STANDARDISED UNEMPLOYMENT RATES (1)

The OECD-area unemployment rate on a standardised basis was 7.9 per cent in July; unchanged since May 1994. For OECD Europe it was 11.5 per cent, the same rate recorded each month since March. Among non-European OECD countries for which monthly data are available, the unemployment rate rose in two and fell in the other two. In July, the unemployment rate rose to 6.1 per cent in the United States and to 3.0 per cent in Japan. The unemployment rate fell in Canada to 10.1 per cent and in Australia to 9.4 per cent.

Unemployment rates rose in three of the eight European economies for which monthly data are available, while it remained constant in three and fell in the other two. Unemployment rose to 19.0 per cent of the labour force in Finland, to 9.4 per cent in the Netherlands and to 8.8 per cent in Sweden. The unemployment rate was stable in France at 12.6 per cent, in Ireland at 15.0 per cent and in the United Kingdom at 9.5 per cent. The unemployment rate fell to 10.2 per cent in Belgium and to 6.5 per cent in western Germany.

The unemployment rate rose in two of the OECD countries for which August data are available, was stable in three and fell in two. The unemployment rate was stable at 6.1 per cent in the United States, at 9.4 per cent in Australia and at 8.8 per cent in Sweden. The unemployment rate rose in Canada by 0.2 percentage points to 10.3 per cent and in Belgium from 10.2 to 10.3 per cent; while it fell in Ireland by 0.1 percentage points to 14.9 per cent and by 0.2 percentage points in the United Kingdom to 9.3 per cent.

(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.