

Marginal fall in OECD unemployment rate in March 2021, to 6.5%, 1.2 percentage points above its pre-pandemic level

The **OECD area** unemployment rate continued to decline slightly in March 2021, to 6.5% (from 6.6% in February 2021). It remained 1.2 percentage points above the rate observed in February 2020, before the COVID-19 pandemic hit the labour market.¹

In March, a marginal decline of the unemployment rate was also observed in the **euro area**, (to 8.1%, from 8.2% in February 2021), where the largest falls (0.2 percentage point or more) were registered in **Finland** (to 7.7%), **Lithuania** (to 8.9%), **Portugal** (to 6.5%) and **Spain** (to 15.3%).

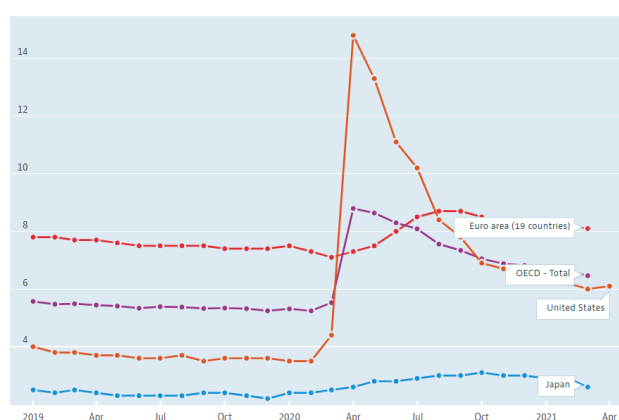
Outside Europe, the unemployment rate decreased in March in most countries: by 0.7 percentage point in **Canada** (to 7.5%), 0.5 percentage point in **Colombia** (to 13.8%), 0.3 percentage point in **Japan** (to 2.6%), and 0.2 percentage point in **Australia** (to 5.6%), **Mexico** (to 4.3%) and the **United States** (to 6.0%). By contrast, it rose by 0.3 percentage point, to 5.4%, in **Israel**. More recent data show that in April the unemployment rate rose by 0.6 percentage point in **Canada** (to 8.1%) and by 0.1 percentage point in the **United States** (to 6.1%).

The **OECD youth** unemployment rate (people aged 15 to 24) decreased further in March, to 13.3% (from 13.6% in February), still 2.0 percentage points above its pre-pandemic level (February 2020).

More generally, it should be noted that unemployment statistics do not account for the full amount of labour market slack due to COVID-19, as some non-employed people may be classified as “out of the labour force”, because, due to the pandemic, they are either not able to actively look for a job or are not available to work.²

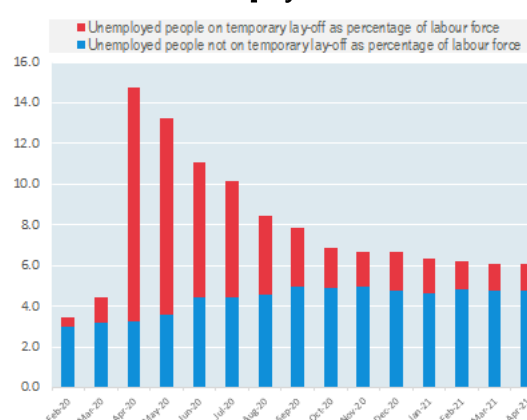
OECD unemployment rates (seasonally adjusted)

Figure 1. Selected unemployment rates



Visit the interactive [OECD Data Portal](#) to explore these data further.

Figure 2. Composition of the United States unemployment rate



Source: OECD calculations based on US Current Population Survey

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

¹ Some care is needed in interpreting the fall in the OECD area unemployment rate compared to the April 2020 peak, as this largely reflects the return of temporary laid-off workers in the United States and Canada, where they are recorded as unemployed. 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 on next page.

² 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.

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-19³ 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”⁴ and “availability” specified for the measurement of unemployment.

However, departures from these guidelines in national practices do exist. In particular, 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”

³ 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 current Covid-19 crisis.

⁴ 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.

without 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.

References

BLS (2020), Frequently asked questions: The impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on The Employment Situation for March 2020, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, March 2020, Washington DC. <https://www.bls.gov/cps/employment-situation-covid19-faq-march-2020.pdf>

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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](#).

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Next release: Tuesday, 8 June 2021

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

	2019	2020	2020			2021	2020	2020				2021		
			Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1		Feb	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
OECD - Total	5.4	7.1	8.6	7.7	6.9	6.6	5.2	7.0	6.9	6.8	6.8	6.6	6.5	
Major Seven	4.3	6.5	8.6	7.1	6.1	5.8	4.2	6.2	6.0	6.0	5.9	5.8	5.6	
European Union	6.7	7.2	7.0	7.8	7.5	7.4	6.5	7.6	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.3	
Euro area	7.6	7.9	7.6	8.6	8.3	8.2	7.3	8.5	8.3	8.2	8.2	8.2	8.1	
Australia	5.2	6.5	6.9	7.1	6.8	5.9	5.1	7.0	6.8	6.6	6.3	5.8	5.6	
Austria ⁽¹⁾	4.5	5.4	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.7	4.5	5.4	5.5	5.8	5.7	5.7	5.6	
Belgium	5.4	5.6	5.1	6.3	5.8	5.7	5.0	6.0	5.8	5.7	5.6	5.7	5.8	
Canada ⁽²⁾	5.7	9.6	13.1	10.1	8.8	8.4	5.7	9.0	8.6	8.8	9.4	8.2	7.5	
Chile*	7.2	10.8	11.8	12.0	11.0	10.5	8.2	11.2	11.0	10.8	10.7	10.5		
Colombia	10.5	16.1	20.4	17.6	15.3	14.1	10.9	16.1	15.2	14.5	14.2	14.3	13.8	
Czech Republic ⁽³⁾	2.0	2.6	2.4	2.8	3.1	3.2	1.8	3.2	3.0	3.0	3.2	3.2	3.2	
Denmark ⁽³⁾	5.1	5.6	5.5	6.2	6.0	6.0	5.0	6.0	5.9	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	
Estonia	4.5	6.8	6.9	7.8	7.3	6.9	5.0	7.8	7.3	6.7	7.1	6.8	6.8	
Finland	6.7	7.7	7.7	8.4	8.1	7.9	6.5	8.1	8.1	8.2	8.2	7.9	7.7	
France	8.4	8.0	7.2	9.1	8.1	7.9	7.7	8.5	8.1	7.8	7.9	8.0	7.9	
Germany ⁽⁴⁾	3.2	4.2	4.2	4.5	4.6	4.5	3.6	4.5	4.6	4.6	4.5	4.5	4.5	
Greece*	17.3	16.4	16.9	16.8	16.1		15.4	16.4	16.2	15.8				
Hungary	3.3	4.1	4.5	4.3	4.2	4.4	3.5	4.4	4.0	4.1	4.9	4.5	3.9	
Iceland	3.9	6.4	5.9	6.6	7.1	7.1	5.0	7.0	7.2	7.2	7.1	7.1	7.2	
Ireland	5.0	5.7	4.9	6.5	6.0	5.8	5.0	6.2	6.0	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	
Israel	3.8	4.3	4.2	4.7	4.7	5.0	3.4	4.7	4.8	4.8	4.6	5.1	5.4	
Italy ⁽⁵⁾	10.0	9.3	8.5	9.9	9.8	10.2	9.8	10.0	9.6	9.8	10.3	10.2	10.1	
Japan	2.4	2.8	2.7	3.0	3.0	2.8	2.4	3.1	3.0	3.0	2.9	2.9	2.6	
Korea	3.8	3.9	4.1	3.8	4.3	4.4	3.4	4.2	4.2	4.5	5.4	4.0	3.9	
Latvia	6.3	8.1	8.6	8.6	8.1	8.6	7.2	8.0	8.1	8.2	8.5	8.7	8.7	
Lithuania	6.3	8.5	8.5	9.7	9.2	9.4	6.7	9.3	9.2	9.2	9.6	9.6	8.9	
Luxembourg	5.6	6.8	7.6	6.9	6.6	6.7	5.7	6.5	6.6	6.7	6.8	6.7	6.6	
Mexico ⁽⁶⁾	3.5	4.4	4.9	4.9	4.5	4.4	3.6	4.6	4.5	4.3	4.5	4.5	4.3	
Netherlands	3.4	3.8	3.8	4.5	4.1	3.6	2.9	4.3	4.0	3.9	3.6	3.6	3.5	
New Zealand	4.1	4.6	4.0	5.2	4.9	4.7								
Norway*	3.7		4.6	5.2			3.5	5.2	5.0					
Poland	3.3	3.2	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.1	3.0	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.1	3.1	3.1	
Portugal ⁽⁵⁾	6.7	7.1	6.6	8.0	7.2	6.7	6.5	7.6	7.2	6.9	6.9	6.8	6.5	
Slovak Republic	5.8	6.7	6.7	7.1	6.9	7.3	6.0	7.0	6.9	6.9	7.2	7.3	7.4	
Slovenia	4.5	5.0	5.3	5.2	5.2	4.9	4.2	5.2	5.3	5.2	5.1	4.9	4.8	
Spain	14.1	15.5	15.5	16.6	16.2	15.5	13.6	16.3	16.1	16.1	15.7	15.5	15.3	
Sweden ⁽³⁾	6.8	8.3	8.5	9.0	8.6	9.2	7.6	8.6	8.4	8.8	9.0	9.0	9.5	
Switzerland*	4.4	4.8	4.9	5.0	5.1									
Turkey ⁽³⁾	13.7	13.1	14.0	13.3	12.8		12.6	12.9	12.9	12.5	12.2 (b)			
United Kingdom*	3.8	4.5	4.1	4.8	5.1		4.0	5.0	5.1	5.0	4.9			
United States ⁽⁷⁾	3.7	8.1	13.1	8.8	6.8	6.2	3.5	6.9	6.7	6.7	6.3	6.2	6.0	

b: Break in time series

* For this country, data for the most recent month or quarter in this table is not available.

Notes:

(1) Austria: Data from January 2021 onwards are estimations.

(2) Canada: Unemployment rate for April 2021 was 8.1%.

(3) Czech Republic, Denmark, Sweden and Turkey: 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) Germany: Due to the introduction of the new German system of integrated household surveys, data from January 2020 onwards are estimations.

(5) Italy and Portugal: Data are provisional.

(6) 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.

(7) United States: Unemployment rate for April 2021 was 6.1%.

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

	Women						Men					
	2020	2020	2021	2021			2020	2020	2021	2021		
		Q4	Q1	Jan	Feb	Mar		Q4	Q1	Jan	Feb	Mar
OECD - Total	7.4	7.1	6.8	7.0	6.8	6.6	6.9	6.7	6.5	6.6	6.5	6.3
Major Seven	6.6	6.0	5.7	5.9	5.8	5.5	6.4	6.2	5.8	6.0	5.9	5.7
European Union	7.5	7.9	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.7	6.8	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.0
Euro area	8.4	8.8	8.6	8.7	8.7	8.5	7.6	7.9	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.7
Australia	6.4	6.9	5.7	6.2	5.5	5.3	6.6	6.7	6.1	6.5	6.1	5.9
Austria ⁽¹⁾	5.3	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.6	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8
Belgium	5.4	5.6	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.6	5.7	6.0	5.9	5.8	5.9	6.0
Canada	9.5	8.5	8.4	9.7	8.3	7.3	9.6	9.1	8.3	9.2	8.2	7.6
Chile*	11.0	11.7	10.5	11.0	10.5		10.6	10.6	10.4	10.5	10.4	
Colombia	20.7	20.3	18.6	18.6	19.0	18.3	12.9	11.6	10.8	11.0	10.8	10.5
Czech Republic ⁽²⁾	3.0	3.8	4.0	4.2	4.0	3.9	2.2	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.6
Denmark ⁽²⁾	6.0	6.2	6.3	6.4	6.2	6.2	5.4	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.8
Estonia	6.5	7.2	6.3	6.7	6.1	6.1	7.0	7.4	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5
Finland	7.4	7.6	7.5	7.9	7.1	7.5	8.1	8.6	8.3	8.4	8.6	7.9
France	7.9	8.0	7.6	7.7	7.7	7.3	8.1	8.1	8.3	8.1	8.3	8.4
Germany ⁽³⁾	4.1	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.3	4.5	4.4	4.5	4.4	4.4
Greece*	19.9	19.8					13.7	13.2				
Hungary	4.2	4.1	4.8	5.3	4.7	4.4	4.1	4.2	4.1	4.6	4.3	3.5
Iceland	6.3	7.2	8.0	7.8	8.0	8.1	6.6	7.1	6.5	6.6	6.4	6.4
Ireland	5.7	5.9	5.7	5.6	5.6	5.8	5.6	6.1	5.8	6.0	5.8	5.7
Israel	4.1	4.5	4.9	4.4	5.1	5.2	4.5	5.0	5.2	4.8	5.2	5.6
Italy ⁽⁴⁾	10.3	10.8	11.3	11.1	11.3	11.4	8.5	9.1	9.4	9.6	9.4	9.2
Japan	2.5	2.7	2.6	2.6	2.8	2.4	3.0	3.3	3.0	3.2	3.1	2.8
Korea	4.0	4.5	4.6	6.1	3.8	3.9	3.9	4.1	4.3	4.9	4.2	3.9
Latvia	7.1	7.3	7.5	7.3	7.5	7.7	9.1	9.0	9.7	9.6	9.8	9.6
Lithuania	7.7	8.5	8.6	9.0	8.9	8.0	9.3	9.9	10.1	10.2	10.3	9.8
Luxembourg	6.8	6.8	6.9	7.0	6.9	6.9	6.8	6.5	6.5	6.6	6.5	6.4
Mexico ⁽⁵⁾	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.4	4.2	4.1	4.6	4.6	4.5	4.6	4.6	4.4
Netherlands	4.0	4.3	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.6	3.7	3.9	3.5	3.5	3.6	3.4
New Zealand	5.0	5.3	4.7				4.3	4.5	4.7			
Norway* ⁽⁶⁾												
Poland	3.3	3.1	2.9	2.9	2.9	3.0	3.1	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.2
Portugal ⁽⁴⁾	7.4	7.4	6.9	7.0	7.1	6.7	6.8	7.0	6.6	6.8	6.6	6.3
Slovak Republic	7.1	7.4	8.3	8.1	8.4	8.5	6.4	6.5	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.5
Slovenia	5.7	5.9	5.6	5.7	5.6	5.4	4.4	4.6	4.4	4.5	4.4	4.3
Spain	17.4	18.4	17.6	17.7	17.6	17.4	13.9	14.2	13.6	13.8	13.6	13.4
Sweden ⁽²⁾	8.3	8.7	9.4	9.1	9.6	9.6	8.3	8.5	8.9	8.9	8.5	9.4
Switzerland*	5.0	5.5					4.7	4.8				
Turkey* ⁽⁷⁾	14.8	14.4		13.7 (b)			12.3	12.0		11.5 (b)		
United Kingdom*	4.2	4.8		4.6			4.8	5.4		5.2		
United States	8.4	6.6	6.1	6.3	6.1	5.9	7.8	6.9	6.3	6.4	6.3	6.2

b: Break in time series

* For this country, data for the most recent month or quarter in this table are not available.

Notes:

(1) Austria: Data from January 2021 onwards are estimations.

(2) Czech Republic, Denmark 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) Germany: Due to the introduction of the new German system of integrated household surveys, data from January 2020 onwards are estimations.

(4) Italy and Portugal: Data are provisional.

(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.

(6) Norway: data for time periods in this table are not available.

(7) 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+)					
	2020	2020	2021	2021			2020	2020	2021	2021		
		Q4	Q1	Jan	Feb	Mar		Q4	Q1	Jan	Feb	Mar
OECD - Total	15.0	14.2	13.6	14.0	13.6	13.3	6.1	6.0	5.7	5.9	5.7	5.6
Major Seven	13.6	12.1	11.7	12.0	11.5	11.5	5.6	5.3	5.1	5.2	5.1	4.9
European Union	16.6	17.0	17.2	17.4	17.2	17.1	6.3	6.6	6.5	6.6	6.5	6.4
Euro area	17.1	17.4	17.3	17.4	17.3	17.2	7.1	7.5	7.3	7.4	7.3	7.2
Australia	14.3	15.0	12.9	14.0	12.9	11.8	5.0	5.3	4.7	4.9	4.5	4.5
Austria⁽¹⁾	10.5	10.0	9.6	9.7	9.6	9.5	4.7	5.0	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2
Belgium⁽²⁾	15.3	16.4	14.4	14.4	14.4	14.4	4.8	5.1	5.1	5.0	5.1	5.2
Canada	20.0	17.8	16.9	19.7	17.1	14.0	7.9	7.3	7.0	7.8	6.8	6.4
Chile*	24.8	24.3	24.4	24.9	24.4		9.6	9.9	9.3	9.6	9.3	
Colombia	27.5	26.6	24.7	25.9	24.9	23.2	13.9	12.9	11.9	11.8	12.1	11.8
Czech Republic⁽³⁾	7.9	9.5	10.3	11.3	9.1	10.5	2.3	2.7	2.8	2.8	2.9	2.8
Denmark⁽³⁾	11.5	12.1	11.6	11.4	11.3	12.2	4.7	4.9	5.1	5.2	5.1	5.0
Estonia	18.0	22.0	15.7	17.2	15.1	14.9	5.9	6.2	6.3	6.4	6.2	6.2
Finland	20.8	21.6	19.2	20.1	19.8	17.8	6.0	6.4	6.5	6.6	6.4	6.4
France	20.1	18.5	19.1	18.5	19.2	19.5	6.8	7.0	6.8	6.8	6.9	6.6
Germany⁽⁴⁾	6.2	6.5	6.2	6.3	6.2	6.0	4.0	4.3	4.3	4.4	4.3	4.3
Greece*	35.1	33.8					15.5	15.2				
Hungary	12.4	11.3	13.4	15.3	13.5	11.5	3.5	3.7	3.8	4.2	3.9	3.4
Iceland	11.9	12.8	13.4	13.2	13.4	13.5	5.5	6.2	6.1	6.2	6.1	6.1
Ireland	15.2	16.1	15.2	15.8	14.9	14.9	4.4	4.7	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.7
Israel⁽⁵⁾	7.9	8.8	7.1	7.3	7.8	6.3	3.7	4.3	4.3	3.9	4.5	4.5
Italy⁽⁶⁾	29.3	31.0	32.6	33.0	31.9	33.0	8.1	8.6				
Japan	4.5	5.0	5.2	5.8	4.9	4.8	2.6	2.9	2.6	2.7	2.7	2.4
Korea	10.5	10.7	10.4	11.7	10.0	9.7	3.6	3.9	4.1	5.1	3.7	3.5
Latvia	14.8	13.1	15.4	15.4	15.8	15.1	7.7	7.8	8.2	8.0	8.2	8.3
Lithuania	19.5	18.7	17.1	18.2	17.5	15.6	7.7	8.5	8.8	8.9	9.0	8.4
Luxembourg	22.4	22.6	21.6	22.0	21.4	21.3	5.6	5.4	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.5
Mexico⁽⁷⁾	8.0	8.0	8.5	8.5	9.0	8.2	3.8	3.8	3.6	3.7	3.5	3.5
Netherlands	9.1	9.7	9.1	9.1	9.4	8.9	2.8	3.0	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.5
New Zealand	12.4	13.6	12.5				3.3	3.4	3.4			
Norway*⁽⁸⁾												
Poland	10.9	13.4	14.3	14.2	14.8	13.9	2.6	2.5	2.4	2.3	2.4	2.4
Portugal⁽⁶⁾	22.9	23.4	23.0	23.0	22.9	23.0	6.0	6.1	5.7	5.8	5.8	5.4
Slovak Republic	19.3	20.2	20.7	20.7	20.6	20.8	5.9	6.1	6.5	6.3	6.5	6.6
Slovenia⁽²⁾	14.4	14.9	13.7	13.7	13.7	13.7	4.4	4.7	4.4	4.5	4.4	4.3
Spain	38.3	40.3	38.7	39.5	38.8	37.7	14.0	14.5	13.9	14.0	13.9	13.8
Sweden⁽³⁾	23.8	23.6	24.4	24.3	23.7	25.2	6.4	6.8	7.3	7.1	7.3	7.5
Switzerland*	8.6	8.1					4.3	4.7				
Turkey*⁽³⁾	25.2	25.2		22.9 (b)			11.0	10.5		10.2 (b)		
United Kingdom*	13.5	14.4		14.3			3.2	3.8		3.7		
United States	15.1	12.0	11.1	11.2	10.9	11.1	7.1	6.0	5.5	5.6	5.5	5.3

b: Break in time series

* For this country data for the most recent month or quarter in this table are not available.

Notes:

(1) Austria: Data from January 2021 onwards are estimations.

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

(3) Czech Republic, Denmark, Sweden and Turkey: 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) Germany: Due to the introduction of the new German system of integrated household surveys, data from January 2020 onwards are estimations.

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

(6) Italy and Portugal: Data are provisional.

(7) 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.

(8) Norway: data for time periods in this table are not available.

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

	2019	2020	2020		2021	2020	2021		
			Q3	Q4			Q1	Dec	Jan
OECD - Total	35,914	46,467	50,115	45,564	43,661	44,829	44,595	43,759	42,652
Major Seven	16,533	24,802	26,965	23,308	22,115	23,044	22,614	22,237	21,495
European Union	14,372	15,201	16,517	15,919	15,693	15,742	15,802	15,757	15,520
Euro area	12,405	12,949	14,117	13,571	13,314	13,380	13,402	13,375	13,166
Australia	700	880	955	935	819	909	875	805	778
Austria ⁽¹⁾	205	243	256	255	260	265	260	260	259
Belgium	274	282	324	294	292	286	287	292	297
Canada	1,154	1,897	2,032	1,783	1,694	1,774	1,899	1,665	1,517
Chile*	698	939	1,009	987	951	974	975	951	
Colombia	2,611	3,755	4,109	3,722	3,422	3,541	3,423	3,494	3,349
Czech Republic ⁽²⁾	109	137	151	164	172	163	174	169	173
Denmark ⁽²⁾	153	171	188	181	180	182	181	179	180
Estonia	32	47	55	51	49	47	50	48	48
Finland	183	209	227	222	216	224	222	215	211
France	2,493	2,350	2,705	2,387	2,353	2,284	2,350	2,387	2,322
Germany ⁽³⁾	1,374	1,846	1,979	2,011	1,993	2,014	2,008	1,994	1,976
Greece*	819	761	779	748		726			
Hungary	159	198	205	202	213	200	237	214	187
Iceland	8	13	14	15	15	15	15	15	15
Ireland	121	137	159	146	139	140	142	139	137
Israel	157	177	193	193	204	194	186	208	219
Italy ⁽⁴⁾	2,588	2,318	2,474	2,445	2,510	2,433	2,522	2,514	2,495
Japan	1,617	1,911	2,023	2,100	1,953	2,100	2,030	2,030	1,800
Korea	1,063	1,108	1,066	1,201	1,247	1,257	1,519	1,127	1,095
Latvia	61	79	83	78	83	79	82	83	83
Lithuania	92	126	142	137	139	137	143	143	132
Luxembourg	17	21	22	21	21	21	21	21	21
Mexico ⁽⁵⁾	1,991	2,353	2,609	2,461	2,462	2,351	2,481	2,481	2,423
Netherlands	314	357	419	384	334	368	337	340	326
New Zealand	115	132	151	140	135				
Norway*	105		148						
Poland	558	537	563	547	535	542	531	540	534
Portugal ⁽⁴⁾	340	358	406	365	339	347	345	343	329
Slovak Republic	158	181	193	189	199	188	196	200	202
Slovenia	46	51	53	54	51	54	52	51	50
Spain	3,248	3,531	3,784	3,731	3,552	3,714	3,608	3,560	3,488
Sweden ⁽²⁾	373	459	498	478	502	492	489	495	521
Switzerland*	216	238	250	255					
Turkey* ⁽²⁾	4,455	4,055	4,138	3,955		3,832	3,890 (b)		
United Kingdom*	1,307	1,532	1,624	1,744		1,703	1,675		
United States	6,001	12,948	14,128	10,838	9,937	10,736	10,130	9,972	9,710

b: Break in time series

* For this country, data for the most recent month or quarter in this table is not available.

Notes:

(1) Austria: Data from January 2021 onwards are estimations.

(2) Czech Republic, Denmark, Sweden and Turkey: 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) Germany: Due to the introduction of the new German system of integrated household surveys, data from January 2020 onwards are estimations.

(4) Italy and Portugal: Data are provisional.

(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.