

Table 59. Civilian unemployment rates, approximating U.S. concepts, 10 countries, 1959-2000

| Year | United States | Canada | Australia | Japan | France | Germany (1) | Italy | Netherlands | Sweden | United Kingdom |
|------|------------------|------------------|------------------|-------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 1959 | 5.5 | 5.6 | ² 2.1 | 2.3 | 1.6 | 2.0 | 4.8 | — | ³ 1.7 | 2.8 |
| 1960 | 5.5 | 6.5 | ² 1.6 | 1.7 | 1.5 | 1.1 | 3.7 | — | ³ 1.7 | 2.2 |
| 1961 | 6.7 | 6.7 | ² 3.0 | 1.5 | 1.2 | .6 | 3.2 | — | 1.5 | 2.0 |
| 1962 | 5.5 | 5.5 | ² 2.9 | 1.3 | 1.4 | .6 | 2.8 | — | 1.5 | 2.7 |
| 1963 | 5.7 | 5.2 | ² 2.3 | 1.3 | 1.6 | .5 | 2.4 | — | 1.7 | 3.3 |
| 1964 | 5.2 | 4.4 | 1.4 | 1.2 | 1.2 | .4 | 2.7 | — | 1.6 | 2.5 |
| 1965 | 4.5 | 3.6 | 1.3 | 1.2 | 1.6 | .3 | 3.5 | — | 1.2 | 2.1 |
| 1966 | 3.8 | 3.4 | 1.6 | 1.4 | 1.6 | .3 | 3.7 | — | 1.6 | 2.3 |
| 1967 | 3.8 | 3.8 | 1.9 | 1.3 | 2.1 | 1.3 | 3.4 | — | 2.1 | 3.3 |
| 1968 | 3.6 | 4.5 | 1.8 | 1.2 | 2.7 | 1.1 | 3.5 | — | 2.2 | 3.2 |
| 1969 | 3.5 | 4.4 | 1.8 | 1.1 | 2.3 | .6 | 3.5 | — | 1.9 | 3.1 |
| 1970 | 4.9 | 5.7 | 1.6 | 1.2 | 2.5 | .5 | 3.2 | — | 1.5 | 3.1 |
| 1971 | 5.9 | 6.2 | 1.9 | 1.3 | 2.8 | .6 | 3.3 | — | 2.6 | 3.9 |
| 1972 | 5.6 | 6.2 | 2.6 | 1.4 | 2.9 | .7 | 3.8 | — | 2.7 | 4.2 |
| 1973 | 4.9 | 5.5 | 2.3 | 1.3 | 2.8 | .7 | 3.7 | 3.1 | 2.5 | 3.2 |
| 1974 | 5.6 | 5.3 | 2.7 | 1.4 | 2.9 | 1.6 | 3.1 | 3.6 | 2.0 | 3.1 |
| 1975 | 8.5 | 6.9 | 4.9 | 1.9 | 4.2 | 3.4 | 3.4 | 5.1 | 1.6 | 4.6 |
| 1976 | 7.7 | ⁴ 6.8 | 4.8 | 2.0 | 4.6 | 3.4 | 3.9 | 5.4 | 1.6 | 5.9 |
| 1977 | 7.1 | 7.8 | 5.6 | 2.0 | 5.2 | 3.4 | 4.1 | 4.9 | 1.8 | 6.4 |
| 1978 | 6.1 | 8.1 | 6.3 | 2.3 | 5.4 | 3.3 | 4.1 | 5.1 | 2.2 | 6.3 |
| 1979 | 5.8 | 7.2 | 6.3 | 2.1 | 6.1 | 2.9 | 4.4 | 5.1 | 2.1 | 5.4 |
| 1980 | 7.1 | 7.2 | 6.1 | 2.0 | 6.5 | 2.8 | 4.4 | 6.0 | 2.0 | 7.0 |
| 1981 | 7.6 | 7.3 | 5.8 | 2.2 | 7.6 | 4.0 | 4.9 | 8.9 | 2.5 | 10.5 |
| 1982 | 9.7 | 10.6 | 7.2 | 2.4 | 8.3 | 5.6 | 5.4 | 10.2 | 3.1 | 11.3 |
| 1983 | 9.6 | 11.5 | 10.0 | 2.7 | 8.6 | ⁶ 6.9 | 5.9 | ⁴ 11.4 | 3.5 | 11.8 |
| 1984 | 7.5 | 10.9 | 9.0 | 2.8 | 10.0 | 7.1 | 5.9 | 11.5 | 3.1 | 11.7 |
| 1985 | 7.2 | 10.2 | 8.3 | 2.6 | 10.5 | 7.2 | 6.0 | 9.6 | 2.8 | 11.2 |
| 1986 | 7.0 | 9.2 | 8.1 | 2.8 | 10.6 | 6.6 | ⁴ 7.5 | 10.0 | 2.6 | 11.2 |
| 1987 | 6.2 | 8.4 | 8.1 | 2.9 | 10.8 | 6.3 | 7.9 | 10.0 | ⁴ 2.2 | 10.3 |
| 1988 | 5.5 | 7.3 | 7.2 | 2.5 | 10.3 | 6.3 | 7.9 | ⁴ 7.7 | 1.9 | 8.6 |
| 1989 | 5.3 | 7.0 | 6.2 | 2.3 | 9.6 | 5.7 | 7.8 | 7.0 | 1.6 | 7.2 |
| 1990 | ⁵ 6.6 | 7.7 | 6.9 | 2.1 | 9.1 | 5.0 | 7.0 | 6.2 | 1.8 | 6.9 |
| 1991 | 6.8 | 9.8 | 9.6 | 2.1 | 9.6 | ⁵ 6.6 | ⁶ 6.9 | 5.9 | 3.1 | 8.8 |
| 1992 | 7.5 | 10.6 | 10.8 | 2.2 | ⁴ 10.4 | 6.7 | 7.3 | 5.6 | 5.6 | 10.1 |
| 1993 | 6.9 | 10.7 | 10.9 | 2.5 | 11.8 | 7.9 | ⁴ 10.2 | 6.5 | 9.3 | 10.5 |
| 1994 | ⁶ 6.1 | 9.4 | 9.7 | 2.9 | 12.3 | 8.5 | 11.2 | 7.2 | 9.6 | 9.7 |
| 1995 | 5.6 | 8.5 | 8.5 | 3.2 | 11.8 | 8.2 | 11.8 | 7.1 | 9.1 | 8.7 |
| 1996 | 5.4 | 8.7 | 8.6 | 3.4 | 12.5 | 8.9 | 11.7 | 6.3 | 9.9 | 8.2 |
| 1997 | 4.9 | 8.2 | 8.6 | 3.4 | 12.4 | 9.9 | 11.9 | 5.3 | 10.1 | 7.0 |
| 1998 | 4.5 | 7.5 | 8.0 | 4.1 | 11.8 | 9.3 | 12.0 | 4.0 | 8.4 | 6.3 |
| 1999 | 4.2 | 6.8 | 7.2 | 4.7 | 11.2 | 8.7 | 11.5 | 3.4 | 7.1 | 6.1 ^p |
| 2000 | 4.0 | 5.8 | 6.6 | 4.8 | 9.7 ^p | 8.3 ^p | 10.7 ^p | — | 5.8 | 5.5 ^p |

¹ Former West Germany through 1990, unified Germany thereafter.

² The Australian labor force survey was initiated in 1964. Unemployment rates for 1959-63 are estimates made by an Australian researcher.

³ The Swedish labor force survey was initiated in 1961. The figures for 1959-60 are estimates made by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

⁴ There are breaks in the series for the United States (1990, 1994), Canada (1976), France (1992), Germany (1983, 1991), Italy (1986, 1991, 1993), the Netherlands (1983, 1988), and Sweden (1987):

The United States (1990): The impact was to raise the unemployment rate by 0.1 percentage point.

The United States (1994): The impact was to raise the unemployment rate by 0.1 percentage point.

Canada (1976): Beginning with 1976, the unemployment rates are adjusted to more closely approximate U.S. concepts. The impact was to lower the unemployment rate 0.4 percentage point in 1976.

France (1992): The impact was to lower the unemployment rate by 0.1 percentage point.

Germany (1983): The impact was to lower the unemployment rate by 0.3 percentage point.

Germany (1991): The impact of including the former East Germany was to increase the 1991 unemployment rate 1.3 percentage points.

Italy (1986): The impact was to raise the unemployment rate by 1.2 percentage points.

Italy (1991): The impact was to raise the unemployment rate by approximately 0.3 percentage point.

Italy (1993): The impact was to raise the unemployment rate by approximately 1.1 percentage points.

Netherlands (1983): The impact was to lower the unemployment rate by about 2 percentage points.

Netherlands (1988): The impact was to lower the unemployment rate by 1.7 percentage points.

Sweden (1987): The net impact of the break and the BLS adjustment for students seeking work lowered the unemployment rate by 0.1 percentage point.

p = preliminary.

Dash indicates data not available.