

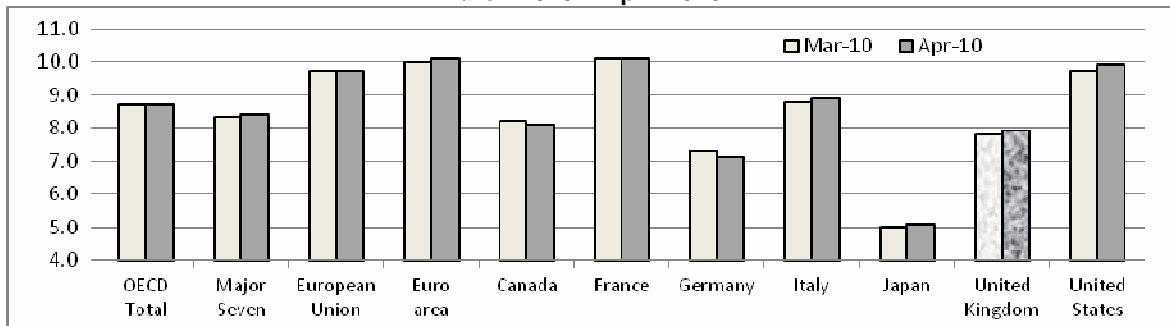
OECD unemployment rate steady at 8.7% in April

The unemployment rate for the **OECD area** was steady in April 2010 at 8.7%, unchanged from March. The general picture is of broad stability across OECD countries. The *May 2010* rate for **Canada** was 8.1%, unchanged from April. But the *May* rate for the **United States**, at 9.7%, fell by 0.2 percentage points from April, reflecting the hiring of temporary workers for the 2010 US Census.

The OECD unemployment rate remains at a level close to post-war highs. The countries with the highest rates across the OECD area in April were **Spain** (19.7%), the **Slovak Republic** (14.1%), **Ireland** (13.2%), **Portugal** (10.8%), **Hungary** (10.4%) and **France** (10.1%). The lowest rates were recorded in **Korea** (3.7%) and the **Netherlands** (4.1%).

In April 2010 the number of unemployed persons in the OECD stood at 46.5 million, 3.3 million higher than in April 2009.

Selected Unemployment Rates, s.a.
March 2010 – April 2010 ⁽¹⁾



(1) United Kingdom: January 2010—February 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: Monday, 12 July 2010

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

	2007	2008	2009	2009			2010	2009		2010			
				Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
OECD - Total	5.8	6.1	8.3	8.3	8.6	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.6	8.7	8.7
Major Seven	5.4	5.9	8.0	8.0	8.3	8.5	8.3	8.5	8.4	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.4
European Union	7.1	7.0	8.9	8.8	9.2	9.4	9.6	9.4	9.4	9.5	9.6	9.7	9.7
Euro area	7.5	7.6	9.4	9.3	9.7	9.8	10.0	9.8	9.9	9.9	10.0	10.0	10.1
Australia	4.4	4.2	5.6	5.6	5.8	5.6	5.3	5.6	5.5	5.2	5.3	5.4	5.4
Austria	4.4	3.8	4.8	4.8	5.1	4.9	4.9	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.9	4.9	4.9
Belgium	7.5	7.0	7.9	7.7	8.1	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.1	8.2
Canada ⁽¹⁾	6.0	6.1	8.3	8.4	8.5	8.4	8.2	8.4	8.4	8.3	8.2	8.2	8.1
Chile ⁽³⁾	7.1	7.8	10.8	11.5	11.2	10.0	9.0	10.0	9.7	9.1	9.0	8.6	
Czech Republic	5.3	4.4	6.7	6.5	7.3	7.3	7.8	7.3	7.4	7.7	7.8	7.9	7.7
Denmark	3.8	3.3	6.0	6.0	6.2	7.0	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.0
Finland	6.9	6.4	8.2	8.2	8.6	8.8	8.8	8.8	8.8	8.8	8.8	8.8	8.8
France	8.4	7.8	9.5	9.4	9.7	9.9	10.0	10.0	9.9	10.0	10.0	10.1	10.1
Germany	8.4	7.3	7.5	7.6	7.6	7.5	7.4	7.5	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.3	7.1
Greece	8.3	7.7	9.5	9.2	9.8	10.2		10.2	10.2				
Hungary	7.4	7.8	10.0	9.8	10.4	10.6	10.9	10.6	10.6	11.0	10.9	10.8	10.4
Iceland	2.3	3.0	7.2	7.1	7.3	7.8	7.4						
Ireland	4.6	6.4	11.9	11.8	12.6	13.0	13.1	13.1	13.0	13.1	13.1	13.1	13.2
Italy	6.2	6.8	7.7	7.5	7.8	8.2	8.6	8.2	8.4	8.5	8.6	8.8	8.9
Japan	3.9	4.0	5.1	5.1	5.4	5.2	4.9	5.3	5.2	4.9	4.9	5.0	5.1
Korea	3.2	3.2	3.6	3.8	3.7	3.6	4.3	3.6	3.6	4.8	4.4	3.8	3.7
Luxembourg	4.2	4.9	5.4	5.3	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.3	5.4	5.4	5.4
Mexico	3.7	4.0	5.5	5.7	5.8	5.5	5.2	5.6	5.3	5.5	5.2	5.0	5.5
Netherlands	3.2	2.8	3.4	3.3	3.7	3.9	4.2	3.8	4.0	4.1	4.2	4.2	4.1
New Zealand	3.7	4.2	6.1	5.9	6.5	7.1	6.0						
Norway	2.5	2.5	3.2	3.1	3.2	3.3	3.5	3.3	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.5	
Poland	9.7	7.2	8.2	8.0	8.5	8.9	9.7	8.8	9.1	9.5	9.8	9.9	9.9
Portugal	8.1	7.7	9.6	9.4	10.2	10.2	10.5	10.1	10.2	10.4	10.4	10.6	10.8
Slovak Republic	11.2	9.5	12.0	11.2	12.7	14.0	14.1	14.1	14.2	14.1	14.1	14.1	14.1
Spain	8.3	11.4	18.0	17.9	18.7	19.0	19.2	19.0	19.0	19.0	19.2	19.5	19.7
Sweden	6.1	6.2	8.3	8.4	8.6	8.8	9.0	8.7	9.0	9.1	9.0	8.8	9.3
Switzerland	3.6	3.5	4.4	4.4	4.5	4.6	4.5						
Turkey	8.8	9.7	12.6	13.0	12.8	12.0		11.9	11.7				
United Kingdom	5.3	5.6	7.6	7.7	7.8	7.8		7.8	7.7	7.8	7.9		
United States ⁽²⁾	4.6	5.8	9.3	9.3	9.7	10.0	9.7	10.0	10.0	9.7	9.7	9.7	9.9

Notes:

(1) Canada: Unemployment rate for May 2010 was 8.1%

(2) United States: Unemployment rate for May 2010 was 9.7%

(3) Chile became a member of the OECD on 7 May 2010. Chile has not yet been included in OECD area aggregation in this News Release for technical and timing reasons, though Chilean data, where available, have been incorporated into the Main Economic Indicators electronic databases.

**OECD Harmonised Unemployment Rates
News Release: April 2010**
OECD Unemployment Rates, s.a.
Change of rates over the same period of the previous year

	2007	2008	2009	2009			2010	2009		2010			
				Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
OECD - Total	-0.4	0.3	2.2	2.5	2.4	2.0	1.1	2.0	1.7	1.4	1.0	0.8	0.6
Major Seven	-0.4	0.5	2.1	2.4	2.3	2.0	1.0	2.1	1.6	1.3	1.0	0.7	0.6
European Union	-1.1	-0.1	1.9	2.0	2.2	1.9	1.4	1.9	1.8	1.6	1.4	1.2	1.0
Euro area	-0.9	0.1	1.8	1.9	2.1	1.8	1.2	1.8	1.7	1.4	1.2	0.9	0.9
Australia	-0.4	-0.2	1.4	1.4	1.6	1.1	0.0	1.1	0.9	0.3	0.0	-0.3	0.0
Austria	-0.4	-0.6	1.0	1.2	1.4	0.8	0.5	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.2
Belgium	-0.8	-0.5	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.4	0.9	0.8	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.5
Canada ⁽¹⁾	-0.3	0.1	2.2	2.4	2.4	1.9	0.4	1.9	1.6	1.0	0.2	0.1	0.0
Chile ⁽³⁾	-0.7	0.7	3.0	3.1	3.4	2.5	-1.6	2.5	1.7	0.6	-1.6	-2.3	
Czech Republic	-1.9	-0.9	2.3	2.1	3.0	2.8	2.3	2.8	2.7	2.6	2.3	2.0	1.5
Denmark	-0.1	-0.5	2.7	2.8	2.9	3.3	2.3	3.4	3.1	2.8	2.4	1.8	1.2
Finland	-0.8	-0.5	1.8	2.0	2.2	2.1	1.4	2.1	1.9	1.7	1.4	1.1	0.8
France	-0.9	-0.6	1.7	1.7	1.9	1.7	1.1	1.8	1.5	1.3	1.1	1.0	0.8
Germany	-1.4	-1.1	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.4	0.1	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.2	-0.1	-0.5
Greece	-0.6	-0.6	1.8	1.7	2.3	2.3		2.3	2.3				
Hungary	0.0	0.4	2.2	2.0	2.6	2.5	1.7	2.5	2.1	2.2	1.7	1.2	0.7
Iceland	-0.6	0.7	4.2	4.7	4.2	3.2	0.5						
Ireland	0.1	1.8	5.5	6.2	5.7	5.0	3.0	5.1	4.6	3.8	2.9	2.2	1.8
Italy	-0.6	0.6	0.9	0.7	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.0	1.5
Japan	-0.2	0.1	1.1	1.1	1.4	1.1	0.4	1.3	0.8	0.7	0.5	0.2	0.1
Korea	-0.3	0.0	0.4	0.7	0.6	0.3	0.8	0.3	0.2	1.4	0.9	0.1	0.0
Luxembourg	-0.4	0.7	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.1	-0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1
Mexico	0.1	0.3	1.5	1.9	1.9	1.0	0.3	0.8	0.5	0.8	0.1	0.2	0.1
Netherlands	-0.7	-0.4	0.6	0.5	1.0	1.2	1.4	1.1	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.2	0.9
New Zealand	-0.2	0.5	1.9	2.0	2.2	2.5	0.9						
Norway	-0.9	0.0	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.4	
Poland	-4.2	-2.5	1.0	0.7	1.6	1.9	2.2	1.8	2.0	2.2	2.3	2.2	2.1
Portugal	0.3	-0.4	1.9	1.7	2.3	2.3	1.8	2.3	2.2	2.0	1.6	1.6	1.6
Slovak Republic	-2.2	-1.7	2.5	1.2	3.7	5.1	4.0	5.2	5.1	4.5	4.0	3.5	3.2
Spain	-0.2	3.1	6.6	7.4	6.8	5.0	2.6	5.0	4.2	3.2	2.5	2.2	2.0
Sweden	-1.0	0.1	2.1	2.4	2.4	2.1	1.5	1.8	2.2	2.2	1.3	0.9	1.4
Switzerland	-0.4	-0.1	0.9	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.5						
Turkey	0.1	0.9	2.9	4.0	3.0	0.9		0.6	0.0				
United Kingdom	-0.1	0.3	2.0	2.4	2.0	1.5		1.5	1.2	1.0	0.8		
United States ⁽²⁾	0.0	1.2	3.5	4.0	3.7	3.1	1.5	3.1	2.6	2.0	1.5	1.1	1.0

Notes:

(1) Canada: For May 2010 the change was -0.4

(2) United States: For May 2010 the change was 0.3

(3) Chile became a member of the OECD on 7 May 2010. Chile has not yet been included in OECD area aggregation in this News Release for technical and timing reasons, though Chilean data, where available, have been incorporated into the Main Economic Indicators electronic databases.