

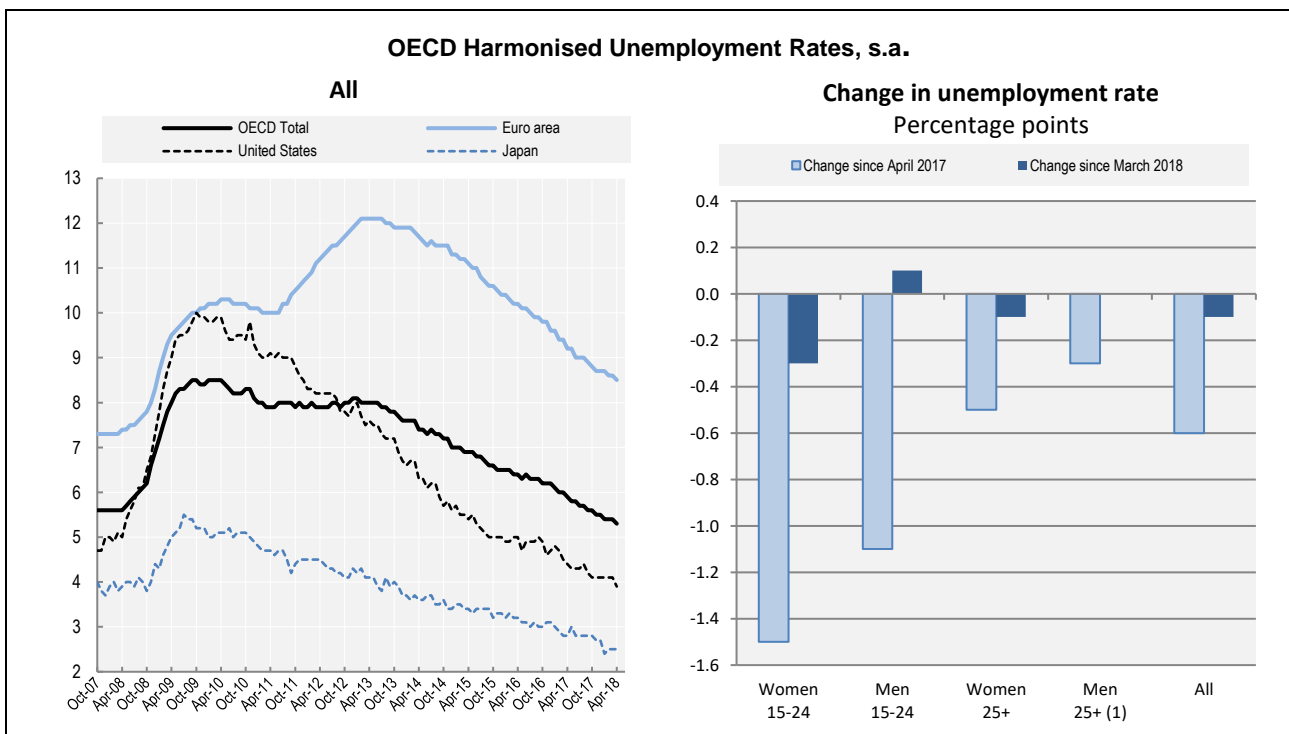
OECD unemployment rate down to 5.3% in April 2018

The OECD unemployment rate fell by 0.1 percentage point to 5.3% in April 2018 after two consecutive months of stability. Across the OECD area, 33.9 million people were unemployed, 1.2 million more than in April 2008, but 15.2 million less than in the January 2013 peak.

In the euro area, the unemployment rate declined in April by 0.1 percentage point, to 8.5% (its lowest level since December 2008), with rates declining by 0.2 percentage point in Latvia (to 7.4%) and Spain (to 15.9%).

Outside the euro area, the unemployment rate fell by 0.2 percentage point in Korea (to 3.8%) and the United States (to 3.9%), remained stable in Canada (at 5.8%) and Japan (at 2.5%), while it increased by 0.3 percentage point in Denmark (to 5.2%) and Israel (to 3.9%), and by 0.2 percentage point in Mexico (to 3.4%). More recent data show that in May the unemployment rate declined further in the United States (by 0.1 percentage point, to 3.8%), while it was unchanged in Canada.

The OECD unemployment rate for youth (people aged 15 to 24) fell by 0.1 percentage point, to 10.9% in April, with declines for young women (by 0.3 percentage point, to 10.4%) more than offsetting a slight increase for young men (by 0.1 percentage point, to 11.4%). Since the same month in 2017, the OECD unemployment rate for youth has declined more rapidly than that for people aged 25 and above, although it still remains more than twice as large.



(1) Compared to March 2018, change in OECD unemployment rate for men aged 25 and above was zero percentage point.

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: Tuesday, 10 July 2018

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

	2015	2016	2017	2017			2018	2017		2018			
				Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
OECD - Total	6.8	6.3	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.5	5.4	5.5	5.5	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.3
Major Seven	5.8	5.5	5.0	5.0	4.9	4.8	4.7	4.8	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.6
European Union	9.4	8.6	7.6	7.7	7.5	7.3	7.1	7.3	7.3	7.2	7.1	7.1	7.1
Euro area	10.9	10.0	9.1	9.1	9.0	8.7	8.6	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.6	8.6	8.5
Australia	6.1	5.7	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.4	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.6
Austria	5.7	6.0	5.5	5.5	5.4	5.4	5.0	5.4	5.4	5.2	5.0	4.9	4.9
Belgium ⁽¹⁾	8.5	7.9	7.1	7.3	7.0	6.4	6.3	6.3	6.2	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.3
Canada ⁽²⁾	6.9	7.0	6.3	6.5	6.2	6.0	5.8	5.9	5.8	5.9	5.8	5.8	5.8
Chile	6.2	6.5	6.7	6.7	6.5	6.8	6.9	6.8	6.9	6.9	6.9	6.7	
Czech Republic	5.1	4.0	2.9	3.1	2.7	2.4	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.2	2.2
Denmark	6.2	6.2	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.4	5.0	5.3	5.3	5.0	5.0	4.9	5.2
Estonia	6.2	6.8	5.8	6.5	5.9	5.5	6.1	5.5	5.6	6.4	6.3	5.6	
Finland	9.4	8.8	8.6	8.7	8.5	8.4	8.2	8.4	8.4	8.3	8.2	8.1	8.1
France	10.4	10.1	9.4	9.5	9.5	9.1	9.2	9.1	9.1	9.2	9.2	9.2	9.2
Germany	4.6	4.1	3.8	3.8	3.7	3.6	3.5	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.4
Greece	25.0	23.6	21.5	21.5	20.8	21.0	20.5	21.1	20.8	20.7	20.6	20.1	
Hungary	6.8	5.1	4.2	4.3	4.1	3.9	3.7	3.9	3.8	3.7	3.7	3.7	
Iceland	4.0	3.0	2.8	2.6	2.7	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9
Ireland	10.0	8.4	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.4	6.1	6.4	6.3	6.2	6.1	6.0	5.9
Israel	5.2	4.8	4.2	4.4	4.1	4.1	3.7	4.3	4.0	3.7	3.8	3.6	3.9
Italy	11.9	11.7	11.2	11.2	11.2	11.1	11.1	11.1	11.0	11.2	11.1	11.1	11.2
Japan	3.4	3.1	2.8	2.9	2.8	2.7	2.5	2.7	2.7	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.5
Korea	3.6	3.7	3.7	3.8	3.6	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.6	3.6	4.0	3.8
Latvia	9.9	9.6	8.7	8.9	8.6	8.3	7.8	8.3	8.2	8.1	7.8	7.6	7.4
Luxembourg	6.5	6.3	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.4	5.3	5.3	5.4	5.3	5.4	5.3	5.3
Mexico	4.4	3.9	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.4	3.3	3.5	3.4	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.4
Netherlands	6.9	6.0	4.9	5.0	4.7	4.4	4.1	4.4	4.4	4.2	4.1	3.9	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	3.9	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.9	3.9	
Poland	7.5	6.2	4.9	5.1	4.8	4.5	4.0	4.5	4.3	4.2	4.0	3.9	3.8
Portugal	12.7	11.2	9.0	9.3	8.7	8.1	7.7	8.1	7.9	7.9	7.6	7.5	7.4
Slovak Republic	11.5	9.7	8.1	8.3	7.9	7.7	7.5	7.7	7.6	7.6	7.5	7.4	7.4
Slovenia	9.0	8.0	6.6	6.6	6.5	5.8	5.3	5.7	5.6	5.4	5.3	5.2	5.2
Spain	22.1	19.7	17.2	17.3	16.8	16.6	16.2	16.6	16.5	16.4	16.2	16.1	15.9
Sweden	7.4	7.0	6.7	6.7	6.8	6.5	6.2	6.4	6.5	6.5	5.9	6.2	6.3
Switzerland	4.8	4.9	4.8	4.7	4.8	4.8	4.9						
Turkey	10.3	10.9	10.9	11.1	10.8	10.1		10.1	9.9	9.9	9.8		
United Kingdom	5.3	4.8	4.4	4.4	4.2	4.2		4.3	4.2	4.1	4.1		
United States ⁽³⁾	5.3	4.9	4.4	4.3	4.3	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	3.9

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 May 2018 was 5.8%.

(3) United States: Unemployment rate for May 2018 was 3.8%.

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	Feb	Mar	Apr		Q4	Q1	Feb	Mar	Apr
OECD - Total	5.9	5.7	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.6	5.4	5.3	5.2	5.2	5.3
Major Seven	4.9	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.5	5.0	4.8	4.8	4.7	4.7	4.8
European Union	7.9	7.6	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.1	6.9	6.9	6.8	6.8
Euro area	9.5	9.1	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0	8.7	8.4	8.2	8.2	8.2	8.1
Australia	5.7	5.5	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.5	5.4	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.6
Austria	5.0	5.0	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.6	5.9	5.8	5.2	5.1	5.0	5.2
Belgium ⁽¹⁾	7.1	6.4	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.2	7.1	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4
Canada	5.9	5.5	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.3	6.8	6.3	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.3
Chile	7.2	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5		6.3	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.2	
Czech Republic	3.6	3.0	2.9	2.9	2.8	2.8	2.4	2.0	1.8	1.9	1.8	1.8
Denmark	5.9	5.7	5.4	5.5	5.3	5.6	5.6	5.1	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.8
Estonia	5.4	5.4	5.8	6.0	5.2		6.2	5.7	6.3	6.6	6.0	
Finland	8.4	8.2	8.2	8.2	8.2	8.1	8.9	8.6	8.2	8.2	8.1	8.1
France	9.3	9.2	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.5	9.1	9.1	9.1	9.1	8.9
Germany	3.3	3.2	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	4.1	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9
Greece	26.1	25.9	25.5	25.8	25.0		17.8	17.1	16.5	16.5	16.3	
Hungary	4.6	4.4	4.2	4.2	4.2		3.8	3.4	3.3	3.3	3.3	
Iceland	2.9	2.9	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	2.8	2.9	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.7
Ireland	6.3	6.0	5.7	5.6	5.6	5.5	7.1	6.7	6.5	6.5	6.4	6.3
Israel	4.3	4.2	3.6	3.6	3.3	3.8	4.1	4.1	3.8	4.0	3.9	4.0
Italy	12.4	12.2	12.4	12.1	12.6	12.5	10.4	10.2	10.2	10.3	10.0	10.1
Japan	2.6	2.6	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.1	3.0	2.9	2.6	2.6	2.7	2.8
Korea	3.5	3.4	3.7	3.7	3.8	3.6	3.8	3.8	3.7	3.5	4.1	4.0
Latvia	7.7	7.5	7.1	7.0	7.0	6.9	9.8	9.1	8.6	8.6	8.3	7.9
Luxembourg	5.5	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.2	5.7	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.3
Mexico	3.6	3.7	3.4	3.6	3.3	3.5	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.1	3.2	3.4
Netherlands	5.3	4.7	4.3	4.3	4.1	4.0	4.5	4.1	3.9	3.8	3.8	3.8
New Zealand	5.2	5.0	4.9				4.2	4.0	3.9			
Norway	3.8	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.5		4.6	4.4	4.3	4.2	4.2	
Poland	4.9	4.6	4.2	4.2	4.1	4.1	4.9	4.4	3.9	3.9	3.7	3.6
Portugal	9.5	8.6	7.9	7.8	7.6	7.5	8.6	7.8	7.5	7.5	7.4	7.3
Slovak Republic	8.4	8.2	8.1	8.1	8.1	8.0	7.9	7.3	7.0	7.0	6.9	6.8
Slovenia	7.5	6.6	5.9	5.9	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.1	4.8	4.8	4.7	4.7
Spain	19.0	18.4	18.0	18.0	17.9	17.8	15.7	15.0	14.7	14.7	14.6	14.3
Sweden	6.4	6.3	6.1	5.6	6.3	6.0	6.9	6.7	6.3	6.2	6.1	6.5
Switzerland	5.1	5.0	5.3				4.6	4.5	4.5			
Turkey ⁽²⁾	14.0	12.8		12.4			9.5	8.8		8.5		
United Kingdom	4.2	4.3		4.1			4.5	4.3		4.1		
United States	4.3	4.0	4.0	4.1	4.0	3.7	4.4	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.1	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	Feb	Mar	Apr		Q4	Q1	Feb	Mar	Apr
OECD - Total	11.9	11.5	11.1	11.2	11.0	10.9	5.0	4.8	4.7	4.7	4.6	4.6
Major Seven	10.6	10.4	10.0	10.2	9.8	9.8	4.3	4.1	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
European Union	16.9	16.2	15.6	15.6	15.4	15.3	6.7	6.4	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.3
Euro area	18.8	18.0	17.5	17.6	17.3	17.2	8.1	7.8	7.7	7.7	7.7	7.7
Australia	12.6	12.3	12.6	13.2	12.4	12.6	4.2	4.1	4.1	4.0	4.2	4.2
Austria	9.8	9.8	9.8	9.9	10.1	9.9	4.9	4.8	4.4	4.3	4.2	4.2
Belgium ⁽¹⁾	19.3	16.4	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	11.1	10.9	11.1	5.5	5.2	5.0	4.9	4.9	5.0
Chile	16.9	16.8	17.1	17.1	17.0		5.5	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.6	
Czech Republic	7.9	5.7	6.9	7.4	6.9	7.2	2.6	2.2	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.9
Denmark	11.0	9.9	9.7	10.0	9.3	10.1	4.8	4.5	4.2	4.1	4.2	4.4
Estonia	12.2	7.9	8.9	10.2	8.0		5.2	5.3	5.8	5.9	5.4	
Finland	19.9	19.0	18.7	18.7	18.8	18.9	7.1	7.0	6.8	6.7	6.7	6.6
France	22.3	21.4	21.4	21.5	21.2	20.7	8.1	7.9	7.9	7.9	8.0	7.9
Germany	6.8	6.3	6.1	6.1	6.0	6.0	3.4	3.3	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.1
Greece	43.6	43.2	43.8	45.5	43.2		20.2	19.7	19.1	19.2	18.8	
Hungary	10.8	10.5	10.4	10.4	10.0		3.6	3.3	3.2	3.2	3.2	
Iceland	8.2	6.9	6.2	6.2	6.0	5.9	1.8	2.1	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3
Ireland	14.5	13.1	12.7	12.7	12.5	12.0	5.7	5.5	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.1
Israel	7.3	7.2	5.7	6.5	4.8	6.7	3.6	3.7	3.2	3.2	3.0	3.3
Italy	34.9	33.8	32.9	33.5	32.5	33.1	9.8	9.7				
Japan	4.7	4.5	3.8	4.2	3.8	3.8	2.7	2.6	2.3	2.3	2.4	2.4
Korea	10.3	10.4	10.2	9.9	11.0	9.9	3.2	3.2	3.3	3.2	3.5	3.4
Latvia	17.0	17.6	15.0	14.9	13.5	11.8	8.1	7.6	7.3	7.3	7.2	7.1
Luxembourg	15.4	14.0	13.9	13.8	13.8	13.9	4.8	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.6
Mexico	6.9	7.0	6.9	6.9	7.2	7.1	2.7	2.7	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.6
Netherlands	8.9	7.9	7.2	7.2	7.0	6.9	4.1	3.7	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.4
New Zealand	12.7	12.3	11.6				3.2	3.0	3.0			
Norway	10.7	10.0	8.9	8.5	8.9		3.2	3.1	3.2	3.2	3.2	
Poland	14.8	14.1	11.5	11.3	11.0	11.0	4.1	3.7	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.3
Portugal	23.8	23.2	21.5	21.2	21.9	22.1	7.9	6.9	6.6	6.6	6.4	6.3
Slovak Republic	18.9	18.7	18.6	18.6	18.4	18.2	7.3	6.8	6.7	6.7	6.6	6.5
Slovenia ⁽²⁾	11.3	11.2	9.6	9.6	9.6		6.2	5.3	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9
Spain	38.7	37.0	35.6	35.6	35.0	34.4	15.7	15.1	14.9	14.9	14.8	14.7
Sweden	17.7	17.0	15.9	14.5	16.7	15.6	5.2	5.1	4.9	4.8	4.8	5.1
Switzerland	8.1	7.6	8.3				4.3	4.3	4.4			
Turkey	20.7	18.6		18.1			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	9.0	8.5	8.4	3.6	3.3	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.3

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	2018			
			Q3	Q4		Q1	Jan	Feb	Mar
OECD - Total	39,338	36,181	35,798	34,758	34,173	34,281	34,166	34,061	33,860
Major Seven	20,546	18,891	18,815	18,155	17,997	17,982	18,045	17,964	17,724
European Union	20,939	18,779	18,569	18,044	17,645	17,810	17,611	17,515	17,462
Euro area	16,255	14,750	14,606	14,226	14,028	14,138	14,010	13,936	13,880
Australia	726	725	720	715	730	726	733	730	741
Austria	270	248	244	244	228	236	225	223	222
Belgium ⁽¹⁾	390	354	353	319	315	314	315	315	314
Canada	1,361	1,247	1,222	1,176	1,147	1,153	1,144	1,142	1,155
Chile	563	592	580	612	619	622	619	605	
Czech Republic	212	155	146	130	125	127	126	121	121
Denmark	187	171	172	161	149	150	150	148	157
Estonia	47	41	41	39	43	45	45	40	
Finland	237	234	230	230	225	228	225	223	222
France	2,972	2,788	2,834	2,721	2,749	2,750	2,752	2,744	2,734
Germany	1,774	1,621	1,600	1,548	1,498	1,511	1,498	1,486	1,475
Greece	1,131	1,027	997	995	968	977	971	956	
Hungary	234	192	190	178	173	174	172	172	
Iceland	6	6	5	6	6	6	6	6	6
Ireland	195	158	156	151	146	148	146	144	141
Israel	188	168	164	166	149	147	155	146	159
Italy	3,009	2,909	2,914	2,874	2,892	2,908	2,873	2,895	2,912
Japan	2,080	1,896	1,883	1,843	1,673	1,600	1,690	1,730	1,720
Korea	1,009	1,023	1,014	1,017	1,041	1,009	997	1,116	1,068
Latvia	95	85	85	81	77	80	77	75	73
Luxembourg	18	16	16	16	15	15	16	15	15
Mexico	2,085	1,854	1,794	1,876	1,802	1,821	1,800	1,786	1,901
Netherlands	539	438	428	399	368	380	367	357	355
New Zealand	133	127	126	122	119				
Norway	132	116	114	111	109	110	108	109	
Poland	1,063	844	821	768	692	716	689	671	657
Portugal	572	465	450	421	397	408	396	386	381
Slovak Republic	267	224	219	212	207	209	207	205	203
Slovenia	80	68	67	59	55	56	55	54	55
Spain	4,481	3,917	3,819	3,767	3,694	3,728	3,697	3,656	3,618
Sweden	366	359	366	351	335	351	320	335	341
Switzerland	238	234	234	232	240				
Turkey	3,330	3,451	3,432	3,222		3,157	3,143		
United Kingdom	1,599	1,448	1,414	1,420		1,376	1,382		
United States	7,751	6,982	6,947	6,572	6,658	6,684	6,706	6,585	6,346

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.