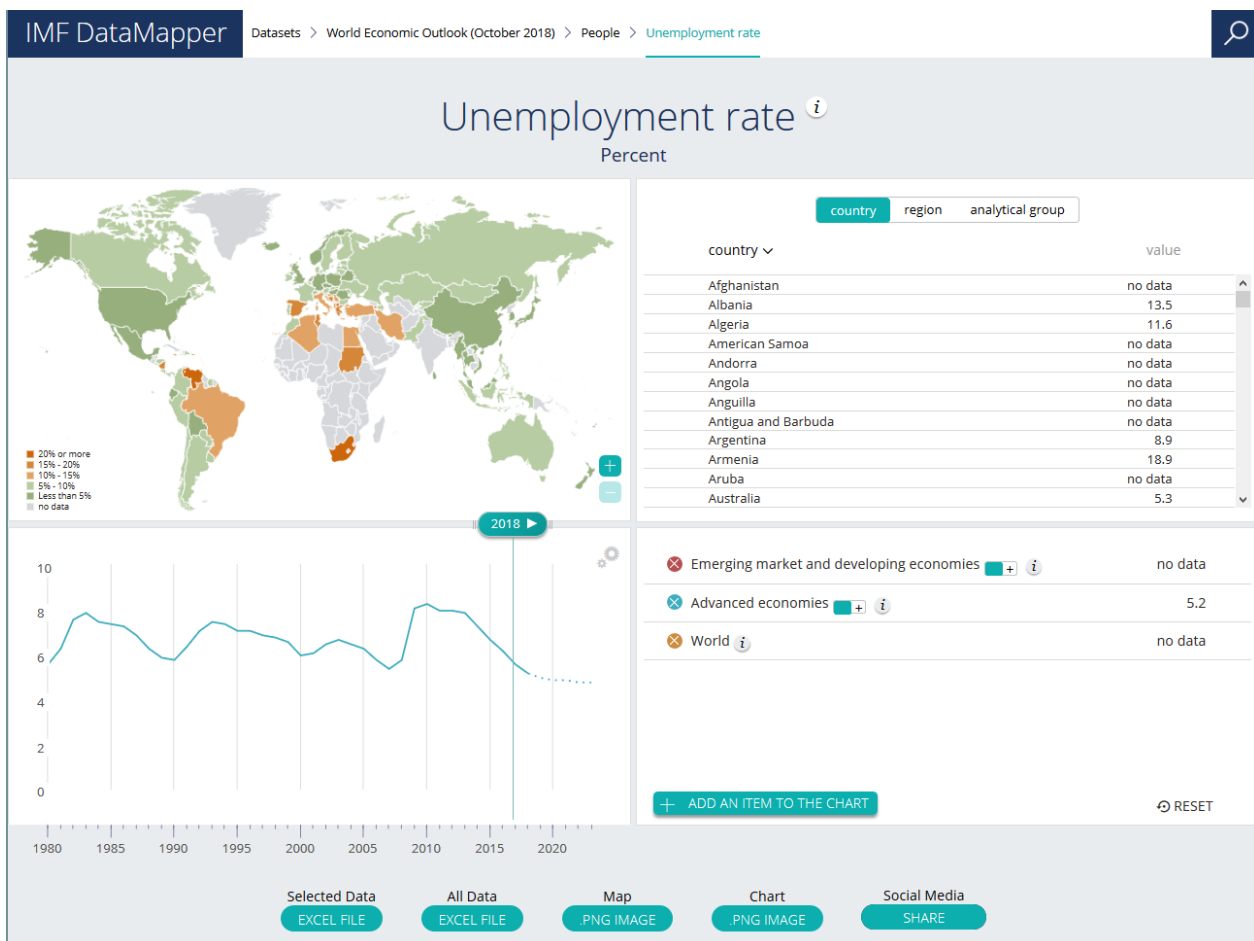# Unemployment at the global level

Australia has unemployed people. Our performance in achieving the goal of keeping the unemployment level low can be judged by comparing the rate in Australia to that in other countries.

One source of this data is the World Economic Outlook using the **IMF DataMapper** available at: https://www.imf.org/external/datamapper/datasets/WEO

Finding out

Go to the IMF website at: https://www.imf.org/external/datamapper/datasets/WEO

Select 'People' then select 'Unemployment'.

Choose six countries of different sizes, with different standards of living from different parts of the world. As you select the country it will be shown on the map and added to the graph.

Note: some countries cannot be used as they have no available data or data only for a few years

Task 1

- Describe how similar the unemployment rates are for the six countries that you have selected.

- Add Australia to your graph, then use a 'five star' rating system (where 1 star is very poor and 5 stars is very good) to rate each of the seven countries for its current performance in terms of unemployment. One way of assigning star ratings is comparing to the average rate for the advanced economies. Add this group of economies to your graph by selecting it from the list on the 'analytical group' tab.

Task 2

Use the 'All Data' Excel File button to view all the available unemployment data in a spreadsheet. Click the Sort button and select the column which contains the data for the last completed year. To make the data easier to read, highlight all the columns from B to the one before that which you want to read, right click your mouse and select Hide.

- Find the five countries where unemployment was lowest in the last completed year.

- Find the five countries where unemployment was highest in the last completed year.

- Create an infographic to show the top 5 and bottom 5 countries – think of what data to include, the separation between countries, how you might show that this is only 10 of over 100 countries.

Task 3

- Brainstorm reasons why unemployment varies so much between countries.

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- Form a group of three and share the reasons each of you has identified. Select the four reasons that the group considers most likely to have the biggest impact on the differing unemployment rates between countries.

- As a class form a combined list of reasons (use a large piece of paper, or post-it notes or the white board).

- Discuss the reasons identified and come up with a 'top 5'.

Teacher notes

Purpose

This 'bite' aims to enable students to investigate how much unemployment varies between countries and consider possible reasons for this variation

Prior knowledge

Students need to have been exposed to the following syllabus content before undertaking this 'bite':
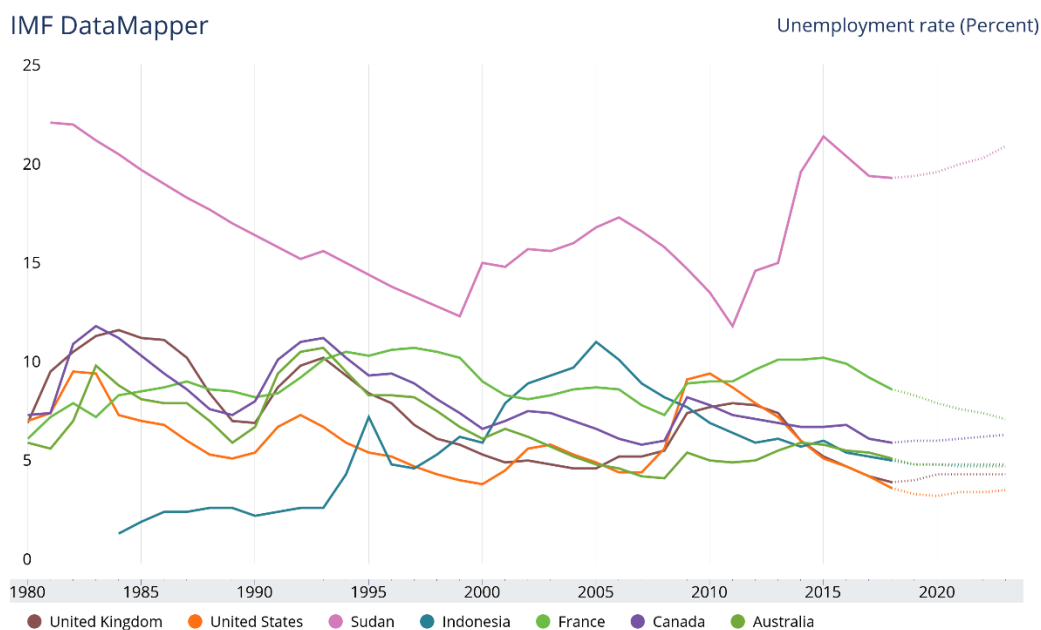
- Indicators of economic performance [the concept of unemployment and its measurement]

They also need to be familiar with reading tables and line graphs.

Answers

Task 1

- The unemployment rates for Australia and six other countries are shown in the graph below which was generated using the IMF DataMapper

IMF DataMapper   Unemployment rate (Percent)

United Kingdom   United States   Sudan   Indonesia   France   Canada   Australia

©IMF, 2018, Source: World Economic Outlook (October 2018)

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The similarity or difference between the unemployment rates will depend on the countries. In general, most advanced economies will have similar rates and a similar trend (but there are exceptions, such as, Spain, Italy and Greece in 2017). Typically developing countries that have data have higher rates and do not necessarily follow the pattern of the advanced economies.

- The star ratings will vary based on the countries selected. Determining cut-offs is a difficult task. When the graph above was generated, the advanced economy rate was 5.2%. One possible set of ratings is Sudan 1 star, France 3 stars and the remaining five countries 5 stars.

Task 2

- the five countries where unemployment was lowest in 2017

Thailand	0.7
Belarus	0.8
Kuwait	1.1
Macao SAR	2
Singapore	2.2
Vietnam	2.2

- the five countries where unemployment was highest in 2017

Greece	22
FYR Macedonia	22
Venezuela	27
South Africa	28
Kosovo	31

Task 3

- Possible reasons why some countries have higher unemployment than others include: limited access to education resulting in poor literacy and numeracy, political disruptions such as civil war, high inflation reducing exports, adverse weather conditions such as severe storms or prolonged drought.

Follow-up

This activity could be repeated for inflation and for economic growth.

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