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STANDARDISED UNEMPLOYMENT RATES*

The OECD area unemployment rate on a standardised basis rose in December to 7.7 per cent from 7.6 per cent in November 1992; this compares with a 7.1 per cent rate a year earlier. Unemployment rose or remained unchanged in all OECD countries for which monthly data are available except Canada where unemployment fell from 11.7 per cent in November to 11.4 per cent in December. In Europe, unemployment remained unchanged in three of the eight countries for which monthly data are available; elsewhere unemployment rose by 0.1 per cent in Germany and the Netherlands and by 0.2 per cent in Belgium, Sweden and the United Kingdom. The unemployment rate in Japan rose from 2.3 per cent in November to 2.4 per cent in December.

Unemployment rose in three of the six countries for which January 1993 data are available and fell in the three others. In Canada unemployment fell from 11.4 per cent in December 1992 to 11.0 per cent. The U.S. unemployment rate fell from 7.2 per cent in December 1992 to 7.0 per cent in January. In Australia, unemployment fell from 11.2 per cent in December to 10.8 per cent in January. Unemployment in Belgium and the United Kingdom rose by 0.1 percentage point in January to reach levels of 8.4 and 10.8 per cent respectively. In Ireland, unemployment in January 1993 was 16.8 per cent, up 0.2 percentage point from December 1992.

* 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.

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