THE CONFERENCE BOARD
Trusted Insights for Business Worldwide

INTERNATIONAL LABOR COMPARISONS

International Unemployment Rates & Employment Indexes Seasonally Adjusted, September 2013

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Additional Information

For the associated press release, data tables, and technical notes, see International Unemployment Rates & Employment Indexes, Seasonally Adjusted.

For other ILC products visit www.conference-board.org/ilcprogram

The Conference Board continues government program on International Labor Comparisons

The Conference Board will continue the International Labor Comparisons (ILC) program that was eliminated by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The international unemployment rates and employment indexes in this report are produced using the same concepts and methodology as those formerly used by BLS. For additional information, see the news release.

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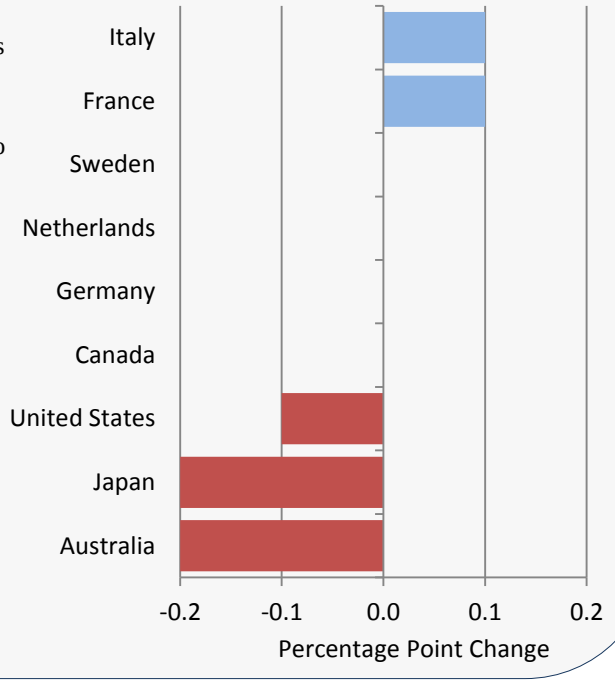
The unemployment rate in September 2013 remained the same in 4 of 9 countries compared. The jobless rate increased in Italy and France; these countries also had the highest unemployment rates in September at 12.6 percent and 10.9 percent, respectively.

Unemployment decreased in the United States, Japan, and Australia. See Chart 3 and Table 1. Japan had the lowest rate (3.5 percent), a trend which has continued since July 2011.

Chart 1. Unemployment Rates change from Aug. 2013 to Sept. 2013



Employment in September 2013 rose in all economies compared except Canada and Italy. September employment in Canada remained stable after a relatively large increase the previous month. For Italy, the 0.4 decline in the employment index was the largest drop since January 2013.

Italy continued to have the lowest employment index (96.8) while Australia had the highest (111.8). See Table 3.

Chart 2. Employment Index change from Aug. 2013 to Sept. 2013

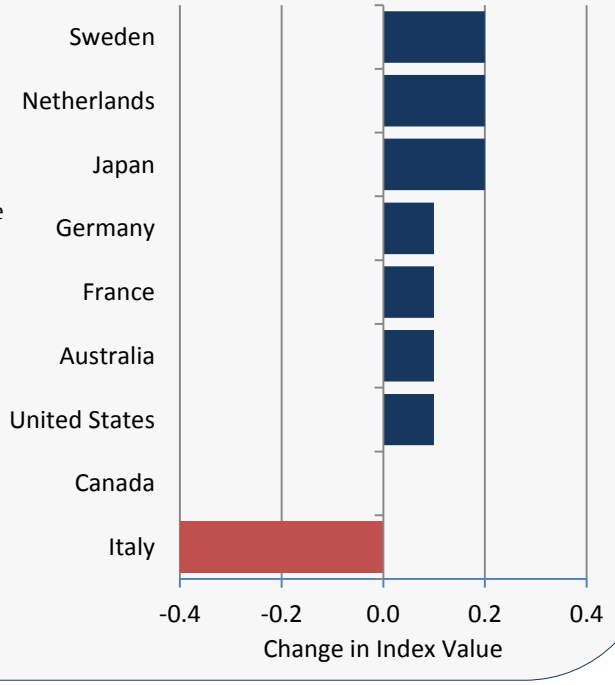
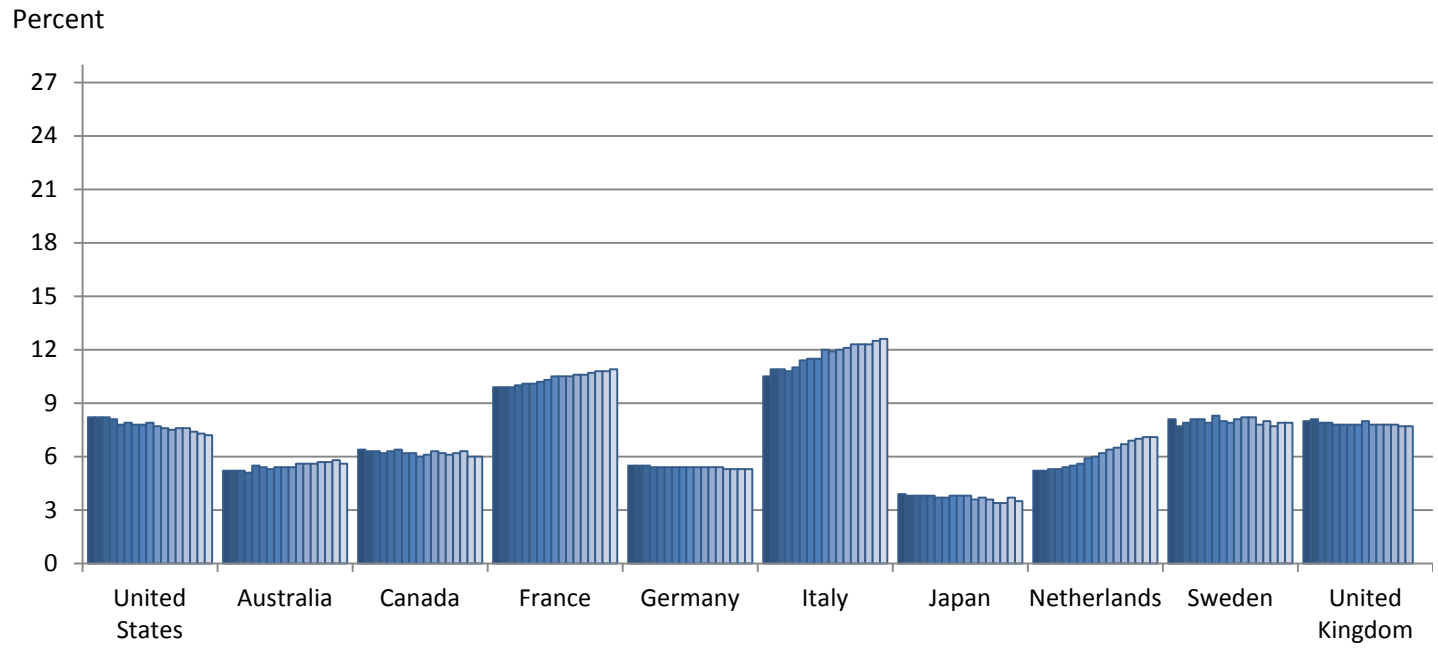
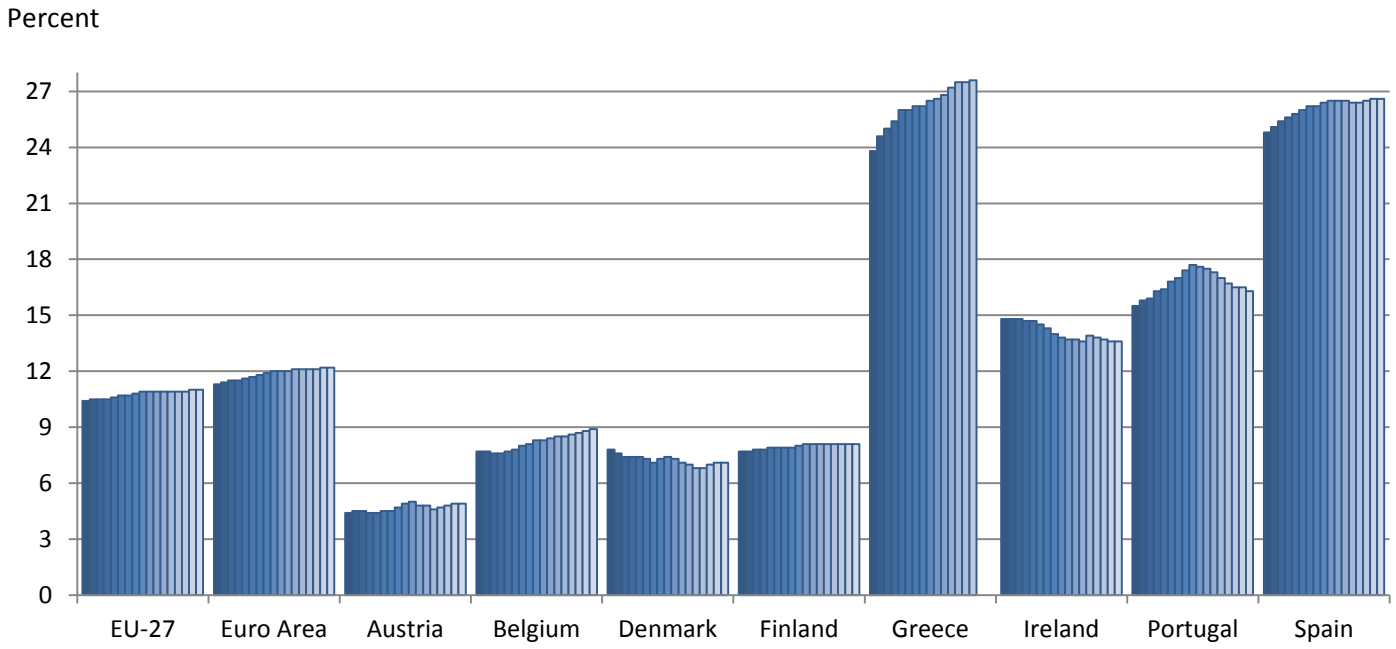


CHART 3. Unemployment rates adjusted to U.S. concepts, 10 countries, seasonally adjusted, May 2012– September 2013



Note: The latest available monthly data are shown for each country. See Table 1.
Source: The Conference Board, International Labor Comparisons program

CHART 4. Unemployment rates unadjusted by The Conference Board, 10 European Union countries or areas, seasonally adjusted, May 2012– September 2013



Note: The latest available monthly data are shown for each country. See Table 2.
The European Union-27 (EU-27) refers to the EU member countries as of January 1, 2007.
The Euro area refers to the EU member countries that adopted the euro as a common currency.
Source: Statistical Office of the European Communities (EUROSTAT), and The Conference Board, International Labor Comparisons program

TABLE 1. Unemployment rates adjusted to U.S. concepts, 10 countries, seasonally adjusted

(in percent)

	2009	2010	2011	2012	Q3 2012	Q4 2012	Q1 2013	Q2 2013	Q3 2013	Sept. 2012	Jul. 2013	Aug. 2013	Sept. 2013	Change from Aug. 2013-Sept. 2013
United States	9.3	9.6	8.9	8.1	8.0	7.8	7.7	7.5	7.3	7.8	7.4	7.3	7.2	-0.1
Australia	5.6	5.2	5.1	5.2	5.3	5.4	5.5	5.6	5.7	5.5	5.7	5.8	5.6	-0.2
Canada	7.3	7.1	6.5	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.2	6.1	6.1	6.3	6.3	6.0	6.0	0.0
France	9.2	9.4	9.3	10.0	10.0	10.2	10.5	10.6	10.8	10.1	10.8	10.8	10.9	0.1
Germany	7.8	7.1	5.9	5.5	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.3	5.4	5.3	5.3	5.3	0.0
Italy	7.9	8.5	8.5	10.8	10.9	11.5	12.0	12.2	12.5	11.0	12.3	12.5	12.6	0.1
Japan	4.8	4.7	4.2	3.9	3.8	3.7	3.7	3.6	3.5	3.8	3.4	3.7	3.5	-0.2
Netherlands	3.7	4.5	4.5	5.3	5.3	5.7	6.2	6.7	7.0	5.4	7.0	7.1	7.1	0.0
Sweden	8.3	8.5	7.7	7.9	8.0	8.1	8.1	8.0	7.9	8.1	7.7	7.9	7.9	0.0
United Kingdom	7.6	7.9	8.1	8.0	7.9	7.8	7.9	7.8	NA	7.8	7.7	NA	NA	NA

Note:

NA means data not available.

See technical notes for information on sources and methods.

Source: The Conference Board, International Labor Comparisons program

TABLE 2. Unemployment rates unadjusted by The Conference Board, 10 European Union countries or areas, seasonally adjusted

(in percent)

	2009	2010	2011	2012	Q3 2012	Q4 2012	Q1 2013	Q2 2013	Q3 2013	Sept. 2012	Jul. 2013	Aug. 2013	Sept. 2013	Change from Aug. 2013-Sept. 2013
EU-27 (1)	9.0	9.7	9.7	10.5	10.5	10.7	10.9	10.9	11.0	10.6	10.9	11.0	11.0	0.0
Euro Area (2)	9.6	10.1	10.1	11.4	11.5	11.8	12.0	12.1	12.2	11.6	12.1	12.2	12.2	0.0
Austria	4.8	4.4	4.2	4.3	4.5	4.6	4.9	4.7	NA	4.4	4.8	4.9	4.9	0.0
Belgium	7.9	8.3	7.2	7.6	7.6	8.0	8.3	8.5	8.8	7.7	8.7	8.8	8.9	0.1
Denmark	6.0	7.5	7.6	7.5	7.4	7.1	7.3	6.8	7.1	7.4	7.0	7.1	7.1	0.0
Finland	8.2	8.4	7.8	7.7	7.8	7.9	8.1	8.1	8.1	7.9	8.1	8.1	8.1	0.0
Greece	9.5	12.6	17.7	24.3	25.5	26.1	26.6	27.4	NA	26.0	27.6	NA	NA	NA
Ireland	12.0	13.9	14.7	14.7	14.7	14.2	13.7	13.8	13.7	14.7	13.7	13.6	13.6	0.0
Portugal	10.6	12.0	12.9	15.9	16.2	17.1	17.6	17.0	16.4	16.4	16.5	16.5	16.3	-0.2
Spain	18.0	20.1	21.7	25.0	25.6	26.1	26.4	26.4	26.6	25.8	26.5	26.6	26.6	0.0

Note:

(1) The European Union-27 (EU-27) refers to the EU member countries as of January 1, 2007.

(2) The Euro Area refers to the EU member countries that adopted the euro as a common currency.

NA means data not available.

See technical notes for information on sources and methods.

Source: Statistical Office of the European Communities (EUROSTAT)

TABLE 3. Employment indexes adjusted to U.S. concepts, 10 countries, seasonally adjusted

	2009	2010	2011	2012	Q3 2012	Q4 2012	Q1 2013	Q2 2013	Q3 2013	Sept. 2012	Jul. 2013	Aug. 2013	Sept. 2013	Change from Aug. 2013-Sept. 2013
	2007 = 100				Q1 2007 = 100					January 2007 = 100				
United States	95.8	95.2	95.8	97.6	97.5	98.1	98.1	98.4	98.7	97.9	98.8	98.7	98.8	0.1
Australia	103.6	105.8	107.7	108.7	110.4	110.6	111.3	111.5	111.4	110.9	111.8	111.7	111.8	0.1
Canada	100.2	101.6	103.2	104.4	105.4	105.9	106.2	106.5	106.8	105.8	106.7	107.2	107.2	0.0
France (1)	100.5	100.8	101.1	101.3	101.3	102.1	100.8	100.6	100.7	101.3	100.9	100.9	101.0	0.1
Germany	101.4	102.1	104.7	105.6	106.7	106.9	107.1	107.6	108.1	107.1	108.3	108.4	108.5	0.1
Italy	99.2	98.4	99.0	98.5	99.1	98.5	97.8	97.3	97.1	98.9	97.2	97.2	96.8	-0.4
Japan	98.3	98.1	97.9	97.6	97.9	98.0	98.3	98.4	98.5	98.2	98.8	98.8	99.0	0.2
Netherlands	101.6	99.0	98.9	99.6	103.2	103.3	102.8	102.4	102.2	103.7	102.4	102.5	102.7	0.2
Sweden	99.1	99.6	101.9	102.5	103.4	103.6	103.9	104.1	104.5	103.5	104.4	104.0	104.2	0.2
United Kingdom	99.1	99.2	99.8	101.0	101.7	102.2	102.2	102.4	NA	101.9	102.8	NA	NA	NA

Note:

(1) Monthly data for France are estimated.

NA means data not available.

See technical notes for information on sources and methods.

Source: The Conference Board, International Labor Comparisons program