



UNEMPLOYMENT

Paris, 12 May 2023

Reference period: March 2023

OECD unemployment rate stable at record low of 4.8% in March 2023

The OECD unemployment rate remained at 4.8% in March 2023, marking its third month at this record low since 2001 (Figure 1 and Table 1). The monthly unemployment rate was unchanged in March 2023 in 15 OECD countries, declined in 14 and rose in 5. The rate was at or close to its record low in only eight countries, including Canada, France, Germany, and the United States (Figure 2 and Table 1). The number of unemployed persons declined slightly to 33.1 million, remaining close to its lowest point from July 2022.

In March 2023, the OECD youth unemployment rate (workers aged 15-24) eased to 10.5%, recording its lowest value since 2005, already reached in July 2022. The largest declines in the unemployment rate for younger workers were observed in Austria, Denmark, Greece, Latvia, and Sweden. The unemployment rate for both women and men was broadly stable, at 5.0% and 4.6% respectively, as was the rate for workers aged 25 and above (Figure 1, Tables 3 and 4).

In the euro area, the unemployment rate decreased slightly, reaching a new record low of 6.5% in March 2023. The unemployment rate was stable or decreased in all euro area countries apart from Belgium and Estonia, with the largest declines observed in Austria and Greece. However, unemployment rates remain well above their lowest levels in Greece, Luxembourg, and Spain.

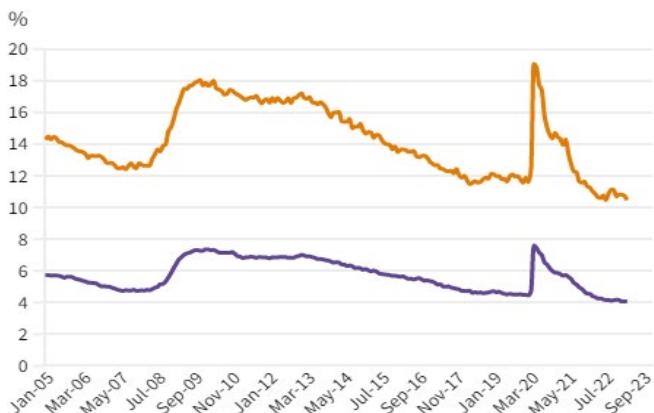
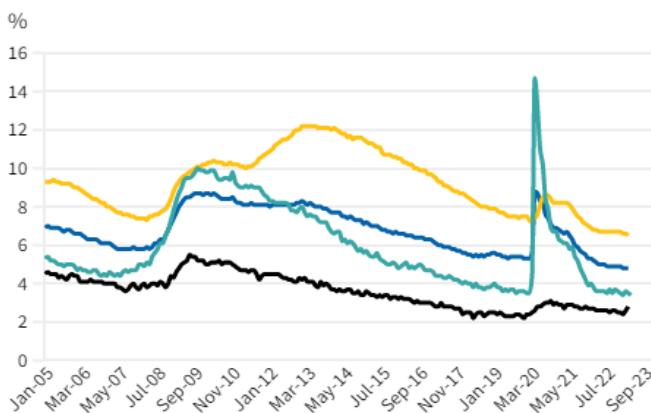
Outside Europe, Colombia and the United States recorded a drop in the unemployment rate, while other non-European OECD countries experienced broadly stable conditions. By contrast, Japan and Korea saw rising unemployment rates, although from a relatively low base (Figure 2 and Table 1). More recent data show that the unemployment rate in Canada held steady at 5.0% in April 2023, unchanged since December 2022, and edged down to a record low of 3.4% in the United States.

» **Figure 1 – Unemployment rates**

Percentage of labour force, seasonally adjusted

● OECD ■ Euro area ● United States ■ Japan

● 15-24, OECD ■ 25+, OECD

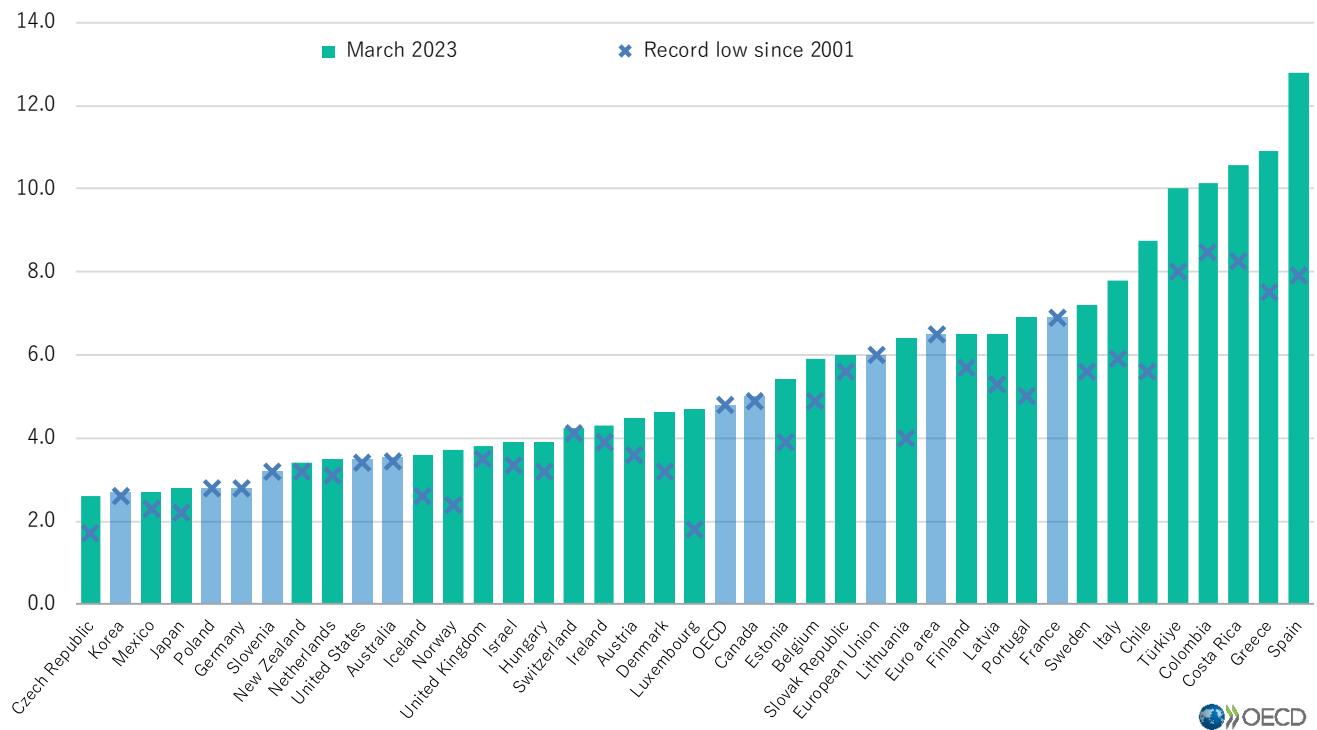


Note: The fall in the OECD unemployment rate when compared with the April 2020 peak should be interpreted with caution, as it largely reflects the return of temporary laid-off workers in the United States and Canada, where they are recorded as unemployed, unlike in most other countries, including European member states, where they are recorded as employed.

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

Figure 2 – Unemployment rate for OECD countries

March 2023 compared with the lowest rate recorded since 2001, percentage of labour force, seasonally adjusted



Note: The March 2023 unemployment rate was at or within 0.1 percentage point of its record low in Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Korea, Poland, Slovenia, and the United States, as well as for the OECD, the European Union and the euro area (bars reported in blue).

For Costa Rica and Chile, unemployment rate for February 2023 is reported; for the United Kingdom, January 2023; for Switzerland, fourth quarter 2022; for New Zealand, first quarter 2023.

Source: OECD Short-term Labour Market Statistics, <https://stats.oecd.org/index.aspx?lang=en&QueryId=36324>

Table 1 – Unemployment rates (aged 15 and over)

Percentage of labour force, seasonally adjusted

	2021	2022	2022		2020	2022			2023			Change from previous period	Record low since 2001
			Q2	Q3		Q4	Q1	Feb	Oct	Nov	Dec		
OECD	6.2	5.0	5.0	4.9	4.9	4.8	5.3	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.8	4.8	4.8
G7	5.2	4.1	4.1	4.0	4.0	3.9	4.2	4.0	4.0	3.9	3.9	4.0	3.9
European Union	7.1	6.2	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.0	6.6	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.0	6.0	6.0
Euro area	7.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.6	7.3	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.6	6.6	6.5
Australia	5.1	3.7	3.8	3.5	3.5	3.6	5.1	3.4	3.5	3.5	3.7	3.5	3.5
Austria	6.2	4.8	4.4	5.1	5.0	4.9	4.6	4.5	5.5	4.9	5.1	5.0	4.5
Belgium	6.3	5.6	5.8	5.4	5.7	5.8	5.1	5.6	5.7	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.9
Canada	7.5	5.3	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.0	5.7	5.2	5.1	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
Chile	8.9	7.9	7.5	7.8	8.4	8.7	8.2	8.3	8.4	8.5	8.6	8.7	..
Colombia	13.8	11.2	10.7	10.9	11.1	10.7	11.2	10.9	11.0	11.4	11.4	10.6	10.1
Costa Rica	16.4	12.2	11.7	12.0	11.7	10.6	12.5	11.6	11.7	11.8	10.9	10.6	..
Czech Republic	2.8	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.5	1.8	2.2	2.7	2.3	2.5	2.4	2.6
Denmark	5.1	4.5	4.2	4.6	4.7	4.7	5.1	4.5	4.7	4.8	4.3	5.2	4.6
Estonia	6.2	5.6	5.7	5.6	5.4	5.3	5.1	5.4	5.4	5.3	5.2	5.3	5.4
Finland	7.7	6.8	6.4	7.2	6.8	6.7	6.7	6.4	6.7	7.2	7.0	6.6	6.5
France	7.9	7.3	7.5	7.2	7.1	7.0	7.8	7.2	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.0	6.9
Germany	3.6	3.1	3.0	3.1	3.0	2.9	3.3	3.1	3.0	3.0	2.9	2.9	2.8
Greece	14.8	12.5	12.6	12.3	11.8	10.8	16.4	11.7	11.8	11.8	10.2	11.3	10.9
Hungary	4.0	3.6	3.5	3.6	3.8	3.9	3.3	3.7	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.9	3.9
Iceland	6.0	3.8	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	5.0	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6
Ireland	6.3	4.5	4.3	4.4	4.5	4.3	4.8	4.5	4.5	4.4	4.4	4.3	4.3
Israel	5.0	3.8	3.5	3.6	4.1	4.0	3.3	4.0	4.0	4.2	4.3	3.9	3.9
Italy	9.6	8.1	8.1	8.0	7.9	7.9	9.5	7.9	7.9	7.9	8.0	7.9	7.8
Japan	2.8	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.5	2.6	2.4	2.6	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.6	2.8
Korea	3.7	2.9	2.9	2.8	2.9	2.7	3.4	2.8	2.8	3.1	2.9	2.6	2.7
Latvia	7.6	6.9	6.6	7.0	6.9	6.7	7.2	6.9	6.9	6.8	6.8	6.7	6.5
Lithuania	7.1	5.9	5.6	6.0	6.1	6.4	7.3	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.4	6.5	6.4
Luxembourg	5.4	4.5	4.4	4.5	4.7	4.7	5.8	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.8	4.7	4.7
Mexico	4.1	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.0	2.8	3.6	3.2	3.0	3.0	2.9	2.7	2.7
Netherlands	4.2	3.5	3.3	3.7	3.6	3.5	4.0	3.7	3.6	3.5	3.6	3.5	3.5
New Zealand	3.8	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.4	3.4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Norway	4.5	3.2	3.2	3.3	3.2	3.7	3.6	3.2	3.1	3.4	3.6	3.9	3.7
Poland	3.4	2.9	2.8	3.0	3.0	2.8	2.9	3.0	3.0	2.9	2.8	2.8	2.8
Portugal	6.6	6.0	6.0	6.1	6.4	6.9	6.5	6.1	6.5	6.7	7.0	6.9	6.9
Slovak Republic	6.8	6.2	6.2	6.0	6.1	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.1	6.1	6.0	6.0	6.0
Slovenia	4.8	4.0	4.4	4.0	3.6	3.2	4.3	3.7	3.6	3.4	3.3	3.2	3.2
Spain	14.8	12.9	12.7	12.7	13.0	12.9	13.6	13.0	13.0	13.0	12.9	12.9	12.8
Sweden	8.8	7.5	7.7	7.0	7.5	7.4	7.8	7.7	7.2	7.5	7.3	7.6	7.2
Switzerland	5.1	4.3	4.3	4.2	4.3	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Türkiye	12.0	10.5	10.7	10.0	10.2	9.9	12.5	10.1	10.1	10.3	9.8	10.0	10.0
United Kingdom	4.5	3.7	3.8	3.6	3.7	..	4.0	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.8
United States	5.4	3.7	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.7	3.6	3.5	3.4	3.6	3.5

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Change from previous period (x)



x >= 0.1



-0.1 < x < 0.1



x = < -0.1

Change between February 2023 and March 2023 except for Chile and Costa Rica where the change is reported between January and February 2023; for the United Kingdom, change between December 2022 and January 2023; for Switzerland, change between third quarter and fourth quarter 2022; for New Zealand, change between fourth quarter 2022 and first quarter 2023.

Note: figures in bold in the columns “Record low since 2001” stress that the unemployment rate reached its lowest level in the most recent period for which data are available.

Source: OECD Short-term Labour Market Statistics, <https://stats.oecd.org/index.aspx?lang=en&QueryId=36324>

Table 2 – Unemployment levels (aged 15 and over)

Thousands of persons, seasonally adjusted

	2021	2022	2022			2022	2023		
			Q3	Q4	Q1		Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
OECD	40,993	33,933	33,291	33,582	33,147	33,498	33,174	33,192	33,075
G7	19,907	15,754	15,469	15,508	15,402	15,214	15,183	15,520	15,503
European Union	14,956	13,252	13,167	13,221	13,066	13,220	13,122	13,115	12,960
Euro area	12,758	11,290	11,240	11,234	11,106	11,246	11,176	11,131	11,010
Australia	700	522	498	495	513	503	524	509	507
Austria	284	221	235	233	226	228	238	234	207
Belgium	324	294	285	304	314	309	312	313	316
Canada	1,542	1,098	1,063	1,066	1,055	1,043	1,046	1,066	1,053
Chile	806	758	756	816	860	824	844	860	..
Colombia	3,263	2,781	2,725	2,728	2,676	2,804	2,851	2,614	2,562
Costa Rica	401	300	297	287	249	287	264	249	..
Czech Republic	150	126	123	125	132	122	130	129	138
Denmark	155	139	143	147	150	149	138	166	145
Estonia	43	40	41	39	38	38	37	38	39
Finland	212	190	203	191	190	204	200	185	184
France	2,365	2,234	2,209	2,191	2,147	2,186	2,168	2,146	2,128
Germany	1,536	1,343	1,346	1,331	1,278	1,316	1,297	1,278	1,260
Greece	678	588	580	552	501	557	471	523	509
Hungary	195	176	176	183	190	185	189	190	190
Iceland	13	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
Ireland	158	120	115	119	118	119	119	117	117
Israel	206	163	158	179	179	187	190	173	175
Italy	2,371	2,028	2,008	1,985	1,999	1,984	2,015	2,001	1,980
Japan	1,946	1,793	1,783	1,740	1,807	1,710	1,670	1,800	1,950
Korea	1,037	833	806	834	789	887	842	743	782
Latvia	71	65	67	66	64	65	65	64	62
Lithuania	105	89	91	92	97	91	97	97	96
Luxembourg	18	15	15	15	16	15	16	16	16
Mexico	2,372	1,940	1,909	1,830	1,679	1,804	1,741	1,650	1,646
Netherlands	408	350	371	360	358	352	360	356	357
New Zealand	110	97	97	100	102	...	...	...	...
Norway	129	95	96	96	110	101	106	114	111
Poland	580	498	506	509	485	497	482	483	491
Portugal	337	314	315	334	365	350	368	364	363
Slovak Republic	188	170	167	168	167	168	167	167	166
Slovenia	49	41	41	36	32	34	33	32	32
Spain	3,430	3,025	2,985	3,052	3,039	3,062	3,050	3,042	3,026
Sweden	488	419	395	421	418	421	413	431	410
Switzerland	252	212	205	211	..	...	...	...	...
Türkiye	3,927	3,592	3,416	3,545	3,483	3,602	3,436	3,504	3,508
United Kingdom	1,525	1,263	1,224	1,270	..	1,253	1,293	..	..
United States	8,623	5,996	5,836	5,925	5,823	5,722	5,694	5,936	5,839

...: Not applicable ..: Not available

Source: OECD Short-term Labour Market Statistics, <https://stats.oecd.org/index.aspx?lang=en&QueryId=36325>.

Table 3 – Unemployment rates by sex (aged 15 and over)

Percentage of the labour force of each group, seasonally adjusted

	Women									Men								
	2021		2022		2023		2023			2021		2022		2023		2023		
	Q4	Q1	Jan	Feb	Mar	Q4	Q1	Jan	Feb	Mar	Q4	Q1	Jan	Feb	Mar	Jan	Feb	Mar
OECD	6.3	5.3	5.2	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.0	6.0	4.8	4.7	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6
G7	5.1	4.0	4.0	3.9	3.8	3.9	3.9	5.3	4.1	4.0	4.0	3.9	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
European Union	7.4	6.5	6.5	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.3	6.8	5.9	5.8	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.6	5.7	5.7	5.6
Euro area	8.1	7.2	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.0	7.4	6.3	6.2	6.1	6.2	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.2	6.1	6.1
Australia	5.0	3.6	3.5	3.4	3.5	3.4	3.4	5.2	3.8	3.4	3.7	3.8	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.8	3.7	3.7
Austria	6.1	4.5	4.6	4.7	5.1	5.0	4.0	6.3	4.9	5.3	5.0	5.1	4.9	4.9	4.9	5.1	4.9	4.9
Belgium	5.9	5.3	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.5	6.6	5.8	6.0	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.2
Canada	7.4	5.1	5.0	4.8	4.8	4.9	4.8	7.7	5.4	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.2	5.2
Chile	9.2	8.5	9.2	8.9	9.0	8.9	..	8.6	7.4	7.8	8.6	8.4	8.6	..	8.6	8.6	..	..
Colombia	17.5	14.3	13.9	13.7	14.5	13.6	13.0	11.3	9.0	9.0	8.5	9.2	8.3	8.0	8.0	8.3	8.0	8.0
Costa Rica	22.0	16.4	16.0	14.1	14.1	14.1	..	12.7	9.4	8.7	8.4	8.9	8.4	..	8.4	8.4	..	..
Czech Republic	3.4	2.9	2.8	3.0	3.1	2.9	3.0	2.3	2.0	2.1	2.1	2.0	2.1	2.3	2.0	2.1	2.1	2.3
Denmark	5.2	4.5	4.3	4.4	4.1	4.6	4.5	5.1	4.4	5.0	5.0	4.5	5.8	4.7	4.5	5.8	4.7	4.7
Estonia	5.6	5.0	4.8	5.0	5.1	5.0	5.0	6.8	6.1	6.0	5.5	5.3	5.6	5.7	5.3	5.6	5.7	5.7
Finland	7.1	6.4	6.4	6.1	6.8	5.8	5.7	8.2	7.1	7.1	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.3
France	7.8	7.1	6.9	6.7	6.8	6.7	6.6	8.0	7.5	7.4	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.2	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.2
Germany	3.2	2.8	2.9	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.7	3.9	3.3	3.1	3.0	3.0	3.0	2.9	3.0	3.0	3.0	2.9
Greece	19.0	16.4	15.6	14.3	13.0	15.4	14.5	11.4	9.3	8.6	7.9	8.0	7.9	7.8	8.0	7.9	7.8	7.8
Hungary	4.2	3.5	3.7	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.9	3.9	3.7	3.8	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9
Iceland	6.5	3.4	2.7	2.7	2.8	2.7	2.6	5.7	4.1	4.3	4.4	4.3	4.4	4.4	4.3	4.4	4.4	4.4
Ireland	6.2	4.6	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.6	6.3	4.4	4.3	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1
Israel	4.9	3.6	4.0	3.8	4.1	3.5	3.8	5.0	3.9	4.1	4.2	4.4	4.2	4.0	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.0
Italy	10.7	9.4	9.2	9.4	9.5	9.4	9.3	8.7	7.1	6.9	6.8	6.8	6.9	6.8	6.8	6.9	6.8	6.8
Japan	2.5	2.4	2.2	2.3	2.2	2.3	2.5	3.1	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.6	2.9	3.0	2.6	2.9	3.0	3.0
Korea	3.8	3.1	3.1	2.7	3.0	2.5	2.7	3.6	2.8	2.7	2.7	2.8	2.6	2.7	2.8	2.6	2.7	2.7
Latvia	6.6	5.6	5.0	4.7	4.6	4.7	4.7	8.5	8.2	8.7	8.6	8.9	8.7	8.3	8.9	8.7	8.3	8.3
Lithuania	6.6	5.5	5.5	5.7	5.9	5.6	5.6	7.6	6.3	6.7	7.2	7.0	7.3	7.2	7.0	7.3	7.2	7.2
Luxembourg	5.9	4.6	4.8	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.8	5.0	4.4	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.7	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.7
Mexico	4.1	3.3	3.1	2.8	2.9	3.1	2.6	4.1	3.3	3.0	2.7	2.9	2.5	2.8	2.9	2.5	2.8	2.8
Netherlands	4.5	3.8	4.0	3.9	3.9	3.8	3.9	4.0	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.3	3.3	3.3
New Zealand	3.9	3.6	3.5	3.7	...	...	...	3.7	3.1	3.3	3.2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Norway	4.2	3.1	3.2	3.8	3.6	3.9	3.8	4.7	3.4	3.3	3.7	3.6	3.8	3.7	3.6	3.8	3.7	3.7
Poland	3.4	3.0	2.9	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.8	3.4	2.8	3.0	2.8	2.8	2.9	2.9	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.9
Portugal	6.9	6.5	6.9	7.3	7.5	7.2	7.1	6.3	5.6	5.9	6.6	6.5	6.6	6.6	6.5	6.6	6.6	6.6
Slovak Republic	7.0	6.4	6.3	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.5	6.7	5.9	5.8	5.6	5.7	5.6	5.5	5.7	5.6	5.6	5.5
Slovenia	5.4	4.3	3.9	3.4	3.6	3.4	3.3	4.3	3.8	3.3	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
Spain	16.7	14.8	14.8	14.7	14.7	14.7	14.7	13.1	11.3	11.4	11.2	11.3	11.2	11.1	11.3	11.2	11.1	11.1
Sweden	9.1	7.9	7.8	7.6	7.6	7.8	7.4	8.5	7.0	7.1	7.1	7.0	7.4	7.0	7.0	7.4	7.0	7.0
Switzerland	5.3	4.6	4.5	..	...	...	...	4.9	4.1	4.0	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Türkiye	14.7	13.5	13.5	13.4	13.7	12.8	13.8	10.7	9.0	8.5	8.2	7.8	8.6	8.1	7.8	8.6	8.1	8.1
United Kingdom	4.3	3.6	3.6	..	3.6	..	..	4.7	3.9	3.8	..	3.9	..	..	3.9	..	..	..
United States	5.2	3.6	3.6	3.4	3.3	3.5	3.4	5.5	3.7	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6

...: Not applicable ..: Not available

Source: OECD Short-term Labour Market Statistics, <https://stats.oecd.org/index.aspx?lang=en&QueryId=36324>

Methodological information:

The OECD 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).

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 total.

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

For further methodological information, including the impact of COVID-19 on employment and unemployment statistics, see: [**Methodological Notes for OECD Unemployment and Labour Market Situation News Releases**](#)

Access Data:

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

The entry into force in 2021 of the Integrated European Social Statistics (IESS) Framework Regulation resulted in a new methodology of the EU Labour Force Survey, [**updating the 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**](#).

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:

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Next releases:

Unemployment: [8 June 2023](#)

Labour Market Situation: [July 2023](#)

