

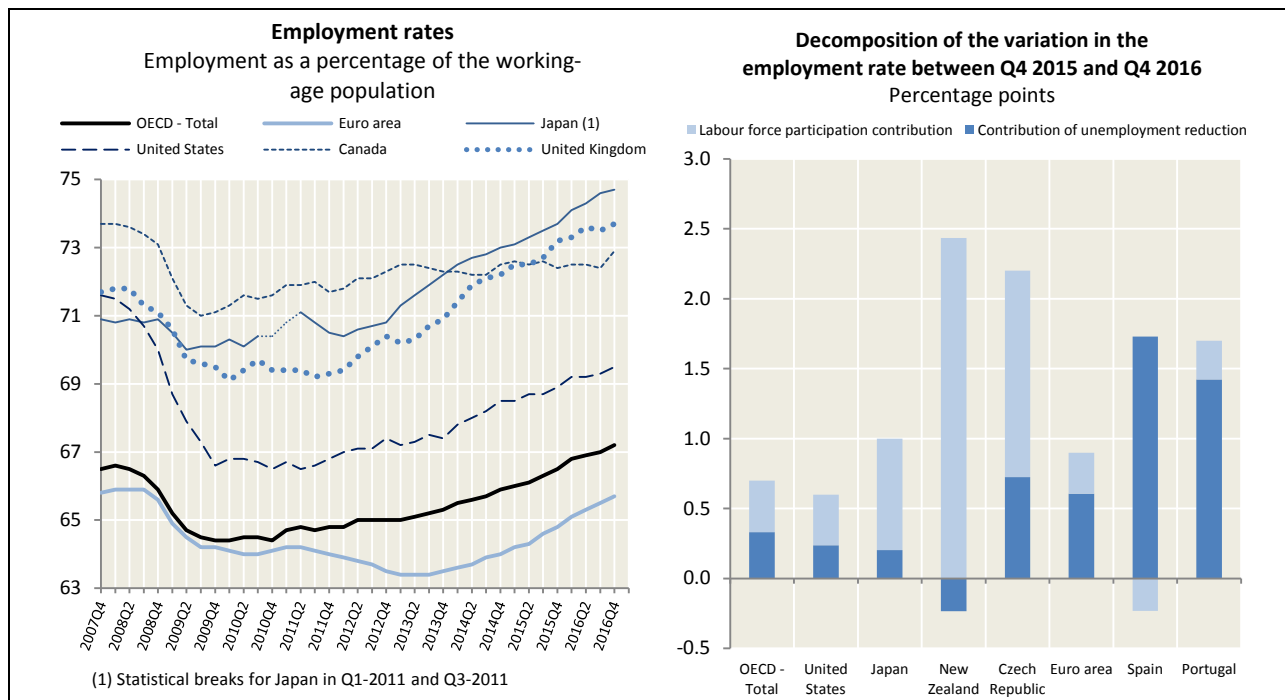
OECD employment rate increases to 67.2% in the fourth quarter of 2016

The **OECD area** employment rate – defined as the share of people of working-age in employment – increased by 0.2 percentage point in the fourth quarter of 2016, to 67.2%.

Compared to the previous quarter, the employment rate increased by 0.5 percentage point in **Canada** (to 72.9%), by 0.2 percentage point in the **euro area** (to 65.7%), the **United Kingdom** (to 73.7%) and the **United States** (to 69.5%) and by 0.1 percentage point in **Japan** (to 74.7%), **Korea** (to 66.3%) and **Turkey** (to 50.5%). Over the same period, the employment rate fell by 0.4 percentage point in **Mexico** (to 61.0%).

Compared to the fourth quarter of 2015, the **OECD area** employment rate was 0.7 percentage point higher, with about half of this increase resulting from a rise in labour force participation and the other half from a decrease in unemployment rates. The increase in labour force participation explained most of the rise in the employment rate in **New Zealand** (up 2.2 percentage points, to 76.3%), the **Czech Republic** (up 2.2 percentage points, to 72.8%) and **Japan** (up 1.0 percentage point).

By contrast, the drop in the unemployment rate explained most of the increase in the **euro area** employment rate (up 0.9 percentage point compared to the fourth quarter of 2015), which was particularly marked in the **Slovak Republic** (up 1.9 percentage points, to 65.4%), **Ireland** (up 1.8 percentage points, to 65.5%), **Belgium** (up 1.7 percentage points, to 63.3%), **Portugal** (up 1.7 percentage points, to 66.0%) and **Spain** (up 1.5 percentage points, to 60.1%).



Methodological Notes: <http://www.oecd.org/std/labourstatistics/50273955.pdf>

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

New Quarterly Labour Market Statistics: <http://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=STLABOUR>

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

For technical questions contact stat.contact@oecd.org

Next release: 17 July 2017

Table 1: OECD employment rates and levels (15-64)

Employment as a percentage of corresponding working age population and levels, seasonally adjusted

	Employment rates											Levels Thousands Q4 - 2016	
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2008	2015			2016				
						Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3		Q4
OECD - Total	65.1	65.7	66.3	67.0	66.5	66.3	66.5	66.8	66.9	67.0	67.2	555,205	
Major Seven	68.0	68.7	69.1	69.9	69.6	69.2	69.4	69.7	69.8	69.9	70.1	337,260	
European Union	64.1	64.8	65.6	66.6	65.8	65.7	66.0	66.3	66.5	66.7	66.9	220,073	
Euro area	63.5	63.8	64.5	65.4	65.9	64.6	64.8	65.1	65.3	65.5	65.7	143,902	
Australia	72.0	71.6	72.2	72.4	73.3	72.2	72.5	72.5	72.4	72.4	72.3	11,510	
Austria	71.4	71.1	71.1	71.6	71.0	71.1	71.3	71.3	71.4	71.6	71.7	4,160	
Belgium	61.8	61.9	61.8	62.3	62.2	62.0	61.6	61.8	62.0	62.1	63.3	4,618	
Canada	72.4	72.3	72.5	72.6	73.6	72.6	72.4	72.5	72.5	72.4	72.9	17,438	
Chile	62.3	62.2	62.4	62.2	57.2	62.6	62.5	62.1	62.2	62.4	62.3	7,543	
Czech Republic	67.7	69.0	70.2	72.0	66.6	70.4	70.6	71.4	71.7	72.1	72.8	5,049	
Denmark ¹	72.6	72.8	73.5	74.9	78.1	73.2	73.9	75.1	75.1	74.8	74.5	2,743	
Estonia	68.5	69.6	71.9	72.1	70.0	73.2	72.1	71.3	72.9	72.3	72.1	610	
Finland	68.9	68.7	68.6	69.1	71.2	68.6	68.5	68.9	69.0	69.2	69.2	2,383	
France ²	64.1	63.8	63.8	64.2	64.9	63.8	63.9	64.2	64.2	64.2	64.2	26,279	
Germany	73.5	73.8	74.0	74.7	69.8	74.0	74.2	74.4	74.5	74.9	75.1	40,615	
Greece	48.8	49.4	50.8	52.0	61.5	51.0	51.5	51.7	52.1	52.3	52.1	3,602	
Hungary	58.1	61.8	64.0	66.5	56.2	64.4	64.7	65.6	66.3	66.7	67.5	4,358	
Iceland	81.1	83.0	84.7	86.5	84.4	84.7	85.3	85.9	86.3	86.8	87.3	184	
Ireland	60.5	61.7	63.3	64.8	67.9	63.5	63.7	64.2	64.6	65.0	65.5	1,977	
Israel ³	67.1	67.9	68.3	68.6	59.9	68.5	68.4	68.3	68.6	68.7	68.8	3,573	
Italy	55.5	55.7	56.3	57.3	58.8	56.5	56.6	56.8	57.4	57.3	57.3	22,253	
Japan	71.8	72.8	73.4	74.4	70.9	73.5	73.7	74.1	74.3	74.6	74.7	57,007	
Korea	64.4	65.3	65.7	66.1	63.9	65.8	65.9	65.9	65.9	66.2	66.3	24,206	
Latvia	65.1	66.3	68.1	68.7	69.0	68.3	68.7	68.7	68.9	68.6	68.8	854	
Luxembourg ⁴	65.7	66.6	66.2	65.6	64.0	65.7	65.4	65.6	65.3	65.2	66.0	262	
Mexico	60.8	60.4	60.7	61.0	61.2	60.6	61.2	60.9	60.9	61.4	61.0	49,222	
Netherlands	73.6	73.1	74.2	74.8	77.1	74.1	74.1	74.4	74.8	75.0	75.2	8,270	
New Zealand	72.8	74.2	74.3	75.6	74.9	73.7	74.1	74.7	75.5	75.8	76.3	2,354	
Norway	75.4	75.2	74.8	74.3	78.1	74.8	74.4	74.7	74.2	74.3	73.9	2,542	
Poland	60.0	61.7	62.9	64.5	59.1	63.1	63.5	64.1	64.3	64.6	65.0	15,925	
Portugal	60.6	62.6	63.9	65.3	68.3	64.0	64.3	64.5	65.0	65.6	66.0	4,402	
Slovak Republic	59.9	61.0	62.7	64.9	61.8	62.9	63.5	64.2	64.8	65.0	65.4	2,490	
Slovenia	63.3	63.9	65.2	65.9	68.1	65.9	65.3	65.2	66.0	65.6	66.6	911	
Spain	54.8	56.0	57.8	59.6	65.1	58.0	58.6	59.0	59.4	59.7	60.1	18,344	
Sweden	74.4	74.9	75.5	76.2	74.4	75.7	76.0	76.1	76.3	76.2	76.3	4,759	
Switzerland	79.6	79.9	80.2	80.8	79.5	79.7	80.6	80.7	80.7	80.6	81.3	4,528	
Turkey ⁵	49.5	49.5	50.2	50.7	45.1	50.4	50.4	50.9	50.8	50.4	50.5	26,565	
United Kingdom	70.5	71.9	72.7	73.5	71.8	72.7	73.2	73.3	73.6	73.5	73.7	30,540	
United States	67.4	68.1	68.7	69.4	71.2	68.7	68.9	69.3	69.2	69.3	69.5	143,127	

¹ Following changes introduced in the Labour Force Survey for Denmark, data from Q1 2016 onwards are not comparable with previous data.

² Statistical break for France in Q4-2013, following the inclusion of data for overseas departments. European Union and Euro area aggregates are also affected, and, to a lesser extent OECD-Total and Major seven aggregates.

³ Following changes introduced in the Labour Force Survey for Israel, data from Q1 2012 onwards are not comparable with previous data.

⁴ Following changes introduced in the Labour Force Survey for Luxembourg, data from Q1 2015 onwards are not comparable with previous data.

⁵ Following changes introduced in the Labour Force Survey for Turkey, data from Q1 2014 onwards are not comparable with previous data.

Table 2: OECD employment rates (15-64) by gender

Employment as a percentage of corresponding working age population, seasonally adjusted

	Women						Men					
	2016	2015	2016				2016	2015	2016			
			Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3			Q4	Q4	Q1	Q2
OECD - Total	59.3	58.9	59.1	59.1	59.4	59.5	74.7	74.3	74.6	74.7	74.7	74.9
Major Seven	64.2	63.7	64.0	64.1	64.3	64.6	75.5	75.1	75.4	75.5	75.5	75.7
European Union	61.4	60.7	61.0	61.2	61.5	61.7	71.8	71.3	71.6	71.8	71.9	72.0
Euro area	60.3	59.7	59.9	60.2	60.5	60.7	70.5	69.9	70.3	70.5	70.6	70.7
Australia	67.4	67.4	67.3	67.4	67.3	67.3	77.5	77.7	77.6	77.5	77.4	77.4
Austria	67.7	67.4	67.5	67.5	67.7	67.9	75.4	75.1	75.2	75.3	75.5	75.6
Belgium	58.1	58.2	57.8	57.4	57.7	59.5	66.4	65.0	65.7	66.6	66.5	67.0
Canada	69.7	69.4	69.6	69.8	69.6	70.0	75.4	75.4	75.3	75.3	75.2	75.9
Chile	52.0	52.4	51.6	52.1	52.1	52.3	72.4	72.5	72.5	72.2	72.5	72.2
Czech Republic	64.4	62.6	63.6	64.1	64.6	65.4	79.3	78.4	78.9	79.0	79.4	79.9
Denmark ¹	72.0	70.7	72.4	72.4	71.6	71.5	77.7	77.0	77.6	77.8	77.9	77.5
Estonia	68.6	68.9	67.7	69.8	68.6	68.3	75.7	75.4	74.9	76.2	76.0	75.9
Finland	67.6	67.8	67.7	67.4	67.7	67.7	70.5	69.3	70.1	70.6	70.6	70.7
France	61.0	60.8	61.0	61.0	60.8	60.9	67.6	67.2	67.4	67.5	67.6	67.7
Germany	70.8	70.1	70.3	70.4	71.2	71.5	78.5	78.1	78.5	78.5	78.4	78.5
Greece	43.3	43.0	43.2	43.4	43.5	43.2	61.0	60.2	60.5	61.0	61.3	61.1
Hungary	60.2	58.4	59.2	60.0	60.5	61.1	73.0	71.3	72.2	72.8	73.1	73.9
Iceland	83.6	84.0	83.3	83.3	83.9	83.9	89.4	86.7	88.4	89.2	89.6	90.6
Ireland	59.5	58.7	59.1	59.4	59.7	59.9	70.2	68.9	69.4	69.9	70.5	71.2
Israel	65.2	64.8	64.8	65.2	65.3	65.5	72.0	72.1	71.8	72.2	72.1	72.1
Italy	48.1	47.4	47.6	48.2	48.3	48.2	66.4	65.9	66.2	66.7	66.4	66.6
Japan	66.1	65.2	65.7	65.8	66.4	66.5	82.6	82.1	82.3	82.5	82.6	82.7
Korea	56.2	56.2	56.1	56.1	56.2	56.4	75.8	75.6	75.7	75.6	75.9	76.1
Latvia	67.6	67.1	67.1	67.4	67.4	68.4	70.0	70.5	70.3	70.4	69.9	69.3
Luxembourg ²	60.4	60.6	59.9	59.6	60.6	61.4	70.5	70.1	71.0	70.9	69.7	70.4
Mexico	45.1	45.3	45.0	45.0	45.4	44.8	78.6	78.5	78.3	78.4	78.8	78.7
Netherlands	70.1	69.2	69.3	70.1	70.4	70.5	79.6	79.0	79.5	79.5	79.6	79.9
New Zealand	70.6	69.1	69.9	70.7	70.7	71.3	80.7	79.4	79.8	80.5	81.1	81.4
Norway	72.8	72.4	73.2	72.7	72.8	72.5	75.7	76.4	76.1	75.6	75.6	75.3
Poland	58.1	57.2	57.6	57.9	58.2	58.5	71.0	69.9	70.7	70.7	71.0	71.6
Portugal	62.5	61.3	61.8	62.0	62.7	63.2	68.3	67.5	67.3	68.2	68.7	69.0
Slovak Republic	58.3	56.7	57.6	58.1	58.5	59.0	71.4	70.3	70.8	71.3	71.4	71.7
Slovenia	62.6	61.5	61.8	62.7	62.1	63.9	68.9	68.8	68.4	69.1	68.9	69.1
Spain	54.3	53.4	53.6	54.2	54.6	54.9	64.8	63.8	64.4	64.5	64.9	65.3
Sweden	74.8	74.5	74.8	74.8	74.7	75.0	77.5	77.4	77.4	77.6	77.6	77.6
Switzerland	76.7	76.7	77.2	76.4	76.2	77.0	84.9	84.6	84.1	84.9	85.0	85.5
Turkey	31.2	30.9	31.3	31.2	31.1	31.1	70.1	69.8	70.5	70.2	69.5	69.8
United Kingdom	68.8	68.2	68.3	68.8	68.9	69.2	78.3	78.2	78.3	78.4	78.1	78.2
United States	64.0	63.7	64.0	63.8	64.1	64.3	74.8	74.3	74.7	74.7	74.8	75.0

¹ Following changes introduced in the Labour Force Survey for Denmark, data from Q1 2016 onwards are not comparable with previous data.

² Following changes introduced in the Labour Force Survey for Luxembourg, data from Q1 2015 onwards are not comparable with previous data.

Table 3: OECD employment rates by age
Employment as a percentage of corresponding working age population, seasonally adjusted

	Youth (15-24)				Prime-age workers (25-54)				Older workers (55-64)			
	2015	2016			2015	2016			2015	2016		
	Q4	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q4	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q4	Q2	Q3	Q4
OECD - Total	40.5	40.7	40.8	40.8	76.8	77.1	77.2	77.3	58.5	59.1	59.3	59.6
Major Seven	43.8	44.1	44.2	44.4	79.0	79.4	79.6	79.7	61.7	62.3	62.5	62.6
European Union	33.3	33.7	33.8	34.0	78.3	78.7	78.8	79.0	53.9	55.1	55.3	55.8
Euro area	30.8	31.2	31.3	31.5	76.8	77.3	77.5	77.7	53.8	55.2	55.4	55.8
Australia	59.3	58.9	58.4	57.6	79.5	79.7	79.7	79.8	63.0	62.5	61.8	62.5
Austria	50.5	50.9	51.1	51.4	83.7	83.5	83.6	83.7	47.2	49.2	49.6	49.6
Belgium	22.3	22.8	22.3	22.6	78.5	78.5	78.9	80.5	44.6	45.5	45.5	46.4
Canada	55.5	55.2	55.1	56.1	81.2	81.4	81.2	81.5	61.2	61.4	61.7	62.2
Chile	29.4	29.0	29.1	29.2	75.0	74.9	74.9	74.7	65.7	63.8	63.8	63.9
Czech Republic	28.7	28.4	28.6	28.7	84.8	85.5	85.7	86.2	55.8	58.0	58.8	60.4
Denmark ¹	56.0	59.1	58.0	57.3	82.6	82.5	82.2	82.3	64.6	68.1	68.7	68.3
Estonia	33.7	37.5	39.3	38.7	83.6	83.1	82.5	82.8	65.5	67.8	67.7	63.3
Finland	40.2	41.2	41.9	42.2	79.9	79.9	79.9	79.9	60.5	61.1	62.0	61.7
France	28.0	28.0	27.4	28.1	79.6	79.8	79.7	79.7	49.0	49.5	49.8	50.2
Germany	45.4	45.5	46.3	46.4	83.7	83.9	84.0	84.2	66.8	68.5	68.7	68.9
Greece	12.7	12.7	13.5	13.5	65.4	66.3	66.3	65.7	35.3	35.7	36.9	36.8
Hungary	26.4	27.7	28.4	28.8	81.1	82.2	82.3	82.9	46.9	49.5	50.2	51.2
Iceland	74.2	78.5	78.4	77.7	88.9	89.5	90.0	90.9	84.1	84.2	85.6	83.6
Ireland	29.0	32.8	32.4	33.0	74.8	74.8	75.5	76.2	56.8	57.1	57.0	57.6
Israel					78.9	79.3	79.4	79.4	65.8	66.8	66.2	67.2
Italy	16.3	17.0	16.5	16.2	68.4	69.0	69.0	68.9	48.6	50.2	50.5	51.2
Japan	41.2	42.0	42.2	42.7	82.8	83.1	83.7	83.7	70.7	71.4	71.9	72.1
Korea	27.2	27.3	27.2	27.4	76.1	76.0	76.2	76.2	66.0	65.6	66.3	66.8
Latvia	35.6	33.3	32.4	31.3	79.5	79.7	79.7	79.7	60.2	61.7	60.5	62.9
Luxembourg ²	25.0	24.9	23.8	25.3	83.2	82.1	82.1	83.2	38.0	38.8	39.2	40.7
Mexico	41.5	40.7	41.6	40.4	71.4	71.1	71.2	71.2	54.3	54.9	55.3	55.4
Netherlands	60.2	61.0	61.0	60.8	82.3	82.9	83.1	83.3	62.1	63.3	63.8	64.1
New Zealand	52.6	54.0	54.2	55.0	81.6	83.0	83.5	83.8	75.1	76.7	76.1	76.4
Norway	49.6	48.0	48.4	48.2	82.7	82.7	82.8	82.2	71.9	72.7	72.6	72.4
Poland	26.3	28.5	28.1	28.8	79.9	80.4	80.4	80.5	45.4	46.1	46.1	46.7
Portugal	23.0	23.9	23.9	24.3	79.3	79.8	80.5	80.9	50.5	52.1	53.0	53.0
Slovak Republic	23.5	24.4	25.7	26.9	78.9	80.2	80.0	79.9	47.7	48.9	49.3	50.3
Slovenia	28.8	28.7	28.1	29.1	83.3	83.5	83.7	84.3	36.1	38.9	37.3	39.2
Spain	18.2	18.2	18.5	18.5	70.3	71.2	71.7	72.3	48.0	48.7	49.6	49.4
Sweden	44.8	45.1	43.8	44.9	86.0	86.0	86.0	86.0	74.8	75.4	76.0	75.7
Switzerland	61.9	60.7	60.9	64.4	87.6	87.7	87.4	87.7	73.2	74.0	74.3	74.1
Turkey	34.2	34.5	33.7	33.6	59.8	60.2	59.8	59.9	32.1	33.4	33.1	33.6
United Kingdom	50.8	50.9	50.5	51.1	82.6	83.0	83.1	83.1	63.0	63.6	63.4	63.6
United States	48.8	49.1	49.4	49.4	77.4	77.8	77.9	78.2	61.7	61.8	61.8	61.9

¹ Following changes introduced in the Labour Force Survey for Denmark, data from Q1 2016 onwards are not comparable with previous data.

² Following changes introduced in the Labour Force Survey for Luxembourg, data from Q1 2015 onwards are not comparable with previous data.

Table 4: Contributions to employment rates annual change (15-64)
Between Q4 2015 and Q4 2016

	Employment rate <i>Percentage of working age population Q4 - 2016</i>	Unemployment rate <i>Percentage of labour force Q4 - 2016</i>	Labour force participation rate <i>Percentage of working age population Q4 - 2016</i>	Employment rate annual change <i>Percentage points</i>	Contributions to employment rate annual change ¹ <i>percentage points</i>	
					<i>Unemployment contribution²</i>	<i>Labour force participation contribution³</i>
OECD - Total	67.2	6.4	71.7	0.7	0.3	0.3
Major Seven	70.1	5.5	74.1	0.7	0.2	0.4
European Union	66.9	8.4	73.0	0.9	0.6	0.3
Euro area	65.7	9.9	72.9	0.9	0.6	0.3
Australia	72.3	5.9	76.8	-0.2	0.1	-0.3
Austria	71.7	5.9	76.3	0.4	0.1	0.4
Belgium	63.3	7.2	68.2	1.7	1.0	0.6
Canada	72.9	7.0	78.3	0.5	0.2	0.3
Chile	62.3	6.9	66.9	-0.2	-0.2	0.1
Czech Republic	72.8	3.7	75.5	2.2	0.7	1.4
Denmark ⁴	74.5	6.6	79.8
Estonia	72.1	6.8	77.3	0.0	-0.2	0.2
Finland	69.2	8.8	75.9	0.7	0.6	0.1
France	64.2	10.0	71.4	0.3	0.2	0.1
Germany	75.1	3.9	78.1	0.9	0.6	0.3
Greece	52.1	23.4	68.0	0.6	0.6	-0.1
Hungary	67.5	4.6	70.7	2.8	1.2	1.5
Iceland	87.3	2.8	89.8	2.0	0.8	1.2
Ireland	65.5	7.2	70.6	1.8	1.4	0.3
Israel	68.8	4.6	72.1	0.4	0.5	-0.1
Italy	57.3	12.0	65.2	0.7	-0.2	0.9
Japan	74.7	3.2	77.2	1.0	0.2	0.8
Korea	66.3	3.8	68.9	0.4	-0.1	0.4
Latvia	68.8	9.6	76.2	0.1	0.3	-0.2
Luxembourg	66.0	6.1	70.3	0.6	0.1	0.4
Mexico	61.0	3.8	63.4	-0.2	0.4	-0.6
Netherlands	75.2	5.5	79.6	1.1	1.1	0.0
New Zealand	76.3	5.5	80.7	2.2	-0.2	2.4
Norway	73.9	4.9	77.8	-0.5	-0.1	-0.4
Poland	65.0	5.7	69.0	1.5	0.9	0.6
Portugal	66.0	10.7	73.9	1.7	1.4	0.3
Slovak Republic	65.4	9.1	71.9	1.9	1.4	0.5
Slovenia	66.6	8.1	72.4	1.3	0.3	1.0
Spain	60.1	18.8	74.0	1.5	1.7	-0.2
Sweden	76.3	7.1	82.1	0.3	0.2	0.2
Switzerland	81.3	4.5	85.1	0.7	0.3	0.4
Turkey	50.5	12.0	57.4	0.1	-0.8	0.9
United Kingdom	73.7	4.8	77.4	0.5	0.3	0.3
United States	69.5	4.8	73.0	0.6	0.2	0.4

¹ Contributions may not sum to employment rate change due to rounding.

² The unemployment contribution to employment rate annual change is calculated as the opposite of the change in the unemployment rate between Q4 2016 and Q4 2015 times the average labour force participation rate observed in the two periods.

³ The labour force participation contribution to employment rate annual change is calculated as the change in the labour force participation rate between Q4 2016 and Q4 2015 times one minus the average unemployment rate observed in the two periods.

⁴ Following changes introduced in the Labour Force Survey for Denmark, data from Q1 2016 onwards are not comparable with previous data.