



	Unemployment						Long-term unemployment			Unemployment by educational attainment		
	Total % of total labor force		Male % of male labor force		Female % of female labor force		Total	% of total unemployment		% of total unemployment		
	1990-92 ^a	2004-07 ^a	1990-92 ^a	2004-07 ^a	1990-92 ^a	2004-07 ^a		2004-07 ^a	Male 2004-07 ^a	Female 2004-07 ^a	Primary 2004-07 ^a	Secondary 2004-07 ^a	Tertiary 2004-07^{a}
Afghanistan	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Albania	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	98.3	..	1.7
Algeria	23.0	12.3	24.2	..	20.3	..	..	..	..	59.3	23.0	11.4
Angola	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Argentina	6.7 ^b	9.5 ^b	6.4 ^b	7.8 ^b	7.0 ^b	11.6 ^b	..	..	..	37.3 ^b	41.8 ^b	19.7 ^b
Armenia	..	9.6	..	5.7	..	13.8	..	..	..	5.2	83.0	11.9
Australia	10.8	4.4	11.4	4.0	10.0	4.8	15.5 ^b	16.5 ^b	14.4 ^b	48.0	34.1	17.9
Austria	3.6	4.4	3.5	3.9	3.8	5.0	26.8	26.6	27.1	37.9 ^b	52.1 ^b	10.0 ^b
Azerbaijan	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6.3	78.9	14.9
Bangladesh	..	4.3	..	3.4	..	7.0	..	..	..	33.0	24.4	15.9
Belarus	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10.0	39.0	51.0
Belgium	6.7	7.6	4.8	6.7	9.5	8.7	50.0	49.1	51.0	42.1	38.2	19.7
Benin	1.5	..	2.2	..	0.6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bolivia	5.5 ^b	..	5.5 ^b	..	5.6 ^b	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bosnia and Herzegovina	17.6	31.1	15.5	28.9	21.6	34.8	..	..	..	..	..	..
Botswana	..	17.6	..	15.3	..	19.9	..	..	..	..	..	..
Brazil	6.4 ^b	8.9 ^b	5.4 ^b	6.8 ^b	7.9 ^b	11.7 ^b	..	..	..	51.6 ^b	33.6 ^b	3.6 ^b
Bulgaria	..	8.9	..	8.6	..	9.3	..	..	..	41.8	49.7	8.6
Burkina Faso	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Burundi	0.5	..	0.7	..	0.3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cambodia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cameroon	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Canada	11.2 ^b	6.0 ^b	12.0 ^b	6.4 ^b	10.2 ^b	5.6 ^b	7.5 ^b	8.4 ^b	6.3 ^b	27.7 ^b	41.1 ^b	31.2 ^b
Central African Republic	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chad	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chile	4.4	8.9	3.9	..	5.3	..	..	..	..	17.0	57.9	24.8
China	2.3 ^b	4.0 ^b	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Hong Kong, China	2.0	4.0	2.0	4.5	1.9	3.4	..	..	..	40.8	41.4	16.6
Colombia	9.5	10.9	6.8	8.7	13.0	13.8	..	..	..	76.6	..	20.6
Congo, Dem. Rep.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Congo, Rep.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Costa Rica	4.1	4.6	3.5	3.3	5.4	6.8	..	..	..	65.2	27.3	6.4
Côte d'Ivoire	6.7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Croatia	..	9.6	..	8.3	..	11.2	58.8	54.6	61.8	20.4	67.8	11.8
Cuba	..	1.9	..	1.7	..	2.2	..	..	..	43.0	52.4	4.6
Czech Republic	..	5.3	..	4.2	..	6.7	53.4	51.7	54.7	26.8	68.8	4.3
Denmark	9.0	3.6	8.3	3.2	9.9	4.0	18.2	18.4	17.9	35.9	35.1	23.0
Dominican Republic	20.7	17.9	12.0	11.3	35.2	28.8	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ecuador	8.9	7.9	6.0	5.8	13.2	10.8	..	..	..	74.0	..	23.6
Egypt, Arab Rep.	9.0	9.0	6.4	6.0	17.0	18.6	..	..	..	..	..	..
El Salvador	7.9	6.6	8.4	8.5	7.2	3.9	..	..	..	..	..	..
Eritrea	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Estonia	3.7	4.7	3.9	5.4	3.5	3.9	..	..	..	23.1	57.8	16.6
Ethiopia	..	5.4	..	2.7	..	8.2	..	..	..	35.9	13.3	3.2
Finland	11.6	6.8	13.3	6.4	9.6	7.3	23.0	26.5	19.5	35.5	45.9	18.6
France	10.0	8.0	7.9	7.4	12.7	8.5	40.4	40.6	40.1	39.9	39.6	19.9
Gabon	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Gambia, The	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Georgia	..	13.3	..	13.9	..	12.6	..	..	..	5.1	52.5	42.3
Germany	6.6	8.6	5.3	8.5	8.4	8.8	56.6	57.5	55.6	33.1	56.3	10.6
Ghana	4.7	..	3.7	..	5.5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Greece	7.8	8.1	4.9	5.0	12.9	12.6	50.3	42.1	54.9	29.3	48.4	21.8
Guatemala	..	3.1	..	2.8	..	3.7	..	..	..	..	..	..
Guinea	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Guinea-Bissau	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Haiti	12.7	..	11.9	..	13.8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

	Unemployment						Long-term unemployment			Unemployment by educational attainment		
	Total % of total labor force		Male % of male labor force		Female % of female labor force		Total	% of total unemployment		Primary	% of total unemployment	
	1990-92 ^a	2004-07 ^a	1990-92 ^a	2004-07 ^a	1990-92 ^a	2004-07 ^a		Male	Female		2004-07 ^a	Secondary	Tertiary
Honduras	3.2	4.2	3.3	3.2	3.0	6.2	..	..	..	..	..	..
Hungary	9.9	7.4	11.0	7.1	8.7	7.7	47.5	47.3	47.9	33.1	58.7	8.1
India	..	5.0 ^b	..	4.9 ^b	..	5.3 ^b	..	..	..	29.0	37.7	33.3
Indonesia	2.8	9.1	2.7	8.1	3.0	10.8	..	..	..	44.4	40.7	9.6
Iran, Islamic Rep.	11.1	10.5	9.5	9.3	24.4	15.7	..	..	..	41.8	34.7	19.6
Iraq	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ireland	15.2	4.6	15.2	4.8	15.2	4.3	30.3	36.0	21.9	39.8	37.2	18.2
Israel	11.2 ^b	7.3 ^b	9.2 ^b	6.7 ^b	13.9 ^b	7.9 ^b	..	..	..	12.2	12.8	72.5
Italy	11.5	6.1	8.1	4.9	17.3	7.9	49.9	47.3	52.3	46.5	40.6	11.3
Jamaica	15.7	9.4	9.5	5.5	22.8	14.3	..	..	..	9.7	4.3	8.4
Japan	2.2	3.9	2.1	4.0	2.2	3.7	32.0	40.3	19.4	67.2	..	32.8
Jordan	..	12.4	..	11.8	..	16.5	..	..	..	..	..	..
Kazakhstan	..	8.4	..	7.0	..	9.8	..	..	..	7.1	49.0	43.9
Kenya	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Korea, Dem. Rep.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Korea, Rep.	2.5	3.2	2.8	3.7	2.1	2.6	0.6	0.7	0.3	15.2	49.7	35.2
Kuwait	..	1.7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	19.4	41.4	9.6
Kyrgyz Republic	..	8.3	..	7.7	..	9.0	..	..	..	13.3	77.1	9.6
Lao PDR	..	1.4	..	1.3	..	1.4	..	..	..	..	..	..
Latvia	..	6.0	..	6.3	..	5.4	..	..	..	24.3	59.9	14.6
Lebanon	..	8.1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Lesotho	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Liberia	..	5.6	..	6.8	..	4.2	..	..	..	..	..	..
Libya	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Lithuania	..	4.3	..	4.3	..	4.4	..	..	..	14.2	70.4	15.4
Macedonia, FYR	..	34.9	..	34.5	..	35.5	..	..	..	..	..	..
Madagascar	..	2.6	..	1.7	..	3.5	..	..	..	67.7	..	9.3
Malawi	..	7.8	..	5.4	..	10.0	..	..	..	..	..	..
Malaysia	3.7	3.1	..	3.2	..	3.4	..	..	..	13.3	61.6	25.1
Mali	..	8.8	..	7.2	..	10.9	..	..	..	..	..	..
Mauritania	..	33.0	..	25.2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Mauritius	..	8.5	..	5.3	..	14.4	..	..	..	44.2	48.5	6.4
Mexico	3.1	3.4	2.7	3.2	4.0	3.7	2.7 ^b	3.0 ^b	2.3 ^b	50.7	24.5	22.9
Moldova	..	5.1	..	6.2	..	3.9	..	..	..	..	..	..
Mongolia	..	2.8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	35.1	45.8	18.5
Morocco	16.0 ^b	10.0	13.0 ^b	10.1	25.3 ^b	10.0	..	..	..	51.1 ^b	22.4 ^b	21.6 ^b
Mozambique	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Myanmar	6.0	..	4.7	..	8.8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Namibia	19.0	21.9	20.0	19.4	19.0	25.0	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nepal	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Netherlands	5.5	3.6	4.3	3.2	7.3	4.1	41.7	43.9	39.8	41.3	39.7	17.0
New Zealand	10.4 ^b	3.6 ^b	11.0 ^b	3.3 ^b	9.6 ^b	3.9 ^b	5.7 ^b	6.1 ^b	5.4 ^b	30.6	38.8	26.9
Nicaragua	14.4	5.2	11.3	5.4	19.5	4.9	..	..	..	72.8	2.1	18.0
Niger	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nigeria	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Norway	5.9	2.5	6.6	2.5	5.1	2.4	8.8	10.2	7.1	25.4	49.2	20.6
Oman	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pakistan	5.2	5.3	3.8	4.5	14.0	8.4	..	..	..	14.3	11.4	26.0
Panama	14.7	6.8	10.8	5.3	22.3	9.3	..	..	..	36.0	39.6	24.0
Papua New Guinea	7.7	..	9.0	..	5.9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Paraguay	5.3 ^b	5.6 ^b	6.4 ^b	4.2 ^b	3.8 ^b	7.6 ^b	..	..	..	49.9	38.0	9.9
Peru	9.4 ^b	6.7 ^b	7.5 ^b	5.6 ^b	12.5 ^b	8.0 ^b	..	..	..	30.0 ^b	31.9 ^b	37.6 ^b
Philippines	8.6	6.3	7.9	6.4	9.9	6.0	..	..	..	13.6	46.2	39.4
Poland	13.3	9.6	12.2	9.0	14.7	10.3	45.9	45.8	46.0	16.4	73.2	10.4
Portugal	4.1 ^b	8.0	3.5 ^b	6.6	5.0 ^b	9.6	47.3	48.2	46.7	68.1	15.4	13.2
Puerto Rico	16.9	10.9	19.1	12.0	13.3	9.5	..	..	..	..	..	..



	Unemployment						Long-term unemployment			Unemployment by educational attainment		
	Total % of total labor force		Male % of male labor force		Female % of female labor force		Total	% of total unemployment		Primary	% of total unemployment	
	1990-92 ^a	2004-07 ^a	1990-92 ^a	2004-07 ^a	1990-92 ^a	2004-07 ^a		2004-07 ^a	Male		Female	2004-07 ^a	Secondary	Tertiary
Romania	..	6.4	..	7.2	..	5.4	..	..	..	25.8	66.3	6.1
Russian Federation	5.3	6.1	5.4	6.4	5.2	5.8	..	..	..	13.7	54.2	32.1
Rwanda	0.3	..	0.6	..	0.2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Saudi Arabia	..	5.6	..	4.2	..	13.2	..	..	..	12.3	43.9	40.0
Senegal	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	40.2	6.9	2.5
Serbia	..	13.3 ^c	..	11.7 ^c	..	15.2 ^c	70.5	79.3	82.2	..	..	..
Sierra Leone	..	3.4	..	4.5	..	2.3	..	..	..	..	..	..
Singapore	2.7	4.0	2.7	3.7	2.6	4.3	..	..	..	31.0	25.6	43.2
Slovak Republic	..	11.0	..	9.8	..	12.5	70.8	72.3	69.4	29.2 ^b	65.3 ^b	5.3 ^b
Slovenia	..	4.6	..	3.9	..	6.1	..	..	..	25.0	60.4	12.5
Somalia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
South Africa	..	23.0	..	20.0	..	26.6	..	..	..	36.2	56.3	4.5
Spain	18.1	8.3	13.9	6.4	25.8	10.9	27.6	23.9	30.5	54.8	23.6	20.4
Sri Lanka	13.3 ^b	6.0 ^b	10.1 ^b	4.3 ^b	19.9 ^b	9.0 ^b	..	..	..	45.4 ^b	22.0 ^b	32.6 ^b
Sudan	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Swaziland	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sweden	5.7	6.1	6.7	5.8	4.6	6.4	13.0	14.5	11.4	32.2	46.0	17.1
Switzerland	2.8	3.6	2.3	2.9	3.5	4.5	40.8	37.9	43.0	28.8	53.2	17.9
Syrian Arab Republic	6.8	..	5.2	..	14.0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tajikistan	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	66.5	28.8	4.6
Tanzania	3.6 ^b	4.7	2.8 ^b	..	4.3 ^b	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Thailand	1.4	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.5	1.1	..	..	..	40.5	45.5	0.1
Timor-Leste	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Togo	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Trinidad and Tobago	19.6	6.5	17.0	4.4	23.9	9.6	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tunisia	..	14.2	..	13.1	..	17.3	..	..	..	79.1	..	13.6
Turkey	8.5	9.9	8.8	9.8	7.8	10.2	30.4	27.1	39.5	52.3	28.2	12.7
Turkmenistan	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Uganda	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ukraine	..	6.8	..	7.0	..	6.6	..	..	..	8.5	52.2	39.3
United Arab Emirates	..	3.1	..	2.5	..	7.1	..	..	..	24.3	36.0	21.6
United Kingdom	9.7	5.2	11.5	5.5	7.3	4.9	24.7	29.7	18.2	37.3	47.7	14.3
United States	7.5 ^b	4.6 ^b	7.9 ^b	4.7 ^b	7.0 ^b	4.5 ^b	10.0 ^b	10.7 ^b	9.0 ^b	18.7 ^b	35.5 ^b	45.7 ^b
Uruguay	9.0 ^b	9.2 ^b	6.8 ^b	6.6 ^b	11.8 ^b	12.4 ^b	..	..	..	59.1	27.0	13.8
Uzbekistan	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Venezuela, RB	7.7	7.5	8.2	7.1	6.8	8.1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Vietnam	..	2.1	..	1.9	..	2.4	..	..	..	..	..	..
West Bank and Gaza	..	21.6	..	22.1	..	19.0	..	..	..	54.3	14.2	23.5
Yemen, Rep.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Zambia	18.9	..	16.3	..	22.4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Zimbabwe	..	4.2	..	4.2	..	4.1	..	..	..	..	..	..
World	.. w	6.4 w	.. w	.. w	.. w	.. w	.. w	.. w	.. w	.. w	.. w	.. w
Low income	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Middle income	..	6.4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Lower middle income	..	5.7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Upper middle income	6.3	8.7	5.9	8.0	7.1	9.6	..	..	..	37.8	43.6	13.7
Low & middle income	..	6.4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
East Asia & Pacific	2.5	4.5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Europe & Central Asia	..	7.8	..	8.1	..	7.4	..	..	..	23.4	53.1	22.3
Latin America & Carib.	6.7	8.8	5.4	6.9	8.4	11.5	..	..	..	53.4	32.2	12.9
Middle East & N. Africa	12.8	12.1	10.8	10.4	21.7	18.4	..	..	..	..	..	..
South Asia	..	5.3	..	5.1	..	6.0	..	..	..	27.8	34.5	32.2
Sub-Saharan Africa	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
High income	7.4	5.5	7.0	5.2	7.9	5.8	25.6	27.3	23.1	35.3	41.3	26.7
Euro area	9.5	7.5	7.5	6.6	12.5	8.6	45.2	44.4	45.5	41.4	42.9	14.9

a. Data are for the most recent year available. b. Limited coverage. c. Data are for 2008.

About the data

Unemployment and total employment are the broadest indicators of economic activity as reflected by the labor market. The International Labour Organization (ILO) defines the unemployed as members of the economically active population who are without work but available for and seeking work, including people who have lost their jobs or who have voluntarily left work. Some unemployment is unavoidable. At any time some workers are temporarily unemployed—between jobs as employers look for the right workers and workers search for better jobs. Such unemployment, often called frictional unemployment, results from the normal operation of labor markets.

Changes in unemployment over time may reflect changes in the demand for and supply of labor; they may also reflect changes in reporting practices. Paradoxically, low unemployment rates can disguise substantial poverty in a country, while high unemployment rates can occur in countries with a high level of economic development and low rates of poverty. In countries without unemployment or welfare benefits people eke out a living in vulnerable employment. In countries with well developed safety nets workers can afford to wait for suitable or desirable jobs. But high and sustained unemployment indicates serious inefficiencies in resource allocation.

The ILO definition of unemployment notwithstanding, reference periods, the criteria for people considered to be seeking work, and the treatment of people temporarily laid off or seeking work for the first time vary across countries. In many developing countries it is especially difficult to measure employment and unemployment in agriculture. The timing of a survey, for example, can maximize the effects of seasonal unemployment in agriculture. And informal sector employment is difficult to quantify where informal activities are not tracked.

Data on unemployment are drawn from labor force sample surveys and general household sample surveys, censuses, and official estimates, which are generally based on information from different sources and can be combined in many ways. Administrative records, such as social insurance statistics and employment office statistics, are not included in the table because of their limitations in coverage. Labor force surveys generally yield the most comprehensive data because they include groups not covered in other unemployment statistics, particularly people seeking work for the first time. These surveys generally use a definition of unemployment that follows the international recommendations more closely than that used by other sources and therefore

generate statistics that are more comparable internationally. But the age group, geographic coverage, and collection methods could differ by country or change over time within a country. For detailed information, consult the original source.

Women tend to be excluded from the unemployment count for various reasons. Women suffer more from discrimination and from structural, social, and cultural barriers that impede them from seeking work. Also, women are often responsible for the care of children and the elderly and for household affairs. They may not be available for work during the short reference period, as they need to make arrangements before starting work. Furthermore, women are considered to be employed when they are working part-time or in temporary jobs, despite the instability of these jobs or their active search for more secure employment.

Long-term unemployment is measured by the length of time that an unemployed person has been without work and looking for a job. The data in the table are from labor force surveys. The underlying assumption is that shorter periods of joblessness are of less concern, especially when the unemployed are covered by unemployment benefits or similar forms of support. The length of time that a person has been unemployed is difficult to measure, because the ability to recall that time diminishes as the period of joblessness extends. Women's long-term unemployment is likely to be lower in countries where women constitute a large share of the unpaid family workforce.

Unemployment by level of educational attainment provides insights into the relation between the educational attainment of workers and unemployment and may be used to draw inferences about changes in employment demand. Information on educational attainment is the best available indicator of skill levels of the labor force. Besides the limitations to comparability raised for measuring unemployment, the different ways of classifying the education level may also cause inconsistency. Education level is supposed to be classified according to International Standard Classification of Education 1997 (ISCED97). For more information on ISCED97, see *About the data* for table 2.11.

Definitions

- **Unemployment** is the share of the labor force without work but available for and seeking employment. Definitions of labor force and unemployment may differ by country (see *About the data*).
- **Long-term unemployment** is the number of people with continuous periods of unemployment extending for a year or longer, expressed as a percentage of the total unemployed.
- **Unemployment by educational attainment** is the unemployed by level of educational attainment as a percentage of the total unemployed. The levels of educational attainment accord with the ISCED97 of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization.

Data sources

Data on unemployment are from the ILO database Key Indicators of the Labour Market, 5th edition.