

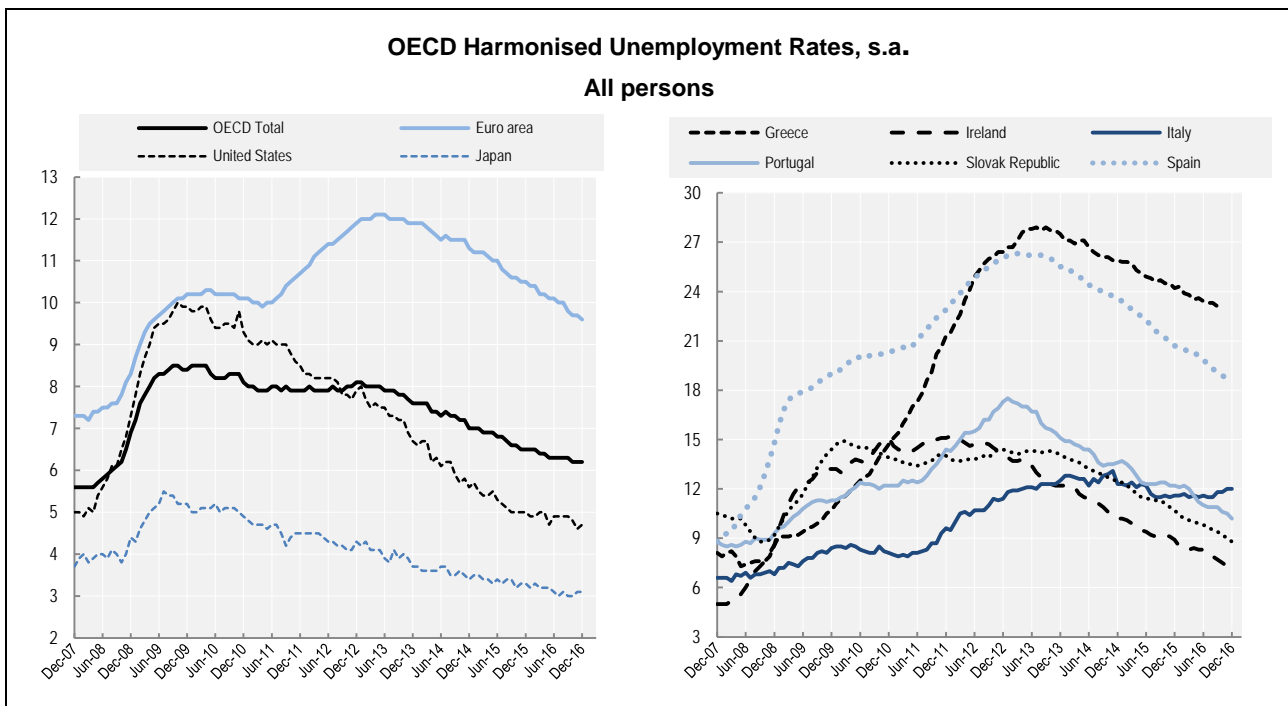
OECD unemployment rate stable at 6.2% in December 2016

The **OECD** unemployment rate was stable, at 6.2%, for the second consecutive month in December 2016. Across the **OECD** area, 38.5 million people were unemployed, 5.9 million more than in April 2008, before the crisis.

The unemployment rate in the **euro area** declined in December by 0.1 percentage point, to 9.6%, its lowest level since May 2009, with the largest falls recorded in **Portugal** (down 0.3 percentage point, to 10.2%), **Spain** (down 0.3 percentage point, to 18.4%), the **Slovak Republic** (down 0.2 percentage point, to 8.8%) and the **Netherlands** (down 0.2 percentage point, to 5.4%). On the other hand, the unemployment rate increased by 0.2 percentage point in **Latvia** (to 9.8%) and by 0.1 percentage point in **France** (to 9.6%) and **Luxembourg** (to 6.3%).

Outside Europe, the unemployment rate increased in December by 0.1 percentage point in **Canada** (to 6.9%), **Mexico** (to 3.8%) and the **United States** (to 4.7%), while it was stable in **Japan** (at 3.1%) and fell by 0.2 percentage point in **Korea** (to 3.4%). For the **United States**, more recent data for January 2017 point to a further increase of 0.1 percentage point, to 4.8%.

Over the last year, the unemployment rate in the **euro area** (down 0.9 percentage point) fell at a faster pace than in the **OECD** as a whole (down 0.3 percentage point). The largest year-on-year declines within the euro area occurred in **Spain** (down 2.3 percentage points), **Portugal** (down 2.0 percentage points), the **Slovak Republic** (down 1.9 percentage point), **Ireland** (down 1.7 percentage point) and **Greece** (down 1.5 percentage point between October 2015 and October 2016, the latest month available). By contrast, the unemployment rate increased by 0.4 percentage point over the year in **Italy**.



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.

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Table 1: OECD Unemployment Rates, s.a.
Percentage of active population

	2014	2015	2016	2016				2016					
				Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
OECD - Total	7.4	6.8	6.3	6.5	6.3	6.3	6.2	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.2	6.2	6.2
Major Seven	6.4	5.8	5.5	5.6	5.5	5.5	5.3	5.4	5.5	5.5	5.4	5.3	5.3
European Union	10.2	9.4	8.6	8.9	8.6	8.5	8.2	8.5	8.5	8.4	8.3	8.2	8.2
Euro area	11.6	10.9	10.0	10.3	10.1	9.9	9.7	10.0	10.0	9.8	9.7	9.7	9.6
Australia	6.1	6.1	5.7	5.8	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.6	5.6	5.7	5.8
Austria	5.6	5.7	6.0	6.0	6.1	6.1	5.7	6.2	6.2	6.0	5.8	5.7	5.7
Belgium	8.5	8.5	8.0	8.2	8.3	7.8	7.6	8.0	7.9	7.6	7.6	7.6	7.6
Canada	6.9	6.9	7.0	7.2	6.9	7.0	6.9	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	6.8	6.9
Chile	6.4	6.2	6.5	6.3	6.6	6.5	6.5	6.6	6.5	6.4	6.5	6.5	
Czech Republic	6.1	5.1	4.0	4.2	4.0	4.0	3.6	4.1	3.9	3.9	3.7	3.6	3.5
Denmark	6.5	6.2	6.2	6.0	6.1	6.4	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.5	6.5	6.3	6.2
Estonia	7.4	6.2		6.2	6.7	7.4		7.2	7.8	7.2	7.2	6.7	
Finland	8.7	9.4	8.8	9.1	8.9	8.7	8.7	8.8	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.7
France	10.3	10.4	9.9	10.2	9.9	10.1	9.6	10.1	10.2	9.9	9.7	9.5	9.6
Germany	5.0	4.6	4.1	4.3	4.2	4.1	3.9	4.2	4.1	4.1	4.0	3.9	3.9
Greece	26.6	25.0		24.0	23.5	23.2		23.3	23.3	23.1	23.0		
Hungary	7.7	6.8		5.8	5.2	4.9		5.0	5.0	4.8	4.6	4.5	
Iceland	5.0	4.0	3.0	3.2	2.9	2.9	2.8	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.8	2.8
Ireland	11.3	9.5	8.0	8.4	8.3	7.9	7.3	8.0	7.9	7.7	7.5	7.3	7.2
Israel	5.9	5.2	4.8	5.2	4.8	4.7	4.4	4.7	4.6	4.9	4.5	4.5	4.3
Italy	12.7	11.9	11.7	11.6	11.6	11.6	11.9	11.5	11.5	11.8	11.8	12.0	12.0
Japan	3.6	3.4	3.1	3.2	3.2	3.0	3.1	3.0	3.1	3.0	3.0	3.1	3.1
Korea	3.5	3.6	3.7	3.8	3.7	3.8	3.6	3.6	3.8	4.0	3.7	3.6	3.4
Latvia	10.9	9.9	9.7	9.9	9.6	9.8	9.7	9.9	9.8	9.7	9.6	9.6	9.8
Luxembourg	6.1	6.5	6.3	6.4	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.2	6.3
Mexico	4.8	4.4	3.9	4.1	4.0	3.8	3.7	3.8	3.8	3.9	3.6	3.7	3.8
Netherlands	7.4	6.9	6.0	6.5	6.3	5.8	5.5	6.0	5.8	5.7	5.6	5.6	5.4
New Zealand	5.4	5.4	5.1	5.2	5.0	4.9	5.2						
Norway	3.5	4.4		4.7	4.7	4.9		5.0	4.9	4.8	4.8	4.7	
Poland	9.0	7.5	6.3	6.5	6.3	6.2	6.0	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.1	6.0	5.9
Portugal	14.1	12.7	11.2	12.1	11.3	10.9	10.4	10.9	10.9	10.9	10.6	10.5	10.2
Slovak Republic	13.2	11.5	9.6	10.2	9.9	9.5	9.0	9.7	9.5	9.4	9.2	9.0	8.8
Slovenia	9.7	9.0	7.9	8.3	8.0	7.8	7.6	7.8	7.8	7.7	7.6	7.6	7.5
Spain	24.5	22.1	19.6	20.5	20.1	19.3	18.7	19.5	19.3	19.1	18.9	18.7	18.4
Sweden	7.9	7.4	7.0	7.1	6.8	7.0	6.9	7.0	7.2	6.7	6.9	6.9	6.9
Switzerland	4.5	4.5		5.1	4.3	4.8							
Turkey ⁽¹⁾	10.0	10.3		10.1	10.4	11.3		11.1	11.4	11.5	11.7		
United Kingdom	6.1	5.3		5.0	4.9	4.8		4.8	4.7	4.8	4.8		
United States ⁽²⁾	6.2	5.3	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.7	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.8	4.6	4.7

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 January 2017 was 4.8%.

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

	Women						Men					
	2016	2016		2016			2016	2016		2016		
		Q3	Q4	Oct	Nov	Dec		Q3	Q4	Oct	Nov	Dec
OECD - Total	6.5	6.4	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.2	6.2	6.1	6.2	6.1	6.1
Major Seven	5.3	5.3	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.5	5.4	5.5
European Union	8.8	8.7	8.4	8.5	8.4	8.4	8.4	8.3	8.1	8.1	8.1	8.0
Euro area	10.4	10.3	10.0	10.0	10.0	9.9	9.7	9.6	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.3
Australia	5.8	5.7	5.8	5.7	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.6	5.7	5.6	5.6	5.9
Austria	5.5	5.7	5.2	5.5	5.2	5.0	6.4	6.5	6.2	6.1	6.2	6.3
Belgium	7.8	7.6	7.4	7.3	7.5	7.5	8.1	8.0	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.7
Canada	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.1	6.4	7.7	7.7	7.4	7.6	7.4	7.3
Chile	7.0	7.1	7.0	7.1	7.0		6.1	6.1	6.2	6.1	6.2	
Czech Republic	4.7	4.7	4.2	4.3	4.3	4.1	3.4	3.4	3.1	3.2	3.1	3.1
Denmark	6.7	7.0	6.9	7.1	6.9	6.6	5.7	5.7	5.8	5.9	5.8	5.8
Estonia		6.9		6.7	6.1			7.9		7.7	7.3	
Finland	8.6	8.5	8.4	8.5	8.4	8.4	9.0	8.8	9.0	8.9	9.0	9.0
France	9.8	10.2	9.7	9.8	9.6	9.7	10.1	10.0	9.5	9.6	9.5	9.5
Germany	3.8	3.7	3.4	3.5	3.4	3.3	4.5	4.5	4.4	4.5	4.4	4.3
Greece		27.8		27.7				19.6		19.2		
Hungary		4.9		4.6	4.5			5.0		4.6	4.5	
Iceland	3.1	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	2.9	2.8	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7
Ireland	6.5	6.5	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	9.3	9.0	8.4	8.6	8.4	8.1
Israel	4.9	4.9	4.5	4.7	4.5	4.4	4.7	4.6	4.3	4.3	4.4	4.2
Italy	12.7	12.8	12.9	12.6	12.8	13.2	10.9	10.8	11.2	11.1	11.3	11.1
Japan	2.8	2.7	2.8	2.7	2.9	2.7	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.2	3.4
Korea	3.6	3.6	3.7	3.8	3.7	3.5	3.8	3.9	3.5	3.7	3.5	3.3
Latvia	8.4	8.0	7.9	7.9	7.9	8.0	11.0	11.5	11.4	11.3	11.3	11.7
Luxembourg	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.6	6.7	5.9	5.9	6.0	6.0	5.9	6.1
Mexico	4.0	3.9	3.7	3.6	3.7	3.9	3.8	3.7	3.7	3.6	3.7	3.7
Netherlands	6.5	6.3	6.1	6.1	6.2	6.0	5.6	5.4	5.0	5.1	5.0	4.9
New Zealand	5.5	5.2	5.7				4.8	4.7	4.8			
Norway		4.2		4.1	4.1			5.5		5.3	5.3	
Poland	6.3	6.3	6.1	6.2	6.1	6.0	6.2	6.1	5.9	6.0	5.9	5.8
Portugal	11.3	11.1	10.5	10.6	10.5	10.3	11.1	10.7	10.4	10.7	10.5	10.0
Slovak Republic	10.8	10.5	9.9	10.1	9.9	9.7	8.7	8.7	8.2	8.4	8.2	8.1
Slovenia	8.6	8.4	8.2	8.2	8.2	8.1	7.3	7.2	7.0	7.0	7.0	6.9
Spain	21.4	21.1	20.3	20.5	20.3	20.0	18.1	17.8	17.3	17.5	17.3	17.0
Sweden	6.6	6.7	6.5	6.4	6.6	6.5	7.3	7.2	7.2	7.3	7.1	7.3
Switzerland		5.2						4.5				
Turkey ⁽¹⁾		14.2		14.6				10.0		10.3		
United Kingdom		4.7		4.6				4.9		4.9		
United States	4.8	4.8	4.6	4.6	4.5	4.6	4.9	5.0	4.9	5.0	4.8	4.8

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+)					
	2016	2016		2016			2016	2016		2016		
		Q3	Q4	Oct	Nov	Dec		Q3	Q4	Oct	Nov	Dec
OECD - Total	13.0	13.0	12.8	12.9	12.8	12.8	5.4	5.5	5.3	5.4	5.3	5.3
Major Seven	11.8	11.8	11.6	11.7	11.6	11.6	4.6	4.6	4.5	4.6	4.5	4.5
European Union	18.8	18.7	18.6	18.5	18.6	18.6	7.5	7.4	7.2	7.3	7.2	7.1
Euro area	21.1	20.8	20.8	20.6	21.0	20.9	8.9	8.9	8.6	8.7	8.6	8.5
Australia	12.7	12.9	13.2	12.5	13.7	13.3	4.3	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.1	4.3
Austria	11.2	11.5	10.6	10.9	10.4	10.5	5.3	5.4	5.0	5.1	5.0	5.0
Belgium	20.5	20.7	20.4	20.4	20.4	20.4	7.0	6.8	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.7
Canada	13.1	13.2	12.8	12.9	12.9	12.6	6.0	6.0	5.9	6.0	5.8	5.9
Chile	15.7	15.9	14.8	14.8	14.8		5.3	5.4	5.5	5.5	5.5	
Czech Republic	10.5	10.7	10.5	10.5	10.3	10.7	3.5	3.5	3.2	3.3	3.2	3.1
Denmark	12.0	12.4	12.8	12.7	13.0	12.8	5.1	5.2	5.1	5.3	5.1	4.9
Estonia		13.4		10.2	12.2			6.8		7.0	6.2	
Finland	20.0	20.1	19.9	19.9	19.9	19.8	7.3	7.1	7.2	7.1	7.2	7.2
France	25.2	25.6	26.0	25.8	25.9	26.2	8.4	8.5	7.9	8.0	7.8	7.8
Germany	7.0	6.8	6.6	6.7	6.6	6.5	3.8	3.8	3.6	3.7	3.6	3.6
Greece		44.2		44.2				22.0		21.8		
Hungary		12.5		12.1	11.9			4.3		4.0	3.9	
Iceland	6.5	6.3	6.0	6.1	6.0	5.9	2.3	2.3	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2
Ireland	17.0	17.4	15.4	16.2	15.4	14.5	7.1	6.9	6.5	6.6	6.5	6.5
Israel	8.6	10.2	7.9	9.2	7.7	6.8	4.1	4.1	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.9
Italy	37.8	37.8	39.3	37.8	40.0	40.1		10.0				
Japan	5.2	5.2	4.8	5.1	4.3	4.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.8	3.0	3.0
Korea	10.7	11.2	9.8	10.9	9.7	8.7	3.2	3.3	3.1	3.2	3.1	3.0
Latvia	17.8	18.1	18.0	17.7	17.9	18.3	9.1	9.1	9.0	8.9	9.0	9.1
Luxembourg	20.0	19.3	19.5	19.4	19.2	19.9	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.2	5.3
Mexico	7.7	7.4	7.4	7.1	7.5	7.7	3.1	3.0	2.9	2.9	2.9	3.0
Netherlands	10.8	10.6	10.3	10.5	10.3	10.2	5.1	5.0	4.6	4.7	4.7	4.5
New Zealand	13.2	13.1	13.8				3.6	3.4	3.6			
Norway		10.7		10.6	10.7			4.0		3.9	3.8	
Poland	18.3	18.5	18.1	18.7	18.1	17.5	5.2	5.2	5.0	5.0	5.0	4.9
Portugal	28.2	27.5	27.1	27.7	27.2	26.4	9.9	9.6	9.1	9.3	9.2	8.9
Slovak Republic	22.3	21.5	20.8	21.1	20.8	20.4	8.6	8.6	8.0	8.2	8.0	7.9
Slovenia	15.9	15.4	16.8	16.8	16.8	16.8	7.3	7.2	6.8	6.9	6.8	6.7
Spain	44.5	43.1	43.2	43.1	43.5	42.9	17.9	17.7	17.0	17.2	17.0	16.7
Sweden	18.8	19.0	18.5	18.4	17.8	19.2	5.3	5.4	5.3	5.3	5.4	5.3
Switzerland		11.0						3.9				
Turkey ⁽¹⁾		19.9		20.3				9.7		10.0		
United Kingdom		12.9		12.6				3.5		3.6		
United States	10.4	10.4	10.2	10.4	10.1	10.0	4.0	4.1	3.9	4.0	3.8	3.9

Note:

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

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

	2015	2016	2016			2016			
			Q2	Q3	Q4	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
OECD - Total	41,597	39,272	39,301	39,382	38,568	39,398	38,802	38,411	38,488
Major Seven	21,630	20,524	20,505	20,579	20,137	20,600	20,285	19,981	20,146
European Union	22,884	20,897	21,137	20,757	20,207	20,577	20,333	20,224	20,065
Euro area	17,451	16,189	16,387	16,128	15,676	16,000	15,766	15,692	15,571
Australia	760	726	726	718	725	711	708	726	741
Austria	252	269	271	276	257	271	261	255	254
Belgium	422	394	409	388	376	378	375	376	377
Canada	1,331	1,361	1,348	1,357	1,344	1,361	1,365	1,326	1,342
Chile	532	563	571	569	570	556	567	570	
Czech Republic	268	212	216	211	194	206	198	194	189
Denmark	181	188	186	193	192	198	197	192	187
Estonia	42		47	52		50	50	46	
Finland	252	237	239	234	234	233	233	234	234
France	3,054	2,936	2,928	2,978	2,826	2,921	2,853	2,809	2,817
Germany	1,950	1,775	1,816	1,786	1,708	1,767	1,738	1,707	1,679
Greece	1,197		1,131	1,119		1,110	1,102		
Hungary	308		238	227		222	212	208	
Iceland	8	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
Ireland	204	175	182	172	161	167	164	161	158
Israel	202	188	188	186	175	194	177	178	170
Italy	3,033	3,009	2,983	2,996	3,077	3,051	3,033	3,094	3,103
Japan	2,218	2,078	2,103	2,043	2,037	2,020	1,970	2,050	2,090
Korea	976	1,012	999	1,040	979	1,094	1,021	974	942
Latvia	98	96	95	97	95	95	94	95	96
Luxembourg	18	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	18
Mexico	2,306	2,086	2,117	2,050	1,986	2,092	1,939	1,974	2,046
Netherlands	614	539	561	524	494	510	502	499	482
New Zealand	134	133	131	129	139				
Norway	121		131	136		135	132	130	
Poland	1,304	1,078	1,088	1,062	1,028	1,054	1,045	1,028	1,012
Portugal	648	571	576	558	534	557	545	538	520
Slovak Republic	314	266	274	263	247	259	252	247	243
Slovenia	90	78	80	76	74	75	74	74	73
Spain	5,056	4,481	4,593	4,414	4,240	4,360	4,291	4,251	4,179
Sweden	387	366	360	367	366	354	365	365	368
Switzerland	219		208	237					
Turkey ⁽¹⁾	3,054		3,156	3,480		3,529	3,614		
United Kingdom	1,747		1,607	1,583		1,576	1,586		
United States	8,296	7,751	7,720	7,835	7,559	7,904	7,740	7,409	7,529

Note:

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