

## OECD unemployment rate at 8.1% in January 2013

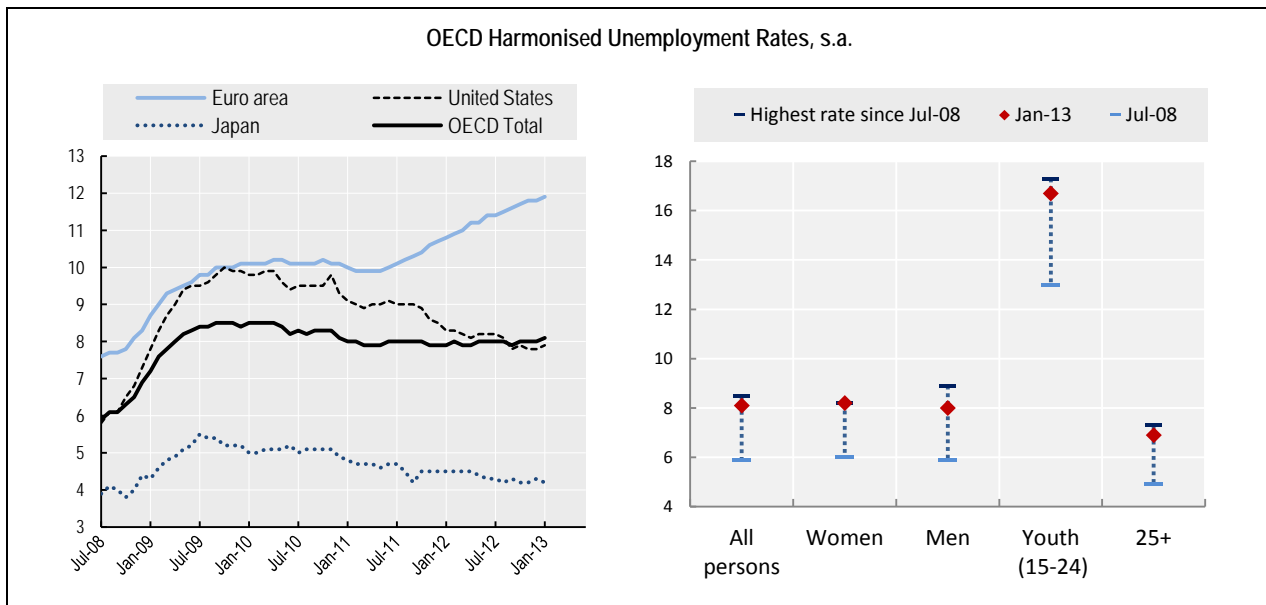
The **OECD** unemployment rate increased to 8.1% in January 2013, compared with 8.0% in the previous month.

In the **euro area**, the unemployment rate hit a new record high - up 0.1 percentage point to 11.9% in January. The unemployment rate also rose by 0.1 percentage point in the **United States** (to 7.9%), while it fell by 0.1 percentage point in **Canada** (to 7.0%) and in **Japan** (to 4.2%). More recent data referring to the month of February show that the unemployment rate fell by 0.2 percentage points in the **United States** (to 7.7%) while it was stable in **Canada**.

Trends in unemployment rates have differed across population groups since the beginning of the financial and economic crisis. In January, the OECD unemployment rate for **men** (up 0.1 percentage point to 8.0%) was 0.9 percentage point below the peak of 8.9% reached in 2009. By contrast, the OECD unemployment rate for **women** was at its highest level (at 8.2% for the second consecutive month), having hovered around 8.0% since July 2009. In January 2013, the unemployment rates for **men** and **women** were respectively 2.1 and 2.2 percentage points above their pre-crisis level.

The OECD unemployment rate for **youth** (up 0.2 percentage point to 16.7%) was 0.6 percentage point below its peak, but remained 3.7 percentage points above its pre-crisis level and was more than twice as high as the rate for the working age population as a whole. The youth unemployment rate reached a peak of 24.2% in the **Euro area**. In January 2013, more than one active youth in three were unemployed in **Italy, Portugal and Slovak Republic**, and more than one in two in **Greece and Spain**.

Overall, there were 48.8 million people unemployed in the OECD area in January 2013, 0.5 million more than in December 2012 and 14 million more than in July 2008.



**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.

**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](mailto:news.contact@oecd.org)

For technical questions contact [stat.contact@oecd.org](mailto:stat.contact@oecd.org)

**Next release: Thursday, 11 April 2013**

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

	2010	2011	2012	2012				2012					2013
				Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
OECD - Total	8.3	8.0	8.0	7.9	7.9	7.9	8.0	8.0	7.9	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.1
Major Seven	8.2	7.7	7.4	7.5	7.4	7.4	7.3	7.4	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.4
European Union	9.7	9.7	10.5	10.2	10.4	10.5	10.7	10.5	10.6	10.7	10.7	10.7	10.8
Euro area	10.1	10.1	11.3	10.9	11.3	11.5	11.8	11.5	11.6	11.7	11.8	11.8	11.9
Australia	5.2	5.1	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.3	5.3	5.1	5.5	5.4	5.3	5.4	5.4
Austria	4.4	4.1	4.4	4.1	4.3	4.5	4.6	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.7	4.9
Belgium	8.3	7.2	7.4	7.1	7.5	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.3	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.4
Canada <sup>(1)</sup>	8.0	7.5	7.2	7.4	7.3	7.3	7.2	7.3	7.3	7.4	7.2	7.1	7.0
Chile	8.2	7.1	6.4	6.7	6.3	6.2	6.5	6.2	6.4	6.4	6.5	6.4	
Czech Republic	7.3	6.7	7.0	6.8	6.9	7.0	7.2	7.1	6.8	7.1	7.5	7.1	7.0
Denmark	7.5	7.6	7.5	7.5	7.9	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.3	7.3	7.4	7.4	7.4
Estonia	16.9	12.6	10.1	10.7	10.0	9.9	9.8	10.0	9.7	9.7	9.9	9.9	
Finland	8.4	7.8	7.7	7.6	7.7	7.8	7.7	7.8	7.8	7.7	7.7	7.7	7.9
France	9.7	9.6	10.2	10.0	10.2	10.3	10.4	10.3	10.3	10.4	10.4	10.5	10.6
Germany	7.1	6.0	5.5	5.6	5.5	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.3	5.3
Greece	12.6	17.7		21.8	23.9	25.5		25.6	26.0	26.6	27.0		
Hungary	11.2	11.0	10.9	11.1	11.0	10.7	11.0	10.7	10.8	10.9	10.9	11.1	
Iceland	7.6	7.1	6.0	6.5	6.2	5.8	5.5	5.8	5.6	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.6
Ireland	13.9	14.7	14.8	15.1	14.8	14.8	14.7	14.8	14.8	14.7	14.7	14.7	14.7
Israel	6.6	5.6	6.9	6.9	6.9	6.8	6.8	6.9	6.9	6.9	6.7	6.8	6.5
Italy	8.4	8.4	10.7	10.0	10.6	10.7	11.2	10.6	10.9	11.2	11.2	11.3	11.7
Japan	5.1	4.6	4.4	4.5	4.4	4.3	4.2	4.2	4.3	4.2	4.2	4.3	4.2
Korea	3.7	3.4	3.2	3.4	3.3	3.1	3.0	3.1	3.1	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.2
Luxembourg	4.6	4.8	5.0	4.9	5.0	5.0	5.1	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.1	5.2	5.3
Mexico	5.4	5.2	5.0	5.0	5.0	4.8	5.0	5.0	4.7	4.9	5.2	5.0	5.2
Netherlands	4.5	4.5	5.3	5.0	5.1	5.3	5.6	5.3	5.4	5.5	5.6	5.8	6.0
New Zealand	6.5	6.5	6.9	6.7	6.8	7.3	6.9						
Norway	3.6	3.3	3.2	3.2	3.0	3.1	3.4	3.1	3.1	3.3	3.5	3.5	
Poland	9.7	9.7	10.1	9.9	10.0	10.2	10.4	10.2	10.3	10.3	10.4	10.4	10.6
Portugal	11.0	12.9	15.9	14.9	15.6	16.2	17.0	16.2	16.4	16.8	17.0	17.3	17.6
Slovak Republic	14.5	13.6	14.0	13.7	13.9	14.1	14.5	14.1	14.0	14.2	14.5	14.7	14.9
Slovenia	7.3	8.2	9.0	8.2	8.5	9.4	9.9	9.4	9.6	9.9	9.9	10.0	10.2
Spain	20.1	21.6	25.1	23.9	24.7	25.5	26.1	25.5	25.7	26.0	26.2	26.1	26.2
Sweden	8.6	7.8	8.0	7.8	7.9	8.0	8.1	8.1	8.1	8.0	8.4	8.0	8.0
Switzerland	4.5	4.0		4.3	3.7	4.4							
Turkey	10.7	8.8		8.1	7.9	8.1		8.1	8.3	8.2	8.3		
United Kingdom	7.8	8.0		8.1	7.9	7.8		7.8	7.8	7.8	7.7		
United States <sup>(2)</sup>	9.6	9.0	8.1	8.3	8.2	8.0	7.8	8.1	7.8	7.9	7.8	7.8	7.9

Notes:

(1) Canada: Unemployment rate for February 2013 was 7.0%

(2) United States: Unemployment rate for February 2013 was 7.7%

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

	Women						Men					
	2012	2012		2012		2013	2012	2012		2012		2013
		Q3	Q4	Nov	Dec			Jan	Q3	Q4	Nov	
OECD - Total	8.1	8.0	8.1	8.1	8.2	8.2	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.9	8.0
Major Seven	7.3	7.2	7.2	7.2	7.3	7.3	7.5	7.5	7.4	7.4	7.3	7.5
European Union	10.5	10.6	10.8	10.8	10.8	10.9	10.4	10.5	10.7	10.7	10.7	10.8
Euro area	11.6	11.6	11.9	11.9	12.0	12.1	11.2	11.3	11.6	11.6	11.7	11.8
Australia	5.3	5.2	5.3	5.2	5.3	5.4	5.2	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.4	5.4
Austria	4.3	4.5	4.3	4.1	4.4	4.7	4.4	4.5	4.9	4.9	5.0	5.1
Belgium	7.4	7.4	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.2	7.3	7.4	7.5	7.5	7.6	7.6
Canada	6.8	6.8	6.7	6.6	6.7	6.5	7.7	7.8	7.7	7.7	7.5	7.4
Chile	7.9	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.7		5.4	5.1	5.6	5.6	5.5	
Czech Republic	8.2	8.2	8.4	8.8	8.3	8.1	6.0	6.0	6.3	6.4	6.1	6.1
Denmark	7.5	7.3	7.4	7.4	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.4	7.4	7.3	7.4
Estonia	9.2	9.0	8.8	8.9	8.6		11.0	10.9	10.8	10.9	11.1	
Finland	7.1	7.1	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.3	8.3	8.4	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.4
France	10.4	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.6	10.1	10.1	10.4	10.4	10.5	10.6
Germany	5.2	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.7	5.7	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.5
Greece		29.4		31.1				22.6		24.0		
Hungary	10.7	10.4	10.7	10.7	10.7		11.2	11.0	11.2	11.1	11.3	
Iceland	5.7	5.4	5.2	5.1	5.2	5.2	6.4	6.0	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.9
Ireland	11.0	11.0	11.0	11.1	10.9	10.9	17.9	17.8	17.6	17.6	17.7	17.8
Israel	7.0	6.7	6.7	6.5	6.8	6.5	6.8	6.9	6.9	6.9	6.7	6.5
Italy	11.9	11.9	12.4	12.4	12.4	12.8	9.9	9.9	10.4	10.4	10.4	10.8
Japan	4.0	3.9	4.0	3.9	4.0	3.8	4.6	4.5	4.4	4.4	4.5	4.6
Korea	3.0	2.9	2.7	2.7	2.5	2.8	3.4	3.3	3.2	3.2	3.3	3.4
Luxembourg	5.6	5.6	5.7	5.7	5.8	5.9	4.5	4.5	4.6	4.6	4.8	4.8
Mexico	5.0	4.8	5.2	5.3	5.1	5.3	4.9	4.8	4.9	5.1	4.9	5.1
Netherlands	5.2	5.3	5.4	5.4	5.5	5.6	5.3	5.3	5.8	5.8	6.1	6.4
New Zealand	7.3	7.4	7.6				6.5	7.1	6.3			
Norway	2.8	2.7	3.2	3.3	3.3		3.6	3.4	3.6	3.7	3.7	
Poland	10.9	11.0	11.2	11.2	11.3	11.4	9.5	9.6	9.7	9.7	9.7	9.9
Portugal	15.9	15.7	17.1	17.1	17.5	17.7	16.0	16.6	17.0	16.9	17.2	17.5
Slovak Republic	14.5	14.7	14.8	14.8	14.9	15.0	13.6	13.5	14.2	14.2	14.5	14.8
Slovenia	9.6	10.2	10.4	10.4	10.3	10.5	8.5	8.7	9.5	9.4	9.8	10.0
Spain	25.4	25.8	26.6	26.7	26.6	26.7	24.7	25.2	25.7	25.7	25.7	25.9
Sweden	7.7	7.7	7.9	8.2	7.8	7.6	8.2	8.3	8.3	8.5	8.2	8.3
Switzerland		4.6						4.1				
Turkey		9.4		9.9				7.6		7.6		
United Kingdom		7.3		7.3				8.2		8.1		
United States	7.9	7.8	7.7	7.6	7.8	7.8	8.2	8.2	7.9	7.9	7.9	8.0

**Table 3: Unemployment Rates by Age, s.a.**  
*Percentage of corresponding active population*

	Youth (15-24)						Prime and Older Workers (25+)					
	2012	2012		2012		2013	2012	2012		2012		2013
		Q3	Q4	Nov	Dec			Jan	Q3	Q4	Nov	
OECD - Total	16.3	16.2	16.4	16.3	16.5	16.7	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.9
Major Seven	16.1	16.0	16.0	15.8	16.2	16.4	6.3	6.2	6.2	6.1	6.1	6.1
European Union	22.9	22.9	23.3	23.4	23.4	23.6	9.1	9.1	9.3	9.3	9.3	9.4
Euro area	23.1	23.4	23.9	24.0	24.0	24.2	10.1	10.2	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.6
Australia	11.7	11.9	12.0	11.7	11.9	11.8	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	4.0	4.0
Austria	8.7	9.1	8.8	8.6	9.1	9.9	3.6	3.8	3.9	3.9	4.0	4.2
Belgium	19.0	19.2	19.3	19.2	19.3	19.6	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.3
Canada	14.3	14.6	14.2	14.0	14.1	13.5	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	5.9	5.8
Chile	16.3	15.5	16.9	16.9	17.2		4.9	4.8	5.0	5.0	4.8	
Czech Republic	19.5	19.0	19.5	20.3	19.6	18.3	6.0	6.1	6.3	6.5	6.1	6.1
Denmark	14.1	13.3	14.3	14.4	14.7	15.0	6.3	6.4	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1
Estonia	20.9	20.4	18.8	19.2	19.4		8.9	8.8	8.8	8.9	8.8	
Finland	18.9	18.8	18.9	18.9	18.9	19.5	6.1	6.2	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.2
France	24.6	25.0	26.4	26.5	26.7	26.9	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.8
Germany	8.2	8.1	8.0	8.0	7.9	7.9	5.2	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.0	5.0
Greece		56.9		59.4				23.4		24.9		
Hungary	28.3	29.3	28.5	27.9	28.4		9.7	9.3	9.6	9.6	9.7	
Iceland	13.7	12.3	12.0	12.0	11.9	11.9	4.5	4.4	4.1	4.1	4.2	4.2
Ireland	30.5	30.6	30.1	29.9	30.3	30.9	13.0	12.9	12.9	12.9	12.8	12.8
Israel	12.1	13.6	11.9	11.7	11.9	11.2	5.8	5.6	6.1	6.1	6.0	5.9
Italy	35.2	35.1	36.9	37.3	37.1	38.7	8.9	9.0	9.4	9.4	9.4	
Japan	8.1	7.9	7.2	7.0	7.1	7.3	4.0	4.0	3.9	3.9	4.0	4.0
Korea	9.0	8.9	8.4	8.1	8.6	8.1	2.8	2.7	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.8
Luxembourg	18.1	17.7	18.3	18.3	18.5	18.5	4.1	4.1	4.2	4.2	4.3	4.4
Mexico	9.5	9.2	9.6	9.8	9.3	10.2	3.8	3.7	3.9	4.1	3.9	4.0
Netherlands	9.5	9.4	9.8	9.7	10.0	10.3	4.5	4.5	4.8	4.8	5.0	5.2
New Zealand	17.6	18.1	19.2				4.9	5.1	4.6			
Norway	8.6	8.7	9.6	9.7	9.7		2.3	2.2	2.4	2.5	2.5	
Poland	26.5	26.7	27.6	27.7	27.7	28.1	8.5	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.8
Portugal	37.7	39.3	38.5	38.5	38.3	38.6	14.0	14.1	15.2	15.2	15.6	15.9
Slovak Republic	34.3	34.5	35.5	35.6	35.8	35.9	12.1	12.2	12.5	12.5	12.7	12.9
Slovenia	21.5	23.9	27.1	27.1	27.1		8.0	8.2	8.4	8.3	8.5	8.7
Spain	53.2	54.1	55.3	55.3	55.4	55.5	22.7	23.1	23.7	23.8	23.8	23.9
Sweden	23.6	24.0	24.1	24.7	24.1	23.5	5.7	5.7	5.8	6.0	5.7	5.7
Switzerland		10.1						3.4				
Turkey		15.7		16.6				6.7		6.7		
United Kingdom		20.5		20.7				5.7		5.6		
United States	16.2	16.2	16.0	15.6	16.3	16.8	6.8	6.7	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5

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

	2011	2012	2012			2012			2013
			Q2	Q3	Q4	Oct	Nov	Dec	
OECD - Total	47,282	47,814	47,715	47,860	48,191	48,100	48,177	48,277	48,751
Major Seven	28,098	27,303	27,417	27,178	27,011	27,093	26,865	27,073	27,308
European Union	23,144	25,253	25,080	25,443	25,932	25,825	25,977	25,995	26,217
Euro area	16,021	18,065	17,897	18,283	18,738	18,653	18,764	18,797	18,998
Australia	611	635	624	643	651	655	640	658	660
Austria	179	189	188	197	200	198	196	205	216
Belgium	347	359	363	362	363	361	364	365	365
Canada	1,393	1,368	1,369	1,379	1,373	1,396	1,364	1,358	1,323
Chile	574	524	516	508	531	520	531	521	
Czech Republic	351	367	361	367	380	376	391	373	371
Denmark	221	219	230	215	214	212	214	216	217
Estonia	87	70	70	70	68	67	68	68	
Finland	209	207	206	209	207	208	207	206	212
France	2,801	3,001	2,975	3,025	3,075	3,059	3,078	3,088	3,122
Germany	2,501	2,318	2,323	2,294	2,282	2,287	2,284	2,276	2,266
Greece	877		1,188	1,275		1,330	1,350		
Hungary	470	476	477	467	478	477	476	482	
Iceland	13	11	11	10	10	10	10	10	10
Ireland	317	318	318	317	315	316	315	315	315
Israel	180	247	250	248	248	252	246	247	236
Italy	2,103	2,746	2,719	2,752	2,889	2,888	2,891	2,889	2,999
Japan	3,018	2,848	2,877	2,803	2,750	2,740	2,730	2,780	2,790
Korea	855	820	838	794	764	771	764	757	808
Luxembourg	12	12	12	12	13	13	13	13	13
Mexico	2,540	2,496	2,503	2,448	2,534	2,486	2,623	2,493	2,597
Netherlands	389	468	458	473	504	491	500	520	535
New Zealand	155	165	162	173	163				
Norway	87	86	82	83	92	88	94	95	
Poland	1,659	1,749	1,727	1,768	1,800	1,785	1,800	1,814	1,846
Portugal	706	860	845	876	916	905	914	930	942
Slovak Republic	366	381	377	381	396	387	396	404	410
Slovenia	83	91	85	95	101	101	100	103	105
Spain	4,999	5,769	5,707	5,879	5,988	5,968	6,011	5,986	5,999
Sweden	389	402	398	407	413	406	425	408	405
Switzerland	184		171	200					
Turkey	2,328		2,131	2,207		2,260	2,302		
United Kingdom	2,534		2,517	2,489		2,475	2,476		
United States	13,747	12,506	12,638	12,437	12,165	12,248	12,042	12,206	12,332