

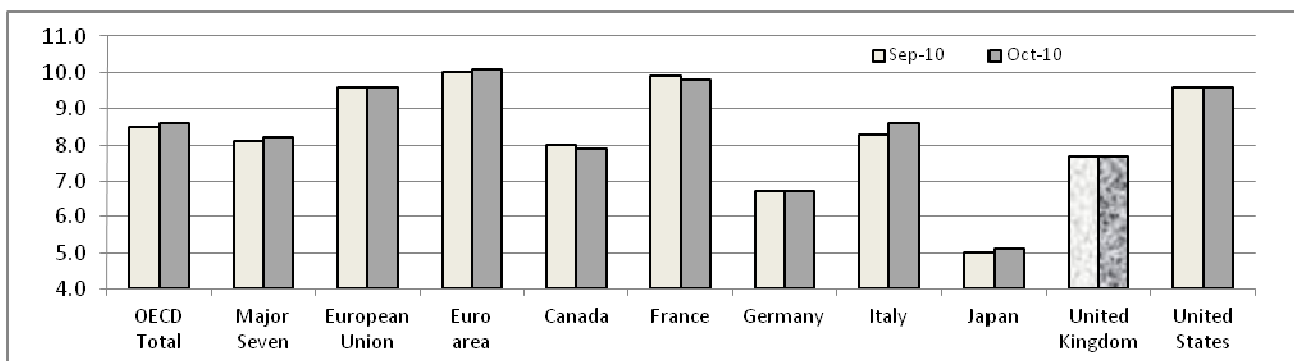
## OECD unemployment rate rises to 8.6% in October

In October 2010, the **OECD area** unemployment rate was 8.6%, up 0.1 percentage point from September. The OECD-wide rate has been stable at 8.5%-8.6% since June 2010, but new November 2010 data confirms diverging trends at the national level. The unemployment rate for the **United States** was up 0.2 percentage point at 9.8%, while the rate for **Canada** was down by 0.3 percentage point to 7.6%.

**Germany's** unemployment rate, though unchanged in October at 6.7%, has been declining steadily and is lower than the 8.4% rate reported in 2007. Unemployment rates in **Korea** (3.6%), the **Netherlands** (4.4%) and **Austria** (4.8%) remain comparatively low, while **Spain** (20.7%) the **Slovak Republic** (14.7%) and **Ireland** (14.1%) are experiencing persistently high unemployment rates.

The OECD area unemployment level remains close to post-war highs. There were 45.7 million unemployed persons in OECD countries in October 2010, down 0.8 million from October 2009 but 15.5 million higher than in October 2007.

**Selected Unemployment Rates, s.a.**  
**September 2010 – October 2010 <sup>(1)</sup>**



(1) United Kingdom: July 2010—August 2010.

### Methodological Notes:

For methodological reasons, harmonised unemployment rates may differ from those published by national statistical institutes. All rates and levels quoted are seasonally adjusted (s.a.).

More methodological notes are available at <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/21/0/44743407.pdf>.

### Access data:

The latest unemployment rates for all OECD countries and geographic groupings, as well as historical data, can be downloaded from the OECD online data dissemination facility OECD.Stat Extracts at: <http://stats.oecd.org/wbos/Default.aspx?QueryName=251&QueryType=View&Lang=en>.

### Contacts:

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**Next release: Tuesday, 11 January 2011**

**OECD Harmonised Unemployment Rates  
News Release: October 2010**
**OECD Unemployment Rates, s.a.  
Percentage of labour force**

	2007	2008	2009	2009				2010					
				Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
OECD - Total	5.8	6.1	8.3	8.7	8.6	8.6	8.5	8.6	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.6
Major Seven	5.5	5.9	8.0	8.5	8.2	8.2	8.1	8.2	8.2	8.1	8.2	8.1	8.2
European Union	7.2	7.0	8.9	9.4	9.6	9.6	9.6	9.6	9.6	9.6	9.5	9.6	9.6
Euro area	7.5	7.6	9.5	9.9	9.9	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.1
Australia	4.4	4.2	5.6	5.6	5.3	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.3	5.1	5.1	5.4
Austria	4.4	3.8	4.8	4.8	4.5	4.6	4.4	4.6	4.5	4.3	4.4	4.5	4.8
Belgium	7.5	7.0	7.9	8.1	8.4	8.5	8.6	8.5	8.5	8.6	8.6	8.5	8.5
Canada <sup>(1)</sup>	6.0	6.1	8.3	8.4	8.2	8.0	8.0	8.1	7.9	8.0	8.1	8.0	7.9
Chile <sup>(4)</sup>	7.1	7.8	10.8	10.0	9.0	8.5	8.0	8.5	8.3	8.3	8.0	7.6	
Czech Republic	5.3	4.4	6.7	7.4	7.8	7.3	6.9	7.3	7.1	7.0	6.9	6.9	6.9
Denmark	3.8	3.3	6.0	7.1	7.2	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.3	7.3	7.6	7.8
Estonia <sup>(3)(4)</sup>	4.6	5.6	13.8	15.7	19.0	18.5	16.2	18.5	18.5	16.2	16.2	16.2	
Finland	6.9	6.4	8.2	8.8	8.7	8.5	8.3	8.5	8.4	8.4	8.3	8.1	8.0
France	8.4	7.8	9.5	9.9	9.9	9.8	9.9	9.8	9.8	9.8	9.9	9.9	9.8
Germany	8.4	7.3	7.5	7.5	7.2	6.9	6.8	6.9	6.9	6.8	6.8	6.7	6.7
Greece	8.3	7.7	9.5	10.2	11.1	12.2		12.2	12.2				
Hungary	7.4	7.8	10.0	10.6	11.2	11.3	10.9	11.2	11.3	11.1	10.9	10.8	10.9
Iceland	2.3	3.0	7.2	7.7	7.2	6.9	7.9						
Ireland	4.6	6.4	11.9	13.0	12.9	13.5	13.9	13.6	13.7	13.8	13.9	14.1	14.1
Israel <sup>(4)</sup>	7.3	6.1	7.5	7.3	6.9	6.4	6.6						
Italy	6.2	6.8	7.8	8.3	8.4	8.4	8.2	8.5	8.3	8.3	8.1	8.3	8.6
Japan	3.9	4.0	5.1	5.2	4.9	5.2	5.1	5.2	5.3	5.2	5.1	5.0	5.1
Korea	3.2	3.2	3.6	3.6	4.3	3.4	3.6	3.2	3.5	3.7	3.4	3.7	3.6
Luxembourg	4.2	4.9	5.2	4.9	4.9	4.9	5.0	4.8	4.9	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
Mexico	3.7	4.0	5.5	5.5	5.2	5.5	5.3	5.5	5.5	5.4	5.2	5.3	5.5
Netherlands	3.6	3.1	3.7	4.2	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.6	4.5	4.4	4.4
New Zealand	3.7	4.2	6.1	7.1	6.0	6.9	6.4						
Norway	2.6	2.5	3.1	3.3	3.5	3.6	3.4	3.6	3.5	3.4	3.4	3.5	
Poland	9.6	7.2	8.2	8.8	9.6	9.6	9.5	9.6	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.6	9.7
Portugal	8.1	7.7	9.6	10.2	10.5	11.0	11.1	11.1	11.1	11.1	11.1	11.1	11.0
Slovak Republic	11.1	9.5	12.0	14.1	14.6	14.4	14.6	14.4	14.4	14.5	14.6	14.7	14.7
Slovenia <sup>(4)</sup>	4.9	4.4	5.9	6.4	6.7	7.3	7.4	7.3	7.4	7.3	7.4	7.4	7.6
Spain	8.3	11.4	18.0	19.0	19.3	20.0	20.5	20.0	20.2	20.4	20.5	20.7	20.7
Sweden	6.1	6.2	8.3	8.8	8.7	8.6	8.3	8.6	8.1	8.5	8.2	8.2	8.1
Switzerland	3.6	3.5	4.4	4.6	4.5	4.4							
Turkey	8.9	9.7	12.6	11.9	11.4	10.6		10.7	10.5				
United Kingdom	5.3	5.6	7.6	7.8	7.9	7.7		7.7	7.7	7.7	7.7		
United States <sup>(2)</sup>	4.6	5.8	9.3	10.0	9.7	9.7	9.6	9.7	9.5	9.5	9.6	9.6	9.6

## Notes:

(1) Canada: Unemployment rate for November 2010 was 7.6%

(2) United States: Unemployment rate for November 2010 was 9.8%

(3) Estonia became an OECD member country on 9 December 2010.

(4) Chile, Estonia, Israel and Slovenia are not included in the OECD area aggregation in this News Release for technical and timing reasons. Data for these countries, where available, have been incorporated into the Main Economic Indicators electronic databases. They will be included in the OECD aggregates from January 2011.

**OECD Unemployment Rates, s.a.**  
**Change of rates over the same period of the previous year**

	2007	2008	2009	2009				2010					
				Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
OECD - Total	-0.5	0.3	2.2	2.0	1.0	0.3	-0.1	0.2	0.0	0.0	-0.1	-0.2	-0.2
Major Seven	-0.3	0.4	2.1	2.0	0.9	0.1	-0.2	0.1	0.0	-0.1	-0.1	-0.3	-0.3
European Union	-1.0	-0.2	1.9	1.9	1.4	0.7	0.4	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.2
Euro area	-0.9	0.1	1.9	1.9	1.1	0.6	0.3	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.2
Australia	-0.4	-0.2	1.4	1.1	0.0	-0.5	-0.6	-0.6	-0.7	-0.4	-0.7	-0.7	-0.3
Austria	-0.3	-0.6	1.0	0.8	0.0	-0.2	-0.8	-0.2	-0.5	-0.9	-0.8	-0.6	-0.1
Belgium	-0.8	-0.5	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.5	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.5
Canada <sup>(1)</sup>	-0.3	0.1	2.2	1.9	0.4	-0.4	-0.5	-0.4	-0.7	-0.6	-0.6	-0.3	-0.5
Chile <sup>(4)</sup>	-0.7	0.7	3.0	2.5	-1.6	-3.0	-3.2	-3.0	-3.3	-3.3	-3.2	-3.1	
Czech Republic	-1.9	-0.9	2.3	2.9	2.3	0.8	-0.4	0.8	0.3	-0.1	-0.5	-0.5	-0.4
Denmark	-0.1	-0.5	2.7	3.4	2.4	1.4	1.2	1.4	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.1	0.9
Estonia <sup>(3)(4)</sup>	-1.3	1.0	8.2	8.0	8.1	5.1	0.9	5.1	5.1	0.9	0.9	0.9	
Finland	-0.8	-0.5	1.8	2.1	1.3	0.3	-0.3	0.3	0.0	-0.1	-0.3	-0.5	-0.7
France	-0.8	-0.6	1.7	1.7	0.9	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	-0.1
Germany	-1.4	-1.1	0.2	0.4	-0.1	-0.7	-0.8	-0.7	-0.8	-0.8	-0.8	-0.9	-0.8
Greece	-0.6	-0.6	1.8	2.3	2.3	3.0		3.0	3.0				
Hungary	0.0	0.4	2.2	2.5	1.9	1.6	0.5	1.5	1.4	0.9	0.4	0.2	0.3
Iceland	-0.6	0.7	4.2	3.1	0.4	-0.3	0.5						
Ireland	0.1	1.8	5.5	5.0	2.7	1.7	1.4	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.4	1.2	1.1
Israel <sup>(4)</sup>	-1.1	-1.2	1.4	0.8	-0.6	-1.4	-1.1						
Italy	-0.6	0.6	1.0	1.4	1.0	0.8	0.2	1.0	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.4
Japan	-0.2	0.1	1.1	1.1	0.4	0.1	-0.3	0.1	0.0	-0.4	-0.3	-0.3	-0.1
Korea	-0.3	0.0	0.4	0.3	0.8	-0.4	-0.1	-0.6	-0.4	0.0	-0.3	0.1	0.1
Luxembourg	-0.4	0.7	0.3	-0.3	-0.5	-0.4	-0.1	-0.5	-0.3	-0.2	-0.1	0.0	0.1
Mexico	0.1	0.3	1.5	1.0	0.3	-0.1	-0.6	-0.3	-0.1	-0.3	-0.8	-0.7	-0.2
Netherlands	-0.7	-0.5	0.6	1.2	1.3	1.0	0.6	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.6	0.4	0.3
New Zealand	-0.2	0.5	1.9	2.5	0.9	0.9	-0.1						
Norway	-0.8	-0.1	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.2	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.3	
Poland	-4.3	-2.4	1.0	1.8	2.1	1.6	1.0	1.6	1.3	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.0
Portugal	0.3	-0.4	1.9	2.3	1.7	1.6	1.0	1.7	1.4	1.1	0.9	0.9	0.8
Slovak Republic	-2.3	-1.6	2.5	5.2	4.6	3.1	1.9	3.2	2.7	2.3	1.9	1.4	0.9
Slovenia <sup>(4)</sup>	-1.1	-0.5	1.5	2.1	1.7	1.5	1.0	1.5	1.3	0.9	1.0	0.9	1.2
Spain	-0.2	3.1	6.6	5.0	2.7	2.1	1.9	2.1	2.1	2.0	1.9	1.8	1.7
Sweden	-1.0	0.1	2.1	2.1	1.2	0.2	-0.3	-0.3	-0.3	0.2	-0.6	-0.5	-0.7
Switzerland	-0.4	-0.1	0.9	0.9	0.5	0.0							
Turkey	0.2	0.8	2.9	0.8	-1.0	-2.5		-2.4	-2.4				
United Kingdom	-0.1	0.3	2.0	1.5	0.9	0.0		0.0	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1		
United States <sup>(2)</sup>	0.0	1.2	3.5	3.1	1.5	0.4	-0.1	0.3	0.0	0.1	-0.1	-0.2	-0.5

## Notes:

(1) Canada: For November 2010 the change was -0.6

(2) United States: For November 2010 the change was -0.2

(3) Estonia became an OECD member country on 9 December 2010.

(4) Chile, Estonia, Israel and Slovenia are not included in the OECD area aggregation in this News Release for technical and timing reasons. Data for these countries, where available, have been incorporated into the Main Economic Indicators electronic databases. They will be included in the OECD aggregates from January 2011.