

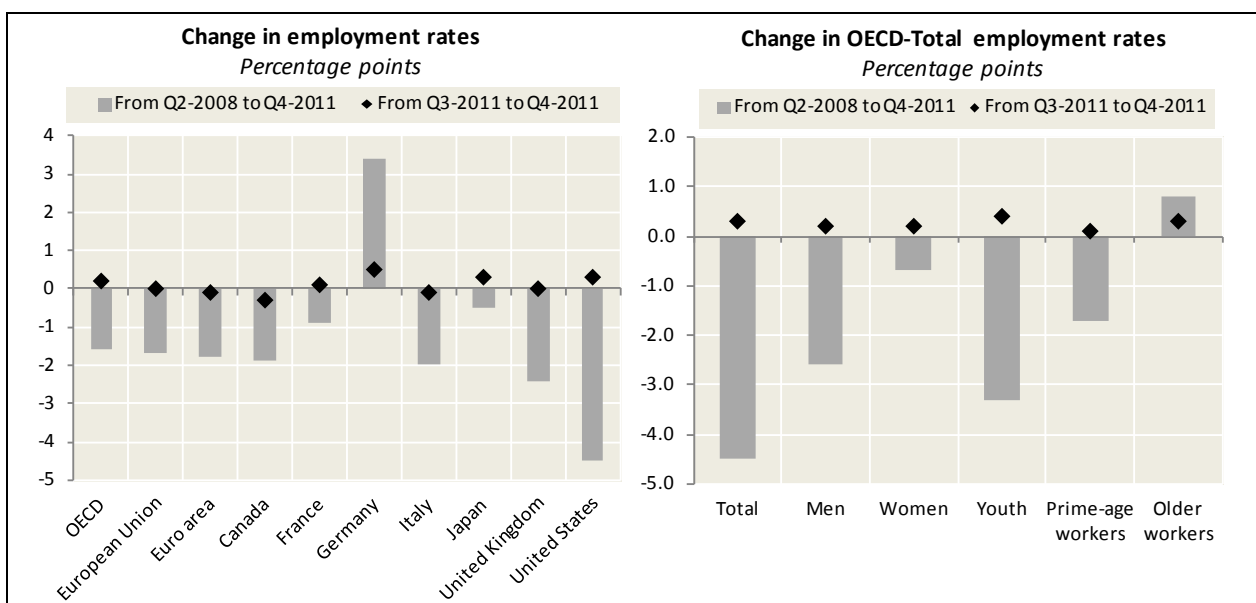
## OECD employment rate 1.6 percentage points below its pre-crisis level in fourth quarter 2011

The **OECD area** employment rate – defined as the proportion of people of working age (those aged 15 to 64) who have a job – was 64.9% in the fourth quarter of 2011, according to new quarterly labour market statistics from the OECD. This is 1.6 percentage points lower than the 66.5% recorded in the second quarter of 2008, the quarter preceding the start of the global financial crisis.

There were 528 million persons employed in the OECD area in the fourth quarter of 2011, 2 million below the level observed at the onset of the crisis. Putting this into context, during the same period the working age population increased by 17 million persons, the unemployed increased by 13 million, and those not employed nor looking for employment (i.e. the inactive population) increased by 6 million.

Considering the entire period since the start of the crisis, there are large disparities in the evolution of employment rates across OECD countries. Since the second quarter of 2008, the employment rate has declined by around 2 percentage points in the **European Union** and **Canada**, by more than 4 percentage points in the **United States**, and by around 8 percentage points or more in **Greece**, **Ireland** and **Spain**. Only in **Chile**, **Germany** and **Turkey** is the employment rate significantly higher today than at the onset of the crisis.

In virtually all OECD countries, the job crisis is affecting men more severely than women, and young people (aged 15 to 24) more than prime age workers (those aged 25 to 54). Since the onset of the crisis, the employment rate for the OECD area as a whole has declined by 2.6 percentage points for men and by only 0.7 percentage points for women. For youth, the employment rate has contracted by 3.3 percentage points compared to a 1.7 percentage points fall for prime age workers. Over the same period, employment rate for young people has declined by around 10 percentage points or more in **Denmark**, **Greece**, **Iceland**, and **Portugal** and by more than 15 percentage points in **Ireland** and **Spain**.



**Methodological Notes:** <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/40/10/50273955.pdf>

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

**New Quarterly Labour Market Statistics:** <http://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=STLABOUR>

**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.

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**OECD Employment<sup>1</sup> Levels and Rates, s.a.**
*Levels and employment as a percentage of corresponding working age population*

	Levels Thousands Total <sup>2</sup>	Employment Rates											
		Total (15-64)			Youth (15-24)			Prime-age workers (25-54)			Older workers (55-64)		
		T	M	W	T	M	W	T	M	W	T	M	W
OECD - Total	527,551	64.9	73.1	56.9	39.5	42.8	36.2	75.5	85.0	66.1	54.9	63.8	46.5
Major Seven	322,897	67.5	73.6	61.5	42.3	43.2	41.4	77.7	85.0	70.5	57.7	64.9	51.0
European Union	213,061	64.2	69.9	58.5	33.4	35.5	31.2	77.5	83.6	71.4	47.8	55.4	40.7
Euro area	138,939	64.1	70.0	58.2	33.2	35.2	31.2	77.0	83.5	70.4	47.6	54.9	40.7
Australia	11,077	72.4	78.3	66.5	60.1	60.6	59.4	79.6	87.0	72.4	60.9	68.4	53.5
Austria	4,080	72.1	77.7	66.6	54.3	59.1	49.7	85.1	89.9	80.4	41.4	50.8	32.5
Belgium	4,479	61.8	67.2	56.5	27.1	28.6	25.5	79.2	84.7	73.7	38.8	46.8	30.9
Canada	16,777	71.8	74.8	68.8	55.2	54.2	56.2	81.1	84.7	77.4	58.0	62.9	53.2
Chile	7,075	61.4	73.6	49.3	31.5	36.7	25.8	74.5	88.7	60.7	60.0	79.6	42.5
Czech Republic	4,823	65.9	74.1	57.5	24.0	28.7	19.0	83.2	91.1	74.9	47.6	58.5	37.5
Denmark	2,634	72.8	75.8	69.7	56.8	57.5	56.1	82.1	85.2	78.9	60.2	64.5	55.9
Estonia	596	66.0	68.5	63.6	30.5	34.0	27.0	78.9	82.5	75.6	59.8	61.8	58.4
Finland	2,437	69.4	70.9	67.8	40.3	39.7	41.0	82.8	85.2	80.4	57.4	57.2	57.5
France	25,570	63.9	67.9	60.0	29.5	32.1	27.0	81.1	86.2	76.2	42.6	45.3	40.2
Germany	39,328	73.2	77.9	68.3	48.5	50.7	46.3	83.2	88.2	78.2	60.9	67.8	54.2
Greece	3,882	53.8	63.6	43.8	15.0	18.0	11.9	67.0	77.3	56.4	37.4	49.5	26.1
Hungary	3,800	56.2	61.7	50.9	18.0	19.6	16.4	73.7	80.1	67.2	36.1	40.5	32.5
Iceland	160	78.7	82.3	74.9	63.0	59.0	67.3	83.0	88.8	77.2	81.0	84.2	77.7
Ireland	1,759	59.2	63.1	55.3	27.6	26.4	28.9	69.6	74.6	64.7	50.1	56.6	43.6
Israel	2,949	61.5	65.6	57.6	26.5	25.6	27.3	75.1	79.8	70.5	61.4	71.4	52.2
Italy	22,554	56.8	67.1	46.6	19.5	22.6	16.2	70.7	82.7	58.7	38.7	48.7	29.2
Japan	56,700	70.4	80.3	60.4	38.7	38.0	39.4	80.3	91.5	68.9	65.7	79.2	52.7
Korea	22,755	64.1	74.8	53.3	23.3	18.4	27.9	74.6	87.7	61.0	62.8	77.0	48.9
Luxembourg	222	64.2	71.4	56.8	20.2	22.0	18.3	81.7	90.0	73.2	39.1	48.5	29.6
Mexico	45,176	60.9	78.4	45.0	43.5	56.3	30.9	70.3	90.2	52.9	54.2	74.9	35.7
Netherlands	8,256	75.3	80.2	70.4	64.2	62.9	65.5	84.1	89.5	78.7	57.4	67.0	47.8
New Zealand	2,115	72.6	78.1	67.3	49.1	50.7	47.5	80.5	87.5	73.9	74.3	80.8	68.0
Norway	2,477	75.3	77.1	73.4	51.3	50.2	52.4	84.7	87.3	82.0	70.2	74.1	66.3
Poland	15,908	59.6	66.5	52.9	24.7	29.2	20.0	77.0	82.6	71.3	37.3	48.5	27.5
Portugal	4,465	63.0	66.7	59.5	25.5	27.4	23.4	76.7	79.9	73.5	46.7	52.6	41.4
Slovak Republic	2,333	59.2	66.0	52.3	19.9	24.8	14.8	76.2	82.5	69.8	42.5	52.9	33.2
Slovenia	912	64.4	67.4	61.2	32.4	34.9	29.7	82.7	84.7	80.6	31.8	39.2	24.1
Spain	17,637	56.8	62.2	51.3	20.6	20.6	20.5	67.8	73.4	61.9	44.3	53.3	35.9
Sweden	4,538	74.3	76.3	72.1	40.3	39.3	41.3	86.2	88.8	83.5	72.8	76.5	69.1
Switzerland	4,268	79.7	85.6	73.8	63.6	65.9	61.1	86.6	92.5	80.7	70.4	79.7	61.2
Turkey	23,843	48.9	69.8	28.2	32.7	44.2	21.7	57.8	83.1	32.6	32.0	46.4	18.2
United Kingdom	28,187	69.4	74.3	64.5	45.9	46.1	45.7	80.1	85.8	74.4	56.6	64.0	49.4
United States	133,782	66.8	71.9	62.0	46.2	47.3	45.4	75.1	81.7	68.9	60.2	65.0	55.7

1. In the table, T = Total (All persons), M = Men, and W = Women.

2. Aged 15 to 64; 2011Q4

**OECD Employment Rates (15-64), s.a.**
*Employment as a percentage of corresponding working age population*

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2008 Q2	2010				2011			
						Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
OECD - Total	66.3	64.7	64.5	64.8	66.5	64.4	64.5	64.5	64.5	64.7	64.7	64.7	64.9
Major Seven	69.4	67.6	67.2	67.4	69.6	67.1	67.2	67.3	67.2	67.3	67.3	67.3	67.5
European Union	65.8	64.5	64.1	64.3	65.9	64.1	64.1	64.2	64.2	64.3	64.3	64.2	64.2
Euro area	65.9	64.5	64.1	64.3	65.9	64.2	64.1	64.1	64.2	64.3	64.4	64.2	64.1
Australia	73.2	72.0	72.4	72.7	73.3	72.1	72.2	72.5	72.8	72.9	72.8	72.7	72.4
Austria	72.1	71.6	71.7	72.1	72.2	71.6	71.5	71.7	72.2	72.0	72.1	72.2	72.1
Belgium	62.4	61.6	62.0	61.9	62.3	62.1	61.6	61.9	62.4	61.6	62.6	61.7	61.8
Canada	73.6	71.5	71.5	72.0	73.7	71.4	71.7	71.6	71.6	72.0	72.1	72.1	71.8
Chile	57.3	56.1	59.3	61.3	57.2	57.8	59.0	60.2	60.2	60.7	61.5	61.5	61.4
Czech Republic	66.6	65.4	65.0	65.7	66.7	64.5	64.9	65.3	65.3	65.4	65.7	65.9	65.9
Denmark	77.9	75.4	73.4	73.2	78.1	73.7	73.5	73.2	73.0	73.3	73.2	73.2	72.8
Estonia	69.8	63.6	61.0	65.1	70.0	59.7	59.8	61.2	63.4	63.8	64.6	66.4	66.0
Finland	71.1	68.7	68.1	69.0	71.2	67.9	68.1	68.1	68.4	68.6	69.0	69.2	69.4
France	64.9	64.0	63.8	63.8	64.8	63.9	63.8	63.9	63.8	63.8	63.8	63.8	63.9
Germany	70.1	70.3	71.1	72.5	69.8	70.6	71.1	71.3	71.5	71.8	72.5	72.7	73.2
Greece	61.9	61.3	59.6	55.6	62.0	60.6	59.9	59.3	58.5	57.4	56.1	54.9	53.8
Hungary	56.7	55.4	55.4	55.8	56.5	55.2	55.3	55.6	55.5	55.3	55.8	56.0	56.2
Iceland	83.6	78.3	78.2	78.5	84.5	78.5	78.6	77.4	77.7	78.5	79.3	77.8	78.7
Ireland	67.6	62.2	60.1	59.2	68.3	60.6	60.2	60.0	59.4	59.3	59.3	59.1	59.2
Israel	59.8	59.2	60.2	60.9	60.0	59.2	60.2	60.4	60.8	60.7	61.1	61.3	61.5
Italy	58.8	57.5	56.9	57.0	58.8	57.0	56.9	56.7	56.9	57.1	57.0	56.9	56.8
Japan	70.7	70.0	70.1	70.3	70.9	70.1	69.9	70.3	70.2	70.4	70.1	70.1	70.4
Korea	63.8	62.9	63.3	63.8	63.9	63.1	63.4	63.4	63.4	63.6	63.9	63.9	64.1
Luxembourg	63.4	65.2	65.2	64.6	63.9	64.8	65.1	65.6	65.3	65.4	64.4	64.6	64.2
Mexico	60.7	59.8	59.7	60.1	61.2	59.7	60.2	59.9	58.9	59.4	59.7	60.0	60.9
Netherlands	77.2	77.0	74.7	74.9	77.1	74.6	74.6	74.6	74.8	74.8	74.6	74.8	75.3
New Zealand	74.7	72.9	72.3	72.6	74.9	72.5	72.3	72.3	72.2	72.7	72.6	72.4	72.6
Norway	78.0	76.4	75.3	75.3	78.1	75.5	75.5	75.0	75.0	75.3	75.2	75.3	75.3
Poland	59.2	59.4	59.3	59.7	59.0	59.0	59.2	59.4	59.4	59.7	59.7	59.6	59.6
Portugal	68.2	66.3	65.6	64.2	68.5	66.0	65.5	65.4	65.3	64.9	64.7	64.4	63.0
Slovak Republic	62.3	60.2	58.8	59.5	62.0	58.5	58.7	58.8	59.0	59.5	59.7	59.5	59.2
Slovenia	68.6	67.5	66.2	64.4	68.1	67.2	66.4	65.5	65.8	64.6	64.3	64.3	64.4
Spain	64.4	59.8	58.6	57.7	64.9	58.8	58.6	58.4	58.4	58.2	58.3	57.5	56.8
Sweden	74.3	72.2	72.7	74.1	74.4	72.2	72.6	72.9	73.3	73.8	74.1	74.2	74.3
Switzerland	79.5	79.0	78.6	79.3	79.5	78.0	78.6	78.9	78.9	78.8	79.4	79.3	79.7
Turkey	44.9	44.2	46.3	48.4	45.1	45.9	46.2	46.2	47.0	48.1	48.1	48.6	48.9
United Kingdom	71.5	69.9	69.5	69.5	71.8	69.2	69.5	69.9	69.5	69.6	69.5	69.4	69.4
United States	70.9	67.6	66.7	66.6	71.3	66.8	66.8	66.6	66.5	66.8	66.5	66.5	66.8

**OECD Employment Rates (15-64), s.a.**  
*Change of rate over the previous period*

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2010				2011				2008 Q2 <sup>1</sup>
					Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
OECD - Total	-0.1	-1.6	-0.2	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.2	-1.6
Major Seven	-0.2	-1.8	-0.4	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.1	-0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.2	-2.1
European Union	0.5	-1.3	-0.4	0.2	-0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	-0.1	0.0	-1.7
Euro area	0.4	-1.4	-0.4	0.2	-0.1	-0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	-0.2	-0.1	-1.8
Australia	0.4	-1.2	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.3	-0.9
Austria	0.7	-0.5	0.1	0.4	0.1	-0.1	0.2	0.5	-0.2	0.1	0.1	-0.1	-0.1
Belgium	0.4	-0.8	0.4	-0.1	0.6	-0.5	0.3	0.5	-0.8	1.0	-0.9	0.1	-0.5
Canada	0.1	-2.1	0.0	0.5	0.2	0.3	-0.1	0.0	0.4	0.1	0.0	-0.3	-1.9
Chile	1.0	-1.2	3.2	2.0	1.5	1.2	1.2	0.0	0.5	0.8	0.0	-0.1	4.2
Czech Republic	0.5	-1.2	-0.4	0.7	-0.5	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.0	-0.8
Denmark	0.9	-2.5	-2.0	-0.2	-0.1	-0.2	-0.3	-0.2	0.3	-0.1	0.0	-0.4	-5.3
Estonia	0.4	-6.2	-2.6	4.1	-1.7	0.1	1.4	2.2	0.4	0.8	1.8	-0.4	-4.0
Finland	0.8	-2.4	-0.5	0.8	-0.1	0.2	0.0	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.2	-1.8
France	0.6	-0.9	-0.2	0.0	0.2	-0.1	0.1	-0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	-0.9
Germany	1.1	0.2	0.8	1.4	-0.2	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.7	0.2	0.5	3.4
Greece	0.5	-0.6	-1.7	-4.0	-0.3	-0.7	-0.6	-0.8	-1.1	-1.3	-1.2	-1.1	-8.2
Hungary	-0.6	-1.3	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.1	0.3	-0.1	-0.2	0.5	0.2	0.2	-0.3
Iceland	-1.6	-5.3	-0.1	0.3	0.1	0.1	-1.2	0.3	0.8	0.8	-1.5	0.9	-5.8
Ireland	-1.6	-5.4	-2.1	-0.9	-0.6	-0.4	-0.2	-0.6	-0.1	0.0	-0.2	0.1	-9.1
Israel	0.9	-0.6	1.0	0.7	0.0	1.0	0.2	0.4	-0.1	0.4	0.2	0.2	1.5
Italy	0.1	-1.3	-0.6	0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.2	0.2	0.2	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-2.0
Japan	0.0	-0.7	0.1	0.2	0.2	-0.2	0.4	-0.1	0.2	-0.3	0.0	0.3	-0.5
Korea	-0.1	-0.9	0.4	0.6	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.3	0.0	0.2	0.2
Luxembourg	-0.8	1.8	0.0	-0.6	-0.2	0.3	0.5	-0.3	0.1	-1.0	0.2	-0.4	0.3
Mexico	-0.3	-0.9	-0.1	0.4	-0.5	0.5	-0.3	-1.0	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.9	-0.3
Netherlands	1.2	-0.2	-2.3	0.2	-1.8	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	-0.2	0.2	0.5	-1.8
New Zealand	-0.5	-1.8	-0.6	0.3	0.2	-0.2	0.0	-0.1	0.5	-0.1	-0.2	0.2	-2.3
Norway	1.2	-1.6	-1.1	0.0	-0.2	0.0	-0.5	0.0	0.3	-0.1	0.1	0.0	-2.8
Poland	2.2	0.2	-0.1	0.4	-0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.3	0.0	-0.1	0.0	0.6
Portugal	0.4	-1.9	-0.7	-1.4	0.2	-0.5	-0.1	-0.1	-0.4	-0.2	-0.3	-1.4	-5.5
Slovak Republic	1.6	-2.1	-1.4	0.7	-0.3	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.5	0.2	-0.2	-0.3	-2.8
Slovenia	0.8	-1.1	-1.3	-1.8	-0.3	-0.8	-0.9	0.3	-1.2	-0.3	0.0	0.1	-3.7
Spain	-1.2	-4.6	-1.2	-0.9	-0.2	-0.2	-0.2	0.0	-0.2	0.1	-0.8	-0.7	-8.1
Sweden	0.1	-2.1	0.5	1.4	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.1	0.1	-0.1
Switzerland	0.9	-0.5	-0.4	0.7	-1.0	0.6	0.3	0.0	-0.1	0.6	-0.1	0.4	0.2
Turkey	0.2	-0.7	2.1	2.1	0.6	0.3	0.0	0.8	1.1	0.0	0.5	0.3	3.8
United Kingdom	0.0	-1.6	-0.4	0.0	-0.4	0.3	0.4	-0.4	0.1	-0.1	-0.1	0.0	-2.4
United States	-0.9	-3.3	-0.9	-0.1	0.2	0.0	-0.2	-0.1	0.3	-0.3	0.0	0.3	-4.5

1. The final column of the table refers to the difference between 2011Q4 and 2008Q2 (the quarter preceding the global financial crisis).