

10/2014 - 22 January 2014

Third quarter of 2013 compared with second quarter of 2013

Euro area government debt down to 92.7% of GDP, EU28 up to 86.8% of GDP

First decrease in absolute terms for the euro area since fourth quarter of 2007

At the end of the third quarter of 2013, the government debt¹ to GDP ratio² in the **euro area**³ (EA17) stood at 92.7%, compared with 93.4% at the end of the second quarter of 2013, the first fall in absolute terms since the fourth quarter of 2007. In the **EU28**³ the ratio increased from 86.7% to 86.8%, mainly due to exchange rate effects. Compared with the third quarter of 2012, the government debt to GDP ratio rose in both the **euro area** (from 90.0% to 92.7%) and the **EU28** (from 84.9% to 86.8%).

At the end of the third quarter of 2013, securities other than shares accounted for 79.3% of **euro area** government debt, loans for 17.9% and currency and deposits for 2.7%. **EU28** government debt was made up of 80.9% securities other than shares, 15.5% loans and 3.6% currency and deposits.

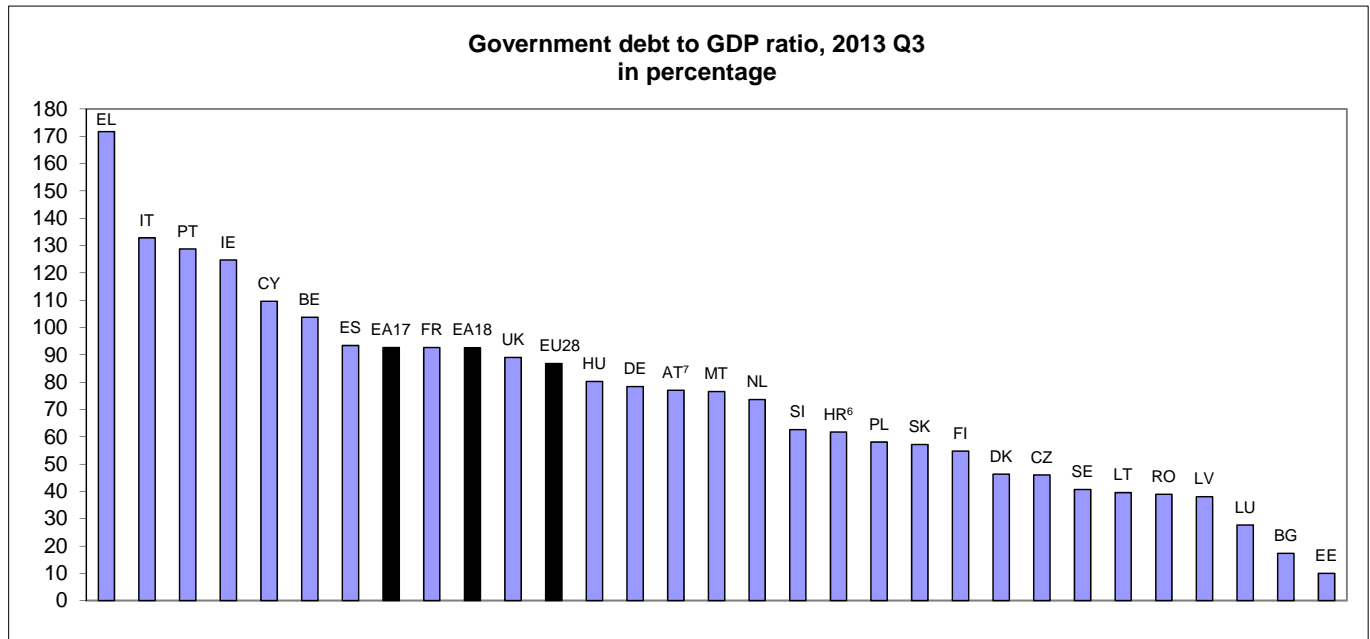
Due to the involvement of EU governments in financial assistance to some Member States, quarterly data on intergovernmental lending (IGL)⁴ is also published. The share of IGL in GDP at the end of the third quarter of 2013 amounted to 2.4% for the **euro area** and to 1.8% for the **EU28**.

These data are released by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**.

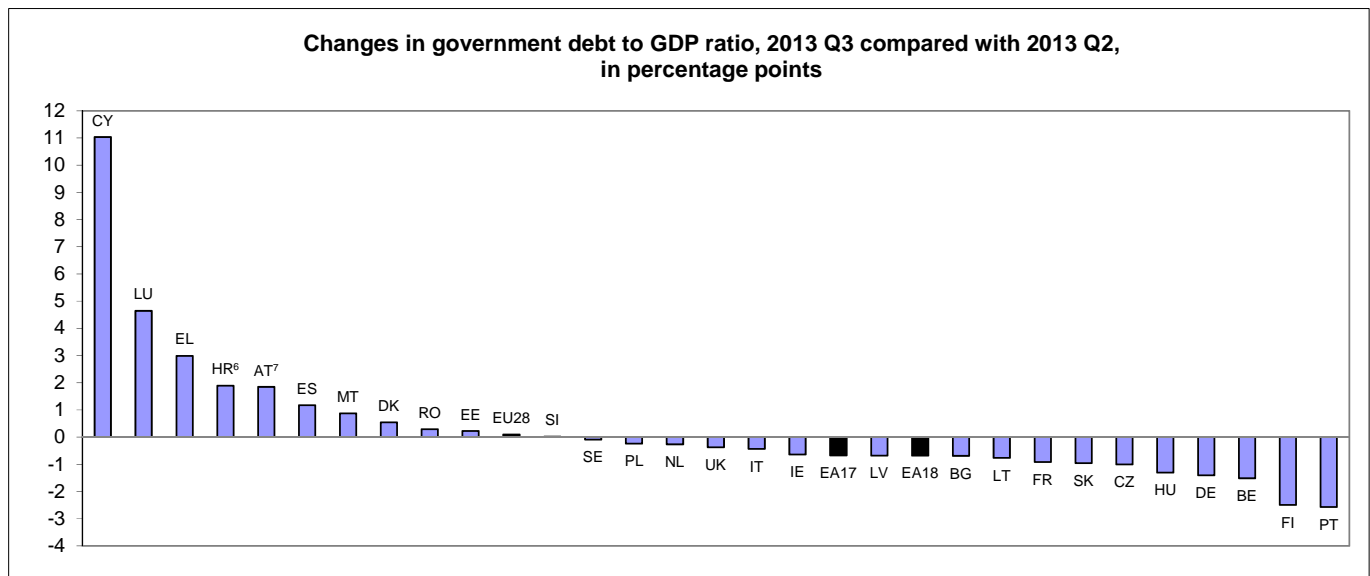
		2012 Q3	2013 Q2	2013 Q3
EA17				
Government debt	(million euro)	8 529 324	8 875 107	8 841 823
	(% of GDP)	90.0	93.4	92.7
Of which: Currency and deposits	(million euro)	241 220	237 934	239 972
	(% of total debt)	2.8	2.7	2.7
Securities other than shares	(million euro)	6 720 642	7 032 752	7 015 230
	(% of total debt)	78.8	79.2	79.3
Loans	(million euro)	1 567 589	1 604 638	1 586 842
	(% of total debt)	18.4	18.1	17.9
Memo: Intergovernmental lending in the context of the financial crisis	(million euro)	158 483	221 079	224 686
	(% of GDP)	1.7	2.3	2.4
EA18				
Government debt	(million euro)	8 538 064	8 883 890	8 850 588
	(% of GDP)	89.9	93.3	92.6
Of which: Currency and deposits	(million euro)	241 550	238 222	240 232
	(% of total debt)	2.8	2.7	2.7
Securities other than shares	(million euro)	6 723 513	7 036 488	7 018 978
	(% of total debt)	78.7	79.2	79.3
Loans	(million euro)	1 573 000	1 609 181	1 591 378
	(% of total debt)	18.4	18.1	18.0
Memo: Intergovernmental lending in the context of the financial crisis	(million euro)	158 483	221 079	224 686
	(% of GDP)	1.7	2.3	2.4
EU28				
Government debt	(million euro)	10 959 398	11 282 059	11 310 458
	(% of GDP)	84.9	86.7	86.8
Of which: Currency and deposits	(million euro)	419 983	403 245	407 993
	(% of total debt)	3.8	3.6	3.6
Securities other than shares	(million euro)	8 799 532	9 107 277	9 147 802
	(% of total debt)	80.3	80.7	80.9
Loans	(million euro)	1 739 883	1 771 538	1 754 663
	(% of total debt)	15.9	15.7	15.5
Memo: Intergovernmental lending in the context of the financial crisis	(million euro)	160 855	225 494	229 680
	(% of GDP)	1.2	1.7	1.8

Government debt at the end of the third quarter 2013 by Member State

The highest ratios of government debt to GDP at the end of the third quarter of 2013 were recorded in **Greece** (171.8%), **Italy** (132.9%), **Portugal** (128.7%) and **Ireland** (124.8%), and the lowest in **Estonia** (10.0%), **Bulgaria** (17.3%) and **Luxembourg** (27.7%).

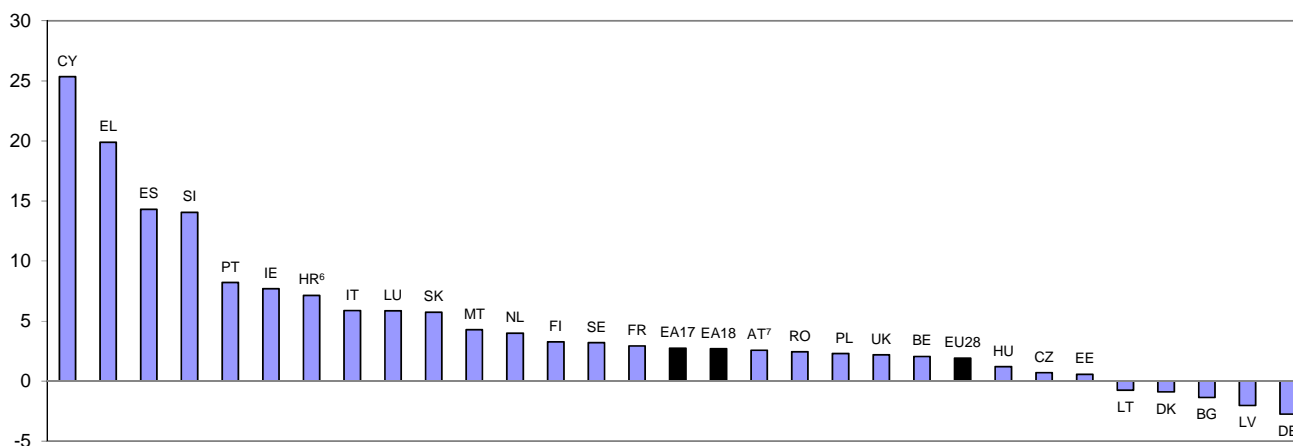


Compared with the second quarter of 2013, ten Member States registered an increase in their debt to GDP ratio at the end of the third quarter of 2013, seventeen a decrease and **Slovenia** no change. The highest increases in the ratio were recorded in **Cyprus**⁵ (+11.0 percentage points – pp), **Luxembourg** (+4.6 pp) and **Greece** (+3.0 pp). The largest decreases were recorded in **Portugal** (-2.6 pp), **Finland** (-2.5 pp), **Belgium** (-1.5 pp), **Germany** (-1.4 pp) and **Hungary** (-1.3 pp).



Compared with the third quarter of 2012, twenty-three Member States registered an increase in their debt to GDP ratio at the end of the third quarter of 2013, and five a decrease. The highest increases in the ratio were recorded in **Cyprus**⁵ (+25.3 pp), **Greece** (+19.9 pp), **Spain** (+14.3 pp) and **Slovenia** (+14.1 pp), while decreases were recorded in **Germany** (-2.8 pp), **Latvia** (-2.0 pp), **Bulgaria** (-1.4 pp), **Denmark** (-0.9 pp) and **Lithuania** (-0.8 pp).

Changes in government debt to GDP ratio, 2013 Q3 compared with 2012 Q3, in percentage points



- Quarterly data on government debt are collected from the Member States according to Council Regulation (EC) No 1222/2004 and refer to the Maastricht debt definition. The general government debt is defined as the consolidated gross debt of the whole of the general government sector outstanding at the end of the quarter (at nominal value). General government debt consists of liabilities of general government in the following categories: currency and deposits (AF.2); securities other than shares, excluding financial derivatives (AF.33) and loans (AF.4), as defined in the European system of national and regional accounts (ESA 95 - Council Regulation No 2223/96 of 25 June 1996).

Quarterly data on government debt by Member State are published in the Eurostat database:

http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/government_finance_statistics/data/database.

- The debt to GDP ratio is calculated for each quarter using the sum of GDP for the four last quarters. Quarterly data on GDP are the most recent transmitted by the EU Member States.
- Up to 31 December 2013, the euro area (EA17) included Belgium (BE), Germany (DE), Estonia (EE), Ireland (IE), Greece (EL), Spain (ES), France (FR), Italy (IT), Cyprus (CY), Luxembourg (LU), Malta (MT), the Netherlands (NL), Austria (AT), Portugal (PT), Slovenia (SI), Slovakia (SK) and Finland (FI). From 1 January 2014 the euro area (EA18) also includes Latvia (LV).

The EU28 includes the EA18 Member States as well as Bulgaria (BG), the Czech Republic (CZ), Denmark (DK), Croatia (HR), Lithuania (LT), Hungary (HU), Poland (PL), Romania (RO), Sweden (SE) and the United Kingdom (UK). As part of Eurostat's guidelines for the dissemination of data when the euro area is enlarged, the aggregate data series commented on in this News Release refer to the official composition in the most recent quarter for which data is available. **Thus News Releases with data for quarters up to 2013 Q4 comment on EA17 series, while Releases with data for 2014 Q1 onwards will comment on EA18 series.**

Eurostat's guidelines can be found on the Eurostat website:

http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_PUBLIC/GUIDE_ENLARG_2007/EN/GUIDE_ENLARG_2007-EN.PDF

- For the purpose of proper consolidation of general government debt and to provide users with information, Eurostat publishes data on government loans to other EU governments and these loans have been deducted from euro area and EU debt. The concepts and definitions are based on ESA 95 and on the rules relating to the statistics for the Excessive Deficit Procedure (EDP). The data covered is stocks of loans related to claims on other EU Member States. The valuation basis is the stock of loans at nominal value outstanding at end of each quarter. From the first quarter of 2011 onwards, the intergovernmental lending figures relate mainly to lending to Greece, Ireland and Portugal and include loans made by the European Financial Stability Facility (see Eurostat decision regarding EFSF: http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_PUBLIC/2-27012011-AP/EN/2-27012011-AP-EN.PDF).
- Cyprus:** The increase in debt is largely due to European Stability Mechanism loans disbursed under the financial assistance package for Cyprus.
- Croatia:** Due to the on-going process of quality improvement of the general government reporting system (including data sources) for quarterly government finance statistics data, Eurostat publishes Croatian quarterly government debt data as provisional.
- Austria:** In the context of the excessive deficit procedure Eurostat has issued a reservation on the government debt data reported by Austria. For more information please see http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_PUBLIC/2-21102013-AP/EN/2-21102013-AP-EN.PDF.

Further data are available in the integrated publication on quarterly government finance statistics:
http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/government_finance_statistics/data

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Government debt by Member State

		General government gross debt								Components of government debt, in % of GDP			IGL
		Millions of national currency			% of GDP			Difference in pp of GDP, Q3/2013 compared with:		Currency and deposits	Securities other than shares*	Loans	% of GDP
		2012 Q3	2013 Q2	2013 Q3	2012 Q3	2013 Q2	2013 Q3	2012 Q3	2013 Q2	2013 Q3	2013 Q3	2013 Q3	2013 Q3
Belgium	euro	380 837	397 824	393 603	101.7	105.2	103.7	2.1	-1.5	0.4	90.1	13.3	2.2
Bulgaria	BGN	14 200	14 141	13 611	18.7	18.0	17.3	-1.4	-0.7	:	11.2	6.1	-
Czech Republic	CZK	1 744 132	1 803 941	1 771 253	45.3	47.0	46.0	0.7	-1.0	-	41.5	4.6	-
Denmark	DKK	857 358	841 940	855 607	47.2	45.7	46.3	-0.9	0.5	0.8	38.3	7.1	0.1
Germany	euro	2 153 294	2 146 830	2 126 831	81.1	79.8	78.4	-2.8	-1.4	0.4	57.0	20.9	2.4
Estonia	euro	1 618	1 753	1 817	9.4	9.8	10.0	0.6	0.2	:	1.4	8.6	2.4
Ireland	euro	191 786	204 486	204 696	117.1	125.4	124.8	7.7	-0.6	11.6	71.9	41.3	0.2
Greece	euro	300 142	316 969	317 310	151.9	168.8	171.8	19.9	3.0	0.6	42.9	128.3	-
Spain	euro	818 003	943 415	954 863	79.1	92.2	93.4	14.3	1.2	0.4	73.3	19.7	2.8
France	euro	1 817 965	1 912 205	1 900 848	89.7	93.6	92.7	2.9	-0.9	1.7	78.7	12.2	2.4
Croatia⁶	HRK	179 214	197 287	203 360	54.6	59.8	61.7	7.1	1.9	:	43.4	18.3	-
Italy	euro	1 996 512	2 076 371	2 068 722	127.0	133.3	132.9	5.9	-0.4	10.0	111.6	11.3	2.8
Cyprus	euro	15 043	16 906	18 403	84.3	98.6	109.6	25.3	11.0	-	45.7	63.9	2.3
Latvia	euro	8 658	8 778	8 763	40.1	38.7	38.0	-2.0	-0.7	1.1	16.3	20.6	-
Lithuania	LTL	45 123	46 937	46 704	40.3	40.3	39.6	-0.8	-0.8	0.7	30.8	8.1	-
Luxembourg	euro	9 267	10 221	12 449	21.8	23.0	27.7	5.9	4.6	0.5	17.9	9.2	1.3
Hungary	HUF	22 218 297	23 249 020	23 088 951	79.0	81.5	80.2	1.2	-1.3	0.1	66.0	14.2	-
Malta	euro	4 900	5 296	5 409	72.3	75.7	76.6	4.3	0.9	0.8	70.6	5.2	3.1
Netherlands	euro	417 239	442 324	442 163	69.6	73.9	73.6	4.0	-0.3	0.1	58.9	14.7	2.3
Austria⁷	euro	226 677	232 996	239 838	74.5	75.2	77.1	2.6	1.8	-	63.5	13.5	2.1
Poland	PLN	883 826	937 899	940 182	55.7	58.3	58.0	2.3	-0.2	-	48.3	9.7	-
Portugal	euro	201 629	214 823	210 965	120.5	131.3	128.7	8.2	-2.6	6.7	68.8	53.2	0.7
Romania	RON	211 566	233 382	238 896	36.4	38.6	38.9	2.4	0.3	0.7	25.6	12.6	-
Slovenia	euro	17 290	21 873	21 922	48.6	62.6	62.6	14.1	0.0	0.3	53.6	8.8	3.2
Slovakia	euro	36 420	41 647	41 085	51.4	58.1	57.2	5.7	-1.0	0.1	50.4	6.6	2.5
Finland	euro	99 084	110 152	105 496	51.5	57.3	54.8	3.3	-2.5	0.3	44.3	10.2	2.3
Sweden	SEK	1 324 080	1 459 143	1 461 328	37.5	40.8	40.7	3.2	-0.1	2.3	31.2	7.2	0.1
United Kingdom	GBP	1 355 383	1 422 381	1 431 399	86.9	89.5	89.1	2.2	-0.4	8.1	79.3	1.7	0.2

* Securities other than shares, excluding financial derivatives.

: not available

- not applicable