The OECD-area unemployment rate on a standardised basis was 8.0 per cent in October, up 0.1 percentage points from September; this compares with a 7.5 per cent rate a year earlier. The OECD-Europe unemployment rate was steady at 10.9 per cent. Between September and October unemployment rates were constant in Canada at 11.1 per cent and rose in the rest of the non-European OECD where monthly data are available. The unemployment rate rose from 6.6 to 6.7 per cent in the United States, from 2.6 to 2.7 per cent in Japan and from 10.7 to 11.1 per cent in Australia. Among European countries the unemployment rate rose to 9.6 per cent in Belgium, to 12.0 per cent in France, to 6.2 per cent in Germany and to 16.8 per cent in Ireland. The unemployment rate was constant in the Netherlands at 9.0 per cent, while it fell to 18.4 per cent in Finland, to 8.5 per cent in Sweden(2) and to 10.2 per cent in the United Kingdom.

The unemployment rate fell in six of the seven OECD countries for which November data are available and remained constant in the other. The unemployment rate fell from 11.1 to 10.9 per cent in Canada, from 6.7 to 6.3 per cent in the United States, from 11.1 to 11.0 per cent in Australia, from 16.8 to 16.7 in Ireland, from 8.5 to 8.4 per cent in Sweden(2) and from 10.2 to 10.0 per cent in the United Kingdom. Unemployment, at 9.6 per cent, was unchanged in Belgium.

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(1) Standardised unemployment rates are based on national statistics but have been adjusted when necessary, and as far as the available data allow, to bring them as close as possible to ILO guidelines for international comparisons of labour force statistics. The standardised rates are, therefore, more comparable between countries than the unemployment rates published in national sources. For further details, see the Technical Note to the table.

(2) Since January 1993 data for Sweden are not seasonally adjusted.

END-OF-TEXT