The OECD-area unemployment rate on a standardised basis was 7.7 per cent in October. This represents a fall of 0.1 percentage points from September and a fall of 0.3 percentage points compared with a year earlier. For OECD Europe it was 11.3 per cent. Among non-European OECD countries, the October unemployment rate rose in Japan to 3.1 per cent, while it fell to 9.9 in Canada, to 5.7 in the United States and to 9.1 in Australia. The quarterly rate of unemployment in New Zealand fell from 8.4 per cent in June to 7.8 in September. In the eight European economies for which monthly data are available the unemployment rate rose in one, remained constant in two and fell in the other five. The unemployment rate rose to 9.8 per cent of the labour force in the Netherlands, while it fell to 17.3 per cent in Finland, to 12.6 per cent in France, to 6.8 per cent in Western Germany, to 7.4 per cent in Sweden, and to 9.2 per cent in the United Kingdom. The unemployment rate was stable in Belgium, at 10.4 per cent, and in Ireland, at 14.7 per cent.

November unemployment rates are available for seven OECD countries. The unemployment rate rose in Austrailia to 9.2 per cent, but fell in the six other countries. The unemployment rate fell from 9.9 to 9.6 per cent in Canada, from 5.7 to 5.5 per cent in the United States, from 10.4 to 10.3 per cent in Belgium, from 14.7 to 14.6 per cent in Ireland, from 7.4 to 7.2 per cent in Sweden and from 9.2 to 9.0 per cent in the United Kingdom.

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.