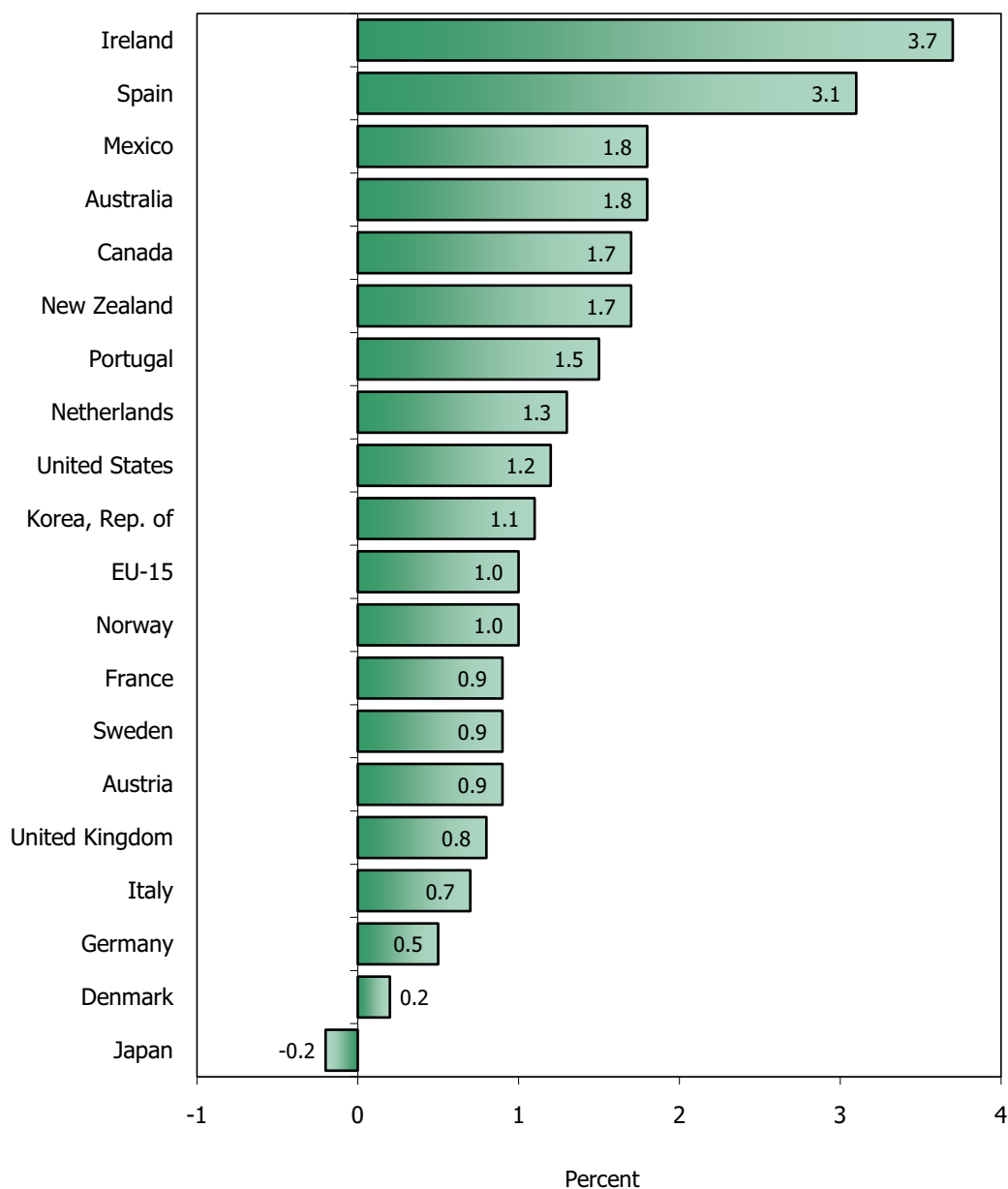


## 2.2 Average annual growth rates for the labor force, 1997-2007

- U.S. labor force growth outpaced that of the EU-15 average. In Europe, labor force growth was stronger in Ireland, Spain, Portugal, and the Netherlands than in the United States.
- The labor force declined only in Japan.



**SOURCES:** Bureau of Labor Statistics and Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.