The OECD-area unemployment rate on a standardised basis was 7.8 per cent in September. This represents a fall of 0.1 percentage points from August and a fall of 0.2 percentage points compared with a year earlier. The unemployment rate for OECD Europe was stable at 11.4 per cent. The September unemployment rate was unchanged in Japan at 3.0 per cent and in Australia at 9.4 per cent, while it fell to 10.0 per cent in Canada and to 5.8 per cent in United States. In the seven European economies for which monthly data are available the unemployment rate rose in four, remained constant in one and fell in the other two. The unemployment rate rose to 10.4 per cent of the labour force in Belgium, to 17.7 per cent in Finland, to 12.7 per cent in France and to 14.7 in Ireland. It fell to 8.1 per cent in Sweden and to 9.4 per cent in the United Kingdom. The unemployment rate was stable at 6.9 per cent in western Germany.

October unemployment rates are available for seven OECD countries. The unemployment rate was stable at 10.4 per cent in Belgium and at 14.7 per cent in Ireland. It fell in the remaining countries; from 10.0 to 9.9 per cent in Canada, from 5.8 to 5.7 per cent in United States, from 9.4 to 9.1 per cent in Australia, from 8.1 to 7.4 per cent in Sweden and from 9.4 to 9.2 per cent in the United Kingdom.

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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.