

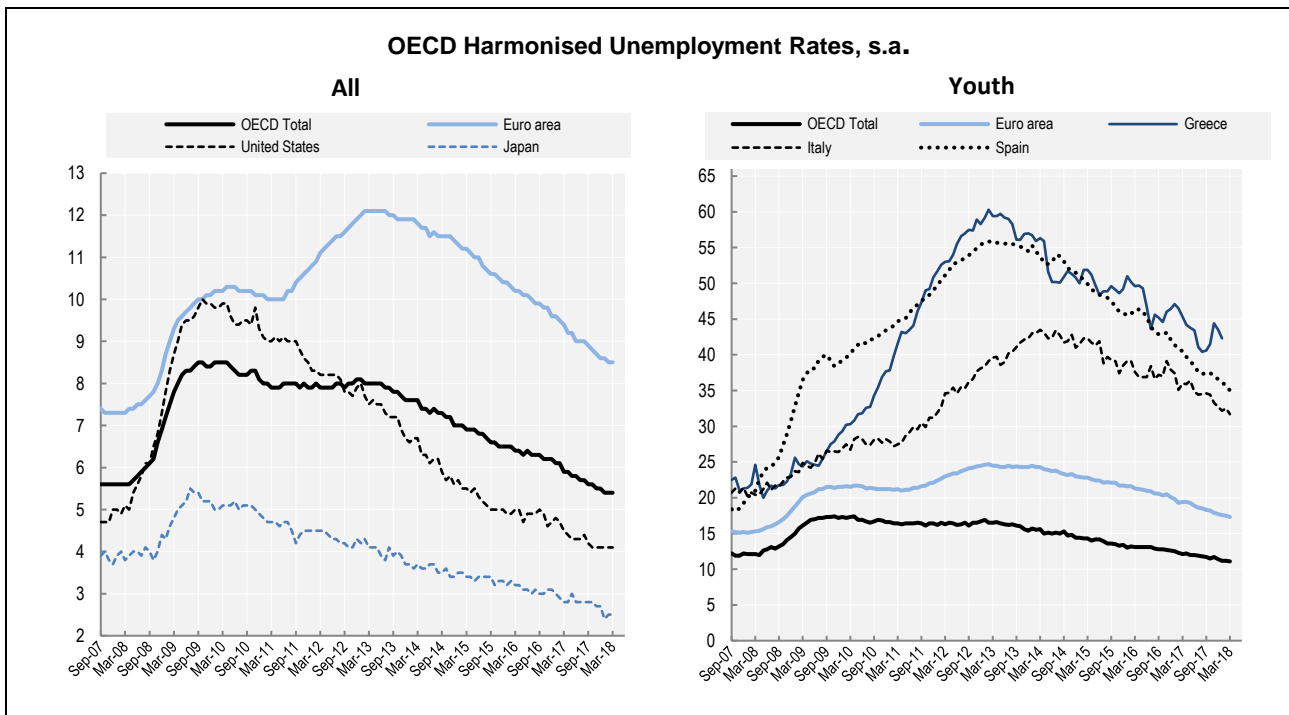
## OECD unemployment rate stable at 5.4% in March 2018

The OECD unemployment rate remained stable at 5.4% in March 2018. Across the OECD area, 34 million people were unemployed, 1.4 million more than in April 2008, but 15.1 million below the January 2013 peak.

The unemployment rate was also stable (at 8.5%) in the euro area in March and was stable or fell in all euro area economies. The largest declines (by 0.2 percentage point) were in the Netherlands (to 3.9%) and Portugal (to 7.4%).

The unemployment rate was also stable in Canada (at 5.8%), Japan (at 2.5%) and the United States (at 4.1%). It decreased by 0.2 percentage point in Israel (to 3.6%) and by 0.1 percentage point in Mexico (to 3.2%) but increased by 0.4 percentage point in Korea (to 4.0%). More recent data show that in April, the unemployment rate declined by 0.2 percentage point in the United States, to 3.9%, the lowest level since December 2000, while it remained stable in Canada.

The OECD unemployment rate for youth (people aged 15 to 24) decreased by 0.1 percentage point, to 11.1% in March. In the euro area, the youth unemployment rate declined by 0.2 percentage point, to 17.3%, its lowest level since October 2008. Youth unemployment rates fell significantly in March in Italy (down 0.8 percentage point, to 31.7%) and Spain (down 0.7 percentage point, to 35.0%) and also fell significantly in Greece (down 1.2 percentage points, to 42.3% in January, the latest month available) but remain high in the three countries.



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.

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Next release: Thursday, 14 June 2018

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

	2015	2016	2017	2017			2018	2017			2018		
				Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
OECD - Total	6.8	6.3	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.5	5.4	5.6	5.5	5.5	5.4	5.4	5.4
Major Seven	5.8	5.5	5.0	5.0	4.9	4.8	4.7	4.8	4.8	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.6
European Union	9.4	8.6	7.6	7.7	7.5	7.3	7.1	7.4	7.3	7.3	7.2	7.1	7.1
Euro area	10.9	10.0	9.1	9.1	9.0	8.7	8.5	8.8	8.7	8.6	8.6	8.5	8.5
Australia	6.1	5.7	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.4	5.4	5.6	5.5	5.5	5.5
Austria	5.7	6.0	5.5	5.5	5.4	5.4	5.1	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.2	5.0	5.0
Belgium <sup>(1)</sup>	8.5	7.9	7.1	7.3	7.0	6.4	6.4	6.6	6.3	6.2	6.3	6.4	6.4
Canada <sup>(2)</sup>	6.9	7.0	6.3	6.5	6.2	6.0	5.8	6.2	5.9	5.8	5.9	5.8	5.8
Chile	6.2	6.5	6.7	6.7	6.5	6.8	6.9	6.7	6.8	6.9	6.9	6.9	
Czech Republic	5.1	4.0	2.9	3.1	2.7	2.4	2.3	2.5	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.2
Denmark	6.2	6.2	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.3	4.9	5.5	5.3	5.2	4.9	4.9	4.8
Estonia	6.2	6.8	5.8	6.4	5.9	5.6		5.5	5.6	5.7	6.5	6.5	
Finland	9.4	8.8	8.6	8.7	8.5	8.4	8.3	8.4	8.4	8.4	8.3	8.3	8.2
France	10.4	10.1	9.4	9.5	9.5	9.1	8.9	9.2	9.0	9.0	9.0	8.9	8.8
Germany	4.6	4.1	3.8	3.8	3.7	3.6	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.4
Greece	25.0	23.6	21.5	21.5	20.8	21.0		21.0	21.1	20.8	20.6		
Hungary	6.8	5.1	4.2	4.3	4.1	3.9		3.9	3.9	3.8	3.7	3.7	
Iceland	4.0	3.0	2.8	2.6	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.6
Ireland	10.0	8.4	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.4	6.1	6.5	6.4	6.3	6.2	6.1	6.0
Israel	5.2	4.8	4.2	4.4	4.1	4.1	3.7	4.1	4.3	4.0	3.6	3.8	3.6
Italy	11.9	11.7	11.2	11.2	11.2	11.1	11.1	11.1	11.1	11.0	11.2	11.0	11.0
Japan	3.4	3.1	2.8	2.9	2.8	2.7	2.5	2.8	2.7	2.7	2.4	2.5	2.5
Korea	3.6	3.7	3.7	3.8	3.6	3.7	3.7	3.6	3.7	3.7	3.6	3.6	4.0
Latvia	9.9	9.6	8.7	8.9	8.6	8.3	8.1	8.3	8.3	8.2	8.3	8.0	7.9
Luxembourg	6.5	6.3	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.3	5.4	5.4
Mexico	4.4	3.9	3.4	3.5	3.3	3.4	3.3	3.4	3.5	3.4	3.3	3.3	3.2
Netherlands	6.9	6.0	4.9	5.0	4.7	4.4	4.1	4.5	4.4	4.4	4.2	4.1	3.9
New Zealand	5.4	5.1	4.7	4.8	4.6	4.5	4.4						
Norway	4.5	4.8	4.2	4.4	4.1	4.0		4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.9	
Poland	7.5	6.2	4.9	5.1	4.8	4.6	4.4	4.6	4.6	4.5	4.5	4.4	4.4
Portugal	12.7	11.2	9.0	9.3	8.7	8.1	7.6	8.4	8.1	7.9	7.9	7.6	7.4
Slovak Republic	11.5	9.7	8.1	8.3	7.9	7.7	7.5	7.8	7.7	7.6	7.6	7.5	7.5
Slovenia	9.0	8.0	6.6	6.6	6.5	5.8	5.3	6.0	5.7	5.6	5.4	5.3	5.2
Spain	22.1	19.7	17.2	17.3	16.8	16.6	16.2	16.7	16.6	16.5	16.4	16.2	16.1
Sweden	7.4	7.0	6.7	6.7	6.8	6.5	6.2	6.6	6.4	6.5	6.5	5.9	6.2
Switzerland	4.8	4.9	4.8	4.7	4.8	4.7							
Turkey	10.3	10.9	10.9	11.1	10.8	10.1		10.3	10.1	9.9	9.9		
United Kingdom	5.3	4.8	4.4	4.4	4.2	4.2		4.2	4.3	4.2	4.1		
United States <sup>(3)</sup>	5.3	4.9	4.4	4.3	4.3	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1

## Notes:

(1) Belgium: Due to a methodological break in the Labour Force Survey, data from the 1st quarter of 2017 onwards are not comparable with previous data.

(2) Canada: Unemployment rate for April 2018 was 5.8%.

(3) United States: Unemployment rate for April 2018 was 3.9%.

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

	Women						Men					
	2017	2017	2018	2018			2017	2017	2018	2018		
		Q4	Q1	Jan	Feb	Mar		Q4	Q1	Jan	Feb	Mar
OECD - Total	5.9	5.7	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.6	5.4	5.3	5.3	5.2	5.3
Major Seven	4.9	4.7	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	5.0	4.8	4.7	4.8	4.7	4.7
European Union	7.9	7.6	7.4	7.5	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.1	6.9	7.0	6.9	6.8
Euro area	9.4	9.1	8.9	9.0	8.9	8.9	8.7	8.4	8.2	8.3	8.2	8.1
Australia	5.7	5.5	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.5	5.5
Austria	5.0	5.0	4.9	5.0	4.9	4.9	5.9	5.8	5.2	5.4	5.1	5.1
Belgium <sup>(1)</sup>	7.1	6.4	6.3	6.3	6.4	6.3	7.1	6.4	6.4	6.3	6.4	6.4
Canada	5.9	5.5	5.4	5.5	5.4	5.4	6.8	6.3	6.1	6.2	6.1	6.1
Chile	7.2	7.5	7.6	7.5	7.6		6.3	6.4	6.4	6.5	6.4	
Czech Republic	3.6	3.0	2.9	3.0	2.9	2.8	2.4	2.0	1.8	1.8	1.9	1.8
Denmark	5.9	5.6	5.3	5.3	5.4	5.2	5.5	5.1	4.4	4.5	4.4	4.4
Estonia	5.4	5.3		6.4	6.1		6.2	5.8		6.6	6.8	
Finland	8.4	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.9	8.6	8.2	8.4	8.2	8.1
France	9.4	9.0	8.8	8.9	8.8	8.7	9.5	9.1	9.0	9.0	9.0	8.9
Germany	3.3	3.2	2.9	3.0	2.9	2.9	4.1	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9
Greece	26.1	25.8		25.6			17.8	17.1		16.7		
Hungary	4.6	4.4		4.3	4.2		3.8	3.4		3.3	3.3	
Iceland	2.9	2.8	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.8	2.8	2.6	2.4	2.5	2.4	2.4
Ireland	6.3	6.0	5.7	5.8	5.6	5.6	7.1	6.7	6.5	6.6	6.5	6.4
Israel	4.3	4.2	3.5	3.8	3.6	3.3	4.1	4.1	3.8	3.5	4.0	3.9
Italy	12.4	12.2	12.3	12.4	12.0	12.5	10.4	10.2	10.1	10.2	10.2	9.9
Japan	2.6	2.6	2.3	2.2	2.3	2.3	3.0	2.9	2.6	2.5	2.6	2.7
Korea	3.5	3.4	3.7	3.6	3.7	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.7	3.6	3.5	4.1
Latvia	7.7	7.4	7.1	7.2	7.0	7.0	9.8	9.1	9.0	9.3	9.0	8.7
Luxembourg	5.5	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.7	5.5	5.4	5.3	5.5	5.5
Mexico	3.6	3.7	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.3	3.1	3.2
Netherlands	5.3	4.7	4.3	4.5	4.3	4.1	4.5	4.1	3.9	4.0	3.8	3.8
New Zealand	5.2	5.0	4.9				4.2	4.0	3.9			
Norway	3.8	3.6		3.6	3.5		4.6	4.4		4.4	4.2	
Poland	4.9	4.7	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.9	4.5	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.3
Portugal	9.5	8.6	7.9	8.2	7.8	7.6	8.6	7.8	7.4	7.5	7.4	7.2
Slovak Republic	8.4	8.2	8.1	8.2	8.1	8.1	7.9	7.3	7.0	7.1	7.0	6.9
Slovenia	7.5	6.6	5.8	6.0	5.8	5.7	5.8	5.0	4.8	4.9	4.8	4.7
Spain	19.0	18.4	18.0	18.1	18.0	17.9	15.7	15.0	14.7	14.8	14.7	14.6
Sweden	6.4	6.3	6.1	6.4	5.6	6.3	6.9	6.7	6.3	6.5	6.2	6.1
Switzerland	5.1	5.0					4.6	4.5				
Turkey <sup>(2)</sup>	14.0	12.8		12.6			9.5	8.8		8.6		
United Kingdom	4.2	4.3		4.1			4.5	4.3		4.1		
United States	4.3	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.1	4.0	4.4	4.2	4.2	4.3	4.2	4.1

Note:

(1) Belgium: Due to a methodological break in the Labour Force Survey, data from the 1st quarter of 2017 onwards are not comparable with previous data.

(2) 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	2018	2018			2017	2017	2018	2018		
		Q4	Q1	Jan	Feb	Mar		Q4	Q1	Jan	Feb	Mar
OECD - Total	11.9	11.5	11.2	11.2	11.2	11.1	5.0	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.6	4.6
Major Seven	10.6	10.4	10.0	10.1	10.1	9.8	4.3	4.1	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
European Union	16.8	16.2	15.7	15.8	15.7	15.6	6.7	6.4	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.2
Euro area	18.8	17.9	17.5	17.6	17.5	17.3	8.1	7.8	7.7	7.8	7.7	7.6
Australia	12.6	12.2	12.6	12.3	13.2	12.5	4.2	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.0	4.2
Austria	9.8	9.8	9.9	9.4	10.2	10.1	4.9	4.8	4.4	4.6	4.3	4.4
Belgium <sup>(1)</sup>	19.3	16.4	17.7	17.7	17.7	17.7	6.2	5.6	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5
Canada	11.6	10.9	11.0	10.9	11.1	10.9	5.5	5.2	5.0	5.0	4.9	4.9
Chile	16.9	16.8	17.0	16.8	17.0		5.5	5.7	5.7	5.8	5.7	
Czech Republic	7.9	5.7	6.9	6.6	7.4	6.8	2.6	2.2	2.0	2.1	2.0	2.0
Denmark	11.0	9.8	9.6	9.6	9.7	9.5	4.8	4.5	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.9
Estonia	12.2	7.9		8.9	10.5		5.2	5.4		6.2	6.1	
Finland	19.9	19.1	18.8	18.8	18.8	18.9	7.1	7.0	6.8	6.9	6.8	6.7
France	22.3	21.5	21.6	21.6	21.6	21.5	8.1	7.8	7.6	7.6	7.6	7.5
Germany	6.8	6.4	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.1	3.4	3.3	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.1
Greece	43.6	43.1		42.3			20.2	19.7		19.4		
Hungary	10.8	10.5		10.9	10.4		3.6	3.3		3.2	3.2	
Iceland	8.2	7.0	6.4	6.5	6.4	6.4	1.8	1.9	1.9	2.0	1.9	1.9
Ireland	14.5	13.1	12.7	12.9	12.7	12.5	5.7	5.5	5.2	5.3	5.2	5.2
Israel	7.3	7.2	5.7	5.8	6.5	4.8	3.6	3.7	3.2	3.4	3.2	3.0
Italy	34.9	33.5	32.1	32.2	32.5	31.7	9.8	9.6				
Japan	4.7	4.5	3.8	3.3	4.2	3.8	2.7	2.6	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.4
Korea	10.3	10.4	10.2	9.5	9.9	11.1	3.2	3.2	3.3	3.2	3.2	3.5
Latvia	17.0	17.5	16.4	17.6	16.4	15.2	8.1	7.6	7.5	7.6	7.5	7.4
Luxembourg	15.4	14.1	13.9	14.1	13.8	13.9	4.8	4.7	4.7	4.6	4.7	4.7
Mexico	6.9	7.0	6.8	6.6	6.8	7.1	2.7	2.7	2.5	2.6	2.5	2.4
Netherlands	8.9	7.9	7.2	7.4	7.2	7.0	4.1	3.7	3.5	3.6	3.5	3.4
New Zealand	12.7	12.3	11.6				3.2	3.0	3.0			
Norway	10.7	10.0		9.2	8.4		3.2	3.1		3.2	3.2	
Poland	14.8	14.6	13.9	14.1	13.8	13.8	4.1	3.7	3.6	3.7	3.6	3.6
Portugal	23.8	23.1	21.3	21.5	21.2	21.3	7.9	6.9	6.6	6.8	6.6	6.3
Slovak Republic	18.9	18.7	18.6	18.7	18.6	18.4	7.3	6.8	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.6
Slovenia <sup>(2)</sup>	11.3	11.2	9.6	9.6	9.6	9.6	6.2	5.3	4.9	5.0	4.9	4.8
Spain	38.7	37.0	35.6	36.1	35.7	35.0	15.7	15.1	14.9	15.0	14.9	14.8
Sweden	17.7	17.0	15.9	16.6	14.5	16.7	5.2	5.1	4.9	5.1	4.8	4.8
Switzerland	8.1	7.5					4.3	4.4				
Turkey	20.7	18.6		18.5			9.0	8.5		8.2		
United Kingdom	12.1	12.0		11.5			3.2	3.1		3.0		
United States	9.2	9.2	8.9	9.2	9.0	8.5	3.6	3.3	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4

Note:

(1) Belgium: Quarterly data are shown for youth unemployment. Due to a methodological break in the Labour Force Survey, data from the 1st quarter of 2017 onwards are not comparable with previous data.

(2) Slovenia: Quarterly data are shown for youth unemployment.

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

	2016	2017	2017		2018	2017	2018		
			Q3	Q4			Q1	Dec	Jan
OECD - Total	39,338	36,181	35,788	34,732	34,122	34,493	34,228	34,110	34,031
Major Seven	20,546	18,891	18,800	18,115	17,873	17,992	17,890	17,911	17,816
European Union	20,939	18,779	18,558	18,022	17,617	17,860	17,794	17,575	17,481
Euro area	16,254	14,750	14,590	14,190	13,932	14,072	14,064	13,907	13,824
Australia	726	725	720	716	729	732	725	733	730
Austria	270	248	244	244	231	244	235	228	229
Belgium <sup>(1)</sup>	390	354	352	319	315	312	314	316	315
Canada	1,361	1,247	1,222	1,176	1,147	1,139	1,153	1,144	1,142
Chile	563	592	580	612	621	617	623	621	
Czech Republic	212	155	146	130	124	126	128	125	120
Denmark	187	171	172	159	145	155	146	146	144
Estonia	47	41	41	39		40	46	46	
Finland	237	234	231	231	227	231	229	227	226
France	2,972	2,788	2,820	2,692	2,660	2,671	2,676	2,660	2,645
Germany	1,774	1,621	1,601	1,549	1,493	1,529	1,510	1,493	1,477
Greece	1,131	1,027	997	994		987	977		
Hungary	234	192	191	178		174	173	171	
Iceland	6	6	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Ireland	195	158	157	151	146	150	148	146	143
Israel	188	168	164	166	148	162	146	155	144
Italy	3,009	2,909	2,912	2,865	2,869	2,835	2,895	2,846	2,865
Japan	2,080	1,896	1,883	1,843	1,673	1,830	1,600	1,690	1,730
Korea	1,009	1,023	1,014	1,017	1,041	1,022	1,009	997	1,116
Latvia	95	85	85	81	79	81	81	79	77
Luxembourg	18	16	16	16	15	16	15	16	15
Mexico	2,085	1,854	1,794	1,872	1,795	1,864	1,814	1,794	1,777
Netherlands	539	438	428	399	368	395	380	367	357
New Zealand	133	127	126	122	119				
Norway	132	116	114	111		112	111	108	
Poland	1,063	844	826	786	762	779	771	760	754
Portugal	572	465	450	421	395	411	408	395	381
Slovak Republic	267	224	219	212	207	210	209	207	205
Slovenia	80	68	67	59	55	57	56	55	54
Spain	4,481	3,917	3,819	3,767	3,693	3,750	3,727	3,696	3,655
Sweden	366	359	366	352	335	349	351	319	334
Switzerland	238	234	234	232					
Turkey	3,330	3,451	3,432	3,224		3,165	3,160		
United Kingdom	1,599	1,448	1,414	1,418		1,412	1,372		
United States	7,751	6,982	6,947	6,572	6,658	6,576	6,684	6,706	6,585

Note:

(1) Belgium: Due to a methodological break in the Labour Force Survey, data from the 1st quarter of 2017 onwards are not comparable with previous data.