

## OECD unemployment rate stable at 5.3% in August 2018

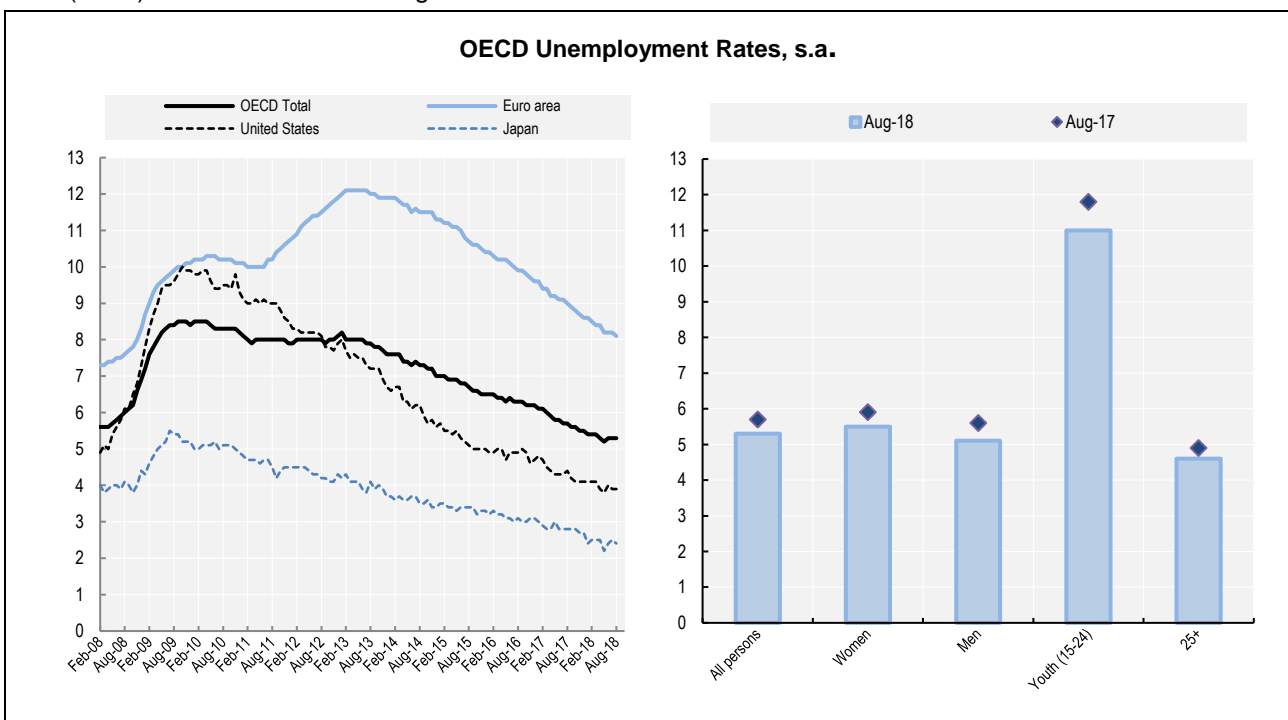
The OECD unemployment rate remained stable at 5.3% in August 2018. Across the OECD, 33.5 million people were unemployed, around one million more than in April 2008.<sup>1</sup>

In the euro area, the unemployment rate declined by 0.1 percentage point, to 8.1% in August, with the rate dropping 0.5 percentage point in Italy (to 9.7%, following the 0.4 percentage point fall in July).

The unemployment rate also fell in Japan (by 0.1 percentage point to 2.4%), and was stable in Mexico (at 3.3%) and the United States (at 3.9%). Rates rose, however, in Canada (by 0.2 percentage point, to 6.0%) and Korea (by 0.4 percentage point, to 4.2%).

More recent data for September show that the unemployment rate declined by 0.2 percentage point in the United States, to 3.7%, the lowest level since December 1969, and by 0.1 percentage point in Canada (to 5.9%).

The OECD unemployment rate was stable across different age groups in August 2018, meaning that the youth (people aged 15 to 24) unemployment rate, at 11.0%, remained more than twice as large as that for people aged 25 and above (at 4.6%). For the OECD as whole unemployed youth (7.9 million) made up one-quarter of total unemployment. The OECD unemployment rates for women (at 5.5%) and men (5.1%) were also stable in August.



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

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.

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<sup>1</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		2018					
				Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
OECD - Total	6.8	6.3	5.8	5.7	5.5	5.4	5.3	5.4	5.3	5.2	5.3	5.3	5.3
Major Seven	5.8	5.5	5.0	5.0	4.8	4.7	4.6	4.7	4.6	4.4	4.6	4.5	4.5
European Union	9.4	8.6	7.6	7.5	7.3	7.1	6.9	7.0	7.0	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8
Euro area	10.9	10.0	9.1	9.0	8.7	8.5	8.3	8.4	8.4	8.2	8.2	8.2	8.1
Australia	6.1	5.7	5.6	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.4	5.5	5.6	5.4	5.4	5.3	5.3
Austria	5.7	6.0	5.5	5.4	5.4	5.1	4.7	5.0	4.8	4.6	4.7	4.9	4.8
Belgium <sup>(1)</sup>	8.5	7.9	7.1	7.1	6.4	6.1	6.3	6.1	6.3	6.3	6.4	6.6	6.5
Canada <sup>(2)</sup>	6.9	7.0	6.3	6.2	6.0	5.8	5.9	5.8	5.8	5.8	6.0	5.8	6.0
Chile	6.2	6.5	6.7	6.5	6.8	6.9	6.8	6.8	6.7	6.8	7.0	7.0	
Czech Republic	5.1	4.0	2.9	2.7	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.2	2.3	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.5
Denmark	6.2	6.2	5.7	5.7	5.4	5.0	5.1	4.9	5.2	5.1	4.9	5.0	4.9
Estonia	6.2	6.8	5.8	5.8	5.5	6.1	5.1	5.7	5.1	5.1	5.0	5.3	
Finland	9.4	8.8	8.6	8.4	8.3	8.0	7.6	7.9	7.7	7.6	7.6	7.6	7.6
France	10.4	10.1	9.4	9.5	9.1	9.2	9.1	9.2	9.1	9.1	9.1	9.2	9.3
Germany	4.6	4.1	3.8	3.7	3.6	3.5	3.4	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4
Greece	25.0	23.6	21.5	20.8	21.0	20.5	19.4	20.1	19.9	19.3	19.1		
Hungary	6.8	5.1	4.2	4.1	3.9	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.6	3.7	3.7	
Iceland	4.0	3.0	2.8	3.0	3.0	3.0	2.9	3.0	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9
Ireland	9.9	8.4	6.7	6.6	6.4	5.9	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.6
Israel	5.2	4.8	4.2	4.1	4.1	3.7	4.0	3.7	4.0	3.9	4.0	4.1	4.0
Italy	11.9	11.7	11.2	11.3	11.0	10.9	10.6	10.8	10.9	10.4	10.6	10.2	9.7
Japan	3.4	3.1	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.5	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.2	2.4	2.5	2.4
Korea	3.6	3.7	3.7	3.6	3.7	3.7	3.8	4.0	3.8	4.0	3.7	3.8	4.2
Latvia	9.9	9.6	8.7	8.6	8.3	7.8	7.7	7.7	7.7	7.7	7.7	7.6	7.4
Lithuania	9.1	7.9	7.1	6.9	6.7	6.4	5.8	6.5	5.9	5.8	5.8	6.3	6.2
Luxembourg	6.5	6.3	5.6	5.5	5.4	5.3	5.2	5.3	5.3	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2
Mexico	4.4	3.9	3.4	3.3	3.4	3.3	3.4	3.2	3.4	3.2	3.4	3.3	3.3
Netherlands	6.9	6.0	4.9	4.7	4.4	4.1	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.8	3.9
New Zealand	5.4	5.1	4.7	4.6	4.5	4.4	4.5						
Norway	4.5	4.8	4.2	4.1	4.0	3.9	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.8	3.9	4.0	
Poland	7.5	6.2	4.9	4.8	4.5	4.0	3.7	3.9	3.8	3.7	3.6	3.5	3.4
Portugal	12.7	11.2	9.0	8.7	8.1	7.7	7.0	7.5	7.1	7.1	6.8	6.8	6.8
Slovak Republic	11.5	9.7	8.1	7.9	7.6	7.2	6.8	7.0	6.9	6.8	6.7	6.7	6.6
Slovenia	9.0	8.0	6.6	6.6	5.8	5.6	5.4	5.5	5.4	5.4	5.3	5.3	5.3
Spain	22.1	19.7	17.2	16.8	16.5	16.2	15.4	15.9	15.6	15.4	15.3	15.2	15.2
Sweden	7.4	7.0	6.7	6.7	6.5	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.3	6.1	6.3	6.4	6.6
Switzerland	4.8	4.9	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.9	4.9						
Turkey	10.3	10.9	10.9	10.7	10.1	9.9	10.6	10.0	10.3	10.6	10.9		
United Kingdom	5.3	4.8	4.4	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.0	4.1	4.0	3.9	4.0		
United States <sup>(3)</sup>	5.3	4.9	4.4	4.3	4.1	4.1	3.9	4.1	3.9	3.8	4.0	3.9	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 September 2018 was 5.9%.

(3) United States: Unemployment rate for September 2018 was 3.7%.

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

	Women						Men					
	2017	2018		2018			2017	2018		2018		
		Q1	Q2	Jun	Jul	Aug		Q1	Q2	Jun	Jul	Aug
OECD - Total	5.9	5.6	5.4	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.6	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.1
Major Seven	4.9	4.6	4.5	4.6	4.5	4.5	5.0	4.7	4.6	4.7	4.5	4.5
European Union	7.9	7.4	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.0	7.4	6.9	6.7	6.6	6.6	6.6
Euro area	9.5	9.0	8.6	8.6	8.5	8.5	8.7	8.2	7.9	7.9	7.8	7.8
Australia	5.7	5.6	5.4	5.2	5.2	5.4	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.3	5.2
Austria	5.0	4.8	4.5	4.5	4.8	5.0	5.9	5.2	4.9	4.9	5.0	4.7
Belgium <sup>(1)</sup>	7.1	5.7	6.1	6.2	6.4	6.4	7.1	6.4	6.5	6.6	6.7	6.6
Canada	5.9	5.4	5.6	5.8	5.5	5.8	6.8	6.1	6.2	6.3	6.2	6.3
Chile	7.2	7.6	7.7	7.9	7.8		6.3	6.4	6.3	6.3	6.5	
Czech Republic	3.6	2.9	2.9	3.0	2.9	3.1	2.4	1.8	1.8	1.9	2.0	1.9
Denmark	5.9	5.4	5.3	5.2	5.2	5.0	5.6	4.6	4.8	4.7	4.8	4.8
Estonia	5.4	5.7	5.0	5.1	5.2		6.2	6.4	5.2	5.0	5.3	
Finland	8.4	7.9	7.6	7.5	7.5	7.5	8.9	8.1	7.7	7.7	7.7	7.7
France	9.3	9.3	9.1	9.1	9.1	9.1	9.5	9.2	9.0	9.1	9.3	9.5
Germany	3.3	3.0	3.0	3.0	2.9	2.9	4.1	3.9	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8
Greece	26.1	25.6	24.0	23.8			17.8	16.5	15.8	15.3		
Hungary	4.6	4.2	3.9	3.9	4.1		3.8	3.3	3.5	3.5	3.5	
Iceland	2.9	2.9	2.8	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.8	3.1	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
Ireland	6.3	5.7	5.6	5.6	5.7	5.3	7.1	6.0	6.0	6.0	5.9	5.8
Israel	4.3	3.6	3.9	3.9	4.2	3.8	4.1	3.8	4.1	4.0	4.1	4.1
Italy	12.4	12.1	11.7	11.7	11.2	10.7	10.4	10.1	9.8	9.8	9.4	9.0
Japan	2.6	2.3	2.1	2.2	2.3	2.3	3.0	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.7	2.5
Korea	3.5	3.7	3.6	3.6	3.8	4.2	3.8	3.7	4.0	3.7	3.9	4.3
Latvia	7.7	7.0	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.3	9.8	8.7	9.0	9.1	8.8	8.5
Lithuania	5.7	5.4	5.5	5.6	5.7	5.5	8.5	7.4	6.3	6.1	6.8	6.8
Luxembourg	5.6	5.7	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.0	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9
Mexico	3.6	3.4	3.3	3.3	3.6	3.5	3.3	3.2	3.4	3.5	3.1	3.1
Netherlands	5.3	4.3	4.0	4.0	3.9	3.9	4.5	3.9	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8
New Zealand	5.2	4.9	4.7				4.2	4.0	4.3			
Norway	3.8	3.5	3.4	3.4	3.5		4.6	4.3	4.2	4.3	4.4	
Poland	4.9	4.1	3.7	3.6	3.4	3.2	4.9	4.0	3.7	3.7	3.6	3.6
Portugal	9.5	7.9	7.3	7.2	7.2	7.2	8.6	7.4	6.7	6.4	6.4	6.5
Slovak Republic	8.4	7.6	7.5	7.5	7.4	7.4	7.9	6.8	6.3	6.2	6.0	5.9
Slovenia	7.5	6.3	5.8	5.6	5.5	5.4	5.8	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.1	5.1
Spain	19.0	18.0	17.2	17.1	17.0	17.1	15.7	14.6	13.9	13.7	13.6	13.6
Sweden	6.4	6.1	6.0	6.6	6.5	6.5	6.9	6.3	6.5	6.1	6.3	6.7
Switzerland	5.1	5.3	5.5				4.6	4.5	4.4			
Turkey <sup>(2)</sup>	14.0	13.3	13.6	14.0			9.5	8.3	9.2	9.4		
United Kingdom	4.2	4.1	4.0	4.0			4.5	4.2	4.0	3.9		
United States	4.3	4.0	3.8	4.0	3.9	3.9	4.4	4.2	4.0	4.1	3.8	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) 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	2018		2018			2017	2018		2018		
		Q1	Q2	Jun	Jul	Aug		Q1	Q2	Jun	Jul	Aug
OECD - Total	11.9	11.2	11.0	11.1	11.0	11.0	5.0	4.7	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6
Major Seven	10.6	10.1	9.8	9.9	9.7	9.6	4.3	4.0	3.9	4.0	3.9	3.9
European Union	16.9	15.6	15.1	15.1	14.9	14.8	6.7	6.3	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0
Euro area	18.8	17.5	17.0	16.9	16.7	16.6	8.1	7.7	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.3
Australia	12.6	12.6	11.8	11.3	11.1	11.7	4.2	4.1	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.1
Austria	9.8	9.7	9.7	9.6	8.9	8.4	4.9	4.4	4.1	4.1	4.4	4.3
Belgium <sup>(1)</sup>	19.3	17.0	19.1	19.1			6.1	5.2	5.3	5.3	5.5	5.4
Canada	11.6	11.0	11.3	11.7	11.1	10.9	5.5	5.0	5.0	5.1	5.0	5.2
Chile	16.9	17.3	17.9	17.9	18.1		5.5	5.7	5.6	5.7	5.8	
Czech Republic	7.9	7.0	8.1	7.7	6.4	6.3	2.6	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.2	2.2
Denmark	11.0	9.7	9.6	9.3	9.4	9.9	4.8	4.1	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.0
Estonia	12.2	9.2	8.4	9.9	12.7		5.2	5.8	4.8	4.6	4.6	
Finland	19.9	18.1	17.5	17.3	17.4	17.4	7.1	6.6	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.3
France	22.3	21.6	20.6	20.4	20.3	20.2	8.1	7.9	7.9	7.9	8.1	8.2
Germany	6.8	6.4	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.2	3.4	3.2	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1
Greece	43.6	43.8	39.7	39.1			20.2	19.2	18.3	17.9		
Hungary	10.8	10.4	9.9	10.2	9.7		3.6	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.3	
Iceland	8.2	6.8	7.0	7.1	7.2	7.2	1.8	2.3	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.0
Ireland	14.4	13.7	14.1	14.2	14.4	13.9	5.7	4.8	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.5
Israel <sup>(2)</sup>	7.3	5.7	6.2	6.3	10.6	9.7	3.6	3.2	3.4	3.6	3.1	3.4
Italy	34.9	32.5	31.9	31.7	30.8	31.0	9.8	9.6	9.3	9.3		
Japan	4.7	3.8	3.7	3.8	3.8	4.1	2.7	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.4	2.3
Korea	10.3	10.2	10.3	9.6	10.8	12.5	3.2	3.3	3.4	3.3	3.4	3.7
Latvia	17.0	14.8	11.2	10.4	9.4	8.4	8.1	7.3	7.4	7.5	7.4	7.3
Lithuania	13.3	12.4	11.0	11.2	12.4	12.2	6.6	5.9	5.4	5.4	5.8	5.7
Luxembourg	15.5	13.8	13.8	13.8	13.4	13.5	4.8	4.6	4.5	4.5	4.6	4.6
Mexico	6.9	6.9	6.9	7.1	6.7	6.8	2.7	2.5	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.5
Netherlands	8.9	7.2	7.0	7.2	7.3	7.7	4.1	3.5	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.1
New Zealand	12.7	11.6	11.8				3.2	3.0	3.1			
Norway	10.7	9.0	9.6	9.9	10.2		3.2	3.2	3.0	3.0	3.1	
Poland	14.8	11.9	11.1	10.8	10.2	9.7	4.1	3.4	3.1	3.1	3.0	2.9
Portugal	23.8	21.5	20.2	19.6	19.7	19.5	7.9	6.6	6.0	5.8	5.8	5.8
Slovak Republic	18.9	17.2	15.2	14.6	14.1	13.9	7.3	6.4	6.2	6.2	6.1	6.1
Slovenia <sup>(3)</sup>	11.3	9.9	8.9	8.9			6.2	5.2	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
Spain	38.7	35.6	34.4	34.2	33.7	33.6	15.7	14.8	14.1	13.9	13.9	13.9
Sweden	17.7	16.0	16.1	17.4	17.6	17.9	5.2	4.9	5.0	4.9	5.0	5.1
Switzerland	8.1	8.1	7.9				4.3	4.5	4.5			
Turkey	20.7	18.4	19.3	19.9			9.0	8.3	8.9	9.1		
United Kingdom	12.1	11.7	11.1	11.0			3.2	3.0	2.9	2.9		
United States	9.2	8.9	8.7	8.9	8.6	8.4	3.6	3.4	3.2	3.3	3.2	3.2

Notes:

(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) Israel: Data shown in this table are not seasonally adjusted.

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

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

	2016	2017	2017	2018		2018			
				Q4	Q1	Q2	May	Jun	Jul
OECD - Total	39,454	36,285	34,839	34,234	33,649	33,130	33,927	33,571	33,499
Major Seven	20,546	18,891	18,146	17,960	17,410	16,940	17,688	17,331	17,168
European Union	20,941	18,780	18,013	17,559	16,976	16,879	16,866	16,771	16,657
Euro area	16,256	14,752	14,203	13,933	13,496	13,427	13,414	13,322	13,220
Australia	726	726	716	729	723	715	712	703	709
Austria	270	248	243	228	214	210	214	221	218
Belgium <sup>(1)</sup>	390	354	320	308	317	317	321	331	327
Canada	1,361	1,247	1,176	1,147	1,167	1,152	1,195	1,160	1,195
Chile	563	592	612	621	618	618	630	637	
Czech Republic	212	155	131	124	126	124	129	129	133
Denmark	187	171	160	149	153	153	150	151	148
Estonia	47	41	39	43	36	36	35	37	
Finland	237	234	228	220	210	210	209	208	208
France	2,972	2,788	2,715	2,744	2,703	2,697	2,704	2,742	2,767
Germany	1,774	1,621	1,556	1,511	1,480	1,480	1,472	1,463	1,455
Greece	1,131	1,027	995	968	924	922	909		
Hungary	234	192	178	172	169	169	169	173	
Iceland	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
Ireland	195	158	152	138	139	139	139	139	134
Israel	188	168	166	150	161	160	161	168	162
Italy	3,009	2,909	2,864	2,836	2,774	2,721	2,768	2,641	2,522
Japan	2,080	1,896	1,843	1,673	1,630	1,510	1,660	1,720	1,670
Korea	1,009	1,023	1,017	1,041	1,067	1,114	1,018	1,067	1,179
Latvia	95	85	81	77	76	76	76	74	72
Lithuania	116	103	98	92	85	84	84	91	90
Luxembourg	18	16	16	16	15	15	15	15	15
Mexico	2,085	1,854	1,879	1,804	1,863	1,793	1,890	1,833	1,819
Netherlands	539	438	399	368	354	352	354	348	353
New Zealand	133	127	122	120	124				
Norway	132	116	111	109	107	107	108	113	
Poland	1,063	844	766	693	639	639	622	603	585
Portugal	572	465	421	396	361	363	353	351	353
Slovak Republic	267	224	208	196	187	187	185	182	180
Slovenia	80	67	60	57	55	55	55	55	55
Spain	4,481	3,917	3,757	3,684	3,521	3,519	3,478	3,471	3,484
Sweden	366	359	351	336	340	333	344	352	360
Switzerland	238	234	233	241	241				
Turkey	3,330	3,451	3,229	3,184	3,409	3,410	3,507		
United Kingdom	1,599	1,448	1,420	1,391	1,330	1,315	1,325		
United States	7,751	6,982	6,572	6,658	6,325	6,065	6,564	6,280	6,234

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.