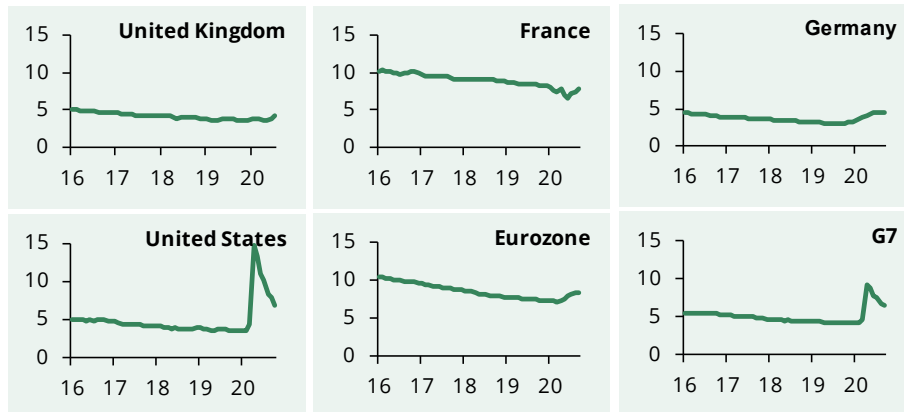


C3: Unemployment International

The OECD produces harmonised unemployment rates for OECD members based on the ILO definition of unemployment.

Harmonised Unemployment Rate (%)



This document focusses on standard official sources. For more timely data on the economy, see the Library briefing [Coronavirus: Latest economic data](#).

The UK harmonised unemployment rate for **Q2 2020** was 3.8%. In this quarter the UK did not see an increase in unemployment as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. Other OECD member states saw a large rise in their unemployment rates in this quarter.

The UK rate was the 4th lowest of the 36 OECD member countries.

The unemployment rate for the Eurozone increased from 7.6% to 8.2% in **Q3 2020**, while in the G7 it fell from 8.6% to 6.9%. The Q3 figure for the UK has not yet been published.

Colombia had the highest unemployment rate out of the OECD member states for Q2 2020 (20.7%) followed by Greece at 17.0%. The Czech Republic had the lowest unemployment rate in the OECD at 2.4%.

Youth (aged 15-24) unemployment is a major issue in many developed economies at present. In Q2 2020 youth unemployment was 39.2% in Spain, 36.4% in Greece and 33.1% in Columbia. UK youth unemployment stood at 12.4%.

Unemployment										
Unemployed as % of labour force (standardised); seasonally adjusted										
	CAN	FRA	GER	ITA	JPN	UK	USA	Eurozone	G7	OECD
2017	6.3	9.4	3.8	11.2	2.8	4.4	4.4	9.1	5.0	5.9
2018	5.8	9.0	3.4	10.6	2.4	4.0	3.9	8.2	4.5	5.5
2019	5.7	8.5	3.2	10.0	2.4	3.8	3.7	7.6	4.3	5.4
2019 Q3	5.6	8.5	3.0	9.6	2.3	3.8	3.6	7.5	4.2	5.4
2019 Q4	5.7	8.2	3.2	9.5	2.3	3.7	3.5	7.4	4.2	5.3
2020 Q1	6.3	7.8	3.6	9.1	2.4	3.9	3.8	7.3	4.3	5.4
2020 Q2	13.0	7.1	4.2	8.5	2.8	3.8	13.0	7.6	8.6	8.6
2020 Q3	10.0	7.5	4.5	9.7	3.0	...	8.8	8.2	6.9	7.6
Change on qtr	-3.0	0.4	0.3	1.2	0.2	...	-4.2	0.6	-1.7	-1.0
Change on yr	4.4	-1.0	1.5	0.1	0.6	...	5.2	0.7	2.7	2.2

Source: OECD, Harmonised Unemployment Rates

Subject Specialist

Andy Powell

Next Update

OECD, [Harmonised Unemployment Rates](#),
9 December 2020