



UNEMPLOYMENT

Paris, 13 June 2024

Reference period: April 2024

OECD unemployment rate stable at 4.9% in April 2024

The OECD unemployment rate was stable at 4.9% in April 2024, remaining below or at 5.0% since April 2022 (Figure 1 and Table 1). In April, the rate was unchanged in 25 OECD countries, declined in 4 countries, and rose in 3. Five OECD countries recorded a rate below or equal to 3.0% including Japan, Mexico, Czechia, and Korea while the rate of Colombia, Greece and Spain was above 10% (Figure 2 and Table 1). The number of unemployed persons in the OECD fell slightly to a total of 34.1 million, remaining stable or decreasing in 18 countries with the largest drop in Colombia (Table 2).

In the European Union and the euro area, the unemployment rate remained at record lows of 6.0% and 6.4%, respectively, in April 2024. It was stable in most OECD euro area countries. Only Ireland recorded an increase while Austria and Italy witnessed decreases (Table 1).

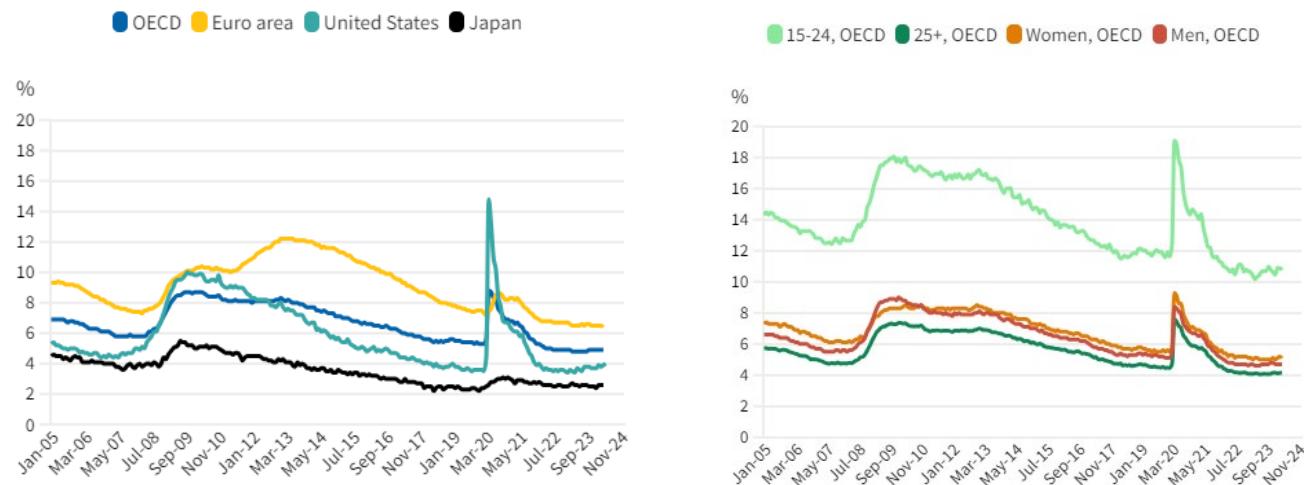
Outside Europe, unemployment rates in April 2024 were stable or increased in all OECD countries except in Colombia (Table 1). The unemployment rates in Canada and the United States remained broadly stable in May 2024 at 6.2% and 4.0%, respectively.

The OECD unemployment rate was broadly stable for both women and men at respectively 5.1% and 4.7% in April 2024. The gender gap, as defined by the difference between women and men unemployment rates was positive in the European Union, the euro area and in 19 OECD countries in April 2024 (or in the latest period available). However, the gap closed or turned negative in April in Austria, Denmark, Sweden, and the United-States (Figure 3 and Table 3).

The youth unemployment rate (aged 15-24) remained high, above 20%, in 9 OECD countries in April 2024 (or in the latest available period). A few countries such as Ireland, Lithuania, New Zealand, and Norway experienced a marked increase of more than 1.0 percentage point (Table 4).

Figure 1 – Unemployment rates

Percentage of labour force, seasonally adjusted



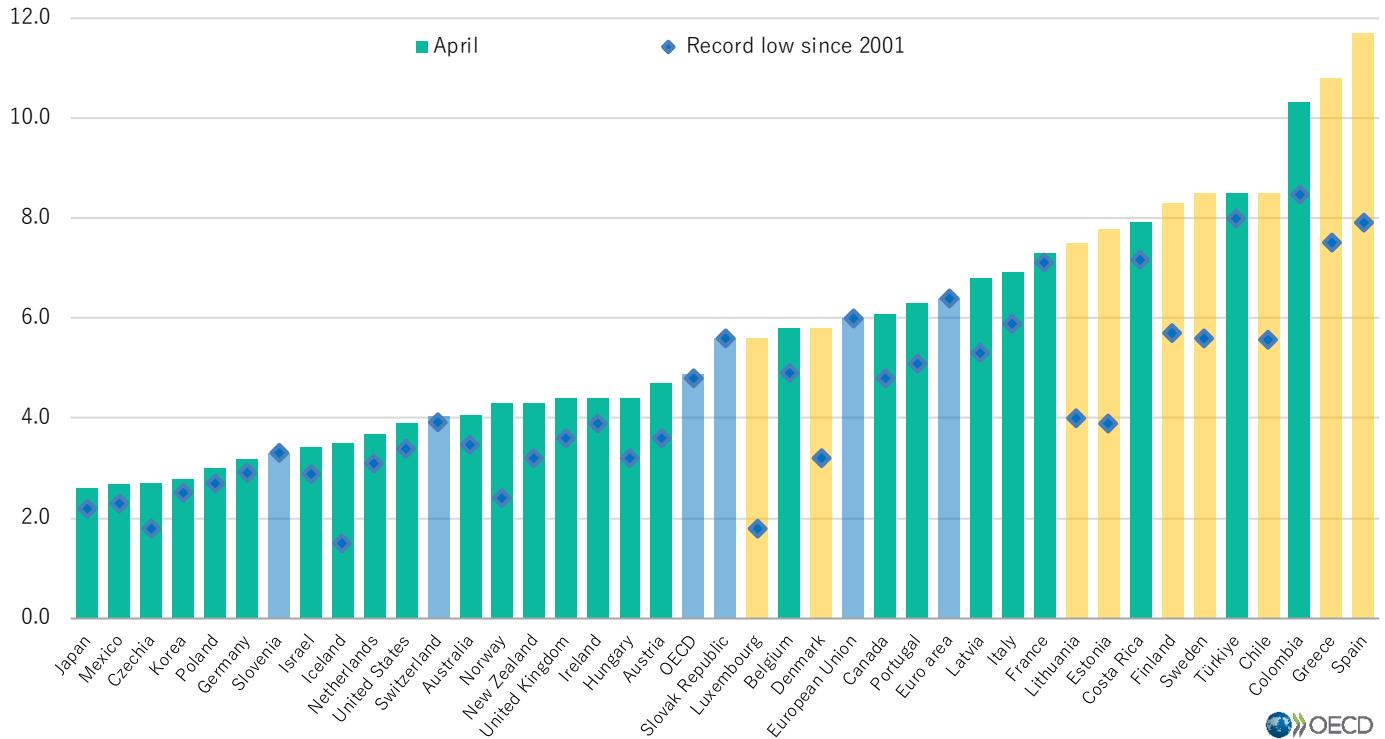
Note: The fall in the OECD unemployment rate when compared with the April 2020 peak should be interpreted with caution, as it largely reflects the return of temporary laid-off workers in the United States and Canada, where they are recorded as unemployed, unlike in most other countries, including European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

Source: OECD (2024) [Infra-annual Labour Statistics](#), and [Monthly unemployment rates](#).



Figure 2 – Unemployment rate for OECD countries

April 2024 compared with the lowest rate recorded since 2001, percentage of labour force, seasonally adjusted

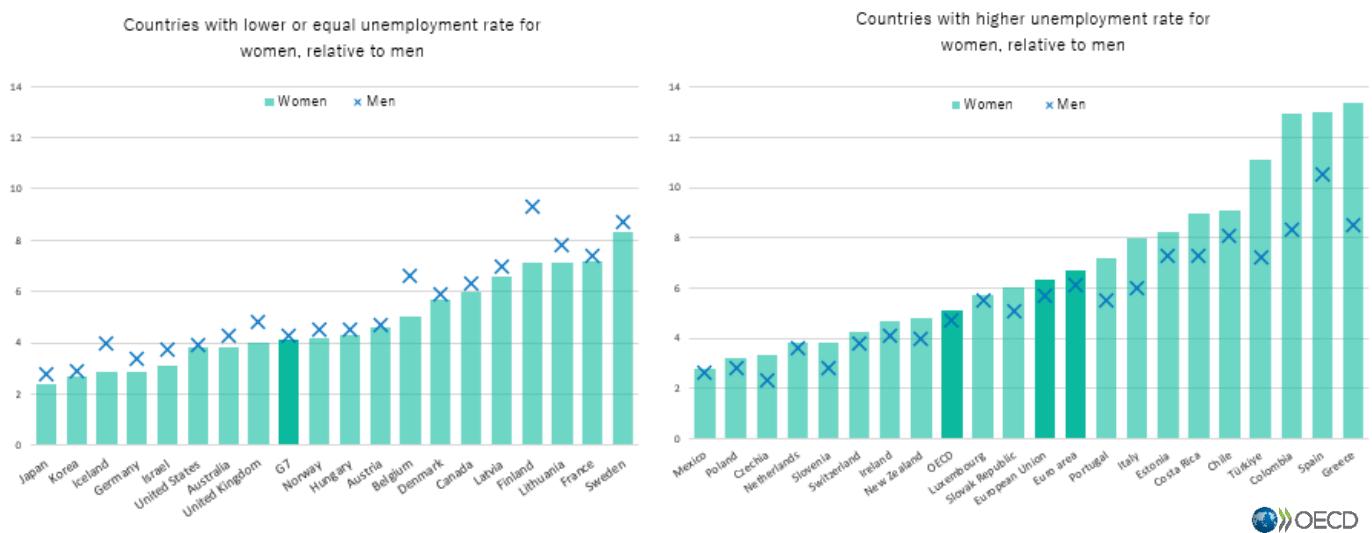


Note: The April 2024 unemployment rate was at or within 0.1 p.p. of its record low in Slovenia and Slovak Republic, as well as for the OECD, the European Union and the euro area (bars reported in blue). It was more than 2.5 p.p. above its record low in Chile (March 2024), Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Spain, and Sweden (bars reported in yellow). For Costa Rica, Chile, and the United Kingdom, the unemployment rate for March 2024 is reported; for Iceland, February 2024; for Switzerland, fourth quarter 2023 (at 0.1 p.p. of its record low); for New Zealand, first quarter 2024.

Source: OECD (2024) [Infra-annual Labour Statistics](#), and [Monthly unemployment rates](#).

Figure 3 – Unemployment rate by sex for OECD countries

April 2024, Percentage of labour force, seasonally adjusted



Note: For Costa Rica, Chile, and the United Kingdom, the unemployment rate for March 2024 is reported ; for Iceland, February 2024; for Switzerland, fourth quarter 2023; for New Zealand, first quarter 2024.

Source: OECD (2024) [Infra-annual Labour Statistics](#) and [Monthly unemployment levels](#)

Table 2 – Unemployment levels (aged 15 and over)

Thousands of persons, seasonally adjusted

	2022	2023	2023			2024	2024			
			Q3	Q4	Q1		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
OECD	34,032	33,373	33,331	33,637	33,979	33,777	33,923	34,221	34,089	
G7	15,776	15,960	16,170	16,249	16,446	16,062	16,630	16,601	16,602	
European Union	13,311	13,171	13,176	13,292	13,299	13,333	13,313	13,252	13,149	
Euro area	11,347	11,151	11,156	11,166	11,161	11,182	11,203	11,098	10,998	
Australia	524	538	537	573	576	602	551	574	604	
Austria	221	241	256	243	228	234	222	229	220	
Belgium	294	294	283	296	304	301	304	306	311	
Canada	1,098	1,155	1,185	1,240	1,268	1,225	1,260	1,320	1,337	
Chile	758	862	864	906	874	885	874	866	..	
Colombia	2,781	2,576	2,450	2,646	2,746	2,656	2,710	2,871	2,664	
Costa Rica	300	205	183	164	183	182	183	185	..	
Czechia	126	138	138	141	147	153	138	151	142	
Denmark	139	162	150	194	190	193	191	187	189	
Estonia	40	48	53	48	58	57	58	58	58	
Finland	190	204	210	215	227	220	220	240	236	
France	2,234	2,263	2,283	2,326	2,313	2,323	2,310	2,306	2,273	
Germany	1,343	1,335	1,347	1,385	1,415	1,408	1,416	1,420	1,419	
Greece	588	522	517	512	537	542	554	515	521	
Hungary	176	195	197	207	216	214	217	216	217	
Iceland	8	8	8	8	..	10	8	..	..
Ireland	121	120	125	126	120	128	118	115	124	
Israel	163	153	146	136	148	145	147	151	155	
Italy	2,028	1,952	1,944	1,904	1,847	1,842	1,880	1,820	1,765	
Japan	1,793	1,783	1,807	1,750	1,780	1,700	1,820	1,820	1,830	
Korea	833	787	762	823	831	889	774	830	829	
Latvia	65	61	62	66	66	66	66	65	65	
Lithuania	90	105	107	112	118	116	118	119	119	
Luxembourg	15	17	18	19	19	19	19	19	19	
Mexico	1,940	1,693	1,695	1,670	1,600	1,666	1,535	1,599	1,653	
Netherlands	350	359	366	360	373	368	379	371	375	
New Zealand	97	113	120	123	134	...	...	...	...
Norway	95	107	107	111	118	131	104	119	131	
Poland	511	502	499	537	521	521	518	523	528	
Portugal	318	349	339	349	349	350	352	345	337	
Slovak Republic	170	162	161	156	155	156	155	155	155	
Slovenia	41	38	38	36	34	35	34	34	34	
Spain	3,079	2,938	2,903	2,877	2,868	2,882	2,868	2,853	2,845	
Sweden	421	437	446	459	475	470	461	493	491	
Switzerland	212	204	208	205	..	...	...	...	...
Türkiye	3,592	3,275	3,213	3,074	3,107	3,185	3,075	3,060	3,042	
United Kingdom	1,285	1,393	1,407	1,320	1,486	1,440	1,486	1,510	..	
United States	5,996	6,080	6,197	6,324	6,337	6,124	6,458	6,429	6,492	

...: Not applicable ..: Not available

Source: OECD (2024) [Infra-annual Labour Statistics](#) and [Monthly unemployment levels](#).

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 (2024): [**Infra-annual Labour 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.

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