

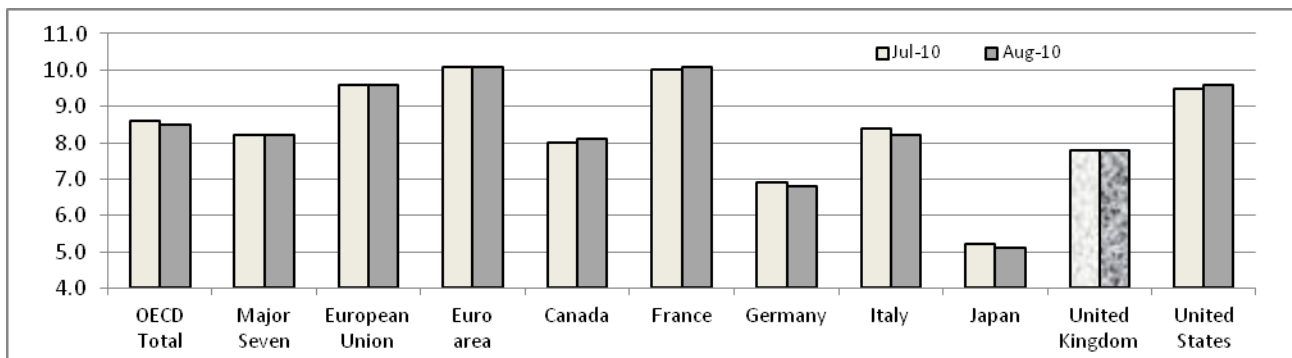
OECD unemployment rate falls to 8.5% in August

In August 2010, unemployment in the **OECD area** fell slightly to 8.5% (from 8.6% in July). The unemployment rate has returned to August 2009 levels and unemployment now appears stable across OECD countries. Further evidence is seen in the latest *September 2010* unemployment rates for the **United States**, where the rate was unchanged from its August level, at 9.6%, and in **Canada**, where it was down 0.1 percentage point at 8.0%.

However, the OECD unemployment rate remains close to post-war highs. The August unemployment rate was highest in **Spain** (20.5%), the **Slovak Republic** (14.6%), **Ireland** (13.9%), **Hungary** (10.9%) and **Portugal** (10.7%), with the lowest rates in **Korea** (3.4%) **Austria** (4.3%), and the **Netherlands** (4.5%).

The number of unemployed persons in OECD countries stood at 45.5 million in August 2010, an increase of 13.4 million compared with July 2008.

Selected Unemployment Rates, s.a.
July 2010 – August 2010 ⁽¹⁾



(1) United Kingdom: May 2010—June 2010.

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>.

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

	2007	2008	2009	2009		2010		2010					
				Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
OECD - Total	5.8	6.1	8.3	8.6	8.7	8.6	8.6	8.6	8.7	8.6	8.6	8.6	8.5
Major Seven	5.4	5.9	8.0	8.3	8.5	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.2	8.2	8.2
European Union	7.2	7.0	8.9	9.2	9.4	9.6	9.6	9.6	9.6	9.6	9.6	9.6	9.6
Euro area	7.5	7.6	9.4	9.7	9.9	9.9	10.1	10.0	10.0	10.1	10.1	10.1	10.1
Australia	4.4	4.2	5.6	5.8	5.7	5.3	5.2	5.4	5.4	5.2	5.1	5.3	5.1
Austria	4.4	3.8	4.8	5.1	4.8	4.5	4.6	4.5	4.6	4.6	4.5	4.3	4.3
Belgium	7.5	7.0	7.9	8.1	8.1	8.4	8.5	8.4	8.5	8.5	8.6	8.7	8.7
Canada ⁽¹⁾	6.0	6.1	8.3	8.5	8.4	8.2	8.0	8.2	8.1	8.1	7.9	8.0	8.1
Chile ⁽³⁾	7.1	7.8	10.8	11.2	10.0	9.0	8.5	8.6	8.8	8.5	8.3	8.3	
Czech Republic	5.3	4.4	6.7	7.3	7.4	7.8	7.3	7.8	7.5	7.3	7.1	7.0	7.0
Denmark	3.8	3.3	6.0	6.2	7.1	7.2	7.3	7.3	7.4	7.3	7.3	7.0	6.9
Finland	6.9	6.4	8.2	8.6	8.7	8.7	8.6	8.7	8.6	8.6	8.5	8.5	8.5
France	8.4	7.8	9.5	9.6	9.8	9.9	9.9	9.8	9.8	9.9	9.9	10.0	10.1
Germany	8.4	7.3	7.5	7.6	7.5	7.3	7.0	7.2	7.0	7.0	6.9	6.9	6.8
Greece	8.3	7.7	9.5	9.7	10.2	11.1	12.2	11.1	12.2	12.2	12.2		
Hungary	7.4	7.8	10.0	10.4	10.6	11.3	11.3	11.5	11.4	11.2	11.3	11.1	10.9
Iceland	2.3	3.0	7.2	7.3	7.7	7.3	6.8						
Ireland	4.6	6.4	11.9	12.5	13.0	12.8	13.5	12.9	13.2	13.6	13.7	13.8	13.9
Israel ⁽³⁾	7.3	6.1	7.6	7.8	7.3	7.0	6.2						
Italy	6.2	6.8	7.8	8.0	8.3	8.4	8.5	8.6	8.6	8.6	8.4	8.4	8.2
Japan	3.9	4.0	5.1	5.4	5.2	4.9	5.2	5.0	5.1	5.2	5.3	5.2	5.1
Korea	3.2	3.2	3.6	3.7	3.6	4.3	3.4	3.8	3.7	3.2	3.5	3.7	3.4
Luxembourg	4.2	4.9	5.2	5.1	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	5.0	5.0
Mexico	3.7	4.0	5.5	5.9	5.5	5.2	5.5	5.0	5.5	5.5	5.4	5.3	5.2
Netherlands	3.6	3.1	3.7	3.9	4.2	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.6	4.5
New Zealand	3.7	4.2	6.1	6.5	7.1	6.0	6.8						
Norway	2.5	2.5	3.2	3.2	3.3	3.5	3.6	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.3	
Poland	9.6	7.2	8.2	8.5	8.9	9.7	9.6	9.8	9.7	9.6	9.5	9.4	9.4
Portugal	8.1	7.7	9.6	10.2	10.2	10.5	11.0	10.7	10.9	11.0	11.0	10.8	10.7
Slovak Republic	11.1	9.5	12.0	12.7	14.1	14.6	14.4	14.6	14.5	14.4	14.4	14.5	14.6
Slovenia ⁽³⁾	4.9	4.4	5.9	6.4	6.5	6.7	7.3	6.9	7.2	7.3	7.3	7.2	7.3
Spain	8.3	11.4	18.0	18.7	19.0	19.3	20.0	19.5	19.7	20.0	20.2	20.3	20.5
Sweden	6.1	6.2	8.3	8.6	8.8	8.7	8.6	8.5	9.0	8.7	8.1	8.5	8.2
Switzerland	3.6	3.5	4.4	4.5	4.6	4.5	4.4						
Turkey	8.9	9.7	12.6	12.8	11.9	11.4	10.6	11.2	10.7	10.7	10.5		
United Kingdom	5.3	5.6	7.6	7.8	7.8	7.9	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8		
United States ⁽²⁾	4.6	5.8	9.3	9.7	10.0	9.7	9.7	9.7	9.9	9.7	9.5	9.5	9.6

Notes:

(1) Canada: Unemployment rate for September 2010 was 8.0%

(2) United States: Unemployment rate for September 2010 was 9.6%

(3) Chile, Israel and Slovenia have not yet been included in the OECD area aggregation in this News Release for technical and timing reasons, though Chilean, Israeli and Slovenian data, where available, have been incorporated into the Main Economic Indicators electronic databases.

OECD Unemployment Rates, s.a.

Change of rates over the same period of the previous year

	2007	2008	2009	2009		2010		2010					
				Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
OECD - Total	-0.5	0.3	2.2	2.4	2.0	1.0	0.3	0.7	0.6	0.2	0.1	0.1	-0.1
Major Seven	-0.4	0.5	2.1	2.3	2.0	1.0	0.2	0.7	0.5	0.2	0.0	0.0	-0.1
European Union	-1.0	-0.2	1.9	2.1	1.9	1.4	0.7	1.1	0.9	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.4
Euro area	-0.9	0.1	1.8	2.1	1.9	1.1	0.7	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.4
Australia	-0.4	-0.2	1.4	1.6	1.2	0.0	-0.5	-0.3	0.0	-0.6	-0.7	-0.4	-0.7
Austria	-0.4	-0.6	1.0	1.4	0.8	0.0	-0.2	-0.1	-0.1	-0.2	-0.5	-0.8	-0.9
Belgium	-0.8	-0.5	0.9	0.9	1.0	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.6
Canada ⁽¹⁾	-0.3	0.1	2.2	2.4	1.9	0.4	-0.4	0.1	0.0	-0.4	-0.7	-0.6	-0.6
Chile ⁽³⁾	-0.7	0.7	3.0	3.4	2.5	-1.6	-3.0	-2.3	-2.6	-3.0	-3.3	-3.3	
Czech Republic	-1.9	-0.9	2.3	3.0	2.9	2.3	0.8	1.9	1.3	0.8	0.3	-0.1	-0.3
Denmark	-0.1	-0.5	2.7	2.9	3.4	2.4	1.3	2.0	1.6	1.3	1.1	0.9	0.8
Finland	-0.8	-0.5	1.8	2.2	2.0	1.3	0.4	1.0	0.6	0.4	0.1	0.0	-0.1
France	-0.9	-0.6	1.7	1.8	1.6	0.9	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.5
Germany	-1.4	-1.1	0.2	0.5	0.4	0.0	-0.6	-0.2	-0.6	-0.6	-0.8	-0.7	-0.8
Greece	-0.6	-0.6	1.8	2.2	2.3	2.3	3.0	2.3	3.0	3.0	3.0		
Hungary	-0.1	0.4	2.2	2.6	2.5	2.0	1.6	1.9	1.8	1.5	1.5	0.9	0.4
Iceland	-0.6	0.7	4.2	4.2	3.1	0.5	-0.3						
Ireland	0.1	1.8	5.5	5.6	5.0	2.6	1.7	2.0	1.8	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.4
Israel ⁽³⁾	-1.1	-1.2	1.5	1.8	0.8	-0.6	-1.8						
Italy	-0.6	0.6	1.0	1.3	1.4	1.0	0.9	0.8	1.2	1.1	0.6	0.5	0.3
Japan	-0.2	0.1	1.1	1.4	1.1	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.0	-0.4	-0.3
Korea	-0.3	0.0	0.4	0.6	0.3	0.8	-0.4	0.1	0.0	-0.6	-0.4	0.0	-0.3
Luxembourg	-0.4	0.7	0.3	0.0	-0.3	-0.5	-0.3	-0.5	-0.4	-0.3	-0.3	-0.2	-0.1
Mexico	0.1	0.3	1.5	2.0	1.0	0.3	-0.1	0.2	0.2	-0.3	-0.2	-0.4	-0.7
Netherlands	-0.7	-0.5	0.6	0.9	1.2	1.3	1.0	1.3	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.6
New Zealand	-0.2	0.5	1.9	2.2	2.5	0.9	0.9						
Norway	-0.9	0.0	0.7	0.8	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.2	
Poland	-4.3	-2.4	1.0	1.5	1.9	2.2	1.6	2.1	1.9	1.6	1.3	1.0	0.9
Portugal	0.3	-0.4	1.9	2.3	2.3	1.8	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.3	0.7	0.5
Slovak Republic	-2.3	-1.6	2.5	3.7	5.2	4.6	3.1	4.1	3.6	3.2	2.7	2.3	1.9
Slovenia ⁽³⁾	-1.1	-0.5	1.5	2.1	2.2	1.7	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.6	1.2	0.8	0.9
Spain	-0.2	3.1	6.6	6.8	5.0	2.7	2.2	2.2	2.1	2.1	2.2	1.9	1.8
Sweden	-1.0	0.1	2.1	2.4	2.1	1.2	0.2	0.7	1.2	-0.2	-0.3	0.1	-0.6
Switzerland	-0.4	-0.1	0.9	1.0	0.9	0.5	0.0						
Turkey	0.2	0.8	2.9	3.0	0.8	-1.0	-2.5	-1.6	-2.5	-2.4	-2.4		
United Kingdom	-0.1	0.3	2.0	2.0	1.5	0.9	0.1	0.6	0.3	0.1	0.0		
United States ⁽²⁾	0.0	1.2	3.5	3.7	3.1	1.5	0.4	1.1	1.0	0.3	0.0	0.1	-0.1

Notes:

(1) Canada: For September 2010 the change was -0.3

(2) United States: For September 2010 the change was -0.2

(3) Chile, Israel and Slovenia have not yet been included in the OECD area aggregation in this News Release for technical and timing reasons, though Chilean, Israeli and Slovenian data, where available, have been incorporated into the Main Economic Indicators electronic databases.