

OECD unemployment rate nudges up to 5.1% in January 2020

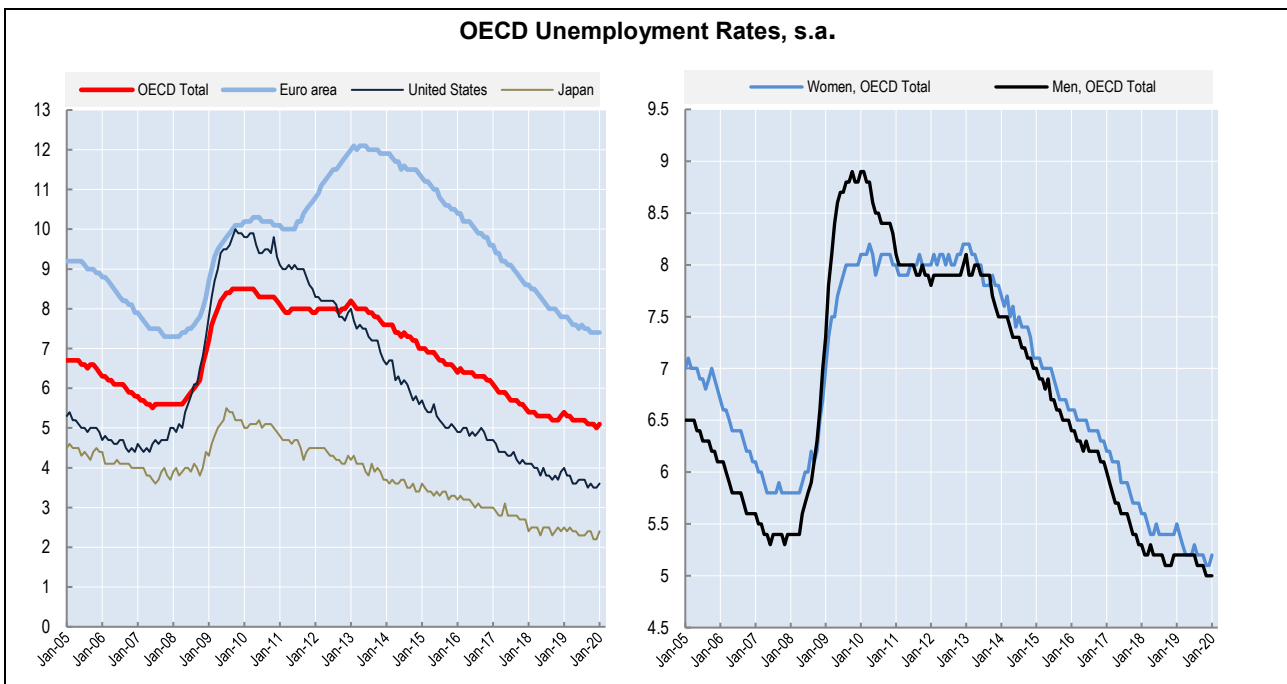
The **OECD** unemployment rate increased by 0.1 percentage point, to 5.1%, in January 2020. Across the **OECD** area, 32.9 million people were unemployed.

In January 2020, the unemployment rate rose by 0.4 percentage point in **Mexico** (to 3.6%), by 0.3 percentage point in **Korea** (to 4.0%), by 0.2 percentage point in **Australia** (to 5.3%) and **Japan** (to 2.4%), and by 0.1 percentage point in the **United States** (to 3.6%). By contrast, it decreased by 0.1 percentage point in **Canada** (to 5.5%) and was stable in the **euro area**, at 7.4% for the fourth consecutive month.

More recent data for February show that the unemployment rate decreased by 0.1 percentage point in the **United States** (to 3.5%) and increased by 0.1 percentage point in **Canada** (to 5.6%).

In January 2020, the **OECD** unemployment rate for **women** (up by 0.1 percentage point, to 5.2%) remained higher than that for **men** (stable at 5.0%); the difference between the two rates has remained below 0.3 percentage point since February 2019. In the **euro area**, the unemployment rate for **women** was 0.6 percentage point higher than that for **men**, while in the **United States** and **Japan**, the unemployment rate for **women** was below that of **men** by, respectively, 0.1 and 0.2 percentage point.

The **OECD** unemployment rate for **youth** (people aged 15 to 24) increased by 0.2 percentage point in January 2020, to 11.0%, interrupting a streak of four consecutive monthly decreases.



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

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.).

[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.

Data for Chile do not consider the revisions recently introduced by INE (Instituto Nacional de Estadísticas).

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Table 1: OECD Unemployment Rates, s.a.
Percentage of the labour force

	2017	2018	2019	2019				2019					2020
				Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
OECD - Total	5.8	5.3	5.2	5.3	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.2	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.0	5.1
Major Seven	5.0	4.5	4.3	4.4	4.3	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.1	4.2
European Union	7.6	6.8	6.3	6.5	6.3	6.3	6.2	6.3	6.3	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.2
Euro area	9.1	8.2	7.6	7.8	7.6	7.5	7.4	7.5	7.5	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.4
Australia	5.6	5.3	5.2	5.0	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.3	5.2	5.3	5.2	5.1	5.3
Austria	5.5	4.9	4.5	4.7	4.6	4.5	4.2	4.5	4.5	4.3	4.2	4.2	4.3
Belgium ⁽¹⁾	7.1	6.0	5.4	5.5	5.5	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.2	5.3	5.3
Canada ⁽²⁾	6.3	5.8	5.7	5.8	5.6	5.6	5.7	5.7	5.5	5.6	5.9	5.6	5.5
Chile	6.7	7.0	7.0	6.9	6.8	6.9	7.4	6.9	7.0	7.1	7.4		
Czech Republic	2.9	2.3	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.9	2.1	2.0	2.1	2.0	2.0
Denmark	5.8	5.1	5.1	5.2	4.9	5.0	5.1	4.9	5.2	5.2	5.1	4.9	4.9
Estonia	5.8	5.4	4.4	4.3	4.8	4.1	4.3	3.9	4.3	4.2	4.3	4.5	
Finland	8.6	7.4	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.8	6.7	6.8	6.8	6.7	6.7	6.6	6.6
France	9.4	9.0	8.5	8.6	8.5	8.5	8.2	8.5	8.4	8.3	8.2	8.2	8.2
Germany ⁽³⁾	3.8	3.4	3.2	3.2	3.1	3.1	3.2	3.1	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2
Greece	21.5	19.3	17.3	18.4	17.3	16.9	16.5	16.9	16.8	16.6	16.5	16.3	
Hungary	4.2	3.7	3.5	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.6	3.4	3.4	
Iceland	2.8	2.7	3.5	3.1	3.4	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.6	3.5	
Ireland	6.7	5.8	5.0	5.0	5.2	5.0	4.7	5.0	4.8	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.8
Israel	4.2	4.0	3.8	4.0	3.9	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.6	3.6	4.0	3.6	3.6
Italy	11.2	10.6	10.0	10.3	10.0	9.8	9.7	9.6	9.9	9.7	9.7	9.8	9.8
Japan	2.8	2.4	2.4	2.5	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.2	2.2	2.4
Korea	3.7	3.8	3.8	3.9	4.0	3.5	3.6	3.1	3.4	3.5	3.6	3.7	4.0
Latvia	8.7	7.4	6.3	6.6	6.4	6.2	6.0	6.2	6.0	5.8	5.9	6.3	6.4
Lithuania	7.1	6.2	6.3	6.0	6.1	6.6	6.4	6.6	6.7	6.4	6.5	6.4	6.6
Luxembourg	5.6	5.5	5.6	5.4	5.7	5.6	5.6	5.7	5.4	5.5	5.6	5.6	5.7
Mexico	3.4	3.3	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.5	3.5	3.6	3.5	3.2	3.6
Netherlands	4.9	3.8	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.5	3.4	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.2	3.0
New Zealand	4.7	4.3	4.1	4.1	4.0	4.1	4.0						
Norway	4.2	3.9	3.7	3.7	3.4	3.8	3.9	3.7	3.9	3.8	4.0	3.9	
Poland	4.9	3.9	3.3	3.7	3.3	3.1	2.9	3.1	3.1	3.0	2.9	2.9	2.9
Portugal	9.0	7.1	6.6	6.5	6.6	6.5	6.6	6.4	6.5	6.5	6.7	6.7	6.9
Slovak Republic	8.1	6.5	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.7	5.7
Slovenia	6.6	5.1	4.6	4.5	4.3	4.8	4.6	4.9	4.9	4.7	4.6	4.6	4.7
Spain	17.2	15.3	14.1	14.2	14.1	14.2	13.8	14.3	14.1	14.0	13.8	13.7	13.7
Sweden ⁽¹⁾	6.7	6.3	6.8	6.7	6.5	7.0	6.8	7.2	6.7	6.6	7.3	6.6	7.1
Switzerland	4.8	4.7	4.4	4.6	4.5	4.4	4.1						
Turkey	10.9	11.0		13.6	13.9	14.1		14.1	13.9	13.6	13.3		
United Kingdom	4.4	4.0		3.7	3.8	3.8		3.8	3.7	3.8	3.7		
United States ⁽⁴⁾	4.4	3.9	3.7	3.9	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.7	3.5	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.6

Notes:

(1) Breaks in the Labour Force Survey data for Belgium in Q1 2017 and for Sweden in Q3 2018.

(2) Canada: Unemployment rate for February 2020 was 5.6%.

(3) Germany: Due to the introduction of the new German system of integrated household surveys, January 2020 data is an estimation.

(4) United States: Unemployment rate for February 2020 was 3.5%.

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

	Women						Men					
	2019	2019		2019		2020	2019	2019		2019		2020
		Q3	Q4	Nov	Dec			Jan	Q3	Q4	Nov	
OECD - Total	5.3	5.2	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.2	5.1	5.1	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
Major Seven	4.2	4.2	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.2	4.4	4.3	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.3
European Union	6.6	6.5	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.1	6.1	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0
Euro area	7.9	7.9	7.8	7.8	7.7	7.7	7.2	7.2	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1
Australia	5.1	5.1	5.0	5.1	4.9	5.2	5.2	5.3	5.3	5.2	5.2	5.4
Austria	4.4	4.3	4.2	4.1	4.2	4.3	4.6	4.6	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.2
Belgium	5.0	5.0	4.9	4.9	5.0	5.1	5.7	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.5	5.5
Canada	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.5	5.3	5.3	6.0	6.0	6.1	6.3	6.0	5.8
Chile	7.7	7.7	8.2	8.2			6.5	6.3	6.8	6.8		
Czech Republic	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.2	2.2	1.7	1.8	1.8	2.0	1.7	1.9
Denmark	5.3	5.2	5.4	5.4	5.2	5.0	4.8	4.8	4.7	4.8	4.6	4.7
Estonia	4.7	4.8	4.3	4.5	4.2		4.1	3.5	4.2	4.0	4.7	
Finland	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.2	7.2	7.3	7.1	7.1	7.0	6.9
France	8.4	8.4	8.1	8.1	8.1	8.1	8.5	8.6	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3
Germany ⁽¹⁾	2.8	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	3.5	3.5	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7
Greece	21.5	20.8	20.3	20.3	20.2		14.0	13.8	13.5	13.5	13.2	
Hungary	3.5	3.6	3.7	3.6	3.6		3.4	3.4	3.3	3.3	3.3	
Iceland	3.1	3.2	3.3	3.3	3.3		3.9	3.6	3.7	3.8	3.7	
Ireland	4.7	4.6	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.6	5.2	5.2	4.9	4.8	4.9	5.0
Israel	3.9	3.9	3.8	4.0	3.5	3.8	3.7	3.4	3.6	3.9	3.6	3.5
Italy	11.1	11.0	11.1	11.1	10.9	11.2	9.1	8.9	8.7	8.7	8.9	8.7
Japan	2.2	2.1	2.1	2.0	2.0	2.2	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.3	2.4	2.4
Korea	3.6	3.4	3.5	3.4	3.8	4.1	3.9	3.6	3.7	3.8	3.7	3.9
Latvia	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.3	5.4	5.4	7.2	6.9	6.7	6.5	7.2	7.5
Lithuania	5.5	5.6	5.4	5.4	5.5	5.5	7.1	7.5	7.4	7.5	7.4	7.8
Luxembourg	5.5	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.7	5.7	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6
Mexico	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.7	3.2	3.9	3.5	3.6	3.4	3.4	3.2	3.5
Netherlands	3.4	3.4	3.2	3.3	3.1	3.0	3.4	3.5	3.6	3.7	3.4	3.1
New Zealand	4.4	4.5	4.3				3.8	3.8	3.8			
Norway	3.4	3.5	3.5	3.6	3.5		4.0	4.1	4.2	4.3	4.2	
Poland	3.6	3.4	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.0	2.9	2.8	2.7	2.8	2.8
Portugal	7.2	7.1	7.2	7.4	7.2	7.2	5.9	5.8	6.1	6.0	6.3	6.5
Slovak Republic	5.9	6.0	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.6	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7
Slovenia	4.9	4.9	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.3	4.8	4.6	4.6	4.5	4.6
Spain	16.0	16.2	15.6	15.6	15.4	15.5	12.5	12.5	12.3	12.3	12.2	12.1
Sweden	6.9	7.2	6.9	7.4	6.6	6.6	6.7	6.8	6.8	7.2	6.6	7.6
Switzerland	4.7	4.7	4.3				4.1	4.2	3.9			
Turkey ⁽²⁾		16.5		15.6				12.9		12.2		
United Kingdom		3.5		3.5				4.0		3.9		
United States	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.7	3.7	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.6

Notes:

(1) Germany: Due to the introduction of the new German system of integrated household surveys, January 2020 data is an estimation.

(2) 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+)					
	2019	2019		2019		2020	2019	2019		2019		2020
		Q3	Q4	Nov	Dec			Jan	Q3	Q4	Nov	
OECD - Total	11.2	11.3	11.0	11.0	10.8	11.0	4.4	4.4	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.4
Major Seven	9.4	9.5	9.3	9.3	9.2	9.3	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.6
European Union	14.4	14.5	14.3	14.3	14.2	14.2	5.5	5.5	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Euro area	15.8	15.7	15.6	15.6	15.6	15.6	6.8	6.8	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6
Australia	11.7	11.8	11.9	11.5	11.6	12.1	3.9	4.0	3.9	3.9	3.8	4.0
Austria	8.5	9.3	8.5	8.6	8.6	8.7	4.0	3.8	3.7	3.7	3.6	3.7
Belgium ⁽¹⁾	13.8	12.9	13.6	13.6	13.6		4.6	4.6	4.4	4.4	4.5	4.5
Canada	11.0	11.7	11.3	11.6	11.1	10.3	4.8	4.6	4.8	4.9	4.7	4.8
Chile		18.9						5.7				
Czech Republic	5.6	5.2	5.1	5.5	4.8	5.3	1.8	1.9	1.9	2.0	1.8	1.9
Denmark	10.1	9.8	10.3	10.3	10.1	10.1	4.2	4.1	4.1	4.2	4.0	4.0
Estonia	10.7	12.4	9.6	10.0	9.5		3.8	3.4	3.9	3.8	4.1	
Finland	17.0	17.6	17.5	17.5	17.4	17.4	5.3	5.4	5.3	5.3	5.2	5.1
France	19.6	19.3	20.1	20.1	20.2	19.9	7.3	7.3	7.0	7.0	6.9	6.9
Germany ⁽²⁾	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.6	2.9	2.8	2.9	2.9	3.0	3.0
Greece	35.6	34.2	35.3	35.4	34.7		16.4	16.0	15.5	15.5	15.4	
Hungary	11.5	11.0	12.1	12.4	10.9		2.9	2.9	2.8	2.7	2.9	
Iceland	9.1	8.7	9.6	9.9	9.2		2.6	2.5	2.4	2.4	2.5	
Ireland	12.4	12.3	11.0	10.9	11.2	11.5	3.9	4.0	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.9
Israel ⁽³⁾	6.7	7.7	6.8	8.5	5.2	7.1	3.3	3.2	3.3	3.5	3.2	3.2
Italy	29.2	28.6	28.4	28.6	28.7	29.3		8.6				
Japan	3.8	4.0	3.9	3.9	3.2	3.6	2.2	2.1	2.1	2.0	2.1	2.3
Korea	10.4	9.9	9.9	10.1	9.9	9.6	3.4	3.1	3.2	3.2	3.4	3.7
Latvia	12.5	10.7	10.7	10.6	11.0	11.5	5.9	5.9	5.7	5.6	6.0	6.1
Lithuania	11.9	12.2	14.5	14.5	14.9	14.3	5.8	6.1	5.8	5.9	5.8	6.0
Luxembourg	16.9	17.2	17.5	17.3	18.2	18.2	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6
Mexico	7.2	7.5	7.3	7.1	6.9	7.9	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.8	2.5	2.8
Netherlands	6.7	6.9	7.1	7.3	6.7	6.4	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.4
New Zealand	11.1	10.8	11.2				2.8	2.9	2.8			
Norway	9.9	10.0	10.1	10.3	10.1		2.8	2.9	2.9	3.0	2.9	
Poland	9.9	9.7	8.2	8.1	7.9	7.8	2.8	2.6	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5
Portugal	18.2	18.8	18.3	18.6	18.6	19.3	5.6	5.5	5.7	5.8	5.8	5.9
Slovak Republic	16.1	16.7	16.8	16.8	16.8	16.7	5.1	5.1	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
Slovenia ⁽¹⁾	8.1	8.1	7.9	7.9	7.9		4.3	4.6	4.4	4.4	4.3	4.4
Spain	32.6	32.7	30.6	30.4	30.1	30.6	12.8	12.9	12.6	12.6	12.5	12.4
Sweden	19.9	19.9	19.9	20.1	19.8	20.6	5.1	5.3	5.2	5.6	5.0	5.5
Switzerland	8.0	8.4	8.1				3.9	3.9	3.5			
Turkey		26.5		24.0				11.7		11.2		
United Kingdom		11.7		11.3				2.7		2.7		
United States	8.4	8.3	8.0	8.0	8.1	8.2	3.0	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.8	2.9

Notes:

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

(2) Germany: Due to the introduction of the new German system of integrated household surveys, January 2020 data is an estimation.

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

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

	2018	2019	2019			2019			2020
			Q2	Q3	Q4	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan
OECD - Total	33,681	33,205	33,235	33,144	32,591	32,818	32,655	32,273	32,899
Major Seven	17,391	16,503	16,414	16,341	16,163	16,269	16,170	16,050	16,287
European Union	16,874	15,656	15,648	15,594	15,391	15,422	15,417	15,333	15,349
Euro area	13,374	12,413	12,412	12,367	12,207	12,233	12,209	12,178	12,179
Australia	703	701	708	713	708	724	707	695	726
Austria	220	205	209	203	193	196	192	192	194
Belgium	301	273	280	268	264	261	262	269	272
Canada	1,155	1,144	1,123	1,140	1,155	1,129	1,192	1,143	1,124
Chile	628	639	623	634	681	655	681		
Czech Republic	121	109	107	110	110	109	114	106	110
Denmark	152	153	149	151	154	158	155	148	147
Estonia	38	31	34	29	30	29	30	32	
Finland	202	184	185	186	185	186	185	183	182
France	2,682	2,506	2,510	2,504	2,444	2,457	2,441	2,433	2,428
Germany ⁽¹⁾	1,468	1,376	1,362	1,360	1,405	1,392	1,408	1,415	1,412
Greece	915	817	820	799	770	780	771	759	
Hungary	172	161	161	161	162	166	159	161	
Iceland	6	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	
Ireland	137	121	125	120	116	115	115	117	120
Israel	163	157	160	151	153	148	164	147	150
Italy	2,761	2,585	2,581	2,543	2,520	2,512	2,525	2,523	2,528
Japan	1,665	1,617	1,633	1,590	1,563	1,640	1,530	1,520	1,640
Korea	1,073	1,063	1,117	990	1,025	983	1,029	1,064	1,143
Latvia	73	61	62	60	58	57	57	61	63
Lithuania	90	92	89	95	95	94	96	95	98
Luxembourg	16	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17
Mexico	1,850	1,991	2,015	2,021	1,979	2,051	2,027	1,859	2,094
Netherlands	350	314	305	319	316	323	324	302	284
New Zealand	117	112	109	114	111				
Norway	109	105	97	108	111	109	113	110	
Poland	659	558	568	533	498	505	495	493	495
Portugal	363	340	341	336	345	338	348	349	359
Slovak Republic	180	159	157	159	158	158	158	157	156
Slovenia	53	47	45	50	47	48	47	47	48
Spain	3,479	3,248	3,248	3,279	3,200	3,230	3,194	3,176	3,178
Sweden ⁽²⁾	344	373	359	384	379	366	406	365	394
Switzerland	231	216	220	218	201				
Turkey	3,544		4,503	4,587		4,424	4,320		
United Kingdom	1,347		1,280	1,277		1,282	1,263		
United States	6,314	6,001	5,924	5,926	5,807	5,857	5,811	5,753	5,892

Notes:

(1) Germany: Due to the introduction of the new German system of integrated household surveys, January 2020 data is an estimation.

(2) Break in the Labour Force Survey data for Sweden in Q3 2018.