

## MIGRATION AND UNEMPLOYMENT

Immigrant workers are more affected by unemployment than native-born workers in traditional European immigration countries. Conversely, in some settlement countries (Australia, New Zealand, the United States) as well as in Hungary, the unemployment rate depends less on the place of birth. Some groups, such as young immigrants, women or older immigrants have greater difficulties in finding jobs.

### Definition

The unemployment rate is the share of the unemployed aged 15-64 in the total labour force (the sum of employed and unemployed persons aged 15-64). In accordance with the ILO standards, unemployed persons consist of those persons who report that they are without work during the reference week, that they are available for work and that they have taken active steps to find work during the four weeks preceding the interview.

### Comparability

Data for the European countries are from the European Union Labour Force Survey. Data for the United States from the Current Population Survey; those for other countries are taken from their national labour force surveys. Even if unemployment levels can at times be affected by changes in the survey design and by survey implementation

### Overview

Immigrants have been hard hit, and almost immediately, by the economic downturn in most OECD countries. This is mainly explained by their greater presence in sectors that have been strongly affected by the crisis (e.g. construction, manufacturing, hotels and restaurants) as well as by their greater likelihood of being in precarious or informal jobs. However, differences exist across OECD countries and between migrant groups.

The ongoing economic downturn has seen unemployment rates increase, both for foreign- and native-born persons, in most OECD countries. However, immigrants in most European OECD countries were more affected by unemployment than the native population. In Spain, Greece and Ireland, immigrant unemployment increased by 25, 25 and 11 percentage points between 2007 and 2012 whereas that of the native-born increased by 15, 15 and 10 percentage points. In 2012, in Portugal, Belgium, Sweden, France and Finland, the unemployment rate of immigrants was above 15%. It was close to 35% and 34% in Spain and Greece respectively. The unemployment rate was more than twice the level observed for the native-born population in Belgium, Sweden, the Netherlands, Austria, Norway, Switzerland, Denmark and Finland.

problems (e.g. non-response), data on unemployment rates are generally consistent over time.

The EU28 aggregate is a weighted average and does not include Croatia or Malta.

### Sources

- OECD (2013), *International Migration Outlook*, OECD Publishing.

### Further information

#### Analytical publications

- OECD (2012), *Jobs for Immigrants (Vol. 3), Labour Market Integration in Austria, Norway and Switzerland*, OECD Publishing.
- OECD (2008), *A Profile of Immigrant Populations in the 21st Century: Data from OECD Countries*, OECD Publishing.
- OECD (2008), *Jobs for Immigrants (Vol. 2): Labour Market Integration in France, Belgium, the Netherlands and Portugal*, OECD Publishing.
- OECD (2007), *Jobs for Immigrants (Vol. 1): Labour Market Integration in Australia, Denmark, Germany and Sweden*, OECD Publishing.

#### Statistical publications

- OECD (2012), *Connecting with Emigrants, A Global Profile of Diasporas*, OECD Publishing.
- OECD (2012), *Settling In: OECD Indicators of Immigrant Integration 2012*, OECD Publishing.

#### Methodological publications

- Dumont, J.C. and Lemaître G. (2005), "Counting Immigrants and Expatriates in OECD Countries: A New Perspective", *OECD Social, Employment and Migration Working Papers*, No. 25.
- Lemaître G. (2005), "The Comparability of International Migration Statistics: Problems and Prospects", *OECD Statistic Brief*, No. 9.

#### Online databases

- OECD *International Migration Statistics*.



### Unemployment rates of native- and foreign-born population

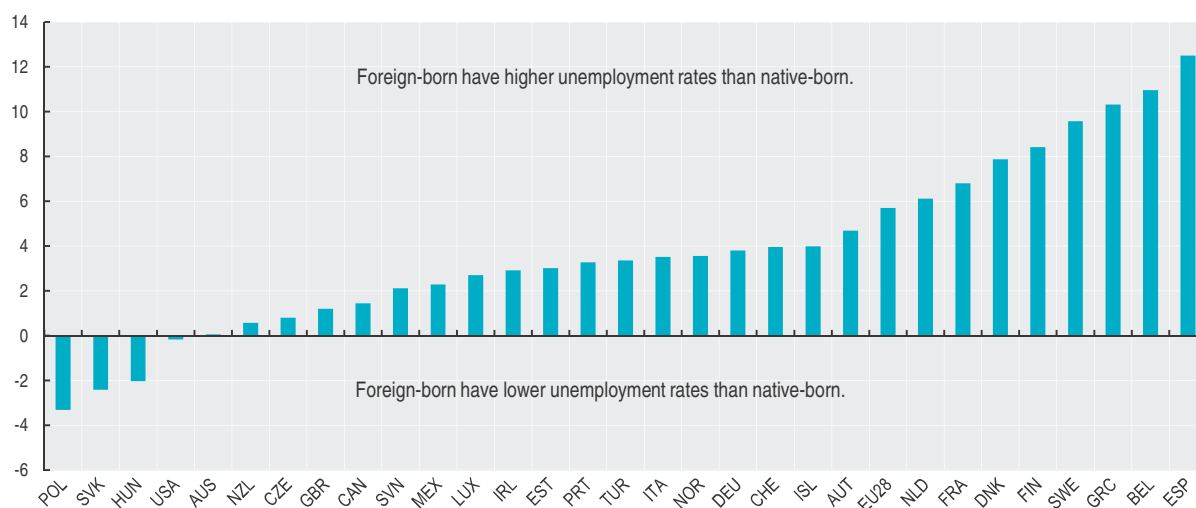
As a percentage of total labour force

	Women				Men				Total			
	Native-born		Foreign-born		Native-born		Foreign-born		Native-born		Foreign-born	
	2007	2012	2007	2012	2007	2012	2007	2012	2007	2012	2007	2012
Australia	4.6	5.2	5.5	6.0	4.1	5.4	4.3	4.9	4.3	5.3	4.9	5.4
Austria	4.1	3.7	9.7	7.7	3.1	3.5	8.4	8.7	3.5	3.6	9.0	8.3
Belgium	7.5	5.9	17.2	15.9	5.6	5.8	15.8	17.6	6.4	5.9	16.4	16.9
Canada	..	6.4	..	8.6	..	7.6	..	8.3	..	7.0	..	8.5
Chile	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Czech Republic	6.7	8.2	10.8	11.2	4.2	6.0	7.7	7.3	5.3	7.0	9.1	7.8
Denmark	3.8	6.6	7.8	15.9	3.0	7.1	8.6	13.5	3.4	6.8	8.2	14.7
Estonia	3.9	9.2	4.6	11.4	5.3	10.8	7.1	14.9	4.6	10.0	5.7	13.0
Finland	6.9	6.7	17.4	17.1	6.5	8.2	12.0	14.7	6.7	7.4	14.5	15.9
France	8.1	9.2	14.5	16.2	6.9	9.0	11.9	15.5	7.4	9.2	13.1	16.0
Germany	8.0	4.7	13.8	8.4	7.6	5.2	15.2	8.9	7.8	4.9	14.6	8.7
Greece	12.8	27.8	14.3	32.6	5.3	20.1	4.9	34.5	8.4	23.4	8.7	33.7
Hungary	7.7	10.7	6.1	8.0	7.2	11.3	2.6	9.9	7.5	11.0	4.3	9.0
Iceland	2.2	5.2	3.9	10.4	2.3	6.1	2.1	9.0	2.2	5.7	3.0	9.7
Ireland	4.0	10.1	5.8	14.8	4.6	17.8	6.0	19.4	4.3	14.4	5.9	17.3
Israel	8.6	..	6.8	..	7.1	..	6.3	..	7.8	..	6.5	..
Italy	7.6	11.3	11.4	15.6	4.9	9.7	5.3	12.4	6.0	10.4	7.9	13.9
Japan	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Korea	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Luxembourg	4.4	3.9	5.1	7.8	3.0	3.7	4.3	5.4	3.6	3.6	4.6	6.3
Mexico	4.2	5.1	10.7	6.4	3.6	5.1	4.1	8.0	3.8	5.1	6.2	7.4
Netherlands	3.6	4.5	7.7	10.5	2.7	4.6	7.5	10.5	3.1	4.5	7.6	10.6
New Zealand	3.8	7.4	5.0	8.1	3.5	6.7	3.5	7.1	3.6	7.0	4.2	7.6
Norway	2.3	2.3	4.0	5.5	2.3	3.2	6.1	7.0	2.3	2.8	5.1	6.3
Poland	10.4	11.0	9.2	11.7	9.1	9.6	9.5	3.5	9.7	10.2	9.4	6.9
Portugal	9.9	16.0	12.1	18.8	7.0	16.2	7.3	20.0	8.4	16.1	9.6	19.4
Slovak Republic	12.7	14.6	5.9	9.1	9.9	13.6	7.7	14.1	11.2	14.0	6.8	11.6
Slovenia	5.8	9.1	7.8	14.5	4.1	8.6	4.0	8.3	4.9	8.8	5.7	10.9
Spain	10.5	23.8	12.6	32.8	6.0	22.4	8.3	36.5	7.9	22.9	10.3	35.4
Sweden	5.5	6.3	12.6	15.1	5.1	6.7	11.7	16.9	5.3	6.5	12.1	16.1
Switzerland	3.2	3.2	8.8	7.9	2.0	3.1	5.8	6.4	2.6	3.1	7.1	7.1
Turkey	..	9.5	..	12.6	..	7.8	..	11.0	..	8.3	..	11.6
United Kingdom	4.5	7.0	8.6	10.5	5.4	8.5	6.9	8.2	5.0	7.9	7.6	9.1
United States	4.6	7.9	4.7	9.0	5.1	8.6	4.1	7.5	4.9	8.3	4.4	8.1
EU 28	7.5	9.9	11.9	16.0	6.3	9.8	10.0	15.2	6.8	9.9	10.8	15.6
OECD	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Brazil	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
China	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
India	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Indonesia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Russian Federation	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
South Africa	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933027342>

### Gap in unemployment rates between foreign- and native-born populations

Percentage, 2012



StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933024739>



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