

OECD employment rate back to pre-crisis levels in fourth quarter of 2015

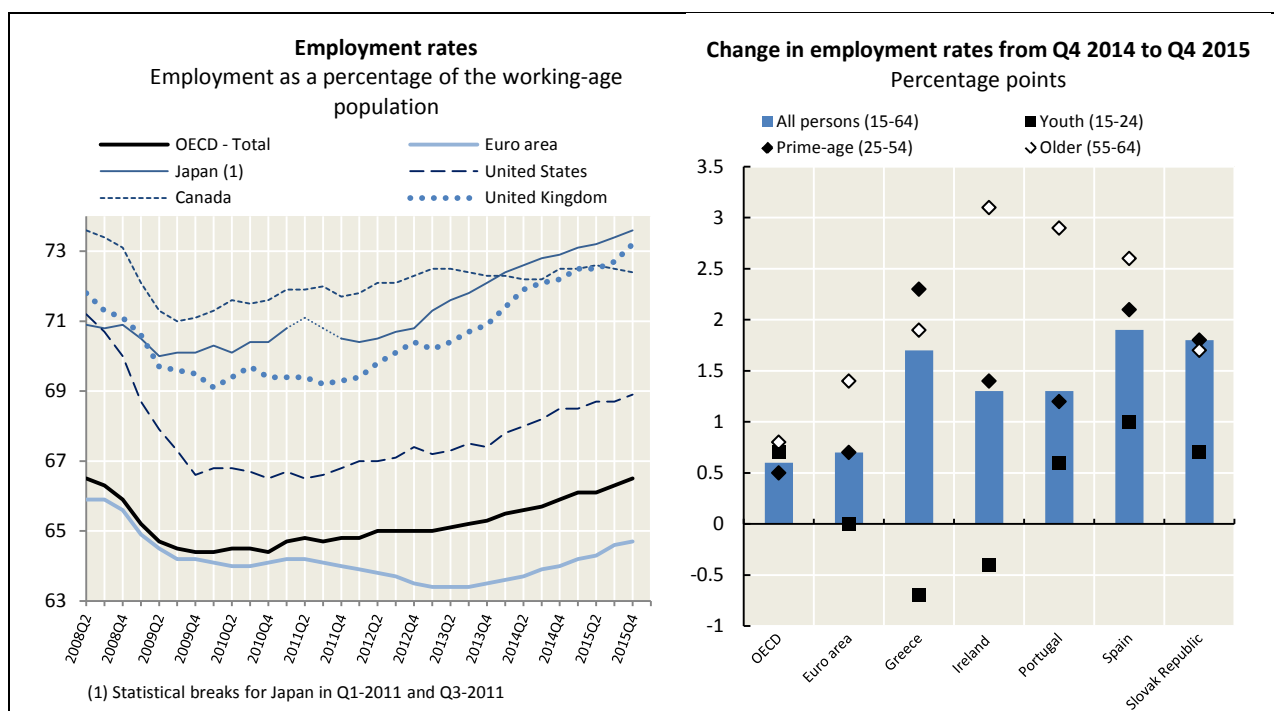
The **OECD area** employment rate – defined as the share of people of working-age in employment – increased by 0.2 percentage point in the fourth quarter of 2015, to 66.5%, just shy of its pre-crisis peak of the first quarter of 2008.

Compared to the previous quarter, the **euro area** employment rate rose by 0.1 percentage point (to 64.7%), the ninth consecutive quarter of growth, with the highest quarterly increases observed in **Spain** (up 0.6 percentage point, to 58.6%), the **Slovak Republic** (up 0.5 percentage point, to 63.4%) and **Greece** (up 0.4 percentage point, to 51.4%).

Outside the euro area, the employment rate increased by 0.6 percentage point in **Mexico** (to 61.2%), and by 0.5 percentage point in the **United Kingdom** (to 73.2%). In **Japan**, **Korea**, the **United States** and **Turkey**, the increase was more moderate (0.2 percentage point or less). Over the same period, the employment rate fell by 0.1 percentage point in **Canada** (to 72.4%).

Compared to the fourth quarter of 2014, the **OECD area** employment rate was 0.6 percentage point higher. The largest increase was in **Hungary** (up 2.2 percentage points, to 64.7%). Several euro area countries with relatively low employment rates also showed a significant increase: **Spain** (up 1.9 percentage point, to 58.6%), the **Slovak Republic** (up 1.8 percentage point, to 63.4%), **Greece** (up 1.7 percentage point, to 51.4%), **Ireland** (up 1.3 percentage point, to 63.6%) and **Portugal** (up 1.3 percentage point, to 64.3%).

Youth employment rates did not rise as fast as total employment rates in these five countries, with slower increases in **Portugal** (up 0.6 percentage point, to 22.7%), the **Slovak republic** (up 0.7 percentage point, to 23.6%) and **Spain** (up 1.0 percentage point, to 18.2%) and falls in **Ireland** (by 0.4 percentage point, to 28.4%) and **Greece** (by 0.7 percentage point, to 12.8%). In contrast, the **youth** employment rate for the **OECD** as a whole rose faster (up 0.7 percentage point) than that for total employment.



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.

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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 - 2015	
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2008	2014			2015				
					Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
OECD - Total	65.0	65.1	65.7	66.2	66.5	65.7	65.9	66.1	66.1	66.3	66.5	546,651	
Major Seven	67.7	68.0	68.6	69.1	69.6	68.7	68.9	69.0	69.1	69.1	69.4	332,542	
European Union	64.1	64.1	64.8	65.6	65.8	64.9	65.1	65.3	65.5	65.7	65.9	216,573	
Euro area	63.7	63.5	63.8	64.5	65.9	63.9	64.0	64.2	64.3	64.6	64.7	141,288	
Australia	72.3	72.0	71.6	72.2	73.3	71.6	71.5	71.8	72.0	72.2	72.5	11,414	
Austria	71.4	71.4	71.1	71.1	71.0	70.9	71.1	71.1	70.9	71.2	71.3	4,094	
Belgium	61.8	61.8	61.9	61.8	62.2	61.9	62.1	62.1	61.4	62.0	61.7	4,503	
Canada	72.1	72.4	72.3	72.5	73.6	72.2	72.5	72.5	72.6	72.5	72.4	17,255	
Chile	61.8	62.3	62.2	62.4	57.2	62.1	62.2	62.2	62.4	62.6	62.5	7,514	
Czech Republic	66.6	67.7	69.0	70.2	66.6	69.2	69.6	69.8	70.2	70.3	70.7	4,945	
Denmark	72.6	72.6	72.8	73.5	78.1	73.2	73.6	73.6	73.4	73.2	73.9	2,699	
Estonia	67.2	68.5	69.6	71.9	70.0	69.7	70.4	70.4	71.7	73.5	71.8	610	
Finland	69.4	68.9	68.7	68.6	71.2	68.6	68.6	68.7	68.4	68.6	68.5	2,364	
France ¹	64.1	64.1	63.8	63.8	64.9	63.6	63.8	63.8	63.8	63.8	63.9	26,108	
Germany	73.0	73.5	73.8	74.0	69.8	74.0	73.8	74.0	73.8	74.0	74.1	39,386	
Greece	50.8	48.8	49.4	50.8	61.6	49.6	49.7	49.9	50.7	51.0	51.4	3,580	
Hungary	56.7	58.1	61.8	64.0	56.3	62.1	62.5	63.0	63.8	64.3	64.7	4,213	
Iceland	79.7	81.1	83.0	84.7	84.4	83.1	83.6	84.4	84.7	84.6	85.2	174	
Ireland	58.9	60.5	61.7	63.3	68.0	61.9	62.3	62.7	63.2	63.5	63.6	1,909	
Israel ²	66.5	67.1	67.9	68.3	59.9	67.8	68.0	67.9	68.2	68.6	68.5	3,511	
Italy	56.6	55.5	55.7	56.3	58.8	55.7	55.8	56.0	56.2	56.5	56.5	22,031	
Japan	70.6	71.7	72.7	73.3	70.9	72.8	72.9	73.1	73.2	73.4	73.6	56,497	
Korea	64.2	64.4	65.3	65.7	63.9	65.5	65.5	65.7	65.6	65.8	66.0	24,027	
Luxembourg ³	65.9	65.7	66.6	66.2	63.9	66.1	67.4	66.3	67.0	65.7	65.7	256	
Mexico	60.9	60.8	60.4	60.7	61.2	60.2	60.2	60.6	60.5	60.6	61.2	48,651	
Netherlands	74.4	73.6	73.1	74.2	77.1	73.1	73.5	74.1	74.1	74.1	74.1	8,112	
New Zealand	72.0	72.8	74.2	74.3	74.9	74.4	74.7	74.8	74.4	73.8	74.1	2,229	
Norway	75.8	75.4	75.2	74.8	78.1	75.1	75.2	74.9	74.9	74.8	74.4	2,546	
Poland	59.7	60.0	61.7	62.9	59.1	62.0	62.3	62.6	62.6	63.0	63.5	15,918	
Portugal	61.4	60.6	62.6	63.9	68.3	63.1	63.0	63.2	64.1	64.0	64.3	4,320	
Slovak Republic	59.7	59.9	61.0	62.7	61.9	61.1	61.6	62.1	62.6	62.9	63.4	2,430	
Slovenia	64.1	63.3	63.9	65.2	68.1	63.8	64.1	64.5	65.3	65.9	65.3	901	
Spain	55.8	54.8	56.0	57.8	65.1	56.0	56.7	57.0	57.7	58.0	58.6	17,901	
Sweden	73.8	74.4	74.9	75.5	74.4	75.2	74.9	75.2	75.4	75.6	76.0	4,697	
Switzerland	79.4	79.6	79.9	80.2	79.5	79.7	81.0	80.4	80.1	79.7	80.6	4,464	
Turkey ⁴	48.9	49.5	49.5	50.2	45.1	49.3	49.5	50.1	50.0	50.3	50.4	26,127	
United Kingdom	69.9	70.5	71.9	72.7	71.8	72.1	72.2	72.5	72.5	72.7	73.2	30,135	
United States	67.1	67.4	68.1	68.7	71.2	68.2	68.5	68.5	68.7	68.7	68.9	141,131	

¹ 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.

² Following changes introduced in the Labour Force Survey for Israel, data from Q1 2012 onwards are not comparable with previous data.

³ Following changes introduced in the Labour Force Survey for Luxembourg, data from Q1 2015 onwards are not comparable with previous data.

⁴ 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					
	2015	2014	2015				2015	2014	2015			
			Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3			Q4	Q4	Q1	Q2
OECD - Total	58.5	58.1	58.2	58.4	58.5	58.8	74.1	73.8	74.0	74.0	74.1	74.3
Major Seven	63.4	63.2	63.2	63.4	63.4	63.7	74.9	74.7	74.8	74.8	74.9	75.1
European Union	60.4	59.9	60.1	60.3	60.5	60.6	70.9	70.3	70.6	70.7	71.0	71.2
Euro area	59.4	58.9	59.1	59.3	59.5	59.6	69.6	69.1	69.4	69.4	69.7	69.8
Australia	66.8	65.9	66.2	66.6	66.8	67.4	77.5	77.0	77.4	77.4	77.6	77.7
Austria	67.1	67.0	66.9	66.8	67.3	67.4	75.2	75.2	75.4	75.0	75.0	75.1
Belgium	58.0	58.0	58.2	57.7	58.0	58.2	65.5	66.1	65.9	65.1	65.9	65.1
Canada	69.4	69.4	69.5	69.5	69.4	69.4	75.6	75.5	75.6	75.6	75.7	75.4
Chile	51.9	51.6	51.3	51.6	52.2	52.4	73.0	72.8	73.1	73.2	73.0	72.6
Czech Republic	62.4	61.6	61.9	62.3	62.5	62.7	77.9	77.4	77.4	77.8	77.9	78.4
Denmark	70.4	71.0	70.9	70.1	69.8	70.6	76.6	76.1	76.3	76.5	76.5	77.0
Estonia	68.5	66.9	67.1	68.0	69.9	68.9	75.3	74.1	73.8	75.4	77.2	74.9
Finland	67.7	67.7	67.8	67.6	67.8	67.8	69.3	69.4	69.5	69.1	69.4	69.2
France	60.6	60.5	60.5	60.6	60.7	60.7	67.1	67.3	67.2	67.1	67.0	67.1
Germany	69.9	69.7	69.8	69.8	70.0	70.1	78.0	78.0	78.1	77.7	77.9	78.1
Greece	42.5	41.6	41.7	42.6	42.5	43.0	59.3	58.0	58.2	59.0	59.7	60.1
Hungary	57.8	56.6	57.0	57.7	58.2	58.3	70.3	68.5	69.3	70.0	70.6	71.2
Iceland	82.3	81.3	81.6	82.1	81.8	83.9	87.1	85.9	87.1	87.3	87.4	86.4
Ireland	57.9	57.1	57.4	57.7	58.1	58.5	68.7	67.7	68.2	68.8	69.0	68.9
Israel	64.6	64.2	64.1	64.2	65.0	64.9	72.1	71.9	71.8	72.3	72.2	72.2
Italy	47.2	46.9	47.1	47.2	47.2	47.2	65.5	64.8	65.0	65.3	65.9	65.9
Japan	64.6	64.1	64.2	64.5	64.8	65.1	81.9	81.6	81.7	81.8	81.9	82.1
Korea	55.7	55.1	55.5	55.4	55.8	56.2	75.7	75.7	75.8	75.6	75.6	75.7
Luxembourg ¹	60.8	61.3	60.5	61.4	60.2	61.2	71.3	73.2	72.0	72.3	71.1	70.1
Mexico	44.7	43.8	44.4	44.4	44.6	45.3	78.3	78.1	78.5	78.2	78.1	78.6
Netherlands	69.2	68.5	69.1	69.3	69.3	69.2	79.0	78.4	79.1	78.9	79.0	79.0
New Zealand	69.2	69.8	69.7	69.3	68.7	69.1	79.6	79.9	80.1	79.8	79.2	79.4
Norway	73.0	73.6	72.9	73.2	73.2	72.4	76.5	76.7	76.9	76.5	76.3	76.4
Poland	56.6	55.8	56.1	56.5	56.8	57.1	69.3	68.9	69.1	68.8	69.3	69.9
Portugal	61.1	60.1	60.2	61.5	61.4	61.3	66.9	66.1	66.4	66.7	66.9	67.5
Slovak Republic	55.9	54.6	55.3	55.7	56.1	56.6	69.4	68.5	68.8	69.4	69.6	70.1
Slovenia	61.0	59.8	60.1	61.1	61.5	61.5	69.2	68.1	68.6	69.3	70.0	68.9
Spain	52.7	51.9	52.0	52.6	52.8	53.4	62.9	61.5	62.0	62.7	63.2	63.8
Sweden	74.0	73.1	73.6	73.7	74.2	74.5	77.0	76.7	76.8	76.9	77.0	77.4
Switzerland	76.0	76.7	76.2	75.6	75.4	76.7	84.4	85.2	84.5	84.5	84.0	84.6
Turkey	30.5	29.8	30.1	30.2	30.5	30.9	69.8	69.1	69.9	69.7	69.9	69.7
United Kingdom	68.0	67.6	67.7	67.9	68.0	68.2	77.6	77.0	77.4	77.2	77.5	78.2
United States	63.4	63.3	63.2	63.4	63.3	63.7	74.2	74.0	74.0	74.2	74.2	74.3

¹ 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)			
	2014	2015			2014	2015			2014	2015		
	Q4	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q4	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q4	Q2	Q3	Q4
OECD - Total	39.8	40.0	40.2	40.5	76.2	76.4	76.5	76.7	57.7	58.0	58.2	58.5
Major Seven	43.3	43.3	43.4	43.8	78.7	78.8	78.9	79.0	60.9	61.3	61.4	61.7
European Union	32.7	32.9	33.0	33.2	77.6	77.9	78.1	78.3	52.4	53.0	53.4	53.9
Euro area	30.7	30.6	30.6	30.7	76.1	76.4	76.7	76.8	52.3	53.2	53.5	53.7
Australia	57.7	58.4	58.6	59.1	78.7	79.4	79.2	79.5	61.5	62.0	61.8	63.0
Austria	52.2	51.4	51.3	50.6	83.3	83.2	83.5	83.8	45.5	45.9	46.5	47.1
Belgium	23.5	23.4	23.2	22.1	79.0	78.0	78.7	78.5	43.4	43.8	44.6	44.6
Canada	56.2	55.9	55.6	55.6	81.5	81.5	81.5	81.2	60.0	60.7	61.0	61.2
Chile	30.3	30.1	30.1	29.6	74.8	74.9	75.1	75.0	63.6	64.4	64.4	65.3
Czech Republic	28.0	28.4	28.3	28.6	84.1	84.4	84.6	84.8	55.1	55.6	55.6	55.9
Denmark	56.0	55.4	54.6	55.7	82.1	81.6	82.3	82.6	64.5	65.2	64.1	64.6
Estonia	34.7	39.3			81.5	82.5	84.4	83.8	66.5	62.1		
Finland	41.2	40.4	40.4	40.2	80.0	79.8	80.0	79.9	59.6	59.5	60.5	60.4
France	27.9	27.9	27.7	27.9	79.7	79.4	79.3	79.4	47.8	48.8	48.7	48.8
Germany	46.0	45.0	44.6	45.5	83.5	83.6	83.8	83.7	65.8	66.0	66.3	66.7
Greece	13.5	13.2	13.0	12.8	63.0	64.5	65.0	65.3	33.4	34.0	34.8	35.3
Hungary	24.2	25.4	26.1	26.4	79.6	80.5	80.8	81.0	42.8	44.9	46.0	46.7
Iceland	70.9	73.5	73.2	73.2	87.2	88.3	87.7	89.1	85.1	83.9	86.5	83.9
Ireland	28.8	28.8	28.7	28.4	73.5	74.0	74.3	74.9	53.6	55.2	55.8	56.7
Israel					78.3	78.8	78.8	78.9	65.6	66.1	66.8	65.9
Italy	15.5	15.4	15.8	15.9	67.7	68.1	68.4	68.3	47.2	48.3	48.3	48.5
Japan	40.3	40.5	40.5	41.6	82.4	82.4	82.7	82.7	69.1	69.6	70.5	70.6
Korea	26.1	27.0	26.9	27.2	75.7	75.6	75.9	76.1	65.8	65.5	66.0	66.0
Luxembourg ¹	21.4	29.6	32.8	26.3	84.4	83.3	81.8	83.1	43.7	38.9	35.0	37.6
Mexico	40.2	40.6	40.9	41.5	70.2	70.7	70.5	71.4	55.1	54.4	55.2	54.5
Netherlands	59.4	61.3	60.6	60.2	81.9	82.1	82.3	82.3	60.5	61.7	61.8	62.1
New Zealand	53.4	53.5	52.3	52.6	81.8	81.6	81.2	81.7	76.7	75.6	74.5	75.0
Norway	50.5	50.4	50.5	49.8	83.4	83.2	83.2	82.8	73.3	72.3	72.3	71.9
Poland	25.9	26.0	26.0	26.2	79.1	79.3	79.5	79.9	43.2	43.7	44.6	45.4
Portugal	22.1	22.8	22.8	22.7	78.1	79.2	79.0	79.3	47.6	50.3	50.2	50.5
Slovak Republic	22.9	22.9	23.4	23.6	77.1	78.0	78.2	78.9	46.1	46.7	47.2	47.8
Slovenia	28.3	30.7	30.0	29.0	81.6	82.5	83.8	83.3	36.0	37.6	36.6	36.0
Spain	17.2	17.8	18.2	18.2	68.2	69.2	69.7	70.3	45.3	46.6	47.1	47.9
Sweden	43.0	43.5	43.8	44.9	85.3	85.6	85.7	86.0	73.8	74.3	74.4	74.7
Switzerland	64.2	60.4	60.9	61.9	87.7	87.3	86.8	87.6	72.6	72.6	72.0	73.2
Turkey	33.1	33.6	34.6	34.3	58.8	59.4	59.6	59.8	31.7	32.0	31.5	32.0
United Kingdom	48.6	49.6	50.2	50.8	82.3	82.3	82.3	82.6	61.3	61.8	62.3	63.1
United States	48.4	48.4	48.6	48.7	77.0	77.3	77.2	77.4	61.6	61.7	61.4	61.7

¹ Following changes introduced in the Labour Force Survey for Luxembourg, data from Q1 2015 onwards are not comparable with previous data.