

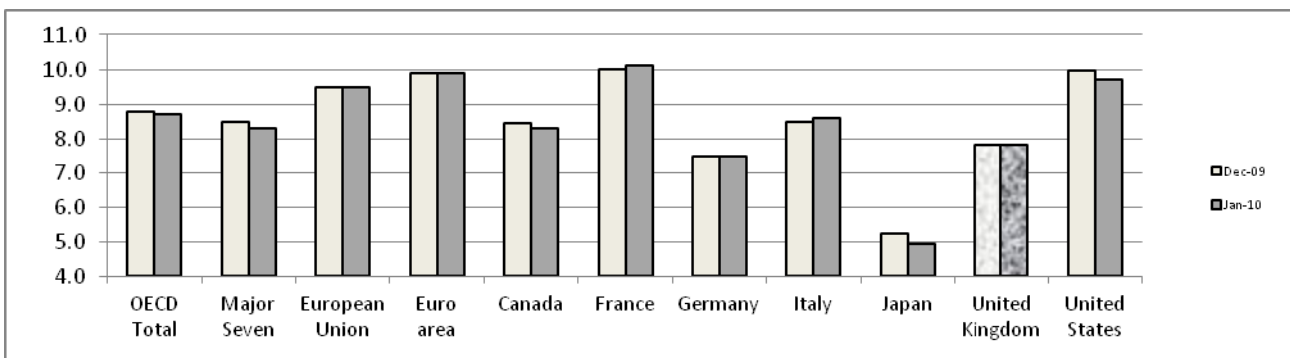
OECD unemployment rate falls to 8.7% in January, driven by US and Japan

The unemployment rate for the **OECD area** fell slightly to 8.7% in January 2010, reflecting drops of 0.3 percentage point in the **United States** and **Japan**. However, the latest figures for the United States show that the unemployment rate remained unchanged at 9.7% in February. Rates in the **Euro area** stabilized in January at 9.9% and in many countries, notably **France** and **Italy**, rates continued their recent upward trend.

In **Canada**, the unemployment rate was 8.3% in January 2010, 0.1 percentage point lower than in the previous month. The unemployment rate rose sharply in **Korea**, from 3.6% in December last year to 4.8% in January, as a result of a large rise in the labour force which, however, is likely to be temporary. In *November 2009*, the latest data available, the unemployment rate in the **United Kingdom** was 7.8%, the same as in the previous month.

In all OECD countries rates remained at higher levels than a year ago, varying from 0.3 percentage point higher in Australia to 4.4 percentage points in Ireland, with the OECD rate 1.4 percentage points higher.

Selected Unemployment Rates, s.a.
December 2009 – January 2010 ⁽¹⁾



(1) United Kingdom: October 2009—November 2009.

Methodological Notes:

For methodological reasons, harmonised unemployment rates may differ from those published by national statistical institutes. All rates 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>.

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OECD Unemployment Rates, s.a.
Percentage of labour force

	2007	2008	2009	2009				2009					2010
				Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
OECD - Total	5.8	6.1	8.3	7.6	8.3	8.6	8.8	8.6	8.7	8.8	8.8	8.8	8.7
Major Seven	5.5	5.9	8.0	7.3	8.0	8.3	8.5	8.3	8.4	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.3
European Union	7.1	7.0	8.9	8.3	8.8	9.2	9.4	9.2	9.3	9.4	9.4	9.5	9.5
Euro area	7.5	7.6	9.4	8.8	9.3	9.6	9.9	9.6	9.8	9.8	9.9	9.9	9.9
Australia	4.4	4.2	5.6	5.3	5.7	5.8	5.6	5.8	5.7	5.8	5.6	5.5	5.3
Austria	4.4	3.9	5.0	4.4	4.8	5.3	5.5	5.2	5.5	5.6	5.5	5.4	5.3
Belgium	7.5	7.0	7.9	7.7	7.7	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.1	8.0
Canada	6.0	6.1	8.3	7.8	8.4	8.5	8.4	8.7	8.3	8.4	8.4	8.4	8.3
Czech Republic	5.3	4.4	6.8	5.6	6.4	7.3	7.8	7.3	7.5	7.7	7.8	8.0	8.2
Denmark	3.8	3.3	6.0	4.8	6.0	6.2	7.1	6.1	6.5	6.9	7.1	7.3	
Finland	6.9	6.4	8.2	7.4	8.2	8.6	8.8	8.6	8.6	8.7	8.8	8.9	9.0
France	8.3	7.9	9.4	8.9	9.3	9.6	10.0	9.6	9.7	9.9	10.0	10.0	10.1
Germany	8.4	7.3	7.5	7.3	7.6	7.6	7.5	7.6	7.6	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5
Greece	8.3	7.7		8.8	9.2	9.7		9.7	9.7				
Hungary	7.4	7.8	10.1	9.2	9.7	10.5	10.8	10.5	10.7	10.8	10.8	10.8	11.1
Iceland	2.3	3.0	7.2	7.2	6.9	7.2	7.8						
Ireland	4.6	6.0	11.8	10.3	11.9	12.2	13.0	12.1	12.5	12.6	13.0	13.3	13.8
Italy	6.2	6.8	7.8	7.4	7.5	7.8	8.3	7.7	8.0	8.2	8.3	8.5	8.6
Japan	3.9	4.0	5.1	4.5	5.1	5.4	5.2	5.4	5.3	5.2	5.3	5.2	4.9
Korea	3.2	3.2	3.6	3.5	3.8	3.7	3.6	3.7	3.6	3.5	3.6	3.6	4.8
Luxembourg	4.2	4.9	5.7	5.5	5.7	5.8	5.9	5.8	5.8	5.9	5.9	6.0	5.9
Mexico	3.7	4.0	5.5	4.8	5.7	5.8	5.6	5.8	6.0	5.7	5.6	5.5	5.6
Netherlands	3.2	2.8	3.5	2.9	3.3	3.7	4.0	3.7	3.8	3.9	4.0	4.1	4.2
New Zealand	3.7	4.2	6.1	5.0	6.0	6.5	7.2						
Norway	2.5	2.5		3.1	3.1	3.2		3.2	3.2	3.3	3.2		
Poland	9.6	7.2	8.2	7.7	8.0	8.4	8.7	8.4	8.5	8.6	8.7	8.7	8.9
Portugal	8.1	7.8	9.6	8.8	9.5	9.9	10.3	9.9	10.1	10.2	10.3	10.3	10.5
Slovak Republic	11.2	9.5	11.8	10.2	11.2	12.6	13.5	12.6	13.0	13.3	13.5	13.6	13.7
Spain	8.3	11.4	18.1	16.6	17.9	18.7	18.9	18.7	19.0	19.0	18.9	18.9	18.8
Sweden	6.1	6.2	8.3	7.5	8.3	8.6	8.8	8.7	8.7	8.8	8.7	9.0	9.1
Switzerland	3.6	3.5	4.4	4.0	4.4	4.5	4.6						
Turkey	8.9	9.8		12.5	13.2	13.1		13.1	13.1				
United Kingdom	5.3	5.6		7.1	7.7	7.8		7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8		
United States ⁽¹⁾	4.6	5.8	9.3	8.2	9.3	9.7	10.0	9.7	9.8	10.1	10.0	10.0	9.7

Notes:

(1) United States: February 2010 is 9.7

OECD Unemployment Rates, s.a.
Change of rates over the same period of the previous year

	2007	2008	2009	2009				2009					2010
				Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
OECD - Total	-0.5	0.4	2.2	1.9	2.5	2.4	2.0	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.0	1.8	1.4
Major Seven	-0.4	0.4	2.1	1.8	2.4	2.3	2.0	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.0	1.7	1.3
European Union	-1.0	-0.1	1.9	1.5	2.0	2.2	2.0	2.2	2.2	2.1	1.9	1.9	1.5
Euro area	-0.9	0.1	1.9	1.6	1.9	2.0	1.9	2.0	2.1	2.0	1.9	1.7	1.4
Australia	-0.4	-0.1	1.3	1.2	1.4	1.5	1.1	1.7	1.4	1.4	1.1	0.9	0.3
Austria	-0.3	-0.6	1.1	0.4	1.2	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.7	1.7	1.5	1.2	1.1
Belgium	-0.8	-0.5	0.9	0.7	1.0	0.6	1.0	0.6	0.7	1.0	1.1	1.0	0.5
Canada	-0.3	0.1	2.1	1.9	2.4	2.4	1.9	2.6	2.1	2.2	1.9	1.6	1.0
Czech Republic	-1.8	-0.9	2.4	1.1	2.1	3.0	3.3	3.0	3.2	3.4	3.3	3.3	3.0
Denmark	-0.2	-0.4	2.7	1.6	2.9	2.9	3.4	2.8	3.1	3.4	3.4	3.3	
Finland	-0.8	-0.5	1.8	1.1	2.0	2.1	2.1	2.2	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.0	1.9
France	-0.9	-0.5	1.6	1.2	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.8	1.7	1.5	1.4
Germany	-1.5	-1.1	0.2	-0.3	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3
Greece	-0.6	-0.6		1.0	1.7	2.2		2.2	2.2				
Hungary	-0.1	0.5	2.2	1.6	1.9	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.9	3.0	2.7	2.3	2.3
Iceland	-0.6	0.7	4.3	4.9	4.5	4.2	3.2						
Ireland	0.2	1.5	5.8	5.5	6.7	5.8	5.2	5.7	5.7	5.4	5.2	5.0	4.4
Italy	-0.6	0.6	1.0	0.8	0.7	1.0	1.3	0.8	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.5	1.4
Japan	-0.3	0.1	1.1	0.6	1.2	1.4	1.1	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.2	0.8	0.7
Korea	-0.2	-0.1	0.5	0.4	0.7	0.5	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.2	1.4
Luxembourg	-0.4	0.7	0.9	1.1	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.5
Mexico	0.1	0.3	1.5	1.1	1.9	1.9	1.1	2.0	2.0	1.8	0.8	0.6	0.8
Netherlands	-0.7	-0.4	0.7	0.1	0.5	1.0	1.3	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.4
New Zealand	-0.2	0.5	2.0	1.2	2.0	2.2	2.5						
Norway	-0.9	0.0		0.7	0.6	0.7		0.8	0.7	0.5	0.3		
Poland	-4.2	-2.5	1.0	0.1	0.8	1.5	1.8	1.5	1.7	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.5
Portugal	0.3	-0.3	1.9	1.1	1.8	2.1	2.3	2.1	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.2	2.0
Slovak Republic	-2.2	-1.6	2.3	0.0	1.2	3.6	4.4	3.7	4.2	4.5	4.5	4.3	4.0
Spain	-0.2	3.1	6.7	7.4	7.4	6.9	5.0	6.9	6.7	5.9	4.9	4.1	3.0
Sweden	-0.9	0.0	2.1	1.6	2.4	2.4	2.1	2.8	2.3	2.4	1.7	2.2	2.2
Switzerland	-0.4	-0.1	0.8	0.5	0.9	1.0	0.9						
Turkey		0.9		3.5	4.2	3.2		3.2	3.2				
United Kingdom	-0.1	0.3		1.9	2.4	2.0		2.0	1.8	1.6	1.5		
United States ⁽¹⁾	0.0	1.2	3.5	3.2	4.0	3.6	3.1	3.6	3.7	3.6	3.1	2.6	2.0

Notes:

(1) United States: February 2010 the change is 1.5