

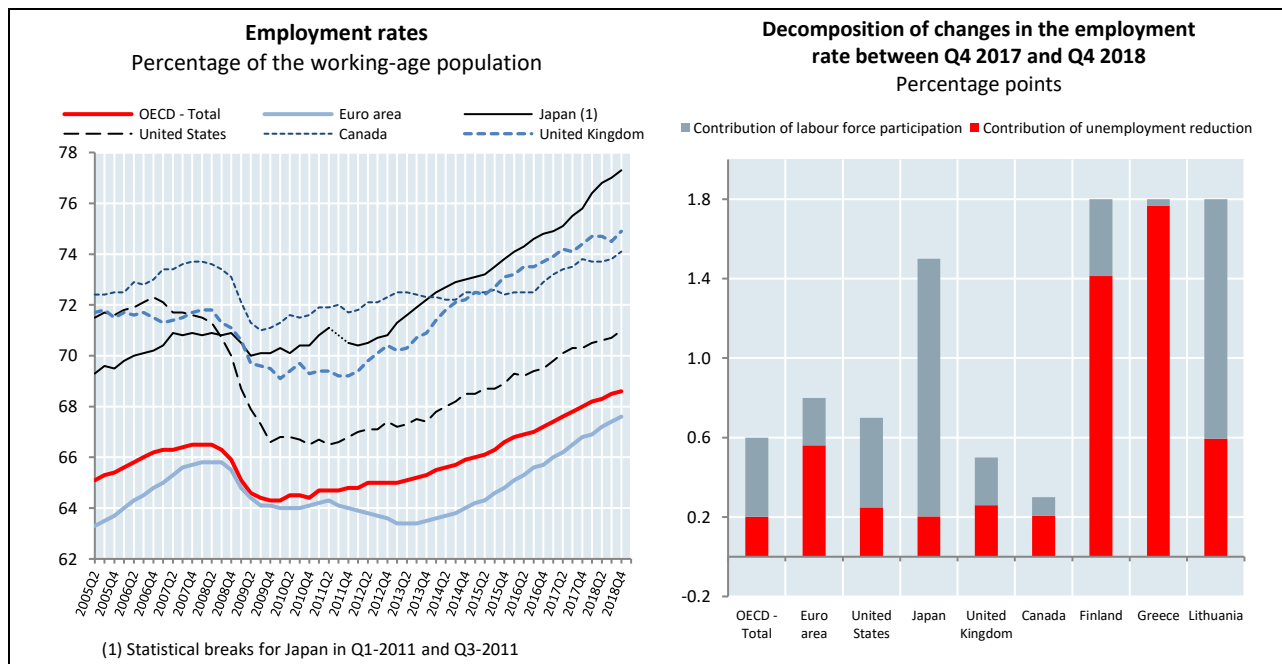
## OECD employment rate increases to 68.6% in the fourth quarter of 2018

The **OECD area** employment rate – the share of the working-age population with jobs – increased by 0.1 percentage point in the fourth quarter of 2018, to 68.6%. Compared to the previous quarter, the employment rate increased in 26 out of 36 OECD countries. Across the **OECD area**, 571 million people were employed in the fourth quarter of 2018.

In the **euro area**, the employment rate continued to increase in the fourth quarter of 2018, by 0.2 percentage point to 67.6%. Increases of 0.6 percentage point or more were recorded in **Estonia, Luxembourg, Finland** and **Slovenia**. Declines in the employment rate were only reported for **Latvia** (down 0.6 percentage point), **Lithuania** (down 0.6 percentage point) and **Portugal** (down 0.1 percentage point).

Outside the euro area, the employment rate increased by 0.4 percentage point in the **United Kingdom**, and by 0.3 percentage point in **Canada, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Japan, Norway, Sweden** and the **United States**. On the other hand, the employment rate declined by 1.0 percentage point in **New Zealand** and by 0.6 percentage point in **Turkey**.

When compared to the same quarter a year ago, the gain in the **OECD area** employment rate (up 0.6 percentage point) mainly reflects higher labour force participation rates and, to a lesser extent, a fall in the unemployment rate<sup>1</sup>. In the **euro area**, the increase in the employment rate (up 0.8 percentage point, compared to the fourth quarter of 2017) is mainly related to lower unemployment, but with quite significant differences across countries. The strong increases in employment rates in **Lithuania** and **Luxembourg** primarily reflect higher labour force participation rate, while in **Finland, Greece** and the **Slovak Republic**, they are predominantly related to lower unemployment. In **Japan** and the **United States**, the increase in the employment rate reflects an increase in the labour force participation rate, while in the **United Kingdom**, the contributions of unemployment and labour force participation to changes in the employment rate are more or less equal.



**Methodological Notes:** <http://www.oecd.org/sdd/labour-stats/50273955.pdf>

All rates and levels quoted are seasonally adjusted (s.a.). Data for EU countries and for some non-EU countries are seasonally adjusted by the OECD.

**Quarterly Labour Market Statistics:** <http://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=STLABOUR>

**Country Note:** The 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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**Next release: 16 July 2019**

<sup>1</sup> For an explanation of how changes in employment rates can be decomposed into changes in unemployment and labour force participation rates see footnotes 2 and 3 of Table 4 in this news release.

**Table 1: OECD employment rates and levels (15-64)**

*Employment as a percentage of corresponding working age population and levels, seasonally adjusted*

	Employment rates											Levels Thousands Q4 - 2018	
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2008	2017			2018				
						Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3		Q4
OECD - Total	66.3	67.0	67.7	68.4	66.5	67.8	68.0	68.2	68.3	68.5	68.6	570,938	
Major Seven	69.1	69.9	70.6	71.3	69.7	70.7	70.9	71.1	71.3	71.4	71.6	344,251	
European Union	65.6	66.6	67.7	68.6	65.7	67.8	68.1	68.3	68.5	68.7	68.9	225,171	
Euro area	64.5	65.4	66.3	67.3	65.8	66.5	66.8	66.9	67.2	67.4	67.6	147,438	
Australia	72.2	72.4	73.0	73.8	73.3	73.2	73.5	73.6	73.6	73.8	74.0	12,137	
Austria	71.1	71.6	72.2	73.0	71.0	72.1	72.6	72.8	73.0	73.1	73.2	4,254	
Belgium <sup>(1)</sup>	61.8	62.3	63.1	64.5	62.3	63.3	63.9	64.1	63.9	64.9	65.0	4,749	
Canada	72.5	72.6	73.4	73.8	73.6	73.5	73.8	73.7	73.7	73.8	74.1	17,959	
Chile	62.4	62.2	62.7	62.6	57.2	62.9	62.9	62.8	62.9	62.4	62.4	7,732	
Czech Republic	70.2	72.0	73.6	74.8	66.7	74.0	74.2	74.5	74.7	74.9	75.2	5,161	
Denmark <sup>(1)</sup>	73.5	74.9	74.2	75.4	78.0	74.4	74.6	75.0	75.5	75.4	75.6	2,797	
Estonia	71.9	72.1	74.1	74.8	70.1	74.5	75.7	73.9	74.6	74.7	75.8	638	
Finland	68.6	69.1	70.0	72.1	71.2	69.9	70.9	71.3	72.1	72.1	72.7	2,485	
France	63.8	64.2	64.7	65.4	64.9	64.7	65.2	65.2	65.3	65.4	65.6	26,848	
Germany	74.0	74.7	75.3	75.9	69.9	75.3	75.6	75.6	75.7	76.1	76.3	40,733	
Greece	50.8	52.0	53.5	54.9	61.5	53.8	53.8	54.2	54.8	55.2	55.6	3,788	
Hungary	64.0	66.5	68.2	69.3	56.3	68.4	68.7	69.1	69.2	69.2	69.5	4,411	
Iceland	84.7	86.5	86.1	85.1	84.4	85.1	85.6	85.1	84.3	85.4	85.5	190	
Ireland <sup>(1)</sup>	64.8	66.4	67.7	68.7	70.3	67.7	68.1	68.4	68.6	68.7	68.9	2,198	
Israel	68.3	68.6	69.0	69.0	60.0	69.1	69.1	69.3	69.0	69.0	68.9	3,699	
Italy	56.3	57.3	58.0	58.5	58.8	58.0	58.2	58.2	58.7	58.6	58.6	22,580	
Japan	73.4	74.4	75.3	76.9	70.9	75.5	75.8	76.4	76.8	77.0	77.3	58,163	
Korea	65.9	66.1	66.6	66.6	64.1	66.7	66.7	66.8	66.6	66.5	66.6	24,506	
Latvia	68.1	68.7	70.1	71.8	69.2	70.5	71.1	71.1	71.7	72.5	71.9	871	
Lithuania	67.3	69.4	70.4	72.4	64.6	70.5	71.1	71.3	72.0	73.5	72.9	1,329	
Luxembourg <sup>(1)</sup>	66.2	65.6	66.3	67.1	63.9	66.8	66.1	67.0	66.6	66.9	67.9	284	
Mexico	60.7	61.0	61.1	61.5	61.2	61.0	61.1	61.4	61.6	61.6	61.6	50,983	
Netherlands	74.2	74.8	75.9	77.2	75.0	76.0	76.2	76.5	77.0	77.5	77.8	8,607	
New Zealand	74.3	75.6	76.9	77.5	75.0	77.1	77.4	77.6	77.5	77.9	76.9	2,459	
Norway	74.8	74.3	74.0	74.8	78.1	74.0	74.2	74.6	74.8	74.8	75.1	2,603	
Poland	62.9	64.5	66.1	67.4	59.0	66.3	66.6	67.0	67.3	67.6	67.7	16,104	
Portugal	63.9	65.3	67.8	69.7	68.3	68.2	68.9	69.2	69.6	70.0	69.9	4,630	
Slovak Republic	62.7	64.9	66.2	67.6	61.8	66.3	66.5	67.1	67.2	67.9	68.2	2,553	
Slovenia	65.2	65.9	69.3	71.1	68.1	69.7	70.4	70.5	70.9	71.3	71.9	969	
Spain	57.8	59.6	61.1	62.4	65.1	61.4	61.6	61.7	62.3	62.6	63.0	19,361	
Sweden	75.5	76.2	76.9	77.5	74.5	76.9	77.0	77.2	77.4	77.6	77.9	4,965	
Switzerland	79.2	79.6	79.8	80.1	79.5	79.8	80.0	79.9	79.7	80.5	80.3	4,510	
Turkey	50.2	50.7	51.6	52.0	45.1	51.8	52.3	52.4	51.9	52.1	51.5	27,714	
United Kingdom	72.7	73.5	74.1	74.7	71.8	74.1	74.4	74.7	74.7	74.5	74.9	31,213	
United States	68.7	69.4	70.1	70.7	71.3	70.3	70.3	70.5	70.6	70.7	71.0	146,755	

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(1) Breaks in the Labour Force Survey for Belgium in Q1 2017; for Denmark in Q1 2016 and Q1 2017; for Ireland in Q3 2017; and for Luxembourg in Q1 2015. Some of these breaks also affect, to some extent, aggregates for the European Union, euro area and OECD-Total.

**Table 2: OECD employment rates (15-64) by gender**

*Employment as a percentage of corresponding working age population, seasonally adjusted*

	Women						Men					
	2018	2017	2018				2018	2017	2018			
		Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
OECD - Total	60.9	60.4	60.6	60.8	61.0	61.2	76.0	75.7	75.9	76.0	76.0	76.1
Major Seven	66.0	65.5	65.6	65.8	66.1	66.4	76.8	76.4	76.6	76.7	76.7	76.9
European Union	63.3	62.8	63.0	63.2	63.4	63.6	73.8	73.3	73.5	73.7	73.9	74.1
Euro area	62.1	61.6	61.8	62.0	62.3	62.5	72.5	71.9	72.1	72.4	72.6	72.8
Australia	69.2	68.8	69.0	69.2	69.2	69.5	78.4	78.2	78.3	78.1	78.4	78.5
Austria	68.6	68.4	68.5	68.5	68.6	68.7	77.5	76.8	77.1	77.5	77.5	77.6
Belgium <sup>(1)</sup>	60.8	59.5	60.0	59.7	61.6	61.5	68.2	68.3	68.1	68.0	68.2	68.5
Canada	71.0	71.0	70.7	70.8	71.1	71.4	76.7	76.5	76.7	76.5	76.6	76.8
Chile	53.2	53.2	53.6	53.3	52.9	53.1	72.0	72.4	71.8	72.4	71.8	71.7
Czech Republic	67.6	66.7	67.1	67.5	67.8	68.1	81.8	81.4	81.6	81.7	81.7	82.0
Denmark <sup>(1)</sup>	72.7	71.8	72.5	72.8	72.6	72.7	78.1	77.4	77.5	78.2	78.1	78.4
Estonia	71.4	72.6	71.0	71.0	71.9	71.8	78.1	78.8	76.7	78.3	77.6	79.9
Finland	70.6	69.6	69.8	70.9	70.5	71.3	73.5	72.3	72.8	73.1	73.8	74.1
France	61.9	61.6	61.7	61.8	62.0	62.2	68.9	68.9	68.9	68.8	68.8	69.0
Germany	72.1	71.9	71.7	71.8	72.3	72.5	79.7	79.2	79.4	79.5	79.8	80.0
Greece	45.3	44.5	44.7	45.2	45.5	45.7	64.8	63.3	63.8	64.5	65.0	65.6
Hungary	62.3	61.5	62.1	62.4	62.2	62.5	76.3	76.0	76.3	76.1	76.3	76.5
Iceland	82.5	83.0	82.5	81.4	82.9	83.2	87.5	87.9	87.5	87.0	87.8	87.7
Ireland <sup>(1)</sup>	63.3	62.9	62.9	63.2	63.4	63.5	74.1	73.4	74.0	74.0	74.2	74.4
Israel	66.4	65.9	66.5	66.2	66.6	66.4	71.7	72.3	72.0	71.7	71.5	71.5
Italy	49.5	49.2	49.2	49.7	49.5	49.6	67.6	67.3	67.3	67.7	67.8	67.7
Japan	69.6	68.2	69.0	69.5	69.8	70.2	84.0	83.3	83.7	84.0	84.0	84.3
Korea	57.2	57.0	57.1	57.1	57.1	57.3	75.9	76.2	76.3	75.9	75.7	75.8
Latvia	70.1	69.2	69.4	70.4	70.3	70.3	73.6	73.1	72.9	73.1	74.8	73.5
Lithuania	71.6	70.6	70.4	70.8	72.9	72.1	73.3	71.5	72.2	73.2	74.1	73.7
Luxembourg	63.4	62.2	63.3	62.9	63.6	63.9	70.7	69.9	70.5	70.1	70.2	71.8
Mexico	45.6	44.9	45.3	45.7	45.5	45.7	79.0	78.9	79.0	79.0	79.2	78.9
Netherlands	72.8	71.7	71.9	72.6	73.2	73.5	81.6	80.8	81.1	81.3	81.8	82.0
New Zealand	73.0	72.8	73.0	73.1	73.7	72.4	82.1	82.2	82.3	82.1	82.4	81.5
Norway	72.7	72.5	72.6	72.7	72.6	72.7	76.9	75.9	76.4	76.9	76.9	77.4
Poland	60.8	60.0	60.3	60.7	61.0	61.1	74.0	73.3	73.6	74.0	74.1	74.3
Portugal	66.9	65.8	66.3	66.9	67.3	67.0	72.7	72.1	72.3	72.6	72.8	73.1
Slovak Republic	61.2	60.6	60.9	60.7	61.3	61.9	73.9	72.3	73.1	73.6	74.3	74.5
Slovenia	67.6	67.2	67.0	67.2	67.7	68.4	74.5	73.4	73.8	74.5	74.7	75.1
Spain	56.9	56.1	56.2	56.8	57.0	57.3	67.9	67.0	67.2	67.8	68.1	68.6
Sweden	76.0	75.4	75.5	76.0	75.9	76.5	79.0	78.5	78.8	78.8	79.1	79.3
Switzerland	75.7	75.6	75.4	74.9	76.4	76.0	84.5	84.3	84.3	84.4	84.6	84.5
Turkey	32.9	33.0	33.1	32.7	33.0	32.8	70.9	71.3	71.6	70.9	71.2	69.9
United Kingdom	70.3	70.0	70.3	70.2	70.2	70.5	79.2	78.8	79.1	79.2	78.9	79.3
United States	65.5	65.1	65.2	65.4	65.7	66.0	76.1	75.7	76.1	76.1	75.9	76.2

(1) Breaks in the Labour Force Survey for Belgium in Q1 2017; for Denmark in Q1 2016 and Q1 2017; and for Ireland in Q3 2017. Some of these breaks also affect, to some extent, aggregates for the European Union, euro area and OECD-Total.

**Table 3: OECD employment rates by age**

*Employment as a percentage of corresponding working age population, seasonally adjusted*

	Youth (15-24)				Prime-age workers (25-54)				Older workers (55-64)			
	2017	2018			2017	2018			2017	2018		
	Q4	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q4	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q4	Q2	Q3	Q4
OECD - Total	41.4	41.9	41.8	42.0	78.1	78.4	78.5	78.6	60.8	61.3	61.5	61.7
Major Seven	44.9	45.5	45.5	45.9	80.5	80.8	80.9	81.1	63.9	64.4	64.6	64.8
European Union	35.0	35.3	35.3	35.7	79.9	80.4	80.6	80.6	57.7	58.4	58.9	59.3
Euro area	32.8	33.1	33.3	33.6	78.4	78.9	79.1	79.2	57.9	58.4	59.0	59.4
Australia	59.0	60.1	60.0	60.1	80.8	80.9	80.9	81.2	64.0	63.3	63.9	64.2
Austria	50.5	51.1	51.8	52.1	84.4	84.7	84.6	84.4	52.7	53.3	54.2	54.9
Belgium <sup>(1)</sup>	23.2	24.0	26.1	26.0	80.2	80.1	80.7	80.6	49.7	49.8	50.4	51.4
Canada	57.0	56.4	56.5	55.5	82.4	82.5	82.7	83.2	63.1	62.7	63.0	63.5
Chile	27.9	28.0	27.1	27.0	75.1	75.3	74.8	74.6	66.1	65.7	65.0	65.8
Czech Republic	28.8	28.1	28.4	28.7	87.0	87.5	87.4	87.7	63.4	65.0	65.4	65.7
Denmark <sup>(1)</sup>	56.8	58.2	56.1	58.0	81.9	82.6	83.0	82.4	69.1	70.6	71.4	71.5
Estonia	44.8	44.5	37.7	41.6	84.8	84.2	84.4	85.4	69.6	66.6	70.6	70.9
Finland	43.9	45.1	43.5	43.7	81.5	82.3	82.6	83.5	63.6	65.1	65.4	65.9
France	29.2	29.6	29.9	30.5	80.4	80.6	80.5	80.8	52.1	51.8	52.2	52.6
Germany	46.8	47.1	47.2	47.5	84.5	84.8	84.9	84.9	70.7	71.0	71.6	72.2
Greece	14.0	14.3	13.9	14.0	67.7	68.7	69.3	69.7	39.0	40.9	41.5	42.1
Hungary	28.9	29.0	29.2	29.3	84.0	84.4	83.8	83.9	52.8	53.8	54.6	55.3
Iceland	74.8	74.8	75.4	75.7	89.4	88.7	89.5	89.1	82.8	80.0	82.4	81.6
Ireland <sup>(1)</sup>	40.0	40.2	40.4	40.7	78.8	79.1	79.1	79.5	58.9	60.5	60.4	61.1
Israel					79.9	80.3	80.2	79.8	67.5	67.2	67.0	67.1
Italy	17.4	17.7	17.4	17.8	69.5	70.1	69.9	69.9	53.1	53.7	53.8	53.9
Japan	42.6	45.5	46.1	47.1	84.7	85.2	85.4	85.5	74.2	75.2	75.2	75.8
Korea	26.6	26.0	25.8	26.3	76.4	76.4	76.3	76.4	67.7	66.9	66.6	66.5
Latvia	32.9	33.1	33.7	32.6	82.5	82.5	83.1	82.7	64.2	65.0	66.6	67.1
Lithuania	29.9	31.2	35.3	32.2	84.0	84.8	85.6	85.2	67.2	67.7	69.1	69.3
Luxembourg	23.9	25.8	28.3	30.7	83.8	83.7	83.5	84.1	40.0	39.8	40.8	42.0
Mexico	40.7	41.1	40.7	40.5	71.4	71.9	71.9	71.9	54.3	55.1	55.5	55.7
Netherlands	63.2	63.8	63.8	64.5	83.6	84.4	84.9	85.1	66.5	67.4	68.2	68.5
New Zealand	56.4	56.6	57.6	56.0	84.5	84.5	84.8	84.2	78.8	78.5	78.5	76.6
Norway	48.8	49.2	49.1	48.9	82.3	83.3	83.6	83.5	71.6	72.2	71.8	71.6
Poland	30.2	31.1	30.8	30.9	81.4	82.4	82.9	82.2	48.4	49.2	49.1	48.9
Portugal	26.6	27.0	27.8	27.5	83.6	84.5	84.4	84.5	57.9	59.3	59.5	59.7
Slovak Republic	27.0	27.7	28.2	27.4	80.0	80.7	81.5	81.9	54.1	53.5	54.4	55.0
Slovenia	34.5	37.2	33.8	33.4	87.1	87.2	87.8	88.2	44.7	46.7	47.4	49.0
Spain	21.1	21.7	21.7	22.1	73.7	74.6	74.9	75.3	51.1	52.0	52.5	53.1
Sweden	45.3	44.8	45.1	45.3	86.3	86.7	86.8	87.1	76.4	77.6	78.0	78.4
Switzerland	62.8	62.2	63.2	63.1	86.3	86.3	87.0	87.0	73.0	73.1	72.2	72.7
Turkey	35.3	34.8	35.2	34.2	61.7	61.3	61.4	60.9	35.7	35.0	36.1	34.9
United Kingdom	50.5	50.7	50.3	50.7	84.1	84.2	84.2	84.5	64.4	65.3	65.6	65.4
United States	50.1	50.5	50.1	50.5	79.0	79.3	79.4	79.7	62.6	63.1	63.3	63.4

(1) Breaks in the Labour Force Survey for Belgium in Q1 2017; for Denmark in Q1 2016 and Q1 2017; and for Ireland in Q3 2017. Some of these breaks also affect, to some extent, aggregates for the European Union, euro area and OECD-Total.

**Table 4: Decomposition of annual changes in the employment rates (15-64)**  
*Between Q4 2017 and Q4 2018*

	Employment rate <i>Percentage of working age population</i> Q4 - 2018	Unemployment rate <i>Percentage of labour force</i> Q4 - 2018	Labour force participation rate <i>Percentage of working age population</i> Q4 - 2018	Employment rate annual change <i>Percentage points</i>	Contributions to employment rate annual change (1) <i>percentage points</i>	
					<i>Unemployment contribution (2)</i>	<i>Labour force participation contribution (3)</i>
OECD - Total	68.6	5.4	72.5	0.6	0.2	0.4
Major Seven	71.6	4.6	75.1	0.7	0.2	0.5
European Union	68.9	6.7	73.8	0.8	0.5	0.3
Euro area	67.6	8.0	73.5	0.8	0.6	0.2
Australia	74.0	5.2	78.0	0.5	0.4	0.1
Austria	73.2	4.8	76.9	0.6	0.4	0.1
Belgium	65.0	5.7	68.9	1.1	0.5	0.6
Canada	74.1	5.7	78.6	0.3	0.2	0.1
Chile	62.4	7.6	67.6	-0.5	-0.3	-0.1
Czech Republic	75.2	2.1	76.8	1.0	0.3	0.8
Denmark	75.6	5.2	79.7	1.0	0.2	0.8
Estonia	75.8	4.4	79.3	0.1	0.7	-0.6
Finland	72.7	6.8	78.0	1.8	1.4	0.4
France	65.6	8.9	72.0	0.4	0.1	0.3
Germany	76.3	3.3	78.9	0.7	0.3	0.4
Greece	55.6	18.5	68.2	1.8	1.7	0.0
Hungary	69.5	3.7	72.2	0.8	0.1	0.6
Iceland	85.5	2.7	87.9	-0.1	0.2	-0.3
Ireland	68.9	5.7	73.1	0.8	0.6	0.2
Israel	68.9	4.3	72.0	-0.2	-0.1	-0.1
Italy	58.6	10.7	65.6	0.4	0.2	0.2
Japan	77.3	2.6	79.4	1.5	0.2	1.3
Korea	66.6	4.0	69.4	-0.1	-0.1	0.1
Latvia	71.9	7.0	77.3	0.8	1.0	-0.2
Lithuania	72.9	6.2	77.7	1.8	0.6	1.2
Luxembourg	67.9	5.4	71.8	1.8	-0.1	1.8
Mexico	61.6	3.5	63.8	0.5	0.1	0.4
Netherlands	77.8	3.6	80.7	1.6	0.6	0.9
New Zealand	76.9	4.7	80.6	-0.5	0.1	-0.7
Norway	75.1	3.8	78.1	0.9	0.2	0.7
Poland	67.7	3.7	70.3	1.1	0.6	0.5
Portugal	69.9	6.8	75.0	1.0	1.1	0.0
Slovak Republic	68.2	6.1	72.6	1.7	1.2	0.6
Slovenia	71.9	4.5	75.2	1.5	1.1	0.4
Spain	63.0	14.5	73.7	1.4	1.5	-0.2
Sweden	77.9	6.4	83.2	0.9	0.3	0.6
Switzerland	80.3	4.9	84.4	0.3	0.0	0.3
Turkey	51.5	12.3	58.7	-0.8	-1.2	0.3
United Kingdom	74.9	4.0	78.0	0.5	0.3	0.3
United States	71.0	3.9	73.8	0.7	0.2	0.5

(1) Contributions may not sum to employment rate change due to rounding.

(2) The unemployment contribution to the employment rate annual change is calculated as the opposite of the change in the unemployment rate between Q4 2018 and Q4 2017 times the average labour force participation rate observed in the two periods.

(3) The labour force participation contribution to the employment rate annual change is calculated as the change in the labour force participation rate between Q4 2018 and Q4 2017 times one minus the average unemployment rate observed in the two periods.