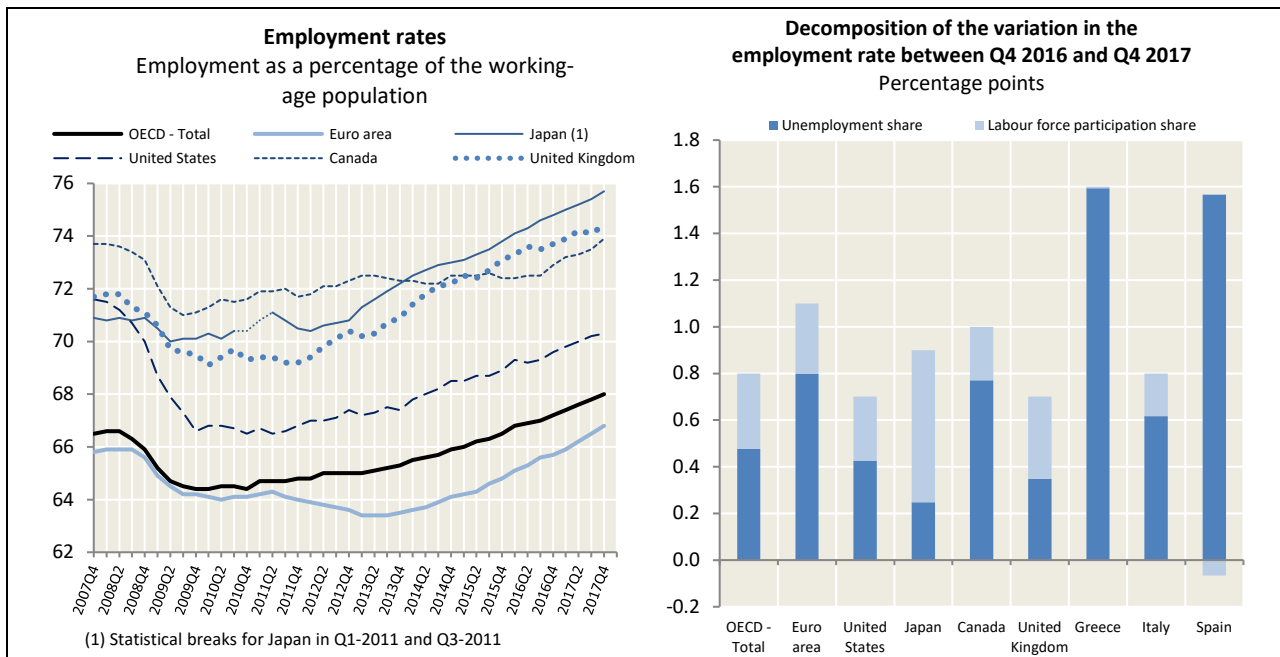


## OECD employment rate increases to 68% in the fourth quarter of 2017

The **OECD area** employment rate – the share of working-age people in jobs – increased by 0.2 percentage point in the fourth quarter of 2017, to 68.0%, and is now 3.6 percentage points above the trough of the fourth quarter of 2009. Across the **OECD area**, 563 million people were employed in the fourth quarter of 2017.

In the **euro area** the employment rate rose by 0.3 percentage point (to 66.8%) in the fourth quarter of 2017, with the highest gains recorded in **Estonia** (up 1.4 percentage points, to 75.8%) and **Finland** (up 1.2 percentage points, to 71.0%). Outside the euro area, the employment rate increased by 0.4 percentage point in **Canada** (to 73.9%) and **Turkey** (to 52.3%), by 0.3 percentage point in **Japan** (to 75.7%) and the **United Kingdom** (to 74.4%) and by 0.1 percentage point in **Mexico** (to 61.1%) and the **United States** (to 70.3%).

Compared with the same quarter a year ago, the **OECD** employment rate in the fourth quarter of 2017 was 0.8 percentage point higher, reflecting both falls in the unemployment rate and increases in the labour force participation rate.<sup>1</sup> In the **euro area**, the employment rate was 1.1 percentage points higher than a year ago, mainly reflecting falling unemployment rates, especially in high-unemployment countries, such as **Greece**, **Spain** and **Italy**. Outside the euro area, increases in the employment rate in **Australia** (up 1.2 percentage points, compared to the fourth quarter of 2016) and **Japan** (up 0.9 percentage point) reflected strong increases in the labour force participation rate, while the rise in the employment rate in **Canada** (up 1.0 percentage point) was mostly associated with falling unemployment. In **New Zealand**, and the **United Kingdom**, increases in employment rates reflected changes of broadly equal size in both unemployment and participation rates.



**Methodological Notes:** <http://www.oecd.org/sdd/labour-stats/50273955.pdf>

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

In this News Release, the second quarter of 2008 is considered as the quarter preceding the start of the global financial crisis.

**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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<sup>1</sup> For an explanation of how changes in employment rates can be decomposed into changes in unemployment and labour force participation rates see footnotes 2 and 3 of Table 4 in this news release.

**Table 1: OECD employment rates and levels (15-64)**
*Employment as a percentage of corresponding working age population and levels, seasonally adjusted*

	Employment rates											Levels Thousands Q4 - 2017	
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2008	2016			2017				
						Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3		Q4
OECD - Total	65.7	66.3	67.0	67.7	66.6	67.0	67.2	67.4	67.6	67.8	68.0	563,146	
Major Seven	68.7	69.1	69.9	70.6	69.6	69.9	70.1	70.3	70.5	70.7	70.9	340,546	
European Union	64.8	65.6	66.6	67.7	65.8	66.7	66.9	67.2	67.6	67.8	68.0	223,093	
Euro area	63.8	64.5	65.4	66.3	65.9	65.6	65.7	65.9	66.2	66.5	66.8	145,843	
Australia	71.6	72.2	72.4	73.0	73.3	72.4	72.3	72.4	72.8	73.2	73.5	11,896	
Austria	71.1	71.1	71.6	72.2	71.0	71.7	71.7	71.8	72.2	72.1	72.6	4,208	
Belgium <sup>(1)</sup>	61.9	61.8	62.3	63.1	62.3	62.1	63.3	62.4 <sup>(b)</sup>	62.9	63.3	63.9	4,646	
Canada	72.3	72.5	72.6	73.4	73.6	72.5	72.9	73.2	73.3	73.5	73.9	17,753	
Chile	62.2	62.4	62.2	62.7	57.2	62.3	62.4	62.4	62.6	62.9	62.9	7,685	
Czech Republic	69.0	70.2	72.0	73.6	66.7	72.1	72.8	73.1	73.3	74.0	74.2	5,115	
Denmark <sup>(1)</sup>	72.8	73.5	74.9	74.2	78.0	74.7	74.6	73.9	74.0	74.3	74.6	2,753	
Estonia	69.6	71.9	72.1	74.1	70.1	72.4	71.9	73.5	72.9	74.4	75.8	637	
Finland	68.7	68.6	69.1	70.0	71.2	69.3	69.1	69.4	69.6	69.8	71.0	2,439	
France <sup>(1)</sup>	63.8	63.8	64.2	64.8	64.9	64.2	64.2	64.3	64.8	64.7	65.2	26,730	
Germany	73.8	74.0	74.7	75.3	69.8	74.9	75.0	74.9	75.1	75.4	75.6	40,608	
Greece	49.4	50.8	52.0	53.5	61.5	52.3	52.2	52.8	53.5	53.8	53.8	3,706	
Hungary	61.8	64.0	66.5	68.2	56.3	66.8	67.4	67.6	68.0	68.4	68.7	4,390	
Iceland	83.0	84.7	86.5	86.1	84.5	86.8	87.1	86.9	86.8	85.0	85.8	185	
Ireland	63.1	64.7	66.5	67.7	70.4	66.8	67.0	67.4	67.5	67.7	68.1	2,148	
Israel	67.9	68.3	68.6	69.0	60.0	68.7	68.8	69.0	69.0	69.1	69.1	3,649	
Italy	55.7	56.3	57.3	58.0	58.8	57.3	57.4	57.7	57.8	58.0	58.2	22,489	
Japan	72.8	73.4	74.4	75.3	70.9	74.6	74.8	75.0	75.2	75.4	75.7	57,343	
Korea	65.6	65.9	66.1	66.6	64.1	66.2	66.3	66.5	66.6	66.7	66.7	24,575	
Latvia	66.3	68.1	68.7	70.1	69.3	68.7	68.8	68.9	69.9	70.6	71.1	868	
Luxembourg <sup>(1)</sup>	66.6	66.2	65.6	66.3	64.0	65.2	66.2	66.1	66.1	66.8	66.1	272	
Mexico	60.4	60.7	61.0	61.1	61.3	61.3	61.0	61.3	61.1	61.0	61.1	49,808	
Netherlands	73.1	74.2	74.8	75.9	77.1	75.0	75.2	75.4	75.7	76.0	76.2	8,423	
New Zealand	74.2	74.3	75.6	76.9	75.0	75.8	76.3	76.7	76.2	77.2	77.4	2,437	
Norway	75.2	74.8	74.3	74.0	78.1	74.3	74.0	74.0	74.0	74.0	74.1	2,557	
Poland	61.7	62.9	64.5	66.1	59.0	64.6	65.1	65.8	66.0	66.2	66.5	16,055	
Portugal	62.6	63.9	65.3	67.8	68.3	65.6	66.0	66.8	67.3	68.2	68.9	4,581	
Slovak Republic	61.0	62.7	64.9	66.2	61.8	65.1	65.4	65.9	66.1	66.4	66.5	2,510	
Slovenia	63.9	65.2	65.9	69.3	68.1	65.6	66.7	68.1	68.9	69.6	70.4	956	
Spain	56.0	57.8	59.6	61.1	65.1	59.7	60.1	60.4	61.0	61.3	61.6	18,799	
Sweden	74.9	75.5	76.2	76.9	74.5	76.2	76.3	76.8	76.7	76.9	77.0	4,864	
Switzerland	78.8	79.2	79.6	79.8	79.5	79.4	79.9	79.7	79.6	79.8	80.0	4,473	
Turkey <sup>(1)</sup>	49.5	50.2	50.7	51.6	45.2	50.3	50.5	50.9	51.1	51.9	52.3	27,963	
United Kingdom	71.9	72.7	73.5	74.1	71.8	73.5	73.7	73.9	74.2	74.1	74.4	30,882	
United States	68.1	68.7	69.4	70.1	71.2	69.3	69.6	69.8	70.0	70.2	70.3	144,740	

b: Break in time series

(1) Breaks in the Labour Force Survey for Belgium in Q1 2017; for Denmark in Q1 2016; for France in Q1-2014; for Luxembourg in Q1 2015; and for Turkey in Q1 2014. Some of these breaks also affect, to some extent, aggregates for the European Union, euro area, Major 7 and OECD-Total.

**Table 2: OECD employment rates (15-64) by gender**
*Employment as a percentage of corresponding working age population, seasonally adjusted*

	Women						Men					
	2017	2016	2017				2017	2016	2017			
		Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
OECD - Total	60.1	59.5	59.8	59.9	60.2	60.4	75.4	74.9	75.1	75.4	75.5	75.7
Major Seven	65.1	64.5	64.8	65.0	65.3	65.5	76.1	75.7	75.8	76.1	76.1	76.4
European Union	62.4	61.7	62.0	62.3	62.5	62.8	72.9	72.1	72.4	72.8	73.0	73.3
Euro area	61.2	60.7	60.8	61.1	61.4	61.7	71.6	70.8	71.1	71.4	71.6	71.9
Australia	68.1	67.3	67.4	67.9	68.4	68.8	77.9	77.3	77.4	77.8	78.1	78.2
Austria	68.2	67.9	68.0	68.2	68.1	68.4	76.2	75.5	75.7	76.2	76.0	76.7
Belgium <sup>(1)</sup>	58.7	59.5	57.8 <sup>(b)</sup>	58.5	59.0	59.5	67.6	67.0	67.1 <sup>(b)</sup>	67.2	67.5	68.3
Canada	70.6	70.0	70.3	70.5	70.6	71.1	76.3	75.8	76.2	76.2	76.2	76.6
Chile	52.8	52.4	52.1	52.6	53.3	53.2	72.5	72.3	72.5	72.5	72.4	72.4
Czech Republic	66.2	65.4	65.5	65.7	66.6	66.7	80.9	79.9	80.4	80.7	81.1	81.4
Denmark <sup>(1)</sup>	71.5	71.6	71.4	71.1	71.8	71.7	76.9	77.5	76.4	76.9	76.8	77.4
Estonia	70.9	68.3	70.2	69.7	71.2	72.7	77.4	75.6	76.9	76.2	77.6	79.0
Finland	68.5	67.6	68.2	68.2	68.1	69.7	71.4	70.6	70.6	71.0	71.6	72.3
France	61.2	60.8	60.8	61.3	61.0	61.7	68.4	67.7	67.9	68.4	68.4	68.9
Germany	71.5	71.4	71.1	71.3	71.7	72.0	78.9	78.6	78.6	78.8	78.9	79.2
Greece	44.4	43.4	44.0	44.6	44.6	44.5	62.7	61.2	61.8	62.6	63.3	63.3
Hungary	61.3	61.0	61.0	61.2	61.4	61.5	75.2	73.9	74.4	75.0	75.5	76.0
Iceland	83.5	83.8	84.3	83.7	82.7	83.1	88.6	90.3	89.3	89.8	87.1	88.3
Ireland	62.4	61.5	62.0	62.3	62.4	62.9	73.0	72.6	73.0	72.8	73.0	73.3
Israel	65.7	65.5	65.7	65.4	65.6	65.9	72.4	72.1	72.4	72.6	72.5	72.3
Italy	48.9	48.3	48.6	48.8	49.1	49.2	67.0	66.6	67.0	67.0	67.1	67.2
Japan	67.5	66.6	66.9	67.3	67.7	68.0	83.0	82.8	82.9	82.9	83.0	83.2
Korea	56.9	56.3	56.7	56.8	56.9	57.0	76.3	76.1	76.2	76.3	76.3	76.2
Latvia	68.4	68.2	67.1	68.4	68.8	69.2	71.9	69.5	70.7	71.4	72.5	73.0
Luxembourg	62.6	61.9	62.1	62.2	63.6	62.4	69.9	70.3	70.0	69.9	69.9	69.8
Mexico	44.9	44.9	45.3	44.8	44.6	44.9	79.0	78.8	79.0	78.9	79.0	78.9
Netherlands	71.3	70.5	70.8	71.2	71.5	71.7	80.4	79.9	80.1	80.2	80.5	80.8
New Zealand	72.0	71.3	71.6	71.4	72.4	72.7	81.9	81.4	81.9	81.3	82.1	82.2
Norway	72.4	72.5	72.3	72.4	72.4	72.5	75.6	75.3	75.5	75.5	75.5	75.7
Poland	59.5	58.6	59.1	59.4	59.6	59.8	72.8	71.6	72.5	72.6	72.9	73.2
Portugal	64.8	63.2	63.8	64.3	65.2	65.8	71.1	68.9	70.0	70.7	71.5	72.2
Slovak Republic	60.3	59.0	59.8	60.2	60.6	60.6	72.0	71.7	71.8	71.9	72.1	72.3
Slovenia	65.8	63.9	65.0	64.8	66.2	67.3	72.5	69.3	71.1	72.7	72.9	73.4
Spain	55.7	54.9	55.1	55.6	55.8	56.2	66.5	65.3	65.8	66.4	66.8	67.0
Sweden	75.4	75.0	75.5	75.3	75.4	75.5	78.3	77.6	78.0	78.2	78.3	78.5
Switzerland	75.2	75.7	75.5	74.7	75.1	75.5	84.3	84.0	83.9	84.5	84.4	84.3
Turkey	32.2	31.0	31.6	31.7	32.4	33.1	70.7	69.8	70.0	70.3	71.3	71.3
United Kingdom	69.7	69.2	69.5	69.7	69.8	70.0	78.6	78.2	78.4	78.8	78.4	78.8
United States	64.9	64.3	64.7	64.8	65.1	65.1	75.4	75.0	75.1	75.4	75.5	75.7

b: Break in time series

(1) Breaks in the Labour Force Survey for Belgium in Q1 2017; and for Denmark in Q1 2016; Some of these breaks also affect, to some extent, aggregates for the European Union, euro area and OECD-Total.

**Table 3: OECD employment rates by age**

*Employment as a percentage of corresponding working age population, seasonally adjusted*

	Youth (15-24)				Prime-age workers (25-54)				Older workers (55-64)			
	2016	2017			2016	2017			2016	2017		
	Q4	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q4	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q4	Q2	Q3	Q4
OECD - Total	40.9	41.3	41.4	41.4	77.3	77.7	77.8	78.1	59.6	60.3	60.5	60.8
Major Seven	44.5	44.8	45.0	44.8	79.7	80.1	80.2	80.5	62.7	63.4	63.6	63.9
European Union	34.1	34.6	34.7	35.0	79.0	79.6	79.8	79.9	55.8	56.9	57.2	57.7
Euro area	31.6	32.1	32.5	32.8	77.7	78.1	78.2	78.4	55.9	57.0	57.3	58.0
Australia	57.5	58.1	58.9	58.9	79.8	80.2	80.3	80.8	62.5	63.6	63.7	64.1
Austria	51.3	51.2	50.1	50.5	83.7	84.2	84.1	84.3	49.6	50.6	51.8	52.7
Belgium <sup>(1)</sup>	22.6	21.5	24.3	23.3	80.5	79.7	79.0	79.9	46.3	47.8	49.1	49.7
Canada	55.9	56.5	56.5	57.0	81.6	82.3	82.3	82.5	62.0	61.7	62.3	63.1
Chile	29.4	28.6	28.1	27.9	74.7	75.0	75.0	75.0	63.8	64.3	66.2	66.4
Czech Republic	28.8	28.9	29.3	29.1	86.2	86.5	87.0	87.1	60.4	61.6	62.5	63.4
Denmark <sup>(1)</sup>	57.1	56.3	55.5	56.8	82.1	81.2	82.0	81.9	68.3	69.5	69.8	69.1
Estonia	37.9	38.9	40.0	44.3	82.8	83.2	84.5	84.9	63.5	68.0	67.7	69.7
Finland	42.0	41.4	42.9	43.7	79.8	80.5	80.2	81.5	61.4	62.4	62.4	63.6
France	28.0	28.4	28.6	29.3	79.6	80.2	79.8	80.5	50.2	51.3	51.0	52.2
Germany	46.2	46.4	46.6	46.9	84.2	84.2	84.3	84.4	69.1	70.0	70.3	70.9
Greece	13.6	14.4	14.3	13.8	65.9	67.5	67.9	67.7	36.7	37.9	38.5	38.9
Hungary	28.8	29.2	28.8	29.0	82.9	83.6	83.9	84.0	51.0	51.2	52.1	52.9
Iceland	77.5	79.1	72.3	74.9	90.8	90.1	89.9	89.4	83.3	84.2	83.3	83.0
Ireland	42.3	41.2	37.4	39.6	76.6	77.2	78.5	78.9	57.6	58.7	59.1	59.0
Israel					79.4	79.8	79.6	79.8	66.9	66.0	66.7	67.9
Italy	16.5	16.8	17.2	17.3	69.0	69.4	69.5	69.4	51.0	52.0	52.3	53.1
Japan	42.8	42.6	42.9	42.5	83.7	84.0	84.3	84.7	72.1	73.1	73.8	74.1
Korea	27.2	27.6	27.2	26.7	76.2	76.3	76.4	76.4	66.7	67.4	67.3	67.7
Latvia	32.3	34.8	33.6	32.2	79.7	80.4	81.7	82.5	62.6	61.9	63.0	64.1
Luxembourg	25.4	24.0	28.1	24.7	83.3	84.0	83.6	84.2	40.6	38.5	40.3	40.2
Mexico	40.5	40.9	40.4	40.7	71.2	71.2	71.2	71.4	55.8	55.4	54.9	54.3
Netherlands	60.8	61.8	62.6	63.1	83.2	83.4	83.5	83.6	64.1	65.5	66.0	66.5
New Zealand	54.9	54.1	55.4	56.3	83.9	83.6	84.5	84.5	76.5	77.7	78.3	78.8
Norway	48.0	48.1	48.2	48.7	82.2	82.5	82.5	82.4	72.4	72.0	71.9	71.6
Poland	28.9	29.4	29.7	30.1	80.6	81.4	81.4	81.5	47.0	48.5	48.6	48.3
Portugal	24.3	25.5	25.9	26.6	80.9	82.3	83.0	83.5	52.9	56.1	57.1	57.8
Slovak Republic	26.9	27.2	26.5	26.9	79.9	79.8	80.3	79.9	50.3	52.7	53.3	54.1
Slovenia	29.8	34.9	35.9	34.0	84.3	85.9	86.4	87.2	39.2	42.8	42.7	44.5
Spain	18.6	20.3	20.9	21.1	72.3	73.0	73.5	73.8	49.4	50.4	50.8	51.0
Sweden	44.6	44.4	45.0	45.6	86.0	86.3	86.4	86.3	75.8	76.6	76.5	76.4
Switzerland	63.5	62.9	63.4	63.0	86.4	86.2	86.0	86.3	71.9	72.3	72.3	73.0
Turkey	33.5	34.0	34.5	35.2	60.0	60.8	61.5	61.7	33.5	33.2	34.7	35.6
United Kingdom	51.0	50.9	50.2	50.5	83.1	83.8	83.9	84.1	63.6	64.1	63.9	64.4
United States	49.6	50.3	50.6	50.0	78.1	78.5	78.7	79.0	61.9	62.5	62.6	62.6

(1) Breaks in the Labour Force Survey for Belgium in Q1 2017; and for Denmark in Q1 2016; Some of these breaks also affect, to some extent, aggregates for the European Union, euro area and OECD-Total.

**Table 4: Decomposition of annual changes in the employment rates (15-64)**  
*Between Q4 2016 and Q4 2017*

	Employment rate <i>Percentage of working age population</i> Q4 - 2017	Unemployment rate <i>Percentage of active population</i> Q4 - 2017	Labour force participation rate <i>Percentage of working age population</i> Q4 - 2017	Employment rate annual change <i>Percentage points</i>	Decomposition of annual changes in employment rate (1) <i>percentage points</i>	
					<i>Unemployment share (2)</i>	<i>Labour force participation share (3)</i>
OECD - Total	68.0	5.7	72.1	0.8	0.5	0.3
Major Seven	70.9	4.9	74.5	0.8	0.4	0.4
European Union	68.0	7.4	73.5	1.1	0.7	0.4
Euro area	66.8	8.8	73.2	1.1	0.8	0.3
Australia	73.5	5.6	77.8	1.2	0.2	1.0
Austria	72.6	5.5	76.8	0.9	0.3	0.6
Belgium <sup>(4)</sup>	63.9	6.4	68.3	..	..	..
Canada	73.9	6.0	78.6	1.0	0.7	0.2
Chile	62.9	7.2	67.7	0.5	-0.2	0.7
Czech Republic	74.2	2.5	76.1	1.4	0.9	0.5
Denmark	74.6	5.4	78.9	0.0	0.8	-0.8
Estonia	75.8	5.2	80.0	3.9	1.1	2.7
Finland	71.0	8.4	77.5	1.9	0.4	1.5
France	65.2	9.0	71.7	1.0	0.8	0.3
Germany	75.6	3.7	78.5	0.6	0.2	0.4
Greece	53.8	21.0	68.1	1.6	1.6	0.0
Hungary	68.7	3.9	71.5	1.3	0.5	0.8
Iceland	85.8	2.9	88.4	-1.3	0.0	-1.3
Ireland	68.1	6.5	72.8	1.1	0.9	0.2
Israel	69.1	4.2	72.1	0.3	0.3	0.0
Italy	58.2	11.1	65.4	0.8	0.6	0.2
Japan	75.7	2.8	77.9	0.9	0.3	0.7
Korea	66.7	3.7	69.3	0.4	0.0	0.4
Latvia	71.1	8.3	77.5	2.3	1.0	1.2
Luxembourg	66.1	5.3	69.9	-0.1	0.5	-0.6
Mexico	61.1	3.6	63.3	0.1	0.1	-0.1
Netherlands	76.2	4.4	79.7	1.0	0.9	0.2
New Zealand	77.4	4.8	81.2	1.1	0.6	0.5
Norway	74.1	4.1	77.3	0.1	0.5	-0.4
Poland	66.5	4.6	69.7	1.4	0.8	0.6
Portugal	68.9	8.3	75.1	2.9	1.9	1.1
Slovak Republic	66.5	7.9	72.1	1.1	1.0	0.1
Slovenia	70.4	5.9	74.8	3.7	1.7	2.1
Spain	61.6	16.7	73.9	1.5	1.5	-0.1
Sweden	77.0	6.7	82.6	0.7	0.3	0.3
Switzerland	80.0	5.0	84.1	0.1	0.1	0.0
Turkey	52.3	10.3	58.3	1.8	1.0	0.8
United Kingdom	74.4	4.3	77.7	0.7	0.3	0.4
United States	70.3	4.2	73.4	0.7	0.5	0.3

(1) Shares may not sum to employment rate change due to rounding.

(2) The unemployment share in the employment rate annual change is calculated as the opposite of the change in the unemployment rate between Q4 2017 and Q4 2016 times the average labour force participation rate observed in the two periods.

(3) The labour force participation share in the employment rate annual change is calculated as the change in the labour force participation rate between Q4 2017 and Q4 2016 times one minus the average unemployment rate observed in the two periods.

(4) Following changes introduced in the Labour Force Survey for Belgium, data from Q1 2017 onwards are not comparable with previous data.