

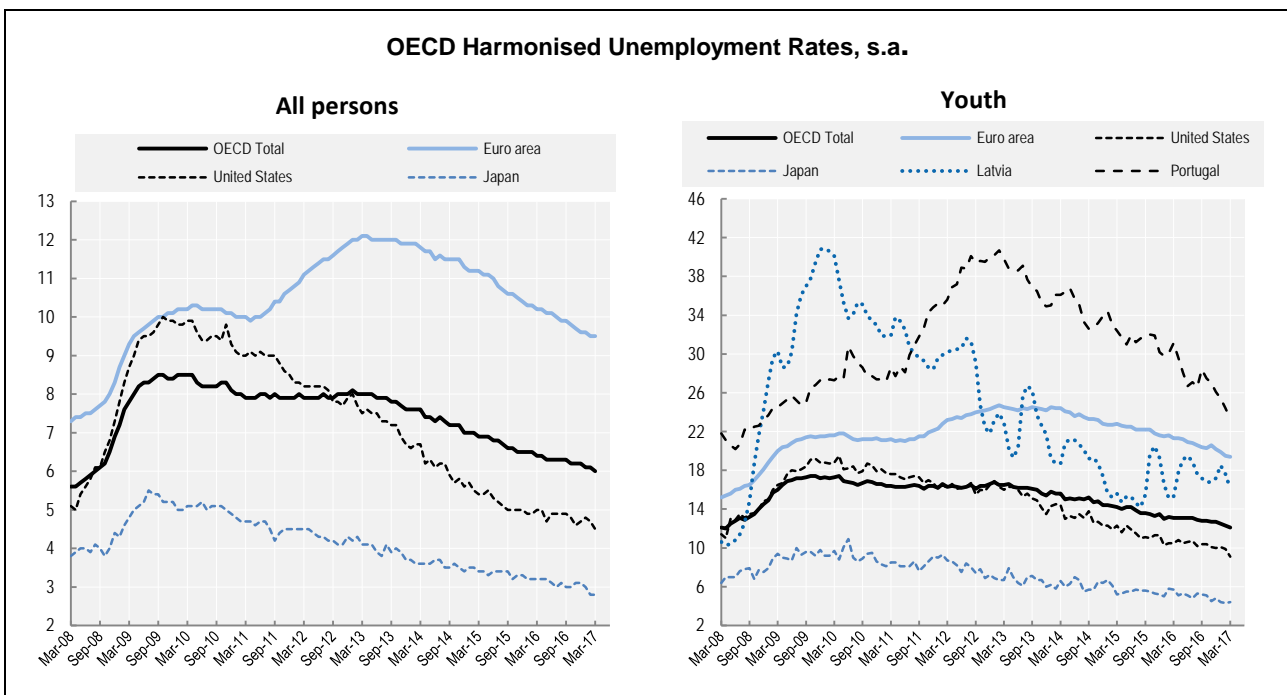
## OECD unemployment rate falls to 6.0% in March 2017

The **OECD** unemployment rate for the population as a whole fell by 0.1 percentage point, to 6.0%, in March 2017. Across the **OECD** area, 37.5 million people were unemployed, 4.9 million more than in April 2008, before the crisis.

The **OECD** unemployment rate for **youth** (people aged 15 to 24) fell by 0.2 percentage point in March (to 12.1%) continuing the downward trend seen in recent months and is now only 0.1 percentage point above its pre-crisis level. The **youth** unemployment rate fell significantly in the **United States** (by 0.8 percentage point, to 9.1%) and marginally in the **euro area** (by 0.1 percentage point, to 19.4%). However, the **youth** unemployment rate increased by 0.1 percentage point in **Japan**, albeit to very low levels (to 4.4%).

The unemployment rate for the population as a whole fell by 0.2 percentage point in the **United States** (to 4.5%) and by 0.3 percentage point in **Korea** (to 3.7%). It increased by 0.1 percentage point in **Canada** (to 6.7%) and was stable in **Japan** (at 2.8%). More recent data show that in April the unemployment rate declined further in the **United States** (by 0.1 percentage point, to 4.4%) while it also declined in **Canada** (by 0.2 percentage point, to 6.5%).

The unemployment rate was stable in the **euro area**, at 9.5% in March 2017. Rates fell by 0.2 percentage point or more in **Latvia** (to 9.0%), **Ireland** (to 6.4%), the **Netherlands** (to 5.1%), the **Slovak Republic** (to 8.4%) and **Slovenia** (to 7.6%). By contrast, the unemployment rate increased by 0.2 percentage point in **Austria** (to 5.9%) and **Italy** (to 11.7%).



**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			2017	2016			2017		
				Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
OECD - Total	7.4	6.8	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.2	6.1	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.1	6.1	6.0
Major Seven	6.4	5.8	5.5	5.5	5.4	5.3	5.2	5.4	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.2	5.2
European Union	10.2	9.4	8.6	8.7	8.5	8.3	8.1	8.3	8.3	8.2	8.1	8.1	8.0
Euro area	11.6	10.9	10.0	10.1	9.9	9.7	9.5	9.8	9.7	9.6	9.6	9.5	9.5
Australia	6.1	6.1	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.8	5.6	5.7	5.8	5.7	5.9	5.9
Austria	5.6	5.7	6.0	6.1	6.1	5.8	5.7	5.9	5.8	5.7	5.6	5.7	5.9
Belgium	8.5	8.5	7.9	8.2	7.8	7.2	7.0	7.3	7.2	7.0	7.0	7.0	6.9
Canada <sup>(1)</sup>	6.9	6.9	7.0	6.9	7.0	6.9	6.7	7.0	6.8	6.9	6.8	6.6	6.7
Chile	6.4	6.2	6.5	6.6	6.5	6.5	6.6	6.5	6.5	6.6	6.7	6.6	
Czech Republic	6.1	5.1	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.6	3.3	3.7	3.7	3.5	3.4	3.3	3.2
Denmark	6.5	6.2	6.2	6.1	6.4	6.3	6.2	6.4	6.3	6.2	6.1	6.2	6.2
Estonia	7.4	6.2	6.8	6.7	7.3	6.6		7.0	6.5	6.2	5.7	5.5	
Finland	8.7	9.4	8.8	8.9	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.8
France	10.3	10.4	10.1	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.1	10.0	10.0	10.1	10.1	10.1	10.1
Germany	5.0	4.6	4.1	4.2	4.1	3.9	3.9	4.0	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9
Greece	26.6	25.0	23.6	23.5	23.3	23.4		23.3	23.4	23.5	23.5		
Hungary	7.7	6.8	5.1	5.2	4.9	4.5		4.7	4.5	4.3	4.3	4.3	
Iceland	5.0	4.0	3.0	3.1	3.1	3.0		3.0	3.0	3.0	2.9	2.9	
Ireland	11.3	9.5	7.9	8.4	7.8	7.1	6.6	7.3	7.0	6.9	6.7	6.6	6.4
Israel	5.9	5.2	4.8	4.8	4.7	4.4	4.2	4.5	4.5	4.3	4.3	4.2	4.2
Italy	12.7	11.9	11.7	11.6	11.7	11.8	11.7	11.7	11.9	11.8	11.8	11.5	11.7
Japan	3.6	3.4	3.1	3.2	3.0	3.1	2.9	3.0	3.1	3.1	3.0	2.8	2.8
Korea	3.5	3.6	3.7	3.7	3.8	3.6	3.8	3.8	3.6	3.5	3.6	4.0	3.7
Latvia	10.9	9.9	9.6	9.6	9.8	9.4	9.3	9.4	9.4	9.5	9.7	9.3	9.0
Luxembourg	6.1	6.5	6.3	6.3	6.2	6.2	6.1	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.1	6.1	6.0
Mexico	4.8	4.4	3.9	4.0	3.8	3.7	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.7	3.5	3.4	3.5
Netherlands	7.4	6.9	6.0	6.3	5.8	5.5	5.2	5.6	5.6	5.4	5.3	5.3	5.1
New Zealand	5.4	5.4	5.1	5.0	4.9	5.2	4.9						
Norway	3.5	4.4	4.7	4.7	4.9	4.6		4.8	4.7	4.4	4.2	4.3	
Poland	9.0	7.5	6.2	6.3	6.1	5.7	5.3	5.8	5.7	5.5	5.4	5.3	5.3
Portugal	14.1	12.7	11.2	11.3	10.9	10.4	9.9	10.6	10.5	10.2	10.1	9.9	9.8
Slovak Republic	13.2	11.5	9.7	9.9	9.6	9.0	8.6	9.2	9.0	8.9	8.7	8.6	8.4
Slovenia	9.7	9.0	8.0	8.1	7.8	7.9	7.8	7.9	8.0	7.9	7.9	7.8	7.6
Spain	24.5	22.1	19.7	20.1	19.3	18.6	18.2	18.8	18.7	18.4	18.3	18.2	18.2
Sweden	7.9	7.4	7.0	6.8	7.0	6.9	6.7	6.9	6.8	6.9	6.8	6.8	6.4
Switzerland	4.5	4.5	4.6	4.3	4.8	4.3							
Turkey <sup>(2)</sup>	10.0	10.3	10.9	10.4	11.4	11.8		11.8	11.8	11.9	11.8		
United Kingdom	6.1	5.3	4.8	4.9	4.7	4.7		4.7	4.7	4.6	4.5		
United States <sup>(3)</sup>	6.2	5.3	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.7	4.7	4.8	4.6	4.7	4.8	4.7	4.5

## Notes:

(1) Canada: Unemployment rate for April 2017 was 6.5 %.

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

(3) United States: Unemployment rate for April 2017 was 4.4 %.

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

	Women						Men					
	2016	2016	2017	2017			2016	2016	2017	2017		
		Q4	Q1	Jan	Feb	Mar		Q4	Q1	Jan	Feb	Mar
OECD - Total	6.4	6.3	6.2	6.3	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.1	5.9	6.0	6.0	5.9
Major Seven	5.3	5.2	5.2	5.3	5.2	5.0	5.6	5.5	5.3	5.4	5.3	5.2
European Union	8.8	8.4	8.3	8.4	8.3	8.3	8.4	8.1	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.8
Euro area	10.4	10.0	9.9	10.0	9.9	9.9	9.7	9.5	9.2	9.3	9.2	9.2
Australia	5.8	5.8	6.0	5.9	6.0	6.0	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.5	5.8	5.7
Austria	5.6	5.3	5.1	5.0	5.0	5.2	6.5	6.2	6.4	6.2	6.4	6.5
Belgium	7.6	6.6	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.5	8.1	7.6	7.4	7.5	7.5	7.3
Canada	6.2	6.2	6.1	6.2	6.0	6.2	7.7	7.4	7.2	7.3	7.1	7.2
Chile	7.0	7.0	7.2	6.9	7.2		6.1	6.2	6.2	6.5	6.2	
Czech Republic	4.7	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.3	3.4	3.1	2.5	2.6	2.6	2.4
Denmark	6.7	6.7	6.2	6.4	6.2	6.1	5.8	5.9	6.2	5.9	6.3	6.3
Estonia	6.1	6.2		5.8	5.5		7.4	6.9		5.6	5.5	
Finland	8.6	8.5	8.4	8.5	8.4	8.4	9.0	8.9	9.1	8.9	9.1	9.2
France	9.8	9.9	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.1	10.3	10.1	10.1	10.1	10.1	10.1
Germany	3.7	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	4.4	4.4	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.2
Greece	28.1	27.9		27.9			19.9	19.8		19.9		
Hungary	5.2	4.6		4.4	4.4		5.1	4.5		4.2	4.1	
Iceland	3.1	3.0		2.9	2.9		2.9	3.0		3.0	3.0	
Ireland	6.5	6.2	5.9	6.0	5.9	5.8	9.1	7.8	7.1	7.3	7.1	6.9
Israel	4.9	4.5	4.3	4.4	4.3	4.3	4.7	4.3	4.2	4.1	4.2	4.2
Italy	12.8	13.0	12.9	13.2	12.7	12.7	10.9	10.9	10.8	10.8	10.6	10.9
Japan	2.8	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	3.3	3.3	3.0	3.1	3.0	2.8
Korea	3.6	3.7	3.8	3.6	4.0	3.7	3.8	3.5	3.8	3.6	4.0	3.7
Latvia	8.4	7.9	7.8	8.0	7.8	7.7	10.9	11.0	10.9	11.4	10.9	10.3
Luxembourg	6.7	6.5	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.0	6.0	5.8	5.9	5.8	5.7
Mexico	4.0	3.7	3.7	3.8	3.5	3.8	3.8	3.6	3.3	3.3	3.4	3.3
Netherlands	6.5	6.1	5.7	5.9	5.7	5.5	5.6	5.0	4.8	4.8	4.9	4.8
New Zealand	5.5	5.7	5.7				4.8	4.8	4.2			
Norway	4.0	4.1		3.7	3.8		5.4	5.1		4.7	4.8	
Poland	6.2	5.7	5.4	5.5	5.4	5.4	6.1	5.6	5.3	5.4	5.3	5.2
Portugal	11.2	10.5	10.2	10.4	10.2	10.1	11.1	10.4	9.6	9.8	9.6	9.5
Slovak Republic	10.8	9.7	9.2	9.4	9.2	9.0	8.8	8.4	8.0	8.2	8.0	7.9
Slovenia	8.6	8.2	7.8	8.0	7.8	7.7	7.5	7.7	7.7	7.9	7.7	7.5
Spain	21.4	20.3	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0	18.1	17.3	16.7	16.8	16.7	16.5
Sweden	6.6	6.5	6.2	6.4	6.2	6.1	7.3	7.2	7.0	7.2	7.2	6.6
Switzerland	4.9	4.6					4.4	4.1				
Turkey <sup>(1)</sup>	13.7	15.3		15.2			9.6	10.2		10.2		
United Kingdom	4.7	4.5		4.4			5.0	4.8		4.6		
United States	4.8	4.6	4.6	4.8	4.6	4.3	4.9	4.9	4.7	4.8	4.8	4.6

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	2017	2017			2016	2016	2017	2017		
		Q4	Q1	Jan	Feb	Mar		Q4	Q1	Jan	Feb	Mar
OECD - Total	13.0	12.7	12.3	12.5	12.3	12.1	5.5	5.3	5.2	5.3	5.3	5.2
Major Seven	11.8	11.5	11.0	11.3	11.1	10.7	4.7	4.6	4.5	4.6	4.5	4.5
European Union	18.7	18.1	17.4	17.6	17.3	17.2	7.5	7.2	7.1	7.2	7.1	7.1
Euro area	20.9	20.4	19.6	19.9	19.5	19.4	9.0	8.7	8.6	8.6	8.6	8.6
Australia	12.7	13.2	12.9	12.3	13.2	13.3	4.3	4.2	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4
Austria	11.2	10.4	10.5	10.4	10.4	10.6	5.3	5.1	5.1	5.0	5.1	5.3
Belgium	20.1	19.0	18.2	18.2	18.2	18.2	6.9	6.2	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1
Canada	13.1	12.8	12.8	13.3	12.4	12.8	6.0	5.9	5.7	5.7	5.6	5.7
Chile	15.7	15.0	16.1	16.2	16.1		5.3	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	
Czech Republic	10.5	10.4	8.9	8.2	9.1	9.3	3.5	3.2	2.9	3.0	2.9	2.8
Denmark	12.0	12.8	12.5	12.4	12.6	12.6	5.1	5.1	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
Estonia	13.5	12.7		12.5	14.2		6.2	6.0		5.1	4.6	
Finland	20.0	20.2	20.1	20.2	20.1	20.0	7.3	7.1	7.2	7.1	7.2	7.2
France	24.6	24.1	23.8	23.9	23.7	23.7	8.5	8.6	8.6	8.6	8.6	8.7
Germany	7.0	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.7	3.8	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6
Greece	47.4	45.9		48.0			22.2	22.1		22.0		
Hungary	12.9	11.8		11.1	10.5		4.5	4.0		3.7	3.7	
Iceland	6.5	7.0		7.1	7.1		2.3	2.2		2.1	2.1	
Ireland	17.2	16.1	14.5	15.1	14.5	13.9	7.0	6.1	5.7	5.8	5.7	5.6
Israel	8.6	7.9	6.7	6.7	6.8	6.7	4.1	4.0	3.7	3.9	3.7	3.6
Italy	37.8	38.6	35.1	36.7	34.5	34.1	10.0	10.1				
Japan	5.2	4.8	4.4	4.4	4.3	4.4	2.9	2.9	2.7	2.8	2.7	2.6
Korea	10.7	9.9	10.0	8.7	10.8	10.5	3.2	3.2	3.3	3.2	3.5	3.2
Latvia	17.2	16.9	17.4	18.5	17.6	16.1	9.0	8.9	8.7	9.0	8.7	8.4
Luxembourg	19.2	19.1	18.6	18.6	18.7	18.6	5.2	5.2	5.0	5.1	5.0	5.0
Mexico	7.7	7.3	6.8	6.9	6.5	6.9	3.1	2.9	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.7
Netherlands	10.8	10.3	9.7	9.8	9.7	9.6	5.1	4.6	4.4	4.5	4.5	4.3
New Zealand	13.2	13.7	12.4				3.6	3.6	3.5			
Norway	10.9	10.6		9.8	10.1		3.8	3.8		3.4	3.5	
Poland	17.6	15.9	14.6	14.8	14.5	14.4	5.2	4.8	4.5	4.6	4.5	4.5
Portugal	28.2	26.9	24.4	25.4	24.4	23.3	9.9	9.1	8.8	8.9	8.8	8.8
Slovak Republic	22.2	20.3	19.1	19.5	19.1	18.8	8.7	8.0	7.7	7.8	7.7	7.5
Slovenia	15.3	14.5	13.7	13.7	13.7	13.7	7.5	7.5	7.3	7.4	7.4	7.1
Spain	44.5	42.8	41.0	41.5	41.0	40.5	17.9	17.0	16.7	16.7	16.7	16.6
Sweden	18.8	18.5	17.8	17.9	18.4	17.2	5.3	5.3	5.1	5.3	5.2	4.9
Switzerland	8.4	7.5					4.1	3.9				
Turkey <sup>(1)</sup>	19.6	21.6		22.6			9.2	9.9		9.7		
United Kingdom	13.0	12.4		11.9			3.6	3.5		3.4		
United States	10.4	10.2	9.7	10.1	9.9	9.1	4.0	3.9	3.9	4.0	3.9	3.8

Note:

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

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

	2015	2016	2016		2017	2016	2017		
			Q3	Q4	Q1	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
OECD - Total	41,596	39,300	39,339	38,607	37,941	38,503	38,272	38,010	37,542
Major Seven	21,630	20,539	20,538	20,225	19,853	20,208	20,160	19,855	19,545
European Union	22,880	20,909	20,715	20,207	19,802	20,044	19,919	19,772	19,716
Euro area	17,451	16,228	16,095	15,781	15,559	15,682	15,643	15,520	15,515
Australia	759	725	720	725	743	739	726	749	753
Austria	252	270	275	258	259	254	253	257	266
Belgium	422	390	388	359	352	353	353	353	350
Canada	1,331	1,361	1,357	1,344	1,308	1,342	1,324	1,286	1,314
Chile	532	563	570	570	582	576	582	582	
Czech Republic	268	212	213	195	177	190	180	176	174
Denmark	181	188	193	191	185	186	184	185	185
Estonia	42	47	51	46		43	40	38	
Finland	252	237	235	234	235	234	234	235	237
France	3,054	2,970	2,949	2,965	2,982	2,972	2,978	2,980	2,988
Germany	1,950	1,771	1,776	1,708	1,680	1,690	1,682	1,679	1,678
Greece	1,197	1,131	1,122	1,117		1,119	1,117		
Hungary	308	234	227	208		200	198	196	
Iceland	8	6	6	6		6	6	6	
Ireland	204	173	172	155	145	152	148	145	141
Israel	202	188	186	175	168	169	169	168	167
Italy	3,033	3,009	2,999	3,058	3,021	3,067	3,060	2,981	3,022
Japan	2,219	2,080	2,043	2,037	1,907	2,070	1,980	1,900	1,840
Korea	976	1,012	1,035	989	1,037	954	982	1,108	1,023
Latvia	98	95	96	93	92	94	95	92	88
Luxembourg	18	18	17	17	17	17	17	17	17
Mexico	2,306	2,085	2,043	1,972	1,883	2,028	1,908	1,864	1,877
Netherlands	614	539	524	494	472	482	480	473	463
New Zealand	134	133	129	138	132				
Norway	121	132	136	129		123	117	120	
Poland	1,304	1,063	1,054	976	920	952	935	920	906
Portugal	648	572	557	534	510	520	518	508	504
Slovak Republic	314	267	263	248	237	244	241	237	233
Slovenia	90	80	77	80	78	80	80	78	76
Spain	5,056	4,481	4,415	4,238	4,141	4,183	4,164	4,144	4,115
Sweden	387	366	368	365	355	367	362	363	340
Switzerland	219	227	237	214					
Turkey <sup>(1)</sup>	3,054	3,330	3,492	3,656		3,680	3,677		
United Kingdom	1,747	1,598	1,579	1,553		1,538	1,501		
United States	8,296	7,751	7,835	7,559	7,455	7,529	7,635	7,528	7,202

Note:

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