



INTERNATIONAL LABOR COMPARISONS

International Unemployment Rates & Employment Indexes

Seasonally Adjusted, May 2014

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Additional Information

For the associated press release, data tables, and technical notes, see [International Unemployment Rates & Employment Indexes, Seasonally Adjusted](#).

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The Conference Board continues government program on International Labor Comparisons

The Conference Board will continue the International Labor Comparisons (ILC) program that was eliminated by the US Bureau of Labor Statistics. The international unemployment rates and employment indexes in this report are produced using the same concepts and methodology as those formerly used by BLS.

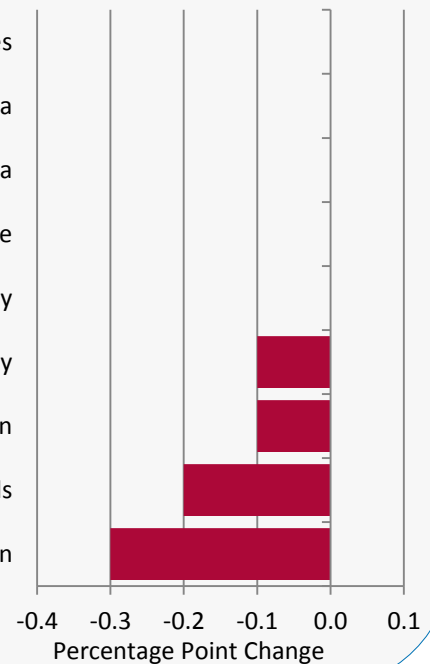
No. ILCLF-V2N7
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In May 2014, the **unemployment rate** decreased or remained stable in all European countries compared. In the United States Netherlands, unemployment declined for the second consecutive month, breaking an upward trend in joblessness since July 2012. However, May unemployment remained higher than a year ago in both the Netherlands (7.0 percent) and Italy (12.7 percent), while France (9.7 percent), Germany (5.1 percent), and the Euro Area (11.6 percent) have seen joblessness decline over the last 12 months.

Outside of Europe, May unemployment remained steady in the US (6.3 percent), Australia (5.8 percent), and Canada (6.0 percent) and edged downward in Japan (from 3.2 to 3.1 percent). See [Table 1](#) and [Charts 3-4](#).

Chart 1. Unemployment Rates change from Apr. 2014 to May 2014



Employment in May increased in 7 of 9 economies compared. Japan and Sweden experienced the largest gains in the employment index (January 2007=100), from 99.1 to 99.6 and from 105.0 to 105.5, respectively.

In Germany, the employment index decreased slightly for the first time since January 2012, from 108.5 to 108.4.

Labor market recovery in May was most robust in Japan, Sweden, and the Netherlands, where rising employment was coupled with falling unemployment. See [Table 3](#) and [Chart 5](#).

Chart 2. Employment Index change from Apr. 2014 to May 2014

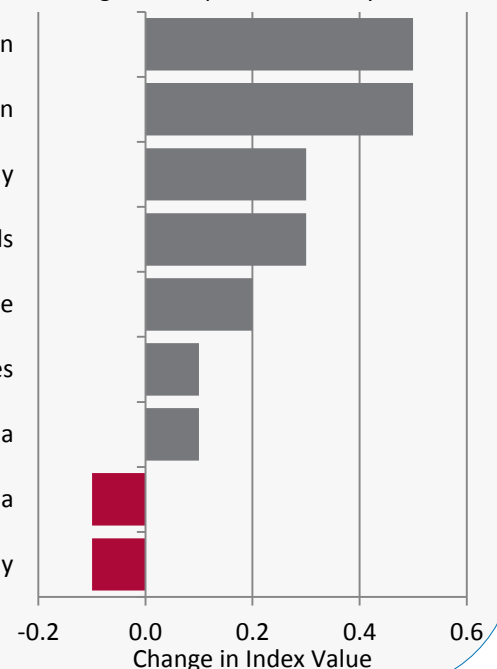
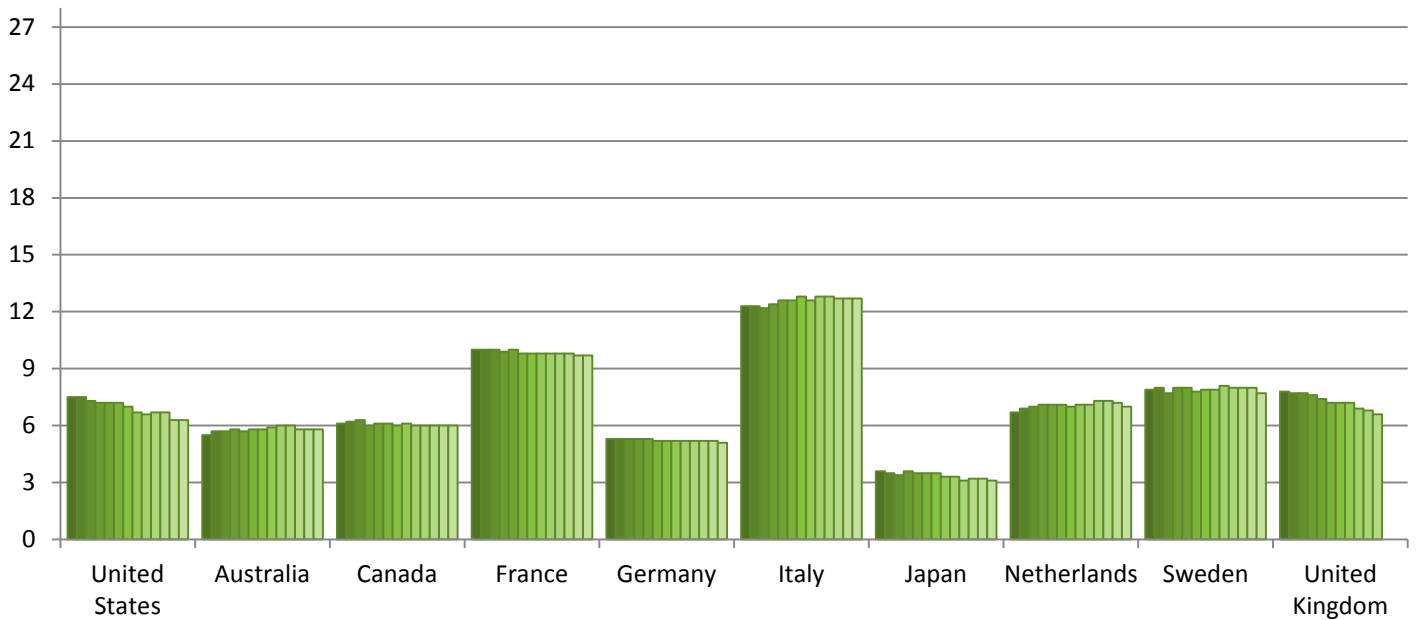


CHART 3. Unemployment rates adjusted to US concepts, seasonally adjusted
May 2013 – May 2014

Percent

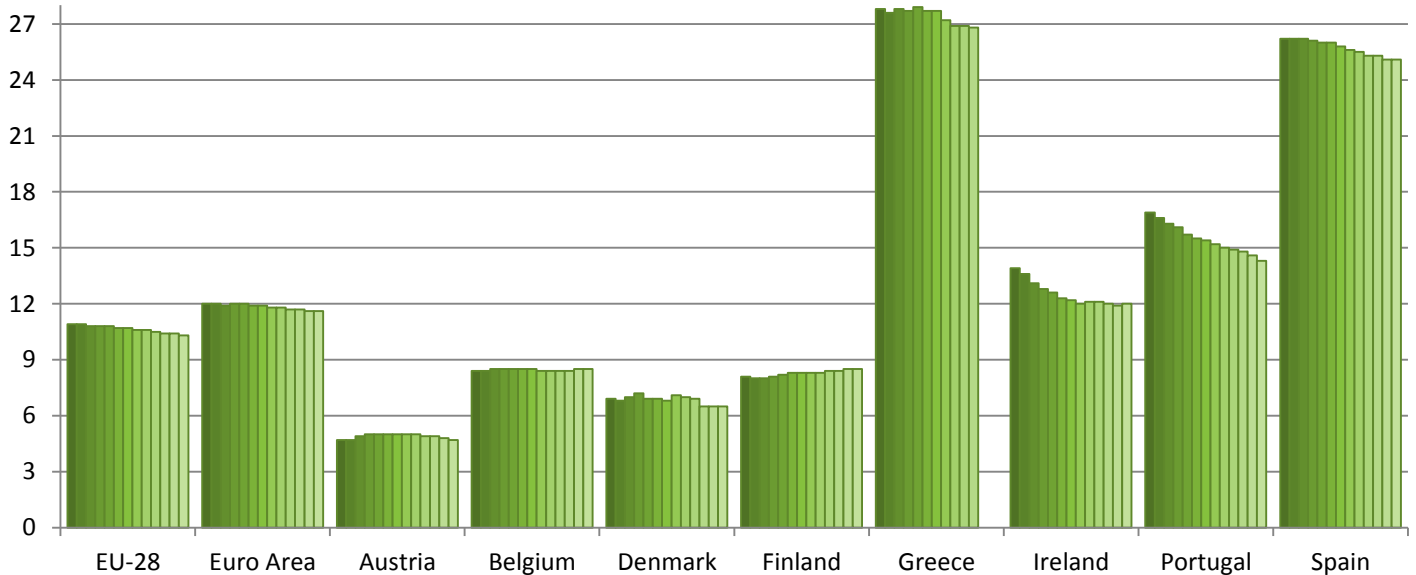


Note: The latest available monthly data are shown for each country. See [Table 1](#).

Source: The Conference Board, International Labor Comparisons program

CHART 4. Unemployment rates unadjusted by The Conference Board, seasonally adjusted
May 2013 – May 2014

Percent



Note: The latest available monthly data are shown for each country. See [Table 2](#).

The European Union-28 (EU-28) refers to the EU member countries as of July 1, 2013.

The Euro area refers to the EU member countries that adopted the euro as a common currency.

Source: Statistical Office of the European Communities (EUROSTAT), and The Conference Board, International Labor Comparisons program

TABLE 1. Unemployment rates adjusted to US concepts, seasonally adjusted
(in percent)

	2009	2010	2011	2012	Q1 2013	Q2 2013	Q3 2013	Q4 2013	Q1 2014	May 2013	Mar. 2014	Apr. 2014	May 2014	Change from Apr. 2014-May 2014
United States	9.3	9.6	8.9	8.1	7.7	7.5	7.3	7.0	6.7	7.5	6.7	6.3	6.3	0.0
Australia	5.6	5.2	5.1	5.2	5.5	5.6	5.7	5.8	5.9	5.5	5.8	5.8	5.8	0.0
Canada	7.3	7.1	6.5	6.3	6.2	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.0	6.1	6.0	6.0	6.0	0.0
France	9.2	9.4	9.3	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	9.8	9.8	10.0	9.8	9.7	9.7	0.0
Germany	7.8	7.1	5.9	5.5	5.4	5.3	5.3	5.2	5.2	5.3	5.2	5.2	5.1	-0.1
Italy	7.9	8.5	8.5	10.8	12.0	12.2	12.4	12.7	12.8	12.3	12.7	12.7	12.7	0.0
Japan (1)	4.8	4.7	4.2	3.9	3.7	3.6	3.5	3.4	3.2	3.6	3.2	3.2	3.1	-0.1
Netherlands	3.7	4.5	4.5	5.3	6.2	6.7	7.0	7.0	7.2	6.7	7.3	7.2	7.0	-0.2
Sweden	8.3	8.5	7.7	7.9	8.0	8.0	7.9	7.9	8.0	7.9	8.0	8.0	7.7	-0.3
United Kingdom	7.6	7.9	8.1	8.0	7.9	7.8	7.6	7.2	6.8	7.8	6.6	NA	NA	NA

Note:
(1) For Japan, 2011 data are partially based on estimates from the Statistics Bureau of Japan for areas affected by the March 11, 2011 earthquake. NA means data not available.
See [technical notes](#) for information on sources and methods.
Source: The Conference Board, International Labor Comparisons program

TABLE 2. Unemployment rates unadjusted by The Conference Board, seasonally adjusted
(in percent)

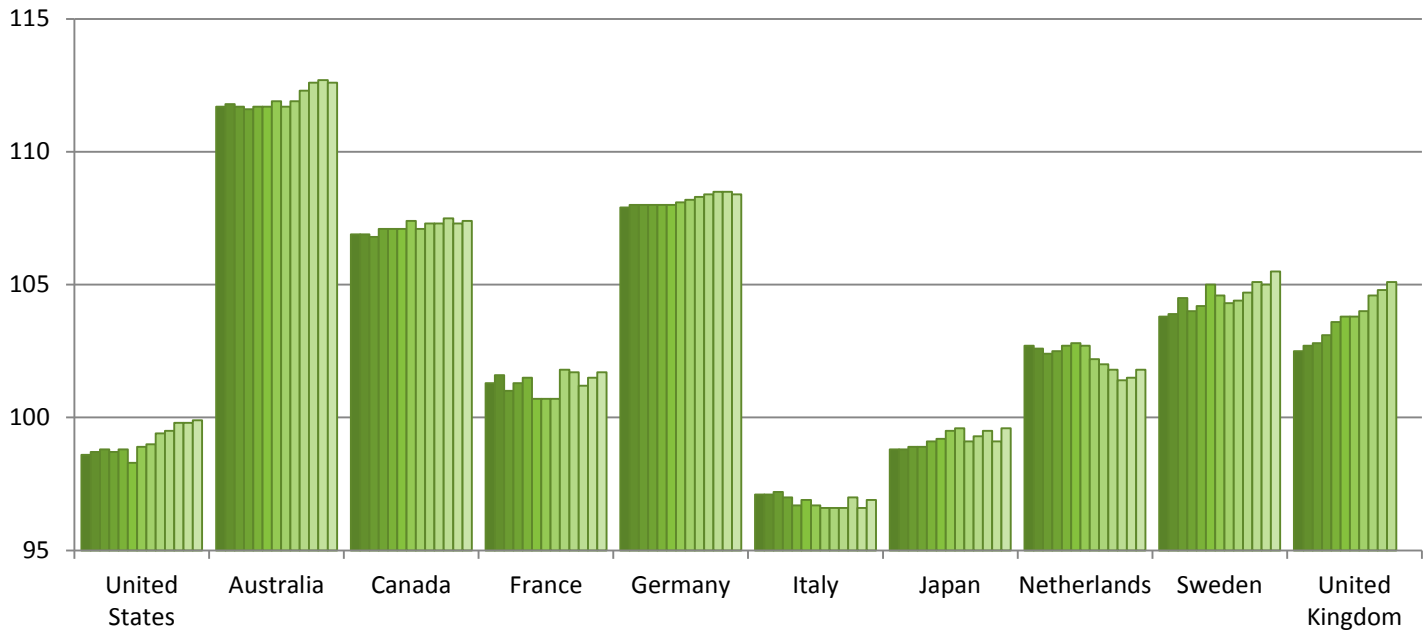
	2009	2010	2011	2012	Q1 2013	Q2 2013	Q3 2013	Q4 2013	Q1 2014	May 2013	Mar. 2014	Apr. 2014	May 2014	Change from Apr. 2014-May 2014
EU-28 (1)	9.0	9.6	9.6	10.4	10.9	10.9	10.8	10.7	10.5	10.9	10.4	10.4	10.3	-0.1
Euro Area (2)	9.5	10.0	10.1	11.3	12.0	12.0	12.0	11.9	11.7	12.0	11.7	11.6	11.6	0.0
Austria	4.8	4.4	4.2	4.3	4.9	4.8	5.0	5.0	4.9	4.7	4.9	4.8	4.7	-0.1
Belgium	7.9	8.3	7.2	7.6	8.3	8.4	8.5	8.5	8.4	8.4	8.4	8.5	8.5	0.0
Denmark	6.0	7.5	7.6	7.5	7.2	6.9	7.2	6.8	6.8	6.9	6.5	6.5	6.5	0.0
Finland	8.2	8.4	7.8	7.7	8.1	8.1	8.1	8.3	8.4	8.1	8.4	8.5	8.5	0.0
Greece	9.6	12.7	17.9	24.5	27.0	27.6	27.8	27.6	26.9	27.8	26.8	NA	NA	NA
Ireland	12.0	13.9	14.7	14.7	13.7	13.7	12.8	12.2	12.0	13.9	12.0	11.9	12.0	0.1
Portugal	10.6	12.0	12.9	15.8	17.4	16.9	16.0	15.4	14.9	16.9	14.8	14.6	14.3	-0.3
Spain	17.9	19.9	21.4	24.8	26.3	26.2	26.1	25.8	25.3	26.2	25.3	25.1	25.1	0.0

Note:
(1) The European Union-28 (EU-28) refers to the EU member countries as of July 1, 2013.
(2) The Euro Area refers to the EU member countries that adopted the euro as a common currency.
NA means data not available.
See [technical notes](#) for information on sources and methods.
Source: Statistical Office of the European Communities (EUROSTAT)

CHART 5. Employment indexes adjusted to US concepts, seasonally adjusted

May 2013 – May 2014

Jan. 2007 = 100



Note: The latest available monthly data are shown for each country. See [Table 3](#).

Source: The Conference Board, International Labor Comparisons program

TABLE 3. Employment indexes adjusted to US concepts, seasonally adjusted

	2009				2010				2011				2012				2013				2014				Change from Apr. 2014-May 2014
	2009	2010	2011	2012	Q1 2013	Q2 2013	Q3 2013	Q4 2013	Q1 2014	May 2013	Mar. 2014	Apr. 2014	May 2014	May 2013	Mar. 2014	Apr. 2014	May 2014	May 2013	Mar. 2014	Apr. 2014	May 2014				
	2007 = 100				Q1 2007 = 100				January 2007 = 100																
United States	95.8	95.2	95.8	97.6	98.1	98.5	98.7	98.7	99.5	98.6	99.8	99.8	99.9	98.6	99.8	99.8	99.9	98.6	99.8	99.8	99.9	0.1			
Australia	103.6	105.8	107.7	108.7	111.1	111.3	111.3	111.4	111.9	111.7	112.6	112.7	112.6	111.7	112.6	112.7	112.6	111.7	112.6	112.7	112.6	-0.1			
Canada	100.2	101.6	103.2	104.4	106.2	106.5	106.7	106.9	107.1	106.9	107.5	107.3	107.4	106.9	107.5	107.3	107.4	106.9	107.5	107.3	107.4	0.1			
France	100.5	100.8	101.1	101.3	101.7	102.1	101.9	101.4	102.2	101.3	101.2	101.5	101.7	101.3	101.2	101.5	101.7	101.3	101.2	101.5	101.7	0.2			
Germany	101.4	102.1	104.7	105.6	107.1	107.5	107.7	107.8	108.1	107.9	108.5	108.5	108.4	107.9	108.5	108.5	108.4	107.9	108.5	108.5	108.4	-0.1			
Italy	99.2	98.4	99.0	98.5	97.7	97.3	97.0	96.8	96.8	97.1	97.0	96.6	96.9	97.1	97.0	96.6	96.9	97.1	97.0	96.6	96.9	0.3			
Japan (1)	98.3	98.1	97.9	97.6	98.2	98.4	98.6	99.1	98.9	98.8	99.5	99.1	99.6	98.8	99.5	99.1	99.6	98.8	99.5	99.1	99.6	0.5			
Netherlands	101.6	99.0	98.9	99.6	102.8	102.4	102.2	102.2	101.4	102.7	101.4	101.5	101.8	102.7	101.4	101.5	101.8	102.7	101.4	101.5	101.8	0.3			
Sweden	99.1	99.6	101.9	102.5	103.9	104.1	104.5	104.9	105.0	103.8	105.1	105.0	105.5	103.8	105.1	105.0	105.5	103.8	105.1	105.0	105.5	0.5			
United Kingdom	99.1	99.2	99.8	101.0	102.2	102.4	103.1	103.8	104.8	102.5	105.1	NA	NA	102.5	105.1	NA	NA	102.5	105.1	NA	NA	NA			

Note:

(1) For Japan, 2011 data are partially based on estimates from the Statistics Bureau of Japan for areas affected by the March 11, 2011 earthquake.

NA means data not available.

See [technical notes](#) for information on sources and methods.

Source: The Conference Board, International Labor Comparisons program