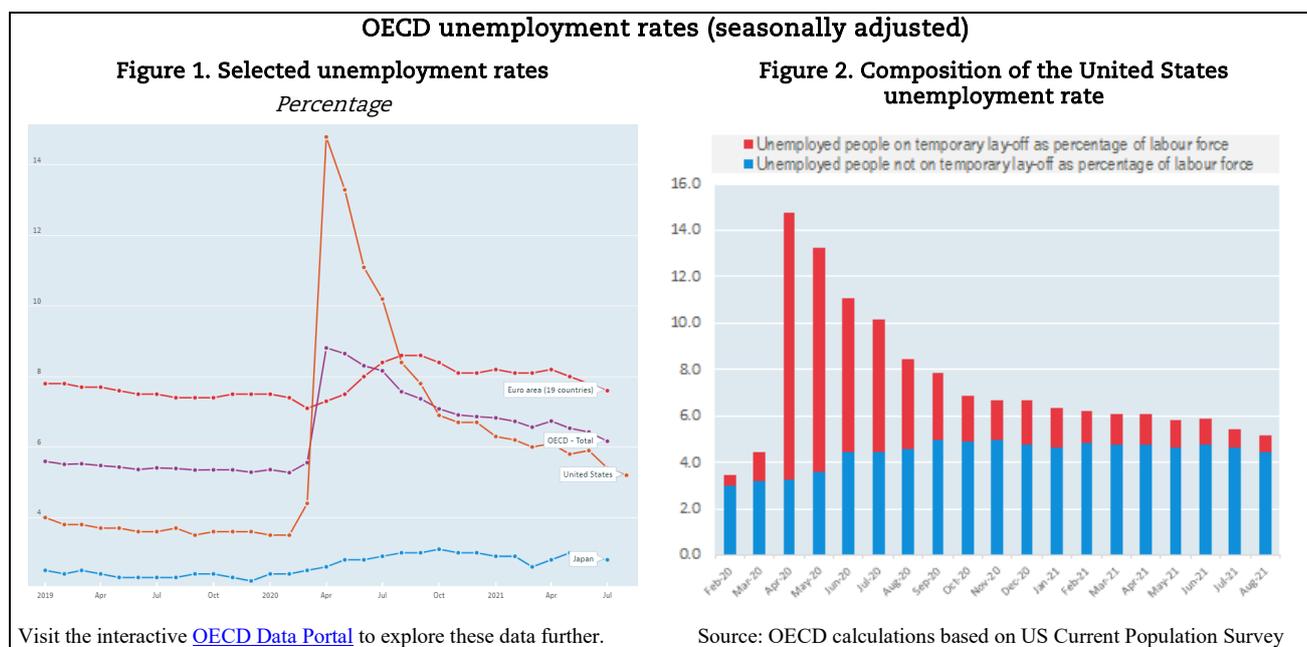


OECD unemployment rate falls further to 6.2% in July 2021

The **OECD area** unemployment rate fell to 6.2% in July 2021, from 6.4% in June, 0.9 percentage point above the pre-pandemic rate observed in February 2020¹. Some care is needed in interpreting the fall in the OECD area unemployment rate compared to the April 2020 peak, as it largely reflects the return of temporary laid-off workers in the **United States** and **Canada**, where they are recorded as unemployed.² The number of unemployed workers across the **OECD area** fell by 1.6 million in July 2021, reaching 41.1 million.

In the **euro area**, the unemployment rate declined to 7.6% in July 2021, from 7.8% in June, the third consecutive monthly fall. Declines were observed in almost every euro area country, the largest being in **Spain**, where it fell by 0.7 percentage point, to 14.3 %.

Outside Europe, decreases of 0.3 percentage point or more were registered in July 2021 in **Australia** (to 4.6%), **Canada** (to 7.5%), **Colombia** (to 13.7%), **Korea** (to 3.3%) and the **United States** (to 5.4%). The unemployment rate showed little change in **Israel** (at 5.0%), **Japan** (at 2.8%) and **Mexico** (at 4.2%). More recent data show that the unemployment rate further decreased in August 2021 in the **United States**, to 5.2%, although the share in labour force of unemployed people on temporary lay-off was broadly stable.



In the **OECD area** as a whole, the unemployment rate declined more rapidly in July among **young women** (aged 15 to 24) (down to 12.5%, from 12.9% in June) than among **young men** (down to 12.8%, from 13.0% in June), **women aged 25 and over** (down to 5.6%, from 5.8% in June) and **men aged 25 and over** (down to 5.2%, from 5.4% in June). Unemployment among **young women** had shown the highest increase between February 2020 and the April 2020 peak.

¹ New methodology in the EU Labour Force Survey from 2021 with the entry into force of the Integrated European Social Statistics (IESS) Framework Regulation, resulting in [updated definitions of the labour status](#). These changes result in time series breaks between December 2020 and January 2021 for several European countries. More details on the main methodological changes to the EU LFS can be found [here](#).

² For Canada and the United States, the statistical treatment of people on temporary layoff is different from other countries, where these people are typically recorded as employed. See the note on the divergence in employment and unemployment statistics during the Covid-19 crisis in the end of this news release.

Figure 3. OECD unemployment rates (seasonally adjusted) by gender – Persons aged 15-24

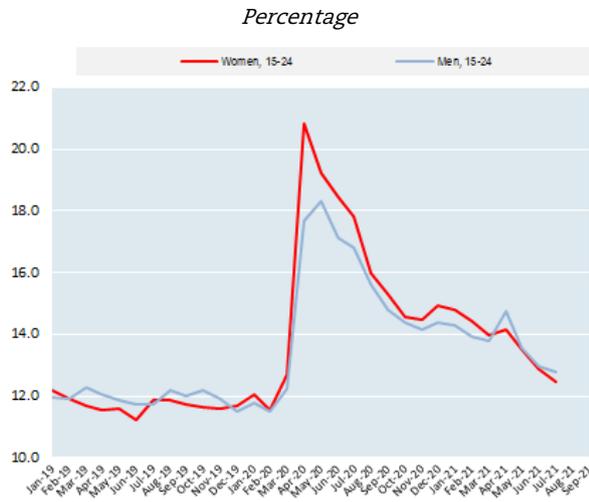


Figure 4. OECD unemployment rates by gender (seasonally adjusted) – Persons aged 25 and over



It should be noted that unemployment statistics do not account for the full amount of labour market slack due to the pandemic, as some non-employed people may be classified as “out of the labour force”, because they are either not able to actively look for a job or are not available to work.³

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; for technical questions contact stat.contact@oecd.org

Next release: Wednesday, 13 October 2021

³ The [ILO guidelines](#) define the unemployed as “all those of working age who were not in employment, carried out activities to seek employment during a specified recent period and were currently available to take up employment given a job opportunity”. Some not-employed people 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.

Table 1: OECD Unemployment Rates, seasonally adjusted
Percentage of the labour force

	2019	2020	2020		2021		2020 Feb	2021					
			Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2		Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul
OECD - Total	5.4	7.2	7.7	7.0	6.7	6.6	5.3	6.7	6.6	6.7	6.5	6.4	6.2
Major Seven	4.3	6.5	7.0	6.0	5.7	5.6	4.2	5.8	5.6	5.7	5.5	5.5	5.2
European Union	6.7	7.1	7.7	7.4	7.4	7.3	6.6	7.4	7.4	7.5	7.3	7.1	6.9
Euro area	7.6	7.9	8.5	8.2	8.1	8.0	7.4	8.1	8.1	8.2	8.0	7.8	7.6
Australia	5.2	6.5	7.0	6.8	6.0	5.2	5.1	5.9	5.7	5.5	5.1	4.9	4.6
Austria ⁽¹⁾	4.8	6.0	6.5	6.3	7.0	6.7	4.5	7.0	6.7	7.1	6.7	6.2	6.2
Belgium ⁽²⁾	5.4	5.6	6.2	5.9	6.6	6.5	5.0	6.7	6.8	6.7	6.5	6.2	5.9
Canada	5.7	9.6	10.1	8.8	8.4	8.0	5.7	8.2	7.5	8.1	8.2	7.8	7.5
Chile	7.2	10.8	12.0	11.0	10.4	9.2	8.2	10.4	10.3	9.8	9.2	8.5	
Colombia	10.5	16.1	17.6	15.3	14.1	14.9	10.9	14.3	13.9	14.9	15.1	14.7	13.7
Costa Rica	11.8	19.7	21.8	20.2	18.9	17.7	12.6	18.9	17.3	17.6	17.7	17.2	
Czech Republic ⁽²⁾	2.0	2.6	2.8	3.1	3.3	3.1	1.8	3.2	3.4	3.3	3.1	2.8	2.8
Denmark ⁽²⁾	5.1	5.7	6.3	6.0	5.9	5.0	4.8	6.0	5.7	5.4	5.1	4.6	4.3
Estonia	4.5	6.8	7.8	7.3	6.9	6.6	5.0	6.8	6.8	6.5	6.8	6.6	6.5
Finland	6.7	7.7	8.5	8.1	8.0	8.1	6.6	8.0	7.6	8.5	8.2	7.7	7.8
France	8.4	8.0	8.9	8.0	8.0	8.2	7.7	8.1	8.1	8.3	8.3	8.0	7.9
Germany ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾	3.2	3.8	4.1	4.1	3.9	3.7	3.5	3.9	3.8	3.8	3.7	3.7	3.6
Greece ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾	17.3	16.4	16.7	16.1	16.5	15.8	15.7	16.3	16.8	17.1	15.6	14.8	14.6
Hungary	3.3	4.1	4.3	4.2	4.4	4.1	3.5	4.5	3.9	4.5	3.9	4.0	4.3
Iceland	3.9	6.4	6.7	7.1	7.0	6.7	5.0	7.0	6.9	6.9	6.7	6.5	6.4
Ireland	5.0	5.9	7.0	6.3	7.4	7.0	4.8	7.5	7.7	7.4	7.0	6.7	6.5
Israel	3.8	4.3	4.7	4.8	5.1	5.3	3.4	5.2	5.4	5.3	5.5	5.1	5.0
Italy ⁽¹⁾	10.0	9.3	10.0	9.8	10.1	9.8	9.7	10.1	10.0	10.2	9.9	9.4	9.3
Japan	2.4	2.8	3.0	3.0	2.8	2.9	2.4	2.9	2.6	2.8	3.0	2.9	2.8
Korea	3.8	3.9	3.8	4.3	4.4	3.7	3.4	4.0	3.9	3.7	3.8	3.7	3.3
Latvia ⁽²⁾	6.3	8.1	8.6	8.1	7.7	7.8	7.2	7.7	7.7	7.7	7.8	7.8	7.6
Lithuania ⁽²⁾	6.3	8.5	9.7	9.2	6.9	7.6	6.7	6.8	6.5	7.2	7.7	7.8	7.5
Luxembourg ⁽²⁾	5.6	6.7	6.8	6.4	6.4	6.1	5.7	6.4	6.3	6.3	6.2	5.9	5.7
Mexico ⁽³⁾	3.5	4.4	5.0	4.4	4.4	4.4	3.6	4.4	4.3	4.8	4.2	4.1	4.2
Netherlands	3.4	3.8	4.5	4.1	3.6	3.3	2.9	3.6	3.5	3.4	3.3	3.2	3.1
New Zealand	4.1	4.6	5.3	4.8	4.6	4.0							
Norway	3.7	4.6	5.2	5.0	4.7	4.8	3.5	4.6	4.6	4.8	4.8	4.8	
Poland ⁽²⁾	3.3	3.2	3.3	3.3	3.8	3.8	3.0	3.9	4.0	3.9	3.8	3.6	3.4
Portugal ⁽¹⁾	6.7	7.1	8.1	7.2	6.8	6.9	6.6	6.9	6.6	7.0	7.0	6.8	6.6
Slovak Republic ⁽²⁾	5.8	6.7	7.1	7.1	7.1	6.9	6.0	7.1	7.2	7.0	6.9	6.7	6.6
Slovenia ⁽²⁾	4.5	5.0	5.3	5.3	5.2	4.5	4.1	5.2	5.0	4.7	4.5	4.2	4.0
Spain	14.1	15.5	16.5	16.2	15.6	15.3	13.7	15.7	15.4	15.5	15.4	15.0	14.3
Sweden ⁽²⁾	6.8	8.3	9.1	8.6	9.1	9.2	7.6	9.0	9.4	9.1	9.1	9.4	8.4
Switzerland	4.4	4.8	5.0	5.1									
Turkey	13.7	13.1	13.3	12.9	13.1		12.7	13.3	13.2	13.8	13.2		
United Kingdom	3.8	4.6	4.8	5.2	4.9	4.7	4.0	4.9	4.8	4.8	4.7		
United States ⁽⁴⁾	3.7	8.1	8.8	6.8	6.2	5.9	3.5	6.2	6.0	6.1	5.8	5.9	5.4

Notes:

- (1) Provisional data for Austria and Italy from 2004, for Germany from April 2021, for Greece in April and May 2021 and for Portugal in July 2021.
- (2) Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Poland, Slovak republic, Slovenia and Sweden: from January 2021, data are compliant with the new Integrated European Social Statistics (IESS) Framework Regulation, while prior to this date, data refer to the former definition.
- (3) Mexico: April, May and June 2020 monthly figures are based on the INEGI ETOE phone survey. These data are not strictly comparable with the results for earlier months. Data from July 2020 are based on the New ENOE survey, combining telephone and face-to-face interviews.
- (4) United States: Unemployment rate for August 2021 was 5.2%.

Table 2: Unemployment Rates by Gender, seasonally adjusted
Percentage of the labour force of each group

	Women						Men					
	2020	2021		2021			2020	2021		2021		
		Q1	Q2	May	Jun	Jul		Q1	Q2	May	Jun	Jul
OECD - Total	7.4	6.9	6.7	6.7	6.6	6.4	6.9	6.5	6.4	6.4	6.3	6.0
Major Seven	6.6	5.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.1	6.4	5.8	5.7	5.7	5.6	5.4
European Union	7.4	7.7	7.7	7.8	7.5	7.3	6.9	7.1	6.9	7.0	6.7	6.5
Euro area	8.2	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.3	8.1	7.6	7.8	7.5	7.6	7.3	7.1
Australia	6.4	5.7	4.9	4.7	4.7	4.7	6.6	6.2	5.4	5.4	5.1	4.6
Austria ⁽¹⁾	5.9	7.1	6.6	6.6	6.0	6.1	6.1	7.0	6.8	6.8	6.5	6.2
Belgium ⁽²⁾	5.4	6.6	6.4	6.4	6.1	6.0	5.7	6.7	6.6	6.6	6.3	5.9
Canada	9.5	8.4	7.9	8.2	7.4	7.0	9.6	8.3	8.1	8.1	8.2	7.8
Chile	11.0	10.4	9.5	9.5	9.0		10.6	10.4	8.9	8.9	8.2	
Colombia	20.7	18.7	19.3	19.2	19.1	18.2	12.9	10.8	11.8	12.2	11.5	10.6
Costa Rica	25.7	26.5	23.5	23.5	23.1		15.7	13.7	13.7	13.7	13.2	
Czech Republic ⁽²⁾	3.0	4.1	3.8	3.9	3.5	3.2	2.2	2.6	2.5	2.5	2.3	2.4
Denmark ⁽²⁾	6.0	6.2	5.1	5.2	4.7	4.4	5.4	5.7	4.9	5.0	4.5	4.2
Estonia	6.5	6.3	6.0	6.2	6.2	6.2	7.0	7.5	7.2	7.3	6.9	6.9
Finland	7.4	7.5	7.3	7.1	6.9	7.9	8.1	8.4	8.9	9.2	8.4	7.8
France	8.0	7.7	8.2	8.3	8.1	8.0	8.1	8.4	8.1	8.2	7.9	7.8
Germany ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾	3.4	3.5	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.3	4.2	4.2	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.9
Greece ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾	19.9	20.9	19.9	19.5	18.7	18.5	13.7	13.0	12.6	12.5	11.6	11.4
Hungary	4.2	4.8	4.3	4.7	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	3.9	3.2	3.8	4.5
Iceland	6.3	7.9	7.4	7.4	7.1	7.0	6.6	6.2	6.0	6.0	5.9	5.8
Ireland	5.9	7.4	6.9	6.9	6.6	6.4	5.8	7.4	7.1	7.1	6.8	6.5
Israel	4.1	4.9	5.4	5.8	5.0	4.8	4.5	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.2	5.1
Italy ⁽¹⁾	10.3	11.2	11.0	11.0	10.6	10.6	8.5	9.4	8.9	9.1	8.5	8.3
Japan	2.5	2.6	2.6	2.7	2.7	2.4	3.0	3.0	3.2	3.2	3.1	3.1
Korea	4.0	4.6	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.2	3.9	4.3	3.6	3.7	3.6	3.4
Latvia ⁽²⁾	7.1	7.1	6.7	6.7	6.6	6.1	9.1	8.3	8.8	8.9	9.1	9.0
Lithuania ⁽²⁾	7.7	7.1	7.3	7.4	7.5	7.2	9.3	6.7	7.8	8.0	8.0	7.9
Luxembourg ⁽²⁾	6.8	6.8	6.5	6.6	6.2	6.1	6.6	6.0	5.8	5.8	5.6	5.4
Mexico ⁽³⁾	4.2	4.3	4.2	4.2	4.0	4.4	4.6	4.5	4.5	4.1	4.1	4.2
Netherlands	4.0	3.7	3.4	3.5	3.3	3.3	3.7	3.5	3.1	3.2	3.0	2.9
New Zealand	5.0	4.6	4.3				4.3	4.6	3.8			
Norway	4.4	4.2	4.6	4.7	4.5		4.8	5.1	5.0	5.0	5.0	
Poland ⁽²⁾	3.3	3.7	3.9	3.9	3.7	3.5	3.1	3.9	3.7	3.7	3.5	3.4
Portugal ⁽¹⁾	7.4	7.0	7.3	7.4	7.4	7.4	6.8	6.7	6.6	6.7	6.3	5.8
Slovak Republic ⁽²⁾	7.1	7.8	7.4	7.4	7.1	7.0	6.4	6.5	6.4	6.4	6.3	6.1
Slovenia ⁽²⁾	5.7	6.4	5.4	5.4	5.0	4.8	4.4	4.1	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.3
Spain	17.4	17.7	17.5	17.5	17.2	16.6	13.9	13.7	13.4	13.4	13.1	12.3
Sweden ⁽²⁾	8.3	9.4	9.3	9.2	9.6	8.7	8.3	8.9	9.1	9.0	9.3	8.0
Switzerland	5.0						4.7					
Turkey	14.8	15.4		15.5			12.4	12.0		12.2		
United Kingdom	4.3	4.6	4.5	4.5			4.8	5.1	4.9	4.9		
United States	8.4	6.1	5.7	5.5	5.7	5.2	7.8	6.3	6.1	6.0	6.0	5.6

Notes:

(1) Provisional data for Austria and Italy from 2004, for Germany from April 2021, for Greece in April and May 2021 and for Portugal in July 2021.

(2) Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Poland, Slovak republic, Slovenia and Sweden: from January 2021, data are compliant with the new Integrated European Social Statistics (IESS) Framework Regulation, while prior to this date, data refer to the former definition.

(3) Mexico: April, May and June 2020 monthly figures are based on the INEGI ETOE phone survey. These data are not strictly comparable with the results for earlier months. Data from July 2020 are based on the New ENOE survey, combining telephone and face-to-face interviews.

Table 3: Unemployment Rates by Age, seasonally adjusted
Percentage of the labour force of each group

	Youth (15-24)						Prime-age and Older Workers (25+)					
	2020	2021		2021			2020	2021		2021		
		Q1	Q2	May	Jun	Jul		Q1	Q2	May	Jun	Jul
OECD - Total	15.2	14.2	13.6	13.5	12.9	12.5	6.1	5.8	5.7	5.6	5.6	5.4
Major Seven	13.8	11.9	11.1	11.0	10.5	10.2	5.6	5.0	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.6
European Union	17.0	18.2	17.6	17.6	16.9	16.2	6.2	6.5	6.4	6.4	6.2	6.0
Euro area	17.6	18.5	17.9	17.9	17.2	16.5	7.0	7.2	7.0	7.1	6.8	6.7
Australia	14.3	12.9	10.5	10.7	10.2	10.2	5.0	4.7	4.2	4.0	3.9	3.6
Austria ⁽¹⁾	11.7	12.3	12.1	12.7	11.0	11.0	5.3	6.3	6.0	6.0	5.6	5.5
Belgium ⁽²⁾⁽³⁾	15.3	19.0	17.1	17.1	17.1		4.8	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.5	5.2
Canada	20.0	16.9	15.2	15.9	13.6	11.6	7.9	7.0	6.9	7.0	6.9	6.8
Chile	24.7	24.1	21.9	21.9	19.5		9.6	9.3	8.1	8.1	7.6	
Colombia	27.5	24.8	26.7	28.0	26.0	24.9	13.9	12.0	12.5	12.5	12.4	11.5
Costa Rica	42.9	44.4	39.7	39.7	40.6		15.8	14.1	13.9	13.9	13.1	
Czech Republic ⁽³⁾	7.9	10.3	7.8	7.9	7.1	8.0	2.3	2.9	2.8	2.9	2.6	2.5
Denmark ⁽³⁾	11.6	12.9	10.1	10.1	8.7	8.2	4.7	4.8	4.2	4.2	4.0	3.7
Estonia	18.0	15.7	17.3	18.3	18.3	18.6	5.9	6.3	5.8	5.9	5.6	5.5
Finland	20.8	19.5	18.8	18.3	16.3	14.6	6.0	6.5	6.8	6.9	6.6	7.0
France	21.4	20.9	19.4	19.3	18.7	18.6	6.6	6.7	6.9	7.0	6.8	6.7
Germany ⁽¹⁾⁽³⁾	7.1	8.1	7.8	7.8	7.7	7.5	3.5	3.4	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.2
Greece ⁽¹⁾⁽³⁾	35.4	42.0	36.6	34.9	29.7	37.6	15.5	15.2	14.9	14.8	14.0	13.5
Hungary	12.4	13.4	13.9	14.1	13.5	16.8	3.5	3.8	3.4	3.2	3.3	3.4
Iceland	11.9	13.7	13.5	13.5	13.2	13.1	5.5	5.9	5.6	5.6	5.4	5.3
Ireland	15.9	17.6	18.6	18.5	18.5	17.2	4.6	6.1	5.4	5.4	5.1	4.9
Israel ⁽⁴⁾	7.9	7.1	7.6	7.2	8.8	9.1	3.7	4.3	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.4
Italy ⁽¹⁾	29.3	32.2	30.2	29.6	29.3	27.7	8.1	8.8				
Japan	4.5	5.2	4.4	4.3	4.5	4.2	2.6	2.6	2.8	2.9	2.8	2.6
Korea	10.5	10.2	9.0	9.0	8.5	7.2	3.6	4.1	3.4	3.5	3.4	3.1
Latvia ⁽³⁾	14.8	15.9	15.3	15.3	15.1	13.7	7.7	7.2	7.3	7.3	7.4	7.2
Lithuania ⁽³⁾	19.5	11.6	19.2	19.7	20.8	19.2	7.7	6.6	6.8	6.9	6.8	6.7
Luxembourg ⁽³⁾	22.6	20.1	19.1	19.1	18.1	17.8	5.4	5.2	5.1	5.1	4.9	4.8
Mexico ⁽⁵⁾	8.1	8.4	9.1	8.1	7.5	7.6	3.7	3.6	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.6
Netherlands	9.1	9.1	8.4	8.7	7.6	7.3	2.8	2.6	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3
New Zealand	12.4	12.4	10.9				3.3	3.3	2.9			
Norway	11.4	10.7	11.4	11.4	11.7		3.6	3.8	3.7	3.8	3.6	
Poland ⁽³⁾	10.9	14.9	13.4	13.4	12.6	12.0	2.6	3.1	3.2	3.2	3.0	2.9
Portugal ⁽¹⁾	22.9	23.2	25.2	25.6	25.4	23.5	6.0	5.8	5.7	5.7	5.5	5.4
Slovak Republic ⁽³⁾	19.3	22.9	23.4	23.5	22.8	21.7	5.9	6.2	5.9	5.9	5.8	5.7
Slovenia ⁽²⁾⁽³⁾	14.4	14.2	14.3	14.3	14.3		4.4	4.6	3.8	3.8	3.6	3.5
Spain	38.3	38.9	37.7	37.5	37.0	35.1	14.0	14.0	13.7	13.8	13.5	13.0
Sweden ⁽³⁾	23.8	24.5	25.7	25.4	24.5	21.9	6.4	7.3	7.1	7.0	7.5	6.6
Switzerland	8.6						4.3					
Turkey	24.9	25.8		24.0			11.1	10.8		11.2		
United Kingdom	13.7	13.7	13.1	13.1			3.3	3.7	3.6	3.6		
United States	15.1	11.1	10.1	9.9	9.3	9.2	7.1	5.5	5.3	5.2	5.4	4.8

Notes:

(1) Provisional data for Austria and Italy from 2004, for Germany from April 2021, for Greece in April and May 2021 and for Portugal in July 2021.

(2) Belgium and Slovenia: For youth unemployment, quarterly data are shown.

(3) Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Poland, Slovak republic, Slovenia and Sweden: from January 2021, data are compliant with the new Integrated European Social Statistics (IESS) Framework Regulation, while prior to this date, data refer to the former definition.

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

(5) Mexico: April, May and June 2020 monthly figures are based on the INEGI ETOE phone survey. These data are not strictly comparable with the results for earlier months. Data from July 2020 are based on the New ENOE survey, combining telephone and face-to-face interviews.

Table 4: Unemployment Levels, seasonally adjusted
Thousands of persons

	2019	2020	2021				2021			
			Q4	Q1	Q2	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	
OECD - Total	36,254	46,805	45,914	44,331	43,606	44,737	43,404	42,702	41,092	
Major Seven	16,559	24,669	23,081	21,819	21,294	21,696	21,175	21,047	19,990	
European Union	14,413	15,079	15,727	15,680	15,481	15,838	15,561	15,043	14,613	
Euro area	12,446	12,824	13,359	13,139	13,043	13,321	13,124	12,684	12,334	
Australia	700	879	933	826	711	754	701	679	639	
Austria ⁽¹⁾	220	271	287	320	304	321	305	287	282	
Belgium ⁽²⁾	274	283	296	337	328	340	328	315	300	
Canada	1,154	1,897	1,783	1,694	1,628	1,640	1,652	1,592	1,521	
Chile	698	938	986	942	818	873	818	766		
Colombia	2,611	3,755	3,730	3,425	3,597	3,583	3,677	3,532	3,339	
Costa Rica	291	470	488	458	434	431	434	423		
Czech Republic ⁽²⁾	109	137	165	174	163	173	167	150	148	
Denmark ⁽²⁾	153	171	182	179	153	164	154	140	130	
Estonia	32	47	51	49	46	45	47	46	45	
Finland	183	209	220	219	225	234	228	213	217	
France	2,519	2,381	2,381	2,392	2,464	2,496	2,489	2,408	2,372	
Germany ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾	1,374	1,664	1,750	1,673	1,597	1,620	1,596	1,575	1,556	
Greece ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾	819	761	746	724	729	766	730	691	678	
Hungary	159	198	202	213	199	216	187	193	208	
Iceland	8	13	14	14	14	14	14	13	13	
Ireland	121	139	151	179	177	184	176	171	170	
Israel	157	177	195	206	218	219	224	213	207	
Italy ⁽¹⁾	2,588	2,318	2,459	2,517	2,467	2,551	2,481	2,368	2,339	
Japan	1,617	1,911	2,100	1,953	2,000	1,940	2,040	2,020	1,900	
Korea	1,063	1,108	1,201	1,247	1,051	1,032	1,073	1,049	930	
Latvia ⁽²⁾	61	79	78	72	73	72	73	73	71	
Lithuania ⁽²⁾	92	126	137	101	111	106	113	113	111	
Luxembourg ⁽²⁾	17	21	20	20	20	20	20	19	18	
Mexico ⁽³⁾	1,991	2,340	2,449	2,454	2,500	2,796	2,379	2,326	2,468	
Netherlands	314	357	384	334	307	316	309	297	289	
New Zealand	115	132	139	133	117					
Norway	105	131	143	132	138	137	139	138		
Poland ⁽²⁾	558	537	557	658	645	674	648	614	586	
Portugal ⁽¹⁾	340	358	366	344	356	354	362	353	341	
Slovak Republic ⁽²⁾	158	182	193	192	183	187	183	178	174	
Slovenia ⁽²⁾	46	51	55	51	46	48	46	43	41	
Spain	3,248	3,531	3,734	3,574	3,558	3,606	3,579	3,488	3,296	
Sweden ⁽²⁾	373	459	478	502	512	503	507	525	465	
Switzerland	216	238	255							
Turkey	4,463	4,040	3,998	4,179		4,502	4,236			
United Kingdom	1,307	1,551	1,771	1,653	1,600	1,637	1,600			
United States	6,001	12,948	10,838	9,937	9,537	9,812	9,316	9,484	8,702	

Notes:

(1) Provisional data for Austria and Italy from 2004, for Germany from April 2021, for Greece in April and May 2021 and for Portugal in July 2021.

(2) Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Poland, Slovak republic, Slovenia and Sweden: from January 2021, data are compliant with the new Integrated European Social Statistics (IESS) Framework Regulation, while prior to this date, data refer to the former definition.

(3) Mexico: April, May and June 2020 monthly figures are based on the INEGI ETOE phone survey. These data are not strictly comparable with the results for earlier months. Data from July 2020 are based on the New ENOE survey, combining telephone and face-to-face interviews.

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-19⁴ 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”⁵ and “availability” specified for the measurement of unemployment.

However, departures from these guidelines in national practices do exist. 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 pandemic-related closures were counted among the unemployed on temporary layoff” without

⁴ 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 Covid-19 crisis.

⁵ 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.

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.

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[Methodological Notes for OECD Unemployment Rates News Release](#)

The OECD area unemployment rate is calculated as the total number of unemployed people 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.).

For countries for which unemployment data for the most recent month or quarter are not available, the latest available data are used to compile data for the OECD area total.

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

Country Notes: 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.

New methodology in the **EU Labour Force Survey** from 2021 with the entry into force of the Integrated European Social Statistics (IESS) Framework Regulation, resulting in [updated definitions of the labour status](#). Information, by country, on the status of the implementation of IESS regulation as well as on possible resulting breaks in time series can be found in a Eurostat Statistics Explained [article](#).

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 above **note on the divergence in employment and unemployment statistics during the Covid-19 crisis**.