

New : Now including Lithuania

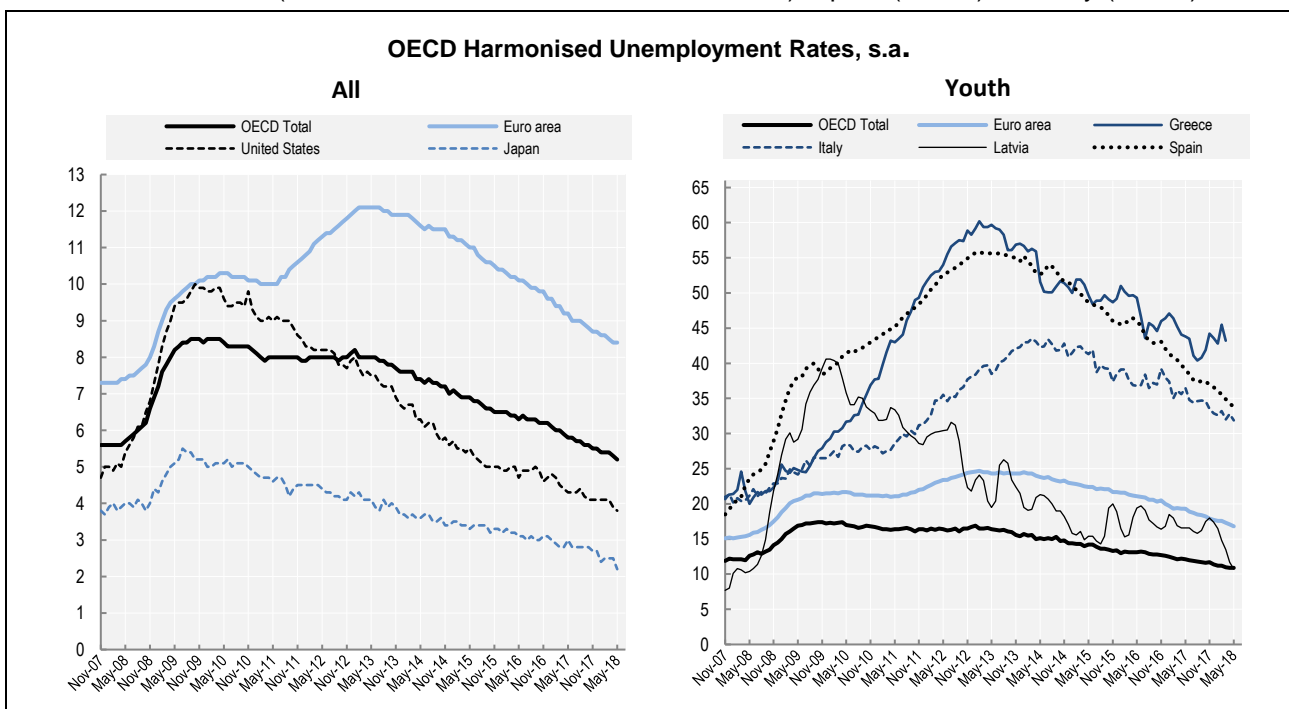
## OECD unemployment rate down to 5.2% in May 2018

The OECD unemployment rate fell in May 2018 by 0.1 percentage point for the second consecutive month, to 5.2%. Across the OECD area (now including Lithuania<sup>1</sup>), 33.2 million people were unemployed, 0.5 million more than in April 2008<sup>2</sup>, but 16.1 million less than at its peak in January 2013.

In the euro area, the unemployment rate was stable in May (at 8.4%), with rates declining by 0.3 percentage point in Italy (to 10.7%) and by 0.2 percentage point in Austria (to 4.6%) and Spain (to 15.8%). By contrast, it increased by 0.1 percentage point (to 7.3%) in Portugal.

The unemployment rate fell by 0.3 percentage point in Japan (to 2.2%), by 0.2 percentage point in Australia (to 5.4%) and Mexico (to 3.2%), and by 0.1 percentage point in the United States (to 3.8%). It was stable in Canada (at 5.8%) while it increased by 0.2 percentage point in Korea (to 4.0%). More recent data show that in June, the unemployment rate increased by 0.2 percentage point in Canada (to 6.0%) and the United States (to 4.0%).

The OECD unemployment rate for youth (people aged 15 to 24) was stable at 10.9% in May. The youth unemployment rate decreased by 0.3 percentage point in the euro area, to 16.8%, with declines by 0.5 percentage point or more in Italy, Latvia and Spain. However, the youth unemployment rate remained above 30% in Greece (43.2% in March, the latest month available), Spain (33.8%) and Italy (31.9%).



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

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

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](mailto:news.contact@oecd.org)

For technical questions contact [stat.contact@oecd.org](mailto:stat.contact@oecd.org)

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<sup>1</sup> Lithuania became the 36<sup>th</sup> member country of the OECD on 5 July 2018

<sup>2</sup> In this news release, April 2008 is considered as the month preceding the start of the global financial crisis.

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

	2015	2016	2017	2017			2018	2017	2018				
				Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
OECD - Total	6.8	6.3	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.5	5.4	5.5	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.3	5.2
Major Seven	5.8	5.5	5.0	5.0	4.9	4.8	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.6	4.5
European Union	9.4	8.6	7.6	7.7	7.5	7.3	7.1	7.3	7.2	7.1	7.1	7.0	7.0
Euro area	10.9	10.0	9.1	9.1	9.0	8.7	8.6	8.7	8.6	8.6	8.5	8.4	8.4
Australia	6.1	5.7	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.4	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.6	5.4
Austria	5.7	6.0	5.5	5.5	5.4	5.4	5.0	5.4	5.2	5.0	4.9	4.8	4.6
Belgium <sup>(1)</sup>	8.5	7.9	7.1	7.3	7.0	6.4	6.1	6.2	6.1	6.1	6.0	6.0	6.0
Canada <sup>(2)</sup>	6.9	7.0	6.3	6.5	6.2	6.0	5.8	5.8	5.9	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8
Chile	6.2	6.5	6.7	6.7	6.5	6.8	6.9	6.9	6.9	6.9	6.7	6.7	
Czech Republic	5.1	4.0	2.9	3.1	2.7	2.4	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3
Denmark	6.2	6.2	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.4	5.0	5.3	5.0	5.0	4.9	5.2	5.2
Estonia	6.2	6.8	5.8	6.5	6.0	5.5	6.0	5.5	6.3	6.2	5.6	5.0	
Finland	9.4	8.8	8.6	8.7	8.5	8.4	8.1	8.3	8.2	8.1	8.0	7.9	7.9
France	10.4	10.1	9.4	9.5	9.5	9.1	9.2	9.1	9.2	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	3.4	3.4
Greece	25.0	23.6	21.5	21.5	20.8	21.0	20.5	20.8	20.7	20.6	20.1		
Hungary	6.8	5.1	4.2	4.3	4.1	3.9	3.7	3.8	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	
Iceland	4.0	3.0	2.8	2.6	2.7	2.8	2.8	2.9	2.9	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8
Ireland	9.9	8.4	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.4	5.8	6.2	6.0	5.8	5.6	5.4	5.3
Israel	5.2	4.8	4.2	4.4	4.1	4.1	3.7	4.1	3.7	3.8	3.7	4.0	3.9
Italy	11.9	11.7	11.2	11.2	11.2	11.0	11.0	10.9	11.1	11.0	11.0	11.0	10.7
Japan	3.4	3.1	2.8	2.9	2.8	2.7	2.5	2.7	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.2
Korea	3.6	3.7	3.7	3.8	3.6	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.6	3.6	4.0	3.8	4.0
Latvia	9.9	9.6	8.7	8.9	8.6	8.3	7.8	8.2	8.1	7.8	7.6	7.4	7.4
Lithuania	9.1	7.9	7.1	7.2	6.9	6.7	6.4	6.8	6.4	6.3	6.5	6.9	6.8
Luxembourg	6.5	6.3	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.3	5.3	5.4	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.2	5.2
Mexico	4.4	3.9	3.4	3.5	3.3	3.4	3.3	3.4	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.4	3.2
Netherlands	6.9	6.0	4.9	5.0	4.7	4.4	4.1	4.4	4.2	4.1	3.9	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	3.8	3.9	3.7	
Poland	7.5	6.2	4.9	5.1	4.8	4.5	4.0	4.4	4.2	4.0	3.9	3.8	3.8
Portugal	12.7	11.2	9.0	9.3	8.7	8.1	7.7	7.9	7.9	7.6	7.5	7.2	7.3
Slovak Republic	11.5	9.7	8.1	8.3	7.9	7.6	7.1	7.4	7.3	7.1	7.0	6.9	6.8
Slovenia	9.0	8.0	6.6	6.6	6.5	5.8	5.6	5.7	5.7	5.6	5.5	5.6	5.6
Spain	22.1	19.7	17.2	17.3	16.8	16.6	16.2	16.5	16.4	16.2	16.1	16.0	15.8
Sweden	7.4	7.0	6.7	6.7	6.8	6.5	6.2	6.5	6.5	5.9	6.2	6.3	6.1
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	9.9	9.9	9.9	9.8	9.9		
United Kingdom	5.3	4.8	4.4	4.4	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	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	3.9	3.8

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 June 2018 was 6.0%.

(3) United States: Unemployment rate for June 2018 was 4.0%.

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	Mar	Apr	May		Q4	Q1	Mar	Apr	May
OECD - Total	5.9	5.7	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.4	5.6	5.4	5.2	5.2	5.3	5.1
Major Seven	4.9	4.7	4.7	4.6	4.5	4.4	5.0	4.8	4.7	4.7	4.8	4.6
European Union	7.9	7.6	7.4	7.4	7.3	7.3	7.4	7.1	6.9	6.8	6.8	6.7
Euro area	9.5	9.1	9.0	8.9	8.9	8.8	8.7	8.3	8.2	8.1	8.1	8.0
Australia	5.7	5.5	5.6	5.5	5.5	5.4	5.5	5.4	5.5	5.5	5.7	5.4
Austria	5.0	4.9	4.8	4.8	4.5	4.4	5.9	5.8	5.2	5.1	4.9	4.8
Belgium <sup>(1)</sup>	7.1	6.3	5.7	5.6	5.6	5.6	7.1	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.3
Canada	5.9	5.5	5.4	5.4	5.3	5.6	6.8	6.3	6.1	6.1	6.3	6.1
Chile	7.2	7.5	7.6	7.5	7.5		6.3	6.4	6.4	6.2	6.1	
Czech Republic	3.6	3.0	2.9	2.8	2.9	2.9	2.4	2.0	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8
Denmark	5.9	5.7	5.4	5.2	5.5	5.4	5.6	5.1	4.6	4.6	4.9	4.9
Estonia	5.4	5.4	5.8	5.2	4.7		6.2	5.7	6.2	5.8	5.3	
Finland	8.4	8.2	8.1	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.9	8.6	8.1	8.0	7.9	7.9
France	9.3	9.2	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.5	9.1	9.1	9.1	9.0	9.0
Germany	3.3	3.2	3.0	3.0	3.0	2.9	4.1	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.8
Greece	26.1	25.9	25.5	25.0			17.8	17.1	16.5	16.3		
Hungary	4.6	4.4	4.2	4.2	4.0		3.8	3.4	3.3	3.3	3.4	
Iceland	2.9	2.8	2.9	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.9	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8
Ireland	6.3	6.0	5.7	5.5	5.3	5.2	7.1	6.7	5.9	5.7	5.4	5.3
Israel	4.3	4.2	3.6	3.3	3.9	3.7	4.1	4.1	3.8	3.9	4.1	4.1
Italy	12.4	12.2	12.2	12.4	12.3	11.9	10.4	10.2	10.1	9.9	10.0	9.8
Japan	2.6	2.6	2.3	2.3	2.1	2.0	3.0	2.9	2.6	2.7	2.8	2.4
Korea	3.5	3.4	3.7	3.8	3.6	3.7	3.8	3.8	3.7	4.1	4.0	4.2
Latvia	7.7	7.4	7.1	7.0	6.9	7.0	9.8	9.1	8.6	8.3	7.9	7.8
Lithuania	5.7	5.5	5.4	5.5	5.8	5.8	8.5	8.0	7.4	7.5	7.9	7.8
Luxembourg	5.6	5.4	5.5	5.5	5.4	5.4	5.6	5.2	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.0
Mexico	3.6	3.7	3.4	3.3	3.4	3.2	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.2	3.4	3.3
Netherlands	5.3	4.7	4.3	4.1	4.0	4.0	4.5	4.1	3.9	3.8	3.8	3.7
New Zealand	5.2	5.0	4.9				4.2	4.0	3.9			
Norway	3.8	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.3		4.6	4.4	4.2	4.2	4.1	
Poland	4.9	4.6	4.2	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.9	4.4	3.9	3.8	3.6	3.5
Portugal	9.5	8.6	7.9	7.6	7.3	7.6	8.6	7.8	7.5	7.4	7.1	7.0
Slovak Republic	8.4	8.0	7.6	7.5	7.4	7.4	7.9	7.2	6.7	6.6	6.5	6.4
Slovenia	7.5	6.7	6.4	6.3	6.4	6.5	5.8	5.0	5.0	4.9	4.8	4.9
Spain	19.0	18.4	18.0	17.9	17.8	17.7	15.7	15.0	14.7	14.6	14.3	14.2
Sweden	6.4	6.3	6.0	6.2	6.0	5.3	6.9	6.7	6.3	6.1	6.6	6.8
Switzerland	5.1	5.0	5.3				4.6	4.5	4.5			
Turkey <sup>(2)</sup>	14.0	12.9	13.2	13.3			9.5	8.8	8.3	8.3		
United Kingdom	4.2	4.3	4.1	4.0			4.5	4.3	4.2	4.2		
United States	4.3	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.7	3.6	4.4	4.2	4.2	4.1	4.1	3.9

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	Mar	Apr	May		Q4	Q1	Mar	Apr	May
OECD - Total	11.9	11.5	11.1	11.0	10.9	10.9	5.0	4.8	4.7	4.7	4.6	4.5
Major Seven	10.6	10.4	10.1	9.8	9.8	9.8	4.3	4.1	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.8
European Union	16.9	16.2	15.6	15.3	15.2	15.1	6.7	6.4	6.3	6.3	6.2	6.2
Euro area	18.8	17.9	17.5	17.3	17.1	16.8	8.1	7.8	7.7	7.7	7.6	7.5
Australia	12.6	12.2	12.6	12.4	12.5	11.6	4.2	4.1	4.1	4.2	4.2	4.2
Austria	9.8	9.8	9.8	10.1	9.9	10.2	4.9	4.8	4.4	4.2	4.1	3.9
Belgium <sup>(1)</sup>	19.3	16.3	17.0	17.0			6.1	5.6	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2
Canada	11.6	10.9	11.0	10.9	11.1	11.1	5.5	5.2	5.0	4.9	5.0	5.0
Chile	16.9	16.9	17.1	17.1	17.5		5.5	5.7	5.7	5.6	5.5	
Czech Republic	7.9	5.7	6.9	7.0	7.4	7.6	2.6	2.2	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
Denmark	11.0	9.9	9.7	9.4	10.3	10.1	4.8	4.5	4.1	4.1	4.3	4.2
Estonia	12.2	7.9	9.0	8.1	6.8		5.2	5.3	5.8	5.3	4.8	
Finland	19.9	18.8	18.5	18.5	18.5	18.4	7.1	6.9	6.7	6.6	6.5	6.5
France	22.3	21.4	21.5	21.2	20.7	20.4	8.1	7.9	7.9	8.0	8.0	8.0
Germany	6.8	6.4	6.3	6.2	6.2	6.1	3.4	3.3	3.2	3.2	3.1	3.1
Greece	43.6	43.2	43.8	43.2			20.2	19.7	19.1	18.8		
Hungary	10.8	10.5	10.4	10.0	9.4		3.6	3.3	3.2	3.2	3.2	
Iceland	8.2	6.9	6.4	6.3	6.3	6.4	1.8	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1
Ireland	14.4	13.2	13.4	13.1	12.3	12.0	5.7	5.5	4.8	4.6	4.5	4.4
Israel	7.3	7.2	5.7	4.8	6.7	5.6	3.6	3.7	3.2	3.0	3.3	3.5
Italy	34.9	33.7	32.6	32.0	32.8	31.9	9.8	9.6	9.7	9.7		
Japan	4.7	4.5	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.4	2.7	2.6	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.1
Korea	10.3	10.4	10.2	11.1	10.0	11.3	3.2	3.2	3.3	3.5	3.4	3.5
Latvia	17.0	17.6	14.9	13.5	11.7	10.7	8.1	7.6	7.3	7.2	7.2	7.2
Lithuania	13.3	13.1	12.4	12.6	11.9	12.2	6.6	6.2	5.9	6.0	6.4	6.3
Luxembourg	15.5	14.1	14.0	13.9	14.0	14.2	4.8	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.5	4.5
Mexico	6.9	7.0	6.9	7.1	7.1	6.6	2.7	2.7	2.5	2.4	2.6	2.5
Netherlands	8.9	7.9	7.2	7.0	6.9	6.9	4.1	3.7	3.5	3.4	3.4	3.3
New Zealand	12.7	12.3	11.6				3.2	3.0	3.0			
Norway	10.7	10.1	8.9	8.9	8.9		3.2	3.1	3.2	3.1	2.9	
Poland	14.8	14.1	11.5	11.0	11.0	10.9	4.1	3.7	3.4	3.3	3.3	3.2
Portugal	23.8	23.1	21.5	21.8	20.6	20.8	7.9	6.9	6.6	6.4	6.1	6.3
Slovak Republic	18.9	18.2	17.9	17.8	17.6	17.9	7.3	6.7	6.3	6.2	6.1	6.0
Slovenia <sup>(2)</sup>	11.3	11.6	10.1	10.1			6.2	5.3	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2
Spain	38.7	37.0	35.5	34.9	34.3	33.8	15.7	15.1	14.9	14.8	14.7	14.6
Sweden	17.7	17.0	15.9	16.7	15.6	14.9	5.2	5.1	4.9	4.8	5.1	4.9
Switzerland	8.1	7.6	8.3				4.3	4.3	4.4			
Turkey	20.7	18.6	18.2	18.0			9.0	8.5	8.2	8.3		
United Kingdom	12.1	12.1	11.7	11.5			3.2	3.1	3.0	3.0		
United States	9.2	9.2	8.9	8.5	8.4	8.7	3.6	3.3	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.0

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	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
OECD - Total	39,454	36,285	35,900	34,849	34,246	34,235	34,130	33,899	33,158
Major Seven	20,546	18,891	18,818	18,156	18,003	18,058	17,955	17,713	17,136
European Union	20,939	18,781	18,571	18,038	17,612	17,588	17,448	17,361	17,207
Euro area	16,254	14,752	14,607	14,221	13,982	13,971	13,866	13,781	13,656
Australia	726	726	722	715	729	731	730	741	715
Austria	270	248	244	243	227	224	223	215	208
Belgium <sup>(1)</sup>	390	354	353	318	306	307	303	302	302
Canada	1,361	1,247	1,222	1,176	1,147	1,144	1,142	1,155	1,152
Chile	563	592	580	612	620	620	606	605	
Czech Republic	212	155	146	131	125	125	122	123	123
Denmark	187	171	172	160	149	150	147	156	155
Estonia	47	41	42	39	42	44	39	35	
Finland	237	234	230	229	223	223	220	218	217
France	2,972	2,788	2,831	2,722	2,752	2,756	2,748	2,739	2,749
Germany	1,774	1,621	1,602	1,556	1,510	1,509	1,498	1,487	1,479
Greece	1,131	1,027	997	995	968	971	956		
Hungary	234	192	190	178	172	171	172	170	
Iceland	6	6	5	6	6	6	6	6	6
Ireland	195	158	156	150	137	137	132	127	124
Israel	188	168	164	166	150	156	147	161	159
Italy	3,009	2,909	2,916	2,865	2,868	2,853	2,864	2,878	2,793
Japan	2,080	1,896	1,883	1,843	1,673	1,690	1,730	1,720	1,510
Korea	1,009	1,023	1,014	1,017	1,041	997	1,116	1,068	1,114
Latvia	95	85	85	81	77	77	75	73	72
Lithuania	116	103	99	98	92	91	94	100	98
Luxembourg	18	16	16	15	15	15	15	15	15
Mexico	2,085	1,854	1,793	1,876	1,801	1,799	1,784	1,898	1,785
Netherlands	539	438	428	399	368	367	357	355	352
New Zealand	133	127	126	122	119				
Norway	132	116	114	111	108	107	108	104	
Poland	1,063	844	821	768	693	690	672	657	644
Portugal	572	465	450	421	396	395	386	369	376
Slovak Republic	267	224	218	208	196	195	192	189	187
Slovenia	80	67	67	60	58	58	57	57	58
Spain	4,481	3,917	3,818	3,767	3,694	3,697	3,657	3,619	3,589
Sweden	366	359	366	351	336	320	335	342	330
Switzerland	238	234	234	232	240				
Turkey	3,330	3,451	3,432	3,224	3,156	3,145	3,165		
United Kingdom	1,599	1,448	1,416	1,421	1,394	1,400	1,388		
United States	7,751	6,982	6,947	6,572	6,658	6,706	6,585	6,346	6,065

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.