



## INTERNATIONAL LABOR COMPARISONS

# International Unemployment Rates & Employment Indexes

Seasonally Adjusted, February 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. For additional information, see the [news release](#).

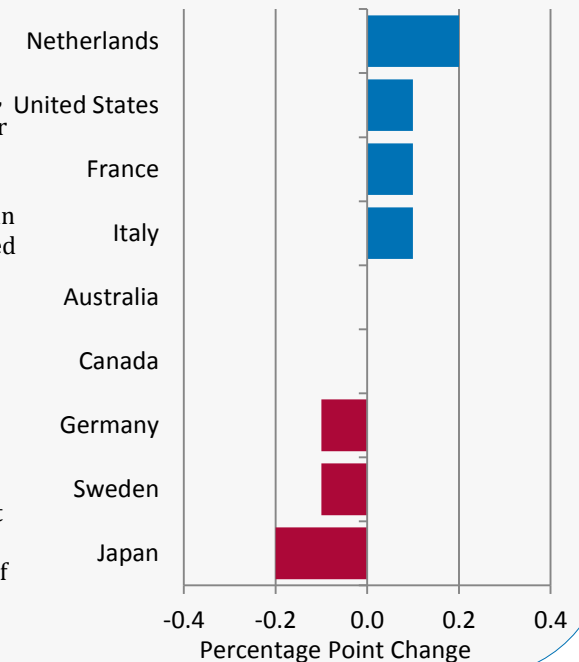
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In February 2014, the **unemployment rate** experienced the largest increase in the Netherlands, followed by the US, France, and Italy. In the Netherlands, other than a dip in November 2013, unemployment has been on an increasing trend since July 2012. Joblessness in the US (6.7 percent) increased for the first time since December 2012. Meanwhile, unemployment in Italy (13.1 percent) reached an historic high.

The unemployment rate in Germany (5.1 percent) remains at historical lows. At 3.1 percent, Japan had the lowest unemployment rate of the countries compared. See [Table 1](#) and [Chart 3](#).

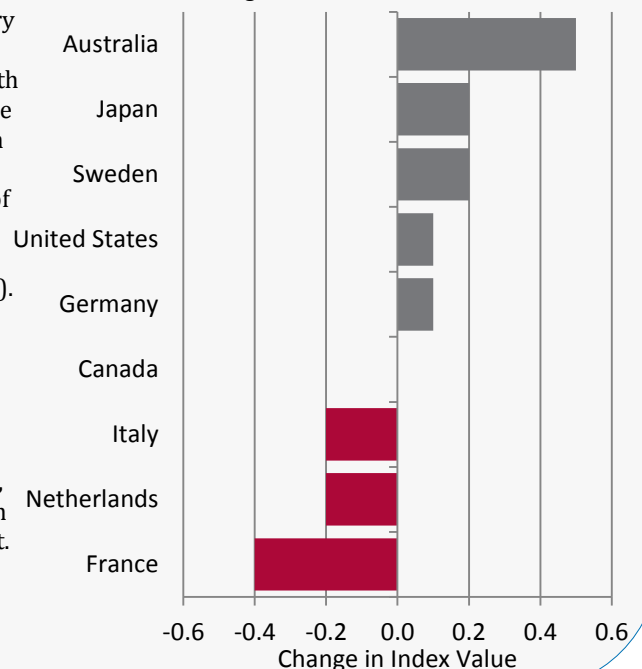
Chart 1. Unemployment Rates change from Jan. 2014 to Feb. 2014



**Employment** in February 2014 increased in 5 of 9 economies. Australia, with the largest increase in the employment index (from 111.8 to 112.3) also had the highest index value of the countries compared. Italy had the lowest employment index (96.2). See [Table 3](#) and [Chart 5](#).

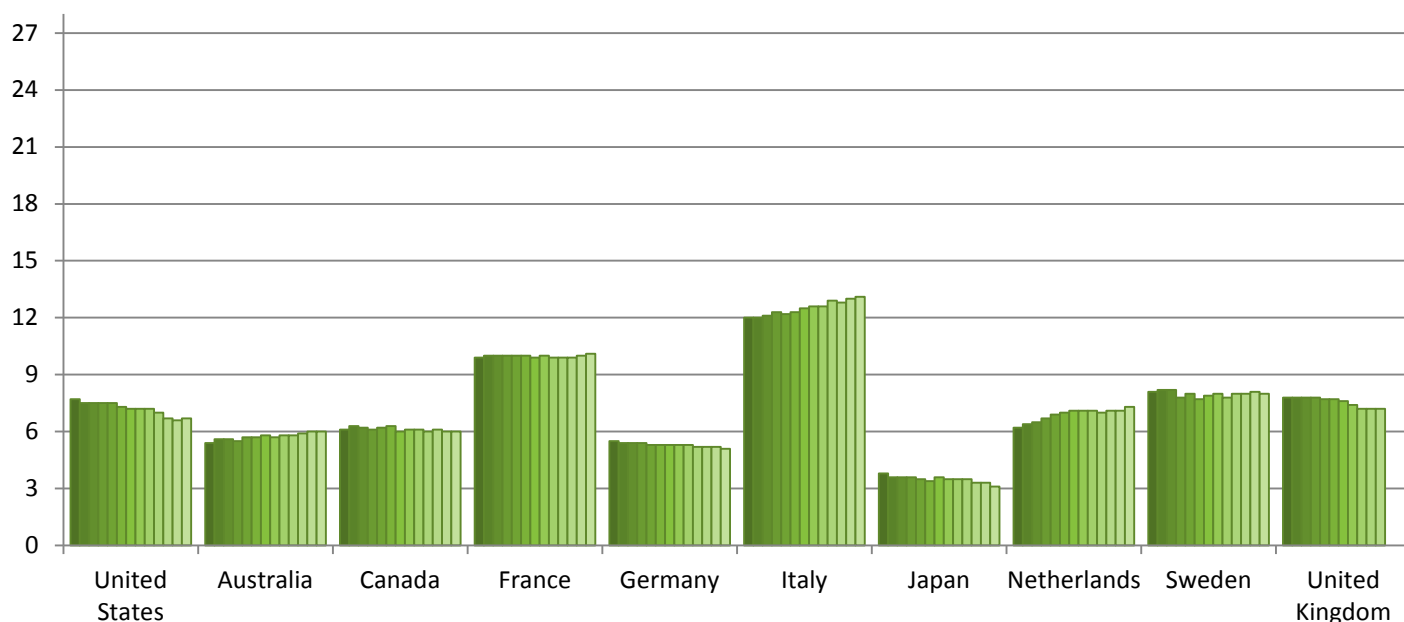
All countries that experienced declines in February employment, including Italy, the Netherlands, and France, also experienced a rise in February unemployment.

Chart 2. Employment Index change from Jan. 2014 to Feb. 2014



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

Percent

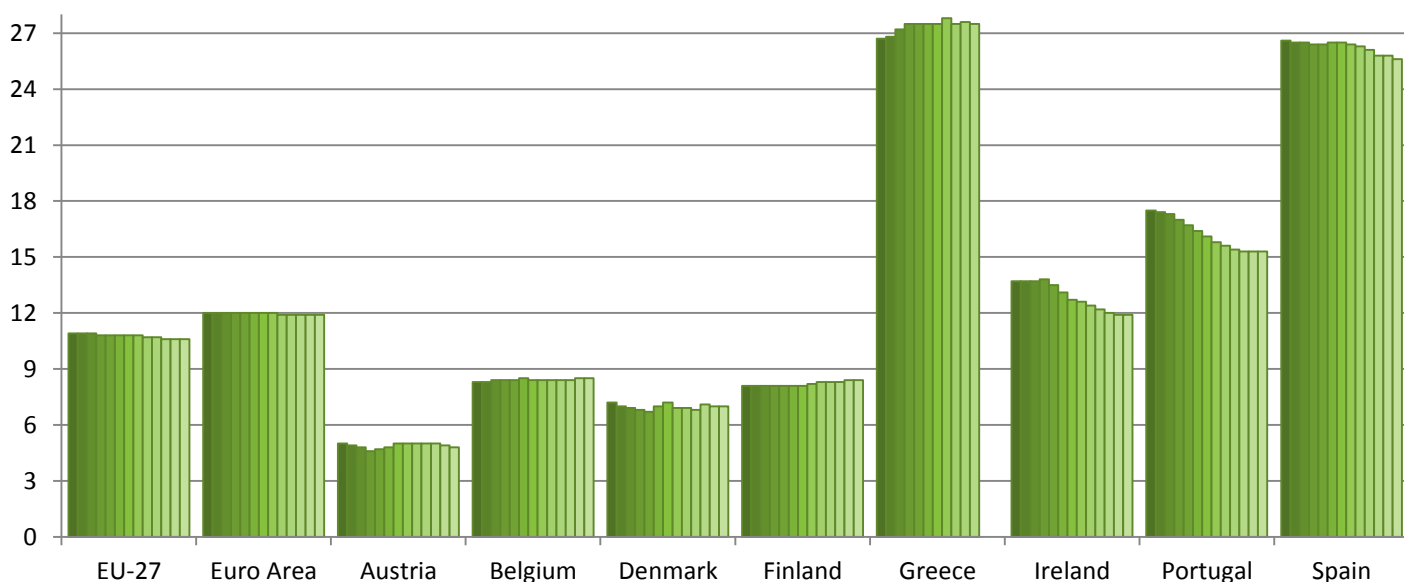


Note: The latest available monthly data are shown for each country. See [Table 1](#).

Source: The Conference Board, International Labor Comparisons program

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

Percent



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

The European Union-27 (EU-27) refers to the EU member countries as of January 1, 2007.

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)

														Change from Jan. 2014-Feb. 2014
	2009	2010	2011	2012	Q4 2012	Q1 2013	Q2 2013	Q3 2013	Q4 2013	Feb. 2013	Dec. 2013	Jan. 2014	Feb. 2014	
United States	9.3	9.6	8.9	8.1	7.8	7.7	7.5	7.3	7.0	7.7	6.7	6.6	6.7	0.1
Australia	5.6	5.2	5.1	5.2	5.3	5.5	5.6	5.7	5.8	5.4	5.9	6.0	6.0	0.0
Canada	7.3	7.1	6.5	6.3	6.3	6.2	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.0	6.0	0.0
France	9.2	9.4	9.3	10.0	9.9	10.0	10.0	10.0	9.9	9.9	9.9	10.0	10.1	0.1
Germany	7.8	7.1	5.9	5.5	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.3	5.2	5.5	5.2	5.2	5.1	-0.1
Italy	7.9	8.5	8.5	10.8	11.5	12.0	12.2	12.5	12.8	12.0	12.8	13.0	13.1	0.1
Japan (1)	4.8	4.7	4.2	3.9	3.7	3.7	3.6	3.5	3.4	3.8	3.3	3.3	3.1	-0.2
Netherlands	3.7	4.5	4.5	5.3	5.7	6.2	6.7	7.0	7.0	6.2	7.1	7.1	7.3	0.2
Sweden	8.3	8.5	7.7	7.9	8.1	8.1	8.0	7.9	7.9	8.1	8.0	8.1	8.0	-0.1
United Kingdom	7.6	7.9	8.1	8.0	7.8	7.9	7.8	7.6	7.2	7.8	7.2	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)

														Change from Jan. 2014-Feb. 2014
	2009	2010	2011	2012	Q4 2012	Q1 2013	Q2 2013	Q3 2013	Q4 2013	Feb. 2013	Dec. 2013	Jan. 2014	Feb. 2014	
EU-27 (1)	9.0	9.6	9.6	10.4	10.7	10.9	10.8	10.8	10.7	10.9	10.6	10.6	10.6	0.0
Euro Area (2)	9.5	10.0	10.1	11.3	11.7	12.0	12.0	12.0	11.9	12.0	11.9	11.9	11.9	0.0
Austria	4.8	4.4	4.2	4.3	4.6	4.9	4.7	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	4.9	4.8	-0.1
Belgium	7.9	8.3	7.2	7.6	8.2	8.3	8.4	8.4	8.4	8.3	8.4	8.5	8.5	0.0
Denmark	6.0	7.5	7.6	7.5	7.2	7.2	6.8	7.2	6.8	7.2	7.1	7.0	7.0	0.0
Finland	8.2	8.4	7.8	7.7	7.9	8.1	8.1	8.1	8.3	8.1	8.3	8.4	8.4	0.0
Greece	9.5	12.6	17.7	24.3	26.2	26.7	27.4	27.6	27.6	26.7	27.5	NA	NA	NA
Ireland	12.0	13.9	14.7	14.7	14.3	13.7	13.7	12.8	12.2	13.7	12.0	11.9	11.9	0.0
Portugal	10.6	12.0	12.9	15.9	17.1	17.5	17.0	16.1	15.4	17.5	15.3	15.3	15.3	0.0
Spain	18.0	20.1	21.7	25.0	26.1	26.5	26.4	26.4	26.1	26.6	25.8	25.8	25.6	-0.2

Note:

(1) The European Union-27 (EU-27) refers to the EU member countries as of January 1, 2007.

(2) The Euro Area refers to the EU member countries that adopted the euro as a common currency.

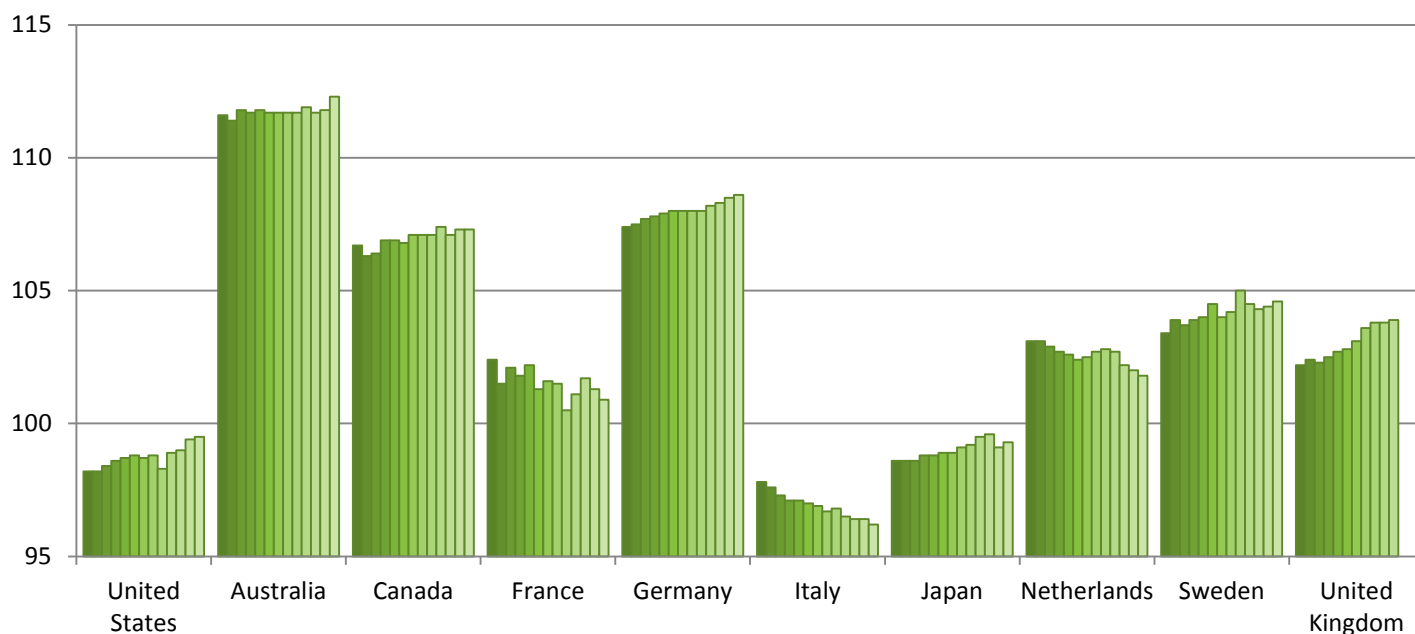
NA means data not available.

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 February 2013 – February 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**

														Change from Jan. 2014-Feb. 2014
	2009	2010	2011	2012	Q4 2012	Q1 2013	Q2 2013	Q3 2013	Q4 2013	Feb. 2013	Dec. 2013	Jan. 2014	Feb. 2014	
	2007 = 100				Q1 2007 = 100					January 2007 = 100				
United States	95.8	95.2	95.8	97.6	98.0	98.1	98.5	98.7	98.7	98.2	99.0	99.4	99.5	0.1
Australia	103.6	105.8	107.7	108.7	110.6	111.0	111.3	111.3	111.4	111.6	111.7	111.8	112.3	0.5
Canada	100.2	101.6	103.2	104.4	105.9	106.2	106.5	106.7	106.9	106.7	107.1	107.3	107.3	0.0
France	100.5	100.8	101.1	101.3	101.9	102.4	102.5	101.9	101.6	102.4	101.7	101.3	100.9	-0.4
Germany	101.4	102.1	104.7	105.6	106.9	107.1	107.5	107.7	107.9	107.4	108.3	108.5	108.6	0.1
Italy	99.2	98.4	99.0	98.5	98.5	97.8	97.3	96.9	96.6	97.8	96.4	96.4	96.2	-0.2
Japan (1)	98.3	98.1	97.9	97.6	98.0	98.2	98.4	98.6	99.1	98.6	99.6	99.1	99.3	0.2
Netherlands	101.6	99.0	98.9	99.6	103.3	102.8	102.4	102.2	102.2	103.1	102.2	102.0	101.8	-0.2
Sweden	99.1	99.6	101.9	102.5	103.5	103.9	104.1	104.5	104.9	103.4	104.3	104.4	104.6	0.2
United Kingdom	99.1	99.2	99.8	101.0	102.2	102.2	102.4	103.1	103.7	102.2	103.9	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