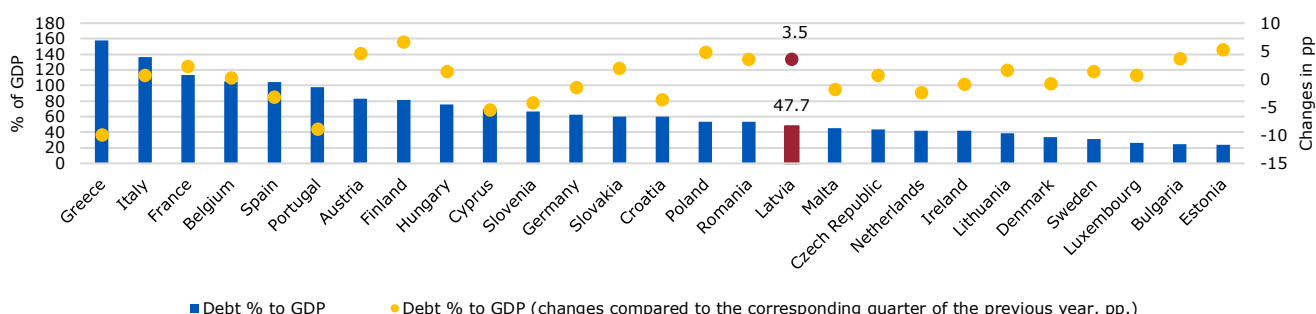


Figure 1.1. General government debt in European countries (% of GDP) in the third quarter of 2024 and its change (percentage points) compared to the third quarter of 2023



Source: Eurostat

Figure 1.1 shows the general government debt of European countries as a percentage of GDP and its dynamics in the third quarter of 2024 compared to the same quarter in 2023. The highest debt-to-GDP ratio was recorded in Greece (158.2%), while the lowest was in Estonia (24%).

Among the 14 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 third quarter of 2023. The largest reductions were observed in Croatia (-3.6 percentage points) and the Netherlands (-2.3 pp), while the average decrease among these five countries was 1.8 percentage points.

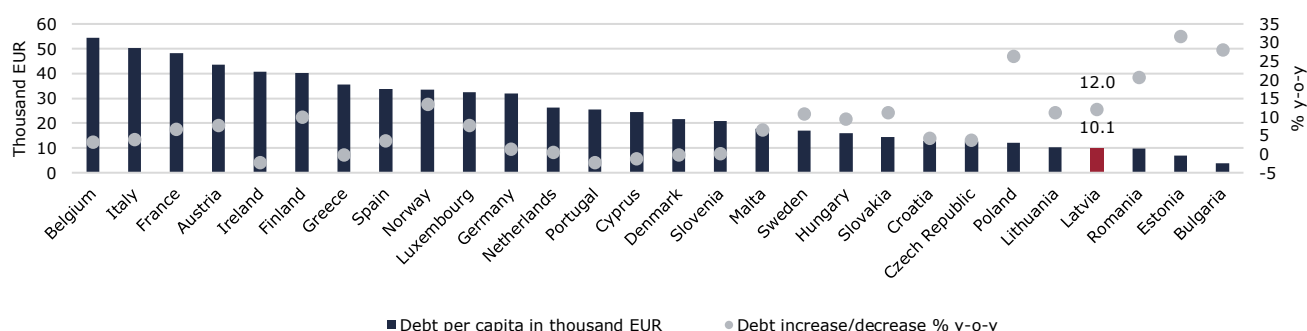
In contrast, debt increased in the remaining nine low-debt countries, with an average rise of 2.9 percentage points. Among the 13 highly indebted countries, debt levels declined in six, with an average reduction of 5.5 percentage points. The most significant decreases occurred in Greece (-9.9 pp) and Portugal (-8.8 pp). However, in the other seven high-debt countries debt levels increased — in Finland (+6.7 pp), in Austria (+4.6 pp), in France (+2.3 pp), in Slovakia (+2.0 pp), in Hungary (+1.4 pp), in Italy (+0.8 pp), and in Belgium (+0.3 pp).

Latvia remains among the countries with relatively low general government debt. In the third quarter of 2024, debt stood at 47.7% of GDP, thus remaining below the Maastricht criterion of 60%.

For 2024, the national budget plan projects general government debt at 45.8% of GDP, while the European Commission's assessment is higher, at 48.1%. For 2025, Latvia forecasts a debt level of 47%, whereas the European Commission estimates it at 50.3% of GDP.

Debt servicing costs continue to place a significant burden on the national budget. In 2024, they are planned at 1.1% of GDP, increasing to 1.2% in 2025, or 1.3% according to the European Commission's assessment¹. As a result, additional borrowing by the state would currently be associated with high fiscal costs.

Figure 1.2. General government debt per capita in European countries (thousand euros) and its change (%) in the third quarter of 2024 compared to the third quarter of 2023



Source: Eurostat

Figure 1.2 presents the amount of general government **debt per capita** in European countries in the third 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 €54.4 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 €10.1 thousand.**

¹ Draft budgetary plans 2025 - European Commission