. This reflected ongoing increases in the unemployment rates for **Portugal** (at 13.2%), **Spain** (at 22.9%), **Ireland** (at 14.6%) and more lately the **Netherlands** (at 4.9%) offset by sustained declines in the unemployment rates for **Germany** (at 5.5%) and more recently **Belgium** (at 7.2%). Germany's rate has now regained its 1991 reunification level, down from the peak of 11.5% in April 2005.

December 2011 unemployment rate data for North America show a similar divergent pattern, with a fourth consecutive monthly decline in the **United States** (at 8.5%) and a third consecutive increase in **Canada** (at 7.5%).

Around 44.6 million people were unemployed across the OECD area in November 2011, down 1.8 million from November 2010 but still 13.8 million higher than in November 2007.

Selected Unemployment Rates, s.a. October 2011 – November 2011 ⁽¹⁾



(1) United Kingdom: August 2011— September 2011.

Methodological Notes:

For methodological reasons, harmonised unemployment rates may differ from those published by national statistical institutes. All rates and levels quoted are seasonally adjusted (s.a.).

More methodological notes are available at <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/21/0/44743407.pdf>.

Access data:

The latest unemployment rates for all OECD countries and geographic groupings, as well as historical data, can be downloaded from the OECD online data dissemination facility OECD.Stat Extracts at: <http://stats.oecd.org/wbos/Default.aspx?QueryName=251&QueryType=View&Lang=en>.

Contacts:

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**OECD Harmonised Unemployment Rates
News Release: November 2011**
**OECD Unemployment Rates, s.a.
Percentage of labour force**

	2008	2009	2010	2010	2011			2011					
					Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
OECD - Total	6.1	8.4	8.6	8.5	8.2	8.2	8.2	8.3	8.3	8.2	8.2	8.2	8.2
Major Seven	5.9	8.1	8.2	8.1	7.7	7.7	7.7	7.8	7.7	7.7	7.6	7.6	7.5
European Union	7.1	9.0	9.6	9.6	9.5	9.5	9.7	9.5	9.6	9.7	9.8	9.8	9.8
Euro area	7.7	9.6	10.1	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.1	10.0	10.1	10.1	10.2	10.3	10.3
Australia	4.2	5.6	5.2	5.1	5.0	4.9	5.2	5.0	5.1	5.3	5.3	5.2	5.3
Austria	3.8	4.8	4.4	4.2	4.4	4.1	3.8	3.9	3.7	3.7	3.9	4.1	4.0
Belgium	7.0	7.9	8.3	7.8	7.1	7.1	7.4	7.2	7.3	7.4	7.4	7.3	7.2
Canada ⁽¹⁾	6.1	8.3	8.0	7.7	7.7	7.5	7.2	7.4	7.2	7.3	7.1	7.3	7.4
Chile	7.8	10.8	8.2	7.7	7.4	6.8	7.2	7.1	7.0	7.2	7.3	7.5	
Czech Republic	4.4	6.7	7.3	7.0	6.9	6.9	6.6	6.8	6.7	6.6	6.5	6.6	6.7
Denmark	3.4	6.1	7.4	7.7	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.4	7.5	7.6	7.7	7.8
Estonia	5.6	13.8	16.8	14.6	13.6	12.7	11.3	12.7	11.3	11.3	11.3		
Finland	6.4	8.2	8.4	8.1	8.0	7.8	7.7	7.8	7.7	7.7	7.6	7.5	7.4
France	7.8	9.5	9.8	9.7	9.6	9.6	9.6	9.7	9.7	9.6	9.6	9.7	9.8
Germany	7.5	7.8	7.1	6.7	6.3	6.0	5.8	5.9	5.9	5.8	5.7	5.6	5.5
Greece	7.7	9.5	12.6	14.1	15.1	16.8	18.4	17.3	17.9	18.4	18.8		
Hungary	7.8	10.0	11.2	11.0	11.0	10.9	10.9	11.0	10.9	10.9	10.8	10.8	10.7
Iceland	3.0	7.2	7.5	8.5	7.4	6.7	7.2						
Ireland	6.3	11.8	13.7	14.3	14.3	14.3	14.7	14.4	14.7	14.7	14.6	14.6	14.6
Israel ⁽³⁾	6.1	7.5	6.7	6.5	6.0	5.5	5.6						
Italy	6.8	7.8	8.4	8.3	8.2	8.1	8.1	8.0	8.0	7.9	8.3	8.5	8.6
Japan	4.0	5.1	5.1	5.0	4.7	4.6	4.4	4.6	4.7	4.3	4.1	4.5	4.5
Korea	3.2	3.6	3.7	3.4	3.9	3.4	3.2	3.3	3.3	3.1	3.2	3.1	3.1
Luxembourg	4.9	5.2	4.6	4.7	4.7	4.8	4.9	4.8	4.9	4.9	5.0	4.8	4.9
Mexico	4.0	5.5	5.4	5.5	5.2	5.5	5.3	5.8	5.3	5.4	5.2	4.8	5.2
Netherlands	3.1	3.7	4.5	4.4	4.3	4.2	4.4	4.1	4.3	4.4	4.5	4.8	4.9
New Zealand	4.2	6.1	6.5	6.7	6.5	6.5	6.6						
Norway	2.5	3.1	3.5	3.5	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.3	3.2	3.2	3.3	3.3	
Poland	7.2	8.2	9.7	9.6	9.4	9.6	9.7	9.6	9.7	9.7	9.8	9.9	10.0
Portugal	8.5	10.6	12.1	12.3	12.4	12.5	12.7	12.5	12.6	12.6	12.8	13.0	13.2
Slovak Republic	9.5	12.0	14.4	14.0	13.4	13.3	13.4	13.3	13.3	13.4	13.4	13.5	13.5
Slovenia	4.4	5.9	7.3	7.8	8.1	8.0	8.1	8.0	8.1	8.0	8.2	8.2	8.2
Spain	11.4	18.0	20.1	20.4	20.6	21.1	22.1	21.4	21.8	22.1	22.5	22.7	22.9
Sweden	6.2	8.3	8.4	7.9	7.7	7.5	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.3	7.5	7.4
Switzerland	3.2	4.1	4.2	3.9	3.9	3.4							
Turkey	9.7	12.5	10.6	9.9	9.3	9.1	8.6	9.1	9.0	8.6	8.3		
United Kingdom	5.6	7.6	7.8	7.8	7.7	7.9	8.2	8.0	8.1	8.3	8.3		
United States ⁽²⁾	5.8	9.3	9.6	9.6	9.0	9.0	9.1	9.1	9.1	9.1	9.0	8.9	8.7

Notes:

(1) Canada: Unemployment rate for December 2011 was 7.5%

(2) United States: Unemployment rate for December 2011 was 8.5%

(3) 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.

**OECD Harmonised Unemployment Rates
News Release: November 2011**
**OECD Unemployment Rates, s.a.
Change of rates over the same period of the previous year**

	2008	2009	2010	2010	2011			2011					
					Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
OECD - Total	0.4	2.3	0.2	-0.3	-0.5	-0.4	-0.3	-0.2	-0.2	-0.3	-0.3	-0.3	-0.3
Major Seven	0.4	2.2	0.1	-0.4	-0.6	-0.6	-0.4	-0.3	-0.4	-0.4	-0.5	-0.5	-0.7
European Union	-0.1	1.9	0.6	0.1	-0.2	-0.2	0.1	-0.1	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2
Euro area	0.1	1.9	0.5	0.0	-0.1	-0.2	0.0	-0.2	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.3
Australia	-0.2	1.4	-0.4	-0.5	-0.3	-0.4	0.0	-0.2	-0.2	0.2	0.2	-0.1	0.1
Austria	-0.6	1.0	-0.4	-0.6	-0.1	-0.4	-0.6	-0.6	-0.8	-0.7	-0.4	-0.1	-0.2
Belgium	-0.5	0.9	0.4	-0.3	-1.3	-1.4	-0.9	-1.3	-1.2	-0.9	-0.7	-0.7	-0.7
Canada ⁽¹⁾	0.1	2.2	-0.3	-0.7	-0.5	-0.5	-0.8	-0.5	-0.8	-0.8	-0.9	-0.5	-0.2
Chile	0.7	3.0	-2.6	-3.1	-1.7	-1.2	-0.6	-0.7	-0.8	-0.6	-0.4	0.0	
Czech Republic	-0.9	2.3	0.6	-0.4	-0.9	-0.4	-0.5	-0.4	-0.5	-0.5	-0.5	-0.3	-0.2
Denmark	-0.4	2.7	1.3	0.7	0.4	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.1
Estonia	1.0	8.2	3.0	-1.6	-5.1	-5.2	-4.8	-5.2	-4.8	-4.8	-4.8		
Finland	-0.5	1.8	0.2	-0.7	-0.7	-0.7	-0.6	-0.6	-0.7	-0.6	-0.6	-0.6	-0.7
France	-0.6	1.7	0.3	-0.3	-0.3	-0.2	-0.2	-0.1	-0.1	-0.2	-0.2	0.0	0.1
Germany	-1.2	0.3	-0.7	-1.0	-1.2	-1.2	-1.1	-1.1	-1.0	-1.1	-1.1	-1.2	-1.2
Greece	-0.6	1.8	3.1	3.9	4.1	4.6	5.5	4.8	5.3	5.5	5.5		
Hungary	0.4	2.2	1.2	0.4	-0.3	-0.4	-0.1	-0.3	-0.2	-0.1	-0.2	-0.2	-0.3
Iceland	0.7	4.2	0.3	0.8	0.2	-0.2	-0.6						
Ireland	1.7	5.5	1.9	1.6	1.2	0.8	1.0	0.8	1.1	1.0	0.7	0.4	0.3
Israel ⁽³⁾	-1.2	1.4	-0.8	-0.7	-0.9	-1.0	-1.0						
Italy	0.7	1.0	0.6	0.0	-0.3	-0.5	-0.1	-0.4	-0.4	-0.3	0.3	0.0	0.5
Japan	0.1	1.1	0.0	-0.3	-0.3	-0.5	-0.6	-0.6	-0.4	-0.7	-0.9	-0.6	-0.6
Korea	0.0	0.4	0.1	-0.1	-0.4	-0.1	-0.4	-0.2	-0.4	-0.3	-0.5	-0.4	-0.1
Luxembourg	0.7	0.3	-0.6	-0.1	0.1	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.2	0.2
Mexico	0.3	1.5	-0.1	0.0	-0.2	0.0	0.1	0.4	0.0	0.4	-0.1	-0.6	-0.3
Netherlands	-0.5	0.6	0.8	0.2	-0.2	-0.3	-0.1	-0.4	-0.3	-0.1	0.1	0.4	0.5
New Zealand	0.5	1.9	0.4	-0.3	0.4	-0.4	0.2						
Norway	0.0	0.6	0.4	0.2	-0.2	-0.3	-0.2	-0.3	-0.2	-0.2	-0.2	-0.2	
Poland	-2.4	1.0	1.5	0.8	-0.4	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.4
Portugal	-0.4	2.1	1.5	1.0	0.7	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.7	0.9
Slovak Republic	-1.6	2.5	2.4	0.0	-1.3	-1.2	-0.9	-1.1	-1.1	-0.9	-0.9	-0.7	-0.5
Slovenia	-0.5	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.4	0.7	0.8	0.6	0.9	0.7	0.9	0.6	0.5
Spain	3.1	6.6	2.1	1.4	1.2	1.0	1.7	1.1	1.5	1.7	2.0	2.3	2.5
Sweden	0.1	2.1	0.1	-0.9	-1.0	-1.1	-0.9	-0.7	-1.1	-0.8	-0.9	-0.5	-0.4
Switzerland	-0.2	0.9	0.1	-0.7	-0.6	-0.7							
Turkey	0.9	2.8	-1.9	-2.0	-2.2	-1.5	-1.9	-1.3	-1.3	-2.1	-2.3		
United Kingdom	0.3	2.0	0.2	0.1	-0.2	0.1	0.5	0.2	0.4	0.7	0.5		
United States ⁽²⁾	1.2	3.5	0.3	-0.3	-0.8	-0.6	-0.4	-0.3	-0.4	-0.5	-0.5	-0.6	-1.1

Notes:

(1) Canada: For December 2011 the change was -0.1

(2) United States: For December 2011 the change was -0.9

(3) 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.