

Methodological Notes

The OECD unemployment rates, compiled for all 37 OECD member countries, are based on definitions of the 13th Conference of Labour Statisticians (generally referred to as the ILO guidelines). Under these definitions, the unemployed are persons of working age who, in the reference period:

- are without work;
- are available for work; and,
- have taken specific steps to find work.

The uniform application of the definitions results in estimates that are more internationally comparable than those based on national definitions. For example, national unemployment data in some countries only include persons registered at government labour offices. Under the ILO definition, persons without work who are seeking employment through other means can also be classified as unemployed and registrants can be excluded if they worked or were not available for work. The unemployment rates shown here are calculated as the number of unemployed persons as a percentage of the labour force (*i.e.*, the unemployed plus those in employment) and are seasonally adjusted.

The unemployment rates for the European Union (EU) member states and their aggregates, Iceland Norway, Switzerland, Turkey and the United Kingdom are produced by the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat). The OECD is responsible for collecting data and calculating unemployment rates for the remaining OECD member countries.

In September 2000, Eurostat adopted a new unemployment definition through a Commission Regulation. Details about the new definition and its implementation are available on the [Eurostat Internet site](#). This link also gives details about country specific estimations and provisional data.

Figures are seasonally adjusted and where needed the OECD undertakes seasonal adjustment (based on the TRAMO-SEATS method). For Germany, the Netherlands, Austria, Finland and Iceland, the trend component figures are shown instead of the more volatile seasonally adjusted figures. Area aggregates compiled by OECD assume that the unemployment rates for the countries without estimates for the most recent period remain unchanged at the level observed in the latest available period.

Geographical groupings:

- The OECD Total covers all 37 OECD member countries.
- The Major Seven area covers Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States.
- The euro area covers the 19 participating member states;
- The European Union covers the 27 EU member states;

The *OECD Unemployment Rates News Release – July 2020* presents time series which extend beyond the date of the United Kingdom’s withdrawal from the European Union on 1 February 2020. In order to maintain consistency over time, the “European Union” aggregate presented here excludes the UK for the

entire time series. Interested readers may refer to the [Eurostat website](#) for further information on Eurostat's plans for disseminating EU aggregates and to the [Eurostat database](#) for the actual series.

In order to facilitate analysis and comparisons over time, historical data for OECD members have been provided over as long a period as possible, often even before a country became a member of the Organisation. Information on the membership dates of all OECD countries can be found at [OECD Ratification Dates](#)

Contacts:

For further information data users are invited to contact the OECD's Media Relations Division on (33) 1 45 24 97 00 or email news.contact@oecd.org.

For technical questions please contact stat.contact@oecd.org.

Annex : ISO codes

AUS	Australia	FRA	France	MEX	Mexico
AUT	Austria	GBR	United Kingdom	NLD	Netherlands
BEL	Belgium	GRC	Greece	NOR	Norway
CAN	Canada	HUN	Hungary	NZL	New Zealand
CHE	Switzerland	IRL	Ireland	OECD	OECD average
CHL	Chile	ISL	Iceland	POL	Poland
COL	Colombia	ISR	Israel	PRT	Portugal
CZE	Czech Republic	ITA	Italy	SVK	Slovak Republic
DEU	Germany	JPN	Japan	SVN	Slovenia
DNK	Denmark	KOR	Korea	SWE	Sweden
ESP	Spain	LTU	Lithuania	TUR	Turkey
EST	Estonia	LUX	Luxembourg	USA	United States
FIN	Finland	LVA	Latvia		