

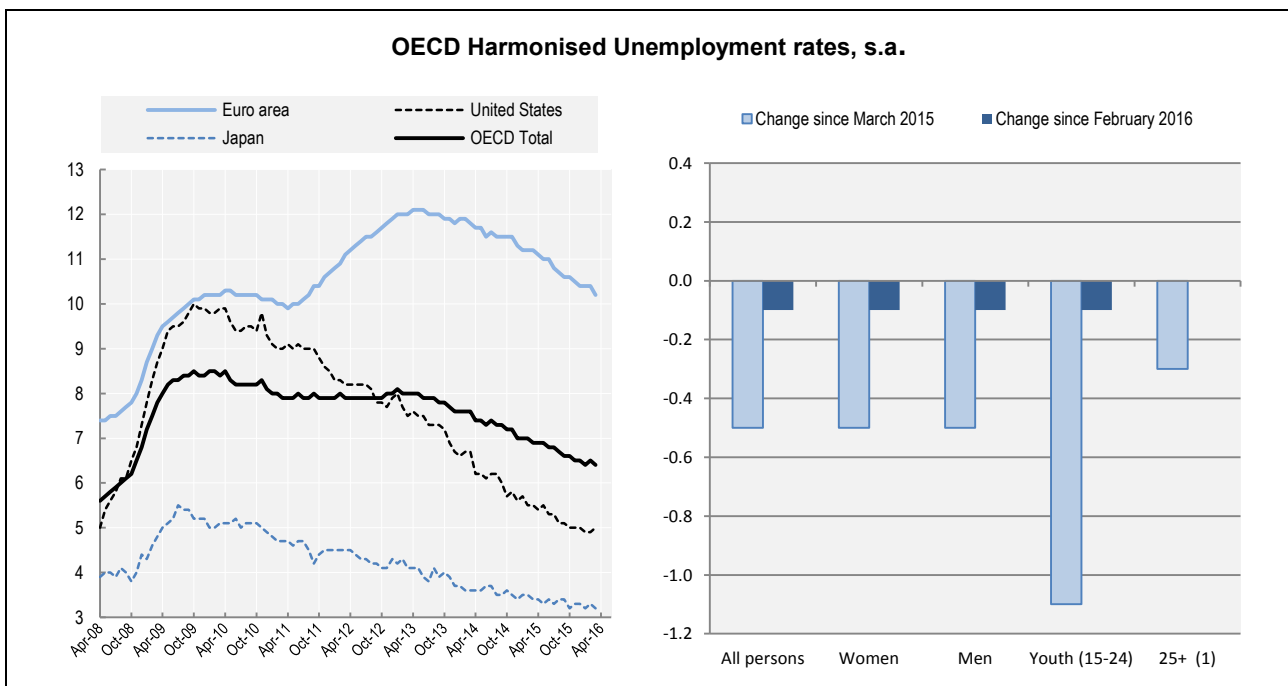
## OECD unemployment rate down to 6.4% in March 2016

The **OECD** unemployment rate fell by 0.1 percentage point to 6.4% in March 2016, 1.7 percentage point below the January 2013 peak. Across the OECD area, 39.7 million people were unemployed, 9.1 million less than in January 2013, but still 7.2 million more than in April 2008, before the crisis.

In March 2016, the **euro area** unemployment rate declined by 0.2 percentage point, to 10.2%, its lowest level since August 2011 and 1.9 percentage point below the peak recorded in April 2013. The unemployment rate declined most (by 0.2 percentage point) in **France** (to 10.0%), **Ireland** (to 8.6%) and **Italy** (to 11.4%).

The unemployment rate in March 2016 also fell in **Canada** (by 0.2 percentage point, to 7.1%), **Japan** (by 0.1 percentage point, to 3.2%) and **Mexico** (by 0.1 percentage point, to 4.1%), while it increased by 0.1 percentage point, to 5.0%, in the **United States**. More recent data show that in April 2016 the unemployment rate was stable in both the **United States** and **Canada**.

The OECD unemployment rate declined for most groups in March: **men** (down 0.1 percentage point, to 6.3%), **women** (down 0.1 percentage point, to 6.5%) and **youth** aged 15 to 24 (down 0.1 percentage point, to 13.1%). For people **above 25** the unemployment rate remained stable (at 5.6%) but, like for all other groups, the rate has declined significantly since March 2015.



(1) Compared to February 2016, change in OECD unemployment rate for people above 25 was zero percentage point.

**Methodological Notes:** <http://www.oecd.org/std/labourstatistics/44743407.pdf>

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

**New 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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**Table 1: OECD Unemployment Rates, s.a.**  
*Percentage of active population*

	2013	2014	2015	2015			2016	2015			2016		
				Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
OECD - Total	7.9	7.4	6.8	6.9	6.7	6.6	6.5	6.6	6.5	6.5	6.4	6.5	6.4
Major Seven	7.1	6.4	5.8	5.9	5.7	5.6	5.5	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.6	5.5
European Union	10.9	10.2	9.4	9.6	9.3	9.0	8.9	9.1	9.0	9.0	8.9	8.9	8.8
Euro area	12.0	11.6	10.9	11.0	10.7	10.5	10.3	10.6	10.5	10.4	10.4	10.4	10.2
Australia	5.7	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.2	5.8	5.8	5.9	5.8	5.8	6.0	5.8	5.7
Austria	5.4	5.6	5.7	5.8	5.7	5.8	5.9	5.7	5.8	5.9	5.9	5.9	5.8
Belgium	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.6	8.1	8.7	8.6	8.5	8.7	8.8	8.7	8.6	8.5
Canada <sup>(1)</sup>	7.1	6.9	6.9	6.8	7.0	7.0	7.2	7.0	7.0	7.1	7.2	7.3	7.1
Chile	5.9	6.4	6.2	6.3	6.2	6.2	6.3	6.3	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.3	
Czech Republic	7.0	6.1	5.1	5.1	4.8	4.5	4.2	4.6	4.5	4.4	4.3	4.2	4.1
Denmark	7.0	6.5	6.2	6.2	6.1	6.1	5.8	6.1	6.1	6.0	5.9	5.8	5.8
Estonia	8.6	7.4	6.2	6.5	5.5	6.2		6.1	6.4	6.2	6.3	6.3	
Finland	8.2	8.7	9.4	9.3	9.4	9.4	9.3	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.3	9.3	9.3
France	10.3	10.3	10.4	10.4	10.5	10.2	10.1	10.3	10.2	10.2	10.1	10.2	10.0
Germany	5.2	5.0	4.6	4.7	4.6	4.4	4.3	4.5	4.4	4.4	4.3	4.3	4.2
Greece	27.5	26.6	25.0	25.0	24.7	24.4		24.5	24.5	24.3	24.4		
Hungary	10.1	7.7	6.8	6.9	6.6	6.3		6.4	6.3	6.1	5.9	5.8	
Iceland	5.4	5.0	4.0	4.0	3.9	3.6	3.2	3.7	3.6	3.4	3.2	3.2	3.1
Ireland	13.1	11.3	9.4	9.6	9.1	9.1	8.8	9.1	9.1	9.0	8.9	8.8	8.6
Israel	6.2	5.9	5.2	5.1	5.2	5.2	5.3	5.2	5.4	5.2	5.1	5.3	5.3
Italy	12.1	12.7	11.9	12.2	11.6	11.6	11.5	11.6	11.5	11.6	11.6	11.6	11.4
Japan	4.0	3.6	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.2	3.2	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.3	3.2
Korea	3.1	3.5	3.6	3.8	3.6	3.5	3.8	3.4	3.5	3.5	3.5	4.1	3.8
Luxembourg	5.9	6.1	6.5	6.5	6.6	6.4	6.3	6.5	6.4	6.4	6.3	6.2	6.3
Mexico	4.9	4.8	4.4	4.4	4.3	4.3	4.2	4.4	4.1	4.5	4.1	4.2	4.1
Netherlands	7.2	7.4	6.9	6.9	6.8	6.7	6.5	6.9	6.7	6.6	6.5	6.5	6.4
New Zealand	6.2	5.8	5.8	5.9	6.0	5.4	5.7						
Norway	3.5	3.5	4.4	4.3	4.5	4.6		4.6	4.6	4.5	4.7	4.6	
Poland	10.3	9.0	7.5	7.5	7.4	7.1	6.8	7.2	7.1	7.0	6.9	6.8	6.8
Portugal	16.5	14.1	12.7	12.5	12.3	12.3	12.1	12.4	12.3	12.2	12.1	12.2	12.1
Slovak Republic	14.2	13.2	11.5	11.5	11.4	10.9	10.3	11.1	10.9	10.7	10.5	10.3	10.2
Slovenia	10.1	9.7	9.0	9.5	9.0	8.4	8.2	8.5	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.2	8.1
Spain	26.1	24.5	22.1	22.6	21.6	20.9	20.5	21.1	20.9	20.7	20.5	20.5	20.4
Sweden	8.0	7.9	7.4	7.6	7.2	7.1	7.1	7.2	6.9	7.2	7.0	7.1	7.2
Switzerland	4.4	4.5	4.5	4.2	4.9	4.7							
Turkey <sup>(2)</sup>	8.7	10.0	10.3	10.2	10.4	10.4		10.6	10.4	10.2	10.1		
United Kingdom	7.6	6.2	5.3	5.5	5.3	5.0		5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0		
United States <sup>(3)</sup>	7.4	6.2	5.3	5.4	5.2	5.0	4.9	5.0	5.0	5.0	4.9	4.9	5.0

## Notes:

(1) Canada: Unemployment rate for April 2016 was 7.1%.

(2) Following the changes introduced in the Labour Force Survey for Turkey, data from January 2014 onwards are not comparable with previous data.

(3) United States: Unemployment rate for April 2016 was 5.0%.

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

	Women						Men					
	2015	2015	2016	2016			2015	2015	2016	2016		
		Q4	Q1	Jan	Feb	Mar		Q4	Q1	Jan	Feb	Mar
OECD - Total	6.9	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.5	6.7	6.5	6.4	6.3	6.4	6.3
Major Seven	5.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	6.0	5.8	5.6	5.6	5.7	5.6
European Union	9.5	9.2	9.0	9.1	9.0	9.0	9.3	8.9	8.7	8.8	8.7	8.6
Euro area	11.0	10.7	10.6	10.6	10.6	10.5	10.7	10.3	10.1	10.1	10.1	10.0
Australia	6.1	5.9	5.9	6.0	5.9	5.7	6.1	5.8	5.8	6.0	5.7	5.7
Austria	5.3	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	6.1	6.2	6.3	6.4	6.4	6.1
Belgium	7.8	8.0	7.9	7.9	7.8	7.9	9.1	9.2	9.2	9.3	9.2	9.1
Canada	6.3	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.3	7.5	7.6	8.0	7.9	8.1	7.9
Chile	6.8	6.3	6.9	6.9	6.9		5.8	6.1	5.9	5.7	5.9	
Czech Republic	6.1	5.5	5.0	5.2	5.0	4.8	4.3	3.8	3.5	3.6	3.5	3.5
Denmark	6.4	6.4	6.3	6.2	6.3	6.4	5.9	5.7	5.4	5.5	5.4	5.2
Estonia	6.1	6.2		6.0	5.5		6.3	6.4		6.6	7.1	
Finland	8.8	8.9	8.9	8.9	8.9	9.0	9.9	9.9	9.6	9.7	9.6	9.6
France	9.9	9.8	9.6	9.7	9.7	9.4	10.8	10.7	10.6	10.6	10.6	10.5
Germany	4.2	4.2	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	5.0	4.7	4.4	4.5	4.4	4.4
Greece	28.9	28.5		28.7			21.8	21.2		21.1		
Hungary	7.0	6.4		6.1	5.9		6.7	6.2		5.8	5.6	
Iceland	4.1	3.2	2.7	2.8	2.7	2.6	3.9	3.9	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6
Ireland	7.7	7.1	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.7	10.9	10.8	10.4	10.6	10.4	10.2
Israel	5.4	5.6	5.4	5.4	5.5	5.3	5.1	4.9	5.1	4.9	5.1	5.3
Italy	12.7	12.2	12.2	12.4	12.2	11.9	11.3	11.1	11.0	11.0	11.2	10.9
Japan	3.1	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.8	3.0	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.6	3.4
Korea	3.6	3.3	3.6	3.3	4.0	3.6	3.7	3.5	3.9	3.6	4.1	4.0
Luxembourg	7.2	7.2	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	5.8	5.8	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.7
Mexico	4.5	4.5	4.3	4.3	4.4	4.1	4.2	4.2	4.1	4.0	4.1	4.1
Netherlands	7.3	7.2	6.9	6.9	7.0	6.9	6.6	6.3	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.0
New Zealand	6.3	5.8	6.2				5.2	5.0	5.2			
Norway	4.0	4.1		4.2	4.1		4.7	5.1		5.2	5.1	
Poland	7.7	7.1	6.9	7.0	6.9	6.9	7.3	7.0	6.7	6.8	6.7	6.6
Portugal	12.9	12.4	12.2	12.1	12.2	12.3	12.4	12.2	12.0	12.1	12.2	11.8
Slovak Republic	12.9	12.5	12.0	12.1	12.0	11.8	10.3	9.5	9.0	9.1	9.0	8.8
Slovenia	10.1	9.0	8.7	8.7	8.6	8.7	8.1	7.8	7.8	8.0	7.8	7.6
Spain	23.6	22.5	22.3	22.3	22.3	22.2	20.8	19.5	18.9	19.0	18.9	18.7
Sweden	7.2	6.9	6.6	6.7	6.7	6.5	7.5	7.3	7.6	7.3	7.5	7.9
Switzerland	4.6	4.8					4.5	4.6				
Turkey <sup>(1)</sup>	12.7	12.6		12.3			9.2	9.4		9.1		
United Kingdom	5.1	4.9		4.9			5.5	5.1		5.1		
United States	5.2	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	5.0	5.4	5.2	4.9	4.9	4.9	5.0

Note:

(1) Following the changes introduced in the Labour Force Survey for Turkey, data from January 2014 onwards are not comparable with previous data. From this date, data by gender 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+)					
	2015	2015	2016	2016			2015	2015	2016	2016		
		Q4	Q1	Jan	Feb	Mar		Q4	Q1	Jan	Feb	Mar
OECD - Total	13.9	13.4	13.1	13.0	13.2	13.1	5.8	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6
Major Seven	12.8	12.3	11.8	11.7	12.0	11.8	4.9	4.8	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7
European Union	20.4	19.7	19.3	19.5	19.4	19.1	8.3	7.9	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.7
Euro area	22.4	21.9	21.5	21.7	21.7	21.2	9.7	9.4	9.3	9.3	9.3	9.2
Australia	13.1	12.3	12.2	12.6	12.2	12.0	4.6	4.5	4.6	4.7	4.5	4.5
Austria	10.6	11.5	11.7	12.2	12.0	10.9	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.1
Belgium	22.1	25.1	24.5	24.5	24.5	24.5	7.3	7.3	7.2	7.3	7.2	7.2
Canada	13.2	12.9	13.2	13.0	13.3	13.4	5.8	6.1	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.1
Chile	15.5	15.2	15.1	14.7	15.1		5.0	5.0	5.1	5.1	5.1	
Czech Republic	12.6	11.1	10.0	10.3	9.8	9.8	4.5	4.0	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.7
Denmark	10.8	10.8	10.9	10.8	10.9	11.0	5.3	5.2	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.8
Estonia	13.4	15.3		14.7	13.5		5.6	5.5		5.6	5.7	
Finland	22.0	21.9	21.9	22.0	21.9	21.9	7.6	7.7	7.6	7.6	7.6	7.6
France	24.7	24.5	24.3	24.4	24.4	24.0	8.9	8.7	8.6	8.7	8.7	8.5
Germany	7.2	7.1	7.0	7.0	7.0	6.9	4.4	4.2	4.0	4.1	4.0	4.0
Greece	49.8	48.9		51.9			23.4	23.0		22.9		
Hungary	17.2	15.2		14.4	14.1		6.0	5.6		5.2	5.1	
Iceland	8.8	7.8	7.2	7.3	7.2	7.2	3.0	2.7	2.3	2.4	2.3	2.3
Ireland	20.9	20.4	19.7	20.2	20.0	19.0	8.4	8.0	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.7
Israel	9.2	9.0	8.0	7.3	8.7	8.0	4.5	4.6	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.4
Italy	40.4	38.7	37.9	38.8	38.2	36.7	10.0	9.8				
Japan	5.6	5.3	5.6	5.0	5.9	5.8	3.2	3.1	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
Korea	10.5	10.1	10.9	10.0	11.2	11.6	3.1	3.0	3.3	3.0	3.5	3.2
Luxembourg	16.4	15.5	15.2	15.0	15.2	15.3	5.5	5.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Mexico	8.7	8.6	8.3	8.0	8.5	8.4	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.2
Netherlands	11.3	11.3	11.3	11.2	11.3	11.4	6.1	5.9	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.5
New Zealand	14.7	13.9	14.3				4.0	3.7	4.0			
Norway	9.9	9.7		11.0	11.0		3.5	3.8		3.8	3.7	
Poland	20.8	20.1	19.7	19.8	19.8	19.5	6.4	6.0	5.7	5.8	5.7	5.7
Portugal	32.0	31.5	30.3	30.0	30.2	30.7	11.2	10.8	10.7	10.7	10.8	10.7
Slovak Republic	26.4	25.7	24.1	24.4	24.1	23.9	10.2	9.7	9.2	9.3	9.2	9.1
Slovenia	16.4	16.9	16.6	16.6	16.6	16.6	8.4	7.7	7.6	7.6	7.6	7.6
Spain	48.4	46.5	45.8	45.9	45.9	45.5	20.2	19.1	18.7	18.8	18.7	18.6
Sweden	20.2	19.0	19.5	19.7	19.5	19.3	5.6	5.4	5.3	5.2	5.3	5.5
Switzerland	8.6	9.8					4.0	3.9				
Turkey <sup>(1)</sup>	18.6	18.5		17.8			8.6	8.8		8.5		
United Kingdom	14.6	13.4		13.2			3.9	3.7		3.7		
United States	11.6	11.2	10.4	10.3	10.5	10.4	4.3	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.0	4.2

Note:

(1) Following the changes introduced in the Labour Force Survey for Turkey, data from January 2014 onwards are not comparable with previous data.

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

	2014	2015	2015		2016	2015	2016		
			Q3	Q4	Q1	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
OECD - Total	44,688	41,496	41,067	40,350	39,846	40,335	39,788	40,012	39,729
Major Seven	23,639	21,617	21,332	20,918	20,748	20,955	20,724	20,795	20,723
European Union	24,802	22,872	22,557	22,010	21,608	21,892	21,737	21,669	21,419
Euro area	18,631	17,445	17,197	16,887	16,601	16,803	16,702	16,663	16,437
Australia	744	760	777	735	737	727	759	730	723
Austria	245	252	250	258	262	263	264	263	258
Belgium	423	422	402	431	426	438	432	425	422
Canada	1,322	1,331	1,345	1,369	1,395	1,386	1,390	1,410	1,385
Chile	540	532	535	535	540	532	531	540	
Czech Republic	324	268	256	238	224	235	229	224	218
Denmark	190	181	181	179	175	179	176	175	173
Estonia	50	42	37	43		43	43	43	
Finland	232	252	254	253	249	252	250	249	249
France	3,026	3,047	3,101	3,011	2,960	2,996	2,978	2,985	2,918
Germany	2,090	1,950	1,918	1,875	1,820	1,858	1,839	1,819	1,801
Greece	1,274	1,197	1,192	1,176		1,166	1,169		
Hungary	344	308	300	285		279	268	262	
Iceland	9	8	7	7	6	6	6	6	6
Ireland	243	204	198	196	191	196	193	191	188
Israel	223	202	202	204	205	201	200	206	209
Italy	3,230	3,033	2,945	2,949	2,937	2,961	2,958	2,958	2,895
Japan	2,359	2,218	2,227	2,160	2,130	2,210	2,120	2,160	2,110
Korea	937	976	976	937	1,030	940	941	1,105	1,042
Luxembourg	16	18	18	18	17	18	17	17	17
Mexico	2,511	2,306	2,288	2,332	2,224	2,420	2,216	2,259	2,198
Netherlands	660	614	605	600	576	588	574	581	574
New Zealand	141	144	149	134	144				
Norway	96	121	125	128		127	133	130	
Poland	1,567	1,304	1,283	1,232	1,190	1,214	1,200	1,191	1,180
Portugal	729	648	630	628	618	622	616	622	615
Slovak Republic	359	314	310	299	284	294	288	284	281
Slovenia	98	90	91	83	82	83	83	81	81
Spain	5,611	5,056	4,943	4,773	4,674	4,730	4,699	4,682	4,640
Sweden	411	387	375	372	374	379	369	373	380
Switzerland	216	219	237	229					
Turkey <sup>(1)</sup>	2,860	3,054	3,114	3,128		3,086	3,035		
United Kingdom	1,996	1,741	1,732	1,646		1,640	1,648		
United States	9,616	8,296	8,064	7,909	7,857	7,904	7,791	7,815	7,966

Note:

(1) Following the changes introduced in the Labour Force Survey for Turkey, data from January 2014 onwards are not comparable with previous data.