

OECD unemployment rate at 7.9% in August 2012

The **OECD** unemployment rate was at 7.9% in August 2012, broadly the same rate observed since January 2011.

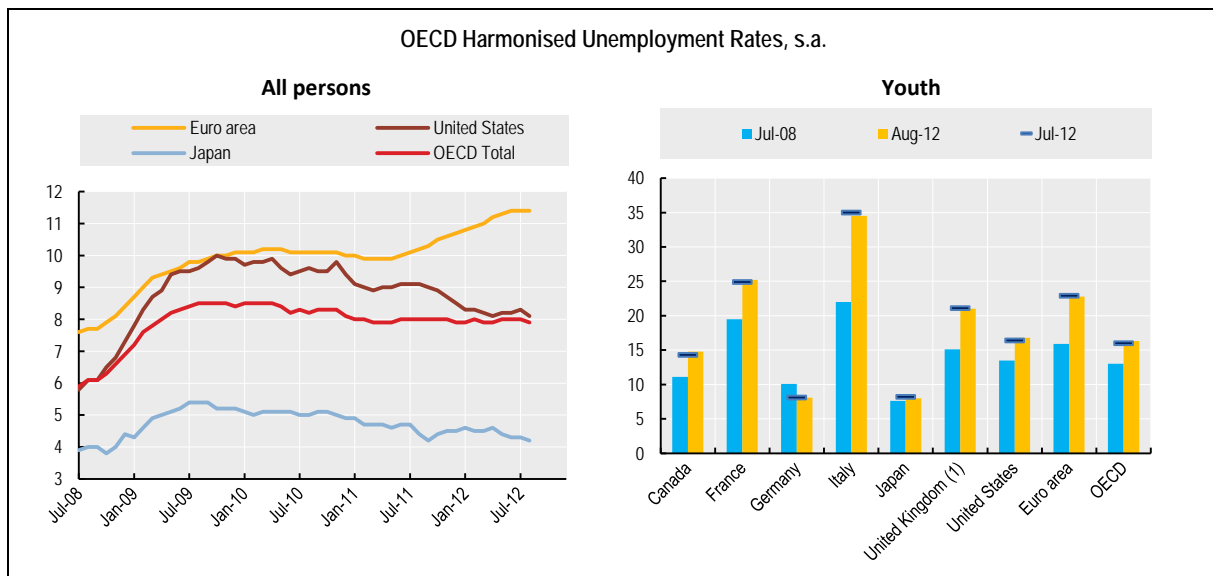
In the **euro area**, the unemployment rate remained stable for the second consecutive month at 11.4%, following 13 months of continuous rises. However, the August level remains 4.1 percentage points above its record low of 7.3% in March 2008.

In August, the unemployment rate rose by 0.3 percentage point in **Mexico** (to 5%), while it fell 0.2 percentage point in the **United States** (to 8.1%) and remained stable in **Canada** (at 7.3%). Latest data for these two countries show that in September 2012, the rate fell by 0.3 percentage point in the **United States** (to 7.8%) and rose by 0.1 percentage point (to 7.4%) in **Canada**.

Differences in unemployment rates across OECD countries remain large. The unemployment rate was highest in **Spain** (25.1%), followed by **Greece** (at 24.4% in June, the latest month available), **Portugal** (15.9%) and **Ireland** (15.0%). By contrast, unemployment rates remained below 5.5% in **Australia**, **Austria**, **Germany**, **Japan**, **Luxembourg**, **Mexico** and **the Netherlands**.

In August 2012, the unemployment rate for **youth** increased in the **OECD area** from an already high level (up 0.3 percentage point to 16.3%), with large rises in **Sweden** (up 2.9 percentage points to 25.7%) and **Israel** (up 1.8 percentage points to 15.2%).

There were 47.8 million people unemployed in the OECD area in August 2012, 0.1 million less than in July, but still 13.1 million more than in July 2008. Of these, 11.9 million were youths.



(1) For the United Kingdom, data refer to June 2012, compared to July 2008 and May 2012.

Methodological Notes: <http://www.oecd.org/std/labourstatistics/44743407.pdf>

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

New Labour Market Statistics: <http://stats.oecd.org/index.aspx?queryid=36324>

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.

Contacts: For further information readers are invited to contact the OECD's Media Relations Division on

(33) 1 45 24 97 00 or e-mail news.contact@oecd.org

For technical questions contact stat.contact@oecd.org

Next release: Tuesday, 13 November 2012

Table 1: OECD Unemployment Rates, s.a.
Percentage of active population

	2009	2010	2011	2011		2012		2012					
				Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
OECD - Total	8.1	8.3	8.0	8.0	8.0	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.9	8.0	8.0	8.0	7.9 ⁽³⁾
Major Seven	8.0	8.2	7.7	7.7	7.6	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.4
European Union	9.0	9.7	9.7	9.7	10.0	10.2	10.4	10.3	10.3	10.4	10.5	10.5	10.5
Euro area	9.6	10.1	10.1	10.2	10.6	10.9	11.3	11.0	11.2	11.3	11.4	11.4	11.4
Australia	5.6	5.2	5.1	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.2	5.0	5.1	5.3	5.2	5.1
Austria	4.8	4.4	4.1	3.9	4.2	4.2	4.3	4.2	4.1	4.3	4.5	4.6	4.5
Belgium	7.9	8.3	7.2	7.3	7.2	7.1	7.4	7.1	7.3	7.4	7.4	7.5	7.4
Canada ⁽¹⁾	8.3	8.0	7.5	7.3	7.5	7.4	7.3	7.2	7.3	7.3	7.2	7.3	7.3
Chile	10.8	8.2	7.1	7.1	7.1	6.7	6.3	6.6	6.5	6.3	6.2	6.1	
Czech Republic	6.7	7.3	6.7	6.6	6.6	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.7
Denmark	6.0	7.5	7.6	7.5	7.8	7.6	7.9	7.7	7.8	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0
Estonia	13.8	16.9	12.5	11.4	11.5	10.9	10.1	10.9	10.1	10.1	10.1		
Finland	8.2	8.4	7.8	7.7	7.6	7.5	7.6	7.5	7.6	7.6	7.6	7.6	7.9
France	9.5	9.7	9.6	9.6	9.8	10.0	10.3	10.1	10.1	10.3	10.4	10.6	10.6
Germany	7.8	7.1	6.0	5.8	5.7	5.6	5.5	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5
Greece	9.5	12.6	17.7	18.4	20.5	21.7	23.5	22.0	22.7	23.5	24.4		
Hungary	10.0	11.2	11.0	11.0	10.9	11.1	11.0	11.1	11.1	11.0	10.8	10.7	
Iceland	7.3	7.6	7.1	7.3	7.0	6.7	6.6	6.7	6.6	6.6	6.7	6.7	6.7
Ireland	11.9	13.7	14.4	14.7	14.7	14.8	14.7	14.8	14.7	14.7	14.7	14.9	15.0
Israel	7.5	6.6	5.6	5.6	5.4	6.8	6.9	7.1	6.7	7.0	7.1	6.6	6.9
Italy	7.8	8.4	8.4	8.5	9.2	10.0	10.6	10.4	10.6	10.5	10.7	10.7	10.7
Japan	5.1	5.1	4.6	4.4	4.5	4.5	4.4	4.5	4.6	4.4	4.3	4.3	4.2
Korea	3.7	3.7	3.4	3.2	3.1	3.4	3.3	3.4	3.4	3.2	3.2	3.1	
Luxembourg	5.1	4.6	4.8	5.0	4.9	5.0	5.1	5.0	5.0	5.1	5.1	5.2	5.2
Mexico	5.5	5.4	5.2	5.3	5.0	5.1	5.0	5.1	4.9	5.0	4.9	4.7	5.0
Netherlands	3.7	4.5	4.5	4.4	4.9	5.0	5.1	5.0	5.2	5.1	5.1	5.3	5.3
New Zealand	6.1	6.5	6.5	6.6	6.4	6.7	6.8						
Norway	3.2	3.6	3.3	3.2	3.4	3.2	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.1	3.0	
Poland	8.2	9.7	9.7	9.7	10.0	10.0	10.0	9.9	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.1
Portugal	9.6	11.0	12.9	12.8	14.1	14.8	15.5	15.1	15.4	15.5	15.7	15.7	15.9
Slovak Republic	12.1	14.5	13.6	13.5	13.9	13.7	13.9	13.7	13.8	13.9	14.0	14.2	14.2
Slovenia	5.9	7.3	8.2	8.1	8.6	8.2	8.4	8.1	8.3	8.5	8.5	8.4	8.4
Spain	18.0	20.1	21.6	22.1	23.0	23.8	24.6	24.1	24.4	24.7	24.8	25.0	25.1
Sweden	8.3	8.4	7.5	7.3	7.5	7.5	7.6	7.3	7.4	7.8	7.6	7.5	7.8
Switzerland		4.5	4.0	4.2	4.0	4.3	3.7						
Turkey	12.6	10.7	8.8	8.7	8.3	8.1	7.9	8.1	8.0	7.9	7.7		
United Kingdom	7.6	7.8	8.0	8.3	8.3	8.1	7.9	8.1	7.9	7.9	8.0		
United States ⁽²⁾	9.3	9.6	9.0	9.1	8.7	8.3	8.2	8.2	8.1	8.2	8.2	8.3	8.1

Notes:

(1) Canada: Unemployment rate for September 2012 was 7.4%

(2) United States: Unemployment rate for September 2012 was 7.8%

(3) The OECD unemployment rate in August was 7.945%. Compared to 7.961% in July, the monthly change is actually very small (less than 0.02 %). As a consequence, this indicator should be considered as stable for this period.

Table 2: Unemployment Rates by Gender, s.a.
Percentage of corresponding active population

	Women						Men					
	2011	2012		2012			2011	2012		2012		
		Q1	Q2	Jun	Jul	Aug		Q1	Q2	Jun	Jul	Aug
OECD - Total	8.0	8.1	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	7.9	7.8	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.9
Major Seven	7.5	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.3	7.9	7.5	7.6	7.6	7.6	7.6
European Union	9.8	10.3	10.4	10.5	10.5	10.6	9.6	10.1	10.4	10.4	10.5	10.5
Euro area	10.5	11.1	11.4	11.5	11.6	11.6	9.9	10.7	11.1	11.2	11.3	11.3
Australia	5.3	5.3	5.4	5.5	5.3	5.0	4.9	5.0	4.9	5.0	5.2	5.2
Austria	4.3	4.5	4.2	4.4	4.5	4.5	4.0	3.8	4.4	4.7	4.6	4.6
Belgium	7.2	7.1	7.6	7.7	7.7	7.6	7.1	7.1	7.2	7.2	7.3	7.3
Canada	7.0	6.9	6.8	6.7	6.9	6.8	7.8	7.8	7.7	7.6	7.7	7.7
Chile	8.7	8.4	7.5	7.6	7.5		6.1	5.5	5.5	5.2	5.1	
Czech Republic	7.9	7.9	8.0	8.1	8.1	8.0	5.8	5.9	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.7
Denmark	7.5	7.6	8.0	8.1	8.3	8.4	7.7	7.5	7.9	8.0	7.8	7.7
Estonia	11.8	9.8	9.0	9.0			13.1	11.9	11.3	11.3		
Finland	7.1	6.8	6.9	6.9	7.0	7.2	8.4	8.2	8.2	8.3	8.3	8.6
France	10.2	10.2	10.6	10.7	10.9	11.0	9.1	9.8	10.0	10.1	10.2	10.3
Germany	5.7	5.2	5.3	5.3	5.2	5.2	6.2	5.9	5.8	5.7	5.7	5.7
Greece	21.4	25.6	27.2	28.1			15.0	18.8	20.8	21.7		
Hungary	10.9	11.1	10.5	10.1	10.3		11.0	11.2	11.3	11.3	11.0	
Iceland	6.2	6.3	6.0	6.0	6.1	6.2	7.9	7.1	7.2	7.2	7.3	7.3
Ireland	10.6	11.2	10.9	10.8	10.9	11.1	17.5	17.8	17.7	17.9	18.1	18.3
Israel	5.6	7.3	7.1	7.1	6.6	6.9	5.6	6.4	6.8	7.1	6.6	6.8
Italy	9.6	11.3	11.6	11.7	11.8	11.8	7.5	9.2	9.9	10.0	9.9	9.9
Japan	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.0	4.1	3.7	4.9	4.8	4.6	4.5	4.5	4.5
Korea	3.1	3.3	3.1	2.9	2.8		3.6	3.5	3.4	3.4	3.3	
Luxembourg	6.0	5.6	5.8	5.9	5.8	5.9	3.9	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.6	4.6
Mexico	5.3	5.0	5.0	4.9	4.7	4.8	5.2	5.1	5.0	4.9	4.7	5.2
Netherlands	4.4	5.0	5.1	5.1	5.2	5.2	4.5	5.0	5.2	5.2	5.3	5.3
New Zealand	6.7	7.1	7.2				6.4	6.3	6.4			
Norway	3.1	2.7	2.5	2.6	2.5		3.5	3.6	3.5	3.6	3.5	
Poland	10.5	10.8	10.9	10.9	11.0	11.0	9.0	9.3	9.2	9.3	9.3	9.4
Portugal	13.2	15.0	15.5	15.6	15.6	15.7	12.7	14.7	15.5	15.7	15.8	16.0
Slovak Republic	13.6	14.2	14.4	14.6	14.7	14.6	13.6	13.3	13.5	13.6	13.8	13.9
Slovenia	8.2	8.5	9.1	9.2	9.2	9.2	8.2	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.8	7.7
Spain	22.2	24.2	24.8	24.8	25.1	25.3	21.2	23.5	24.5	24.8	24.9	25.0
Sweden	7.5	7.2	7.4	7.3	7.0	7.4	7.5	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.9	8.2
Switzerland	4.4	4.5	4.2				3.7	4.2	3.4			
Turkey	10.1	9.1	8.8	8.7			8.3	7.7	7.5	7.3		
United Kingdom	7.3	7.6	7.4	7.3			8.7	8.7	8.4	8.5		
United States	8.5	8.2	8.0	8.0	8.1	7.8	9.4	8.3	8.3	8.4	8.4	8.3

Table 3: Unemployment Rates by Age, s.a.
Percentage of corresponding active population

	Youth (15-24)						Prime and Older Workers (25+)					
	2011	2012		2012			2011	2012		2012		
		Q1	Q2	Jun	Jul	Aug		Q1	Q2	Jun	Jul	Aug
OECD - Total	16.3	16.3	16.2	16.1	16.0	16.3	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8 ⁽¹⁾
Major Seven	16.3	16.2	16.1	16.1	16.2	16.4	6.5	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.4	6.3
European Union	21.4	22.5	22.5	22.5	22.6	22.7	8.3	8.8	9.0	9.1	9.2	9.2
Euro area	20.8	22.2	22.6	22.7	22.9	22.8	9.0	9.7	10.1	10.2	10.2	10.3
Australia	11.3	11.6	11.4	11.6	12.1	11.6	3.7	3.8	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.8
Austria	8.3	8.7	8.6	8.6	9.3	9.7	3.5	3.4	3.7	3.9	3.8	3.7
Belgium	18.7	18.4	18.0	17.8	17.8	17.7	6.0	6.0	6.4	6.4	6.5	6.5
Canada	14.2	14.4	14.3	14.8	14.3	14.8	6.2	6.2	6.0	5.8	6.1	6.0
Chile	17.5	17.2	15.6	15.4	15.3		5.5	5.1	4.9	4.8	4.7	
Czech Republic	18.1	19.3	19.5	19.1	18.8	18.5	5.9	5.9	5.8	5.9	5.9	5.9
Denmark	14.2	15.0	14.6	14.4	14.4	14.2	6.3	6.2	6.7	6.9	6.8	6.8
Estonia	22.3	22.7	22.8	22.8			11.4	9.5	8.7	8.7		
Finland	19.8	19.1	18.2	17.9	17.8	18.2	6.1	5.9	6.1	6.2	6.2	6.5
France	22.9	23.3	23.8	24.3	24.9	25.2	8.2	8.5	8.8	8.9	9.0	9.1
Germany	8.6	8.1	8.1	8.1	8.1	8.1	5.6	5.3	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.1
Greece	44.4	52.2	54.3	55.4			15.9	19.7	21.5	22.3		
Hungary	26.1	27.3	28.2	28.6	28.9		9.9	10.0	9.7	9.5	9.4	
Iceland	14.7	15.6	15.4	15.4	15.6	15.7	5.5	4.9	4.7	4.8	4.8	4.8
Ireland	29.4	31.3	32.4	33.3	34.0	34.7	12.8	13.1	12.9	12.8	12.9	13.0
Israel	11.6	11.5	11.3	11.1	13.4	15.2	4.9	5.8	5.7	5.6	5.3	5.6
Italy	28.9	34.1	34.5	33.9	35.0	34.5	7.0	8.3	8.9	8.9		
Japan	8.2	9.1	8.3	7.4	8.2	8.0	4.3	4.2	4.1	4.0	4.0	3.8
Korea	9.6	9.0	9.6	8.8	9.1	8.9	3.0	3.1	2.9	2.8	2.7	
Luxembourg	16.4	18.5	18.4	18.3	18.5	18.3	4.1	4.1	4.2	4.2	4.3	4.3
Mexico	10.0	10.0	9.6	9.7	8.8	9.4	4.0	3.8	3.8	3.7	3.7	4.0
Netherlands	7.6	9.2	9.3	9.3	9.2	9.4	3.8	4.2	4.4	4.3	4.5	4.5
New Zealand	17.3	17.0	16.4				4.4	4.7	4.9			
Norway	8.7	8.0	8.1	8.2	8.0		2.4	2.4	2.2	2.3	2.2	
Poland	25.8	26.3	25.6	25.5	25.6	25.9	8.0	8.3	8.4	8.5	8.6	8.6
Portugal	30.1	35.1	37.4	37.6	36.4	35.9	11.4	13.1	13.6	13.8	14.0	14.2
Slovak Republic	33.5	32.8	33.9	31.9	31.7	31.5	11.8	12.0	12.1	12.5	12.7	12.8
Slovenia	15.8	16.6	18.6	18.6			7.5	7.4	7.6	7.7	7.8	7.8
Spain	46.5	50.7	52.2	52.5	52.7	52.9	19.4	21.5	22.3	22.5	22.8	22.9
Sweden	22.7	22.9	23.2	22.9	22.8	25.7	5.2	5.2	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.2
Switzerland	5.8	8.3	6.1				3.5	3.7	3.4			
Turkey	16.8	15.0	15.6	15.0			7.2	6.8	6.4	6.3		
United Kingdom	21.0	21.9	21.2	21.0			5.8	5.8	5.7	5.7		
United States	17.3	16.3	16.3	16.5	16.4	16.8	7.6	7.0	6.9	6.9	6.9	6.7

Note:

(1) The OECD unemployment rate for Prime and Older Workers shows a slight decrease (0.04 percentage point) from 6.834% in July to 6.794% in August, which compensates for the rise of the youth unemployment rate.

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

	2010	2011	2011	2012		2012			
				Q4	Q1	Q2	May	Jun	Jul
OECD - Total	49,144	47,327	47,512	47,575	47,794	47,907	47,932	47,909	47,784
Major Seven	29,966	28,102	27,901	27,555	27,530	27,566	27,610	27,713	27,369
European Union	23,127	23,208	24,085	24,554	25,160	25,159	25,375	25,417	25,466
Euro area	15,929	16,012	16,754	17,264	17,892	17,891	18,076	18,162	18,196
Australia	620	614	627	626	623	625	639	633	623
Austria	188	179	184	180	188	189	198	199	198
Belgium	406	347	349	344	358	359	361	361	358
Canada	1,484	1,393	1,392	1,388	1,368	1,379	1,355	1,377	1,373
Chile	632	574	574	544	514	514	503	493	
Czech Republic	380	351	343	356	356	356	356	355	353
Denmark	218	221	227	220	233	234	235	234	234
Estonia	116	87	80	76	71	71	71		
Finland	224	209	203	202	205	205	205	206	213
France	2,829	2,805	2,855	2,924	3,014	3,014	3,057	3,106	3,135
Germany	2,946	2,501	2,391	2,351	2,338	2,339	2,333	2,324	2,313
Greece	629	877	1,015	1,068	1,168	1,166	1,216		
Hungary	475	470	469	481	477	479	470	466	
Iceland	14	13	13	12	12	12	12	12	12
Ireland	292	304	310	311	307	306	308	309	312
Israel	209	180	175	242	250	252	256	241	251
Italy	2,105	2,103	2,327	2,565	2,732	2,713	2,766	2,752	2,744
Japan	3,336	3,018	2,923	3,000	2,897	2,890	2,810	2,820	2,720
Korea	920	855	777	879	840	828	823	789	
Luxembourg	11	12	11	12	12	12	12	13	13
Mexico	2,498	2,540	2,502	2,529	2,503	2,546	2,496	2,391	2,560
Netherlands	390	389	430	438	456	455	455	469	468
New Zealand	152	155	151	160	162				
Norway	93	87	90	84	82	81	83	81	
Poland	1,699	1,723	1,783	1,787	1,798	1,799	1,800	1,799	1,809
Portugal	603	706	766	800	843	841	854	853	861
Slovak Republic	387	366	377	371	377	377	381	384	387
Slovenia	75	83	88	83	84	85	84	83	83
Spain	4,632	4,999	5,316	5,484	5,681	5,701	5,717	5,754	5,765
Sweden	415	377	376	376	382	392	383	380	396
Switzerland	204	184	185	197	171				
Turkey	2,697	2,328	2,193	2,157	2,114	2,124	2,071		
United Kingdom	2,440	2,534	2,620	2,582	2,524	2,511	2,540		
United States	14,825	13,747	13,393	12,746	12,656	12,720	12,749	12,794	12,544