

OECD unemployment rate stable at 5.2% in September 2019

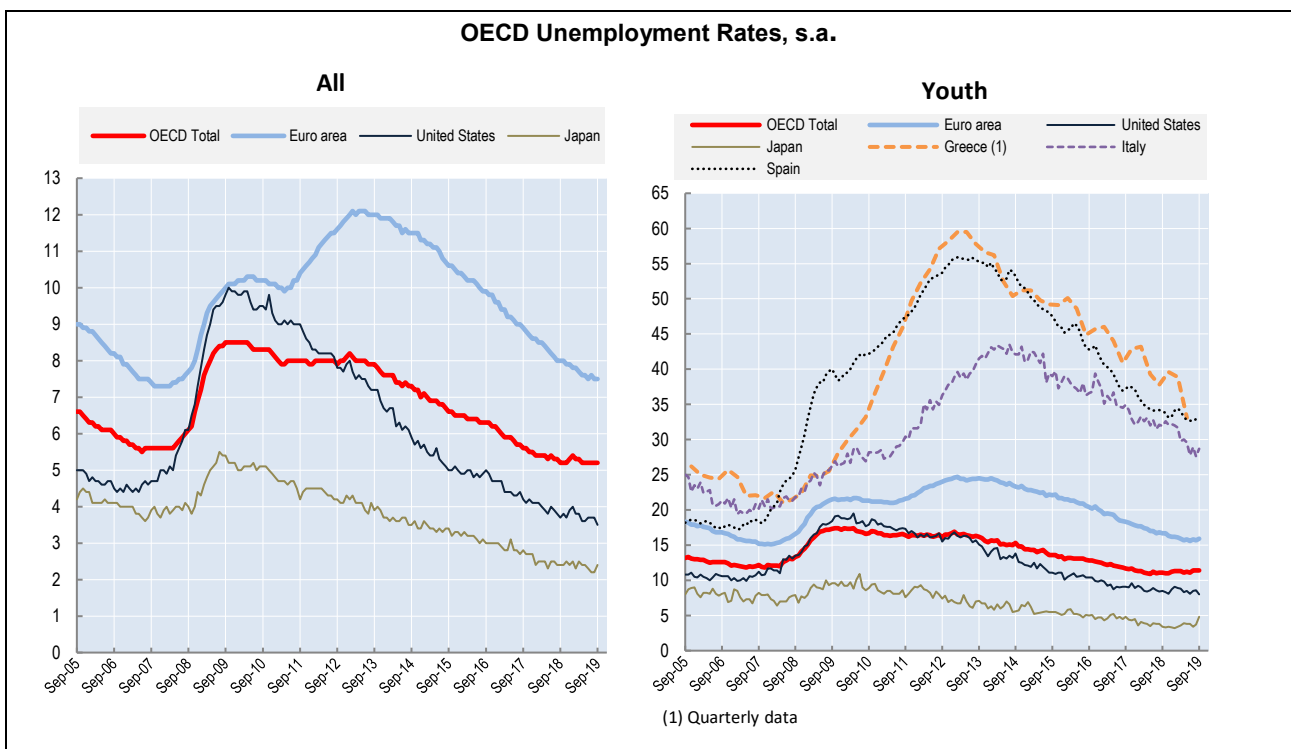
The **OECD** unemployment rate was stable at 5.2% in September 2019. Across the **OECD** area, 33.1 million people were unemployed.

In the **euro area**, the unemployment rate was also stable in September, at 7.5%. The unemployment rate declined by 0.3 percentage point in **Luxembourg** (to 5.4%) but increased by 0.3 percentage point in **Italy** (to 9.9%) and by 0.2 percentage point in **Portugal** (to 6.6%), with changes of 0.1 percentage point or less in other countries.

Most European countries outside the euro area also saw little change in their unemployment rate, but in **Denmark** it increased by 0.2 percentage point, for the third consecutive month, to 5.3%.

Outside Europe, the unemployment rate was stable in **Mexico** (at 3.6%), declined by 0.2 percentage point in **Canada** (to 5.5%) and the **United States** (to 3.5%, the lowest level since December 1969), but increased by 0.3 percentage point in **Korea** (to 3.4%) and by 0.2 percentage point in **Japan** (to 2.4%). More recent data show that in October, the unemployment rate increased by 0.1 percentage point in the **United States** (to 3.6%), while it was stable in **Canada** (at 5.5%).

In September, the unemployment rate for **youth** (people aged 15 to 24) was stable at 11.4% for the **OECD** area as a whole but increased by 0.2 percentage point in the **euro area** (to 15.9%) and by 1.1 percentage points in **Japan** (to 4.8%). However it declined by 0.6 percentage point in the **United States** (to 8.0%, the lowest level since March 1957).



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

	2016	2017	2018	2018				2019					
				Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
OECD - Total	6.3	5.8	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2
Major Seven	5.5	5.0	4.6	4.4	4.4	4.3	4.2	4.3	4.2	4.3	4.3	4.2	4.2
European Union	8.6	7.6	6.8	6.6	6.5	6.3	6.3	6.4	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.3
Euro area	10.0	9.1	8.2	7.9	7.8	7.6	7.5	7.6	7.6	7.5	7.6	7.5	7.5
Australia	5.7	5.6	5.3	5.0	5.0	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.3	5.3	5.2
Austria	6.0	5.5	4.9	4.6	4.7	4.6	4.5	4.7	4.6	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5
Belgium ⁽¹⁾	7.9	7.1	6.0	5.8	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.6
Canada ⁽²⁾	7.0	6.3	5.8	5.6	5.8	5.5	5.6	5.7	5.4	5.5	5.7	5.7	5.5
Chile	6.5	6.7	7.0	7.2	6.9	6.8	6.9	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.9	6.9	
Czech Republic	4.0	2.9	2.3	2.1	2.0	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.2	1.9	2.1	2.0	2.1
Denmark	6.0	5.8	5.1	5.1	5.2	4.9	5.1	5.1	4.9	4.7	4.9	5.1	5.3
Estonia	6.8	5.8	5.4	4.7	4.3	4.8		4.9	5.0	4.6	4.2	3.9	
Finland	8.8	8.6	7.4	6.8	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7
France	10.1	9.4	9.1	8.9	8.7	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.4
Germany	4.1	3.8	3.4	3.3	3.2	3.1	3.1	3.2	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1
Greece	23.6	21.5	19.3	18.6	18.4	17.3		17.5	17.2	17.1	16.9	16.7	
Hungary	5.1	4.2	3.7	3.7	3.4	3.5		3.4	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.4	
Iceland	3.0	2.8	2.7	2.8	3.1	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4
Ireland	8.4	6.7	5.8	5.6	5.1	5.2	5.0	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.1	4.9	4.9
Israel	4.8	4.2	4.0	4.2	4.0	3.9	3.7	3.8	3.7	4.1	3.7	3.8	3.7
Italy	11.7	11.2	10.6	10.5	10.3	9.9	9.8	10.1	9.9	9.8	9.9	9.6	9.9
Japan	3.1	2.8	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.2	2.2	2.4
Korea	3.7	3.7	3.8	3.8	4.0	4.0	3.5	4.1	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.1	3.4
Latvia	9.6	8.7	7.4	6.9	6.6	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.5	6.5	6.4	6.3
Lithuania	7.9	7.1	6.2	5.9	6.0	6.1	6.5	6.1	6.1	6.2	6.4	6.6	6.5
Luxembourg	6.3	5.6	5.5	5.4	5.4	5.7	5.6	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.4
Mexico	3.9	3.4	3.3	3.4	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.6	3.5	3.6	3.6
Netherlands	6.0	4.9	3.8	3.6	3.4	3.3	3.5	3.3	3.3	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.5
New Zealand	5.1	4.7	4.3	4.3	4.2	3.9	4.2						
Norway	4.8	4.2	3.9	3.8	3.7	3.4		3.3	3.4	3.6	3.8	3.7	
Poland	6.2	4.9	3.9	3.8	3.8	3.4	3.3	3.5	3.4	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3
Portugal	11.2	9.0	7.1	6.6	6.5	6.6	6.5	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.5	6.4	6.6
Slovak Republic	9.7	8.1	6.5	6.1	5.8	5.8	5.6	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.6	5.6	5.6
Slovenia	8.0	6.6	5.1	4.4	4.5	4.3	4.2	4.5	4.3	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.3
Spain	19.7	17.2	15.3	14.5	14.2	14.1	14.2	14.1	14.1	14.2	14.2	14.3	14.2
Sweden	7.0	6.7	6.3	6.2	6.4	6.5	7.3	6.0	6.6	6.8	7.2	7.4	7.4
Switzerland	4.9	4.8	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.3							
Turkey	10.9	10.9	11.0	12.2	13.6	13.9		13.8	14.0	14.0	14.3		
United Kingdom	4.8	4.4	4.0	3.9	3.7	3.8		3.7	3.8	3.8	3.8		
United States ⁽³⁾	4.9	4.4	3.9	3.8	3.9	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.5

Notes:

(1) Belgium: Due to a methodological break in the Labour Force Survey, data from the 1st quarter of 2017 onwards are not comparable with previous data.

(2) Canada: Unemployment rate for October 2019 was 5.5%.

(3) United States: Unemployment rate for October 2019 was 3.6%.

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

	Women						Men					
	2018	2019		2019			2018	2019		2019		
		Q2	Q3	Jul	Aug	Sep		Q2	Q3	Jul	Aug	Sep
OECD - Total	5.5	5.2	5.2	5.3	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.1	
Major Seven	4.5	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.1	4.6	4.4	4.3	4.3	4.3	
European Union	7.1	6.5	6.6	6.6	6.5	6.6	6.6	6.2	6.1	6.1	6.1	
Euro area	8.6	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.3	7.2	7.2	7.2	
Australia	5.3	5.2	5.2	5.3	5.2	5.0	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.2	5.3	
Austria	4.7	4.6	4.3	4.4	4.2	4.2	5.1	4.6	4.6	4.5	4.7	
Belgium	5.6	5.1	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	6.3	5.8	5.9	5.8	5.9	
Canada	5.5	5.1	5.2	5.3	5.2	5.1	6.1	5.9	6.0	6.0	6.2	
Chile	7.7	7.5	7.7	7.5	7.7		6.4	6.3	6.3	6.5	6.3	
Czech Republic	2.8	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.8	1.7	
Denmark	5.3	5.1	5.5	5.3	5.5	5.7	4.9	4.8	4.8	4.6	4.8	
Estonia	5.3	5.2		5.0	4.6		5.4	4.5		3.5	3.3	
Finland	7.3	6.2	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	7.4	7.2	7.3	7.3	7.3	
France	9.1	8.5	8.5	8.6	8.5	8.5	9.0	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	
Germany	2.9	2.8	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	3.8	3.4	3.5	3.4	3.5	
Greece	24.2	21.4		21.0	20.7		15.4	14.0		13.7	13.6	
Hungary	4.0	3.4		3.5	3.5		3.5	3.5		3.3	3.4	
Iceland	2.6	3.0	3.2	3.1	3.0	3.4	2.9	3.7	3.6	3.6	3.8	
Ireland	5.7	5.0	4.6	4.8	4.6	4.4	5.8	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.2	
Israel	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.9	4.1	4.0	4.0	3.7	3.4	3.5	3.4	
Italy	11.8	10.9	10.8	10.9	10.6	10.9	9.8	9.2	9.0	9.1	8.8	
Japan	2.2	2.2	2.1	2.1	2.0	2.2	2.6	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.4	
Korea	3.7	3.7	3.4	4.0	3.0	3.2	3.9	4.2	3.6	4.0	3.2	
Latvia	6.4	5.0	5.1	5.1	5.2	5.1	8.4	7.8	7.7	7.8	7.7	
Lithuania	5.4	5.5	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.7	6.9	6.8	7.2	7.0	7.3	
Luxembourg	5.7	5.8	5.8	5.9	5.8	5.6	5.3	5.6	5.5	5.6	5.5	
Mexico	3.5	3.6	3.5	3.7	3.3	3.5	3.2	3.5	3.6	3.4	3.7	
Netherlands	4.0	3.3	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.4	3.7	3.3	3.5	3.4	3.5	
New Zealand	4.5	4.3	4.6				4.2	3.6	3.8			
Norway	3.6	3.2		3.5	3.4		4.1	3.6		4.1	4.0	
Poland	3.9	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.5	3.6	3.9	3.3	3.2	3.2	3.2	
Portugal	7.4	7.2	7.2	7.2	7.1	7.2	6.6	5.9	5.8	5.7	5.7	
Slovak Republic	7.0	5.8	5.5	5.6	5.5	5.5	6.1	5.7	5.6	5.6	5.6	
Slovenia	5.7	4.8	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.6	3.9	4.0	3.9	4.0	
Spain	17.0	15.9	16.3	16.1	16.3	16.4	13.7	12.6	12.5	12.6	12.5	
Sweden	6.2	6.3	7.1	7.1	7.2	7.1	6.4	6.6	7.5	7.3	7.6	
Switzerland	5.1	4.4					4.4	4.3				
Turkey ⁽¹⁾	13.9	16.4		16.9			9.6	12.7		13.1		
United Kingdom	4.0	3.5		3.6			4.1	4.0		4.0		
United States	3.8	3.5	3.6	3.7	3.6	3.4	4.0	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.6	

Note:

(1) 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+)					
	2018	2019		2019			2018	2019		2019		
		Q2	Q3	Jul	Aug	Sep		Q2	Q3	Jul	Aug	Sep
OECD - Total	11.1	11.1	11.4	11.4	11.4	11.4	4.6	4.4	4.4	4.5	4.4	4.4
Major Seven	9.8	9.3	9.5	9.4	9.5	9.4	3.9	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6
European Union	15.2	14.4	14.5	14.5	14.4	14.5	6.0	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5
Euro area	16.9	15.7	15.8	15.8	15.7	15.9	7.3	6.8	6.7	6.8	6.7	6.7
Australia	11.8	11.9	11.8	11.9	11.7	11.7	4.0	3.9	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.9
Austria	9.4	8.9	9.6	9.8	9.9	9.0	4.3	4.1	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.9
Belgium ⁽¹⁾	15.9	14.1	15.5	15.5	15.5	15.5	5.2	4.7	4.7	4.8	4.7	4.7
Canada	11.1	10.3	11.6	11.4	11.5	11.9	5.0	4.8	4.7	4.8	4.8	4.4
Chile	17.6	18.5	18.9	18.7	18.9		5.8	5.6	5.6	5.7	5.6	
Czech Republic	6.7	6.9	4.8	5.5	4.5	4.4	2.0	1.8	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9
Denmark	10.5	9.2	9.8	9.6	9.7	10.0	4.2	4.2	4.3	4.1	4.4	4.5
Estonia	11.7	14.1		13.6	13.6		4.8	4.1		3.3	3.1	
Finland	16.9	16.9	17.2	17.2	17.2	17.2	6.1	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.3
France	20.7	19.5	19.4	19.5	19.4	19.3	7.8	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.3
Germany	6.2	5.8	5.9	5.8	5.9	5.9	3.1	2.8	2.7	2.8	2.7	2.7
Greece ⁽¹⁾	39.9	33.1					18.2	16.5		16.1	15.9	
Hungary	10.2	11.6		9.9	10.6		3.2	2.8		2.9	2.9	
Iceland	6.0	7.6	7.9	7.6	8.0	8.1	2.1	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6
Ireland	13.7	13.9	12.5	12.9	12.4	12.2	4.7	4.0	3.9	4.0	3.9	3.9
Israel ⁽²⁾	7.1	6.4	7.7	8.5	8.0	6.7	3.4	3.2	3.2	3.1	3.2	3.2
Italy	32.3	29.1	28.4	28.9	27.6	28.7	9.3	8.7				
Japan	3.7	3.8	4.0	3.4	3.7	4.8	2.3	2.2	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.2
Korea	10.5	11.5	9.8	11.0	9.0	9.4	3.4	3.6	3.1	3.6	2.7	3.0
Latvia	12.3	14.9	12.5	13.3	12.1	12.0	7.1	5.9	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.0
Lithuania	11.2	9.9	12.2	11.8	12.3	12.4	5.8	5.8	6.0	6.0	6.1	6.0
Luxembourg	14.1	14.7	13.8	14.4	14.0	13.0	4.8	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.8
Mexico	6.9	7.1	7.5	7.4	7.5	7.7	2.6	2.8	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7
Netherlands	7.2	6.3	6.9	6.7	6.9	7.2	3.2	2.7	2.8	2.7	2.8	2.8
New Zealand	11.7	10.7	10.9				3.0	2.7	3.0			
Norway	9.6	9.5		10.0	9.7		3.0	2.5		2.8	2.8	
Poland	11.8	11.2	10.3	10.6	10.3	10.1	3.2	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.8	2.8
Portugal	20.3	18.4	19.0	19.4	18.2	19.4	6.0	5.7	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.6
Slovak Republic	14.9	15.8	15.5	15.5	15.3	15.8	5.9	5.1	4.9	5.0	4.9	4.9
Slovenia ⁽¹⁾	8.8	7.3	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8	4.9	4.1	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
Spain	34.4	32.9	32.8	32.6	32.9	32.8	13.9	12.8	12.9	12.9	12.9	12.8
Sweden	16.5	17.8	20.4	19.6	21.5	20.1	5.0	5.0	5.8	5.7	5.7	5.9
Switzerland	7.9	7.7					4.3	3.9				
Turkey	20.3	25.6		27.2			9.2	11.7		11.9		
United Kingdom	11.3	11.3		11.6			3.0	2.7		2.7		
United States	8.6	8.3	8.4	8.5	8.6	8.0	3.2	2.9	2.9	3.0	3.0	2.8

Notes:

(1) Belgium, Greece and Slovenia: Quarterly data are shown for youth unemployment.

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

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

	2017	2018	2019			2019			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
OECD - Total	36,281	33,698	33,893	33,252	33,280	33,301	33,508	33,196	33,137
Major Seven	18,890	17,410	17,090	16,394	16,344	16,380	16,462	16,358	16,211
European Union	18,778	16,892	16,020	15,675	15,624	15,584	15,650	15,587	15,635
Euro area	14,751	13,392	12,688	12,424	12,337	12,358	12,375	12,302	12,335
Australia	725	702	675	708	714	712	715	718	710
Austria	248	220	214	209	202	204	202	202	203
Belgium ⁽¹⁾	354	301	281	281	284	284	283	284	284
Canada	1,247	1,155	1,160	1,118	1,141	1,114	1,150	1,160	1,113
Chile	592	628	625	622	631	626	631	631	
Czech Republic	155	121	107	109	111	100	112	110	111
Denmark	172	152	157	149	156	142	149	156	162
Estonia	41	38	30	34		32	29	28	
Finland	234	202	184	184	185	184	185	185	184
France	2,788	2,701	2,577	2,530	2,515	2,530	2,527	2,523	2,494
Germany	1,621	1,468	1,395	1,357	1,326	1,341	1,329	1,324	1,324
Greece	1,027	915	870	819		809	798	788	
Hungary	192	172	161	161		162	157	160	
Iceland	6	6	6	7	7	7	7	7	7
Ireland	158	137	122	125	120	125	123	119	118
Israel	168	163	166	159	152	168	151	154	151
Italy	2,909	2,761	2,678	2,576	2,533	2,530	2,566	2,480	2,554
Japan	1,896	1,665	1,687	1,637	1,583	1,610	1,540	1,540	1,670
Korea	1,023	1,073	1,106	1,133	984	1,127	1,131	867	954
Latvia	85	73	65	62	61	62	62	62	60
Lithuania	103	90	88	90	94	91	93	96	94
Luxembourg	16	16	16	17	17	17	17	17	16
Mexico	1,854	1,850	1,955	2,012	2,026	2,050	2,009	2,029	2,039
Netherlands	438	350	316	305	319	313	313	321	323
New Zealand	125	117	114	108	115				
Norway	116	109	104	96		101	107	106	
Poland	844	659	650	582	563	567	562	563	564
Portugal	465	363	337	340	337	339	335	332	345
Slovak Republic	224	180	160	157	152	155	153	152	152
Slovenia	67	53	47	44	43	43	43	43	44
Spain	3,917	3,479	3,266	3,251	3,277	3,256	3,273	3,290	3,269
Sweden	359	343	350	353	405	371	395	407	412
Switzerland	234	231	231	214					
Turkey	3,451	3,544	4,401	4,525		4,551	4,682		
United Kingdom	1,447	1,347	1,266	1,281		1,280	1,287		
United States	6,982	6,314	6,327	5,896	5,959	5,975	6,063	6,044	5,769

Note:

(1) Belgium: Due to a methodological break in the Labour Force Survey, data from the 1st quarter of 2017 onwards are not comparable with previous data.