

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016

Outcome 1 - Employment

Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ16-000062

Senator Simms asked on 11 February 2016 on proof Hansard page 44

Question

International youth unemployment trends

Senator SIMMS: Just before we traverse those initiatives again, is there a country that is doing this well—doing best practice—that we are looking at, or is that an area of research that the department—

Mr Hehir: We do constantly look at it. Unfortunately, most of the international research says: it makes a marginal difference. No-one is really making heavy inroads into breaking that relationship. There are some countries who have, traditionally, a lower relationship. I think Germany might be one of those countries, from memory. But we can get you that information.

Senator SIMMS: If you could, that would be good.

Answer

The following table provides the average total and youth unemployment rates for the period 2005 to 2014 for member countries of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

Table 1: Average total and youth unemployment rates in OECD member countries, 2005–2014

Country	Average total unemployment rate (Per cent)	Average youth (15–24 year old) unemployment rate (Per cent)	Average youth-to-total unemployment ratio
Australia	5.1	11.0	2.2
Austria	5.0	9.7	1.9
Belgium	7.9	20.9	2.6
Canada	7.0	13.3	1.9
Chile	7.4	18.3	2.5
Czech Republic	6.5	16.5	2.5
Denmark	5.8	11.2	1.9
Estonia	9.2	18.1	2.0
Finland	7.8	18.6	2.4
France	9.0	21.9	2.4
Germany	7.4	10.4	1.4
Greece	15.4	36.5	2.4
Hungary	9.1	23.0	2.5
Iceland	4.9	11.2	2.3
Ireland	10.1	21.6	2.1
Israel	8.3	13.9	1.7
Italy	8.7	28.8	3.3
Japan	4.3	7.9	1.8
Korea	3.4	9.6	2.8
Luxembourg	5.0	16.8	3.4
Mexico	4.4	8.4	1.9
Netherlands	4.8	8.8	1.8
New Zealand	5.4	14.2	2.7
Norway	3.3	8.8	2.6
Poland	10.5	25.4	2.4
Portugal	10.9	25.0	2.3
Slovak Republic	13.1	28.7	2.2
Slovenia	7.2	15.7	2.2
Spain	17.2	36.7	2.1
Sweden	7.6	22.5	3.0
Switzerland	4.1	8.0	1.9
Turkey	10.7	19.9	1.9
United Kingdom	6.6	17.2	2.6
United States	7.0	14.4	2.1
OECD average	7.2	14.8	2.1

Note: The total unemployment rates are for all people aged 15 years and over in the labour force.

Source: OECD.Stat, *Labour force status by sex and age indicators*.

Accessed 8 March 2016.