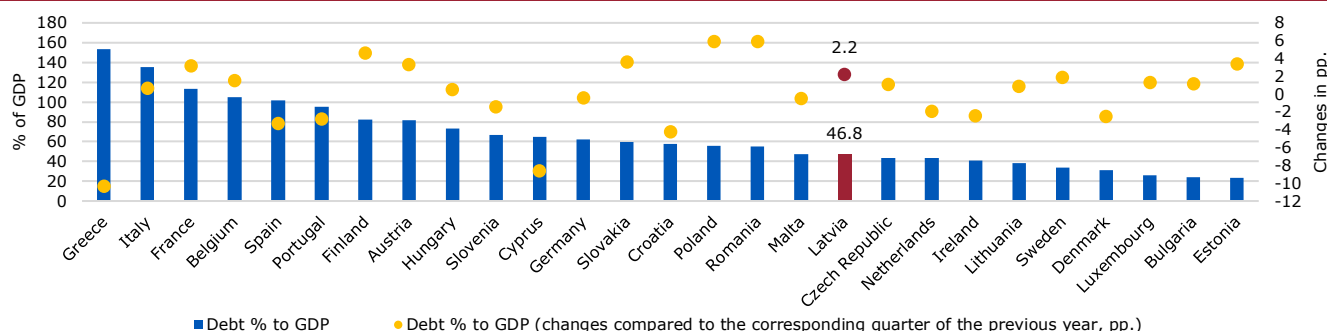


**Figure 1.1. General government debt in European countries (% of GDP) in the fourth quarter of 2024, and its change (in percentage points) compared to the fourth quarter of 2023**



Source: Eurostat

Figure 1.1 shows the general government debt of European countries as a percentage of GDP and its dynamics in the fourth quarter of 2024 compared to the same quarter in 2023. The highest debt-to-GDP ratio was recorded in Greece (153.6%), while the lowest was in Estonia (23.6%).

Among the 16 countries with debt levels below 60% of GDP—classified as low-debt countries—five experienced a decline in debt as a share of GDP compared to the fourth quarter of 2023. The largest reductions were seen in Croatia (-4.2 percentage points) and Denmark (-2.5 percentage points), while the average decrease among these five countries was 2.3 percentage points.

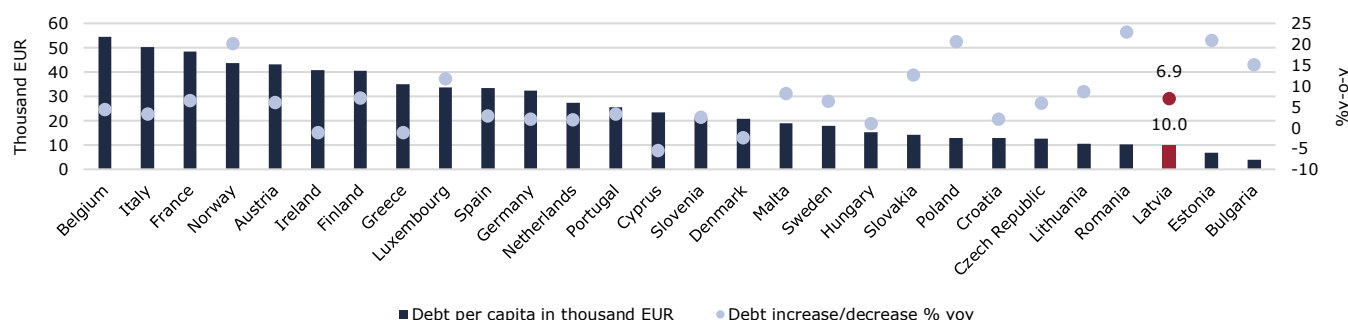
In contrast, the remaining 11 low-debt countries recorded an average debt increase of 3.5%.

Among the 12 highly indebted countries, debt decreased in six, with an average reduction of 4.5 percentage points. The most significant declines occurred in Greece (-10.3 pp) and Cyprus (-8.6 pp). However, in the other six highly indebted countries, debt increased: Finland (+4.6 pp), Austria (+3.3 pp), France (+3.2 pp), Belgium (+1.5 pp), Italy (+0.7 pp), and Hungary (+0.5 pp).

Latvia remains among the countries with a relatively low general government debt level (46.8% of GDP), thus complying with the Maastricht criterion of keeping debt below 60% of GDP. As of the end of 2024, according to the State Treasury's operational assessment, general government debt stood at €18.9 billion, or 47.1% of GDP. However, according to the latest Eurostat data, the figure was €18.8 billion, or 46.8% of GDP.

Nevertheless, the ratio of interest payments on public debt to GDP continues to rise, and this trend is expected to persist in the medium term. High interest rates and a nominal budget deficit are increasing borrowing needs, which will drive this ratio up from 1.1% of GDP in 2024 to 1.6% by 2029. In nominal terms, this represents an increase in interest expenditures from €450 million in 2024 to €831 million in 2029.

**Figure 1.2. General government debt (GDP) per capita in European countries (thousand euros) and changes (%) in the 4th quarter of 2024 compared to the 4th quarter of 2023**



Source: Eurostat

Figure 1.2 presents the amount of general government debt per capita in European countries in the fourth quarter of 2024, along with its percentage increase compared to the same period in 2023.

When expressed as general government debt per capita, the highest figure was recorded in Belgium, at €54.3 thousand. In contrast, the lowest per capita debt levels were observed in Bulgaria and Estonia, at €3.9 thousand and €6.8 thousand, respectively. In Latvia, the general government debt per capita stood at €10 thousand.