

OECD unemployment rate stable at 5.5% in January 2018

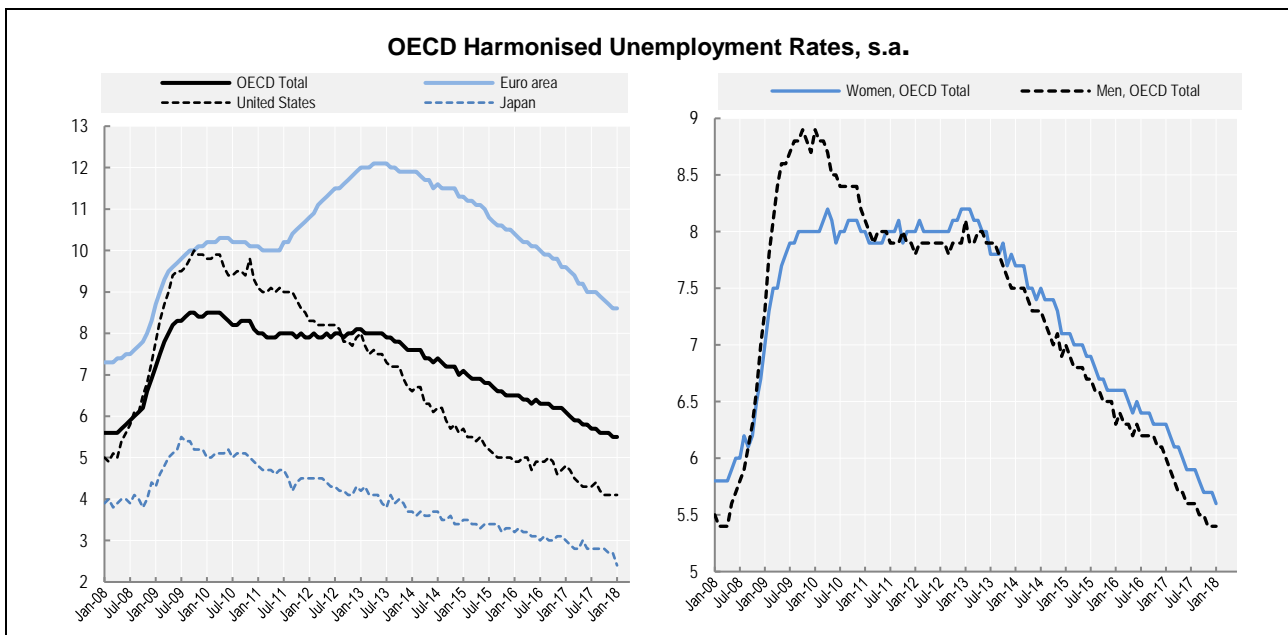
The **OECD** unemployment rate was stable at 5.5% in January 2018. Across the **OECD** area, 34.5 million people were unemployed, 1.9 million more than in April 2008.

In the **euro area**, the unemployment rate was stable at 8.6% in January. The unemployment rate fell by 0.2 percentage point or more in **Slovenia** (down 0.3 percentage point, to 5.9%) and **the Netherlands** (down 0.2 percentage point, to 4.2%). By contrast, it increased by 0.2 percentage point in **Italy** (to 11.1%, returning to its November 2017 level).

Outside the euro area, the unemployment rate fell by 0.3 percentage point in **Israel** (to 3.7%) and **Japan** (to 2.4%), and by 0.1 percentage point in **Korea** (to 3.6%) and **Mexico** (to 3.3%). It was stable in the **United States** (at 4.1%) and rose by 0.1 percentage point in **Canada** (to 5.9%). More recent data show that in February, the unemployment rate remained stable in the **United States**, while it decreased by 0.1 percentage point in **Canada** (to 5.8%).

In January, the **OECD** unemployment rate for **women** (down 0.1 percentage point, to 5.6%) remained slightly above that for **men** (unchanged at 5.4%). Over the past four years, the difference between unemployment rate for **women** and **men** has hovered between 0.1 and 0.4 percentage point. Gender differences in unemployment rates are significantly higher in the **euro area**, where the unemployment rate for **women** in January was 0.7 percentage point higher than that for **men**. Conversely, the unemployment rate for **men** exceeded that for **women** by 0.3 percentage point in both **Japan** and the **United States**.

The **OECD** unemployment rate for **youth** (people aged 15 to 24) fell by 0.2 percentage point in January (to 11.4%), the second consecutive monthly decline, but remains more than twice as large as that for other age categories.



Methodological Notes: <http://www.oecd.org/sdd/labour-stats/44743407.pdf>

All rates and levels quoted are seasonally adjusted (s.a.).

In this News Release, April 2008 is considered as the month preceding the start of the global financial crisis.

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.

Contacts: For further information readers are invited to contact the OECD's Media Relations Division on

(33) 1 45 24 97 00 or e-mail news.contact@oecd.org

For technical questions contact stat.contact@oecd.org

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

	2015	2016	2017	2017				2017					2018
				Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan
OECD - Total	6.8	6.3	5.8	6.0	5.8	5.7	5.6	5.7	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.5
Major Seven	5.8	5.5	5.0	5.2	5.0	4.9	4.8	5.0	4.9	4.8	4.8	4.7	4.7
European Union	9.4	8.6	7.6	8.0	7.7	7.5	7.3	7.5	7.5	7.4	7.3	7.3	7.3
Euro area	10.9	10.0	9.1	9.5	9.1	9.0	8.7	9.0	8.9	8.8	8.7	8.6	8.6
Australia	6.1	5.7	5.6	5.8	5.6	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.4	5.4	5.6	5.5
Austria	5.7	6.0	5.5	5.7	5.5	5.4	5.5	5.5	5.4	5.4	5.5	5.5	5.5
Belgium	8.5	7.9	7.2	7.6	7.3	7.1	6.7	7.1	7.0	6.8	6.7	6.6	6.6
Canada ⁽¹⁾	6.9	7.0	6.3	6.6	6.5	6.2	6.0	6.2	6.2	6.2	5.9	5.8	5.9
Chile	6.2	6.5	6.7	6.6	6.7	6.5	6.8	6.5	6.7	6.7	6.8	6.9	
Czech Republic	5.1	4.0	2.9	3.3	3.1	2.7	2.4	2.7	2.6	2.5	2.4	2.3	2.4
Denmark	6.2	6.2	5.7	6.0	5.7	5.7	5.4	5.8	5.6	5.5	5.4	5.3	5.2
Estonia	6.2	6.8	5.8	5.6	6.6	5.7	5.4	5.4	5.8	5.2	5.4	5.5	
Finland	9.4	8.8	8.6	8.8	8.7	8.6	8.6	8.6	8.6	8.5	8.6	8.6	8.5
France	10.4	10.1	9.4	9.6	9.5	9.5	9.1	9.6	9.4	9.2	9.1	9.0	9.0
Germany	4.6	4.1	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.7	3.6	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.6	3.6	3.6
Greece	25.0	23.6		22.6	21.6	20.9		20.8	20.9	20.9	20.9		
Hungary	6.8	5.1	4.2	4.3	4.3	4.2	3.9	4.2	4.1	4.0	3.9	3.8	
Iceland	4.0	3.0	2.8	2.7	2.6	2.7	2.8	2.7	2.7	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8
Ireland	10.0	8.4	6.7	7.2	6.7	6.7	6.4	6.7	6.6	6.5	6.4	6.2	6.1
Israel	5.2	4.8	4.2	4.4	4.4	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.3	4.0	3.7
Italy	11.9	11.7	11.2	11.6	11.2	11.2	11.0	11.2	11.1	11.1	11.1	10.9	11.1
Japan	3.4	3.1	2.8	2.9	2.9	2.8	2.7	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.7	2.4
Korea	3.6	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.8	3.6	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.6	3.7	3.7	3.6
Latvia	9.9	9.6	8.7	9.1	8.9	8.6	8.3	8.6	8.4	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3
Luxembourg	6.5	6.3	5.6	5.9	5.6	5.6	5.4	5.6	5.5	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.3
Mexico	4.4	3.9	3.4	3.5	3.5	3.3	3.4	3.3	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.4	3.3
Netherlands	6.9	6.0	4.9	5.2	5.0	4.7	4.4	4.7	4.7	4.5	4.4	4.4	4.2
New Zealand	5.4	5.1	4.7	4.9	4.8	4.6	4.5						
Norway	4.4	4.7	4.2	4.4	4.4	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.0	4.0	4.1	4.1	
Poland	7.5	6.2	4.9	5.2	5.1	4.8	4.6	4.8	4.7	4.6	4.6	4.5	4.5
Portugal	12.7	11.2	9.0	9.9	9.3	8.7	8.2	8.8	8.5	8.4	8.1	8.0	7.9
Slovak Republic	11.5	9.7	8.1	8.6	8.3	8.0	7.6	8.0	7.9	7.7	7.6	7.5	7.5
Slovenia	9.0	8.0	6.8	7.3	6.7	6.7	6.4	6.7	6.6	6.5	6.4	6.2	5.9
Spain	22.1	19.7	17.2	18.2	17.3	16.8	16.6	16.8	16.7	16.7	16.6	16.4	16.3
Sweden	7.4	7.0	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.8	6.5	6.6	6.7	6.7	6.4	6.5	6.5
Switzerland	4.8	4.9	4.8	5.0	4.7	4.8	4.7						
Turkey	10.3	10.9		11.6	11.1	10.8		10.7	10.7	10.4	10.3		
United Kingdom	5.3	4.8		4.5	4.4	4.2		4.2	4.2	4.3	4.3		
United States ⁽²⁾	5.3	4.9	4.4	4.7	4.3	4.3	4.1	4.4	4.2	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1

Notes:

(1) Canada: Unemployment rate for February 2018 was 5.8%.

(2) United States: Unemployment rate for February 2018 was 4.1%.

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

	Women						Men					
	2017	2017		2017		2018	2017	2017		2017		2018
		Q3	Q4	Nov	Dec			Jan	Q3	Q4	Nov	
OECD - Total	5.9	5.9	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Major Seven	4.9	4.9	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.6	5.0	5.0	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8
European Union	7.9	7.8	7.6	7.6	7.6	7.5	7.4	7.3	7.1	7.1	7.0	7.0
Euro area	9.4	9.3	9.1	9.1	9.0	9.0	8.7	8.6	8.4	8.4	8.3	8.3
Australia	5.7	5.6	5.5	5.5	5.4	5.6	5.5	5.5	5.4	5.4	5.7	5.4
Austria	5.0	4.9	5.0	5.1	5.1	5.0	5.9	5.9	5.9	5.8	5.9	5.9
Belgium	7.1	6.6	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.3	7.3	7.5	7.0	7.0	6.9	6.8
Canada	5.9	5.8	5.5	5.5	5.3	5.5	6.8	6.6	6.3	6.3	6.1	6.2
Chile	7.2	6.9	7.4	7.4	7.3		6.3	6.3	6.4	6.4	6.6	
Czech Republic	3.6	3.3	3.0	3.0	2.9	3.1	2.4	2.3	2.0	2.0	1.9	1.8
Denmark	5.9	5.9	5.7	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.5	5.6	5.1	5.1	5.0	4.9
Estonia	5.4	4.9	5.3	5.3	5.6		6.2	6.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	
Finland	8.4	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.6	8.9	8.6	8.6	8.6	8.6	8.5
France	9.4	9.3	9.0	9.0	8.9	8.8	9.5	9.7	9.2	9.1	9.1	9.1
Germany	3.4	3.3	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.1	4.2	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
Greece		25.4		25.8				17.3		17.1		
Hungary	4.6	4.7	4.4	4.5	4.3		3.8	3.8	3.4	3.4	3.3	
Iceland	2.8	2.8	3.0	3.0	3.1	3.2	2.8	2.5	2.6	2.6	2.5	2.5
Ireland	6.3	6.3	6.0	6.0	5.8	5.6	7.1	7.0	6.7	6.7	6.6	6.5
Israel	4.3	4.2	4.3	4.3	4.2	3.9	4.1	4.0	4.0	4.3	3.8	3.5
Italy	12.4	12.4	12.2	12.2	12.1	12.3	10.4	10.3	10.1	10.2	10.0	10.2
Japan	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.5	2.7	2.2	3.0	3.0	2.9	2.9	2.8	2.5
Korea	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.5	3.3	3.6	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.9	3.6
Latvia	7.7	7.9	7.4	7.4	7.2	7.2	9.8	9.4	9.2	9.2	9.3	9.4
Luxembourg	5.5	5.5	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.7	5.7	5.4	5.4	5.5	5.3
Mexico	3.6	3.4	3.7	4.0	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.4	3.3
Netherlands	5.3	5.1	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.5	4.5	4.4	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.0
New Zealand	5.2	5.3	5.0				4.2	4.0	4.0			
Norway	3.8	3.6	3.6	3.7	3.6		4.6	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	
Poland	4.9	4.8	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.5	4.9	4.8	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.4
Portugal	9.5	9.3	8.6	8.4	8.3	8.3	8.6	8.1	7.8	7.8	7.6	7.5
Slovak Republic	8.2	8.1	7.6	7.6	7.5	7.4	8.0	7.9	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5
Slovenia	7.7	7.8	7.5	7.5	7.2	6.8	5.9	5.7	5.3	5.4	5.2	5.0
Spain	19.0	18.6	18.4	18.4	18.2	18.0	15.7	15.2	15.0	15.0	14.9	14.7
Sweden	6.4	6.6	6.4	6.2	6.7	6.5	6.9	7.0	6.7	6.7	6.3	6.6
Switzerland	5.1	5.1	5.0				4.6	4.6	4.5			
Turkey ⁽¹⁾		14.2		13.1				9.2		9.0		
United Kingdom		4.2		4.3				4.3		4.3		
United States	4.3	4.3	4.0	4.1	4.0	4.0	4.4	4.4	4.2	4.2	4.1	4.3

Note:

(1) Turkey: Due to changes introduced in the Labour Force Survey, data by gender from January 2014 onwards 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+)					
	2017	2017		2017		2018	2017	2017		2017		2018
		Q3	Q4	Nov	Dec			Jan	Q3	Q4	Nov	
OECD - Total	12.0	11.8	11.7	11.8	11.6	11.4	5.0	4.9	4.8	4.8	4.7	4.7
Major Seven	10.7	10.5	10.5	10.7	10.3	10.2	4.3	4.3	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.0
European Union	16.9	16.6	16.4	16.4	16.3	16.1	6.7	6.6	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4
Euro area	18.8	18.5	18.1	18.1	17.9	17.7	8.2	8.0	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8
Australia	12.6	12.7	12.3	12.4	12.3	12.3	4.2	4.1	4.1	4.0	4.2	4.1
Austria	9.8	9.6	9.7	10.0	9.5	9.4	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	5.0	5.0
Belgium ⁽¹⁾	19.2	18.3	16.3	16.3	16.3		6.2	6.2	5.9	5.9	5.8	5.8
Canada	11.6	10.9	10.9	11.0	10.5	10.9	5.5	5.4	5.2	5.1	5.0	5.0
Chile	16.9	17.4	16.9	16.9	17.3		5.5	5.2	5.7	5.7	5.7	
Czech Republic	7.9	7.6	5.6	5.2	5.3	5.8	2.6	2.4	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2
Denmark	11.0	11.2	9.9	9.7	10.1	10.4	4.8	4.7	4.6	4.6	4.4	4.3
Estonia	12.2	11.0	7.1	6.8	6.5		5.2	5.3	5.2	5.2	5.5	
Finland	19.9	19.7	19.0	19.0	18.8	18.7	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1
France	22.3	22.2	21.8	21.7	21.7	21.7	8.1	8.2	7.7	7.7	7.6	7.6
Germany	6.9	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.6	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.2
Greece		40.3		43.7				19.8		19.6		
Hungary	10.8	11.1	10.6	10.5	10.7		3.6	3.6	3.4	3.4	3.2	
Iceland	8.0	7.6	7.4	7.4	7.3	7.1	1.8	1.7	1.9	1.9	1.9	2.0
Ireland	14.7	15.4	14.2	14.1	13.8	13.7	5.7	5.6	5.4	5.4	5.3	5.2
Israel	7.3	8.0	7.2	7.6	6.4	5.8	3.6	3.5	3.7	3.8	3.5	3.3
Italy	34.9	34.5	33.4	33.1	32.8	31.5		9.7				
Japan	4.7	4.8	4.5	4.3	4.6	3.3	2.7	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.3
Korea	10.3	10.1	10.4	10.6	9.9	9.4	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.3	3.2
Latvia	17.0	15.9	17.7	17.9	18.0	17.9	8.1	8.1	7.6	7.6	7.6	7.6
Luxembourg	15.4	15.0	14.1	14.1	14.4	14.1	4.8	4.8	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.6
Mexico	6.9	6.8	7.0	6.9	7.2	6.5	2.7	2.6	2.7	2.8	2.6	2.6
Netherlands	8.9	8.7	7.9	7.8	8.0	7.4	4.1	4.0	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.6
New Zealand	12.7	13.1	12.4				3.2	3.1	3.0			
Norway	10.3	10.3	9.8	9.9	9.4		3.3	3.1	3.2	3.2	3.3	
Poland	14.8	14.7	14.7	14.7	14.5	14.1	4.1	4.0	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.6
Portugal	23.8	24.1	23.2	22.8	22.2	22.2	7.9	7.5	7.0	6.9	6.9	6.8
Slovak Republic	18.6	18.6	17.4	17.3	17.1	17.1	7.3	7.1	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.7
Slovenia ⁽¹⁾	11.7	11.8	12.1	12.1	12.1		6.4	6.2	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.5
Spain	38.7	37.6	37.2	37.1	36.8	36.0	15.7	15.3	15.1	15.1	15.0	14.8
Sweden	17.7	18.3	17.2	17.3	17.6	16.8	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.0	5.0	5.2
Switzerland	8.1	8.5	7.5				4.3	4.3	4.4			
Turkey		20.7		19.5				8.9		8.5		
United Kingdom		12.0		12.4				3.1		3.1		
United States	9.2	9.0	9.2	9.6	8.9	9.2	3.6	3.6	3.3	3.3	3.4	3.4

Note:

(1) Belgium and Slovenia: Quarterly data are shown for youth unemployment.

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

	2016	2017	2017			2017			2018
			Q2	Q3	Q4	Oct	Nov	Dec	
OECD - Total	39,338	36,201	36,433	35,808	34,892	35,029	34,935	34,707	34,494
Major Seven	20,546	18,906	18,963	18,802	18,154	18,227	18,198	18,038	17,978
European Union	20,939	18,799	18,953	18,564	18,102	18,253	18,104	17,950	17,931
Euro area	16,254	14,768	14,862	14,602	14,243	14,364	14,243	14,121	14,111
Australia	726	726	725	721	715	704	709	732	724
Austria	270	248	245	244	247	245	248	249	249
Belgium	390	358	364	354	336	343	334	331	329
Canada	1,361	1,247	1,273	1,222	1,176	1,221	1,168	1,139	1,153
Chile	563	592	593	580	612	602	612	617	
Czech Republic	212	155	167	146	130	136	129	126	128
Denmark	187	171	171	172	161	165	160	157	156
Estonia	47	41	46	40	38	36	38	39	
Finland	237	234	235	231	233	232	233	233	234
France	2,972	2,789	2,815	2,820	2,703	2,738	2,693	2,678	2,676
Germany	1,774	1,633	1,646	1,611	1,575	1,589	1,575	1,561	1,547
Greece	1,131		1,036	998		996	996		
Hungary	234	192	198	193	179	183	180	174	
Iceland	6	6	5	5	6	6	6	6	6
Ireland	195	158	155	156	150	154	150	147	144
Israel	188	168	175	164	166	165	173	161	148
Italy	3,009	2,909	2,904	2,911	2,856	2,879	2,870	2,818	2,882
Japan	2,080	1,896	1,930	1,883	1,843	1,860	1,840	1,830	1,600
Korea	1,009	1,023	1,036	1,014	1,017	1,010	1,018	1,022	1,009
Latvia	95	85	87	85	81	82	81	81	82
Luxembourg	18	16	16	16	15	15	15	16	15
Mexico	2,085	1,854	1,872	1,794	1,874	1,861	1,894	1,867	1,817
Netherlands	539	438	453	428	399	404	397	395	380
New Zealand	133	127	128	126	122				
Norway	132	117	121	113	112	110	114	113	
Poland	1,063	844	875	825	787	797	786	778	768
Portugal	572	465	477	450	422	435	418	412	411
Slovak Republic	267	223	229	219	209	212	208	207	206
Slovenia	80	69	68	69	66	67	67	65	62
Spain	4,481	3,917	3,928	3,817	3,769	3,791	3,772	3,744	3,705
Sweden	366	359	357	367	353	361	348	351	354
Switzerland	238	234	228	234	232				
Turkey	3,330		3,482	3,445		3,336	3,297		
United Kingdom	1,599		1,454	1,407		1,416	1,436		
United States	7,751	6,982	6,941	6,947	6,572	6,524	6,616	6,576	6,684