

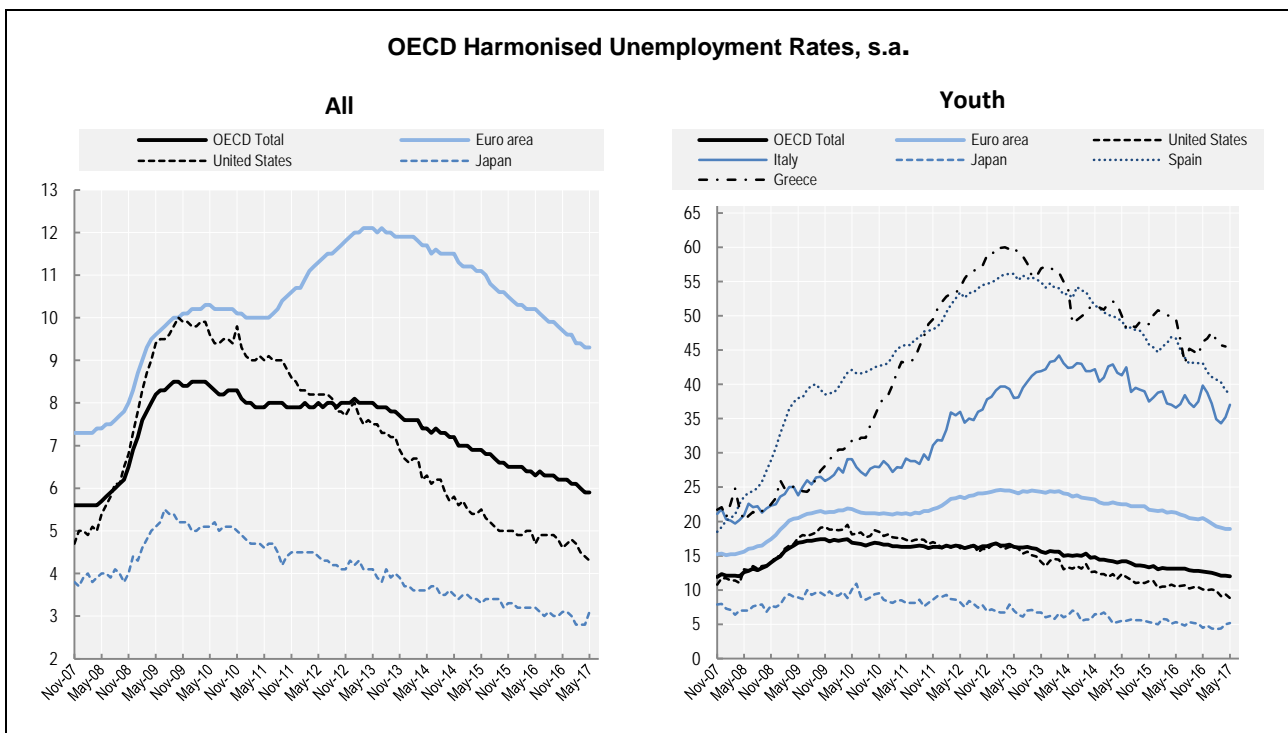
OECD unemployment rate stable at 5.9% in May 2017

The **OECD** unemployment rate was stable at 5.9% in May 2017. Across the **OECD** area, 36.8 million people were unemployed, 4.1 million more than in April 2008.

The unemployment rate in May was also stable (at 9.3%) in the **euro area**, although with some variation across countries. The **Slovak Republic** recorded the largest decline (down by 0.2 percentage point, to 8.1%) while there were small increases in **France** and **Italy** (up by 0.1 percentage point, to 9.6% and 11.3%, respectively).

The unemployment rate increased in **Japan** (by 0.3 percentage point to 3.1%) and **Canada** (by 0.1 percentage point, to 6.6%). By contrast, it fell by 0.4 percentage point in **Korea** (to 3.6%) and by 0.1 percentage point in **Mexico** (to 3.5%) and the **United States** (to 4.3%). More recent data, however, show that in June, the unemployment rate increased by 0.1 percentage point in the **United States** (to 4.4%), and decreased by 0.1 percentage point in **Canada** (to 6.5%).

The **OECD youth** unemployment rate (covering the 15 to 24 age group) declined by 0.1 percentage point, to 12.0%, in May. It fell by 0.6 percentage point in the **United States** (to 8.8%) and was stable in the **euro area** (at 18.9%) but continued to rise in **Japan** (by 0.2 percentage point, to 5.2%, the third consecutive monthly increase). More than one third of all **youth** remain unemployed in **Greece**, **Spain** and **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			2017	2016	2017				
				Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1		Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
OECD - Total	7.4	6.8	6.3	6.4	6.3	6.2	6.0	6.2	6.1	6.1	6.0	5.9	5.9
Major Seven	6.4	5.8	5.5	5.5	5.4	5.3	5.2	5.3	5.3	5.2	5.1	5.0	5.1
European Union	10.2	9.4	8.6	8.7	8.5	8.2	8.0	8.1	8.1	8.0	7.9	7.8	7.8
Euro area	11.6	10.9	10.0	10.2	9.9	9.7	9.5	9.6	9.6	9.4	9.4	9.3	9.3
Australia	6.1	6.1	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.9	5.9	5.7	5.5
Austria	5.6	5.7	6.0	6.1	6.1	5.8	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.8	5.7	5.4	5.4
Belgium ⁽¹⁾	8.6	8.5	7.8	8.3	7.8	7.2	7.6 ^(b)	7.2	7.6 ^(b)	7.6	7.6		
Canada ⁽²⁾	6.9	6.9	7.0	6.9	7.0	6.9	6.7	6.9	6.8	6.6	6.7	6.5	6.6
Chile	6.4	6.2	6.5	6.6	6.5	6.6	6.7	6.6	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.8	
Czech Republic	6.1	5.1	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.6	3.3	3.5	3.4	3.3	3.2	3.1	3.0
Denmark	6.5	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.4	6.3	6.0	6.1	6.1	6.1	5.9	5.7	
Estonia	7.4	6.2	6.8	6.6	7.3	6.6	5.6	6.2	5.8	5.6	5.5	6.2	
Finland	8.7	9.4	8.8	9.0	8.7	8.8	8.8	8.8	8.8	8.8	8.9	8.9	8.8
France	10.3	10.4	10.1	10.1	10.0	10.0	9.6	9.9	9.7	9.6	9.6	9.5	9.6
Germany	5.0	4.6	4.1	4.2	4.1	4.0	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9
Greece	26.6	25.0	23.6	23.6	23.3	23.3	22.6	23.5	23.1	22.6	22.0	21.7	
Hungary	7.7	6.8	5.1	5.2	4.9	4.5	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	
Iceland	5.0	4.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	2.9	2.8	2.9	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.7	2.6
Ireland	11.3	9.5	7.9	8.4	7.8	7.0	6.8	6.9	6.9	6.8	6.6	6.4	6.4
Israel	5.9	5.2	4.8	4.8	4.7	4.4	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.4	4.5
Italy	12.7	11.9	11.7	11.6	11.6	11.8	11.6	11.8	11.8	11.5	11.5	11.2	11.3
Japan	3.6	3.4	3.1	3.2	3.0	3.1	2.9	3.1	3.0	2.8	2.8	2.8	3.1
Korea	3.5	3.6	3.7	3.7	3.8	3.6	3.8	3.5	3.6	4.0	3.7	4.0	3.6
Latvia	10.9	9.9	9.6	9.6	9.8	9.4	8.9	9.4	9.3	8.9	8.5	8.3	8.3
Luxembourg	6.1	6.5	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.2	6.1	6.3	6.1	6.1	6.0	6.0	6.0
Mexico	4.8	4.4	3.9	3.9	3.8	3.7	3.5	3.8	3.5	3.4	3.5	3.6	3.5
Netherlands	7.4	6.9	6.0	6.3	5.8	5.5	5.2	5.4	5.3	5.3	5.1	5.1	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	4.3	4.4	4.2	4.3	4.5	4.6	
Poland	9.0	7.5	6.2	6.3	6.1	5.6	5.0	5.4	5.2	5.0	4.9	4.8	4.8
Portugal	14.1	12.7	11.2	11.3	10.9	10.4	9.9	10.1	10.1	9.9	9.8	9.5	9.4
Slovak Republic	13.2	11.5	9.7	9.9	9.5	9.0	8.6	8.9	8.7	8.6	8.4	8.3	8.1
Slovenia	9.7	9.0	8.0	8.1	7.8	7.9	7.3	7.8	7.5	7.3	7.1	7.1	7.1
Spain	24.5	22.1	19.7	20.2	19.3	18.6	18.2	18.4	18.3	18.2	18.1	17.8	17.7
Sweden	7.9	7.4	7.0	6.8	7.0	6.9	6.7	6.9	6.8	6.8	6.4	6.7	6.7
Switzerland	4.8	4.8	4.9	4.6	5.1	4.6	5.3						
Turkey ⁽³⁾	10.0	10.3	10.9	10.5	11.4	11.7	11.6	11.8	11.7	11.6	11.5		
United Kingdom	6.1	5.3	4.8	4.9	4.8	4.7	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.5		
United States ⁽⁴⁾	6.2	5.3	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.8	4.7	4.5	4.4	4.3

b: Break in time series

Notes:

(1) Belgium: Quarterly data are shown. 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 June 2017 was 6.5 %.

(3) Turkey: Due to the changes introduced in the Labour Force Survey, data from January 2014 onwards are not comparable with previous data.

(4) United States: Unemployment rate for June 2017 was 4.4%.

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

	Women						Men					
	2016	2016		2017			2016	2016		2017		
		Q4	Q1	Mar	Apr	May		Q4	Q1	Mar	Apr	May
OECD - Total	6.4	6.3	6.2	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.2	6.1	5.9	5.8	5.8	5.8
Major Seven	5.3	5.2	5.1	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.6	5.5	5.3	5.2	5.1	5.1
European Union	8.8	8.4	8.2	8.2	8.1	8.1	8.4	8.1	7.8	7.7	7.5	7.5
Euro area	10.4	10.0	9.9	9.8	9.7	9.7	9.7	9.4	9.1	9.0	8.9	8.9
Australia	5.8	5.8	6.0	6.0	6.0	5.6	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.4	5.5
Austria	5.6	5.3	5.1	5.0	4.9	4.8	6.5	6.2	6.3	6.3	6.0	5.9
Belgium ⁽¹⁾	7.6	6.7	7.9 ^(b)	7.9			8.1	7.7	7.3 ^(b)	7.3		
Canada	6.2	6.2	6.1	6.2	5.8	5.9	7.7	7.4	7.2	7.2	7.0	7.1
Chile	7.0	7.0	7.2	7.2	7.5		6.1	6.2	6.3	6.3	6.3	
Czech Republic	4.7	4.2	4.2	4.3	4.2	3.9	3.4	3.2	2.5	2.3	2.3	2.3
Denmark	6.7	6.7	6.1	5.9	5.6		5.8	5.9	5.9	5.9	5.7	
Estonia	6.1	6.2	5.5	5.2	5.7		7.4	7.0	5.7	5.8	6.6	
Finland	8.6	8.6	8.6	8.6	8.7	8.7	9.0	8.9	9.0	9.1	9.0	8.9
France	9.8	9.9	9.8	9.9	9.9	9.9	10.3	10.1	9.4	9.3	9.2	9.3
Germany	3.7	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	4.4	4.4	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3
Greece	28.1	27.9	27.0	26.4	26.2		19.9	19.7	19.1	18.6	18.2	
Hungary	5.2	4.6	4.5	4.6	4.6		5.1	4.5	4.1	4.1	4.1	
Iceland	3.1	2.9	2.5	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.9	2.9	3.0	2.9	3.0	3.0
Ireland	6.5	6.2	6.0	5.9	5.6	5.5	9.1	7.8	7.4	7.3	7.2	7.1
Israel	4.9	4.5	4.3	4.3	4.4	4.4	4.7	4.3	4.2	4.3	4.4	4.5
Italy	12.8	12.9	12.8	12.6	12.4	12.4	10.9	10.9	10.7	10.7	10.3	10.6
Japan	2.8	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.9	3.3	3.3	3.0	2.8	2.9	3.2
Korea	3.6	3.7	3.8	3.7	3.7	3.4	3.8	3.5	3.8	3.7	4.2	3.8
Latvia	8.4	7.9	7.7	7.6	7.6	7.6	10.9	11.0	10.1	9.5	9.0	8.9
Luxembourg	6.6	6.3	6.2	6.2	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.2	6.0	5.9	5.9	5.9
Mexico	4.0	3.7	3.7	3.8	3.9	3.7	3.8	3.6	3.3	3.3	3.4	3.4
Netherlands	6.5	6.1	5.7	5.5	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.0	4.8	4.8	4.6	4.6
New Zealand	5.5	5.7	5.7				4.8	4.8	4.2			
Norway	4.0	4.1	4.0	4.1	4.2		5.4	5.1	4.7	4.8	4.8	
Poland	6.2	5.7	5.2	5.1	5.0	5.0	6.1	5.6	5.0	4.8	4.7	4.7
Portugal	11.2	10.5	10.2	10.1	9.9	9.7	11.1	10.4	9.6	9.5	9.2	9.1
Slovak Republic	10.7	9.6	8.8	8.6	8.4	8.3	8.8	8.5	8.4	8.3	8.2	7.9
Slovenia	8.6	8.1	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.7	7.5	7.6	6.8	6.5	6.5	6.6
Spain	21.4	20.2	20.0	20.0	19.7	19.6	18.1	17.3	16.7	16.5	16.2	16.0
Sweden	6.6	6.5	6.3	6.1	6.2	6.5	7.3	7.2	7.0	6.6	7.2	7.0
Switzerland	5.0	4.8	5.2				4.8	4.4	5.4			
Turkey ⁽²⁾	13.7	15.0	14.5	14.3			9.6	10.2	10.3	10.2		
United Kingdom	4.7	4.5	4.3	4.3			5.0	4.8	4.8	4.7		
United States	4.8	4.6	4.6	4.3	4.4	4.3	4.9	4.9	4.7	4.6	4.4	4.2

b: Break in time series

Notes:

(1) Belgium: Quarterly data are shown. 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 the changes introduced in the Labour Force Survey, 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	Mar	Apr	May		Q4	Q1	Mar	Apr	May
OECD - Total	13.0	12.7	12.3	12.1	12.1	12.0	5.5	5.3	5.2	5.1	5.1	5.1
Major Seven	11.8	11.5	11.0	10.6	10.7	10.5	4.7	4.6	4.5	4.4	4.3	4.4
European Union	18.7	18.1	17.2	17.0	16.9	16.9	7.5	7.2	7.0	7.0	6.9	6.9
Euro area	20.9	20.3	19.4	19.1	18.9	18.9	9.0	8.7	8.5	8.5	8.4	8.4
Australia	12.7	13.2	12.9	13.2	12.8	12.7	4.3	4.2	4.4	4.4	4.3	4.1
Austria	11.2	10.5	10.4	10.4	10.2	10.1	5.3	5.1	5.1	5.1	4.8	4.7
Belgium ⁽¹⁾	20.1	19.4	21.5 ^(b)	21.5			6.9	6.2	6.5 ^(b)	6.5		
Canada	13.1	12.8	12.8	12.8	11.7	12.0	6.0	5.9	5.7	5.7	5.6	5.6
Chile	15.7	15.1	16.2	16.1	16.5		5.3	5.5	5.5	5.6	5.6	
Czech Republic	10.5	10.4	8.9	9.1	9.1	9.2	3.5	3.2	2.9	2.8	2.7	2.6
Denmark	12.0	12.7	11.9	11.5	11.1		5.1	5.1	4.9	4.8	4.7	
Estonia	13.5	12.7	14.1	15.0	18.3		6.2	6.1	4.8	4.6	5.1	
Finland	20.0	20.3	20.3	20.3	20.4	20.4	7.3	7.2	7.2	7.3	7.3	7.2
France	24.6	23.6	22.6	22.3	21.9	21.6	8.6	8.6	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.4
Germany	7.0	6.8	6.8	6.7	6.7	6.7	3.8	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.5
Greece	47.4	45.7	46.6	45.7	45.5		22.2	22.0	21.2	20.7	20.3	
Hungary	12.9	11.8	10.8	10.6	10.9		4.5	4.0	3.8	3.8	3.8	
Iceland	6.5	6.5	6.6	6.5	6.5	6.5	2.3	2.2	2.0	1.9	1.9	1.9
Ireland	17.2	16.0	13.7	12.9	12.0	11.8	7.0	6.2	6.1	6.0	5.9	5.8
Israel	8.6	7.9	6.7	6.7	7.1	7.0	4.1	4.0	3.7	3.6	3.6	3.8
Italy	37.8	38.7	35.5	34.3	35.2	37.0	10.0	10.0				
Japan	5.2	4.8	4.4	4.4	5.0	5.2	2.9	2.9	2.7	2.6	2.6	2.8
Korea	10.7	9.9	10.1	10.6	11.2	11.1	3.2	3.2	3.3	3.2	3.4	3.1
Latvia	17.2	17.0	17.4	16.0	14.4	13.7	9.0	8.9	8.3	8.0	7.8	7.8
Luxembourg	19.1	18.4	17.9	17.9	17.8	17.6	5.3	5.3	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.0
Mexico	7.7	7.3	6.8	6.9	7.1	6.7	3.1	2.9	2.8	2.7	2.8	2.9
Netherlands	10.8	10.3	9.7	9.6	9.5	9.0	5.1	4.6	4.4	4.3	4.2	4.3
New Zealand	13.2	13.7	12.4				3.6	3.6	3.5			
Norway	10.9	10.6	10.2	10.8	10.6		3.8	3.7	3.5	3.5	3.7	
Poland	17.7	15.9	14.5	14.2	14.0	14.1	5.2	4.8	4.2	4.1	4.1	4.0
Portugal	28.2	26.8	24.2	22.9	23.8	24.6	9.9	9.1	8.8	8.8	8.4	8.3
Slovak Republic	22.2	20.3	19.3	19.1	18.9	18.6	8.6	8.0	7.7	7.6	7.4	7.2
Slovenia	15.3	14.1	10.5	10.5			7.5	7.4	7.0	6.9	6.9	6.9
Spain	44.5	42.7	40.7	40.3	39.1	38.6	17.9	17.0	16.7	16.6	16.4	16.2
Sweden	18.8	18.5	17.8	17.1	16.9	17.6	5.3	5.3	5.2	5.0	5.4	5.3
Switzerland	8.6	7.8	7.9				4.4	4.1	4.9			
Turkey ⁽²⁾	19.6	21.3	22.0	21.9			9.2	9.9	9.6	9.5		
United Kingdom	13.0	12.5	12.3	12.3			3.6	3.5	3.4	3.3		
United States	10.4	10.2	9.7	9.1	9.4	8.8	4.0	3.9	3.9	3.8	3.6	3.6

b: Break in time series

Notes:

(1) Belgium: Quarterly data are shown. 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 the changes introduced in the Labour Force Survey, data from January 2014 onwards are not comparable with previous data.

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

	2015	2016	2016		2017	2017			
			Q3	Q4	Q1	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
OECD - Total	41,605	39,315	39,335	38,561	37,723	37,800	37,207	36,902	36,758
Major Seven	21,630	20,543	20,527	20,197	19,705	19,704	19,334	19,045	19,110
European Union	22,879	20,912	20,706	20,171	19,571	19,543	19,387	19,124	19,092
Euro area	17,451	16,229	16,084	15,749	15,375	15,336	15,265	15,027	15,011
Australia	759	726	720	725	741	747	751	730	712
Austria	252	270	275	258	257	259	256	245	242
Belgium ⁽¹⁾	422	390	386	361	375 ^(b)	375	375		
Canada	1,331	1,361	1,357	1,344	1,308	1,286	1,314	1,265	1,289
Chile	532	563	569	571	583	583	588	598	
Czech Republic	268	212	213	195	176	177	171	168	160
Denmark	181	187	193	190	179	181	175	168	
Estonia	42	47	51	46	39	38	38	43	
Finland	252	237	236	236	238	238	240	240	239
France	3,054	2,972	2,944	2,939	2,837	2,830	2,814	2,806	2,820
Germany	1,950	1,771	1,774	1,711	1,683	1,683	1,680	1,675	1,664
Greece	1,197	1,131	1,123	1,115	1,078	1,078	1,054	1,041	
Hungary	308	234	227	208	199	198	200	198	
Iceland	8	6	6	6	6	6	5	5	5
Ireland	204	173	172	155	149	150	146	142	140
Israel	202	188	186	175	170	170	170	175	178
Italy	3,033	3,009	2,993	3,050	3,002	2,962	2,985	2,884	2,927
Japan	2,219	2,080	2,043	2,037	1,907	1,900	1,840	1,860	2,050
Korea	976	1,012	1,035	989	1,037	1,108	1,023	1,098	999
Latvia	98	95	97	93	88	87	84	81	80
Luxembourg	18	18	18	18	17	17	17	17	17
Mexico	2,306	2,085	2,042	1,975	1,889	1,870	1,884	1,923	1,904
Netherlands	614	539	524	494	472	473	463	456	456
New Zealand	134	133	129	138	132				
Norway	121	132	136	128	120	120	124	127	
Poland	1,304	1,063	1,051	968	874	872	848	834	829
Portugal	648	572	558	534	510	508	503	491	485
Slovak Republic	314	266	263	248	237	237	232	229	223
Slovenia	90	79	77	79	74	74	72	72	73
Spain	5,056	4,481	4,419	4,237	4,134	4,137	4,108	4,034	3,989
Sweden	387	366	367	365	356	365	341	361	361
Switzerland	229	238	248	224	256				
Turkey ⁽²⁾	3,054	3,330	3,488	3,633	3,634	3,641	3,618		
United Kingdom	1,746	1,599	1,580	1,557	1,514	1,515	1,499		
United States	8,296	7,751	7,835	7,559	7,455	7,528	7,202	7,056	6,861

b: Break in time series

Note:

(1) Belgium: Quarterly data are shown. 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 the changes introduced in the Labour Force Survey, data from January 2014 onwards are not comparable with previous data.