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European Union unemployment rate rose to 7.5% in Dec 2020

The European Union's (EU) unemployment rate in December 2020 had increased to 7.5 per cent, remaining largely stable compared to the previous month, amid the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, according to official figures.

The figures issued by Eurostat on Monday revealed that around 16 million people in the EU, of which over 13 million in the eurozone, were unemployed in December 2020, a month-on-month increase of 67,000 in the EU and 55,000 in the eurozone, respectively.

The statistical office said the unemployment rate in December stood at 7.5 per cent in the EU and 8.3 per cent in the eurozone, remaining largely stable compared with November, but up from 6.5 per cent and 7.4 per cent, respectively, in December 2019, reports Xinhua news agency.

Compared with December 2019, the number of unemployed people rose by nearly two million in the EU and by 1.5 million in the eurozone.

According to Eurostat's figures, slightly more than three million young persons under the age of 25 were unemployed in the EU, of whom 2.6 million were in the eurozone.

In December 2020, the youth unemployment rate was 17.8 per cent in the EU and 18.5 per cent in the eurozone, up from 17.5 per cent and 18.1 per cent, respectively, in the previous month.

Compared with November 2020, youth unemployment increased by 41,000 in the EU and by 36,000 in the eurozone.

The year-on-year increase was 438,000 in the EU and 353,000 in the eurozone.

2)

U.S. Health Care from a Global Perspective, 2019: Higher Spending, Worse Outcomes?

A 2015 Commonwealth Fund brief showed that — before the major provisions of the Affordable Care Act were introduced — the United States had worse outcomes and spent more on health care, largely because of greater use of medical technology and higher prices, compared to other high-income countries. By benchmarking the performance of the U.S. health care system against other countries — and updating with new data as they become available — we can gain important insights into the strengths and weaknesses and help policymakers and delivery system leaders identify areas for improvement.

The main points are these:

- The U.S. spends more on health care as a share of the economy — nearly twice as much as the average OECD country — yet has the lowest life expectancy and highest suicide rates among the 11 nations.
- The U.S. has the highest chronic disease burden and an obesity rate that is two times higher than the OECD average.
- Americans had fewer physician visits than peers in most countries, which may be related to a low supply of physicians in the U.S.
- Americans use some expensive technologies, such as MRIs, and specialized procedures, such as hip replacements, more often than our peers.
- The U.S. outperforms its peers in terms of preventive measures — it has the one of the highest rates of breast cancer screening among women ages 50 to 69 and the second-highest rate (after the U.K.) of flu vaccinations among people age 65 and older.
- Compared to peer nations, the U.S. has among the highest number of hospitalizations from preventable causes and the highest rate of avoidable deaths.

3)

Social psychology

Social psychology is the scientific study of how people's thoughts, feelings, and behaviours are influenced by the actual, imagined, or implied presence of others.

The terms thoughts, feelings, and behaviours include all of the psychological variables that are measurable in a human being.

The reference to imagined or implied others suggests that we are prone to social influence even when no other people are present, such as when watching television, or following internalized cultural norms.

The study of attitudes is a core topic in social psychology.

Attitudes are involved in virtually every other area of the discipline, including conformity, interpersonal attraction, social perception, and prejudice.

Social psychologists typically explain human behaviour as a result of the interaction of mental states and immediate, social situations.

In general, social psychologists have a preference for laboratory based, empirical findings.

Their theories tend to be specific and focused, rather than global and general.