



The queues of people out of work grow in the Eurozone

Eurozone jobless now hits fresh record high

The number of people out of work in the Eurozone stuck at record highs in September and the August total was revised up. It was 12.2 percent of the bloc's workforce for both months.

The global financial crisis and European sovereign debt crisis have wiped out hundreds of thousands of jobs over the past four years. The grim numbers from the EU statistics agency show that modest economic growth in the region has still to improve the labour market situation. There were 60,000 more Eurozone jobseekers in September than in August bringing the total to 19,473,000. The youth unemployment total

is at double the overall average at 24.1 percent.

Jobless rates for under 25-year-olds in the European Union continue to worsen. In countries like Spain and Greece they are above 50 percent. Only in Germany and Austria are they below 10 percent. The European Central Bank has said there is the risk of losing a generation of young workers unless growth is revived by addressing the region's long-term

structural problems. The jobs crisis facing young people shows no sign of abating with new evidence suggesting more young people are out of work than ever before.

Every month new figures come out showing that there are more young people without work than ever before. Together with other developed economies, the youth unemployment rate in the European Union has risen by a quarter since the global banking crisis of

2008.

In Italy, the rate is more than 40 percent. But that number is distorted by the fact that a lot of supposedly unemployed young Italians are actually working cash-in-hand on the black market. Many say these are the only jobs they can get and that Italy's youth are looking at a life off the books. Hugh Pym travels to Umbria in Italy to find out what the young are doing about it.



Apple unveils iPad Air, new Macs for holidays

Apple Inc offered recently free upgrades for life on its operating system and business software, and unveiled thinner iPads and faster Mac computers ahead of a competitive holiday shopping season

The debut of the one-pound iPad Air and MacBook Pro with sharper 'retina' display repeats a pattern of recent launches with improvements in existing lines rather than totally new products, and Apple shares fell 0.3 percent for the day.

Apple said upgrades to its Mac operating system and iWork software suite, which compete with Microsoft Corp's Excel, Word and other applications, will now be offered for all MacBooks and Mac computers. That brings Apple's model of free system software upgrades on phones and tablets to the computer market.

Computing for the silver generation

Understanding and keeping up with today's rapidly changing technology is a challenge — especially for people who survived perfectly well without mobile phones and computers for most of their working lives

The *Novela Festival*, in Toulouse, France, aimed to highlight what modern technology can do for all generations. Erwane Monthubert, Head of Digital Policy at Toulouse

Council, explained, "For seniors it's a fantastic opportunity to stay connected to the modern world and get access to cultural content and educational material on line or simply to stay in contact with their families, grandchildren or friends."

Workshop sessions explored the world of GPS, wifi, social media and digital tablets onto which you can download hundreds if not thousands of books. But the empha-

sis wasn't just on accessing content, it was on using technology to make new friends in real life.

Frederic Bricka, a computer coach, said, "I think that these digital tools complement actual real human contact, because when contact is established online then people meet in real life too." Another popular workshop demonstrated how to set up a blog, and give ideas for what to write about.

Nazi looted art 'found in Munich'

A collection of 1,500 artworks confiscated by the Nazis in the 1930s and 1940s has been found in the German city of Munich

The trove is believed to include works by Matisse, Picasso and Chagall. Some of the works were declared as degenerate by the Nazis, while others were stolen from or forcibly sold for a pittance by Jewish art collectors. If confirmed, it would be one of the largest recoveries of looted art. Investigators put the value of the works at about one billion Euros (£846m; \$1.35bn).

They said the artworks were found by chance in early 2011, when the tax authorities investigated Cornelius Gurlitt, the reclusive son of an art dealer in Munich. He was suspected of tax evasion, and investigators obtained a search warrant for

Picasso's artwork *Guernica* depicting German bombing

his home in Munich.

There, they found the cache of some 1,500 artworks which had vanished from sight during the Nazi era. The younger Mr. Gurlitt had kept the works in darkened rooms and sold the occasional painting

when he needed money. The Nazis categorised almost all modern art as 'degenerate'. It was banned for being un-German or for being the work of Jewish artists. Some works were confiscated or destroyed; others were sold to collectors.

US ends food stamp benefits as Congress debates more cuts

US food aid benefits are being cut as an extension of the government programme expires, while legislators fight over further cuts

Benefits to the supplemental nutrition assistance programme (Snap) will be lowered by \$36 (£22) a month for a family of four, officials say.

Some 47 million low income Americans will be affected by the cuts. Food aid in the US has grown to \$80bn a year due to higher unemployment and rising food costs. About one in seven Americans relies on Snap, also known as food stamps. The benefits were originally expanded during the recent economic recession to stimulate the economy and help the poorest Americans.

Republicans in Congress are seeking further reductions to the programme and say it should be better targeted at the most needy. Retailers and grocers around the US are concerned about the possible negative impact the reduction will have on consumer spending.

Portuguese Parliament backs austerity budget

Portugal's lawmakers have given outline approval to a budget bill for 2014 that slashes spending on state pensions, public sector wages, healthcare and education

As it was presented, protesters in the public gallery chanted 'Government — out!' before being removed by police. Deputy Prime Minister Paulo Portas warned the budget has to be approved if the country is to exit the economic crisis. "Portugal cannot go back to a time of wasteful spending and endless debt. It simply cannot. Because if we do that we would have to abandon the Euro and we would be on our own in the world, chasing a fantasy of self-sufficiency," he said.

Spending will be cut by almost 3.2 billion Euros — which is 2.3 percent of Portugal's gross domestic product — with the target of getting the budget deficit down to four percent of GDP, from a forecast 5.9 percent this year. Among the measures, public sector workers earning over 600 Euros a month will have their wages cut by between 2.5 percent and 12 percent. After discussion, a final vote on the budget bill will be held on November 26, but it will then almost certainly be reviewed by the country's Constitutional Court, which has rejected previous government austerity measures forcing the politicians to come up with alternative ways of cutting spending.