

124/2012 - 31 August 2012

July 2012

## Euro area unemployment rate at 11.3%

EU27 at 10.4%

The **euro area**<sup>1</sup> (EA17) seasonally-adjusted<sup>2</sup> unemployment rate<sup>3</sup> was 11.3% in July 2012, stable compared with June<sup>4</sup>. It was 10.1% in July 2011. The **EU27**<sup>1</sup> unemployment rate was 10.4% in July 2012, also stable compared with June<sup>4</sup>. It was 9.6% in July 2011.

Eurostat estimates that 25.254 million men and women in the **EU27**, of whom 18.002 million were in the **euro area**, were unemployed in July 2012. Compared with June 2012, the number of persons unemployed increased by 43 000 in the **EU27** and by 88 000 in the **euro area**. Compared with July 2011, unemployment rose by 2.104 million in the **EU27** and by 2.051 million in the **euro area**.

These figures are published by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**.

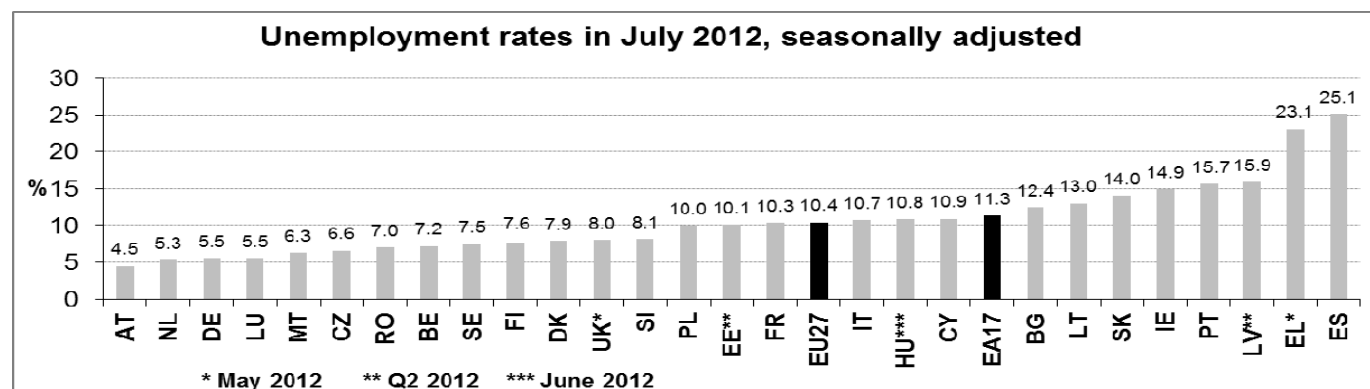
Among the Member States, the lowest unemployment rates were recorded in **Austria** (4.5%), the **Netherlands** (5.3%), **Germany** and **Luxembourg** (both 5.5%), and the highest in **Spain** (25.1%) and **Greece** (23.1% in May 2012).

Compared with a year ago, the unemployment rate fell in ten Member States, increased in sixteen and remained stable in **Slovenia**. The largest falls were observed in **Estonia** (13.2% to 10.1% between the second quarters of 2011 and 2012), **Lithuania** (15.2% to 13.0%) and **Latvia** (17.0% to 15.9% between the second quarters of 2011 and 2012). The highest increases were registered in **Greece** (16.8% to 23.1% between May 2011 and May 2012), **Spain** (21.7% to 25.1%) and **Cyprus** (7.7% to 10.9%).

Between July 2011 and July 2012, the unemployment rate for males increased from 9.8% to 11.3% in the **euro area** and from 9.5% to 10.5% in the **EU27**. The female unemployment rate rose from 10.4% to 11.4% in the **euro area** and from 9.8% to 10.4% in the **EU27**.

In July 2012, 5.468 million young persons (under 25) were unemployed in the **EU27**, of whom 3.388 million were in the **euro area**. Compared with July 2011, youth unemployment rose by 182 000 in the **EU27** and by 204 000 in the **euro area**. In July 2012, the youth unemployment rate was 22.5% in the **EU27** and 22.6% in the **euro area**. In July 2011, it was 21.3% and 20.7% respectively. In July 2012 the lowest rates were observed in **Germany** (8.0%), **Austria** (8.9%) and the **Netherlands** (9.2%), and the highest in **Greece** (53.8% in May 2012) and **Spain** (52.9%).

In July 2012, the unemployment rate was 8.3% in the **USA**. In June 2012, the unemployment rate was 4.3% in **Japan**.



1. The euro area (EA17) consists of Belgium, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Italy, Cyprus, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Austria, Portugal, Slovenia, Slovakia and Finland.  
The EU27 includes Belgium (BE), Bulgaria (BG), the Czech Republic (CZ), Denmark (DK), Germany (DE), Estonia (EE), Ireland (IE), Greece (EL), Spain (ES), France (FR), Italy (IT), Cyprus (CY), Latvia (LV), Lithuania (LT), Luxembourg (LU), Hungary (HU), Malta (MT), the Netherlands (NL), Austria (AT), Poland (PL), Portugal (PT), Romania (RO), Slovenia (SI), Slovakia (SK), Finland (FI), Sweden (SE) and the United Kingdom (UK).
2. Non-seasonally adjusted and trend data can be found in the statistical database on the Eurostat website.
3. Eurostat produces harmonised unemployment rates for individual EU Member States, the euro area and the EU. These unemployment rates are based on the definition recommended by the International Labour Organisation (ILO). The measurement is based on a harmonised source, the European Union Labour Force Survey (LFS).  
Based on the ILO definition, Eurostat defines unemployed persons as persons aged 15 to 74 who:
  - are without work;
  - are available to start work within the next two weeks;
  - and have actively sought employment at some time during the previous four weeks.The *unemployment rate* is the number of people unemployed as a percentage of the labour force. The labour force is the total number of people employed plus unemployed. In this news release unemployment rates are based on employment and unemployment data covering persons aged 15 to 74. Exceptions are Spain, Italy and the United Kingdom, for which the lower age limit is 16 (in Spain and Italy this is the legal minimum age for working). In addition, employment data used for Italy includes also those above 74.  
The number of unemployed and the monthly unemployment rates are estimates based on results of the LFS which is a continuous household survey carried out in Member States on the basis of harmonised definitions. These results are interpolated/extrapolated to monthly data using national survey data and/or national monthly series on registered unemployment. The most recent figures are therefore provisional; results from the LFS are available 90 days after the end of the reference period for most Member States.  
Monthly unemployment and employment series are calculated first at the level of four categories for each Member State (males and females 15-24 years, males and females 25-74 years). These series are then seasonally adjusted and all the national and European aggregates are calculated.  
Member States may publish other rates such as register-based unemployment rates, or rates based on the national LFS or corresponding surveys. These rates may vary from those published by Eurostat due to a different definition or methodological choices.
4. Compared with the rates published in News Release 113/2012 of 31 July 2012, the June 2012 unemployment rate has been revised from 11.2% to 11.3% for the EA17. The rate for the EU27 remains unchanged at 10.4%. Among Member States, the rate has been revised by between 0.2 and 0.4 percentage points for Hungary, Portugal and Romania. It has been revised by 0.5 percentage points for Lithuania. For Hungary, as from this News Release, direct monthly estimates from the LFS are used. For the other countries, the revisions are primarily caused by the inclusion of the most recent LFS data in the calculation process and by updates to the seasonally adjusted series.  
The following LFS data are used in the calculations of the monthly unemployment rates published in this News Release:  
For Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Austria, Romania, Finland and Sweden, monthly data up to and including July 2012.  
For Greece, monthly data up to and including May 2012.  
For Hungary and the United Kingdom monthly data (3 month moving average) up to and including May-June-July and April-May-June 2012, respectively.  
For Denmark, Estonia, Spain, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Portugal quarterly data up to and including Q2 2012.  
For Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Ireland, France, Cyprus, Luxembourg, Malta, Slovenia and Slovakia, quarterly data up to and including Q1 2012.
5. Italy has implemented a method to produce monthly unemployment data purely based on the LFS. For the moment, these data should be considered provisional.
6. Estonia and Latvia: quarterly data for all series.  
Cyprus, Romania and Slovenia: quarterly data for youth unemployment.
7. For Germany, Austria and Finland the trend component is used instead of the more volatile seasonally adjusted data.

Issued by: **Eurostat Press Office**

**Louise CORSELLI-NORDBLAD**  
Tel: +352-4301-33 444  
[eurostat-pressoffice@ec.europa.eu](mailto:eurostat-pressoffice@ec.europa.eu)

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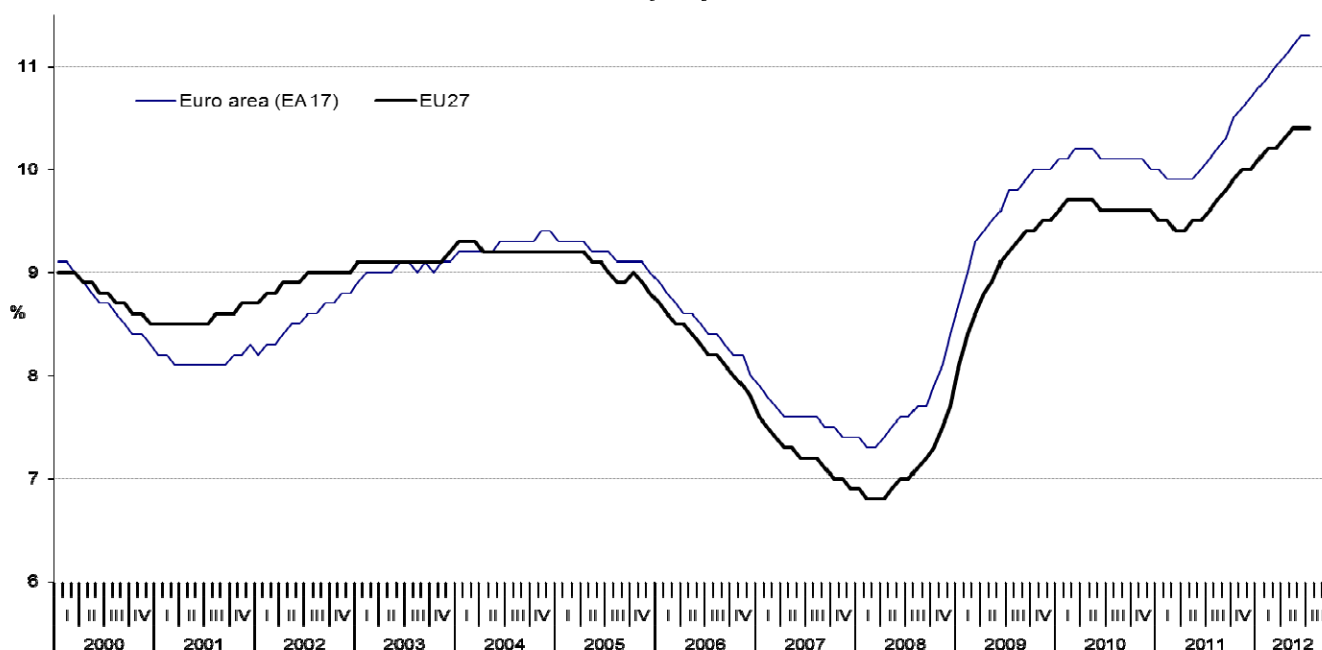
**Nicola MASSARELLI**  
Tel: +352-4301-34 525

**Hannah KIIVER**  
Tel: +352-4301-38 438

[estat-monthly-unemployment@ec.europa.eu](mailto:estat-monthly-unemployment@ec.europa.eu)

Selected Principal European Economic Indicators: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/euroindicators>

### Euro area and EU27 unemployment rates Seasonally adjusted series



### SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATES (%) TOTALS

	Jul 2011	Jan 2012	Feb 2012	Mar 2012	Apr 2012	May 2012	Jun 2012	Jul 2012
<b>EA17</b>	10.1	10.8	10.9	11.0	11.1	11.2	11.3	<b>11.3</b>
<b>EU27</b>	9.6	10.1	10.2	10.2	10.3	10.4	10.4	<b>10.4</b>
<b>BE</b>	7.3	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.2	<b>7.2</b>
<b>BG</b>	11.1	11.8	12.0	12.1	12.1	12.2	12.3	<b>12.4</b>
<b>CZ</b>	6.7	6.8	6.9	6.8	6.7	6.7	6.7	<b>6.6</b>
<b>DK</b>	7.4	7.4	7.6	7.7	7.8	8.0	8.0	<b>7.9</b>
<b>DE<sup>7</sup></b>	5.9	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.5	5.5	<b>5.5</b>
<b>EE<sup>6</sup></b>	11.4	10.9	10.9	10.9	10.1	10.1	10.1	:
<b>IE</b>	14.7	14.7	14.7	14.8	14.7	14.7	14.8	<b>14.9</b>
<b>EL</b>	17.8	21.5	21.7	22.1	22.6	23.1	:	:
<b>ES</b>	21.7	23.5	23.8	24.1	24.4	24.8	24.9	<b>25.1</b>
<b>FR</b>	9.6	9.9	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.1	10.2	<b>10.3</b>
<b>IT<sup>5</sup></b>	8.2	9.7	10.0	10.4	10.6	10.5	10.7	<b>10.7</b>
<b>CY</b>	7.7	9.8	10.0	10.3	10.5	10.7	10.6	<b>10.9</b>
<b>LV<sup>6</sup></b>	15.7	15.4	15.4	15.4	15.9	15.9	15.9	:
<b>LT</b>	15.2	13.7	13.6	13.6	13.4	13.3	13.2	<b>13.0</b>
<b>LU</b>	5.1	5.1	5.2	5.3	5.3	5.4	5.4	<b>5.5</b>
<b>HU</b>	11.0	11.2	11.1	11.1	11.1	11.0	10.8	:
<b>MT</b>	6.4	6.2	6.0	5.9	5.8	6.1	6.3	<b>6.3</b>
<b>NL</b>	4.3	5.0	4.9	5.0	5.2	5.1	5.1	<b>5.3</b>
<b>AT<sup>7</sup></b>	3.8	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.3	4.5	<b>4.5</b>
<b>PL</b>	9.6	10.0	10.0	9.9	10.0	10.0	10.0	<b>10.0</b>
<b>PT</b>	12.5	14.6	14.8	15.1	15.4	15.5	15.7	<b>15.7</b>
<b>RO</b>	7.5	7.3	7.1	7.2	7.1	7.1	7.3	<b>7.0</b>
<b>SI</b>	8.1	8.3	8.2	8.0	8.2	8.2	8.2	<b>8.1</b>
<b>SK</b>	13.4	13.8	13.7	13.7	13.7	13.7	13.8	<b>14.0</b>
<b>FI<sup>7</sup></b>	7.8	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.6	7.6	7.6	<b>7.6</b>
<b>SE</b>	7.4	7.6	7.5	7.3	7.4	7.8	7.5	<b>7.5</b>
<b>UK</b>	8.2	8.2	8.2	8.1	8.1	8.0	:	:
<b>IS</b>	6.9	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.6	6.5	6.5	<b>6.5</b>
<b>NO</b>	3.2	3.3	3.2	3.1	3.0	3.0	3.1	:
<b>US</b>	9.1	8.3	8.3	8.2	8.1	8.2	8.2	<b>8.3</b>
<b>JP</b>	4.7	4.7	4.5	4.5	4.6	4.4	4.3	:

: Data not available      Source: Eurostat

### SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATES (%)

	Youth (under 25's)				Males				Females			
	Jul 11	May 12	Jun 12	Jul 12	Jul 11	May 12	Jun 12	Jul 12	Jul 11	May 12	Jun 12	Jul 12
EA17	20.7	22.6	22.5	22.6	9.8	11.1	11.2	11.3	10.4	11.3	11.4	11.4
EU27	21.3	22.6	22.5	22.5	9.5	10.4	10.4	10.5	9.8	10.4	10.4	10.4
BE	19.9	19.0	18.9	18.7	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.2	7.4	7.1	7.2	7.2
BG	23.7	29.1	29.5	29.4	12.0	13.6	13.8	14.0	10.1	10.6	10.6	10.6
CZ	18.3	19.7	19.1	18.9	5.7	5.6	5.6	5.6	7.9	8.0	8.0	8.0
DK	14.8	14.6	14.4	14.0	7.5	8.0	8.0	7.7	7.4	8.0	8.1	8.2
DE <sup>7</sup>	8.6	8.0	8.0	8.0	6.1	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.6	5.2	5.2	5.1
EE <sup>6</sup>	22.0	22.8	22.8	:	11.7	11.3	11.3	:	11.1	9.0	9.0	:
IE	29.7	29.5	30.0	30.7	17.6	17.5	17.7	17.9	11.0	11.4	11.3	11.2
EL	44.5	53.8	:	:	15.1	20.3	:	:	21.5	26.8	:	:
ES	46.9	52.5	52.6	52.9	21.3	24.7	24.9	25.1	22.2	24.9	24.9	25.2
FR	22.5	22.9	23.1	23.4	9.1	10.0	10.1	10.2	10.2	10.2	10.3	10.4
IT <sup>5</sup>	27.8	34.9	33.9	35.3	7.3	9.8	10.0	10.0	9.6	11.5	11.7	11.8
CY <sup>6</sup>	23.1	25.8	25.8	:	7.7	11.5	11.1	11.4	7.7	9.9	10.1	10.4
LV <sup>6</sup>	31.8	29.4	29.4	:	17.7	17.2	17.2	:	13.6	14.7	14.7	:
LT	32.4	26.4	25.9	25.6	17.6	14.9	14.9	14.7	12.8	11.7	11.6	11.4
LU	17.6	20.3	20.1	20.2	4.1	4.5	4.5	4.7	6.2	6.4	6.5	6.4
HU	25.8	28.5	28.6	:	11.1	11.5	11.3	:	11.0	10.5	10.1	:
MT	13.8	11.2	11.9	12.2	6.1	5.7	6.0	5.9	6.8	6.6	7.0	7.0
NL	7.5	9.2	9.3	9.2	4.4	5.2	5.2	5.3	4.3	5.1	5.1	5.2
AT <sup>7</sup>	7.6	8.4	8.7	8.9	3.6	4.6	4.7	4.6	4.0	4.1	4.4	4.5
PL	25.6	25.6	25.4	25.4	8.8	9.2	9.3	9.2	10.6	11.0	11.0	11.0
PT	29.4	37.4	37.6	36.4	12.2	15.5	15.7	15.8	12.9	15.4	15.6	15.5
RO <sup>6</sup>	23.8	23.7*	:	:	8.0	7.7	7.9	7.6	6.7	6.3	6.6	6.3
SI <sup>6</sup>	15.7	16.8	16.8	:	8.3	7.8	7.8	7.7	7.8	8.6	8.6	8.5
SK	33.7	38.6	37.4	37.8	13.5	13.2	13.2	13.3	13.4	14.4	14.6	14.8
FI <sup>7</sup>	20.1	18.2	17.9	17.8	8.4	8.2	8.3	8.3	7.1	6.9	6.9	7.0
SE	21.7	24.4	22.7	22.6	7.6	8.0	7.7	7.9	7.2	7.5	7.3	7.0
UK	21.4	21.7	:	:	8.9	8.5	:	:	7.3	7.4	:	:
IS	14.6	13.4	13.2	13.1	7.6	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.1	6.2	6.1	6.1
NO	8.6	7.9	8.1	:	3.3	3.5	3.5	:	3.1	2.5	2.5	:
US	17.4	16.1	16.5	16.4	9.6	8.4	8.4	8.4	8.5	7.9	8.0	8.1
JP	:	:	:	:	4.9	4.5	4.5	:	4.5	4.3	4.0	:

\*Data for Q1 2012

: Data not available

Source: Eurostat

### SEASONALLY ADJUSTED NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED (in millions)

	Jul 2011	Jan 2012	Feb 2012	Mar 2012	Apr 2012	May 2012	Jun 2012	Jul 2012
EA17	15.951	17.062	17.222	17.441	17.644	17.794	17.914	18.002
EU27	23.150	24.373	24.503	24.727	24.913	25.091	25.211	25.254
EA17 - youth	3.184	3.348	3.360	3.396	3.403	3.413	3.383	3.388
EU27 - youth	5.286	5.488	5.492	5.529	5.535	5.548	5.492	5.468

**Euro area and EU27 unemployed (in millions)**  
Seasonally adjusted series

