

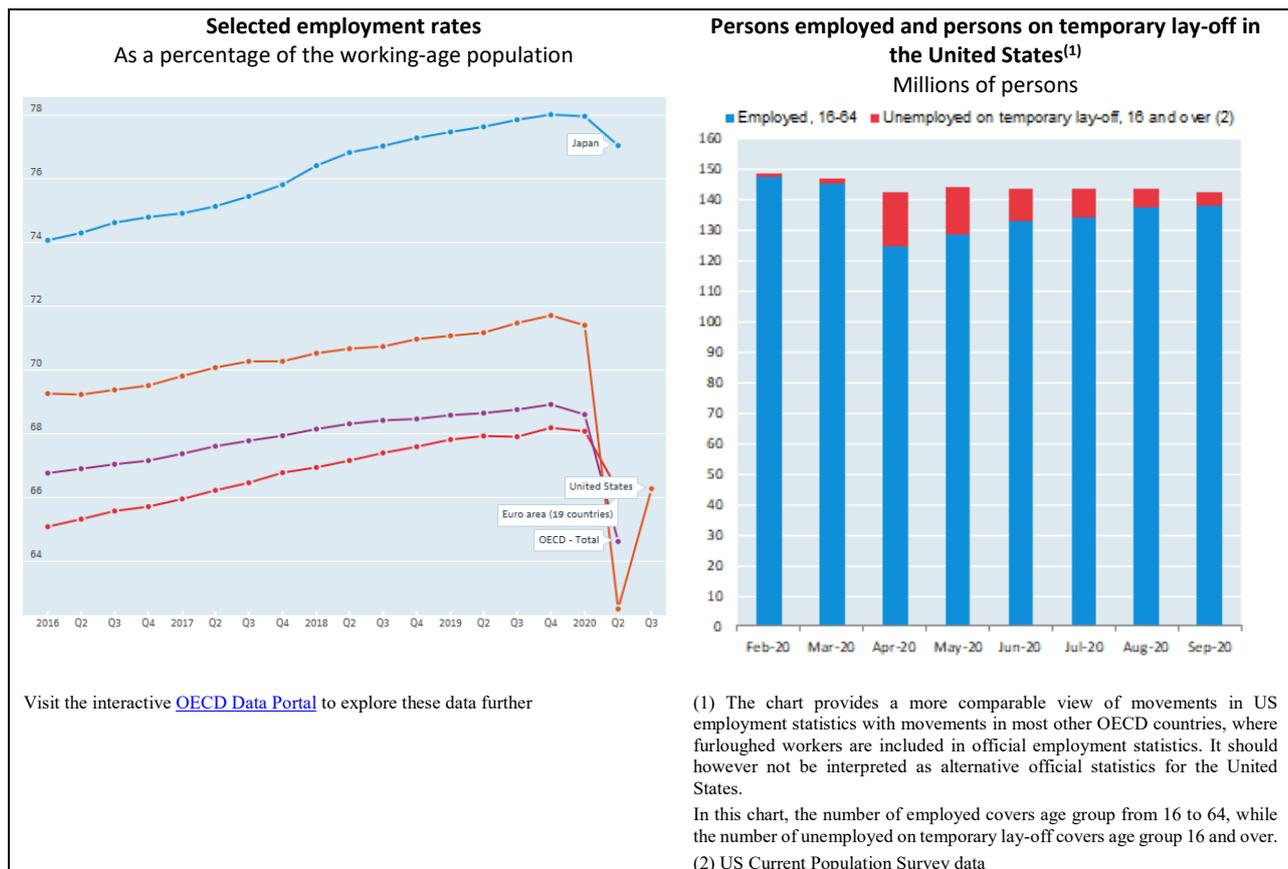
## OECD area employment rate falls by 4.0 percentage points, to 64.6% in second quarter of 2020

The **OECD area** employment rate – the share of the working-age population with jobs – fell by 4.0 percentage points, to 64.6%, in the second quarter of 2020, its lowest level since the fourth quarter of 2010. Across the **OECD area**, 560 million persons were in employment in the second quarter of 2020, 34 million less than in the previous quarter.

Care is needed in interpreting the latest data however, as a large part of the fall in the second quarter reflects a significant increase in furloughed workers in the **United States** and **Canada**, where this category of worker is recorded as unemployed whereas they are recorded as employed in most other countries. In **Canada** and the **United States** employment rates dropped by 8.5 percentage points (to 64.7%) and 8.9 percentage points (to 62.5%) respectively in the second quarter. With many furloughed workers now returning to work, more recent data for the third quarter of 2020 show employment rates increasing in **Canada** (up 5.7 percentage points, to 70.4%) and the **United States** (up 3.8 percentage points, to 66.3%), but still remaining 2.8 and 5.1 percentage points below the level of the first quarter of 2020.

In the **euro area** the employment rate decreased by 1.9 percentage points, to 66.2% in the second quarter of 2020, with decreases of 3.0 percentage points or more in **Estonia, Ireland** and **Spain**. Among other countries, it fell by 1.0 percentage point in **Japan** (to 77.0%), by 0.2 percentage point in the **United Kingdom** (to 75.4%), and by more than 3.0 percentage points in **Australia, Chile, Colombia, Iceland** and **Turkey**.

Employment rates fell across all population groups. While **male** and **female** employment rates both fell by around 4.0 percentage points (to 72.0% and 57.3% respectively), the **youth** employment rate dropped more sharply (down 5.6 percentage points, to 36.3%) than for people aged **25-54** (down 4.0 percentage points, to 74.7%) and for those aged **55-64** (down 2.8 percentage points, to 59.3%).



The measures put in place by national governments to reduce the spread of the Coronavirus (Covid-19) may have impacted on the ability to field surveys, and so, in turn, on the quality of statistics typically produced. In addition, because of differences in national practices used to determine whether individuals are unemployed when under confinement, international comparability has also been affected. See the **note on the divergence in employment and unemployment statistics during the Covid-19 crisis** on next page.

**Note: Employment and unemployment statistics during the COVID-19 crisis**

The broad comparability of unemployment data across OECD countries is achieved through the adherence of national statistics to International Guidelines from the International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS) – the so-called ILO guidelines.

Departures from these guidelines may however exist across countries depending on national circumstances (e.g. statistical environment, national regulations and practices). Typically, these departures have only a limited impact on broad comparability of employment and unemployment statistics. However, the unprecedented impact of Covid-19<sup>1</sup> is amplifying divergences and affects the cross-country comparability of unemployment statistics in this news release.

This concerns in particular the treatment of persons on temporary layoff or employees furloughed by their employers. These are *persons not at work during the survey reference week due to economic reasons and business conditions* (i.e. lack of work, shortage of demand for goods and services, business closures or business moves).

According to ILO guidelines, ‘**employed**’ persons include those who, in their present job, were ‘not at work’ for a short duration but maintained a job attachment during their absence (ILO, 2013 and 2020). Job attachment is determined on the basis of the continued receipt of remuneration, and/or the total duration of the absence. In practice, formal or continued job attachment is established when:

- *the expected total duration of the absence is up to three months (which can be more than three months, if the return to employment in the same economic unit is guaranteed and, in the case of the pandemic, once the restrictions in place - where applicable - are lifted)*
- OR**
- *workers continue to receive remuneration from their employer, including partial pay, even if they also receive support from other sources, including government schemes.*

In turn persons are classified as ‘**not employed**’ if:

- *The expected total duration of absence is greater than three months or there is no or unknown expected return to the same economic unit*
- AND**
- *People in this condition do not receive any part of their remuneration from their employer.*

Not-employed persons are classified as ‘**unemployed**’ if they fulfil the criteria of active “job search”<sup>2</sup> and “availability” specified for the measurement of unemployment.

However, departures from these guidelines in national practices do exist. In particular, in North America persons on temporary layoff are considered to be “only weakly or not at all attached to their job and are to be counted as unemployed” (Sorrentino, 2000). In the United States, people on temporary layoff are classified as ‘unemployed’ if they expect to be recalled to their job within six months. If they have not been given a date to return to work by their employer and if they have no expectation to return to work within six months, they need to fulfil the “job search” criteria to be classified as ‘unemployed’. For the latest US figures “people who were effectively laid off due to

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<sup>1</sup> Broad comparability is ensured during normal business conditions, while divergences are potentially exacerbated during economic and financial crisis, such as the Great Recession or the current Covid-19 crisis.

<sup>2</sup> Some not-employed persons may be classified as “inactive/out of the labour force” because, due to the pandemic, they are either not able to actively look for a job even if they are available to work or are not available to work because of family responsibilities as schools and care services are closed.

pandemic-related closures were counted among the unemployed on temporary layoff” without further testing for their return to their previous job (BLS, 2020). In Canada, persons in temporary layoff are also classified as ‘unemployed’ if they have a date of return or an indication that they will be recalled by their employers.

Conversely, persons on temporary layoff are classified as employed (not at work) in Europe, as recommended by the ILO Guidelines (Eurostat, 2016). In practice, formal job attachment is tested on the basis of (i) an assurance of return to work within a period of three months or (ii) the receipt of half or more of their wage or salary from their employer. Somewhat stricter than ILO guidance, absences during COVID-19 crisis whose duration is unknown are treated as absences longer than three months. Those failing to satisfy these two criteria are classified as unemployed if they are “available to start work” (over the next two weeks) and have actively searched for a job in the last four weeks. All other persons on layoff are classified as inactive.

## References

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### **Methodological Notes for OECD Quarterly Employment Situation News Release**

All rates and levels quoted are seasonally adjusted (s.a.). Data for EU countries and for some non-EU countries are seasonally adjusted by the OECD.

**OECD Database:** [OECD Short-Term Labour Market Statistics](#)

**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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**Next release: January 2021**

**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<br>Thousands<br>Q2 - 2020 |         |
|---------------------------|------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|----------|----------------------------------|---------|
|                           | 2016             | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2008 | 2019 |      |      |      | 2020     |                                  |         |
|                           |                  |      |      |      |      | Q2   | Q1   | Q2   | Q3   | Q4       |                                  | Q1      |
| OECD - Total              | 67.0             | 67.7 | 68.3 | 68.7 | 66.3 | 68.6 | 68.6 | 68.8 | 68.9 | 68.6     | 64.6                             | 560,418 |
| Major Seven               | 69.8             | 70.6 | 71.3 | 72.0 | 69.6 | 71.7 | 71.8 | 72.0 | 72.2 | 72.0     | 67.3                             | 322,553 |
| European Union            | 65.6             | 66.7 | 67.7 | 68.4 | 64.9 | 68.2 | 68.3 | 68.4 | 68.6 | 68.5     | 66.8                             | 190,137 |
| Euro area                 | 65.4             | 66.3 | 67.3 | 68.0 | 65.8 | 67.8 | 67.9 | 67.9 | 68.2 | 68.1     | 66.2                             | 144,451 |
| Australia                 | 72.4             | 73.0 | 73.8 | 74.3 | 73.3 | 74.1 | 74.2 | 74.4 | 74.4 | 74.6     | 70.5                             | 11,752  |
| Austria                   | 71.6             | 72.2 | 73.0 | 73.5 | 71.0 | 73.5 | 73.6 | 73.5 | 73.6 | 73.1     | 71.4                             | 4,143   |
| Belgium <sup>(1)</sup>    | 62.3             | 63.1 | 64.5 | 65.3 | 62.3 | 64.7 | 65.7 | 65.6 | 65.1 | 65.3     | 64.4                             | 4,713   |
| Canada                    | 72.6             | 73.4 | 73.8 | 74.4 | 73.6 | 74.2 | 74.5 | 74.5 | 74.4 | 73.2     | 64.7                             | 15,889  |
| Chile                     | 63.3             | 63.9 | 64.1 | 64.1 | 57.2 | 63.7 | 64.3 | 64.5 | 63.9 | 63.1     | 51.4                             | 6,846   |
| Colombia                  | 67.2             | 66.9 | 66.4 | 65.2 | 60.7 | 65.9 | 65.1 | 64.9 | 65.0 | 63.4     | 50.5                             | 16,420  |
| Czech Republic            | 72.0             | 73.6 | 74.8 | 75.1 | 66.7 | 75.2 | 75.2 | 75.1 | 75.1 | 75.0     | 74.2                             | 5,081   |
| Denmark <sup>(1)</sup>    | 72.7             | 73.2 | 74.1 | 75.0 | 76.8 | 74.7 | 75.0 | 75.1 | 75.3 | 75.0     | 74.1                             | 2,740   |
| Estonia                   | 72.1             | 74.1 | 74.8 | 75.3 | 70.1 | 74.7 | 74.7 | 75.7 | 76.0 | 75.5     | 72.1                             | 608     |
| Finland                   | 69.1             | 70.0 | 72.1 | 73.0 | 71.2 | 72.6 | 72.9 | 73.0 | 73.2 | 73.2     | 71.0                             | 2,410   |
| France                    | 64.2             | 64.7 | 65.3 | 65.6 | 64.9 | 65.5 | 65.5 | 65.3 | 65.9 | 66.0     | 64.4                             | 26,252  |
| Germany <sup>(1)(2)</sup> | 74.7             | 75.3 | 75.9 | 76.7 | 69.8 | 76.5 | 76.7 | 76.8 | 76.8 | 76.3 (b) | 76.3                             | 40,768  |
| Greece                    | 52.0             | 53.5 | 54.9 | 56.5 | 61.5 | 55.8 | 56.6 | 56.7 | 56.9 | 56.7     | 55.2                             | 3,712   |
| Hungary                   | 66.5             | 68.2 | 69.3 | 70.1 | 56.3 | 70.2 | 70.0 | 70.0 | 70.2 | 70.0     | 68.6                             | 4,314   |
| Iceland                   | 86.5             | 86.1 | 85.1 | 84.1 | 84.6 | 85.3 | 84.8 | 83.0 | 83.3 | 82.8     | 79.3                             | 182     |
| Ireland <sup>(1)</sup>    | 66.4             | 67.7 | 68.7 | 69.6 | 70.3 | 69.5 | 69.3 | 69.4 | 70.0 | 70.0     | 65.9                             | 2,147   |
| Israel                    | 68.6             | 69.0 | 69.0 | 68.9 | 60.0 | 69.3 | 69.0 | 68.8 | 68.6 | 68.6     | 66.7                             | 3,668   |
| Italy                     | 57.3             | 58.0 | 58.5 | 59.1 | 58.8 | 58.9 | 59.0 | 59.1 | 59.2 | 59.1     | 57.1                             | 21,878  |
| Japan                     | 74.4             | 75.3 | 76.9 | 77.7 | 70.9 | 77.5 | 77.6 | 77.9 | 78.0 | 78.0     | 77.0                             | 57,433  |
| Korea                     | 66.1             | 66.6 | 66.6 | 66.8 | 64.1 | 66.7 | 66.7 | 66.9 | 67.1 | 66.7     | 65.4                             | 24,007  |
| Latvia                    | 68.7             | 70.1 | 71.8 | 72.3 | 69.2 | 71.7 | 72.2 | 72.6 | 72.7 | 71.9     | 72.0                             | 859     |
| Lithuania                 | 69.4             | 70.4 | 72.4 | 73.0 | 64.6 | 72.9 | 73.0 | 73.0 | 73.1 | 73.0     | 71.6                             | 1,298   |
| Luxembourg <sup>(1)</sup> | 65.6             | 66.3 | 67.1 | 68.0 | 63.9 | 67.7 | 68.4 | 67.8 | 67.7 | 67.0     | 67.1                             | 287     |
| Mexico                    | 61.0             | 61.1 | 61.5 | 62.2 | 61.2 | 62.0 | 62.2 | 62.3 | 62.3 | 62.5     |                                  |         |
| Netherlands               | 74.8             | 75.9 | 77.2 | 78.2 | 75.0 | 78.0 | 78.2 | 78.3 | 78.3 | 78.6     | 77.3                             | 8,624   |
| New Zealand               | 75.6             | 76.9 | 77.5 | 77.4 | 75.0 | 77.4 | 77.6 | 77.5 | 77.3 | 77.6     | 76.8                             | 2,480   |
| Norway                    | 74.3             | 74.0 | 74.8 | 75.3 | 78.1 | 75.1 | 75.2 | 75.6 | 75.4 | 75.6     | 74.4                             | 2,588   |
| Poland                    | 64.5             | 66.1 | 67.4 | 68.2 | 59.0 | 67.7 | 68.1 | 68.4 | 68.6 | 68.6     | 67.9                             | 15,849  |
| Portugal                  | 65.3             | 67.8 | 69.7 | 70.5 | 68.3 | 70.2 | 70.2 | 70.8 | 70.7 | 70.2     | 67.7                             | 4,466   |
| Slovak Republic           | 64.9             | 66.2 | 67.6 | 68.4 | 61.8 | 68.5 | 68.4 | 68.4 | 68.4 | 67.9     | 67.2                             | 2,481   |
| Slovenia                  | 65.9             | 69.3 | 71.1 | 71.9 | 68.2 | 72.0 | 72.2 | 71.5 | 71.7 | 72.0     | 69.8                             | 950     |
| Spain                     | 59.6             | 61.1 | 62.4 | 63.3 | 65.1 | 63.2 | 63.3 | 63.2 | 63.6 | 63.2     | 58.9                             | 18,331  |
| Sweden <sup>(1)</sup>     | 76.2             | 76.9 | 77.4 | 77.1 | 74.5 | 77.1 | 77.3 | 77.1 | 77.0 | 76.2     | 75.3                             | 4,842   |
| Switzerland               | 79.6             | 79.8 | 80.1 | 80.5 | 79.5 | 80.3 | 80.5 | 80.5 | 80.7 | 80.5     | 79.1                             | 4,463   |
| Turkey                    | 50.7             | 51.6 | 52.0 | 50.3 | 45.2 | 50.7 | 50.1 | 50.1 | 50.3 | 49.1     | 45.5                             | 24,985  |
| United Kingdom            | 73.5             | 74.1 | 74.7 | 75.2 | 71.8 | 75.0 | 75.1 | 75.1 | 75.4 | 75.6     | 75.4                             | 31,562  |
| United States             | 69.4             | 70.1 | 70.7 | 71.4 | 71.3 | 71.1 | 71.2 | 71.5 | 71.7 | 71.4     | 62.5                             | 128,771 |

b: Break in time series

(1) Breaks in the Labour Force Survey for Belgium in Q1 2017; for Denmark in Q1 2016 and Q1 2017; for Ireland in Q3 2017; for Luxembourg in Q1 2015 for Sweden in Q3 2018 and for Germany in Q1 2020. Some of these breaks also affect, to some extent, aggregates for the European Union, euro area and OECD-Total.

(2) Germany: data for Q1 and Q2 2020 are provisional. See [the note on the Eurostat web site](#) for more information.

**Table 2: OECD employment rates (15-64) by gender**
*Employment as a percentage of corresponding working age population, seasonally adjusted*

|                           | Women |      |      |      |          |      | Men  |      |      |      |          |      |
|---------------------------|-------|------|------|------|----------|------|------|------|------|------|----------|------|
|                           | 2019  | 2019 |      |      | 2020     |      | 2019 | 2019 |      |      | 2020     |      |
|                           |       | Q2   | Q3   | Q4   | Q1       | Q2   |      | Q2   | Q3   | Q4   | Q1       | Q2   |
| OECD - Total              | 61.3  | 61.2 | 61.4 | 61.6 | 61.3     | 57.3 | 76.2 | 76.2 | 76.2 | 76.4 | 76.1     | 72.0 |
| Major Seven               | 66.8  | 66.7 | 66.9 | 67.2 | 67.0     | 62.1 | 77.2 | 77.1 | 77.2 | 77.3 | 77.1     | 72.5 |
| European Union            | 63.1  | 62.9 | 63.0 | 63.3 | 63.2     | 61.5 | 73.7 | 73.7 | 73.8 | 73.9 | 73.8     | 72.1 |
| Euro area                 | 63.0  | 62.9 | 62.9 | 63.2 | 63.1     | 61.4 | 73.0 | 73.0 | 72.9 | 73.2 | 73.1     | 71.1 |
| Australia                 | 70.0  | 69.8 | 70.2 | 70.3 | 70.6     | 66.2 | 78.7 | 78.7 | 78.7 | 78.6 | 78.6     | 74.9 |
| Austria                   | 69.2  | 69.2 | 69.1 | 69.2 | 68.7     | 67.5 | 78.0 | 78.0 | 77.9 | 78.0 | 77.6     | 75.3 |
| Belgium                   | 61.7  | 62.1 | 62.0 | 61.7 | 61.3     | 60.8 | 68.9 | 69.3 | 69.3 | 68.6 | 69.2     | 68.0 |
| Canada                    | 71.5  | 71.6 | 71.6 | 71.6 | 70.0     | 61.1 | 77.3 | 77.4 | 77.4 | 77.1 | 76.4     | 68.4 |
| Chile                     | 55.0  | 55.7 | 55.5 | 54.5 | 53.8     | 42.7 | 73.2 | 72.9 | 73.4 | 73.4 | 72.4     | 60.0 |
| Colombia                  | 53.4  | 53.3 | 53.2 | 53.0 | 51.5     | 38.4 | 77.5 | 77.4 | 77.2 | 77.5 | 75.9     | 63.1 |
| Czech Republic            | 68.1  | 68.0 | 68.1 | 68.0 | 67.9     | 67.0 | 82.0 | 82.1 | 81.9 | 81.9 | 81.8     | 81.2 |
| Denmark                   | 72.0  | 72.2 | 72.0 | 72.5 | 71.8     | 71.0 | 78.0 | 77.9 | 78.1 | 78.1 | 78.2     | 77.1 |
| Estonia                   | 72.0  | 71.3 | 72.1 | 73.3 | 73.0     | 68.7 | 78.7 | 78.2 | 79.3 | 78.8 | 78.0     | 75.5 |
| Finland                   | 71.8  | 71.5 | 72.0 | 72.3 | 72.2     | 69.4 | 74.1 | 74.2 | 74.0 | 74.2 | 74.2     | 72.5 |
| France                    | 62.5  | 62.4 | 62.2 | 62.9 | 62.7     | 61.5 | 68.8 | 68.8 | 68.6 | 69.0 | 69.4     | 67.4 |
| Germany <sup>(1)(2)</sup> | 72.8  | 72.7 | 73.0 | 73.0 | 72.5 (b) | 72.7 | 80.5 | 80.6 | 80.4 | 80.6 | 80.0 (b) | 79.7 |
| Greece                    | 47.3  | 47.2 | 47.5 | 47.8 | 48.0     | 46.4 | 65.9 | 66.1 | 66.0 | 66.1 | 65.6     | 64.2 |
| Hungary                   | 63.0  | 63.0 | 62.9 | 63.0 | 62.8     | 61.3 | 77.3 | 77.1 | 77.1 | 77.4 | 77.3     | 76.0 |
| Iceland                   | 81.9  | 82.1 | 80.8 | 81.1 | 80.2     | 76.3 | 86.2 | 87.3 | 85.1 | 85.4 | 85.3     | 82.0 |
| Ireland                   | 64.2  | 63.9 | 64.0 | 64.5 | 64.4     | 60.6 | 75.0 | 74.8 | 74.9 | 75.4 | 75.6     | 71.3 |
| Israel                    | 66.4  | 66.4 | 66.1 | 66.3 | 66.5     | 64.3 | 71.4 | 71.7 | 71.4 | 71.0 | 70.7     | 69.1 |
| Italy                     | 50.1  | 50.1 | 50.2 | 50.2 | 50.0     | 47.9 | 68.0 | 67.9 | 68.0 | 68.3 | 68.3     | 66.4 |
| Japan                     | 71.0  | 70.9 | 71.1 | 71.5 | 71.4     | 70.2 | 84.3 | 84.2 | 84.4 | 84.4 | 84.3     | 83.7 |
| Korea                     | 57.8  | 57.7 | 57.9 | 58.1 | 57.7     | 56.2 | 75.7 | 75.5 | 75.7 | 75.9 | 75.6     | 74.4 |
| Latvia                    | 70.7  | 70.9 | 71.2 | 70.9 | 70.5     | 70.5 | 74.0 | 73.6 | 74.0 | 74.5 | 73.4     | 73.6 |
| Lithuania                 | 72.5  | 72.2 | 72.9 | 72.9 | 72.1     | 70.9 | 73.5 | 73.9 | 73.0 | 73.3 | 74.0     | 72.2 |
| Luxembourg                | 63.7  | 63.9 | 63.5 | 63.7 | 63.0     | 64.2 | 72.1 | 72.8 | 71.9 | 71.7 | 70.9     | 69.9 |
| Mexico                    | 47.0  | 47.0 | 47.1 | 47.5 | 47.9     |      | 78.8 | 78.8 | 78.8 | 78.6 | 78.5     |      |
| Netherlands               | 74.1  | 74.0 | 74.2 | 74.3 | 74.6     | 73.3 | 82.2 | 82.3 | 82.3 | 82.2 | 82.5     | 81.3 |
| New Zealand               | 73.2  | 73.5 | 73.2 | 73.0 | 73.2     | 72.3 | 81.8 | 81.9 | 81.9 | 81.7 | 82.2     | 81.6 |
| Norway                    | 73.1  | 73.0 | 73.4 | 73.2 | 73.4     | 72.5 | 77.4 | 77.2 | 77.6 | 77.4 | 77.7     | 76.3 |
| Poland                    | 61.1  | 61.1 | 61.2 | 61.3 | 61.3     | 60.4 | 75.3 | 75.1 | 75.6 | 76.0 | 76.1     | 75.4 |
| Portugal                  | 67.6  | 67.6 | 67.5 | 67.9 | 67.5     | 65.2 | 73.6 | 73.0 | 74.2 | 73.7 | 73.2     | 70.4 |
| Slovak Republic           | 62.4  | 62.3 | 62.5 | 62.3 | 62.0     | 61.4 | 74.4 | 74.4 | 74.3 | 74.2 | 73.6     | 72.9 |
| Slovenia                  | 68.7  | 68.7 | 68.5 | 69.2 | 69.3     | 66.5 | 74.9 | 75.5 | 74.3 | 73.9 | 74.6     | 72.9 |
| Spain                     | 57.9  | 57.9 | 57.8 | 58.3 | 58.0     | 53.6 | 68.7 | 68.7 | 68.6 | 68.8 | 68.5     | 64.2 |
| Sweden                    | 75.4  | 75.6 | 75.2 | 75.3 | 73.9     | 73.0 | 78.8 | 78.9 | 78.8 | 78.6 | 78.3     | 77.5 |
| Switzerland               | 76.4  | 76.3 | 76.5 | 76.7 | 76.3     | 74.8 | 84.5 | 84.5 | 84.4 | 84.6 | 84.6     | 83.3 |
| Turkey                    | 32.2  | 32.3 | 32.2 | 31.8 | 30.3     | 28.8 | 68.3 | 67.9 | 67.8 | 68.5 | 67.8     | 62.1 |
| United Kingdom            | 71.1  | 71.1 | 71.1 | 71.5 | 71.9     | 71.8 | 79.2 | 79.1 | 79.1 | 79.4 | 79.3     | 79.0 |
| United States             | 66.3  | 66.1 | 66.5 | 66.8 | 66.6     | 57.4 | 76.5 | 76.4 | 76.6 | 76.7 | 76.4     | 67.7 |

b: Break in time series

(1) Break in the Labour Force Survey for Germany in Q1 2020. This break also affects, to some extent, aggregates for the European Union, euro area and OECD-Total.

 (2) Germany: data for Q1 and Q2 2020 are provisional. See [the note on the Eurostat web site](#) for more information.

**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) |      |          |      |
|---------------------------|---------------|------|----------|------|---------------------------|------|----------|------|-----------------------|------|----------|------|
|                           | 2019          | 2019 | 2020     |      | 2019                      | 2019 | 2020     |      | 2019                  | 2019 | 2020     |      |
|                           | Q2            | Q4   | Q1       | Q2   | Q2                        | Q4   | Q1       | Q2   | Q2                    | Q4   | Q1       | Q2   |
| OECD - Total              | 42.3          | 42.3 | 41.9     | 36.3 | 78.6                      | 79.0 | 78.7     | 74.7 | 61.9                  | 62.3 | 62.1     | 59.3 |
| Major Seven               | 46.4          | 46.6 | 46.2     | 39.1 | 81.2                      | 81.7 | 81.6     | 77.0 | 65.1                  | 65.5 | 65.4     | 61.9 |
| European Union            | 33.6          | 33.3 | 32.8     | 31.1 | 80.5                      | 80.8 | 80.6     | 78.9 | 58.9                  | 59.6 | 59.8     | 58.7 |
| Euro area                 | 34.0          | 33.8 | 33.6     | 31.5 | 79.6                      | 79.9 | 79.7     | 77.9 | 59.8                  | 60.6 | 60.6     | 59.3 |
| Australia                 | 60.2          | 60.0 | 60.0     | 52.3 | 81.6                      | 81.7 | 81.9     | 78.5 | 64.5                  | 64.6 | 64.4     | 62.5 |
| Austria                   | 51.6          | 51.5 | 50.8     | 49.2 | 85.4                      | 85.4 | 85.0     | 82.8 | 54.2                  | 54.4 | 54.3     | 54.2 |
| Belgium                   | 27.0          | 26.1 | 26.4     | 23.2 | 81.4                      | 80.6 | 80.5     | 80.1 | 52.2                  | 52.3 | 52.9     | 53.4 |
| Canada                    | 57.7          | 57.5 | 54.9     | 40.6 | 83.4                      | 83.1 | 82.2     | 74.6 | 63.3                  | 63.5 | 63.0     | 56.7 |
| Chile                     | 27.4          | 25.5 | 26.9     | 16.5 | 75.8                      | 75.6 | 74.8     | 62.0 | 66.8                  | 66.3 | 63.9     | 52.4 |
| Colombia                  | 40.2          | 40.5 | 38.6     | 27.8 | 76.4                      | 76.1 | 74.6     | 60.3 | 61.0                  | 61.6 | 60.1     | 47.9 |
| Czech Republic            | 28.5          | 27.1 | 26.3     | 25.2 | 87.4                      | 87.3 | 87.4     | 86.3 | 66.6                  | 67.5 | 67.3     | 68.1 |
| Denmark                   | 54.8          | 55.6 | 54.6     | 52.7 | 82.5                      | 82.8 | 82.9     | 81.6 | 71.9                  | 71.7 | 71.1     | 71.4 |
| Estonia                   | 39.9          | 40.1 | 41.1     | 34.0 | 84.0                      | 84.9 | 84.2     | 81.8 | 71.2                  | 73.8 | 72.8     | 69.9 |
| Finland                   | 45.0          | 44.4 | 43.4     | 39.1 | 83.3                      | 83.3 | 83.4     | 81.7 | 66.6                  | 67.1 | 67.9     | 66.9 |
| France                    | 29.8          | 29.5 | 29.7     | 26.6 | 80.9                      | 81.2 | 81.3     | 80.3 | 52.9                  | 53.9 | 53.9     | 53.5 |
| Germany <sup>(1)(2)</sup> | 48.8          | 48.5 | 48.5 (b) | 49.6 | 85.4                      | 85.5 | 85.4 (b) | 85.1 | 72.4                  | 73.3 | 72.6 (b) | 70.5 |
| Greece                    | 14.7          | 14.8 | 14.4     | 13.7 | 70.8                      | 71.2 | 71.2     | 69.2 | 43.5                  | 43.5 | 43.2     | 43.9 |
| Hungary                   | 28.6          | 28.0 | 28.8     | 26.2 | 84.5                      | 84.3 | 83.4     | 81.9 | 56.3                  | 57.6 | 58.5     | 59.1 |
| Iceland                   | 75.9          | 68.3 | 68.5     | 63.5 | 88.7                      | 88.3 | 87.3     | 84.2 | 81.1                  | 79.6 | 79.3     | 77.8 |
| Ireland                   | 40.7          | 42.0 | 42.2     | 33.0 | 79.8                      | 80.4 | 80.5     | 77.0 | 61.6                  | 62.8 | 62.5     | 61.4 |
| Israel                    |               |      |          |      | 80.2                      | 80.2 | 79.6     | 78.1 | 68.0                  | 67.9 | 68.7     | 68.3 |
| Italy                     | 18.6          | 18.6 | 18.2     | 16.0 | 70.3                      | 70.8 | 70.6     | 68.4 | 54.5                  | 54.4 | 54.7     | 53.9 |
| Japan                     | 47.5          | 47.9 | 47.4     | 45.6 | 85.7                      | 86.2 | 86.1     | 85.1 | 76.4                  | 76.8 | 77.1     | 76.5 |
| Korea                     | 26.5          | 26.9 | 25.6     | 24.9 | 76.3                      | 76.5 | 76.1     | 74.5 | 66.8                  | 67.0 | 67.2     | 66.2 |
| Latvia                    | 28.9          | 33.0 | 31.5     | 30.7 | 83.5                      | 83.1 | 82.1     | 81.9 | 66.8                  | 68.1 | 69.4     | 69.1 |
| Lithuania                 | 32.7          | 31.8 | 32.2     | 29.0 | 84.9                      | 85.4 | 85.4     | 84.0 | 69.4                  | 68.7 | 68.5     | 66.8 |
| Luxembourg                | 30.3          | 26.2 | 24.8     | 24.1 | 84.9                      | 84.5 | 83.3     | 84.1 | 42.7                  | 43.9 | 43.8     | 43.2 |
| Mexico                    | 41.9          | 41.3 | 41.6     |      | 72.4                      | 72.7 | 72.8     |      | 55.5                  | 56.5 | 56.3     |      |
| Netherlands               | 65.5          | 65.5 | 65.8     | 60.5 | 85.2                      | 85.1 | 85.3     | 84.9 | 69.4                  | 70.4 | 71.1     | 70.8 |
| New Zealand               | 57.4          | 55.7 | 57.6     | 55.4 | 84.9                      | 84.7 | 84.3     | 84.0 | 75.6                  | 76.7 | 78.0     | 76.1 |
| Norway                    | 49.0          | 50.7 | 50.3     | 49.4 | 83.6                      | 83.2 | 83.7     | 82.1 | 72.7                  | 73.4 | 73.3     | 72.7 |
| Poland                    | 31.2          | 32.3 | 31.4     | 27.9 | 83.0                      | 83.1 | 83.2     | 82.6 | 49.3                  | 49.9 | 50.4     | 50.7 |
| Portugal                  | 27.6          | 27.7 | 27.5     | 22.5 | 85.1                      | 85.5 | 85.2     | 82.9 | 60.2                  | 60.8 | 60.0     | 59.1 |
| Slovak Republic           | 24.9          | 24.5 | 24.1     | 22.1 | 81.6                      | 81.7 | 81.4     | 80.1 | 57.1                  | 58.1 | 57.0     | 58.1 |
| Slovenia                  | 33.7          | 32.5 | 32.4     | 23.1 | 89.0                      | 88.8 | 88.6     | 87.8 | 48.5                  | 48.4 | 49.3     | 50.2 |
| Spain                     | 22.2          | 22.5 | 22.3     | 16.5 | 75.8                      | 76.0 | 75.3     | 70.7 | 53.9                  | 54.6 | 55.3     | 53.6 |
| Sweden                    | 44.1          | 43.2 | 42.4     | 40.0 | 86.6                      | 86.4 | 85.9     | 84.8 | 77.9                  | 77.3 | 77.0     | 77.1 |
| Switzerland               | 62.0          | 61.1 | 60.5     | 57.9 | 87.6                      | 87.7 | 87.6     | 86.6 | 73.1                  | 73.4 | 73.5     | 73.0 |
| Turkey                    | 32.9          | 33.2 | 31.8     | 26.1 | 59.6                      | 59.8 | 58.8     | 55.5 | 33.8                  | 33.0 | 32.1     | 30.5 |
| United Kingdom            | 50.6          | 50.3 | 50.8     | 49.7 | 84.7                      | 85.1 | 85.4     | 85.4 | 66.3                  | 66.6 | 66.4     | 66.6 |
| United States             | 51.2          | 51.6 | 51.1     | 38.6 | 79.7                      | 80.4 | 80.2     | 71.4 | 63.5                  | 63.7 | 63.5     | 57.1 |

b: Break in time series

(1) Break in the Labour Force Survey for Germany in Q1 2020. This break also affects, to some extent, aggregates for the European Union, euro area and OECD-Total.

(2) Germany: data for Q1 and Q2 2020 are provisional. See [the note on the Eurostat web site](#) for more information.