

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) as well as in Israel, Hungary, Turkey and the United States, 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 in the total labour force (the sum of employed and unemployed persons). 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.

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, retail trade and financial sectors) 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 Estonia, immigrant unemployment increased by 20, 14 and 11 percentage points between 2007 and 2011 whereas that of the native-born increased by 12, 9 and 8 percentage points. In 2011, in Belgium, Estonia, Finland, France, Ireland, Portugal, the Slovak Republic and Sweden, the unemployment rate of immigrants was above 15%. It was close to 22% and 32% in Greece and Spain, respectively. The unemployment rate was more than twice the level observed for the native-born population in Norway, Sweden, Belgium, Austria, the Netherlands, Switzerland and Denmark. In some settlement countries (Australia, Canada, New Zealand) and in the United States, the unemployment rate does not vary much by birth status.

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 the national labour force surveys. Even if unemployment levels can at times be affected by changes in the survey design and by survey implementation problems (e.g. non-response), data on unemployment rates are generally consistent over time.

Sources

- OECD (2012), *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.
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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

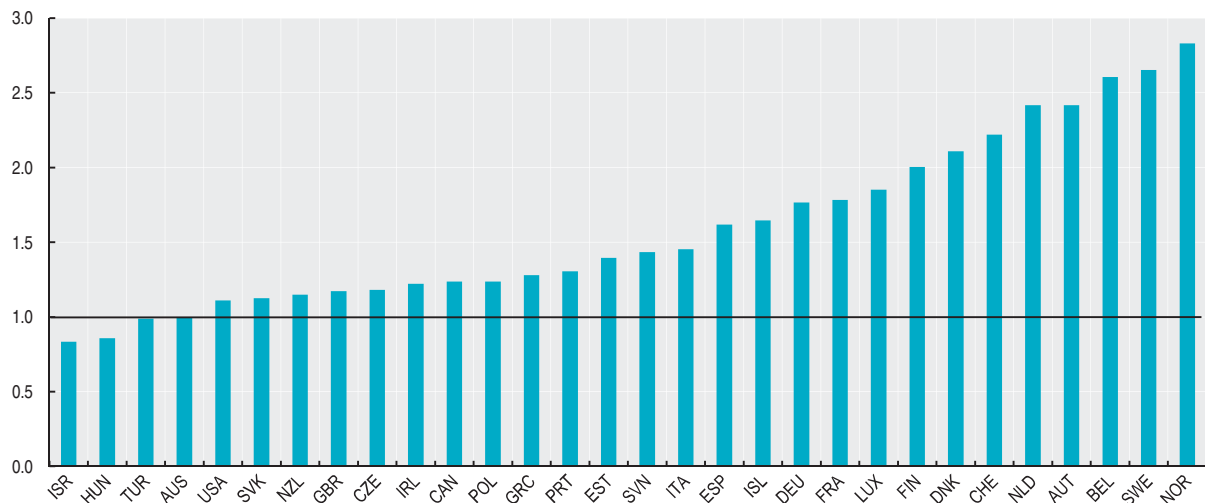
As a percentage of total population

	Women				Men				Total			
	Native-born		Foreign-born		Native-born		Foreign-born		Native-born		Foreign-born	
	2007	2011	2007	2011	2007	2011	2007	2011	2007	2011	2007	2011
Australia	4.3	5.2	5.5	6.0	4.0	5.2	4.6	4.6	4.3	5.2	4.9	5.2
Austria	4.1	8.3	9.7	3.5	3.0	3.3	6.2	8.0	3.5	3.4	9.0	8.2
Belgium	7.5	14.6	17.1	6.0	5.5	5.7	9.9	15.5	..	5.8	16.3	15.1
Canada	..	6.4	..	9.5	..	7.8	..	8.4	..	7.2	..	8.9
Chile	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Czech Republic	6.7	10.9	10.9	7.9	4.1	5.9	5.1	6.1	5.2	6.8	9.0	8.0
Denmark	3.8	15.1	7.8	6.5	3.0	7.2	6.0	13.8	3.4	6.9	8.1	14.5
Estonia	3.8	18.1	4.4	11.2	5.2	13.1	4.3	15.6	4.5	12.1	5.5	16.9
Finland	6.9	14.2	15.6	6.9	6.3	8.2	10.1	16.0	6.6	7.6	14.3	15.2
France	7.8	16.3	15.0	8.9	6.7	8.1	7.9	14.2	7.2	8.5	13.8	15.1
Germany	7.8	9.2	..	5.1	7.4	5.6	..	9.7	7.6	5.4	..	9.5
Greece	12.6	23.2	14.1	21.4	5.2	14.4	4.2	21.5	8.2	17.4	8.6	22.2
Hungary	7.7	10.1	6.1	11.0	7.2	11.1	1.6	8.9	7.4	11.0	4.3	9.5
Iceland	2.1	10.4	3.6	5.8	2.2	7.6	2.1	11.7	2.2	6.7	3.0	11.1
Ireland	3.9	14.1	5.8	10.0	4.5	17.5	5.3	19.8	4.2	14.1	6.0	17.3
Israel	8.6	6.2	6.8	4.5	7.1	5.8	6.3	5.6	7.8	6.0	6.5	5.0
Italy	7.5	14.1	11.4	8.9	4.8	7.4	4.4	9.7	5.9	8.0	7.9	11.7
Japan	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Korea	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Luxembourg	4.4	8.4	5.1	4.0	2.9	3.0	3.1	4.7	3.6	3.4	4.6	6.3
Mexico	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Netherlands	3.1	8.5	7.4	3.8	2.4	3.8	4.3	9.7	2.7	3.8	6.6	9.2
New Zealand	3.9	5.1	5.3	6.4	3.6	5.0	3.6	5.6	3.8	5.4	4.4	6.2
Norway	2.2	7.0	4.7	2.5	2.2	2.9	4.9	8.3	2.2	2.7	5.6	7.7
Poland	10.3	14.5	8.0	10.5	9.0	9.1	2.0	9.9	9.6	9.8	8.4	12.1
Portugal	9.4	15.9	12.0	13.3	6.5	12.7	6.0	18.0	7.8	13.0	9.6	16.9
Slovak Republic	12.7	20.8	5.6	13.6	9.9	13.6	5.0	11.1	11.2	13.6	6.7	15.3
Slovenia	5.7	14.0	7.7	7.8	4.0	8.2	2.5	9.7	4.7	8.0	5.6	11.5
Spain	10.2	30.1	13.8	20.3	5.7	18.8	8.3	32.9	7.6	19.5	11.7	31.5
Sweden	5.5	15.9	12.5	5.9	5.0	6.1	8.1	16.0	5.2	6.0	12.0	16.0
Switzerland	3.1	7.5	8.7	3.3	2.0	2.8	4.5	6.2	2.5	3.1	7.0	6.8
Turkey	..	10.5	..	13.6	..	8.6	..	10.3	..	9.2	..	9.1
United Kingdom	4.5	9.7	8.2	7.0	5.4	8.8	4.9	9.1	5.0	8.0	7.3	9.4
United States	3.0	5.5	2.4	2.4	4.2	8.1	4.1	8.6	3.6	6.8	3.3	7.5
EU 27	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
OECD	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Brazil	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
China	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
India	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Indonesia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Russian Federation	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
South Africa	31.4	..	25.0	..	25.3	..	11.3	..	28.5	..	16.6	..

StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932706299>

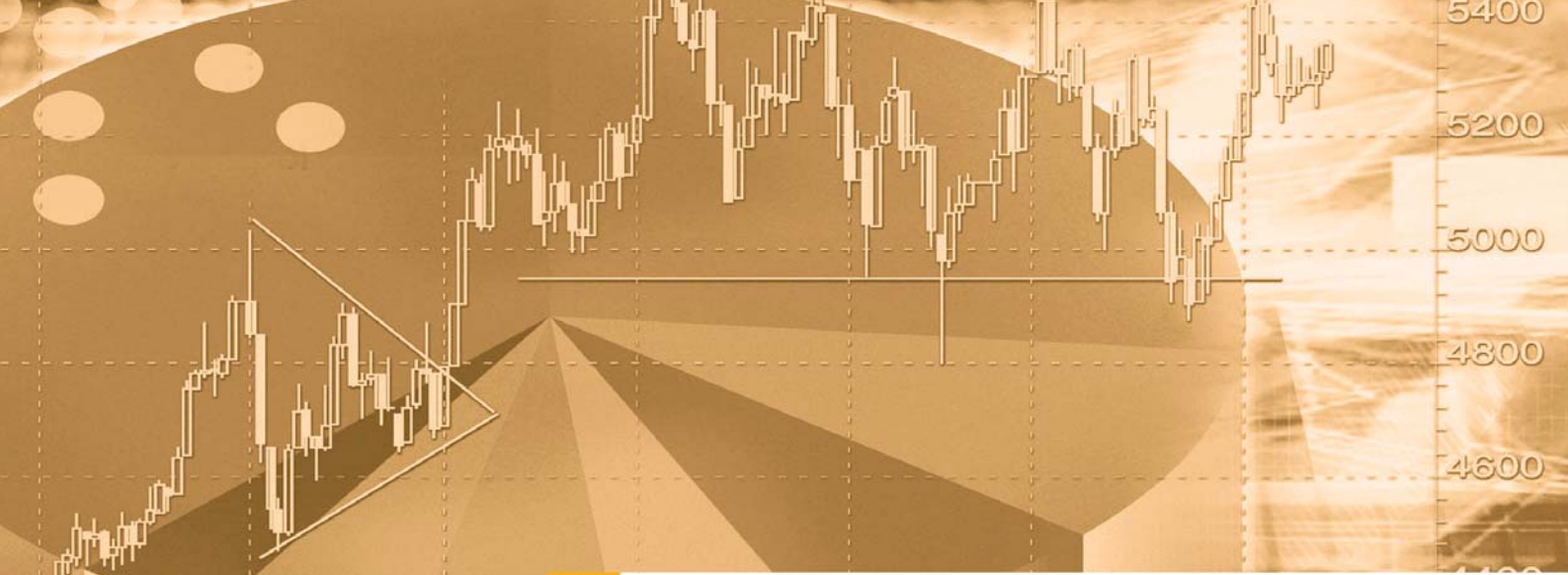
Foreign-born unemployment rate relative to native-born unemployment rate

Ratio, 2011 or latest available year



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PRODUCTION AND PRODUCTIVITY

PRODUCTION AND INVESTMENT

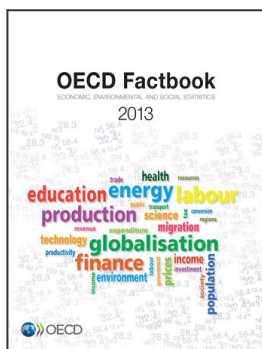
- SIZE OF GDP
- EVOLUTION OF GDP
- GDP BY REGION
- INVESTMENT RATES

PRODUCTIVITY

- LABOUR PRODUCTIVITY LEVELS
- LABOUR PRODUCTIVITY GROWTH
- PRODUCTIVITY AND GROWTH ACCOUNTING
- UNIT LABOUR COSTS
- LABOUR COMPENSATION

ECONOMIC STRUCTURE

- VALUE ADDED BY ACTIVITY
- REAL VALUE ADDED BY ACTIVITY
- SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES



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