**OECD unemployment rate remains stable at 4.9% in October 2024**

Paris, 11 December 2024

Reference period: October 2024

**The OECD unemployment rate remained unchanged at 4.9% in October 2024, having been at or just below 5.0% since March 2022** (Figure 1 and Table 1). Compared with September, October unemployment rates were unchanged in 19 OECD countries, declined in 7 and rose in 5. Five OECD countries recorded an unemployment rate below 3.0%; only Colombia and Spain registered a double-digit rate despite a trend decline in Spain (Figure 2 and Table 1). The number of unemployed persons in the OECD area increased slightly to a total of 34.1 million (Table 2).

**In the European Union and the euro area, unemployment rates remained at record lows of 5.9% and 6.3%, respectively, in October.** The unemployment rate was stable in two-thirds of the 17 OECD euro area countries and continued to fall in Italy and Lithuania. In Italy, the cumulative drop in the unemployment rate since October 2023 reached 2.0 percentage points (p.p.), with the rate falling to its lowest level since the start of the series in January 1983. The unemployment rate rose in Finland, Greece, and Slovenia (Table 1).

**Outside Europe, unemployment rates increased in Colombia and Korea in October but were stable or decreased in all other OECD countries.** Mexico’s unemployment rate declined to 2.5%, the lowest rate recorded in the OECD along with Japan (Table 1). Compared to October 2024, data for November 2024 shows unemployment rates increased to 6.8% in Canada while it remained broadly stable at 4.2% in the United States.

**OECD unemployment rates for both women and men were broadly stable in October 2024, at 5.1% and 4.8%, respectively**. The unemployment rate for women exceeded that of men in the OECD area, the European Union, and the euro area, but was higher for men in the G7 area and in slightly more than half of the 38 OECD countries in October 2024 (or in the latest period available). Latvia had the largest gender gap in favour of women in the OECD area, with an unemployment rate for men exceeding that of women by 2.9 p.p., while Colombia and Türkiye had the largest in favour of men, with a 3.9 and 5.6 p.p. difference, respectively. For Hungary and Mexico, the unemployment rates for women and men were equal (Figure 3 and Table 3).

**In October 2024, the OECD unemployment rate was unchanged among younger workers (aged 15-24) and workers aged 25 and above.** At 11.3%, the youth unemployment rate stood 7.2 p.p. above the unemployment rate for workers aged 25 and above and increased by more than 1.0 p.p. compared to September in Latvia, Colombia, Korea, Australia, and Greece. Youth unemployment remained above 20% in 9 OECD countries in October (or in the latest available period). By contrast, Japan and Israel recorded the lowest rates in the OECD area, at or below 4.0% (Table 4).

 **Figure 1 –** **Unemployment rates**

 Percentage of labour force, seasonally adjusted

  

Note: The fall in the OECD unemployment rate when compared with the April 2020 peak should be interpreted with caution, as it largely reflects the return of temporary laid-off workers in the United States and Canada, where they are recorded as unemployed, unlike in most other countries, including European member states, where they are recorded as employed.

Source: OECD (2024) [Infra-annual Labour Statistics](https://data-explorer.oecd.org/vis?df%5bds%5d=dsDisseminateFinalDMZ&df%5bid%5d=DSD_LFS%40DF_IALFS_INDIC&df%5bag%5d=OECD.SDD.TPS&df%5bvs%5d=1.0&pd=%2C&dq=.UNE_LF_M...Y._T.Y_GE15..M&ly%5brw%5d=REF_AREA&ly%5bcl%5d=TIME_PERIOD&to%5bTIME_PERIOD%5d=false&lo=13&lom=LASTNPERIODS), and[Monthly unemployment rates](https://data-explorer.oecd.org/vis?df%5bds%5d=dsDisseminateFinalDMZ&df%5bid%5d=DSD_LFS%40DF_IALFS_UNE_M&df%5bag%5d=OECD.SDD.TPS&df%5bvs%5d=1.0&pd=%2C&dq=..._Z.Y._T.Y_GE15..M&ly%5brw%5d=REF_AREA&ly%5bcl%5d=TIME_PERIOD&to%5bTIME_PERIOD%5d=false&lo=13&lom=LASTNPERIODS).

 **Figure 2 –** **Unemployment rate for OECD countries**

 October 2024 compared with the lowest rate recorded since 2001, percentage of labour force, seasonally adjusted

 

Note: The October 2024 unemployment rate was at or within 0.1 percentage point (p.p.) of its record low in Israel, Italy, and Slovak Republic, as well as in the OECD area, the European Union and the euro area (bars reported in blue). It was more than 2.5 p.p. above its record low in Chile (September 2024), Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Spain, and Sweden (bars reported in yellow). For Costa Rica, Chile, Iceland and, Türkiye, the unemployment rate for September 2024 is reported ; for the United Kingdom, August 2024; for for Switzerland, second quarter 2024; for New Zealand, third quarter 2024.

Source: OECD (2024) [Infra-annual Labour Statistics](https://data-explorer.oecd.org/vis?df%5bds%5d=dsDisseminateFinalDMZ&df%5bid%5d=DSD_LFS%40DF_IALFS_INDIC&df%5bag%5d=OECD.SDD.TPS&df%5bvs%5d=1.0&pd=%2C&dq=.UNE_LF_M...Y._T.Y_GE15..M&ly%5brw%5d=REF_AREA&ly%5bcl%5d=TIME_PERIOD&to%5bTIME_PERIOD%5d=false&lo=13&lom=LASTNPERIODS), and[Monthly unemployment rates](https://data-explorer.oecd.org/vis?df%5bds%5d=dsDisseminateFinalDMZ&df%5bid%5d=DSD_LFS%40DF_IALFS_UNE_M&df%5bag%5d=OECD.SDD.TPS&df%5bvs%5d=1.0&pd=%2C&dq=..._Z.Y._T.Y_GE15..M&ly%5brw%5d=REF_AREA&ly%5bcl%5d=TIME_PERIOD&to%5bTIME_PERIOD%5d=false&lo=13&lom=LASTNPERIODS).

 **Figure 3 – Unemployment rate by sex for OECD countries**

 October 2024, Percentage of labour force, seasonally adjusted

 

Note: For Costa Rica, Chile, Iceland and Türkiye, the unemployment rate for September 2024 is reported; for the United Kingdom, August 2024; for Switzerland, second quarter 2024; for New Zealand, third quarter 2024.

Source: OECD (2024) [Infra-annual Labour Statistics](https://data-explorer.oecd.org/vis?df%5bds%5d=dsDisseminateFinalDMZ&df%5bid%5d=DSD_LFS%40DF_IALFS_INDIC&df%5bag%5d=OECD.SDD.TPS&df%5bvs%5d=1.0&pd=%2C&dq=.UNE_LF_M...Y._T.Y_GE15..M&ly%5brw%5d=REF_AREA&ly%5bcl%5d=TIME_PERIOD&to%5bTIME_PERIOD%5d=false&lo=13&lom=LASTNPERIODS) and[Monthly unemployment rates](https://data-explorer.oecd.org/vis?df%5bds%5d=dsDisseminateFinalDMZ&df%5bid%5d=DSD_LFS%40DF_IALFS_UNE_M&df%5bag%5d=OECD.SDD.TPS&df%5bvs%5d=1.0&pd=%2C&dq=..._Z.Y._T.Y_GE15..M&ly%5brw%5d=REF_AREA&ly%5bcl%5d=TIME_PERIOD&to%5bTIME_PERIOD%5d=false&lo=13&lom=LASTNPERIODS).**Table 1 – Unemployment rates (aged 15 and over)**

*Percentage of labour force, seasonally adjusted*



...: Not applicable ..: Not available



Note: figures in bold in the columns “record low since 2001” stress that the unemployment rate was at or within 0.1 percentage point of its lowest level in the current monthly period.

Source: OECD (2024) [Infra-annual Labour Statistics](https://data-explorer.oecd.org/vis?df%5bds%5d=dsDisseminateFinalDMZ&df%5bid%5d=DSD_LFS%40DF_IALFS_INDIC&df%5bag%5d=OECD.SDD.TPS&df%5bvs%5d=1.0&pd=%2C&dq=.UNE_LF_M...Y._T.Y_GE15..M&ly%5brw%5d=REF_AREA&ly%5bcl%5d=TIME_PERIOD&to%5bTIME_PERIOD%5d=false&lo=13&lom=LASTNPERIODS), and[Monthly unemployment rates](https://data-explorer.oecd.org/vis?df%5bds%5d=dsDisseminateFinalDMZ&df%5bid%5d=DSD_LFS%40DF_IALFS_UNE_M&df%5bag%5d=OECD.SDD.TPS&df%5bvs%5d=1.0&pd=%2C&dq=..._Z.Y._T.Y_GE15..M&ly%5brw%5d=REF_AREA&ly%5bcl%5d=TIME_PERIOD&to%5bTIME_PERIOD%5d=false&lo=13&lom=LASTNPERIODS).

**Table 2 – Unemployment levels (aged 15 and over)**

*Thousands of persons, seasonally adjusted*



...: Not applicable ..: Not available

Source: OECD (2024) [Infra-annual Labour Statistics](https://data-explorer.oecd.org/vis?df%5bds%5d=dsDisseminateFinalDMZ&df%5bid%5d=DSD_LFS%40DF_IALFS_INDIC&df%5bag%5d=OECD.SDD.TPS&df%5bvs%5d=1.0&pd=%2C&dq=.UNE_LF_M...Y._T.Y_GE15..M&ly%5brw%5d=REF_AREA&ly%5bcl%5d=TIME_PERIOD&to%5bTIME_PERIOD%5d=false&lo=13&lom=LASTNPERIODS) and[Monthly unemployment levels](https://data-explorer.oecd.org/vis?df%5bds%5d=dsDisseminateFinalDMZ&df%5bid%5d=DSD_LFS%40DF_IALFS_UNE_LF_M&df%5bag%5d=OECD.SDD.TPS&df%5bvs%5d=1.0&pd=%2C&dq=..._Z.Y._T.Y_GE15..M&to%5bTIME_PERIOD%5d=false&lo=13&lom=LASTNPERIODS).

**Table 3 – Unemployment rates by sex (aged 15 and over)**

*Percentage of the labour force of each group, seasonally adjusted*



...: Not applicable ..: Not available

\*Gender gap is calculated as the difference in percentage point between the unemployment rate for women and men. A positive figure indicates that the unemployment rate for women is higher than for men while a negative figure indicates that the unemployment rate for women is lower than for men.

Source: OECD (2024) [Infra-annual Labour Statistics](https://data-explorer.oecd.org/vis?df%5bds%5d=dsDisseminateFinalDMZ&df%5bid%5d=DSD_LFS%40DF_IALFS_INDIC&df%5bag%5d=OECD.SDD.TPS&df%5bvs%5d=1.0&pd=%2C&dq=.UNE_LF_M...Y._T.Y_GE15..M&ly%5brw%5d=REF_AREA&ly%5bcl%5d=TIME_PERIOD&to%5bTIME_PERIOD%5d=false&lo=13&lom=LASTNPERIODS) and[Monthly unemployment rates](https://data-explorer.oecd.org/vis?df%5bds%5d=dsDisseminateFinalDMZ&df%5bid%5d=DSD_LFS%40DF_IALFS_UNE_M&df%5bag%5d=OECD.SDD.TPS&df%5bvs%5d=1.0&pd=%2C&dq=..._Z.Y._T.Y_GE15..M&ly%5brw%5d=REF_AREA&ly%5bcl%5d=TIME_PERIOD&to%5bTIME_PERIOD%5d=false&lo=13&lom=LASTNPERIODS)**.**

**Table 4 – Unemployment rates by age group**

*Percentage of the labour force of each group, seasonally adjusted*



...: Not applicable ..: Not available

1. Belgium and Slovenia: For youth unemployment, quarterly data are shown for all the months in the quarter.

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

Source: OECD (2024) [Infra-annual Labour Statistics](https://data-explorer.oecd.org/vis?df%5bds%5d=dsDisseminateFinalDMZ&df%5bid%5d=DSD_LFS%40DF_IALFS_INDIC&df%5bag%5d=OECD.SDD.TPS&df%5bvs%5d=1.0&pd=%2C&dq=.UNE_LF_M...Y._T.Y_GE15..M&ly%5brw%5d=REF_AREA&ly%5bcl%5d=TIME_PERIOD&to%5bTIME_PERIOD%5d=false&lo=13&lom=LASTNPERIODS) and[Monthly unemployment rates](https://data-explorer.oecd.org/vis?df%5bds%5d=dsDisseminateFinalDMZ&df%5bid%5d=DSD_LFS%40DF_IALFS_UNE_M&df%5bag%5d=OECD.SDD.TPS&df%5bvs%5d=1.0&pd=%2C&dq=..._Z.Y._T.Y_GE15..M&ly%5brw%5d=REF_AREA&ly%5bcl%5d=TIME_PERIOD&to%5bTIME_PERIOD%5d=false&lo=13&lom=LASTNPERIODS)**.**

**Methodological information:**

The OECD unemployment rate is calculated as the total number of unemployed people in all OECD countries as a percentage of the total labour force (i.e., the unemployed plus those in employment).

For countries for which unemployment data for the most recent month or quarter are not available, the latest available data are used to compile data for the OECD total.

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

For further methodological information, including the impact of COVID-19 on employment and unemployment statistics, see: [Methodological Notes for OECD Unemployment and Labour Market Situation News Releases](https://www.oecd.org/content/dam/oecd/en/data/methods/OECD-Methodological-Note-Labour-Market-Situation-and-Unemployment.pdf)

**Access Data:**

OECD Database (2024): [Infra-annual Labour Statistics](https://data-explorer.oecd.org/vis?df%5bds%5d=dsDisseminateFinalDMZ&df%5bid%5d=DSD_LFS%40DF_IALFS_INDIC&df%5bag%5d=OECD.SDD.TPS&df%5bvs%5d=1.0&pd=%2C&dq=.UNE_LF_M...Y._T.Y_GE15..M&ly%5brw%5d=REF_AREA&ly%5bcl%5d=TIME_PERIOD&to%5bTIME_PERIOD%5d=false&lo=13&lom=LASTNPERIODS)

The entry into force in 2021 of the Integrated European Social Statistics (IESS) Framework Regulation resulted in a new methodology of the EU Labour Force Survey, [updating the definitions of the labour status](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=EU_Labour_Force_Survey_-_new_methodology_from_2021_onwards). Information by country on the status of the implementation of IESS regulation as well as on possible resulting breaks in time series can be found in a Eurostat Statistics Explained [article](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=EU_labour_force_survey_-_correction_for_breaks_in_time_series).

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 releases:**

Unemployment: [13 February 2025](https://www.oecd.org/sdd/labour-stats/releasedatesoftheoecdnewsreleasesonharmonisedunemploymentrates.htm)

Labour Market Situation: [16 January 2025](https://www.oecd.org/sdd/labour-stats/releasedatesoftheoecdnewsreleasesonharmonisedunemploymentrates.htm)