

## OECD unemployment rate down to 5.1% in August 2019

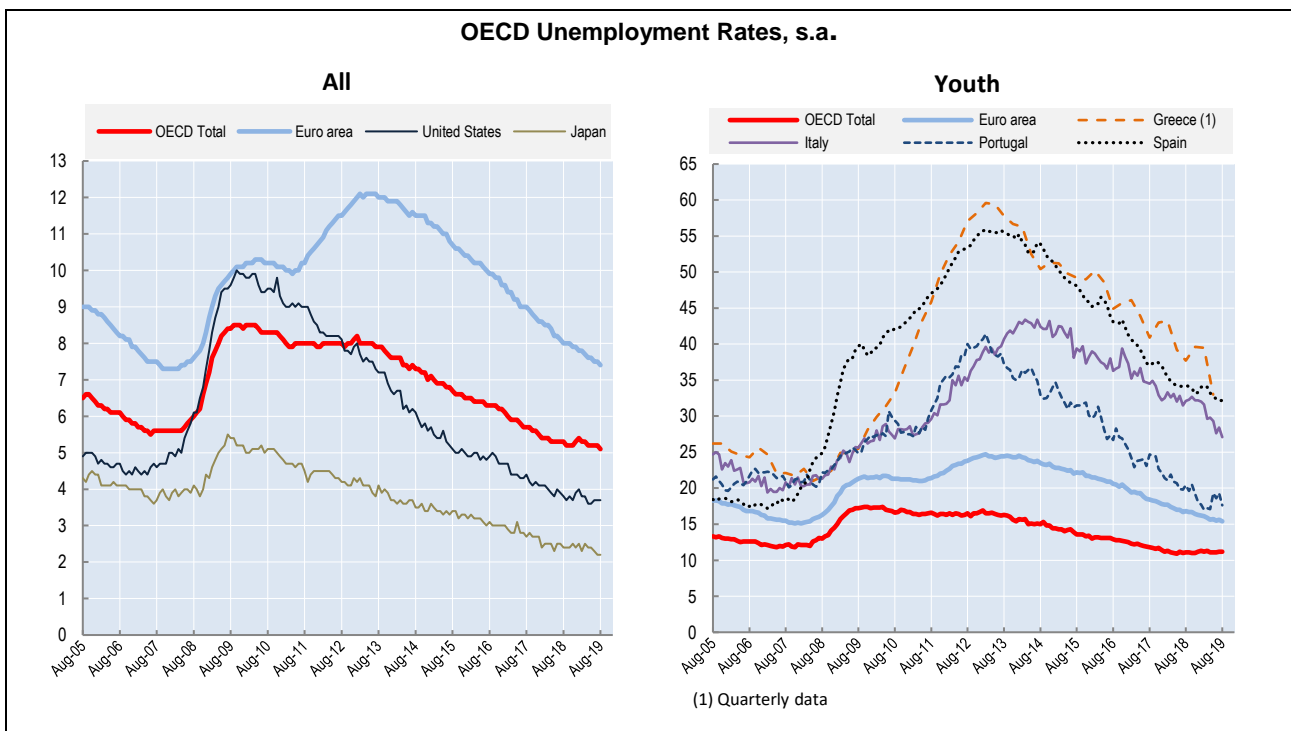
The **OECD** unemployment rate declined by 0.1 percentage point, to 5.1% in August 2019, the lowest level since data are available for the OECD area (April 1998). Among the **OECD** area, 32.9 million people were unemployed.

In the **euro area**, the unemployment rate declined by 0.1 percentage point in August, to 7.4%, the same level as in April 2008, just before the financial crisis. The largest declines were observed in **Italy** (down 0.3 percentage point, to 9.5%) and **Portugal** (down 0.2 percentage point, to 6.2%).

Outside Europe, the unemployment rate was stable in **Canada** (at 5.7%), **Japan** (2.2%), **Mexico** (3.5%) and the **United States** (3.7%) and fell by 0.9 percentage point in **Korea** (to 3.1%). More recent data show that the unemployment rate declined by 0.2 percentage point in the **United States** in September, to 3.5%, the lowest level since December 1969.

In August, the unemployment rate for **youth** (people aged 15 to 24) was stable at 11.2% in the **OECD** area. The **youth** unemployment rate decreased by 0.2 percentage point in the **euro area**, to 15.4%, with falls of more than 1.0 percentage point in **Italy**, **Latvia** and **Portugal**. However, it remained above 25% in **Greece** (in the second quarter of 2019), **Italy** and **Spain**.

The **OECD** unemployment rate for **women** declined by 0.1 percentage point (to 5.2%), slightly above the unemployment rate for **men** (stable at 5.1%).



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

The OECD area unemployment rate is calculated as the total number of unemployed persons in all OECD countries as a percentage of the total labour force (i.e., the unemployed plus those in employment); this is equivalent to an average of unemployment rates of all OECD countries weighted by the labour force of each country. Rates and levels are seasonally adjusted (s.a.).

**Labour Market Statistics:** <http://stats.oecd.org/index.aspx?queryid=36324>

**Country Note:** 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 Unemployment Rates, s.a.**  
*Percentage of the labour force*

	2016	2017	2018	2018		2019		2019						
				Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	
OECD - Total	6.3	5.8	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.2	5.3	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.1
Major Seven	5.5	5.0	4.6	4.5	4.4	4.4	4.3	4.4	4.3	4.2	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.2
European Union	8.6	7.6	6.8	6.7	6.6	6.5	6.3	6.4	6.4	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.2
Euro area	10.0	9.1	8.2	8.0	7.9	7.8	7.6	7.7	7.6	7.6	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.4
Australia	5.7	5.6	5.3	5.2	5.0	5.0	5.2	5.1	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.3
Austria	6.0	5.5	4.9	4.9	4.7	4.7	4.6	4.8	4.7	4.6	4.5	4.4	4.4	4.5
Belgium <sup>(1)</sup>	7.9	7.1	6.0	5.7	5.8	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5
Canada	7.0	6.3	5.8	5.9	5.6	5.8	5.5	5.8	5.7	5.4	5.5	5.7	5.7	5.7
Chile	6.5	6.7	7.0	6.9	7.2	6.9	6.8	6.9	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.9		
Czech Republic	4.0	2.9	2.3	2.3	2.1	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.1	1.9	2.1	2.0	
Denmark	6.0	5.8	5.1	5.0	5.1	5.2	4.9	5.3	5.1	4.9	4.7	4.9	5.0	
Estonia	6.8	5.8	5.4	5.4	4.7	4.3	4.8	4.0	4.9	5.0	4.6	4.2		
Finland	8.8	8.6	7.4	7.2	6.8	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.8	
France	10.1	9.4	9.1	9.0	8.9	8.7	8.5	8.6	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5
Germany	4.1	3.8	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.2	3.1	3.2	3.2	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1
Greece	23.6	21.5	19.3	18.9	18.6	18.4	17.2	18.1	17.4	17.1	17.0			
Hungary	5.1	4.2	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.4		
Iceland	3.0	2.8	2.7	2.7	2.8	3.1	3.4	3.2	3.3	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4
Ireland	8.4	6.7	5.8	5.6	5.6	5.1	5.2	5.0	5.2	5.2	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3
Israel	4.8	4.2	4.0	4.1	4.2	4.0	3.9	3.9	3.8	3.7	4.1	3.7	3.8	3.8
Italy	11.7	11.2	10.6	10.3	10.5	10.3	9.9	10.1	10.0	9.9	9.7	9.8	9.5	
Japan	3.1	2.8	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.5	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.2	2.2	2.2
Korea	3.7	3.7	3.8	4.0	3.8	4.0	4.0	3.8	4.1	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.1
Latvia	9.6	8.7	7.4	7.1	6.9	6.6	6.4	6.5	6.4	6.4	6.5	6.5	6.4	6.4
Lithuania	7.9	7.1	6.2	6.2	5.9	6.0	6.1	6.0	6.1	6.1	6.2	6.4	6.6	6.6
Luxembourg	6.3	5.6	5.5	5.6	5.3	5.4	5.7	5.6	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7
Mexico	3.9	3.4	3.3	3.3	3.4	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.5
Netherlands	6.0	4.9	3.8	3.8	3.6	3.4	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.5
New Zealand	5.1	4.7	4.3	4.0	4.3	4.2	3.9							
Norway	4.8	4.2	3.9	3.9	3.8	3.7	3.4	3.5	3.3	3.4	3.6	3.8		
Poland	6.2	4.9	3.9	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.4	3.7	3.5	3.4	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3
Portugal	11.2	9.0	7.1	6.8	6.6	6.5	6.6	6.5	6.6	6.6	6.5	6.4	6.2	6.2
Slovak Republic	9.7	8.1	6.5	6.4	6.1	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.6	5.5	5.5
Slovenia	8.0	6.6	5.1	5.1	4.4	4.5	4.3	4.5	4.5	4.3	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2
Spain	19.7	17.2	15.3	14.9	14.5	14.2	14.1	14.2	14.2	14.1	14.0	13.9	13.8	13.8
Sweden	7.0	6.7	6.3	6.4	6.2	6.3	6.4	6.7	6.0	6.5	6.7	7.2	7.4	7.4
Switzerland	4.9	4.8	4.7	4.4	4.7	4.7	4.3							
Turkey	10.9	10.9	11.0	11.3	12.2	13.5	13.9	13.7	13.8	13.9	14.0			
United Kingdom	4.8	4.4	4.0	4.0	3.9	3.7	3.8	3.7	3.7	3.8	3.8			
United States <sup>(2)</sup>	4.9	4.4	3.9	3.8	3.8	3.9	3.6	3.8	3.6	3.6	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7

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) United States: Unemployment rate for September 2019 was 3.5%.

**Table 2: Unemployment Rates by Gender, s.a.**  
*Percentage of the labour force of each group*

	Women						Men					
	2018	2019		2019			2018	2019		2019		
		Q1	Q2	Jun	Jul	Aug		Q1	Q2	Jun	Jul	Aug
OECD - Total	5.5	5.4	5.2	5.2	5.3	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.1	
Major Seven	4.5	4.4	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.6	4.5	4.4	4.3	4.3	4.3
European Union	7.1	6.8	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.6	6.2	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.0
Euro area	8.6	8.2	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.8	7.9	7.4	7.3	7.2	7.2	7.1
Australia	5.3	5.1	5.2	5.3	5.3	5.2	5.3	5.0	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.3
Austria	4.7	4.6	4.6	4.4	4.4	4.3	5.1	4.8	4.6	4.5	4.5	4.6
Belgium	5.6	5.0	5.1	5.2	5.2	5.2	6.3	6.0	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8
Canada	5.5	5.3	5.1	5.0	5.3	5.2	6.1	6.2	5.9	6.0	6.0	6.2
Chile	7.7	7.5	7.4	7.4	7.4		6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.5	
Czech Republic	2.8	2.2	2.5	2.4	2.5	2.5	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.5	1.8	1.6
Denmark	5.3	5.6	5.1	4.8	5.2	5.4	4.9	4.9	4.8	4.6	4.6	4.7
Estonia	5.3	4.5	5.3	5.1	5.0		5.4	4.1	4.5	4.2	3.5	
Finland	7.3	6.3	6.2	6.2	6.1	6.1	7.4	7.0	7.1	7.2	7.3	7.4
France	9.1	8.7	8.5	8.6	8.6	8.6	9.0	8.6	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5
Germany	2.9	2.9	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.7	3.8	3.5	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4
Greece	24.2	23.2	21.1	20.9			15.4	14.5	14.0	13.9		
Hungary	4.0	3.5	3.4	3.5	3.5		3.5	3.4	3.5	3.5	3.3	
Iceland	2.6	2.7	3.0	3.1	3.1	3.0	2.9	3.4	3.7	3.7	3.6	3.8
Ireland	5.7	4.7	5.1	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.8	5.4	5.3	5.4	5.4	5.5
Israel	4.0	4.2	4.0	4.1	3.9	4.2	4.0	3.9	3.7	4.1	3.5	3.4
Italy	11.8	11.3	10.9	10.7	10.8	10.5	9.8	9.6	9.2	9.0	9.0	8.7
Japan	2.2	2.3	2.2	2.0	2.1	2.0	2.6	2.6	2.5	2.6	2.4	2.4
Korea	3.7	3.8	3.7	3.8	4.0	3.0	3.9	4.0	4.2	4.2	4.0	3.2
Latvia	6.4	5.7	5.0	5.0	5.1	5.2	8.4	7.6	7.8	8.0	7.8	7.7
Lithuania	5.4	5.6	5.5	5.6	5.8	5.8	6.9	6.3	6.8	6.8	7.0	7.3
Luxembourg	5.7	5.5	5.8	5.8	5.9	5.9	5.3	5.3	5.6	5.7	5.6	5.6
Mexico	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.7	3.3	3.2	3.3	3.5	3.6	3.4	3.7
Netherlands	4.0	3.5	3.3	3.3	3.4	3.5	3.7	3.4	3.3	3.4	3.4	3.5
New Zealand	4.5	4.4	4.2				4.2	3.9	3.6			
Norway	3.6	3.6	3.2	3.4	3.6		4.1	3.8	3.6	3.8	4.1	
Poland	3.9	4.3	3.5	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.9	3.4	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.2
Portugal	7.4	7.3	7.2	7.3	7.2	7.1	6.6	5.8	5.9	5.8	5.6	5.2
Slovak Republic	7.0	6.0	5.8	5.7	5.6	5.5	6.1	5.6	5.7	5.7	5.6	5.5
Slovenia	5.7	5.2	4.8	4.6	4.5	4.5	4.6	3.9	3.9	3.8	3.9	4.0
Spain	17.0	16.2	15.9	15.7	15.6	15.6	13.7	12.5	12.6	12.5	12.4	12.3
Sweden	6.2	6.3	6.3	6.5	7.1	7.1	6.4	6.4	6.6	6.9	7.3	7.6
Switzerland	5.1	5.4	4.4				4.4	4.1	4.3			
Turkey <sup>(1)</sup>	13.9	16.5	16.4	16.5			9.6	12.1	12.7	12.8		
United Kingdom	4.0	3.6	3.5	3.5			4.1	3.9	4.0	4.0		
United States	3.8	3.8	3.5	3.6	3.7	3.6	4.0	4.0	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7

Note:

(1) 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 the labour force of each group*

	Youth (15-24)						Prime-age and Older Workers (25+)					
	2018	2019		2019			2018	2019		2019		
		Q1	Q2	Jun	Jul	Aug		Q1	Q2	Jun	Jul	Aug
OECD - Total	11.1	11.3	11.1	11.1	11.2	11.2	4.6	4.5	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4
Major Seven	9.8	9.6	9.3	9.2	9.4	9.4	3.9	3.8	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6
European Union	15.2	14.5	14.3	14.2	14.3	14.2	6.0	5.7	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5
Euro area	16.9	16.1	15.6	15.5	15.6	15.4	7.3	6.9	6.8	6.7	6.7	6.7
Australia	11.8	11.4	11.9	12.0	11.9	11.7	4.0	3.8	3.9	3.9	3.9	4.0
Austria	9.4	8.0	8.8	9.2	9.8	9.9	4.3	4.3	4.1	3.9	3.8	3.8
Belgium <sup>(1)</sup>	15.9	15.0	14.1	14.1			5.2	4.8	4.7	4.8	4.8	4.7
Canada	11.1	10.9	10.3	10.7	11.4	11.5	5.0	5.0	4.8	4.7	4.8	4.8
Chile	17.6	18.4	18.5	18.7	18.7		5.8	5.7	5.6	5.6	5.7	
Czech Republic	6.7	6.2	7.0	6.4	6.4	5.1	2.0	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.8	1.8
Denmark	10.5	11.0	9.3	8.7	9.5	9.7	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.0	4.1	4.2
Estonia	11.7	7.2	14.1	17.0	13.6		4.8	4.0	4.1	3.5	3.3	
Finland	16.9	16.7	16.8	16.9	17.0	17.1	6.1	5.3	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
France	20.7	19.7	19.4	19.4	19.3	19.2	7.8	7.5	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.4
Germany	6.2	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	3.1	2.9	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8
Greece <sup>(1)</sup>	39.9	39.5	33.0	33.0			18.2	17.3	16.4	16.1		
Hungary	10.2	11.3	11.5	11.2	9.9		3.2	2.8	2.8	2.9	2.9	
Iceland	6.0	7.4	7.6	7.6	7.6	8.0	2.1	2.3	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6
Ireland	13.7	12.7	14.3	14.8	14.8	14.8	4.7	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.1	4.0
Israel <sup>(2)</sup>	7.1	5.8	6.4	8.0	8.5	8.0	3.4	3.5	3.2	3.3	3.1	3.2
Italy	32.3	31.1	28.9	27.6	28.4	27.1	9.3	9.0	8.7	8.7		
Japan	3.7	3.4	3.8	3.8	3.4	3.7	2.3	2.4	2.2	2.2	2.1	2.1
Korea	10.5	10.3	11.5	11.4	11.1	9.1	3.4	3.5	3.6	3.5	3.6	2.7
Latvia	12.3	14.0	14.9	14.9	13.3	12.1	7.1	6.1	5.9	6.0	6.1	6.1
Lithuania	11.2	10.3	9.9	10.3	11.8	12.3	5.8	5.6	5.8	5.9	6.0	6.1
Luxembourg	14.1	13.9	14.8	14.9	14.6	14.1	4.8	4.6	4.9	4.9	4.9	5.0
Mexico	6.9	7.0	7.1	7.4	7.3	7.5	2.6	2.7	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.7
Netherlands	7.2	6.4	6.3	6.5	6.7	6.9	3.2	2.9	2.7	2.8	2.7	2.8
New Zealand	11.5	11.7	10.5				3.0	2.8	2.7			
Norway	9.6	10.1	9.6	10.2	10.3		3.0	2.7	2.5	2.7	2.9	
Poland	11.8	10.9	11.2	11.1	10.7	10.4	3.2	3.3	2.8	2.7	2.7	2.8
Portugal	20.3	17.3	18.3	18.6	19.3	17.6	6.0	5.7	5.7	5.6	5.4	5.3
Slovak Republic	14.9	14.5	15.7	15.7	15.3	15.1	5.9	5.2	5.1	5.0	5.0	4.9
Slovenia <sup>(1)</sup>	8.8	8.9	7.3	7.3			4.9	4.2	4.1	4.0	3.9	4.0
Spain	34.4	34.1	32.8	32.4	32.1	32.2	13.9	12.8	12.8	12.7	12.6	12.5
Sweden	16.5	18.0	17.7	16.9	19.6	21.4	5.0	4.9	5.0	5.5	5.7	5.7
Switzerland	7.9	6.9	7.7				4.3	4.4	3.9			
Turkey	20.3	25.1	25.5	25.7			9.2	11.3	11.7	11.8		
United Kingdom	11.3	10.6	11.2	11.2			3.0	2.8	2.7	2.7		
United States	8.6	8.9	8.3	8.1	8.5	8.6	3.2	3.1	2.9	3.0	3.0	3.0

Notes:

(1) Belgium, Greece and Slovenia: Quarterly data are shown for youth unemployment.

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

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

	2017	2018	2018	2019		2019			
				Q4	Q1	Q2	May	Jun	Jul
OECD - Total	36,283	33,700	33,477	33,879	33,211	33,166	33,238	33,252	32,909
Major Seven	18,890	17,410	17,064	17,083	16,381	16,342	16,369	16,434	16,330
European Union	18,778	16,892	16,360	16,010	15,645	15,676	15,530	15,543	15,432
Euro area	14,751	13,392	12,970	12,679	12,399	12,401	12,308	12,284	12,169
Australia	725	703	673	675	708	706	712	713	717
Austria	248	220	211	214	209	210	203	201	202
Belgium <sup>(1)</sup>	354	301	293	281	281	281	283	283	283
Canada	1,247	1,155	1,129	1,160	1,118	1,082	1,114	1,150	1,160
Chile	592	628	652	625	622	622	626	631	
Czech Republic	155	121	112	107	110	116	102	112	109
Denmark	172	152	154	157	149	149	142	148	152
Estonia	41	38	33	30	34	35	32	29	
Finland	234	202	188	184	183	183	183	184	185
France	2,788	2,701	2,661	2,575	2,532	2,528	2,534	2,531	2,530
Germany	1,621	1,468	1,421	1,396	1,361	1,360	1,347	1,335	1,328
Greece	1,027	915	876	870	813	811	805		
Hungary	192	172	171	161	161	161	162	157	
Iceland	6	6	6	6	7	7	7	7	7
Ireland	158	137	134	122	126	126	128	129	128
Israel	168	163	171	166	159	152	169	151	155
Italy	2,909	2,761	2,739	2,673	2,561	2,567	2,513	2,539	2,452
Japan	1,896	1,665	1,663	1,687	1,637	1,620	1,610	1,540	1,540
Korea	1,023	1,073	1,080	1,106	1,133	1,134	1,127	1,131	867
Latvia	85	73	67	65	62	62	63	62	62
Lithuania	103	90	86	88	90	89	91	93	96
Luxembourg	16	16	16	16	17	17	17	17	17
Mexico	1,854	1,850	1,889	1,954	2,011	1,999	2,048	2,007	2,027
Netherlands	438	350	331	316	305	302	313	313	321
New Zealand	127	118	120	115	109				
Norway	116	109	107	104	97	95	103	109	
Poland	844	659	643	650	583	578	568	562	564
Portugal	465	363	344	338	339	341	338	333	319
Slovak Republic	224	180	167	160	156	157	155	153	151
Slovenia	67	53	46	47	44	44	43	43	43
Spain	3,917	3,479	3,311	3,264	3,243	3,246	3,221	3,193	3,181
Sweden	359	343	339	349	352	358	370	394	405
Switzerland	234	231	232	231	214				
Turkey	3,451	3,544	3,960	4,397	4,511	4,520	4,535		
United Kingdom	1,447	1,347	1,309	1,265	1,277	1,297	1,276		
United States	6,982	6,314	6,141	6,327	5,896	5,888	5,975	6,063	6,044

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.