

102/2013 - 1 July 2013

May 2013

## Euro area unemployment rate at 12.1%

EU27 at 10.9%

The **euro area**<sup>1</sup> (EA17) seasonally-adjusted<sup>2</sup> unemployment rate<sup>3</sup> was 12.1% in May 2013, up from 12.0% in April<sup>4</sup>. The **EU27**<sup>1</sup> unemployment rate was 10.9%, stable compared with the previous month<sup>4</sup>. In both zones, rates have risen markedly compared with May 2012, when they were 11.3% and 10.4% respectively. These figures are published by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**.

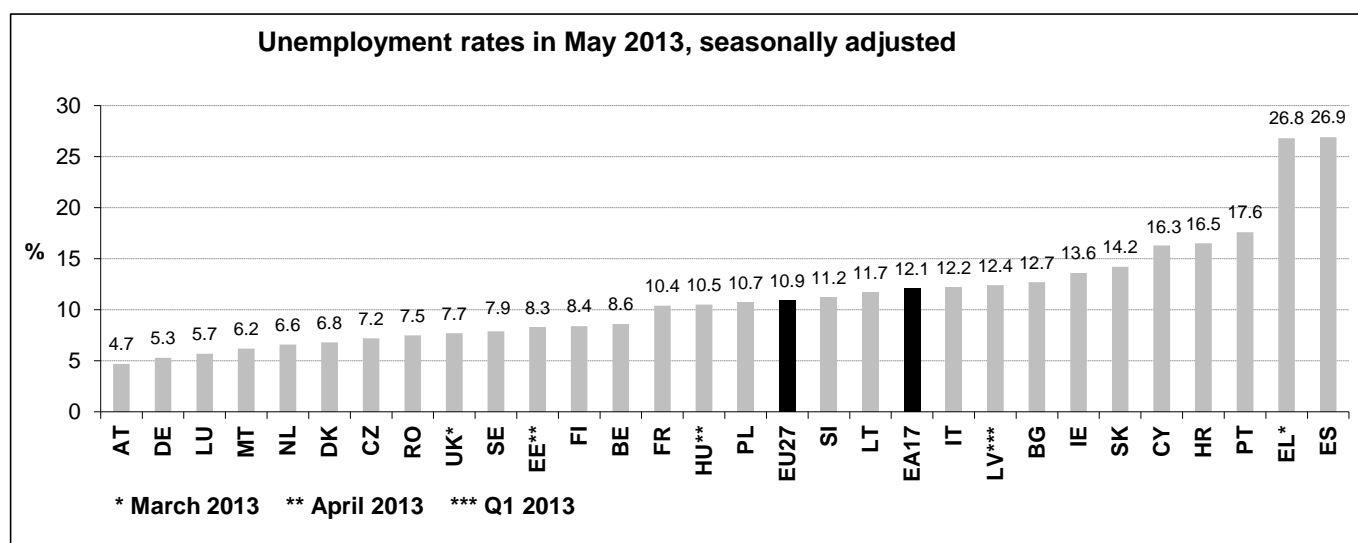
Eurostat estimates that 26.405 million men and women in the **EU27**, of whom 19.222 million were in the **euro area**, were unemployed in May 2013. Compared with April 2013, the number of persons unemployed increased by 16 000 in the **EU27** and by 67 000 in the **euro area**. Compared with May 2012, unemployment rose by 1.324 million in the **EU27** and by 1.344 million in the **euro area**.

### Member States

Among the Member States, the lowest unemployment rates were recorded in **Austria** (4.7%), **Germany** (5.3%) and **Luxembourg** (5.7%), and the highest in **Spain** (26.9%) and **Greece** (26.8% in March 2013).

Compared with a year ago, the unemployment rate increased in seventeen Member States and fell in ten. The highest increases were registered in **Cyprus** (11.4% to 16.3%), **Greece** (22.2% to 26.8% between March 2012 and March 2013) and **Slovenia** (8.6% to 11.2%). The largest decreases were observed in **Latvia** (15.5% to 12.4% between the first quarters of 2012 and 2013), **Estonia** (10.0% to 8.3% between April 2012 and April 2013) and **Lithuania** (13.3% to 11.7%).

In May 2013, the unemployment rate in the **United States** was 7.6%, up from 7.5% in the previous month and down from 8.2% in May 2012.



## Youth unemployment

In May 2013, 5.501 million young persons (under 25) were unemployed in the **EU27**, of whom 3.531 million were in the **euro area**. Compared with May 2012, youth unemployment decreased by 77 000 in the **EU27** and increased by 60 000 in the **euro area**. In May 2013, the youth unemployment rate was 23.0% in the **EU27** and 23.8% in the **euro area**, compared with 22.8% and 23.0% respectively in May 2012. In May 2013, the lowest rates were observed in **Germany** (7.6%), **Austria** (8.7%) and the **Netherlands** (10.6%), and the highest in **Greece** (59.2% in March 2013), **Spain** (56.5%) and **Portugal** (42.1%).

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.

Up to 30 June 2013, the European Union (EU27) included 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). From 1 July 2013 the European Union (EU28) also includes Croatia (HR).

As part of Eurostat's guidelines for the dissemination of data when the EU is enlarged, the aggregate data series commented on in this News Release refer to the official composition of the EU in the most recent month for which data is available. **Thus News Releases with data for months up to June 2013 will comment on EU27 series, while Releases with data for July 2013 onwards will comment on EU28 series.**

Eurostat's guidelines can be found on the Eurostat website:

[http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY\\_PUBLIC/GUIDE\\_ENLARG\\_2007/EN/GUIDE\\_ENLARG\\_2007-EN.PDF](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_PUBLIC/GUIDE_ENLARG_2007/EN/GUIDE_ENLARG_2007-EN.PDF)

The tables also include Iceland (IS), Norway (NO) and the United States (US).

2. Non-seasonally adjusted and trend data can be found in the statistical database on the Eurostat website. For further details please refer to the *Unemployment statistics* article in Statistics Explained:  
[http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/statistics\\_explained/index.php/Unemployment\\_statistics](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/statistics_explained/index.php/Unemployment_statistics)

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.

4. The data in this News Release are normally subject to small revisions, caused by the updates to the seasonally adjusted series whenever new monthly data are added. Larger revisions can occur when the most recent LFS data are included in the calculation process. Compared with the rates published in News Release 82/2013 of 31 May 2013, the April 2013 unemployment rate has been revised from 12.2% to 12.0% for the EA17 and from 11.0% to 10.9% for the EU27. Among Member States, the rate for the most recent month available has been revised by between 0.2 and 0.4 percentage points for Greece, Cyprus, Malta and Slovakia. The rate has been revised upwards by 0.5 percentage points for Bulgaria and by 0.9 pp for Slovenia, and downwards by 0.6 pp for France.
5. Latvia: quarterly data for all series.  
Cyprus, Romania, Slovenia and Croatia: quarterly data for youth unemployment.
6. For Germany, Austria, Finland and Iceland the trend component is used instead of the more volatile seasonally adjusted data.

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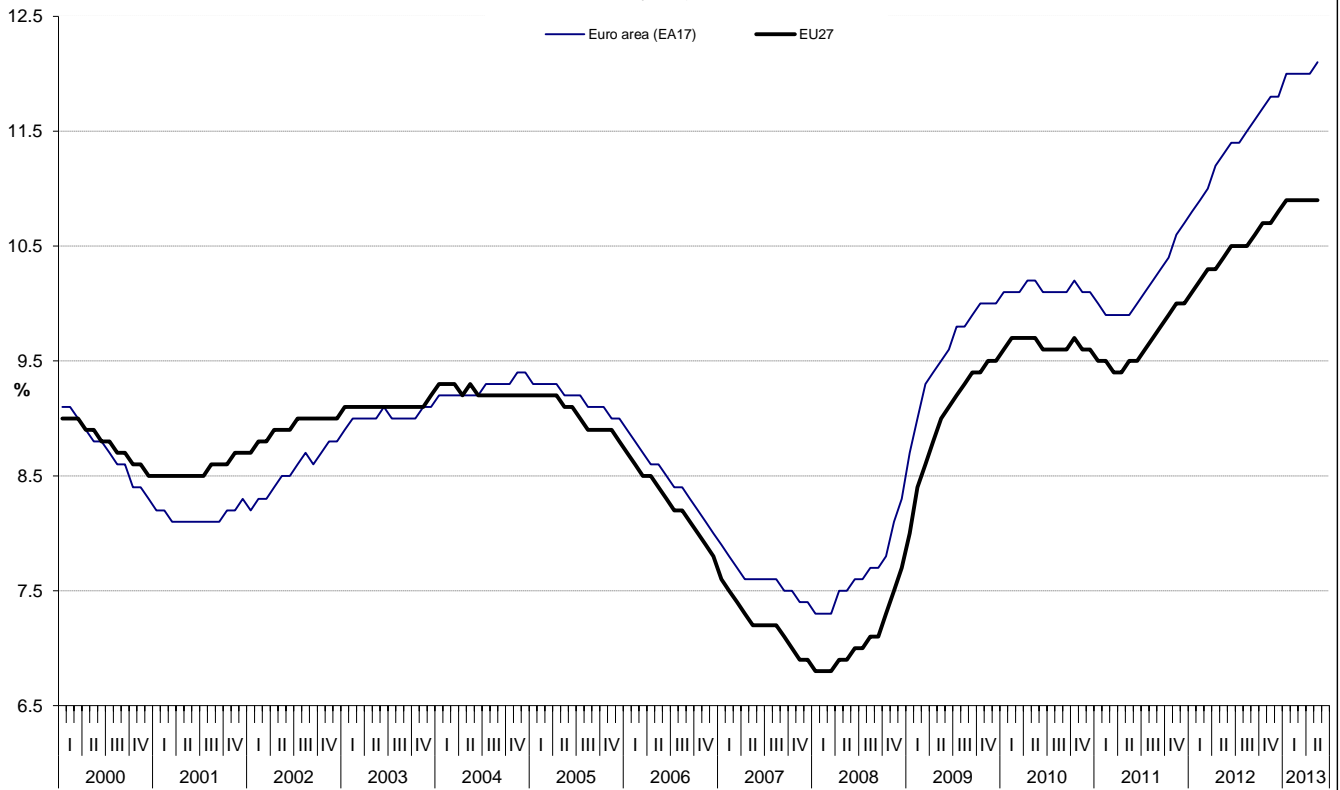
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Selected Principal European Economic Indicators: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/euroindicators>

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



**Seasonally adjusted unemployment - total**

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	May 12	Feb 13	Mar 13	Apr 13	May 13	May 12	Feb 13	Mar 13	Apr 13	May 13
<b>EA17</b>	11.3	12.0	12.0	12.0	<b>12.1</b>	17 878	19 089	19 100	19 155	<b>19 222</b>
<b>EU27</b>	10.4	10.9	10.9	10.9	<b>10.9</b>	25 081	26 341	26 331	26 389	<b>26 405</b>
<b>EU28</b>	10.4	10.9	10.9	11.0	<b>11.0</b>	25 339	26 618	26 605	26 665	<b>26 681</b>
<b>BE</b>	7.7	8.3	8.4	8.5	<b>8.6</b>	374	408	415	421	<b>425</b>
<b>BG</b>	12.2	12.8	12.9	12.8	<b>12.7</b>	407	431	434	430	<b>423</b>
<b>CZ</b>	6.8	7.2	7.2	7.2	<b>7.2</b>	359	382	384	381	<b>380</b>
<b>DK</b>	8.0	7.1	6.9	7.0	<b>6.8</b>	233	206	199	200	<b>194</b>
<b>DE<sup>o</sup></b>	5.5	5.4	5.4	5.4	<b>5.3</b>	2 320	2 301	2 295	2 284	<b>2 269</b>
<b>EE</b>	10.0**	9.3	8.7	8.3	:	70**	65	60	58	:
<b>IE</b>	14.9	13.7	13.6	13.5	<b>13.6</b>	320	293	291	288	<b>292</b>
<b>EL</b>	22.2*	26.7	26.8	:	:	1 093*	1 304	1 309	:	:
<b>ES</b>	24.8	26.5	26.6	26.8	<b>26.9</b>	5 728	6 053	6 064	6 087	<b>6 085</b>
<b>FR</b>	10.2	10.5	10.4	10.4	<b>10.4</b>	2 985	3 095	3 074	3 075	<b>3 087</b>
<b>HR</b>	15.0	16.8	16.6	16.6	<b>16.5</b>	258	278	274	275	<b>276</b>
<b>IT</b>	10.4	11.9	11.9	12.0	<b>12.2</b>	2 660	3 062	3 064	3 084	<b>3 140</b>
<b>CY</b>	11.4	14.8	15.1	15.8	<b>16.3</b>	50	66	67	71	<b>73</b>
<b>LV<sup>o</sup></b>	15.5***	12.4	12.4	:	:	160***	129	129	:	:
<b>LT</b>	13.3	12.5	12.3	12.5	<b>11.7</b>	195	185	183	185	<b>170</b>
<b>LU</b>	5.1	5.4	5.5	5.6	<b>5.7</b>	13	14	14	14	<b>14</b>
<b>HU</b>	11.1**	11.1	10.6	10.5	:	482**	485	463	458	:
<b>MT</b>	6.7	6.2	6.2	6.1	<b>6.2</b>	12	12	11	11	<b>11</b>
<b>NL</b>	5.1	6.2	6.4	6.5	<b>6.6</b>	455	550	573	580	<b>594</b>
<b>AT<sup>o</sup></b>	4.4	5.0	4.9	4.8	<b>4.7</b>	190	219	213	212	<b>207</b>
<b>PL</b>	10.0	10.6	10.7	10.7	<b>10.7</b>	1 732	1 838	1 844	1 853	<b>1 846</b>
<b>PT</b>	15.5	17.6	17.6	17.8	<b>17.6</b>	843	935	934	941	<b>932</b>
<b>RO</b>	7.2	7.1	7.2	7.3	<b>7.5</b>	712	704	705	712	<b>720</b>
<b>SI</b>	8.6	10.6	10.9	11.1	<b>11.2</b>	86	106	109	110	<b>111</b>
<b>SK</b>	13.8	14.2	14.1	14.1	<b>14.2</b>	376	387	385	386	<b>389</b>
<b>FI<sup>o</sup></b>	7.6	8.2	8.2	8.3	<b>8.4</b>	206	219	221	223	<b>225</b>
<b>SE</b>	8.3	8.2	8.3	8.3	<b>7.9</b>	418	416	427	425	<b>404</b>
<b>UK</b>	8.1*	7.7	7.7	:	:	2 574*	2 475	2 470	:	:
<b>IS<sup>o</sup></b>	6.1	5.5	5.5	5.5	<b>5.5</b>	11	10	10	10	<b>10</b>
<b>NO</b>	3**	3.5	3.7	3.5	:	81**	95	99	95	:
<b>US</b>	8.2	7.7	7.6	7.5	<b>7.6</b>	12 712	12 012	11 672	11 629	<b>11 722</b>

Source: Eurostat

: Data not available

\* March 2012

\*\* April 2012

\*\*\* Q1 2012

### Seasonally adjusted youth (under 25s) unemployment

	Rates (%)					Number of persons (in thousands)				
	May 12	Feb 13	Mar 13	Apr 13	May 13	May 12	Feb 13	Mar 13	Apr 13	May 13
EA17	23.0	24.0	23.9	23.9	23.8	3 471	3 600	3 550	3 545	3 531
EU27	22.8	23.4	23.2	23.2	23.0	5 578	5 616	5 548	5 539	5 501
EU28	22.9	23.5	23.3	23.4	23.2	5 637	5 692	5 625	5 618	5 579
BE	20.1	22.2	22.4	22.6	22.7	85	92	93	94	95
BG	28.5	27.2	27.1	26.9	26.2	69	67	66	64	62
CZ	20.1	19.4	19.4	19.5	18.7	76	71	72	72	69
DK	14.6	12.6	12.0	12.0	11.6	67	57	53	53	51
DE <sup>o</sup>	8.1	7.7	7.7	7.6	7.6	368	352	349	346	344
EE	22.4	21.2	19.2	17.4	:	16	15	13	12	:
IE	31.4	28.3	27.1	26.1	26.3	71	61	57	54	55
EL	54.0	62.2	59.2	:	:	169	184	182	:	:
ES	52.7	55.8	55.8	56.2	56.5	952	962	954	955	946
FR	23.9	25.5	25.0	24.7	24.6	683	735	712	698	690
HR <sup>b</sup>	39.7	52.1	52.1	:	:	59	76	76	:	:
IT	35.6	38.8	39.9	39.9	38.5	614	658	649	650	647
CY <sup>o</sup>	26.4	34.8	34.8	:	:	11	14	14	:	:
LV <sup>o</sup>	29.3	22.0	22.0	:	:	30	22	22	:	:
LT	26.4	21.1	21.1	21.2	21.1	31	27	27	27	27
LU	18.7	19.5	20.0	19.4	19.4	3	3	3	3	3
HU	28.4	29.7	27.5	27.6	:	85	91	84	84	:
MT	15.3	12.9	12.5	12.3	12.1	4	4	3	3	3
NL	9.2	10.4	10.5	10.6	10.6	129	148	150	152	152
AT <sup>o</sup>	8.5	8.9	7.9	8.2	8.7	51	52	47	48	51
PL	26.0	27.6	27.5	27.6	27.5	413	417	411	413	408
PT	37.6	40.6	41.0	42.3	42.1	163	161	163	171	171
RO <sup>b</sup>	23.1	23.1	23.1	:	:	194	181	181	:	:
SI <sup>b</sup>	20.2	21.7	21.7	:	:	15	16	16	:	:
SK	33.8	34.0	34.0	34.1	34.6	75	76	77	77	79
FI <sup>o</sup>	18.5	20.3	20.4	20.7	20.9	61	68	68	69	70
SE	25.4	24.5	25.0	24.5	23.4	165	160	167	165	153
UK	21.1	20.4	20.2	:	:	975	923	917	:	:
IS <sup>o</sup>	12.7	11.5	11.6	11.8	11.9	4	4	4	4	4
NO	8.1	9.5	9.3	8.5	:	31	37	36	33	:

### Seasonally adjusted unemployment rates (%), by gender

	Males					Females				
	May 12	Feb 13	Mar 13	Apr 13	May 13	May 12	Feb 13	Mar 13	Apr 13	May 13
EA17	11.1	11.9	11.9	11.9	12.0	11.4	12.1	12.2	12.2	12.2
EU27	10.3	10.9	10.8	10.9	10.9	10.4	10.9	11.0	11.0	11.0
EU28	10.4	10.9	10.9	10.9	10.9	10.5	11.0	11.0	11.0	11.0
BE	7.4	8.7	8.8	8.9	9.0	8.0	7.9	8.0	8.1	8.2
BG	13.6	14.0	14.1	14.1	14.0	10.7	11.5	11.5	11.4	11.1
CZ	5.9	6.3	6.3	6.2	6.1	8.1	8.4	8.4	8.4	8.5
DK	7.9	6.9	6.7	6.8	6.5	8.0	7.4	7.2	7.1	7.0
DE <sup>o</sup>	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.6	5.2	5.1	5.1	5.0	5.0
EE	11.1	9.8	8.6	8.2	:	9.1	8.9	8.8	8.4	:
IE	18.1	15.8	15.6	15.5	15.6	11.0	11.1	11.2	11.0	11.2
EL	21.0	23.8	24.1	:	:	27.7	30.4	30.4	:	:
ES	24.7	26.1	26.2	26.3	26.3	25.0	27.0	27.2	27.4	27.6
FR	9.9	10.4	10.3	10.3	10.3	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5
HR	15.4	17.1	17.1	17.0	16.9	14.6	16.3	16.0	16.0	16.0
IT	9.6	11.1	11.0	11.2	11.5	11.4	13.0	13.1	13.2	13.2
CY	12.2	15.0	15.2	16.1	16.6	10.6	14.6	15.0	15.5	15.9
LV <sup>o</sup>	16.5	13.7	13.7	:	:	14.2	11.2	11.2	:	:
LT	15.0	14.4	14.2	14.4	12.7	11.6	10.5	10.5	10.6	10.6
LU	4.5	4.7	4.8	4.8	4.9	5.9	6.2	6.4	6.5	6.6
HU	11.5	11.5	10.8	10.4	:	10.5	10.6	10.4	10.5	:
MT	6.4	6.2	6.2	6.1	6.3	7.3	6.3	6.2	6.0	6.0
NL	5.2	6.6	6.8	6.9	7.1	5.1	5.7	6.0	6.0	6.1
AT <sup>o</sup>	4.6	5.2	4.9	4.8	4.8	4.1	4.8	4.8	4.9	4.7
PL	9.3	9.9	10.0	10.1	10.1	10.9	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5
PT	15.5	17.9	18.0	18.0	17.8	15.5	17.3	17.3	17.5	17.4
RO	7.8	7.6	7.6	7.8	8.1	6.4	6.5	6.6	6.7	6.7
SI	7.9	10.1	10.3	10.3	10.3	9.4	11.2	11.7	12.1	12.4
SK	13.5	13.6	13.5	13.5	13.6	14.3	14.8	14.9	14.9	15.1
FI <sup>o</sup>	8.3	8.8	9.0	9.1	9.2	7.0	7.4	7.4	7.5	7.5
SE	8.5	8.5	8.4	8.8	8.1	8.0	7.9	8.3	7.8	7.7
UK	8.3	8.2	8.1	:	:	7.4	7.2	7.2	:	:
IS <sup>o</sup>	6.5	5.7	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.3	5.4	5.3	5.3
NO	3.5	3.8	3.9	3.8	:	2.5	3.3	3.4	3.2	: